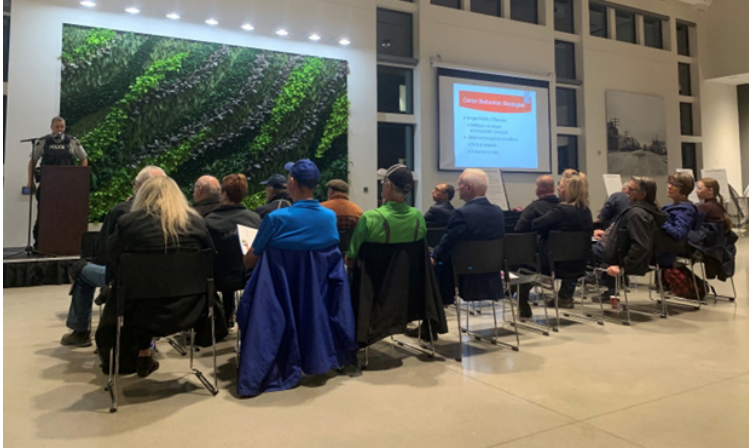


Town of Coaldale Holds Annual Open House Event

The event is held in October of each year and provides residents with an opportunity to learn about how the Town operates and engage with members of Council and Town staff directly.



On Wednesday, October 18, the Town of Coaldale held its annual open house event in the atrium of Civic Square.

In April, 2022, Coaldale Town Council approved a Council Communications Strategy with the goal of making transparent, timely, accurate, and meaningful communications and engagement with residents a reality. Since then, the Town has committed to putting on an annual open house event so residents can gain insights into how the Town operates, learn about current and future Town projects, and engage with members of Council and staff directly.

In keeping with last year's open house event, this year's event began with a community-wide policing presentation put on by Sgt. Mike Numan from the Coaldale RCMP and crime prevention liaison, Carolyn McTighe. While McTighe discussed various citizen-led crime prevention initiatives and programs including Block Watch, Rural Crime Watch, Citizens on Patrol, and Crime Stoppers, Sgt. Numan provided residents with an update on crime in Coaldale, and explained how and when to report criminal activity.

The event then featured a series of information booths set up by Town staff from various municipal departments including Corporate & Financial Services, Community Services, Operational Services, Infrastructure Services, and Protective Services. At each station, posters highlighting some of the core functions, services, and programs, asso-

ciated with each of these departments were put on display to help educate residents about what each department does, and how the Town as an organization is structured.

“As a Council, we strongly believe in engaging the public so that our residents have an opportunity not only to learn about how the Town functions as an organization, but also and more importantly, to provide feedback on how the Town is being governed” said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. “This is why we hold quarterly coffee events; this is why we've directed Town staff to conduct an annual community satisfaction survey; and this is why we put on an annual open house. All of these events and initiatives reflect our Council's commitment to transparent government, and are specifically designed to build relationships with and seek input from Coaldale residents. I would encourage everyone who wants to have a say in the decision making-process to please attend public engagement events like this one.”

What's Happening in the Community?

On Saturday, November 4, the Gem of the West Museum will be holding its annual Craft & Hobby Show. Admission is by donation.

On Saturday, November 11, the Town of Coaldale will hold an in-person Remembrance Day ceremony at Jennie Emery Elementary School from 10:30am-12:00pm. The ceremony will also be live-streamed on the Town's YouTube channel.

On Saturday, November 18, the Coaldale Public Library will hold its annual “Handmade for Christmas” craft sale. The sale will take place from 11:00am-4:00pm. Admission is free.

On Friday, November 24, the Town of Coaldale will hold its 23rd Annual Country Christmas Night of Lights. The event will take place from 5:30-8:30pm and begin with a parade. For more details, visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/2023-night-of-lights>

Coaldale Town Council Holds Annual Organizational Meeting

As per Section 192(1) of the Municipal Government Act, “except in a summer village, a council must hold an organizational meeting annually not later than 2 weeks after the 3rd Monday in October.”

On October 23, 2023, Coaldale Town Council held its annual organizational meeting, during which it adopted a new meeting and community event calendar, as well as appointed members of Council to various local and regional boards and committees.

In Alberta, municipalities operate according to what’s called the “Municipal Government Act” (MGA), Section 192(1) of which states that “except in a summer village, a council must hold an organizational meeting annually not later than 2 weeks after the 3rd Monday in October”. Accordingly, exactly one week after the 3rd Monday in October, Coaldale Town Council held its own annual organizational meeting.

Although brief, the meeting was one the most important of the year as it saw Council not only adopt a new meeting and event calendar, but also, determine which members of Council will sit on various local and regional boards and committees.

Concerning the meeting and event calendar, it includes all of Council’s regular council meeting dates as well as confirmed and placeholder dates for notable Town-run events. “This was the first year where Administration presented Council with an all-encompassing meeting and community event calendar”, said Lana Antony, Municipal Clerk for the Town of Coaldale. “In the past, we would have Council adopt a calendar only for meetings and holidays. But with the adoption of a new communications strategy in April 2022, we decided to consolidate meetings, holidays, and Town events all into one calendar to ensure that everyone can stay on the same page about what’s happening and when.”

Concerning Council representation on various local and regional boards/committees, Council appointed members to sit on the Barons-Eureka-Warner FCSS Board; the Chinook Arch Library Board; the Coaldale & District Chamber of Commerce; the Coaldale & District Handi-Ride Asso-

ciation; the Coaldale Library Board; the Gem of the West Museum Board; the Green Acres Foundation Board; the Highway 3 Twinning Development Association; and many others.

“As is the case in many other municipalities throughout Alberta, key to good governance in Coaldale is maintaining a vibrant committees and boards system,” said Town of Coaldale Mayor Jack Van Rijn. “These boards and committees are usually made up of a combination of Coaldale residents, members of Council, and sometimes other elected officials from neighbouring municipalities, and do much of the leg work when it comes to advancing local projects, planning events, and providing direction to not-for-profit organizations from which many of our residents benefit. By doing this important work, these boards and committees make Council’s job much easier and Coaldale a better place to live.”

To see a full list of all the boards and committees that make up the Town’s committee system, click here: <https://www.coaldale.ca/committees-boards>.

