



In The News

Coeur d'Alene Ranked #2 Small City in the Best-Performing Cities 2024

The City of Coeur d'Alene ranked as the No. 2 Small City in the Best Performing Cities 2024: Focus on Sustainable Growth and Resilience report by the Milken Institute published on February 6, 2024. The city has gained five ranks since last year, and on its six-year streak to be among the top ten best performing cities in the small metropolitan areas.

The report cited that Coeur d'Alene continues to attract high-quality talent and high-wage jobs to the North Idaho regional economy due to its robust and thriving high-tech industry and competitive wage offerings.

The Best Performing Cities (BPC) ranking provides a comprehensive assessment of cities' effectiveness at promoting economic growth while remaining attractive to residents and businesses. The Index is calculated by using a total of 13 measures that fall into three categories such as labor market performance, high-tech impact, and access to economic opportunities.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Jim Hammond 208.666.5754

City Council

Dan English 208.819.0940

Amy Evans 208.819.1349

Dan Gookin 208.667.5200

Woody McEvers 208.691.5303

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

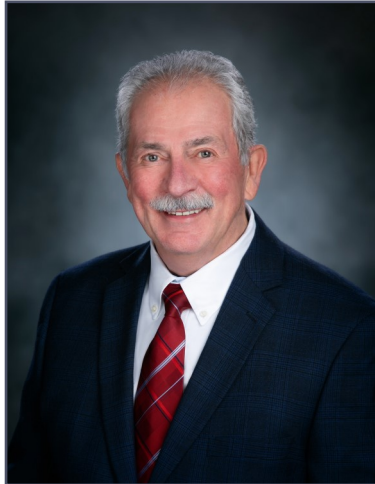
Streets 208.769.2235

Wastewater 208.769.2281

Water 208.769.2210



2024 Mayor State of the City Address



Join Mayor Jim Hammond for his State of the City Address on March 19, 2024, at 11:00 AM at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. Mayor Hammond will delve into the city's remarkable progress and key projects aimed at sustaining our growing community.

During his address, Mayor Hammond will highlight the city's commitment to public safety, environmental conservation, housing endeavors, and traffic control. His passion for fostering strong, vibrant neighborhoods is sure to resonate with residents, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose among the community. Tickets can be purchased at www.cdachamber.com/events.

It's Time to get your Free Street Trees!

Planting for the Future: Re-Leaf CDA offers residents street trees for free. The City of Coeur d'Alene has a number of street trees that need good homes! Street trees are planted at residential locations within public right-of-way areas in the city limits through the CDA Re-Leaf program. Trees are planted at no cost to the homeowner to enhance our neighborhoods and provide many street-side benefits such as mitigating storm water and reducing pollution.



Trees are provided to homeowners who are willing to provide care, including watering and protecting from mowers and trimmers. The tree species still available are Emerald Sunshine Elm, Black Tupelo, English Oak and Greenspire linden. However, a limited number of powerline rated trees are available for those with powerlines over their planting space.

Interested homeowners may contact the Urban Forester with the Coeur d'Alene Parks Department and sign up for a street tree. Due to the limited number of trees, distribution will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline to apply for this program is March 29, 2024. The trees will be planted by a contract tree planting crew starting in April.

New Chief Deputy City Attorney

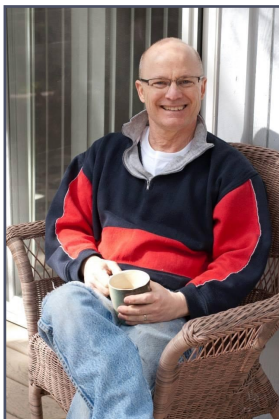


The City of Coeur d'Alene's Legal Department is pleased to announce the promotion of Ryan Hunter, currently a Deputy City Attorney in the Prosecutor's Office, to the position of Chief Deputy City Attorney. He will assume his new role with the retirement of longtime Chief Criminal Deputy City Attorney Wes Somerton in April. Mr. Hunter earned his juris doctorate *summa cum laude* from the University of Idaho College of Law in 2013.

After two years as a law clerk with the Chief Judge of the Idaho Court of Appeals, he entered private practice, engaging in civil litigation and transactional work with a prominent law firm in Boise. He joined the Payette County Prosecutor's Office in 2017 as a Deputy Prosecutor where he handled a wide range of felony and misdemeanor cases. The City of Coeur d'Alene lured Mr. Hunter north in 2021 and, since then, he has demonstrated the very highest skills as a prosecutor and leader.

As the Chief Deputy City Attorney, he will perform professional legal duties related to the management and supervision of the Criminal Division of the Legal Department, prosecuting misdemeanor and infraction cases, supervising legal staff, and providing technical legal research and support related to criminal matters. He will also be closely involved in the Civil Division, assisting the City Attorney in advising the Mayor, City Council, and the various City departments. Mr. Hunter's experience and professionalism is certain to serve the City very well in the coming years.

Chief Criminal Deputy City Attorney Retires



Wes Somerton, the Chief Criminal Deputy City Attorney, will retire on April 15, 2024, after over twenty-three years with the City of Coeur d'Alene. Mr. Somerton worked as the City Attorney for Sandpoint before joining the City on January 8, 2001, as an Assistant City Attorney. He became a Deputy City Attorney in 2002 and the Chief Criminal Deputy City Attorney in 2006.

In that position, he oversees a staff of three other attorneys, four legal assistants, and a volunteer Victim's Advocate. The Criminal Division of the City's Legal Department handles over 2,000 new cases every year, involving DUIs, Domestic Violence, batteries and assaults, property damage, and drug-related offenses, among many other misdemeanors and infractions. In addition to his extraordinary caseload, Mr. Somerton has a heart for victims of Domestic Violence throughout Idaho, currently serving as the Chair of the Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance. He also serves as the Chair of the Committee for the oversight of Domestic Violence Offender Intervention Programs and Standards. Mr. Somerton is a consummate professional, with exceptional skills and vast experience in prosecuting a wide range of crimes, including some very high profile matters that made national news. Mr. Somerton will be missed by his colleagues both in and outside the City, and he leaves behind a legacy of success that will be difficult to match.

Meet Sherrie Badertscher—the City’s New Community Development Specialist



Sherrie joined the Planning Department in January 2024 where she administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for the City of Coeur d’Alene. Sherrie is a familiar face to many who have visited City Hall where she worked as Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Administration and Municipal Services Departments since December 2020. Sherrie frequently attended City Council meetings to act as the clerk, taking minutes and doing roll calls. She was also instrumental with several State of the City Addresses for Mayors Widmyer and Hammond, as well as the Mayor’s Awards in the Arts and the Arts Commission.

Sherrie is no stranger to working for local governments. Prior to joining the City’s team, she worked for the City of Fresno for 15 years where she spent 10 years in the City Clerk’s office working in multiple positions and leaving as a City Records Specialist/Deputy City Clerk, and Sherrie spent 5 years of her career with the Fresno City Fire Department Headquarters working as a management analyst where she assisted the Deputy Fire Chief and Battalion Chiefs.

This month’s newsletter features EMRAP, which stands for the Emergency Minor Repair and Accessibility Improvement Program. For more information about CDBG and grant opportunities for home owners and organizations serving our low-to-moderate income community members, Sherrie may be contacted via email to SherrieB@cdaid.org or by phone at 208-769-2382. Additional program information is available on the City’s website at www.cdaid.org/cdbg.

The City of Coeur d’Alene Emergency Minor Home Repair and Accessibility Improvement Program (EMRAP)

The City of Coeur d’Alene’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) has funds available up to \$5,000 for emergency home repair, accessibility improvements, and sidewalk repair/replacement for low-to-moderate income resident homeowners who reside within the City limits. Funds are available to homeowners who income qualify and whose non-income assets do not exceed \$35,000.

The purpose of the program is to help low-to-moderate income homeowners correct building conditions that threaten the health and safety or soundness of the home, as well as to help with accessibility upgrades.



The City of Coeur d'Alene Emergency Minor Home Repair and Accessibility Improvement Program (EMRAP), cont.

Eligible Work:

- Repair of Electrical, Plumbing, or Heating Systems
- Repair of Leaking Roofs
- Replacement of Hot Water Heaters
- Energy Efficiency Upgrades: Insulation, Windows, Weather Stripping
- Installation of ADA Improvements: Ramps, Railings, Grab Bars, Lever Hardware
- Creation of Accessible Pathways including Sidewalk Repair and Replacement
- Emergency Sewer and Water Systems Repairs (Note: Conversion from Septic to City Sewer and Failing Sewer Lateral Replacements are Eligible for up to \$20,000, if Funds are Available)
- Code Enforcement Issues in the Home

Applications will be accepted as long as funds are available and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Priority will be given to those who have not previously received assistance from the grant program.

Welcome New Employees!

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

Clayton Twete

Maintenance Worker I
Parks Department



Nichole Hendricks

Maintenance Worker I
Parks Department



Jo Anne Mateski

Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Municipal Services Department



The City of Coeur d'Alene is Hiring!

Visit the City's employment website if you are interested in working for the City of Coeur d'Alene. Up-to-date job postings are listed [here](#).



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

Yoga for You!

Mondays
9:30 am - 10:30 am

Winter Baby Story Time

Ages 0-18 months
Tuesdays
9:00 am and 11:00 am

Lawyer in the Library

1st Thursday of the Month
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Tai Chi & Qi Gong

Tuesdays
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Stronger in Mind & Body

Wednesdays
10:00 am

For more information on any
Library event, call
(208) 769-2315, or
visit the Library's
[event calendar](#).



Library Events

History Hour Lecture - Wednesday, March 13 (5:30 pm)



In this monthly lecture series, join us in the Community Room at 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.

Cougar Bay Nature Preserve: Saving Coeur d'Alene's Natural Gem

Join local author Theresa Shaffer as she discusses her new book Cougar Bay Nature Preserve: Saving Coeur d'Alene's Natural Gem. This lecture will cover the history of Cougar Bay, followed by the 13-year battle to keep it from being developed. Remarkably, most of Cougar Bay's shore was preserved as public land by an improbable combination of determined local activists, a Hawaiian developer, a cantankerous Cougar Bay landowner, Kootenai County, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Crown Pacific Lumber Company and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the library! Sunday March 17 (1 pm)

The CDA Library is going Irish! Join us on St. Patrick's Day for a family friendly celebration of Irish culture and history. Local band Arvid Lundin & Deep Roots will kick off the party with traditional Irish folk music and a bit of Irish history. Enjoy a wee taste of the Irish and test your knowledge on all things Irish by participating in Irish trivia for a chance to win prizes and bragging rights! All ages are welcome for this program



CDA Fashion Week - Emerging Designer Show Friday, March 22 (5 pm)

Step into the world of fashion at CDA Fashion Week's Emerging Designer's showcase! Immerse yourself in the creativity of local designers from Idaho as they unveil their latest collections. This event welcomes all ages, encouraging everyone to "Dress to Impress" for an evening filled with a red-carpet experience and countless photo opportunities. Join us for a night of style and inspiration! Doors open at 4:15 and the show will start at 5:00. Register here to get your ticket!

<https://cdalibrary.org/library-events/fashion-week/>

7th Annual Free Compost Weekend



On April 6 and 7 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, the City's Wastewater Department will be giving away free compost. This is a self-serve event located at 3500 N. Julia Street. Trucks and trailers are welcome, but please no heavy equipment. Bring shovels and buckets and give your garden a head start this growing season.

CDA Fire Subrecipient of a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant

In 2020, Station 1 faced a challenge with its outdated diesel generator which had not seen any updates since its installation many years ago. A windstorm and subsequent power outage in our city caused critical response and livability issues for the station over several days. The inadequacy of the current generator became evident, prompting a need for upgrades.

Fortunately, with the help of our Municipal Services department, our fire department received a grant in the amount of \$160,508.00, accompanied by 10 percent matching funds. This grant will facilitate a comprehensive upgrade; encompassing the replacement of the generator, associated construction work, and the necessary electrical updates to accommodate the new equipment. The significance of these improvements cannot be overstated, as they will enhance the station's capabilities, ensuring a more consistent response to emergencies and an improved overall level of service. As always, we are committed to finding cost-effective solutions for equipment updates, repairs, and replacements.

