

City of Fircrest Town Topics

June 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: Nikki Bufford



This year we celebrate 100 Years of Community, a milestone that honors Fircrest's enduring legacy as a place where neighbors support each other, friendships are formed, and community pride runs deep.

As our city continues to grow and evolve, our strength of community remains constant. Whether you're gathering at Fircrest Fun Days, enjoying National Night Out, or supporting a local business, these moments of connections define who we are.

Over the years our community events have become cornerstone traditions, eagerly anticipated by residents of all ages. Events like this year's 37th Annual Picnic and Rod Run, Haunted Trails, and the Holiday Market and Tree

Lighting, bring people together in celebration. What many may not see, however, is the dedication and effort behind the scenes that makes these events possible.

Most of our events are powered by volunteer committees working hand in hand with our Parks & Recreation Department. Planning often begins months in advance, coordinating logistics, securing funding, designing activities, and finding new ways to bring neighbors together. And when the big day arrives, we rely on many day-of-event volunteers to help with setup, manage activities, and ensure that everything runs smoothly.

I am incredibly thankful for the time, energy, and heart our volunteers pour into these events. Their efforts may be behind the scenes, but their impact is front and center.

This year's expanded slate of events, in celebration of our centennial, is a testament to what we can accomplish together. From the citywide Centennial Scavenger Hunt to the Fun Days Centennial Parade and the return of Derby Days, our 100-year celebration will offer more ways than ever for residents to connect and create new memories.

Volunteering is one great way to get involved, build connections, and contribute to the future of our city. Volunteers become part of a team committed to making Fircrest vibrant, welcoming, and full of life. Whether you have an hour to spare or a unique skillset to lend, there are opportunities for you to get involved.

Visit the Parks & Recreation website to learn more about volunteer opportunities and upcoming events. Let's continue building on 100 years of community, together.

Nikki Bufford, Mayor Pro Tempore
nbufford@cityoffircrest.net

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Police: A Message from Acting Chief Gollinger



Hello Fircrest!

I have been asked to step in as the Acting Police Chief for the City of Fircrest while the search for a permanent Chief is underway. As those who live here know, Fircrest is more than just a place - it is a close knit, resilient, and supportive family. It is my honor to serve the community during this time of transition.



During this interim period, my focus will be on maintaining stability by supporting our staff and helping to prepare the way for a smooth transition once a new Chief is hired. We are actively working to find the right person for the permanent role. Panel interviews were recently held with candidates, followed by a community meet-and-greet at the Community Center to give residents a chance to connect with them.

We have been busy these past few months. As we head into summer, we are gearing up for all of the summer events Fircrest provides. National Night Out and Fircrest Fun Days are just around the corner. We're also pleased to welcome Officer Thompson to our team. With his addition, we are now fully staffed.

I look forward to seeing you all at the park and around the community this summer. Thank you for your continued support and for making Fircrest the special place it is.

Acting Chief Gollinger

Public Works: Water Conservation Tips

The City of Fircrest Public Works Department is committed to promoting, educating, and informing residents about the importance of water efficiency. We encourage everyone to join us in conserving water for the benefit of future generations and the environment

What Can We Do to Preserve Water Sources?

1. Home Water Conservation

There are many steps individuals and communities can take to use water more sustainably and reduce waste. Simple actions such as taking shorter showers, turning off the tap while brushing your teeth or washing dishes, and running only full loads in the washing machine can save thousands of gallons of water per household each year. Fixing leaky faucets or pipes is also essential, as even small drips can waste a significant amount of water over time.

2. Landscaping and Gardening Choices

Outside the home, replacing manicured lawns and traditional gardens with native plants and drought-tolerant species like succulents can significantly reduce water usage. Where lawns are necessary, watering efficiently in the early morning and avoiding irrigation on windy days helps minimize evaporation and water waste.

By following these tips, residents can not only conserve water but also contribute to the sustainability of their environment. We appreciate your cooperation in our water conservation efforts.



Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Summer Day Camp

Fircrest Day Camp:

Looking for an unforgettable summer experience? Look no further than Fircrest Park & Recreation's Summer Day Camp! Get ready for a week packed with excitement, exploration, creativity, and opportunities to learn new skills—all in a supportive and engaging environment.

Camp Highlights:

- Exploration:** Embark on neighborhood walks and discover the wonders of our community.
- Skill Building:** Engage in team-building games and activities to enhance cooperation and leadership skills.
- Swimming:** Dive into refreshing pool sessions to cool off and splash around.
- Crafts and More:** Unleash your creativity with hands-on craft projects and enjoy a variety of other fun-filled activities.



Scan the QR code to sign up!



Schedule:

Dates: Monday through Friday, July 7 to August 15

Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Weekly Fees:

Resident Fee: \$190.00

Non-Resident Fee: \$220.00

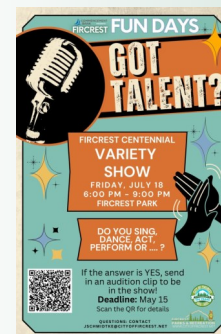
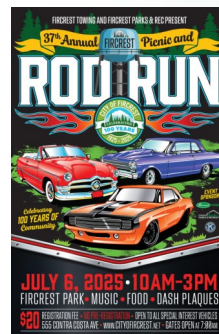
Spaces fill up quickly—don't miss out on a summer full of memories!

Visit www.cityoffircrest.net/recreation to register or learn more.

Parks & Recreation: Events Happening in Fircrest

Fircrest is turning 100—and this year's events are bigger, better, and more exciting than ever!

We're marking a century of community, connection, and Fircrest pride! Join us for enhanced activities, special surprises, and your favorite events—reimagined for our Centennial year. Want to learn more? Check out the flyers below or scan the QR code for event details and updates.



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/>

Edwards Family Aquatic Center



SWIMMING POOL

Edwards Family Aquatic Center Admission:

- ◆ Open Swim Cost: Resident \$5 | Non-Resident \$10
- ◆ Evening Swim Cost: Resident \$4 | Non-Resident \$8
- ◆ 10 Entries Punch Pass: Resident \$45 | Non-Resident \$90
- ◆ Fircrest Resident Season Pass:
 - 1st Pass \$80 | Additional Passes \$50
- * Family Season Passes are limited to Fircrest Residents Only.
- * Punch Cards are available for both Fircrest Residents and Non-Residents.

Monday - Friday:

- ◆ Lap Swim: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday — 6:30 AM to 7:30 AM
- ◆ Water Aerobics: Tuesday & Thursday — 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM
- ◆ Open Swim: 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM
- ◆ Evening Swim: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Saturday & Sunday:

- ◆ Private Pool Rentals: 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- ◆ Open Swim – Mid-Day Session: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- ◆ Open Swim – Afternoon Session: 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM

All open swim schedules can be found at <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/pool-schedule/> or by scanning the QR code.



Swim Lessons:

Session 1: June 23rd – July 3rd

Resident Registration: June 19th 7:00PM

Non-Resident Registration: June 20th 7:00PM

Registration closes when full or on June 22nd at 6:00PM

Group lessons are for children ages 4 and up and are 32 inches tall at the top of the shoulder. All lessons are offered every half hour.

If your child has not participated in swim lessons before or has minimal experience with swimming, we recommend starting in level 1. If your child can swim but needs work on basic stroke or treading water, please consult with one of our head lifeguards for guidance on what level to sign them up for.

Swim lesson ratios are 5:1 student to instructor ratio. Each session is 5 days a week for two consecutive weeks. Morning classes are offered from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm Monday-Friday. Evening Swim Lessons will be offered from 5:00-6:00 pm Monday-Friday. Swim Lesson Sign-ups will take place the Thursday & Friday before each session begins with the exception of Session 2 due to the 4th of July Holiday.

Pool Rentals

Private pool rentals are only available on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM between May 31st and August 24th, 2025. Saturdays in July are currently on hold pending scheduling for the FAST Swim Team's meets. The party room is available as an add-on in conjunction with your pool rental.

The Party Room is available for rent throughout the year. The rental fee does not include admission to the pool.

Rental applications are only accepted through <https://Fircrest.recdesk.com>.

Visit www.cityoffircrest.net/pool-rental-information for additional details.

Serving the Community Since 1925

Centennial Celebration



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FIRCREST!

We are excited to celebrate our 100th birthday this year! Many plans are in the works to bring our community together, reflect on our history, and celebrate the triumphs that have shaped the character of Fircrest.

As we embark on our year-long journey of centennial festivities, we invite your support and participation. As a community member, you can help contribute to the Centennial Celebration by giving a financial contribution!

Here are the Centennial events to look forward to: Derby Days, Centennial Parade, "Fircrest's Got Talent" Show, and the return of the Fircrest Bear and Rhodie Tour. We'll also have a weeklong Centennial Celebration in September!

Your generosity will contribute to the success of our events that will not only honor our past but also pave the way for a bright future.

Here's how to make a donation as a community member:

- Choose the amount you'd like to donate.
- Scan the QR code below and complete the form.
- Let us know the name(s) you would like written on your tree.
- You will be contacted to pay by credit or debit card.
- Once we receive payment, we'll prepare your tree and display it in the gymnasium.
- \$100+ donations will be displayed in the multi-purpose room at the Community Center.

For business sponsorships or donations:
<https://form.jotform.com/FircrestParksandRecreation/centennial-sponsor-application>

Scan the QR code to make a donation



Proceeds from this fundraising project will be used towards the 2025 Fircrest Centennial Celebration
www.cityoffircrest.net

Public Works: Who is Responsible for Maintaining Sidewalks?

Well-maintained sidewalks contribute to neighborhood safety, accessibility, and appearance. Regular upkeep helps prevent injuries, preserves property value, and supports a more walkable and connected community. Property owners play a key role in keeping sidewalks in good condition for everyone's benefit.

Per **Fircrest Municipal Code 14.04.020**, property owners are responsible for maintaining the sidewalk that adjoins their property, regardless of who originally installed it.

- If the property is privately owned, the owner or occupant must maintain the sidewalk.
- Property owners or occupants are also responsible for maintaining the landscaped strip between the curb and sidewalk, including street trees, gutters, curbs, and parking strips.
- Property owners or occupants are also required to keep the sidewalk in front of their property free from snow, ice, overgrown vegetation, low hanging tree branches, or any other obstructions.

Why Sidewalks Matter

Sidewalks enhance neighborhood safety, beauty, and walkability by providing space for walking, social interaction, and active transportation—making neighborhoods more livable and connected.

Common Sidewalk Hazards

Typical issues include uneven surfaces or elevation changes (even 1/4 inch can pose a tripping hazard), crack, holes, surface erosion, or chipping, and damage from tree roots.

Reporting Hazards

To report hazardous sidewalk conditions, visit www.cityoffircrest.net/report-a-problem, click "Report a Concern" and complete the form. Reports involving hazards in the City right-of-way are forwarded to Public Works. An inspection will occur and if corrective action is needed, the adjoining property owner will be notified.

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest History: Growth, Community, and Civic Spirit 1925 - 1937



On September 8, 1925, residents of Regents Park voted to incorporate as the Town of Fircrest, with 88 votes in favor and just 16 opposed. The town was officially incorporated on September 14, 1925. W.A. Woodkirk was elected as Fircrest's first Mayor with 94 votes, and the first Town Council included Dr. J.A. Caswell, C.H. Renschler, D.R. Rogers, E.H. Fox, and Clarence E. Brown.

From 1927 to 1929, Fircrest made major strides in infrastructure, including improvements to the town's water and light systems. On March 12, 1929, voters approved bonds to purchase the water system, which was officially acquired on May 31. These upgrades supported a growing community, which reached a population of 441 by 1930.

The early 1930s saw a strong sense of community take root. The Fircrest Baseball Team was formed and raised funds for equipment and a backstop through box socials and community dances—showcasing early examples of neighbors rallying together. Around the same time, Fircrest resident and inventor Wood Freeman patented the Wood Freeman Automatic Pilot in 1931, a navigation tool that gained national recognition.

On February 16, 1934, the Fircrest Garden Club was founded at Regents Park School. The club led garden shows and beautification efforts across town and joined both the Tacoma-Pierce County League of Garden Clubs and the State Federation by 1935. Civic engagement continued to flourish in 1936, when the Fircrest PTA and Pre-School launched the "Toys Made in Fircrest" Christmas project during the Great Depression, creating handmade gifts for children through sixth grade.

Fircrest Garden Club 1935



In May 1937, a local non-profit organization, the Fircrest Recreation Association, was established. The group played an active role in promoting recreational, social, and community activities, particularly those geared toward the town's youth.



Toys Made in Fircrest 1936

These early years reflect the strong foundation of leadership, innovation, and the community pride that continues to shape Fircrest today.

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

Garden Club photo 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).

Toys Made in Fircrest photo courtesy of the Tacoma Public Library, D736-1, *Images of America, Fircrest* by Ralph R. Colyer (2015)