



## A Message from West Richland Animal Control

Have you been having issues with stray or feral cats? The City would like to remind our citizens of a few laws regarding cats who are present within West Richland City Limits.

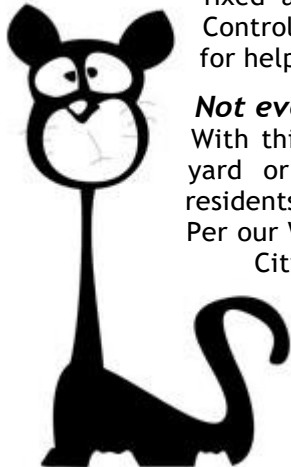
### ***It is illegal to feed feral or stray cats.***

Per WRMC 6.20.020 Abandonment Prohibited, those that feed feral or abandoned animals, of which they do not have ownership of, will be considered to have accepted responsibility for said animal. Leaving food out will also attract unwanted wildlife such as skunks, raccoons, etc. that may pose a threat to the health of your own animals. Please report any unwanted feeding to the Animal Control Officer by calling 509-967-3425 or through the City’s online portal at: [www.westrichland.org/citizen-action-line/](http://www.westrichland.org/citizen-action-line/).

For those that argue “the cats will starve,” the current Animal Control Officer has been working in the position for over six years and has enforced this law within many areas of the City. She has yet to impound a starving, feral cat that does not have some kind of underlying medical condition.

### ***What if I am contacted by Animal Control to stop feeding strays, but disregard and do it anyways?***

This offense is punishable by a fine of no more than \$5,000, by imprisonment for no more than 365 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. If you are going to feed a cat, take the animal in to get fixed and an updated rabies shot as required by law. West Richland Animal Control has resources for low income spay and neuter, so please contact them for help!



### ***Not everyone likes cats.***

With this in mind, wouldn’t you prefer to keep your cats safe with you in your yard or home? Unfortunately, Animal Control has responded to reports of residents shooting animals, harming animals, and even illegally trapping animals. Per our WRMC 6.28.010 Animal at Large ordinance, any animal at large within the City is a nuisance. And yes, this includes cats. Keep your cats safe and within your property line.

### ***What is the fine if my cat is caught roaming at large?***

The first offense fine amounts to \$75.00. A second, or more, offense fine amounts to \$150.00.

## Meetings

- Feb. 2 City Council Meeting  
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 11 Planning Commission Meeting  
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 16 City Council Meeting  
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 p.m.

\*Meetings are held virtually via Zoom until Benton County enters a Phase of the Governor’s Roadway to Recovery that allows in-person public meetings. More information can be found at: [www.westrichland.org](http://www.westrichland.org).

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 15th in observance of Presidents’ Day.



## 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, 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 to 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.

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## Yellowstone Trail Community Garden

Would you like to grow your own vegetables in 2021 but lack ground for growing? The City of West Richland's Community Garden program is accepting applications from 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 2021 growing season.

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

There are 42 raised garden plots available to rent for the 2021 growing season on a first-come, first-serve basis. ADA 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 2021 season. Contact the Planning Department at 509-967-5902 for more information.

Registration forms and garden policies are available online at: [www.westrichland.org](http://www.westrichland.org) or by phone 509-967-5902.



### *Find Us on YouTube!*

You can now view City Council meetings on YouTube! Starting with the November 2020 meetings, the City Clerk will be posting the recorded meetings to YouTube in the days following each City Council Meeting.

Use your phone's camera to follow the QR code to the right or visit:



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCl-toy6Hm4d7\\_BKuQZGelZQ/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCl-toy6Hm4d7_BKuQZGelZQ/)

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## West Richland Police Facility Groundbreaking *Happening Soon!*

Exciting news from the West Richland PD! We will soon be scheduling the official groundbreaking for the City's new Police Facility to be located near the intersection of Keene Road and Van Giesen. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, the event will be virtual only. Stay tuned to the West Richland PD's Facebook page and the City's new YouTube channel to virtually attend!

