



City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Milestones Newsletter

Issue 17/October 2015

IN THE NEWS

Most Favor Expanding Cd'A Bike Lane System

By an overwhelming margin, citizens responding to Coeur d'Alene's September online "CityPoll" support expanding the city's bike lane system. As of Wednesday, 95 percent of voters (1,570) favored a continued focus on improving the trail system, while 5 percent (86) did not. Trail expansion is expected to continue, according to city officials. "With the addition of the recently purchased BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and BNSF (Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad) property, the city has a great opportunity to extend trails west toward Huetter Road," said Coeur d'Alene Parks and Recreation Director Steve Anthony.



To cast your vote in the October "CityPoll," visit cdaid.org and click on the CityPoll button on the bottom of the homepage.



New Pickleball Courts Open at Northshire Park

The new pickleball courts at Northshire Park (at the intersection of Nez Perce and Atlas Roads) were made possible through funding from the Coeur d'Alene Pickleball Association. "The sport is huge," said Coeur d'Alene Parks

Newsletter Archives



CITY FACES



Mike Willis: Following a Visionary Road to Cd'A

When Mike Willis visited Coeur d'Alene awhile back, the "City with a Heart" tugged at his heart. He knew it was a place he

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Superintendent Bill Greenwood. "The recent tournament attracted hundreds of people and the community buzz about the event was really positive."

A rapidly growing sport, pickleball has soared in popularity locally in recent years. A recent Summer Pickleball Classic Tournament at Cherry Hill Park attracted more than 200 participants from 15 states and four Canadian provinces.

Walkers Unite for Suicide Prevention Awareness

More than 100 people took part in the 7th annual "Save the One" Suicide Prevention Memorial Walk recently under sunny skies along Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive. This walk is to honor those that we have lost, raise awareness about suicide prevention and support educational activities.



Mayor Steve Widmyer welcomed the crowd with some eye-opening statistics about suicide, including that it is the 11th leading cause of death in the U.S., and the 3rd leading cause of death between 15- and 24-year-olds. He thanked the group of walkers and said events like the awareness walk really can make a difference.

Free Street Trees Available to Cd'A Residents

The city of Coeur d'Alene has announced the availability of small species street trees to be planted in public right-of-way areas where there are overhead power



lines within the city limits.

The trees are available to homeowners or residents who are willing to provide care, including watering and protecting from mowers and trimmers, according to Coeur d'Alene Urban Forestry Coordinator Katie Kosanke. More information is available online at

www.cdaidparks.org. You can also send an email to kkosanke@cdaid.org, or call the Urban Forestry division of the Parks Department at 769-2266.

wanted to live and was determined to make it happen. It did. Recently hired as the city's Assistant Street Superintendent, Mike is ecstatic to have relocated from Virginia to take on a job at the Lake City. Municipal Milestones recently caught up with Mike to learn more about his new role and his love for the area.

What is your professional background? For the last nine years, I have been a construction superintendent for a general construction contractor working primarily on federal government installations around the Washington D.C. area. During my time there, I managed all phases of commercial construction from small renovations to new building construction. I also have worked for a home builder where I managed the construction process for approximately 50 homes. I am a United States Air Force veteran. I was an active duty Security Forces Airman for four years and deployed on three different occasions to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

What will your primary responsibilities be as Assistant Street Superintendent? To serve the men and women of the Street Department as a member of their management team. Since the Street Department's role and workload has expanded so drastically over recent years, my position has been created out of necessity to ensure that team leaders have immediate access to management personnel. This is imperative to ensure that our Street Department personnel have the resources they need to succeed. By improving communication between our crews in the field and our management staff, we are enabling ourselves to increase our productivity, efficiency, and ultimately our quality of service to the citizens of Coeur d'Alene.

You moved to this area from the East Coast. What was your attraction to North Idaho? I could go on forever about the endless opportunities that North Idaho offers for someone who is passionate about anything

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Sorority Sisters Unite to Clean Up Tubbs Hill

More than 170 sorority members from Washington State University volunteered their time recently to pitch in and clean litter from Tubbs Hill. The public service activity was provided by the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. “We wanted to help give back to the community and clean up a place that so many people enjoy,” said Kappa Kappa Gamma President Taylor Lange. “Tubbs Hill is such a great place to come and we’re thrilled to do our part to keep it nice.” The sorority plans to make the Tubbs Hill clean up an annual event.



CITY SCOPE

Fall Fest/Apple Palooza Coming October 31 and November 7

The Coeur d'Alene Downtown Association invites you to shop and taste the best of the fall harvest at Fall Fest, Saturday, October 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the grass at 6th & Sherman, and Apple Palooza on Saturday, November 7th, with Wines for the Holidays.



There will be music, food, harvest produce, hay rides, and apple delights throughout the Downtown. Pick up your maps and People’s Choice ballots at 5th & Sherman.

outdoors. However, the single greatest draw to this area is the kindness of its people. There is something so refreshing about being surrounded with such a strong sense of community. I truly can’t emphasize enough how fortunate we all are to be here. I have had the opportunity to visit almost every state and I have literally been all over the world. North Idaho, by far, is the greatest place that I have ever been and my wife and I feel blessed to be able to raise our son here and now call it home.

What is your educational background? I did not pursue a college education in the traditional way that most people do. To be honest, I actually thought that college wasn’t even a possibility for me when I was younger. Thanks to the military GI Bill, I was provided the opportunity to attend. Since my career was well underway, I decided to attend classes online through the University of Phoenix. It was there that I earned my Bachelor’s Degree in Business and a Master’s Degree in Management.

Can you tell us about your family? I am blessed with a beautiful wife, Leah, and we have a 15-month-old son, Joshua. Leah loves being outdoors and is passionate about playing tennis or any other competitive sport. Leah attended UVA where she earned her PhD in Biology. She put her education to use over the past 10 years as a biologist doing forensics for the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, Virginia. Excited about the arrival of our son, she has eagerly anticipated moving to Coeur d’Alene and staying at home with him until he goes to school. I think that Joshua is the luckiest kid in the world being able to grow up under the care of someone as wonderful as his mother and in a place as great as Coeur d’Alene!