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National Night Out August 2nd, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Flat Top Park

On Tuesday, August 2nd, neighborhoods throughout West Richland are invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the 31st Annual National Night Out (NNO) crime and drug prevention event.

Join your neighbors and officers from the West Richland Police Department for an evening of community fun! Visit with police officers, play games, and enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs as you learn more about crime prevention. Child identification kits will be available at no charge.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
- Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

National Night Out, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, and co-sponsored locally by the West Richland Police Department, will involve more than 15,704 communities from all 50 States, US Territories, Canadian cities, and military bases around the world. More than 37.5 million people are expected to participate in "America's Night Out Against Crime."

Sponsors are needed for this event. Sponsorship and donations, in the form of money, food, supplies, and prizes for the children's events will help offset costs to the Police Department. For more information, call the West Richland Area Chamber of Commerce at 967-0521.

Meetings

July 5	City Council meeting canceled
July 6	West Richland Chamber meeting Sandberg Event Center - Noon
July 14	Planning Commission meeting Library - 6:00 p.m.
July 19	City Council meeting Library - 7:00 p.m.

A meeting and events calendar is available on the city website on the home page under Quick Links. Agendas are also posted on the web pages for City Council and Boards and Commissions. On the top menu of the home page click on Governance, then click on either City Council or Boards and Commissions.

New Traffic Signal

The new traffic signal at Keene and Belmont Blvd. is now fully operational. Please be aware of the changes at that intersection.



Yakima River Gateway Project Impacts on River Access

Construction activities on a multi-phased \$2 million Yakima River Gateway Project will begin again in early 2017. Access to the river from Butte Court and public parking will be prohibited until the project is completed in the Fall of 2017. The Yakima River Gateway Project will create a community riverfront park by improving access to the Yakima River near the

Van Giesen Bridge (between South 35th Avenue and South 39th Avenue), create a bicycle and pedestrian friendly riverfront trail, construct a restroom facility, and construct a parking lot on South 35th Avenue.

Due to the limited parking and construction activities, the city is recommending river users utilize alternative river access points such as the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) primitive boat launch on Hyde Road in Richland. This river access point is located at the west end of Hyde Road found by heading north on Kingston Road from Van Giesen Street and turning left onto Hyde Road. Note that a Discover Pass or Vehicle Access Pass is required on all WDFW lands including this location. For more information please visit http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/water_access/30911/. River users are also welcome to use the city's gravel parking lot located behind the West Richland Public Library at 3803 W. Van Giesen Street.

The city has tried to mitigate parking and river access impacts during construction of this project, but some simply can't be avoided. Your patience and understanding is appreciated. If you have questions about the project, please contact the West Richland Community Development Department at (509) 967-5902.

Library Funding Options Calculator

A library funding options calculator is now available. You can use this calculator to determine what impact different funding options would have on you. Use the following web address to access the calculator.

<http://library.westrichland.org/>

Bicycle, Scooter, and Skateboard Safety

With school out for the summer, young people will be spending a lot of time riding bikes, scooters, and skateboards around town. Residents who are driving in West Richland should keep a watchful eye for these kids who might be more interested in getting to a friend's house or a city park than they are about paying attention to traffic.

At the same time, it's important to understand that these bikes, scooters, and skateboards are especially dangerous if the person riding them isn't doing so safely. According to the safekids.org website, 112 children 19 years of age and under died while riding a bicycle in 2010 and more than 271,000 children were seen in emergency rooms for bike riding injuries just two years ago. 80,000 other children had skateboard related injuries in 2012 and amazingly, safekids.org reports that non-motorized scooters cause more injuries to kids than any other toy.

Wearing a helmet is one of the best ways to be safe while riding a bike, scooter, or skateboard. That's true for parents as well as young people. Safekids.org shows studies that indicate wearing a helmet while riding reduces the risk of head injury by 45%, while another study shows helmet usage may cut down on head injury by as much as 85%. It's also proven that a child who rides with companions wearing helmets or adults in general are more likely to wear helmets themselves.

Have a safe and fun summer!