



www.westrichland.org

Snow and Ice Control



Living in West Richland, we all know how unpredictable our winter weather can be. Our winters can vary from little or no snow accumulation to extreme winters with more than 50 inches of snow. Storm events of freezing fog and rain along with wind driven snow drifts can also vary year to year.

With a population of over 14,000 residents and over 138 lane miles of roadways, the City strives to provide a safe and acceptable level of snow and ice control. Our fleet consists of four dump trucks equipped with snow plows and sander beds, a one-ton pickup truck with a snow plow, a one-ton pickup truck with a sander and a one-ton pickup truck with deicing equipment. In emergency situations, outside contractors and equipment may be used.

The City relies on information such as wind, temperature, humidity, current and projected snow accumulation, and monitors several weather forecasts to determine equipment and methods utilized for storm events. When the weather forecasts a high probability of a snow storm or icy conditions, the street division is mobilized to apply liquid anti-icing chemicals to arterial streets, collector streets and steep hill streets. The amount of accumulation and recurrence of storm events determine if and when plowing and sanding equipment will be called out in accordance with the following priorities: 1) Steep hill streets (Bombing Range Road, Collins Road, S. 45th Ave, Mazzard Ave, and Candy Mountain Ave); 2) Main arterial streets; 3) Collector streets and school zones; and 4) Residential streets.

During severe or prolonged snow storm events, priority 1 and 2 streets may have to be plowed numerous times before moving onto lower priority streets. On occasion the road conditions have become so severe the Police Department has had to close the hill section of Bombing Range. If this occurs, please use Paradise Way, Belmont Blvd., and Keene Road to access Van Giesen.



During minor snow events when temperatures are predicted to rise well above freezing, priority 4 residential streets are typically not plowed. When residential streets are plowed, it is inevitable that driveways and sidewalks will be blocked. We're sorry for this inconvenience, but please understand that it cannot be avoided.

Meetings

- Jan. 3 City Council meeting
Library - 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 4 West Richland Chamber meeting
Sandberg Event Center - Noon
- Jan. 12 Planning Commission meeting
Library - 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 17 City Council meeting
Library - 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Tree Disposal

Ed's Disposal will pick up your Christmas tree free of charge. Just put it next to your garbage can on your regular garbage day.

City Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed on January 16th in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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, 2017. 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, or call 967-3431 so we can update our records.



Low-income senior citizens: For low-income senior discount renewals, applications must be completed and approved by April 15th to avoid losing the discounted rates. Accounts with an existing discount will continue to receive the discounted rate until the end of the March billing cycle. For details on how to apply, qualifications, and an application, please visit www.westrichland.org/utilities, call 967-3431, or send an email to utilities@westrichland.org.

The Food Bank is Expanding to West Richland!

The food bank will be operating out of space at 4096-F West Van Giesen Street. Operating hours will be Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The first day of operation is January 12, 2017.

If you are a West Richland resident, this will be your new pickup location, and you will no longer be permitted to pick up food from the Richland branch as October 13th.

Volunteers are needed! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Frances-Anne Hiemstra at 509-582-0411

Library Levy LID Lift Approved by Voters

The West Richland Library Levy Lid Lift was approved by voters during the November 8, 2016 general election. The proposition eliminates and replaces the 2.5% increase in city electric, telephone, and gas utility taxes approved by voters in 2003 specifically dedicated to library operations, with a property tax levy lid lift of \$0.45 per \$1,000 assessed value beginning in 2017. The revenue from the utility tax increase has been declining and is no longer sufficient to sustain current library service levels.

Following voter approval of the library levy lid lift, the West Richland City Council on November 29, 2016 passed an ordinance reducing electric, telephone, and gas utility taxes from 8.5% to 6% effective January 1, 2017. If you should have any questions regarding the library levy lid lift and/or utility tax, please contact Finance Director Jessica Platt at 967-7134 or jplatt@westrichland.org.

Community Garden

Would you like to grow your own vegetables in 2017 but lack ground for growing? The City of West Richland's Community Garden program is currently accepting applications for interested residents. The Community Garden is located at Yellowstone Trail Park on Austin Drive, near the intersection of Bombing Range Road and Van Giesen Street. The City is partnering with WSU Extension Master Gardeners, who are excited to provide community gardeners with free seeds, expert advice, and mentor assistance throughout the 2017 growing season.

The garden was established through a partnership between volunteers and the City, with assistance from many generous local businesses. The garden project was launched by Mayor Brent Gerry as a community project to enhance the Van Giesen Corridor through beautification, volunteerism, and community involvement.

There are 42 raised garden plots available to rent for the 2017 growing season on a first-come, first-serve basis. Handicap accessible plots are also available. The City will provide water and garden hoses, but gardeners are responsible for providing all tools.

The fee to reserve a garden plot is \$10 for the 2017 season. A Garden Committee will oversee and help manage the garden. The \$10 fee will be waived for those who serve on the Garden Committee. Contact the Planning Department at 509-967-5902 for more information.

Registration forms and garden policies are available online at www.westrichland.org, by phone 509-967-5902, or in person at the Community Development Office, 3801 W. Van Giesen Street.