



Fircrest Neighborhood Association

Fircrest Neighborhood Newsletter

Join us at
<https://nextdoor.com> for more information.

October 2023

Get current neighborhood news
and the newsletter delivered to
your inbox. Send an email to
fircrestna@gmail.com to be added!

CHIPPER DAY Saturday, November 4, 2023 8am to noon

Fircrest Elementary School (Parking Lot) 12001 NE 9th Street

Participating in Chipper Day is a great way to get rid of any branches, woody debris, etc., that have piled up over the summer! ***Donations gratefully accepted!***

OK For The Chipper

- Branches, twigs, tree pruning (up to 4" in diameter)
- Tree Limbs (up to 4" in diameter)
- Trunks
- Woody debris does not need to be dried prior to chipping.

Please NO

- Juniper, arborvitaes, ivy, vines, bamboo and blackberry briar get tangled in machinery.
- Leaves, grass clippings
- Pine needles
- Rocks, dirt, large stumps
- Painted or treated wood

You can get more information about proper tree pruning at www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry, or call Vancouver Urban Forestry at 360-487-8308, or email urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us.

DO YOU DRIVE ON 9th STREET?

There will be a lot of work done on 9th Street next summer (2024): repaving, sewer hook-up (SCIP), a water main upgrade, and a new water line. **This is an opportunity for us to let the city know what we would like incorporated into this project.**

Do you have any ideas/wishes/preferences? For example, would you like more/fewer/same number of speed cushions? sidewalks? bike lanes?

Email us at fircrestna@gmail.com and let us know, so we can share this information with The City.

More information will be provided by city staff on all these projects at the November 7th Fircrest Neighborhood meeting. Email us to get the Zoom link, or watch for the information on Nextdoor, Facebook, or email blasts.

City of Vancouver Disclaimer

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We appreciate our Annual Picnic sponsors, partners and volunteers!

Thank you to our volunteers who helped make our 2023 Eastside Community Picnic and National Night Out a success!

Bev, Ken, Autumn, Martha, Courtney, Lynna.

We could not have done it without you!

Thank you also to our sponsors and partners!



Marijuana is legal but do you know the law?

(from the City of Vancouver website)

Can I consume Marijuana in public places such as parks or in my vehicle?

No! Washington State law, or Revised Code of Washington, RCW 69.50.445 states: **It is unlawful to open a package containing marijuana, useable marijuana, or a marijuana-infused product, or consume marijuana, useable marijuana, or a marijuana-infused product, in view of the general public.** A person who violates this section is guilty of a class 3 civil infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW.

The penalty for opening a package of or consuming marijuana, useable marijuana, or marijuana-infused product in view of general public is a civil fine of \$103.

Crossing the Washington State line:

Washington laws on possession and consumption of marijuana differ from the laws of other states (including Oregon). Anyone buying marijuana in Washington should understand the laws of the state you are traveling to before crossing the state line. Failure to do so could result in criminal action being taken against you.

Remind me of the legal possession amounts?

- The law allows a person 21 or older to have up to 1 ounce of useable marijuana OR up to 16 ounces of marijuana-infused product OR up to seventy-two ounces of marijuana-infused product in liquid form. (i.e., you may NOT possess the maximum amount of marijuana in two or more forms at any one time.)
- Possession of more than 28 grams, but less than 40 grams is still a misdemeanor.
- Possession of 40 grams of marijuana is still a felony.

What does the new law mean for law enforcement?

- I-502 changes very little for law enforcement, it merely de-criminalizes possession of limited amounts of marijuana. Consumption and opening a package of marijuana in public are civil infractions.
- **It is still illegal for persons under 21 years of age to possess or consume any amount of marijuana or marijuana-infused products.**
- Driving under the influence of marijuana or under the combined influence of marijuana and anything else, such as alcohol, is illegal and law enforcement agencies continue to strictly enforce DUI laws.

Understanding HOAs – Love them or hate them; most misunderstand them.

(by Martha, Sharon, and Margaret)

Inside the Fircrest Neighborhood, there are several Homeowners Association (HOAs). Did you know . . .

Using an HOA's private areas is essentially the same as entering the backyard of a private home uninvited. It's trespassing.

Homeowners pay for the upkeep and maintenance of shared common areas.

Homeowners agree to follow a shared set of rules.

HOAs often have shared property or "common areas." This means every homeowner shares ownership as well as maintenance and fiscal responsibility for these features, including upkeep, repairs, taxes, etc. To support these areas and keep them looking good and working properly, homeowners pay monthly HOA dues on top of what they might be paying for their mortgage. Some HOAs even pay for their own street maintenance and re-paving!

Those of us not living in an HOA, but adjacent to one that is not gated, should keep to public streets within the community and take care to be a good neighbor and not intrude in an association's private common areas, including green space, yards, play areas, dog parks, and parking spaces.

Look for these helpful signs to let you know when you are in an HOA's area:



What to learn more about HOAs? Head over to <https://bit.ly/HOAexplanation>

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

by Mike A

At 3 in the afternoon suddenly everything is shaking, or a huge windstorm hits causing many trees to go down throughout the city. Roads are blocked; the I-5 bridge is stuck open. Car accidents block the I-205 Bridge; you are at work; kids are at school or on their way home. How are you going to get hold of your family? 500,000 cell phones suddenly start calling, but the cell system is overwhelmed. What now?



Here's something many don't know. If you text to a number outside of our region, it most likely will go through. Texting California, Idaho, Utah or other states can be the way to get hold of your family, by using someone there to relay messages. Part of your emergency plan should be to identify an out-of-region contact to be your communications hub. Everyone in your family should have their cell phone number, and they should have all of yours.

Example: An earthquake hits; you text "Aunt Kathy" in California, letting her know what has happened and to try to reach your family, letting them know where you are. Or your kids and spouse, separated, contact her to let you know where they are and if they are safe. Aunt Kathy becomes the relay for messages back and forth, where to rendezvous and plans on where you can stay if you can't get home.

This one step in your Emergency Plan will keep you informed, reduce anxiety, and help you plan next steps. Remember, in this type of emergency for the first 3-5 days, Emergency Services will be overwhelmed, and Public Works will be busy trying to clear roads and get power and water working. You need to have a plan to take care of your family without their help. Communication within the family will be critical. **Plan for it now.**

Important Contact Information

Margaret Milem

Chair, Fircrest Neighborhood Association

360-836-6736 (call or text) fircrestna@gmail.com

CPL Jeremy Free

Neighborhood Police Officer

360-487-7372 jeremy.free@cityofvancouver.us

Public Works (streets, traffic signals, street lights, signs, sidewalks)

www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/webform/service-requests-public-works

360-487-8177

Concerned about speeding vehicles or other traffic safety issues?

Report your observations, so they can be entered into a database that is monitored by the Vancouver Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit:

<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/services/report-concern/#traffic>

You can also call the Traffic Complaint Hotline at 360-487-7402. Remember, the more data they have about our area, the better they can deploy their resources!

Concerned about homeless people?

Initiate outreach by leaving a voicemail at 360-450-0802 or sending an email to

outreach@councilforthehomeless.org or by letting the city's Homeless Response and

Assistance Team know by calling 360-487-8626 or emailing hartteam@cityofvancouver.us

*** Please let Margaret (Chair of the Fircrest Neighborhood Association) know by calling/texting 360-836-6736 or emailing fircrestna@gmail.com, and she will pass the information on to our neighborhood police officer.

Code Compliance and Parking Complaints

311

Non-emergency law enforcement situations

311

Some news from Evergreen Memorial Gardens!



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Fall Leaf Coupons & Tips to Help You Recycle Right

Free RecycleU Classes cityofvancouver.us/RecycleU

Recycling 101: Recycling Done Right

- Thursday, Sept. 7, 5 to 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Learn the basics and get all the latest tips about our regional garbage and recycling system.

Prevent Food Waste: Use Food Well

- Tuesday, Sept. 27, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7 to 8 p.m.

Discover strategies and tools to combat food waste and minimize food spoilage.

Recycling 201: Beyond the Curb

- Tuesday, Oct. 3, 5 to 6 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 14, 5 to 6 p.m.

Learn to identify and safely dispose of household hazardous waste. Discover a wide variety of recycling and reuse options available locally for plastic bags, appliances, bulky items and more.

BONUS: Organics 101

- Offered after most RecycleU classes. Learn what's accepted in the curbside organics service.

Come grow your knowledge and sharpen your recycling skills!

Pre-registration required:
cityofvancouver.us/RecycleUClasses

Free classes offered through a partnership with Vancouver Solid Waste, Clark County Green Neighbors & Waste Connections.
Email for more details: solidwaste@cityofvancouver.us



Free Composter Recycler Program Workshops clarkcountycomposts.org

Backyard Composting

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7 to 8 p.m.

Learn how to compost! Optional field-training to construct a compost pile with experts and view demonstration bins.

Red Worm Composting

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 7 to 8 p.m.

Learn to construct and maintain a worm bin. Qualify for your own worm bin and worms.



Lasagna Garden Composting

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 7 to 8 p.m.

Learn how to build and plant a raised bed garden. No tilling or turning required. Optional field-training.

Advanced Composting Techniques

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 7 to 8 p.m.

Learn how to compost using the Bokashi method, trench composting and new technology systems like Lomi.

Green Cleaning

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 7 to 8 p.m.

Learn how to make three versatile household green cleaners, and qualify for your own green clean kit.

Low Waste Living

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7 to 8 p.m.

Learn how to live a low waste lifestyle. Tips and resources to refuse, repair, refurbish, reuse and donate.

Pre-registration required: clarkcountycomposts.org

Free, virtual workshops hosted by the Composter Recycler Program.
Email for more details: info@clarkcountycomposts.org

FREE Leaf Disposal Coupon

Vancouver & Clark County Residents Only

Prevent street flooding — NEVER blow or place leaves in the street.

Valid: October 1 - December 31, 2023



SEE DROP-OFF LOCATIONS AND HOURS ON BACK



NOTE: Present this coupon at a participating drop-off location for up to 5 cubic yards of LEAVES ONLY - no bags. No trimmings, yard debris or mixed loads.

Complete the following information:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ Zip: _____

City of Vancouver residents: Funding for this program is provided through your garbage rates.
Clark County residents: Funding for this program is provided through Clark County Public Works.

Sponsored by:

CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON
Public Works

