



City of West Richland, Washington 3100 Belmont Blvd., West Richland, WA 99353 509-967-3431



## West Richland Animal Control

West Richland Animal Control (WRAC) impounded 144 animals in 2019, including 16 cats and 128 dogs. Of those, 104 were reunited with their owners, 33 were transferred, 2 were deceased upon arrival and 3 were euthanized due to health considerations. Two dogs were declared dangerous. One was transferred to an agency in Montana and the other remained with the owner under permit

A dog is declared dangerous by animal control for the following: Inflicts severe injury on a human without provocation; Kills a domestic animal without provocation while off owner’s property; or having been previously declared “potentially dangerous” and the dog again endangers the safety of human or domestic animals. To prevent this, always have either verbal or physical control of your animal.

West Richland Animal Control holds impounded dogs at their 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. 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, seven have been transferred to Adopt Shelter Animal Pets (ASAP), three to Benton Franklin Humane Society, and one to Pet Overpopulation prevention.

The city requires every dog over seven 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! West Richland Animal Control is very grateful to be part of a community that is willing to step up for those that do not have a voice.

### Meetings

- Feb. 4 City Council meeting  
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 5 West Richland Chamber meeting  
Sandberg Event Center - Noon
- Feb. 13 Planning Commission meeting  
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 18 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 17th in observance of Presidents’ Day.



## West Richland Police Chief Ben Majetich

Now that 2019 is behind us, we can reflect on what we have accomplished and look forward to what lies ahead. The West Richland Police Department established some lofty goals at the beginning of the 2019 and I am pleased to report that we have met and exceeded most of the expectations. These include:

- Complete revamp of our policy manual and 90% of the Implementation process leading to an eventual accreditation.
- 100% staffing and retention of employees.
- Updated and streamlined electronic processes with a goal of establishing paperless operations (where feasible).
- Improved collaborative efforts with other city departments and public and private entities.
- Implemented code enforcement duties assigned to the newly created Animal and Code Compliance Officer position (formerly Animal Control Officer).
- Reduction of crime by over 6%.
- Rated third safest city in Washington and the Best Place to Raise a Family in Washington.
- Passage of the new police facility bond.

Now that the new police facility bond has passed, we have a lot of work ahead of us. As previously reported, the city recently received a AA+ bond rating which resulted in lower interest rates for the bond loan. This, and historically low interest rates, has resulted in a cost to individual home owners anticipated at .30 cents per thousand of assessed value versus the original projection of .42 cents per thousand.

The next phase of the project is presenting the project plan to the Public Review Committee in Kent, Washington on January 23, 2020. Once this is completed and approved, the city can move forward with hiring the progressive design/build team to construct the facility. The purchase of the "racetrack" property was finalized at the end of December and has been slated for the future location of the new police facility. The projected timeline is to begin construction in October 2020 with completion before the end of 2021.

We are looking forward to another successful year and can promise that we will not be complacent with what we have achieved and will continue to strive for excellence.

## Earth Day Cleanup Event

The Annual Earth Day Cleanup Event is scheduled for April 18.

Without volunteers, this event is not possible. Shifts are 7:45 a.m. to Noon, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Volunteers are provided with an Earth Day shirt, continental breakfast, and sandwich lunch.

Please call 967-5902 to sign-up to help with this fun and worthwhile event.

## Code Red Emergency Alerts

Emergency Management Agencies of Benton and Franklin Counties use CodeRed, which is a high-speed mass notification system designed to keep you informed in the event of an emergency. This system allows for the delivery of emergency messages to you via phone to your landline or mobile device, as well as through text and email.

Generally, non-life threatening alerts will be sent to email only. Alerts that pose a higher threat or cause significant adverse conditions may be sent to email and text message. Emergency alerts that pose a serious or significant risk to life and/or property will be sent from all devices that you have selected.

To register, visit [www.bces.wa.gov](http://www.bces.wa.gov) in Benton County or [www.franklinem.org](http://www.franklinem.org) in Franklin County and click on the CodeRED icon. Contact Benton County Emergency Management at 509-628-2600 for more information.