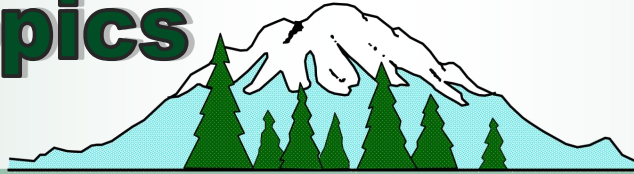


City of Fircrest

Town Topics

August 2026



CITY COUNCIL

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

Councilmember Spotlight: Hunter T. George



Fircrest enjoys a welcome reputation as a safe place to walk and ride, and we never, ever take that for granted. It takes intentional effort to create and maintain the environment that makes people feel safe to move about in our community.

So what makes people safe? Not just actually safe, but feel safe? It takes a comprehensive strategy, and I'm happy to report that Mayor Nikki Bufford appointed a Pedestrian Safety Committee of staff and Councilmembers to tackle this question.

In recent years, the City installed lighted crosswalks on Emerson Street by Thelma Gilmur Park and more recently by the intersection next to the Roy H. Murphy Community Center. These are great individual projects. And they made us wonder – what if we took a comprehensive look at Fircrest and created a plan that guides investments for the next few years in ways to manage traffic speeds so that walkers and cyclists feel safer?

The Pedestrian Safety Committee consists of the City Manager, the Police Chief, and the directors of parks and public works as well as Councilmembers Joe Barrentine and Karen Mauer-Smith. I have the honor of serving as chair.

Pedestrian safety requires traffic safety education, enforcement, and engineering. We all know that Fircrest has a reputation for being good at enforcement. So it's the engineering part that we want to spend more time talking about. Where should we consider things like crosswalks, bike lanes, curb "bulb outs" at intersections, speed cameras, sidewalks, speed signs, planter strips or other physical assets that prompt drivers to go slower without compromising response times by police, fire, and EMS?

While we have had success with individual projects like the recent crosswalks, our goal is to draft a comprehensive strategy. We will use that plan to influence grant applications and other investments for the next few years.

We will use our staff expertise to develop a draft, and then we will share it with the community with a request for your feedback. Stay tuned for opportunities to share your input. In the meantime, I hope to see many of you out walking and riding through our beautiful city.

Hunter George, Councilmember
hgeorge@cityoffircrest.net

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Fircrest Police: New Washington State E-Bike Laws are Now in Effect

On June 11, 2026, new laws Washington State laws governing electric bicycles (RCW 46.61.710) went into effect. These updates were adopted in response to the increasing number of electric bikes (e-bikes) and other motorized two-wheel vehicles on streets, trails, and sidewalks. The new law helps clarify the different types of electric bicycles and distinguishes them from higher-powered motorcycles.



What Qualifies as an E-Bike?

Under Washington law, an electric bicycle (e-bike) must have two or three wheels, a saddle, and fully operable pedals. They must also have an electric motor with no more than 750 watts of power.

The speed of an e-bike must not exceed 20 MPH on motor power alone (except as allowed for Class 3 pedal-assist e-bikes) and cannot be modified to exceed the legal speed limits established for its e-bike classification.

E-Bike Classifications

Class 1: Provides motor assistance only when you pedal, up to 20 mph. Allowed on roads, bike lanes, and most shared-use paths/sidewalks.

Class 2: Can be propelled purely by the motor, up to 20 mph. Allowed on roads, bike lanes, and most multi-use paths/sidewalks.

Class 3: Provides motor assistance only when you pedal, up to 28 mph. Must have a speedometer. You must be at least 16 years old to ride a Class 3 e-bike, and they are not permitted on sidewalks or shared-use trails in Fircrest.

E-BIKES (LEGAL – NOT REGULATED AS MOTOR VEHICLES)		
CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3
 • Pedal assist only • 20 mph max • ≤ 750 watts • No license • No insurance • Bike lanes & roads allowed RCW 46.04 / 46.61.710	 • Throttle allowed • 20 mph max • ≤ 750 watts • No license • No insurance • Bike lanes & roads allowed RCW 46.04 / 46.61.710	 • Pedal assist only • 28 mph max • ≤ 750 watts • No license • No insurance • Bike lanes & roads allowed • Sidewalk use restricted RCW 46.04 / 46.61.710
✓ MUST HAVE FUNCTIONAL PEDALS • MAX 750 WATTS • SPEED LIMITED BY CLASS		

Electric Motorcycles

This type of motorcycle is becoming very popular for young people and can be mistaken for “toy” bikes. However, these motorcycles are very dangerous and are subject to motorcycle laws because of their higher speeds and capabilities.

Under the updated legislation, any electric two-wheeler that lacks operable pedals or can travel over 20 mph strictly on motor power is classified as an electric motorcycle.

Licensing: Because they require a driver's license and motorcycle endorsement, minors under 16 are effectively barred from riding them on public roadways. Under the law regulating motorcycle endorsements, a motorcycle can be impounded if the rider is not properly endorsed.

Enforcement: State and local authorities enforce registration, insurance, and traffic laws for these vehicles. It is important to note that parents can be held liable, and can be cited, if they allow unlicensed juveniles to operate these higher-powered electric motorcycles.

As always, a helmet should be always worn for your personal safety.

Our goal in the City of Fircrest is ensure the safety of all of community members, either those riding the e-bikes or the pedestrians who may encounter them. Please ride legally and safely!

ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLE (NOT AN E-BIKE) Examples: Sur Ron, Talaria, E-Ride Pro	
	RED FLAGS • No pedals or non-functional • High speed capability (30–60+ mph) • Dirt bike / motorcycle frame design • VIN / motorcycle components
LEGAL STATUS: TREATED AS A MOTORCYCLE	
 Motorcycle Endorsement Required RCW 46.20.500	 Registration & Plate Required WA XXXA 1234
 Insurance Required RCW 46.30.020	 Equipment Required (Lights, Mirrors, Brakes, etc.)
 DOT Helmet Required	

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Water Conservation Tips - Every Drop Counts

Summer in the Pacific Northwest brings warmer temperatures, drier weather, and increased outdoor water use. It's the perfect time to take a few simple steps that can make a big difference. Conserving water not only helps protect our community's water resources, it also saves energy and can lower your utility bills.

Smart Outdoor Water-Saving Tips

 **Water early.** Water lawns and gardens in the early morning to reduce evaporation. Watering at this time can save **up to 25 gallons** each time you irrigate.

 **Add mulch.** Mulch helps soil retain moisture and can reduce watering needs by **up to 50%**.

 **Choose water-wise landscaping.** Plant drought-tolerant or native plants that thrive with less irrigation.

 **Aim sprinklers carefully.** Adjust sprinkler heads so water reaches your lawn and gardens—not sidewalks, streets, or driveways.

 **Upgrade your irrigation.** Install rain sensors or smart irrigation controllers to avoid unnecessary watering.

 **Collect rainwater.** Rain barrels provide free water for gardens and landscaping while reducing stormwater runoff.

 **Wash vehicles wisely.** Commercial car washes often recycle water. If washing at home, use a bucket of soapy water and a hose with a shut-off nozzle. A continuously running hose can use **80–140 gallons** during a single wash.

 **Grab a broom instead of a hose.** Sweeping driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them down can save **up to 100 gallons** each time.

 **Use drip irrigation.** Drip systems deliver water directly to plant roots, reducing waste and improving efficiency.

 **Turn off the hose.** A garden hose can use **up to 10 gallons per minute** when left running.

 **Fix leaks promptly.** Regularly inspect hoses, faucets, pipes, and couplings for leaks. Even small drips can waste significant amounts of water over time.

Every drop counts. Small changes in our daily routines can have a lasting impact on conserving one of our most valuable resources. Thank you for helping keep our community water-wise this summer!



Public Works: Sidewalk Safety



THE CITY OF FIRCREST

SIDEWALK SAFETY STARTS AT HOME!

A FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES



Let's work together to keep Fircrest safe, beautiful, and walkable for everyone!

IF IT BORDERS YOUR PROPERTY, HELPING MAINTAIN IT IS PART OF BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

FIRCREST MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 14.04

Property owners and occupants are responsible for maintaining the sidewalk and frontage along their property, including:

- ✓ SIDEWALK
- ✓ CURB & GUTTER
- ✓ PARKING STRIP
- ✓ DRIVEWAY ACROSS SIDEWALK

PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

KEEP IT SAFE & SOUND



Repair cracks, trip hazards, and uneven sidewalks.

KEEP IT CLEAR



Trim trees, shrubs, and vegetation. Keep walkways free and accessible.

KEEP IT VISIBLE



Don't plant or place anything that blocks traffic visibility. Permission is required to plant in parking strips.

KEEP IT CLEAN



Remove snow, ice, and obstructions promptly.

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Obstructions, damage, or unsafe conditions can create hazards and may result in liability for injuries or accidents.



THANK YOU!

Thank you for doing your part to keep Fircrest safe, accessible, and beautiful for our community today and for generations to come!

TOGETHER, WE MAKE FIRCREST THE JEWEL OF PIERCE COUNTY

Contact the Public Works Department
City of Fircrest
(253) 564-8900
publicworks@cityoffircrest.net



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.

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Keep Fircrest Clean: No Feeding Wildlife

We know many people enjoy watching birds and other wildlife visit their yards. It's one of the many things that makes our community special! Large amounts of food can attract more than just songbirds, it also brings raccoons, squirrels, rodents, and other wildlife that can create noise, messes, and other neighborhood nuisances. A little goes a long way! Cleaning up spilled seed, limiting the amount of food left out, and avoiding overfeeding can help keep wildlife healthy while also being considerate of your neighbors. Thank you for helping keep Fircrest a clean, safe, and enjoyable place for both people and wildlife!



38th Annual Rod Run

38th Annual Fircrest Picnic & Rod Run Draws 400+ Special Interest and Classic Cars

On Sunday, July 5th, Fircrest Parks & Recreation hosted the 38th Annual Fircrest Picnic & Rod Run, bringing together car enthusiasts, families, and community members for one of Fircrest's favorite summer traditions.



This year's event featured an incredible display of 402 classic, custom, and special interest vehicles, transforming Fircrest Park into a showcase of beautiful cars, trucks, and plenty of nostalgia. Attendees enjoyed a full day of amazing automobiles, great music, delicious food, and the opportunity to connect with friends, neighbors, and fellow car enthusiasts from throughout the region.

A special thank-you goes to our generous event sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and the Kiwanis Club of Fircrest for their continued support. Once again, the Kiwanis Club helped make the event a success by serving breakfast and lunch to participants and spectators while bringing their trademark energy and hospitality to the park.

Events like this as made possible through the support and participation of our community. Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, sponsored, and helped make this year's Fircrest Picnic & Rod Run another memorable community event. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next summer for another outstanding day in Fircrest!

Strawberry Festival

Summer in Fircrest officially kicked off with the return of the annual Strawberry Festival on June 28, and this year's celebration was one to remember! The 50th Annual Strawberry Festival welcomed one of the largest crowds in event history to Fircrest Park for a day filled with music, food, family activities, and opportunities for neighbors and friends to come together and celebrate.

The park was filled with great music and a variety of vendors, community organizations, and activities that helped create a fun and welcoming atmosphere for all ages.

A special highlight of the day was the continued tradition of strawberry shortcake, with the Fircrest Kiwanis Club and City Council serving more than 1,100 shortcakes to festival attendees. This beloved tradition continues to be one of the many things that makes the Strawberry Festival such a special community event.



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Summer of Fun at the Edwards Family Aquatic Center

Summer has been another exciting season at the Edwards Family Aquatic Center! Throughout the summer, residents of all ages have enjoyed open swim, lap swim, water aerobics, swim lessons, swim team and other aquatic programs designed to help our community stay active, cool off, and have fun.

We are grateful for the continued support and enthusiasm from the Fircrest community. This summer, our swim lessons were once again in high demand, with nearly all available spots filled, and our dedicated pool staff and lifeguards are working hard every day to provide a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable experience for swimmers of all ages.

As we continue through the final weeks of summer, we encourage everyone to take advantage of the remaining opportunities to enjoy the pool. We look forward to seeing you as we wrap up another successful summer season in Fircrest!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our Pool Managers, Cooper and Audrey, at pool@cityoffircrest.net. And don't forget to check our website regularly for the latest schedules and program info: www.cityoffircrest.net/government/parks-and-recreation/swimming-pool



Upcoming Parks & Recreation Events:



Upcoming Events:

Scarecrows of Fircrest - October 2026

Haunted Trails – October 15th, 2026

FirFest – November 14th, 2026

Holiday Market & Tree Lighting – December 6th, 2026

Lights of Fircrest – December 2026



Due to popular demand, the City of Fircrest is excited to bring back Movie in the Park on Thursday, August 20! Join your neighbors at Fircrest Park for a fun-filled evening featuring the classic adventure film *The Goonies*.

The evening will include plenty of family-friendly activities, including food trucks, movie trivia, a costume contest, and a special “Hey You Guysss!” contest for fans of this beloved movie.

Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, family, and friends, and enjoy a summer night together in the park. We look forward to seeing you there!

In Memoriam: Jim Marzano

The City of Fircrest is saddened by the passing of longtime Public Works employee Jim Marzano on July 3, 2026. Jim dedicated 37 years of service to the City, joining the Public Works Department in 1988 and retiring in 2024. Throughout his career, he was known for his exceptional knowledge, unwavering commitment to the community, and willingness to lend a helping hand. Whether assisting residents, mentoring coworkers, or volunteering with the City's annual Santa Sleigh Ride, Jim exemplified the spirit of public service and the values of our community.

Jim's contributions to Fircrest will not be forgotten, and he will be deeply missed by his former colleagues and the many residents whose lives he touched. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones.

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/>

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RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR GUIDANCE

All persons in attendance at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center will be respectful of all others and the property of all others at all times. The use of aggressive physical contact (this includes fighting, play fighting, roughhousing, and wrestling), vulgar gestures, abusive or obscene language, including but not limited to, racial, sexual, or religious references, directed at other members, guests, volunteers, or staff may result in the temporary suspension of the member's right to use the Community Center, Pool or possibly being suspended and trespassed from both facilities.

*Certain actions may result in the immediate suspension, expulsion, or trespass depending on severity. Compliance with these rules is mandatory.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

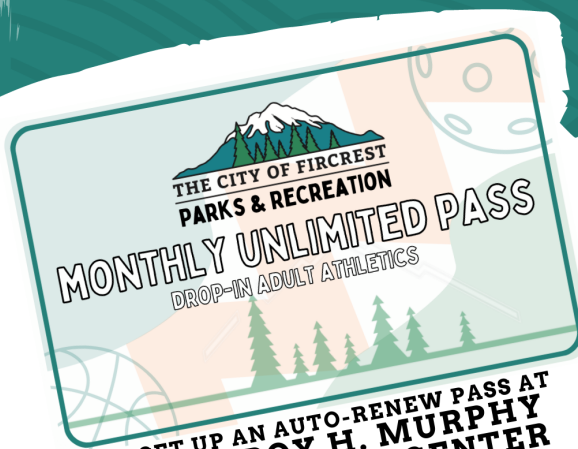
FIRCREST RESIDENTS \$15
NON RESIDENTS \$30

/MONTH

GOOD FOR ADULT ATHLETIC
UNLIMITED DROP-INS
INCLUDING:

- PICKLEBALL
- BASKETBALL

- DOES NOT INCLUDE INSTRUCTOR CLASSES
- INSURANCE PLANS NOT ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME



SET UP AN AUTO-RENEW PASS AT
THE ROY H. MURPHY
COMMUNITY CENTER

OR GET YOUR PASS TODAY AT
FIRCREST.RECDESK.COM

VERIFIED RECDESK ACCOUNT REQUIRED

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/>