



# The Town Bugle

News and Views from the Town of Estes Park • Fall 2006 • Vol. 6 • No. 4

## Students provide inspiration for tunnel tile project expressing community spirit

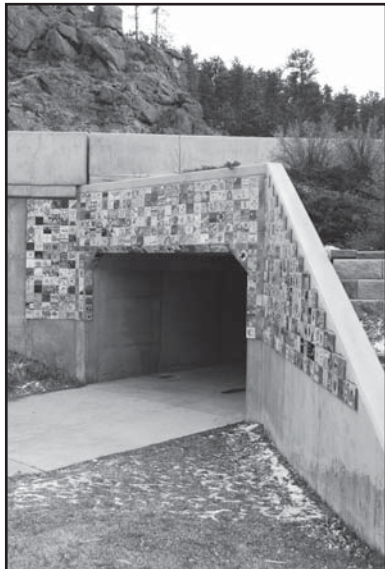
Colorful handpainted tiles now highlight the once-drab concrete pedestrian underpass entrance

The beautiful tile mural framing the west entrance of the pedestrian tunnel at Highways 34 and 36 is a clear example of what a community can accomplish when its residents work together. Instead of drab concrete, people are now invited into the walkway by colorful, hand-painted majolica tiles.

This innovative project evolved from the participation of Eagle Rock School and Estes Park High School students in a group called "Peace Jam." This national organization promotes community awareness and peaceful interaction among all people. After returning from a conference where the students met with Nobel Prize winners, the students were inspired to develop a service project reflecting the concept of "Community Unity."

Their idea was to paint and fire six-inch, frost-proof exterior ceramic tiles and then install them at the pedestrian underpass. The project was designed to involve the entire commu-

nity and the concept received a unanimous vote of support from the Trustees at the June 2005 Public Works Committee meeting. The Town also worked in partnership with the students by purchasing the blank tiles and glazes required for the project.



The tile mural is both a colorful and meaningful addition to Estes Park's trail system.

Under the guidance of Eagle Rock art teacher Cynthia Elkins, in the past year the students have sponsored 30 to 40 sessions at which area residents, local organizations and people of all ages could paint tiles. The only requirement for subject matter was that each design should express the artist's feelings about Estes Park.

Thanks to financial contributions from citizens and civic groups, more than 1,200 tiles have been professionally installed, with each of the contributing artists feeling a sense of ownership in the finished product. An official ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted at the underpass October 25th.

Elkins says about 200 tiles remain to be installed. Plans are to continue mounting the the completed artwork on the the east and west facades, or possibly in a ribbon along the interior of the tunnel walls. ■

### Inside

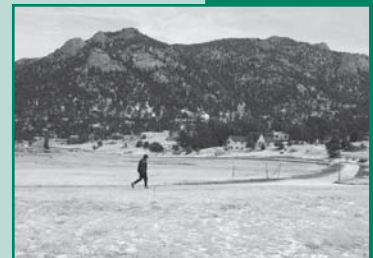
**New rate structure on tap for water customers**

**'Scope of Services' provides important data for Town departments**

**Helping Hands Fund embodies holiday spirit**

**Community Calendar**

**Historical Moment**



### Fish Creek Loop to be completed early this December

On September 12th, the Public Works Department began construction on Fish Creek Trail Phase Three, a section which completes a 5.7-mile loop that began in 2002 with the Highway 36 Pedestrian Underpass Project. This final phase of the trail begins at the trail's previous end point at Scott Avenue. From there, the new section heads west for one-half mile to connect with the Highway 7 Trail.

# Scope of Services offers a tool to evaluate departmental performance and efficiency

Numbers provide insight regarding costs and what Town services need to be reviewed

Generally speaking, the role of local government is to provide a framework for order and delivery of services. The “order” function is carried out through laws, ordinances and codes. Services, however, are delivered based upon the needs and priorities of the community. Services tend to be more difficult to measure and this fall Town departments embarked upon a review of the services each provides to the community in an effort to quantify our efforts.

The analysis resulted in development of service scopes that list the services each department provides either to the community or to other Town departments. In most instances, the department provides additional services beyond the detail in the scopes. However, they are either incidental to a primary service, or so infrequent that the impact on operating costs or service levels is

nonexistent.

In addition, each department has developed measures of efficiency and effectiveness to be used as “dashboard” indicators of the performance of each department. In most cases, the “dashboard” indicators will provide a quarter-to-quarter or year-over-year comparison of trends or department performance. The objective is simply to be able to evaluate our operations annually and not necessarily against other communities (partly due to the fact that there are no known benchmark comparisons readily available at this time). The information can be quite helpful when faced with tight budgets and growing expenses.

It is anticipated that the scope details and “dashboard” metrics will be modified over time as the Town utilizes this tool to evaluate operations. “In the short run, the numbers will provide insight to what our cost drivers are and what services need to be reviewed for outsourcing or elimination,” said Town Administrator Randy Repola. This is a step toward operating more like a business and less like a bureaucracy. The service scopes will simply provide more data for decisions related to operations. ■

## ‘Helping Hands’ more than just an ornament

Each year, the Town’s employees create a commemorative Christmas ornament that is available to the public. Proceeds from those sales go to the Town’s Helping Hands Fund, a reserve used to help people in need.

Helping Hands began in 1986, spurred by a tragedy that propelled Town employees to act. According to then-Town employee Carolyn Jones, a young couple, relatively new to town, was at the Estes Park Medical Center experiencing the birth of their first child.

While they were there, their rental house caught fire and burned to the ground. The couple had nowhere to go with their baby and nothing but the

clothes on their backs.

Jones had the idea of creating a Town ornament and selling them to create a fund to help with situations like these. She chose the name Helping Hands because the doors on some Town vehicles featured two shaking hands. Twenty years later, the fund is still going strong. Since 1999, \$34,697 has been given to residents in the community who need assistance.

The 2006 design features a photo of MacGregor Ranch. The facility, which is now more than 100 years old, is a working cattle ranch and an educational center for children all over the country. A few 2001-2005 ornaments are also available at Town Hall. ■

The Town  
of Estes  
Park



**Mayor**  
John Baudek

**Town Trustees**  
Bill Pinkham,  
Mayor Pro Tem  
Eric Blackhurst  
Dorla Eisenlauer  
Richard Homeier  
Chuck Levine  
Wayne Newsom

**Town Vision**  
The Town of Estes Park will continue to be one of the premier mountain resort communities in the United States. This vision includes:

- Being a caring organization sensitive to the needs of our citizens, visitors, and employees.
- Having an employee team that takes pride in being recognized as a model of innovation and performance.
- Providing services which are responsive and reliable.

**Town Mission**  
The mission of the Town of Estes Park is to plan and provide reliable, high-value services for our citizens, visitors, and employees. We take great pride ensuring and enhancing the quality of life in our community by being good stewards of public resources and our natural setting.

**Contact Us**  
Address: P.O. Box 1200  
Estes Park, CO 80517  
Phone: 577-3800  
Website: [www.estesnet.com](http://www.estesnet.com)

# Water customers to see changes in February 2007 bills

New rate structure provides for sound financial planning and equitable costs for consumers

All customers who receive water service from the Town will see changes on their January billing in 2007. There will also be a 2.9% increase on customer bills starting in January 2008. Most will see increases in 2007, but some will actually experience lower water bills.

“With this new rate system, the 2,500 gallon volume allowance in the customer base fee will be eliminated,” said Utilities Director Bob Goehring.

All customers will be charged for each gallon used in addition to the customer base fee. Customers using no water will pay only the base fee. (See table below.) This type of rate structure encourages water conservation and is common among similarly sized utilities along the Front Range.

The Town’s Water Department is operated as an enterprise fund with funding for the capital and operating expenses derived primarily from water sales revenue, water rights fees, and plant development fees. Recognizing the importance of financially planning for capital improvements and the financial impact of recent drought conditions, the Town authorized Black and Veatch to perform a rate study for the years 2003 through 2008 to ensure the Town maintains a financially sound utility.

This study was designed to achieve the following goals:

1. Eliminate the annual deficit after 2004.
2. Exceed the industry standard ending balance reserve of 90 days operation and maintenance expense plus 2% fixed assets.
3. Design rates to assist in financing the capital improvement program (CIP).



The new rate structure will help make possible large capital improvement projects such as an expansion of the Mary’s Lake Water Treatment Plant.

The CIP includes large capital improvement projects such as the Mary’s Lake Water Treatment Plant Expansion.

To meet the goals of the utility, rate adjustments have been approved for 2007 and 2008 to increase annual water sales revenue by 2.9 percent. These new rates were designed to equitably recover the cost of serving each customer class. ■

TYPICAL MONTHLY BILLS FOR TOWN OF ESTES PARK URBAN AND RURAL CUSTOMERS						
Gallons Used	2006		2007		2008	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
(Customer Base) 0	\$19.00	\$30.40	\$15.20	\$24.35	\$15.50	\$24.80
1,000	19.00	30.40	18.40	29.47	18.83	30.13
3,000	20.55	32.87	24.80	39.71	25.49	40.79
5,000	26.73	42.75	31.20	49.95	32.15	51.45

For more information on the water rate study, you can go to: <http://www.estesnet.com/publicworks/water/default.aspx>

# Safety concerns lead to playground equipment upgrades



Area children and their parents are sure to notice the recent improvements made at two downtown sites: Children’s Park and Baldwin Park. The outdated structures at both locations were replaced by the Town with much more child-friendly and safe equipment. The swings have been removed as part of the effort to improve safety. So far the response has been positive from people of all ages, both visitors and Estes Valley residents.

## Calendar of Community Events

### December - February

**Rocky Mountain National Park Saturday Night Lectures** at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. 7 p.m. 586-1206

**Estes Park Music Festival Sunday Concerts** (except Dec. 24 and 31) 2 p.m. 586-9519

**Elkhorn Avenue Exhibit, Estes Park Museum.** 586-6256  
**Colorado Vistas and Landscapes by Robert Wands** Conference Center. 586-9203

### December

**2: Quota Holiday Home Tour.** 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. 586-5800

**2: Fine Arts Guild Christmas Collage musical program.** Ruesch Auditorium, 7 p.m. 586-9203

**3: Oratorio Society Concert.** Community Church. 3:30 p.m. 577-9900

**8 & 9: Winter Book Sale.** Estes Park Library. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 586-8116

**9: Zebulon Pike: Secret Agent Man? Lecture.** Estes Park Museum, 7 p.m. 586-6256

**9: Estes Park Music Festival Fantasy Ball.** Stanley Hotel. 586-9519

**10: Holiday Concert by Estes Park Village Band and Estes Park Jazz Big Band.** High School. 7 p.m. 586-9203

**16: Make an Edible Homestead.** A mommy-and-me craft for 3-5 year olds. Reservations required. Estes Park Museum. 586-6256

### January

**10: Colorado Children's Chorale concert.** High School. 7 p.m. 586-9519

**20: WinterFest at Rocky Mountain National Park.** 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. 303-757-3100

**20: "Whose Peak? Stephen Long and his Expedition" lecture.** Estes Park Museum. 7 p.m. 586-6256

**28: 28th Frost Giant Race.** 586-8191

### February

**10: "An Evening with Glenn Miller" Lecture.** Estes Park Museum. 7 p.m.

**17: Winter Trails Day.** Rocky Mountain National Park. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. 586-4431

**17: Cultural Arts Council "Imagine This!"** High School. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. 586-9203

**17-18: Rails in the Rockies X.** Conference Center, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. 577-9900

*Committee and Town Board Meetings are held regularly in the Board Room at Town Hall. Citizens are encouraged to attend. Go to [www.estesnet.com/TownClerk](http://www.estesnet.com/TownClerk) for dates and times. The Town Trustees and Mayor are available to speak at clubs and meetings. For more information, contact Town Clerk Jackie Williamson at 577-3702.*

Check our complete listing of community events and more at [www.estesnet.com](http://www.estesnet.com)



## Take a Historical Moment

### Buel Porter's whimsical holiday art creates a lasting legacy

Buel Porter, creator of Estes Park's larger-than-life artwork and holiday displays, made a contribution to Estes Park that lasted well beyond his years. Born in Illinois in 1896, Porter made his livelihood as a sign painter and theater lobby artist. While working in Kansas City painting signs, Porter became a friend of another up-and-coming visionary - Walt Disney. Porter and his family moved to Estes Park in 1951. Shortly thereafter, Porter made a Santa and sleigh display for his home that was so popular it was commandeered by the Town for use in Bond Park the following year. By 1955, Porter had created the Santa and sleigh that sits on the knoll



above Town Hall for \$300. The coming years saw the addition of the "Nativity Scene," "Christmas in Bugsville," "The Card Shop," "Jesus," "The Wise Men," and "Lady in the Shoe." Porter created his displays, some more than 20 feet high, by making scaled-down drawings

of one inch to one foot. He then used an overhead projector to trace the image on 4 x 8 foot blocks, one block at a time. He punched holes along the lines of the large drawing, then laid it out onto painted wood boards, and sprinkled powder over them. When removed, the powder followed the outlines, which Porter traced by hand and painted.

In 2005, the Town of Estes Park commissioned an authentic replication of one of its seven Porter plywood Christmas displays, "Santa and his Reindeer." It was re-created using digital computer imaging with the end result very similar to the original. ■



P.O. Box 1200  
Estes Park, Colorado 80517



**Q: In what year did the Town produce its first Christmas ornament?**

- A:** a) 1974  
b) 1981  
c) 1986  
d) 1993

See Page 3 for the answer!

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