



# Our Town

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

City of Kalama

October 2021

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## ARE YOU PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY?

As we move into autumn and winter, it's time to reassess your emergency preparedness plan. The Cowlitz County Department of Emergency Management has the detailed information available at <https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/709/Preparedness>. They offer preparedness fliers with information for a 72-hour preparedness kit, home generator safety, persons with disabilities and special needs, animal preparedness, and more.

Some other resources include:

- [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- [www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/DEM/](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/DEM/)
- [www.cdc.gov/disasters/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/disasters/index.html)

It's important for your family to have a plan, which may include sheltering in place and supplies to have on hand to get through at least 3 days. Water and food, medications, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, and first-aid supplies are just some of the items you may need. Prepare all family members with information on how to make contact if not together or have a meeting place set ahead of time. Subscribe to "Hyper-Reach" here: [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), or follow the Cowlitz County DEM Facebook page for more emergency information.



## REMINDER: SUMMER SEWER AVERAGE HAS ENDED

City Residents: The summer sewer average has ended. What does this mean for you? Your sewer will be billed based on the full amount of your water consumption. Every drop of water has a sewer charge associated with it. For the "summer months" between the May meter reading and the September meter reading the sewer charges are averaged based on the other 8 months of your metered consumption and ten percent is added to this consumption. What's the benefit? If a customer goes over this consumption amount, the sewer will be billed at the average plus 10% consumption and nothing more. The City does this to give a break to residents for watering lawns and gardens, etc. during those warm summer months. The water portion of the bill is billed the same all year. You are still welcome to water as much as necessary, but please be aware your utility bill will be affected. Note: This is not for industrial or commercial users of sewer. See Kalama Municipal Code 12.08.012 for further details at the following link: [https://library.municode.com/wa/kalama/codes/municipal\\_code](https://library.municode.com/wa/kalama/codes/municipal_code)

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



To get the most current information, follow our accounts: on Facebook's public pages— City of Kalama, Kalama Public Library, Kalama Police Department, on Instagram— @cityofkalama, and on the City website at [www.cityofkalama.com](http://www.cityofkalama.com).

## Moratorium has Ended

**Contact Us**  
EMERGENCY/AFTER HOURS

Police – 911

Public Works  
360-703-0168 or  
911

**CITY HALL HOURS-**  
Monday-Friday:  
9AM-5PM

Utility Billing-  
Payments  
360- 673-4554

Permitting  
360-673-5211

Building & Planning  
360-673-4555

Finance – Accounts  
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  
Current Hours of Op:  
Mon- Fri 12pm-5pm,  
Saturdays 9am-2pm

Kalama Community  
Building  
360-673-4562

## 2022 BUDGET HEARINGS

Save the dates! The City Council will hold hybrid budget hearings for preparing the annual 2022 budget on the following dates:

- **November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 7p.m.: Revenue Hearing – Utility Rates & Property Tax Increases**
- **November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 7p.m.: Budget Hearing**
- **December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 @ 7p.m.: Budget Hearing**

All meetings are open to the public and they are encouraged to attend. Information will be posted on the City website under the “agendas & minutes” section for accessing the hybrid meeting if participants desire to do so.

## WINTERIZE YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM



If you have a sprinkler system, now is the time to have it properly decommissioned for the winter. You will want to remove the water from the irrigation lines either by draining the lines or by having the lines blown out with air to alleviate them from freezing and breaking. A little preventative maintenance now can stop a big issue next summer.

## CANDY DRIVE

The Kalama Chamber of Commerce is putting out collection bins that will be located at Kalama Shopping Center and Double D's Feed & Hardware from October 4<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to gather candy for the downtown Trick or Treat event (to be held on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>). Please consider donating individually wrapped candy to help supply businesses for the downtown Trick or Treat event!



## FALL FOLK FUN IN OCTOBER

Join the Friends of the Library from October 18 - 22 for a Library Scavenger Hunt, an Author Book Reading for Children, and a Fall FOLK Fun Reading Celebration for kids and adults! The Reading Program begins October 4<sup>th</sup> – read as many books as you can, fill out one ticket/book and see if you win a prize for reading by October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Join us when author Halie Fewkes reads her newest book, “Macho and the Great Dragon Escape” at Storytime. How many items can you find hiding in plain sight in the library? Fall is always Fun with FOLK!



## EVENING YOGA CLASSES

Yoga teacher Ann Miller with City of Kalama Parks and Recreation plans to offer Wednesday evening yoga classes starting October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm-7pm. She plans to continue this class through December 2021. You can buy a punch card at City Hall or through the City website for 10 classes for \$50. Stay up to date via the community building calendar here: <https://teamup.com/kstkecdp7sfrytz5gw> or on our City webpage or the City of Kalama Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

## LATE FEES

Late fees will be assessed on utility bills **beginning October 21<sup>st</sup>**. Utility bills are issued on the last day of each month and are “due upon receipt” but you have until the 20<sup>th</sup> pay the bill.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
www.cityofkalama.com

Police Website  
www.kalamapolice.com

Library Website  
www.kalamalibrary.com



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Blood Drive @ Community Building
Saturday, October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Shop local Saturday
Friday, October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Downtown Trick or Treat on 1 <sup>st</sup> Street, 3:00pm - 6:00pm

For detailed event information, please see the City's Facebook Page, the Kalama Chamber of Commerce website at [www.kalamachamber.com/events-1](http://www.kalamachamber.com/events-1), the City website at [www.cityofkalama.com](http://www.cityofkalama.com), the Kalama Fair website at [www.kalamafair.com](http://www.kalamafair.com), or the Port of Kalama's website at [www.portofkalama.com](http://www.portofkalama.com).

### WATVs ON CITY STREETS



The City of Kalama has passed a new municipal code that now allows a person with a valid driver's license issued by the state of their residence to operate a wheeled all-terrain vehicle (WATV) upon a city street having a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less. Here are some frequently asked questions and answers regarding the new code:



**Q:** What's the definition of a WATV? Does that include side-by-sides and 4-wheelers?  
**A:** The new code **does not allow** for the operation of **4-wheelers** on city streets. A WATV is defined as a four wheeled vehicle where operator and passenger sit side by side in the vehicle, manufactured primarily for recreational non-highway all-terrain use, as further defined by the state Model Traffic Ordinance adopted by the City of Kalama (KMC Chapter 10.04.010). The new ordinance only allows for properly registered and certified side-by-side WATV's to operate on city streets

**Q:** Do I have to wear a helmet if I operate a WATV on city streets?  
**A:** Not if the WATV is equipped with an Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) Roll Over Protection System (ROPS). Otherwise, helmets are required.

**Q:** What if my WATV isn't equipped with seatbelts?  
**A:** All occupants of a WATV shall wear safety belts, even if not provided by the manufacturer. Also, child restraints are required in accordance with RCW 46.61.687. Rule of the thumb—if the child belongs in a child restraint device or booster in a car, the same applies in a WATV.

**Q:** What kind of registration or certification do I need to operate a WATV on City streets?  
**A:** A person may only operate a WATV on City streets with the appropriate, current, and proper on-road vehicle registration affixed to the rear of the WATV (see RCW Ch. 46.09.442), **and** meet all equipment requirements, be certified by a Washington State licensed WATV dealer or motor vehicle repair shop, and declaration requirements in accordance with RCW 46.09.457. Documentation of a safety inspection required by RCW 46.09.457(1)(b)(i) must be carried in the vehicle and provided to a duly licensed law enforcement officer upon request.

**For more information, scan the QR code →**



Operators of WATV's must obey all the rules of the road that any other motor vehicle is required to obey. All motorists are urged to exercise caution when operating WATV's or when operating a motor vehicle around WATV's on city streets. For a full text reading of the new municipal code, scan the QR code or follow the link at [www.kalamapolice.com](http://www.kalamapolice.com).

### THE MORATORIUM HAS ENDED

The State Utility Moratorium ended on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will not be extended. While it prohibited utility services from being disconnected for non-payment, it did not relieve customers from the obligation to pay for the utility services. The City will continue to work with customers provided they communicate with the City and act in good faith to resolve any past due balances. Failure to communicate by October 10<sup>th</sup> or adhere to any agreement made will result in further actions such as additional fees, disconnection of service, or other legal remedies. The City can set up a payment plan for the past due balance that will spread the payments out for a period of 3 months up to a maximum of 18 months depending on the amount of the outstanding balance, the average monthly bill, and reasonable amount the customer feels they can pay. Late fees are waived during the period covered by the payment plan, provided timely payments are made. If you're a renter, the landlord will need to approve the payment plan prior to finalization. Please call the utility department at 360-673-4554 or email [utilityclerk@cityofkalama.com](mailto:utilityclerk@cityofkalama.com).

<p><b>WHEN DO WE MEET?</b></p> <p><b><u>Kalama City Council</u></b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays -</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b><u>Kalama Planning Commission</u></b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday - 6:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b><u>Civil Service Commission</u></b>  <b>4<sup>th</sup> Thursday - 5:30 p.m. – As needed</b></p> <p><b><u>Kalama Library Board</u></b>  <b>Bimonthly beginning in January on the 20<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Wednesday - 5:15 p.m.</b></p> <p><b><u>MEETING LOCATION</u></b>  <b>*Hybrid meetings, physical location: 320 N 1<sup>st</sup> St, Kalama</b></p>	<p><b>POLICE OR FIRE EMERGENCIES – CALL 911</b></p> <p><b>PUBLIC WORKS - AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY NUMBER (360) 703-0168 – OR CALL 911</b></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. &amp; 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 &amp; 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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