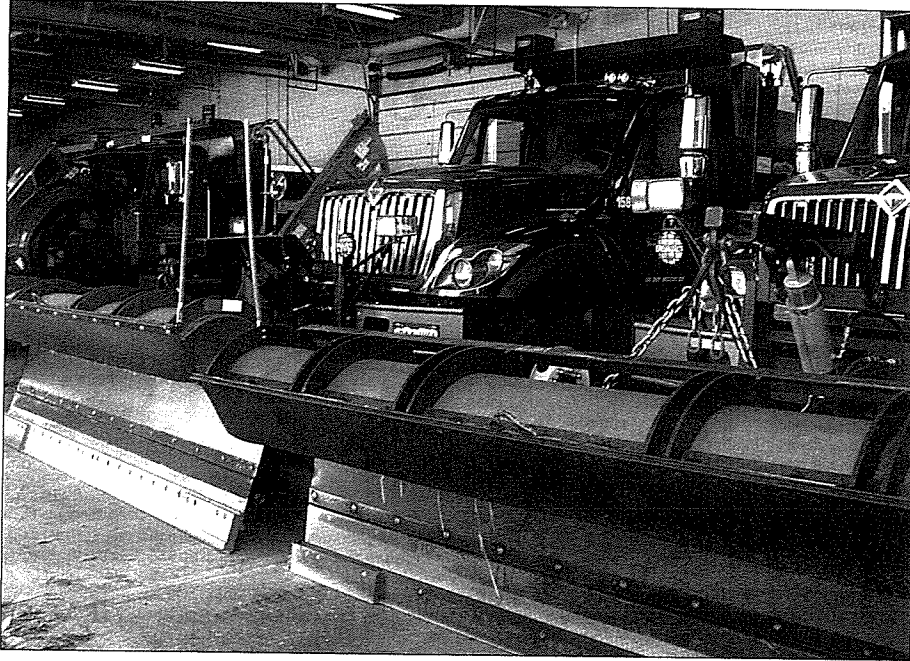


# SNOWMASS SPECIAL EVENTS MUSIC SPORTS CALENDAR Scene

NOV.  
3-9  
2010



The big wheels are getting ready to be rolled out for the snowy season.

## SNOWMASS GEARS UP FOR WINTER

Story and photos by Ann Larson

As fall appears to draw to an end and the snows of winter begin, some of the divisions of the town's public works are changing gears.

The trucks and heavy equipment that were used for construction projects during the summer are retrofitted for snow removal that keeps the road department busy from November through May.

Looking back, John Baker, road supervisor, said he is excited about the new construction done during the summer as part of the town's capital replacement program.

As Snowmass Village ages, some of the roads and retaining walls are beginning to fail under the constant pull of gravity and need support to keep them from sliding down into the valley.

In the old days, a whole retaining wall had to be replaced, but new technology has lessened the price and the impact on traffic. Now, stabilization is done with the help of 25- to 30-foot-long nails and "shotcrete," which is concrete that's pumped into the nail holes. Externally, rebar or metal mesh covers the slope and can be covered with shotcrete.

"The new technology has streamlined the process and created less impact to the public. Plus, it costs a lot less," said Baker.

Three Village projects used the new technique. One stabilized Upper Brush Creek Road below Lot 7, another a failing tie wall on Deer Ridge Lane and the third on Owl Creek Road near the town's maintenance facility.

“As Snowmass Village ages, some of the roads and retaining walls are beginning to fail under the constant pull of gravity and need support to keep them from sliding down into the valley.”

The finishing process was different for all three locations.

Since Deer Ridge Lane is in a residential area, specialists were brought in to stamp the surface to give it a finished look over the old tie retaining wall. A drive up the lower part of the road will give a preview of similar construction projects planned for next summer.

"We're looking to do this throughout the town, especially in the Village parking lots. The process is not so invasive and will leave the lots intact while work is being done," Baker said.

Not all areas needed to be finished in this way. On Brush Creek Road the slope, which is not seen from the road, was

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covered with shotcrete, but the Owl Creek Road stabilization was covered with mesh and topsoil and reseeded to give it a natural look.

With these three projects and other road repairs finished, there are only a few small construction projects left.

"We need to clean some ditches and culverts and install the delineating snow markers along the sides of the road," he said.

Now, the Road and Fleet divisions of Public Works are busy preparing all the vehicles for the ravages of winter. "We are now buttoning down for the winter, converting the construction vehicles for snowplowing," Baker said.

The shuttle bus fleet is also busy winterizing the buses. Snowplow drivers need to hone their skills, so the town will soon join with drivers from Aspen and the county to practice dry runs around cones and barriers.

To help the public understand the ins and outs of winter services by the Road Division, they have published a brochure "Snow removal and other winter tips," which is also available online at [www.tos.com](http://www.tos.com).

Want to know how much plowable snow fell each month since 1995? There's a chart for that. The highest amount was 67 inches in December of 2008.

Want to know when your road will be plowed during a snowstorm? The brochure lists four priorities that the plow drivers follow.

Other useful information includes what to do if stuck or stranded, tips on safe driving on snow and ice and checklists for winterizing your vehicle.

The snow has started and it is the Road Division of the town's Public Works that will keep the traffic flowing through the town's network for roads.

There's a feeling of camaraderie in the boys where four snowplows, three front-end loaders with plows, one motor grader, a water truck and a street sweeper are being prepared for the next snowstorm.

Shawn Leckung just finished putting plows on and checking tires.

"Working for the town is great, it's an excellent job," he said.

# Upper part of '3 peaks, 3 weeks challenge'

November 3 - 9, 2010 | Snowmass Sun | Page 9

By the Snowmass Sun

In January, longtime local Holly Upper will head to Africa as part of an adventure with 10 other women from around the world. The group will be climbing three of the highest peaks in Africa (Mt. Kenya, 17,057 feet; Mt. Meru, 14,980 feet; and Mt. Kilimanjaro, 19,349 feet) to raise money and awareness for three different organizations that are making a positive impact on issues currently affecting Africa.

"Growing up in Aspen, I have been very fortunate," said Upper. "When I heard about this challenge, I knew it would be a life-changing experience for me and would enhance the quality of life for thousands of Africans. In my

mind this is the best way to see Africa."


Upper first heard about this journey when she bumped into Rachel Goodman on Sunnigler Mountain. Goodman had successfully completed the challenge in 2009 and inspired Upper with the stories about her experience. Not only did Goodman climb these majestic mountains, but she was submerged in the culture and witnessed the challenges the people of Africa face and how these benefiting organizations were able to make a difference for these people.

"3 Peaks 3 Weeks was forever life changing," said Goodman. "Not only are you faced with climbing three of the highest peaks

in Africa in three weeks, but your main challenges revolve around gaining support and awareness for the three local charitable organizations which can be very tough in these economic times in the U.S."

Every dollar raised from the journey goes directly to community development in Africa. Upper is responsible for paying all of her trip expenses.

For more information about the challenge or the benefiting organizations, visit [www.3peaks3weeks.org](http://www.3peaks3weeks.org) or e-mail [HollyUpper@gmail.com](mailto:HollyUpper@gmail.com) To make a tax-deductible donation in support of Holly's effort, visit [www.firstgive.com/HollyUpper](http://www.firstgive.com/HollyUpper).



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