



# OUR TOWN

*The official newsletter of Kalama, WA*



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## The View From City Hall- Building & Planning

Installing a deck, building a storage shed, or remodeling your kitchen in Kalama's city limits? You will likely need a building permit for these, and other, building activities. Plan review and building permits are processed and issued by the building and planning department at City Hall. Cris (Dodd) Williams is Kalama's "Permit Technician" and "Building Clerk" that manages the building and planning departments for the city. She manages city building files, issues permits and certificates of occupancy, schedules inspections, and tracks projects (and payment for these projects) for properties inside city limits. She also acts as the liaison between the public (including residents and contractors), building inspector, fire marshal, city planner, and Cowlitz County Assessor. This job requires a working knowledge of how to research answers from the International Code Council (ICC), which is the largest international association of building safety professionals. This group sets model codes and standards that establish the baseline for building safety nationally and create a level playing field for builders and manufacturers.

Cris is also the Planning Commission secretary. She prepares the information and agenda for those meetings, produces meeting minutes, and implements changes to the Kalama Municipal Code (KMC). The Kalama Planning Commission is responsible for reviewing land use requests from developers as well as KMC updates for zoning, subdivision, and development regulations and then makes recommendations to the City Council.

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**Building Clerk, Cris Williams**

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Cris is the first contact for a resident or developer that wants to start a "land use" project such as a short plat, boundary line adjustment, street vacation, annexation, or any other various types of "land use" projects. She coordinates communications and meetings with developers, contracted city personnel such as the city engineer or city planner, and other city staff.

Many of these applications require public notices and public hearings before the Planning Commission within the review process. Applications need to follow Kalama city code plus regulations of other government agencies. To say Cris must know (and follow) a lot of rules and regulations in this job is a bit of an understatement.

Cris has 11 years of experience doing this type of job and has worked for 2 other municipalities in Washington State. She enjoys working with the public to help them accomplish their building needs within the Kalama Municipal Code and seeing large projects come together. Cris shares 5 very spoiled dogs with her husband. She has 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren. In her free time, Cris loves watching scary movies, visiting antique stores, going on adventures with her husband, and enjoying the desert sun.

## May Parks & Rec Classes



May classes with instructor Judy Bain! 10:15am-11:15am

- Drum 4 Fun: \$25 for the month of May
  - Tuesdays @ 10:15am-11:15am
- Music & Fun with Judy: (first 3 weeks in May, 6 classes, \$30)
  - Mondays & Wednesdays = \$30
  - Mondays only = \$15 (for 3 classes)
  - Wednesdays only = \$15 (for 3 classes)

For more information: [apclerk@cityofkalama.com](mailto:apclerk@cityofkalama.com) or [360-673-4908](tel:360-673-4908).

Equipment provided (bring free weights if you have them & a water bottle).

**Location:** Community Building @ 216 Elm Street, Kalama, WA 98625.

Register at: <https://www.cityofkalama.com/community/kalama-parks-recreation-community-education>

## Pay Bills Online

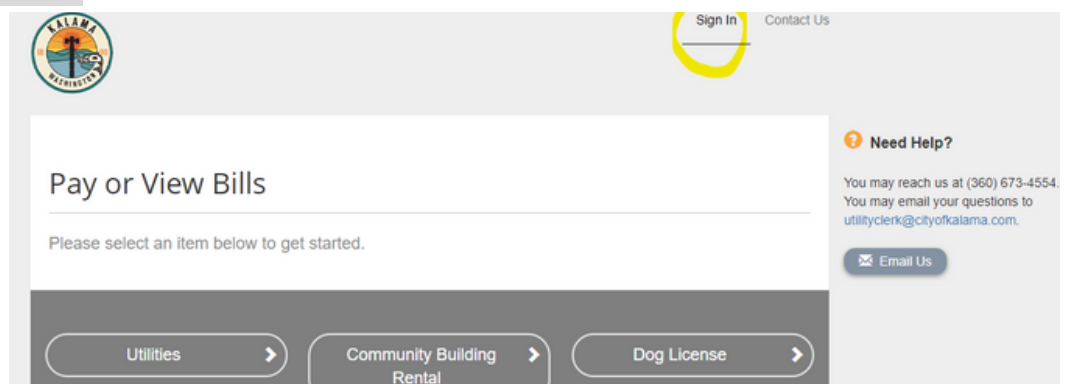
Interested in signing up for Autopay or online payments? Here's how: Follow the link here: <https://www.invoicecloud.com>

Next select "sign in" (see circled in yellow)

**There are no fees to pay online for utility payments.**

If you do not have "sign in" information, select "Register Now" on the next screen. You will need to have your City of Kalama account number available. Please note this number will be 5 characters: XXXX.X Even if your account number ends in "0", you will need to include the 0 to pull up your account in the online system.

Questions? Reach out to the utility clerk at [360-673-4554](tel:360-673-4554) or [utilityclerk@cityofkalama.com](mailto:utilityclerk@cityofkalama.com).



**InvoiceCloud®**

## Summer Sewer Notice



Attention Kalama water users connected to sewer: **summer sewer averaging goes into effect in the middle of May (readings start on May 22nd)**. Please remember, any extra water consumption before that water meter reading will be billed at the regular rate. To keep your bill from skyrocketing, minimize activities like pressure washing, turning on sprinklers, filling pools, and/or any other extra water consumption until the middle of May. For more information regarding the summer sewer average for billing, visit our website here:

<https://www.cityofkalama.com/departments/utility-department/utility-rates/summer-sewer-average>

## City Offices will be Closed



City Hall and the Kalama library will be closed on Monday, May 29th, 2023 in observance of Memorial Day. City Residents: **Garbage pickup** will be on the regular schedule.

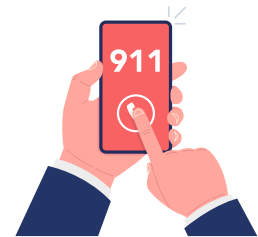
## When to Call the Kalama Police Department

In case of an emergency, it is essential to know how to contact the police department quickly and efficiently. The Kalama Police Department is responsible for ensuring public safety and protecting its citizens from harm.

**Emergencies:** The emergency “911” number should be dialed in cases of immediate danger, such as a crime in progress, fire, a medical emergency, or any situation that requires immediate assistance (i.e., unwanted parties). When calling 911, it is important to provide your location and a brief description of the emergency so the appropriate services can be dispatched to you. (Note: These calls are recorded and can be requested by the public.)

**Non-emergency:** There are different phone numbers to call depending on your need. You can call the **Cowlitz 911 Dispatch Center** at **360-577-3098** (press 3 when prompted) to report a non-urgent crime or incident or ask for information. In some cases, like questions about concealed carry licenses, requesting a report, or to speak with an officer, you can reach the *Kalama Police Department* at **360-673-2165**. Citizens are reminded that our office is open Monday through Friday, 0900-1700, except on some holidays. We provide 24/7 law enforcement services to the city of Kalama, which means officers may not be at the station to receive phone calls after hours and on weekends.

It's important to keep in mind that using 911 for non-emergency situations can tie up emergency resources and delay response times for those in immediate danger. **Use 911 ONLY for emergencies**. By dialing 911 for emergencies and using the appropriate non-emergency phone number for non-urgent situations, you can help the police department respond to an incident quickly and effectively.



## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

- Storytime on Wednesdays @ 10:15am
  - May 3
  - May 17
- Summer Reading Program
  - will start in June
  - check the library website:  
[www.kalamalibrary.com](http://www.kalamalibrary.com)
- The Library will be closed May 29th for Memorial Day

# May Events

Friday/Saturday, May 12th-13th	Annual plant sale @ Haydu Park, hosted by Amalak, 9am-4pm
Saturday, May 13th	Mother's Day Art Show, hosted by KAMA, 10am-4pm @ Toteff Park
May 14th-20th	National Police Week
Monday, May 29th	Memorial Day- City offices closed

## 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
  - (non emergency) Cowlitz County dispatch 360-577-3098 and press 3
- 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](#)!

