

March 2008

I am the city of Kalama Director of Public Works, Carl M. McCrary. It has been my privilege to serve in this position for 22 years.

KALAMA HIGHLIGHTS

STREETS

Kalama has completed some impressive street projects recently. The majority of the work was done with hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant money.

Fir Street which for years has been a downtown eyesore was totally rebuilt with new paving, sidewalks and landscaping.

We are striving in Kalama to have good sidewalks for our pedestrians. Those installed long N. Fifth Street allow students and pedestrians to walk safely all the way from their homes to school and downtown.

Repaving South First Street was accomplished last fall thanks to grant monies applied for and received.

WASTE WATER AND STORM WATER

Kalama Wastewater and Storm Water operations are operated by the Department of Public Works.

The City is operating a state-of-the art wastewater treatment plant. The City recently received an award for being one of the few plants in the State of Washington to operate all of 2007 with no violations. This is an indication of the quality of our Public Works employees.

As all of you business people are aware last year the City hired a contractor to put a new, larger sewer line the full length of the Downtown.

We also installed two flood pumps and slide gates to prevent future downtown flooding.

During the installation of the new sewer line from the treatment plant to the downtown, we discovered that the culvert pipes under Hendrickson Drive which carry creek water from Kalama and discharges to the Kalama Marina were in danger of collapse. We worked with the railroad and Washington State Department of Transportation to slip-line the pipes to prevent future flooding.

WATER DEPARTMENT

The Kalama Water Department is operated by the Department of Public Works. The dedicated employees of this department are tasked with producing great-tasting water, replacing small and unreliable pipes, meeting fire fighting requirements and meeting new government regulations.

Recently this department has completed major waterline replacements on Cloverdale Road, Fir Street and North Third Street.

We work closely, sharing labor, materials and equipment with Kalama Telephone Company.

We also recently replaced the computer operating system at the Drinking Water Treatment Plant.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

The Kalama Parks Department is operated by the Department of Public Works with planning assistance from the Kalama Parks and Recreation Committee.

Recently the department oversaw the installation of the first City public park restroom, located in Toteff Park.

Work continued up at Horizon Park with the installation of sidewalks, retaining wall and sign. Playground equipment has been ordered for installation this spring.

The Waters Walk Basketball Court has been discovered by some Kalama folks who are enjoying it on sunny days.

Stepping Stone Park has been designed by Jim Bain and developed in the Stone Forest Subdivision. The park was financed by the developer, Mr. Jim Schlatter.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Kalama Finance Department is operated under the leadership of City Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster. Her staff do utility billing, clerical and planning work in conjunction with the Department of Public Works.

Coni's department is responsible for preparing the Annual Budget which estimates the City's revenues and expenditures. They also prepare the Capital Facilities Plan which is a six-year projection of capital needs and revenue projections for accomplishing those tasks. Throughout the year they monitor revenue and expenses.

Recently the Finance Department installed a new reporting system, completed a census for the newly-annexed properties along Meeker Drive and helped prepare a facilities study for the overall City building requirements.

SUMMARY:

It is an absolute privilege to work for the citizens of the Kalama Community. If we can be of any assistance to you, please call us at 673-3706.