



# In The News

## Spring Message from the Mayor

As I write this the sun is shining and stirring hope of spring's arrival and warmer weather. Another sure sign of spring is spotting the street sweepers out and about cleaning up all of winter's clutter.

This is also the time where we get out in our yards to rake, plant, and enjoy all that our surroundings offer. Whether it is working in your own yard, or enjoying the many parks around the city, it is my hope that you have a wonderful spring.

- Mayor Jim Hammond



K-27 Memorial at McEuen Park

Source: Kirk Fisher/ Shutterstock

### 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



**THE OSPREY  
ARE BACK!**

Cameras perched high above McEuen Park provide an opportunity to view osprey nesting in their natural habitat. Osprey have been nesting on the poles since the mid-1980s. It is believed the birds were attracted to the warmth of the lights on the 70-foot poles, used to illuminate the ball field before the park reconstruction. The nests have become a park amenity that the community enjoys each spring and summer.

Click [here](#) to view the Osprey cameras.



**Back by Popular Demand—The South Osprey  
Camera!**

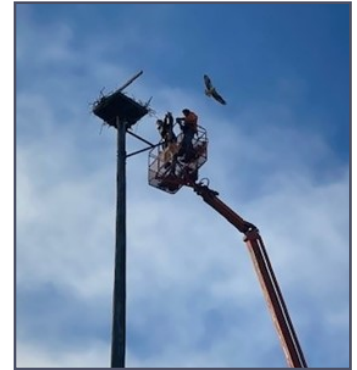


Thanks to the donation of a lift and staff by Thorco, Inc., early morning of April 22, the [south osprey nest camera](#) was replaced.

At first the osprey weren't very excited about the activity around the nest as Scott Bennett, City Network Specialist, and Matt Powers, Division Manager, Thorco, Inc., rose to the nest to begin the replacement. The osprey stayed near, cautiously flying around the nest, and have now settled nicely into the frame of the camera for your

viewing pleasure.

The weather cooperated and the City asked the community to share their appreciation to Thorco for donating their time, staff, and equipment, that enable the City to access these very tall poles.



**The Thin Gold Line**

Do you ever wonder who the people are behind emergency calls to 911? All that is known about them are their voices, which is why National Public Safety Telecommunications Week (NPSTW), observed every second week in April, has been set aside to recognize and celebrate the work of telecommunicators helping to save millions of lives every day. If it weren't for the telecommunicators flawlessly doing their jobs, billions of lives would have been lost due to untimely assistance. During the second week in April, these invisible telecommunicators were honored and thanked for serving in this demanding position.

The Thin Gold Line honors all those who serve in public safety telecommunication, including police dispatchers, fire dispatchers, and ambulance dispatchers.



## Tracking COVID in Wastewater

Did you know that the City of Coeur d'Alene is using wastewater to track COVID cases? This provides the City a unique opportunity to gauge the presence of COVID in the entire community in near real time.

Here's how it works:

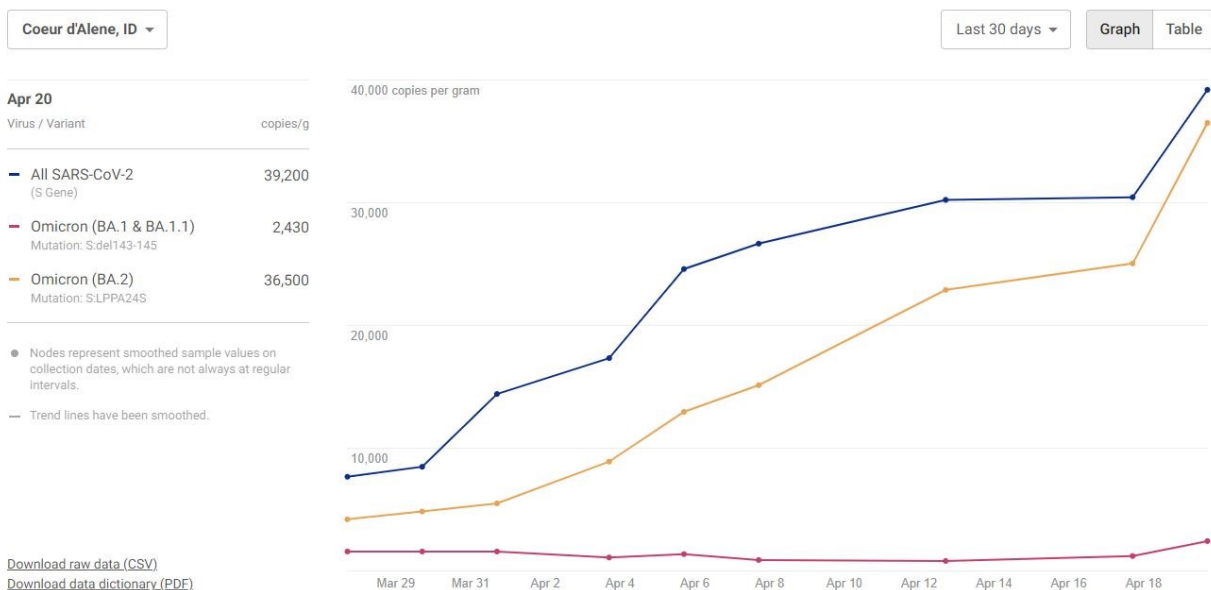
If an individual is infected with the COVID virus, they will "shed" that virus in their waste. All of that waste ends up at the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility where a sample is collected and sent off to a lab. At the lab, they look for the RNA signature of the virus and report those results to the City.

While looking at an individual number may not be meaningful, the Wastewater Department looks at this data over time. It can be determined how much less COVID there is in the wastewater now as compared to January, when sampling was first started. The City is able to detect if cases are on the rise before it is seen in our hospitals and other health care facilities.

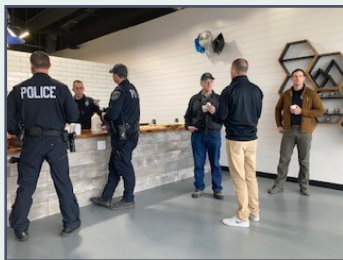
The data is shared with local first responders, the Panhandle Health District and the general public. To view the covid testing dashboard, visit <https://www.cdaid.org/wastewater>.

The Wastewater Department will be testing for at least the remainder of this year, so save this link to your favorites and share with your friends and family if you want to know what's really going on in the City!

### Sample Covid Dashboard:



**ANOTHER  
SUCCESSFUL  
COFFEE WITH A  
COP  
AT ANCHORED  
COFFEE AND  
BAKERY!**



Join the Police Department on Tuesday, May 24, from 10:00 am— 12:00 pm for our next Coffee With a Cop.

This month's event will be at Bakery by the Lake, located at 601 E Front Avenue in Coeur d'Alene.

## *Citizens' Police Academy*



The Coeur d'Alene Police Department is pleased to offer a Citizens' Police Academy starting on May 25, 2022. The goal of this program is to continue to build and strengthen the relationship between the department and the community. The Police Department recognizes its

most valuable asset is the trust of the of citizens in the community.

The Citizens' Police Academy is free to the public. The Academy is structured as an informational program to give citizens a broad-based understanding of the Coeur d'Alene Police Department and provides opportunities for open discussion with agency leaders, patrol officers and detectives. Academy participants will learn how the Police Department operates and gain an understanding of the challenges facing law enforcement in our rapidly growing community.

---

*The Police Department recognizes its most valuable asset is the trust of the citizens in the community.*

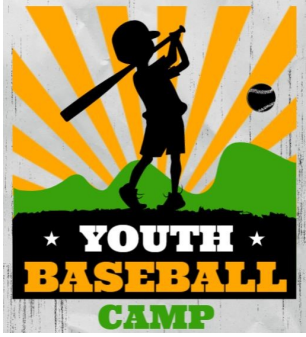
---

Participants in the Citizens' Police Academy meet for three-hours on Wednesday evenings for four (4) weeks beginning on May 25, and concluding on June 15. The hours will be from 5:30 pm until 8:30 pm, and all classes will be held at the Coeur d'Alene Police Department. Some of the topics covered in the academy will be crime trends in CDA, policing model, use of force, SWAT operations, K9, and investigative processes. Applications may be picked up at the Police Department front desk. This class will be limited to twenty (20) applicants.

Applicants must be at least eighteen (18 yrs) years of age, have no misdemeanor conviction of any crime of violence, not be the subject of any pending criminal investigation or criminal court case, and not be the respondent of an active No Contact Order or Civil Protection Order. Applicants with a felony conviction will not be selected to attend the Citizens' Police Academy. The deadline for postmarked applications is May 16, 2022.

For additional questions about the Citizens' Police Academy contact Sergeant Jared Reneau at the Coeur d'Alene Police Department at 208-769-2320.

## New Recreation Program for 3-4 Year Olds



The Parks & Recreation Department recently launched Youth Baseball Camp, a new program designed for three- and four-year-olds. During the first two weeks of May, kids participate in instructional activities. During the second half of the month, games are facilitated by the Recreation staff.

Registration filled up fast for this popular new program. For more information about this or other Recreation programs, contact the

Parks & Recreation Department at 208-769-2250.

## Spring Start Up – Irrigation Backflow Assemblies

Landscape irrigation systems make watering lawns and gardens convenient and save time, but water that may be contaminated can potentially be back-siphoned or backflow into your drinking water.

To protect your drinking water from potential contamination by weed killers, pesticides, animal waste, or fertilizers, it is important to have an approved backflow prevention assembly/device properly installed on your landscape irrigation system. It is equally important to be certain this backflow prevention assembly is performance tested annually to ensure that it is functioning properly. Annual backflow assembly testing is required by the State of Idaho and by City ordinance.



Irrigation backflow assemblies must be tested annually at spring irrigation start up and no later than July 1 of each calendar year. This test, performed by a private - state licensed backflow assembly tester, verifies that the backflow prevention assembly is functioning properly.

A landscape irrigation system not protected by an approved backflow prevention assembly, or protected by an assembly that is not functioning correctly, endangers the health of a household, neighborhood, and the entire community.

Completed backflow assembly test reports may be submitted electronically to [bfatests@cdaid.org](mailto:bfatests@cdaid.org), submitted in person or mailed to City of Coeur d'Alene Water Department 3145 N. Howard St. Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815.

If you have any questions or wish to obtain a list of approved state licensed backflow assembly testers, contact Gary Alan Nolan at 208-769-2298, or visit [www.cdaid.org/watercrossconnection](http://www.cdaid.org/watercrossconnection).

**JUST SOME OF  
THE ACTIVITIES  
OFFERED THIS  
SUMMER  
THROUGH THE  
PARKS &  
RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT  
208-769-2250**



Baseball and softball



Fishing Derby



Tennis Lessons



Pickleball

**THIS MONTH'S  
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  
May 2 and 16, 11:30 am

Pageturners Book Club  
May 25, 10:15 am

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



**Let's Go Fly a Kite!**

The Library is partnering with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to present a family-friendly kite-flying party in McEuen Park (right behind the Library)! Bring your favorite kite or pick-up one of the free kites that will be available every Saturday in May (while supplies last).



**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 visiting <https://forms.office.com/r/9FNC5xSquW> or by calling the Library at 208-769-2315 ext 651.

May topics include:

- May 2: Super Foods
- May 16: Healthy Eating to Control Cholesterol

**May Pageturners Book Club**

The Pageturners Book Club is discussing Behind the Beautiful Forever: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The book describes a present-day slum of Mumbai, India, named Annawadi, and located near the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport. It follows the interconnected lives of several residents, including a young trash picker, a female "slumlord," and a college student. The author is an American woman who often visited Mumbai with her husband, who was from the area and had a job in the city.

Pageturner discussions are open to any adult reader and books are available for check out at the Research and Information Desk.

Masks are required to attend. For more information: JD Smithson, 208-769-2315 ext 455, or [communications@cdalibrary.org](mailto:communications@cdalibrary.org)



## City Faces

Municipal Milestones recently caught up with newly hired Payroll Specialist Sarah Hansen to learn more about her role with the City.



SARAH HANSEN

PAYROLL

SPECIALIST

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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

My first experience in payroll was about 8 years ago while working for Albertsons. I transitioned from a Bakery Manager/Cake decorator to a Personnel Coordinator that more closely aligned with the degrees I received from Boise State University and the University of Idaho. At Albertsons we did weekly payroll and I found payroll was the part of the job I enjoyed the most. When we moved to Coeur d'Alene I got a job as a HR/Payroll Manager where I handled payroll for five (5) companies in four (4) states on bi-weekly, semi-monthly, and monthly payroll schedules. In 2018 I transitioned to Kootenai County first as a Records Clerk then as a Payroll Technician because I realized I really missed working in payroll. I'm very grateful to be at the City of Coeur d'Alene now working in a position that I enjoy.

### **What kind of training do you need to be a Payroll Specialist?**

Generally, a Payroll Specialist will be required to have an Associate's Degree or Certification from a two-year college or professional/technical school in Bookkeeping/Accounting or a related field, or the equivalent in experience/training. I have found my education/experience in Human Resources to be helpful as well.

---

*"I'm always busy, and always learning. Although every payroll is different, it's very routine – and I enjoy that. After every payroll processing, I feel like I have a clean slate to start all over again on the next one"*

---

### **What does a Payroll specialist do?**

Prepare and process payroll, audit information for accuracy, input deductions/benefits, reconcile and pay semi-monthly and monthly payroll related bills as well as processing any related reporting, process/review change forms, maintain payroll records, prepare and distribute quarterly and annual reporting, work closely with HR regarding new hires/terminations/retirements/benefits/etc.

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

I'm always busy, and always learning. Although every payroll is different, it's very routine – and I enjoy that. After every payroll processing, I feel like I have a clean slate to start all over again on the next one.

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

I married my husband Geoff in 2014 and between the two of us we have 3 children. This year we had one turn sixteen (16) and get his driving permit, and one who is graduating high school! We enjoy travelling, watching Boise State football and Boston Red Sox baseball, cooking, baking, biking, road trips, but mostly just spending time together at home.

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

My grandparents built a house in Bayview when I was a teenager and I always thought the Coeur d'Alene area was just beautiful! We would visit every summer and I would be so sad when we left. After my husband and I got married he had the opportunity for a promotion in Coeur d'Alene so we were very excited to transition up to this area. Also it helps that we're not too far from our family and friends. They come and spend a lot of time up here with us during the summer and holidays – we love all the outdoor activities this area has to offer.