



OUR TOWN

The official newsletter of Kalama, WA



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ADUs in Kalama

Is it possible to expand your property rights and increase housing supply, while preserving Kalama's small town feel? Absolutely! And that's exactly what the City Council accomplished this past year by approving new code for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). What are ADUs? They are small, self-contained, and complete living spaces (i.e., providing independent living, sleeping, cooking, and sanitation) located on the same lot as an existing or proposed single-family residence. There are two kinds of ADUs—attached (contained within or directly connected to the primary residence) and detached (physically separate from the primary residence). Kalama's code now allows for one of each. Could an ADU be right for you? This is a great option to generate supplemental rental income and build wealth for homeowners, but there are plenty of other reasons too. Maybe your life circumstances have changed and you'd like to downsize without moving into an apartment. Or you want to provide friends or loved ones (such as recent graduates or elderly family members) with housing while maintaining separate lives and privacy. Perhaps you are looking for a way to have childcare or caregivers close by. Whatever the reasons that might appeal to you, the option for an ADU is a great asset for Kalama. It can provide economic benefits and flexible housing solutions for residents' changing needs. ADUs are also often invisible from the street, which means they won't detract from the feel of our beautiful small town neighborhoods.

If you'd like to know more about ADUs, please submit any questions to building@cityofkalama.com or visit our website here: <https://www.cityofkalama.com/departments/building/adus>



Utility Rates Update - 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 Reminder

Residents inside City limits: Don't forget 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, 2024 and the **license fee(s) will double** if unpaid. Please provide an updated certificate of rabies vaccination to: communityrelations@cityofkalama.com. Questions? Contact city hall at [360-673-4562](tel:360-673-4562).



Garbage Info During Inclement Weather



During our mid-January winter storm, we had many questions regarding garbage pickup and where to find the information. We do our very best to keep the city's website updated with a banner at the top of the page. We also post on our Facebook page and put out a notice to residents signed up for "TextMyGov". When we have inclement weather and your garbage pickup is missed, please put out extra bags next to your cart (but not touching your cart as pictured) on your next garbage day. The extra bags should only amount to your regular service amount. We do not adjust the bill because you are allowed to put out "extra" on your next service day without an additional fee. Website: www.cityofkalama.com

February Parks & Recreation

February classes with Judy Bain: **Drum 4 Fun!** \$5 per class- paid monthly (Tues only = \$20 Thurs only = \$25, All classes = \$45)

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 or [360-673-4908](tel:360-673-4908)



Class Schedule:

- Feb. 1
- Feb. 6
- Feb. 8
- Feb. 13
- Feb. 15
- Feb. 20
- Feb. 22
- Feb. 27
- Feb. 29

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

KALAMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

more than books!

"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)



Contact the library: **360 673 4568** or
librarian@kalamalibrary.com



Storytime

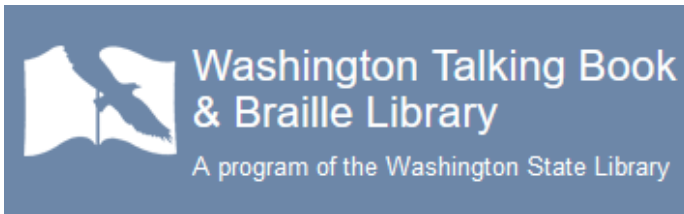
Preschoolers! Homeschoolers! Mark your calendars for rhymes, rhythms, reading, and fun at Storytime at the Kalama Public Library! Join us on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 10:30am to 11:15am. We'll meet February 7th & 21st, and we'll celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday on March 6th!



F.O.L.K. was 'snowed under' in January, so we're hosting a Book and Basket Sale on February 9 and 10 from 10:00 to 4:00 at the Library! Enjoy shopping for the book you've always wanted to read, and a special basket full of wonder. Thanks for your support for the Kalama Library! We're also having a Valentines Bake Sale on February 10th from 10:00 to 1:00! There's lots of love for you from the Friends of the Library!

FOLK's Book, Basket, & Bake Sale

Get to know the Washington Talking Book and Braille 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.

Kalama Non-Profit & Community Groups

Attention local non-profit, community groups! Are you interested in sharing information about your group? We would like to spread the word to allow residents and community members to connect and get involved! We plan to feature groups throughout the year in our 2024 City newsletters. If you have something to share, reach out to communityrelations@cityofkalama.com with a short note about which group you're with and what the group does for the community.





FEBRUARY EVENTS

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)
February 9th & 10th	FOLK book & basket sale, 10am - 4pm @ the Kalama Library (baked goods on 2/10 from 10am-1pm)
Monday, February 19th	City offices and library closed in observance of President’s Day
Wednesday, March 6th	Dr. Seuss’ Birthday Event @ the library! (see www.kalamalibrary.com)

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](#)!

