



## City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Milestones Newsletter

Issue 9/February 2015

### IN THE NEWS

#### 'Let's go far:' Mayor Addresses Record Crowd

More than 300 people attended Mayor Steve Widmyer's first State of the City address in January to hear updates about progress within the city. During his inspiring speech, Mayor Widmyer emphasized the importance of working toward common goals. "If we truly want to achieve great things we must work as a group, everyone coming together for a common purpose," he said.



"Sure, we will have debates. We will have disagreements. But at the end of the day, we will stand together as one community with a common goal — of making our home, Coeur d'Alene, a wonderful place to live."

The mayor challenged citizens to make a positive difference in the community, to volunteer, to help each other and to work together despite differences. "There is an old African proverb that best sums up this message: 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.' Let's go far."

#### Public Safety Bond Details Available Online

Comprehensive details about a proposed \$6 million Public Safety Bond can be reviewed at [cdaid.org](http://cdaid.org). On the city's homepage, click on the "Public Safety Bond" box on the bottom of the page.

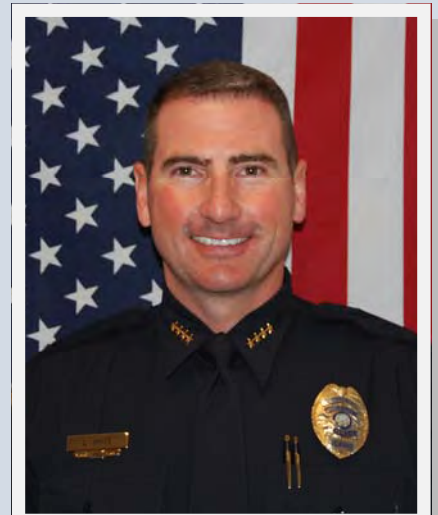
On May 19, 2015, Coeur d'Alene voters will be asked to consider a \$6 million, 10-year public safety bond to



### Newsletter Archives



### CITY FACES



#### Lee White:

#### Reducing Crime and Building Partnerships

A move from the desert in Mesa, Arizona — where Lee White spent his life growing up and building a career — to Coeur d'Alene,

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fund needed capital expenditures for the Police and Fire Departments. If approved, the general obligation bond would replace a 10-year bond approved by voters in 2005. The expiring bond was approved for \$7 million with an interest rate of 3.93 percent. The anticipated interest rate for the proposed bond is 2.96 percent. The lower bond amount and lower interest rate would result in a lower cost to property owners.

## Cost-share Tree Program Growing in Popularity

A new urban forestry program that offers financial assistance to help property owners maintain street trees in the right-of-way abutting their homes is off to a good start.

Katie Kosanke, Coeur d'Alene's urban forester, said about 30 people have inquired about the program since it was adopted by the City Council last month. "I'm pleased with all the interest and expect this program to be very successful," Kosanke said. Property owners can receive 50 percent up to \$200 per tree for pruning and 50 percent up to \$400 for approved removals with a maximum of \$600 reimbursement per parcel. Information: 769-2266.



## City Dedicates New Water Well



City officials and community members last month dedicated a new water well in the rapidly growing northwest part of town to meet the demands of growth. The new well just north of Hanley Avenue off Atlas Road, will increase the city's pumping capacity from 37 million gallons a day to 43 million

gallons a day and can pump up to 4,000 gallons per minute.

was climatically a big change. But Coeur d'Alene's new police chief is embracing the adjustment.

"I love this climate," says the city's police chief, who assumed his position September 2, 2014. Chief White may have new weather systems to deal with, but his policing philosophy remains the same: reduce crime through increased community involvement.

Since taking over as Chief of Police for the city of Coeur d'Alene, Chief White has, indeed, played a part in lowering crime. Statistics show that crime has dropped by double digits in the past several months.

Impressive numbers, but there is still work to be done. Chief White credits new policy, innovative practices, a dedicated staff and a focus on community partnerships for the success in dropping crime stats.

"The good thing is I have a fantastic group of men and women committed to the citizens of Coeur d'Alene," he says. "Reducing crime has a lot to do with establishing a stronger community partnership and that's been a strong focus for me from early on."

Chief White said an important part of his success has to do with cooperation and a willingness to work together for a common cause. "The support I've received from the city has been phenomenal — from the elected officials, to the executive team and everybody else at City Hall. They've all been extremely welcoming."

The chief has been busy on many fronts, and among his first major endeavors has been to establish a Use of Force Review Board to

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## **EAST SHERMAN REVITALIZATION MOVING FORWARD**

The city's Planning Department is carefully beginning to study East Sherman Avenue for economic development opportunities and infill potential to assist in the revitalization of the city's eastern gateway. There is a lot of potential along this section of Sherman Avenue and planners are focused on developing a creative theme along the corridor, activating the street and sidewalks, and increasing the use of public spaces. The "creative" components would be reflected in the unique characteristics of existing and new buildings, the types of businesses along the corridor, public artwork in key locations, and future street fairs and pop-up park events focused on arts and culture.



Staff plans to kick-start master planning efforts this spring/summer for the eastern portion of Sherman—an area that is initially being called the East Sherman Creative Corridor. Staff will engage the businesses, property owners and adjacent neighborhoods in the visioning and planning efforts.

## **CITY SCOPE**

### **Four Corners Workshop Set for February 25**



The city continues to collect input on the proposed Four Corners/BLM Corridor Master Plan. The next public workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Coeur d'Alene Public Library. During the forum, the design team will show the latest revisions to six sections of the corridor that stretch from

Independence Point to Riverstone. Representatives of the Four Corners Steering Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission will be present.

Similar to the previous open house, several poster-sized exhibits illustrating the latest conceptual improvements throughout the corridor will be on display. Written comment will be accepted. Citizens can provide comments online by visiting [cdaid.org](http://cdaid.org) and clicking on the "Four Corners" tab on the top of the page.

ensure that his department is held accountable. The new panel will hold its first meeting on February 18 and White is looking forward to a successful outcome. "This is just one step of several toward involving the community and increasing relationships," the chief says.

"My bottom line, and what I am striving for, is world-class police service with community involvement and increasing good relationships — working together to continue to promote a safe community. I've received so much support from the community. I want to turn that into a perfect win-win opportunity."

Chief White is no stranger to a challenge. He was among a pool of 75 candidates from across the country who applied for the job. He has stepped up to that challenge, his boss says.

Mayor Steve Widmyer is thrilled with White's efforts in his first few months on the job. "Chief White immediately started implementing new tactics and policies and in his first four months on the job, we have seen crime drop significantly," Mayor Widmyer said during his recent State of the City address. "Chief White's goal is to continue this trend. I am confident that we will achieve that."

