



Issue 4/September 2014

**IN THE NEWS**

**Police Chief Lee White Sworn In**

Lee R. White this week became the Lake City’s 14th Chief of Police as he was welcomed to the police force by Coeur d’Alene Mayor Steve Widmyer. During a brief swearing in ceremony at Coeur d’Alene police headquarters, Mayor Widmyer praised the veteran lawman and expressed his confidence in his ability



to run the department “with outstanding leadership, knowledge and professionalism.”

Chief White brings 21 years of law enforcement experience from the Mesa, Arizona, Police Department where he worked his way from patrol officer to assistant police chief. He has a bachelor’s degree in

criminal justice from Arizona State University and a master’s degree in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University.

**Sherman Avenue Police Substation Opens**

After months of preparation, Coeur d’Alene now has its second police station. Local law enforcement officers, city officials and residents attended an open house and ribbon cutting on Tuesday for the Sherman Avenue substation. Interim Police Chief Ron Clark said the increased police visibility in the south part of town is something that’s been talked about for years.

“This is an excellent opportunity for us to really have an impact downtown,” Clark said before joining the mayor and new Police Chief Lee White in cutting the ribbon and officially opening the substation at 1424 Sherman Avenue. The 1000-square-foot building will be staffed by officers and non-sworn police personnel from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Officers will have access to the substation 24/7.

**Newsletter Archives**



**CITY FACES**



**Human Resource Director  
Melissa Tosi:  
Advocating a Strong  
Workforce**

When Melissa Tosi was promoted to Human Resource Director last December, the city of Coeur d’Alene was without a permanent police chief, planning director and parks director. Just a few short months into her new role, the city found itself without a city administrator.

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# City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Milestones Newsletter

## City Employees Mark Milestones

Coeur d'Alene city employees celebrating milestone anniversaries of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 35 years of employment were recently recognized during an Employee Appreciation Barbeque.

Celebrating 35 years with the city were water superintendent Jim Markley and water utility worker Kevin Johnson.

Recognized for 25 years' service to the city were municipal services director Renata McLeod, police officer John Kelly, wastewater collection operator Tom Steele, wastewater field inspector Glenn Shute and wastewater compost facility leader Paul Mitchell.



Pictured L-R: Councilmember Dan Gookin, Jim Markley, Kevin Johnson, Councilmember Kiki Miller, and Mayor Steve Widmyer.

## LCDC Approves \$1.5 Million for River Corridor Acquisition

The Lake City Development Corporation has voted to provide \$1.525 million to help acquire railroad right-of-way property along the Spokane River between the Riverstone development and Huetter. Calling it an "enormous opportunity" to enhance public access to the river, the board voted unanimously to fund

more than half of the \$2.5 million price tag that Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad put on the property. The City Council has voted to borrow money from the wastewater utility to fund its portion of the purchase. The money will be repaid from fees generated from the Spokane River construction.



Phil Boyd, Welch Comer 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. "If we don't buy this now, this opportunity for public access is gone forever," said LCDC board chairman Denny Davis.

## YOUR RATE DOLLARS AT WORK

### Natural Weed Eaters Clean Up!

Eighteen hungry goats spent 64 days this summer munching down weeds at five city wells and four reservoir sites, marking the fourth year goats have been used

Needless to say, it's been a busy nine months for Melissa. It's been seven years since the City has openly recruited for a department head position. Her first major task as HR Director was filling the police chief position. As part of a 14-member selection committee, that role was filled earlier this month by Lee White.

"It was a learning process working with a large selection committee," Melissa said. "Filling a department head position is time consuming and there's a lot of behind-the-scenes work. I think everything flowed well and we definitely selected the right person for the job."

With a new chief on the force, Melissa is now busy working to fill the community planning director and city administrator positions. She plans to have both positions filled later this fall. Also, the Human Resources Department has worked with a variety of different departments this year for a total of 22 various recruitments.

Despite the hectic schedule, Melissa says it's been a "fun and rewarding year." With all that's going on in her world of filling major positions, one must not forget about the existing workforce — a responsibility that keeps Melissa and her assistant, Darci Todd, busy.

"Even though Human Resources is a small department with only two employees, we benefit by being able to work hand-in-hand with all 15 departments and their 350 employees," Melissa said.

A North Idaho native, Melissa graduated from Lakeland High School in Rathdrum and

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# City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Milestones Newsletter

for weed abatement at city water utility facilities. Water Department production supervisor Dion Holton said using the critters to clear weeds is an



effective, low-cost, environmentally friendly solution to control weeds. "The children love it and people who happen by are amused at the friendly goats," he said.

Without the goats, the city would either have to hand pick the weeds or use chemicals. "There

are a whole bunch of bad choices and this is a wonderful alternative," Holton said. The city rents the goats from Green Goat Rental of Hayden. "It would cost the city far more to dedicate personnel to the job," Holton added. Coeur d'Alene's water department was the first municipal utility in the U.S. to use goats to clear weeds.

## CITY SCOPE

### Cd'A Fire Department Open House is Saturday

The Coeur d'Alene Fire Department will hold an open house on Saturday, September 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Fire Station No. 3, located at 1500 N. 15th Street.

The event will be packed with fun and education as well as a free hot dog lunch. The theme this year is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives." Joining firefighters at the open house will be Coeur d'Alene police, the Coeur d'Alene Firefighters Pipes and Drums, and Sparky the Fire Dog!



Attractions include Life Flight medical helicopter, Idaho Disaster Dogs, a fire extinguisher demonstration and a combat challenge for kids.

The Coeur d'Alene Fire Department is celebrating 125 years of service this year. Join the celebration!

the University of Idaho with a degree in psychology. She joined the city in 1998 as a legal assistant and became an assistant in human resources in 2000.

"I feel very fortunate to have ended up in the Human Resources profession. It was a good transition from my education and I am able to engage with employees on various matters on a daily basis. Every day is a new day in Human Resources," she said.

Melissa is married to Matthew Tosi, an engineer with the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department. They have two children, Gavin, 4, and Cameron, 1. Since childhood, Melissa has always loved horses and frequently competes in regional barrel racing with her horse, Smarty.



HR Director Melissa Tosi participating in a regional barrel racing event.