

Municipal Milestones

CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

October 2026



Message from the Mayor

October marks the start of the city's new fiscal year. It's both time to reflect on what's happened in the past budget year as well as to look forward to what comes next. I'm feeling optimistic.

Part of the formal budget process includes each department writing a narrative to accompany the city's published budget. While I recognize that the mayor and city council have done a lot of work this past year, I didn't write down any of it. When it came time to craft the budget narrative for mayor and council, I was at a loss – and I didn't want to fake it. Even so, my lack of instant recall shouldn't imply that we didn't do anything this past year.

One accomplishment stands out: repealing outdated ordinances that no longer serve the city. The council eliminated provisions for a youth committee that never met, updated obsolete precinct language, and repealed the amusement device ordinance.

Last updated in the 1980s, the amusement device ordinance required arcades to obtain a license and to supply background checks for the operators. It wasn't recently enforced. So, council wisely repealed it. It turns out that this ordinance has a deep-rooted history. Continued, page 2

CITY DIRECTORY

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

Dan Sheckler 208.889.9167

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



Message from the Mayor, cont.

On March 6, 1940, the Coeur d'Alene city council considered Ordinance 784, which declared that operating pinball machines and "gambling devices" was illegal in the city. This ordinance was passed by the city council but vetoed by mayor John Knox-Coe.

At the next council meeting, a petition supporting the ordinance was presented by a local clergyman. It was signed by approximately 400 people in favor of making pinball machines illegal. Even so, mayor Knox-Coe held his ground.

Finally, on April 1st, 1940, the city council met and voted to override the mayoral veto. Pinball machines were illegal in Coeur d'Alene, though they could be licensed. Over the next few months, the city issued dozens of licenses for pinball machines. Eighty-six years later, the city no longer requires licenses for those wicked "gambling devices."

Moving forward, I promise to further scrutinize city code to look for more things to remove or update. I also pledge to keep notes on these actions, as well as the accomplishments of our city council. Next year's budget narrative will include a proper list. That's my goal, along with many other things to look forward to this fiscal year.

Dan Gookin,
Mayor

Parks & Recreation News

The McEuen Park Playground temporarily closed on September 28 to allow for the installation of new playground turf, improving safety, accessibility, and the overall visitor experience. The anticipated reopening date of the playground is set for October 17.

During the closure, crews will remove and replace the existing playground surface with new turf designed to provide a safer and more durable play environment for children and families. The playground area will be fenced off and inaccessible to the public throughout the project. Continued, page 3

City Council and Commission Meeting Information

City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Tuesday
each month

6:00 pm

Library Community Room

[Council Agenda Packets](#)

Planning Commission

2nd Tuesday each month

5:30 pm

Library Community Room

Urban Forestry Committee

3rd Friday each month

8:00 am

City Hall

Parks 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

Library Board Meeting

4th Wednesday each month

4:00 pm

Library Community Room

Ped & Bike Committee

October 7

4:00 pm

City Hall

For more information, please visit
the [Calendar page](#) on the City of



Parks & Recreation News, cont.

We appreciate the community's patience as we make these important improvements to McEuen playground," said Adam Rousse, Parks & Recreation Director. " The turf had met its lifespan and needed replacing to ensure the playground remains a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable destination for families for years to come."

The City encourages residents and visitors to plan accordingly and utilize other nearby parks and playgrounds during the closure period. Work is expected to be completed by October 16, weather permitting, with the playground reopening to the public as soon as the installation is complete and safety inspections have been finalized.

A full list of City parks can be found at:

<https://www.cdaid.org/government/departments/parks-and-recreation/park-facility-list/>

In late September, the Fort Sherman playground was closed for routine maintenance and re-staining of the playground's wooden structures.

Staff cleaned, prepared and applied a protective stain to preserve the playground equipment and extend its lifespan. The work is part of the City's ongoing commitment to maintaining safe, attractive and enjoyable recreational facilities for residents and visitors.

The City appreciates the community's patience and understanding as these improvements are made to help ensure City parks and playgrounds remain safe and welcoming destinations for years to come.

For questions, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 208-769-2252.



Fire Department Events

Thank you to everyone who joined the Fire Department (Department) for its annual Open House on September 19. The Department enjoyed seeing hundreds of smiling faces as families toured fire apparatus, practiced life safety skills, met Sparky, learned from community partners, and connected with the firefighters who serve the City.

Be sure to visit Coeur d'Alene Firefighters at the Coeur d'Alene Downtown Association's Halloween Trick or Treat event on Sherman Avenue. This annual family-friendly event takes place in Downtown Coeur d'Alene from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm on October 31. Ghosts and goblins and other Halloween revelers can fill their buckets with candy at participating businesses.



Upcoming Community Events

Tubbs Hill Fall Clean-Up: October 10

Help retrieve fire mitigation markers and clean up Tubbs Hill. Bags will be provided. Bring your own gloves. Help Tubbs Hill have a clean and restful winter.

East Tubbs Hill Park from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Harvest Market & Apple Palooza: October 17

Come to shop at the 5th Street Farmers Market Harvest on October 17, 2026. Harvest produce, music, food, and everyone's favorite, Apple Palooza, an apple-tasting event presented by the Downtown Association.

Downtown Coeur d'Alene from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Harvest Festival: October 17

Join the Museum of North Idaho for the annual Harvest Festival in Coeur d'Alene and celebrate the autumn season with a full day of free family-friendly fall activities, local vendors, and historic demonstrations.

Museum of North Idaho from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Monster's Ball Halloween Party: October 31

Dance the night away with a live DJ. Whether you're haunting the dance floor, celebrating with friends, or simply looking for a wickedly fun night out, Monster's Ball is Halloween at its most legendary.

Coeur d'Alene Resort from 8:00 pm - 1:30 am



October is Fire Prevention Month

This year's theme for fire prevention week, October 4-10, 2026, is Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower. The focus this year is on everyday charging habits that can help reduce the risk of Lithium-ion battery fires and keep homes and communities safer. Lithium-ion batteries are everywhere in our everyday lives now from the smartwatch you are wearing on your wrist, to your phone, or to the tools or e-mobility vehicle you use frequently. Try these tips to reduce your risk of Lithium-ion fires.

- **Cheap Charger, Don't Chance it.** Only use tested and approved chargers for your battery charging system. Replace with parts recommended by the manufacturer.
- **Soft Surfaces? Hard Pass.** Charge batteries on a hard flat surface like a table, desk, or bare floor.
- **Fully Charged? Time to Unplug.** Unplug your device once it is fully charged to eliminate overcharging situations.
- **For Tools and Rides, Charge Outside.** Charge large items like e-bikes, scooters, and power tools outside when possible. Do not block exits when charging.
- **Feels Hot? Stop Using it.** Stop using your device if it feels very hot, starts to swell, smells strange, leaks, smokes, or makes popping noises.
- **On a Flight? Keep it in Sight.** When on a plane, keep devices where you can see them while charging. Do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on the plane. Tell a flight attendant if you notice a problem with your device.

For more information:

[Celebrate NFPA Fire Prevention Week \(FPW\), October 4-10](#)

Learn More About [ULRI's Fire Safety Research Focused on Battery Fire Safety](#)

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month

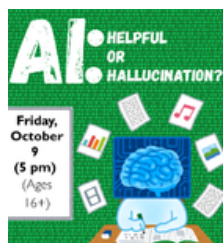
Nearly 1,000 people die every day from Sudden Cardiac Arrest and less than 10% of people survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Two years ago the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department partnered with Pulsepoint respond and Pulsepoint AED (now NEAR-National Emergency AED Registry) to help increase bystander CPR in the City of Coeur d'Alene and Kootenai County.

Hands only CPR is the recommended technique for bystander CPR, rescue breaths are no longer taught to the general public. Pulsepoint is a crowd sourced resource that sends an alert to anyone who signs up and indicates that they know CPR and would be willing to help a neighbor or bystander if needed. As a 911 call is placed and the need for CPR is discovered an alert goes out on the Pulsepoint app and alerts would-be responders of the need for bystander CPR. The app will also give would-be responders directions and notify when an AED has been registered in proximity to the call.

NEAR is the system that allows bystanders or facilities maintenance personnel to upload and register a public AED on the app. It will include a picture of the AED in the building and point out if additional first aid materials like Narcan or Stop the Bleed kits are placed with the AED. This October Learn CPR and download the Pulsepoint Respond and Pulsepoint NEAR apps. And if you have an AED in your business or place of work please register that AED in the app. App available in both the Apple store and Android Play.

What's Happening at the Coeur d'Alene Library This Month

AI: Helpful or Hallucination



Join science fiction novelist and Gonzaga librarian Anthony Tardiff in an investigation of how Large Language Models (LLM) like ChatGPT work under the hood. How do LLMs generate text? Do they really "know" the things they say? How do AI companies try to influence AI behavior—and the behavior of users? These powerful but potentially problematic tools can best be used responsibly when users understand what the AI is doing—which is not always what it appears to be doing! *Friday October 9 at 5:00pm. Ages 16+*

Seed Saving & Share the Harvest Swap



Celebrate the end of the growing season with tips and tricks to save your seeds and share your surplus preserved garden goodies with fellow community members. We will start with a demonstration that will teach you basic, beginner-friendly seed-saving techniques. Learn how to properly harvest and store seeds to preserve local plant biodiversity and save money on next spring's planting. Bring your excess harvest and jarred goodies to share and connect with fellow gardeners to discuss this season's triumphs and losses as we swap and share this year's harvest! *Saturday October 10 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. All ages*

Ghost Mossariums



Capture the spirit of the season in a bottle for a creative hands-on workshop where you will design a miniature haunted mossarium (a terrarium containing moss). You will use polymer clay to sculpt a small ghost or other creature to inhabit your mossarium, then using live moss to turn your jar into a mini self-sustaining ecosystem! All materials will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring a small jar to use. *Saturday October 31 at 11:00 am. Ages 13+*



Looking for a full list of events at Library?
Visit

<https://cdalibrary.org/events>



Library Newsletter

Do you want to be in the know for all the events and programming happening at the Coeur d'Alene 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>

CITY OF CDA PARKS AND RECREATION

2026 3RD-8TH GRADE YOUTH BASKETBALL

**3RD - 8TH GRADE REGISTRATION :
SEPTEMBER 28TH - OCTOBER 16TH**

- **GAMES ARE PLAYED MONDAY - THURSDAY EVENINGS AND SATURDAY MORNINGS AT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT GYMS**
- **PRACTICES BEGIN LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER WITH GAMES BEGINNING MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER AND ENDING BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK**

**\$40 : CITY RESIDENTS
\$50: NON-RESIDENTS**

**REGISTER ONLINE AT
[TEAMSIDELINE.COM/CDAID](https://teamsideline.com/cdaid)**

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.

Nicole Rudy

Maintenance Worker
Streets Department



Daniel Desjarlais

IT Network Administrator
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 at:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cdaid>



Don't forget to set the clocks back
one hour on November 1 for
Daylight Savings!



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](#)

Thank you for reading!