



Town of Mammoth Lakes

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Town News

Week of November 21, 2011

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – Dec. 7

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Suite Z/Minaret Village Mall. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

MLPD Community Police Academy Graduates

The Second Mammoth Lakes Community Police Academy graduated on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at a brief ceremony following a barbecue dinner at the Community Center. The nine week course provides information to residents about how the Mammoth Lakes Police Department and criminal justice system operates. It includes tours of the Courthouse, Dispatch Center and Jail, and Firing Range. The majority of classes are presented by members of the MLPD.

The next Community Police Academy will be scheduled for sometime in April. Classes are on Thursday evenings for three hours. Anyone interested on signing up for the next Academy should contact Officer David Scobie at (760) 934-2011 ext. 55 or by e-mail at dscobie@mammothlakespd.org.

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, November 18 - Saturday, November 19 = 19%
(21% same weekend in 2010, down 2% in 2011)

Sunday, November 20 - Wednesday, November 23 = 18%
(23% same midweek in 2010, down 5% in 2011)

At this time: Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend = 41%
Thursday, November 24 - Saturday, November 26
(44% same weekend in 2010, down 3% in 2011)

Calls for Service/Officer Observations

101, including 1 business/building check

Crime Incident Reports

20 reports, including 7 arrests

Traffic Stop/Citations/Traffic Collisions

14 stops; 3 citations; 1 parking citation; 0 skate park citations; 1 collision

Animal Control Incidents

2 incidents; 0 reports

Wildlife

5 calls; 0 reports

Twitter

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

Community Development

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Education & Enforcement Program Update

The Town's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Enforcement Program was launched on September 8, 2011 with a mailing of over 8,000 letters to all Town of Mammoth Lakes property owners.

Since that time, Town staff has received extensive contact by property owners who want to make sure that they are legally renting their units. We have also received reports of suspicious activity or rental advertisements.

Highlights of the enforcement activity to date include:

- 188 tips and inquires
- 17 open enforcement cases
- 13 closed cases
- 32 new TOT Business Licenses filed since August 1, 2011

The Town of Mammoth Lakes will continue to work with the Mammoth Lakes Lodging Association, Mammoth Lakes Tourism, and the Chamber of Commerce to monitor and enforce transient occupancy tax (TOT) payments and rental activity within the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

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

1. What is a transient rental?

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

2. Can I rent my unit as a transient rental?

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

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

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

3. What is transient occupancy tax (TOT)?

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

4. Do I need to pay TOT?

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

5. Do I need a business tax certificate?

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

6. Do I need a transient occupancy tax certificate?

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

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

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

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

If all of your rentals are handled through a reservation company, most reservation companies will purchase the transient occupancy tax certificate and collect and remit the TOT to the Town. You may wish to check with your reservation company to confirm that this is being taken care of. If you rent

your unit by owner in addition to renting with a property management company, you are also required to obtain a separate business tax certificate and transient occupancy tax certificate.

9. How do I apply for a business tax certificate?

The Town's website contains information regarding business tax certificates, including an application for a business tax certificate: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=182>. Transient Rentals fall under schedule F for condominium rentals and schedule E for hotels, motels, lodges, and campgrounds. This application can be mailed back to the Town, or submitted in person. The total cost for one unit is \$118.00 (\$65.00 application fee, \$5.00 planning review fee, \$25.00 fee to rent one unit, \$23.00 TOT certificate fee). Additional costs apply for additional units. Business tax certificates are required on or before the first day business commences; penalties will apply for late filings. If you have additional questions regarding this process please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 x245.

10. Do I have a business tax certificate?

To find out if you have a valid business tax certificate on file, please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 x245 or your property management company.

11. What is illegal rental activity?

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

12. How can I report illegal rental activity?

If you suspect illegal rental activity, you may submit an anonymous tip via the Town's TOT hotline at (760) 934-8989 x275 or on the Town's website via the Transient Occupancy Tax information page. Please include any information that you have that would substantiate the claim, along with the property address and owner's name if you have it. You may also email tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us. Note that emails are not anonymous, however, staff will do its best to keep your information private.

13. Questions & Anonymous TOT Hotline

If you have questions about TOT enforcement, or if you would like to report suspicious activity or rental advertisements please contact our anonymous hotline. The Town will follow-up on any reports submitted. The Hot Line Number is (760) 934-8989 ext. 275 or email your information to: TOT@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Thank you for your attention to this very important subject that affects our quality of life and the health of our community.

Help Keep Mammoth's Air Clean This Winter

When the Town of Mammoth Lakes experiences periods of clear, cold, and calm weather with minimal breeze, the air quality deteriorates. Wood smoke from fireplaces and stoves cannot dissipate, and sometimes builds up to unhealthy levels that could have serious health consequences. To keep our air as clean as possible, please do your part by following these simple steps:

- Only burn clean and hot fires
- Check your chimney periodically for emissions (if smoke is clearly visible, then your fire needs more air, the wood is not dry enough, or the wood is not split small enough)
- Call (760) 934-1010 for any wood burning restrictions
- Abide by the "no wood burning" days restrictions

The Town of Mammoth Lakes continually monitors air quality, and will announce "no wood burning" days when air quality is forecast to approach unhealthy levels. To find out if wood burning restrictions have been announced, please call (760) 934-1010, listen to local radio announcements, or sign up for air quality notifications via the Town's Notify Me feature at <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/list.aspx>.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Draft Mobility Element Released for Public Review

The Town's Draft Mobility Element has been released for public review and is available online: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=425>.

The public review period will end Friday, December 16, 2011. Comments on the Draft Element should be submitted to Jessica Morriss, Associate Transportation Planner, at Jmorriss@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us or at (760) 934-8989 ext. 225.

Community News

Violeta Martin Headlines Town of Mammoth Lakes Tree-Lighting Ceremony

After a dazzling performance at the 12th Annual Latin Grammy Awards Singer/Songwriter Violeta Martin from Mammoth Lakes will be headlining the Official Town of Mammoth Lakes Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 2, 2011 in the Footloose Sports parking lot. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., stay warm by one of the fire pits and enjoy hot beverages and food available for sale by Java Joint, Red's Hot Dogs and the Lion's Club youth service group, the Leos. The kids won't want to miss Santa's traditional Mammoth arrival, escorted by the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department! Guests are also invited to visit the Eastern Sierra Energy Initiative* booth for your FREE gift. Violeta Martin will be performing at House of Blues in Los Angeles, on Friday November 18, 2011. You can follow Violeta Martin on www.facebook.com/violetamartinofficial.

* This program is funded by California utility customers and administered by SCE under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

21st Annual Mammoth Lakes Foundation Friends of the Foundation Dinner – Dec. 3

The Mammoth Lakes Foundation's 21st Annual "Friends of the Foundation Dinner" promises to be a magical evening! Beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 3, 2011, festivities take place at the Cerro Coso Community College-Mammoth Campus, built through the efforts of the members and supporters of the Mammoth Lakes Foundation. The evening includes a wine and appetizer reception, dinner, music, magic, a raffle, and honoring of the Volunteer and Founder of the Year.

Food for the event will be catered by Matt Toomey with wine pairings throughout the evening courtesy of Eberly Winery, the music is courtesy of The Felici Trio and their students, and the Magic is by Arthur Trace of the world-renowned Magic Castle. An awards ceremony will recognize both the Founder and Volunteer of the Year. All proceeds from the event go directly to supporting higher education and cultural enrichment in the Eastern Sierra.

Individual dinner tickets are \$150 each and include dinner, drinks and entertainment. Table sponsorships are available for \$1,600 each and include a table for eight and 24 raffle tickets.

Raffle tickets are available at 1 for \$50 or 3 for \$100. Prizes include the chance to win an all expenses paid weekend in Las Vegas; two VIP passes to the Mammoth Food & Wine Experience; passes to the Magic Castle, and more.

Friends and supporters delighted in last year's sold-out event celebrating the opening of the Edison Theatre. Don't delay in purchasing your tickets for this magical evening celebrating friends of education and the arts and the mission of the Mammoth Lakes Foundation to support higher education and cultural enrichment in the Eastern Sierra! To purchase dinner tickets, table sponsorships or raffle tickets call (760) 934-3781 or email Maya@MammothLakesFoundation.org.

Recreation Highlights

Mammoth Ice Rink on Schedule to Open Dec. 2

Construction at the Ice Rink is progressing on schedule with the completion of the concrete slab, the installation of the boards begins next week, and ice will be made the week of November 28. If all goes to plan, the Mammoth Ice Rink is scheduled to open on Friday, December 2, 2011 and close on Sunday, February 26, 2012 weather permitting. The Ice Rink is an outdoor facility located at 416 Sierra Park Road offering public skating sessions, hockey clinics, pick-up hockey, lessons and special events. Visit www.MammothIceRink.com for the [Winter Schedule](#), or call (760) 934-2505 during operating hours for rates, facility rental and information.

"Hot Shots" Youth Basketball League

The 'Hot Shots' coed basketball program is underway – it's not too late to register! 'Hot Shots' is a great way for 3rd – 5th grade enthusiasts to learn more about basketball. With parent involvement as coaches, scorekeepers, and referees, a fun program has been established from which both boys and girls can learn about dribbling, passing, shooting, and the rules of the game. Register at the Recreation department Office located above Giovanni's in the Minaret Village Mall. The cost is

\$30/child. Please call John Connolly at (760) 934-8989 ext. 234 for more information or to volunteer.

Party Yourself into Shape!

Zumba® Fitness offered by Kaysie Williams from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail will return on Monday, January 9, 2012. See you next year!

Get Gymnastics Fever!

This year-round program is designed to introduce children from 3-18 years old the wonderful and exciting sport of gymnastics. Offered by Michelle DeJong, a level 8 competitive gymnast and Level 1-5 gymnastics coach, participants will learn to tumble and more in a safe and structured environment. This program is also a recipient of Measure R funding with \$7,000 of gymnastic equipment. Three age sessions are available at the Community Center on Forest Trail.

3-5 yr olds – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

5-8 yr olds – Saturday: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

8-12+ yr olds – Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. & Saturday: 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Fees are only \$50/month (8 sessions) for residents and \$60/month for non-residents. Five session Punch Cards are available for \$50 and Private lessons are available upon request at \$20 for 30-45 minutes. Drop -ins are welcome and encouraged - First one is FREE! Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for more information or to register your aspiring Gymnast!

Contact Us

All the summer, fall, winter and Spring events, programs and activities are listed on www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us and in the 2011-12 Annual Mammoth Recreation Guide. Please call the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 or visit us in the Town Offices – Minaret Village Mall (above Giovanni's) to register for a program, for additional information or to forward your comments and suggestions.

Notify Me!

Receive updates sent directly to your email or phone from the Town of Mammoth Lakes by subscribing to "Notify Me." Found on the left side of www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us, stay current with Public Service Announcements, Emergency Alerts, Town e-News, Recreation This Week, No Burn Announcements, DNDP updates, bid postings, news flash, calendar items, and more! Make smart decisions, subscribe today!

Recreation Events & Activities in Town...

Adopt-a-Crag at Buttermilks – Nov. 19

Come out and help care for a world class climbing area, the Buttermilks. Friends of the Inyo will be working with the Inyo National Forest, The Access Fund, The American Alpine Club and climbers from all around to clean up camp sites and the area around the Buttermilk Boulders to ensure it's ready for the upcoming season.

Meet at 8:30am at the parking area directly preceding the main Peabody Boulders on Buttermilk Road for a light breakfast. Work will be from 9am to 12pm. Following in the evening at Mill Creek Station from 7pm-10pm, will be refreshments, the 2011 AAC Fall Highball with a presentation by John Long and music by local band The Core Shots. For more information, call Andrew at (760) 873-6500 or visit www.americanalpineclub.org/fallhighball2011.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival – Dec. 2, 3 & 8

For the 5th year in a row, Friends of the Inyo will host SYRCL's Wild & Scenic Film Festival in the Eastern Sierra with three evenings of films focusing on outdoor exploration and environmental activism along with food, drink and great raffle prizes! The first film program will screen on Friday, December 2, in Mammoth Lakes at the Edison Theatre. A second, different film program will screen on Saturday, December 3, in Bishop at Cerro Coso College and on Thursday, December 8, at the Lone Pine Film Museum. All shows begin at 7pm and raffle entry is included with the \$10 per person ticket purchase. For specific information about film programs, see www.friendsoftheinyo.org. Tickets on sale at Friends of the Inyo, (760) 873-6500, Access in Mammoth, Wilson's Eastside Sports in Bishop, or at the Lone Pine Film Museum. Special ticket offers are available with new membership or renewal!

Sports & Recreation Calendar

- On-going: Gymnastics/Tumbling Program at the Community Center
- Oct. 1: Ambush at the Lake Fall Fishing Derby begins at Convict Lake
- Oct. 24: 2011 Measure R Fall Award Application Period Opens
- Nov. 1: 'Hot Shots' Youth Basketball League Begins
- Nov. 17: Mammoth Trails Meeting
- Nov. 17: Recreation Commission Meeting, Ste Z, 3:00PM
- Nov. 19: Mammoth Masters Ski Team Starts
- Nov. 23: Canyon, Eagle & Village Gondola Opening Day
- Nov. 24: Projected Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center Opening Day
- Nov. 25: Tree Lighting Ceremony and Santa's Arrival
- Nov. 27: Mammoth Masters Ski Race Camp
- Nov. 28: 2011 Measure R Fall Award Application Period Closes
- Dec. 2: Official Town of Mammoth Lakes Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Dec. 2: Mammoth Ice Rink Projected Opening Day
- Dec. 2: Dave McCoy S L& GS
- Dec. 2, 3 & 8: Wild & Scenic Film Festival
- Dec. 5: Rokka League Ski, Board & Race Camp
- Dec. 6: Recreation Commission Meeting, Ste Z, 4:00PM
- Dec. 10: Clifford Mann Classic
- Dec. 10: Unbound Rail Jam
- Dec. 10: DSES Island Extravaganza
- Dec. 12: Skate with Santa at the Mammoth Ice Rink!
- Dec. 12: LA Council 30th Ski, Ride and Race Camp at Mammoth
- Dec. 13: Measure R Applicant Presentations
- Dec. 15: Snowmobile Adventures Opening Day!
- Dec. 17: Night of Lights
- Dec. 17: Unbound Series - Slalom x2
- Dec. 17: Mammoth Concert Series - The Naked + The Famous
- Dec. 17: June Mountain Projected Opening Day
- Dec. 17: NASTAR Opens
- Dec. 18: Kittredge Fun Cup

- Dec. 27: Kittredge Cup
- Dec. 31: Holiday Fireworks in the Village at Mammoth!
- Dec. 31: New Years 2012 at Canyon Lodge

Public Service Announcements

Register for CodeRED

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

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

Mammoth Lakes Police Department is Looking for Reserve Police Officers

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department is reactivating its Police Reserve Officer Program. Police Reserve Officers are part-time volunteers who supplement the full time officers. They can serve a variety of assignments including patrol, special events, prisoner transportation, and wildlife management. Police Chief Dan Watson reports that he and other Eastern Sierra law enforcement personnel have been working with Cerro Coso College to institute a Reserve Academy at the Bishop or Mammoth Lakes campus. In the meantime, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department is looking for any retired police officers who live in the general area who may be interested in joining the MLPD as a Reserve Officer. Anyone interested in learning more about the MLPD Police Reserve Program should contact Sergeant Marc Moscovitz at (760) 934-2011 ext. 68 or at mmoscowitz@mammothlakespd.org.

New Non-Stop Winter Flights to Mammoth Lakes

Beginning this winter, San Diego and Orange County residents will have easy access to world-class skiing and snowboarding thanks to [United Airlines'](#) new non-stop service to Mammoth Yosemite Airport. United is also expanding service from San Francisco International Airport to Mammoth Lakes with a second flight from Friday – Monday. The new flights will depart daily throughout the winter from San Diego and four days per week from Orange County (Friday - Monday). In addition, air service to and from San Francisco now includes additional Friday - Monday flight service to complement the daily flight service already in existence.

United Express regional partner SkyWest Airlines will operate the flights using 66-seat CRJ700 regional jets which include six first-class and 60 economy seats per plane. The first flights of the season are scheduled to depart Thursday, December 15, 2011 from San Francisco and San Diego and Friday, December 16, 2011 from Orange County. For more information about the new flights or to reserve a seat, call 1-800-UNITED1 or visit www.united.com. For more information about Mammoth Mountain, visit www.mammothmountain.com.

Leash Law Reminder

Mammoth residents and visitors are reminded that the Town has a leash law, and it is a violation of the ordinance to allow your dog to run loose off of your property. While budget cuts eliminated the Animal Control Officer position, the laws pertaining to controlling your pets did not change, and you can still be cited by Mammoth Lakes Police Department officers if your dog is at large. The PD is currently receiving a large number of complaints from several neighborhoods, and will be targeting patrol time in those areas when possible to apprehend loose dogs and to cite their owners. In addition to the citation fine, you could also be charged boarding fees by Mono County Animal Control if we choose to impound your dog at the Whitmore Shelter.

At-large dogs are a traffic hazard, and even the most well behaved dog can bite if provoked. If your loose animal causes a traffic collision or injures/bites someone, you would likely be liable for damages, which could add up to thousands of dollars. Please respect your neighbors, AND your pet and obey the leash law.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors Save Lives

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has launched a community outreach effort to inform community residents that on July 1, 2011 many homes will be required to install carbon monoxide detectors.

The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that carbon monoxide kills approximately 500 people each year and injures another 20,000 people nationwide. In an effort to prevent these accidental deaths and injuries, the California legislature enacted SB 183 (Lowenthal) which mandates owners of dwelling intended for human occupancy to install carbon monoxide devices in existing dwelling units having a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or attached garage.

CO devices must be installed in all specified single-family dwellings by July 1, 2011. All other specified dwelling units must have CO devices installed by January 1, 2013.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) has developed a list of certified CO devices that meet the requirement specified within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010.

For a complete list of currently approved devices please visit the SFM's website at http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting_bml_searchcotest.php. Under the search categories provided select Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors for a complete list of devices.

Further details contained within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010:

- Owners shall install CO devices in a manner consistent with building standards applicable to new construction for the relevant type of occupancy if it is technically feasible. See the 2010 California Building Code, Section 420.4, and the 2010 California Residential Code, Section R315.
- CO devices shall produce a distinct audible alarm.
- CO devices may be combined with a smoke detector, if the combination device meets all specified SFM listing and approval requirements.
- Violation of Health & Safety Code Section 17926 is an infraction punishable by a maximum fine of two-hundred dollars for each offense.

- A local enforcement agency shall provide the property owner a 30-day notice to correct.
- Local jurisdictions are authorized to adopt ordinances requiring CO devices if the ordinance is consistent with the requirement of this bill.

For a full list of this legislation's stipulations please review the Department of Housing and Community Development's Information Bulletin 2011-01 at <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/shl/infobulls/IB2011-01.pdf>.

Town Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

In 2003, the Town implemented an outdoor lighting ordinance to eliminate light pollution and preserve views of our starry skies. The outdoor lighting ordinance was adopted to encourage residents to administer a lighting system that not only promotes public safety and night-time ambiance but to maximize energy conservation. To eliminate glare and light trespass into neighboring properties and roadways, the outdoor lighting fixtures on your property should be shielded and re-directed to shine downward or changed out to a lower wattage. More information about responsible lighting can be found at www.crlaction.org.