



# Our Town

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

City of Kalama

February 2022

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**Contact Us**  
**EMERGENCY/AFTER HOURS**

**Police - 911**

**Public Works**  
**360-703-0168 or 911**

## KALAMA TO DISTRIBUTE ARPA/CSLFRF FUNDS

Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) assistance program was established. Kalama is expected to receive approximately \$781,000 under the plan, most of which has been allocated to sewer system improvements in an effort to lower future rate increases. The City Council has allocated a portion of the funding to be distributed out to the Community to help those residents and business owners who were affected by the pandemic and are still struggling. The application period is now open until February 28, 2022. Applications are available on the city website [www.cityofkalama.com](http://www.cityofkalama.com) or you can call 360-673-4561 to have one emailed or mailed to you, or they can be picked up at City Hall.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



**Don't forget to License your Dog-Due by February 7, 2022**

## DEVELOPMENT IN KALAMA - PROPERTY RIGHTS AND CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

The recent development application for the Lofts at Kalama has created a lot of interest and produced a lot of questions on how land use decisions are made on such applications. For various land use applications, the property owner/applicant will submit a request for a project to the City often after meeting with city staff for a "pre-application conference" where they have submitted ideas and received information on what the Kalama Municipal code and other regulatory requirements are to develop their property. The application may include environmental reports, geo-tech studies, traffic studies and preliminary design drawings depending on the type of development. These are reviewed by city staff and the City's engineering and planning consultants for Kalama Municipal code and state regulatory compliance to ensure specifications are adhered too. Once the application has been reviewed, the application is referred to either the Planning Commission or to a Hearings Examiner for review at a public hearing. The notice of the public



**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](http://www.cityofkalama.com)

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

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



hearing is mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the property, posted on site, posted at Post Office and other locations around Kalama, on the City website and Facebook pages, as well as publishing a legal notice in Longview Daily News. The hearing is held as noticed as an “open record hearing” where the applicant presents the

proposal, the city staff reports on compliance of the application and the public has the opportunity to comment or testify for the record. The staff report includes how the proposal complies with the City’s municipal code, standards, and needs including review of the comprehensive plan, as well as state regulations, and recommending conditions of approval based on the findings included in the report. The hearing may be continued to a future date for further input. Once closed, the Planning Commission or Hearings Examiner will review all the evidence included in the record to make a determination either as the final decision or as recommendations to the City Council for the final decision.

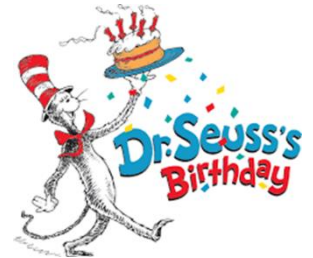
If the application goes to the City Council, they will review the recommendations and all evidence included in the record at a public meeting, where no new testimony (something that wasn’t presented in the hearings) can be taken. The Council must base the decision on the rules of law, using the evidence before them and recommendations presented in making their decision. Ensuring the City doesn’t infringe on a property owner’s rights to develop their property while meeting the needs of the city and it’s citizens can be difficult and requires adherence to rules and laws which may not always be in accordance with public opinion.

## IT’S STORYTIME!



Valentine’s stories and songs will be shared with our little ones on Wednesday, February 2nd at Storytime! And February is Dental Health Month, so join us again on February 16th when we learn all about caring for our teeth with some very special guests. We meet at 10:30 at the Kalama Community Center, and we’d love to see your preschoolers!

**Dr. Seuss is having a Birthday!** Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30** for a Celebration at Storytime! The Library will celebrate with Police Chief Ralph Herrera and Kiwanis at the **Kalama Community Center!** Another great celebration this year for our Preschoolers!



## FIRE IT UP – READING CHALLENGE AT THE LIBRARY

Lots of adults and children are reading this winter, and we love it! Stop by the Library to fill out an entry form, telling us about the books you’re reading. Weekly prizes each Tuesday and a Grand Prize comes on Tuesday, February 22nd! Bring your Library Card! Sponsored by Friends of the Library

**LET'S GET FIRED UP**

## CURBSIDE RECYCLING CITY COUNCIL PUTS IT ON HOLD



At the City Council public hearing on January 20, 2022, the Council made the decision to put the proposal for curbside recycling on hold for now. Members of the public sent comments and completed an unscientific survey with some in support and some non-supportive. While debate could go on, the Council felt the citizen's concerns showed enough non-support that they should look at other options to address the recycling needs of the City. The City will be looking into having the drop off sites picked up more often, a location for the disposal of yard debris, and if it would be possible to add glass and/or plastic back at the drop off locations. The Council may decide to form a committee to review and bring a future proposal back for consideration. A few frequently asked questions are answered below.

Why can't the service be voluntary instead of mandatory?

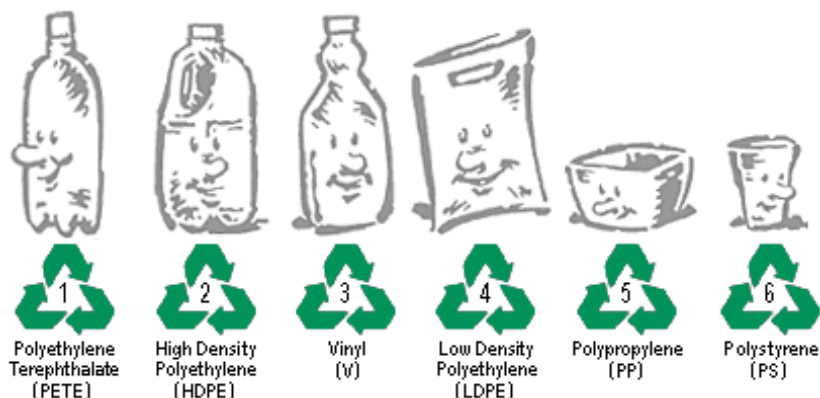
There are costs associated with the service which include Waste Control's purchase of the carts being provided and hiring personnel for driving the routes. For efficiency in designing the routes it is necessary to include all homes, and in the effort to provide affordability the costs spread out to all, lowers the cost per household. As with all businesses, there needs to be a bit of profitability for the services offered.

What is the proposed actual cost and does it include taxes?

The proposed cost of just curbside recycling (includes, paper, cardboard, tin/aluminum, and plastics) was \$5.88. The State garbage tax is not applicable to recycling services. The City utility tax could be applied, but Council had indicated they would not assess the tax on the recycling services.

Why don't they have drop off locations for plastics?

Issues with plastics are many as are issues for drop off locations. Only certain types of plastics are eligible for recycling which requires educating customers under a curbside program or self-education. Waste Control is only able to take types 1 and 2 plastics currently. Drop off locations are unmonitored, so contamination is more common, which results in some of the "recycles" becoming garbage going to the landfill.



## LOW INCOME DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

Beginning in January 2022, the income limits to qualify 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 \$25.30 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](mailto:utilityclerk@cityofkalama.com)

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

FAMILY SIZE	HOUSEHOLD INCOME
1	\$27,180.00
2	\$36,620.00
3	\$46,060.00
4	\$55,500.00
5	\$64,940.00
6	\$74,380.00
7	\$83,820.00
8	\$93,260.00

For each additional family member add \$9440.00



City Offices including the Library will be closed on February 21, 2022, for President’s Day. Garbage will run on the normal schedule. Police Officers will be on duty while the office is closed.

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

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

