

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Mayor:

Roy Schulz

Council:

Lydia Fletcher
Michael Hale
Margie Jaeger
Pete Martin
Amanda Prince
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

February 1 - Empire Theatre Board

5:30 P.M. - Empire Theatre

February 2 - Chamber of Commerce

7:30 A.M. - Éclair's

February 5 - City Council Meeting

6:00 P.M. - City Hall

February 6 - Pinochle

1:00 P.M. - Tekoa Comm. Church

February 6 - Whitman Co. Hosp. Dist.

6:30 P.M. - City Hall

February 7 - Tekoa Ambul. / EMT Training

6:30 P.M. - Ambulance Barn

February 13 - Healthy Tekoa Coalition

9:00 A.M. - School District Boardroom

February 20 - Pinochle

1:00 P.M. - Tekoa Comm. Church

February 20 - Tekoa Parks and Rec Meeting

7:00 P.M. - City Hall

February 22 - Food Distribution

8:00-11:00 A.M. - City Hall

February 7 - Tekoa Ambulance Board Mtg.

6:30 P.M. - Ambulance Barn

February 29 - School Board Mtg.

6:00 P.M. - District Office



The City of Tekoa will have our council meeting on Monday, February 5, at 6:00 P.M., in the Tekoa City Hall Council Chambers. You may join in person.

Message from the Mayor—

Hello everyone, I hope you all are doing well and had a great Christmas and New Year. The holidays seem to come around more often than they used to, and they don't last nearly long enough.

Let's get to it. We recently had a couple of snow events that tested our preparation. As much as you plot and plan, you never seem to find all the problems. If all goes well then things flow well, but throw in a hiccup or two, and it can get interesting. It might be worth knowing that there are many other responsibilities your employees need to take care of daily. Monitoring our water wells and checking our sewer treatment plant can take up to two hours a day, and that includes the weekends. Throw in a backed-up sewer and maybe a breakdown on one of the snow removal vehicles and I think you can understand when things don't get done as quickly as you would like.

The crew has a time-tested route around town that they use with an occasional variation. Priority streets are plowed first, then arterials, and then residential streets. After the town is open, the crew starts to clean up intersections and other problem areas. Once that is carried out as their schedule allows, they can address parking strips and piles that have accumulated if we have no further snow in the immediate future. I want to thank some people who brought in their equipment and helped with snow removal: George Dean, who takes care of the area around the high school; John Teague, who brought his Bobcat Skid steer and helped in the downtown area; Jeff Latkowski, and Sanchez Landscaping, who have their snow removal businesses, and I'm quite sure their work goes well beyond what they are paid for. And of course, there were several masked four-wheel and side-by-side operators who at the time were nameless. All and all, I really am pleased with how the crew pitched in, took everything in stride, and "rolled with the punches." We know more now, and we will improve as we become more experienced.

The sewer plant project continues, and we continue exploring projects at the airport. The council will be looking at potential street projects for the upcoming year.

I would like you to join me in welcoming our new city maintenance employees, Jessica May and Shawn Bryan. Jessica started with the city last year as summer help and was a great help. Shawn comes to us from Spokane and has a diverse background including automotive and other mechanical experience. The learning curve can be crazy, so give them a thumbs up and a smile when you see them.

"It's so hard to forget pain, but it's even harder to remember sweetness. We have no scar to show for our happiness. We learn so little from peace." ~Chuck Palahniuk

Thanks for your time,
Roy



Happy Valentine's Day



Tekoa Food Pantry

Tekoa Food Pantry will be distributing commodities on
February 22, 2024, from 8:00-11:00 A.M.



Tekoa Chamber of Commerce

The Tekoa Chamber of Commerce is now gearing up for the annual membership drive. If you are not a member and would like to be, visit the Chamber of Commerce website www.exploretekoa.com, for details. Congratulations to the holiday lighting winners! Joel Doupe and Randy Wise for their tractor displays, Karen Schweizer (cutest), John and Virginia Heaton (best light show), and the former Dorsey building (best business district). Let's carry on this fun tradition next year. Don't forget to shop small in February for your Valentine's gifts and services. As a group, we are always looking for new and productive ideas that will make our businesses prosper. Tekoa Chamber meetings are held the first Friday of each month, at Éclair's Coffee & Company at 7:30 A.M., and all are welcome.



TEKOA PARKS and REC

Tekoa Parks and Rec is looking for a ground maintenance person. Some duties will be mowing, weed-eating, tree trimming, sprinkler system repair, restroom cleaning, and related activities in the parks around town. The starting wage is \$16.28 per hour or negotiable DOE. Please contact Tekoa Parks and Rec Board, PO Box 568, Tekoa, WA 99033, or call (509) 981-1380.

TEKOA LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Much is happening at the library this month with two special events! First, after repeated requests, we are sponsoring a **Couples Paint Night** at Éclair's, on Thursday, February 15, from 6 to 8 P.M. The cost is \$15 per couple (does not include beverages or food). *You must RSVP and pay in advance at the library to hold your spots.* Secondly, everyone is invited to join us on Thursday, February 29, 4-6 P.M., for **"Leaping Lizards! It's a Leap Year Game Night."** There will be tables set up with card and board games that appeal to a variety of ages. This is a free event. **For info on this month's Kids Club, Teen/Tween Club, Books & Bunco, Storytime, and Crafters Circle, follow the Tekoa Library on FB or visit our website:** www.whitcolib.org. Or call Shelly at the library at 509-284-5657.



TEKOA CITY HALL INFORMATION

It is that time of the year again when we remind everyone that it is not safe to flush anything but human waste and toilet paper down your toilets. Most people are not aware, but feminine hygiene products, flushable wipes, hair, Q-Tips, kitty litter or trash, and most other things labeled flushable clog pipes and cause problems at our sewer plant. Products that say they will break down or that they are flushable generally are not. If you have questions, you are welcome to call us at Tekoa City Hall and ask. You can reach us at (509) 284-3861. We are happy to answer any questions. If we all work together on not flushing anything but what is supposed to go into the sewer, we can alleviate many clogs and future problems. Thank you!

Also, you will find a dog license form enclosed that needs to be completed and paid for by February 29. **Please separate your dog license payment from your utility payment.** They are two different accounting systems and help to keep our bookkeeping clean and error-free. This helps to keep the city in compliance with the Washington State Auditor's office.

