



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town News

Town e-News: Week of October 19, 2015

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – October 21, 2015

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2015 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.

Mammoth Lakes Recreation Announces 2016 Funding Allocation Cycle

Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR) announces an interim funding cycle for awarding funding from Measure R and Measure U for 2016 special events and event programming. The interim funding cycle will be limited in scope and amount and will serve to support special events and event programming for the 2016 calendar year.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes directed MLR to prepare and provide a strategy and prioritized list of primary amenities recommended to be supported with Measure R & U funds by December 2015. The MLR strategy will address the process for future funding scenarios. Due to the timing of the finalization of the strategy, this interim funding cycle has been created.

The 2016 MLR funding cycle application process and form is similar to the previous interim funding cycle, however, the timeline is condensed with a goal to allocate funds for special events and event programming prior to the end of the year.

- The application period opens on Monday, October 19, 2015.
- The application period closes on Friday, November 6, 2015 at noon.
- The MLR Allocation Committee will meet on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 5:00pm to review applications.
- The MLR Board of Directors will host a special public meeting on Monday, November 16, 2015 at 5:00pm to finalize a recommendation to the Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Council.
- The MLR Board of Directors will present a funding recommendation to Town Council for consideration and direction on Wednesday, December 2, 2015.

The MLR Allocation Committee reminds all previous funding recipients that the Event Performance Report is due prior to requesting future funding. This report should be delivered to the Town as stated in the Letter of Agreement. This requirement includes reports for all previous years funding.

The Scope, Instructions and Application can be found on the home page of the Town of Mammoth Lakes website under "2016 MLR Interim Funding Cycle."

Please contact rboccia@mammothlakesrecreation.org for information, clarification and support with the submission of your application.

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.

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, 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.

MLPD Friday Update

CALLS FOR SERVICE/OFFICER OBSERVATIONS

- 36, including 0 business/building checks

CRIME/INCIDENT REPORTS

- 6 reports, including 5 arrests

TRAFFIC STOPS/CITATIONS/TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

- 30 stops; 9 citations; 2 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 2 collisions

ANIMAL CONTROL INCIDENTS

- 5 incidents; 0 report

WILDLIFE

- 10 calls; 0 reports

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Total Average Reported Projected Occupancies are as follows:

- Friday, October 16, 2015 = 43%
 - Saturday, October 17, 2015 = 23%
- (32% same weekend in 2014, up in 2015)
- Sunday, October 18, 2015 = 22%
 - Monday, October 19, 2015 = 24%
 - Tuesday, October 20, 2015 = 23%
 - Wednesday, October 21, 2015 = 19%
 - Thursday, October 22, 2015 = 21%

(15% same midweek in 2014, up in 2015)

Hotels/Motels/B&B:

- Friday-Saturday = 40%
- Sunday-Thursday = 26%

Condos:

- Friday-Saturday = 21%
- Sunday-Thursday = 15%

Outlook for the following weekend:

- Friday, October 23, 2015 = 34%
- Saturday, October 24, 2015 = 35%

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

Kern County State Route 58 Closed Due To Mudslide

The California Department of Transportation would like to notify travelers that State Route 58 in Kern County is closed due to mud and debris on the highway. The closure on State Route 58 is from the junction of State Route 202 to 0.05 miles west of the junction of State Route 14, near Mojave, CA. This is estimated to be a long term closure. The traveling public should avoid this section of highway, and plan an alternate route. Caltrans crews are on site working to clear the roadway as fast as possible.

The Inyo National Forest Prepares for Winter Conditions & Hours

The Inyo National Forest is preparing for winter conditions. The forecast brings the possibility of snow in the upcoming days. As such, the forest may implement winter closures for roads that access the Reds Meadow Valley and Mammoth Lakes Basin areas of the Inyo National Forest.

Overnight parking in the Reds Meadow Valley will be discontinued starting October 15th. This practice, implemented annually, is designed to prevent vehicles from becoming stranded during winter storms.

The forest is prepared to close the Reds Meadow Valley Road and the Mammoth Lakes Basin if there is significant snow accumulation.

The forest recognizes that these areas are popular destinations for visitors and residents alike. If it is safe to do so, the roads will remain open. In the past, the roads closed on or around October 31st in anticipation of snowy conditions. The forest will keep the roads open if the dry, warm pattern of the past few years persists as long as it is safe to do so. After substantial accumulations of snow, these roads are prepared for winter recreation activities.

All visitors to the Mammoth Lakes Basin are encouraged to travel with vehicles and equipment that are suitable for driving in winter mountain weather.

The Mono Basin Visitor Center will begin its winter hours starting on October 17th. The visitor center will be open Thursday through Monday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm and closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The visitor center will close for the season on December 1st and re-open in April of 2016.

Information on road closures, current conditions, and winter recreation on the Inyo National Forest can be obtained at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, open daily 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., by visiting the Inyo National Forest website, or by calling (760) 924-5500.

Telluride Mountain Film Tour – Oct.16/17

Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) brings Mountain film on Tour back to Mammoth Lakes with an incredible selection of the best-loved films from this year's 37th Annual Telluride Mountain film Festival. From spine-tingling adventures to local and global environmental issues and social conflicts to big personalities. This festival is also supported by Mammoth Lakes Recreation and the US Forest Service. Different films will be shown in the Forest Service auditorium across from the Mammoth Welcome Center beginning at 7:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 16 and 17. Doors open at 6:30. Mountain film presenter, Collin Sullivan, will introduce the films and engage the audience in discussion following the films.

Now Playing! "Of Mice and Men" at the Edison Theatre

You don't want to miss John Steinbeck's classic tale, Of Mice And Men, which opens in just one week! Adapted by Pulitzer-prize winning author Steinbeck from his novel of the same name, the haunting play follows George and Lennie, two migrant workers searching for a better life during the Great Depression.

Will they reach their American dream? Find out and buy your tickets today!

Of Mice and Men opens the season Oct. 8 and runs through Oct. 25, Thursdays through Sundays. Show times are at 7 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 4 p.m. Tickets are available online for \$20, \$18 for seniors and students, and \$10 for children 14 and under. Tickets are \$22 at the door---sorry, no discounts---so be sure to reserve your seat and save by purchasing your tickets online! Information: Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre: (760) 934-6592 or www.MammothLakesRepertoryTheatre.org.

Inyo National Forest and Devils Postpile National Monument Announce Plans for Interagency Prescribed Burning

Inyo National Forest (INF) and Devils Postpile National Monument (DEPO) will begin preparations for an interagency prescribed fire on 158 acres in the Reds Meadow

Valley, Madera County, CA. The project is located east of the Devils Postpile Ranger Station and west of the Sotcher Lake Day Use Site.

The project goal is to reduce hazardous fuels and thus create wildfire defensible space around the DEPO ranger station, administrative facilities and campground. This defensible space will promote public and firefighter safety should a wildfire occur here in the future.

INF and DEPO will work with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to fulfill smoke management objectives and Federal and State air quality standards. The prescribed fire project will occur when weather and fuel moisture conditions will allow for generally low to moderate intensity prescribed burning, likely in the latter half of October 2015. Existing roads and trails will be used as fire containment lines. Fire crews will use chainsaws to thin small trees on 31 acres adjacent to Reds Meadow Road and the DEPO access road. This thinning will moderate risk of fire torching into the tops of larger trees and thus minimize impacts to scenic quality in highly visible areas along the roads.

The access road to Devils Postpile National Monument will be closed along with all trails and access to the Devils Postpile formation during the prescribed burn implementation. Traffic control will be in effect on the Reds Meadow Road during the 2 to 3 days when prescribed burning occurs. Rainbow falls will still be accessible via the Rainbow falls trail during this time. For additional information, contact Sue Farley, Project Planner at 760-924-5535.

Time to Act – Flu Season will Arrive Soon!

What do you predict will happen this year?

Someone said, "Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future". One thing we know for certain – we will experience an epidemic of seasonal flu this winter. However, it is not possible to predict what this flu season will be like. Flu spreads every year, but the timing, severity, and length of the season varies from one year to the next. Flu outbreaks can happen as early as October, and can last as late as May. The first indicator is usually a rise in respiratory illness in a community, followed by an increase in hospitalizations, and then flu-associated deaths. The peak is usually in January or February.

What should I do to protect myself and my loved ones?

The first and most important step to protect against this serious disease is for everyone older than 6 months of age to get a yearly flu vaccine, unless there is a medical contraindication. Everyone should get vaccinated as soon as flu vaccine becomes available, to ensure that as many people as possible are protected before flu season begins. However, as long as flu viruses are circulating in the community, it's not too late to get vaccinated. In addition, you can take everyday preventive actions like staying away from sick people, washing your hands to reduce the spread of germs, and staying home from work or school if you are sick.

Who should be vaccinated, and why?

Everyone older than 6 months of age should be vaccinated each year. Why?

- a) A vaccine each year is necessary because protection begins to wane over time, and because the viruses may be different each year.
- b) Vaccine has been shown to reduce influenza illnesses, doctors' visits, influenza-related hospitalizations, and deaths
- c) The elderly (>65 years of age) suffer most of the complications and deaths from influenza. In spite of this well known fact, a dismal % of older adults typically get vaccinated. Highest risk is for those with underlying medical conditions, such as heart disease and diabetes.
- d) Herd protection is a real phenomenon that has great potential to protect the most vulnerable in our communities. It has been shown that the vaccination of not only children, but also young adults, will work to prevent influenza in the elderly. As vaccine coverage of younger adults (age 18-64) increased from 15% to >31%, the odds of an elderly individual in that community contracting the flu diminished by 20%, as did pneumonia rates.
- e) Since infants <6 months of age cannot be vaccinated, and are at high risk of complications and death if they get sick, all persons around them should be vaccinated.
- f) Children should be vaccinated for several reasons:
 - o Last year, 43% of children hospitalized with influenza were previously healthy, without any known underlying medical conditions.
 - o Children with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable, as 26% of children hospitalized last year had underlying asthma.
 - o Children are frequently around older adults, especially during the holidays. We would hope that frequent hugs and kisses would not transmit the flu!
- g) Flu is more likely to cause severe illness in pregnant women than in women who are not pregnant. Changes in the immune system, heart, and lungs during pregnancy make pregnant women (and women up to two weeks postpartum) more prone to severe illness from flu, as well as to hospitalizations and even death. Pregnant women with flu also have a greater chance for serious problems for their unborn baby, including premature labor and delivery. The flu shot given during any trimester of pregnancy has been shown to protect both the mother and her baby (up to 6 months old) from serious illness due to the flu and its complications. The nasal spray vaccine should not be given to women who are pregnant. The flu shot has been given to millions of pregnant women over many years, and have not been shown to cause harm to pregnant women or their babies.

If I get vaccinated, can I still get the flu?

Yes, it's possible for you to get sick with the flu even if you have been vaccinated (although you won't know for sure unless you get a flu test). This is possible for the following reasons:

- a) You may be exposed to a flu virus shortly before getting vaccinated or during the 2 weeks it takes for your body to gain protection from the vaccine.
- b) You may be exposed to a flu virus that is not in the vaccine. Last years' vaccine was not as effective as usual due to a mutation (or drift) in one of the viruses that circulated. So far evidence is pointing to an excellent match between the vaccine and the flu viruses that are circulating.

- c) Unfortunately, some people can become infected with a flu virus the flu vaccine is designed to protect against, despite being vaccinated. Let me be clear – you cannot get infected with the flu from the vaccine – but the vaccine does not work in 100% of persons. Protection varies widely, based in part on health and age factors of the person getting vaccinated. It works best in younger adults and older children, and less so in older people and those with certain chronic illnesses. Flu vaccine is not a perfect tool, but it is the best one we have!

Are there any new recommendations this year?

- a) Healthy children age 2 through 8 years who have no contraindications or precautions may receive either an injection or the nasal vaccine, with no preference expressed for either vaccine when one is otherwise appropriate and available. This removes the previous preferential recommendation.
- b) Children aged 6 months through 8 years who have previously received greater than or equal to 2 total doses of flu vaccine of any type at any time before 7/1/5, require only one dose for 2015-16. The 2 previous doses do not need to have been given during the same or consecutive seasons.
- c) Children age 6 months through 8 years who are being vaccinated for the first time or who have not previously received a total of greater than or equal to 2 doses, require 2 doses of influenza vaccine, given greater than or equal to 4 weeks apart.
- d) Although a high dose injection has been shown in one study to give better protection in those over 65 years of age, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says more research is needed before making an official recommendation for one over the other.

Where can I get vaccinated?

Influenza vaccine is available in multiple locations, including your healthcare provider, pharmacy, or health department. More vaccine has been produced this year than ever except for the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, so availability should not be an issue. Pharmacies have had vaccine since August, healthcare providers are currently receiving theirs, and health departments are conducting their outreach during the months of October and November.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET VACCINATED!

Recreation Department Highlights

All Recreation – All The Time!

Recreation is an essential component of a healthy and vibrant community. Our community relies on the Parks & Recreation Department for the many diverse and affordable programs, community events and seasonal activities. Whether you're looking for family fun at our many parks, challenging your endurance on our many trails or participating in one of our many signature youth summer camps or valued adult programs, the Parks & Recreation Department delivers!

Following is a sample of the many programs, events and promotions scheduled this October in Mammoth Lakes. Visit www.MammothRecreation.com or call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 to register or for additional information.

Adult Women's Drop-in Soccer at Shady Rest Park

Join us for drop-in soccer for women only every Sunday morning from 10am-12pm at Shady Rest Park. Meet at Softball Field #12 (U12 field) for skills, drills and pick-up games. Cost is only \$4/session. Pay at the park. Ends October 25.

Sunday Tennis Social

Join us this fall for doubles every Sunday morning until it snows. We meet at the community courts on Forest Trail, from 9:30 till noon. Players of all ability are welcome! Refreshments provided by Mammoth Tennis Club.

Mammoth RecZone

Join us every Thursday night for Mammoth Youth Hockey and Friends Night. Drop-ins and new players welcome! Games are scheduled from 5:30-8:00pm. Cost is only \$3.00/skater.

Visit www.MammothRecreation.com or call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 to register or for additional information.

Never have a slow day in Mammoth again!

Hot Shots Youth Basketball – Nov. 3

Registration for our local youth basketball program for 3rd-5th grade girls and boys is now underway. Join Recreation staff on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for basketball instruction from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the MMS gym, November 3 – January 28, 2016. Early bird cost is \$40 which includes one month of clinics followed by almost two months of league play. This is the best basketball program in Mammoth Lakes for your elementary school sports enthusiast. For more info or to volunteer please call John Connolly at (760) 934-8989 ext.234. Register online at https://apm.activecommunities.com/mammothrecreation/Activity_Search/hot-shots-youth-basketball/426

Haunted Rink Skate Party – Oct. 30

The Haunted Rink Skate Party will take place on Friday, October 30, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Mammoth RecZone. Set time aside now to bring the family to what is sure to be a great time. This year's festivities will include a few carnival games such as Tin-can Alley, Hit the Witch, Evil Clown Throw, Ellen's Rat Head Lollipop Pull, and the famous Football Fling! There will also be cakewalks and other fundraisers throughout the night so be sure to arrive in plenty of time to participate. Recreation has lots of fun prizes for everyone, so no one will leave empty handed. Admission is only \$5 per person (non-skating adults are free) and includes skate rentals while they last. Scooters, skateboards, and other wheeled devices welcome. For more information or to help volunteer, please call the Recreation Department office at (760) 934-8989 ext. 245.

Mammoth Ice Rink Scheduled To Open Nov. 27

The Mammoth Ice Rink on 416 Sierra Park Road (adjacent to the library) will be opening for the Thanksgiving Holiday on Friday, November 27, 2015 (weather permitting) for public skating, lessons and youth and adult hockey. Come join the fun on our sheet of ice that offers music, evening campfires, Friday skate assist sessions, rentals, skate sharpening service, drinks, snacks, youth hockey clinics and pick-up games all on refrigerated and professionally maintained ice. Get your 6th visit free with the purchase of the 5 SKATE PASS. For more information visit

www.mammothicerink.com or call the Recreation Department office at (760) 934-8989 ext. 245.

Public Service Announcements

Fall Season Trolley Service Begins Sept. 8

The Town Trolley will commence its fall, shoulder season schedule effective Tuesday, September 8, 2015. The shoulder season schedule will operate from 9:00am until 10:00pm, with service approximately every 30 minutes. The Lakes Basin Trolley will continue daily operations through Sunday, September 27, 2015. For further information, please contact Eastern Sierra Transit at (760) 924-3184 or visit ESTA's website at www.estransit.com.

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.

MAMMOTH EXPRESS FARES

		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

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.

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.

Update - Lee Vining Rockfall Safety Project Begins May 4

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is preparing for construction on the Lee Vining Rockfall Safety Project. The project's purpose is to improve safety for the traveling public by minimizing rocks falling from the steep adjacent slopes onto US Hwy 395 in Mono County, north of Lee Vining near Mono Lake, from postmile 52.3 to 53.7. The project also includes a plant establishment program on the six slopes involved to reduce erosion, establish healthy soil, and promote successful revegetation.

Construction is scheduled to begin on May 4, 2015 with the installation of stormwater protection and construction signage. A temporary traffic signal will be installed on May 6th, and traffic will be reduced to one lane with a 24 hour / 7 days a week reversing traffic pattern. This signal system uses video detection to reduce traffic delays to the extent possible.

The traveling public should be prepared for daily lane closures with delays no longer than 20 minutes.

As of May 12th, one hour delays could occur Monday thru Thursday from 6:00 am to 7:00 am. Notices will be posted when exact dates become available for the one hour closures. The contractor awarded the project is Papich Construction Co. Inc. from Pismo Beach, CA. on March 26, 2015. The contract bid amount was \$5,799,999. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2015 or spring of 2016. Six portable changeable message signs will be used for public notices related to the project

Cycling Etiquette and The New Three Feet For Safety Act

The Town will be actively communicating proper cycling etiquette and the rules of the road to both motorists and cyclists when the new "Three Feet for Safety Act" goes into effect September 16, 2014.

Known as the "Three Feet for Safety Act," new state vehicle code section (21760) requires that a driver of a motor vehicle shall not overtake or pass a bicycle proceeding in the same direction on a highway at a distance of less than three feet between any part of the motor vehicle and any part of the bicycle or its operator.

Police Chief Dan Watson is urging all drivers in Mammoth Lakes to comply with the new law. "This law includes public streets and even if three feet is not possible, the motor vehicle must slow to a reasonable and prudent speed and only pass when no danger is present to the bicyclist. Failing to do so can incur a fine, regardless of a collision or not."

Chief Watson also urges all bicyclists to comply with the rules of the road, including stopping for stop signs and pedestrians, riding as far to the right as practicable, and riding in single file. Bicyclists are also encouraged to use the Town's extensive system of bike paths when possible. The Town will not be pursuing a local ordinance to implement the new law as the definition applied is very broad and includes all public streets. It should also be noted that currently the Town of Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code does not prohibit bikes on sidewalks.

Additional information about the "Three Feet for Safety Act," including violations; can be viewed online at: <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/vctop/d11/vc21760.htm>.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) that details the factors behind traffic fatalities on our roads, in California (2011), the statewide percentage of bicyclist fatalities was 4.1% of all fatalities, which is nearly twice the national average of 2.1%.

FARS also identified that between 2009 and 2011, collisions between bicycles and motor vehicles are more likely to occur on local roadways than the State Highway System, and 85% of fatalities involving bicycles and 89% of severe injuries involving bicycles occurred on a local road compared to 57% of fatalities overall and 64% of severe injuries overall.

Supporting the passage of AB 1371 (Bradford) was the California Association of Bicycling Organizations (CABO). From the CABO President's point of view, "I support this bill because of my expectation, well hope, that incidences of antagonistic or clueless "buzz-backs"/scary close passing and hit from behind crashes will subside as people learn about the Three Feet for Safety Act."

Local cycling advocate and Eastside Velo (ESV) President John Armstrong hopes that someday a sign will be erected upon entering Mono County that says "We Respect People on Bikes."

ESV has over 200 active members who ride regularly throughout the Eastern Sierra. As an organization, they actively promote proper cycling etiquette and even have a short video on their website that promotes safe and responsible riding practices. Their Top 3 "Rules to Ride by..." are as follows:

1. Be courteous and share the road. Being courteous gains respect and helps make the roads safer for all cyclists.
2. Signal your intentions if you can safely do so. If you are turning, point in the direction you plan on going. If you are slowing, put your hand out behind you.
3. Be friendly. If someone is courteous to you and does the right thing, wave and smile. Everyone likes to be acknowledged for doing the right thing.

Please visit the ESV website (www.eastsidevelo.org) to review the complete list of "Rules to Ride by."

Armstrong hopes that common sense will prevail regarding the new "Three Feet for Safety Act," but understands that the best strategy for cyclist's safety is educating our motoring public.

"Many times on my bike I have been in a situation where a motorist does not slow down. The motorist powers onwards and forces a squeeze play with another vehicle and me, and guess who comes off the worst? Oftentimes I end up in the dirt or on the sidewalk."

To facilitate effective education, Armstrong recommends cyclists and motorists pick up a copy of the new "Quick Guide to Smart Cycling" distributed by the League of American Bicyclists that will be available locally this fall. This full-color, 24-page Quick Guide covers just about everything you need to know to ride a bike safely and confidently, providing an easy-to-understand resource that appeals to all demographics: prospective bicyclists, novice riders, and even seasoned pros.

To read the Smart Cycling Quick Guide online, visit this link: <http://bikeleague.org/quickguide>.

Mammoth Lakes Police Department Reserve Officer Mike Braun will be actively communicating proper cycling etiquette and the rules of the road to both motorists and cyclists within Mammoth Lakes this fall.

"Cyclists have the same rights and duties as drivers. They need to obey traffic signals and stop signs, and most importantly, need to ride with traffic, and use the rightmost lane headed in the direction they are going," stated Braun.

Officer Braun also encourages cyclists to be predictable by making their intentions clear to everyone on the road. "Signal turns and check behind you well before making a turn or changing lanes."

Above all, stay safe, stay visible and ride on the right!

For additional information regarding the new "Three Feet for Safety Act" and proper cycling etiquette, please call the Mammoth Lakes Police Department at (760) 934-2011 or contact Officer Braun at mbraun@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

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 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 or 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.

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.

Governor Brown Declares Drought State of Emergency

With California facing water shortfalls in the driest year in recorded state history, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. today proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for these drought conditions.

"We can't make it rain, but we can be much better prepared for the terrible consequences that California's drought now threatens, including dramatically less water for our farms and communities and increased fires in both urban and rural areas," said Governor Brown. "I've declared this emergency and I'm calling all Californians to conserve water in every way possible."

In the State of Emergency declaration, Governor Brown directed state officials to assist farmers and communities that are economically impacted by dry conditions and to ensure the state can respond if Californians face drinking water shortages. The Governor also directed state agencies to use less water and hire more firefighters and initiated a greatly expanded water conservation public awareness campaign (details at saveourh2o.org).

In addition, the proclamation gives state water officials more flexibility to manage supply throughout California under drought conditions.

State water officials say that California's river and [reservoirs](#) are below their record lows. Manual and electronic readings record the snowpack's statewide water content at about 20 percent of normal average for this time of year.

The Governor's drought State of Emergency follows a series of actions the administration has taken to ensure that California is prepared for record dry conditions. In May 2013, Governor Brown issued an [Executive Order](#) to direct state water officials to expedite the review and processing of voluntary transfers of water and water rights. In December, the Governor formed a [Drought Task Force](#) to review expected water allocations, California's preparedness for water scarcity and whether conditions merit a drought declaration. Earlier this week, the Governor toured the Central Valley and spoke with growers and others impacted by California's record dry conditions.

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. 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.

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
- 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.