



Spring 2020 Newsletter

Spring Activities

March:

10th

What: Teen Tuesday

Time: 6:00-7:30 PM

Where: Longview Library
1600 Louisiana St.

Description: Meet every Tuesday night during their programming session for a rotating series of crafts, games, and DIY activities. Free and open to all middle and high school students.

No registration or library card is required.

21st

What: South Kelso Community Clean-Up

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: Calvary Chapel Parking Lot-902 Ash St. Kelso, WA

Description: Waste Control is providing two large drop boxes to help with some spring cleaning in South Kelso. Several neighborhood churches are sponsoring the event. They also will provide service at your door if you are unable to come to the drop off location. They recommend a donation of canned food that will go to families in our community through our South Kelso FISH food distribution site. Contact Brian Gomes at 423-4035 for more information.

April:

11th

What: Easter Egg Hunt

Time: Starts at 9:00 am

Where: Camp Kalama RV Park

Description: The horn blows promptly at 9 am. Be there by 8:15 am to get parking which is available on Meer Drive. You also want to get there early to get your child to the appropriate hunting zone for their age.

May:

2nd

What: 1st Annual Pet-A-Palooza Spring Fling

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Where: Three Rivers Mall – 351 Three Rivers Drive, Kelso

Description: This is the 1st annual Pet-A-Palooza and there will be over 100 vendors with all pet/animal crafts & products. There will be a free raffle for a \$50.00 gift card. There will also be food and drinks. This is a Pet/Animal themed event and Leashed and well-behaved pets will be allowed except in the stores.

KHA Hours:

Monday-Thursday

10:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Closed to the Public on Fridays.

Hours may vary on Holidays and mandatory trainings

Phone number: 360-423-3490

Website: Kelsohousing.org

Holiday Closures:

May 25th – Memorial Day

Frequently Asked Questions



KHA is asked a lot of the same questions from clients, so we wanted to go over a few that are popular.

- Question:** If I have more than one (1) vehicle can I use more than one parking spot?

Answer: While none of the KHA properties have assigned parking at this time, all residents, guests and service personnel (ex. Caregivers), need to be mindful of parking. All properties only have one parking spot per unit.

- Question:** Is it okay for me to do maintenance on my vehicle as long as I'm in my parking space?

Answer: No. According to the lease you signed, under tenant obligation it states "Automobile repairs are not permitted on complex site".

- Question:** I really don't want to be on federally funded assistance forever, is there any programs offered that can help me reach that goal?

Answer: Yes! We have a fantastic Family Self-Sufficiency coordinator, LaDonna, who is looking to add people to her program. She will assist you with financial goals and once you complete those financial goals you can graduate. To learn more about the program, you can come to the office and pick up a flyer and interest form.

- Question:** Where am I supposed to store my garbage can? I usually leave it out, but I have failed an inspection because it wasn't put away properly.

Answer: According to the housekeeping check list, garbage cans should be stored on your back porch only. If it is anywhere else, you risk failing an exterior inspection.

Fun Outside for all Ages this Spring



It's the time of the year when the birds are starting to chirp, the flowers are starting to blossom and the weather is a lot warmer to get out and enjoy. Below are just a few ideas for outside for spring time for all ages, but you can find more ideas throughout the internet and town.

- Visit the farmers market and enjoy new fruits and vegetables.
- Visit a pond and feed the ducks.
- Take a nature walk. There are many trails in Cowlitz county to explore.
- Have a picnic at a park with friends and family, or alone and enjoy the fresh air.
- Go bird watching.

Spring Cleaning Ideas



Spring is here and that means it's time to get your home in shape after a cold winter. A good, deep spring clean-up is a world-wide tradition, that not only promotes wellness, it also carries a fresh-start feeling brought in by the new year. Below are a few inexpensive tips that you and your family could use when it comes to cleaning:

- Clean inside of your appliances. This is the best time to clean out your oven and microwave. Easy-off Heavy Duty Oven cleaner is really cheap and works really well.
- Clean in and out of your cabinets. Get rid of old food and make room for new food.
- Reorganize your closets. Make room for new clothes and shoes and donate the old ones to a local shelter, or Goodwill.
- Dust the whole house. Get behind dressers, beds, tv stands and other places that are missed during regular housekeeping.

No Smoking Policy



In accordance with HUD's guidelines (24 CFR 965.653) Public housing properties are all smoke free and all residents, guests, visitors, service personnel and KHA staff must be 25 feet away from any KHA property if they are going to smoke.

KHA is still receiving reports from Col Sac, residents and staff that residents are still not following the smoking policy. There was a reminder in the Fall 2019 newsletter that if we continue to receive reports of tenants not following the no smoking policy, that client would be in violation of their lease. At this time, **any** reports of smoking in your unit, or not going 25 feet away from your unit will be grounds for termination.

Request to meet with Coordinator(s)

All requests to meet with coordinators are by appointment only. If your question, or concern is something you feel only could be answered by your coordinator, you will need to put in a request to meet with the coordinator. This request should be done on the pink sheet that's located in the KHA lobby.

Once you submit the form to the front office staff, the coordinator will reach out to you by mail with a time and date to meet with you.

Please keep in mind the front office staff can assist clients with most questions. A few of the questions that the front office staff can assist with:

- Signing required documents
- Work orders
- Processing payments
- Rental amount
- Provide forms (ex. Change of circumstances, employment verification)

Marijuana Policy

In 2012, Washington voters approved initiative 502 which allows limited recreational use of marijuana in Washington State. This means at the state level, it has been deemed legal. However, it is still considered a Schedule one (1) drug to the federal government and you can be prosecuted by the federal government.

Kelso Housing Authority is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is a subsidy of the federal government. This means KHA must follow the federal law. Every client 18 years or older must sign the Marijuana Policy form when they are qualifying for any of the programs KHA offers. This means you have agreed to this policy and should understand no marijuana usage is allowed. This includes vaping, edibles and topicals.

Please be advised that if KHA gets reports of marijuana usage inside or around any KHA property, or that a client is using marijuana off of KHA property, these reports will be taken seriously and you will be in violation of your lease and risk being terminated.

Exterior Maintenance Inspections

Spring is here which means it's time to prepare for exterior inspections. While we know it's been a long winter, and you want to enjoy the beautiful weather, please make sure you are keeping up with regular lawn and outside maintenance. Below is just a few reminders on what KHA is looking for in exterior maintenance.

- Lawn must be mowed and edged.
- Flower beds & storage sheds must be weeded.
- Toys need to be removed every night.
- Animal waste must be removed from yards.
- Swimming pools, trampolines, or fire pits of any kind are not allowed on KHA property.
- Exterior siding and doors must be kept clean.

Please keep in mind, if you fail an inspection, KHA will give you time to resolve any issues that were failed. If at the time of reinspection those issues haven't been resolved, KHA will do the required maintenance, and will have to charge for those services. Refer to your charge sheet to see what each service would be charged.

KHA Mission Statement



To provide housing opportunities and coordination of needed social services to assist low- and moderate-income clients in their effort to attain economic self-sufficiency and to do so in a professional and efficient manner. To assist non-profit programs in efforts to provide housing with specialized services for homeless persons, chronically mentally ill, families in transition, elderly and other special needs groups. Assist low income families by providing new multi-family units at affordable rents. To provide home ownership opportunities by utilizing the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program and other programs that are available.

Cowlitz County Community Resources



- Aging & Disability- (360)577-4929
- CAP-(360)425-3430
- Community House on Broadway-(360)425-8679
- Crisis Line-(206)722-3700
- DSHS-(877)501-2233
- Emergency Support Shelter-(360)425-1176
- FISH of Cowlitz County-(360)636-1100
- Free Medicaid Transport-(800)752-9422
- Habitat for Humanity-(360)636-6765
- Head Start/ECEAP-(360)422-2800
- Love Overwhelming-(360)560-3913
- Lower Columbia College-(360)442-2841
- NW Justice Project-(888)201-1014
- River City Transit-(360)442-5663
- Salvation Army: (360)423-3990
- Social Security Admin-(866)495-0044
- Tobacco Quit Line-(877)270-7867
- Worksource-(360)577-2250