



## City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Milestones Newsletter

Issue 16/September 2015

### IN THE NEWS

#### Parks and Rec Team Awarded for Customer Service

Hats off to the city's Parks and Recreation staff, which recently received the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce's Service Excellence Award. The monthly honor recognizes businesses and organizations that go above and beyond expectations to provide fantastic customer service, said Marilee Wallace, Membership Development Director for the Chamber. Parks and Recreation Director Steve Anthony praised his team for the award. "These are our frontline people that deal with thousands of customers and to be recognized with this award is an honor," Anthony said.



#### ADA Accessible Ramp Dedicated at Independence Point

Thanks to generous donations from the Panhandle Kiwanis, Sunrise Rotary and Avista Utilities, a wheelchair-accessible ramp leading to the water at Independence Point has been installed. Project cost is \$14,000 and made possible by these organizations.



Independence Point has been installed. Project cost is \$14,000 and made possible by these organizations.

"This will allow people that couldn't get into the water to enjoy the lake," said Virgil Edwards of the Disability Action Center. "It provides another

level of independence." Two ramps provide access to the lake, according to Parks and Recreation Director Steve Anthony. One runs into the water and the other along the shoreline.

### Newsletter Archives



### CITY FACES



#### Katie Kosanke: Growing a Healthier Urban Forest

Recognized as a Tree City USA for 31 years, the city of Coeur d'Alene takes pride in its flourishing inventory of trees that continues to grow with the community. Nurturing a healthy urban forest is no small task and at the helm of it is Urban Forestry Coordinator Katie Kosanke. Municipal Milestones recently caught up with Katie to learn more about her role and the importance of city trees to a thriving community.

**How did you become involved in urban forestry and how long have you been with the city?** I have always had a special

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## Cd'A Seeking Student Reps to Volunteer on Boards

There are currently several openings on city boards, commissions and committees for student volunteers.

Any high school student living within School District 271 and who is between the ages of 14 and 18 is welcome to apply. The deadline is September 30.



Volunteering on a city panel is a fulfilling community commitment, looks great on job applications, provides invaluable learning experiences and is an opportunity to give back. Student volunteers DO make a difference. Visit [goo.gl/oEA9AA](http://goo.gl/oEA9AA) for an application form or contact [amyf@cdaid.org](mailto:amyf@cdaid.org). Applications are also available at City Hall, 710 Mullan Avenue.

## City Recognizes 610 Years of Public Service

From 5 years to an impressive 40 years, city of Coeur d'Alene employees were



recently recognized the milestones of numerous public servants who dedicate their time to make the city a better place to live. During a lunch at the Avista Pavilion at McEuen Park, long-time employees were recognized for their service. The city's longest-serving employee, Parks & Recreation Director

Steve Anthony, was congratulated for his 40 years of service with the city.

## New Winton School Dedicated

More than 100 people, including Coeur d'Alene Mayor Steve Widmyer, Chamber of Commerce CEO Steve Wilson, Coeur d'Alene School Board Chairman Christa Hazel and School Superintendent Matt Handleman attended the recent dedication of the upgraded Winton Elementary School.



The new 52,000-square-foot building sits on the site of the former 89-year-old school at 920 W. Lacrosse, northwest of downtown Coeur d'Alene. General contractor, T. W. Clark Construction, LLC, of Spokane, completed construction earlier this month—on time and on schedule.

interest in trees and went to college for environmental science. I jumped right into urban forestry nearly eight years ago after being hired by the city of Coeur d'Alene. I was fortunate to work closely with Urban Forester Karen Haskew, who established many of the current successful programs.

### As the city's urban forester, what are your primary responsibilities?

There are over 21,000 street trees, 4,700 park trees and countless trees in natural open space areas that the city is responsible for. Making sure that trees are healthy and safe is the number one priority. A big part of my job is issuing permits for planting, pruning and for approved removals. I work closely with abutting property owners to resolve many challenging tree issues since they are responsible for maintaining the trees in the right-of-way. I am involved in the planning process to make sure that street trees are included in every residential and commercial project. I coordinate contract street tree planting projects each year as well as contracting other major park tree work. I've been involved in various ladder fuel reduction projects in natural open space properties and many seedling plantings. Much work is accomplished with help from our hard working Parks Department personnel, assistance from other city departments, and countless volunteers.

### Why is a healthy, "tree-friendly" community important?

Having a healthy tree-friendly community is important as healthy trees provide many environmental, social and economic benefits. Trees supply oxygen, mitigate stormwater run-off, and decrease energy use. Trees make Coeur d'Alene a beautiful city for people to live in, to visit, and create a wonderful sense of place.

### Coeur d'Alene is known as a Tree City USA.

**What does that mean?** Coeur d'Alene has been a Tree City USA for 31 years, which is quite the accomplishment. The program is

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## More than 600 Attend Ales to Trails Fundraiser

Organizers of the annual Ales to Trails event, which supports the North Idaho



Centennial Trail system throughout the community, said the recent event at McEuen Park was a big success. "It was apparent throughout the entire event that people were smiling, dancing, and visiting with friends—all for a great cause," said Greta Gissel,

Executive Director of the North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation.

More than \$15,000 was raised to support the local trail network, Gissel said. The money will go toward preserving, promoting and developing the North Idaho Centennial Trail network.

## CITY SCOPE

### East Sherman Block Party Set for September 18-19

Come join the fun! The 1600 block of Sherman Avenue will be transformed into a party zone September 18-19 during a block party that is part of the visioning and master planning effort to revitalize the city's eastern gateway. There will be live music, food trucks, a beer garden, lawn games and more. The event will run 4-9 p.m. on Friday, September 18, and 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19. It's a weekend of fun with a creative spin!



through the national Arbor Day Foundation and to qualify a city must have a tree committee, a tree care ordinance, must spend at least \$2 per capita on tree-related tasks and have an Arbor Day observance and Proclamation. In 2014, 803 new street trees and 800 tree seedlings were planted through various projects and through development requirements. Each year the \$2 per capital is well-exceeded through tree requirements, staff time, grants and volunteer hours.

**Looking ahead, what would you like to see with Coeur d'Alene's tree inventory?** Having a tree inventory is important to know what trees are where, what condition they are in and what maintenance tasks are needed. It is important to be continually planting trees, but also to be making sure the ones we have are cared for. I would like to see a more advanced inventory data collection system, which we are currently working toward. In the long term, I would like to see more comprehensive care of all of the street trees.

**Can we get a little personal background? Education, family, etc.** I am a Certified Arborist and Certified Tree Risk Assessor through the International Society of Arboriculture. I have a degree in Environmental Science from Spokane Community College and attended the Community Tree Management Institute. In my free time, I love gardening and spending time outdoors hiking and camping with my husband and two boys.

