

TOWN OF KIOWA: TALK OF THE TOWN

March 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

KWWA Monthly Board Meeting

March 11, 2025 – 5:30pm
Location: Town Hall @
404 Comanche Street

BOT Monthly Board Meeting

March 11, 2025 – 7pm
Location: Town Hall @
404 Comanche Street

Planning Commission

March 19, 2025 – 6pm
Location: Town Hall @
404 Comanche Street

HAPPY ST PATTY'S DAY!
March 17th

Happy
St. Patrick's
day!

AWESOMENEWYEAR.COM

SH-86 IMPROVEMENTS IN KIOWA

A big thank you to all who came out to the fairgrounds on February 13th to hear and see the first round of proposed improvements to sidewalks and drainage along the SH-86 corridor through Kiowa.

In 2023, the town received funding from CDOT and the Department of Local Affairs for this project, which allowed the Town to contract with Kimley-Horn & Associates for engineering and design services addressing longstanding issues with poor drainage, ADA-compliant sidewalks, and generally aging roadways.

The feedback was great, and the great folks are taking that feedback, coupled with the responses from the survey released in January, and going back to the drawing board. There will be two more chances for the public to come to the community meetings, see the potential plans, and give their respective feedback. Watch for the invites for those meetings and come out for an evening. Your feedback is critical to the success of this project.

In the meantime, if you have not taken the survey, please do so as soon as possible. The feedback from those surveys will continue to be considered and incorporated into the next two design proposals. You can access it at <https://bit.ly/CO-86Improvements>.



A MESSAGE MAYOR TERRY HOWARD

Hello Kiowa!

We have a lot of things in the works for our small town! As most of you have heard/seen, we have several upcoming projects! Thanks to Town Administrator Kim Boyd, she has found grants for issues that have needed to be addressed for many years now:

- Replacement of the bridge on SH-86
- Stormwater drainage, ADA-compliant sidewalks and resurfacing on SH-86, Kiowa-Bennett Rd and CR-45
- Beautification of Kiowa's town center and local business assistance thru partnering with the Department of Local Affairs Main Streets program
- Long overdue renovations of our town parks (last updates were 25 years ago!)

You may not see construction underway yet, but please know that all of this is actively in the works. We all know the wheels of government turn slowly. Make sure to watch for notices of the community meetings as we move through these projects and give your feedback and input to the final designs!

Speaking of Government. Boards and commissions are critical in shaping local communities and governance, especially in small, rural municipalities like ours. The Town's Charter requires 7 trustees on our Town Board, allowing a mixture of backgrounds in our leadership and sustainability. A qualified applicant will live within the town limits for at least 12 months prior to the application and be a registered voter of Kiowa. Your minimal time commitment is at least one evening a month, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, and occasionally a few more depending on the business at hand. Other areas to get involved are on the Town's Event Planning Committee and Main Streets Board. Every aspect of our Town's leadership - board, committee, or commission - is volunteer-based. I cannot stress enough how our community's - your community's - involvement is critical to our continued Town's success. Please join one of our boards, committees, or commissions today.

Residents keep referring back to past administrations and staff and continue to hold on to rumors or misinformation from a select few. It is a new year and a new day. Let me set the record straight – the Kiowa Board does not intend to make our little town into another Parker or Elizabeth. Our town staff work diligently to follow all the laws of the State and rules our Charter dictates, but that has not always been the case in the years before Kim and Sasha's arrival, and this has served as the root cause of many of the existing rumors and misinformation.

Our board and staff are always being asked:

- **Why does Kiowa have code enforcement?**

The short answer is that code enforcement is important because it ensures compliance with Kiowa ordinances and regulations that govern various aspects of property maintenance and land use. These ordinances are typically designed to promote public safety, protect property values, and maintain a high quality of life for residents. By enforcing town codes and regulations, we address issues that may negatively impact your property values, public health, and safety. Code enforcement officers support and enhance the quality of life by keeping aging buildings, homes, and properties from becoming "eyesores." And really, the responsibility should never be put over on a town staff that is already severely understaffed, time-limited, and not qualified.

- **Why aren't the roads fixed?**

Rural communities like ours face many challenges, and budget constraints are right up there at the top! Truthfully, I personally have lived in Kiowa for the last 9 years, and I have never witnessed a request to increase any tax – user tax or sales tax – be passed by the voters of Kiowa at any election. For the record, Kiowa cannot increase property taxes through any means; that can only be done at the county level. The tax revenue Kiowa receives through these taxes is the only revenue we have to make these necessary repairs. With a municipality as small as Kiowa, those are very limited. Again, Kim has worked hard to find grants and alternative funding to supplement this small revenue base, and we will be seeing the benefits of her perseverance in the days to come – the process is slow, but it's coming. It's noteworthy to know that Kiowa has one of the lowest sales tax rates in the state at a mere 1.5%, as well as a user tax of 1.5%, and neither of those will facilitate a budget that will give us quick improvements in a town our size. We understand why you can't picture paying one more tax dollar to any government – local, state or federal – at this time, but please also know that is all we have to fund ALL the needs of our Town. We are on this ride together, but please remember this at the next election.

- **Why doesn't Kiowa do anything about the speeding issues through town?**

The Town of Kiowa has an intergovernmental agreement with the Elbert County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services. Many of you do not know that our county law enforcement has remained understaffed for many years – for many reasons. The most important reason to note is that the budget is always at the top and is quickly followed by our county's lack of available and affordable housing. Many deputies commute from other, further out communities and do not stay long if there are greener pastures somewhere else. They will sometimes have nine or fewer deputies to patrol an entire 1800 square miles of county area – that is unsafe for them and very unfortunate for us. They do their best with what they have, and we appreciate and support them. It will be many years before Kiowa will have a budget to bring in another local police force – so please support what we have.

Old event coming back to Kiowa this year!

Every year our office gets an influx of inquiries (often there are complaints!) over the 4th of July fireworks display not happening in Kiowa. I believe the last time we had it was about 8 years ago, and the Kiowa Fire Protection District hosted it. While we couldn't get a professional company to allow us a 4th of July booking, we are working in conjunction with the Elbert County Fair to bring it to you on the kick-off night of the Fair – Saturday, July 26th! With the cooperation of the Sheriff, Kiowa Fire, and all the other fire protection districts throughout Elbert County, we are officially a GO! We are looking for corporate sponsors to help us fund this event. More to come on this, but we hope to see you all there. Follow us on Facebook and on our web page at www.TownOfKiowa.colorado.gov to stay updated about our town meetings and community events.

Lastly, Mayor Pro Tem Tammy Hart and I are considering holding informal town halls throughout the year. We'd love to sit face-to-face with you, answer those important questions, and hear your ideas for Kiowa moving forward. Would you attend? We need community involvement –

Let's get involved and make Kiowa the best it can be!!

**Employment/Volunteer Positions for
the Town of Kiowa**

The Town of Kiowa is accepting applications for a part-time Seasonal Public Works Crew Member. Duties include maintaining parks, sidewalks, Town properties, and general Town beautification. This position will also require assisting with town events such as setting up/breaking down tents and trash removal. The applicant must be 18 years of age or older, have a High School Diploma or GED, and have a Valid Driver's License.

Applications are available online at the Town's website at <https://townofkiowa.colorado.gov/employment-volunteer> or in person at Town Hall, located at 404 Comanche Street, Kiowa. Please submit an application by mail to Town of Kiowa, PO Box 237, Kiowa, CO 80117; by email to kboyd@townofkiowa.com, open until filled.

The **Town of Kiowa Board of Trustees** is seeking to fill ONE (1) Board Trustee position to serve a 4-year term. Applications to the Board can be picked up at: Kiowa Town Hall, 404 Comanche Street, requested by emailing sdavidson@townofkiowa.com.

For more information, contact Town Clerk Sasha Davidson at 303-621-2366 or go to: <https://townofkiowa.colorado.gov/employment-volunteer>

HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST AROUND KIOWA!

LION'S CLUB ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 2nd – 8 AM - 12 PM

Lion's Club under ECCO @ 336 Comanche Street

ELBERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presents: Legendary Ladies: Extraordinary Women of the West

Saturday, March 1st – 2 PM

Location: Kiowa Creek Community Church

231 Cheyenne Street, Kiowa, CO 80117

ELBERT COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

Presents: 6th Annual Paint and Bliss Event

Saturday, March 20th – 2 PM – 5 PM

Location: Kiowa Creek Community Church Fellowship Hall

231 Cheyenne Street, Kiowa, CO 80117

RSVP to Janet Maloney @ 303-805-6126 or janey.maloney@elbertcounty-co.gov

PINES AND PLAINS LIBRARIES

Kiowa Book Club

Monday, March 24th – 7pm

Location: 331 Comanche Street, Kiowa, CO 80117

Book of the month: The Diary of Mattie Spenser by Sandra Dallas

Kiowa Close Knit Crochet Group

Tuesday, March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th – 1pm

Location: 331 Comanche Street, Kiowa, CO 80117

Bring your own project and enjoy some great company. All levels are welcome.



Found a pothole? Let us know! Take a picture, tell us where it is and provide any additional details you think are helpful. Town of Kiowa staff will use that information to find the pothole and repair it as quick as possible. Go to [Contact Us | Town of Kiowa \(colorado.gov\)](https://www.townofkiowa.com/contact-us) to report.



Use of property for dumping unlawful. It shall be unlawful for any person to use any land, premises or property within the Town for the dumping or disposal of any garbage, trash, litter, rubbish, offal, filth, excrement, discarded building materials or combustible materials of any kind.

Kiowa Municipal Code Sec. 7-32.(i)
– Nuisances enumerated



Just a reminder that it's that time again!!

Town dog tag licenses come due every year, and it is up to the owner to supply the required rabies information each year. Associated costs:

\$10.00 PER SPAYED/ NEUTERED DOG
\$15.00 PER NON- SPAYED/NON-NEUTERED DOG

Please go online and renew your application today at <https://townofkiowa.colorado.gov/online-portal-payment/applications>

Or, come into our offices during normal office hours, Monday through Thursday, to fill out an application and pay in person.

COMMUNITY NEEDS



**FOOD BANK
OF KCCC**

**NEEDED
ITEMS**

We would greatly appreciate donations of non-food items to help us allocate more funds toward purchasing food for those in need. Of course, food donations are still always welcome! Thank you for your support!

The Food Bank of Kiowa Creek Community Church is an equal-opportunity provider and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

- paper towels
- toilet paper
- shampoo
- dish soap
- laundry detergent
- bar soap
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- infant/child diapers
- adult diapers
- deodorant
- sandwich bags



KIOWA FIRE IS HIRING!

The Kiowa Fire Protection District is hiring a full-time Deputy Chief, EMS Captain, Fire Captain and Paramedic.

If you are looking for a rewarding position where you can make a difference in a small-town fire service, they encourage you to apply!

GO TO

<https://kiowafire.colorado.gov/recruitment/career>

TODAY AND APPLY!

KIOWA SCHOOLS ARE HIRING!

Math Teacher, Middle School (remainder of 24-25)

Math Teacher, Middle School (starting 2025)

Science Teacher, High School

CDL Driver

Elementary Administrative Assistant

To apply, go to:

[Employment Opportunities - Elbert County School District C-2](#)



Kiowa Water and Wastewater Authority (KWWA) Happenings!

Intro to Water Administration & Water Rights in Colorado presented by the Colorado Division of Water Resources

The Kiowa Water and Wastewater Authority Board would like to invite those interested in attending a one-hour online live course hosted by the Colorado Division of Water Resources (CDWR) to Kiowa Town Hall (404 Comanche Street) on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This course provides an overview of Intro to Water Administration & Water Rights in Colorado. This course focuses more on the basics of water rights and water court and is different from CDWR's previously provided "Intro to Water Administration, Water Rights, and Well Permits" course. The presentation will cover a brief history of water administration in Colorado and a broad overview of water rights vocabulary, the basics of the prior appropriations system and augmentation plans, the Colorado Water Doctrine, statutory types of groundwater, Water Court, the Ground Water Commission, and Well Permitting & Exemptions.

Realtors, brokers, title company representatives, consultants, and the public can attend. Realtors and water well contractors can earn two hours of continuing education credit.

If interested, please email kiowa@townofkiowa.com or call 303-621-2366. Space is limited.

2025 RATE INCREASE ON WASTEWATER

Wastewater utilities have a responsibility to safely and reliably treat the wastewater that flows through the plant as well as a responsibility to our customers to ensure that the use of funds is lawful and efficient. Proper fiscal management means that revenues not only meet day-to-day expenses but also prepare the system for potential emergencies and future capital projects.

Unfortunately, after an evaluation of the Authority's current rate structure, assessment of the last few years budget versus actual expenses, and a difficult discussion on future projections, it was determined at the January monthly meeting of the Board of Directors that while the current water rates are sustainable for the time being, the wastewater rates are not. Thus, the 3% automatic annual increase that was previously approved by resolution in 2024 will be reflected on the upcoming February billing.

If you have any questions regarding what that looks like on your upcoming billing, please feel free to call Utility Billing Clerk, Sasha Davidson, at 303-621-2366.

Unauthorized tampering with KWWA District systems and/or meters is illegal and will result in a fine of not less than \$2,000 per incident, in addition to the actual cost of damage, expense, and loss of the systems and/or meters. If you have knowledge of any incidents of tampering, you can submit an anonymous tip by either emailing kiowa@townofkiowa.com or calling 303-621-2366.

Per Resolution 2018-03

ATTENTION

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING AN AFTER-HOURS WATER EMERGENCY, SUCH AS A BROKEN WATER LINE, FROZEN METER, HIGH PRESSURE INCIDENT, ETC., PLEASE CALL DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF DISPATCH AT 303-660-7500. DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 UNLESS IT IS A LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY. WHEN YOU CALL, ADVISE DISPATCH YOU RESIDE IN THE TOWN OF KIOWA AND HAVE THEM REFER TO THE A BOLO IN PLACE PERTAINING TO WATER EMERGENCIES.

Town Council

Terry Howard, Mayor

Tammy Hart, Mayor Pro Tem

Baillie Wineland, Trustee

Jonathon Shafer, Trustee

Trevor Smith, Trustee

Connie Stahl, Trustee

VACANT, Trustee

Town Staff

Kimberly Boyd, Town Administrator

Sasha Davidson, Town Clerk and Notary

Planning Commission

Wendy Frenzel, Chairperson

Todd Lane, Co-Chairperson

Lori Rafferty, Commissioner

Sandy Kalisch, Commissioner

Shannon Lane, Commissioner

Julie Mizak, Commissioner

Hours of Operation

Monday through Thursday 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

**** NOTE ****

The office is closed to walk-in traffic at noon on Thursdays for staff development.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Closed

***Hours may vary due to inclement weather and holidays.*

NOTE: If you are trying to make water and sewer payments outside our normal hours of operation, payments can be left in the drop box available on the east side of our building or fast and easy through our online option at <https://www.xpressbillpay.com/#/>.

Contact Us

Phone: 303-621-2366

Fax: 303-621-2595

Or, visit our website:

<https://townofkiowa.colorado.gov/>



Facebook –
@ OfficialTownOfKiowa

X (fka Twitter) –
@TownOfKiowa

Nextdoor –
**Town of Kiowa
Ute Village**