



City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Milestones Newsletter

Issue 81/February 2021

IN THE NEWS

Levee Repair Work

The Streets and Engineering team has been repairing damage to the levee. More than a dozen trees fell during last month's wind storm with many of them uprooting and creating large holes in the banks of the levee. The City Engineer, Chris Bosley, performed an assessment of the levee shortly after the windstorm to note the condition of the levee and needed repairs. Streets and Engineering crews worked hard to remove the fallen trees and root balls, backfill the holes, and compact the soil. Repairs are necessary to bring the levee back to satisfactory condition before the lake and river levels rise with spring runoff. Additionally, soil cracking was observed around the base of dozens more trees, a sign of potentially compromised root systems. The City's Urban Forester, Nick Goodwin, inspected the trees, along with NIC staff to assess the health of these trees, and unfortunately many of these trees are being removed to prevent further damage and to alleviate safety concerns.



[Newsletter Archives](#)



CITY FACES



VICTOR RAMOS
PLANNING TECHNICIAN
COMMUNITY PLANNING
DEPARTMENT

Municipal Milestones recently caught up with newly hired Planning Technician Victor Ramos, to learn more about his role with the City.

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CDA Building Department Expedites Permits for Wind Damaged Buildings

With the widespread damage caused by the recent wind storm, cleanup and repairs have become a priority for many people. The City of Coeur d'Alene understands the need to start work quickly in order to protect property from additional damage due to winter weather. To that end, the City is giving priority to the issuance of permits needed to complete these urgent repairs.

In many cases, permits are required for building, mechanical, and plumbing repairs even in emergencies. Some repairs may require a licensed design professional to assess structural damages and provide a design for the repairs. The City encourages people whose property was damaged in the wind storm to contact the Building Services Department (208-769-2267) for information on the permit requirements or any other questions they might have.

Atlas Well Rehabilitation Project Begins

Specialty Pump Service is in the process of pulling the pump and motor at the Atlas well. Pump rehabilitation is scheduled at one of the wells each year, and the City receives roughly 10-years of use out of a pump and motor before they are pulled for maintenance and repairs. Specialty Pump Service will be pulling out 280' of 14" column pipe, and 280' of 2 3/16" pump shaft on this project.



Tell us a little bit about your background and experience:

I graduated from Eastern Washington University in 2019, where I earned my bachelors in Urban and Regional Planning. I have a passion for planning and enjoy helping serve others. I grew up the 12th of twelve children in the Yakima Valley in central Washington. I come from a migrant working family and do not shy away from hard work or a challenge.

What kind of training do you need to be a Planning Technician?

The Planning Technician requires, at a minimum, the completion of an associate's degree in urban planning, architecture, construction management, social sciences or related fields. Planning Technicians must be well versed in people skills and provide good customer service. Experience in plan review, zoning administration, building code issuance, and surveying are also required.

What does a Planning Technician do?

The position of Planning Technician, which may also be called GIS Technician/Analyst, Code Enforcement Technician, Zoning Technician, or other specialized technician, is entry-level paraprofessional work. The Planning Technician devotes a significant amount of time on routine administrative tasks. Planning

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Library Sets Up Two Family Read, Play and Learn Centers

Coeur d'Alene Public Library's very own Outreach Services Librarian, Char Beach has set up two Family Read, Play and Learn Centers at local Laundromats after receiving a grant from the Idaho Commission for Libraries, which provided the furniture and materials for the Centers.

The two laundromats are the Coeur d'Alene Laundry & Dry Cleaning at 179 Haycraft Avenue, and Hayden Laundry & Dry Cleaning at 240 W. Hayden Avenue, next to Super 1 Foods. Owner Pat Boland has always had a spot for little folks there and is happy to be able to add a literacy component to the mix. Now a collection of Children's books on a nice new bookshelf awaits kids and families who are hanging out waiting for their laundry.



Too Small to Fail, an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, is leading a public awareness and action campaign to promote the importance of early brain and language development and to empower parents with tools to talk, read, and sing with their young children from birth. Too Small to Fail is partnering with the Coin Laundry Association (CLA) to engage families through 5,000 laundromats across the country to support children's early brain and language development. The initiative, called "Wash Time is Talk Time," includes the distribution of information and resources including posters for laundromats, early literacy-themed coloring pages for children, and tip sheets for parents.

Technicians often work closely with the public on a regular basis to provide customer service on planning issues.

What do you enjoy most about your job? I enjoy working with people. My job can range day-to-day with new projects and interesting questions to answer. I like being able to make a difference in people's lives when serving the community of Coeur d'Alene. I feel good about being a part of something bigger than myself.

What about your family and interests? Some of my interest include walking my dog Oliver, cooking new recipes, and spending time with friends and family. I like to stay active by hiking, biking, and finding a new trail to go for a run. Staying active is important to me when I have the free time. My family is very important to me.

What do you love most about Coeur d'Alene and North Idaho? I enjoy the parks, downtown, and the beautiful scenery of the outdoors that surrounds the City of Coeur d'Alene. I love what Northern Idaho has to offer. I've always enjoyed the great outdoors.

