



In The News

Message from Mayor Gookin

I've often joked that the unofficial Idaho state motto is, "We've always done it this way." While I doubt this phrase (or its fancy Latin translation) will ever make it onto the state flag, it holds both humor and truth. Just because it's "always" been done a certain way doesn't mean it's the best way.

For our city, 2026 marks a year of transition, what I consider a happy move away from the "we've always done it this way" line of thinking.

The big transition for me is that I now serve as your mayor. For city employees, the transition involves many who have chosen to take the retirement incentives offered by Council. A lot of talent is leaving us, but this change doesn't imply those of us remaining aren't up to the task. In fact, I'm certain many of you welcome such transformation, and are eager for the chance to step up and prove your worth.

Over the next few months, our city will have a new police chief, new administrator, new parks director, and a new fire chief. We will face other challenges as various positions are filled. I plan on looking at the entire organization to ensure that everything is running properly and that the services we provide are above and beyond what's expected.

Most importantly, however, I want you to know that your work, your time, and your input is appreciated. Throughout my political career, I've wanted to hear what people have to say. This desire extends to all city employees. You have a voice, and your opinions and observations are important to me. *Continued, page 2*

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Dan Gookin 208.667.5200

City Council

Dan English 208.819.0940

Amy Evans 208.819.1349

Kenny Gabriel 208.660.6828

Kiki Miller 208.661.1778

Christie Wood 208.819.5274

CITY DEPARTMENTS

Main Line 208.769.2300

Building Services 208.769.2267

Engineering 208.769.2235

Finance/Utilities 208.769.2227

Fire 208.769.2340

Human Resources 208.769.2205

Legal 208.769.2348

Library 208.769.2315

Municipal Services 208.769.2300

Parks 208.769.2252

Planning 208.769.2274

Police 208.769.2320

Recreation 208.769.2250

Streets 208.769.2235

Wastewater 208.769.2281

Water 208.769.2210



**CITY COUNCIL AND
COMMISSION
MEETING
INFORMATION**

City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Tuesday each
month
6:00 pm

Library Community Room
[Council Agenda Packets](#)

Ped/Bike Committee

1st Wednesday each month
4:00 pm
City Hall

Planning Commission

2nd Tuesday each month
5:30 pm
Library Community Room

Urban Forestry Committee

3rd Friday each month
8:00 am
City Hall

Park and Rec Commission

Monday before 3rd Tuesday
5:30 pm
Library Community Room

Arts Commission

4th Tuesday each month
4:00 pm
City Hall

**Historic Preservation
Commission Meeting**

4th Wednesday each month
12:00 pm
City Hall

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Message from Mayor Gookin, cont.

I cannot make a good decision in the dark, nor can I feel confident moving forward if I'm constantly being told "yes." I would rather hear bad news directly and to the point. And I always welcome criticism, even if you're reluctant to give it, because I respect honesty and integrity.

The only way this city can succeed is when everyone is valued. As your new mayor, I want you to know that. Once upon a time we may have "always done it that way," but such limited thinking should never hinder our future potential.

I look forward to meeting with you, to hearing what you have to say, and to serving you for the next four years as your mayor.

Happy New Year, everyone.

Dan Gookin
Mayor

Preventing Frozen Pipes

When cold weather arrives, the city receives calls regarding frozen pipes. Most often the freeze-up occurs on the customer's side of the meter due to exposed pipes. This is the customer's responsibility.

Customers can reduce their chances of having their pipes freeze by taking a few steps as outlined below:

- Make sure you have disconnected all outside garden hoses.
- Check your foundation or crawl space vents – if they aren't covered, or the vents aren't closed for the winter, they should be, and they can be insulated.
- Along with foundation vents, check for any other openings that might cause wind to blow into your crawl space. A frosty draft quickly primes a pipe to freeze.
- Exposed pipes freeze first. If you have a crawl space, make sure these pipes are covered with appropriate insulating material and possibly heat tape.
- On very cold nights, you might want to open the doors on any cabinets installed near an exterior wall. Opening cabinet doors allows warmer, room-temperature air to circulate which helps prevent freezing.
- Be prepared – know where your water shut-off is located in the house or apartment.

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Preventing Frozen Pipes, cont.

If a freeze-up occurs and if the structure is a trailer or a home with a crawl space, go into the crawl space and check the pipe bringing water into the structure. This is most commonly the problem.

DO NOT THAW WITH AN OPEN FLAME! The best way to thaw the pipe is to use a hair dryer, although it can also be done with a portable or area heater that does not use an open flame. Any electric devices used to thaw frozen pipes should be placed in such a way so that they do not get wet should the pipe begin leaking water once the ice is thawed.



You can prevent a recurrence by making sure the pipe is covered with insulation (heat tape is best) and ensuring that the vents and openings are closed. The second most common cause of a freeze-up is an outside faucet where a hose has been left in place. You can use the same methods as above to thaw it out.

It is not recommended that people leave water running. While this can be an effective way to prevent freeze-ups, people often run too much of a stream of water and end up with very high utility bills. Utility billing will not adjust bills for customers who choose to do this.

When thawing a frozen pipe, it is a good idea for the customer to know how to turn off the water. Most houses have a master shut off. If ice has split a pipe, the water won't run until it has been thawed out.

Water pipes usually aren't high maintenance household items until they freeze and burst. With a little preventative care now, you can avoid frozen pipes.

If you have any questions about preventing freeze ups, call the Water Department at 208-769-2210.

CITY COUNCIL AND COMMISSION MEETING INFORMATION, CONT.

Library Board Meeting

4th Wednesday each month
4:00 pm
Library Community Room

For more information, please visit the [Calendar page](#) on the City of Coeur d'Alene's website.

For meeting agendas, visit

<https://www.cdaid.org/81/departments/municipal/meeting-agendas>



Find the City on Facebook!

[City of Coeur d'Alene](#)

[Coeur d'Alene Fire Department](#)

[Coeur d'Alene Police Department](#)

[Coeur d'Alene Parks and Rec Department](#)



**THIS MONTH'S
EVENTS AT THE
LIBRARY**

Saturday with the Symphony

Ages 3+
Saturday, January 17
11:00 am

Yoga for You

Mondays and Fridays
9:30 am

**Year of Birthdays
Card Crafting Event**

Ages 12+
Saturday, January 17
1:00 pm

Family Paint & Sip

Friday, January 23
9:00 am and 11:00 am

For more information on any
Library event, call
(208) 769-2315, or
visit the Library's
event calendar at:
<https://cdalibrary.org/events/>



Green Screen Series & Eco Film Forum

Join the Library on Saturday, January 10 at 2:00 pm for the Green Screen Series & Eco Film Forum, a thought-provoking and audience-engaging event series hosted by Kootenai Environmental Alliance and the CDA Library.

Our January film is "Trashed." This film investigates the global waste crisis, exploring the monumental impact of modern consumerism and pollution on the environment and human health. Following the film a discussion about waste reduction and recycling will be led by Community panelists Dave Husky, Operations Manager at Kootenai County Solid Waste Department, and local recycling representatives.

<https://cdalibrary.libcal.com/event/15207661>

History Hour Lecture



In this monthly lecture series, join the Library for a special presentation with the Museum of North Idaho featuring a local author or historian who will talk about Idaho's fascinating heritage. Lectures take place in the Library Community Room.

Silencing Thomas Kerl: The Espionage Act of 1917 and the War Against Dissent – Wednesday, January 14 (5:30 pm)

Stephen B. McCrea, former CDA City Councilman and retired attorney, will discuss his book about Thomas Kerl, a Bavarian immigrant, state legislator, farmer, educator, lawyer and philanthropist. During WWI, Thomas Kerl privately expressed doubts about the involvement of the United States and anti-German behavior. These doubts resulted in allegations of violating the Espionage Act of 1917 and a federal trial in Nebraska. Author Stephen B. McCrea will describe how government propaganda resulted in the suppression of Kerl's rights and permeated all levels of society in the early twentieth century. Mr. McCrea is also the author of a fictional novel, "Something Bright and Shiny."

Library Newsletter

Do you want to be in the know for all the events and programming happening at the CDA Library? If so, sign up for the Library's Monthly Newsletter. You'll receive a calendar of events as well as detailed descriptions of all Library programming.

Sign up here: <https://cdalibrary.org/2025/12/01/newsletter>

Family Paint and Sip

Friday, January 23 (9:00 am & 11:00 am)

Looking for something to do while the Coeur d'Alene School District is closed for the day? Join the Library in the Community Room for a lively paint party led by the Children's Librarian. Sip on hot cocoa while using watercolors to create a seasonal painting that's full of winter splendor. Step-by-step instructions will be provided, along with a few songs, a book, and a scrumptious snack! Please note that seating and supplies are limited which is why there are two sessions being offered.



This event is geared towards children ages 4-10 and their caregivers, but all ages are welcome.

Welcome New Employees!

A warm welcome to the following new City employee. The City is privileged to have these talented individuals join as a new team members.

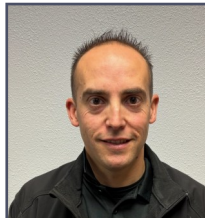
Ben Orchard

IT Utility Operations Specialist
Municipal Services Department



Kevin Pedrosa

Lateral Police Officer
Police Department



Landen Dixon-Water

Utility Operator
Water Department



HELP KEEP THE LIGHTS ON!

Street lights play a vital role in urban environments, providing much more than just illumination after dark.

They contribute to safety, security, and overall quality of life in communities.

If you are aware of a non-working street light, please report it to the City by either calling 208-769-2235 or visit <https://cdaid.org/forms/streetlightout/8>

When reporting a street light outage, it is important to provide the following information in order to expedite the repair process:

- Address
- Pole number (on pole)

Thank you for helping the City keeps the lights on!



Santa Food Drive Recap

Thank you to all who joined the Fire Department for photos with Santa on December 6 at Fire Station #3. 650 pounds of food and \$165 in cash donations were collected.

In addition, the Mobile Santa Food Drive that took place from December 17—December 23 was a huge success! Here are some highlights:

- 7 nights
- 9 pallets full of food
- 23+ family members helping
- 44 firefighter volunteers (new record)
- 350+ hours volunteered
- 3,205.10 dollars donated
- 3,500 candy canes handed out
- 7,893 pounds of food collected



Fire Recruit Graduation

Congratulations to the recent graduates of the Fire Department's 12-week Fire Academy.

The Fire Department is proud of the hard work they have shown thus far and look forward to the excellent service they will provide to the Community!





North Idaho College

2026 INDOOR WINTER YOUTH SOCCER CAMPS!

The City of Coeur d'Alene Parks and Recreation department is excited to continue our partnership with the North Idaho College men's soccer team! These camps will be directed by men's head coach Brad Williams with instruction from players past and present!

SESSION DATES:

SESSION 1: JAN. 21ST - 23RD

SESSION 2: FEB. 4TH - 6TH
(LOCATION TBD)

SESSION 3: MARCH 18TH - 20TH

AGES 5 - 7 (\$35):

5PM - 6PM

AGES 8-12 (\$65):

6PM - 8PM

- ✓ Skill Development Sessions
- ✓ Team-Building Activities
- ✓ Conditioning Training
- ✓ Tactical Coaching



Register online at
teamsideline.com/cdaid



Location:

Woodland Middle School Gymnasium
2101 St Michelle Dr, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815