



# Our Town

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

City of Kalama

November 2022

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## NEW LIBRARY MURAL

The mural in the children's area of the Library has been completed. Artist Tessa De Voe perfectly captured the vision that donors George and Janet had for the mural. The Library will be hosting an open house on November 8, 2022 from 3pm - 5 pm. Please join us, meet Tessa and celebrate this wonderful artistic addition to the Library.



## WELCOME OFFICER CASTELLANOZ!

Officer Michael Castellanoz is the newest addition to the Kalama Police Department family. He began his law enforcement career when he was hired by the Tulare County (CA) Sheriff's Office in January 2017. In addition to his patrol duties, Castellanoz was assigned to the SWAT Team/Gang Unit, an Explorer Advisor, community-based officer, defensive tactics instructor, and Bearcat operator. He has also been a field training officer to multiple recruits. Officer Castellanoz and his family moved to Washington to be closer to their extended family already residing in the Pacific Northwest. He recently attended the Washington State Criminal Justice Basic Law Enforcement Equivalency Academy and will complete his Field Training with Kalama Police Field Training Officers before going solo by the end of 2022. We are fortunate to have such a well-trained and seasoned professional join the Kalama Police Department. In his short time with the department thus far, he has made significant contributions to the team.



Please help us make him feel welcome when you see him out and about!

**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



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
[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)

## WHERE DO YOUR TAXES GO?

Have you ever wondered what the utility rates pay for? Where do city taxes go? The City Council will hold public hearings in November regarding the 2023 budgetary expenditures for services provided to the community. During the October revenue hearing there was an example of a single household tax break down, which indicated that a household will likely pay approximately \$1500 in taxes per year to the City depending on their income levels, house valuation, and spending habits. Here is an example for 2023:

- Using a \$450,000 house valuation— property tax = \$493.64
- City Spending level of \$20,000 of purchases in Kalama (includes online purchases shipped to Kalama)—sales tax = \$379.00
- Utility taxes = \$468 (using a \$200/month City utility bill and \$300/month electric, gas, etc.)
- \$146 estimated in other taxes (liquor and gas taxes)
- It is estimated that \$1486.64 (for this average household) will be paid to Kalama (2023)

**What services does the City provide?** The entire amount residents pay in property and sales tax does not all come back to the City of Kalama. The city gets a small portion of these taxes. The annual amount the city collects allows us to provide: 24/7 police coverage; animal control services; street operations (including streetlights) and street repair; library services; park maintenance and operations and support for the community building. Additionally, these funds maintain city facilities, provide code enforcement, land-use planning, assist with economic development, pay for jail/court/prosecution/indigent defense services, financial services, notary service, legislative costs, administrative costs, and general services such as insurance as well as some professional services for the city.



The services listed above are *not supported by utility rates* except for the fees paid through the finance department for the costs of processing all bills and receipts, paying invoices, preparing payroll, administering the collection processes, and the contract administration

of public works projects. Utility services are assessed a utility tax and 6% of the water/sewer tax goes to the general fund which is included in the calculation of taxes paid above.

As enterprise funds, utilities are required to operate within the rate revenues they receive. Rates are structured to cover operational costs of the water and sewer systems

which include personnel costs, facility maintenance and repairs at the water and sewer plants, supplies and materials such as chemicals and pipe, licensing and regulatory expenses from the state, tax assessments of the city and state, fuel and vehicle maintenance, equipment maintenance and replacement plus other overhead costs for doing business as well as any loan payments for the infrastructure or facilities. To ensure that customers have sufficient and continuous services, the city forecasts the future needs of the systems. We also anticipate maintaining existing capacity through upkeep, repair, and replacement as components of the system reach the end of their service life. This requires planning for future needs and saving a portion of the rates to be prepared for system failures. Forecasted need is integrated into an ongoing 6-year capital improvement plan which is updated annually as a part of the budget process. Capital projects are significant and sometimes range from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars. The rate structure includes a portion of revenues that are set aside in reserve accounts for future needs of the utility systems.

Join us for our upcoming public hearings:

- November 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7pm: 2023 Budget
- November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm: 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan

Location: City Council Chambers @ 320 N. First St. or on Zoom (access link will be posted on the agenda- see [www.cityofkalama.com](http://www.cityofkalama.com))

## SHOP WITH A COP

What is “Shop with a Cop”? This program provides a Christmas gift buying and giving opportunity for underprivileged children in the Kalama community. Children from low-income families are selected to receive a \$100 shopping trip to buy gifts for themselves and their family members. Police officers from Kalama donate their time to assist these children with their shopping experience. The Kalama community rallies time and again to bring some joy to the lives of our community’s most under privileged kids. Recently, Chief Herrera hosted a fundraising Caribbean Dinner, and we slightly exceeded our fundraising goal—**but this has led us to aim higher!** Our hope is to continue to fundraise so the program can wrap around entire families and extend this wonderful experience to the younger, non-school aged siblings of our school district kids selected for the program. This year’s program will take place on December 10<sup>th</sup> @ the Woodland Walmart where we will shop with AT LEAST 50 kids—our most ever! This program is funded entirely by donations from Kalama area businesses, civic groups, and individuals. We hope you will consider taking part in this program that brings some much-needed holiday cheer to needy Kalama families. We thank you in advance for even considering partnering with us!

Cash, credit/debit, or check donations made out to the City of Kalama (memo line: “Shop with a Cop”) can be dropped off at the Kalama Police Department (no debit/credit) or City Hall (cards accepted). Please contact Chief Herrera at [chief@kalamapolice.com](mailto:chief@kalamapolice.com) or 360-673-2165 for further details. Thank you for helping the Kalama Police Department brighten the holiday season for some of Kalama’s families.

## HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR STORM DRAINS?



Fall is upon us, and the winter rains are just around the corner. Now is the time for homeowners to clean roof gutters and prepare for the rain. If you have a storm drain on your street, Public Works is asking that you keep an eye on it to make sure it does not plug with leaves. If the street storm drain does plug, please call Public Works at **360-673-3706**, Monday – Friday 8am to 4:30pm. If you need assistance *after hours or on the weekend*, please call the “After Hours” number at 360-703-0168 and we will respond.

## HAPPENINGS WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The police department had a very busy October! They started the month off with a community-oriented event—National Night Out. If you were there, you may have seen Chief Herrera get dunked in the dunk tank. (Check it out on our Instagram @cityofkalama). Next was the Chief’s Caribbean Dinner which serves as a fundraiser—all proceeds from the event went to the “Shop with a Cop” program. Thank you to all who participated in both community events and to all our wonderful volunteers—we couldn’t have done it without you!



Tuesday, November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Open House- library mural appreciation 3-5pm
Friday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Veteran’s Day- City offices & library closed
Saturday, November 12 <sup>th</sup>	FOLK book sale @ City Council Chamber, 10am-4pm
Thursday/Friday, November 24 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving break- City offices & library closed
Saturday, November 26 <sup>th</sup>	Shop Local Saturday

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).

<p><b>WHEN DO WE MEET?</b></p> <p><b><u>Kalama City Council</u></b> 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays @ 7 p.m.</p> <p><b><u>Kalama Planning Commission</u></b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday @ 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><u>Civil Service Commission</u></b> 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday @ 5:30 p.m. (as needed)</p> <p><b><u>Kalama Library Board</u></b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, Bi-monthly beginning in January on the 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:15 p.m.</p> <p><b><u>MEETING LOCATION</u></b> Hybrid meetings; physical location: 320 N 1<sup>st</sup> St, Kalama</p>	<p><b>POLICE OR FIRE EMERGENCIES – CALL 911</b></p> <p><b>PUBLIC WORKS - AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY NUMBER</b> <b>(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!) <b>811</b> or (800) 424-5555                  Waste Control..... (360) 425-4302</p>
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