

ASPEN TRAILS METROPOLITAN DISTRICT FALL 2005 NEWSLETTER

Payments and Correspondence for the metro district may be sent to: Aspen Trails Metro District (or ATMD), #1 Trew Creek Dr, Aspen Trails; Durango, CO 81301.

ATMD PURPOSE: To maintain and improve roads making them safer & more accessible; and to provide limited parks & recreation services.

SAVE THE ROADS: Now that our main roads are receiving some much needed attention, please consider a few tips to help us maintain them. Slow down and use a lower gear while driving in the subdivision, this will help you to climb the hills with less tire spinning, more control and better traction, causing less damage to the road. Driving slowly will also reduce the washboard on the road. Avoid driving in the same ruts that the last driver used, this will help prevent streams of water from forming to run down the middle of the road. If you have tires with poor tread, consider investing in new ones. Use 4x4 or good snow tires during the winter months. Carry a tow strap and chains (just in case). If everyone will follow these simple steps, our roads will last longer and we will pay less in annual maintenance.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Notices for meetings will be posted prior to the meeting at the mail boxes, Helen's Store, La Plata County Court House and the Black Dog (when they re-open). Time, place and agenda items will be posted on the notice. The 2006 meeting schedule will be set at the first meeting of the year. ATMD board meetings are open to the public. You are welcome to attend at any time.

ASPEN TRAILS METRO DISTRICT WEBSITE www.aspentrailsmd.com
Useful information at your finger tips.

NEW GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED

Given the large investment ATMD is making to maintain and improve roads during the next 20 years, the board felt some guidelines were necessary to protect the Aspen Trails roads from further damage. With that in mind, the following Guidelines were adopted at the board meeting on June 9, 2005 effective immediately.

- ***Speed limit on all roads is 15 mph**
- ***No parking on roadways at any time**
- ***No plowing snow or dirt across road**
- ***ATMD is not responsible for driveway snow removal**
- ***Driveways must have proper drainage**, property owner may be held responsible for damage to the road caused by improper drainage.
- *You may be held responsible for damage to the road caused by vehicles accessing your property.
- *Permits must be acquired from ATMD prior to any work, including, but not limited to, installation of culverts, water, electrical lines & driveway construction that may impact the district roadway.

FEES Several fees were adopted by the board in 2004 to help offset administrative costs of the district. Transfer of ownership fee \$50, Non-sufficient funds charge for returned checks \$50, Document Request Fee \$1.25 per page, Late payment fee 12% per year accruing monthly, Collection Charge for lien proceedings \$50.

LATE ASSESSMENTS Please help us out. Currently we have over \$8000 in uncollected assessments for 2005. This presents a cash flow problem for the district which limits the amount of maintenance and improvements that can take place each year. 2005 assessments not received to date are past due and accumulating finance charges at 1% per month. Unpaid charges may cause a lien to be placed against your property.

PROPERTY TAXES FOR ATMD

January 2006 property tax bills will have ATMD levies for approximately 15 mills. 10 mills will go towards repayment of the general obligation bond for major road improvements that were done in the summer and fall of 2004. 5 mills of the levy are for ongoing maintenance and operational needs of the metro district. Last year the district collected 18.65 mills; the decrease this year is due in large part to increased property values, new construction, and property sales. To calculate the portion of your tax bill attributed to ATMD multiply 0.015 (the combined mill levy) times your assessed property value.

PACKAGE & MAIL INFO

Generally US Mail packages will go into the numbered parcel boxes or a note will be in your box with instructions. UPS and FedEx Air or Ground packages are placed in the big package box near the mailboxes; they are not delivered to your door (especially in inclement weather). It is very helpful to make sure all packages and mail delivered to you show Aspen Trails subdivision as part of the address. Many of our road names are duplicated elsewhere in the County. If you are expecting a package, track it closely with your shipper, especially if you are new to the area.

2006 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

A \$300 road maintenance assessment can be expected for the 2006 fiscal year. The final budget for 2006 will be approved during the board meeting on December 14th, 2005. Full payment will be due by July 31, 2005 unless arrangements are made in advance with the treasurer.

WE NEED YOU! BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS COMING UP

There are 5 directors currently serving on the metro district board. Due to the recent resignation of a board member, four of the positions are up for election/re-election in 2006. An election is scheduled to take place on May 2, 2006 to fill these positions. Three positions carry a 4 year term, and 1 board position is for 2 years. At the beginning of February 2006, the board will publish a "call for nominations" to the board. District members who would like to serve on the board will be able to fill out a self nomination form at that time. Board members receive \$25 per board meeting as compensation for their service to the district. Please consider becoming a part of the Aspen Trails solution, contact a board member for more information.

Qualifications for board members are as follows:

1. A resident of the District for not less than 30 days,
2. The owner (or spouse of the owner) of taxable real or personal property situated in the District, or a person obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase taxable property,
3. A registered voter of Colorado
4. No felony convictions.

ROADWORK UPDATE Grading and ditchwork has been ongoing this fall in an effort to improve drainage. Work should continue after the spring thaw.

WINTER RESIDENTS Snow will start accumulating soon. Neil's Excavation & Contracting has been contracted to snow plow main roads this winter as part of our maintenance plan. **Driveway plowing is the sole responsibility of the property owner.** ATMD will not negotiate prices, or oversee driveway snow removal. Please plan ahead and make your arrangements before 3 feet of snow blocks your driveway. Contractors interested in plowing driveways will post notices at the mailboxes. Make sure you clearly mark obstacles in your drive-way and along your road right of way for snow removal. Unmarked items can be easily damaged during a large storm. Vehicles should not be parked on subdivision roads, especially during winter months (this applies to contractors working on your property too). Vehicles parked on the road that become a problem, may be towed at owner expense. Make sure your vehicle is parked in your driveway and that it is not partially blocking the road. With heavy snowfall it is very difficult to see unexpected obstacles in the roadway. If you are unable to park in your driveway ask a neighbor if you can park in their driveway. Please be considerate of your neighbors and of maintenance and emergency equipment on our roads, drive cautiously, slowly and expect to meet traffic. Be prepared for the possibility that you may need to chain up to get to your property.

PROPERTY SALES AND RENTALS
If your property is sold, or you rent it out, please make the new residents aware of information they should know about living in the neighborhood. Also notify the board of contact information for residents, especially if name, phone number, mailing address or email addresses have changed.

DSL PETITION If you would like to see DSL service in Aspen Trails, contact Jennifer Bayer. She is trying to determine if we have enough interest to petition for service. If we have enough prospective users, maybe they'll speed up the process in our area!

DUMPSTER USE – Please don't be a litter bug! The dumpsters by the Fire Station are for paying customers of Waste Management. If you use them without paying you are cheating your neighbors. When there is no more room inside the dumpster take your trash home and wait for the bins to be emptied. Please don't pile trash on top of, or next to the container, this is an unwanted invitation to wildlife and a littering nightmare. Waste Management is concerned about this abuse and is considering discontinuing the service. Then everyone will haul trash to the transfer station. *Note the dumpsters are for household waste only, not for remodel jobs or disposal of old furniture, mattresses, water heaters, hot tubs, etc. Large items of this type must be taken to the landfill or transfer station instead.

BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO

Bob Foisel, Chairman

bob@aspentrailsmd.com,

668 Sierra Dr, 385-5482 (h), 375-1573 (w)

Brian Vlass, Vice Chairman, Secretary

brian@aspentrailsmd.com, 240 Aspen Dr,

259-4760

Jennifer Bayer, new board member

jennifer@aspentrailsmd.com, 200 Sierra

Circle, 382-2714

Judy Bolton, Treasurer

judy@aspentrailsmd.com, 771 Aspen Dr,

247-0893

PJ O'Connell, Community Liaison

pj@aspentrailsmd.com, summer: 158

Ridgecrest Dr, 247-1664, or winter: 834 S.

Meridian Dr, No. 133, Apache Junction, AZ

85220, 480-373-8875

ATMD Spring 2006 Newsletter

Save for next newsletter....

SEASONAL RESIDENTS We are currently experiencing a mail box shortage for new year-round residents. If you are a seasonal resident with a designated mail box at the entrance, and you spend very little time in Aspen Trails, please consider whether you really need a box. The post office no longer provides the multiple mail box units for us. They retail for upwards of \$1000 per unit, excluding installation.

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