

City of Fircrest Town Topics

December 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: Hunter T. George



This has been an extraordinary year as our beautiful little city celebrated its 100th birthday.

Mayor Pro Tem Nikki Bufford chaired the Centennial Committee, which did a wonderful job of marking the occasion throughout the year, culminating in a weeklong celebration in September that highlighted our neighborly spirit. On behalf of the City Council, we thank the city staff, volunteers, event sponsors, and vendors for creating so many opportunities to celebrate Fircrest's Centennial. And most of all we thank you, our residents, for enjoying the fruits of all that hard work.

A special project this year involved updating and upgrading Masko Park by clearing out underbrush and adding playground equipment. It's great to see kids playing there.

This year also saw the arrival of new Police Chief Victor M. Celis, and with recent hires our Police Department is at a full staff complement of 10 commissioned officers. (Watch out, speeders!)

We had a great pool season in the Edwards Family Aquatic Center, and it seems like the Roy H. Murphy Community Center is always full of people of all ages enjoying activities, events, and social gatherings.

Our Public Works crew managed lots of projects to maintain streets and the water, sewer, and stormwater utility systems. And our staff at City Hall managed numerous municipal functions behind the scenes that enable us to operate a full-service city.

As we close the year, we thank outgoing City Councilmember Jim Andrews for his four years of service. Looking ahead to 2026, in January we will welcome Councilmember-elect Joe Barrentine back to the Council, and the 7-member Council will select a mayor to guide our agenda for the next two years.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Hunter George, Councilmember
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Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Police: Keep Your Packages Safe This Holiday Season

The holiday season means more online shopping — and unfortunately, more package thefts. Over **23 million Americans** report stolen deliveries each year, and even our Fircrest community isn't immune.



Keep your holidays merry and theft-free with these simple tips:

1. **Use a Smart Package Locker** – Amazon offers secure pickup lockers at many locations, including local Safeway stores.
2. **Deliver to Your Workplace** – If possible, have packages sent to work so they're never left unattended.
3. **Deliver to a Friend or Relative** – Send your packages to someone you know will be home.
4. **Install a Door Camera** – Visible security cameras can deter thieves and help identify them if theft occurs.
5. **Require a Signature on Delivery** – Prevents packages from being left unattended.
6. **Reroute or Reschedule Deliveries** – UPS and FedEx allow you to adjust delivery times or locations for a small fee.

Holiday Safety Reminder: Protect Your Belongings

It's not just package thefts to be concerned about this time of year — thieves are also targeting vehicles. Please remember:

- **Never leave valuables in your vehicle.** If you must, make sure they're hidden from view.
- **Avoid storing packages in your car** while you continue shopping at malls or large retailers. Thieves often watch for this kind of activity and may break into your vehicle the moment you walk away.
- **Stay alert and take precautions.** Opportunity makes a thief — by removing the temptation, you reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

Let's all do our part to keep ourselves and our property safe this season.

Let's work together to keep Fircrest safe this season. If you see something suspicious, **call 911 immediately**.

Public Works: Upcoming Capital Project

Alameda Avenue from Emerson St to Cypress Pt Sidewalk Project

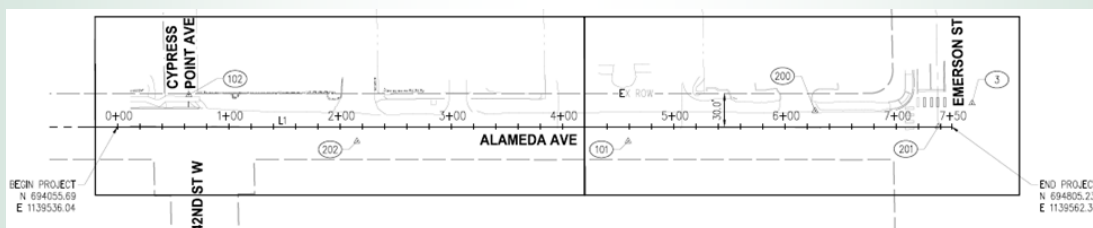
This project will construct approximately 700 feet of new curb, gutter, and sidewalk along the west side of Alameda Avenue, connecting the existing sidewalks between Cypress Point and Emerson Street.

The project is funded through the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), which is covering 85% of the eligible costs—up to a maximum grant of \$472,555. Capital improvement projects like this one are made possible in large part due to outside funding sources such as TIB.

The design includes a 5-foot-wide landscaped strip that will run between the curb and sidewalk — consisting mostly of planted areas with a small section of gravel to help absorb rainwater.

The sidewalk and driveways within the project area will be rebuilt with new concrete, and minor storm drainage upgrades will also be completed to improve water flow and reduce puddling on the street.

This project is anticipated to begin in early 2026. Once completed, the improvements will provide a safer and more accessible pedestrian connection along Alameda Avenue while enhancing neighborhood aesthetics and stormwater management.



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.

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Parks & Recreation Winter Programs and Events



As we move into the darkest part of the year, there's still time to enjoy the Lights of Fircrest home displays! Visit the City website for maps and information to find these festive and creative displays throughout the community. <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/government/parks-and-recreation/community-events/>



Make a difference in our community
by joining Murphy's We Care Club!
Open to all ages!

This winter, we're excited to host our **largest-ever youth basketball league**, with over 455 participants learning teamwork, sportsmanship, and new skills in the Names Family Foundation Gymnasium. While basketball fills our facility during evenings and weekends, there's still plenty of room for other programs and activities. Community members can join **Senior Mornings, senior trips and activities, morning pickleball** on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, as well as **Barre, Yoga, dance classes, and more.**

Don't forget—our Parks & Recreation facilities are also available to rent for **private gatherings**, making them perfect for meetings, parties, and special events.

For the latest program information and updates, visit our **Parks & Recreation website.**

Serving the Community Since 1925

Celebrating Fircrest's Centennial, 1970-2025

As Fircrest entered the 1970s, the city's commitment to parks, recreation, and community life deepened, shaping spaces and traditions that would endure for decades. Planning began in 1970 for Whittier Park, a 10-acre site beside Whittier Elementary School, signaling the city's ongoing investment in places for families to gather and play. Community spirit quickly followed: in 1973, the Kiwanis Club built the original Tot Lot, and a year later, the Fircrest Soccer Club began partnering with the city at Whittier Playfield—a relationship that continues today.

By the mid-1970s, Fircrest's love of celebration was evident. In 1976, the city marked the U.S. Bicentennial with concerts, strawberry shortcake, and the launch of the annual Strawberry Feed, a tradition that continues to bring neighbors together. Two years later, a fighter jet donated by McChord Air Force Base delighted children as a playground attraction at Fircrest Park, remaining a beloved feature for nearly a decade.

The 1980s brought both civic growth and recognition of the city's heritage. Masko Park was dedicated in 1980 to honor George Masko's service to the community, and in 1984, the Fircrest Historical Society placed a marker at the original City Hall at 909 Dartmouth. Civic governance evolved as well: in 1988, Fircrest transitioned from a mayor-council to a council-manager government, with Don Morrison becoming the first City Manager in 1989. The city's formal designation in 1990 reinforced its local authority and strengthened community identity.

The late 1990s saw tangible improvements that reflected Fircrest's pride and character. A new Town Hall opened in 1999, and the Annual Beautification Project began, adding hanging flower baskets to brighten city streets. Residents celebrated the city's 75th anniversary in 2000 with the first Fircrest Fun Days fireworks show, blending civic pride with festive tradition.

Into the 2000s, community spaces continued to evolve. The Community Center was renamed the Roy H. Murphy Community Center in 2004, honoring the city's first Parks and Recreation Director, and in 2006, the new SR-16 Center Street interchange near Cheney Stadium opened, improving safety and regional access.

New traditions and milestones marked the 2010s. Fircrest Derby Days launched in 2011 with old-fashioned soapbox races, while 2015 brought the end of the city's "dry" status, allowing restaurants to serve alcohol by the glass for the first time. Public health remained a priority, and in 2016, smoking and electronic smoking devices were banned across all city parks.

The late 2010s and early 2020s continued the city's investment in recreation and community engagement. Voters approved a park bond in 2019 to fund a new pool, community center, and park improvements. The Edwards Family Aquatic Center opened in 2021, followed by the creation of the Fircrest Forever Foundation to support parks and recreation initiatives. In 2022, the Roy H. Murphy Recreation Center opened, and Alice Peers Park received an upgraded reader board, modernizing facilities and technology while honoring community heritage.

Most recently, the 2024 Whittier Park Master Plan was finalized, guiding future improvements, and in 2025, new playground equipment—including a swing set and log climbers—was installed at Masko Park through a partnership with the Masko family, the Fircrest Forever Foundation, the Kiwanis Club, and City Council-approved funding. Together, these milestones illustrate Fircrest's enduring commitment to community, recreation, and legacy.

Here's to the next 100 years!



Join us as we celebrate 100 years of community! Visit our Centennial webpage at www.cityoffircrest.net/centennial.