

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2013



Out Valley Construction Update

Construction crews are busy trying to complete as much as possible before the winter season sets in.

The Underground crews have set the vault at the Powerhouse as well as the three sectionalizing cabinets along Kirkwood Meadows Drive. During the first week of October they will be installing the cable across Highway 88 along with the associated vaults. The District is also having the contractor install extra conduit under the highway in anticipation of future development. We are hoping to pull the cable from the Powerhouse to the north side of the highway this year as well.

The Timber Harvest is complete and all the work has been approved by the Forest Service. The grading for the KM Green substation will also be complete this month. In early October, Wilson Construction will begin drilling the holes for the overhead poles. Some of these holes are four feet in diameter and up to fifteen feet deep, a major undertaking!

It is unclear what impact, if any, the potential partial Federal government shutdown may have on the project. Both the National Forest Service and Rural Utility Service are departments within the Federal government.

Overall the project is moving along well with the goal of accomplishing enough during this construction season so as to be able to complete the project in 2014.

Tips for Winter Preparedness

As the days get shorter and the temperatures drop we begin to eagerly anticipate the winter snows. Here are some useful tips to prepare your Kirkwood home for the months ahead.

- Heating System: Schedule a maintenance check-up. Consider purchasing a programmable thermostat. Make sure the thermostats are on and that they are set to 50 degrees.
- Smoke Detectors: Replace the batteries and test.
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors: All homes should have one installed on each floor.
- Foundation vents: Make sure these are closed and insulated properly.
- Snow Shovels: Make sure you have a good snow shovel.
- Outside Lights: Make sure the lights are working. If the lights are on a timer, adjust for shorter days.
- Clear tree branches away from gutters and roofs.
- Remove small branches from your property and move to the roadside to take advantage of the chipper program planned for early October.



Timber Harvest Near KM Green

New Phone System Installed

A new phone system was installed at the District offices on August 15th, replacing an antiquated system that was beyond its useful service life. The most noticeable change from a customer perspective is that calls to the District are now answered personally during office hours.

Off-hours, the auto attendant offers many options to leave messages either with customer service or directly to a staff member's voice mail, and as before provides contact numbers in the event of an electric, propane or snow removal emergency.

Other benefits of the phone system include increased efficiency, flexibility and reliability.

Your feedback is important to us so please share any comments regarding your experience.

Interview with Casey Blann on Resort Operations

The recent snow reminded us that the lifts will soon be turning. Staff sat down with Casey Blann, Vice President and General Manager of the Resort to learn what is planned for the 2013 – 2014 season. We began by asking about plans for continued improvements to the guest's experience.

The foundation for improving the overall guest experience begins with our employees. Significant improvements were noted in the guest research performed last season and we want to build on that guest-centric focus this season. To achieve this, our employee training programs will emphasize improved service levels along with reward systems for the staff who achieve these goals. Our expectations are that each guest of Kirkwood goes away with not only a great memory of an incredible mountain, but also how the employees made a special day all that much better.

How will the new Ski Patrol building at the top of Chair 10 improve mountain operations?

The building will allow our Ski Patrol to better address snow events in a number of ways. A snowcat, housed inside the building, will be used to push snow away from the top of Chair 10, thus allowing quicker operation of the lift to bring additional Ski Patrol staff up for snow safety routes. Other advantages include improved functionality of the building to serve the snow safety program, better overall facility for staff, and the opportunity for guests to come in and get information from the team.

Can you talk about the plans for a new City Bar on the Village Plaza?

The umbrella bar is a true 'Euro' design that will allow us to offer a full bar service (and limited food options) on the location of the elevated chiller structure. The structure will have glass enclosed walls and an umbrella top that folds in partially to take advantage of the good weather days. Conversely, when extended out to the glass walls, the top creates added indoor seating in the heart of the plaza area. I feel this will bring an element of energy and excitement to this area that has been lacking in the past.

What other improvements are being planned?

I am proud to say we are building additional restrooms in the women's facility located in the plaza area. We have all seen the challenge with the existing facility and I feel this will be a marked improvement moving forward. Also, we will be creating a ticket kiosk at the top of the grand staircase in order to allow easier access onto the slopes and reduce bottlenecks in the regular ticket area. For those new to the resort, of which there are many, we will be phasing in the 'entrance signage project' along Kirkwood Meadows Drive. The goal of these signs is to provide direction on 'what facilities are where', as well as improve our parking and shuttle operations.

This isn't all we have in store. We want to leave a few surprises for everyone to notice as they come back for what I believe will be an exceptional season.

Congratulations to Jill Campbell!

We are proud to announce the birth of Jill's daughter, Colleen Fianna Campbell. Colleen was born on September 30, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. and 19 1/2 inches long. Mother and baby are doing fine.

Once again Jill has gone above and beyond to plan for the future staffing needs of the District.

Congratulations to Jill and welcome Colleen!

33rd Annual 5K/10K Kids Fun Run Raises Funds for KVFD

Thanks to all who participated in the longest running event in Kirkwood. With the help of the Tahoe Mountain Milers just over a thousand dollars was raised for the Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD).



Meteorological Monitoring Station

As part of our Permit to Operate the new Powerhouse, the District was required to install a meteorological monitoring station to collect data on wind speed, wind direction, temperature and precipitation. The data from the tower will be collected by the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD). The District selected a site near the propane tanks that was approved by both the Tri-County Technical Advisory Committee and GBUAPCD. The tower, capable of withstanding 1.5 inches of rime ice and high winds, was installed on September 25th. While this tower will not allow access to real-time weather data, it will provide historical weather data going forward and allow us to meet all of the requirements of our Powerhouse Permit.

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