



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town News

Town e-News: Week of October 6, 2014

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – October 15

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 2014 in Suite Z beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a workshop with the Recreation Commission. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Mammoth Lakes Police Department Hires New Police Officer

On October 1, 2014, the newest member of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department was sworn in by Police Chief Dan Watson. Officer Robin Henry will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of longtime MLPD Officer Luke Schwarzkopf, who will be retiring at the end of October.

Officer Henry has 13 months of prior law enforcement experience with the Susanville Police Department. Prior to that, he spent many years with in the golf industry, having served as course superintendent at several golf courses. Officer Henry is 49 years old and the parent of two children.

Popular Woodstove Replacement Program Back For Limited Time

In response to popular demand, Mono County and Town of Mammoth Lakes officials announce the return of the Woodstove Replacement Program for property owners who want to upgrade from wood-burning stoves and fireplaces to cleaner and more efficient heating systems.

Following an agreement in early 2014 between the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Air District Board-member agencies received settlement funds allocated on a per capita basis to pay for air pollution prevention programs across their districts. With several hundred thousand dollars between them, officials from the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County chose to spend their funds on reducing wood smoke emissions from wood-burning heating systems throughout the region.

Similar to the Air District's recent CAPP-funded woodstove replacement program, funding will be provided to local retailers who are contracted by qualified property owners to provide and install the new systems. Shared costs will be required from property owners, with amounts dependent on the new system and installation requirements.

To qualify for program participation, an existing wood-burning system (woodstove or open fireplace) must be a building's primary heat source, it must be located within Mammoth Lakes or Mono County, and it must fall under one of several qualifying categories:

1. Within Mammoth Lakes: For properties purchased in 1990 or earlier* with owners who want to replace pre-1990 wood burning systems, \$1,500 may be available toward the cost of a new EPA



Phase II wood-burning system, or \$2,000 toward a new EPA certified pellet stove or gas heating system. Documented proof of property purchase date is required.

2. Newly purchased properties within Mammoth Lakes: For properties required to replace an old, noncompliant wood-burning system by Town Code §8.30.050, and changed title within last few months, \$500 may be available toward a new pellet or gas heating system. Documented proof of property purchase date and submittal of building permit is required. New woodstoves are excluded from this offering.

3. Within Mono County, excluding Mammoth Lakes: 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.

4. Within Mammoth Lakes and Mono County: For woodstoves currently being used which 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. This amount applies to replacing post-1990 woodstoves with pellet or gas (propane or kerosene) systems only.

*Mammoth Lakes properties that were purchased or changed ownership after 1990, and not upgraded to EPA certified heating systems (Phase I or Phase II) as required by Town Municipal Code 8.30, do not qualify for funding under this program.

All replaced stoves must also be freely relinquished to the retailer during new installation, and open fireplaces must be rendered inoperable.

This program is open to public participation through local participating retailers only on a 'first come, first served' basis until allocated funds are exhausted, and qualified payments for new systems will only be made to participating retailers.

All interested Mammoth Lakes and Mono County property owners are encouraged to immediately contact one of the participating retailers serving the area: Alpine Stove & Mercantile (760/934-4416); Angelo's Stove & Chimney (760/937-0860), Clean Sweep (760/934-3453); High Country Lumber (760/924-2720); Manor True Value Hardware for Mono County only (760/873-3106), and Batchelder Enterprises for kerosene heating systems (760/873-3800).

For additional program information, please call (760) 914-0388 or email ljm.isaacs@gmail.com.

Fall Road Rehabilitation & Sidewalk Construction Projects

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has contracted with Spiess Construction to perform road rehabilitation this fall in the Bluffs and sidewalk installation and road rehabilitation along Meridian Blvd. The Bluffs project is almost complete, however, the Meridian Blvd. project is still ongoing. The Town thanks you in advance for your patience and understanding during the construction period. Visit the website for additional information: <http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=284>

Meridian Boulevard Project

Asphalt grinding and paving on Meridian Blvd. from Sierra Park Road to Minaret Road will begin on Monday, September 8, 2014 and is scheduled to be completed on Friday, November 7, 2014. During the construction period, Meridian Blvd. will be reduced to two lanes. The Contractor and Town will communicate with private property owners and businesses to minimize impact. When complete, Meridian Blvd. will be one lane in each direction with a center turn lane including a sidewalk along the north side of Meridian Blvd. If you require further information about this project or have concerns during construction please contact: Haislip Hayes, Town of Mammoth Lakes, PE, Associate Civil Engineer at (760) 934-8989 ext. 254.

Town Channel 51 Has Moved!

The Town's dedicated channel, TV 51 has moved to Channel 18. The move was necessitated by Suddenlink and their local programming needs. TV Channel 18 will still continue to provide access to all the Town's meetings with live and taped coverage of Town Council, and advisory body meetings such as the Planning and Economic Development Commission and Recreation Commission. For meeting dates and times, please visit: www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Mammoth Lakes Police Department Weekly Report

Calls For Service/Officer Observations

119, including 0 business/building checks

Crime/Incident Reports

15 reports, including 5 arrests

Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions

43 stops; 4 citations; 1 parking citation; 0 skate park citations; 0 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

3 incidents; 1 report

Wildlife

5 calls; 2 reports

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Total Average Reported Projected Occupancies are as follows:

- Friday, October 3, 2014 = 41%
- Saturday, October 4, 2014 = 42%
(34% same weekend in 2013, up in 2014)
- Sunday, October 5, 2014 = 27%
- Monday, October 6, 2014 = 23%
- Tuesday, October 7, 2014 = 20%
- Wednesday, October 8, 2014 = 22%
- Thursday, October 9, 2014 = 26%
(22% same midweek in 2013, up in 2014)

Hotels/Motels/B&B:

- Friday-Saturday = 50%

- Sunday-Thursday = 27%

Condos:

- Friday-Saturday = 26%
- Sunday-Thursday = 17%

Outlook for the following weekend:

- Friday, October 10, 2014 = 40%
- Saturday, October 11, 2014 = 45%

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

Community News

Mono County Public Health Announces Ebola Readiness

Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that there is a confirmed case of Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola) in Texas. The Health Department would like to reassure all residents of Mono County that there are no suspected cases of Ebola here in the county, or in the states of California and Nevada.

"We do not anticipate an outbreak of Ebola to occur here, however if a suspected case of Ebola should occur, the Public Health Department is prepared and equipped to swiftly respond," said Rick Johnson, M.D., MPH, Health Officer. "Public Health has been preparing for a possible case of Ebola."

As part of Public Health's readiness, the Department is taking the proactive steps of providing information about Ebola, its diagnosis, and the management of suspected cases to health care providers throughout the county. In the event of a single case or even multiple cases of illness, Public Health and its hospital partners have the ability to identify and diagnose any suspected Ebola case through public health laboratories, isolate any patient with a confirmed diagnosis, provide appropriate care with strict infection control, and work with those who have had contact with the patient. The hospital has the ability to provide a patient his or her own room and bathroom, and is able to isolate that patient and provide competent and complete medical care for Ebola. We are also linked with other referral centers that are equipped to handle transfers to referral centers out of our area.

"It is important to note that the risk of spreading Ebola is very low in the U.S. and in Mono County. Ebola patients can only spread the disease when they have symptoms, and a person 'catches' this illness only when they have direct contact with an infected person's body fluids. Avoiding direct contact with the patient and his or her fluids protects others from infection," said Dr. Johnson.

The CDC and Public Health will be working with the Mammoth Yosemite Airport to respond if an international traveler is suspected of having Ebola. People should avoid unnecessary travel to countries in West Africa that are currently affected by the Ebola outbreak. If you recently visited one of these countries and had contact with someone infected with Ebola, you should visit your doctor and discuss your travel history. If you visited one of these countries, but you did not have



contact with anyone infected with Ebola, you should take your temperature twice a day. If you get a fever or other symptoms within 21 days of your return to the U.S., visit your doctor and discuss your travel history.

Public Health continues to monitor for any possible cases of Ebola, and we continue to work with our partners and health care providers to protect health, prevent disease, and promote the health and well-being of all residents of Mono County.

Fire Restrictions Lifted

The Bishop Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management and the Inyo National Forest announced today that fire restrictions put into place for the Eastern Sierra on June 27, 2014 will be rescinded beginning Wednesday, October 1st, 2014. A campfire permit is still required for those camping outside of developed campgrounds and can be obtained at visitor centers or online at www.PreventWildfireCA.org.

Recent seasonal changes in fuel moisture, combined with increased humidity, shorter days, and cooler night time temperatures have prompted the land management agencies to lift the fire restrictions put into place earlier this summer. Mike Beasley, Interagency Fire Management Officer for the Bishop Field Office and Inyo National Forest, urges the public to keep fire safety in mind to avoid resource and property damage. "While we are comfortable lifting the fire restrictions at this time, we urge the public to use common sense and exercise caution when recreating outdoors in order to decrease the chance of human-caused fires," said Beasley.

Important fire safety reminders for outdoor activities on public lands include:

- Prevent vehicle related fires by maintaining proper tire pressure, ensuring adequate tire tread, and checking your brakes for overheating. Avoid traveling or parking on brush or grass. Ensure chains are not dragging while towing.
- Use of exploding targets, including Binary Explosive Targets, while recreationally shooting is both a fire hazard and illegal. Use of tracer rounds while target shooting is also a fire hazard and illegal. The use of steel-core ammunition, although legal, can greatly increase the chance of a wildfire.
- Motorcycles, ATV's and chainsaws require an approved spark arrestor.
- Get your California Campfire Permit online at www.PreventWildfireCA.org.

For further information please call Isabel Kusumoto, Interagency Fire Mitigation Specialist for the Bishop Field Office and Inyo National Forest, at (760) 872-5057.

Help prevent wildfires.....One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire

Firewood Available in the Reds Meadow Valley

The Inyo National Forest announces the re-opening of Red Meadow Valley for personal-use fuelwood collection starting October 1st through the end of the 2014 personal use fuelwood season.

The Reds Meadow visitor fee will be waived for firewood collection with a valid 2014 personal use fuelwood cutting permit and tags during this period. Permittees will be required to check-in and check-out at the Minaret Vista during business hours to validate compliance with wood cutting regulations.



You must have a valid 2014 personal use fuelwood permit to collect dead and down material only. Permittees will be required to park along the shoulder of established roads during collecting activities, and will not be permitted to drive off-road for firewood retrieval.

Firewood gathering will be permitted throughout the valley except as follows: no firewood cutting will be allowed within Reds Meadow Resort & Pack Station, Agnew Meadow Pack Station, and Devils Postpile National Monument Boundaries. Fuelwood gathering from existing burn piles is prohibited. All other wood cutting regulations are in effect.

Fuelwood permits may be purchased at local Forest Service Ranger Stations and Visitor Centers. Fuelwood permits are \$15.00 per cord with a two cord minimum purchase. The Inyo National Forest will institute shut down days (for chainsaw use) based upon daily Project Activity Levels. Permit holders can call (760) 873-2555 for information on shut down days.

Fuelwood permits may be obtained at the following locations:

- Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center 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.

Firewood Available near June Lake Starting in October

The Inyo National Forest announces the re-opening of a personal-use fuelwood cutting area in the June Lake Loop beginning October 1st, 2014 through the end of the 2014 personal use fuelwood season.

This area is located on the north side of Hwy 158 opposite from the Fern Lake Trailhead. A valid 2014 personal-use fuelwood permit is required to collect downed material only. Permittees will be required to park along the shoulder of Hwy 158 during collecting activities, and will not be permitted to drive off-road for firewood retrieval.

All other wood cutting regulations are in effect. The public is asked to keep a safe distance from crews working in the area, and to avoid trespass on nearby private property. Maps of the collection area are available where permits are purchased.

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Chamber Music Unbound Presents "Dancing with the Stars" – October 4

On Saturday, October 4, 2014 Chamber Music Unbound presents the Felici Piano Trio in a concert entitled "Dancing with the Stars." With music by Wolf-Ferrari (the toe-tapping "Introduction and Ballet"), Chausson, and Schubert (his masterful Trio opus 99). Tickets (\$20 Adult, \$15 Senior, \$7 Student) are available online (www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org), at the Booky Joint, the Inyo



Council for the Arts, or at the door on concert nights at 7:30 p.m., Cerro Coso College, Mammoth Lakes.

Mammoth Lakes Job Fair – Oct. 4

Join us at the annual Mammoth Lakes Job Fair on Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Westin Monache Resort, including a resume workshop and interview tips booth. Following the Faire, Whitebark Restaurant is hosting a networking happy hour starting at 4:00 p.m. We are still taking business booth sign ups if you would like assistance in recruiting winter staff. The cost of a booth is \$30. For more info or to sign up please contact npost@visitmammoth.com.

June Lake Autumn Beer Fest – Oct. 11

"Beer there or beer square." The 2nd Annual June Lake Autumn Beer Fest boasts a great lineup of craft brewers and more. Located along the shores of Gull Lake, this family friendly event has food, games, live music, and a competitive stein holding contest.

Dancing with the Docs – Oct. 11

Local doctors take to the stage with Mammoth celebrities, competing in the ultimate dance-off and gala fundraiser for Mammoth Hospital. Tune in to Sierra Wave TV and MammothHospital.com to watch mini TV episodes prior to the event and pick your favorite dancing duo.

Aesop's Fables: Classical Tales for all Ages – Oct. 11

The classical tales of Aesop, the famed storyteller of ancient Greece, are brought to life in this year's Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) production on the Edison Theatre stage in Mammoth Lakes on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

This production of five of Aesop's Fables, written by Mike Kenny, brings acclaimed Los Angeles based director and puppeteer, Park Cofield, back to Mammoth Lakes with a group of accomplished professional actors for an inspirational show.

Using song, dance and drama Cofield artfully blends puppetry and, new this year to TYA, the venerable art form of masks to tell the age-old stories of tyranny, mercy, trickery, flattery and ridicule and the morals that lie therein.

"Masks have been used in the art form of story telling for hundreds of years and I am thrilled to introduce this art form," says Shira Dubrovner, Artistic Director at Edison Theatre.

Nine performances during the week leading up the public performance on Saturday, October 11th will give 900 children from schools in Mammoth Lakes, Bishop and Round Valley the opportunity to see this wonderful production.

This annual Theatre for Young Audiences at Edison Theatre has grown from 700 students who attended last year to 900 students who are booked to see this year's production. The program is offered to all schools free of charge and a study guide is given to educators to help implement exercises that relate to the play. This process helps to cultivate children's critical and creative thinking skills and, in the case of this year's production, foster the development of good morals and values.

Donors for this program are always needed and anyone interested in supporting this worthwhile creative initiative should contact Edison Theatre at (760) 934-6592.



For children and adults of the Eastern Sierra communities who are not associated with the participating schools the public performance on Saturday, October 11th at 2pm is open to all and tickets are available online at www.EdisonTheatre.org. Ticket prices online are \$10 for children 16 & under and \$12 for general admission. Tickets at the door are \$12 for all.

Rating: All Ages

Tickets available online at EdisonTheatre.org

Admission: \$12/\$10

Tickets at the door \$12 - No discounts

For more information visit www.EdisonTheatre.org or call: (760) 934-6592

Recreation Department Highlights

Haunted Rink Skate Party – Oct. 24

The Haunted Rink Skate Party will take place on **Friday, October 24, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.** at the Mammoth RecZone. Set time aside now to bring the family to what is sure to be a great time. This year's festivities will include a few carnival games such as Tin-can Alley, Hit the Witch, Evil Clown Throw, Rat Head Lollipop Pull, and the famous Fairy and Dragon Realm. There will also be cakewalks and food vendors throughout the night so be sure to arrive in plenty of time to participate. Recreation has lots of fun prizes for everyone, so no one will leave empty handed. Admission is only \$5.00 per child (adults complimentary) and includes skate rentals while they last. Skateboards and scooters welcome! For more information please call the Recreation Department office at (760) 934-8989 x222.

Hot Shots Youth Basketball – 18 Years Running!

Registration for our local youth basketball program for 3rd-5th grade girls and boys is now underway. Join Recreation staff on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for basketball instruction from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the MES gym, November 4 – January 29, 2015. Early bird cost is \$40 which includes one month of clinics followed by almost two months of league play. This is the best basketball program in Mammoth Lakes for your elementary school basketball enthusiast -- covering all the basic skills and preparing your child for middle school and high school basketball. For more info or to volunteer please call John Connolly at 760-934-8989 x234. Register online at www.mammothrecreation.com.

Town Gymnastics/Tumbling Program Suspended

The Gymnastics/Tumbling program at the Community Center offered by the Recreation Department will be on-hold until further notice. The last scheduled day is this Saturday, September 13, 2014. Please drop-by Saturday morning to wish Melissa all the best in her future endeavors. The Town would like to thank long-time gymnastics coach Melissa Perkins for her dedication and commitment to the program and for her passion to instill the life-long values of gymnastics to our local students. The Recreation Department is committed to continuing the program at the Community Center and hopes to contact you shortly with new program dates. Please contact the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for additional information.

Drop -in Adult Coed Dodgeball This Fall at The Reczone

Drop-in Dodgeball is offered every Monday evening (weather permitting) at the Mammoth RecZone beginning at 5:30 p.m. Fee is on \$2.00/night. Bring your game!



Pickleball Is Now In Mammoth Lakes!

Join in and learn the fastest growing sport in America - easy to learn, fun to play and FREE! Pick-up games are scheduled every Tuesday from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center Tennis Courts. For additional information please contact Bob or Tess Meggs at (530) 277-0199.

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...

- ON-GOING Drop-in Adult Coed Dodgeball at the Mammoth RecZone (Monday, 5:30 p.m.)
- Oct. 24 Halloween Skate Party at the Mammoth RecZone
- Nov. 28 Mammoth Ice Rink scheduled Opening Day
- Dec. 5 Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Public Service Announcements

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:

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 ext. 273.

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 ext. 273 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 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.

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.

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.