



Morning Rush Hour for Delivery and Trash Trucks on Upper Bridge Street  
- Concerned Citizen Photo

# Vail Homeowners Association Newsletter

News, Analysis, and Commentary for Vail Homeowners

October 19, 2013

## In This Issue

[Unfinished Business](#)

[Town Council Candidate Election Forum Update](#)

[Additional Question for the Candidates](#)

[Every Vote Matters - Election Specifics](#)

[Become A Member](#)

## Unfinished Business

**Truck Delivery System Needs to Change:** The community and property owners invested, as their part of the Vail Renaissance redevelopment, many millions of dollars to create an enhanced shopping and living environment on Bridge Street and Gore Creek Drive in the heart of Vail Village. Along with heating the streets and the installation of decorative brick paving and streetscape art work, millions of dollars were invested in enclosed truck terminals to relocate the staging of delivery truck traffic off of the street. Several enclosed loading terminal docks were built into redevelopment projects

throughout the area. The last remaining element to the terminal system was recently completed by the owners of the Sebastian Hotel, which opened access to the entire Vail Village Inn block.

**L&D Terminals Add Value to Guest Experience:** The value of the terminal system can be seen firsthand in comparing and contrasting the truck-free new East Meadow Drive commercial area with the ongoing truck congestion on the Bridge Street and Gore Creek Drive business district. The truck-free areas have proven far more popular for special events like street concerts and the Farmer's Market. It is these types of special events that have proven to be most effective in putting feet-on-the-streets resulting in filling hotel rooms, restaurant seats and ringing cash registers in retail shops.

**Time to Change Town Policy to Best Practices:** In 2007 the Town of Vail decided to retain, with minor adjustments, the pre-Renaissance redevelopment truck access policy citing as its rationale that the loading and delivery system was yet to be completed. The Town's decision was influenced by the stressful economic conditions caused by the "great recession". These stresses are no longer a threat as attested to by the record setting increases in the Town's sales tax receipts. The Town committed to changing the policy once the Renaissance element of the terminal system was completed. It is now complete.

**Vail's Resort Commercial Center is One of the Biggest Contributors to Gore Creek's Pollution:** There are now additional environmental sustainability factors that are influencing the use of the public streets. The urban runoff from Vail Village and Lionshead is one of the highest sources of contamination that is causing the pollution of Gore Creek. The heating of the streets has eliminated much of the pollution caused by the sanding of roadways. One of the biggest contributors to waterway contamination is chemicals from paved surfaces. Treatment of chemical pollution is much more complicated and expensive to achieve. Relocating delivery vehicles to terminals could result in concentrating collection and treatment of vehicle related pollutants.

**Consumer Expectations of Environmental Sustainability:** The expectation by consumers for businesses to conduct their activities according to environmentally sustainable principles has begun to influence local business practices. Recycling of waste products is one of those expectations. Some of the delivery terminals can be modified to function as recycling collection and processing sites. The onsite shredding of plastics and cardboard including the crushing of glass could reduce the volume and improve the efficiency of the recycling process. A high-volume trash compactor already exists at the largest delivery terminal.

**Town of Vail Needs to Take Necessary Next Steps:** Members of the Homeowners Association are requesting that the Town of Vail take the necessary steps to fulfill their commitment to incentivize businesses to use the now completed terminal system. This may require public investment in a small fleet of electric delivery vans to replace manual hand carts, so that delivery drivers can make front door deliveries to businesses. Instituting a truck access fee to enter Vail Village could be one of the methods to hasten the relocation process and to fund the electric cart and recycling operation.

**VHA Desires to Work With Business Community to Implement Best Practices Strategy:** It is the desire of the Homeowners Association to work with business interests to identify a procedure that will increase the utilization of the terminal system. It is urged that business interests lead the way toward pragmatic solutions based upon a recognition

that environmental sustainability goes hand in hand with their own and the broader community's economic sustainability.

**Morning Rush for Delivery Trucks and Vans on Gore Creek Drive and Lower Bridge Street - Concerned Citizen Photo**

**Online Candidate Election Forum Underway - new responses received\***

## **Town of Vail 2013 Town Council Election**

This November 5th, Vail's registered voters will decide who will fill four of the seven seats on the Vail Town Council. With Vail's limited population of registered voters, every vote counts! The Vail Homeowners Association gives Vail Town Council candidates the opportunity to provide written answers "in their own words" to questions gathered from members of the community. Each candidate's responses are posted on the Association's website as they are received. We'll send you additional updates as the campaign proceeds and the candidates respond. View responses from:

[Jenn Bruno](#)

[Dale Bugby - See responses 10/9/13](#)

[Sounia Nejad Chaney](#)

[Dave Chapin - See responses 10/16/13\\*](#)

[Meighan Lovelace - See responses 10/7/13](#)

[Greg Moffet](#)

[Susie Tjossem - See responses 10/16/13\\*](#)

## Additional Questions for the Candidates

VHA's questions address the candidates' qualifications as well as their views on issues important to Vail's voters and property owners. Questions 7 thru 14 of 15 questions are listed here:

7. What steps or actions would you propose or favor to reduce pollution levels in Gore Creek that emanate from government owned property like highways, streets, parks, recreation facilities, open space and public parking lots? Should "no mow" zones be required on private property that fronts on Gore Creek and/or its tributaries?

8. What steps or actions would you propose or favor to reduce highway noise from and congestion on Interstate 70 in the short-term and the long-term?

9. Is the Town adequately prepared to respond to natural disasters such as wildfire, landslides and major flooding? If not, how would you improve the community's alert and response system?

10. In your opinion, have the business and life style expectations of commercial and residential interests become out of balance? If so, how should they be re-balanced?

11. What approaches would you suggest that would bring balance in the participation between resident and non-resident property owners in the affairs of the Town of Vail?

12. How would you increase tax receipts with and without hosting more and larger special events?

13. How would you proceed with removing more on-street loading & delivery traffic now that the loading & delivery terminal system has been completed in Vail Village?

14. What impacts do you foresee will result from the development of Ever Vail and the Summer Mountain expansion? [See all questions...](#)

## Every Vote Matters - Election Specifics

### SPREAD THE WORD!

Due to changes in the state's election laws, the Town of Vail no longer automatically mails ballots to all voters who had previously requested to vote by mail. We encourage all Vail voters to verify that they are registered to vote and to request a mail-in ballot now if you do not plan to vote at the polls. See the following information from the Town of Vail's website:

Vail's Nov. 5 election is an at-the-polls format with all voting taking place at the Town of Vail Municipal Building, 75 S. Frontage Rd., from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is separate from the Eagle County election. Voters who won't be casting ballots in person at the polls on Nov. 5 must fill out an application for a mail-in/early voter ballot. The application form is available from the Town Clerk's Office or on the town's website:

[http://vailgov.com/docs/dl\\_forms/application\\_for\\_mail\\_in\\_early\\_voters\\_110513.pdf](http://vailgov.com/docs/dl_forms/application_for_mail_in_early_voters_110513.pdf)

**The deadline to submit a mail-in/early voting request form for out of state delivery is Oct. 25 to be able to return the voted ballot to the Town Clerk's Office by the Nov. 5 deadline.** Anyone receiving a mail-in ballot becomes ineligible to vote at the polls.

Early voting will begin at the Vail Municipal Building on Oct. 24 and will continue through Nov. 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Eligible voters include those who are U.S. citizens, are 18 years of age or older and have established residency within the Town of Vail 22 days preceding the election; but you must register. Voter registration is available between now and Oct. 28 through the State of Colorado online voter registration system. To register, go to:

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/Voter/secuVerifyExist.do>

Voters will also be able to register in person at the Eagle County Clerk & Recorder's offices up to the day of the election. To verify if you are currently registered to vote, visit: <https://www.sos.state.co.us/Voter/secuVoterSearch.do>

Also see the [TOV 2013 Election Calendar](#) & [Important Election Information](#). For more information, contact the Vail Town Clerk's Office at 970-479-2113.

## **Vail Homeowners Association - Become a Member**

### **Membership Information**

**Considering Membership? We work to protect your interests. Contact Us.**

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**Candidate Election Forum Underway - new responses received\***