

City of Fircrest Town Topics



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October 2025

Council Member Spotlight: Karen Mauer-Smith



Happy Birthday to the City of Fircrest.

100 years is quite an accomplishment. My family in one iteration or another, has been a part of the city for 50 years. I remember when I was fortunate enough to be able to move back with my family and raise my daughters here. We walked across the street to introduce ourselves to our neighbor and realized that I had indeed grown up and gone to school with their son. My neighbor made the comment that "Fircrest kids always come back".

I think about the generations of families who have found this such an amazing community of which to be a part. I think of the differences in our experiences over that much time but also the similarities. I take my grandson to the Fircrest Pool and I hear the announcement about taking the "swim test". I listen to the kids in line talking about it and being so excited to pass it and swim in the deep end, I remember that too.

I remember Fircrest Fun Days when I was a child and helping my mom who was volunteering with the Fircrest Community Club. All in all, Fircrest has been a gift to so many over the years and continues to be a place of community and caring. Our dedicated staff and local volunteers ensure that it will continue to be.

Again, Happy Birthday Fircrest. You truly are a gift to us!

Karen Mauer-Smith

Public Works: Fall and Winter Prep

Fall and winter have arrived in the PNW, and the Fircrest Public Works team is diligently working to keep the storm systems clear. Our street sweeper follows the Street Sweeper Map schedule that is posted on our website (cityoffircrest.net) to manage the "fall" debris. Public Works staff encourage residents not to blow leaves and other yard debris into the streets, as clogged storm drains are the leading cause of street flooding in the city. Both residents and Public Works share the responsibility of keeping storm drains clear. It



takes all of us working together to keep our streets free of debris and safe for everyone.



As temperatures drop, snow and ice may impact our city streets. Public Works staff can proactively apply salt brine to pretreat roads and reactively combat compact snow and ice using our two plow trucks. Snow and ice removal schedules will be followed as in previous years with a primary focus on main arterials, hills, and key intersections.

If you have questions or need to report problem areas, please call Public Works at (253) 564-8900.

Stay informed! Check out our Up-to-Date Information webpage www.cityoffircrest.net/updates for the current meeting agendas, minutes, resolutions, ordinances, project updates, and other useful information.

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Police: A message from Chief Celis

Pedestrian Safety for Back-to-School. The return to school means more children walking or biking to school, crossing streets, and waiting at bus stops. To ensure their safety, here are some important reminders:

For Drivers: — Slow down in school zones and obey all posted speed limits. School zones are active during the morning and afternoon hours when children are arriving and leaving school. — Be prepared to stop for school buses. It is illegal to pass a bus when its red lights are flashing, and the stop sign is extended. — Always yield to pedestrians at crosswalks. Many children may be new to walking routes, and their awareness of traffic might not be fully developed.

For Parents and Guardians: — Teach your children the basics of road safety, including looking both ways before crossing, using crosswalks, and avoiding distractions like phones while walking. — Encourage your kids to make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street to ensure they are seen.

For Students: — Stick to sidewalks and paths, and avoid walking on the road whenever possible. — Always use designated crosswalks and follow traffic signals. — Be aware of your surroundings and avoid using headphones or texting while walking.

As you may have noticed, our streets are becoming increasingly congested with the growing number of vehicles on the road. This means heavier traffic and, at times, limited parking availability. Our officers are working diligently to keep the roadways safe by enforcing traffic laws throughout the city, including parking regulations.

Some of you may already be aware—and others may not—that there are several parking violations in the City of Fircrest for which a driver can be cited. I'd like to take a moment to highlight a few lesser-known violations that we are seeing more frequently.

1. **Parking in the wrong direction on the roadway:**

While this might not seem like a serious issue, especially on less-traveled streets, it requires a driver to cross into the oncoming lane of traffic to park and again when leaving the space. This can be dangerous, particularly if the driver's view is obstructed by other vehicles. Our officers typically aim to educate drivers before issuing citations for this violation, but enforcement may sometimes be necessary.

2. **Parking too close to a stop sign:**

By law, vehicles must be parked at least 30 feet from a stop sign. This regulation ensures that approaching drivers have a clear view of oncoming and cross traffic, helping to prevent accidents.

These are just a couple of the parking violations that are becoming more common. Our primary goal is to keep Fircrest's roads safe and accessible for all community members and visitors.

For a complete list of parking regulations, please refer to Fircrest Municipal Code 16.40.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact one of our officers and we will be more than happy to discuss them with you.

Chief Victor M. Celis



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Fircrest Parks & Recreation Fall Programs & Events

Youth Basketball

Registration for our Youth Basketball Leagues will begin in early October, with resident sign-ups starting on October 1. Non-resident registration will open on October 11. Practices will start in mid-December.

Beginning Ballet for Ages 3-4, 4-6 and 6-8

Taught by Damaris Caughlan, Artistic Director of the Metropolitan Ballet of Tacoma, our Beginning Ballet classes introduce young dancers to the joy of movement and the fundamentals of ballet. Focusing on self-control, listening skills, and patience, Ms. Caughlan fosters a fun and creative environment where children can express themselves through dance. We offer two classes: one for ages 4-6 and another for ages 6-8. Registration for the Winter Session opens in October. For more information and to register, visit our program registration website.

Schedule:

Ages 3-4: Thursdays from 10:00 to 10:45 AM

Ages 4-6: Thursdays from 10:45 to 11:30 AM

Ages 6-8: Thursdays from 12:15 to 1:00 PM

Adult Yoga

Join our Gentle Yoga class designed for active, older adults to build strength, increase flexibility, and improve balance. This one-hour class includes a mix of seated, standing, and balance postures, as well as stretching, relaxation, and yogic breathing. Bring a yoga mat, blanket/towel, water bottle, and yoga blocks if you have them. Classes are held every Monday, Wednesday, and every 1st and 3rd Friday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM at the Tom & Meg Names Family Foundation Multi-Purpose Room year-round. The monthly fee is \$50, and drop-in is \$6. Come for the movement, stay for the community and connection!

Barre Classes

Join one of our Barre class for a low-impact, full-body workout that blends Pilates, yoga, and ballet to improve strength, balance, and flexibility through isometric movements. Each session includes a flow warm-up focusing on core and upper body strength, targeted muscle work at the barre, and ends with stretching and breathing exercises on the mat. Classes are open to ages 16 to 80. Drop-in rates start at \$15, with monthly rates available at \$60. All fitness levels are welcome!

Upcoming Events

HAUNTED TRAILS

Thursday, October 16th, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Thelma Gilmur Park!

All tickets must be purchased in advance—there will be NO tickets available for purchase on the day of the event. Tickets can be bought through RecDesk or at the Community Center.

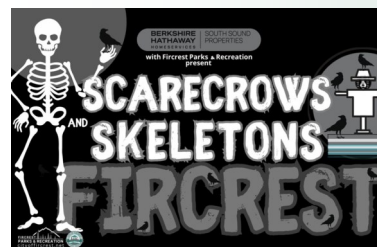
SCARECROWS AND SKELETONS OF FIRCREST

Registration is now open for the 2025 Scarecrows and Skeletons of Fircrest!

Take a tour of the creative and fun scarecrow and skeleton displays throughout our community. You can find a list of participants on our website, Facebook page, and at the Community Center.

Don't forget to vote for the People's Choice award!

Come out and enjoy the fun!



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/>

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest History: Shaping Our Identity and Tradition 1955—1970

As Fircrest celebrates its Centennial, it's worth remembering the decades that shaped so much of the city's identity and traditions. From 1955 to 1970, Fircrest experienced a period of growth, pride, and community spirit that left a lasting mark. After the city's second annexation in 1955, a new Comprehensive Plan guided development, while community life thrived with the opening of Manley's Market and the founding of the Kiwanis Club. Education also took a step forward with the construction of Whittier Elementary, giving Fircrest families a second neighborhood school and strengthening the fabric of the community. Civic pride grew further in 1959 when Governor Albert Rosellini returned Fircrest Park to local control, followed by the 1960 opening of the Community Center and the start of the beloved Easter Egg Hunt. In 1962, the municipal swimming pool opened after residents stepped in to complete construction halted by a steel strike—a clear example of Fircrest determination. The city soon earned recognition for investing more per capita in parks than any other municipality in Washington, adding amenities like the Tot Lot and launching Fun Days in 1964, now celebrated as Fircrest Fun Days. This era also produced hometown pride beyond city limits when golfer Ken Still made the 1969 U.S. Ryder Cup Team and won three PGA Tour titles, further cementing Fircrest's reputation as a community rich in both spirit and achievement. These milestones remind us why, 100 years later, Fircrest continues to celebrate not just its history, but the community values and traditions that carry forward into its second century.



Whittier Elementary 1962

Thank you to our Centennial Sponsors!



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