

# Town Topics



Hunter T. George, Mayor  
Brett Wittner, Mayor Pro Tempore  
David M. Viafore  
Shannon Reynolds  
Joe Barrentine  
Denny Waltier  
Marc Rieke

## Mayor's Message



I want to thank everyone for an outstanding summer swim season in the new Edwards Family Aquatic Center.

The season started out a little bumpy as we operated under strict capacity limits due to State of Washington COVID-19 restrictions, and we appreciated your patience with that online registration system. Once the capacity restrictions were lifted in early July, lots of people came to enjoy the pool.

We recorded 7,365 visits by Fircrest residents, and 7,104 visits by non-residents. Those non-residents, by the way, paid twice the resident rate to use the pool, which means those higher fees subsidized the cost for Fircrest residents. In total we recorded 14,469 visits to the pool. And it certainly would have been more if we had not spent a month under the COVID restrictions.

The party room was a popular space for rentals during the summer season, and you should know it remains available for rent throughout the year.

I thank Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Grover and his team, including a great group of lifeguards, for providing a safe and enjoyable experience in our first year of operating the new pool. We'll spend the off-season reviewing operations and consider ways to build on what we learned for the summer 2022 season.

Next up: stay tuned for information about the opening of the new Fircrest Community Center!

Hunter T. George, Mayor  
[hgeorge@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:hgeorge@cityoffircrest.net)

## Fircrest Police — Legislative Message to the Community



The Fircrest Police Department is committed to building relationships and trust with the community while providing the highest level of service to keep our citizens safe. Transparency and honesty are critical pieces to building and maintaining public trust. In keeping with that transparency, we want to let people know that some major changes have happened and are coming that will affect how law enforcement agencies in Washington State will provide law enforcement services.

In the 2021 Legislative Session, the State of Washington passed many bills that change policing in the State of Washington and in cities like Fircrest. I have been in touch with our attorney, other legal advisors, and have met with our entire staff, and together we have gone over these changes and how they will affect our policing efforts in the City of Fircrest.

Below is a brief overview of the legislation:

### House Bill 1054 Tactics and Equipment: Effective July 25, 2021

The bill prohibits the use of chokeholds and neck restraints, and it also restricts when you can shoot at a moving vehicle. We went over our use of force policies with our City Council last year and we currently have these policies in place. The bill also limits the use of tear gas, and bans "no-knock warrants". We have not served a "no-knock warrant" in years. The bill also extremely limits vehicle pursuits. Our agency had one of the most restrictive pursuit policies in Pierce County, but this bill requires us to be even more restrictive. Under this bill, we will no longer pursue vehicles under the following conditions:

- Misdemeanor DV assault
- Residential Burglary
- Theft of a firearm
- Assault 3<sup>rd</sup> degree
- Hate Crimes
- Assault of a child

*Continued on next page..*

# Serving the Community Since 1925

## Continued Legislative Message from Page 1



I want our community to be aware of these changes as they may directly affect you and your expectations of your officers. For example: if you call 911 and we respond to a burglary at your home and we arrive on the

scene and observe the bad guy driving away with your property, we will attempt to stop the vehicle, but if they fail to yield, we will not get into a pursuit with that vehicle. We will follow up vehemently on the case, but it will be in a reactive way. This will hold true in other situations involving any of the crimes listed on page 1.

### **House Bill 1310 Use of Force: *Effective July 25, 2021***

This bill addresses when officers are allowed to use reasonable force. This law requires us to have probable cause to make an arrest or prevent escape before using physical force. In the past, if an officer had reasonable suspicion that a crime appears to be happening, has happened, or will happen, the officer could detain that person until the incident was cleared up. If the individual refused to remain where contacted, the officer could detain the person using reasonable force. Now if the person refuses to stay until the situation is cleared up, we will be letting them leave. If it is determined they were involved in the crime we will follow up on the information. We are implementing the changes and anxiously await to digest the Attorney General's Policy. The Attorney General will be coming out with a model policy by July of 2022.

### **Senate Bill 5259 Law Enforcement Use of Force Data Collection: *Effective July 25, 2021***

Requires the Attorney General to contract with a state college to administer a state-wide law enforcement use of force reporting and data system. They will establish the criteria on the types of force incidents to be reported and requires all law enforcement agencies to report all required interactions. This will prove beneficial to everyone as it will provide transparency of all agencies and ensure everyone is reporting the required information.

### **Senate Bill 5066 Duty to Intervene: *Effective July 25, 2021***

This bill requires general authority officers who witness another general authority officer using or attempting to use excessive force to intervene, to end or prevent the use of excessive force. We already had such a policy in place. Violation of this policy will now be a basis for an officer to lose their state certification to be an officer. This bill also incorporates the duty to render first aid at the earliest opportunity when safe to do so.

### **House Bill 1267 Office of Independent Investigations: *Effective July 25, 2021***

This bill creates an Office of Independent Investigations (OII) within the Governor's Office. The OII will be authorized to investigate (not required) the use of deadly force by any law enforcement officer after July 1, 2022. We will notify the OII immediately of any use of deadly force incident. Under current law, we have our own independent force investigation team in place. (As required under (I-940))

### **Senate Bill 5051 Decertification. *Effective July 25, 2021***

The bill delineates all the reasons an officer may be decertified and provides that the Criminal Justice Training Commission may conduct their own investigation into officer conduct. The bill also changes the composition of the commission from 16 to 21 members, eliminates some law enforcement positions, and adds seven civilians (non-law enforcement) positions.

### **House Bill 1223 – Electronic Recordation Custodial Interrogations: *Effective January 1, 2022.***

This bill requires that any custodial interrogation of an adult for a felony offense or a juvenile for any offense that takes place in a jail, detention, or any police facility must be audio and video recorded to be admissible into court. Custodial interrogations that occur in a police vehicle or school must be audio recorded at a minimum. There are some exceptions but those must be documented in a report. We are working with our City Council on acquiring body cams for all our officers, which would meet this requirement and provide additional accountability and transparency for everyone.

### **Senate Bill 5476 – Blake Decision “Fix” Now in Effect**

In February of 2021, the Washington State Supreme Court declared Washington's drug possession statute unconstitutional, because it did not require a showing that a defendant “knowingly” possessed drugs. In response, the Washington legislature amended the statute to insert a requirement for “knowing” possession. The new law downgrades drug possession to a misdemeanor and requires law enforcement agencies to make at least two referrals to substance abuse services before misdemeanor charges can be brought. There is currently no statewide system for tracking referrals. When we respond to the scene of someone doing drugs and find them smoking, injecting, or ingesting illegal drugs we will confiscate the drugs and provide the suspect with a referral. We can track these referrals in our Records Management System. We will be handing out referral cards to offenders and we will track these referrals accordingly.

### **In Conclusion**

This is a brief overview of just some of the legislation that has, and will be going into effect during the coming months. There are still many questions to be answered and you can be assured that we will stay engaged and follow the developments of these and other bills.

We will continue to work closely with our community, and we understand and realize that we cannot effectively do our jobs without the support and assistance of those we serve.

The Fircrest Police Department is proud to serve you. One thing that will not change is our commitment and resolve to keeping our community safe.

John Cheesman, *Fircrest Police Chief*

## Serving the Community Since 1925

# *Special Thank You Edition 2021*

We are so thankful for our amazing Fircrest Parks & Police Volunteers / Donations!! Please join us in thanking ...

Adee & Vic Celis	Debbie Rohde	Ken Schmidtke	Ray Horton
Ahnalyse Glen-Leufroy	Derek Stansbury	Kevin Hansen	Reimagine Creative
Aimee Brown & Matt Brown	Dick Trask	Killian Larson	Rene Beuning
Alanda Jensen	Don Dickson	Kris Cournoyer	Renew & Restore Phys. Therapy
Alison Woods	Donna O'Conner	Kristen Summers	Rex Munger
Alyssa Cheesman	Edwardo Garcia	Lacey Heinz	Rhonda Edenholtm
Alyssa Johnson	Elise Halbert	Lance Donavan	Richard Trask Photography
American Family Insurance	Ellie Welton-Loiselle	Larry Lowery	Ricker Family
Amy Blair	Emily Kling	Lauren Berg	Rixen Daley
Amy Bollenbacher	Erik Kyger	Laurie Fudge	Rodenbeck Family
Amy Rider	Espresso Yourself	Leanna Mason	Ruthy Taylor
Ann Wiley	Evergreen Home Loans	Lee Family	Ryan George
Annalise Hendrickson	Exercise Science Center	Leslie Rider	Sadie & Rosie Barrentine
Anthony & Christina Chelf	Fairweather Masonic Lodge	Liberty Tow	Sammy's Pizza
Aubrey & Sam Larsen	Father Nature Landscapes	Linda Baumgardner	Sandi Trask
Berkshire Hathaway H Services	Fircrest Kiwanis Club	Lindsay Smith	Sarah Rockefeller
Blake Surina	Fircrest Pharmacy	Lindsay Tronson	Sarah & Luke Viafore
Bliss Small Bath Creamery	Fircrest Police Department	Lisa O'Day	Scheer Family
Bob Deal	Fircrest Towing	Lorrie Solara	Schoettler Family
Bodhi Johnson	Fitness Quest	Luke Glenn-Leufroy	Selena Byrd
Bonnie Viafore	Frank & Carol Blair	Lynn Brehm	Selayna Rudolph
Breanna Flores	Fred Fay	Lynn Elliot	Senator T'wina Nobles
Bryce Kallard	Greg Bergstrom	Lynnae Schneller	Shannon Zook
Brynn Quesenberry	Greg & Jennifer Vigoren	Lynne Dickson	Sherry Maenhout
Buddy Horton	Gwen O'Brien	Mackenzie Sellas	Shirley Schultz
Cafe Elite	Hannah Moore	Madison Tice	Sign Gypsies
Caleb Johnson	Hannah White	Magic in PNW	Smith Brothers Farms
Carla Santelli	Heather Smith	Mannerling Family	Staci & Russ Ellis
Caryl Fielding	Innovative Fitness	Marcus Johnson	Star & Justin Roffe
Cascade Reg Blood Services	Isiah Glen-Leufroy	Mary Ruth Pape	Steve Schoettler
Casey Hubbell	Jackie Seyler	Mayor Hunter George	Stonefield Family
Celeste Ayton	Jackson Byrd	McKenna Leveque	Tacoma Cat Hospital
Chaplin Jeffrey Ries	Jacob Johnson	Michele Jones	Tacoma Fire Department
Charlie Bergstrom	Jalen Henderson	Michelle Arneson	TAPCO Credit Union
Cheryl Burlingame	Jason & Ashley Lee	Michelle Henrich	Terry Carnes
Chick-Fil-A	Jasiah Glen-Leufroy	Mimi's Tea	The Crest Home Store
Chief John Cheesman	Jeffrey Johnson	Mina Pena	The Curious Bear
Chontofalsky Family	Jennifer & Charlie Luna	Mosaic Real Estate	Theresa Fouquette
Chris Roberts	Jessica Colito	Mud Bay	Tina Doane
Cooper Fielding	Jill Hamilton	Nicole and Walter Channel	Tori McGill
Corie Slaker	Jim Marzano	Nikki Bufford	UP CrossFit Coaches
Costless Pharmacy	Joe Darminio	Noah St. John	Westside Disposal
Councilmember David Viafore	John Roberts	Nora Kremer McCarthy	Westside Pizza
Councilmember Denny Waltier	John Villamor	OBDB & Kidwings	Windermere Chambers Bay
Councilmember Joe Barrentine	Jordan Family	Oliver Stratton	Yolonda Brooks
Courtney Soran	Judy Schmidtke	OPTIMUM Physical Therapy	Zachary Smalls
Curious Bear	Karen Gower	Owl Brand Discovery Kits	
Cutters Point Coffee	Karlen Stonefeld	Pam Hendrickson	
Cynthia Endicott	Kate Absten	Paper Luxe	
Dana Cheesman	Kate Rohde	Patti Weber	
Dave Rockefeller	Kathy Hedland	Pingel Family	
Dean Tourand	Katie Allen	Rachel Bracali	
Deanna Nuttbrock-Allen	Kellie Blair	Rachel Goodner	

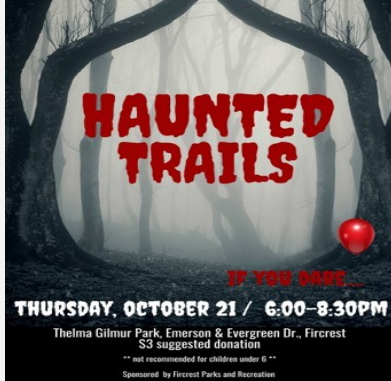


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## Fircrest Parks and Recreation Upcoming Events

### Haunted Trails:

Thursday, October 21  
6 – 8:30 pm  
Thelma Gilmur Park  
\$3 suggested donation



### Scarecrows of Fircrest Display Contest:

#### October 2021

This is NOT your ordinary scarecrow building competition. The goal is to create the most creative and unique 'scarecrow' in Fircrest. And the challenge is on! Enjoy the Scarecrows of Fircrest Displays throughout the month of October. A list of all the entries will be available on the City of Fircrest website on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Visit the City of Fircrest website at [www.cityoffircrest.net](http://www.cityoffircrest.net) for more information.

### Lights of Fircrest Display Contest:

#### December 2021

Registration opens mid-November. The contest will be limited to the first 80 registrations. Visit the City of Fircrest website at [www.cityoffircrest.net](http://www.cityoffircrest.net) for more information.



## Progress Photos of Community Center



Check out our Up To Date Information webpage [www.cityoffircrest.net/updates](http://www.cityoffircrest.net/updates) for the latest information, including current meeting agendas, minutes, resolutions, ordinances, and project updates.