

City of Fircrest Town Topics

October 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: Joe Barrentine



As we get into the city's budgeting season I wanted to take a minute to tell you about how Fircrest's budget is developed and to reassure you that we are in a solid financial position as we look forward to the 2027 budget.

There's a two-track process we use that started months ago. The City Council works with City Manager Dawn Masko to define the council's priorities. Simultaneously, the heads of the city's different departments work with her to define their departmental requirements.

The council held a facilitated public workshop several weeks ago to sort through the competing ideas to come up with a set of priorities for 2027. A wide range of topics were discussed at the workshop, with a central theme of maintaining and strengthening the City's ability to deliver services and support the community.

These topics were handed to the City Manager to guide her as she prepares a budget proposal that will be presented to the Council in late September. The City Council meets a couple of extra times in October as we work through the budget proposal with the city staff and final budget will be approved by the end of the year. All of these meetings are open to the public.

Traditionally, Fircrest has been pretty conservative when we build budgets. We try to balance the ever-increasing costs of providing the vital services that we all depend on with the revenues we take in from our residents and local businesses. We work diligently to find grant monies to extend our funds - especially on bigger projects. For the last several years our end-of-year balance has been positive. The City also maintains healthy reserves to help cover unexpected costs or changes in revenue.

Current City budgets and financial reports can be found on the City's website at Budget and Reports:

[Budget and Reports - City of Fircrest](#)

Fircrest Police: Halloween Safety Information

Halloween is quickly approaching, and the Fircrest Police Department would like to remind residents to consider the following safety tips during fall festivities, especially for those who plan on trick-or treating or who will be out at night. Halloween, which is celebrated on October 31, falls on a Saturday this year. Extra patrol officers will be on duty to help ensure everyone has a safe and happy Halloween.

Those who are attending a party in or out of town should remember:

- Many young children are out for the evening, especially during the peak hour of 5:30-7:30 p.m., so please drive slowly!!!!
- Fall celebrations like Halloween and Harvest Day are fun times for children, who can dress up in costumes, enjoy parties, and eat yummy treats. These celebrations also provide a chance to give out healthy snacks, get physical activity, and focus on safety.
- Check out these tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for trick-or-treaters and party guests.

Expecting trick-or-treaters or party guests? Follow these tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for everyone:

- Provide healthier treats for trick-or-treaters such as low-calorie treats and drinks. For party guests, offer a variety of fruits, vegetables, and cheeses.
- Use party games and trick-or-treat time as an opportunity for kids to get their daily dose of 60 minutes of physical activity.
- Be sure walking areas and stairs are well-lit and free of obstacles that could result in falls.
- Keep candle-lit jack o 'lanterns and luminaries away from doorsteps, walkways, landings, and curtains. Place them on sturdy tables, keep them out of the reach of pets and small children, and never leave them unattended.
- Remind drivers to watch out for trick-or-treaters and to drive safely.

Going trick-or-treating? We want everyone to be able to safely enjoy their Halloween and fall festivities this year and by following these safety tips from the National Safety Council we can best ensure a fun evening for all our residents.

Costume Safety

To help ensure adults and children have a safe holiday, follow these Halloween safety tips:

- Be sure to choose a costume that won't cause safety hazards; all costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks.
- Opt for nontoxic Halloween makeup over masks, which can obscure vision; always test makeup in a small area first to see if any irritation develops.
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation.

When They're on the Prowl

Here's a scary statistic: Children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year. Lack of visibility because of low lighting at night also plays a factor in these incidents.

Keep these tips in mind when your children are out on Halloween night:

- A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you.
- Agree on a specific time children should return home.
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car.
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends.
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home, and take care to avoid any food allergies.

Safety Tips for Motorists

The National Safety Council offers these additional safety tips for parents – and anyone who plans to be on the road during trick-or-treat hours:

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween.

Our goal is that all trick-or-treaters in the City of Fircrest have a great and safe experience. Lastly, if you plan to trick-or-treat in Fircrest, please make sure to stop by the Police Department for some of our treats!!

Serving the Community Since 1925

Public Works: School Zone and School Bus Safety

With the 2026–2027 school year underway, Fircrest Public Works would like to remind motorists to use extra caution around school buses, school zones, crosswalks, and neighborhood streets. Two schools are located along Alameda Avenue, creating increased vehicle and pedestrian activity during morning drop-off and afternoon pickup times.

The transition from summer schedules to the school-year routine can increase risks for students walking, bicycling, or riding the bus. Drivers should remain alert, slow down, and allow additional travel time, especially before and after school.

Safety tips for motorists:

- * Slow down and obey all posted school-zone speed limits.
- * Stop for red traffic signals and school bus stop signals.
- * Never drive distracted. Put away phones and remain focused on the road.
- * Watch carefully for children near schools, crosswalks, bus stops, and parked vehicles.
- * Be especially cautious in areas with limited visibility.
- * Maintain a safe distance from school buses and never pass a bus when its red lights are flashing and stop sign is extended.
- * Follow the directions of school crossing guards, bus drivers, and traffic-control personnel.

Safety tips to share with children:

- * Learn and practice safe walking and bicycling habits.
- * Use sidewalks and designated crosswalks whenever available.
- * Stop and look left, right, and left again before entering the roadway.
- * Make eye contact with drivers and make sure vehicles have stopped before crossing.
- * Remember that having the right-of-way does not guarantee that a driver has seen you.
- * Follow all instructions from school bus drivers when boarding or exiting a bus.
- * Stay a safe distance from the bus until it has completely stopped and the driver indicates it is safe to approach.

Everyone plays a role in keeping students safe. A little extra patience and awareness can make a meaningful difference around our schools and throughout the community.



Serving the Community Since 1925

Parks & Recreation: Events Happening Around Fircrest



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | SOUTH SOUND PROPERTIES
with Fircrest Parks & Recreation present

SCARECROWS AND SKELETONS

FIRCREST

COMING OCTOBER



FIRFEST 2026

11.14.26
9 AM - 12 PM WHITTIER PARK
901 CONTRA COSTA AVE, FIRCREST

FREE TREES

NO REGISTRATION NEEDED FOR TREES

BEE BUFFET WHITTIER PARK WORK PARTY

Come join the work party led by the Pierce Conservation District to preserve our green space at Whittier Park. Sign up to help! To register for the work party scan the QR.

PRESENTED BY: Pierce County Parks & Recreation, Tacoma Tree Foundation, Pierce County Parks & Recreation, Pierce Conservation District



CITY OF FIRCREST YOUTH BASKETBALL

AGE GROUPS

- 7U (CO-ED) - AGE 5-7
- 9U (CO-ED) - AGE 7-9
- 11U (BOYS) - AGE 9-11
- 11U (GIRLS) - AGES 9-11

REGISTRATION OPENS

RESIDENTS: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH
NON-RESIDENTS: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH @ 8AM

PRACTICES BEGIN WEEK OF DECEMBER 7

FEE: \$60-\$95 | FIRCREST.RECDESK.COM

253-564-8177



Creative Movement & Beginning Ballet Classes

Taught by Damaris Caughlan, Artistic Director of Metropolitan Ballet of Tacoma

Tuesdays

- 12:15PM - Ages 5-7

Thursdays

- 10:00AM - Ages 3-5
- 10:45AM - Ages 4-6
- 4:30PM - Ages 8-12

\$156

Roy H. Murphy Community Center | Classes September - December
Visit fircrest.recdesk.com to Register!



HAUNTED TRAILS

THE FIRCREST INCIDENT
THURSDAY OCTOBER 17

NEW PRE-SALE TICKETS!
ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED *

FIRCREST RESIDENTS:	NON-RESIDENTS:
\$3 PER PERSON	\$5 PER PERSON
\$12 PER FAMILY	\$15 PER FAMILY

TICKETS GO ON SALE SEPT. 22 | **TICKETS GO ON SALE OCT. 14**

IF YOU DARE ...

*PAY WHAT YOU CAN TICKETS AVAILABLE
NO DAY-OF TICKETS AVAILABLE

FIRCREST PARKS & RECREATION
www.cityoffircrest.net



DROP-IN BASKETBALL

FIRCREST RESIDENTS \$2 | NON RESIDENTS \$4

MON-WED-FRI
12:00PM-2:00PM

THE NAMES FAMILY FOUNDATION GYMNASIUM

MONTHLY UNLIMITED PASS AVAILABLE AT [FIRCREST.RECDESK.COM](http://fircrest.recdesk.com)



DROP-IN PICKLEBALL

FIRCREST RESIDENTS \$2 | NON RESIDENTS \$4

MON-WED-FRI
8:30AM-11:30AM

THE NAMES FAMILY FOUNDATION GYMNASIUM

MONTHLY UNLIMITED PASS AVAILABLE AT [FIRCREST.RECDESK.COM](http://fircrest.recdesk.com)

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/>