



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 15,000 residents and over 168 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 be 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

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| Jan. 1 | City Council meeting cancelled |
| Jan. 2 | West Richland Chamber meeting
Sandberg Event Center - Noon |
| Jan. 10 | Planning Commission meeting
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 15 | City Council meeting
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 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 21st in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Proposed West Richland Police Facility Update

On December 18, the West Richland City Council unanimously passed a resolution asking voters to consider funding for a larger police facility. The bond measure will be on the April 23, 2019 Special Election ballot.

“Police departments are being closely scrutinized,” said Police Chief Ben Majetich. “A larger, secure facility will improve policing services and reduce liability for taxpayers. We appreciate council giving the community the opportunity to vote on the issue.”



Several issues would be resolved with a larger facility. The building would have a secure armory and evidence room, and a safe lobby for visitors and staff. There also would be more space for police and parole officers, who currently work four to a desk. (Parole officers are meeting with offenders in hallways or parking lots due to lack of space at the current facility.) There also would be additional space for officer training, community meetings and an improved kennel for animal control, which community members have requested.

Twenty years ago, the current facility was called “inadequate to serve the community” by the former police chief, Mike Noski. Population in the city has increased 115 percent since that time.

The council vote to place the issue before voters comes after more than a year of work. A group of West Richland citizens (independent of the city and police department) spent six months assessing the police facility needs for the West Richland community. Their recommendations mirrored those of an architectural and engineering firm that developed plans for a larger facility. The city and police department then held multiple town hall meetings and public hearings.

“Policing is getting harder and we will rise to the challenge. Having an adequate, secure facility is just as important to public safety as police officers and patrol cars,” said Chief Majetich.

Information about the proposed police facility is available online at www.westrichland.org/proposed-police-facility-information/. Police Chief Ben Majetich also is available to answer questions at (509) 967-3425 or bmajetich@westrichland.org.

Happy New Year! Time to Renew Licenses and Discounts

Dog Licenses: In the December 2018 newsletter, an article explained that the city has contracted with PetData, Inc. to provide pet licensing services beginning January 2019. Renewal notices will be arriving from PetData this month.

Utility Billing: Low-Income senior citizen and permanently disabled: For low income senior and permanently disabled 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 call 967-3431 or send an email to utilities@westrichland.org. You can also visit: www.westrichland.org/utilities.

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, 2019, to be considered in the 2019 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 Emily Weimer with the Community Development Department at (509) 967-5902.