



Big Changes Coming To Downtown Coal Valley

Coal Creek Inn

BY DRUE MIELKE, EDITOR

A long-time Coal Valley favorite, Joe's Place, has been closed for about a year now in downtown Coal Valley.

The property located across from the post office at 110 E. 22nd Avenue was listed with Pieter Hanson with Mel Foster. Mr. Hanson was concerned that it would become a lingering empty storefront and asked owners with which whom he has been friends for many years about the future of the former Joe's Place.



THE NEW LOCATION FOR "COAL CREEK INN"- Located in downtown Coal Creek Inn at 110 E. 22nd Avenue Photos by Drue Mielke

In July 2021 Mr. Hanson worked to position the building for what is likely its best use. Pieter Hanson partnered with Nick Bowes and Steve Ratcliff from Bent River to create Coal Creek Inn! Mr. Bowes and Mr. Ratcliff will be in charge of the inn which will feature lunch and dinner 7 days a week. Pieter Hanson and Bent River are equal partners in the ownership of the building and

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Coal Valley Commons

BY MIKE BARTELS, MAYOR

Many unofficial names have been given to the park in the "Old Downtown" including Village Green, Village Square, Post Office Park, and a few others.

In the 2016 Highway 6 and 150 corridor Market Study, this park is identified as an area to focus on placemaking and suggested for improvements. The Market Study states that in many communities, parks, plazas, and public spaces, can be significant value-creating assets that improve property values.

An opportunity exists for a plaza and new activity areas within the park adjacent to the Old Post Office. Regular events and other programs should be created to help develop the park as a central meeting place for the community.



"COAL VALLEY COMMONS"- Planned in downtown Coal Valley adjacent to the post office at 1st Street and E. 22nd Avenue and E. 22nd Avenue A.

The Village was budgeting in 2022 for a new pavilion to replace the existing shelter that has served its useful life. During this conversation, we felt that with the recommendation of the study to invest in the park and a new shelter, that we should look further than just the shelter and try to recreate this area. The Village worked with

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the Coal Creek Inn business.

In addition, the building also houses two apartments upstairs that are being renovated and are now 90 percent complete. Work in progress includes renovation of the buildings electrical system.

Coal Creek Inn’s goal is to open by Saint Patrick’s Day 2022. Coal Creek Inn derives its name from Coal Creek which is directly behind the building. Plans are being drawn up to put in a patio adjacent to the creek to play on its natural beauty and proximity to the building with an outside bar and an area for outside bands.

Coal Creek Inn’s will include a newly renovated bar that will feature Bent River’s local beer as well as a wide-range of other brews and liquor. The restaurant will feature a menu very similar to Bent River’s menu downtown Moline and also include some very uniquely styled menu items such as specialty burgers, brisket, sandwiches, chicken pulled pork, wings, a meat sampler platter, and pork tenderloins.

All of the renovations at the new Coal Creek Inn are being done in conjunction with the new Coal Valley Commons project which includes a new band pavilion, walking path, gardens and an area for a farmers’ market. Please see article “Coal Valley Commons”.

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Streamline Architects and asked them to create a rendering for a new public space.

Proposed improvements include a new shelter, playground, lighting, sidewalks, landscaping, and Veteran’s Memorial area.



NEW SHELTER & PLAYGROUND”- Proposed improvements include a new shelter, playground, lighting, sidewalks, and landscaping.

The Veterans Memorial area is being spearheaded by Wade Argo and is currently in the planning and fundraising stage. If you would like to donate for the Veteran’s Memorial, you can do so at Blackhawk Bank &

Trust or reach out to Wade Argo directly.

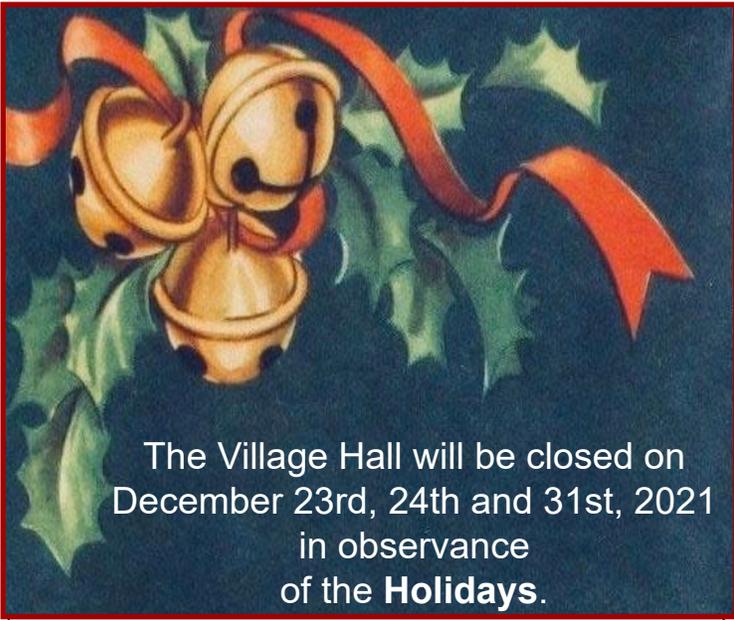
The Village is starting the engineering design work and hope to have bid documents ready early March with construction starting in April or May, depending on the project costs.

With Bent River’s investment into the former Joe’s Place building, Bourbons Bar and Grill’s continued success, combined with the proposed park improvements, we feel that this will create many other opportunities for this area. The new shelter and green space will allow for a local farmers market, live music, and many other events that will benefit both residents and businesses. If the improvements are complete by the end of next year, it is my hope to bring back the Christmas Lighting event next year and make it better than ever with new decorations, sponsors, and most importantly, the community.



FULL PROJECT”- Included in the project is the Veteran’s Memorial Area.





Dec. Village Board Meetings Scheduled

The Village Board meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 P.M. December meetings are on December 1st and 15th, 2021 at the Coal Valley Village Hall, 900 1st Street.

Agendas can be found at <https://www.coalvalleyil.org/village-board-meetings-agenda.php>.

Meetings will now resume to zoom and information is available on the <https://www.coalvalleyil.org/village-board-meetings-agenda.php>.

WHAT IS TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Township Government is one of the oldest forms of Government in the State of Illinois. Townships have 3 mandatory functions: administering a general assistance program to qualifying residents, maintaining township road district highways and bridges and appraising property values in all counties except Cook County.

We want to start off by saying thank you and best of luck to Richard Whiles who resigned in January 2021 after almost 20 years as the Township Supervisor. We welcome Rob Harrington as the new Township Supervisor, who was elected earlier in the year. Rob had retired from Township Government after serving 29 years and now he has brought back his experience to the Township Board. The other members of the Township Board consist of Trustees Ruben Escajeda, Dan Clayton, Ed Lawson and Deanna Hulliger; Road Commissioner Jim Mitchell; Clerk Chuck Meyer all were elected as well in the Spring and Township Assessor Winna Pannell.

Some of your Township tax dollars raised have helped with the following:

- a) Furnish flu shots to the uninsured (which is on hold due to Covid 19)
- b) Host an annual senior picnic (also on hold due to Covid 19)
- c) Support the school library with monetary donations so they can get what is needed for the kids such as books, electronic notebooks, etc.
- d) Support the Bicentennial teachers giving them the opportunity to get supplies for the students not covered by other sources.
- e) Donate to the Village of Coal Valley summer park program for Coal Valley children.
- f) Give help through our General Assistance Program with rent, groceries, etc. for qualified residents that have fallen on hard times.
- g) Donate to the Coal Valley Food Pantry and the Lions food pantry/Christmas Basked fund.

This gives you an idea of some items the Township has done and will continue to do for the benefit of seniors and children of our community.

We also support the Coal Valley Township cemetery to keep it in a pristine condition.

Happy Holidays and hopes for a New Year of socialization and better times for us all.

COAL VALLEY TOWNSHIP



Hometown Coal Valley

by Drue Mielke

County Board District Maps Drawn

The Rock Island County Board this spring voted to reduce the size of the county board districts from 25 to 19. County Board District reduction has been a long-term goal of mine as your Rock Island County Board Member for Coal Valley.

The public voted in an advisory referendum in 2012 and to honor that request, In 2012, I fought to achieve a downsized board as a goal for 2014, working to get Illinois Attorney General Opinion stating that it could be done sooner than 2022. The full board did not agree with me and chose to downsize in 2022 during our normal population reapportionment mapping based on the census.

I am proud to say that your Rock Island County Board worked together in bipartisan fashion to assure that rural and minority voices were not diluted by larger districts.

The county board employed a consultant that proposed new districts that preserved rural and minority communities.

The first redistricting map though cut Coal Valley into two Rock Island County Board Districts. As your representative, I worked to assure that a town of 3,800 people is not sliced into districts that do not maintain our sense of community.

In pointed out that Coal Valley is already in two counties and an additional and artificial political division in Coal Valley is unneeded, unnecessary and would not maintain community.

Our maps were redrawn to consider The Village of Coal Valley current boundaries rather than cutting Coal Valley in half. This map will serve Rock Island County for ten years until the next census.

Whether it is doing this newsletter for the last 21 years, serving on our village board and as your county board member, the guiding force is giving back to and improving my Coal Valley Community.

With deep family roots from Coal Valley's coal mining days, I recognize that hard work built this village. Growing up in Coal Valley, I knew this would always be my home.

We should be proud of our Coal Valley community's progressive and proactive direction in a community that has affordable housing, safe neighborhoods, where government at the county, village, and township level work together.

I look forward to a bright New Year for Coal Valley and wish everyone a Merry Christmas!



2022 ROCK ISLAND COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT IN COAL VALLEY- New county board district 8.



The Village of Coal Valley will be hosting their 7th Annual Holiday Decoration Contest

The Village of Coal Valley is inviting residents
to show off their Holiday Spirit
by entering the 7th Annual Holiday Decorating Contest.

Do you know a neighbor who is the keeper of the lights?
The guru of garland?
The Monet of mistletoe?
Or just has that eye-catching display of decorations?

This competition is open to all Village Residents.
Please feel free to nominate yourself or a neighbor!

Residents can submit via email up to three pictures along with
the address to info@coalvalleyil.org

Contest Rules:

Only decorations visible from the street will be judged.
Resident must be within the Village limits. All submissions must
be
received no later than December 20th, 2021.
Winners will be announced via Facebook on January 3rd, 2022
and recognized at the at the
January 5th, 2022 Board meeting.