



Town of Mammoth Lakes

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Town News

Town e-News – Week of December 30, 2013

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – Jan. 15

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2014 in the Minaret Village Mall, Suite Z. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Town Offices Closed for New Year!

In celebration of the New Year, the Town Offices will be closed from noon on Tuesday, December 31, 2013 and all day on Wednesday, January 1, 2014. Happy New Year!

January Commission/Committee Meetings

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 6 | Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR) Steering Committee Meeting, Suite Z, 3:00 PM |
| Jan. 7 | Measure U Applicant Presentations, Suite Z, 8:30 AM |
| Jan. 7 | Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 2:00 PM |
| Jan. 13 | Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Committee (MLTSCC) Meeting, Suite Z, 1:30 PM |
| Jan. 14 | Measure U Application Committee Meeting, Suite Z, 8:30 AM |
| Jan. 15 | Town Council Meeting, Suite Z, 6:00 PM |
| Jan. 27 | Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR) Steering Committee Meeting, Suite Z, 3:00 PM |

For a complete listing of Town meetings, please visit: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/calendar.aspx>

Town Channel 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.

Town Administration Offices To Close On Friday

Beginning Friday, January 3, 2014, the Town of Mammoth Lakes Administrative Offices located on the second floor of the Minaret Village Mall will be closed to the public every Friday.

Appointments with staff are available on Fridays by reservation only, for the submittal of plans, permits, payments, etc. so please plan ahead accordingly. There will be no changes to the daily operations of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mammoth Yosemite Airport or the Public Works Department.

This office closure is an initiative to enhance the productivity and efficiency of employees. Town Council established Priorities for Fiscal Year 2013/14 that included the provision to provide sufficient resources and support to Town staff to effectively do their work. Goals of effective management include: commitment to increase IT funding, support additional funding for the replacement of the finance system, fund sufficient staffing in the Town's departments that provide critical services (finance, Public safety), and to encourage an increase in productivity without reducing service levels.

The Town encourages our residents and visitors to purchase their Recreation products or reservations online at www.mammothrecreation.com or by calling (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 Monday through Thursday.

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and TBID remitters are also able to pay their taxes conveniently online. Please copy and paste the following links in your internet browser for additional information or to create an account.

TOT: <http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/index.aspx?nid=201>

TBID: <http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/index.aspx?nid=550>

For additional information regarding the Friday office closure beginning January 3, 2014, or to make an appointment with staff, please call (760) 934-8989 and follow the prompts.

Calls For Service/Officer Observations

117, including 0 business/building checks

Crime/Incident Reports

15 reports, including 4 arrests

Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions

43 stops; 5 citations; 12 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 1 collision

Animal Control Incidents

1 incident; 1 report

Wildlife

3 calls; 0 reports

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, December 27, 2013 - Monday, December 30, 2013 = 87%

(96% same weekend in 2012, down 9% in 2013)

Tuesday, December 31, 2013 - Thursday, January 2, 2014 = 79%

(81% same midweek in 2012, down 2% in 2013)

Hotels/Motels/B&B: 77% (Friday-Monday) 75% (Tuesday-Thursday)

Condos: 96% (Friday-Monday) 82% (Tuesday-Thursday)

These projected numbers below are to help give you an idea of occupancy in town for New Year's weekend.

Friday, January 3, 2014 - Saturday, January 4, 2014 = 55%

(75% same weekend in 2013, down 20% in 2014)

Hotels/Motels/B&B: 56% (Friday-Saturday)

Condos: 53% (Friday-Saturday)

Community News

Influenza Health Alert

In the last week, we have seen a definite increase in the presence of influenza in our community. A number of rapid influenza lab tests have been positive, and several visitors have been seen in the clinics, bringing with them a history of laboratory confirmed influenza, and now with spread of clinically compatible illness to family members, effectively exposing all of us!

In California, influenza is also on the rise, with levels above baseline, and expected for this time of year. Remember, the peak is classically in mid-February, so this is just beginning. We have no idea at this point how severe the flu season will be. However, an interesting pattern is beginning to develop, as illustrated in the following report from the Texas Department of Public Health. It is expected that this will be replicated around the country. Texas is one of 4 states with widespread disease. As expected, 90% of the disease is Type A. What was not expected is that 90% of the Type A cases are of the 2009 H1N1 strain, which is in the current vaccine. A hospital in the Houston area had 8 admissions, and 4 died. None were elderly. You may recall that the 2009 H1N1 strain is particularly significant in attacking a younger population, particularly age 25-65. In 2009, the death rate among children tripled!

From Texas:

Statewide influenza-like illness (ILI) activity continues to increase and is above baseline levels. ILI intensity is high in Texas, and influenza is now widespread. All Texas regions have reported laboratory confirmed influenza. Over 90 per cent of positive influenza tests reported from Texas laboratories have been typed as influenza A. Of those influenza A viruses that have been subtyped, 90 per cent have been the 2009 pandemic H1N1 subtype. This subtype of influenza is included in this season's [2013-14] influenza vaccine. No novel influenza cases have been reported in Texas. No antiviral resistant influenza strains have been reported in Texas.

Background

Influenza viruses can be spread by large respiratory droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes in close proximity to an uninfected person. Symptoms can include fever, dry cough, sore throat, headache, body aches, fatigue, and nasal congestion. Among children, otitis media, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea are common. Most people generally recover from illness in 1-2 weeks, but some people develop complications and may die from influenza. The highest rates of influenza infection occur among children; however, the risks for serious health problems, hospitalizations, and deaths from influenza are higher among people 65 years of age or older, very young children, and people of any age who have medical conditions that place them at increased risk for complications from influenza.

Vaccination

Everyone who is at least 6 months of age should get a flu vaccine this season [2013-14]. It is not too late for vaccination. There are several flu vaccine options available for the 2013-2014 flu season. All these vaccines contain the currently circulating H1N1 strain. We do not recommend one flu vaccine over another.

Rapid Lab Test

Rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs) can be useful to identify influenza virus infection, but false negative test results are common during influenza season. Clinicians should be aware that a negative RIDT result does NOT exclude a diagnosis of influenza in a patient with suspected influenza. When there is clinical suspicion of influenza and antiviral treatment is indicated, antiviral treatment should be started as soon as possible, even if the result of the RIDT is negative, without waiting for results of additional influenza testing.

Treatment: oseltamivir and zanamivir are chemically related antiviral medications known as neuraminidase inhibitors that have activity against both influenza A and B viruses. Early antiviral treatment can shorten the duration of fever and illness symptoms, may reduce the risk of complications and death, and may shorten the duration of hospitalization. Clinical benefit is greatest when antiviral treatment is administered early, especially within 48 hours of influenza illness onset. Decisions about starting antiviral treatment should not wait for laboratory confirmation of influenza.

Antiviral treatment is recommended as early as possible for any patient with confirmed or suspected influenza who

- is hospitalized,
- has severe, complicated, or progressive illness,
- is at higher risk for influenza complications.

Persons at higher risk for influenza complications recommended for antiviral treatment include:

- children aged younger than 2 years,
- adults aged 65 years and older,

- persons with chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension alone), renal, hepatic, or hematological disease (including sickle cell disease); metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus); or neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions (including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy [seizure disorders], stroke, intellectual disability [mental retardation], moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury),
- persons with immunosuppression, including that caused by medications or by HIV infection,
- women who are pregnant or postpartum (within 2 weeks after delivery),
- persons aged younger than 19 years who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives.
- persons who are morbidly obese (that is, body-mass index is equal to or greater than 40).
- residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.

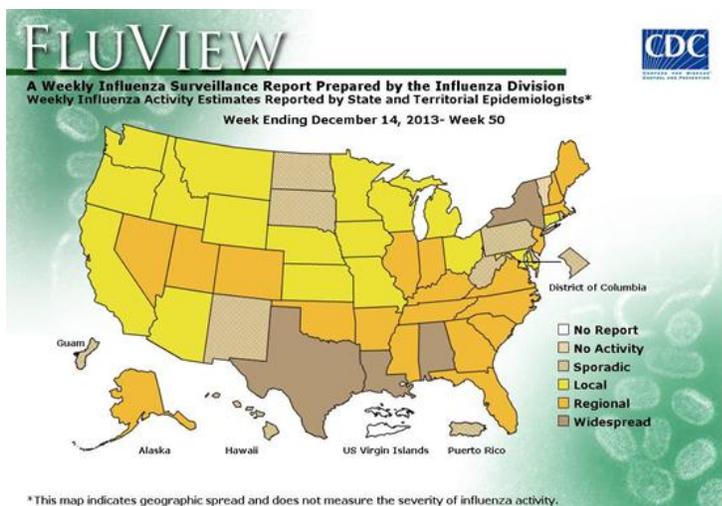
Clinical judgment, on the basis of the patient's disease severity and progression, age, underlying medical conditions, likelihood of influenza, and time since onset of symptoms, is important when making antiviral treatment decisions for high-risk outpatients.

Additional details regarding antiviral treatment can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm>

There is speculation that the H1N1 virus circulating in Texas may be a new [more virulent?] drifted or reassorted strain. It seems likely that the fatalities observed in Texas are due to a possibly more virulent strain of the seasonal H1N1 influenza virus, rather than a novel pathogenic agent. Further information is awaited to substantiate this conclusion.

In the meantime:

- We encourage everyone who is not vaccinated to get their annual flu vaccine. There is plenty of vaccine, available at healthcare providers, pharmacies, and the health department.
- Stay home when sick
- If you are well and healthy, don't assume that flu is a mild illness. It can kill you!
- Cover your cough, wash your hands – you know the drill!



Leonard Nimoy's VINCENT Arrives at Edison Theatre from Jan. 17 & 18

The one-man play, Vincent, written by Leonard Nimoy, appears at the Edison Theatre for two nights only, January 17th and 18th. The story takes place a few days after the death of little known painter Vincent Van Gogh. Rumors fly around Paris--some say Vincent was a penniless madman, a frequenter of prostitutes, a derelict and soon to be forgotten artist of trifling quality; others denounce him as a wayward priest and a foreigner. There are whispers that he took his own life in a moment of insanity. His brother Theo, Vincent's confidante and lifelong supporter, is enraged. He hopes to set the record straight.

Written by Leonard Nimoy, and inspired by Phillip Stevens' play Van Gogh, the renowned actor, writer, film director, poet, musician and photographer expanded on Stevens' work. He drew on a treasure trove of source material -- over 500 letters written between Van Gogh and his brother Theo in the ten years Vincent struggled to master his art. Nimoy appeared in the play when it made its debut, and has passed the baton to actor Jean-Michel Richaud.

"As performed by French-born actor Jean-Michel Richaud, this insightful and often moving 1981 solo show penned by Leonard Nimoy transcends the usual clichés surrounding the high-maintenance artist with the tortured relationship to his aural appendage," said Philip Brandes of the Los Angeles Times.

Artistic Director of the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre, Shira Dubrovner, discovered the production when she heard about Richaud's 2012 Los Angeles production of it. "This sounded like the ideal kind of production for our theatre because of its subject matter and the approach of a one-man show," she said. "Not only that, Van Gogh is one of my favorite artists. I'm excited to learn about and see over 100 pieces of his art displayed as the story progresses."

Jean-Michel Richaud grew up in Paris and received his MA from Sorbonne University. He also studied at Paris's National Conservatory for Dramatic Arts and Columbia University's graduate theater program. He is a founding member of the award-winning theatre company The Next Arena, which has produced a string of critically acclaimed plays. Richaud has appeared in numerous films and television shows and is recognized as one the top European voice over talents in Los Angeles.

FACT SHEET:

WHAT: VINCENT by Leonard Nimoy
WHEN: January 17th and 18th, 2014--Fri and Sat @ 7pm
WHERE: Edison Theatre, 100 College Parkway, Across from Cerro Coso College
HOW MUCH: \$20 Adults/\$18 Students and Seniors/\$12 Children
BUY TICKETS: www.EdisonTheatre.org

Shady Rest Staging Area Environmental Assessment And Draft Decision Released

Mammoth District Ranger Jon Regelbrugge has released the Environmental Assessment and draft Decision Notice for the Shady Rest Staging Area project. The project proposes to build an Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) staging area along the Sawmill Cutoff Road (#03S08) near the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The staging area would include parking facilities for approximately 25 vehicles, loading ramp and restroom facilities. The project documents, including maps and responses to prior comments are available online at www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=38834 or can be requested at the

Inyo National Forest Supervisors Office in Bishop or the Mammoth Welcome Center on Highway 203 in Mammoth Lakes.

A 45 day objection period begins with the publication of a Legal Notice in the Inyo Register (expected 12/21/2013). Objections to the decision will be accepted from those who have submitted related comments during scoping or the formal comment period. Objections must be sent to Ed Armenta, Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest (Attn: Shady Rest), 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA, 93514. Objections in electronic format may be submitted to objections-pacificsouthwest-inyo@fs.fed.us with Subject: "Shady Rest OHV/OSV Staging Area". Please see the Legal Notice in the Inyo Register or online for more details on submitting objections. For additional information, please call Marty Hornick, Forest Trail Program Coordinator, at (760) 873-2461.

Winter Preparedness Tips from Mono County Sherriff

It's that time of year again! Yes, winter is slowly creeping upon us. As we all hope for that massive snow storm to strike and an epic winter season, the question remains, are you prepared for the season?

The Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to remind citizens and visitors alike to always be prepared for winter conditions, whether you are simply out and about in town on foot or driving across the many roadways of Mono County. Always have an emergency bag in your vehicle with extra food, water, warm clothing and shoes, and emergency supplies just in case you are stuck in your vehicle for an unknown amount of time as you try to reach your intended destination due to hazardous weather and road conditions. Remember, if you get stuck in your vehicle, stay in your vehicle until help arrives or you can safely continue on your journey. Remember to take some extra time while traveling, slow down, and obey all chain control requirements. Even those that are seasoned drivers on the Mono County roadways, please slow down and take your time when driving on the snowy conditions. This ensures your safety and those traveling around you.

Be aware of your surroundings while traveling the roadways and various communities of Mono County. Watch for snow removal equipment. This could be a large snowplow clearing the roadway or an individual shoveling a driveway or sidewalk. Both their safety and your own are important and will benefit from your awareness. Also, be aware of the various locations around Mono County that have parking restrictions during the winter months. Vehicles parked in the restricted areas will hinder necessary snow removal and be subject to citations and/or having the vehicle towed. These restrictions are in place and enforced for your safety and to allow proper snow removal for safer driving conditions for all.

Mono County utilizes what is known as the CodeRed Emergency Alert System when a critical incident or emergency situations takes place within the county. This system is a database of resident and citizen information for use only in critical and emergency situations to send critical communications from evacuation notices, to hazardous weather alerts, to missing children alerts. Your contact information remains private and is only used to contact you for community emergency communications. To register for the CodeRed emergency alerts, log on to www.monosheriff.org – Resources – CodeRed. There is also a mobile app available for all Android and Apple phones.

For more information on winter preparedness and safety, please visit the Mono County Sheriff's Office Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Mono-County-Sheriffs-Department/597961140216123) and listen to a panel radio interview,

compliments of KMMT radio, on winter and emergency preparedness. The panel consists of members from the Mono County Sheriff's Department, Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, CERT, and California Highway Patrol. Let the experts give you the necessary tips you may be looking for to stay prepared this winter, and during other emergencies that could happen in our area!

Additional Snow Needed for Shady Rest, Obsidian Dome Nordic Trails and Snowmobiling Trails

Recent snowstorms have left the ground covered but are not providing the snow base required to use grooming equipment on the public Nordic and snowmobile trails on the Mammoth and Mono Lake Ranger Districts of the Inyo National Forest. Upon sufficient snowfall, grooming of the Shady Rest and Obsidian Dome Nordic Trails and the Groomed Snowmobile Trail System will begin.

This winter, Friends of the Inyo, a local non-profit organization, has received a Measure R grant from the Town of Mammoth Lakes to provide grooming services for the Shady Rest Nordic Trail system in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

The Nordini groomer will be back in action and operated by Friends of the Inyo providing the public, free of charge, over five miles of groomed trails for Nordic users compliments of local Measure R funds. Roads within the Old and New Shady Rest Campground and along the paved bike trail will be groomed through the winter as snow conditions allow. The Nordic trails are part of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System and will be groomed five days a week by Friends of the Inyo, with additional grooming by the U.S. Forest Service as needed. Users may access the Shady Rest Nordic Trail system by parking in the front parking area (closest to Highway 203), adjacent to the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center. A groomed entrance to the trail system begins directly across from the Welcome Center.

Please remember, dogs must be on leash at all times and owners are responsible for removing dog waste from the trail system. Owners of dogs off leash or disposing of dog waste irresponsibly may be issued a citation.

The U.S. Forest Service is waiting for additional snow accumulations to begin grooming the California Department of Parks and Recreation funded snowmobile trail system and the Obsidian Dome Nordic trails. With a shallow, low density snowpack, snowmobilers should use caution and refrain from traveling in areas where snow depths are minimal. Snowmobile users are responsible for knowing all regulations and understanding closure area boundaries.

Maps and information on winter recreation in the Mammoth Lakes area and on the Inyo National Forest can be obtained at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, open daily 8:00AM to 5:00PM, by visiting the Inyo National Forest website, or by calling (760) 924-5500.

Inyo National Forest Announces the Release of Draft Assessment Report

The Inyo National Forest has released the forest's Draft Assessment Report for public review. The assessment is the first phase of the process to revise the 1988 Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan or plan).

The Draft Assessment Report summarizes the findings of the topic papers including forest resource conditions and trends, social and economic conditions, and recreation opportunities and access. The assessment will frame the Need for Change as the

forest develops a revised plan and evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed plan as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Inyo National Forest is one of three National Forests in California revising its Forest Plan using the 2012 National Forest System Planning Rule. The forests will complete plan revision through a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) starting in 2013.

The Draft Assessment Report is available for review through December 16, 2013 on the forest's webpage: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=40601>. Input can be provided via or email (comments-pacificsouthwest-inyo@fs.fed.us) or by mail (Forest Plan Revision, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514).

A public meeting to review the Draft Assessment Report is scheduled for 6:00 pm, December 5, 2013 at the Supervisor's Office, 351 Pacu Lane, Bishop CA. A webinar is also scheduled for December 11 at 2:00 pm. Please call or email Deb Schweizer (debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us, 760-873-2427) to sign up for the webinar.

More information about Forest Plan Revision is available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/landmanagement/planning>

Recreation Department Highlights

Celebrate New Year – East Coast Style at the Ice Rink – Dec. 31

Come on out to the Mammoth Ice Rink on New Year's Eve and celebrate the New Year East Coast Style with us! This family friendly event is only \$5.00/person. Fee includes 2-hours of skate time (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.), skate rentals, party hats, noise makers, marshmallow roasting and a sparkling cider toast at 9:00 p.m. Dress warm! The Mammoth Ice Rink has fire pits, new heaters, a heated changing room, hot cocoa and snacks available for sale as well. For more information, please call the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 or the Ice Rink directly at (760) 934-2505 during operating hours.

Youth Ice Hockey At The Mammoth Ice Rink

Don't miss out on Mammoth Lakes Lakers Youth Hockey programming at the Mammoth Ice Rink this winter!

Beginner Youth Stick Time: Monday and Wednesday Nights between 5:15 - 6:45 p.m. Learn to Pass, Shoot and Skate like a hockey player. Full pads not needed, but recommended.

Youth/Junior Hockey Pickup: Monday and Wednesday Nights from 5:15 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Any Questions or Inquiries please Email: Mammothyouthhockey@gmail.com.

Hot Shots Youth Basketball

Our local youth basketball program for 3rd-5th grade girls and boys has now commenced league play every Tuesday and Thursday nights at the MMS gym starting at 6:00 p.m. Well behaved spectators are welcome to come out and cheer

on the teams. Currently in first place are the "Red Peppers", followed by "Mammoth Heat." Third and fourth places are held by the "Blue Crew" and "Mammoth Lakers."

Adult Coed Indoor Soccer League Begins Jan. 5

The Recreation Department is offering indoor soccer this winter scheduled every Sunday evening at the Mammoth High School gym from January 5 – March 30, 2014. Team registration packets are now available at the Recreation Department office located above Giovanni's in the Vons shopping center. We need a minimum of 4 teams, with 4 men and 1 female playing on the court at all times. Fee is only \$250/team (8 players). Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 237 or visit us online at MammothRecreation.com. Bring your game!

Gymnastics/Tumbling Program Is Back!

Join Melissa (and Kari), our level 5 gymnastics coach here at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center for the following classes:

- * 3 yr. olds Saturday: 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
- * 4-5 yr. olds Saturday: 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- * 5-8 yr. olds Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- * 8-12+ yr. olds Tuesday: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (invitation only)
Friday: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 11:00 a.m. 12:15 p.m.

Five session punch card for \$60, drop-ins welcome at \$15 session. Want to try it out? Try your first session for free! Please call (760) 934-8989 x222 for more information or visit 'Mammoth Gymnastics' on Facebook.

Recreation Department Launches Online Registration

In an effort to improve customer service and streamline operations, the Recreation Department – compliments of Measure R, has partnered with the Active Network to provide 24/7 web-based activity and facility reservations. To begin, visit us online at www.mammothrecreation.com, click on the *Online Activity/Facility Reservations* tab and your first step is to "**Request Account.**" All you need is an email and password. The system will allow you to register online for an activity, reserve a facility or request Measure R equipment...it's fast and easy! Please drop by the office or call us at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 if we can be of assistance to you.

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!

Public Service Announcements

Mammoth Gateway Project Recognized With Prestigious Award

After three years of meticulous planning, indomitable fundraising and generous contributions from the entire community, the Mammoth Gateway Project is now complete and has been awarded the 2013 "Putnam Award for Excellence" from the League of California Cities.

"The Mammoth Gateway Community Project illustrates how cooperation between local, state and federal agencies as well as business and community volunteers can help make a lasting first impression for visitors in a town where the local economy is highly dependent on tourism," stated Elizabeth Tenney, Planning and Economic Development Commissioner.

A representative from The League of California Cities personally presented the award to the Mammoth Lakes Town Council and the project partners on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. This prestigious award was established in 1982 by the League of California Cities to recognize outstanding achievements made by cities that uniquely contribute to community residents and businesses.

The purpose of the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence is to promote the outstanding efforts and innovative solutions by city governments to:

- Improve the quality of life in local communities
- Implement efficiencies in service delivery and operations
- Provide services responsive to the local community

"The Town's award, in the category of City-Business Relations, highlights the unique cooperation between the public and private sectors to construct an iconic symbol representative of the rugged character of the region and resilience of the community," stated Jessica Morriss, Transportation Planner for the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Spearheaded by long-time local and Planning and Economic Development Commissioner, Elizabeth Tenney, The League's award recognizes the collaborative partnership required to make the Gateway Project a reality. The Town would like to recognize the following local, state, and federal agencies, as well as volunteers and private sector donors, including: Inyo National Forest - Mammoth-Mono Ranger District, County of Mono, Mammoth Lakes Town Council, Town of Mammoth Lakes Public Art Fund, WalkerOne Creative Workshop, Woodward Architecture, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, The Chadmar Group/Snowcreek Resort, Mammoth Community Water District, Mono County Superior Court, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Mammoth Lakes Tourism and the many other donors (large and small) who contributed money and expertise.

The Gateway monuments, which were completed in the Spring of 2013 after almost three years of planning, design, and construction, have become a source of pride for the community and clearly demonstrates that Mammoth Lakes is still moving forward. Designed and built to last a hundred years or more, the Gateway to Mammoth Lakes became a popular visitor photo opportunity even before it was finished.

The Gateway's north side on US Forest Service land, with the cooperation of Jon Regelbrugge, District Ranger, Inyo National Forest, has been landscaped with native

plant seed and boulders. An abstract graphic of mountain slopes in raw steel is being fabricated by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and will be installed on the west side of the north monument. The graphic complements the John Muir quote departure message "Going to the mountains is going home. See you again soon." on the south monument.

Around the south monument, plant varieties in the drought-tolerant demonstration garden have been labeled for ready reference by homeowners, condo managers and landscapers. The Gateway demonstration garden was commissioned by Mammoth Community Water District and designed and installed by Bob Weiland, Weiland & Associates, Inc. Mono County Superior Court is supplying the water from the Court's dedicated irrigation meter.

Additional information regarding this prestigious award by the League of California Cities can be viewed online at: www.cacities.org/Top/Partners/Helen-Putnam-Awards.aspx, or by contacting Jessica Morriss, Transportation Planner for the Town of Mammoth Lakes at (760) 934-8989 ext. 225.

Town Amends Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code Regarding Woodstove Inserts

On March 20, 2013, Town Council adopted a resolution amending the Town ordinance establishing standards for new and reconstructed woodstove inserts. Over the last several decades, large numbers of open fireplaces in town have been modified by the installation of woodstove inserts. However, neither the Town nor the fire district nor the woodstove insert manufacturers have had clear and consistent standard governing how the inserts must be installed. The result has been installations that have been demonstrated to be unsafe by a number of fires occurring around woodstove inserts in town.

The fire district and Town staff jointly developed installation standards for woodstove inserts, which are contained in the new ordinance. The ordinance also contains a list of approved woodstove insert manufacturers, but allows contractors and homeowners to request the building official to add other manufacturers.

The amended ordinance would require all new woodstove insert installations to meet the new standards. Recognizing that reconstruction of existing woodstove insert installations can cost several thousand dollars, the ordinance does not require immediate removal and reconstruction of existing inserts. Instead, the ordinance requires nonconforming inserts to be removed or reconstructed upon sale of the residential unit, or by October 31, 2022 if no sale of a particular unit has occurred before then.

Because the woodstove insert installation standards constitute a local amendment to the requirements of the California Mechanical Code, the ordinance includes the specific findings necessary for such local amendments. The findings acknowledge that the unique climatic, geological, and topographical conditions in Mammoth require these amendments. Please contact Town of Mammoth Lakes Senior Building Inspector, Johnny Goetz at (760) 934-8989 ext. 244 for additional information.

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
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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.

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/licenseslisting_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.