



City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Milestones Newsletter

Issue 11/April 2015

IN THE NEWS

Delicious Delivery: Mobile Food Event a Success

Despite windy conditions, cloudy skies and intermittent snow flurries, nearly 1,000 hungry people showed up to McEuen Park last Sunday to get their fill of a variety of local foods. "I'm excited by the turnout," said Coeur d'Alene City Planner Sean Holm, who prepared the staff report for City Council consideration on holding the event



in the lower City Hall parking lot. The event was scheduled in conjunction with National Grilled Cheese Day, which was Sunday. Future events may be scheduled, but will require council approval.

'It's All About Creating Jobs'

The new leader of Jobs Plus recently shared her thoughts on creating jobs and promoting a healthy business environment during a discussion with local Realtors.



"My role is not just about Jobs Plus, it's about helping create jobs and doing whatever we can to get companies to locate here," said Gynii Gilliam, President of Jobs Plus. Gilliam took over at Jobs Plus in March. Addressing the Coeur d'Alene Trader's Club, a group of local commercial brokers, Gilliam stressed the importance of business partnerships in promoting economic development and jobs. "I really want to have a great partnership with local business leaders and real estate professionals," Gilliam said.

Fort Sherman Playground to be Restored

For the thousands of children—and adults—who enjoy the Fort Sherman Playground at Coeur d'Alene City Park, there's good news: the playground is due

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CITY FACES



Ed Wagner: Building Momentum in the Lake City

With the recent recession mostly in the rear view mirror, Coeur d'Alene Building Services Director Ed Wagner says residential and commercial activity is on the upswing. Things were much different just a few years ago when Ed says the Building

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for major upgrades over the next several weeks. Thanks to the Panhandle Kiwanis Club, the historically-themed playground facility will receive a good power washing, fresh paint to its many caricatures, and a new coat of sealant to protect the wooden features.



“This is kind of our baby because we spearheaded construction of the playground 18 years ago,” said Dave Kilburg, President of the Panhandle Kiwanis.

Levee Work Wraps Up on NIC Campus

City street crews have completed levee restoration work along Rosenberry Drive. Brief intermittent traffic delays may occur in coming weeks as crews



replace signage and repair sections of road damaged by the levee work. City Engineer Gordon Dobler said an irrigation system will soon be installed on the lake side of Rosenberry Drive and the area will then be hydroseeded. The plan is to use a low maintenance grass that only requires mowing two to three times a year.

As part of the levee project, 16 trails were constructed to improve access to the water. City crews also built a trail on the North Idaho College side of Rosenberry Drive for enhanced access to the college. The city was able to complete the levee restoration project under budget by performing the work internally using street department crews.

Canfield named Cd'A Fire's 2014 Employee of the Year

Coeur d'Alene Fire Battalion Chief Jeff Canfield, a 13-year veteran of the department, has been named 2014 Employee of the Year for the Fire Department. Canfield began his career with the city as a firefighter in January 2002. He was promoted to lieutenant (a title that later was amended to captain) in April 2005 and to battalion chief in January 2014.



In his nomination form, Coeur d'Alene Fire Engineer Jeff Fletcher said Canfield exemplifies the qualities of a true leader. “The team always knows that Jeff is there to help us be successful and he gets his reward through the accomplishments of the team,” Fletcher said.

Department experienced the least amount of construction it had seen in many years. Municipal Milestones recently caught up with Ed to find out how things are going in the bustling Building Department.

When did you start employment with the city? October 5, 1987

How did you become involved in building permitting? I was a carpenter for more than 6 years when I injured my wrist and was unable to continue working in the field. I worked with the Kootenai County Building Department for 11 months when a position as a city building inspector opened up.

Have your responsibilities with the Building Department changed over the years? Yes, I started as a building inspector and subsequently obtained mechanical certification and became a building/mechanical inspector. Next, I obtained plans examiner certification and became a commercial plans examiner with focus on the more complex projects. I became Building Services Director in 2002. When I started, staff included 2 building inspectors, 1 chief building inspector and 1 secretary. Today, we have 10 employees in the department.

How did the recession of 2009-2012 impact building activity in CdA? It was the least amount of construction I had seen in years. Luckily, we did not increase staff during the previous 'boom' so we did not need to lay off any staff. Now, we're busy—very busy. We currently have 39 commercial projects in the works, including additions, remodels and new buildings. Most of those came in within the past month. We have also experienced an

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Volunteers Needed at Museum of North Idaho

The museum is looking for people with sales experience and who enjoy the public. Knowledge of the region's history is not necessary. The museum is open April 1 to October 31, Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Volunteers can work from one day a week to on-call as available. Please call Museum Director Dorothy Dahlgren at 664-3448, or email dd@museumni.org.



CITY SCOPE

Supporting Those who have Served and Sacrificed

Theresa Hart turned the tragic loss of her son, soldier Nick Newby, into an amazing organization that is helping local veterans throughout our community.



Sadly, Nick was killed in 2011 while serving in Iraq. In his memory, Theresa started Newby-Ginnings of North Idaho, Inc. Newby-Ginnings provides basic necessities and essential house items to veterans, active military and their families at absolutely no cost.

If you are a veteran, active military or Gold Star family member, visit Newby-Ginnings at 147 E. Aqua Circle, Unit 2 in Dalton Gardens. The organization has a huge inventory of clothes, furniture and housewares donated by community members. Newby-Ginnings accepts all types of clean and functional donations including household items, furniture, clothing and more. For information, call 660-4601 or visit newbyginnings4471@gmail.com.



influx of new homes.

What do you anticipate for building activity in 2015—commercial and residential? Early indications reflect a strong building construction year for both residential and commercial projects.

What major commercial projects are on the horizon? Construction may begin soon on One Lakeside, a \$20 million project that will comprise 64 living units in 11 levels. We also anticipate the continuing multi-million dollar additions to Kootenai Health. On the residential side, an estimated \$7.5 million apartment complex at the north end of Riverstone is in the works. The 55 and older development will include 80 new units. Also in Riverstone, there is talk of a new upscale restaurant.

From a customer service standpoint, what's your major goal in dealing with the public? To provide the best customer service possible. We have an electronic permit system that was built in-house that is working well to streamline this process. We are constantly looking for ways to continue to improve. The state has established the minimum construction standards that apply to all buildings. As an enforcing agency, we assist the builders, developers, designers to achieve the best possible building for the owner/occupant based on these minimum standards.

Tell us a little bit about yourself. I was raised on a farm/ranch in Wilbur, Washington. In the 1970's, I was into drag racing and won the AHRA (American Hot Rod Association) World Finals 2 years in a row and set a national elapsed time record for my class.