



Snow and Ice Control



Living in West Richland, we all know how unpredictable our winter weather can be. Our winters can vary 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 13,000 residents and over 138 lane miles of roadways, the City strives to provide a safe and acceptable level of snow and ice control. Our fleet consists of four dump trucks equipped with snow plows and sander beds, a one-ton pickup truck with a snow plow, a one-ton pickup truck with a sander and a one-ton pickup truck with deicing equipment. In emergency situations, outside contractors and equipment may 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., and Keene Road to access Van Giesen.



During minor snow events when temperatures are predicted to rise 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.

Meetings

Jan 6	City Council Meeting Library - 7:00 PM
Jan 7	West Richland Chamber meeting Sandberg Event Center - Noon
Jan 8	Planning Commission meeting Library - 6:00 PM
Jan 20	City Council meeting Library - 7:00 PM
Jan 26	Park Board Meeting Library - 6:30 PM

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 Government, then Council or Boards and Commissions.

City Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed on January 19th in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

West Richland #2 City for Young Families in Washington!



Nerdwallet analyzed factors to find the most affordable, family friendly cities in the Pacific Northwest and West Richland ranked 2nd out of the top 10. In their study, they looked at the three factors below that drive one of life's biggest decisions: Where should I raise my family?

Public school excellence. For school quality, they gathered GreatSchools data, which compares students' test scores and other statewide data and ranks schools on a 1-10 scale, with 10 as the highest rating.

Home affordability. Using U.S. Census Bureau data, they weighed median home values and monthly homeownership costs, including mortgage payments, real estate taxes, insurance costs, utilities, fuel and other bills. Places with more affordable homes had higher scores.

Growth and prosperity. They assessed a location's economy using census figures that detailed median household incomes from 2012, and long-term income growth since 1999.

See the study at:

<http://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/cities/economics/best-cities-young-families-washington/>



Happy New Year! Time to Renew Licenses and Discounts

Dog Licenses: The City requires dog owners to license dogs over 7 months old and within 30 days of acquiring the dog. Dog license renewals are due by February 28, 2015. If you have a current dog license, you will receive a reminder notice early in January. When renewing, you may need to provide a current rabies certification and if applicable, proof of spay or neuter.

Senior Discount: To apply for 2015, the account holder must provide proof of all sources of taxable and nontaxable revenue coming into the household for all members of the household. To qualify: 1) applicant must be over the age of 61; 2) account must be in the name of the applicant; and 3) total of all household revenue must be less than the HUD's published income limits for "Very Low Income" of a 2 person household. The 2015 rates will not be available until February 2015 but we anticipate that they will be similar to the 2014 rate of \$26,800.

Discounts for first time applicants will be effective the first full billing cycle after their application is approved. For renewals, the application must be completed and approved by April 15th to avoid losing the discounted status. Accounts with an existing discount will continue in that status until the end of the March billing cycle, and then revert to regular rates if a new application is not on file.

Community Garden

Would you like to grow your own vegetables in 2015 but lack ground for growing? The City of West Richland's Community Garden program is currently accepting applications for 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 2015 growing season.

The garden was established through a partnership between volunteers and the City, with assistance from many generous local businesses. The garden project 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 2015 growing season on a first-come, first-serve basis. Handicap accessible plots are also available. The City will provide water and garden hoses, but gardeners are responsible for all tools.

The fee to reserve a garden plot is \$10 for the 2015 season. A Garden Committee will oversee and help manage the garden. The \$10 fee will be waived for those who serve on the Garden Committee. Contact Alison Greene at 509-967-5902 for more information.

Registration forms and garden policies are available online at www.westrichland.org, by phone 509-967-5902, or in person at the Community Development Office, 3801 W. Van Giesen Street.