



# Our Town

Kalama honors its legacy of community pride, rich heritage and natural beauty while embracing growth and economic prosperity

City of Kalama

OCTOBER 2020

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Contact Us  
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Police – 911

Public Works  
360-703-0168 or 911

CITY HALL HOURS-  
Monday-Friday-9-5

Utility Billing-  
Payments  
360- 673-4554

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS



During the recent wildfires and smoke issues, the city saw questions regarding how do citizens get information so they know what to do or how a situation will affect them. There are many ways to ensure you get notifications for alerts on weather events, natural disasters, accidents, and other unexpected occurrences. Kalama is served through the Cowlitz County Department of Emergency Management who provide emergency notifications

through reverse 911 calling to landlines and cellphones and updates on their website, Facebook, and Twitter. Agencies throughout the City will use phone calls, social media, and websites to also provide information. The easiest way to insure you are notified is to sign up for **hyper-reach**. Information on **hyper-reach** directly from the county materials:

*Cowlitz County has implemented an emergency community warning system that is able to send emergency messages via telephone, cellular phone, or Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to residents and businesses within the county. This is a reverse calling system therefore a phone number must be associated with the account. This system may be used by emergency response personnel to notify specific homes and businesses at risk with information about the emergency event. You will only be called when the associated address will be impacted by an emergency. The system is already programmed with landline phone numbers (both listed and unlisted) from phone company records. HOWEVER, unless you take the actions described below, it cannot contact your cellular phone, or VoIP phone. To ensure that you receive these warnings you will need to register the telephone numbers for your cellular phone or Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone.*

*Common reasons to sign up:*

- Receive emergency information affecting your home.
- Receive emergency information for locations other than your home (like your business or another family member that you care for).

*Type of information you may receive:*

- Police needing your help to solve crimes or find missing persons.
- Knowledge about a hazardous situation near your home (fire, hazardous materials release, or police response activities).
- Emergency protective measures during a disaster.

*Click here or visit to sign up:*

[https://signup.hyper-reach.com/hyper\\_reach/sign\\_up\\_page\\_2/?id=99002](https://signup.hyper-reach.com/hyper_reach/sign_up_page_2/?id=99002)

*You can also Google—"hyper reach Cowlitz" and follow the link/result.*

**Building & Planning**  
360-673-5211

**Finance – Accts  
Payable**  
360-673- 4908

**Clerk/Treasurer**  
360-673-4561

**City Administrator**  
360-673-3265

**Kalama Police Office**  
360-673-2165  
Hours M-F 9am-  
4:30pm

**Kalama Public Works**  
360-673-3706

**Kalama Library**  
360-673-4568  
Hours – M-F Noon-5  
Sat – 9-2

**Kalama Community  
Building**  
360-673-4562



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**  
Website  
[www.cityofkalama.com](http://www.cityofkalama.com)

**Police Website**  
[www.kalamapolice.com](http://www.kalamapolice.com)

**Library Website**  
[www.kalamalibrary.com](http://www.kalamalibrary.com)

Neither the public nor the emergency responders should rely solely on social media, or electronic devices as they may be out of commission. In those instances, be alert for sirens, drive by loud speakers, or door to door communications from official sources. Also don't forget to share official information with your neighbors, family, and friends, but be sure it is accurate and from a reliable source. In any kind of emergency, communication is key, and we are all in it together. **SIGN UP NOW FOR [hyper-reach](#).**

**hyper-reach**   
the power of instant communication

## MEET THE NEWEST KALAMA POLICE OFFICER



My name is Jordan Lange and I am a Police Officer with the Kalama Police Department. I was hired by the City of Kalama on July 1, 2020. I grew up in Washington for most of my life. I live in an amazing home with my boyfriend, his son, and our fur babies. Next to my family my boyfriend has been my biggest supporter of my career choice. I have wanted to be a Police Officer since the age of 15.

I started out my journey by serving the community from 2014-2018. I was an explorer with the Clark County Sheriff's Office and completed several Criminal Justice courses throughout those years. I also worked with the Vancouver Police Activity League (PAL) for a few years. I have always wanted to make sure I gained experience with some of the best community outreach officers so that I could bring that to the department that I work for in the future.

When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with my family. We spend our time hiking and exploring the mountains near our house.

I am an understanding and grateful person and I view every interaction with the community as an opportunity to create a great relationship with the citizens of Kalama. I am excited to get to know the city more and serve the City of Kalama in a positive way.

## 2021 BUDGET HEARINGS

The Kalama City Council will hold the annual budget hearings for preparing the 2021 budget on the following dates. All hearings may be continued to a future date. The 2021 Budget must be adopted by December 31, 2020. All meetings are open to the public and they are encouraged to attend. Information is posted on the City Website for accessing the virtual meetings.



**November 5, 2020 @ 7p.m.:** Hearing on Projected Revenues – Ad Valorem Property Tax Levy – Utility Rates – Fees

**November 19, 2020 @ 7p.m. and December 3, 2020 @ 7-p.m.:** Hearings on the Expenditures and Capital Facilities Plan

# THANK YOU, KALAMA RESIDENTS!



Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen and the City want to express their gratitude to the residents of areas served by the Taylor Road Reservoir – Fifth Street, Council Crest, Taylor Road, Waters Walk, Horizon Drive, River Watch, Gwynne Road and China Garden – for the conservation measures taken which



allowed water to be available not only for residential use, but available in case it had been needed for a fire emergency. We know this created inconveniences for you all, and your cooperation, understanding, and patience is appreciated.



## UTILITY RATES – WHY ARE THEY SO HIGH?

Do you know what you pay for when you pay your utility bill? What does it take to get the clean water to your faucet? What does it take to process the wastewater every time you flush? What does it take to keep the streets from flooding during downpours? What does it take to ensure the City is in compliance with all the regulations required for providing water and sewer services?

There are 59 miles of water line, 11 reservoirs, and 11 booster pump stations which all draw water from the Water Treatment Plant which pumps water through the Ranney Well on the Kalama River. There are chemicals needed to process the water and state health regulations to monitor for compliance in order for the City to provide the public with safe potable water. For sewer there are 16 miles of line, and 4 lift stations that pump the sewage to the Wastewater Treatment facility so that it can be treated as required by the state Department of Ecology, and processed to either be safely released into the Columbia River or hauled away as biosolids. The stormwater system is made up of culverts, ditches, pipe and some natural drainage ways that direct water away from the residences along and under the city streets to prevent flooding. None of this is accomplished without a stable, trained, and capable labor force such as we have on the Public Works crew. These are the guys out in the middle of the night, in all kinds of weather, working on that broken line or equipment failure to get services restored to the public, after having worked all day performing the tasks of operating the systems.



Utilities are funded by the rates and not from any of the property tax or sales taxes paid. The cost for infrastructure – pipe, reservoirs, booster stations, pumps, and treatment plants – are high. Once put into service the facilities require maintenance and electronic equipment has to be replaced as it ages. Systems are built to allow for growth in a community, but eventually the capacity has to be increased. New compliance regulations are enacted and require additional

training or processes to meet. Utilities are subject to inflation just like other businesses. There are a lot of pieces needed to provide the citizens with the water sewer, and stormwater services.

The City will be presenting the 2020 - 2025 Utility Rate Study at an upcoming Public Hearing before the City Council, which will provide detailed information on the costs of all the components it takes to provide utility services, which in turn drives the rates the City charges for these services.

## LIBRARY – STORYTIME HAS GONE VIRTUAL!

Storytime starts on October 7th. Look for us on Facebook Live as we go virtual from the Kalama Library for our much-loved children’s reading program with stories, songs, and creative play. Each Wednesday a story will be presented at 10AM on Facebook LIVE. Watch for Facebook notices! Keep a lookout for an upcoming 4-part reading of the Wizard of Oz presented by City Councilmember Matthew Merz.



### WHEN DO WE MEET?

Kalama City Council  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays -  
7:00 p.m.

Kalama Planning Commission  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday - 6:00 p.m.

Civil Service Commission  
4<sup>th</sup> Thursday - 5:30 p.m. – As  
needed

Kalama Library Board  
Bimonthly beginning in  
January on the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday - 5:15 p.m.

### MEETING LOCATION

Kalama City Council  
Chambers  
at 320 N. First – Kalama  
Library Building

### POLICE OR FIRE EMERGENCIES – CALL 911

### PUBLIC WORKS - AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY NUMBER (360) 703-0168 – OR CALL 911

Kalama Police Office Non-Emergency... (360)-673-2165  
Kalama City Offices..... (360)-673-4562  
City of Kalama Fax..... (360) 673-4560  
Comcast..... (888) 226-2278  
Cowlitz County Assessor..... (360) 577-3010  
Cowlitz County Bldg. & Planning..... (360) 577-3052  
Cowlitz Public Utilities District..... (360) 423-2210  
Fire District #5 Office Non-Emergency... (360) 673-2222  
Kalama Post Office..... (360) 673-3567  
Kalama Telephone Company..... (360) 673-2755  
Labor & Industries..... (360) 575-6923  
Utilities Locate (Call Before You Dig!) 811 or (800) 424-5555  
Waste Control..... (360) 425-4302

ENROLL IN PAPERLESS BILLING. ONLINE BILL PAY AVAILABLE – ALSO AUTOPAY

Pay online 24/7 at [www.cityofkalama.com](http://www.cityofkalama.com)

