



City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Milestones Newsletter

Issue 13/June 2015

IN THE NEWS

City Finalizes Purchase of Railroad Property

The City of Coeur d'Alene and the Lake City Development Corporation (LCDC) recently completed the acquisition of a 2.2-mile stretch of former railroad right-of-way adjacent to the Spokane River. The land purchase will allow opportunities for improved public access and economic development along the waterfront.



“Without the right-of-way, no one would look at those parcels because that property was tied up by the railroad,” said Mayor Steve Widmyer. “This is a tremendous opportunity.” After four years of negotiations, the city and LCDC finalized the \$2.5 million land purchase earlier this month.

COPS Grant Could Help Fund 3 New Officers

The city is moving forward with a plan to seek a federal grant to hire three new police officers who would form a Community Action Team that would be based at the police department’s substation on E. Sherman Avenue and focus on building community relations. If approved, the grant will fund up to 75 percent of the officers’ wages and benefits up to \$125,000 per officer, Police Chief Lee White told the General Services Committee.



The grant would provide funding for three years. The Police Department would be required to keep the additional officers at least four years so funding for the fourth year would need to be identified by the city.

Newsletter Archives



CITY FACES



Kenny Gabriel:

A Fire Chief Committed to Excellence

On May 19, Coeur d'Alene voters overwhelmingly supported a \$6 million, 10-year public safety bond to fund capital expenditures for the Police and Fire Departments. Fire Chief Kenny Gabriel said passage of the bond was critical and will help lower response time for his busy department in the rapidly growing

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New Budget Survey Now Available Online

The City of Coeur d'Alene invites citizens to participate in the 2015-16 Budget Survey. Data collected from the brief survey will be reviewed by city staff and the City Council to help shape the budget planning process. We appreciate your participation and value your input. To take the brief survey, visit the city's website (cdaid.org) and click on the Budget Survey button.



51 Heroes Honored During 'Day of Heroes' Event

There was an outpouring of support for local law enforcement officials and other public servants during the "Day of Heroes" event held recently at City Park in downtown. This celebration was organized to recognize local individuals who have made a meaningful contribution to the community through their hard work, acts of service, or acts of heroism. In all, 51 local heroes were nominated and recognized, including Coeur d'Alene Police Sgt. Greg Moore, who was killed in the line of duty last month.



Tubbs Hill Accessible Trail Dedicated

People passionate about Tubbs Hill gathered recently to dedicate the improved 1,600-foot section of trail at the scenic natural park that has been made more accessible to seniors and the physically challenged. About 75 attended the ceremony, including city officials, members of the Tubbs Hill Foundation, and disabled citizens. During the ceremony, several speakers recognized



Tom McTevia, who was instrumental in initiating the trail improvements.

McTevia died in April following a tragic ATV accident. Officials plan to memorialize McTevia at the site and will announce plans as they are finalized.

northwest part of town. Municipal Milestones recently caught up with Chief Gabriel to learn a little more about the man who oversees the Fire Department.

How long have you been with the C'dA Fire Department and did you always know growing up that you wanted to be a firefighter?

I have been with the Fire Department 28 years. I must admit, growing up it was never something I really gave much thought. What I really wanted to do was be a forest ranger, but when my brother talked me into coming to a drill at the station, I was hooked and have put all my energy into it ever since.

When you started your career, did you ever envision being Chief someday?

Not in the least. I felt so blessed to be part of the Fire Department I could never see myself coming off the line and into administration because I loved being in the public and responding to calls. When the opportunity to promote came up, I saw a situation that I could not pass up.

What is the most challenging issue facing the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department currently?

Growth. We struggle with our ability to keep up with calls and respond in a timely manner while keeping up with all the other "stuff" we need to do, such as training. Luckily we have an outstanding group of employees that are up for the task.

How important was passage of the public safety bond in May?

It was vitally important to the Fire Department, Police Department, and the City. I can't put it into words how thankful we are for the community support. We feel fortunate that we could properly

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Cd'A Police Cars Going to Black and White

The Coeur d'Alene Police Department recently unveiled a new look for its patrol cars. Already, the first new "black and white" is on patrol. Chief Lee White said



the new look will be phased in over time. Six new cars that were budgeted for last year will soon be received and wrapped with the new decals.

The purchase next year of new patrol cars will also have the new look. "The design of our new police cars is steeped in tradition, provides

for better visibility for the public, and is a source of pride for our officers. We are pleased to share this new design with our citizens," Chief White said.

CITY SCOPE

East Sherman Town Hall Meeting Set for June 18

The City of Coeur d'Alene and CDA 2030 will hold a second public forum on June 18 to gather community input on possible revitalization efforts along East Sherman Avenue. The meeting will be held at the Harding Family Center, 411 N. 15th Street, from 5-7 p.m.

"This is an exciting opportunity to create a collective vision for the eastern gateway to Coeur d'Alene," said Community Planning Director Hilary Anderson. "We want businesses, property owners, and residents along East Sherman, as well as other stakeholder groups and the greater Coeur d'Alene community to join the conversation and tell us what they like, what they don't like, and what they envision as the future of the East Sherman corridor."

EAST SHERMAN TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Join the conversation about East Sherman & help create a vision for the corridor!

The City of Coeur d'Alene and CDA 2030 are hosting two town hall meetings in June to kick off a visioning and master planning effort for the East Sherman Avenue corridor.

Mark your calendar and join us on

June 3rd from 5-7 pm
Library Community Room (702 E. Front Ave.)

June 18th from 5-7 pm
Harding Family Center (411 N. 15th St.)

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION:

City Planning Department
760.2240 / planning@iv@cdad.org / www.cdad.org

CDA 2030
415.8112 / info@cda2030.org / www.cda2030.org

Did you know? Creating an East Sherman Avenue Master Plan to revitalize the city's eastern gateway was identified as an Action Spotlight project in the CDA 2030 Implementation Plan.

educate the community on our needs, but also we feel like it is a report card on how we deliver service.

There are plans for a fourth fire station in Coeur d'Alene. Can you tell us about that?

The fourth fire station will be in the northwest part of the city. With the growth in that area we are not able to meet our response time goals. The bond was a large part in the opening of the fourth station; it is part of a four-part plan to open the station and enhance service. We needed the bond to buy our large dollar amount items, fire engines. We recognized the potential for growth in that area and secured a piece of property for the station over ten years ago. We also adjusted our impact fee schedule to reflect true needs and costs for fire department facilities. Lastly, and most important, we need to work with the Mayor and City Council to fund the additional nine firefighters necessary to open the station. Our goal is to open the station in late 2016.

Where did you grow up and what is your educational background?

I am a proud graduate of Lakeland High School and grew up in the Spirit Lake area. I also have many professional certifications and certificates. A goal of mine is to finish my degree in the near future as I want to be an example for the members of the department that you can use your training towards a degree. Education is a very important part of our jobs.

What about family?

I have been married to my wonderful wife, Wendy, for nearly 10 years. We are a blended family with five kids: Magan, Aaron, Ryan, Caitlin and Erin, and four spectacular grandchildren — Cedar, O'rion, Flint and Charlie, with another one on the way!