



## In The News

### *Let Us Be Great Neighbors: Project Neighborly*



The Idaho Community Foundation aims to foster inclusion and encourage neighborliness in local communities. Project Neighborly is a grant program inspiring people to be better neighbors and develop welcoming communities. Participants come up with the ideas and a grant from Project Neighborly will help bring those ideas to life.

Grants should inspire answers to questions such as:

How can people start conversations among neighbors who might otherwise not interact with one another? How can people be better North Idaho neighbors?

Project Neighborly will ignite efforts by awarding grants up to \$5,000 to support inspiring, actionable, relevant projects and activities that develop a sense of community and promote neighborliness in Kootenai County.

#### 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 208.769.2252

Planning 208.769.2274

Police 208.769.2320

Recreation 208.769.2250

Streets 208.769.2235

Wastewater 208.769.2281

Water 208.769.2210



**NEW DEPUTY  
CHIEF AT THE FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**



On Monday, March 14, Captain Jeff Sells was sworn in as the City's newest Deputy Chief in the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department.

The City is excited for Deputy Chief Sells to use his skills and vast experience in his new position serving the residents and guests of the City of Excellence.

Congratulations Deputy Chief Sells!



***Project Neighborly, cont.***

Eligible recipients include:

- 501 (c)(3) Organizations
- Native American Tribal Agencies
- Civic Groups
- Religious Institutions
- Public Institutions
- Informal Grassroots Groups
- Others

**Grant Applications close April 8.** For more information, visit [Idahocf.org/community-impact/project-neighborly-idaho](http://Idahocf.org/community-impact/project-neighborly-idaho)

***More about Deputy Chief Sells***

Deputy Chief Jeff Sells began his career while serving with the U.S. Army, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division during the first gulf war. After the Army, he volunteered with the Lewiston Rural Fire Department and worked full time for a private ambulance service. He became a paramedic in 1994 and began working for Spokane Ambulance, as well as volunteering with Post Falls Ambulance. In 1997 he began working for Kootenai County Paramedics and continued there through the county EMS transition where he was hired by Coeur d'Alene Fire Department in 2002. He has served as a firefighter, engineer, and fire captain.

Deputy Chief Sells has a bachelor's degree in Emergency Medical Services and has mentored many of the Department's paramedics over the years. He has instructed EMT, Advanced EMT and Paramedic certification courses, as well as American Heart Association Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support and Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support classes. He has also instructed firefighters in ladder truck operations and was part of the development of the Department's ventilation training manual. He has also been a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue, Canine Search Specialist instructor.

Deputy Chief Sells was part of the development of the Department's Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) canine program. He has certified with two (2) dogs, Cody and Otis, and deployed as a member of the FEMA Washington Task Force 1 to the Oso Landslide in Washington and to Hurricane Irma in Florida. Deputy Chief Sells served as the canine program coordinator for the Department and participated on several national level US&R committees.

Deputy Chief Sells and his wife of 25 years, Janelle, have two adult sons and help run the family farm east of Coeur d'Alene. When they are not working on the farm, they can be found camping and flyfishing.

## *Fire Cadet Program for High School Seniors*

The Fire Cadet program is aimed at high school seniors who may be interested in a career in public safety. The ideal candidate will show a strong desire to enter the public safety field and should be a motivated individual and a self-starter. The Fire Cadet program allows the interested senior the ability to job shadow an assigned crew for an entire semester; training, cleaning, running calls, etc. with his/her assigned crew. The process to become a Fire Cadet is designed to mimic that of an entry-level firefighter; an extensive application, a physical agility test, a formal interview, and a mini-academy for those that are successful. In addition to great life experience and a “back-stage” look at this esteemed profession, Fire Cadets will receive elective credits through their school. Fire Cadets are assigned daily didactic and manipulative assignments that are designed to give them a well-rounded look at what it takes to be a firefighter.



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*The Fire Cadet program allows the interested senior the ability to job shadow an assigned crew for an entire semester.*

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This program is a cooperative effort between the Coeur d’Alene Fire Department and the Coeur D’Alene School District. After successful completion of the application process, Fire Cadets are assigned to a station and a crew. They are required to complete a minimum of 80 hours per semester in order to receive their elective credits (this equates to about 5 hours per week).

Five hours is the **bare minimum**. A successful candidate will spend much more time at the station. Fire Cadets are required to log their hours on a timesheet and are held responsible to be on time and to represent their respective schools and the CDAFD in a positive light.

At the end of the semester, each Fire Cadet will receive a completion certificate. Each crew is encouraged to provide a letter of recommendation (if the Cadet earns it) and to do something special (family dinner, etc.) for their Cadet. Interested High School Seniors should contact their school counselor. The Fire Department will consider up to six (6) positions per semester.

There are two recruitment periods; *applications will only be accepted during these periods*. Applications turned in outside of these recruitment periods **will not** be accepted. The recruitment periods will be announced to each high school and are generally mid-March and mid-November. These application periods are open for two weeks. Students are advised to contact their high school counselors for applications and further information.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** Any questions regarding the Fire Cadet Program can be directed to Firefighter Greg Thaxton at (208) 818-4205 or (208) 769-2357 **Application due Friday April 8, 2022 by 4pm.**

[Fire Cadet Application](#)

**COFFEE WITH A COP  
AT STARBUCKS ON  
FEBRUARY 22 WAS A  
GREAT EVENT!**



***CDA Firefighters Battle the Stairs***

On March 13, CDA Firefighters Greg Thaxton, Chad Matchell, Scott Robinson and Brad Shackleton “battled” the stairs in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Stair Climb in Seattle. They climbed 69 floors of the Columbia Tower in full gear and on air to raise money for treatment and research to help end leukemia and lymphoma.

To date, they have raised \$15,000 and counting. The City is proud of these men for all of their hard work in raising funds for such a great cause.



Firefighter Chad Matchell (L) and Firefighter Greg Thaxton (R)



Firefighter Brad Shackleton (L) Firefighter Chad Matchell (M) and Firefighter Greg Thaxton (R)



Firefighter Greg Thaxton (L) and Firefighter Chad Matchell (R)

***Coffee With a Cop***

Join the Coeur d’Alene Police Department April 26, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Starbucks located at 3500 N Government Way for pastries and coffee. This is an opportunity for the community to build relationships with local law enforcement officers.



## Save the Date for the Compost Giveaway!



The 5th Annual Coeur d'Green Compost giveaway is coming April 23-24, 2022. Compost will be staged outside the gate of the City's Compost facility at 3500 N. Julia St., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815. No heavy equipment allowed.

This is a self serve event. Please be considerate of the neighbors and each other as you load your buckets, bags or vehicles. For more information, contact (208)769-2281.

## Birds are for Everyone

On Thursday, April 21, at 4:00 pm, George Saylor, from the CDA Audubon Society, will present a Powerpoint focusing on various aspects of birds and birding. The presentation will include bird anatomy (which helps with bird identification), bird conservation, birding tips, and many photos of birds. A children's program will be held concurrently in the Story Room in the children's library with games and crafts about our fine feathered friends!

## Earth Day 2022

Come celebrate Earth Day at the Library on Saturday, April 23 from 10:00 am—2:00 pm.

The Library is bringing together a number of local environmental organizations for a fun outdoor Saturday of games, giveaways, and learning. The planet is an amazing place, but it needs help to thrive! That's why each year on April 22, more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day to protect the planet from things like pollution and deforestation. By taking part in activities like picking up litter and planting trees, people are making the world a happier, healthier place to live.



## Tubbs Hill Bird Field Trip

The Library is hosting a bird field trip to Tubbs Hill on Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 am. The field trip begins at the east entrance to the Tubbs Hill trailhead. Binoculars are suggested.

Later in the day, the Library will preview the new birding backpacks developed by the Library and the CDA Audubon Society. This takes place in the Library Community Room at 4:00 pm. Snacks will be provided.



## **APRIL EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY**

Teachable Tuesdays, Ages 0-5  
11:30 am

Wonder Wednesdays, Ages 0-5  
10:30 am

Teens eSports Club on Discord  
Fridays at 4:00 pm

Lego Club, Wednesdays  
Ages 6-11  
4:00 pm

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

Lunch and Learn  
Medicare Series  
April 4 and 18, 11:30 am

Pageturners Book Club  
April 27, 10:15 am

For more information on any  
Library event, call  
(208)769-2315 or visit the  
Library.



## **Hours at the Library are Changing**

After some consideration, and examination of library usage statistics, the Library has decided to update its operational hours.

Starting April 4, new Library hours will be as follows:

Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Sunday 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm



The Library hopes to service the needs of patrons more effectively with these new hours.

## **Lunch and Learn at the Library**

Join the Library for an informational series on Medicare and elder-health related topics. These workshops are presented by Chris Murphy from Humana and include a light lunch.

Please register at least one week prior to each event by either visiting <https://forms.office.com/r/9FNC5xSquW> or by calling the Library at 208-769-2315 ext 651.

April and May topics include:

- April 4: The Truth About Carbs
- April 18: Shake Down on Sugar
- May 2: Super Foods
- May 16: Healthy Eating to Control Cholesterol



## **Shred Day at the Library**

The Library will help you defend against identity theft with a free Shred Day on Saturday, April 9, from 10:00 am—1:00 pm. A document-shredding truck from Devries Business Services will be in the upper parking lot until 1:00 pm or until the truck is full.

Bring any old financial or other confidential documents to have them safely destroyed. Participants are asked not to include any binders or other items not made of paper. Please do not bring more than two (2) boxes per vehicle.

Shred Day is made possible by a grant from the Friends of the Library. For more information, contact the Library at (208)769-2315.

## City Faces

Municipal Milestones recently caught up with newly hired Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Pozzesi to learn more about his role with the City.

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

After working as a wilderness fire responder in the Spring of 2016, I started my fire career with Corvallis Fire Department in Oregon as a full-time intern. I graduated from Paramedic school in January 2019, and received my Paramedic license in March. In Summer 2019, I was hired as a full-time Firefighter/ Paramedic with Sheridan Fire District.

### **What kind of training do you need to be a Firefighter/Paramedic?**

To be a firefighter you typically need at least a Firefighter 1 or 2 Academy. Some people go through two (2) years of school to get a degree in fire science, but most can get about the same experience in two (2) years as a resident volunteer. To be a paramedic you must first have, at minimum, your EMT Basic and about 2.5 years of schooling after high school to earn a degree in paramedicine.



*NICK POZZESI  
FIREFIGHTER/  
PARAMEDIC*

*FIRE DEPARTMENT*

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*“There’s a tremendous amount of trust that people have for firefighters, and it’s a blessing to work with and be friends with these people.”*

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### **What does a Firefighter/Paramedic do?**

A firefighter paramedic has a wide range of responsibilities that include a lot more than Advanced Life Support and putting fires out. We are expected to be a jack of all trades. We respond to medical emergencies, structure fires, wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, motor vehicle collisions, water/ice rescue, high and low angle rope rescues, and pretty much anything else that doesn’t fall under law enforcement’s responsibility. Outside of running calls we workout and train a lot because we are expected to be proficient in a range of different categories. Our other responsibilities include public education, fire prevention, etc. There are also many different teams that we can be a part of through this job including Urban Search and Rescue, Dog Team, and SWAT team.

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

One of my favorite parts of the job are the interactions I have with new people every day. However, the reason I became a firefighter, and still am to this day, is because of the comradery with fellow coworkers. We have a dangerous job and I appreciate knowing that the firefighter beside me is competent enough to perform the same duties and save me if something bad ever happens. There is a tremendous amount of trust that people have for firefighters, and it’s a blessing to work with and be friends with these people.

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

I got married in August of 2021 to my wife Natalie. Some of my hobbies include backpacking, hunting, fishing, camping, kayaking, snowshoeing, and just about anything else that gives me an excuse to be in the woods. Other things I have done in the past and want to pick up again now that I have moved to CDA are coaching high school sports and wheel thrown ceramics.

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

My grandparents moved to CDA when I was about 6 or 7 years old, so I have plenty of good memories coming here over the years to visit them. I am very close to my family and we all came to the same conclusion that we wanted to end up in North Idaho. North Idaho was always on my radar and I was very excited to finally get the opportunity to work for the most professional department in the area. CDA itself reminds me of the town I grew up in. It is similar in size, is a college town with a beautiful downtown, and has plenty of trails and wilderness to explore around it. In the end, the reason why I chose to live in CDA was because of the outdoor activities, friendly people, and the chance to continue to stay close to my family.