



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**

P.O. Box 1609

Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546

Ph: (760) 934-8989

Fax: (760) 934-8608

## **Town News**

### **Town e-News – Week of April 8, 2013**

#### **News from the Town Manager**

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##### **Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Committee Meeting – April 8**

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Committee (MLTSCC) will be held on Monday, April 8, 2013 beginning at 3:00 p.m. in Suite Z. To review the meeting agenda please visit the following page: <http://ca-mammothlakes.civicplus.com/index.aspx?nid=462>

##### **Recreation Commission Meeting – April 9**

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in Suite Z. To review the meeting agenda please visit the following page: <http://ca-mammothlakes.civicplus.com/index.aspx?nid=92>

##### **Town Council Meeting – April 17**

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2013. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

##### **Town Announces Results of Mid-Year Budget Review for Fiscal Year 2012-13, including Anticipated Savings in the General Fund**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes released the results of a mid-year financial review for the current fiscal year, which will end on June 30, 2013.

The Town's analysis shows an anticipated General Fund surplus of nearly \$1 million by year-end, all due to unexpected one-time events, such as:

1. Return of \$350,000 in MLLA-related legal retainers.
2. Savings of over \$300,000 in the Police Department, due to early officer departures in the current fiscal year.
3. Higher Gas Tax revenue from the State, coupled with lower road expenses.

The Town is pleased that its financial health continues to improve, particularly in light of the recent draconian cuts to the budget, following a settlement with MLLA.

"The improving fiscal landscape of the Town is certainly a reflection of the financial discipline instituted by our leaders and implemented by our staff," said Town Manager Marianna Marysheva-Martinez.

The Town will discuss the mid-year financial review at the 5:00pm meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2013, in the Town Council Chambers (Suite Z in the Minaret Mall). Included with the Town's mid-year report is information pertaining to the next fiscal year planning, including: (a) introduction of budget principles and budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2013-14; and (b) a proposed schedule of meetings for the Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget.

### **Town Amends Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code Regarding Woodstove Inserts**

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

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

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

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

### **Town Manager's Monthly Meet & Greet With Local Businesses**

In an attempt to establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue with local businesses, Town Manager Marianna Marysheva-Martinez will be meeting with business owners and representatives monthly through an effort organized in partnership with the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

Marianna will be available for informal discussions with businesses from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. after the Chamber's monthly luncheons, which take place every fourth Tuesday, at different locations throughout town.

March's luncheon and the informal discussion with Marianna is taking place on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at the old New York Bagel Restaurant located in The Village at Mammoth. April's luncheon and talk with the Town Manager will be at CJ's Grill on old Mammoth Road, on Tuesday, April 23, 2013.

Please contact the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce at (760) 934-6717 or the Town Manager's Office at (760) 934-8989, ext. 223 for future months' dates and locations.

We encourage all businesses to attend.

### **Calls For Service/Officer Observations**

136, including 0 business/building checks

### **Crime/Incident Reports**

17 reports, including 4 arrests

### **Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions**

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

### **Animal Control Incidents**

4 incidents; 1 report

### **Wildlife**

3 calls; 0 reports

### **Projected Average Resort Occupancy**

Friday, April 5, 2013 - Saturday, April 6, 2013 = 57%

(58% same weekend in 2012, down 1% in 2013)

Sunday, April 7, 2013 - Thursday, April 11, 2013 = 30%

(42% same midweek in 2012, down 12% in 2013)

Hotels/Motels/B&B: 64% (Friday-Saturday) 32% (Sunday-Thursday)

Condos: 49% (Friday-Saturday) 29% (Sunday-Thursday)

Follow 'TownofMammoth' daily on Twitter at [www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us).

Disclaimer: Social media communications regarding Town business may be subject to disclosure. Social media is not the official method of communicating with the Town. Please contact Town staff via telephone, in writing or in person.

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## **Community News**

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### **Early Spring Brings Changing Forest Conditions and Cautions**

A below average snowpack and unseasonably warm temperatures are rapidly changing the mix of recreation opportunities on the Mammoth and Mono Lake Ranger Districts. Excellent skiing conditions remain above 8500 feet, including skiing opportunities at Mammoth Mountain and Tamarack Cross Country Ski Areas.

However, lower elevations and areas further from the Sierra Crest are seeing signs of an early spring. Recreation opportunities usually pursued in the summer months, such as, hiking, off-highway vehicle riding and mountain biking are quickly becoming available.

The Forest Service would like to provide the following updates and remind forest users of a few safety and resource protection measures as you visit the Forest this spring:

1. Groomed Snowmobile Trails are closed - The snowmobile trail network maintained by the Forest Service with support from California State Parks is no longer being groomed. Many trails are partially or completely melted out and signs and route markers have been removed. To protect forest resources and minimize erosion, the USFS asks that snowmobiles stay off of trails and forest areas that are not consistently snow-covered.
2. Digital 395 - Construction activities associated with the installation of fiber optic cables, known as "Digital 395" will be taking place between Mammoth Lakes and June Lake over the next several weeks. Construction may require plowing and the temporary closure of some roads within two miles west of Highway 395. If recreating or traveling in this area, please be prepared to adjust your plans.
3. Stay on the Road - Many roads and trails this time of year have snow berms, drifts, downed trees, rocks, and other obstacles that prevent travel by wheeled vehicles. Travel off road to bypass obstacles is prohibited. Users should either remove obstacles if safe to do so, or turn around upon encountering such obstacles, then report conditions to the Forest Service so that obstacles can be removed.
4. Dangerous Lake Ice - Many Sierran lakes did not experience a hard pre-snow freeze this winter. Much of the lake ice is "rotten" and - while appearing solid and frozen - may be a serious danger to anyone attempting to walk, ski, snowshoe or travel on. The Forest Service advises visitors to avoid traveling over snow-covered lakes.

Barring a return of winter conditions, Forest Service personnel will be working to open campgrounds, day use recreation facilities, and roads and trails as quickly as conditions allow. Many lakes will be free of ice by fishing opener and conditions are shaping up to be excellent. Both the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center are now open, and staff is available to answer your recreation questions. The USFS wishes everyone a safe and happy spring!

For additional information, please contact the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center at 760-924-5500, the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center at 760-647-3044, or visit the Inyo National Forest website at [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo).

### **Alabama Hills Day Hike & Volunteer Project - April 13**

Please join Friends of the Inyo, the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group, and the BLM on Saturday, April 13 for a 3-hour combination interpretive hike and volunteer project as part of Alabama Hills Day. The hike will be to the scenic Eye of the Alabama Arch and include a talk about the geologic events that shaped the Alabama Hills, then continue over a pass to a flat with terrific views of the hills and the Sierra. Rakes and work gloves will then be provided in order to remove some off road vehicle tracks. The hike will continue with more scenic vistas. Where & When: Meet 9:00 a.m. at the corner of Whitney Portal and Movie Roads. Bring at least a liter of

water and wear appropriate footwear. More info: Dave Kirk, BLM, (760) 876-6210 or [andrew@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:andrew@friendsoftheinyo.org).

### **Earth Day in Bishop City Park – April 20**

Mark your calendars now to celebrate Earth Day 2013 at the Bishop City Park on Saturday, April 20. Friends of the Inyo will be among the many booths in the park at this annual event sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bishop Sunrise. There will be live music and entertainment from local bands, an "over the top" human-powered Ferris wheel, arts & crafts, food booths, kids games, a t-shirt designing contest, and information displays. Show off your skills and creativity in the "ReFashioned" Fashion Show, where used clothing is repurposed into something unique and wearable. **When:** 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Where:** Bishop City Park, 688 North Main Street **More info:** Email [bloggingbishop@gmail.com](mailto:bloggingbishop@gmail.com)

## **Recreation Highlights**

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### **2013 Measure R Spring Award Now Open**

The application period for the 2013 Measure R Spring Award opened on **Monday, April 1, 2013** and will close on **Wednesday, May 1, 2013** at 5:00 p.m. The Recreation Commission is scheduled to review the applications on May 7, 2013 and make their funding recommendations for Town Council on Tuesday, June 4, 2013.

All Measure R information, downloads and reference documents can be found on the Town's website under the dedicated 2013 Measure R Spring Award Page: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=518>.

The Measure R spring process is intended to cover unanticipated emergency or maintenance/administration costs of projects already awarded in the fall of 2012, but can also include funding for new awards. Preference has been given to previously awarded projects and once-in-a-lifetime or time-limited opportunities.

The Measure R, or "Mammoth Lakes Recreation, Trails and Parks Investment Initiative," Ordinance (No. 08-01) adopted by the Mammoth Lakes Town Council on February 20, 2008 specifically designates the use of Measure R funds for planning, construction, operation, maintenance, programming and administration of all trails, parks and recreation facilities managed by the Town of Mammoth Lakes without supplanting existing parks and recreation facility maintenance funds.

Applicants are asked to review the *Measure R Applicant Information* document that provides additional information on the application process. If your organization was a recipient of previous Measure R funds, the Recreation Commission requires each organization demonstrate that they have used the funds appropriately and for the purpose(s) it was awarded by completing a Performance Report.

Applicants are also required to cite references in the following Town adopted plans:

- Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- Trail System Master Plan
- RecStrats II – Implementation Strategy

All 2013 Measure R spring applicants are required to meet with staff prior to completing their application.

For questions regarding the Measure R Spring funding award or to schedule an appointment, please contact Stuart Brown, Recreation Manager (760) 934-8989 ext. 210.

### **Mammoth Sharks Information Night**

The Mammoth Sharks will be having an information night/registration/meet and greet Thursday, April 11, 5:30pm at the Mammoth Mountain RV Park. Please come and meet the new coaches (Lindsay is due June 24, so she'll only be with us until mid-June) and hear what's new. We have ordered a sizing "kit" from SwimOutlet.com so you can have your child(ren) try before you buy. If you have a suit, still in good condition, that your child has outgrown, bring it as well. Maybe it will be the perfect fit for someone else. We will also be taking pre-paid orders for Sharks logo wear.

Visit <http://www.eteamz.com/mammothsharks/> for all the registration forms. Please print them and bring them to the meeting. We will once again be accepting credit cards, as well as checks. Please let us know if you have any questions. Registration notices should be coming home this week for students attending MES. MMS and MHS students will hear reminders in the morning announcements. See you Thursday night!

### **Gymnastics/Tumbling Program**

**NEW SCHEDULE:** Gymnastics resumes at the Community Center on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 with new gymnastics coach Melissa Perkins!

This year-round program is designed to introduce children from 3-18 years old the wonderful and exciting sport of gymnastics. 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 programs are available:

- 3 yr. olds – Saturday: 8:30 – 9:15am
- 4-5 yr. olds – Saturday: 9:15 – 10:00am
- 5-8 yr. olds – Saturday: 10:00 – 11:00am
- 8-12+ yr. olds – **Friday:** 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. & **Saturday: 11:00am-12:15pm**
- 8-12+ yr. olds – Tuesday: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Invitation only.

Five session Punch Cards are available for \$60 for the first family member and \$55 for each additional family member. Private lessons are available upon request, please inquire with the instructor. Drop-ins cost \$15 per session are welcome and encouraged - First one is FREE! Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for more information or to register your aspiring Gymnast!

### **Zumba Fitness**

Party yourself into shape with 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. Cost: 10 punch-\$77.50; 5 punch-\$42.50; Drop-In rate \$10 per class and your first class is only \$5!

## **Public Service Announcements**

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### **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.

### **Boxer Applauds President Obama for Signing the 'Mt. Andrea Lawrence Designation Act'**

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) today praised President Obama for signing her bill, the Mt. Andrea Lawrence Designation Act, into law. This legislation will name a mountain peak in Mono County "Mt. Andrea Lawrence" in honor of the renowned

conservationist, three-time Olympian and former member of the Mono County Board of Supervisors who passed away in 2009. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent, and passed the House on a 408 to seven vote.

"I am so pleased that President Obama signed this bill honoring the life and contributions of one of Mono County's most distinguished residents," Senator Boxer said. "Andrea Lawrence dedicated her life to protecting the treasures of the Eastern Sierra. Her passion and achievements were larger than life, which is why I cannot think of a more fitting tribute than to name this majestic peak in her honor."

Andrea Mead Lawrence was a three-time Olympian who remains the only American double Olympic gold medalist in alpine skiing. She was inducted into the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1958 at the age of 25, and in 2002, sports writer and documentary filmmaker Bud Greenspan called her "the greatest Winter Olympian of all time."

Lawrence was also a committed conservationist who worked to protect and restore Mammoth Lakes, Mono Lake, Bodie State Historic Park and other important natural and cultural resources of the Eastern Sierra. She served for 16 years on the Mono County Board of Supervisors as well as on the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District and in 2003 founded the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers to promote environmental protection and economic vitality in the region.

Peak 12,240, previously identified only by its elevation, is located in Mono County near the Tuolumne County border. It is on the border of the Ansel Adams Wilderness, just east of Yosemite National Park. The John Muir trail passes close to the peak.

Senator Boxer and Congressman Buck McKeon (R-Santa Clarita) – who sponsored identical House legislation – first introduced the legislation during the 111th Congress. Supporters of this bill include Andrea Lawrence's family, the Mono County Board of Supervisors, the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the Mono County Democratic Central Committee, the Mammoth Town Council, the Mono Lake Committee, the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers, the Sierra Nevada Alliance, the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Town of Mammoth Lakes Council Member Wendy Sugimura and former Mono County Supervisor Tim Alpers.

### **Winter Parking Ordinance – Nov.1 – April 30**

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department would like to remind residents, visitors, and business owners that parking is prohibited on Town streets between November 1 through April 30. Obstructing snow removal equipment is also prohibited.

The Police Department only enforces these sections when it is snowing, or after a storm while snow removal equipment is in operation. Motorists should be aware of weather forecasts and make sure their vehicles are off the street when snow removal equipment is operating or may be operating. Any accumulation of snow means the plows will be out and the snow removal is not complete until the snow blowers have removed berms created by the plows.

Vehicles should always be parked behind the snow stakes. Operating snow removal equipment is complicated and when there are heavy accumulations of snow, vehicles parked partially on the street side of the stakes cannot always be observed. A passenger vehicle struck by snow removal equipment can receive substantial damage and if the vehicle is parked on the street side of the stakes, the accident is the fault of the driver of the illegally parked vehicle.



Please help the Town of Mammoth Lakes in its snow removal operations by parking legally during Winter months.

### **Reds Meadow Area Open for Winter Use**

Logging operations in the Reds Meadow Valley have been completed for removing down trees from the wind event of last November 30, 2012. Consequently, the area closures in the Reds Meadow Valley will no longer be in effect. While the Reds Meadow Road is closed to wheeled motor vehicles for the season due to snow, access to Reds Meadow Valley will now be open to winter public use, including snowshoer, skier, snowmobile and pedestrian traffic.

Before travel into the Reds Meadow Valley, visitors should be aware of winter conditions and hazards in the area. The Reds Meadow Road is not maintained during winter, and may be subject to avalanche hazard. No services are available in Reds Meadow Valley during the winter. In case of need for emergency communication, public pay phones are located at the Reds Meadow Resort, Devils Postpile National Monument Ranger Station, and across from the Pumice Flat Group Campground.

For more information, please call the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center at (760) 924-5500 or visit the Welcome Center at 2510 Hwy 203 next to the Mammoth Ranger Station.

### **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.

### **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/>

### **California Mandates Recycling for Business and Multi-Family Residential Locations**

A new State of California Bill (AB 341) directed by CalRecycle mandating commercial recycling in California goes into effect July 1, 2012. The Town of Mammoth Lakes will be providing education and outreach to help the community comply with the new regulations.

The goal of AB 341 is to increase the statewide recycling rates to 75% by 2020. Starting July 1 2012, businesses and public entities that generate four cubic yards or more of waste per week, including multi-family units of five or more will be required to recycle. The purpose of this new law is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting commercial solid waste to recycling efforts while expanding opportunities for additional recycling services and recycling manufacturing facilities in California.

Please use the following link for additional information provided by CalRecycle that addresses the "Frequently Asked Questions:" <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/Recycling/FAQ.htm>.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML), Sierra Conservation Project (SCP) and Mammoth Disposal (MD) are taking active steps to assist businesses and multi-family residences to comply with the new regulations.

Brian Robinette, owner of Sierra Conservation Project commented, "This is a big step in the right direction for recycling and diverting recyclables from our local landfills. The new regulation will give the extra incentive needed to make recycling programs a reality at all Mammoth Lakes business and residential locations."

The TOML, SCP and MD have been working together for several years to develop and grow recycling programs here in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Johnny Goetz, Town of Mammoth Lakes Senior Building Inspector states, "Now is a great time for local businesses to take advantage of the numerous recycling opportunities we have available in Town. Condominium complexes can also take advantage of the TOML and SCP's recycling programs which are currently providing start-up infrastructure to the complex at no cost - while supplies last."

The TOML and SCP have applied for additional grant money to continue to offset the start-up cost for multi-family and businesses here in town. Bear proof recycling containers are provided to participating condo complexes, and are serviced by SCP.

Pat Fenton, General Manager of Mammoth Disposal added, "Recycling is at the core of the company's goal of sustainability, and it's the core of our commitment to business owners and the Town of Mammoth Lakes to meet this mandate."

The following recycling programs are currently available within the Town of Mammoth Lakes:

- Commercial cardboard recycling

- Restaurant and bar programs
- Lodging and hospitality programs
- Business recycling
- Office recycling
- Residential recycling
- Aluminum, plastic, and glass
- E-Waste
- Used oil and batteries

Some of the benefits of recycling identified by CalRecycle are creating jobs in California, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, keeping valuable materials out of landfills, and creating a healthy environment for the community and future generations by recovering natural resources.

For more information regarding recycling programs and opportunities within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, contact Johnny Goetz at (760) 934-8989 ext. 244 or [jgoetz@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](mailto:jgoetz@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us).

### **Town & MLFD Identify Potential Safety Issue**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Development Department (Town) and Mammoth Lakes Fire Department (Fire District) have identified an issue with inserted wood burning fireplace installations in town. If you have either a pellet/gas insert installation or a masonry flue/chase, these types of appliances or installations are not an issue. The issue is that wood burning inserts placed into zero clearance fireplace boxes (fireplace) with factory built metal flue pipes and wooden chases may not have adequate clearance to combustible materials (wood, plywood, and/or sheetrock behind the rock, brick, metal and/or wooden material that doesn't allow you to see on the interior surface of the fireplace façade). This issue can exist in all types of residential occupancies, from single family to multi-family projects. As a result of the clearances that may not have been met, combustible materials are igniting and several fires have resulted around town. Thus far there have been no injuries, but both the Town and Fire District feel that we cannot wait until something tragic occurs before we take necessary action. At this point both agencies are hoping to educate the town population to the concern.

The original fireplace contained fires that never obtained very high burning temperatures, due to the amount of heat that went up the flue. Once the insert was installed, the appliance burned much more efficiently causing the combustibles surrounding the original installation to be exposed to significantly greater heat levels. Another factor is the amount of use the insert is experiencing. The issue is occurring throughout town; no certain complex, no certain installer, no certain type of product, nor any other common characteristic that allows the agencies to narrow down the likely installations of concern. One complex in town had 23 of 60 units show some sign of heat damage to combustibles.

Permitted installations during the last 18 to 24 months that followed the manufacturer's installation instructions have been installed correctly. The Town and Fire District do not mean to alarm anyone, but strongly believe that this situation is serious enough to inform the public on the use and installation of these types of wood burning installations. If you need any further assistance or have any questions, please contact the Fire District at (760) 934-2300 or Town at (760) 934-8989, ex 244. For more information: <http://mammothlakesfd.intuitwebsites.com>

## **Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Frequently Asked Questions**

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

### **1. What is a transient rental?**

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

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

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

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

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

### **3. What is transient occupancy tax (TOT)?**

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

### **4. Do I need to pay TOT?**

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

### **5. Do I need a business tax certificate?**

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

### **6. Do I need a transient occupancy tax certificate?**

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

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

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

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

If all of your rentals are handled through a reservation company, most reservation companies will purchase the transient occupancy tax certificate and collect and remit the TOT to the Town. You may wish to check with your reservation company to confirm that this is being taken care of. If you rent your unit by owner in addition to renting with a property management company, you are also required to obtain a separate business tax certificate and transient occupancy tax certificate.

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

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

**10. Do I have a business tax certificate?**

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

**11. What is illegal rental activity?**

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

**12. How can I report illegal rental activity?**

If you suspect illegal rental activity, you may submit an anonymous tip via the Town's TOT hotline at (760) 934-8989 x275 or on the Town's website via the Transient Occupancy Tax information page. Please include any information that you have that would substantiate the claim, along with the property address and owner's name if you have it. You may also email [tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](mailto: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](mailto:TOT@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us).

### **Register for CodeRED**

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

1. Go to [monosheriff.org](http://monosheriff.org)
2. scroll down left side panel to CodeRED community notification system;
3. click on it and follow directions.

### **Leash Law Reminder**

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

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

### **Carbon Monoxide Detectors Save Lives**

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

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

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

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) has developed a list of certified CO devices

that meet the requirement specified within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010.

For a complete list of currently approved devices please visit the SFM's website at [http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting\\_bml\\_searchcotest.php](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](http://www.crlaction.org).