



Our Town

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

City of Kalama

October 2022

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CANDY DRIVE!

The Chamber of Commerce is collecting candy donations of wrapped candy from October 1st-25th at the Kalama Shopping Center. Questions? Contact the Chamber at kalamachamber@outlook.com.



DOWNTOWN TRICK OR TREAT EVENT

It's time for the annual downtown trick or treat event on Monday, October 31st from 3-6pm. Main street (North First Street) will be closed to vehicle traffic and hundreds of kids will fill their bags with candy from local businesses. Businesses: If you DO NOT have a storefront on N First Street but would like to set up a booth, contact the chamber at kalamachamber@outlook.com.

BOOK FESTIVAL



On **October 8th**, the Kalama Public Library is sponsoring a "Meet the Authors" event put on by local author Sheryl Scarborough of Write on the River. This is a free community event with a chance to meet over 20 authors and listen to some great panel speakers. Event location: Kalama Community Building @ 216 Elm Street.

STORYTIME WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

The Library will also hold a **special Storytime event on October 8th** @ 10am in the Community Building. Children's authors will be reading their books to the kids. Books will be available for purchase.



BUDGET UPDATE

It's budget time for the City of Kalama, once again. Going into 2023 the City is experiencing the same inflation as the citizens and business owners with some costs more than tripling. The City passes increased costs to its consumers in the same way businesses pass their increases forward to their customers. This is a difficult decision for staff and the Council, but *it is the City's responsibility to provide and maintain necessary services to the public* such as clean drinking water as well as sanitary and storm sewer.

Based on the need to cover inflationary increases, City staff is recommending to the Council that the full 1% increase—as allowed by law—be adopted for property taxes which would include the banked capacity from previous years. In previous years, sales tax revenue was greater due to large, multi-million-dollar construction projects such as the new middle and elementary schools. So far in 2022, the amounts received by the city have fallen 6% as the number of projects has significantly decreased. The property tax is the only revenue source the City directly controls. A 1% increase *does not meet* the inflationary demands for the Police, Library, Finance, Streets, and general operating costs of the City, but is the legal limit of increase, without a vote of the

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,
 Building, & Planning
 360-673-5211

Finance – Accounts
 Payable
 360-673- 4555

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 (call City
 Hall)
 360-673-4908


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www.cityofkalama.com

Police Website
www.kalamapolice.com

Library Website
www.kalamalibrary.com

citizens. The City will realize additional revenues from other tax sources due to inflationary increases to the base revenue sources.

For the Last 2 years, Council has been conservative with rate increases due to the pandemic. Although the pandemic is still ongoing, the infrastructure has surpassed its normal life expectancy and needs additional maintenance. **Staff is recommending a 9.5% increase to water rates, a 5.5% increase to sewer rates, and a 9.5% increase to stormwater rates.** This means for a customer using 600 cubic feet of water in a month (the average for a 2-person household) they will see a combined increase of \$10.42 per month. Kalama currently has the *lowest water rates in the SW Washington region* and is in the mid-range for the total cost of utilities in Cowlitz County for 2022. To help consumers with low-income, staff is recommending an increase to the income threshold for the low-income discount. This will allow customers at somewhat higher income levels to qualify for the discount. There will be more budget updates in next month’s edition. **Public Hearings:**

- 2023 Revenues- October 20, 2022 @ 7pm where additional information will be presented, and public testimony will be taken.
- 2023 Draft expenditure budget for all departments- scheduled for November



Saturday, October 1st	Kalama Artists and Makers Association (KAMA) Fall Art Festival- 10am-6pm @ Toteff Park
Tuesday, October 4 th	National Night Out, 6-8pm downtown Kalama (by the post office)
Saturday, October 8 th	“Meet the Authors” book festival, 2-6pm @ Kalama Community Building
Monday, October 31 st	Downtown Trick or Treat Event (3pm-6pm on N 1 st Street)

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

<p>WHEN DO WE MEET?</p> <p><u>Kalama City Council</u> 1st and 3rd Thursdays @ 7 p.m.</p> <p><u>Kalama Planning Commission</u> 2nd Thursday @ 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Civil Service Commission</u> 4th Thursday @ 5:30 p.m. (as needed)</p> <p><u>Kalama Library Board</u> 3rd Wednesday, Bi-monthly beginning in January on the 19th @ 5:15 p.m.</p> <p>MEETING LOCATION Hybrid meetings; physical location: 320 N 1st St, Kalama</p>	<p>POLICE OR FIRE EMERGENCIES – CALL 911</p> <p>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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