

# JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

**Mayor:**

Roy Schulz

**Council:**

Michael Hale  
Margie Jaeger  
Pete Martin  
Shelly Ausmus  
Reid Smith  
Dave Tysz  
Dan Thomas

**Clerk/Treasurer:**

Eliza Evans-Teague

**Deputy Clerk:**

Nikki Jensen

**Maintenance**

Steven Thomas  
Jeff Latkowski

**Code Enforcement  
Officer:**

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

**Building Inspector:**

Kevin Turnbough  
509-714-5148  
kturnbough14@gm  
ail.com

**Office Hours:**

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

**Council Meetings:**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday  
6:00 P.M.  
Tekoa City Hall  
Council Chambers

**Phone:**

509-284-3861

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509-284-3590

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tekoaclerk  
@gmail.com

**Website:**

www.tekoawa.com

January 5- City Council Meeting  
6:00 P.M. – City Hall  
January 5 – EMS & EMT Training  
6:30 P.M. – Ambulance Barn  
January 6 – Whitman Co. Hosp. Dist.  
6:30 P.M. – City Hall  
January 9 – Chamber of Commerce  
7:30 A.M. Trestle Coffee  
January 13 Healthy Tekoa Coalition  
9:00 A.M. SD Boardroom

January 13 – Empire Theatre Board  
5:30 P.M. Empire Theatre  
January 20 – City Council Meeting  
6:00 P.M. – City Hall  
January 21 Parks & Rec  
6:00 P.M. – City Hall  
January 22 - Food Distribution  
8:00-11:00 A.M. – City Hall  
January 26– Tekoa EMT (Board meeting)  
6:30 P.M. – Ambulance Barn

## **Message from the Mayor—**

Greetings everyone, I hope the holiday season is treating you well. Catching up with friends and family is always great, and I pray that you found time to remember those less fortunate, those people battling illness, and those who have lost loved ones.

You may or may not have heard that the city's Clerk/Treasurer has turned in her resignation. The city has just lost an incredible resource, a tremendous spokesperson, and a truly amazing employee. Eliza was a true professional in every sense of the word. The search has started, and we will do our best to find someone to fill her shoes. I will maybe say more later, but at this point, I think it's best I give it some time before I say anything more.

The recent street levy failed by a slim margin. There will be a decision made on whether or not we rerun it. I undoubtedly didn't do a very good job of "selling" the reason for the levy. First of all, the levy, with the exception of one year, has remained the same for at least the last 15 years. Next year, street work will still be done, although not as much as we had hoped. I think there is a misconception that this money is primarily used for pay increases. Salaries are included in the street work performed; of course, it's part of it, but it is a very small part of what is levied for. The city continues to offer the same or more services from the same street revenues. What takes the backseat is replacement of vehicles, sidewalk repairs, paving of streets, and maybe snowplowing to the degree that we're used to. Recently, the city was visited by Labor and Industry to check on a complaint filed by a former employee. After the interviews and inspections, there were violations noted and fines imposed. Public Works addressed and fixed the violations. After appeals of the fines, the total amount was about nine thousand dollars. The cost for the actual repairs was around five thousand dollars. We will continue to work with L and I to do the best we can to be in compliance.

Public Works employee Jeff Latkowski is home from the hospital, and we continue to pray for his full recovery. In the meantime, there is a plan in place to keep the city going. Thanks for your patience and support, and we will talk again in February. Roy

~ "Life is a mirror and will reflect to the thinker what he thinks into it." Ernest Holmes

**The city will be implementing electronic billing early in 2026. Watch for future details!**

**The city is aware of several scams involving zoning and planning emails and phone calls.**

**We will never solicit our citizens this way. You can always call City Hall with questions.**

### **Tekoa Food Pantry**

Tekoa Food Pantry will distribute commodities on January 22 from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.



## Public Works Department

\*\*\* Please leave plenty of room for our snowplows to clear all city streets\*\*\*

### ***To flush or not to flush:***

Just a friendly reminder of what not to flush down the toilet.

- Wipes: baby wipes, cleaning wipes, makeup wipes, etc. (even if they say flushable)
- Hygiene Products: tampons, pads, cotton balls, Q-tips, etc.
- Paper Products: paper towels, tissues, napkins, etc. (they are stronger than T.P.)
- Plastics & Trash: band-aids, condoms, dental floss, plastic bags, wrappers of any kind, etc.
- Grease & Food: cooking oil, fat, coffee grounds, food scraps, etc.
- Chemicals: bleach, paints, cleaners, medications, etc.

## Tekoa Parks & Rec.

The park below the swimming pool has been named "JAWs" in honor of our beloved and former Tekoa citizen, Jamie Ann Wilson.

The Parks and Recreation maintenance and operation levy is on Tuesday, February 20. Please vote.

## Tekoa Library

- Crafter's Circle on Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 at 4 P.M.
- Storytime on Thursdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 at 11:45 P.M.
- After-school Kids Club on Wednesday, January 14, at 12:15 P.M.
- Adult Book Club on Wednesday, January 21, at 6:30 P.M.
- Paint Night at Trestle Coffee on January 28 at 6 P.M.

## Healthy Tekoa

We hope you had a good holiday season. This can be a tough time of year. If you or a loved one are thinking about suicide, there is help. Contact the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Crisis Lifeline. Call 988 or Text 988 or Chat 988Lifeline.org. You don't have to say who you are or where you are.

You can get connected with HEALTHY Tekoa at our next meeting on Tuesday, January 13 at 9 A.M. at the School District Boardroom and Zoom. Email [jolson@tekoasd.org](mailto:jolson@tekoasd.org) for the meeting link. Join us and be part of positive change in our community!

## Chamber of Commerce

Happy New Year's from your friends on the Tekoa Chamber! Mark your calendar for the first annual cookie crawl on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Shop local and enjoy some sweet treats!

## Tekoa Christmas Fund

The **TEKOA CHRISTMAS FUND** committee would like to thank ALL the businesses and individuals who so generously supported the CHRISTMAS FUND in 2025! We were able to assist over 65 households representing nearly 200 adults and children with shopping vouchers for use at the Tekoa **Hardware - Tekoa Market or Tekoa Pharmacy!!** Thank you again for your generous support of our annual **CHRISTMAS FUND** collection!

