



August 2011

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR . . . .

As I come to the end of my fourth year on the Board of Directors and second year as Chairperson, and I sit down to write my last column for the Vail's Voice, I find myself at a loss for words. Surprising, right? Right. It's just that I can't figure out how to describe the magnitude of this experience... so let's just say it's been "real."

Of course, like everything in life, some days were good, some bad, some joyous and many were just mundane. But through it all, there were the couple of goals I had set out with and held onto throughout: behaving and voting in a fiscally responsible way and protecting the best interests of the shareholders of Vail's Grove at all times. All in all, I am impressed and very pleased with what our Board of Directors has accomplished in these areas and am grateful for having had the chance to be a part of these and our many other worthwhile endeavors.

But the best part is all the people I've met. When I joined the Board, I knew relatively few people in Vail's Grove. Today I can walk down the street and know who I am waving to and who is stopping me to ask a question. I see the same familiar and supportive faces at Board meetings and welcome their comments and suggestions. I can sit in on a conversation with some of the residents who have lived here the longest and almost keep up with who's who, who married who and who lived where. I said "almost" because I learn a new tidbit about our colorful population regularly and I will never know as much as our longest residing shareholders.

And I have had the opportunity to work with and learn from some truly wonderful fellow Board members, some of whom have become dear friends. I want to take this opportunity to thank those Board members and Committee Chairs, past and present, who have supported me during my tenure as Chair. Especially those who stepped up to take responsibility for projects, activities and initiatives that could not have been attempted or achieved without their hard work and dedication.

Being an active member of this community is a rewarding experience that I continue to encourage you to try. Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

*Victoria Desidero*

## Aesthetics

More curb appeal awards are forthcoming!!! Sharon and Matt Scott of 57 Vail's Lake Shore have done a beautiful "renovation" of their front garden area, replete with stone pathways, many new plants and small boxwoods, a birdbath, and pretty porch accessories.

Peggy and Bill Quinn's house at 53 Vail's Lake Shore looks so cheery with those beautiful red geraniums.

And Victoria Desidero and Michael Davies' home at 109 Vail's Lake Shore also has particularly lovely gardens. (Could we hope for any less from the initiator of the Aesthetics Committee?)

Don't hesitate to suggest a neighbor, whose garden you admire, for inclusion in the search for future curb appeal awards. The Grove is looking beautiful these days.

If you are thinning plants from your gardens, our Vail's Grove gardens and private shareholders as well could benefit from your largesse. Contact Ronnie Waltzer at 845-669-8085 and we will post your flower availability in the Voice. Also, Jay, from B & G, always seems to find a new home for "cast off" shrubs and flowers.

In the new garden at Norton's Circle (now renamed Tompkins Garden for Kevin's many contributions to Vail's Grove), we need "deer resistant" plants. Plants with gray-green foliage, fuzzy leaves, and grasses are not on the preferred menu of our deer friends.

If you have anything to contribute, please call me. Since Jay and I will both be away the second part of August, we probably won't put new plants in until early September, when they can be watered regularly.

Ronnie Waltzer

## IMPORTANT DATES

The Annual Meeting is on Sunday, September 18 at 11 am in the Pavilion. Light brunch will be served.

If you are interested in running for a Board seat, and there are five openings, please pick up a petition in the Office, to be returned by August 19. Thank you.

## Cindy's Corner

**REMINDER:** You MUST fill out a refinance application and have it approved by the Board BEFORE you can refinance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The office will be closed for vacation from Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

**TAKE NOTICE:** Please remember that Sean from Rovitti Electric is coming around to do Electrical Panel inspections. The Grove is paying for the inspections and he will only need to be in your home for 5-10 minutes. Thank you for your cooperation.

## And the Survey Says.....

The Long Range Planning Committee got an overwhelming shareholder response to the survey it sent out asking for ideas about ways to spend (or not spend) money! A total of 80 surveys were returned and there were lots of excellent comments and suggestions. The responses were as varied as they could possibly be with almost as many people wanting to SPEND NO MONEY AND SAVE as wanting to PUT IN A POOL (the most expensive option).

Other popular projects were the Pavilion Dock Renovation and doing **something** with the tennis courts which, by the way, have been repaired and repainted by Buildings & Grounds for a small amount of money and look fabulous.

Full results of the Long Range Planning Survey are available at the Vail's Grove Office and will be printed in the Annual Report.

## Beach Committee

Sad to say that the summer is quickly coming to an end. Lifeguards will continue to be on duty regular times until Labor Day.

## Sunshine Committee

Good news! Jim Sheridan is finally out of the hospital after a very lengthy stay and home from rehab after a short stay! He is recuperating with the help of his wife, Joan, and enjoying the rest of the summer in Vail's Grove!

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Our best wishes to Frank Cammisa for a speedy recovery!

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It has been reported to the office that former Vail's Grove resident Ed Bylinski, formerly of 11 Hilltop Lane, passed away on July 7th and our condolences go out to his family. Ed was 87 years young.

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Congratulations to Sue Enos who is a grandmother (again!) to her daughter Andrea and husband Michael's third son who arrived on August 3.

## New Garages

Construction is underway on our new garages. The good news is that the cost of rebuilding is being covered by insurance. (There is no bad news.)

Sue Enos and Ronnie Waltzer have been working on the aesthetics of color choices and style after the initial design by Architect Richie Vail was approved by the Board. It will be a surprise.

And the plants that were rescued from the gardens adjacent to the old garages will be replaced. Thanks to Joan Myers, Jay and Ronnie for their blood, sweat and tears in digging them up for temporary repotting.

## Around the Town . . .

Looking for some fun and free activities to do with the kids, try these:

- Make a School House Photo Holder Saturday, August 13 and a School Locker Saturday, August 27 at Lowes starting at 10 AM
- Stew Leonard's is showing free movies in the Hoe Down every Thursday night at 6PM
- The North Salem Library has a daily activity for every age. Check the web site for details.