ISSUE #147

Municipal Milestones

CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

November 2026



Message from the Mayor

I don't know who made the decision, but in hindsight, canceling the city's annual leaf pickup may have cost Mayor Al Hassell his job in the 1997 election.

No one I've contacted knows when the leaf pickup program, commonly known as "Leaf Fest," first began. The program involves the city's Streets Department, Engineering Department, and Drainage (stormwater) Utility. Its purpose is to remove leaves from our streets so that they don't clog the stormwater system or introduce unwanted material into the lake and river.





From what I gather, the city was looking for ways to save money in 1997 by eliminating various programs. A list of proposed cuts was presented at a City Council meeting. I haven't been able to find the specifics, but at some point officials decided to save $200,000 by eliminating Leaf Fest.

The public reaction was immediate: City residents really liked the program. They liked it so much that Mayor Hassell lost his reelection bid to Steve Judy by 67 votes. The leaf pickup program returned the following year. *Continued page 3*

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

City of Coeur d'Alene IDAHO

Fire Department News

Fire Chief Fugitt recently had the honor of presenting official firefighter helmet shields to seven firefighters who have successfully completed their one-year probationary period.

Receiving a helmet shield marks an important milestone in every firefighter's career. It represents the hard work, commitment and preserverance required to earn a place in the fire service. Congratulations firefighters!











Top (left to right): Chief Fuggit, James Bopp, Evan Brinkmeier, Zach Ellinger
Middle (left to right): Joey Cordola, Joel Williamson, Mitch Nunes
Bottom (left to right): Ben Hickman, Chief Fuggit

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
3rd Thursday each month
1:00 pm
City Hall

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.

City Of Coeur d'Alene IDAHO

Message from the Mayor, Cont.

Leaf Fest has become a tradition here in Coeur d'Alene. Residents rake their leaves into piles along the curb. With ballet-like precision, city crews piloting heavy equipment begin the process of removal the day after Veterans Day. Loaders, graders, and trucks assemble to scoop up the detritus and haul it away for grinding. Eventually, the remains end up near the county airport, where they are tilled into the topsoil. Street sweepers follow the action, and for a few days—or, hopefully, weeks—the streets look marvelous before the snow arrives.

In fact, snow is the true enemy of the leaf pickup program. Snow and leaves on the streets, combined with colder temperatures, create what city employees call "leaf-rete," a concrete-like substance that cannot easily be removed. Sadly, such conditions postponed Leaf Fest a few years ago.

But if all goes well, the leaves will be off the trees, gathered into soft, dry piles, and collected by the city to complete yet another Leaf Fest. It's a sure sign that fall is waning and winter weather will soon be here.

Dan Gookin,
Mayor

Successful Pumpkin Giveaway

Each year, the Coeur d'Alene Wastewater Department grows pumpkins in three patches —two smaller patches at the treatment plant and a larger one at the compost facility— using the City's Coeur d'Green compost. Staff tend the pumpkins throughout the growing season, turning a demonstration of resource recovery into a fall tradition that brings the community together.

Coeur d'Green is produced by composting biosolids recovered through wastewater treatment. This process puts those materials to beneficial use, returning organic matter and nutrients to the soil to support plant growth. Our pumpkin patches are a colorful example of that cycle at work—and of the value in resources that might otherwise be considered waste.

On Friday, October 23, the Wastewater Department and Coeur d'Alene Library teamed up for the annual pumpkin giveaway. Kids roamed the Library's temporary pumpkin patch, picking out their favorites, while families enjoyed hot cider, story time, and Halloween fun. Across this year's giveaways, the department distributed a total of 1,074 free pumpkins to the community.

From growing the pumpkins to bringing everyone together for the giveaway, this effort takes many hands. Thank you to the staff and everyone who helped turn locally produced compost into a harvest worth sharing!

Successful Pumpkin Giveaway, cont.






Upcoming Community Events

Fall Harvest Dinner Cruise: November 8
Fall Harvest Dinner Cruises bring together delicious seasonal cuisine, cozy ambiance, and breathtaking fall scenery for a relaxing two-hour dining experience on the water with Lake Coeur d'Alene Cruises - www.cdacruises.com
CDA Resort Boardwalk at 5:00 pm

2nd Friday Artwalk: November 13
Free community event every second Friday of the month, year round. Support local artists, makers, musicians, and the venues that open their doors to showcase their creativity each month!
Downtown Coeur d'Alene from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Coeur d'Alene Ski Swap: November 21
Visit the Coeur d'Alene Ski Swap at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds where you can buy used ski and snowboard equipment. www.theskiswap.com/coeurdalene
Kootenai County Fairgrounds from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

34th Annual Lighting Ceremony: November 27
Enjoy a parade down Sherman Ave. with marching bands, dancing, music and festive floats. Carols and a countdown to a fireworks show follow.
Downtown Coeur d'Alene starting at 5:00 pm




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

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Restoration Presentation



Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge has undergone a transformation over the last six years, improving water flow and habitat quality and reconnecting the floodplain back to the Kootenai River. Learn about the collaborative project and ways to participate, presented by Shannon Ehlers, the manager at Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge.
Thursday November 12 at 7:00 pm. Ages 13+

Craft Supply Swap

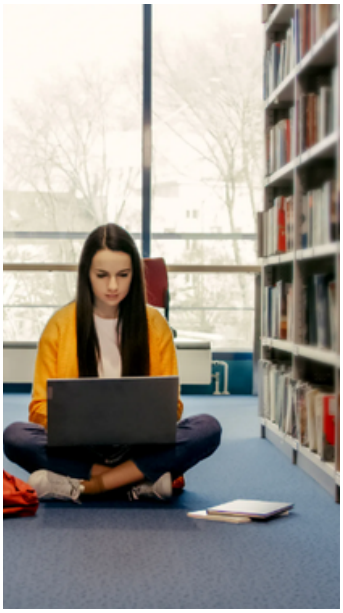


Got a storage closet brimming with old craft materials? Changed your mind about embroidery? That yarn not as appealing as it was a decade ago? Drop off clean, gently used craft supplies at the Coeur d'Alene Library November 9 - 13 at the Adult Circulation Desk. For each bag of supplies you bring, you'll get a ticket for Swap Day on November 14. At the event, use your tickets to fill a provided bag with new-to-you craft supplies from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm! If you don't have items to swap but still want supplies, come by between 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm and make a suggested donation to receive a bag you can fill. *All ages*

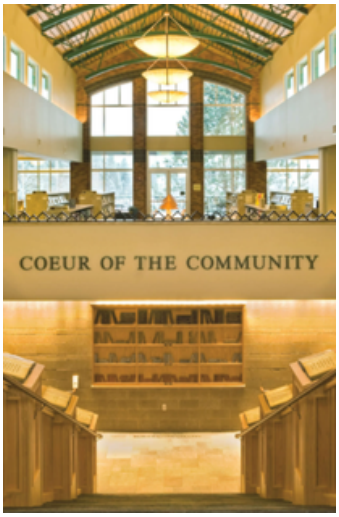
History Hour Lecture



The Effects of War: Letters, the Home Front, Organized Support, and Art. War extends beyond conflict, affecting service members, their families, and civilians. These effects are reflected in letters to and from the home front, showing how families and communities adapted to wartime challenges and organized support, aid, and services. Join Fine Artist and Museum Professional Elizabeth Boutin for a discussion on these topics and how each played a role during and after war. *Thursday November 12 at 5:30 pm. All Ages*



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 Coeur d'Alene

Leaf Fest

Leaf Fest Begins November 12

Put leaves/needles out beginning October 31.
Leaves are picked up ONCE - Mark your calendars!

- Keep leaves 1' away from curb line to allow water flow
- Move vehicles off street during leaf pick-up
- Be alert for leaf pick-up equipment in your neighborhood
- Keep a safe distance from leaf pick-up equipment

Questions? Call 208.769.2235

Winterize Irrigation Systems Safely



City of Coeur d'Alene water customers will soon be starting to prepare their lawn and garden irrigation systems for the coming cold weather.

In the North Idaho area, the most common practice is to use compressed air to blow out the leftover water in the irrigation piping. When performed correctly, this can be an efficient method to prevent expensive damage to irrigation systems caused by freezing. If performed incorrectly, however, costly damage to backflow assemblies can occur. You also run the risk of contaminating not only your water, but that of your neighbors'.

The following guidelines will help provide protection to you and other community members from irrigation system contamination.

- Make sure that the blow-off port where air is introduced into the irrigation system is downstream of your approved backflow assembly. Blow-off ports installed upstream of the backflow assembly can allow oil and contaminated air from the air compressor tank to be back pressured into your potable water service as well as the city water main. High pressure air introduced upstream of the backflow assembly can also damage the internal components of the assembly, resulting in the assembly not properly protecting our drinking water supply, as well as costly repair/replacement of the assembly.

- If your irrigation system is protected by a Pressure or Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker, then it must be removed before the introduction of compressed air because these assemblies can be damaged if subjected to air from either upstream or downstream of the assembly.

- City of Coeur d'Alene code requires the backflow assembly to be installed with unions so it can be removed before the introduction of compressed air, and stored inside for the winter. If the assembly was installed without unions and it cannot be removed to prevent freezing, then it must be thoroughly drained.

- Perform your required annual backflow assembly test at spring start-up no later than July 1 to ensure the assembly is operating correctly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Gary Alan Nolan of the City of Coeur d'Alene's Cross Connection Inspection Division at 208-769-2298.



On Wednesday, November 11, 2026, Coeur d'Alene City Hall will be closed for the Veterans Day Holiday. Other City offices and facilities will be closed as well. Emergency calls for Police, Streets, and Fire can be made by dialing 9-1-1. Other City facilities have emergency numbers and can be reached if the need arises: Sewer Back-up (208) 769-2241, and
Water (208) 755-9729.

Thank you to all veterans for their service.

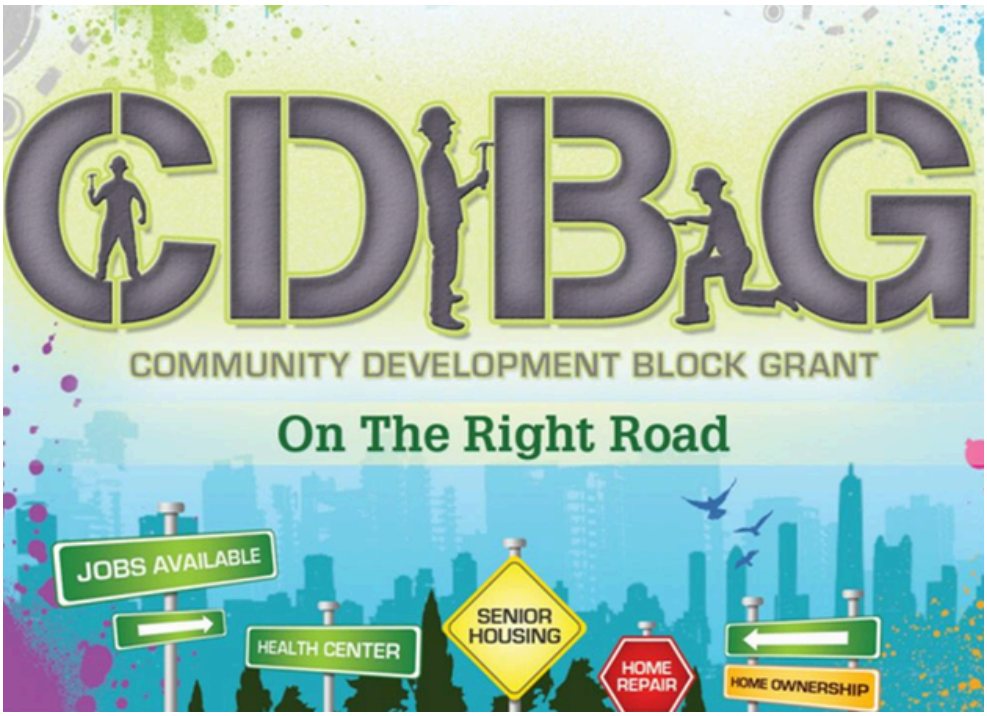
2025 CDBG Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report

Since its inception in 1974, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has been a cornerstone of community development in the United States. Administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), CDBG provides flexible funding to states and localities, enabling them to address their unique community development needs. The City of Coeur d'Alene has been a recipient of grant funds since 2007. Since that time, CDBG has played a pivotal role in transforming our community. The program's flexibility allows funds to be used for a wide range of activities, including: Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Public Services, Homelessness Assistance, and Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements.

The City of Coeur d'Alene has drafted its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the Plan Year 2025 (PY25) CDBG program which covers the period of October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026. The report will be available for review and comment from November 16 through December 1, 2026. The draft document will be made available on November 16 on the City's website at www.cdaid.org/cdbg and a hard copy will be available for review at City Hall, 710 E. Mullan Avenue.

The public hearing to consider comments on the draft CAPER will be held at a regular meeting of the City Council on December 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Library Community Room, 702 E. Front Avenue. The public hearing will be held in facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities. Special accommodations will be available, upon request; requests to be made five (5) days prior to the hearing.

Feel free to reach out to Grant Administrator Sherrie Badertscher at (208) 769-2382, or via email to SherrieB@cdaid.org if you need any more details, have specific questions about the CDBG program, or would like to submit comments on the draft CAPER.



Firefighter Recruit Graduation

On November 12, 2026, the Fire Department will proudly celebrate the graduation of Recruit Academy Class 2026-1. After months of rigorous training, physical conditioning, and hands-on emergency response instruction, these recruits are preparing to take the next step in their journey to become firefighters.

Their dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence have been evident throughout the academy. The Fire Department looks forward to recognizing their achievements at graduation and welcoming them into the fire service as they begin their careers serving and protecting the community.



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Wednesday November 11 at 11:00 am
at the Veterans Memorial Park located in
McEuen Park by the Boat Ramp

This event is hosted by American Legion Post 14
and VFW Post 889 of CDA*

Free coffee and pastries provided
by Pastry and More

thank you veterans

** Golf cart available for handicapped patrons*

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.

Cora Wilt
Recreation Program Coordinator
Parks & Rec Department



Kylar Thornton
Recreation Monitor
Parks & Rec Department



Denise Cox
Legal Assistant
Legal Department



The City of Coeur d'Alene is Hiring!



Visit the City's employment website if you are insterested in working for the City of Coeur d'Alene. Up-to-date job postings are listed at: https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cdaid

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City offices will be closed on November 26 and 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Garbage service will be delayed by one day on November 26.

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!