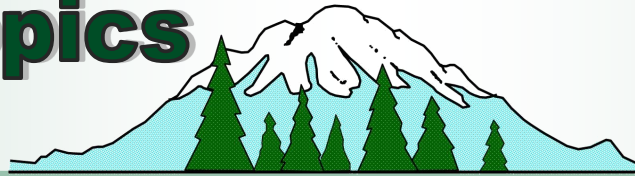


City of Fircrest Town Topics

February 2026



CITY COUNCIL

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

Thank You to Our Centennial Sponsors & Donors!

We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our sponsors and community donors, whose contributions helped us honor 100 years of Fircrest history through our Centennial Celebration. Your generosity truly reflects the heart of Fircrest and our shared spirit of connection, celebration, and community pride!

We extend our sincere appreciation to our Top Sponsors for their outstanding support:



Contributing Patrons & Sponsors

Hawkins-Poe, Inc.
Fircrest Towing

Summit Law Group
Miles Resources

Fircrest Kiwanis
Heart & Soul Veterinary Center

Centennial Champions

Gibson Real Estate
Berkeley Avenue Salon

Morton McGoldrick PLLC
Parametrix Epic Events

Tapco Credit Union
Brassfields Salon & Spa

Rotary Club of University Place & Fircrest

Community Donations

Julianne Roberts
Grolbert Family
Michele Pearson
Bob & Becky Scott
Nancy Davis
Arnold & Jennifer Lytle
Judith Florence

Bechtholt Family
Derrick Neshem
Matthew & Nicole Bufford
Bristol Baxley
Marline McClane
Zavala Family
Alison Solomon & Nicole Lewis

Craig & Claudia Fransen
Coyne Family
Olague Family
Stephen Shelton
Jennifer & Matt Onxley
Laurie Fenwick

Serving the Community Since 1925

Look Back at the Centennial Year

As Fircrest marked its 100th year in 2025, our community came together in ways that reflected everything we love about our city. This milestone highlighted a century of connection, from the intentional town planning that laid the foundation of our walkable neighborhoods and open spaces, to our long tradition of events and activities that bring us together year after year.



Throughout the year we celebrated with a full lineup of centennial additions to our regular calendar. Many residents joined in the scavenger hunt for historical artifacts displayed at local businesses across town. In the spring, we welcomed a new fixture to the Gene Goodwin Tot Lot - a six-foot wooden Murphy now greeting our youngest visitors. After a long hiatus, soap box cars once again raced down Electron with the return of Derby Days. Fun Days began with a special centennial parade featuring former members of Fircrest's volunteer fire department, past and present council members, and dozens of community groups. We also had the joy of cheering on friends and neighbors during the Fircrest Amateur Hour Talent Show.

Birthday Week brought its own memorable moments. Our resident historian shared photos and stories from Fircrest's early days at two well-attended talks that gave attendees a window into our past. A special Council Meeting honored the leaders, past and current, who have shaped Fircrest's direction over the decades. And families and neighbors capped off the week with a night of Rainiers baseball, community art, and shared celebration.

Through these events we learned about our city's history, strengthened connections with one another, and celebrated with a sense of pride that defined this centennial year.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who made these celebrations possible:

- The Centennial Committee, for the planning, coordination, and vision behind our events;
- Fircrest staff across all departments, whose dedication ensured a smooth and memorable year;
- Community volunteers, who contributed countless hours to support events big and small;
- Resident and business sponsors, whose generosity helped bring these celebrations to life.

We closed our centennial year with gratitude for the moments we shared, the history we honored, and the connections we deepened. Together we celebrated our first hundred years. Together we carry that spirit forward as we begin the next century of Fircrest, building on 100 years of community.

Westside Disposal 2026 Clean Up Program Changes

Effective January 2, 2026, Westside Disposal is replacing the two scheduled clean-up dates each year with a more convenient option. Residents may now bring their clean-up loads any time during regular business hours:

Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

1st Saturday of each month: 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Each household may use this service two times per year. Upon arrival, you must check in at the office to declare your clean-up load(s). Each household is limited to one load of garbage and one load of yard waste, which must be brought on the same day. This service is available to Westside Disposal residential customers with current accounts only.

Please continue to bring your canned food donations! A collection cart is available in front of the office year-round. For more information, visit <https://westsidedisposal.com/new-cleanup-changes/> or call 253-564-3212 with questions.

Serving the Community Since 1925

Public Works: 2026 Water Utility Rate Increases

On November 12, 2025, the Fircrest City Council held a public hearing to receive public comment on a proposed water rate adjustment. Following the hearing, the City Council adopted a 3% water rate increase on November 25, 2025. The updated rates take effect February 1, 2026. Customers will see the change reflected on their April 2026 utility bill.

Water rate adjustments help ensure continued funding for daily water utility operations and maintenance, as well as long-term capital improvements needed to maintain a safe and reliable water system.

What Can You Expect?

For Residential, Multiple Dwelling, and Commercial customers within city limits, the minimum increase to the bi-monthly

(two-month) water base charge will be \$1.24.

Here's how that breaks down:

The Water Ready-to-Serve Fee will increase by \$1.24, from \$41.43 to \$42.67 per billing cycle.

Water usage charges are billed by the cubic foot (cf) and are applied separately from the base charge.

Water usage rates will increase as follows:

Consumption Tier for Residential and Multiple Dwelling Units

- Tier 1 (1–1,000 cf): Increase of \$0.0004 per cf (from \$0.0122 to \$0.0126 per cf)
- Tier 2 (1,001–4,000 cf): Increase of \$0.0005 per cf (from \$0.0182 to \$0.0187 per cf)

- Tier 3 (4,001+ cf): Increase of \$0.0009 per cf (from \$0.0310 to \$0.0319 per cf)

Consumption Tier for Commercial Units

- Tier 1 (1–1,000 cf) Increase of \$0.0004 per cf (from \$0.0145 to \$0.0149 per cf)
- Tier 2 (1,001–4,000 cf) Increase of \$0.0006 per cf (from \$0.0206 to \$0.0212 per cf)
- Tier 3 (4,001+ cf) Increase of \$0.001 per cf (from \$0.0332 to \$0.0342 per cf)

All adopted rate schedules are codified in Fircrest Municipal Code (FMC) 21.04.

For more information or questions regarding water utility rates, please contact the Public Works Department at publicworks@cityoffircrest.net or (253) 564-8900.

Fircrest Police

When Should I Call 9-1-1?

The Fircrest Police Department is staffed with Officers 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Calling 9-1-1 is the most effective and quickest way for an Officer(s) to be dispatched and updated with developing information while we are on our way to investigate the problem.

Emergencies

Call 911 if you see any suspicious activity, see a crime occurring, or are a victim of a crime **in-progress**.

In-progress means the crime or activity is occurring at the moment or there is a chance that a quick response by Officers would allow them to apprehend the suspect.

What to Expect When you dial 9-1-1

When you dial 911, keep in mind the person you will be talking to is attempting to help you right from the start. Remain calm and answer any and all questions asked by your dispatcher.

DO NOT HANG UP until the dispatcher tells you to! Staying on the phone **DOES NOT** prolong emergency response. They

will be dispatching the call while they are also on the phone with you.

QUESTIONS THE DISPATCHER WILL ASK WHEN CALLING 9-1-1

LOCATION! Be sure to verify that the dispatcher has the correct location before hanging up. Examples of locations: House numbers, street name, business, intersection, landmarks.

PROBLEM: Describe what is going on or what the problem is.

TIME: When did this happen? Is it happening now?

WHO: Who is involved and where are they now?

WEAPONS: Are there any weapons involved?

INJURIES: Is anyone hurt or in need of medical attention?

STAY ON THE PHONE if it's safe to do so or until the dispatcher tells you to hang up.

Non-Emergencies

The Fircrest Police asks you to call (253) 287-4455 to report a CRIME that is NOT

in-progress. We cannot stress enough that you as the citizens are the eyes and ears for us here at the Police Department. If you see or hear anything that seems suspicious or odd to you, please call.

If you have questions or concerns that do not require an officer to take a report, please contact the Fircrest Police Office at (253) 565-1198. Our office staff can generally answer any questions or direct you to someone that can. They are also available to assist you with vacation checks, public disclosure requests, and other community-related resources. The office is open Monday – Friday 8am until 5pm. After office hours, calls to our office number are transferred to South Sound 9-1-1.

By working together and looking out for us and our neighbors, we can make this a better and safer place for all of us.

Chief Victor Celis

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Parks & Recreation

Fircrest Parks & Recreation is excited to share a look at what's ahead as we move into 2026. From the Centennial Legacy Project that honors Fircrest's history to new partnerships, facility improvements, and a full lineup of programs for all ages, there's a lot happening. Below is a snapshot of upcoming events, projects, and opportunities designed to bring neighbors together and continue investing in Fircrest's parks, people, and places.

Centennial Legacy Project:

As part of Fircrest's 2025 Centennial, we've begun work on a Legacy Project that highlights the history of our community. This will be a large graphic wall timeline in the Community Center — approximately 10 feet tall and 30 feet long — featuring historic photos and stories that span more than 100 years of Fircrest history.

Robotics Fair – February 21:

We're partnering with the IDEA High School Robotics Team to host a full-scale Robotics Fair on February 21 in the Roy H. Murphy Community Center. The City is supporting the event by providing space, while the fair itself is being fully planned and led by IDEA students and their advisors.

Fircrest Park Backstop and Dugout Improvements:

Thanks to a generous grant from the Fircrest Forever Foundation and the Names Family Foundation, we will be replacing the three youth baseball backstops and dugouts at Fircrest Park in 2026.

Coaching Partnership with PLU:

Over the past several months, we've been working with PLU's Kinesiology Department on enhanced coaches training. This is a strong partnership supported by a grant from the Names Family Foundation to PLU. Fircrest Parks & Recreation is the first organization to pilot these new coaching methods, which are being implemented in the 2026 youth basketball season - serving over 460 kids.

Youth and Teen Programs:

We'll be offering a wide range of camps and programs for kids and teens throughout the year, including themed no-school day camps such as Valentine's Day camp, treasure hunt camp, and baking camps. We'll also continue our popular two-hour Saturday programs like Slime Saturdays, beading workshops, and painting sessions.

Camps and Outdoor Programs:

Returning for a second year, we'll be offering a full week of Spring Break Camp and six weeks of Summer Camp, with two potential collaboration dates planned with the Tacoma Rainiers. We're also adding 2 hiking camps for ages 12–16.

Senior Programs and Wellness:

For our older adults, we're planning the second annual National Senior Health and Fitness Day Resource Fair on the last Wednesday in March. This event will include a variety of vendors and resources specifically focused on senior health, wellness, and services.

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

The Roy H. Murphy Community Center offers a variety of reservable spaces for gatherings of all sizes. To get started, create an online RecDesk account. Once approved, you can view available spaces, check the real-time calendar, and complete the rental agreement. Please note that reservations may take up to 10 business days for approval.

We are currently accepting reservations up to six months in advance. **Summer 2026 pool and party room rentals will open in February.**

Need help? Our staff is here for you! Visit or call us from Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM at 253-564-8177.



2026 PARKS & REC COMMUNITY EVENTS

DAD & DAUGHTER DANCE	JANUARY 30
MEDALLION MADNESS	MARCH 17
EASTER EGG HUNT	APRIL 4
MOTHER & SON DANCE	MAY 8
COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE	JUNE 20
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL	JUNE 28
ROD RUN CAR SHOW	JULY 5
FIRCREST FUN DAYS!	JULY 17-18
FURRY 4K	JULY 18
CONCERT & MOVIE IN THE PARK	AUGUST 22
SCARECROWS OF FIRCREST	OCTOBER 2026
HAUNTED TRAILS	OCTOBER 15
FIRFEST	NOVEMBER TBD
HOLIDAY MARKET & TREE LIGHTING	DECEMBER 6
LIGHTS OF FIRCREST	DECEMBER 2026

SCAN THE QR FOR THE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION



For more information, contact
Judy Schmidtke, Community
Events Specialist at
jschmidtke@cityoffircrest.net

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/>