



City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Milestones Newsletter

Issue 3/August 2014

IN THE NEWS

Welcome Chief White!

Cd'A hires new police chief

Lee R. White, an assistant police chief in Mesa, Arizona, has been named Coeur d'Alene's next Chief of Police. He will assume the post September 2. "The biggest thing I'm planning on doing is going on a listening tour," White said. "I want to listen to the community and to the officers and open the lines of communication and basically find out how the police department can better serve the community and the residents of Coeur d'Alene."



Coeur d'Alene Mayor Steve Widmyer said White was a standout candidate throughout the application process. "I'm thrilled that Lee White has accepted the position," Widmyer said. "He is a respected police officer with a high degree of integrity and proven leadership."

White, who has family in Coeur d'Alene, said he and his wife fell in love with the area after their first visit years ago. "We were really hoping this opportunity would present itself," he said.

Master plan to promote public access to Spokane River

A master plan being developed by Welch Comer Engineers of Coeur d'Alene will provide for numerous opportunities to secure public access to the Spokane River, including the development of trails and parks along the water and expansion of Riverstone Park.



Phil Boyd, Welch Comer

Newsletter Archives



CITY FACES



Recreation Director

Steve Anthony:

In it for the Long Haul

Steve Anthony was hired on at the city's Recreation Department the same year President Richard Nixon resigned and Spokane hosted the World's Fair. After all these years—39 to be exact—Steve is still hard at it.

When Steve reflects on what keeps him going strong after nearly four decades, it's

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president, emphasized that the master planning process will include numerous opportunities for public involvement and input, through “small group” meetings, public workshops and informational forums.

The entire stretch of property — known as the Four Corners/BLM Corridor — has high “emotional importance” to dozens of user groups and stakeholders, all of whom will have an opportunity to meet with the master plan architects and express their desires. Adoption of the master plan is anticipated in February 2015.

City to hold the line on taxes

Coeur d'Alene's 2014-15 budget will have a zero percent property tax increase under a preliminary spending plan that has received support from the City Council.

As proposed, the budget includes the streamlining and restructuring of some city departments. The deputy city administrator's position, which in the past was budgeted at \$148,292 including wages and benefits, was vacated last December and will not be filled. Those duties will be assumed by other city department heads and their staffs.

The spending plan also calls for the consolidation of the parks and recreation department under one director, although the departments will continue to operate under separate budgets. The parks director position, vacated last year, has been removed from the budget. The position would have paid \$120,871, including wages and benefits.

New art for McEuen Park

Representing a giant allium plant — a wild onion that is native to Idaho — the newest piece of public art at McEuen Park is generating rave reviews. Officially, the artwork is called “Allium Spring Chorus,” clearly because the hundreds of silver stars tinkle softly in the breeze.

At night, the metal stars catch and reflect light from six LED lights shining gold and purple and the stars glimmer in the sunshine. The 25-foot art includes 2,800 separate pieces in all and took six months to create.



The next pieces of art to be installed at the park will be “The Explorers,” a bronze sculpture representing two boys and a girl playing on a log, and “American Worker,” a bronze statue paying tribute to the working class.

evident that his energy and enthusiasm have not wavered.

“I think it's the people I work with; we have a great staff. We're small but very close,” Steve says. “And it's the volunteers that serve on commissions. On top of that, I've been fortunate enough to have the support of all the mayors and councils I've worked with.”

And that's a lot of elected officials. Since he was hired as a recreation supervisor on Nov. 1, 1974, Steve has worked with eight different mayors.

As one would expect, there have been a lot of changes in the Recreation Department over the years, including program diversity. While most of us think of the sports staples like softball and basketball, Coeur d'Alene's Recreation Department offers much more for “kids” of all ages.

Steve rattles off a list of some of the programs offered by the department: swim lessons, a summer arts program, tennis, football ... even dodge ball for adults and yoga for seniors.

Steve's department also works closely with Special Needs Recreation of Kootenai County, which offers various recreation programs for special needs children who have problems participating in other programs. And his crew organizes the annual Kiddie Parade downtown, which kicks off the Fourth of July festivities. This year, the July 3 event attracted more than 1,000 youngsters.

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YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

Coeur d'Green™: The efficiencies of biosolids composting

In 1990, the city constructed the region's first composting facility for municipal biosolids. Biosolids are byproducts of municipal wastewater treatment. Composting the treated and dewatered "sludge" from the wastewater treatment is both environmentally friendly and cost effective.

"We're spending less money composting sludge than hauling it to Wenatchee, Washington, for land application or to a private composting firm in Missoula, Montana," said Coeur d'Alene wastewater superintendent Sid Fredrickson. Coeur d'Green™ meets all federal regulations for unrestricted horticulture use, including vegetable gardens. The city's composting facility makes about 3,500 cubic yards (equivalent to 350 dump truck loads) of compost a year. It is sold wholesale to nurseries and landscaping contractors for \$15 per yard.



"It's not a fertilizer, it's soil amendment," Fredrickson said. "That means mixed in with the soil it holds the moisture better and the micronutrients in Coeur d'Green™ help stimulate plant growth."

CITY SCOPE

City employees to make a difference by participating in Convoy of Hope



City employees will join Mayor Steve Widmyer in helping to bring a smile to the faces of local schoolchildren during the Convoy of Hope North Idaho event next month at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds.

A group of city employees is planning to take part in this great cause on Saturday, September 6, starting at 10 a.m. City volunteers will staff a booth and give away school supplies to children in need.

"This is a great event that has positively impacted the lives of millions of people around the world over the past 45 years and I'm thrilled to be a part of it," Mayor Widmyer said.

Founded in 1994, the Day of Hope movement is designed to transform people's lives, inspire compassion and service, and bring people and organizations together. The humanitarian-relief organization brings hope to those in need by providing free groceries, health screenings, job services, and other necessities.

Make no mistake, recreational programs and activities are for everyone. And as affordable as the programs are, scholarships are given to those with limited means. "We've never turned anybody away," Anthony said.

As if Steve's recreation plate weren't full enough, he also serves as the staff liaison to the Arts Commission. "I volunteered for the position," he said with a smile. Though he has no experience in art and is by no means an artist, Steve said the opportunity appealed to him.

"For one thing they (Arts Commission) are 100 percent funded," he said. "With the rec department you have to go out and beat the bushes. With arts, you have the money; you just have to be sure and spend it wisely."

Having no experience in art didn't faze him.

"I'm probably a dreamer," he said. "I looked at the Arts Commission (before volunteering) and realized it had no structure. I felt I had the ability, at least, to develop a master plan and put structure into place to make it work."



Steve Anthony with his Wife & Grandchildren
L-R Aubrey, Robin, Chloe, Steve, Ryder, Lane