



OUR TOWN

The official newsletter of Kalama, WA



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The View From City Hall

City Hall functions like a "help desk" for many residents and visitors. It's the hub of city operations the citizen's point of access to the local government representatives. Kalama City Hall is comprised of multiple departments including:

- Clerk/Treasurer's Office
 - Public meetings- Support for boards and commissions
 - City code, ordinances, & resolutions
 - Public records
 - Communications - public noticing, publications, curate social media and website content
 - Financial & Asset management, tax reporting, financial reporting, bonds, insurance, etc.
 - Compliance Measures - Federal, State, and City levels
- City Administrator's Office
 - Provides administrative support for the mayor
 - Manager for Department Heads
 - Community & Economic Development
 - Land Use Code and Planning Commission strategy
 - Future planning- infrastructure & financial
 - Interlocal agreements
- Utilities (water, sewer, garbage, and stormwater)
- Building, Planning, & Permitting
- Human Resources & Payroll
- Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable
- Parks Programs & Community Services (community building rentals)
- Pet Licensing and special permits

From applying for grant funding to maintaining interlocal agreements and utility billing to scheduling building inspections—city hall staff does the bulk of the “behind the scenes” work. City Hall staff’s mission is to balance legal requirements and fiscal responsibilities of city government while also working to prepare the city to meet the challenges of the future, encouraging progress and growth with a respect for the history of Kalama.

Public Works Welcomes Tom Wright!

The City Council approved the budget for 2023 to include a new crew member for public works. In February, the crew welcomed a new technician: Tom Wright! He has been a Kalama resident since 1998 and is a graduate of Kalama High School. He is married and has 4 children. Tom enjoys cooking for his family, camping, and fishing-- as you can see-- Tom's a family man. Director Rasmussen is happy to have a new crew member on board! Tom says he is looking forward to this opportunity to be working with the city.



Thank you Public Works!



Freezing temperatures and slick roads made for extra work and long hours for our public works crew this February. This is a shoutout to our crew for diligently working to keep Kalama streets clear and safe during the wild winter weather! Director Rasmussen outlined the crew's plan, which was organized and efficient. We notified the residents of snow plow routes -- posted on the City webpage, Facebook, and texted a notification to people that are signed up for "TextMyGov" alerts. Thank you for all you do, public works crew!

How to Protect Your Child from Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying often occurs when a child uses the Internet, emails, text messages, social media websites, chat rooms, or other digital technology to harass, threaten, or humiliate another child. As our society continues to witness, cyberbullying can cause feelings of devastation and may lead to traumatic incidents.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS:

- [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children - Cyberbullying](#)
- [Safe Kids- Tips to Stop Cyberbullying](#)

While some parents may feel limited in ways they can protect their child from such taunting, there are steps you can take to end (or prevent) this type of abuse. If you discover your child is being bullied, it is important to teach him or her not to react or retaliate. In addition, you should block the "bully," and print out and keep evidence in case it is ever needed. We also encourage you to follow these tips:

- Keep your computer in easily viewable places.
- Talk regularly with your child about online activities that he or she is involved in.
- Tell your child that you may review his or her online communications if you think there is reason for concern.
- Consider installing parental control filtering software and/or tracking programs.
- Educate your child about the consequences of inappropriate use of his or her electronics, such as losing internet access or use of their cell phone.

Additional cyberbullying prevention tips for children and teens can be found here:

- [National Centre Against Bullying - Top Tips for Kids](#)
- [Cyberbullying Research Center - Top Ten Tips for Teens](#)

Get City Text Alerts with TextMyGov

Did you know you can sign up to receive text message notifications from the City? Sign up for TextMyGov today! NO app download!

TextMyGov™

! Receive City Alerts

City of Kalama

Sign up to receive city notifications via text message. Opt-in to any of the following programs:

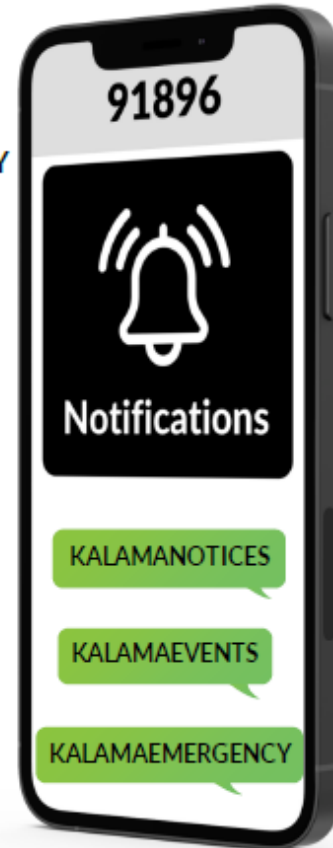
- ✓ Opt into all City Notifications: KALAMANOTICES
- ✓ Opt into Event Notifications: KALAMAEVENTS
- ✓ Opt into Emergency Notifications: KALAMAEMERGENCY

Get Started:

Text in one of the above keywords to: **91896**

What to Expect:

- After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply YES to verify opt-in.
- You may receive up to 4 text messages a month with a notification for each alert category opted-in to.
- Message and data rates may apply. Check with your carrier for more details.



You Can Text Us too!


Need to report an issue? Street light out? Pothole on your street? Text "Hi" or any keyword to: 564-204-4887

Low Income Discount

Complete an application for the "low income" discount at City Hall or online. It needs to be notarized (we can do this at City Hall) and income needs to be verified. All household Income must be reported. Follow the link for more details at "[Low Income](#)" or call the Utility Clerk 360-673-4554.

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$43,740
2	\$59,160
3	\$74,580
4	\$90,000
5	\$105,420

March Events

Friday & Saturday, March 10th & 11th	FOLK book and basket sale @ the Council Chambers (320 N 1st St)
Wednesday, March 15th	"Flying High" -Storytime @ the library (10:30am)
Friday, March 17th	St. Patrick's Day 
Monday, April 3rd	Blood Drive @ Community Building (216 Elm St)

Meeting Info

- City Council : 1st & 3rd Thursdays @ 7pm
 - Planning Commission: 2nd Thursday @ 6pm
 - Civil Service Commission: 4th Thursday @ 5:30pm
 - Library Board: 3rd Wednesday @ 5:15pm (bi-monthly beginning January 19th)
- Meeting Location: 320 N 1st St, Kalama, WA 98625 (and via Zoom, click [Agenda](#) for info)

Contact Us



- Public Works 360-673-3706
 - (emergency) 360-703-0168
- Police (office) 360-673-2165
 - (emergency) 911



- City Hall 360-673-4562
- Library 360-673-4568
- Building/Planning 360-673-5211
- Utility Billing 360-673-4554
- Community Building 360-673-4908

Helpful Contacts

- City of Kalama - Main ----- 360-673-4562
- Comcast ----- 888-226-2278
- Cowlitz County Assessor ----- 360-577-3010
- Cowlitz Bldg & Planning ----- 360-577-3052
- Cowlitz PUD ----- 360-423-2210
- Fire District #5 (office) ----- 360-673-2222
- Kalama Post Office ----- 360-673-3567
- Kalama Telephone Co. ----- 360-673-2755
- Labor & Industries (L&I) ----- 360-575-6923
- Utilities Locate ----- 800-424-5555
- Waste Control  ----- 360-425-4302



We are on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)!

