

# COALDALE CONNECTION

Your source of all things Coaldale!

Connecting you to what matters most in our community.

We've been nominated for the Kraft Hockeyville Competition. Let's rally to win! Visit <http://bit.ly/2SaBVI5> to participate.

## Town of Coaldale announces two new Volunteer Firefighter Tax Rebate Programs

On Wednesday, January 15th, at a Coaldale Chamber of Commerce meeting, the Town of Coaldale announced a new Property Tax Rebate program for local businesses who employ and provide paid release time to volunteer fire fighters who respond to emergency calls while at work – the first of its kind in Alberta.

The primary purpose of this initiative is to recognize and thank local employers who allow their staff to respond to emergencies during work time, recognizing the disruption that daytime emergency response can cause to day to day business operations.

“We understand the great amount of sacrifice that local businesses face as a result of allowing volunteers to leave during daytime work hours,” said Kim Craig, Mayor, Town of Coaldale. “This is our way of thanking those businesses for their sacrifice and commitment to the safety of our community.”

The new Property Tax Rebate program for local businesses will start in early 2020. The new initiative allows for a property tax rebate of up to \$2000 per year per business, with rebate amounts indexed according to the number of response hours.

The Property Tax Rebate would be applied to annual property taxes and would be offered to businesses who own a building located within the corporate limits of the Town of Coaldale. The rebate program would

also extend to volunteer firefighters who are self-employed business owners in the Town of Coaldale.

“Without the support of our local businesses, we would struggle to have enough responders during the day to respond to emergency calls.” said Kevin McKeown, Fire Chief, Town of Coaldale. “We are excited that Council recognized the importance of this initiative as an incentive for local businesses to continue supporting their staff – our dedicated firefighters – in day time response. We are deeply appreciative of the sacrifices that are made, and hope the number of beneficiaries of this program expands in the future.”

The Coaldale Fire Department currently employs a total of 31 volunteer firefighters. In 2019, the department responded to a record 420 calls over the course of the year.

“Without the ongoing support of our local businesses, we would not be able to do this.”

Additionally, during the Regular Council Meeting of January 13, 2020, Coaldale Town Council approved a landmark property tax rebate incentive for volunteer firefighters.

**Continued on next page ►**



## Mayor's Message

Coaldale and District Emergency Services has proudly served Coaldale and area since 1948 and Town Council has always been grateful to the people that volunteer to keep our community safe. Many of the volunteers work for local businesses and those businesses have made significant concessions to allow their staff to leave during business hours to respond to fire calls, which is so greatly appreciated by Town Council. Currently, our fire department has a complement of 34 members of which 31 are volunteers. In other words, 90% of the department is made up of volunteers! Each year our department responds to hundreds of calls and spends hundreds of hours in training and practice, obviously and huge commitment by each and every one of our volunteers. Just imagine what it would cost if selfless volunteers and community-minded businesses did not step up to provide such an essential service to our community.

With the foregoing in mind, Council is pleased to introduce property tax rebates that acknowledge our local volunteers and businesses that sacrifice so much for our community.

## CONNECT WITH US!



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**(continued)** While tax credits for volunteer firefighters exist at the federal level, the Town of Coaldale has stepped up to do its part on the municipal side.

“We get taxed from all levels of government. The Federal government rightly provides volunteer firefighters with an annual federal income tax credit. As a Council, we felt it important to be leaders on the municipal side of the “tax coin,” and provide a property tax rebate to our dedicated volunteer firefighters who sacrifice their time to keep our community safe,” says Kim Craig, Mayor, Town of Coaldale.

“We see this as a key step in our volunteer recruitment and retention program,” says Coaldale and District Emergency Services Fire Chief Kevin McKeown.

Under the new framework, Coaldale’s volunteer fire-fighters will receive up to a \$1000 a year property tax rebate from their residential tax bill. To be eligible for this initiative, a volunteer firefighter must own and occupy a home in Coaldale. To receive the full property tax rebate, a volunteer firefighter must log in 129 or more hours of service per year.

According to Chief McKeown, “This is a great way to tip our caps to our dedicated members, and we couldn’t be more excited to launch this initiative.”

Members of the community who are interested in joining the program are encouraged to visit the Town’s Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment page at:

<http://bit.ly/35RKhcq>

**DOWNLOAD...**

**THE COALDALE WASTE COMPANION APP**

**... & sign up for waste collection reminders**

To be automatically entered to win a **\$200 gift card** to a local business of your choice!

**OR**

Sign-up on our website at:  
[coaldale.ca/waste](http://coaldale.ca/waste)

Available on the **App Store**

GET IT ON **Google Play**

## Town of Coaldale releases new waste collection app & online waste wizard

Never miss your waste collection day again! We’re proud to announce the release of our new **Coaldale Waste Companion app** - available on both the Apple Store and Google Play.

Download the app to receive personalized waste collection reminders and answers to commonly asked solid waste questions. Sign up for waste collection reminders between now and February 10th to be

entered to win a \$200 gift card to a local business of your choice!

For those without a smartphone, view the solid waste wizard on our website at:

<https://www.coaldale.ca/waste>

or by clicking the 'Waste Collection' tab on our Facebook page.

## Community Reminders - February

- ▶ **Coaldale Community Fest:** Join us for a Pancake Breakfast at the Coaldale Food Bank from 8-11:00am on February 17th. Family activities from 11:30am until 3:00pm including petting zoo, face painting, sparkle tattoos, skating and more.
- ▶ **Coaldale has been nominated for the Kraft Hockeyville 2020 competition.** If the nomination garners enough points, Coaldale could become one of four finalists to win \$250,000 and host an NHL game. Deadline for adding rally points is Feb 9. Visit <http://bit.ly/2SaBVI5> to learn more and to participate!