



Town of Mammoth Lakes

P.O. Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546
Ph: (760) 965-3600
www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

Town News

Town e-News: Week of September 12, 2016

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – September 21

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Suite Z. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Commission/Committee Meetings

- | | |
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| Sept. 14 | Planning and Economic Development Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 2:00PM |
| October 4 | Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z 9:00AM |

Gran Fondo Traffic & Transit Advisory For Saturday, September 10, 2016

The Mammoth Gran Fondo road bike ride hosted by the Mammoth Mountain Community Foundation (MMCF) will take place on Saturday, September 10, 2016. Over 1,200 cyclists are expected for this ride, and as a result of this large scale event, traffic and normal public transit operations will be impacted from the following road closures and traffic delays - please plan accordingly.

CHANGED TRAFFIC CONDITIONS

- Benton Crossing Road (Green Church Road) will be closed to all-through traffic between Brownstown RV Park and Benton Hot Springs from 8:00am-1:00pm.
- HWY 120 will be closed to all-through traffic between Dross (3 miles from HWY 395) and Benton Hot Springs from 8:00am-1:00pm.
- Lower Canyon Boulevard will be closed between Lake Mary Road and Hillside Drive from 5:00am-8:00pm
- There will be traffic delays on Lake Mary Rd, Main Street and US 395 in the morning between approximately 7:00-7:15am
- There will be traffic delays on Minaret Road between Forest Trail and Main Lodge in the morning from 8:30-8:45am.
- The Mammoth Scenic Loop will be closed in the morning from 8:00-9:15am.
- The Mammoth US 395/SR 203 Northbound off ramp will be closed from 7:05 - 7:15am.

Motorists traveling along HWY 395, sections of HWY 120 and Crowley Lake Drive should expect heavy or increased bike traffic along the shoulder starting at 7:00am and lasting throughout the day, so please drive with caution and give cyclists plenty of space.

TRANSIT ADVISORY

Please take note of the following changes to the routes operated by Mammoth Resorts and Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) on Saturday, September 10, 2016.

Mammoth Bike Park Shuttle

New route: Down Minaret Road, turn around near Golf Course, stop across from the New York Deli in The Village.

Lakes Basin Trolley

New route: Lake Mary Road to "The Voodoo Chute", turn on Lakeview toward Canyon Blvd, crossing on Hillside to reach Forest Trail and then stopping on Minaret in front of The Village below the Main Plaza.

Purple Line

New route: Lake Mary Road to "The Voodoo Chute", turn on Lakeview toward Canyon Blvd, crossing on Hillside to reach Forest Trail and then stopping on Minaret in front of The Village below the Main Plaza.

Town Trolley

New route: Main to Minaret, wrap around The Village on Forest Trail and Hillside, then up to Canyon Lodge and down Lakeview.

A full schedule of all road closures and traffic delays for Saturday, September 10, 2016 as well as more information on the Mammoth Gran Fondo road bike ride can be found online at www.fallcentrury.org

Please welcome riders to our community, share the road, and maintain three feet between you and a cyclist at all times.

Groundbreaking Ceremony For Trails End Park Completion Project – Sept. 13

The Town of Mammoth Lakes cordially invites the public to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the Trails End Park Completion Project at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at Trails End Park located on Meridian Boulevard.

On August 17, Town Council unanimously approved the final funding required to complete Trails End Park. Town staff and the Recreation Commission have been working diligently for over six years to complete this wonderful community asset located adjacent to the world-renowned Volcom Brothers Skate Park. This \$190,000 project includes the installation of red concrete around the playground structure, complimented by two new shade structures and picnic tables. A new 24'x24' pavilion will be installed on a concrete slab that includes a concrete walkway, steps, railings, display case, recycling and trash containers, and 4 picnic tables - one fully ADA accessible table.

The Town would like to recognize Mammoth Lakes Recreation for their commitment to complete this Measure R project for the benefit of the entire community. This is another example of Measure R at work and the shared vision to transform Mammoth Lakes into the best alpine recreation community in the country.

For additional information regarding the Trails End Park Project, please contact Stuart Brown, Parks and Recreation Director at (760) 965-3696.

Thank you in advance for your participation at this memorable and exciting event.

Crossing Guards for Safe Routes to School

With the start of the school year, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department will be posting crossing guards at Meridian Boulevard at Sierra Park Road effective Monday, September 12, 2016, from 7:15–8:15AM, 12:00–12:30PM, and 2:20–3:20PM. They will assist with the safe crossing of students across Meridian Boulevard and help alleviate traffic issues around the schools. The Mammoth Lakes Police Department will be enforcing applicable traffic laws. When a crossing guard displays a stop sign, the driver of any vehicle approaching the school crossing shall stop before reaching the crossing and remain stopped until all persons have cleared the roadway. Pedestrians and students are required by law to follow the official direction of the crossing guards. With strong partnerships between the Town, the Mammoth Unified School District, Mono County School District and parents, we can continue to foster a safe environment for our students throughout the school year.

Contractor's State License Board Educational Outreach Event – Sept. 28

Interested in learning more about the specifics of contractor licensing requirements and the potential risks of hiring unlicensed contractors?

The Town of Mammoth Lakes in partnership with the Mammoth Lakes Contractor's Association is sponsoring an educational presentation conducted by the California State Contractor's State License Board (CSLB) on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, from 9:00-11:00am in the Minaret Village Mall, Suite Z.

Maggie Sanchez and Heidi Valenzuela from the CSLB will present an overview of the legal aspects of state contractor licensing requirements, and will address other related topics, such as the risks and liabilities of hiring unlicensed contractors for construction projects. This will be an interactive presentation with question and answer opportunities, so please bring up any "real world" questions, situations, etc. that we may address! The presentation will be followed by an informal question and answer session for those attendees who need additional information.

Coffee and refreshments will be provided in the morning, and lunch will be provided at 12:00pm. Please RSVP no later than September 21, 2016 to Tom Perry at tperry@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov or (760) 965-3635.

Town Conducting Old Mammoth Road Rehabilitation Project

The Town of Mammoth Lakes with the Contractor, West Coast Paving will be rehabilitating Old Mammoth Road from Main Street to Sherwin Creek Road and reconstructing curb ramps on select locations adjacent to Old Mammoth Road beginning this September with work scheduled to be completed in October.

Old Mammoth Road Rehabilitation Project

Starting September 6, 2016 partial lane closures and traffic delays are set to occur on Old Mammoth Road from Main Street to Sherwin Creek Road. Expect delays along Old Mammoth Road and accesses to and from local businesses. Access will be provided to local businesses at all times. For all other vehicular traffic, please detour around Old Mammoth Road when possible.

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

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Town Conducting Multi-Use Path Construction And Minor Road Realignment

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

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

Trucking will continue from Monday to Friday throughout the months of August and September until road realignment work is completed. No access will be provided to pedestrian and vehicular traffic from the Lake Mary Campground to Lake George Road. Please detour around Lake Mary entering and exiting through the western entrance of Around Lake Mary Loop Road.

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

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

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

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

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

Below is a list of the new department phone numbers:

- Administration - (760) 965-3600
- Airport - (760) 965-3620
- Community and Economic Development - (760) 965-3630
- Engineering - (760) 965-3650
- Finance - (760) 965-3660

- Public Works Yard - (760) 965-3680
- Parks and Recreation - (760) 965-3690
- Police Department - (760) 965-3700

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

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

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.

Mammoth Lakes Police Department - Friday Update: 8/29/16 – 9/4/16

CALLS FOR SERVICE/OFFICER OBSERVATIONS

110, including 0 business/building checks

CRIME/INCIDENT REPORTS

11 reports, including 4 arrests

TRAFFIC STOPS/CITATIONS/TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

16 stops; 11 citations; 9 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 1 collisions

ANIMAL CONTROL INCIDENTS

1 incident

WILDLIFE

0 calls

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, Sept. 9, 2016	80%
Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016	82%
Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016	57%
Monday, Sept. 12, 2016	58%
Tuesday Sept. 13, 2016	58%
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016	52%
Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016	57%
Friday, Sept. 16, 2016	74%
Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016	66%
Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016	46%

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

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

Community News

Weekend Intervalley Shuttle Designed To Alleviate Vehicle Congestion

Beginning Thursday, September 8 the mandatory Reds Meadow Shuttle from the Adventure Center at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area through the Reds Meadow Valley will end its daily service for the summer. However, due to the extremely limited parking available in the valley, the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) will run a complimentary weekend intervalley shuttle service this fall, starting Saturday, September 10 and continuing through the Columbus Day weekend. This service will reduce vehicle congestion on the road, which has made it difficult to travel throughout the valley in previous seasons. The intervalley shuttle will run from the parking area at Reds Meadow Resort to Devils Postpile from 10:00am to 3:30pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The Devils Postpile parking lot will be closed during this time and visitors will be directed to park at Reds Meadow Resort and take the bus to the Devils Postpile.

Mammoth Gran Fondo - Sept. 10

Called a "Bucket-List" ride with amazing views of Mono Lake and the White Mountains, you won't even realize you've ridden 100 miles. Ride options include the full Gran Fondo, Medio: 70 Mile, Piccolo: 42 Mile and new this year a timed section of the Gran Fondo to crown the King & Queen of the Mountain. Visit <http://www.fallcentury.org/> to register or for ride information.

Local History Walk – Sept. 11

Join historian Robert Joki, director of Mammoth Lakes Museum (Hayden Cabin) and owner of Twin Lakes Gallery, on a fascinating tour of the Mammoth Lakes of yesteryear. Meet 10am Twin Lakes Gallery. Contact Robert (760) 924-7300 Proprietors@TheGalleryAtTwinLakes.com).

Exit Laughing Ends Sunday – Sept. 11

Exit Laughing was a winner of *AACTNewPlayFest* in 2014, premiering at the historical Landers Theater in Springfield, Missouri where it broke all records. A little like "The Golden Girls" meets "Magic Mike." Exit Laughing hasn't looked back since its debut, and promises to provide a jolt of laughter to the local theatre scene when it opens at Edison Theatre, Thursday, September 1.

Connie (Marlene Piper), Leona (Eva Poole-Gilson) and Millie (Alice Suszyinski) are the three friends who unexpectedly lose Mary, the fourth of their weekly Bridge game. It's difficult saying good bye to a dear friend, so Millie comes up with a crazy scheme. Connie's daughter Rachel (Lesley-Anne Hoxie) can't believe what they've done. And Mary sends them a very special goodbye (Matt Chaconas) from beyond the grave. Don't miss this hilarious and heartfelt production that shows that life is for living, and loving, and friends till the end.

Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council – Sept. 12

This is a meeting intended to restart and begin project planning for Mammoth's Fire Safe Council in order to promote fire safety education and to prepare our community for wildfire. All are welcome to participate. Monday, September 12, 5pm, Mammoth Lakes Fire Dept. (3150 Main St, Mammoth Lakes). Contact Fire Marshal Thom Heller for more information at 760-934-2300.

Kamikaze Bike Games - Sept. 15-18

A multi-disciplined bike event featuring some of the best cross country, enduro and downhill courses. With live music as well as great food, drinks and even a kids bike race this is the big mountain, bike bash of the year. Go online for more details or to sign up – KamikazeBikeGames.com.

Summer of Stewardship - TRAIL DAYS - Lakes Basin Cleanup – Sept. 17

Join the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce and Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association for the annual Lakes Basin Cleanup hosted in partnership with the Great Sierra River Cleanup! Meet at Horseshoe Lake parking lot at 8:30 am. Free breakfast, free lunch and great give aways! More info at mltpa.org.

WHEN: SATURDAY, September 17th, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Meet at the Horseshoe Lake parking lot for a free bagel breakfast, safety talk and work assignments. Free lunch and lots and lots of giveaways will be hosted on site.

WHO: Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome! Please dress for trail work: sturdy, close-toed shoes, long pants and a long-sleeve shirt. Gloves and all tools provided.

CONTACT INFO:

Visit mltpa.org

Call the Trails Coordinator (760) 914-1769

E-MAIL: traildays@mltpa.org

National Public Lands Day – Sept. 24

Join Friends of the Inyo and the Eastern Sierra 4-Wheel Drive Club, in partnership with the Inyo National Forest, in celebrating our public lands on National Public Lands Day in memory of James Wilson and Dick Noles, two men who loved the Eastern Sierra and had a huge influence here. This project epitomizes the importance collaboration plays in ensuring sustainable recreational opportunities for all. Volunteer work will take place on Black Canyon Road in the White Mountains to clear brush and open access on the road.

Breakfast provided. Bring lunch, snacks, and lots of water. Please wear work appropriate clothing– long pants and closed-toes shoes are a must. Be prepared for a mix of walking and driving and a 4wd ride to the worksite. Meet at 8:00am at the junction of Warm Springs Rd. and Poleta Rd. (Google maps calls it Eastside Rd.). The project will end around 1:30pm.

Inyo National Forest Seeks Input for Mammoth Base Land Exchange

The Inyo National Forest is seeking input for the proposed Mammoth Base Land Exchange. Under the proposed action, 30.6 acres of land would be transferred to the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA). Twelve non-Federal parcels – totaling approximately 1,317.5 acres – would be transferred to the United States, to be managed by the US Forest Service. These private lands would be exchanged with the Inyo, Stanislaus, and Plumas National Forests.

The purpose of the project is two-fold:

- To acquire environmentally sensitive lands and an administrative site to better meet resource and other management goals of the US Forest Service as outlined in the respective Land and Resource Management Plans of the National Forests involved in this exchange; and
- To exchange developed lands in the National Forests that encumber adequate management by the United States Forest Service and would better serve the community and economic needs of the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County in private ownership.

The Inyo National Forest will hold a public meeting on September 8th from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm at The Mammoth Lakes Council Chamber, Suite Z, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA (above the Vons) to provide an overview of the project and to answer questions from the public.

For questions or comments, please contact Janelle Walker at janellewalker@fs.fed.us.

Parks and Recreation Department Highlights

Toddler Time at the Community Center – Sept. 6

Toddler Time will be offered at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center (1000 Forest Trail) every Tuesday from 9:30-11:00am (4-week sessions) by Victoria Farber and Angela Jacoby. Victoria is a mother of two, local business owner and has a passion for art, baking and bringing people in the community together to share like-minded experiences. Angela is also a mother of two, was a special education teacher in Los Angeles and worked as a substitute teacher at Mammoth Elementary, Mammoth Middle School and Mammoth High School. Angela also taught Adult Education classes at the Mono County office Education and was hands on teaching after school science programs with a company called Science Adventures.

Toddler Time is open to all parents who have children under kindergarten ages with typically 6-8 kids per class (max. enrollment 16). Sessions commence on September 6, 2016 and conclude on May 16, 2017. Cost is only \$48 / child, per 4-week session with a 50% sibling discount. Payment is requested at time of enrollment in each 4-week session. For additional information please contact Victoria Farber (760) 793-8339; Angela Jacoby (805) 407-6297 or the Parks and Recreation Department at (760) 965-3690.

Adult Co-Ed Dodgeball League Underway!

Starting September 7, drop by the RecZone (next to the library) to show off your dodgeball skills in our Adult Co-ed Dodgeball League. The program will run every Monday and Wednesday from 5:30-7:00pm. The fee per team is \$94 if you register at least ten days before the start of the program, or \$113 per team during regular registration. This is an exciting program, and is a great way to relieve some stress after a very busy summer season here in Mammoth Lakes.

Zumba Returns – Sept. 13

Starting September 13, Zumba will return to the Community Center (on the corner of Forest Trail and Minaret Road) with instructor Kaysie Williams! This fun and upbeat program is a great way to add cardio to your day, and is a great fit for anyone looking for alternative workout solutions. Zumba is a dance based workout, allowing you to burn calories while getting your groove on. The program will run every Tuesday from 5:30-6:30pm for teens and adults. The fee for the class is a \$4 drop in fee per class, and advanced registration is not required.

Adult Tennis Program

Tennis is in full swing. Stop by the Community Center courts to improve your skills with tennis pro Kyle Osland. Program ends Oct. 13.

- Adult Drop-in Tennis Sessions (advanced registration not required)
*Every Tuesday & Thursday from 3:30-5:30pm
- Private Tennis Lessons (reservation only)

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

Mammoth RecZone Open Every Weekend

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

- Friday – Free Admission + \$1.00 Ice Cream Floats!
- Saturday – Free Skate Rental for the 6-9pm Skate Party
- Sunday – Free Hot Dogs + pick-up street hockey from 4-6pm

Pricing for the RecZone is as follows:

Admission:

- Adult (16+yrs): \$3.00
- Youth (5-15 yrs)/Senior (65+)/Military: \$2.00
- Child (4 and under): FREE with paid adult
- Local Students (with ID): \$2.00

Skates & Rentals:

- Adult: \$6.00
- Youth/Senior/Military: \$4.00
- Child: \$3.00
- Local Students (with ID): \$2.00

5 Skate Pass (includes admission & rentals:

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

The RecZone is also available by reservation only for party rental Monday-Thursday from 12-9pm and Friday-Sunday from 12-3pm for \$50/hour, or \$200/day. Birthday party package options available for as low as \$7.50/child. Visit www.mammothreczone.com or call (760) 965-3695 for all the details.

Public Service Announcements

Mammoth Lakes Plastic Bag Ban in Effect March 1

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

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

- Retail establishments will no longer be able to utilize plastic, single-use bags.
- Customers may purchase paper bags for a minimum of 10 cents each.

- Customers may purchase or bring their own reusable bags.
- Restaurants are exempt and may still use plastic bags for take away orders.
- Some other exemptions exist, such as plastic bags used for produce and meats.

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

Inyo National Forest Announces Further Fire Restrictions

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

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

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

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

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

Be Prepared - Increased Wildlife Activity

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

- Invest in bear-proof garbage containers. This can include specialized commercial trash bins or can be as simple as buying surplus 55 gallon re-sealable barrels. Trash should be stored in secured containers away from buildings if possible. Always secure communal trash bins, either with a chain or a lock
- Properly store pet food. Pet food should be in an airtight, sealed container if stored in the garage. Bears are obviously attracted to pet food and have broken into numerous garages and residences.
- Do not leave anything in your vehicle that may attract bears. This includes, but is not limited to, food, wrappers, gum, perfume, mints, etc.
- Watch out for wildlife on the roads. The deer are migrating and other wildlife is moving around. Motorists need to be alert and watch the road in order to cut down on the number of animal involved collisions and deaths.
- NEVER feed wildlife. Feeding of wildlife is a violation of the law and also a death sentence to the animals. Once conditioned to human sources of food, bears will seek them out, creating conflicts with humans. Bears may be killed to ensure public safety if the nuisance behavior cannot be corrected. Attracting bears to urban areas can also increase risk of vehicle collisions, harming both humans and bears. Feeding deer is also illegal and the presence of deer will attract mountain lions.

Reduction of Wildland Fire Fuels

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Important Information for Verizon Customers

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

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

Town's Owner-Occupant Housing Rehabilitation Program

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

owners to update homes, attend to deferred maintenance, and address energy efficiency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eastern Sierra Transit Expands Mammoth Express Route!

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

The new departure times are:

North from Bishop - Kmart/Vons			
6:50am	7:30am	1:00pm	6:10pm
South from Mammoth - McDonalds			
7:50am	2:05pm	5:20pm	7:00pm

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

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

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

Local Woodstove Replacement Program A Great Success - Limited Funds Remain

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To register for the Condominium Recycling Program, please visit www.recyclesierra.com 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.

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.