

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Mayor:

Roy Schulz

Council:

Shelly Ausmus
Michael Hale
Pete Martin
Mandy Prince
Angie Rambo
BJ Sperber
Dave Tysz

Clerk/Treasurer:

Eliza Evans-Teague

Deputy Clerk:

Donnell Ellsworth

Maintenance/

Animal Control:

Kevin Turnbough
Steven Thomas

Code Enforcement Officer:

Mike Bogenreif
509-828-2144
tekoacodeenforcem
ent@outlook.com

Building Inspector:

Steve Haxton
509-981-2157

Office Hours:

8:00 A.M. to
4:00 P.M.

Council Meetings:

First & Third
Monday
6:00 P.M.
Tekoa City Hall
Council Chambers

Phone:

509-284-3861

Fax:

509-284-3590

Email:

tekoaclerk
@gmail.com

Website:

www.tekoawa.com

October 2 – City Council Meeting

6:00 P.M. – City Hall

October 3 – Whitman County Hosp. District

6:30 P.M. – City Hall

October 3 – Ambulance Meeting

6:30 P.M. – Ambulance Building

October 5 – Empire Theatre Board

5:30 P.M. – Empire Theatre

October 6 – Chamber of Commerce

7:30 A.M. – Éclair's

October 10 – Healthy Tekoa Coalition

9:00 A.M. – School District Boardroom

October 16 – City Council Meeting

6:00 P.M. – City Hall

October 17 – Parks and Rec.

6:00 P.M. – City Hall

October 25 – Ambulance Board

6:30 P.M. – Ambulance Bldg.

October 26 – Food Distribution

8:00-11:00 A.M. – City Hall



The City of Tekoa will have our council meeting on Monday, October 2, and October 16, at 6:00 P.M., in the Tekoa City Hall Council Chambers. You may join in person.

Message from the Mayor—



Greetings to all. Let me start by expressing my gratitude to everyone who takes the time to read this newsletter. I worry that I do not express myself clearly at times or make things as clear as I should. That can be part of the risk in communicating this way. What makes rational sense to me does not always seem clear to you all. For that, I apologize and will try to do a better job.

We are enjoying the rest of what has been a fun and pleasant summer. I hope you were all able to build lasting memories with friends and families. Time is precious, and we should not waste any opportunity to spend a moment with those you care about. I hate to say it but fall and winter are soon approaching. With the change of seasons comes a reminder to keep travel trailers and trailers off the streets, and to remove non-running vehicles from the streets to make snowplowing easier. Our code enforcement officer will be finding cars that have not moved for an extended time and notify the owners of the need to comply, as well as an opportunity to plan for their removal.

The maintenance crew has installed a donation box at the EV station, and we are on the lookout for excessive parking there. For those of you interested, the security camera at our rest stop is recording the donation box. The new guideline signs have been installed at the cemetery. There will be a new cemetery section on the city's website under the "Residents" tab, then under "Departments." The fracturing of the rock at the sewer plant was a success and the project is going ahead as planned. We are now in a race with the weather to see how much we will be able to get accomplished. The city has advertised a third maintenance position. We believe training the new hires at the same time will speed up the transition.

Lastly, I want to take this time to announce that August 31, 2023, was Duane Groom's last day as the City of Tekoa's Maintenance Man. Duane has decided to retire and to see if he can deplete the fish population in the area's ponds, lakes, and rivers. It was only recently that I developed a full appreciation as to the extent of responsibility that all our employees have been trusted with. Duane was really the first city guy I "knew". I, like many others, I suppose, thought that all that went on in the city just happened. It's not the case. Projects are planned, changed, and replanned. Sometimes things work out and rarely they do not. From my seat Duane had a unique ability to

have a "plan". Not always easy. I saw that Duane had a deep sense of pride in how his town looked and ran. His ability to keep our sewer treatment plant working as well as it does is nothing short of miraculous. His knowledge of the water system, the sewer system, the streets, the cemetery, and every piece of equipment, plus all the paperwork that is required, is truly commendable. I could go on, but you get the point. We are going to miss him. I wish him well and I want to thank him for his years of dedicated service. By the time we talk again I am sure the weather will have changed, and we will be looking at the Holiday season square in the face. I appreciate your time and patience.

"Experience is a hard teacher because it gives the test first, the lesson after." ~ Vernon Law

We will talk later,

Roy





TEKOA FOOD PANTRY

Tekoa Food Pantry will be distributing commodities, on October 26, 2023, from 8:00-11:00 A.M.



Tekoa Parks & Recreation

The Tekoa Parks and Recreation District will be having their Preliminary 2024 Budget Hearing at the regularly scheduled meeting on October 17th, at 6:00 P.M., at Tekoa City Hall. All citizens are welcome to attend.

Whitman County Hospital District



The WC Hospital District #4 will be having our Preliminary 2024 Budget Hearing at the regular scheduled meeting on October 3rd, at 6:30 P.M., at the Tekoa City Hall. All citizens are welcome to attend. The district is also looking for a board member to serve on this committee. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Heidi, at heidi.wchd4@gmail.com.

HEALTHY Tekoa News!



The 2023 Tekoa Community Survey is here! The annual data gathered from the survey helps the HEALTHY Tekoa Coalition make decisions and continue our great programs. Please take 5 minutes and fill out the survey. It's shorter this year! bit.ly/TekoaSurvey23

October is Medicine Abuse Awareness Month. Please store your current prescriptions too high for young children to reach. Teach your children what medicine and vitamins are and why you must be the one to give it to them. Keep the **Poison Help** number in your phone: **800-222-1222**.

FREE Family & Community Events: Join us at the Tekoa Homecoming Bonfire on Thursday, Oct. 12th, starting at 6:30 P.M., at the high school to view and vote on floats and decorated hallways, corn hole and free hot dogs. The bonfire starts at 7:30 P.M., at the end of Main Street by the creek with free hot cocoa, cider, and cookies.

We partnered with the TR Cheerleaders, Tekoa Boosters, Tekoa Ambulance, and the Tekoa Fire Department to put on this fun event. **Trunk-or-Treat** is on Tuesday, Oct. 31, starting at 1:30 P.M., on Crosby St.! We are partnering with FCCLA students and are inviting community groups and neighbors to decorate a trunk. Contact the FCCLA Advisor, Cori Schmidt cschmidt@tekoasd.org, for your spot! Get connected with HEALTHY Tekoa in person, Tuesday, October 10, at 9 A.M., at the Tekoa School District Boardroom or on Zoom. Email jolson@tekoasd.org for the meeting link.



Tekoa Library Happenings

Do you need help enrolling into **Medicare**? Dan and Joyce Leonard from SHIBA will be at the library on **Thursday, October 19, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.** Drop in to ask questions and enroll. **Kids Club** and **Tween/Teen Club** are up and running on early release days, with **Storytime** on Thursdays. For the adults we have **Crafters Circle** and **Bunco**. For dates and times of these events stop by the library for our monthly calendar. Finally, stop by and visit the newest addition to the library, a lively ant farm! You can follow the Tekoa Library on FB or visit our website: www.whitcolib.org. For more information and questions, call Shelly at the library 509-284-5657.

TEKOA CITY HALL



We know that with chilly weather coming, paying for utilities along with heating bills can really add up. Tekoa City Hall wants to let you know that DSHS and Community Action Center are resources that can offer some help. DSHS Mobile Office and Community Action Center will be at city hall on October 19. DSHS will be here from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., parked in the city hall parking lot. No appointment is necessary to meet with DSHS. Community Action Center will be here from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Appointments are needed with Community Action Center, please call (509) 334-9147, to schedule your appointment.