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

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Police: E – Bikes

On June 11, 2026, new laws enacted by the Washington State Legislature went into effect regarding e-bikes, (RCW 46.61.710). The reason behind the law changes is that there is a growing number of throttle-powered e -bikes on the streets, trails, and sidewalks, and any restrictions are overly broad.

The legislature defines an e-bike as having two or three wheels, a saddle, and fully operations 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 and cannot be modified to exceed e-bike speed limits.

Below are the different classes of e-bike:

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 (unless authorized locally)

The final category is that of an electric motorcycle. This type of motorcycle is becoming very popular for young people and can be mistaken for “toy” bikes. However, these motorcycles are very dangerous. Below is the definition of an electric motorcycle:

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.

We have attached a quick reference guide so you can familiarize yourself with the new laws. 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

Public Works: Sidewalk Safety

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

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

This year's event featured an incredible display of 402 classic and special interest vehicles, filling Fircrest Park with 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, volunteers, and the Kiwanis Club of Fircrest for their continued support. The Kiwanis Club once again 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.

We are grateful 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 great 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.

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

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!

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/