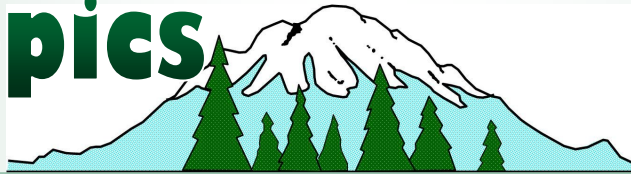


# City of Fircrest Town Topics

April 2025

## 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: David Viafore



As we approach Fircrest's Centennial, I think back to 1925 when the area known as Regents Park was incorporated and began to prosper. The last 100 years have seen many changes, but the dream that guided the town's birth has not been forgotten. Thanks to our forefathers, residents, and volunteers over the years, Fircrest is still one of the most desirable communities in Pierce County.

The question of what is "Fircrest" still conjures thoughts of lovely yards, fir trees, beautiful homes, rhododendrons, cherry blossom trees, street banners, flower baskets, carved bears, and friendly but strict police officers who enforce our respective speed limits.

Fircrest remains the "Jewel of Pierce County," an ideal place to live and raise a family with our extensive parks and recreation programs, high-quality public safety, and superb utilities. These are all possible due to the excellent and dedicated employees the City has been able to attract over the years. The development of Fircrest began with great optimism, and with this same view, we have grown into a well-established community with a rich history and a vision for the future.

The community has always stepped forward for a good challenge. This was the case 25 years ago when the City Council agreed to challenge a few business and community leaders to raise funds for 12 flowering baskets for the main intersections of Regents Blvd. It took less than 2 days to meet that challenge. The following year (our 75th anniversary), nearly 250 donations came in to beautify the Boulevard. This marks the 25th anniversary of this successful program. To date, a little over \$250,000 has been raised for the beautification program. With your help and involvement, this year could be the best commemoration possible, befitting our 100 years of Community.

With the dedication that our City Manager, Dawn Masko, brings along with her leadership and desire to maintain this uniqueness, Fircrest will continue to carry on the family-orientated atmosphere for the next 100 years.

In closing, I would like to thank each and every one of you for maintaining the beauty of Fircrest and for carrying on its rich traditions. Please join me in contributing to this year's beautification program.

As always, it is a privilege and pleasure to serve you. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any member of the City Council as well as myself.

David M. Viafore  
dviafore@cityoffircrest.net

# Serving the Community Since 1925

## Spring into Safety: Crime Prevention Tips

As the weather warms up and outdoor activities increase, it's a great time to refresh your home and neighborhood security habits. Follow these simple tips to help keep our community safe this spring!

### Home Security

- ◆ Always secure your home and lock all doors & windows, even if you are going to be away for a short time.
- ◆ Don't forget to lock sheds, garages, and all entry points.
- ◆ Close your garage door. Even a small opening can invite intruders.
- ◆ Consider security cameras for added protection.



### Property & Vehicle Security:

- ◆ Keep valuables out of sight. Don't leave purses, wallets, or electronics in plain view in your home or car.
- ◆ Lock up bicycles. Store them in a secure location and out of sight.
- ◆ Park in well-lit areas, and if possible, use a secured garage.



### Personal Safety:

- ◆ Stay alert, walk in well-lit areas, and always carry a phone for emergencies.

By working together and staying vigilant, we can keep our community safe and enjoyable for everyone this season. Remember—report all suspicious activity to Fircrest Police. Stay safe and spring into safety!

## Fircrest Forever Foundation (Formerly Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation)

We are excited to announce that our grant funding partner, the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation has officially changed its name to the **Fircrest Forever Foundation**.

This new name reflects the foundation's enduring commitment to support, preserve, and enhance Fircrest's parks and recreation facilities and programming for generations to come. While the foundation will continue to partner with the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Department, they remain an independent, grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to community, livability, and equity.

To date, the Fircrest Forever Foundation has **donated \$20,300** to Fircrest Parks and Recreation, enhancing a wide range of recreational programs and activities for the community while expanding community offerings. Join us in celebrating this new chapter with the Foundation as we work together to ensure Fircrest's parks and recreation programs thrive forever!

Additionally, we are also very excited to share that the Fircrest Forever Foundation has secured funding through their valued relationship with the Names Family Foundation for the Fircrest Park Backstop Restoration Project, slated to begin in August. This project will upgrade the aging baseball fields with taller backstops and enhanced safety fencing, significantly benefiting the vibrant youth baseball program and ensuring a safer, more inclusive environment for all participants for many years to come.



To learn more about the Fircrest Forever Foundation, please visit: [www.fircrestforever.com](http://www.fircrestforever.com).

# Serving the Community Since 1925

## Parks & Recreation: Come Join Us

### Community Center Hours

Open Year-Round - 8 AM to 9 PM Monday through Friday & 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday and Sunday (Excluding Federal Holidays)

### Department Highlights

Kick off your mornings with some fun and friendship at a relaxed gathering for coffee, doughnuts, games, and newspapers at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center. Join us every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 AM to 11 AM. Proudly sponsored by Top Pot and Voss Insurance Group, these meet-ups are a fantastic way to start your day with your neighbors in a warm and welcoming environment.

But that's just the beginning! Fircrest Parks and Recreation holds monthly senior trips—designed especially for you to explore local treasures. We've toured spots like Snoqualmie, Seattle, Lacey, and many more. With only 13 seats available per trip, every adventure is intimate and full of great moments.

### Join The Fun

Here's how to join up: Online: Visit [fircrest.recdesk.com](http://fircrest.recdesk.com), then go to Programs > Adult Activities > Senior Trips. In Person: Drop by the Roy H. Murphy Community Center at 555 Contra Costa Ave, Fircrest, WA 98466.

Remember, you'll need a valid RecDesk account to sign up. For any questions, just shoot an email to [parksandrec@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:parksandrec@cityoffircrest.net). We're excited to have you join us for these wonderful experiences—whether it's a morning catch-up or an adventurous trip across town. See you there!



## Public Works: Spring Cleaning

### Spring Cleanup Reminder – DO NOT Blow or Throw Yard Debris into the Street



As the sun begins to shine and the grass starts to grow, the dedicated residents of Fircrest take to their yards, showcasing their pride in beautification. We understand that leaves and grass clippings can be frustrating and difficult to manage, especially when they come from a neighbor's yard. However, raking or blowing them into the street is **not permitted**. Yard debris is considered a **prohibited contaminant** and is one of the leading causes of **storm drain clogs and flooding**.

Remember, it is **your responsibility** to clean up and properly dispose of yard debris. Let's work together to keep **Fircrest the jewel of Pierce County** that it is!

Visit our Parks & Recreation webpage for up-to-date information on all of our programs, events, and facility rentals.

<https://www.cityoffircrest.net/government/parks-and-recreation/>



# Serving the Community Since 1925

## Fircrest History: The Early Days of Regents Park 1906—1924



On October 31, 1906, a group of San Francisco financiers incorporated the Narrows Land Company and purchased the plat for Regents Park, marking the beginning of a new community development project. Their vision was to create a carefully planned, park-like community, with special attention to layout and amenities.

Major Edward J. Bowes, the project's promoter, played a key role in attracting residents, offering tours of the area in a carriage drawn by his white horses, "Merry" and "Christmas." These tours helped potential buyers envision life in Regents Park.

By 1910, the layout of Regents Park was nearly complete. The community featured Spring Lake, a zoo with monkeys, parrots, and a kangaroo, and the iconic Fircrest Lions at the entrance. The lions, however, were later removed due to weather-related damage. The 1910s also saw the completion of the first home in Fircrest, the Thompson House, located at 363 Del Monte. The Thompson family, part of the Sears Roebuck fortune, was instrumental in financing the development.

In 1912, the Fircrest Methodist Church was built by J.A. Mason. This church also served as Fircrest's first City Hall and council chambers, marking an important step in the formation of the town's governance. As more homes were constructed, so too were the Fircrest Golf Course and Regents Park Elementary School, both completed in 1924. These early developments laid the foundation for the community of Fircrest, shaping its growth and establishing a rich historical legacy that continues to define the community today.

Interested in more Fircrest History? Stay tuned to future issues of Town Topics, and head over to our website at [cityoffircrest.net](http://cityoffircrest.net) where we will share more facts and features as we celebrate our Centennial.

**Spring Street, looking east  
from Buena Vista Avenue**  
**Circa 1931**



Courtesy of the Clay Curtiss Collection, *Of Lions and Dreams, Of Men and Realities: An illustrated History of Fircrest, Washington* by Richard D. Osness (1976).