

Subject: 2018 Visioning Report - Aging in Vail - Part 2
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From: Vail Homeowners Association
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Category: Northwoods



Accessibility is important to Vail's ability to accommodate seniors.

VAIL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Vail's Empty Nesters: Empty nesters bring different needs and a different perspective to their Vail lifestyle expectations. Compassionate attentiveness and in-home care, which are scarce, labor intensive and expensive, play a major role in the needs of seniors. A graying population will require a shift or, at least, an expansion of the workforce for senior services. A graying population, also, portends an increase in political activism, which could rebalance public policy toward "quality of life" community building issues in contrast to increasingly urbanized resort focused commercialism. And a graying population could, also, require a refocus of cultural activities to ones that are more consistent with their expectations.

To date, community leaders have remained largely silent about strategizing for the expansion of Vail's graying population. Their silence could, in part, be due to reliance upon placing millennials as the central focus of their generational change strategy, which has underpinned much of public

investment since 2007. For some in leadership positions, there has been an intentional effort to prevent Vail from becoming a “retirement” community asserting that senior’s oppose change and higher taxes. But unlike 2nd homeowners, who do not have a vote, senior residents do vote, and a continued ignoring of the coming changes can have consequences.

In the meantime, Eagle County has moved to address these challenges. In 2015, it launched its “Aging Well” initiative, and a newly arrived major health care provider is sponsoring a “we are here to serve” initiative aimed at the “aging in place” retirement population.

VHA reported in October 2016, “By all indicators, permanent residents are poised to rise, not fall. The responses to the 2016 Town survey show that about 38% of 2nd homeowners plan to retire and/or move to Vail in the next 10 years. Applying that data to the projected number of 2nd homeowners means an additional 3,800 permanent residents by 2027. When those residents are added to the natural anticipated growth in Vail, they will bring Vail’s permanent population, which stands today at 5,500, to near 10,000.”



When the tourist population is factored in (which will also grow), over the next ten years, there will be a need to address a host of infrastructure issues in addition to workforce or middle class housing: such as transportation, roads and other support facilities along with the increased government staff to service the needs of the expanded and graying population. These costs of an increasing population should be taken into account any time there is a proposal to invest millions in a single program.

There are many generational cross over environmental and social equity issues for which there are shared aspirations throughout all strata of Vail’s population. Age should not be perceived as a barrier to constructive change and multi-generational collaboration. VHA recommends that public policy acknowledge and be adjusted to provide appropriate improvements and services that address an expansion of Vail’s graying population.

VHA Reports: We trust that the Vail Homeowners Association engages with the issues you believe are important to sustaining the value of your investment in the Vail community. If not, please let us know.

We speak up and speak out when we see the need to inform and motivate constructive actions. Our efforts are aimed to assist the community in taking advantage of the opportunities and challenges needing to be addressed. We see a greater willingness for the community to join together to face unforeseen and long standing challenges.

On behalf of the VHA Board of Directors, we would like to urge you to support the efforts of the Vail Homeowners Association. Thank you for the support you have given us, and we look forward to continuing our mutually supportive relationship to make Vail the very best that it can be.

Community Service Links:

[Ski and Snowboard Safety](#)

[2018 Town of Vail Community Survey](#)

Please provide us with Community links that you find useful.

VHA [Membership](#):

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