



Our Town

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

City of Kalama

JANUARY 2021

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HAPPY NEW YEAR KALAMA! WELCOME 2021!

The year 2020 has been a difficult and challenging year for everyone, but the Kalama Community has come through it together as they always have when faced

with adversity, whether flood, fire, or a pandemic. The citizens have supported the local businesses and provided aid to those in need and volunteers have worked to bring smiles to all our faces. We also want to extend our thanks to those involved (volunteers and financial donors) with another successful year of the “Shop with a Cop” program. This is a community of wonderful, selfless people who come together, when needed, to support each other. Your City staff, Mayor, and City Council thank you all for making Kalama such a heart-warming place to work and live.



NEW COMMISSIONERS & BOARD MEMBERS IN 2021

Mayor Mike Reuter with the approval of the City Council appointed the following new members to the Kalama Planning Commission and Library Board:

- *Harlyn Jenkins* was appointed to the Planning Commission in November to fill a seat vacated when Phil Fortuna moved from Kalama. Mr. Jenkins noted on his application his desire to help shape the future of Kalama and help to direct how the city grows.

- *Lacey Breton* was appointed to the Planning Commission to fill a position which expired at the end of 2020. She believes in serving her community. She feels that as a stakeholder in Kalama, she hopes to serve as an example of successful land use planning in the future. She wants to contribute to a prosperous future for Kalama.

Contact Us
EMERGENCY/AFTER HOURS

Police – 911

Public Works
360-703-0168 or 911

CITY HALL HOURS-
Monday-Friday-9-5

Utility Billing-
Payments
360- 673-4554

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

Police Website
www.kalamapolice.com

Library Website
www.kalamalibrary.com

- *Mary Putka* was appointed to the Library Board to fill an expiring position. She believes the Kalama library is one of the cornerstones of our Community. “From its beginning in 1917 with the gift of 1000 books, the library has continued to grow and to serve, not just Kalama residents, but those who live outside the city limits as well. Since moving to Kalama over 30 years ago, I have served on the Library Board previously. While serving on the Kalama City Council for eight years, the library was the entity that I oversaw. The library has been the focus of my giving back to the community. I am honored to be chosen to serve on the Board.”

NEW WATER, SEWER, & STORMWATER RATES ARE EFFECTIVE IN JANUARY 2021

After much debate, voicing concerns with the current economic outlook, the City Council passed Ordinances 1446, 1447, and 1448 adopting an increase to the current rates for utility customers. The 2020 – 2025 Utility Rate Study recommended increases to the rates at higher percentages – an overall increase of 5.15% - which the Council rejected. City staff worked out several different scenarios for addressing the needs of the utility systems while keeping necessary increases reasonable. This included decreasing the utility tax from 11% to 10% and increasing the service development charges (hookup fees) for new construction. The result was an overall increase of 2.68% to a utility customer that is billed for all water, sewer, garbage, and stormwater services. Currently a customer who uses 600 cubic feet of water, monthly, pays a total of \$176.62. Under the new rates, their bill would increase \$4.74 to \$181.36 per month. Another consideration was to increase the discount amount and raise the income levels to qualify for Kalama’s low-income discount on utilities. If qualified, this reduces the increase to less than 1%. After struggling with the decision, the Council recognized that these increases are necessary for operating and maintaining the utility systems to ensure the services are available now and in the future for all of Kalama.

Bill at 600 ccf	
Water	\$25.02
Sewer	\$111.95
Garbage	\$21.62
Stormwater	\$6.13
Solid Waste Tax	\$0.78
W - Utility Tax	\$2.50
S - Utility Tax	\$11.20
G - Utility Tax	\$2.16
Total Bill	181.3593
Increase to bill	\$4.74
Total % Increase	2.68%

CITY EMAIL CHANGES

As of January 11th, City staff emails will change *from* “xxxx@**kalama.com**” to “xxxx@**cityofkalama.com**”. This change is to improve compliance with records retention. Thank you for your patience as we migrate to the new email addresses!



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS “READY, SET, GO”

The importance of having a plan for when an emergency situation arises cannot be understated. Cowlitz Fire District #5 recently put out this information outlining “Ready, Set, Go” and it is reprinted with their permission. The “Ready, Set, Go!” preparedness plan can be useful for many types of emergencies that may cause evacuation from your home.

- **Preparedness** - Many levels/kits exist, but all should include your important documents and contact information for where you are going, your local contacts, and any critical medications necessary for you or your family.
- **Ready** -
 - * **When:** Situational Awareness; Pay attention to anticipated seasonal weather and current events from a credible source.
 - * **What:** Develop plans of action and advise family what response is appropriate based on the type of emergency faced. Check preparedness kit for current medications, information, and rotation of stock to use for the current situation.
 - * **Who:** Discuss your plan with household members, emergency contacts, relatives and neighborhood associations.
- **Set** -
 - * **When:** Situational Awareness dictates you may want to consider leaving the area: arrival of expected, adverse weather; current events from a credible source have been verified (local Emergency Responders, Emergency Management alerts or reverse calling, news media). If any household members need extra time to get out, now is the time to go. It is better to leave too soon rather than too late! Also, now would be the time to move farm animals or livestock to safety.
 - * **What:** Review your plans of action based on the current situation and your planned response. Have your emergency supplies, medications and documents ready to use or transport. Everyone in the household should be prepared to leave on a moment’s notice if the “Go” order is given. This includes having pets nearby and ready to leave. Make sure there are enough seats in the vehicle for everyone to ride to safety.
 - * **Who:** Household members, emergency contacts, neighborhood associations and relatives should be notified.
- **Go** -
 - * **When:** Situational Awareness or credible “GO” notification received dictates you leave the area now. Notification could be from local Emergency Responders, Emergency Management alerts or reverse calls. Your route may be directed by emergency officials.
 - * **What:** LEAVE NOW. Execute your plan of action based on the emergency. Once relocated to a safe area, advise your emergency contacts of your physical condition, location, intended travel route and reunification location if you need to move again.
 - * **Who:** Everyone in the household, including pets. Emergency contacts should be aware of the actions being taken and respond accordingly.

LOW INCOME UTILITY DISCOUNT - 2021

Beginning in January 2021, the income limits for qualifying for Kalama's low-income discount are changing. If your household size meets the income levels listed in the table, you may be eligible for a discount on your Kalama utility bill. The amount of the discount is also increasing in January for a total reduction of \$24.75 per month for a water/sewer/stormwater customer. If you have questions or wish to apply, please contact City Hall - Utility Department at 360-673-4554 or utilityclerk@cityofkalama.com.

**KALAMA LOW INCOME DISCOUNT - INCOME LIMITS
BASED ON 200% OF POVERTY
LEVEL**

FAMILY SIZE	HOUSEHOLD INCOME
1	\$25,520.00
2	\$34,480.00
3	\$43,440.00
4	\$52,400.00
5	\$61,360.00
6	\$70,320.00
7	\$79,280.00
8	\$88,240.00



For each additional family member

add \$8960.00

LIBRARY: What is a HOTSPOT?

This small device packs a big punch. Turn it on, and you can connect your laptop, tablet or phone to the Internet using a cellular signal. One hotspot can connect to ten devices at one time. Even if you already have an internet connection, you may benefit from the convenience of using a hotspot. They are available for checkout to library patrons. For more information, call (360) 673-4568, or email librarian@kalamalibrary.com.

<p style="text-align: center;">WHEN DO WE MEET?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Kalama City Council</u> 1st and 3rd Thursdays - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Kalama Planning Commission</u> 2nd Thursday - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Civil Service Commission</u> 4th Thursday - 5:30 p.m. - As needed</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Kalama Library Board</u> Bimonthly beginning in January on the 3rd Wednesday - 5:15 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEETING LOCATION</u> Kalama City Council Chambers at 320 N. First - Kalama Library Building</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">POLICE OR FIRE EMERGENCIES - CALL 911</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC WORKS - AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY NUMBER (360) 703-0168 - OR CALL 911</p> <p>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</p>
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ENROLL IN PAPERLESS BILLING. ONLINE BILL PAY AVAILABLE - ALSO AUTOPAY

Pay online 24/7 at www.cityofkalama.com

