



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**  
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## Town News

### Town e-News: Week of August 1, 2016

#### News from the Town Manager

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##### **Town Council Meeting – August 3**

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 3, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Suite Z. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

##### **Commission/Committee Meetings**

- Aug. 2            Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 9:00AM
- Aug. 10          Planning and Economic Development Commission, Suite Z, 2:00PM

##### **Town Conducting Multi-Use Path Construction And Minor Road Realignment**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes with the Constructor, Herback General Engineering will be constructing a multi-use path and road realignment in the Lakes Basin on Around Lake Mary Loop Road from Lake Mary Road to Lake George Road.

##### **Lake Mary Road to Lake George Road Multi-Use Path Project**

Trucking will continue from Monday, August 1 to Friday, August 5. No access will be provided to pedestrian and vehicular traffic from the Lake Mary Campground to Lake George Road. Please detour around Lake Mary entering and exiting through the western entrance of Around Lake Mary Loop Road.

On Wednesday, August 10, the installation of a pedestrian bridge is to occur across Lake Mamie Outfall, near the intersection of Lake George Road and Around Lake Mary Loop Road. Due to the size of the crane and size of the bridge, Lake George Road as well as the Around Lake Mary Loop Road and Lake George Road intersection will be closed for one to two hour increments from 7:00am to 5:00pm. Please adjust your travel schedule and consideration for all parking in Lake George to avoid conflicts with construction.

Work will be continue until October 2016 and intermittently affect pedestrian and vehicular traffic. If you require further information or have issues during the construction please feel free to contact: Jamie Robertson, Assistant Engineer at (760) 965-3653.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

## **Groundbreaking For New Mammoth Lakes Police Department Facility**

On Wednesday, July 27 Town Council officially broke ground signaling the commencement of construction for the new Police Station located at 280 Thompsons Way, adjacent to the existing Superior Court of California, County of Mono Courthouse. On June 15, the Town Council awarded the construction contract to Gundry Partners, LP Howard CDM, and the Town is looking forward to working with them to complete this project.

This 5,300 square foot Police Station will be constructed on the McFlex parcel, a piece of land owned by the Judicial Council of California, Mono County, Mammoth Hospital, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes for municipal and civic uses. It is anticipated the building will be closed in before winter so that work can continue inside the building during the winter. The Police Department expects to move into the new building sometime next summer. This long awaited facility will result in enhanced functionality and, through the inclusion of a large conference room with access directly from the lobby, the opportunity for greater interaction with the public.



## **Town Of Mammoth Lakes Updates Phone System Taking Advantage Of Digital 395**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is excited to announce that the aging old analog phone system has been upgraded to a new digital Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) system. The introduction of Digital 395 into our community allowed the Town to benefit from a robust fiber-optic network which provides connectivity between Town facilities. The network provides the opportunity to leverage Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) based communication to replace the aging phone system, which not only offers better connectivity in a modern and maintained system, but also reduces costs.

The new phone system will offer a significant improvement in functionality and ease of use for Town staff while providing more efficient integration between all seven of the Town's facilities, offering staff the ability to call any employee at any location simply by dialing the extension. Additionally, the system will provide a variety of options for call handling and routing, voicemail, auto-attendant/phone tree options, and mobility. All of these enhancements will greatly help Town staff with their day-to-day responsibilities of serving the public and providing high quality customer

service. Improved access to Town Departments and employees and connectivity between Town operations will enhance public access and Town responsiveness.

As a result of these improvements, all of the Town's phone numbers will be changing, effective Thursday, June 23, 2016. Each department will have its own direct phone line and each employee will have a new extension number.

Below is a list of the new department phone numbers:

- Administration - (760) 965-3600
- Airport - (760) 965-3620
- Community and Economic Development - (760) 965-3630
- Engineering - (760) 965-3650
- Finance - (760) 965-3660
- Public Works Yard - (760) 965-3680
- Parks and Recreation - (760) 965-3690
- Police Department - (760) 965-3700

The new VoIP system will replace the Town's 20-year old Nortel analog phone system which is no longer supported, difficult to maintain, and not interconnected between Town locations. The new system furthers the Town Council's goal of using enhanced technology to improve Town operations, enhance customer service, and reduce costs.

Please be patient with us while we transition to our new system. For a full list of employee phone numbers, please visit our website at [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

### **Mammoth Lakes Plastic Bag Ban in Effect March 1**

Beginning Tuesday, March 1, 2016, Ordinance No. 15-06 went into effect that prohibits the use of single-use carryout bags in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Town Council's action will reduce negative impacts on the environment, including reducing the use of natural resources and energy; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and helping to eliminate waste in landfills, roadside litter, and pollution to lakes, streams, and soils. Most importantly it will contribute to a cleaner and more welcoming Town of Mammoth Lakes!

When the plastic bag ban goes into effect, consumers will be affected in the following ways:

- Retail establishments will no longer be able to utilize plastic, single-use bags.
- Customers may purchase paper bags for a minimum of 10 cents each.
- Customers may purchase or bring their own reusable bags.
- Restaurants are exempt and may still use plastic bags for take away orders.
- Some other exemptions exist, such as plastic bags used for produce and meats.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes will work with local businesses, including the Chamber of Commerce, to assist in the progressive elimination of plastic, single-use bags in our community. If you have questions about the plastic bag ban, please visit [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov) to review Ordinance No. 15-06, or contact Pam Kobylarz, Assistant to the Town Manager, at (760) 934-8989 ext. 223 or [pkobylarz@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](mailto:pkobylarz@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

### **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.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov), 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.

### **TV 51 has moved!**

The Town's dedicated channel, TV 51 has moved to Channel 18. The move was necessitated by Suddenlink and their local programming needs. TV Channel 18 will still continue to provide access to all the Town's meetings with live and taped coverage of Town Council, and advisory body meetings such as the Planning and Economic Development Commission and Recreation Commission. For meeting dates and times, please visit: [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

### **MAMMOTH LAKES POLICE DEPARTMENT** - Friday Update: 7/18/16 – 7/24/16

#### **Calls For Service/Officer Observations**

111, including 0 business/building checks

#### **Crime/Incident Reports**

20 reports, including 3 arrests

#### **Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions**

9 stops; 5 citations; 4 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 3 collisions

#### **Animal Control Incidents**

7 incidents

#### **Wildlife**

7 calls

#### **Projected Average Resort Occupancy:**

Friday, July 29, 2016	80%
Saturday, July 30, 2016	79%
Sunday, July 31, 2016	68%
Monday, August 1, 2016	71%
Tuesday, August 2, 2016	69%
Wednesday, August 3, 2016	72%
Thursday, August 4, 2016	79%
Friday, August 5, 2016	85%
Saturday, August 6, 2016	84%
Sunday, August 7, 2016	72%

If you're a lodging property and would like to sign up to report your numbers, please contact John Urdi at [JUrdi@visitmammoth.com](mailto:JUrdi@visitmammoth.com) or (760) 934-2712 ext. 1259

Please remember that the projected occupancy is calculated in order to assist the business community with staffing levels and product ordering. The actual occupancy percentages are reported from the lodging industry to the Town of Mammoth Lakes Finance Department.

## **Community News**

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### **Inyo National Forest Announces Further Fire Restrictions**

The Inyo National Forest is expanding fire restrictions to include wilderness areas of the Inyo National Forest. Previously, certain wilderness areas had been exempted.

Beginning on Friday July 29, the following restrictions will be in effect:

- No campfires, briquette barbecues, or stove fires are allowed outside of designated developed recreation sites and specifically posted campsites or areas. A list of designated campgrounds and recreation sites is available at visitor centers, and on the website [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd511823.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd511823.pdf).
- Persons with a valid California Campfire Permit (available free of charge at visitor center or online at <http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/>) are not exempt from the prohibitions but are allowed to use portable stoves or lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel.
- No fireworks. It is prohibited to possess or discharge any fireworks.
- No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

Resorts, pack stations, recreation residences and other sites operated under special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service may be exempt from the special orders, as long as any fire activity is conducted in compliance with their permit.

Residents and visitors are reminded that fireworks, even "safe and sane" are not allowed at any time on public lands.

### **Villagefest - July 29-31**

A summer tradition at The Village at Mammoth - the annual VillageFest has been dubbed "California's Highest Rib Cook-Off." Featuring more than just a cooking competition, this summer festival includes free outdoor concerts featuring local bands, crafts, a beer garden and much more.

### **Kids Fishing Festival - July 30**

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Kids Fishing Festival is once again at the Snowcreek Ponds. 1,000 pounds of 1 lb. trout have been placed in the ponds ready to be caught! This popular event is FREE for kids 14 and under and will run from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Rods and reels are provided, you can bring your own or perhaps you will even win one! Come later, receive more individual attention from our guides, have lunch, and win lots more raffle prizes. Our fish keep biting all day long!

### **Devil's Postpile Centennial Night Sky Program – July 30**

The National Park Service is celebrating 100 years of helping to preserve special places, include those that boast starry night skies. Join Devil's Postpile National Monument rangers at the Minaret Vista on Saturday, July 30th from 9-10pm for an hour long program while we marvel at the night sky and learn more about how we can all help protect this valuable resource. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight (flashlights with a red light option preferred).

### **Consolidated Mine Tour - July 30**

The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association invites you to join our interpretive guide on a trip to the past! Mammoth Lakes was once a booming mining town and there are still remnants of this once great bonanza. Meet at the Consolidated Mine trail head located at the end of the Coldwater Campground. The tour will begin at 11:00 am and will last approximately 1.5 hours. Bring water and plenty of imagination!

### **Mammoth Firefighters Picnic – July 31**

Come support our local firefighters at Shady Rest Park for their annual Firefighters Picnic this Sunday, July 31 from 11:00am. Enjoy BBQ, free games, and a raffle that supports the Fire Fighter Foundation. Don't miss the dunk tank and fire truck rides. Free hot dogs for kids 12 and under. It will be a fun time for the whole family!

### **Forest Plan Revision Public Meetings – Aug. 1**

We would like to remind you of next week's public meetings regarding forest plan revision efforts on the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. This is the second round of public meetings to discuss the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) and draft forest plans for the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. The 90-day public comment period for this project began May 27 and closes August 25, 2016.

- August 1: 6p-8pCerro Coso Community College 101 College Pkwy, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 (Inyo National Forest)
- August 2: 6p-8pCerro Coso Community College Eastern Sierra Campus 4090 W Line St, Bishop, CA 93514 (Inyo National Forest)
- August 3: 6p-8pDouble Tree Bakersfield (Hilton)3100 Camino Del Rio Ct., Bakersfield, CA 93308 (Sequoia National Forest)
- August 4: 6p-8pClovis Memorial Veterans Hall808 4th St, Clovis, CA 93612 (Sierra National Forest)

The draft EIS and draft forest plans are available on-line at the Forest Plan Revision project website: <http://tinyurl.com/r5earlyadopters>. For more information about this project or the public meetings, please contact the Planning Team Leader, 707-562-9121.

### **Wildfire Preparedness Meeting – Aug. 2**

Wildfire in the mountains is a matter of when, not if. Mammoth residents are invited to attend this informal, hour-long meeting to learn more about how to mitigate risk and to prepare for a fire on Tuesday, August 2, 5-6 pm, Mammoth Lakes Library Ellie Randol Reading Room: Wildfire Preparedness Meeting

Mono County Supervisor Stacy Corless is hosting the meeting, and Mammoth Lakes Fire Department's Thom Heller will lead the discussion. There will also be a

discussion regarding interest in forming a Fire Wise Council in Mammoth. More information: [scorless@mono.ca.gov](mailto:scorless@mono.ca.gov) and 760-920-0190.

### **Devil's Postpile Evening Talk: "What's In The Air?" – Aug. 2**

Join Scientist Emeritus Andrzej Bytnerowicz, PhD, USDA Forest Service--Pacific Southwest Research Station for an evening presentation on the trends of air pollution in California with a special emphasis on the Sierra Nevada. The presentation will be held at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center on Tuesday, August 2 from 7:00-8:00pm. This talk will explore the effects of air pollution on human health and area ecosystems, such as forests. Additionally, the impact of wildfires on air quality will also be discussed. For more information call (760) 934-2289.

### **Rock Creek Wildflowers: Exploring A Botanical Paradise – Aug. 3**

Please join SNARL for a special summer presentation at the Page Center at SNARL on Wednesday August 3, 2016 at 7PM. A spectacular high Sierra Nevada valley is the subject of a new wildflower guide called Rock Creek Wildflowers, published by the California Native Plant Society. Little Lakes Valley, at the head of Rock Creek Canyon, has been a favorite of flower-lovers, hikers, anglers, climbers, and sight-seers for generations. Author Cathy Rose, and photographer, Stephen Ingram, have teamed up on a presentation featuring some of the most interesting plants of the valley, starting at the trailhead at Mosquito Flat and covering the trails from Mono Pass to Morgan Pass.

Cathy Rose, a native Californian, grew up at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, graduated from UC Berkeley, and taught middle school English for 28 years. She began studying plants in Yosemite under the tutelage of renowned botanist Carl Sharsmith and has enjoyed leading nature field trips throughout California ever since. Stephen Ingram is a local photographer specializing in Eastern Sierra flora, fauna, and landscapes. He studied botany at UC Santa Barbara and authored a book called "Cactus, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada," published by Cachuma Press in 2008.

Rock Creek Wildflowers will be available for purchase at the presentation at the Page Center and is also for sale at local bookstores and Visitors Centers in Mammoth and Bishop, as well as at Rock Creek Lake Resort.

Directions: The presentation will take place at the new Page Center at SNARL, 1016 Mount Morrison Road. If arriving from Mammoth Lakes, head south on 395 approximately 1 mile past the airport and make a right hand turn. From Bishop, make a left hand turn at the top of the hill past Crowley Lake. If you've reached the airport, you've gone too far and must make a U-turn. The presentation will start promptly at 7PM, so please arrive at least 15 minutes early to park and find seating.

### **Juniors Bowling Workshop**

Mammoth Rock N' Bowl presents a Junior Bowling Workshop every Thursday at noon from July 7 – August 25, 2016. The program includes 2 games with shoes, snacks and drink, and instruction provided by AMF GOLD coach Jeff Moore. Fee is only \$16 per bowler per week. Please contact Mammoth Rock N' Bowl at (760) 934-4200 for information or to register.

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## **Parks and Recreation Department Highlights**

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### **August Camps & Programs**

As a reminder for enrolled participants, the following camps and programs begin next week on August 1:

- Climbing Camp IV (MiNi'S, Child & Youth)
- Aquatics Camp (9-14 yrs.)
- UK Soccer Camp II (MiNi'S, Child, Youth)
- Adult Tennis Camp & Social \*Begins August 2
- Wave Rave Skate Camp IV (MiNi'S, Child & Youth) \*Begins August 3

For information including itineraries, drop off & pick up locations, packing lists, and schedules please visit our website at <https://apm.activecommunities.com/mammothrecreation/Home> and search for the specific camp or program your child is enrolled in.

### **U.K. International Soccer Camp - Aug. 1**

Professional British soccer coaches will once again host this hugely popular soccer camp. Coaches provide a safe, educational, and FUN program for ages 4-16 years old. The 5-day camp begins Monday, August 1, 2016. The cost is only \$105 for weekly morning sessions (\$35 per day), or \$165 for weekly full-day sessions (\$45 per day). Register online at [www.uksocca.com](http://www.uksocca.com).

### **Aquatics Camp – Aug. 1**

Join pool staff for a week of aquatics fun as you explore and enjoy the best 'water' in the Eastern Sierra. Scheduled from August 1-5, 2016 for ages 8-14 years, this camp will be based at the Whitmore Pool with excursions to Mono Lake, Bishop Pool, Convict Lake, the Lakes Basin, and the stunning June Lake. The fee for the camp is \$162.

### **Tetra Brazil Advanced Soccer Camp – Aug. 8**

The Tetra Brazil Soccer Camp combines traditional Brazilian technical practices with the flair, passion, and creativity of South American soccer. The Tetra Brazil curriculum has been designed by an organization of professional soccer educators in Brazil to provide teams, coaches and players in North America with the same expert level of training received by the Professional Brazilian Clubs. Campers will warm up to samba music, learn Portuguese phrases, and discover what it is like to grow up in a country where playing soccer is treated like a religion. This unique camp is scheduled from August 8-12, 2016 at Shady Rest Park. Register online at: [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com).

### **Jr Lifeguard Camp – Aug. 8**

The Junior Lifeguard Camp is designed to introduce youth to the Red Cross Lifeguard Training program by building a foundation of skills and knowledge necessary to be a competent lifeguard. The camp is for 11-14 year olds and is scheduled from August 8-12, 2016. It will start and end each day at the Whitmore Pool (9:00am-4:00pm). The JR Lifeguard program offers comprehensive content in five critical areas: Prevention, Fitness, Response, Leadership, and Professionalism. Participants will receive an exclusive Town of Mammoth Lakes JR Lifeguard T-shirt, a certificate of

completion, and an invitation to enroll in the American Red Cross Lifeguard certification program (min. age 15). Enrollment is limited and the fee is only \$138 purchased 10 days in advance or \$165. Register online at [www.mammothrecreation.com](http://www.mammothrecreation.com) or call (760) 965-3690 to register or for additional information. Training today's youth to be lifeguards tomorrow!

### **Husky Prep Tennis Camp – Aug. 8**

This tennis camp is for Jr. High and High School players that aspire to grow in the sport. Stroke improvement, strategy, and conditioning emphasized. The 5-day camp begins Monday, August 8, 2016 and is scheduled from 9am-12pm each day at the Community Center Tennis Courts. Early Bird fee (>10 days in advance) is only \$133 for the week, regular fee is \$160.

### **Showboat Youtheatre Sails Into Mammoth – Aug. 8**

This summer Showboat Youtheatre is performing "Annie" and "Peter Pan." Your child won't want to miss out on these amazing productions and you won't want to miss these wonderful performances by our local youth. Showboat begins Monday, August 8, 2016 and is for children from 5 to 17 years of age. The workshops, sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, will be held at the Community Center and the Edison Theatre (new venue). Children from 5 to 10 years of age will be working on "Annie" from 9:00-11:00am and the more advanced thespians from 11 and up will be working on the classic "Peter Pan" from 11:00am-1:30pm. Performances are scheduled for the weekend of Friday, August 19 and Saturday, August 20 at the Edison Theatre. Instructor Ann Monahan, choreographer/director, has been performing and teaching for over 45 years. For further information and to register for this exciting and creative summer camp, either register online at [www.mammothrecreation.com](http://www.mammothrecreation.com) or call Parks and Recreation at (760) 965-3690. Don't miss the boat!

### **Adult Summer Program Openings**

The Parks & Recreation Department is excited for our Adult Summer Programming! We are currently taking registrations for the following Adult Programs this summer:

- Adult Doubles Tennis Camp & Social II & III \*Session III: August 2-4
- Adult Drop-in Tennis Sessions (advanced registration not required) \*Every Tuesday & Thursday from 3:30-5:30pm
- Private Tennis Lessons (reservation only)

Visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/mammothrecreation/Home> to see our summer listings or to register for a program. Or contact (760) 965-3699 for more information.

### **Whitmore Pool Open Daily**

The Whitmore Pool is now open 7-days a week with public swimming offered Monday-Friday from 12:30-3:30pm and from 12:00-4:00pm on the weekends. Join us for midweek lap swim! Midweek transit service is also available to the Whitmore Pool/Track – only \$2.00 roundtrip with purchase of \$10 ten-ride pass. \*\*PLEASE NOTE THE WHITMORE POOL WILL BE CLOSED FOR PUBLIC SWIM ON THURSDAY AUGUST 18 FOR A PRIVATE EVENT.

## **Mammoth RecZone Open Every Weekend**

The Mammoth RecZone is now open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights from 3-9pm for fun on wheels! The facility is an outdoor venue (with shade, lights, and concessions) located in the heart of Mammoth Lakes offering fun on skates, blades, boards, nets, hoops and on ramps. Summer programming includes:

- Friday – Free Admission + \$1.00 Ice Cream Floats!
- Saturday – Free Skate Rental for the 6-9pm Skate Party
- Sunday – Free Hot Dogs + pick-up street hockey

Pricing for the RecZone is as follows:

### Admission:

- Adult (16+yrs): \$3
- Youth (5-15 yrs)/Senior (65+)/Military: \$2
- Child (4 and under): FREE with paid adult
- Local Students (with ID): \$2

### Skates & Rentals:

- Adult: \$6
- Youth/Senior/Military: \$4
- Child: \$3
- Local Students (with ID): \$2

### 5 Skate Pass (includes admission & rentals:

- Adult: \$30
- Youth/Senior/Military: \$20
- Child: FREE with paid adult
- Local Students (with ID): \$10

The RecZone is also available by reservation only for party rental Monday-Thursday from 12-9pm and Friday-Sunday from 12-3pm for \$50/hour, or \$200/day. Birthday party package options available for as low as \$7.50/child. Visit [www.mammothreczone.com](http://www.mammothreczone.com) or call (760) 934-2505 for all the details.

## **Public Service Announcements**

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### **Be Prepared - Increased Wildlife Activity**

With the warming weather and thawing snow, Mono County is experiencing an increase in wildlife activity. Although this trend extends through the entire county, Crowley Lake and June Lake have been the hot spots for bear activity. The bears are seeking food and are already damaging property and attempting to gain access to houses and out buildings. Residents and visitors also need to be mindful of the presence of mountain lions. While mountain lion attacks on humans are extremely rare, it is important to be educated on what to do should one encounter a mountain lion. The following are some steps that people can take in an effort to exist responsibly with wildlife:

- Invest in bear-proof garbage containers. This can include specialized commercial trash bins or can be as simple as buying surplus 55 gallon re-sealable barrels. Trash should be stored in secured containers away from

- buildings if possible. Always secure communal trash bins, either with a chain or a lock
- Properly store pet food. Pet food should be in an airtight, sealed container if stored in the garage. Bears are obviously attracted to pet food and have broken into numerous garages and residences.
  - Do not leave anything in your vehicle that may attract bears. This includes, but is not limited to, food, wrappers, gum, perfume, mints, etc.
  - Watch out for wildlife on the roads. The deer are migrating and other wildlife is moving around. Motorists need to be alert and watch the road in order to cut down on the number of animal involved collisions and deaths.
  - NEVER feed wildlife. Feeding of wildlife is a violation of the law and also a death sentence to the animals. Once conditioned to human sources of food, bears will seek them out, creating conflicts with humans. Bears may be killed to ensure public safety if the nuisance behavior cannot be corrected. Attracting bears to urban areas can also increase risk of vehicle collisions, harming both humans and bears. Feeding deer is also illegal and the presence of deer will attract mountain lions.

### **Reduction of Wildland Fire Fuels**

**Website:** <http://www.mlfd.ca.gov>

Now that winter seems to have faded, the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFD) wants to remind residents of your responsibility to keep your property fire safe. Long term residents are aware of the wildland fire incidence that can occur around town and especially after dry winters and with windy, hot, dry summers. From just about anywhere in town one can see the results of previous fire activity and the scars that have been left behind.

Establishing and maintaining defensible space around our property is all of our responsibilities. We are all part of the team that will protect our community should we find ourselves in the situation of a wildfire threatening town. A well-maintained landscape enhances the beauty and value of any property— and just as importantly, the work serves as a fuel break. The goal is to keep your landscape lean, clean and green. The following steps can reduce your home's vulnerability from the threat of wildfire and reduce your use of irrigation.

**ZONE 1: 30 feet or more adjacent to the home and beyond attachments such as wooden decks.**

- Within the first 10 feet of the home, use nonflammable landscaping materials (rock, pavers), or low level annuals or perennials less than 18 inches in height. There should be nothing flammable within 10 feet of the home.
- Keep this area lightly irrigated and free from dead or dry vegetation, combustible debris, and accumulations of leaf and needle litter. Plants should be carefully spaced, low growing and free of vegetation high in resins, oils, and waxes that burn easily. Mow lawns regularly.
- Prune all trees up 1/3 the height of the tree or so the lowest limbs are 10-15 feet from the ground. If adjacent to a structure, prune up to the eave level. Clearance shall be a minimum of 10 feet from chimneys/stovepipes. Keep roof surfaces clear.
- Thin out living vegetation 30 to 50% within this zone to decrease fire intensity and continuous path of travel.
- Allow space between tops of trees to reduce the risk of crown fire.

- Keep firewood stacks/piles at least 30 feet from the home. If this is not possible, from June 1 to September 30, cover entire woodpile with properly secured, fire resistive, California State Fire Marshal tagged tarp.
- Water plants and trees as needed to ensure they are healthy. Do not use finely shredded mulch and mulch should be wetted periodically.
- Areas around and above propane tanks need to be kept clear of vegetation for 10 feet.

**ZONE 2: Approximately 30 to 100 feet from the home (if your property size permits).**

- Leave approximately 30 feet between clusters of two to three trees, or approximately 20 feet between individual trees. Do not remove more than 1/3 of the crown density.
- Limit vegetation that serves as a link between low level vegetation and tree tops (ladder fuels).
- Prune trees so branches and leaves are at least 10-15 feet above the ground.
- Give yourself added protection with "fuel breaks," such as gravel walkways, and lawns.
- Remove any dead or dying material from yard and break up continuous patches of brush species to slow fire advance and decrease heat productivity.

Property owners who are unable to do this work themselves are encouraged to hire a licensed professional who both understand this information and can apply it to the property. MLFD maintains a list of qualified contractors that can perform this work.

Failure to comply with the regulations and clear your property in a timely fashion is not only expensive, but endangers the lives and homes of your neighbors, the community, and the firefighters who protect them.

If you would like more information on this or any other fire safety related matter, please feel free to contact the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department at (760) 934-2300.

### **Important Information for Verizon Customers**

As of April 1, Verizon customers in California, Texas, and Florida will now be serviced by Frontier Communications. Residents should expect to have the same exceptional FiOS TV, Internet, and phone service from the new telecommunications provider.

Existing Verizon customers can request more information regarding their Internet service provider transition by clicking on this link: <http://internet.frontier.com/fios-network-acquisition/>. If you have questions regarding establishing Frontier service or switching to Frontier from your current service provider, please click on the following link: <http://internet.frontier.com/California/>

### **Town's Owner-Occupant Housing Rehabilitation Program**

California Department of Housing and Community Development ("HCD") has awarded the Town of Mammoth Lakes a \$186,047 grant to administer a Housing Rehabilitation Program. Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc. (MLH) as the "Program Operator," will administer the program. The funding may be used by property owners to update homes, attend to deferred maintenance, and address energy efficiency.

Property owners in Mammoth Lakes can benefit from this subsidy in the form of deferred payment loans, below market interest rate loans, and grants. Owners may use program funds to rehabilitate their home for the following eligible improvements:

1. **Correct health and safety issues;**
2. **Converting to current Uniform Building Code;**
3. **Energy conservation improvements;**
4. **Extension of useful life** (includes repairing siding, sheet rock, painting, new flooring, new cabinets, new interior doors, gutters and foundation upgrades and repairs); and
5. **General property improvements.**

To qualify for program funding, an existing homeowner must occupy the home and the household income must be equal to, or less than the following:

1 person	\$43,250
2 person	\$49,400
3 person	\$55,600
4 person	\$61,750
5 person	\$66,700
6 person	\$71,650
7 person	\$76,600
8 person	\$81,550

Units must be located within the Town of Mammoth Lakes in order to qualify for rehabilitation funds. General property improvements that enhance the overall exterior appearance of the property will be limited to 15% of the rehabilitation loan amount.

Funds will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis until all funding is exhausted. All interested Mammoth Lakes property owners are encouraged to immediately contact Mammoth Lakes Housing for additional information, eligibility requirements, and an application.

**Eastern Sierra Transit Expands Mammoth Express Route!**

Eastern Sierra Transit is making your commute between Bishop and Mammoth a little easier. Starting Monday, July 6, 2015, there will two additional runs on the Mammoth Express route to accommodate an 8 to 5 work schedule in Mammoth. The bus will depart Bishop Kmart/Vons Center at 6:50am. There is a 5:20pm and now 7:00pm departure from Mammoth to accommodate those who may need to work a little later or want to stay in Mammoth for dinner.

The new departure times are:

North from Bishop - Kmart/Vons			
6:50am	7:30am	1:00pm	6:10pm

South from Mammoth - McDonalds			
7:50am	2:05pm	5:20pm	7:00pm

The Mammoth Express also stops at Tom's Place (by request only) and at the Crowley Lake Community Center. All busses have bike racks available on a first come first served basis.

Commuting with Eastern Sierra Transit is very economical. There are several pass options available to reduce the cost of commuting even further. Discounted one-way fares and 10-puch passes are offered to seniors 60+, disabled, and youth 5-16.

<b>MAMMOTH EXPRESS FARES</b>		Adult	Disc	10-Punch	10-P Disc	1 Week	2 Week
Bishop to:	Mammoth	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$63.00	\$54.00	\$52.50	\$98.00
Tom's Place to:	Mammoth	\$4.00	\$3.50	\$36.00	\$31.50	\$30.00	\$56.00
Crowley to:	Mammoth	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$27.00	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$42.00

Contact ESTA at 760.872-1901 ext. 20 for more information or visit the website at [www.estransit.com](http://www.estransit.com)

**Local Woodstove Replacement Program A Great Success - Limited Funds Remain**

A successful Town of Mammoth Lakes woodstove replacement program comes to an end after replacing 150 older wood-burning systems resulting in the annual reduction of thousands of pounds of particulate matter. Mono County still has a small amount of public benefit funds remaining, or enough to provide for several more installations across the County.

There has been a silver lining to Mono County's dry winter months: With funding from local government agencies, new and much more efficient and cleaner heating systems have been installed to replace old fireplaces and woodstoves throughout the area all winter long!

In addition to the economic benefits, air quality has been improved. Each new heating system emits far fewer pounds of wood-smoke emissions than the older log-burning systems. According to U.S. EPA figures, an open fireplace burning logs emits over 46 pounds of 'particulate matter' (PM) per ton of wood burned (average amounts vary with wood type and dryness), while a new fireplace insert burning the same wood emits about 29 pounds of PM emissions per ton burned. A new pellet insert emits only around 6 pounds of PM per ton of pellets burned.

With almost \$275,000 in 'Environmental Public Benefit Funds' provided by the local Air District, the Town of Mammoth Lakes was able to help fund the replacement of around 150 older wood-burning systems throughout Town, resulting in the annual reduction of thousands of pounds of PM as well as the reduction of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides, and volatile organic compounds.

And while the Town's Woodstove Replacement Program is closed, Mono County still has a small amount of public benefit funds remaining, or enough to provide for several more installations across the County. All funds are committed on a 'first come, first served' basis, and interested property owners are encouraged to immediately contact a participating woodstove retailer. Shared costs will be required.

To qualify for funding, an existing wood-burning system (woodstove or open fireplace) must be a building's primary heat source, it must be located within Mono

County (apart from Mammoth Lakes), and it must fall under one of two types for designated funding:

- 1) For pre-1990 wood burning stoves and open fireplaces (not EPA compliant), \$1,500 may be available toward a new EPA Phase II wood-burning stove or fireplace, or \$2,000 toward a new pellet stove or gas system.
- 2) For woodstoves currently being used that are newer than 1990 (EPA Phase I or II-certified stoves, excluding pellet stoves), \$2,000 may be available toward a new, cleaner-burning pellet stove or gas heating system.

Participating retailers serving Mono County: Alpine Stove & Mercantile (760) 934-4416; Angelo's Stove & Chimney (760) 937-0860, Clean Sweep (760) 934-3453; High Country Lumber (760) 873-5874 - ask for Kim Jones; Manor True Value Hardware (760) 873-3106, and Batchelder Enterprises for new kerosene heating systems (760) 873-3800. For additional information, please contact: Lisa Isaacs, Administrator, Woodstove Replacement Program at (760) 914-0388.

### **Sierra Conservation Project and Town of Mammoth Lakes Partner to Expand Condominium and Business Recycling Program**

The Sierra Conservation Project, Inc. (SCP) and Town of Mammoth Lakes are pleased to announce the expansion of the current condominium, commercial and recreational area recycling programs in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

"This long-standing and successful partnership between the Sierra Conservation Project and the Town enabled us to submit and receive a substantial \$108,000 CalRecycle grant to expand on-going recycling programs within the community that benefits our residents, visitors and wildlife," stated Peter Bernasconi, Acting Public Works Director for the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

The Sierra Conservation Project is working in partnership with the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to provide an additional 30 bear proof containers to the remaining Condominium complexes in town that currently don't have a recycling program in place. In addition, CalRecycle grant funds will enable SCP to upgrade all commercial bear proof containers at restaurants, bars and other business locations in town, including the enhancement and placement of recycling infrastructure in the Lakes Basin and at key park locations in Mammoth Lakes, such as the Whitmore Recreation Area and Shady Rest Park.

Recyclable materials make up a large percentage of the waste produced in our residential complexes and businesses," stated Brian Robinette, owner of SCP. "These community-based programs aim to divert recyclable materials from our local landfill, while also educate our residents and visitors on the need for need for convenient recycling programs. We are confident that by providing start-up infrastructure for these complexes and businesses it will help make program implementation affordable and reduce the environmental impacts of each resident and guest," said Robinette.

To register for the Condominium Recycling Program, please visit [www.recyclesierra.com](http://www.recyclesierra.com) or [www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

For additional information on the **Condominium and Business Recycling Program**, please contact Sierra Conservation Project at (760) 914 0115 or e-mail [Brian@recyclesierra.com](mailto:Brian@recyclesierra.com).

## **Would You Leave A Loaded Gun on the Floor?**

If you have children in your home, hopefully you would not! However, a new threat to the health of our children is emerging. These are e-liquids, sold legally in stores and online in small bottles that may be carelessly and casually left around the house, used for the regular re-filling of e-cigarettes.

The danger is from the nicotine content in these vials of "juice". Children can happen upon a vial and ingest it. These fluids come in flavors and bright colors that are attractive for kids – cotton candy, cherry, chocolate, and bubble gum among others. In addition, nicotine is absorbed through the skin, presenting a risk from a broken vial.

Electronic cigarettes, called e-cigarettes, are drug delivery devices originally designed to look like regular tobacco cigarettes. Now they are larger reusable gadgets that can be refilled with liquid, generally a mixture of nicotine, flavorings, and solvents. It is estimated that roughly four million Americans use these battery powered devices. They have been hailed by proponents as a way for addicted smokers to get their nicotine fix without sucking in the thousands of carcinogens found in traditional cigarettes.

However, the evidence of their effectiveness in assisting persons in weaning off their nicotine addiction is less than stellar. In addition, evidence is rapidly mounting that they are serving as a "gateway" for young teens into the world of nicotine addiction. A recent study found nearly 1.8 million youth had tried e-cigarettes, and the number of middle and high school e-smokers doubled in one year. No wonder the industry targets the young who will be potential customers for decades to come! Their goal – to have the number of e-smokers quadruple in the next few years.

So how bad is the risk of exposure? Nicotine is a naturally occurring powerful neurotoxin, and in its potent liquid form, can be ingested or absorbed through the skin. Tiny amounts can cause vomiting, seizures, and even death. A teaspoon of even the highly diluted liquid can kill a small child.

A dose of 50 to 60 milligrams (mg) is potentially fatal for an adult; a 30 pound child could die from 1.36 mg. A vial of e-juice as commonly sold in retail stores is 17 milliliters, and with a 2.4% concentration would have 408 mg of nicotine. This year it is estimated that 1 to 2 million LITERS of liquid will be sold, much of it on the Internet. A liter of 10% concentration costs about \$110, a gallon \$195, and one company even offers a 55 gallon drum!

Nationwide, reports of accidental poisonings linked to e-liquids in 2013 jumped 300% from 2012, and is on pace to double again this year. Most cases are under the age of 4. A shop owner says that "We tell them that this stuff is poisonous. We do everything we can to protect the consumers, but at the end of the day, you leave a loaded gun on the floor, and your child gets hold of it, it's not gonna be the gunmaker's responsibility." A CEO of e-cigarette franchises says "It's the wild, wild west right now." There is no FDA regulation so far. So at the moment, if you are a user, your child has to go no farther than your own home to find a lethal dose of poison. Be aware of the risks, and keep vials out of reach. You are responsible for the safety of your children.

## **Mammoth Lakes Police Department Implementing Reserve & Volunteer Program**

In an effort to off-set some of the impact resulting from the loss of 7 sworn officers, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department has been moving forward on developing Reserve and Volunteer Programs, and evaluating various forms of technology to help make the MLPD more efficient and effective. The following are some of the programs the MLPD is moving forward on:

#### RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM

On February 6, the Town Council approved the establishment of pay scales for Reserve Officers. The pay will be:

- Level 1 Reserve - \$25/hour
- Level 2 Reserve - \$23/hour
- Level 3 Reserve - \$20/hour

Providing pay for Reserve Officers will make the MLPD competitive with other local agencies that have reserve programs and serve as a recruitment and retention tool.

Anyone interested in learning more about the MLPD Reserve Program should contact Sergeant Marc Moscovitz at (760) 934-2011.

#### VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Many police departments benefit from active volunteer programs where trained volunteers assist police personnel by staffing front counters, completing reports, and providing community patrols. Retired Sergeant Karen Smart has agreed to manage the MLPD's volunteer program. At some time in the future, information will be released about the types of volunteer work available and the selection criteria. Anyone interested in volunteering with the MLPD should be on the look-out for a news release announcing the start of the program.

#### TECHNOLOGY

The MLPD is moving forward with technological advances on several fronts. They include:

- An on-line reporting system where certain crimes can be reported on-line.
- An on-line crime and traffic report purchase program where victims of crimes and parties in traffic collisions can purchase copies of reports on-line.
- Access to surveillance cameras at the North Village.
- Surveillance cameras at the Volcom Brothers Skatepark.

The MLPD is also exploring other technology that will make the Police Department more effective in addressing crime, the fear of crime, and quality of life issues.

### **Free, Real-Time Property Information Now Available!**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County are proud to present ParcelViewer, the Town and County's official web-based property information system. This free, public, on-line service can be relied upon to provide convenient, accurate and up-to-date information, based on the official Assessor's data-base. Use ParcelViewer to view and print customized parcel information and maps, including:

- Zoning Information
- Property Addresses
- Complex Names/ Condo Unit Numbers

- Parcel Lines\*
- Valuation Data
- Acreage
- Aerial imagery of surrounding properties and more!

Visit Parcel Viewer today at <http://gis.mono.ca.gov/parcelviewer/>

## **Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Frequently Asked Questions**

Some of the most frequently asked questions about legal rentals and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) are:

### **What is a transient rental?**

A transient rental is any unit that is occupied for the purpose of sleeping, lodging, or similar reasons for a period of 30 consecutive days or less in exchange for a fee or similar consideration.

### **Can I rent my unit as a transient rental?**

Only some zones within the Town of Mammoth Lakes permit transient rentals. The following zones permit transient rentals:

- RMF-2 (Residential Multi-family 2)
- CL (Commercial Lodging)
- CG Commercial General)
- R (Resort, including master plan areas)
- SP (Specific Plan, including North Village and Clearwater)

This list is intended as a guide only. Although the above zones permit transient use generally, other regulations, such as those found in master plans, CC&Rs, or project conditions of approval may prohibit transient rental within a particular development. Generally, transient rental of single family homes is prohibited. A zoning map can be found on the Town's website.

### **What is transient occupancy tax (TOT)?**

Transient occupancy tax, or TOT, is a 13% tax that is charged "for the privilege of occupancy of any transient occupancy facility." The tax is required to be paid to the operator of the transient occupancy facility at the time the rent is paid. It is the operator's responsibility to remit the TOT to the Town.

### **Do I need to pay TOT?**

If you are renting your unit as a transient rental, even if it is only for one weekend a year, you need to pay TOT. This includes single family homes and other units that are not permitted to rent nightly, but may be doing so illegally. TOT shall be remitted for each night the unit is rented.

### **Do I need a business tax certificate?**

Yes, if you are renting your unit on a transient basis.

### **Do I need a transient occupancy tax certificate?**

Yes. You are required to purchase a transient occupancy certificate for each rental unit to post in your transient rental property. This is included as part of Schedule E or F in the business tax certificate application.

**What is the difference between a business tax certificate and a transient occupancy tax certificate?**

Business tax is an annual tax and is required for all business activity. The transient occupancy tax certificate is a one-time purchase that is non-transferable. This certificate is required to be posted in your transient rental unit.

**Do I need a business tax certificate if all of my rentals are handled through a reservation company?**

If all of your rentals are handled through a reservation company, most reservation companies will purchase the transient occupancy tax certificate and collect and remit the TOT to the Town. You may wish to check with your reservation company to confirm that this is being taken care of. If you rent your unit by owner in addition to renting with a property management company, you are also required to obtain a separate business tax certificate and transient occupancy tax certificate.

**How do I apply for a business tax certificate?**

The Town's website contains information regarding business tax certificates, including an application for a business tax certificate: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=182>. Transient Rentals fall under schedule F for condominium rentals and schedule E for hotels, motels, lodges, and campgrounds. This application can be mailed back to the Town, or submitted in person. The total cost for one unit is \$118.00 (\$65.00 application fee, \$5.00 planning review fee, \$25.00 fee to rent one unit, \$23.00 TOT certificate fee). Additional costs apply for additional units. Business tax certificates are required on or before the first day business commences; penalties will apply for late filings. If you have additional questions regarding this process please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 273.

**Do I have a business tax certificate?**

To find out if you have a valid business tax certificate on file, please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 273 or your property management company.

**What is illegal rental activity?**

Illegal rental activity is any rental activity that is not consistent with the Town's Zoning Ordinance, or any rental activity that is not compliant with the Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance. This can include transient rental of units located in zones that prohibit transient rentals. It can also include transient rentals in a zone where it is permitted, but when the TOT is not remitted to the Town.

**How can I report illegal rental activity?**

If you suspect illegal rental activity, you may submit an anonymous tip via the Town's TOT hotline at (760) 934-8989 ext. 275 or on the Town's website via the Transient Occupancy Tax information page. Please include any information that you have that would substantiate the claim, along with the property address and owner's name if you have it. You may also email [tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](mailto:tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us). Note that

emails are not anonymous, however, staff will do its best to keep your information private.

### **Questions & Anonymous TOT Hotline**

If you have questions about TOT enforcement, or if you would like to report suspicious activity or rental advertisements please contact our anonymous hotline. 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](mailto:TOT@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us).

### **Register for CodeRED**

Residents of Mono County can register their cell phones to receive emergency CodeRED (reverse 911) alerts from Mono County. This is a county public service available to all Mono County residents so please tell your friends and neighbors in Mono County that they can register for this service. CodeRED announcements are for personal notification and will not replace CERT CAHAN notification. Here is how to sign register/sign up using the INTERNET:

- Go to [monosheriff.org](http://monosheriff.org)
- Scroll down left side panel to CodeRED community notification system;
- Click on it and follow directions.

### **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](http://www.crlaction.org).