

West Richland Real Estate Blog

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Operation Candy Cane – Coming Soon

By Matt McGee on December 5th, 2009

A West Richland tradition will continue this year with Operation Candy Cane happening on Saturday, December 19. This is the event where volunteer firefighters from Benton County Fire District #4 and professional firefighters from Local 1052 will be driving around the city in/on their fire trucks, trading candy canes for donations of non-perishable food items for local food banks. They'll start making the rounds at 7:00 pm that night.

You can also donate food items at the fire station on Bombing Range Rd. between now and December 19th.

This is a post from the [West Richland Real Estate Blog](#) by Cari and Matt McGee.

[Operation Candy Cane – Coming Soon](#)

No related posts.

Winterfest 2009 at Enterprise Middle School

By Matt McGee on December 3rd, 2009

With our son now up in 6th grade and at Enterprise Middle School, we had our first chance to experience the school's Winterfest program tonight. They started it just a couple years ago, I think, and it's become the main fund raiser for the school.

We skipped the early part of the event — dinner & silent auction — because both of our kids are picky eaters (well, one more than the other but still...). But we did get to the school in time to enjoy a brief holiday concert by the school band.



Gotta say that I was quite impressed with the band as a whole. They did a nice job. And I'll say the same thing about most of the performers in the talent show, which followed the band's performance. There were singers, dancers, a comedy skit or two, and the school's drama club even previewed the first part of their upcoming play.



All in all, it was a fun night. Hopefully next year the dinner options will fit more in line with what the McGee kids will eat and we'll be able to enjoy the entire event.

Oh, the school administrators mentioned that they raised close to \$5,000 tonight. Don't know how that compares to the last couple years, but it sounds pretty impressive.

This is a post from the [West Richland Real Estate Blog](#) by Cari and Matt McGee.

[Winterfest 2009 at Enterprise Middle School](#)

No related posts.

Richland School District needs a new bus route policy

By Matt McGee on November 7th, 2009

Did you catch [this story](#) last week about a "mixup" involving a Richland School District bus and some students from Tapteal Elementary here in West Richland?

In short, several Tapteal students didn't arrive home via bus at their normal time last Monday. They had gotten on the wrong bus, and the bus driver wasn't answering radio calls from the dispatch center.

Why'd this happen? Because last Monday was the first day that some drivers were allowed to take over new routes based on seniority.

What the...????

Here's how the Herald paraphrases the explanation from transportation manager David Conrad:

“Conrad said the first school day in November is when the drivers can change to new routes, which has the potential to create confusion.”

Yeah, I'll say! Listen, all due respect to bus drivers ... totally understand changing routes so that drivers with seniority get routes they like ... etc., etc. But here's an idea for Richland School District:

How about letting drivers change routes *before the school year starts* to avoid this “potential confusion”?

Who on earth would ever think it's a good idea to go changing bus routes/drivers while school is in session? And these people are *educators*. Unbelievable.

End of rant. But seriously, am I wrong? I don't think so.

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[Richland School District needs a new bus route policy](#)

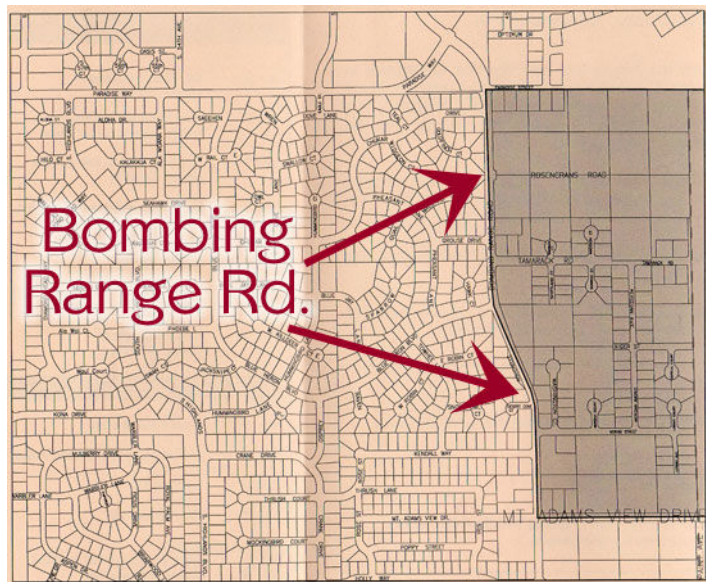
No related posts.

We're Too Big for Our Trash Pickup

By Matt McGee on November 6th, 2009

If you live in the affected area, you should already know this ... but just in case:

Seems West Richland has outgrown its garbage collection services. Yep. Due to the growth of the city, Ed's Disposal is changing its collection date for about 125 homes east of Bombing Range Road — across from the Bird Hill neighborhood. Here's the city's map of the affected area.



If you live in the dark area above, your trash pickup is Monday mornings instead of Thursday mornings. Don't say you didn't know!

This is a post from the [West Richland Real Estate Blog](#) by Cari and Matt McGee.

[We're Too Big for Our Trash Pickup](#)

Related posts:

1. [Merry Christmas, West Richland!](#)

West Richland Veteran's Day Parade this Saturday

By Matt McGee on November 5th, 2009



This one kinda snuck up on me, what with all the travel and craziness happening in my life lately: The annual Veteran's Day Parade in West Richland is *this Saturday*. Yikes. They say it's the biggest and best Vet's Day Parade in all of Eastern Washington, so if you've never been, why not check out this year's edition? Looks like the weather will be pretty good — bit chilly, but not wet.

The parade starts at 9:30 am at the Van Giesen/Grosscup intersection, and will head east along Van Giesen into the downtown area before ending at the City Hall complex on 38th avenue. There's always a lot of floats, bands, horses, cars, and so forth — and they're usually tossing out candy for the kids along the parade route, too.

You can stick around, too, for the awards ceremony and chili feed after the parade at Flat Top Park.

Road Closures

Even if you're not gonna watch the parade, be aware that Van Giesen Street will be closed for a few hours on Saturday morning.

- From 62nd to Grosscup, closed between 7 and 11 am.
- From Grosscup to 38th, closed between 9:30 and approximately 11 am.

Don't say you weren't warned...

(That photo above is one that we took at the 2006 Veteran's Day Parade.)

This is a post from the [West Richland Real Estate Blog](#) by Cari and Matt McGee.

[West Richland Veteran's Day Parade this Saturday](#)

No related posts.

Local Politics

By Matt McGee on November 4th, 2009

Benton County has [posted](#) the first set of election results.

City Of West Richland			
Mayor			
Candidate		Votes	Votes %
★ Donna Noski		1,019	56.80%
Dale E Jackson		775	43.20%
Council Pos. 1			
Candidate		Votes	Votes %
Angie Tyree		803	47.51%
★ Brent Gerry		887	52.49%
Council Pos. 2			
Candidate		Votes	Votes %
Rich Buel		1,415	100.00%
Council Pos. 3			
Candidate		Votes	Votes %
Gail Brown		973	57.88%
Johan Curtiss		708	42.12%
Council Pos. 4			
Candidate		Votes	Votes %
★ Richard Bloom		872	52.63%
Mark Hanneman		785	47.37%

It looks like we're going to have a new mayor (Donna Noski), and it looks like one incumbent council person (Mark Hanneman) is going to lose his seat. Granted, these are early results and anything can change, but bear with me on this point I want to make.

Those green stars I added up in that graphic on the left side? Those are the candidates that knocked on our front door to introduce themselves in the last 4-5 weeks. And each one of them is winning. (Note: I believe Angie Tyree knocked on our door during the primary race, but not during this final election.)

I'm not saying that knocking on doors is why these folks are ahead in their races, but I think it says *something* about the power of getting out and pressing the flesh with the people you want to elect you. I wish there was a way to poll the voters to find out what was the impact of meeting candidates face-to-face like that.

This is a post from the [West Richland Real Estate Blog](#) by Cari and Matt McGee.

[Local Politics & Knocking on Doors](#)

No related posts.

Club 24 Fitness coming to West Richland

By Matt McGee on November 3rd, 2009

This is good news: Club 24 Fitness is coming to West Richland, perhaps as soon as next month! If you've been in the Yoke's/Paradise Place shopping area on Bird Hill, you may have seen the signs in the windows:



From what I could tell, the fitness club is taking up the spaces that used to be occupied by *three separate businesses*. So it should have a nice amount of space for equipment and such.

The [Club 24 web site](#) only says "December 2009# about a grand opening date for the West Richland location. Perfect. Just in time for everyone (like me) who'll surely be over-eating during the holidays.

There's no information on their site about pricing at the West Richland location, but the [Richland facility pricing](#) runs \$25 per month with a year-long contract, or \$35 per month with no contract. All of the Club 24 locations have that same pricing, so our local one might, too. Unfortunately, there's also a one-time \$69 "membership fee." Ugh. I much prefer the fitness clubs that skip the membership thing and just charge a monthly fee (like River Walk Fitness in Richland does). But I may still give some thought to signing up at our local Club 24 when it opens.

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[Club 24 Fitness coming to West Richland](#)

No related posts.