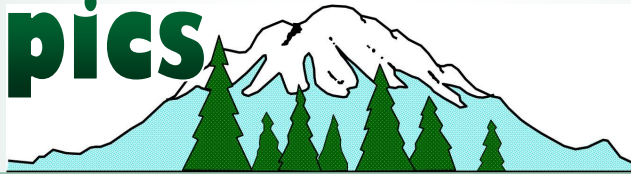


City of Fircrest Town Topics

December 2024

CITY COUNCIL

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



Council Member Spotlight: Jim Andrews



As the holidays approach I want to wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season filled with warmth and happiness and a happy New Year. Like many others in our area, our city has seen consistent thefts and other crimes in the last year.

To view crimes in our city for the last month, follow this link: <https://communitycrimemap.com/map>.

Many of our residents do not report these crimes as they feel that the police can do nothing about them or do not wish to take officers off the street. It is important to report all crimes, even car prowls, as it allows our officers to come to the area and investigate. In many cases, the officers will find the suspect involved in another crime in the area and this might be enough to allow the officers to arrest the suspect.

Another important reason to report all crimes is that it allows the police to obtain data that can assist in discovering crime patterns and then setting appropriate area patrols. Here are a few things we as citizens can do to try to deter these criminals*:

- ◆ Lock your vehicles and leave nothing in plain sight. Most prowlers tend to check open door handles and avoid breaking windows. Once they're in though, they'll take anything they can find, from mail with personal details, loose change, laptops, and even clothing. Ask a neighbor to get your packages off your porch, if you will be gone for a period of time.
- ◆ Install motion detector lights and cameras. Being able to look back on security camera footage allows officers to get a better idea of who to look for in an attempt to identify and catch the suspect. The more footage available, the more information officers will have to investigate the situation.
- ◆ Be a good neighbor and call if you see any suspicious activity in your area. A lot of times, crime happens when it's dark out. Keeping a light on in your driveway will help deter criminals. In closing, please call our police department when you see or have been a victim of a crime.

*Information gathered from various Crime Stoppers websites.

Jim Andrews
jimandrews@cityoffircrest.net

Centennial Celebration Volunteers

In 2025, Fircrest will celebrate 100 years of community, and we're gearing up for an entire year of festivities! Join your neighbors in honoring our rich history and vibrant future with exciting new events, including Fircrest garden tours, scavenger hunts, and more. Our beloved community gatherings, like Fircrest Fun Days, will feature a special centennial theme making Fircrest's 100th birthday truly unforgettable!

A dedicated Centennial webpage will be launching soon on the City's website, where you'll find a full calendar of events, along with fascinating historical tidbits about our town's journey over the past century. Stay tuned for more details! We need your help to make this milestone event a success! Volunteers are essential, and we're currently seeking individuals to join our subcommittees and assist on event days.

Here are the areas where you can make a difference:

- ◆ **Events, Activities & Community Engagement**
- ◆ **Beautification**
- ◆ **Historical Research**
- ◆ **Communications & Marketing**
- ◆ **Sponsorship & Fundraising**

If you're interested in being part of the celebration, please reach out to the Centennial Committee at centennial@cityoffircrest.net. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



Serving the Community Since 1925

Staying Safe During the Holiday Season: A Message from Your Local Police Department

With the holiday season in full swing, people are bustling with shopping, traveling, and preparing for festive gatherings. Unfortunately, this busy time attracts thieves looking to exploit distracted shoppers and unlocked homes. It's essential to stay vigilant and follow a few preventive strategies to minimize the risk of theft. For instance, when shopping, always keep your bags close and avoid leaving them unattended in your car, as visible bags are easy targets for thieves. Parking in well-lit areas and being mindful of your surroundings can deter opportunistic criminals.

Home security is another key aspect, especially as many travel during the holidays. Thieves often look for signs that indicate an empty home, such as piled-up mail or dark windows. To protect your property, consider using timers for lights and have a neighbor collect any packages or mail while you're away. For added security, installing cameras or motion-activated lights can be effective deterrents. Many newer home security systems also offer app-based monitoring, allowing you to monitor your home from anywhere.

Finally, keep an eye on deliveries. With the popularity of online shopping, package theft has become a common issue, particularly during the holiday season. Requesting signature confirmation, tracking packages, or sending deliveries to a secure locker are great ways to protect your purchases. Also, many local businesses allow packages to be delivered to their store, which is often safer than leaving them at your front door. By taking these steps, you can enjoy a safer, more secure holiday season, free from the worry of theft.



Public Works: Electron Way and Contra Costa Avenue Pedestrian Safety Project

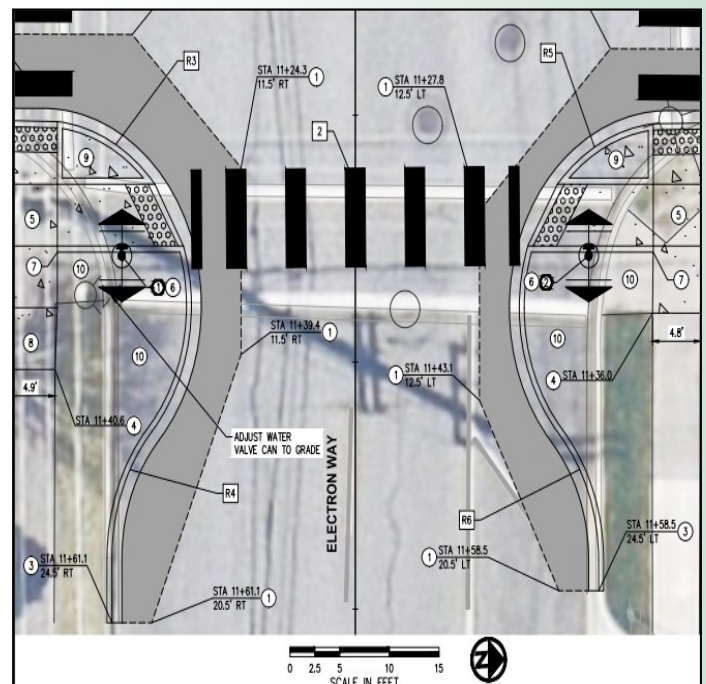
Over the past year, Public Works staff have been working diligently to secure outside funding for the design and construction of a pedestrian safety project at the intersection of Electron Way and Contra Costa Avenue. This project is a priority as it will provide safe pedestrian connectivity between the Tot Lot, Tennis/Pickleball Courts, Community Center, and Fircrest Park.

Funding for the project has been secured through a Legislative Allocation facilitated by the Department of Commerce and the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB). Key features of the project include:

- ◆ ADA-compliant curb ramps at all four corners of the intersection
- ◆ Concrete curb bulb-outs to promote reduced speeds
- ◆ Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at both the NE and SE corners to increase driver awareness

Design work has been ongoing, and the construction bid was recently awarded by the City Council. Construction began in late November and is expected to be completed by the end of the year, weather permitting.

For additional project information please contact Public Works Director Tyler Bemis at (253) 564-8900 or publicwork@cityoffircrest.net



Serving the Community Since 1925

Parks & Recreation

Parks Update

2024 was another busy year for the Parks Department! We wrapped up the Fircrest Turf Replacement Project and made big strides on the Whittier Master Plan, which was officially adopted in November. The Whittier Park Master Plan will guide future development and improvements at Whittier Park.

A huge thank you to everyone who took time out of their schedules to complete the survey and attend the three public meetings for Whittier Park. Your input has been invaluable!

Edwards Family Aquatic Center Recap

In 2024, the Fircrest Pool had a great season, with 21,536 total visits across General Admission, Punch Pass, and Season Pass holders. Resident Season Passes remained popular, with 721 passes purchased, leading to 3,916 resident visits for Afternoon and Night Swim combined, while non-residents accounted for 12,250 visits. Program registrations were also strong, with 949 individual swim lesson registrations and 66 Swim Team members. Our newly revamped water aerobics class averaged 18 participants throughout the summer, and a pilot session for adult swim lessons was a success and will become a regular program for 2025. We're aiming to have the 2025 Edwards Family Aquatic Center summer schedule ready by March, looking forward to another fantastic season at the pool!

Fircrest Parks And Recreation Department Programs

We're excited to continue to present a diverse range of programs and activities this winter at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center. Our adult programming features fitness activities like Gentle Yoga, Chair Yoga, Drop-in Pickleball, Drop-in Table Tennis. For community members aged 65 and above, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM offer a chance to enjoy local freshly brewed coffee, donuts, and the daily newspaper. Preschool-aged kids have various options, including dance classes, Tot Story time, Tot Gym, Skyhawks Sports Clinics, and STEM based Snapology programs.

Registration for our 4 & 5-year-old Pee Wee Soccer program opens in January. Keep an eye on our website in December for more details about upcoming afterschool and teen programs for 2025.

The Gym will be bustling this winter as we launch our third basketball season in the Names Family Foundation Gymnasium. Elementary-aged kids registered for this basketball league will participate in practices and games from Monday through Saturday in the Community Center Gym.

Fircrest Parks and Recreation Department Facility Rentals

Many of our community members have already had the pleasure of utilizing the reservable spaces within the Roy H. Murphy Community Center. Our community center boasts a diverse range of spaces suitable for various gathering sizes. To begin the process of renting a facility, the first step is to create an online RecDesk Account if you don't already have one. Once your account is set up and approved, you can access the City of Fircrest RecDesk site to review specific details about all our available spaces. Once you've found a space that suits your needs, our real-time availability calendar will display the dates and times that are open. After selecting your desired date, you'll be prompted to complete and sign the rental agreement. Reservation approval can take up to 10 business days.

We are currently taking reservations for community center rooms, party room and outdoor shelters for January-May 2025. Summer 2025 Pool and Party Room rentals will begin February 2025. Our office staff is readily available to assist you with the RecDesk account and Facility Rental process. You can visit us or give us a call at the front desk, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at 253-564-8177.



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

As we journey into the colder and wetter months of the year, it's important to ensure that work being conducted in and around your home is permitted and inspected to ensure code compliance and the safety of your home. If you are unsure about the status of your permit or inspection, please reach out to us at permits@cityoffircrest.net.

Permitting

As of early November 2024, the Planning and Building Department has processed 191 permits:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ◆ 2 ADU Permits | ◆ 44 Building Permits |
| ◆ 3 Single Family Home Permits | ◆ 27 Roofing Permits |
| ◆ 71 Mechanical Permits | ◆ 3 Fire Permits |
| ◆ 29 Plumbing Permits | ◆ 1 Sign Permit |
| ◆ 1 Clearing & Grading Permit | ◆ 1 Demolition Permit |

Our over-the-counter permits are currently being processed and issued same day. Larger projects requiring planning and building review currently have a 15-business day turnaround.

Middle Housing Public Survey



We are pleased to announce that our middle housing public survey is now open. Physical copies will be mailed to each household. We encourage you to share your thoughts and help us better understand your housing needs by completing the comprehensive survey, which will provide valuable input on our community's housing future. You may mail the completed form back to us using the included return envelope, drop it off at City Hall, or fill it out online by using the QR code provided here or on the bottom of the form. We look forward to hearing your feedback!

Scan for Survey



Fircrest Around Town

Best of Pierce County Winners

Several Fircrest businesses were recently named as Best of Pierce County contest winners. Chopper's Holistic Pet Store, Royal Thai Bistro, Tapco Credit Union, Fircrest Jewelers, and TheraNeu Massage & Wellness were all named Gold winners in their categories, and Brown's Flowers and University Place Pediatric Clinic were Silver winners in their categories. Congratulations to these local businesses!

2024 Santa Sleigh Ride

Two nights each year, with the help of the Fircrest Police Department and Tacoma Fire Departments, Santa and his helpers ride through town visiting as many neighborhoods as possible. Each night there are designated stops so that kids can get a free picture with Santa. Santa's Sleigh Ride routes will be posted on the City's website soon.

