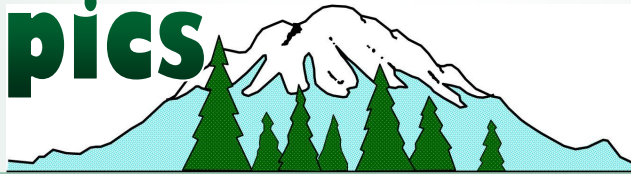


City of Fircrest Town Topics

February 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: Shannon Reynolds



Fircrest,

It is with great joy that I write to you at this time of new beginnings and renewal with updates from the last year and plans to carry our city into 2025.

First, I want to express gratitude and thanks for all who made Fircrest the wonderful place it is to live and work over the past year. We are so grateful as a city to all of our community members and to the civic clubs that help keep Fircrest thriving, including Kiwanis, Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation, and our dedicated event volunteers. To those of you who donated your time, talents, energy, and participation throughout 2024, a heartfelt thank you!

The city closes out the year in a strong financial position. Fircrest is financially solvent and I feel confident that the city is ready to provide quality programming, fund public safety, maintain the public infrastructure, and respond adaptively and efficiently to emergent needs.

It is a great source of pride that the new recreation center has grown into a jewel of our city. This year, one in every ten Fircrest residents purchased a summer pool pass; summer events saw record turnout (with over 1,000 strawberry shortcakes sold!), and the City was even invited to host US Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland for a Vietnam veterans' pinning ceremony in the recreation center. We are thrilled to see the Fircrest public enjoying this beautiful amenity.

There is lots more planned both in the short-term and throughout 2025: Medallion Madness is returning soon as well as unveiling of a new Murphy Bear statue at the Gene Goodwin Tot Lot Park. Full details for these events can be found at the recreation center.

Starting in February, you can look forward to monthly information in your *Town Topics* newsletter as Fircrest celebrates its centennial anniversary in September with events planned throughout the entire year. That feature will begin next month, opening with a column from Councilmember Viafore.

Also next month, I will give a State of the City address at the February 25th regular City Council meeting at 7:00 PM at City Hall. We hope that you can join us or tune in via Zoom. We look forward to connecting with you.

Happy New Year,

Shannon Reynolds, Mayor
sreynolds@cityoffircrest.net

Centennial Anniversary Proclamation

PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, in 1907, a group of financiers from San Francisco purchased a parcel of land in Western Washington and named the subdivision Regents Park, envisioning it as a "residential park, an enchanting spot to enjoy life and raise a family;" and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 1925, the community and its 306 residents incorporated as the Town of Fircrest, to ensure financial stability, continue the development of infrastructure and services, and preserve its strong sense of community; and

WHEREAS, in May 1990, the Town of Fircrest transitioned to a non-charter code city to continue enhancing services to its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fircrest, fondly referred to as the "Jewel of Pierce County," has upheld the vision of a residential park as it blends natural beauty with healthy recreational activities, vibrant community events, peaceful neighborhoods, excellent community policing, charming small businesses, and over 27 acres of beautiful parks; and

WHEREAS, 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of Fircrest's incorporation; and

WHEREAS, a variety of community events and activities are planned throughout the year to celebrate the City of Fircrest's Centennial and honor its great history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fircrest invites as community organizations, businesses, and residents to participate in the Centennial celebration and the festivities throughout 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS of the City of Fircrest, do hereby proclaim the year 2025 as the **City of Fircrest's 100th Anniversary**. We congratulate the community on achieving this significant milestone in our history, as we encourage all residents to join us in celebrating the City of Fircrest's Centennial anniversary.

Check out our **Up To Date Information** webpage www.cityoffircrest.net/updates for the latest information, including current meeting agendas, minutes, resolutions, ordinances, and project updates.

Serving the Community Since 1925

Dogs Off Premises To Be On Leash: A Message from Your Local Police Department



As members of our community, we all share the responsibility of ensuring our public spaces are safe, clean, and enjoyable for everyone—including our pets.

One simple yet crucial way to contribute is by adhering to our city's leash law.

The leash law requires dogs to be on a leash when in public spaces unless in designated off-leash areas. This ordinance is not only about following rules; it's about promoting safety, harmony, and respect among neighbors.

Here's why the leash law matters:

Safety for Pets and People: Even the most well-behaved dogs can react unpredictably to new stimuli. Keeping your dog on a leash prevents potential conflicts with other animals, reduces the risk of accidents, and ensures the safety of everyone nearby.



Respect for Others: Not everyone is comfortable around dogs. Leashing your pet shows consideration for those who may feel uneasy or have allergies. We encourage all pet owners to enjoy the city's parks and trails responsibly. Keeping your dog leashed is a simple action that goes a long way in maintaining a welcoming community for all.

Let's work together to keep our city safe and enjoyable—one leash at a time!

7.03.150 Dogs off premises to be on leash.

"Unless in a designated off-leash area ("off-leash area" shall mean any area designated by the city within which dogs, under the effective control of the owner or custodian, may be off leash), it shall be a violation for the owner or custodian of any dog to cause, permit, or allow such dog to roam, run, stray, or be away from the premises of such owner or custodian and to be on any public place or any public property or the private property of another in the city unless such dog, while away from such premises, is controlled by a leash or chain not more than eight feet in length..."



Public Works: 2025 Water Utility Rate Increases

2025 Water Utility Rate Increase

On November 26, 2024, the City Council held a public hearing to receive comments on a Proposed Water Rate Adjustment. On December 10, 2024, the City Council adopted a 3% water rate increase. The new rates are effective February 1, 2025, and you will notice the increase on your April 2024 utility bill.

Rate adjustments help support water utility operation and maintenance costs and provide funding for capital improvements.

What can you expect?

For Single Family Residential (SFR) within city limits, customers will notice a minimum increase on your water base charge of \$1.21 for each bi-monthly (2-month) billing cycle.

Here is how that breaks down:

- ◆ The "Water Ready to Serve" fee will increase by \$1.21 (from \$40.22 to 41.43).
- ◆ Water usage is billed by cubic foot (cf) based on the following tiers and is not included in the minimum increase above.

Water usage charges will increase as follows:

- ◆ Tier 1: (1 - 1,000 / cf) § Charges will increase by \$0.0004/cf (from \$0.0118/cf to \$0.0122/cf)
- ◆ Tier 2: (1,001 - 4,000 / cf) § Charges will increase by \$0.0005 (from \$0.0177/cf to \$0.0182/cf)
- ◆ Tier 3: (4,000 - + / cf) § Charges will increase by \$0.0009/cf (from \$0.0301 to \$0.0310/cf)

Serving the Community Since 1925

Parks & Recreation

2024 Highlights and Exciting Plans for 2025!

2024 was another busy and productive year for the Fircrest Parks Department! We successfully wrapped up the Fircrest Turf Replacement Project and adopted the new Whittier Master Plan.

Park Improvements for 2025!

1. Masko Park Improvements

Thanks to the generosity of George Masko's grandchildren and other donors, Masko Park will receive a well-deserved update this year. One of the key enhancements is a brand-new swing set, which will serve as the centerpiece of the park. This project holds special meaning for the Masko family, as they grew up in Fircrest when a small playground was part of the park.

In collaboration with trusted partners like the Pierce County Conservation District, we'll also focus on removing invasive species, thinning underbrush, and improving sightlines throughout the park to create a more welcoming and accessible space.

Funding for this project comes from two generous donations—the Kiwanis Club of Fircrest and the Fircrest Parks & Recreation Foundation—along with remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Work is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2025.

2. Fircrest Park Tennis Court Fence Replacement

The 40+ year-old tennis court fence will be replaced with a modern black fence, addressing long-standing wear and tear issues and inconsistencies where the fence meets the ground. This sleek update will enhance both the functionality and aesthetics of the park.

Reserve a Space at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center!

We are now accepting reservations for January–December 2025. Summer 2025 pool and party room rentals will open in February.

Reservations may take up to 10 business days for approval.

Need help? Our staff is here for you! Visit or call us at 253-564-8177, Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–2:00 PM.

Fircrest Parks and Recreation Department Programs

We're excited to continue offering a diverse range of programs and activities this winter at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center, such as Adult Yoga, Pickleball, and Tennis; Senior (65+) mornings with coffee and donuts; Preschooler options that include Tot Storytime, Tot Gym, Skyhawks Sports Clinics, dance classes, and STEM programs.

Additional New Programs for 2025 include:

♦ **Youth:** Chess Club, Day Hiking Trips, and Teen Nights.

♦ **Teens and Adults:** Environmental Club, Active Adult Hikes, Socials (Bingo, Bunco, etc.), and Senior Trips.

♦ **Sports and Fitness:** Adult Pickleball and Drop-In Basketball, Drop in Ping Pong, Exercise classes and more!

Single Day Camps

We are planning single-day camps that align with no-school days throughout the school year. And, returning for six weeks in July and August we will have Fircrest Summer Day Camps. Information and registration will be available end of February for Summer Day Camps.

We're looking forward to another fun-filled year of recreation and community engagement. Stay tuned to our website for updates and announcements!



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.



Winter 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.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS FOR FIRCREST RESIDENTS!

Stay informed during emergencies with two reliable emergency notification services:

PCALERT is a free service provided by Pierce County Emergency Management. [SIGN UP FOR PCALERT](https://member.everbridge.net/453003085611267/login) at <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085611267/login>

CodeRED is the City of Tacoma's Emergency Management system for local alerts. Sign up by visiting [Community Notification Enrollment](https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF43D17803B8) at <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF43D17803B8>

Signing up for these services only takes a few minutes so you can get emergency notifications about emergencies happening where you live, work, and spend time.

Spring 2025 Highlights

1. Visit www.cityoffircrest.net/middle-housing/ to see a list of recent presentation materials (Meetings and Agendas Column) and information regarding the community survey that was sent to all households in Fircrest. **The survey has been extended through February 28, 2025 so there is still time to respond!**

Scan for Survey



2. The City Council adopted the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. 2025 work goals include: continue working on middle housing, working with the Tacoma School District on the Whittier Elementary School rebuild project, and an urban tree canopy report.

3. We processed 206 building permits in 2024, responded to 72 code enforcement cases (compared to 33 in 2023), and resolved 62 out of the 72 cases.

4. Did you know? Fircrest is celebrating its 100 year centennial this year. In September 1925, Regents Park and its 306 residents incorporated as the Town of Fircrest. Check the City website to learn more about Centennial celebration events.



Have a question about building and planning in Fircrest?

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

