IN THE NEWS

2021 Spring Clean-Up

The City of Coeur d’Alene Streets & Engineering Department has begun their annual spring clean-up program with a city-wide street sweeping. They are currently sweeping the main arterials and collector streets to be followed by residential streets. Street sweeping reduces dust and creates an environment that benefits all of us. The stormwater drainage crews will follow with the cleaning of the city catch basin drains. The removal of sand, rock and debris from the basins prohibits pollutants from plugging the drainage system and discharging to our lake and river.

Successful Spring Clean-Up Tips:

- **Sweep your sidewalks as soon as possible.** It's okay to sweep sidewalk sand debris into the street for sweepers to pick up during the Spring Clean-up. Please **do not** make piles in the gutter; sweepers are not designed to handle excessive amounts of sand, gravel, dirt or large rocks. Once the sweepers have passed, please do not sweep into the street.

- **Do not** put debris such as sod, garden or wood waste, limbs or branches in the street.

- Move parked cars if you hear the sweeper in your neighborhood.

- Trim low hanging branches and limbs from your curbside trees, shrubs or plants to allow the sweeper to clean as close to the curb as possible.

Municipal Milestones recently caught up with newly hired GIS Coordinator Nick McCausland, to learn more about his role with the City.

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Tell us a little bit about your background and experience:
I started using ESRI ArcGIS software in 2012 while in the Army. I really enjoyed it, so I took classes in it when I went to college. I completed internships and did undergraduate research using the ArcGIS software. Then in 2016, after graduating from Central Washington University, I received a job as a Visual Data Specialist with Google. After my time at Google, I went to work for the Cities of Mount Vernon and Mountlake Terrace as a GIS Specialist.

What kind of training do you need to be a GIS Coordinator?
You have to know the GIS software extremely well. Coeur d’Alene is my third City I have worked for and having an in-depth understanding of the software has helped me a lot because even though the ArcMap is the same everywhere you go, the databases, naming conventions, and processes are always different. Since it’s not an intuitive software, having a lot of experience using it for different projects is key.

What does a GIS Coordinator do?
I work with most departments within the city to provide graphics, maps, and web maps. My job is to provide services using the GIS software to make it easier for people to do their jobs.

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Fire EMS Officer Scott Dietrich and K9 Tamarack

K9 Tamarack is a 17-month-old red fox Labrador. He is the newest member of the Idaho Disaster Dogs team and is in training to become a human remains dog. He was donated to the team by Susan Conti, a Labrador breeder in Rathdrum, Idaho. The Fire Department plans to have K9 Tamarack take his Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certification exam this fall. Until then, Fire EMS Officer Scott Dietrich will continue to train with him as he has to be proficient in obedience, directionals, agility, and search, prior to testing. K9 Tamarack’s favorite two things are playing fetch and swimming. The ultimate is when these activities are combined. He has a wonderful temperament and is a very intelligent dog. EMS Officer Dietrich stated “It has been so much fun learning right alongside of him”.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
What I enjoy most about my job is the fact that almost every day I work on a different project. It keeps my job fresh and is fun because every new project, brings new challenges.

What about your family and interests?
My wife and I are thankful to be here because we have a lot of family in the Spokane area. We have been wanting to move here for a few years now, so we feel blessed to be here. As for interests, I would say I am an outdoors enthusiast. On the weekend you can find me at home shooting my bow or taking my son for a bike ride. I love to do most things outside which include: hunting, fishing, hiking, cycling, snowboarding, BBQing, and riding motorcycles and quads.

What do you love most about Coeur d’Alene and North Idaho?
I love almost everything about Coeur d’Alene and North Idaho. Loving the outdoors makes this an ideal community for my family.