



# OUR TOWN

*The official newsletter of Kalama, WA*



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## Welcome Councilmember Deb Geiger

Deb Geiger spent the first 30(ish) years of her life in different parts of sunny Arizona. Graduating from Northern Arizona University at the onset of the 2008 recession didn't lend itself to jumping right into her career choice of teaching, so she spent a couple years traveling the world. She visited South America, Oceania, Southeast Asia and a great deal of Europe doing everything from nannying, teaching English, working on farms, and bartending at hostels to make ends meet and allow her to continue her travels.

Deb has always had an entrepreneurial spirit. She was the opening manager of her first business- a coffee shop in Flagstaff AZ at age 20. Upon returning from her travels, she spent a great deal of time working in high end restaurants in Scottsdale Arizona, which fueled her love of operating small businesses.

In 2015, life changed abruptly with a diagnosis of breast cancer. She spent the better part of a year in surgeries, chemo and radiation and when she was on the other side, it was again time to hit the road. Deb traveled to Bali to get her yoga teacher certification, and upon completion decided to move to the pacific northwest. In 2018, her and her parents invested in a building in Kalama and have been renovating, and operating it as an event space/hub for small businesses ever since. It is used by several small businesses around town for community classes (like Deb's yoga class!) during the week, and on the weekend is rented out for parties and events.

Deb started subbing in the Kalama School District as soon as she moved here, but has been a full time teacher at the high school since 2021. She finally seems settled for the long haul, with a wedding and a baby on the way! She's looking forward to learning all things city council and we welcome her to the team!



## Utility Rate Changes - 2024

Customers will see an increase in their utility bills for January (billing date, February 1). The Council authorized an increase to the usage rates for water and sewer consumption. The Base rates will remain the same as in 2023. The increase will average approximately 3.5% for the average household. Increases are necessary to meet the rising costs of operating and maintaining the systems. The increase is dependent on the amount of water used. This allows customers to maintain some control over the increase with conservation measures, avoiding extra usage, and maintaining their plumbing and fixtures. The combined cost for water and sewer plus utility taxes is \$0.20 per gallon of water used. Visit the link or scan the QR code for a utility comparison worksheet:



<https://www.cityofkalama.com/Home/Components/News/News/3942/18>

## Pet License Renewals

Residents inside City limits: it's time to renew your pet license(s). We have sent out renewal notices. License fees are due on or before February 2, 2024. Please note penalties will be issued on February 5th, 2023 and the license fee(s) will double if unpaid. Please provide an updated certificate of rabies vaccination to: [communityrelations@cityofkalama.com](mailto:communityrelations@cityofkalama.com). Questions? Contact city hall at [360-673-4562](tel:360-673-4562).



## Thank You Public Works

We wanted to give a huge shout out to our public works crew for all of their hard work in 2023! One specific instance was on December 5th when they worked in the downtown area at the corner of Elm Street and E. Frontage, and the freeway offramp to mitigate flooding during a massive deluge. Sandbags were provided quickly and efficiently, and the crew worked as a team, in conjunction with our police department and city administration to message the community and keep all safe. Thank you!



## January Parks & Recreation

**January classes** with Judy Bain: **Drum 4 Fun!** \$5 per class- paid monthly (Tues only = \$20 Thurs only = \$15, All classes = \$35)

**Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10am-11am**

Location: 216 Elm Street, Kalama, WA 98625 at the **Kalama Community Building**

Bring your water. Equipment is provided. Bring a check to class, or register here:

<https://www.invoicecloud.com/portal> Need more info? Contact Emily Moore:

[communityrelations@cityofkalama.com](mailto:communityrelations@cityofkalama.com) or [360-673-4908](tel:360-673-4908)



### January Class Schedule:

- Jan. 9
- Jan. 11
- Jan. 16
- Jan. 18
- Jan. 23
- Jan. 25
- Jan. 30



## What's Happening at the Library?



**THE GATHERING PLACE**  
Drop by to spend time with other seniors!  
*Chat, play cards, share recipes  
do puzzles, knit, make art.....*  
**Library card not required**

*more  
than books!*

**KALAMA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### "The Gathering Place"

Adult drop-in gathering  
Wednesdays, 1-3 pm

### Adult Chair Yoga

Thursdays, 11am-11:45am  
City Council Chamber  
Call Library to register  
(required)

### Medicare Info

Unbiased Medicare Advice  
from a  
SHIBA representative  
Call Library for appointment



Contact the library: **360 673 4568** or  
**[librarian@kalamalibrary.com](mailto:librarian@kalamalibrary.com)**



## Storytime

Start the New Year at Storytime! "All Kinds of Weather" will be our theme on January 3rd as the children play and learn about snow, sun, rain, and fun! Preschool children and their families are welcome throughout the school year on the First and Third Wednesdays of each month for stories, games, songs, rhymes, and movement that brings pre-reading and social skills with lots and lots of care. Join us from 10:30 to 11:15 at the Kalama Public Library! Have a Happy New Year at Storytime!

**Save the Date!** February 3rd is "Take Your Child to the Library Day" in Kalama from 10am-2pm! Thousands of libraries across the world celebrate this day by offering free, fun, fabulous activities for families. Your local library is an ideal place for children to discover, make friends, and have fun. Your Library Board has great things in store for families, so mark your calendars!



## FOLK New Year Book & Basket Sale

Friends of the Library at Kalama will have a New Year Book and Basket Sale on Friday and Saturday, January 12 and 13 from 10:00 to 4:00 at the Kalama Library. Come shop, save, and support your local library. All proceeds go to furnish books and supplies for the library and its programs. F.O.L.K. members are there to answer questions and lend a hand!

## Get to know the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library!



Washington Talking Book  
& Braille Library

A program of the Washington State Library

WTBBL builds community and provides access to information and reading materials for Washington residents unable to read standard print.

These services are free to residents who qualify. Kalama Public Library staff can assist patrons with an application. (No Library card is needed.) Contact the Library for more information



Monday, January 1st	Happy New Year! City offices and library closed for the holiday.
Fri & Sat, January 12th & 13th	FOLK book & basket sale, 10am - 4pm (@ the Kalama Public Library)
Monday, January 15th	City offices and library closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Saturday, February 3rd	“Take your child to the library day”, 10am-2pm at the library
Monday, February 5th	Blood Drive- Red Cross @ the 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)
- Parks & Rec: 2nd Tuesday @ 5:30pm

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](#)!

