

Escape

a chronicle of the christie lodge owners association

Avon Plans for Future Development

Community Comes First

The city planners and government in Avon continue their quest to develop Avon into a vacation destination in its own right but pledge to not lose sight of the sense of community enjoyed by residents and visitors. One example is the West Town Center that is an easy walk from the Christie Lodge's front door.

The West Town Center is envisioned as the heart of Avon and should be considered a gathering place for locals and visitors alike. The history and culture of the area will be preserved by the pedestrian-friendly focal points and plazas.

The five major focal points include the Lake Street/Main Street Plaza, which will connect Avon's Main Street to Nottingham Park and will feature a comfortable view of the entire park. The Library/Recreation Center Plaza will feature displays of fine art, will have terraced landscaped gardens and will overlook Beaver Creek.

The Seasons/Sheraton Plaza is envisioned to be a piazza (Italian for public square) and the primary gathering area for the West Town Center. It will include art integrated into the streetscape, decorative lighting and lots of tables and chairs available for casual conversation or soaking in the scenery.

The Lettuce Shed Plaza will include year round artistic lighting and a specially-designed fire pit. Lettuce Shed Lane will feed into the plaza and will contain historical elements relating to Avon's history. In the 1920's the Avon area was a major lettuce growing area, because lettuce happens to be well-suited for the local climate! It is a fact that Minturn, just 4 miles from the Christie Lodge was once called the Lettuce Capital of the United States. Meadow Mountain in Minturn is a favorite hiking spot for many of our guests - ask the Concierge for details next time you're here.



Modern architecture combines with warm friendliness to create comfortable gathering places.

The Eastern Plaza is the primary transition and entryway from Avon Road. It will contain a gateway art feature designed to announce Main Street.

At the other end of town, across the street from the Lodge, is the East Town Center. Owners and guests have witnessed major transformations to this area over the last few years and changes are guaranteed under the city's comprehensive plan.

These developments are sometimes referred to as Avon's "redevelopment" and also the "revitalization."

Winter/Spring '09

Avon Redevelopment Underway . . .

The Avon city planners intend for redevelopment efforts to contribute to the enhancement of the overall character, circulation, community services and economic viability of our town. Long-time Christie Lodge owners might remember when the eastern section of town where the rodeo is now held was a STOL (short take-off and landing) airport!

For you airplane buffs, the Avon STOLport was reportedly a nightmare to fly into and out of. Perhaps that's why it was closed! One aviator remarked that the French de Havilland Dash-7 was the only plane that could offer passenger service because of the very short 4,000' runway.

The Avon comprehensive plan calls for a 10-year implementation that could take even longer for some properties. The planners promise to provide guidance with good general planning principals to property owners and stakeholders in the area.

As time quickly passes by us all, it is exciting to be a part of the energy and innovation of the transformation of Avon. The Christie Lodge management is always working to keep abreast of the latest changes, physically, economically and even environmentally, of our surroundings. The Avon attitude is totally infectious. It is interesting to ponder just what we will all see in the times to come. For sure, they will be on the cutting edge of resort area development while keeping that small town culture.



Artist's conception of the Eastern Gateway, which is the entrance to the West Town Center District. Aesthetically, the final design is intended to reflect a gentle and informal experience, punctuated by whimsical art pieces that illustrate the history, culture and landscape of Avon.



Escape's Future is Electronic . . .

All future issues of the Christie Lodge *Escape* will be posted on the Christie Lodge website or will be e-mailed directly to owners. Christie Lodge management has taken a proactive approach to improving the efficiency of our newsletter production.

This change to electronic media presentation will also eliminate our rapidly advancing printing and postage costs. The vast majority of Christie Lodge owners have already embraced on-line communication by adding an email to their online account information and taking advantage of many online benefits available to owners on the Christie Lodge website.



Surf to www.christielodgeowners.com for all the latest Christie Lodge information, including this newsletter, **the Escape**.

Also get valuable owner information, exchange info and links to other websites pertinent to Christie Lodge ownership.



If you are interested in registering your e-mail or updating your owner information, you can go to www.christielodgeowners.com for your secure login page. The Christie Lodge strictly protects the privacy of all owner account information including registered e-mail addresses.

For owners who prefer printed issues of the newsletters, please register for a sub-

scription, which will be available for \$4.00 per issue. You may register for the newsletter subscription at 1-800-845-0257, then select option #3, and leave your name, telephone number, and state your request for a printed Newsletter subscription.

The Christie Lodge values our owners' participation and we thank you for your support of our advances in communication technology.

Have your computer call our computer for the latest newsletter edition.

CLOA Annual Meeting Held in Avon

On Saturday, October 4, 2008 the Christie Lodge Owners Association held its Annual Owners Meeting in Avon, Colorado. The meeting was attended by approximately 56 owners/spouses. This meeting conducted the annual business of the association and presented information to the owners.

Our General Manager, Lisa Siegert-Free, made a presentation highlighting our Christie Lodge Mission and Values. She proudly shared photos of our employees' great customer service, recruiting at a job fair, working a group event at the Lodge, and volunteering at various charity events. Also presenting the audience with great information was Mr. Charles Frey, our Director of Operations, who highlighted dynamic new projects and improvement projects accomplished in 2008. B. Jay Bliss, our Front Office Manager, delivered hints and advice on the benefits of attending our Wednesday Owners Meetings, successfully booking owner weeks, exchanges and trading power, keeping your ownership documents updated and more.

The business of the meeting included an election held to fill three open Board positions. Elected to the Board were: Lucy Aldridge from Marietta, Georgia, and Thomas A. Napoli from Katy, Texas. Mrs. Aldridge has experienced service on other Boards in her local area, and she is very excited to be



Owners always enjoy annual meetings held at the Lodge.

serving her first term on the Board of Directors of the Christie Lodge. Mr. Napoli has served on the Board of Directors in various terms, all the way back to 1986. He contributes greatly as a Board member and Audit Committee member. The voting members also reelected Mr. William McReynolds from Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Mr. McReynolds, also is a long-time veteran Board Member, Past President of the Board, and additionally serves as Chairman of the Audit Committee.

Owners and management very much appreciate our Board members' dedication and expertise that they bring to the Christie Lodge Board of Directors, listed below.

CHRISTIE LODGE OWNERS ASSOCIATION FISCAL YEAR ENDING 6/30/2008 CASH BUDGET

REVENUES

ASSESSMENTS	\$ 4,621,147
COLLECTIONS	\$ 1,037,365
RENTAL	\$ 2,368,324
ANCILLARY	\$ 522,749
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 8,549,584

EXPENSES

MGT. & ADMIN.	\$ 2,515,427
ROOM OPS & GUEST SVCS.	\$ 2,914,688
PROPERTY OPS & MAINTENANCE	\$ 1,218,312
OVERHEAD EXP.	\$ 886,744
LESS OPERATING EXP.	\$ 7,535,170
RESERVE FUND. REQ.	\$ 648,018
DEBT PRINC. PMTS.	\$ 332,578

LESS NON-OPER. EXP \$ 980,596

NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS \$ 33,818

The Christie Lodge Owners Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 1196
Avon, CO 81620-1196

Board of Directors

Gary Kujawski, President
Steve Vickers, Secretary
Lucy Aldridge
William McReynolds
John Mertens
Thomas A. Napoli
Art Olson



Rez Hotline:
1-888-
325-6343

We are here for you! Please call us, as far in advance as possible, to discuss your reservation needs. We will help make it work!

Christie Staffers Uphold Lodge Values ...

A key component of the Christie Lodge's *Mission and Values* declaration is our pledge to support making a difference as a community partner. In this document we state, "The Christie Lodge plays an active and innovative role in bettering the local, national, and global community. We aim to make a difference through our philanthropy, association involvement, environmental policies, daily efforts, and random acts of kindness."

During the Winter Holiday Season Christie Lodge and Charter Sports proudly joined forces to hold a food and clothing drive benefiting our local Salvation Army and Thrifty Shoppe. Charter Sports conducts a widely popular Annual Sale Event and they included our food and clothing drive in their advertising. The advanced public awareness of the event helped contribute to its success. For a \$5.00 cash contribution, shoppers could participate in a raffle drawing, featuring a two-night stay at the Christie Lodge, which included equipment rentals! Charter customers received BIG discounts on the Sale Event and an additional 10% their purchases, if they participated in the Raffle!



A group of Lodge employees from various departments recently participated in a highway litter clean up campaign. Several employees' family members joined in this rewarding effort.

Christie Lodge's Engineering Department built two large collection boxes for the lobby. The boxes were a great convenience to the collection process and were quickly filled by owners, guests, and employees. The drive was a lot of fun and a great success!

Current activities include assistance for the local Habit for Humanity Project, followed by a springtime highway clean up campaign, and then supporting the Christel House Golf Tournament, as we near summer.

RCI.com Launches Revolutionary "Vacation Find Engine"

The vacation you want is now just as little as **three clicks** away. RCI has created a revolutionary search engine so powerful that every vacation search generates relevant results. *RCI Weeks Subscribing Members* around the world are able to plan their vacations with the most efficient and comprehensive search-and-planning technology in the travel industry. Searching for a vacation is now extraordinarily easy for RCI week members. RCI.com's search engine runs on cutting-edge technology which rivals that of many of the leading online travel sites. It offers more ways to customize your search than any other vacation exchange provider's site.

New to the Web? No problem. RCI.com's easy-to-understand guided navigation makes narrowing your search fast, easy and effective.

Log on to RCI.com/newsearch to learn more and follow these simple steps to find yourself on the beach, the slopes or anywhere in between in almost no time.

Click 1: See All the Possibilities

Click the "Exchange Your Week" tab and launch the find engine. The first screen that appears lists your deposited weeks available to exchange for a vacation and indicates the total number of units available for each deposited week. The travel window for each deposit is also displayed. Additional details about each deposit are readily available—just move your mouse over the links and icons.

You'll immediately see your deposited weeks and the total number of units available for each deposited week.

Click 2: Personalize Your Search

Select a deposit and instantly all available exchange options will appear. Choose to see your options as a list or plotted on a map. You can refine your list using a menu of 15 filters, including region, check-in month, resort amenities and vacation type. Or search using key words or travel dates. The number of available units for each category is always displayed so you can easily see the breadth of choice.

Because the system visually tracks the search path, you can change the deposited week you are searching against without restarting your search. Or, search by region using RCI.com's interactive maps. As you go, you can toggle between the list and map formats with just one click and without interrupting your search.

Click 3: Get on Your Vacation — Fast

Once you've found your vacation, book it online. If you can't immediately find the exact vacation you're looking for, you can initiate an ongoing search. When a vacation that meets your desires becomes available, RCI will hold it on your behalf. It just doesn't get any easier.

Get more resort details, information about local attractions and Google maps without leaving RCI.com.

Big News from the Reservations Department ...

from B. Jay Bliss - Reservations Manager

Hot off the press! The Christie Lodge has dropped the upgrade rate from \$100/night to \$75/night, when upgrading from a 1-bedroom condo to a three-bedroom condo.

Occasionally, our owners and exchange guests are confirmed into one-bedroom condos but wish to have extra space for friends and family who will be staying as well. The Christie Lodge allows owners and exchange guests to upgrade their one-bedroom unit to a three-bedroom unit – when availability exists – within a 45 day window prior to the reservation date. The charge for upgrading has always been a non-refundable fee of \$100/night.

As of November '08, any new upgrades are being processed at the reduced rate of \$75/night. This means a full week-upgrade will now be \$525, instead of \$700. The Christie Lodge management team is hopeful that this price reduction will be

a great benefit to the owners when making their vacations more cost-effective during times of economic turmoil.

In high demand times three-bedroom condos are sometimes simply not available. Please remember that reserving a second one-bedroom unit may be preferable to a three-bedroom unit, and provide an additional kitchen, living room and balcony. In this instance, you might check on Bonus Night Rate availability for the second one-bedroom unit. The lodge has adjoining one-bedroom units which can be assigned prior to arrival. Owners can also reserve hotel nights at the lowest published rate if Bonus Nights are not available. All three choices provide savings for our owners.

If you have further questions or would like to have a Reservations Agent take a look at your upcoming vacation plans, give us a call at 888-325-6343 or write us at reservations@christielodge.com.

When an owner makes a maintenance fee payment, he or she becomes eligible for a nice prize - a free exchange week from RCI or II. A week is given each billing period. This period's winners are:

Thomas & Marcia Seawell
Denver, Colorado

David & Judith Hurst
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Susan Marino & Jose Lebron
Firestone, Colorado

Late Winter, Early Spring Fun Stuff in the Valley

Ski with a Ranger *.....every Monday through April 6
see: <http://web.vail.net/local/events.cfm?currdate=03-01-2009&eventid=5524>

February

Keller Williams Improvisational Folk..... 12
Thursday Night Lights 12, 19, 26
Bud Light *Street Beat*..... 25
She Skis ** 26 ~ 28

March

Bud Light *Street Beat* 4, 11
Thursday Night Lights 5, 12, 19, 26
The Beach Boys *Enduring Music Legends* 7
Kenny Loggins *Glides Into the Vail Valley* 11 ~ 12
American Ski Classic 18 ~ 20
Ford Cup 20, 21
Joan Baez in concert 19

* **NOTE:** Guests of all ages are invited to join a Forest Service Rangers on a 45 minute guided tour of beginner and intermediate terrain. The trails featured during the tour will vary by week and ability of the group and will include a brief introduction and orientation at the Environmental Learning Center. Tours depart from the Environmental Learning Center at the top of Cinch Express chairlift (#8). Participants must have a valid lift ticket.

** **NOTE:** She Skis - A Women-Only Ski-Testing Clinic. *She Skis* is a three-day clinic for intermediate to advanced female skiers and is organized by SKI Magazine's former women's ski test director Krista Crabtree. This intensive and fun clinic is designed to enhance equipment knowledge and technique through the testing of next year's woman-specific skis (a season before the gear becomes available to the regular public) on Vail's diverse terrain.

Cook Great Meals in Your Unit with Utensils Provided!

Flavorful Shrimp Kabobs



Save money - eat well - do it yourself - have fun!

Take the big mixing bowl in your unit's kitchen, empty into it a small bottle of lemon juice, about 3 tablespoons of Dijon mustard, a teaspoon of minced garlic and a half cup or so of fresh chopped dill weed. Put your wooden skewers into a water bath and let them soak.

Then dump a 1# bag of peeled raw shrimp into the mixture and marinate for an hour or two. Now comes the fun part. Make the kabobs!

Since the skewers are wet, they won't burn so quickly. Skew shrimp separated by pieces of onion, green pepper, tomato or whatever you like! Season to taste.

Take 'em out to one of our 8 grills and cook them for 3 or 4 minutes on each side, or until the shrimps turn nice and pink. Then eat! All ingredients are available at the big store a block away or down the road . . . and it's cheap!

Getting to Know Us . . .

Bill Uttech was born, raised and schooled in Riverside, California. While a senior he met a student named Tammi and had the good fortune of marrying her three years later.

That was 19 years ago and according to Bill, "We have two four-legged children, a beagle and a British blue short-hair cat who thinks she is a princess."

After high school Bill took college courses in Business Management and attended a trade school that helped him become, at age 19, one of the youngest people to obtain a California roofing contractors license. The roofing business was too lonely for Bill, so his interest in people led him to a Human Resources career.

A position as General Manager responsible for all HR functions in a large Florida furniture store led him to a Human Resources Manager position for an equally large home improvement

store. In 2008 a company downsize eliminated this job, and the Christie Lodge had the good fortune of acquiring Bill.

He is now our Human Resources Manager and is a valuable member of our team.

When not handling personnel activities, Bill loves the outdoors and fishes, hikes, camps and enjoys many other outdoor activities, however . . . "I do not ski, never learned how to ski and just have not had the desire," says Bill.

The Uttechs love to travel, which is aided by the fact that Tammi has been a flight attendant for the past 10 years. They love to visit and explore cities all over this great country.

They recently returned from a week-long trip to the big island of Hawaii. Bill reports that, "We took the (human) family and had an incredible time. We



Bill is one of the many professional associates our Lodge is lucky to have - he handles Human Resource duties - but he could repair the roof if needed!

stayed at the Bay Club, which is an RCI property. It was a great place and what a great time exploring the island and seeing the culture and geology there!"

Bill continues, "I look forward to many more incredible years here at the Christie Lodge and would like to thank all owners and guests for the warm welcome I have received." The Lodge management thanks Bill for performing our essential HR services.



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