



Town of Mammoth Lakes
P.O. Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546
Ph: (760) 934-8989
Fax: (760) 934-8608

Town News

Week of September 26, 2011

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – Sept. 21 - CANCELLED

The regular meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 has been cancelled. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Calls for Service/Officer Observations

148, including 1 business/building check

Crime Incident Reports

31 reports, including 4 arrests

Traffic Stop/Citations/Traffic Collisions

32 stops; 6 citations; 1 parking citation; 0 skate park citations; 3 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

3 incidents; 1 report

Wildlife

7 calls; 0 reports

Mammoth Lakes Police Department is Looking for Reserve Police Officers

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department is reactivating its Police Reserve Officer Program. Police Reserve Officers are part-time volunteers who supplement the full time officers. They can serve a variety of assignments including patrol, special events, prisoner transportation, and wildlife management. Police Chief Dan Watson reports that he and other Eastern Sierra law enforcement personnel have been working with Cerro Coso College to institute a Reserve Academy at the Bishop or Mammoth Lakes campus. In the meantime, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department is looking for any retired police officers who live in the general area who may be interested in joining the MLPD as a Reserve Officer. Anyone interested in learning more about the MLPD Police Reserve Program should contact Sergeant Marc Moscovitz at (760) 934-2011 ext. 68 or at mmoscowitz@mammothlakespd.org.

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, September 23 - Saturday, September 24 = 37%
(31% same weekend in 2010, up 6% in 2011)

Sunday, September 25 - Thursday, September 29 = 17%
(18% same midweek in 2010, down 1% in 2011)

Twitter

Follow 'TownofMammoth' daily on Twitter at www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Community Development

SR 203 Paving Schedule

Paving on SR 203 between the Main Lodge and The Village is now scheduled to be completed on Thursday, September 22, 2011 dependent on weather conditions. Striping has commenced on SR 203 from HWY 395 to Old Mammoth Road and Main Street shoulders will be striped as bike lanes. The project is now expected to be complete on Monday, October 3, 2011.

Town Initiates Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Education & Enforcement Program

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is working with the Mammoth Lakes Lodging Association to implement a program to monitor and enforce transient occupancy tax (TOT) payments and rental activity within town.

TOT is the Lifeblood of our Town

Because TOT is the lifeblood of the town and provides us with so many essential services, the Town is tackling this problem through a TOT education and enforcement program. The Town and Mammoth Lakes Tourism have engaged our lodging partners and the Chamber of Commerce to help formulate a program for TOT enforcement.

Town Council Takes Action

The Town Council considers TOT enforcement a high priority because of the vital services it provides as well as the fact that, in the past, unreported and illegal rental activity has cost the Town hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars.

Anyone who violates the Town's Ordinance and rents their unit/home within a legally zoned area without first obtaining a business tax certificate and a transient occupancy tax certificate will be subject to the 13% transient occupancy tax, penalties, interest for their rental activity and may be fined up to \$500 per day along with enforcement charges. If you're renting in a non-legally zoned area, additional fines, including possible criminal action may apply. The Town of Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code (Chapter 3.12) includes detailed rules and regulations pertaining to TOT.

TOT Hotline

A hotline has been established to report any suspicious activity or rental advertisements and the Town will follow up on any reports submitted. The Hot Line

Number is **(760) 934-8989 ext. 275** or email your information to: tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

TOT Provides Vital Community Services

Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOT) are the largest single revenue source for the Town of Mammoth Lakes. This visitor generating revenue provides vital services to our community which enhances our quality of life and maintains the resort status as a great place to live and work. Vital community services include:

- Free transportation (usage and need are growing).
- Snow removal (we would not be able to get around town without it).
- Road maintenance (surfacing, routing, and safety).
- Public safety (police funding, without TOT the population increases without funding for our protection).
- Parks and pools maintenance (facilities need upgrading and maintenance without TOT this can't happen).
- Trails (TOT will help create and maintain walking, hiking and biking trails within the town of Mammoth Lakes).

Transient Occupancy Tax – the details...

You've probably heard the term TOT and wondered what it was and how it affects you. Transient Occupancy Taxes (or TOT) are the taxes that visitors pay when renting a unit or hotel room in town. In the Town of Mammoth Lakes the daily tax rate is 13 percent. This tax rate applies to all rentable units: hotels, motels, condominiums, and single family homes that are permitted to rent on a nightly basis. For comparison, the Town of Truckee's transient occupancy tax rate is 10%, and the City of Anaheim's (Disneyland) transient occupancy tax is 15%.

TOT payments were strong last year due to the high visitation and the Town has seen quarterly improvements in this year's TOT funds. Even though the Town collects an average of \$11 million dollars in TOT per year, we may be leaving more on the table. Some estimate that uncollected TOT could be up to \$400,000 per year.

Unreported or uncollected TOT isn't just about the missing funds; it also affects local businesses in other ways. Owners who rent their units without collecting TOT drive down the rental rates for legitimate rental properties that do collect. Depending on the situation, not collecting and remitting TOT could be a misdemeanor or even embezzlement which is a criminal charge. Quite simply - it's illegal.

If you have questions about TOT enforcement please call Pam Kobylarz at (760) 934-8989 ext. 253 or she may be reached via e-mail at pkobylarz@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us. Thank you for your attention to this very important subject that affects our quality of life and the health of our community.

Community News

7th Annual Oktoberfest

Experience autumn Mammoth style at the 7th Annual Oktoberfest this weekend in The Village at Mammoth. On Friday "ROCKtoberfest" takes over "the plaza" with music from world-touring band: Warsaw Poland Brothers. There will be yummy food throughout the plaza, beer booths featuring Jagermeister, Spaten Lager and many more tasty brews! Come back on Saturday for the 7th Annual Oktoberfest featuring traditional Oom-Pa-Pa band: Roger and The Villagers, all day long. Take part in authentic food, fun and games!

Traditional Bavarian dancing (including the Chicken Dance) and celebrations will be hosted by our gregarious Bürgermeister throughout the day. Feeling competitive? There will be adult contests like Stein Holding, Keg Toss, Corn Hole, and Hot Dog Eating. The Plaza will also feature a Budenstrasse with an array of Bavarian cuisine! Bring the whole family along - there's a kid's craft and play area from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.! Sit back and relax in the Sierra sunshine and enjoy a weekend of falls best holiday.

New Non-Stop Winter Flights to Mammoth Lakes

Beginning this winter, San Diego and Orange County residents will have easy access to world-class skiing and snowboarding thanks to [United Airlines'](#) new non-stop service to Mammoth Yosemite Airport. United is also expanding service from San Francisco International Airport to Mammoth Lakes with a second flight from Friday – Monday. The new flights will depart daily throughout the winter from San Diego and four days per week from Orange County (Friday - Monday). In addition, air service to and from San Francisco now includes additional Friday - Monday flight service to complement the daily flight service already in existence.

United Express regional partner SkyWest Airlines will operate the flights using 66-seat CRJ700 regional jets which include six first-class and 60 economy seats per plane. The first flights of the season are scheduled to depart Thursday, December 15, 2011 from San Francisco and San Diego and Friday, December 16, 2011 from Orange County. For more information about the new flights or to reserve a seat, call 1-800-UNITED1 or visit www.united.com. For more information about Mammoth Mountain, visit www.mammothmountain.com.

Edison Theatre Hosts Return Engagement "Always...Patsy Cline" – Going Local

When "Always...Patsy Cline" was produced at the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre two years ago it starring a local and an import from Los Angeles. This time the show, back by popular demand for a limited run October 14-16, 2011, stars a long-time second home owner as Patsy Cline, and that LA import who played the fan of Patsy's on whom the show is based, is back but this time as a new resident of Mammoth Lakes. "Always...Patsy Cline" runs three performances only, Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 16 at 4:00 p.m. This is a limited engagement, so book early before the shows sell out! Contact the Edison Theatre at (760) 934-6592 for details and tickets.

Mammoth Lakes Police Community Hispanic Advisory Committee Meeting – Oct. 18

The Mammoth Lakes Police Community Hispanic Advisory Committee has finalized plans for the next Town Hall meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 18 at 5:30

p.m. THE LOCATION HAS CHANGED TO THE MONO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, 100 THOMPSONS WAY.

Tours of the new courthouse will begin at 5:00 p.m. If not planning on attending the courthouse tour, attendees should arrive at 5:30 p.m. Presentations will be made by representatives from the Mexican Consulate, Mono County Child Protection Services, the Mono County District Attorney, the Mono County Superior Court, and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). There will also be an Open Forum where questions can be asked of representatives of these agencies along with the Police and Fire Departments of Mammoth Lakes and the Mono County Sheriff's Department.

Interpreters will be present and it will be possible for attendees to ask questions anonymously by way of using index cards. Food will be provided and the Mammoth Community Church, which is adjacent to the courthouse, will be open for supervised child care. The Hispanic Advisory Committee was created in late 2010 in an effort to build trust and improve communications between the Police Department and the Hispanic community of Mammoth Lakes.

Recreation Highlights

Build a Trail!

Join MLTPA and Friends of the Inyo as we build a brand-new connector trail envisioned by the community as part of the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP) on Saturday, September 24, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is the first new free mountain bike trail in Mammoth in years! – a great way to celebrate National Public Lands Day! Trail construction will take place between the Panorama Dome Mountain Bike Trail and the Lakes Basin, and re-routing of the Panorama Dome Hiking Trail to create a more efficient trailhead. Register online at www.mltpa.org.

Mammoth AYSO Team Photo Weekend & Snack Shop Fundraiser

This weekend is Team Photos for the 51 soccer teams along with a Mammoth AYSO & Mammoth High School Soccer Fundraiser at the Snack Shop. Mammoth AYSO encourages your family and friends to come out and support efforts to raise money to supply uniforms, soccer balls, goals, nets, beautiful fields and more for the 470+ players. Mammoth AYSO player registration fees include an Individual and Team photo for every player. Players are also able to purchase additional photos from BlueBird Imaging at the field. All photos will be taken on the U10 Field (Softball field #3) at Shady Rest Park. Review the Team Photo schedule online at www.MammothAYSO.com.

Call For Chalk Artists – Sept. 24

Are you one with the ground? Do you think you have what it takes to be the next 3D sidewalk chalk master? Come and claim a square and chalk it up on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. It is free and open to all. Professional artists should contact sandrad@greenfoxevents.com as soon as possible. Only a few professionals will be selected and prizes include a \$50 gift certificate to Base Camp Café, \$100 gift certificate to the Luxury Outlet Mall, and \$150 cash! There is unlimited space for children chalkers! All chalk will be provided.

Twenty 20 Cricket – Sept. 25

A Twenty 20 cricket match (20 over's/team) is scheduled this Sunday, September 25, 2011 on the Mammoth Elementary School field beginning at 3:00 p.m. All players are welcome, all equipment is supplied, just BYO tea and scones...yes – real scones! Please call Dave Leonard at (760) 914-1924 to let us know if you can make it or for more information about this wonderful sport of cricket. See you on the pitch!

Call For Fruit & Veggie Lovers

Our Wednesday Farmer's Markets continue until the last Wednesday of September. The farmers' crops have rebounded and there is more produce now than there has been all season. Come join us in front of the Luxury Outlet Mall on Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for good food, homemade crafts and jewelry, music, and a great community vibe. All events are in front of the Luxury Outlet Mall on Main Street – see us under the yellow and white tent. For more information, contact sandrad@greenfoxevents.com or 760-709-6744. The Main Street Market is a place to gather, shop, and share good times.

Recreation Commission Meeting – October 4

The Recreation Commission will be meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. in Suite Z/Minaret Village Mall.

Second Summer Fishing Derby

Western Outdoor News and YUM Troutkrilla, in conjunction with Mono County Tourism and Mammoth Lakes Tourism are proud to present the Inaugural Mono County/Mammoth Lakes YUM 'Second Summer Derby and Fundraiser. Beginning on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 and concluding on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 three specifically tagged 2 lbs+ Trout dubbed "Troutkrilla", paid for by PRADCO, will be planted in each of the participating lakes on September 6th. These trout will carry a tag worth a corresponding Instant Win Prize, and also a raffle ticket for a Shopping Spree with www.Lurenet.com. The Grand Raffle Prize is a fully rigged 14' Gregor with a 15hp Mercury Motor and an EZ Load Trailer. Catch a tagged Trout and instantly receive 1 entry in the drawing for the Boat (Grand Raffle prize)! Call 888 GO-MAMMOTH for additional information.

Women's Only FREE Soccer Clinics

Are you a former player or have kids that play AYSO and you want to learn more about the international craze of FUTBOL? Come one, come all...No experience necessary and it's FREE! The clinics are scheduled every Sunday, between October 9 – 30, 2011 at Shady Rest Park (U12 field) between 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Develop basic to advanced soccer skills in a women's only session. Each session includes training drills and scrimmages. Cleats and Shinguards are required. Contact Recreation Supervisor Stephanie Daniel at (760) 934-8989 ext. 237 for information or to register.

Party Yourself into Shape!

Zumba® Fitness is offered every Monday by Kaysie Williams from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail (near The Village). Zumba® Fitness is an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness-party™ that's moving millions of people toward joy and health.

Participants don't even have to know how to dance. Just move your body and follow the instructor's lead. It's easy! Participants can purchase a 10 class punch card for \$77.50 or a 5 class punch card for only \$42.50. The Drop-In rate is \$10 per class. For more information or to register call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222. Feel the music and let loose!

Get Gymnastics Fever!

This year-round program is designed to introduce children from 3-18 years old the wonderful and exciting sport of gymnastics. Offered by Michelle DeJong, a level 8 competitive gymnast and Level 1-5 gymnastics coach, participants will learn to tumble and more in a safe and structured environment. This program is also a recipient of Measure R funding with \$7,000 of gymnastic equipment. Three age sessions are available at the Community Center on Forest Trail.

3-5 yr olds – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

5-8 yr olds – Saturday: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

8-12+ yr olds – Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. & Saturday: 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Fees are only \$50/month (8 sessions) for residents and \$60/month for non-residents. Five session Punch Cards are available for \$50 and Private lessons are available upon request at \$20 for 30-45 minutes. Drop -ins are welcome and encouraged - First one is FREE! Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for more information or to register your aspiring Gymnast!

We Want to Hear From You!

The Recreation Department would like to hear what you have to say about our products and programs. If you participated in one of our many youth and adult programs, or enjoyed one of our parks or facilities, please take the time to complete the Customer Satisfaction Survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PZ3JCYQ>. Customer Satisfaction Survey's are also available for collection from the Recreation office located in the Minaret Village Mall, above Giovanni's. Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for additional information. We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact Us

All the summer, fall, winter and Spring events, programs and activities are listed on www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us and in the 2011-12 Annual Mammoth Recreation Guide. Please call the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 or visit us in the Town Offices – Minaret Village Mall (above Giovanni's) to register for a program, for additional information or to forward your comments and suggestions.

Notify Me!

Receive updates sent directly to your email or phone from the Town of Mammoth Lakes by subscribing to "Notify Me." Found on the left side of www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us, stay current with Public Service Announcements, Emergency Alerts, Town e-News, Recreation This Week, No Burn Announcements, DNDP updates, bid postings, news flash, calendar items, and more! Make smart decisions, subscribe today!

Sports & Recreation Calendar

- On-going: Gymnastics/Tumbling Program at the Community Center
- On-going: Zumba Fitness at the Community Center
- On-going: Main Street Farmers Market every Wednesday
- On-going: Mammoth AYSO Fall Soccer Season (ends October 30, 2011)
- Sept. 6: Second Summer Fishing Derby (ends Nov. 15)
- Sept. 23-24: OktoberFest – Village at Mammoth
- Sept. 24-25: Mammoth AYSO Team Photo Weekend
- Sept. 24: Build a Trail – Panorama Dome
- Sept. 24-25: Everest Challenge Bike Race
- Sept. 25: Twenty 20 Cricket Match
- Oct. 1: Ambush at the Lake Fall Fishing Derby begins at Convict Lake
- Oct. 1: Joe Stapp Memorial U12 Soccer Tournament
- Oct. 2: Mammoth Mountain Bike Park Last Day
- Oct. 8: Joe Stapp Memorial U10 Soccer Tournament
- Oct. 28: Halloween Carnival & Haunted House – Village at Mammoth

Public Service Announcements

Leash Law Reminder

Mammoth residents and visitors are reminded that the Town has a leash law, and it is a violation of the ordinance to allow your dog to run loose off of your property. While budget cuts eliminated the Animal Control Officer position, the laws pertaining to controlling your pets did not change, and you can still be cited by Mammoth Lakes Police Department officers if your dog is at large. The PD is currently receiving a large number of complaints from several neighborhoods, and will be targeting patrol time in those areas when possible to apprehend loose dogs and to cite their owners. In addition to the citation fine, you could also be charged boarding fees by Mono County Animal Control if we choose to impound your dog at the Whitmore Shelter.

At-large dogs are a traffic hazard, and even the most well behaved dog can bite if provoked. If your loose animal causes a traffic collision or injures/bites someone, you would likely be liable for damages, which could add up to thousands of dollars. Please respect your neighbors, AND your pet and obey the leash law.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors Save Lives

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has launched a community outreach effort to inform community residents that on July 1, 2011 many homes will be required to install carbon monoxide detectors.

The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that carbon monoxide kills approximately 500 people each year and injures another 20,000 people nationwide. In an effort to prevent these accidental deaths and injuries, the California legislature enacted SB 183 (Lowenthal) which mandates owners of dwelling intended for human occupancy to install carbon monoxide devices in existing dwelling units having a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or attached garage.

CO devices must be installed in all specified single-family dwellings by July 1, 2011. All other specified dwelling units must have CO devices installed by January 1, 2013.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) has developed a list of certified CO devices that meet the requirement specified within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010.

For a complete list of currently approved devices please visit the SFM's website at http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselistings_bml_searchcotest.php. Under the search categories provided select Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors for a complete list of devices.

Further details contained within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010:

- Owners shall install CO devices in a manner consistent with building standards applicable to new construction for the relevant type of occupancy if it is technically feasible. See the 2010 California Building Code, Section 420.4, and the 2010 California Residential Code, Section R315.
- CO devices shall produce a distinct audible alarm.
- CO devices may be combined with a smoke detector, if the combination device meets all specified SFM listing and approval requirements.
- Violation of Health & Safety Code Section 17926 is an infraction punishable by a maximum fine of two-hundred dollars for each offense.
- A local enforcement agency shall provide the property owner a 30-day notice to correct.
- Local jurisdictions are authorized to adopt ordinances requiring CO devices if the ordinance is consistent with the requirement of this bill.

For a full list of this legislation's stipulations please review the Department of Housing and Community Development's Information Bulletin 2011-01 at <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/shl/infobulls/IB2011-01.pdf>.

Keep Our Wildlife Wild!

The best way to KEEP WILDLIFE WILD and preventing bears from becoming dependent on humans for food, is to follow these common sense rules:

- Never feed any wildlife, or leave food out for bears or other wild animals.
- Securely store food and fragrant items such as shampoo and deodorant in an airtight container. When camping, use a bear-proof box.
- Don't leave food, even in a cooler, in a car, tent, or other unsecured location.
- Don't leave pet food outdoors or use a bird feeder. Bears love bird seed!
- Always deposit trash in a bear proof trash can or dumpster.
- Keep your car locked and your garage door closed.
- Close and lock ground floor windows when no one is home.

It is not unusual to see black bears wandering through town. Enjoy them, but keep your distance. If you see a bear that is misbehaving (such as trying to get into a trash dumpster, vehicle, or building) call 911 immediately. The Town's Wildlife Specialist and police officers are trained to handle situations such as this. Bears are shy and generally afraid of people. If you feel threatened by a bear, yell or bang on something to scare the bear away. If by chance a bear enters a structure looking for food while you are inside, make a lot of noise and go into another room, close the door, and call 911. The bear will most likely be more frightened than you and leave.

It is also time to remind everyone that all wildlife, including deer, are on the move. When driving, especially at dusk and dawn, be on the lookout for wild animals

crossing the roadway. Striking a deer or bear can be fatal – not only to the animal, but also to people in the car.

For more information on co-existing with wildlife in Mammoth Lakes, contact the Town's Wildlife Specialist Steve Searles at (760) 937-BEAR or Lieutenant John Mair at (760) 934-2011 Extension 44.

Town Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

In 2003, the Town implemented an outdoor lighting ordinance to eliminate light pollution and preserve views of our starry skies. The outdoor lighting ordinance was adopted to encourage residents to administer a lighting system that not only promotes public safety and night-time ambiance but to maximize energy conservation. To eliminate glare and light trespass into neighboring properties and roadways, the outdoor lighting fixtures on your property should be shielded and re-directed to shine downward or changed out to a lower wattage. More information about responsible lighting can be found at www.crlaction.org.