



# In The News

## 2022–2042 Comprehensive Plan

The Envision Coeur d'Alene project wrapped up after 27 months. Envision Coeur d'Alene has been a public engagement effort and collaboration between the City of Coeur d'Alene and CDA 2030 to provide a unified vision and identify priorities for the future of Coeur d'Alene. The City's new Comprehensive Plan is a State of Idaho mandated guidance document that creates a framework for future Coeur d'Alene policies, code amendments, and priority action items. The plan will guide future growth for the next 20 years and will function as a strategic plan for the community.



### MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

#### Mayor

Jim Hammond 208.666.5754

#### City Council

Dan English 208.819.0940

Amy Evans 208.819.1349

Dan Gookin 208.667.5200

Woody McEvers 208.691.5303

Kiki Miller 208.661.2374

Christie Wood 208.819.5274

### CITY DEPARTMENTS

Main Line 208.769.2300

Building Services 208.769.2267

Engineering 208.769.2235

Finance/Utilities 208.769.2227

Fire 208.769.2340

Human Resources 208.769.2205

Legal 208.769.2348

Library 208.769.2315

Municipal Services 208.769.2300

Parks and Rec 208.769.2252

Planning 208.769.2274

Police 208.769.2320

Streets 208.769.2235

Wastewater 208.769.2281

Water 208.769.2210





**NEW FIRE CHIEF**

After Fire Chief Kenny Gabriel announced his retirement in December, the City of Coeur d'Alene began an internal recruitment to select a new Fire Chief. Fire Chief Thomas Greif, a 24-year veteran of the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department, was named as the City's new Fire Chief. He was sworn in as new Fire Chief on February 15th.

"I am deeply honored to be the next Fire Chief for the City of Coeur d'Alene as well as very excited to continue on with the legacy that Chief Gabriel and the members of this great department have built," states Chief Grief. "With that being said, I need to thank Chief Gabriel for the opportunities that have prepared me for the road ahead. His retirement is well deserved!"



According to Mayor Hammond, "The Envision Coeur d'Alene visioning effort between the City and CDA 2030 is an example of how to work collaboratively with community partners to reach out to the people who live, work, and play in Coeur d'Alene. This plan reflects what is most important for the community, how we should grow, and what we should prioritize as we guide our future. This Comprehensive Plan is the people's vision for Coeur d'Alene.

The City team and I are committed to ensure that Coeur d'Alene continues our legacy as a "City of Excellence." Together, we can keep one of Idaho's fastest growing cities on the path toward a responsible, positive, and vibrant future."

**Starting a New Business in Coeur d'Alene?**

Starting a new business can be exciting yet overwhelming . City staff are here to help you in that process. Begin by viewing the following PDF guide to get started. Contact the City Clerk's office at 208-769-2229 for further information or email Kelley Setters at [ksetters@cdaid.org](mailto:ksetters@cdaid.org).

**Points to Consider When Starting a New Business**

**THERE ARE 7 PRIMARY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN STARTING A BUSINESS:**

- Do you need a seller's permit?
- Do you have employees?
- Are you handling food?
- Are you doing business under another name?
- Do you need an Employer Identification Number for taxes?
- Do you need to be registered with the Idaho State Bureau of Occupational Licensing?
- Do you need a business permit or license from the City of Coeur d'Alene?

**We Issue:**

- Home Occupation
- Used Merchandise
- Childcare
- Alcohol - Beer, Wine, and Liquor
- Drain Layer
- Door to Door
- Mobile Concession
- Outdoor Eating
- Taxi Cabs
- Massage Facility ONLY
- Private Detective/Agency
- Security Agent/Agency
- Sign Permits
- Kennel

**Sellers Permit**

Idaho State Tax Commission  
9am-4pm Mon-Fri  
1910 Northwest Blvd., Coeur d'Alene  
(208) 334-7660  
(800) 972-7660 Boise Office  
Mail: PO Box 36  
Boise, ID 82722-0410  
[taxrep@tax.idaho.gov](mailto:taxrep@tax.idaho.gov)

**Employees**

Idaho Department of labor  
600 N Thornton St  
Post Falls ID 83854  
(208) 457-8789  
9am-5pm Mon-Thurs  
9am-Noon Friday  
[kootenacountymail@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:kootenacountymail@labor.idaho.gov)

**Food Handling**

Panhandle Health  
8500 N Atlas Rd, Hayden ID 83835  
(208) 415-5100

**Business Name**

Idaho Secretary of State  
700 W Jefferson, Room E205, Boise ID  
(208) 334-2300  
[www.sos.idaho.gov](http://www.sos.idaho.gov)

**EIN for Taxes**

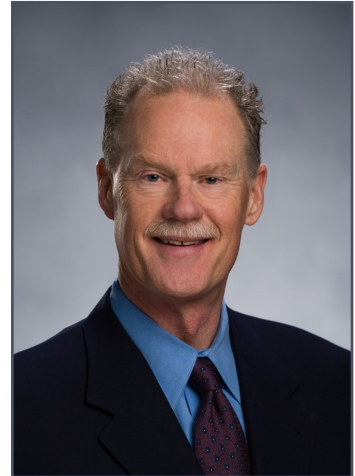
Contact the IRS  
[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**Occupational License**

Idaho State Bureau of Occupational Licensing (IBOL)  
700 W State Street, Boise  
(208) 334-3233

## *City Attorney Mike Gridley Retires*

City Attorney Mike Gridley announced his retirement effective March 15, 2022. Mike has been the City's Attorney and Legal Service Director for 20 years, having been appointed by Mayor Sandi Bloem in February 2002. Prior to his appointment as City Attorney, Mike was a trial lawyer for Union Pacific Railroad in Houston, Texas. He moved to Coeur d'Alene in January 2001, engaged in a civil litigation/mediation practice, and took 52 days to bicycle from Washington state to Gig Harbor, Maine. Ready for a new challenge, Mike applied and was interviewed for an Assistant City Attorney position with the City, but, when the City Attorney position opened up, Mike was encouraged to apply for that instead. Following a series of interviews, he was called the City's "top choice" for City Attorney by Mayor Bloem.



---

*Those who worked with him closely over the years call him supportive, encouraging, thoughtful, and compassionate; a teacher and a great leader.*

---

When Mike took office in February 2002, George W. Bush was President and Dirk Kempthorne was Governor of Idaho. The Salt Lake City Winter Olympics were just beginning. The New England Patriots had beat the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI and the Gonzaga Bulldogs had surprisingly reached #9 in the NCAA Basketball Poll. "Friends" was still on T.V., Sandi Bloem had become Mayor in January, Tom Messina was first appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and Duane Hagadone was proposing an exciting vision for a "McEuen Park."

Twenty years later, Mike oversees a Legal Department with four (4) prosecuting attorneys, two (2) civil attorneys, and four (4) legal assistants. In those twenty years, he was instrumental in the expansion of the Prairie Trail, the Riverstone and Mill River Developments, the protection of the City's hillsides and shoreline, the acquisition of the Atlas Mill Site, and CDA 2030. He was a Vice-Chairman of the North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation and a founding member of the Idaho Pedestrian and Bicycle Alliance. Those who worked with him closely over the years call him "supportive, encouraging, thoughtful, and compassionate; a teacher and a great leader."

Mike graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1982. An avid bicyclist and cross-country skier, he also (in his younger days) ran the Paris marathon and is an accomplished sailboat captain, racing his J/80, *Raven*, in events up and down the west coast. He has received numerous awards, including the Pillar of the Community Award from the Idaho Municipal Attorneys Association. Many will recognize him by his standard poodles who have acted as his companions and body guards---Poo, Charlie, Rocky, and currently Jake.

Mike's leadership has been essential in making the City's Legal Department one of the best in the state of Idaho. His primary focus has always been to give the Mayor, Council, and the City Departments the very best legal advice, and improving the community he calls home. The City is sad to say goodbye to such a fine leader and wish him the best as he sails into the next chapter of his life.

## Medicare Workshops at the Library

Idaho Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) is offering free Medicare workshops at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library from 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month throughout 2022.

The Idaho Department of Insurance SHIBA program offers free, unbiased Medicare Workshops and presentations at locations throughout North and Central Idaho.



*These are helpful, valuable opportunities for existing members and utilize their eligibility for the Medicare Savings Programs.*

SHIBA is a public service of the State of Idaho Department of Insurance, and part of a nationwide network of State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) that provide unbiased Medicare information, resources and counseling. SHIBA Staff and volunteers from the Coeur d'Alene office will be presenting the workshops at the library.

**3/15 - Medicare Resources:** Learn about publications and online resources available to help you understand, manage and make the most of your Medicare benefits.

**4/19 - Medicare Basics:** Learn about the basic parts of Medicare and the basic choices for coverage. This will help you gain a basic understanding of Medicare & getting started.

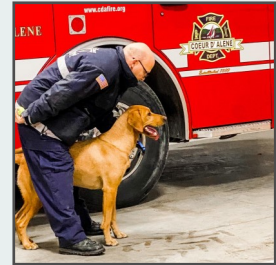
**5/17 - Medicare Open Q & A:** Bring your questions about Medicare benefits. We will talk about Medicare coverage for some special conditions.

**6/21 - Part B & Wellness Benefits:** Learn about Medicare coverage for outpatient services, medical equipment, and preventative and wellness benefits.

This workshop will focus on finding the best plan, using Medicare Wellness benefits and low-income assistance.

Registration is required. Register [here](#) or give the Library a call at 208-769-2315 ext. 410.

## MEET SOME OF OUR IDAHO DISASTER DOGS!



K9: Tamarack  
Handler: Scott Dietrich



K9: Duke  
Handler: Scott Robinson



K9: Bear  
Handler: Bridget



K9: Scout  
Handler: Chad Matchell

## MARCH EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

Teachable Tuesdays, Ages 0-5  
11:30am

Wonder Wednesdays, Ages 0-5  
10:30am

Teens eSports Club on Discord  
Fridays at 4:00pm

Teen Zone Take-Out Craft Kit  
St Patty's Day Theme  
Starting March 4

Board of Trustees Meeting  
4th Wednesday of each month  
4:00pm

Lunch and Learn  
Medicare Series  
March 7, 11:30am

Pageturners Book Club  
March 23, 10:15am

For more information on any  
Library event, call 208.769.2315  
or visit the Library  
[events calendar](#)



## Idaho Teen Reading Challenge

The Coeur d'Alene Public Library is participating in the Idaho Commission for Libraries' (ICfL) Idaho Teen Reading Challenge. This challenge is a way to encourage teens to read outside of their comfort zone. This year's categories are: Graphic Novels, a Book Recommended by a Friend, #OwnVoices, Free Choice, a Book that Keeps You Up at Night, a Classic, Memoir/Biography, and a Re-Read.



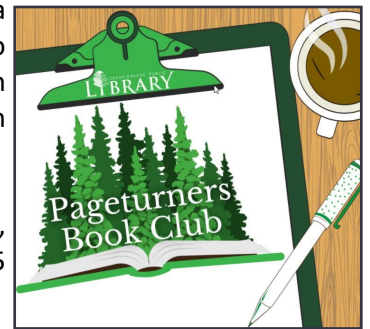
The reading challenge runs from October – April (seven months). Teens will be challenged to read one book from eight different categories (eight books total) during that time. Teens can pick up their Reading Journal packet in the Teen Section of the Library for more information on tracking and submitting.

When a teen has completed the challenge, they can upload the titles they read using a form that is linked to a QR code included in their packet and in May, ICfL will hold a prize drawing for teens who complete the challenge. As an extra treat, teens who live in the CIN Library Network can review two books and get one free! Just show your reading journal to CDA library staff.

## Pageturners Book Club

The Pageturners Book Club is a volunteer-run Library program intended to provide participants a scholarly discussion of a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction literature.

The group meets monthly, except for December, on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10:15 a.m. in the Library's Community Room.



Books are selected by a committee of the book club or through participation in programs such as the Idaho Commission for Libraries/Idaho Humanities Council's "Let's Talk About It" book discussion series. The Club is also supported by the Friends of the Coeur d'Alene Public Library.

Discussions are open to any adult reader and there is no charge to participate. To check on the availability of the monthly selections visit the Research & Information Desk at the Library.

The next meeting will be on March 23 at 10:15 am. The selected book is *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer.

## City Faces

Municipal Milestones recently caught up with newly hired Parks Mechanic Kenden Neely to learn more about his role with the City.

### **Tell us a little bit about your background and experience:**

I was born and raised in the Coeur d'Alene area. My first line of business was in the construction industry at the age of 14 working for my dad, a self-employed general contractor. During the spring of 2011, after graduating from Coeur d'Alene High School, I obtained Firefighter 2 training and was hired on a wildland firefighting contracting crew. When I was not busy fighting fires, I worked on a ranch in Athol, ID. From there I moved into the lumber industry. While I worked at a finger joint plant in Athol, I pursued my goal of becoming a structural firefighter but after acquiring my EMT certification, my interest turned to becoming a heavy diesel technician. During my studies at NIC, procuring my Associate of Applied Science degree in diesel technology, I started working for a freight hauling company in Spokane, WA where I worked for over six years until I landed my dream job, here at the City of Coeur d'Alene Parks Department.



*KENDEN NEELY*  
*PARKS MECHANIC*  
*PARKS DEPARTMENT*

---

*“There is something new every day which creates a challenge but also generates considerable satisfaction.”*

---

### **What kind of training do you need to be a Parks Mechanic?**

Besides the aforementioned training at NIC, the best training you can get as a technician is on the job experience. I have substantial experience outside of my documented work experience due to my “do-it-yourself” personality including a number of boat and motorcycle restorations, small engine repair, and automotive repair. A Parks Mechanic, in certain scenarios, must have a CDL and just prior to starting this position I got my class A CDL under my belt.

### **What does a Parks Mechanic do?**

My job entails preventative maintenance and general repair/upkeep of the Parks Department equipment, vehicle fleet, parts ordering, and documentation of repairs.

### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I enjoy the wide variety of equipment I get to maintain. There is something new every day which creates a challenge but also generates considerable satisfaction. I also really enjoy the people I get to work with.

### **What about your family and interests?**

I don't have a family of my own. I would be amiss if I neglected to mention my greatest interest which is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Aside from that, I have a wide range of interests including dirt biking, fishing, hunting, 4-wheeling, skiing, and camping.

### **What do you love most about Coeur d'Alene and North Idaho?**

The vast array of outdoor activities in Coeur d'Alene and North Idaho is second to none. I have travelled to many places but I have not found a place with all of the incredible qualities of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is a great privilege not only to live here, but also to play a part in making Coeur d'Alene even better, and I look forward to many good years to come working for this remarkable city.