



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town News

Town e-News: Week of May 25, 2015

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – June 3

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2015 in Suite Z beginning at 6:00 p.m. (Scheduled April 15 meeting was cancelled). Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Commission/Committee Meetings

June 2 Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 2:00 p.m.

Mountain Passes Reopen: Ebbetts, Monitor, Sonora and Tioga

Mono County, May 18, 2015 - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has removed the snow, cleared the debris and made the necessary repairs to open State Route 4 over Ebbetts Pass (SR 4), Monitor Pass (SR 89), Sonora Pass (SR 108) and Tioga Pass (SR 120).

Caltrans opened the passes for the spring season on Friday, April 17, 2015 but closed the passes last week due to weather conditions. Caltrans crews responsible for the road opening extend their best wishes for safe summer traveling to those who enjoy the recreational opportunities California has to offer.

Winter weather and road conditions can change rapidly. Motorists should expect the worst conditions and be prepared when traveling in areas subject to hazardous conditions. All vehicles, including those with four-wheel drive or snow tires should, additionally, carry chains when traveling during snowy weather.

For the latest in highway information please visit Caltrans QuickMap site at quickmap.dot.ca.gov or call the Road Condition Hotline at 1-800-427-ROAD (7623).

May is National Bike Month

May is National Bike Month, sponsored by the [League of American Bicyclists](#) and celebrated in communities from coast to coast. Established in 1956, National Bike Month is your chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling — and encourage more folks to giving biking a try. Whether you bike to work or school; ride to save money or time; pump those pedals to preserve your health or the environment; or

simply to explore your community, National Bike Month is an opportunity to celebrate the unique power of the bicycle and the many reasons we ride.

Locally, the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District is hosting a bike challenge from May 1 - 31, 2015 across Alpine, Mono and Inyo Counties and throughout Town to encourage and promote cycling for transportation, fitness and fun. Our local challenge will allow individuals and workplaces to log their miles through the National Bike Challenge website. Sign-up online at www.gbuapcd.org and click on "Log Miles" on our homepage or go to <https://nationalbikechallenge.org>. Participants must provide their name, email, zip code, birthdate and accept The National Bike Challenge Waiver, Terms and Conditions. Have fun and we'll see you on your bike!

Town of Mammoth Lakes to Host the 2015 Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular at Crowley Lake

The Town of Mammoth Lakes in partnership with Crowley Lake Fish Camp is proud to once again host the annual Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular at Crowley Lake. The Independence Day fireworks show promises to be a bright and striking display of color in the Eastern Sierra night sky. This year's "Sky Concert" will propel over 737 shells into the Eastern Sierra sky for a mesmerizing 20 minutes beginning at approximately 9:15 p.m. (weather permitting). Funding for this year's Fourth of July show was generously donated by individual community members and business owners, second homeowners, L.D.C. and from the Town's general fund.

Since incorporating in 1984, the Town of Mammoth Lakes has been celebrating Independence Day with a spectacular fireworks show. The Town contracts Pyro Spectaculars by Souza to light up the sky above Crowley Lake. Souza is well known for doing some of the largest and most spectacular fireworks displays in the world.

Admission to the Fourth of July Fireworks Show is once again only \$25.00 per car, RV, or truck (excludes camping), and \$5.00 per individual/bike (walking/riding).

Prior to the spectacular fireworks show, kick back on the Crowley Lake Fish Camp lawn and enjoy live music from local favorites "Lava Moon" from 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. The new Crowley Lake Fish Camp restaurant: Pelican Point Grill will be serving BBQ and Holiday specials including cold beverages from Noon - 8:30 p.m.

Camp permitting at Crowley Lake Fish Camp for the Fourth of July begins Thursday, July 2, 2015 and ends Monday July 6, 2015. The entire lake shore at the South Landing of Crowley Lake is open for camping, and the fee is \$125 per vehicle including the fireworks show for the 5-days. The North Landing/North Shore of Crowley Lake will be closed beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, 2015, thru 12:00 p.m. Monday, July 6, 2015.

To ensure a safe holiday experience for everyone, please observe the following:

- No personal fireworks are permitted within Mono County, including the Inyo National Forest (INF), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. Be smart; leave the fireworks to the professionals!
- Due to EXTREME FIRE DANGER, the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District, Long Valley Fire Department, Mammoth Lakes Police Department, California Highway Patrol and Mono County Sheriff will enforce a "zero tolerance" policy with respect to the possession and use of fireworks. Fireworks violations will be strictly enforced.

- Please obey road closure and no parking signs. Parking is NOT permitted along Highway 395 or Crowley Lake Drive at any time. Do not park in fire lanes.
- The Mono County Sheriff's Office will be patrolling on Crowley Lake during the fireworks show. Do not boat within 100 yards of the fireworks detonation site at Hilton Bay and proper night-time navigation lighting is required.
- Help us keep Mono County clean. Please use designated trash facilities.
- Do not drink and drive. Please use a designated driver or plan to camp at Crowley Lake Fish Camp.

Please enjoy our national holiday in a safe and responsible manner. For more information, please contact the Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222, or visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

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.

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Total Average Reported Projected Occupancies are as follows:

- Friday, May 22, 2015 = 56%
- Saturday, May 23, 2015 = 72%

(60% same weekend in 2014, up in 2015, Memorial Weekend)

- Sunday, May 24, 2015 = 62%
- Monday, May 25, 2015 = 21%
- Tuesday, May 26, 2015 = 17%
- Wednesday, May 27, 2015 = 18%
- Thursday, May 28, 2015 = 24%

(27% same midweek in 2014, up in 2015)

Hotels/Motels/B&B:

- Friday-Saturday = 74%
- Sunday-Thursday = 33%

Condos:

- Friday-Saturday = 51%
- Sunday-Thursday = 22%

Outlook for the following weekend:

- Friday, May 29 2015 = 27%
- Saturday, May 30, 2015 = 29%

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.

Mammoth Lakes Police Department Weekly Report

Calls For Service/Officer Observations

122, including 0 business/building checks

Crime/Incident Reports

15 reports, including 3 arrests

Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions

29 stops; 2 citations; 2 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 0 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

3 incidents; 0 reports

Wildlife

2 calls; 0 reports

Community News

Reds Meadow Road to Open May 22

The Reds Meadow Road is scheduled to open on Friday, May 22, 2015 weather permitting. Although California is in its fourth year in a severe drought, late spring storms, including those forecast for this week, may affect the opening of the road. While the road is still scheduled to open, visitors should expect that the road will not open or will re-close if winter storms prevent safe travel to the Reds Meadow Valley.

The Reds Meadow area is a popular recreation destination for visitors and locals alike and provides access to the Devils Postpile National Monument, trailheads that access the John Muir Trail and destinations such as Agnew Meadow, Thousand Island Lakes, Rainbow Falls, and the Minarets. Fishing, camping, horseback riding, and the Reds Meadow Resort are also popular with visitors.

Employees with the Inyo National Forest and Devils Postpile National Monument have been working to clear snow and trees from roads, trails, and campgrounds as well as repairing potholes, and currently working on water and sewer systems.

The Devils Postpile National Monument will open with the opening of the road. Bring potable water as the water systems are not yet fully functional. Vault toilets will be available.

Camping opportunities will be available in the Reds Meadow Valley through the US Forest Service. Devils Postpile Campground is anticipated to open on June 12th and be open until early to mid-September.

The mandatory Reds Meadow Shuttle Bus, operated by the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, will run for Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting. Only exception vehicles will be allowed to drive into the Reds Meadow Valley.

After Memorial Day weekend, the mandatory shuttle bus will not resume operation until June 13th and run through Labor Day.

The roads in the Reds Meadow Valley are narrow and visibility is limited. All vehicles should use caution on both the Reds Meadow and Devils Postpile roads. For more information about Devils Postpile National Monument, visit nps.gov/depo, or contact Devils Postpile at 760-934-2289 or at depo_visitor_information@nps.gov

Hayden Cabin Opens May 23

WHAT: Season opening of the Mammoth Museum at the Hayden Cabin

WHERE: 5489 Sherwin Creek Road, Mammoth Lakes

WHEN: Saturday, May 23, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. daily Memorial weekend through the end of September annually

COST: **FREE** – \$2.00 donation suggested & memberships encouraged.

CONTACT INFO: (760) 934-6918 www.mammothmuseum.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/www.mammothmuseum.org

The Hayden Cabin/Mammoth Museum is housed in the original 1920's log cabin built by Emmet Hayden, map maker of the Eastern Sierra. It contains many artifacts from that period as well as historic photographs and displays.

The museum is located in a park-like setting beside the meandering waters of Mammoth Creek. This is the perfect spot to enjoy a picnic and reflect on times past when the pace of life was just a little slower.

Breakfast with a Botanist – May 23

Interested in learning more about which flowers are blooming in the Eastern Sierra? Spend the morning of Saturday, May 23 with delicious baked goods and coffee, talking about the botanical basics of how to identify wildflowers. We'll then go for a walk up the incomparable McGee Canyon, look at common wildflowers, and discover what's blooming. Perfect for the family, beginner, or the experienced botany enthusiast! Make sure to bring sturdy shoes, water, and appropriate attire for the walk up McGee. Meet at the East Side Bake Shop at 1561 Crowley Lake Drive, exit off of Hwy 395 at McGee Creek. Contact Friends of the Inyo at (760) 873-6500 or email info@friendsoftheinyo.org for more information.

National Trails Day - Convict Lake: June 6

Join Friends of the Inyo to celebrate National Trails Day at Convict Lake! Volunteers will assist the Friends of the Inyo Stewardship Crew with basic trail maintenance, a lake shore clean up, and planting live willows to help keep the lake and its riparian habitats healthy.

Meet at south trailhead parking lot at 8:30 am for a free bagel breakfast. Work will begin at 9am. Please come prepared for any weather conditions and to get your hands dirty. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, and work appropriate clothing. For more information call 760-873-6500 or email info@friendsoftheinyo.org.

Inyo National Forest Shares Results of Wilderness Evaluation – June 9

The Inyo National Forest announces an open house to share the results of the wilderness evaluation process as part of the completion of forest plan revision.

The informal open house will be Tuesday, June 9, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. at the US Forest Service Supervisors Office, 351 Pacu Lane, Bishop, CA 93514. Interested parties can stop by and talk to staff and view maps.

There will be a brief presentation to help explain the process the US Forest Service used. This meeting is informational and there is no comment period associated with it.

"I made a commitment to my communities that I would share the results of the wilderness evaluation with them prior to the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)" said Ed Armenta Forest Supervisor. "I am proud of the work of my staff to meet the intent of the evaluation. We neither advocated for or against wilderness, rather we simply evaluated which lands meet the criteria for proposed wilderness."

The 2012 Planning Rule requires forests to identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and rivers suitable for inclusion under Wild and Scenic River Act (WSRA). The Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo national forests were selected as early adopters; they will be the first forests to revise their land management plans using the 2012 National Forest System Planning Rule. The planning rule provides the framework for Forest Service land management plans across the nation.

Staff will share the status of the Wild and Scenic River evaluation that is currently being reviewed by the planning team. If the review is complete, those results will be shared at the open house as well.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) decision document of the revised forest plans will describe any recommendations for wilderness.

Congress holds the authority to designate wilderness. If areas are recommended for wilderness, the responsible official will include forest plan direction to protect ecological and social characteristics so that the wilderness character of the recommended area(s) is not reduced before congressional action on the recommendation can take place.

There will be an opportunity for formal comment when the DEIS is released. The Forest Service expects to publish a "Notice of Availability of DEIS" in the fall 2015, which begins a 90-day public comment period.

More detail on the wilderness evaluation process can be found here. Additional information regarding these forest plan revisions is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/r5earlyadopters>.

Glass Mountain Summit Hike – June 13

Join Friends of the Inyo as we explore the 17,000 acre Glass Mountain Roadless Area on a hike to the peak's prominent summit. This is a strenuous all day trip, steep off trail with sometimes loose and rocky travel. The summit has extreme views of the Sierras, Whites and adjoining valleys. This roadless area is a potential recommended wilderness area under the Inyo National Forest's plan revision process. Estimated hiking time is 6 hours. Meet at Sawmill campground. For directions and to RSVP email Jora@friendsoftheinyo.org or call 760-873-6500.

Recreation Department Highlights

Lap Swimming Underway at Whitmore Pool

The 2015 swim season for Whitmore Pool is underway. Lap Swimming is offered five mornings a week, Monday through Friday from 6:30 - 8:30am, and on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 5:30-7:00pm. Cost is \$4.75 for drop-in, season passes: EB \$130/REG \$140, or a 5-punch card for only \$22. Reduced senior (65+) rates are \$3 for drop-in and \$14 for 5-punch cards.

The Whitmore Pool opens to the public for recreation swimming and a FREE swim day on Saturday, June 23, 2015. Beginning on Monday, June 22, midweek transit service to the Whitmore Pool will commence. To celebrate this expanded service, a promotional 10-ride Punch Pass will be offered for only \$10 (\$2.00 round trip). Regular, one-way fee is \$3.00 for adults and only \$2.50 for children. For additional information please visit ESTA at www.estransit.com or call (760) 924-3184.

"Little Sluggers" Instructional T-Ball – May 6

This is a great chance to introduce your child to the wonderful sport of baseball. This program, for kids ages 2 - 5, will happen on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 – 6:00 p.m. (at the MES field) and is designed to teach the fundamentals of baseball in a clinic and mock-game setting. Program is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, May 6, and will run through June 10. For more information call John C. at (760) 934-8989 ext. 234. Volunteer parent helpers welcome. Sign up online at www.mammothrecreation.com.

Notify Me!

Receive updates sent directly to your email or phone from the Town of Mammoth Lakes by subscribing to "Notify Me." Found on the left side of www.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.

Upcoming & On-Going Events...

- May 6 Little Sluggers, MES, Every Wed, 5:15-6PM
- May 7 Drop-in Gymnastics temporarily on hold
- May 11 Lap Swim commences at the Whitmore Pool
- June 13 Whitmore Pool Opening Day!
- June 20 Mammoth RecZone Opening Day!

Public Service Announcements

Inyo National Forest Announces Firewood Season

The Inyo National Forest announces that the opening of personal use fuelwood season starts Friday, May 1st. Fuelwood permits will soon go on sale at local U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations and Visitor Centers beginning Wednesday, April 29th.

Maps showing areas open to cutting are available with a purchased fuelwood permit. Fuelwood permits are still \$15.00 per cord with a two cord minimum purchase.

Initial supplies of firewood can be found at Hartley and Reversed Peak Forest Management Areas located on the fuelwood map. Other areas may be opened later this season.

To better serve visitors, the U.S. Forest Service is requesting those persons interested in purchasing fuelwood permits do so between the hours of 8:00 am-11:30 am and 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm. Fuelwood permits may be obtained at the following locations:

- Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (SAVC) in Lee Vining, (760) 647-3044
- Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center in Mammoth Lakes, (760) 924-5500
- White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop, (760) 873-2500
- Interagency Visitor Center in Lone Pine, (760) 876-6222

Mono Basin SAVC will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays until May 17th. The White Mountain Visitor Center, currently under remodel, is expected to re-open by April 29th. Please call ahead to your local visitor center to confirm hours of operations.

Permit holders are advised to check in with their local U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations and Visitor Centers for current conditions and accessibility. The Inyo National Forest will institute shut down days (for chainsaw use) based upon daily Project Activity Level. Permit holders can call (760) 873-2555 for information on activity levels.

The Fuelwood Strategy, developed with public participation in 1998, continues to be implemented this year. Large ends of all downed logs (those portions greater than 30 inches in diameter) are required to remain on the forest floor for wildlife habitat and recycling of soil nutrients. The majority of funds collected from permit sales are directly returned to the forest for continued implementation of this program. Comments on this Strategy and Fuelwood program are always welcome. For further information on the fuelwood program, contact your local Ranger Station or Visitor Center.

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

Round Fire Recovery Information

On Friday, February 6, 2015 at approximately 2:07 p.m. a fire started on the westside of HWY 395 at the Sherwin Grade. Gusty and erratic winds boosted the fire and within a matter of hours the fire swept through the communities of Paradise and Swall Meadows destroying 40 residence & outbuildings with additional damage to five residences.

CAL FIRE from San Bernardino were the lead response agency and were supported by the USFS, BLM, Wheeler Crest Fire Dept., Paradise Fire Dept., MLFD, Long Valley, Inyo and Mono County Sheriff, CHP, Cal Trans, and Cal OES. Over 250 fire personnel responded to the fire including 20 engines, one helicopter, four dozers and two water tenders.

As of February 11, 2015, 7,000 acres were burned and containment is at 98%. All evacuations have been lifted and the repopulation for Paradise and Swall Meadows residents began on Monday at 4:00 p.m.

During the fire a large portion of Verizon's infrastructure was damaged resulting in a loss of wireless and internet service to Mammoth Lakes. Thanks to the hardworking Verizon crews, cell and internet service was restored to both Bishop and Mammoth Lakes on February 9, 2015.

Consider helping those in need who lost everything in the fire by making a donation online at <http://www.gofundme.com/roundfirerelief>. Funds donated through the gofundme page will be deposited in an account at Alta One in Bishop. The account will be held by the Bishop Chamber of Commerce. Every amount, no matter how big or how small, will help our friends, neighbors and community get back on their feet. Over \$ 54,912 has been generously donated so far.

Round Fire Recovery Recourses

Cal OES has invited representatives from the Department of Insurance, State Contractor's License Board, Franchise Tax Board, Department of Motor Vehicles, Board of Equalization, and Public Health Vital Record to be at the Crowley Lake Community Center located at 458 S. Landing Road, Crowley Lake, CA 93546 beginning Thursday, February 12 through Sunday, February 15, 2015. Hours of operations will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Any changes or updates to the days and hours of operations for the Local Assistance Center will be posted to the Mono

County website at <https://gis.mono.ca.gov/roundfire/#/>. For additional information, please contact Cathy Young, Mono County Emergency Shelter Coordinator County of Mono Department of Social Services at (760) 924-1780.

For up to the date information on the Round Fire, including local assistance and grief support resources provided by the American Red Cross at the Crowley Lake Community Center and the Salvation Army at the Tri County Fairgrounds please visit: <https://gis.mono.ca.gov/roundfire/#/>.

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer: Mono County Sheriff's Office at (760) 616-4428, or Stuart Brown Recreation Manager and Public Information Officer for the Town of Mammoth Lakes at sbrown@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov or (760) 709-2481.

Mammoth Lakes Courthouse Further Furlough Day Closures and Other Service Reductions

In August, the Superior Court of Mono County issued public notice that it would close the Mammoth

Lakes Courthouse every third Friday, from October 31 2014 through the remainder of the fiscal year (13 days). Unfortunately, the Court recently learned that it will not receive supplemental funding it had hoped for. This means that the court must extend its Friday closures to include four additional dates (a total of 17 closure days). These will be unpaid furlough days for court staff. The following is the revised list of Friday closure dates (with the new dates bolded and underlined):

- 2014: October 31, November 14, December 5, December 26
- 2015: January 9, January 16, January 30, February 13, February 20, March 12, March 13, April 3, April 24, May 15, May 22, June 5, June 26.

In addition, increasing workloads and reduced staffing resources compel the court to reduce services to the public beginning January 16, 2015, as follows:

- Reduced Court Clerks' Office Hours—Half Days: Currently, the Mammoth Lakes Courthouse Clerks' Office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Beginning on January 16, 2015, those hours will be reduced. The office will be open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and on Tuesday and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Clerks' Office Telephone Hours Eliminated: Beginning on January 16, 2015, court clerks will no longer be able to provide assistance by telephone to the general public. The public may come into the office in person, or submit requests by mail, fax, or e-mail. Any requests submitted by mail should be addressed to: Mono County Superior Court, P.O. Box 1037, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Fax requests may be directed to: 760-924-5419. E-mails may be sent to: superiorcourt@monocourt.org.

On the 17 furlough days listed above, and during the portion of the regular business day that the clerks' office is closed on or after January 16, 2015, a judge will be available to conduct any criminal arraignments and examinations as required by statute, and to sign any orders or documents on an emergency basis. A drop box also will be available at the courthouse to accept same day filings on closure days, and after January 16, 2015 on all other non-holiday week days. All documents deposited before 4:00 pm will receive a same day date and time stamp.

If you would like to submit a written comment regarding the reduced services described in this notice, please address them to: Hector Gonzalez, Court Executive Officer; by e-mail to: SuperiorCourt@monocourt.org; or by regular mail to: P.O. Box 1037, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

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.