

Friends of Fircrest

# Winter (Jan-Mar) ♡ Newsletter 2024

Email: [friendsoffircrestrhc@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffircrestrhc@gmail.com)

**Friends of Fircrest is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization advocating for the rights to quality living choices for all people with developmental disabilities.**

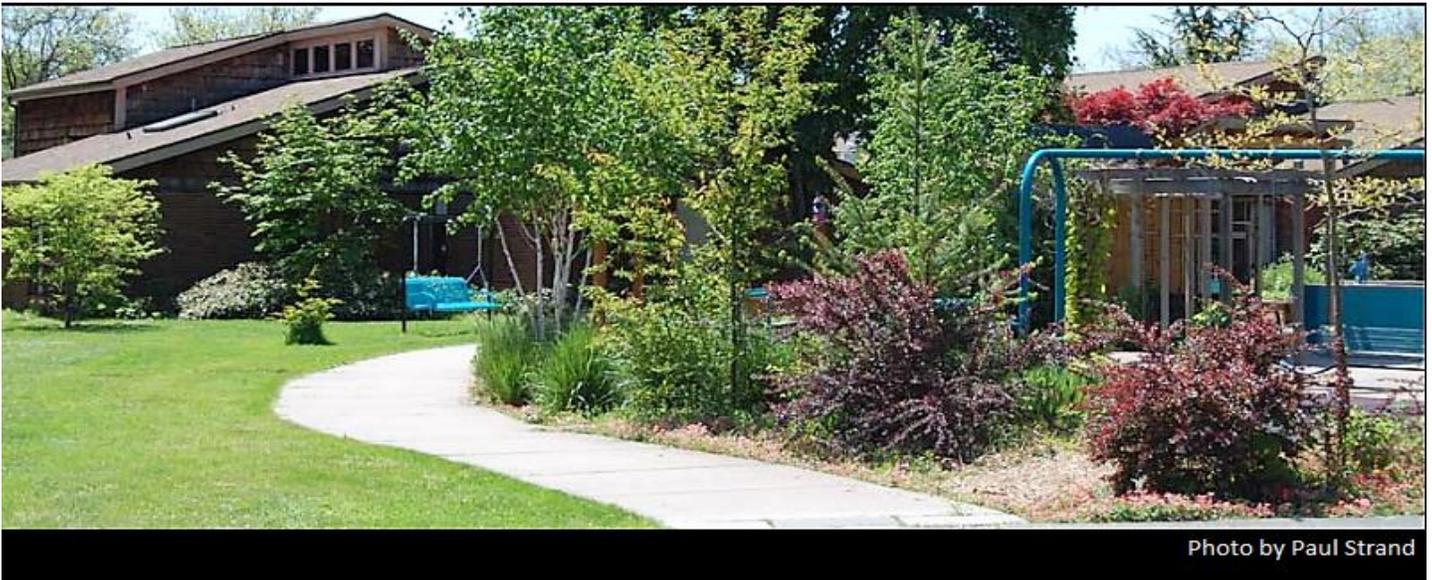


Photo by Paul Strand

## **President's Corner**

We're already just over 3 months into the new year and we're continuing to build momentum on several activities started last year including the Campus Art Project, supporting Funfest 2024 in collaboration with Fircrest Rec department, Adopt-a-Hall and planning to meet with the new Asst. Secy. of DDA, Dr. Tonik Joseph to name a few. The most exciting event to happen this year after more than 3 decades of planning by DSHS

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with support from the State Legislature and the Governor's Office will be the groundbreaking and construction of the new state of the art Nursing Facility. This project milestone is the cornerstone of the Fircrest Master Development Plan soon to be approved and permitted by the City of Shoreline. It seems like a miracle except when you consider the tireless and selfless support and advocacy by our predecessors. To help push this plan through the legislative process, it took the dedicated help from our experienced lobbyists in Action DD to fight the good fight with legislators on our behalf that ensured the necessary policy, and fiscal hurdles were overcome to make it happen. With all the hard work by so many it seemed inevitable even after 32 years. With the advent of the 50th anniversary of Friends of Fircrest just around the corner in 2028, how fitting would it be to have the completion and opening of the new NF occur at almost the same time. It's not a time to celebrate just yet but it is a time to reflect on our organization's unwavering support to our loved ones and their families past and present to preserve the future of Fircrest for many years to come. I'm so proud and blessed to be a part of this wonderful group of parents, guardians, and former employees.

*Lloyd Baker, President, Friends of Fircrest*

### **Campus Art**

Many thanks to Terri Anderson, Liz Patterson, Nancy Miller, Rebecca Hood, Maureen Durkan, and Martha Duggan for the monthly meetings as we begin to dream. The committee is working towards bringing suggestions to the membership for an art installation on the grounds of the new nursing facility. At this time, the location has been chosen to be in the center of the courtyard on the east side of the building. This should

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be quite the focal point for all to enjoy. We have worked with Kiewit, AHBL, Inc. and DSHS to secure the location and understand the parameters we are to work within. We are all learning during this journey and enjoying networking in the community as we proceed.

*Gwendine Norton – Campus Art Project Chair & Board Member, Friends of Fircrest*

### **Friends of Fircrest Resident Enrichment Committee**

2024 has started off to be very active. A new program was hatched to “adopt” a couple of our units each month giving them a budget to do a little something extra just for their residents. So far, we have sponsored balloon twisters, a magician, and some pizza parties. We look forward to this continuing throughout the year. A designated donation for Valentine’s Day prompted us to show up on campus and surprise each hall with decorative cupcakes and balloons as a surprise. We have another surprise for each hall in May. Shhhh!! Music performances have not been forgotten and we have sponsored Guy Johnson and a quartet from the award-winning Mountlake Terrace High School Jazz Band. It’s spring so of course, gardening is something that we are always happy to sponsor. Meanwhile, we are already busy preparing for Funfest to be held on July 18. Many thanks to Ross Baarslag-Benson for constructing a PVC frame as we begin to prepare a “fishing pond” full of prizes. Mark your calendar as volunteers will be welcome to help us with this. As always, if you have suggestions for ways in which we might enrich the lives of all of our residents, please reach out to us. [friendsoffircrestrhc@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffircrestrhc@gmail.com)

*Gwendine Norton, Resident Enrichment Committee & Board Member, Friends of Fircrest*

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## **Therapy Garden Committee – THE SEARCH**

Covid not only disrupted personal lives. It also disturbed the growing life of our Garden. With a closed Campus, Urban Fern could no longer support the Garden. Fircrest's gardeners have done their best to keep up with its growth/overgrowth. Attempts have been made to hire outside firms to care for the Garden. Private companies do not have the same rules that we are required to follow because we are on State property. We are asking for suggestions from our members as to contacts regarding private care of the Therapy Garden. Requirements for hire would be explained to every interested party. We would like to keep this a local project. However, that is not a MUST HAVE. We will work with all parties in efforts to rejuvenate the garden.

Please email your suggestions to my attention at [friendsoffircrestrhc@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffircrestrhc@gmail.com)

*Terri Anderson, Therapy Garden Committee Chair & Board Member, Friends of Fircrest*

## **Fircrest Master Development Plan (MDP) – March 6th Hearing Examiner Meeting**

DSHS and the Senior Planner from the City of Shoreline presented the detail MDP to the hearing examiner followed by public comments from 3 of our members and others in attendance. We supported the Plan along with many others including Director of Facilities, Megan DeSmet while others from the local historical society were concerned about demolition of the remaining few WWII vintage buildings in the NE corner of the campus, specifically the old ATP structures. At the last minute they proposed to preserve them as a museum instead of building the new Behavioral Health (BH) facilities on that location. The hearing examiner did not respond to their proposal as it was out of scope to the MDP and was presented without merit. However, safety concerns about the proximity

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of the BH facilities to the RHC and surrounding community schools were raised by him and others. DSHS did not adequately present the required information as to how those safety concerns would be mitigated. Fortunately, the hearing examiner proposed to bifurcate the MDP into 2 parts. One part to include approval of the new NF construction and other funded projects so as to keep them on schedule. The second part puts on hold the special use permit for the BH facilities until DSHS and the City provide detailed conditions that address the safety concerns. Approval of the MDP permit less the BH facilities is expected late April. Groundbreaking is expected early 3rd quarter of this year.

*Lloyd Baker, President, Friends of Fircrest*

### **New Friends of Fircrest Website Update**

Our new website is now released onto the internet. There are several improvements in the way the site is constructed thus making it easier to maintain by our new webmaster. Without going into further explanation about the other detail updates it is highly recommended everyone visit the site and see what you think about the content and overall “look and feel”. The URL is: <https://friendsoffircrest.org/>

Comments and questions are welcome. Send them to our email address at: [friendsoffircrestrhc@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffircrestrhc@gmail.com)

### **Membership Drive**

Our new Membership Committee is working hard to develop new procedures to help us recruit and maintain our membership numbers. They're also looking at ways to

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encourage members to become more active through different ways to volunteer their time. Examples are helping one time with single events such as Funfest, Xmas gift wrapping/delivery, etc. Or taking the next step by volunteering to be a member of our Board of Directors, serving on committees, etc. It's your choice. However you chose to participate with us is how we continue to thrive. Our mission as always is to enrich the lives of our loved ones at Fircrest.

### **Membership Application Form**

If you haven't yet sent in your membership for 2024, please join to show your support!

The membership form has been updated to allow for up to 3 additional family members. For current members who've routinely paid family dues, please identify each family member by name with their contact information. Additional family members have all the same benefits as any other member so contact information including email address is important to keep them in the loop. The other change you'll see at the top of the form is a current or new member can pay dues for more than one calendar year. If you choose to do so, identify the years your payment covers. Our Treasurer keeps a record of who's paid and how many calendar years have been paid for. Please be sure to include the membership form with your payment.

A view of the form is included on the last page and also included as a separate enclosure with this newsletter. Print out the enclosed membership form, complete it and mail in. Thank you for supporting the efforts of Friends of Fircrest, a non-profit organization.

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# Friends of Fircrest

Join Friends of Fircrest

Print out and complete form, and mail it with your payment to:

Friends of Fircrest  
Attn: Treasurer  
15230 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Shoreline, WA 98155-7196

Attached is my check made out to Friends of Fircrest to cover my (new/renewal) membership dues for the year(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (Membership year begins in January)

Individual (\$15.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family\* (\$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able and willing to volunteer on committee(s) and/or support one-time special events on campus upon request? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Additional Immediate Family Members (Family membership only): Limit 3 additional members**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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