



## Utility Assistance Programs Now Available For Those Impacted by COVID-19

### American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

Federal grant funds have been distributed to assist those who have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19. If you have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, you may be eligible to receive payment assistance toward your utility account with the City. Each account is eligible to draw funds once during the grant period. This in-house program offers two types of assistance:



1. Pay-off past due utility account balance (not to exceed \$1,500).
2. Receive credit for future utility bills (up to \$150).

Utility account holders may apply to receive one of the options above by filling out an application at our office.



### Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

The Benton Franklin Community Action Committee (CAC) has received Federal grant funding to provide funds to assist low-income households experiencing past due or disconnection arrearages for water/sewer costs. For those who qualify, payment for arrearages will be remitted directly from CAC to the City and applied to the utility account.

Eligibility information and instructions on how to apply can be found on the CAC website at: <http://bfcac.org/forms/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program>. Residents with low-income households are encouraged to apply.

## 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, 2022, to be considered in the 2022 set of amendments. Application forms are available at City Hall and on the city website ([www.westrichland.org](http://www.westrichland.org)).

If you are considering submitting an application, or have questions regarding the Plan, please contact Elisha Ransom, Associate Planner, with the Community and Economic Development Department at (509) 967-5902 for assistance.

### Meetings

#### January 4

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

#### January 13

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

#### January 18

**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

## Snow and Ice Control

Our winters here in West Richland can vary each year, 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 17,000 residents and over 170 lane miles of roadways, the City strives to provide a safe and acceptable level of snow and ice control. Our fleet consists of dump trucks equipped with snow plows and sander beds, one-ton trucks with salt-sander beds, and one-ton trucks with deicing equipment. In emergency situations, outside contractors and equipment may also 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. or 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.

## Time to Renew Licenses and Discounts

**Dog Licenses:** 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 call 509-967-3431 or send an email to: [utilities@westrichland.org](mailto:utilities@westrichland.org). You can also visit: [www.westrichland.org/utilities](http://www.westrichland.org/utilities)

## Upcoming City Closure

City offices and facilities will be **closed** on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Employees will not be available via phone on these days. Please use the City's after-hours water or sewer emergency phone 509-967-5434 for these types of emergencies.

## 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.

