



Town of Mammoth Lakes

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Town News

Town e-News – Week of September 10, 2012

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – Sept. 19

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a joint workshop with the Recreation Commission, and the Measure U Application Committee. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Wardlaw Appointed As New County Of San Diego Director Of Planning And Development Services

Community Development Director Mark Wardlaw will be leaving the Town of Mammoth Lakes to lead the new revamped County of San Diego Department of Planning and Development Services.

Prior to becoming the Community Development Director for the Town of Mammoth Lakes in 2005, Wardlaw served as the Deputy Community Development Director and Planning Manager in Culver City, and prior to that was the Principal Planner for the Centre City Development Corporation in San Diego. He will assume his new duties with the County of San Diego on September 21, 2012.

“The Town of Mammoth Lakes congratulates Mark on his new appointment with the County of San Diego, and wishes him all the very best in his new endeavor,” stated Town Manager Dave Wilbrecht. “Mark was instrumental in shaping the future character of this community, and more recently, leading efforts on economic recovery and achieving long-term economic sustainability.”

Mark’s leadership, initiative and resourcefulness have been integral to the successful completion of many major projects and strategic planning efforts during his time with the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Many of these achievements relied on building strong relationships and partnerships with the community, with Town Commissions, especially the Planning Commission, and the Town Council.

Just a few highlights, among the long list of his achievements:

- Development of an inclusive, community-based, process that led to the adoption of the 2007 General Plan
- Adoption of the 2009 Housing Element
- Adoption of the Trail System Master Plan, and Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Development of the Draft Mobility Plan

- Approval of the Destination Resort Community and Economic Development Strategy (DRCEDS)
- Completion of Neighborhood District Planning for key areas of town including Main Street, Old Mammoth Road, the North Village and Sierra Valley.
- Initiation and execution of the highly successful TOT enforcement program.
- Approval of major development projects such as Old Mammoth Place/Clearwater, Snowcreek VIII, Mammoth Crossing, Mammoth Hillside, Mammoth View, and Vista Point.

Wardlaw attributes these accomplishments to the hard work of his dedicated staff in the Community Development Department. He notes that this motivated team was always willing to take on any assignment or challenge to provide the highest level of service to the community. There are no immediate plans by The Town of Mammoth Lakes to advertise or fill the position.

Calls for Service/Officer Observations

140, including 0 business/building checks

Crime Incident Reports

17 reports, including 2 arrests

Traffic Stop/Citations/Traffic Collisions

16 stops; 3 citations; 8 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 2 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

6 incidents; 0 reports

Wildlife

11 calls; 4 reports

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, September 7, 2012 - Sunday, September 9, 2012 = 34%

(29% same weekend in 2011, up 5% in 2012)

Monday, September 10, 2012 - Thursday, September 13, 2012 = 33%

(23% same midweek in 2011, up 10% in 2012)

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

Community News

Saturday Is Opening Day For Mammoth AYSO Soccer

The soccer season for 480 local youth begins this Saturday, September 8, 2012 at Shady Rest Park with the commencement of the Mammoth AYSO soccer season. Please visit www.mammothayso.com for the game schedules or for more information about the largest youth sports organization in Mono County.

Gomez's Kicks-Off Soccer Season with Donation to AYSO!

To kick-off the 2012 Mammoth AYSO soccer season – in BIG way, Michael Ledesma co-owner of Gomez's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina presented a \$2,250 check to members of the AYSO Board. "The funds will be used to provide scholarship assistance to every youth who wants to play soccer, and to help AYSO purchase a soccer ball for every player," stated Stuart Brown, Regional Commissioner for Mammoth AYSO. "The AYSO Board is extremely appreciative of Gomez's generous donation, and encourages the entire community to support our local youth soccer players anyway they can."

Need Soccer Stuff?

Parents still looking for player's equipment can shop at Footloose Sports, Mammoth Outdoor Sports and Value Sports who all have soccer equipment available for sale. All players are required to wear shin guards and appropriate footwear when playing soccer.

For additional information about Mammoth AYSO or to register yourself as a volunteer parent, coach or referee please call (760) 709-2481, email: Mammothayso@gmail.com or visit www.Mammothayso.com. Everybody likes to win, but developing successful players and people is what's fundamental in AYSO!

High Sierra Fall Century – Sept. 8

Rated a Top 10 Century Ride by Bicycling Magazine, The High Sierra Fall Century course takes you along the spectacular east side of the High Sierra with awesome views of the Sierra Nevada Range, Mono Lake and the White Mountains. Enjoy beautiful riding along this serene 100 mile bike ride with one stop sign (actually two if you are really paying attention!) and just three right turns! Short course options of 30, 45 and 62 miles are also available for riders of any ability. Pictures of you are free at the finish line and don't miss the great after-ride BBQ feast. The High Sierra Fall Century ride is this Saturday, September 8, 2012. Fees includes a BBQ lunch back at Whitmore Ball Field with entertainment on hand. Please visit www.fallcentury.org for additional information or to register.

13th Annual Mammoth Lakes Foundation Golf Classic – Sept. 9

How far does your drive go at 8,000 feet? Find out at the 13th Annual Mammoth Lakes Foundation Golf Classic on Sunday, September 9, 2012 at Sierra Star Golf Course in Mammoth Lakes, the highest altitude golf course in California. By joining the Mammoth Lakes Foundation on the greens, you are helping with something the Foundation has been hard at work on for over 20 years – supporting higher education and cultural enrichment in the Eastern Sierra. The Golf Classic was begun in 2000 as a fun and important means of the Mammoth Lakes Foundation and its supporters to raise money for programs such as local student college scholarships to Cerro Coso; the operation of South Gateway Student Apartments; supporting Edison Theatre and Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre and its expanded season of

productions; and planning and preparing for a proposed Mammoth Arts & Cultural Center.

Registration now open

Registration for the Golf Classic is just \$115 for individuals and \$460 for foursomes until August 31st. After August 31st individual registration is \$130 and foursome registration is \$520. All participants receive greens fees and cart, use of chipping and putting greens, lunch, tournament gift, silent auction, awards party, and the opportunity to support higher education and cultural enrichment in Mammoth. The tournament sold out last year – players are advised to register early.

The Mammoth Lakes Foundation also invites tournament sponsors for the event, tee sponsorships, and in-kind donations for the Raffle and Silent Auction. Call 760.934.3781 for details. Take your game farther – play in the 13th Annual Mammoth Lakes Foundation Golf Classic on Sept. 9! To register or learn more please call 760.934.3781 or email Maya@MammothLakesFoundation.org.

Coastal Cleanup Day – Sept. 15

Join Friends of the Inyo in partnership with MLTPA for Coastal Cleanup Day, the final SOS Volunteer Trails Day of the summer on Saturday, September 15, 2012. We will gather at Horseshoe Lake for a bagel breakfast courtesy of Old New York Deli, then deploy around Twin Lakes, Horseshoe Lake, and Lakes Mamie, Mary and George. Lunch will be hosted at Horseshoe courtesy of the Java Joint! When: 8:30 to 1:30 p.m. Where: Meet at Horseshoe Lake. What: Trash cleanup in the Mammoth Lakes Basin, followed by lunch and giveaways. Wear long pants and close-toed shoes. Gloves, tools and trash bags are provided. More info: Drew Foster, FOI Conservation Associate, (805) 405-7577.

Fiesta Caliente - "Celebrating Mexican Independence Day" – Sept. 16

MONO COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS would like to invite you to participate in our 3rd Annual FIESTA CALIENTE to be held Sunday, September 16th, 2012, in the beautiful Mammoth Creek Park on Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, California. Los Cenzontles Mexican Art Center from San Pablo, CA. is coming to Mammoth Lakes bringing their band, the Mockingbirds, along with dancers, and Mexican craft instructors. The festivities will begin at 11am in the Workshop Tent on playing Mexican music using traditional Mexican instruments. A fun dance workshop will be presented. Instruction will be offered on making Dia de Los Muertos altars, decorating sugar skulls, and making masks.

At noon will begin a POSOLE cook-off and competition to see who can make the best posole! Enter to see if yours is the best in town. Food will be available from Cocos Locos featuring their fabulous variety of tacos, quesadillas and burritos. The arts council will offer Mexican cerveza and margaritas along with other Mexican beverages.

Several Community Service Groups will be present to talk about their services and have fun things going on at their booths. We'll keep the kids entertained while the parents learn about all that Mammoth Lakes can offer the family.

Come try your hand at Mexican Bingo. Win raffle prizes! Break open pinatas filled with fun prizes. Watch a parade around the Park of masks and face painted skeletons! Check out the decorations made by the children at our summer kids art camps.

The Celebration really gets underway at 5pm with the singing of both Mexico's and the United States of America's National Anthems. America Hernandez will recite an historic Poem about Mexican Independence Day. Then Los Cenzontles (Nahuatl for "The Mockingbirds") will take the stage digging deep into Latino traditions, creating a vibrant, contemporary sound infused with the gutsy soul of Mexico's rural roots. The group's core members also operate Los Cenzontles Mexican Art Center where the nonprofit has been training Bay Area youth in traditional Mexican music, dance and art since 1994.

At 6:30pm, Mammoth Lakes' own Violeta Martin will enthrall us with her lovely voice presenting songs from her current CD. Following at 7:30pm, Los Reeliz will rock the Park with their lively music until the party ends.

This FREE Fiesta is sponsored by MONO COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS and supported by a grant from The James Irvine Foundation. For more information, www.MonoArts.org or call (760)937-2942.

Fly Fishing Faire Stewardship Project – Sept. 16

Join Friends of the Inyo with the Fly Fishing Faire out of Mammoth on Sunday, September 16, 2012, sponsored by the Southern California Federation of Fly Fishers and the Aguabonita Fly Fishers, on a cleanup/restoration/stewardship project around the Hot Creek Interpretive site and fly fishing area. When: 9:00 a.m. Where: Hot Creek Interpretive Site. More info: Drew Foster, FOI Conservation Associate, (805) 405-7577.

Recreation Highlights

"The Best Summer Ever" Keeps Rolling At The Mammoth Roller Rink!

Great news! The Mammoth Roller Rink has extended the summer season into September. Skate every Friday and Saturday evenings from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., hit the mini-ramps, play some roller hockey, shoot some hoops, toss some washers or bean bags, our just chill out playing table tennis/golf through September 29, 2012. The Mammoth Roller Rink is also open for special events, and birthday parties by reservation. Call us to customize your party on wheels! All inclusive birthday party packages are available from as low as \$75/10 kids.

In September you will also be able to redeem your Free Skate Pass. Free Skate Passes were distributed to every Postal Patron in Mammoth Lakes in August. Simply present the ticket, complete the registration form and receive one (1) FREE Admission to the Mammoth Roller Rink. The offer excludes skate rental (\$2.50/person), and has a limit of one per person. Please call the Mammoth Roller Rink at (760) 934-2505 for all the details, or visit us online at www.mammothrollerrink.com.

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!

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 programs are available:

- 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.
- 8-12+ yr. olds – Tuesday: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Invitation only.

Five session Punch Cards are available for \$60 for the first family member and \$55 for each additional family member. Private lessons are available upon request, please inquire with the instructor. Drop-ins cost \$15 per session are welcome and encouraged - First one is FREE! Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for more information or to register your aspiring Gymnast!

Zumba Fitness

Party yourself into shape with Zumba® Fitness offered by Kaysie Williams from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail. Cost: 10 punch-\$77.50; 5 punch-\$42.50; Drop-In rate \$10 per class and your first class is only \$5! **ZUMBA RESUMES SEPTEMBER 10.**

Sports & Recreation Calendar

- On-going Mammoth Roller Rink OPEN Friday & Saturday evenings through 9/29/12
- OPEN Reds Meadow, Tioga, Sonora and the Lakes Basin
- Sept. 7 Last day for Lap Swim at Whitmore Pool
- Sept. 7-9 Granite Man Challenge
- Sept. 8 Mammoth AYSO Opening Weekend
- Sept. 8 High Sierra Fall Century
- Sept. 9 13th Annual Mammoth Lakes Foundation Golf Classic
- Sept. 9 Fiesta Caliente – Mammoth Creek Park

Public Service Announcements

Town and MLLA Announce Settlement

The Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition LLC (MLLA) jointly announced on August 21, 2012 that, as a result of a U.S. bankruptcy court-established mediation, they have reached a tentative agreement on a settlement of the \$43 million court judgment held by MLLA against the Town. Also a party to the settlement is Terrence Ballas, the developer holding commercial development rights under the Town's 1997 Airport Development Agreement and associated leases. The

Airport commercial development has been put on hold since legal issues with MLLA emerged over the hotel/residential portion, and the Developer has since asserted various contract breaches by the Town, which the settlement will address.

The parties, guided by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Elizabeth Perris, a talented and trustworthy mediator, have worked diligently since August 6, 2012, to reach an agreement on the amount and terms, and signed a term sheet containing the settlement's key points. The settlement agreement, including any and all terms, will remain confidential until it is fully documented and executed. While steps are taken to document and seek approval of the settlement, all discovery and litigation among the parties will be put on hold. At the same time, some key deadlines established by the U.S. bankruptcy court will remain, including a deadline to file objections to the Town's eligibility by entities not party to the settlement. The Town will provide additional information to the public as soon as the settlement documentation is finalized and filed for court approval, which is expected within weeks.

At that time, public meetings will commence to discuss how to finance the settlement. The Town, MLLA and Terrence Ballas sincerely thank U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Elizabeth Perris, who served as the mediator and tirelessly worked with the parties around the clock to reach the settlement.

PLEASE DON'T FEED OUR BEARS!

Welcome to Mammoth Lakes. **We hope you enjoy are beautiful scenery, friendly people, and abundant wildlife.** Among the wildlife that you are likely to see during Spring, Summer and Fall are black bears. Mammoth Lakes has a resident population of black bears and later in the Summer and into the Fall, additional bears find their way into town to forage and get ready for their winter hibernation.

It is not unusual to see bears wandering through town. Enjoy them, but keep your distance. Bears are shy and generally afraid of people. Some bears will "bluff charge" if you don't give them distance. 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 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 frightened more than you and leave.

Bears have excellent noses and they like human food. They recognize ice chests as food containers and will break into a car to get food or anything that resembles or smells like food. A bear can do a significant amount of damage to a vehicle.

It is everyone's responsibility to KEEP WILDLIFE WILD. The best way of doing this, 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 or fragrant items, even in a cooler, in a vehicle.
- Don't leave pet food out doors or use a bird feeders. Bears love bird seed!
- Always deposit trash in a bear proof trash can or dumpster. Do not ever leave trash unsecured outdoors. Make sure to secure the lock on a dumpster.
- Keep your car locked and your garage door closed and locked.
- Close and lock ground floor windows when no one is home.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has a world renowned Wildlife Specialist named Steve Searles. You may have seen him on the popular TV show "The Bear Whisperer" on

Animal Planet. If you see a bear that is misbehaving, such as trying to get into a trash dumpster, vehicle, or building you can call Steve at (760) 937-BEAR or dial 911. If Steve is not available, all MLPD officers are trained and equipped to handle bear problems.

Daniel B. Watson
Chief of Police

Steve Searles
Wildlife Specialist

Protect Your Home!

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. A well-maintained landscape enhances the beauty and value of any property— it can also serve 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 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. MLFD will have an inspector issuing citations this summer for improper wood storage.
- Water plants and trees regularly 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.

1st Inspection:

The first inspection is done by MLFD, beginning shortly after the snow melts and continues until the first snow in the fall. Parcels found to be non-compliant are issued an inspection form detailing the problems. The homeowner is given a year to correct the identified issues.

2nd Inspection:

If the property is then found to be in compliance, the owner will receive a maintenance letter. Thereafter, routine inspections will be conducted periodically by MLFD.

If the property is not in compliance, the owner will be notified in person or via certified mail and the property owner will be given a citation notice. The citation will provide the owner with a time period to correct the identified problems or the individual will be assessed the fine amount. If the problems are left unaddressed, the owner will be subject to a misdemeanor.

Failure to clear your property in accordance with regulations 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.

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 ParcelViewer today at <http://gis.mono.ca.gov/parcelviewer/>

California Mandates Recycling for Business and Multi-Family Residential Locations

A new State of California Bill (AB 341) directed by CalRecycle mandating commercial recycling in California goes into effect July 1, 2012. The Town of Mammoth Lakes

will be providing education and outreach to help the community comply with the new regulations.

The goal of AB 341 is to increase the statewide recycling rates to 75% by 2020. Starting July 1 2012, businesses and public entities that generate four cubic yards or more of waste per week, including multi-family units of five or more will be required to recycle. The purpose of this new law is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting commercial solid waste to recycling efforts while expanding opportunities for additional recycling services and recycling manufacturing facilities in California.

Please use the following link for additional information provided by CalRecycle that addresses the "Frequently Asked Questions:"
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/Recycling/FAQ.htm>.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML), Sierra Conservation Project (SCP) and Mammoth Disposal (MD) are taking active steps to assist businesses and multi-family residences to comply with the new regulations.

Brian Robinette, owner of Sierra Conservation Project commented, "This is a big step in the right direction for recycling and diverting recyclables from our local landfills. The new regulation will give the extra incentive needed to make recycling programs a reality at all Mammoth Lakes business and residential locations."

The TOML, SCP and MD have been working together for several years to develop and grow recycling programs here in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Johnny Goetz, Town of Mammoth Lakes Senior Building Inspector states, "Now is a great time for local businesses to take advantage of the numerous recycling opportunities we have available in Town. Condominium complexes can also take advantage of the TOML and SCP's recycling programs which are currently providing start-up infrastructure to the complex at no cost - while supplies last."

The TOML and SCP have applied for additional grant money to continue to offset the start-up cost for multi-family and businesses here in town. Bear proof recycling containers are provided to participating condo complexes, and are serviced by SCP.

Pat Fenton, General Manager of Mammoth Disposal added, "Recycling is at the core of the company's goal of sustainability, and it's the core of our commitment to business owners and the Town of Mammoth Lakes to meet this mandate."

The following recycling programs are currently available within the Town of Mammoth Lakes:

- Commercial cardboard recycling
- Restaurant and bar programs
- Lodging and hospitality programs
- Business recycling
- Office recycling
- Residential recycling
- Aluminum, plastic, and glass
- E-Waste
- Used oil and batteries

Some of the benefits of recycling identified by CalRecycle are creating jobs in California, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, keeping valuable materials out of

landfills, and creating a healthy environment for the community and future generations by recovering natural resources.

For more information regarding recycling programs and opportunities within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, contact Johnny Goetz at (760) 934-8989 ext. 244 or jgoetz@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Town & MLFD Identify Potential Safety Issue

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Development Department (Town) and Mammoth Lakes Fire Department (Fire District) have identified an issue with inserted wood burning fireplace installations in town. If you have either a pellet/gas insert installation or a masonry flue/chase, these types of appliances or installations are not an issue. The issue is that wood burning inserts placed into zero clearance fireplace boxes (fireplace) with factory built metal flue pipes and wooden chases may not have adequate clearance to combustible materials (wood, plywood, and/or sheetrock behind the rock, brick, metal and/or wooden material that doesn't allow you to see on the interior surface of the fireplace façade). This issue can exist in all types of residential occupancies, from single family to multi-family projects. As a result of the clearances that may not have been met, combustible materials are igniting and several fires have resulted around town. Thus far there have been no injuries, but both the Town and Fire District feel that we cannot wait until something tragic occurs before we take necessary action. At this point both agencies are hoping to educate the town population to the concern.

The original fireplace contained fires that never obtained very high burning temperatures, due to the amount of heat that went up the flue. Once the insert was installed, the appliance burned much more efficiently causing the combustibles surrounding the original installation to be exposed to significantly greater heat levels. Another factor is the amount of use the insert is experiencing. The issue is occurring throughout town; no certain complex, no certain installer, no certain type of product, nor any other common characteristic that allows the agencies to narrow down the likely installations of concern. One complex in town had 23 of 60 units show some sign of heat damage to combustibles.

Permitted installations during the last 18 to 24 months that followed the manufacturer's installation instructions have been installed correctly. The Town and Fire District do not mean to alarm anyone, but strongly believe that this situation is serious enough to inform the public on the use and installation of these types of wood burning installations. If you need any further assistance or have any questions, please contact the Fire District at (760) 934-2300 or Town at (760) 934-8989, ex 244. For more information: <http://mammothlakesfd.intuitwebsites.com>

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Frequently Asked Questions

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Do I need a business tax certificate?

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

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 x245.

10. 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 x245 or your property management company.

11. 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.

12. 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 x275 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. Note that emails are not anonymous, however, staff will do its best to keep your information private.

13. 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.

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:

1. Go to monosheriff.org
2. scroll down left side panel to CodeRED community notification system;
3. click on it and follow directions.

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/licenselisting_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>.

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.