



City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Milestones Newsletter

Issue 33/February 2017

IN THE NEWS

Mayor Widmyer Reports on the State of the City

Mayor Widmyer presented his State of the City Address on January 11 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. Nearly 300 people attended the event, which was hosted by the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce. You can view the Mayor's address here: www.cdaid.org/sotc2017.



Get Ready for Spring With a Seed Swap



Believe it or not, spring is just around the corner! Get in the mood for planting with the Seed Swap at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library, 702 E. Front Avenue, on Saturday, Feb 4, 1-3 p.m. in the Community Room. Participants can bring seeds to swap and take home new varieties, learn about seed saving, and learn about the seed-sharing program at the library, truetoseedcda.org.

Fire Station 4 is OPEN

Fire Station 4 is finally OPEN! Work on this new fire station began in the spring and was recently completed. Fire Chief Kenny Gabriel said, "This new station has been needed for awhile due to the increased growth in the northwest area of the City. Having this new station in service will decrease response times to this growing area of the City as well as help keep our other stations in their response



Newsletter Archives



CITY FACES



Sam LaPresta: Parks Division has no "Off Season" — just a colder one!

Municipal Milestones recently caught up with Sam LaPresta, Parks Superintendent, to learn more about the role of the Parks Division during the off season months in the Fall and Winter.

Tell us a little bit about your professional background and

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areas.” The fire station was paid for with impact fees on new construction. Passage of the General Obligation (GO) bond allowed for the purchase of rolling stock and equipment. Nine new firefighters were hired in October. A formal dedication and open house will take place in the spring.

Have Coffee with a Cop on February 9

Join your neighbors and police officers for coffee and conversation on Thursday, Feb. 9, 8 a.m., at Bakery by the Lake Parkside, 601 E. Front Avenue, #104, Coeur d'Alene. The goal of the Coffee with a Cop program is to “build relationships one cup at a time.”



City Seeks State Grant Funding for New Skate Park

The City is seeking a \$200,000 State Grant to help pay for a new skate park that could open in the spring of 2018. The grant



request would be matching funds for the \$400,000 project, and is part of a larger second phase of revitalization to the

Memorial Field area known as the Four Corners. The City will know by June if it has been selected for a grant award. This grant would come from the Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation through its Land & Water Conservation Fund. City staff and elected officials are collaborating with the City’s urban renewal agency, Ignite CDA, which has agreed to fund \$1.5 million of the next phase of the four Corners Master Plan including the skate park, a trail connection, sport courts, a new playground,

experience: After receiving my BS in ornamental horticulture from Cal Poly, I have worked in landscape maintenance and park maintenance in one form or another for the past 42 years. In addition to my degree in ornamental horticulture, I currently hold certifications as a Certified Arborist, Playground Safety Inspector, and Certified Pesticide Applicator.

The Parks & Recreation Department does an outstanding job keeping Coeur d’Alene’s parks and green spaces beautiful during the summer months. But what does the Parks staff do during the off-season months in the fall and winter?

The fall and winter months have become a very busy time for the Parks Department. Most of our seasonal staff is gone by mid-October, leaving a large portion of the leaf clean up in the parks to the full-time staff. Over the years, as the parks age and mature, this work has continued to increase in volume and time. In addition, we are responsible in the fall for winterizing all of the irrigation systems and restrooms in the parks and beautification areas along with the testing of backflow assemblies. We also prepare the landscape beds throughout the system by applying a pre-emergent herbicide to reduce weed growth in the spring. As fall turns to winter, some of our work moves inside as we start refurbishing picnic tables and benches in the parks. This entails replacing any bad boards, sanding, restaining the wood and painting the frames as needed. A standing winter project has been to work with the Street Department on tree pruning in the areas scheduled for asphalt overlay.

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bathrooms and greenspace. Additional funding is intended to come from grants as well as partnership with North Idaho College for the sport courts. The skate park design came from the skaters themselves and community supporters.

Coeur d'Alene Association of Realtors Donates to K27 Memorial Project

Thank you to the Coeur d'Alene Association of Realtors for their generous \$4,600 donation toward the K27 Memorial Project! We are close to full funding for Phase 1 of this amazing, privately-fundraised project that will be built in



McEuen Park to honor Sgt.



Greg Moore and all fallen law enforcement officers nationwide. Want to help? Visit www.k27forever.com to

donate today! Donations are tax deductible.

Library's 28th Writers Competition Begins

The 28th annual contest to find great writers in our community has begun at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library. Entry forms, rules and a guide to creating an entry are available by visiting the library, by e-mail request to dtownsend@cdalibrary.org, by download at www.cdalibrary.org/writers, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Writers Competition, Coeur d'Alene Public Library, 702 E. Front Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814. Deadline for entries is Friday, March 31.

This work is in addition to our main winter responsibility, which is snow removal. We perform snow removal on 24 sites, which is about six miles of sidewalks adjacent to city-owned property such as City Hall, the library, police station and parks, approximately 15 acres of parking lots and approximately 16 miles of bike and pedestrian trails.

As the weather allows, we will also install new and replacement playgrounds, perform repairs to park buildings and structures, and service and repair our equipment. In previous years, we have completed major projects such as the construction of Thorco Field, a retaining wall at Mill River Park, and the renovation of restrooms at several of the parks.

Our two cemeteries never close for business. As winter arrives our burial work continues and becomes more complicated having to deal with the snow and cold.

As you can see, we really do not have an off-season, just a colder one!

What about your family and interests? I have been married to my wife, Sara, for over 40 years and we have two children and five grandchildren. Besides spending time with my family I enjoy fishing, boating, skiing and spending time in the mountains.