



City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Milestones Newsletter

Issue 1/June 2014

IN THE NEWS

Community revels opening of McEuen Park



McEuen Park officially opened to the public May 24, much to the delight of about 1,000 people who attended a dedication that attracted what was arguably the largest crowd ever at the historic downtown park.

"It really is a wonderful day to be a resident of Coeur d'Alene," Mayor Steve Widmyer told a gathering at the Grand Plaza overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene. "This park is a crown jewel of Coeur d'Alene that will be enjoyed by

people of all ages for generations to come."

The day belonged to the community—from toddlers and teens to adults and grandparents—who will keep the park buzzing with activity for many years to come. The next organized event at McEuen Park will be on Parks Day, Saturday, July 12. The all-day event will include free food, activities and entertainment. Stay tuned for more details!



Newsletter Archives



CITY FACES



Gordon Dobler: Managing the McEuen Makeover

Gordon Dobler has managed countless public works projects in his nearly 21 years as Coeur d'Alene's City Engineer. None have been as large—or as publicly scrutinized—as the \$20 million McEuen Park project.

While the public focused mostly on the lakeside park itself, the scope of the downtown project was really much larger. In fact, the 20-acre park represents only about one-third of the construction costs—\$7.6 million.

Other improvements—including the



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Police updates: Chief search; E. Sherman substation

The city received 85 police chief applications from 25 states and Canada. The field has been narrowed to 11. Finalists will be interviewed by members of a 14-member search committee.

Meanwhile, plans for a new police substation on East Sherman Avenue are moving forward. The City Council on June 3 voted to proceed with securing a 5-year lease agreement for office space in a professional building at 1424 E. Sherman Avenue.



Interim Chief Ron Clark said he hopes the substation will be staffed by July.

“Over the past several years, there have been many discussions over the amount of perceived and documented crime in the southeast portion of the city and the lack of police presence,” Clark said. The substation will address those issues, he added, by increasing police visibility.

Hungry goats protect Tubbs Hill

Two hundred goats recently did their part to protect Tubbs Hill from catastrophic wildfire by feasting on so-called ladder fuels that accelerate flames when a fire breaks out. The goats played an important part in protecting the 120-acre park from the threat of fire by munching on vegetation that could fuel flames into tree tops where they quickly spread.



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parking facility, parking lots adjacent to City Hall, Front Avenue upgrades, and pedestrian promenade on Front Avenue—make up for most of the rest.

The McEuen project represented a unique challenge. “These architect-driven projects are way different than a road project that is managed by engineers,” Dobler said, “and it’s not negative, it’s just different so we really had to get used to that.”

Dobler’s role as project manager required constant contact with a myriad of professionals who worked on unique features including a custom-designed splash pad, parking garage beneath a roadway, and completely automated systems for lighting, irrigation, and heating/ventilation.

Despite the intricate nature of the work, the project was completed on time and within budget.

“The way we approached McEuen is pretty much how we approach all our projects: We do the absolute best we can to build the most efficient project possible,” Dobler said. “It’s been a challenge but not a pull-your-hair-out kind of a challenge. It’s been more of just being real deliberate and tenacious ... about tracking all the details and not letting things get away from you.”



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YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

City crews help lower the cost of sidewalk repairs

In the spring of 2008, city leaders initiated a plan to bring city sidewalks into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. During the past five years, the city's street department has moved aggressively to complete this plan and was able to blend general fund tax dollars with grant dollars to complete 5,000 to 7,000 lineal feet of sidewalk into compliance. Additionally, over 300 pedestrian ramps were built into the corners.



Because the work is being done internally rather than contracted out to a private firm, the city was able to lower costs, said Street Superintendent Tim Martin. "The process is more efficient because we did not have to deal with administrative costs, engineering and inspections, so we're getting a lot more bang for our buck."



CITY SCOPE

Wellness at Work: Coeur d'Alene to hold 6th annual Wellness Fair June 11

The Wellness Fair is free to the public and seeks to raise awareness about the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. A diverse number of vendors will be on hand representing wellness stores, dieticians, chiropractors, nutrition companies, oral health care, fitness clubs and more.

For city employees, fitness screenings for blood pressure and cholesterol will be offered prior to the public event.

Co-sponsored by the City of Coeur d'Alene, the Wellness Fair will be held Wednesday, June 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Coeur d'Alene Public Library, 702 E. Front Avenue.



"It's really an awareness event to provide information that allows people to make healthier choices; our goal is to motivate people to make positive health behavior changes in all aspects of life."

Melissa Tosi
**Human Resources Director/
Wellness Committee Facilitator**