



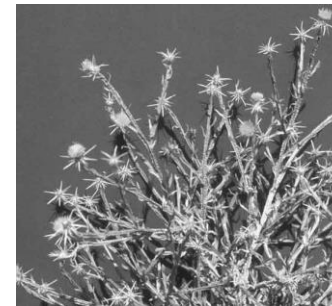
## Local Noxious Weeds



Noxious weeds are highly invasive plant species that threaten our way of life. They can have an economic or environmental impact on agriculture, outdoor recreation, wildlife, native and natural lands, as well as being harmful to people or animals. Washington State recognizes the negative impact of these invaders and has created laws to prevent and control infestations. Local Noxious Weed Control Boards can help you identify, develop and implement control methods to eradicate and prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

### Yellow Starthistle

One noxious weed that is prevalent in our area is Yellow Starthistle. Yellow Starthistle is an annual plant that grows from one half to four feet tall, depending on available moisture. The rigid branched stems are winged and covered with fine hair, giving the plant a gray-green appearance. A single head at the end of each branch has a yellow flower surrounded by stiff 3/4 inch long spines. The flowers bloom from June to late September.



One plant can produce thousands of seeds which are blackish-brown, with or without plumes. Seeds germinate rapidly after exposure to moisture. The seeds can remain viable for up to ten years.

Starthistle produces a toxin that causes death in horses through an illness called "chewing disease." Horses consuming the plant may develop the disease which makes it impossible for the horse to swallow. The sharp spines may also damage the eyes of cattle or other livestock. The spines also have a toxin that can cause irritation and infection to the skin.

There are many noxious weeds in our area. For more information about noxious weeds and how to control them, please contact the Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board at (509) 943-6005 or the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board at [noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov](mailto:noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov)

## Meetings

**August 3 City Council Meeting**  
*Cancelled*

**August 12 Planning Commission Meeting**  
3100 Belmont Blvd  
6:00 p.m.

**August 17 City Council Meeting**  
3100 Belmont Blvd  
6:00 p.m.

*\*Meetings are held virtually via Zoom until the Governor rescinds the statewide emergency order due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

More information can be found at:  
[www.westrichland.org](http://www.westrichland.org).

Follow our social media pages!



@CityofWestRichlandWA



City of West Richland



## Utility Shutoff Moratorium Ending Soon

Governor Jay Inslee's Utility Moratorium has been extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. After the expiration of the moratorium, the City will resume issuing late fees and disconnecting water service due to non-payment. Past Due statements sent out on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 will include the \$20 late fee. Accounts with unpaid past due balances will be disconnected for non-payment on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

*If you are behind on your account and are unable to pay the past due balance, please contact the City to discuss payment arrangements.*

Payment arrangements cannot be entered into after a property has been disconnected for non-payment.

## Hogs & Dogs 2021

September 30th, 2021

Bombing Range Sports Complex in West Richland, WA

Hogs & Dogs is a regional Family Festival in West Richland that began in 2000. It continues today to delight people of all ages! It has grown to be the premier motorcycle event in the Pacific Northwest. In recent years, over 2,000 amazing motorcycles have been on display. There are a variety of activities including the Kids Zone, Food Trucks, Live Music, and a variety of Vendors. Hogs & Dogs is an event your whole family will enjoy.

More information can be found at [www.westrichlandchamber.org](http://www.westrichlandchamber.org).



## Welcome Back!

The City of West Richland Offices and Facilities reopened to the public after 15 months of limited service due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Visitors who are not vaccinated are asked to wear a mask when visiting.

Business hours at the Municipal Services Building are Monday through Friday, 8:00am - 12:00pm and 1:00pm - 5:00pm. At this time, meetings held under the Open Public Meetings Act will remain virtual as the statewide emergency proclamation requires in-person meetings to maintain a remote option, and the City does not currently have the means to provide that to our public.

We want to thank our residents for all their hard work to get us back to this point and we are excited to see you in-person!

