



# The Town Bugle

News and Views from the Town of Estes Park • Spring 2006 • Vol. 6 • No. 2



ERIC BLACKHURST



DORLA EISENLAUER



RICHARD HOMEIER

## Two new Trustees and one familiar face assume Town Board duties

Homeier, Eisenlauer and Blackhurst elected to serve 4-year Town Board terms

The April 4th Town Trustee election included six candidates vying for three Trustee seats. Successful candidates were incumbent Richard Homeier, Dorla Eisenlauer and Eric Blackhurst. Each was elected to a four-year term.

Voter turnout in the recent Estes Park election was reported as being just short of 20 percent. However, that number is slightly misleading.

While the 850 voters that participated are calculated as representing 19.8 percent of total registered voters, the percentage tally includes former residents and others who may not currently be valid voters in Town elections.

According to the Larimer County Elections office, a person remains on the voter registration list for up to four years without voting in a general election if the county has not been notified that the person has moved and registered elsewhere.

In other words, a former resident who participated in the 2004 general election may still be counted as a registered voter in Estes Park. Generally, if a person moves and registers in a new county or state, Larimer County is notified and their registration is cancelled.

Elections for statutory towns, set by state statute, are conducted the first Tuesday in April in even-numbered years. Three trustee seats and a mayoral selection will be on the ballot during the voting scheduled to take place in April 2008. ■

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About 500 people took part in the dedication of the new Visitors Center during the grand opening ceremony held April 7th. See Page 3 for more details.



PHOTO BY JAMES FRANK © 2006

Mayor John Baudek (center) cuts the ribbon as Town Trustees, dignitaries, Town staff and guests look on.

## New Visitors Center is open for business

Visitors to Estes Park are getting a new perspective on this vacation haven.

Gone is the brown nondescript structure that had been used as a Visitors Information Center since it opened in 1975. In its place sits a mountain lodge that's about 2.5 times larger and serves the same purpose.

Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau staff began operating from the new offices March 15. Nearly 500 people attended the formal dedication and grand opening April 7.

Town officials say the impression left by the building could act as a catalyst for strengthening the community's position as a premier family vacation destination while providing a hub for two experimental shuttle systems set to operate this summer.

"The center provides an image of Estes Park that sets the tone for the visitor. We know it is important to have the building represent the type of experience people will enjoy," said CVB Executive Director Tom Pickering. Architectural elements of logs, stone and windows provide the

basis for those first impressions.

The new center can now accommodate handicapped visitors and provides space for those seeking information about the area. The old structure that was demolished was designed for 50,000 visitors a year. Current statistics show that about 200,000 people use the Visitors Center's facilities annually.

A 155-space parking lot adjoins the Visitors Center. Another 100 parking spaces just a short walk across the Big Thompson River will be available in June. The addition of those spaces (there were 53 spaces at the old building) will allow the Town of Estes Park to inaugurate its experimental Shopper Shuttle in July. At the same time, Rocky Mountain National Park will operate a Hiker Shuttle as an extension of its already popular park-and-ride system. Park passes will be available at the Visitors Center through an automated machine at the Estes Park Visitors Center.

The new Visitors Center cost the Town of Estes Park \$1.275 million and was funded internally through its community reinvestment fund. ■

## 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)

# Shuttles to operate in experimental venture this summer

Routes to offer access to and from shopping areas, as well as popular RMNP destinations

The Town of Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park will experiment this summer with two free shuttle services aimed at enhancing services for visitors – a “Shopper Shuttle” and a “Hiker Shuttle.”

Both systems will be operated by McDonald Transit Association, the firm already used by Rocky Mountain National Park for its Park-and-Ride system from July 1st through Labor Day. Both routes will use the Estes Park Visitors Center as a hub for operations.

Two vehicles will provide continuous-loop Shopper Shuttle service from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Individuals can board shuttles at six locations east of the Visitors Center and at delivery pull-offs on both sides of Elkhorn Avenue through the core downtown area and Performance Park. It is anticipated that using two vehicles for the Shopper Shuttle will allow for 20-minute intervals between stops. Route maps and other materials about the shuttles will be available before the inaugural

service run.

“Town officials spent the past two years looking at similar systems in use in other parts of the United States that also have consistently high seasonal



These shuttle buses will become a familiar sight this summer for tourists and residents alike.

traffic and limited land mass available for expanding parking. Leaders in communities bordering Zion National Park and Acadia National Park provided us wonderful advice and a blueprint for what they found works. Beginning 10 years ago experts have been telling us Estes Park needed to establish a reliable public transportation system. We’re hopeful that this system will be embraced by our visitors as it has been in other communities,” said Tom Pickering, Executive Director of the Convention

and Visitors Bureau.

The National Park’s Hiker Shuttle will run from the Town of Estes Park Visitors Center to the Beaver Meadows Visitors Center and then to the Park-and-Ride on an hourly schedule.

The first bus will leave the Town’s Visitors Center at 9 a.m. and the last bus will leave the Park-and-Ride bound for Estes Park at 8 p.m. A Park pass will be required for riders. Campers who are staying at Moraine Park Campground and Glacier Basin Campground can also utilize this route to go to Estes Park, leaving their cars and or RVs behind in these two Park campgrounds.

Park passes can be purchased at automated fee machines located at the Town of Estes Park Visitors Center and Beaver Meadows Visitors Center.

“We are excited to partner with the Town of Estes Park to provide visitors with a shuttle bus service directly to Rocky Mountain National Park. This adds another option for how visitors can experience the Park and how campers, in two of the Park’s campgrounds, can enjoy the amenities found in Estes Park. It is also a great opportunity for visitors to reduce their fuel consumption,” said Kyle Patterson, Park Information Officer.

This experiment, the first of its kind in this area, will explore whether visitors are interested in leaving their cars behind in Estes Park to board a bus that brings them to the core downtown shopping area or directly to Rocky Mountain National Park.

To support the shuttle systems, about 180 parking spaces are being added to total about 250 in two Visitor Center parking areas.

In addition to providing shuttle services for Rocky Mountain National Park, the company provides mass transportation systems for cities and universities throughout the United States. The company operated the transit system for the Salt Lake Olympics and the X-games in Aspen. ■

## Town Web site under reconstruction

After six years, the Town of Estes Park’s governmental Web site, [www.estesnet.com](http://www.estesnet.com) is undergoing major reconstruction this spring. The revised site is expected to be seen in early June.

“Internet usage has come a long way since we first designed the Town’s Web site,” said Web team leader Peter Marsh. “The whole team has been involved in making certain that the site is much more friendly to people seeking information about the Town. We’re confident that the way the site works will be more convenient and much less frustrating for everyone,” he added.

In addition to vastly improved functionality, the new design is complementary to other Town branding efforts. The Town’s Web site consistently is either first or second in natural rankings on search engines such as Google, Yahoo, AOL and MSN. Staff members from every Town department have been involved in the make-over.

A final “go-live” date will be announced prior to Memorial Day. ■

## Calendar of Community Events

### May

- 21 Parade of Years Car Tour. Museum. 586-6256
- 27, 28 Antiques and Collectibles Show. Barn W at the Fairgrounds. 586-6104
- 27-29 Art Market. Bond Park. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily. 586-5882

### June

- 3 Fishing Derby. Marina. 586-8191
- 9 Sand Creek Massacre Then and Now lecture. Museum. 7 p.m. 586-6256
- 10 Rocky Mountain Brewfest. Estes Park Brewery. Noon-5 p.m. 586-5421
- 15-18 Quilt Show. Conference Center. 303-450-1564
- 17 Arts for the Parks exhibit through July 10th. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Intermediate School. 586-9203
- 17-18 Estes Park Wool Market. 577-9900
- 17 Estes Park Marathon. 586-8189

- 18 Cowboy Sing-a-longs. Bond Park. Sundays & Mondays. 7 p.m.
- 21-22 Miniature Horse Show. Fairgrounds. 586-6104
- 21 Thursday Night Live series begins. Performance Park. 7 p.m. 586-9203
- 23 Roger Wolcott Toll lecture. Museum. 7 p.m. 586-6256
- 24-25 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival. Bond Park. 586-6073
- 24-25 Miniature Horse Show. Fairgrounds. 586-6104
- 26 Riverside Rhythms series begins. Riverside Plaza. Monday-Wednesday. 3 p.m.
- 26 Estes Park Music Festival concert. High School Auditorium. 586-9519

### July

- 1 Historic District Tour. Museum. 586-6256
- 3 Patriotic Pops Concert. Colorado Music Festival Orchestra. Performance Park. 7p.m.
- 4 Coolest Car Show. 11-4. 586-6104
- 4 Fireworks at dusk over Lake Estes.

- 8 Team Penning. Fairgrounds. 586-6104
- 11-16 Rooftop Rodeo Parade 10:30 a.m. July 11th at 10:30; 7:30 p.m. rodeo performances. 586-6104

#### Estes Park Museum Exhibits:

May 19 - Jan. 7, 2007 10th Mountain Division Exhibit. 586-6256  
Through Sept. 24 Charles Partridge Adams Exhibit. 586-6256

#### Performance Park:

Live performances at 7 p.m. on Wednesday nights beginning June 21st. 577-9900

*Committee and Town Board Meetings are held regularly at the Municipal Building. 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

### A cyclical pattern of upgrading facilities is emerging in EP

In the special "Progress" edition of the *Trail*, 31 years ago, 1975 was dubbed the "Year of Cooperation." That year the community supported the construction of a cadre of well known public buildings, including the hospital, the high school, and the Town's original Visitors Center.

Now 31 years later, 2006 is proving to be an important year in the life of two of those buildings. This spring, the hospital broke ground for a major expansion and upgrade, and the Visitors Center has recently been replaced by an entirely new structure.

Though 1975 may not seem like history to many, Estes Park has changed significantly since then. Between 1970 and 1980, the population of the Estes Park area almost doubled. The Lawn Lake Flood, which swept through Estes Park in 1982, changed the streetscape of Elkhorn Avenue and ushered in an era of urban renewal, river walks, trees and flowers, and public parks.

Though some of our historic landmarks remain fixed, such as the Stanley Hotel, built in 1909, other aspects of our town have grown along with the population and continue to make Estes Park a wonderful place to live and visit. ■



Visitors to Estes Park gather information from staff at the original Estes Park Visitors Center.



P.O. Box 1200  
Estes Park, Colorado 80517



**Q:** In what year were the original Estes Park Visitors Center, Estes Park Medical Center and Estes Park High School built?

**A:** a) 1963 b) 1969 c) 1975 d) 1984

See the Historical Moment above for the answer!

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