



West Richland Animal Control

West Richland Animal Control (WRAC) impounded 119 animals in 2018, including 22 cats and 98 dogs. Of those, 85 were reunited with their owners, 26 were transferred, 5 were deceased upon arrival and 3 were euthanized. These animals were euthanized due to health considerations. As the city grows, so does the number of animals. In fact, a dog license survey conducted in 2015 estimates each household in the city has one dog.

West Richland Animal Control holds impounded dogs at their upgraded kennels located at the police department. If the dog is not claimed within 24 hours, the animal is transported to Tri-City Animal Control (TCAC). Impound fees must be paid at the West Richland Police Department prior to picking up a dog that has been transported to TCAC.

Cats are impounded on a case by case basis. The city utilizes Benton Franklin Humane Society (BFHS) if a friendly kitten/cat is picked up. West Richland Animal Control tries to have a foster arranged prior to picking up a cat, so the animal will not have to remain at the city's kennels. So far this year, 4 have been transferred to Adopt Shelter Animal Pets (ASAP), 8 to Benton Franklin Humane Society, 1 to Pet Over Population prevention, and 1 has been adopted.

The city requires every dog over 7 months old to be licensed for the following reasons: To ensure every dog has a rabies vaccination; to track the number of dogs living within the city; and to ensure the quickest reunification with the owner if the animal were to become lost. A fine of \$75.00 may be charged to the owner of a dog that does not have a current license.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and organizations that assist the city with animal fostering and adoption!



Meetings

- Feb. 5 City Council meeting
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 6 West Richland Chamber meeting
Sandberg Event Center - Noon
- Feb. 14 Planning Commission meeting
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 19 City Council meeting
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 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.

City Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed on February 18th in observance of Presidents' Day.



Message from Police Chief Ben Majetich

I wanted to take this opportunity to address the issue of a recent homicide in our city. In summary, a suspect murdered another person and then threatened to kill himself. Officers were able to talk him down, and he was arrested without further incident.

West Richland may be one of Washington's 20 safest communities, but we are not immune to violent crime. Our current police facility makes us vulnerable as the recent homicide investigation showed. Allow me to provide some examples.

At the police station, the suspect was placed in the only room we have for interviews. Investigators and officers had to whisper while coordinating the investigation so the suspect couldn't hear us. The room is neither sound proof nor secure. A suspect could bolt from the area at any time to public areas in the station.

Part of developing evidence in this case was drying clothing and other material before sending it to the lab. Our "drying room" is a non-functioning shower that is unusable because of a backed-up sewer. The room is so small that we questioned whether there was enough room to dry the evidence.

In situations involving multiple suspects, they are held in administrative offices or patrol vehicles with an officer because there is only one secure interview room. An officer must remain with a suspect, which reduces the number of police on patrol.

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. More information is available online at www.westrichland.org/proposed-police-facility-information/. I also welcome your questions or comments at (509) 967-3425 or bmajetich@westrichland.org.

No Reservations at Flat Top Park Beginning June 10, 2019

Reservations for the pavilion and upper or lower field at Flat Top Park will not be accepted between June 10, 2019 and December 31, 2019 due to a water main replacement and sewer extension project. The entire park will not be closed but construction activities will limit access to the park from Bombing Range Road and limit the use of the upper and lower fields, pavilion, parking lot and restroom periodically during construction.

Please contact the Community Development Department at 967-5902 or parks@westrichland.org if you have questions.

West Richland Police Citizen's Academy

The West Richland Police Department Citizens Academy is a program designed to provide participants a better understanding of the West Richland Police Department and how it functions. Course instruction includes: Patrol Procedures, K-9 Operations and Demo, Gang and Drug Investigations, Use of Force, Firearms; and Tours of the West Richland Police Department, Benton County Jail and Dispatch Center.

The academy is held every Wednesday night, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., from April 10th through June 5th. Attendees must be at least 18 years of age, and live or work in the City of West Richland.

Registration forms will be available online at www.westrichland.org or may be picked up at the West Richland Police Department beginning February 1, 2019. The Citizen's Academy class size is limited and registration is processed on a first come, first serve basis.

If you have questions related to the program, please contact Sergeant Ryan Boyce at 509-967-3425 or email at rboyce@westrichland.org.