

July, 2013

Dear Casolar Homeowners,

I hope all of you had the opportunity to enjoy the fabulous snow this winter and the recent sunny, warm weather. It doesn't get much better than this.

The natural beauty of the mountains in the summer is amazing, but the wildlife sometimes reminds us that we are not alone here. Recently, there have been bear sightings in West Vail and I want to remind EVERYONE that the Town of Vail ordinance states that your bear proof trash containers should be put out no earlier than dawn on trash pickup day (Tuesday in our area) and returned to the garage by 7PM that day. If you have renters or guests in your home, please be sure they know about this rule. If they are leaving before Tuesday morning please ensure that you have a property manager or other individual who can take their trash out and return your can to the garage within these defined times. In addition to being a serious safety concern, the Town can fine the homeowner if trash cans are left out and can even mandate a court appearance from the homeowner. Please do your part to comply with this Town of Vail ordinance.

I'm pleased to announce that Rod Wright, who bought Greg Hampton's home last year, has agreed to serve on the Board for the duration of Charles Reyner's term. We will miss Charles and his many contributions to the Board but we know Rod will be an active participant and an invaluable Board member.

In the next few weeks the Board will be working on the budget for 2013-2014 and would like your input on how you would like to allocate the dues you pay. Based on the feedback we received from the survey to which many of you responded, we are committed to keeping the annual dues at \$1900 per home. We believe as a Board we are responsible for staying within each annual budget, but certainly are open to changes and/or reallocations from each of you. We need to send out the proposed budget to you no later than July 26th which is 30 days before the annual meeting scheduled for Sunday, August 25th at 3PM. We will therefore need your suggestions by **July 19th** at the latest.

All of the current Board members have indicated their willingness to serve another term, but if you would like to add your name to the ballot for next year's

Board please email me so that your name can be placed on the ballot that we will be mailing out in late July.

The Board hired Pristine Landscaping to be our new landscaping and irrigation company for this spring and summer. They have spent time adjusting the sprinkler systems so our lawns will green up nicely despite the lack of rainfall in Vail. The landscaping committee of the Board will continue to take an active role in working with our new contractor.

If financially feasible, the Board would like to do some additional landscaping to make our area even more beautiful and are soliciting your suggestions for projects you would like to see us add to the regular maintenance we are currently doing (mowing, irrigation, weeding, fertilizing, tree spraying for bugs, flower bed maintenance). Please email us or call one of us if you have suggestions.

Our annual tree spraying to combat pine and aspen scale took place last week. We are pleased to report a continued reduction in scale that was starting to impact the health of the trees throughout the subdivision. As a reminder, individual homeowners who wish to ensure even better health of the trees around their homes may wish to consider hiring Ceres (formerly known as A-Cut-Above forestry) to also do a fertilizer injection and scale soil injection near the base of their trees. A number of homeowners have done this and have reported great results.

Brendan McCarthy worked tirelessly to have the Town of Vail fix the light above the boulder at the entrance to Casolar Drive. I am pleased to report that after many calls and requests he was successful and the light was finally repaired by the Town. It looks fabulous! Here are the daytime and nighttime photos:



Just a reminder that if you are planning to do any renovations or repairs to your home, the BOD needs to approve any externally visible changes before the Design Review Board at the town of Vail will grant their approval and issue you a building permit. We encourage all of you to make any improvements you feel necessary to increase the value and appearance of your home.

The rest of the Board and I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting in August, location to be determined.

Warm regards to all of you,

Nancy Bigsby, President, Casolar HOA