

The History of Fircrest

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)