

## Town Topics



Shannon Reynolds, *Mayor*  
 Nikki Bufford, *Mayor Pro Tempore*  
 David M. Viafore  
 Brett Wittner  
 Karen Mauer-Smith  
 Hunter T. George  
 Jim Andrews

## Council Member Spotlight: Hunter George

**Preserving Fircrest's welcoming and walkable character**

Fall in Fircrest is such a fun time of year. Whittier and Wainwright are bustling with energy now that kids are back in school and our parks are busy with youth soccer and other activities.

Your Fircrest City Council and staff members are busy, too. Here are some updates:

**Annual Budget:** Every year, City Manager Dawn Masko works with her department directors to develop a budget proposal that she delivers to the City Council in September. The Council then holds a series of public hearings throughout October as we go through each department's budget. It's a great conversation that requires us to consider the needs of today while planning for tomorrow. It also requires us to make choices.

The city is always cautious about spending taxpayer money, so the seven Councilmembers use the time during those public hearings to debate priorities and agree on a final spending plan for the next year that adequately provides for services such as public safety, street maintenance, parks and recreation, and water/sewer/stormwater utility operations. Feel free to let us know what's important to you!

**Comprehensive Plan:** Every city is required to update its Comprehensive Plan, which articulates goals and policies that guide City actions, standards and decisions. The plan divides these policies into categories such as community character, land use, housing, parks, transportation, and more. New this cycle is a section on

climate resilience so that we plan for how climate change will affect our community. We are on track to adopt the updated plan late this year. More information is available at [www.cityoffircrest.net/2024-comp-plan](http://www.cityoffircrest.net/2024-comp-plan).

**Middle housing:** Like many urban areas across the nation, Fircrest is not immune to the affordable housing crisis. Zillow reported in September that our city's average home value was \$608,000, which is out of reach for many young families who make our community feel so vibrant. A new state law called House Bill 1110 requires cities to implement "middle housing" that offers options besides single-family homes and apartment complexes. We have a lot of middle housing in Fircrest already, including townhouses, duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs). However, the state requires all cities to accommodate more. Our staff and the 5-member Planning Commission will spend the coming months exploring ways to comply with the new state law while maintaining our beautiful city's welcoming and walkable character.

You are welcome to email City Councilmembers with questions or comments about these or any other topics. Have a great Fall season, and I'll see you in the parks!

Hunter T. George

[hgeorge@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:hgeorge@cityoffircrest.net)

## Public Works: Fall and Winter Prep

Fall and winter have arrived in the PNW, and the Fircrest Public Works team is diligently working to keep the storm systems clear. Our street sweeper follows the [Street Sweeper Map](#) schedule that is posted on our website ([cityoffircrest.net](http://cityoffircrest.net)) to manage the "fall" debris. Public Works staff encourage residents not to blow leaves and other yard debris into the streets, as clogged storm drains are the leading cause of street flooding in the city. Both residents and Public Works share the responsibility of keeping storm drains clear. It takes all of us working together to keep our streets free of debris and safe for everyone.



As temperatures drop, snow and ice may impact our city streets. Public Works staff can proactively apply salt brine to pretreat roads and reactively combat compact snow and ice using our two plow trucks. Snow and ice removal schedules will be followed as in previous years with a primary focus on main arterials, hills, and key intersections.

If you have questions or need to report problem areas, please call Public Works at (253) 564-8900.



## Centennial Celebration Volunteers

Are you ready to make history? The City's Centennial Celebration is just around the corner, and we want YOU to be part of the excitement! This is your chance to join a vibrant team of volunteers and help bring our community's milestone to life. We're looking for enthusiastic individuals to join various committees, including Historical, Sponsorship/Fundraising, Beautification, Communications/Marketing, and Events & Activities. Please email us at [Centennial@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:Centennial@cityoffircrest.net) and let us know how you'd like to contribute your time and talents to help make this celebration truly memorable.

# Serving the Community Since 1925

## Ensuring Pedestrian Safety and a Safe Halloween: A Message from Your Local Police Department

As the school year begins and Halloween approaches, the safety of our children and community is a top priority. With the excitement of back-to-school season and upcoming festivities, it's crucial for parents, students, and drivers to stay mindful of pedestrian safety, while the police department prepares for Halloween activities aimed at fostering a safe and fun environment for everyone.

### Pedestrian Safety for Back-to-School

The return to school means more children walking or biking to school, crossing streets, and waiting at bus stops. To ensure their safety, here are some important reminders:

#### For Drivers:

- Slow down in school zones and obey all posted speed limits. School zones are active during the morning and afternoon hours when children are arriving and leaving school.
- Be prepared to stop for school buses. It is illegal to pass a bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop sign is extended.
- Always yield to pedestrians at crosswalks. Many children may be new to walking routes, and their awareness of traffic might not be fully developed.

#### For Parents and Guardians:

- Teach your children the basics of road safety, including looking both ways before crossing, using crosswalks, and avoiding distractions like phones while walking.
- Encourage your kids to make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street to ensure they are seen.

#### For Students:

- Stick to sidewalks and paths, and avoid walking on the road whenever possible.
- Always use designated crosswalks and follow traffic signals.
- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid using headphones or texting while walking.

### Halloween Safety and Police Involvement

Halloween is a fun and spooky time, but safety is key to ensuring everyone has a great experience. The police department will be actively participating in various community Halloween events, including:

**Trick-or-Treat Patrols:** Officers will patrol neighborhoods to help ensure a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treating experience. We will also be handing out candy at the Public Safety Building.

**Community Events:** Join us for the annual “Haunted Trail” at the Thelma Gilmur Park.

### Safety Tips for Halloween Night:

- Ensure children wear bright or reflective costumes and equip them with flashlights or glow sticks.
- Walk in groups and stay on well-lit streets. Only approach homes with porch lights on.

Parents should inspect all candy before consumption to ensure it's safe.

The police department is committed to making this time of year both fun and safe for everyone. Together, we can protect our children as they head back to school and celebrate Halloween.

Stay safe, and don't hesitate to reach out to your local police department with any concerns.



## Jury Duty in Our Community



Jury duty is a civic responsibility and one of the cornerstones of our justice system. It is an opportunity for citizens to contribute directly to the administration of justice. By serving as a juror, individuals uphold the principle that every person has the right to a fair trial by an impartial jury, a right guaranteed by the Constitution.

In courts of limited jurisdiction, such as municipal courts like Fircrest-Ruston Municipal or district courts, juries are selected in the same way as those in superior courts. This means a jury for the Fircrest-Ruston Municipal Court is selected from a pool of Pierce County voters, not just voters who reside in Fircrest or Ruston.

This process is governed by **RCW 2.36.050**, which states: ***Juries in courts of limited jurisdiction.***

***In courts of limited jurisdiction, juries shall be selected and impaneled in the same manner as in the superior courts, except that a court of limited jurisdiction shall use the master jury list developed by the superior court to select a jury panel. Jurors for the jury panel may be selected at random from the population of the area served by the court.***

Serving on a jury is an important way to give back to the community and ensure the justice system remains fair for all. Your participation helps protect the rights of your fellow citizens and upholds the integrity of our legal system.

# Serving the Community Since 1925

## Parks & Recreation

### Youth Basketball

Registration for our Youth Basketball Leagues will begin in early October, with resident sign-ups starting on Friday, October 4. Non-resident registration will open on Monday, October 14. Practices will start in mid-December.

### Family & Beginner Pickleball

Join us on Sunday afternoons this fall to experience America's fastest-growing sport! Our drop-in Pickleball sessions offer a great opportunity to try the game in a friendly and supportive environment. We provide paddles and balls for check-out, so just bring your enthusiasm. More experienced players are welcome, provided they are patient, inclusive, and willing to assist new players with learning the rules and techniques of Pickleball.

*Dates: October 6, 13, 27, November 3, 17, 24, December 8, 2024*

*Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM*

*Location: Names Family Foundation Gymnasium*

*Fee: Free*

Whether you're new to the game or have some experience, come enjoy a fun and engaging game of Pickleball with us!

### Wednesday Workouts

Join us for our popular Wednesday Workouts program hosted by Triple Impact Coaching! These great clinics will improve a player's basketball IQ and overall skills. We have two different 4-week sessions scheduled for September and October.

### Beginning Ballet for Ages 4-6 and 6-8

Taught by Damaris Caughlan, Artistic Director of the Metropolitan Ballet of Tacoma, our Beginning Ballet classes introduce young dancers to the joy of movement and the fundamentals of ballet. Focusing on self-control, listening skills, and patience, Ms. Caughlan fosters a fun and creative environment where children can express themselves through dance. We offer two classes: one for ages 4-6 and another for ages 6-8. Registration for the Winter Session opens in October. For more information and to register, visit our program registration website.

*Schedule and Details:*

*Ages 4-6: Thursdays from 10:45 to 11:30 AM*

*Ages 6-8: Thursdays from 12:15 to 1:00 PM*

### Adult Yoga

Join our Gentle Yoga class designed for active, older adults to build strength, increase flexibility, and improve balance. This one-hour class includes a mix of seated, standing, and balance postures, as well as stretching, relaxation, and yogic breathing. Bring a yoga mat, blanket/towel, water bottle, and yoga blocks if you have them. *Classes are held every Monday, Wednesday, and every other Friday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM at the Tom & Meg Names Family Foundation Multi-Purpose Room from October 2 to October 31, 2024. The monthly fee is \$50, and drop-in is \$6. Come for the movement, stay for the community and connection!*

### Barre Classes

Join one of our Barre class for a low-impact, full-body workout that blends Pilates, yoga, and ballet to improve strength, balance, and flexibility through isometric movements. Each session includes a flow warm-up focusing on core and upper body strength, targeted muscle work at the barre, and ends with stretching and breathing exercises on the mat. *Classes are open to ages 16 to 80. Drop-in rates start at \$15, with monthly rates available at \$60.* All fitness levels are welcome!

### Fircrest Parks and Recreation Upcoming Events

**HAUNTED TRAILS** is happening on *Thursday, October 17th, from 6:30-8:30 pm* at Thelma Gilmur Park!

We have an exciting new change this year: all tickets must be purchased in advance—there will be NO tickets available for purchase on the day of the event. Tickets can be bought through Rec Desk or at the Community Center.

### Fircrest Residents Ticket Information

Tickets go on sale: *September 22nd*

*\$3 per person / \$12 per family (up to 6 family members); \$1 for each additional person past 6*

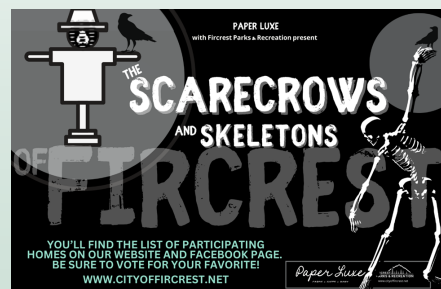
### Non-Fircrest Residents Ticket Information

Tickets go on sale: *October 14th*

*\$5 per person / \$20 per family (up to 6 family members); \$1 for each additional person past 6*

**Event Parking:** Parking will be available at Fircrest Presbyterian Church, located one block west of Thelma Gilmur Park. If you see their volunteers, be sure to thank them for their support!

**Food:** BOSS MAMA'S KITCHEN will be on-site! If you want a "last meal"—or rather, a great meal—before the trails, visit BMK at the parking lot starting at 6:00 pm!



**Join us! City Council Meetings are held the 2nd & 4th Tuesday's of the month at 7:00 pm, Council Study Sessions are the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 pm, & Planning Commission Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm.**

# Serving the Community Since 1925

## Planning and Building

Fall weather with wind and rain is here in Fircrest. Consider hiring a contractor to complete a home inspection to check for roof leaks or cracks in your foundation that could lead to water issues.

If you have tall trees on your lot, consider hiring an arborist to provide a tree risk assessment for your home. Taking these preventative steps now can help you avoid costly repairs and ensure your home is prepared for the fall and winter weather.

### PCALERT!

PCALERT is a free service for people to get notifications about emergencies happening where they live, work and spend time. Signing up takes a few minutes so you can get the right information at the right time.

**SIGN UP FOR PCALERT** by visiting:  
<https://member.everbridge.net/453003085611267/login>

**Have a question about building and planning in Fircrest?**

Please email us at [permits@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:permits@cityoffircrest.net) or  
call (253) 238-4125.



### Fall 2024 Highlights

1. Visit <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/middle-housing/> to see a list of recent presentation materials (Meetings and Agendas Column).
2. The Planning Commission and City Council held public hearings to consider adoption of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. Adoption is required by state law by the end of 2024.
3. We have processed over 150 permits this year and counting, including 57 Mechanical permits for HVAC systems in residential homes.
4. October is National Community Planning Month. Planners work to improve the well-being of all people living in our communities by taking a comprehensive perspective. This approach leads to safer, resilient, more equitable, and more prosperous communities. We celebrate the role that planning plays in creating great communities each October with National Community Planning Month.



## Small Business Spotlight: Fircrest Jewelers



Established in 2016, Fircrest Jewelers is a cherished family-owned and operated jewelry store located in Fircrest. We specialize in crafting and celebrating timeless elegance through our exquisite jewelry collections, custom creations, and expert repair services—all meticulously handled in-house by our skilled artisans.

At Fircrest Jewelers, we are passionate about our craft and dedicated to providing a personalized experience. Whether you're searching for a unique piece to mark a special occasion, need a custom design brought to life, or require precise jewelry repairs, our team is here to assist with care and expertise.

Our commitment to exceptional service and our customers' trust have been the cornerstones of our success. We are deeply grateful for the support we've received and are excited about the opportunities for growth and continued service to our community.

At Fircrest Jewelers, every piece of jewelry tells a story, and we're honored to help you tell yours.

