

January 2015

New year, new role for Community Services

The Town of Coaldale's Community Services department has a new home and a new addition.

As of the first of January, the department is officially housed in the Gem of the West Museum. The move actually took place prior to the Christmas break as part of a new partnership between the museum society and the town.

The move to the museum also means a change in how facility bookings and payments will be handled in the town. Residents will now be required to visit the museum to finalize bookings, make payments and pick up keys to town facilities.

As part of that partnership, the town has hired an Arts and Culture Coordinator to work out of the museum as part of the Community Services department.

Alysha Smith has taken on the new coordinator position working with Stephanie Wierl, Community Services Manager.

Smith comes to town having earned a BA in Music with a minor in History from the University of Lethbridge.

She completed her MA in Early Modern History at the University of York in the UK.

"Both of these degrees have given me



Stephanie Wierl, left, Community Services Manager and Alysha Smith, Arts and Culture Coordinator now have their office in the Gem of the West Museum.

opportunities to experience many different informative areas outside of my immediate degree topics including education courses from the U of L and museum studies courses from U of Y providing me with a unique mix of experience in the arts and cultural/historical/heritage sectors."

She is looking forward to coordinating, introducing/reintroducing fantastic, exciting and unique events and programming at the museum. She said having the use of a wonderful historic museum building and all the unique artifacts which reside in it

to enhance these events and programs will really take them and the museum to the next level.

Smith has volunteered with the Galt Museum and Archives in Lethbridge, working with both family programs and on an oral interview project.

She also volunteered with the York Archaeological Trust in the UK and completed an internship with England's Immigrants, 1330-1550 as part of her MA. Her MA dissertation was entitled "Strangers, Aliens and Refugees: The Impact of Immigration on the Developing English Nation, 1509-1601".

Smith feels the Gem of the West Museum has the potential to move to the next level in terms of modernizing and professionalizing it with updated exhibits, programing, and events.

"There are many different ways in which we can approach these developments because of the vast collections and tools at our disposal, and the wealth of knowledge about the local community from volunteers and museum members."

For more on this story go to the Town of Coaldale website at www.coaldale.ca under public notices.

Community Peace Officers corner

From the traffic section

Traffic safety concerns us all and for the safety of all users care and attention must be given. A few common driving practices have been noticed that, for a small rural community may be acceptable, but in actuality are illegal. For instance, making a U-turn on 17 Street between 20 Avenue and 19 Avenue between the Campbell Clinic and the Town Office. U-turns are only permissible at intersections not controlled by traffic lights or prohibited by sign.

Another common practice is crossing the center line on 20 Avenue to angle park on the opposite side. Not only is this illegal but by improperly crossing a single solid line it constitutes driving left of center. Cars backing out of the angle parking stalls will not see the car parking next to them. Drivers are also seen

driving on the opposite side of the street to get their mail. Please pull up on the same side or walk across the street to get your mail. Fact of the matter is Coaldale is getting bigger and the traffic is more abundant and for the safety of all users, please drive responsibly.

From the bylaw section

With winter set to stay with us for quite some time, just a reminder to keep those sidewalks free of snow. If you are going away for to a warmer place like Mexico for a week or two, get a friend, neighbour or family (who I suppose isn't as fortunate as you to go to Mexico) to clean the sidewalk off in order to avoid us doing it and you being stuck with a nasty middle-of-winter sidewalk snow removal bill. These are just some tips to make our community a better place to live, play and work in.

Connect with us



@CoaldaleAB

www.coaldale.ca
403-345-1300
1920 17 Street

Coaldale AB T1M 1M1



fb.com/CoaldaleAB

From the Tax Department

Our TIPP (Tax Installment Payment Program) starts on January 1, 2015 for the 2015 taxation year. If you wish to enroll in this program and enjoy the benefits of paying your taxes in monthly installments, applications are available online at www.coaldale.ca or at the town office. New TIPP applicants – Your first installment will be deducted from your bank account on January 16, 2015. Call Kathy at (403) 345-1317 for details.

Community Calendar

Tuesdays: English Language Drop-In at the County of Lethbridge Community Learning Council at the Coaldale Public Library, Tuesday 5 to 8 p.m. starting Jan. 13. For more information call 403-345-6009.

Wednesdays: Resume and Job Search Drop-In at the County of Lethbridge Community Learning Council at the Coaldale Public Library. The first and third Wednesdays from 5 to 8 p.m. starting Jan. 14. Call 403-345-6009 for more information.

January: During the months of January and February come visit the McCain Gallery at the Coaldale Public Library to view “Dictionary of Imaginary Places- Book 1” by Elaine Steinke.

January 17: Coaldale Copperheads host Cochrane at 8:30 p.m. at the Sportsplex.

January 21: Come find out what PLAYCoaldale is all about. Swing by the arena from 6 to 8 p.m. to find out more and become involved in creating healthy, active kids in our community.

January 23: Come help the Coaldale Public Library celebrate Family Literacy Day from 2 to 3 p.m. with a puppet show, craft, sing-a-long and snacks.

January 26: Coaldale Adult Book Club at 7 p.m. in the McCain Gallery of the Coaldale Public Library. Join us this month to discuss “The Book of Secrets” by Elizabeth Joy Arnold.

January 28- April 29: Coaldale Public Library hosts Small Wonders- Rhymes, tickles and fun for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and a caregiver. Wednesdays 11 to 11:30 a.m.

January 30: Tween Club at the Coaldale Public Library from 2:30 to 4 p.m. For students in grades 4 to 7 to enjoy crafts, games, snacks and fun. Register by calling 403-345-1340.

January 31: Coaldale Copperheads host High River at 8:30 p.m. at the Sportsplex.

February 4: Winter Walk Day- Every winter thousands of Albertans celebrate winter by participating in Winter Walk Day. Register for this year's walk at <http://shapeab.com/event-registration/?ee=16>

Curbside recycling report card

The Town of Coaldale is two years into its curbside recycling program and, while there has been a reduction in the amount of garbage headed to the landfill, there is still room for improvement.

The town launched the recycling program in October of 2012 and residents were initially good about using the blue recycling bins.

“We saw an improvement but now we’re seeing the volume of garbage increasing,” said Michelle Overbeeke, Chief Financial Officer.

In 2013 the residents of Coaldale placed 459 tonnes of recyclables in their curbside blue tubs and in 2014, as of the end of October, 420 tonnes of recyclables have been collected from the curbside program.

While there doesn’t seem to be a specific trend as to which months are better for recycling, Overbeeke said the numbers are usually higher in January and lower in the summer months.

The amount of recycling Coaldale residents do has a direct impact on the amount of garbage headed to the landfill. The more residents recycle the lower the garbage tonnage will be.

In the two years prior to the implementation of curbside recycling the town saw 2611 tonnes of garbage collected in 2010 and 2732 tonnes in 2011. In 2012, with the recycling beginning in October, the collective garbage tonnage was 2414.

By 2013, a full year after the program began, the garbage collection had dropped to 2133 tonnes and by the end of October of this year it was sitting at 2059 tonnes.

“It hasn’t dropped as much as we were hoping,” said Overbeeke, noting the town would like to see the garbage collection below 2000 tonnes per year.

In order to accommodate the increase in the tipping fee charged at the regional landfill, the town had to increase its garbage rates for 2015, effective Feb. 1. Overbeeke said residents can help reduce the costs associated with the pickup and hauling of the garbage in Coaldale if they increase their use of the recycling service.

Removing recyclables from the garbage creates both an environmental and financial impact for the town. By making use of the recycling program residents can help keep costs for garbage service from rising.

“Our curbside recycling program is quite robust as residents do not have to spend a lot of time separating materials, making it super convenient,” said Mayor Kim Craig.

“Hopefully next year’s update will show a greater amount being diverted from landfills,” he added.

One area where residents can really make an impact is in their handling of grass clippings. Overbeeke said the garbage tonnage increases in the summer months in part because residents are putting their grass clippings in the garbage.

The more residents who compost these clippings the more impact it has on reducing the overall tonnage the town is paying for both pick up and in tipping fees at the landfill.

Overbeeke said the town is pleased with the overall decrease in garbage tonnage since the curbside recycling program was introduced but acknowledged there is still room for improvement.

“It certainly has improved but not quite where we were expecting it to go.”

As a means of reducing the weight of the recycling bins, residents are encouraged to put their bins out more than once a month for collection.