



Thank You Council Members Tony Benegas, Ron Hayden, Byron Martin and Robert Perkes

We appreciate the time, dedication, and hard work of Council Members Tony Benegas, Ron Hayden, Byron Martin and Robert Perkes, and wish them the very best. Thank you for your service to the citizens of West Richland.

Tony Benegas served eight years on the City Council and previously served on the Planning Commission. Ron Hayden served four years on the City Council. Robert Perkes served four years on the City Council and previously served on the Planning Commission. Byron Martin was appointed to the City Council on January 18, 2014 and previously served on the Economic Development Board. All of the Council Members also served as liaisons on the boards of various community organization, such as Benton Franklin Council of Governments, Port of Kennewick, Benton County Fire District #4, as well as subcommittees of the council for city departments.

Welcome New West Richland City Council Members!

Four new Council Members will join the West Richland City Council in 2016. They will take their oaths of office during the January 5th City Council meeting.

Don Engelman was elected to position 5, John Smart to position 1, Ken Stoker to position 7, and Scott Whalen to position 6.



Accepting Applications for Library Blue Ribbon Committee



The city is seeking citizens for a Blue Ribbon Committee to evaluate library funding challenges, make a recommendation to the Mayor and assist communicating with our citizenry. If interested, please submit an application by February 5, 2016 to City of West Richland, Attention: City Clerk, 3801 W. Van Giesen, West Richland, WA 99353 or by email to julie@westrichland.org.

Applications are available at <http://www.westrichland.org/library-blue-ribbon-committee/> or request one from julie@westrichland.org.

Meetings

- Jan 5 City Council meeting
Library - 7:00 p.m.
- Jan 6 West Richland Chamber meeting
Sandberg Event Center - Noon
- Jan 14 Planning Commission meeting
Library - 6:00 p.m.
- Jan 19 City Council meeting
Library - 7:00 p.m.
- Jan 25 Park Board meeting
Library - 6:30 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.

City Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed on January 18th in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

City Receives Successful Audit



The City of West Richland received a clean audit report from the Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO), with no findings, management letters or recommendations. Each year the city undergoes a financial statements audit and accountability audit. City management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the city's financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of the Washington State statutes and the Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System manual. In the areas audited, city operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources.

Mayor Gerry stated, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Finance staff for their hard work and effort. The city once again has had successful audits, which demonstrates that we have experienced management operating the city in an efficient manner and strong financial practices and policies in place for the benefit of our taxpayers."

Happy New Year! Time to Renew Licenses and Discounts

Dog Licenses: The City requires dog owners to license dogs over 7 months old and within 30 days of acquiring the dog. Dog license renewals are due by February 28, 2016. If you have a current dog license, you will receive a reminder notice early in January. When renewing, you may need to provide a current rabies certification and if applicable, proof of spay or neuter. If a dog(s) is no longer residing on the premise or has passed away, please send us an email at utilities@westrichland.org so we can update our records.



Senior Discount: To apply for 2016, the account holder must provide proof of all sources of taxable and nontaxable revenue coming into the household for all members of the household. To qualify: 1) applicant must be over the age of 61; 2) account must be in the name of the applicant; and 3) total of all household revenue must be less than the HUD's published income limits for "Very Low Income" of a 2 person household. The 2016 rates will not be available until most likely February 2016.

Discounts for first time applicants will be effective the first full billing cycle after their application is approved. For renewals, the application must be completed and approved by April 15th to avoid losing the discounted status. Accounts with an existing discount will continue in that status until the end of the March billing cycle, and then revert to regular rates if a new application is not on file.

Check-Out the city's newest eating establishments,
The Chicken Shack and Note Wine Bar, located at 4390 W. Van Giesen Street

Comprehensive Plan Amendment Applications Due January 31st

Amendments to the West Richland Comprehensive Plan are considered on an annual basis. Applications to amend the text or maps of the Comprehensive Plan must be submitted by January 31, 2016, to be considered in the 2016 set of amendments. Application forms are available at City Hall and on the city website (www.westrichland.org).

If you are considering submitting an application, or have questions regarding the Plan, please contact Senior Planner Mike Stevens with the Community Development Department at (509) 967-5902.

West Richland Police Sergeant Promotional Ceremony

January 7th, 11:00 a.m.
Sandberg Event Center
331 S. 41st Avenue

Join us on January 7th at 11:00 a.m. for the promotions of Officer Terry Boehmler and Ryan Boyce to Sergeant. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.