



**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 February 15, 2016**

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

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##### **Town Council Meeting – Feb. 17**

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Suite Z. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

##### **Town Offices Closed – Feb. 15**

In observance of President's Day, Town offices will be closed on Monday, February 15, 2016.

##### **Commission/Committee Meetings**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 22 | Special Meeting of the Recreation Commission, Multi-Use Facility Workshop #1, Suite Z, 6:00PM |
| Feb. 23 | Special Meeting of the Recreation Commission, Multi-Use Facility Workshop #1, Suite Z, 9:00AM |
| March 1 | Regular meeting of the Recreation Commission, Suite Z, 9:00AM                                 |
| March 4 | Mammoth Creek Park Recreation Facilities Programming Committee Meeting, Suite Z, 8:00AM       |

##### **Plan Mammoth Creek Park – Tell Us How You Want To Play!**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has begun the process to plan, design and construct complementary Community Multi-Use Facilities at Mammoth Creek Park. The Town has allocated funding for the initial planning, preliminary design and the environmental documentation effort. If approved by Town Council, these facilities will be located on Town-owned land within Mammoth Creek Park on the west side of Old Mammoth Road.

The project includes three major components: a multi-use facility, complementary community center, and a playground with accessible components. The anticipated opening date of the multi-use facility is October 2017.

Tell us how YOU want to PLAY at Mammoth Creek Park! The Recreation Commission wants to hear how you want to play in the park, on the ice, at the RecZone and in the Community Center. With your help, we can create a 'recreation destination' that the entire community of Mammoth Lakes will actively enjoy, value and ultimately be proud to call YOUR Park. Several workshops have been scheduled in February, March and April to obtain community input for programming needs and space alternatives for the proposed Community Multi-Use Facilities at Mammoth Creek Park.

Join us at these programming workshops and tell us how you want to play!

- Multi-use Facility Programming Workshop: February 22 at 6:00pm and February 23 at 9:00am (same workshop)
- Community Center Programming Workshop: March 14 at 6:00pm and March 15 at 9:00am (same workshop)
- Accessible Playground Programming Workshop: April 5 at 12:00pm
- Combined Facilities Programming Workshop: April 12 at 6:00pm

All workshops will be held in Suite Z (Minaret Village Mall). Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

For more information about *Plan Mammoth Creek Park* please contact Recreation Manager & Public Information Officer, Stuart Brown at (760) 934-8989 ext. 210 or visit [www.planmcp.com](http://www.planmcp.com).

### **Winter Grooming Program**

The Shady Rest Winter Grooming program is well underway thanks to the great snow this year. The groomed winter trails in Shady Rest are located right at the entrance to Town and are accessed from the Welcome Center and Ranger Station. This looped experience is shared with a variety of users, including snowshoers and dog walkers, so please be mindful of others and share the trails. Weather permitting, the trails are groomed 5 days a week and are free and open to the public. Learn more about this program by copying and pasting this link into your browser: <http://www.mammothtrails.org/experience/156/cross-country-skiing-the-mlts-nordic-trail-system-at-shady-rest/>

### **Winter Parking Restrictions In Effect**

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department is reminding citizens that winter parking restrictions went into effect on November 1, 2015. Per Mammoth Lakes Town Ordinance (MLTO) 10.12.100, there is no street parking from November 1 through April 30. This parking restriction is in effect and enforced, even if there is no snow. Vehicles must also be parked in a way as to not obstruct snow removal (MLTO 10.12.106). Additionally, there is time-restricted parking on the 6000-6200 block of Minaret Road in front of The Village, the 100 block of Canyon Boulevard at The Village, the Community Center at 1000 Forest Trail, and several designated roads as indicated by signage (MLTO 10.12.082). Parking enforcement will be monitoring for illegal parking and issuing citations. Vehicles found parked in violation of these ordinances are subject to receiving a parking citation and/or in some cases, vehicles may be impounded at the owner's expense. For more information, please contact the Mammoth Lakes Police Department at (760) 934-2011.

### **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](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov), stay current with Public Service Announcements, Emergency Alerts, Town e-News, Recreation This Week, No Burn Announcements, DNDP updates, bid postings, news flash, calendar items, and more! Make smart decisions, subscribe today.

### **TV 51 has moved!**

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

### **Projected Average Resort Occupancy**

- Fri. Feb. 12, 2016 89%
- Sat. Feb. 13, 2016 94%
- Sun. Feb. 14, 2016 93%
- Mon. Feb. 15, 2016 55%
- Tue. Feb. 16, 2016 54%
- Wed. Feb. 17, 2016 57%
- Thu. Feb. 18, 2016 72%
- Fri. Feb. 19, 2016 88%
- Sat. Feb. 20, 2016 85%
- Sun. Feb. 21, 2016 46%

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

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

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## **Community News**

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### **FREE Community Screening of "Eddie the Eagle" – Feb. 18**

In partnership with Mammoth Lakes Tourism, 20th Century Fox is bringing an advance screening of the movie, EDDIE THE EAGLE to Mammoth Lakes on Thursday, February 18, 2016. The movie will be playing in both theaters at Minaret Cinemas at 6:30 p.m. This event is FREE to the public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Arrive early! Seating is first-come, first-served. Inspired by true events, Eddie the Eagle is a feel-good story about Michael "Eddie" Edwards (Taron Egerton), an unlikely but courageous British ski-jumper who never stopped believing in himself – even as an entire nation was counting him out.

### **Woolly's Birthday Party & Parade – Feb. 20**

Find Woolly in his special birthday hat, join a sing-a-long of "Happy Birthday" and try a tasty cupcake. There's also music, dancing, face-painting and a parade through The Village at Mammoth. A must-attend kids event for all ages. Parade at 3:45pm.

### **World Police & Fire Winter Games - Feb 21**

Open to active and retired law enforcement and fire service personnel. Competitions include Nordic racing, alpine skiing, and snowboarding. No previous racing experience is needed.

### **Tablelands Walk – Feb. 20**

Join Friends of the Inyo and the Bishop BLM for an exploration of the spectacular Volcanic Tablelands just North of Bishop. See spectacular high desert environment and discuss both the natural and human history of the area. For information and RSVP please contact Casey Penn at casey@friendsoftheinyo.org or call (760) 873-6500.

### **Friends of the Inyo Open House – Feb. 25**

Join Friends of the Inyo for an open house at our office in Bishop between 5 and 7 pm. Spend the evening with Friends of the Inyo Board and Staff and hear about what we're doing for your public lands. There will be light refreshments and wine. For info email info@friendsoftheinyo.org, call (760) 873-6500 or visit friendsoftheinyo.org.

### **Buttermilk Clean Up – Feb. 27**

Join Friends of the Inyo in cleaning up the Buttermilk climbing area. The Buttermilk see heavy recreational use this time of year and need some help minimizing the impacts to this fragile desert ecosystem. Come help by picking up trash, protecting vegetation, and fixing up the parking lot. Wear appropriate clothing, sturdy, closed toe shoes, and bring food and water. Meet at the main parking area at 8:30 am. For info email info@friendsoftheinyo.org, or call (760) 873-6500.

### **Mammoth Lakes Winter Recreation Summit – March 18/19**

With winter in full swing, it's time for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System to focus on implementation of specific recommendations for snow-based activities and infrastructure from the Trail System Master Plan, along with related in-town winter mobility needs. It's been almost 5 years since we've had this much snow on the ground, and stakeholders in the Mammoth Lakes Trail System have determined that it's a good time to host a "Mammoth Lakes Winter Recreation Summit" on March 18 and 19 right here in Mammoth Lakes.

To kick things off on Friday evening, March 18, we're proud to welcome an exceptional mountaineer, speaker, and the Director of the State of Colorado's Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry, Luis Benitez.

Saturday morning, March 19, will feature free fat bike demos on a groomed course in Town and a presentation from the Inyo National Forest on their Over Snow Vehicle and Sub Part C planning and route designation effort.

Saturday afternoon things will get down to business with focused presentations and public dialogue on winter recreation, mobility, and infrastructure, including:

- Winter Recreation and Shady Rest
- Snowmobile Access: Shady Rest and Mammoth Lakes
- Winter Recreation in the Lakes Basin
- Snowplay in Mammoth Lakes
- Reliable Information and Winter Recreation
- Winter Recreation Etiquette
- Introducing Winter Fat Biking
- Winter Transit
- Snow Management

Saturday evening we'll wrap things up with a very special closing session. Stay tuned for event details.

Specific information about the Summit and the schedule is being hosted on MLTPA's website which you can visit [here](#). Please continue to check back as we update web pages with more information including recommended outdoor activities you can do to get ready for the Summit.

Get your Summit started by putting Friday evening, March 18 and Saturday March 19 in your calendars, there will be lots more information to come. And be sure to tell your friends and neighbors - community participation will be a key part of the Mammoth Lakes Winter Recreation Summit.

### **Inyo National Forest Cautions Snowmobilers of Off-Limit Use**

Based upon reports from rangers and visitors alike, the Inyo National Forest is reminding snowmobilers to respect off-limit areas of the forest that are closed to snowmobiles.

Forest Service rangers are patrolling closed areas for illegal snowmobile activity; focusing on locations where these incursions are problematic. These areas include designated Wilderness and Research Natural Areas, Mammoth Lakes Basin, Devils Postpile National Monument, McGee Mountain, Obsidian Dome cross-country ski trails, Shady Rest cross-country ski trails, and the area west of the G-trail from June Lake Junction south to the Glass Creek Hill.

Pick up your free copy of the Eastern Sierra Winter Recreation Map at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center (a waterproof version is available for purchase as well), obtain it online, or download to your mobile device using the Avenza map app ([www.pdf-maps.com](http://www.pdf-maps.com)). These maps inform recreationists of motorized restricted areas.

The nation's federally designated Wilderness areas prohibit motorized use; making them off limits to snowmobiles. The closures are there to protect the Wilderness experience, but snowmobile tracks and public reports indicate that numerous riders venture into these closed areas each season. Riding in a Wilderness or a winter motorized closure is a Federal and State offense carrying fines up to \$5,000 and/or six months in jail, in addition to possible seizure of the snowmobiles used in the commission of the crime.

It is the rider's responsibility to know where these closed or restricted areas are located and their boundaries. Major winter trailheads and launching points have maps showing these restricted areas. If in doubt, check with the local Ranger Station or visitor center.

There are miles of groomed snow trails and play areas that are safe and legal to snowmobilers in the Mammoth and Mono Lake areas. There are approximately 75,000 acres of open expanse east of Hwy. 395 with a variety of terrain from wide-open meadows to forested areas for beginners and experts. Please refer to <http://mammothweb.com/scripts/usfs/trailsreport.cfm> for the latest grooming report.

The Inyo National Forest provides a wide spectrum of winter recreational activities. Visitors and residents can vastly improve these recreational opportunities, reduce conflict, and protect the forest resources by practicing common courtesy and respecting others' experiences.

### **Accessing Sherwins Winter Recreation Opportunities**

The Sherwins offer a wide variety of diverse winter recreation opportunities, including backcountry skiing and snowboarding experiences, which are directly accessible from the community of Mammoth Lakes. In addition to the signed and maintained "egress only" route across the Snowcreek golf course, the public is encouraged to take advantage of winter access opportunities at the Borrow Pit off of Sherwin Creek Road as well as the Mill City access at the winter closure of Old Mammoth Road. These winter access points serve as gateways for front and backcountry users alike, including opportunities for a wide variety of winter fun. Parking opportunities and temporary winter signage will be available at both the Borrow Pit and Mill City, providing information and winter recreation safety tips. For backcountry riders using the "egress only" route across the Snowcreek Golf Course to complete their Sherwin adventures, please be sure to follow the identified route and respect the private property that you are crossing and the privacy of the homes near the route.

The Borrow Pit, located south of Town next to the propane tank farm off of Sherwin Creek Road, features a new paved parking area along with new temporary winter signage providing multi-use access for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowplay, and backcountry skiing and snowboarding.

Mill City, located at the winter road closure at the southern end of Old Mammoth Road, will also feature new temporary winter signage establishing an access point to the Sherwins for backcountry adventurers and for frontcountry recreation including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowplay.

For more information about winter recreation opportunities in the Sherwins, please visit the Mammoth Lakes Trail System website at [mammothtrails.org](http://mammothtrails.org). For information on avalanche hazard levels and traveling in avalanche terrain, please visit the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center Web site at [www.esavalanche.org](http://www.esavalanche.org). Be safe and have fun!

### **Winter Recreation: Play it Safe**

The Inyo National Forest has some timely advice for winter recreation enthusiasts. Winter recreationists must plan their adventure considering the current conditions, the weather forecast, and the terrain and geography that will be traveled. Knowing what to expect will make your winter visit safer and much more enjoyable.

Anyone who may be traveling in potential avalanche terrain is encouraged to seek education and training resources; travel with a shovel, beacon, and probe; and have the knowledge required to use these tools. Visit the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center

website for the most recent information on snowpack and conditions [www.esavalanche.org](http://www.esavalanche.org).

Ice skating is popular as well, but recreationists must carefully choose when they go onto the ice. No lake is certain to be safe with an adequate ice depth. Even though it has been cold, the ice is not necessarily deep enough. Cooling and warming trends can affect the ice significantly—recreationists are responsible to assess their risks before going out onto the ice.

Dress warmly for cold weather, including layers, wicking base layers, hats and gloves. Day-time temperatures can get warm with the sun and cool quickly in the evening. As always, don't underestimate weather in the High Sierra – expect that weather conditions can change rapidly.

The forest requires that all dogs are on a leash in all developed recreation sites, including groomed trails. Leaving pet waste behind on a groomed trail or in a developed recreation area is littering.

More snow is needed before the Shady Rest Nordic trails can be groomed. Additional snow accumulations are needed to begin grooming the snowmobile trail system. There is not enough (if any) snow on these trails.

## **Recreation Department Highlights**

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### **New Hours at the Mammoth Ice Rink**

Due to the unseasonably warm conditions, the Mammoth Ice Rink is now scheduled to open (weather permitting) from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Looking to rent the rink for a party, team building exercise or company gathering? Sessions are available Monday – Friday, call (760) 934-2505 or (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for rates and times.

### **Register for FREE Instructional Basketball – Feb. 4**

Instructional Basketball is underway. This is a free program for boys and girls in Grades 1 & 2. Kindergarteners are welcome also with a volunteering parent. Visit [www.mammothrecreation.com](http://www.mammothrecreation.com) for information or to register.

## **Public Service Announcements**

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### **We're Here to Get You There: Winter weather is not predictable - Be Prepared**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Department of Highway Patrol (CHP) want you to get where you're going safely this winter. The following are some driving tips that will help you prepare for winter driving conditions:

Winterize your car – Check your brakes, windshield wipers, exhaust system and heater/defroster to make sure they are in good working condition. Check your radiator fluid level and add antifreeze/coolant as needed. Replace wiper blades if needed. Add a winter formula windshield wiper fluid. Make sure your tires are properly inflated and the tread is in good condition

Check road conditions frequently –During Storms, call 1-800 ROAD (7623) or check the internet at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov>

Carry in your car - a flashlight with extra batteries, blanket, extra clothing, water and snacks, towel, gloves, ice scraper/deicer, shovel, small broom, spare key, sand/kitty litter.

Allow enough time - Slow down.

Don't panic - If you begin to slide while driving on snow or ice, slowly take your foot off the gas pedal and steer your vehicle in the direction you wish to travel. If you must use brakes and your vehicle is equipped with anti-lock brakes (ABS), apply firm steady pressure. If you do not have ABS brakes gently pump the brake pedal. Do not allow the brakes to lock up.

Black Ice – Black ice is nearly invisible. The temperature doesn't have to be below freezing in order for ice to form on road surfaces. Ice can form, especially when it's windy, when the air temperature drops below 40 degrees. Low or shaded areas surrounded by landscaping or with a nearby source of water, such as bridges and underpasses, can have icy spots.

Be observant - Do not pass snow removal equipment unless the operator directs you to.

Stay with your vehicle - If you become stranded stay with your vehicle. Conserve fuel while maintaining warmth and be aware of possible exhaust or carbon monoxide problems.

Chains – All vehicles, including those with four-wheel drive and snow tires are required to carry chains when traveling in areas that have chain control. Make sure they are the correct size for your tires and in proper working order. Chains must be installed on drive wheels. Know if your vehicle has front or rear wheel drive. Cable chains are acceptable, but may not provide as much traction as traditional chains. The speed limit when chains are required is 25, 30, or 35 MPH: it is posted and enforced. Chain installers may be available to help install your chains. They are not Caltrans employees. They are independent business people who are licensed to install chains. If you choose to use their services ask for a receipt that includes the installer's badge number. Chain installers are not allowed to sell or rent chains. When removing chains or installing chains, drive beyond the signs reading "Chain Control/End Chain Control." Pull over out of the lanes of traffic.

#### *Chain Control Information*

- R-1 – Chains or snow tread tires with a tread depth of 6/32" and a "M&S", "MS", "M+S", or "M/S" imprint on the tire's sidewall.
- R-2 – Chains required on all vehicles except four-wheel or all-wheel drives with snow tread tires on all four wheels. Engage the four-wheel drive in the 4-high.
- R-3 – Chains required on all vehicles; no exceptions.

Tires – To find out if your tire tread depth is at least 6/32", place a quarter into several tread grooves across a tire. With George Washington's head upright, if the bottom of his neck completely disappears, your tread depth is at least 6/32". If you can see any part of the bottom of George Washington's neck, your tread depth is at or below 6/32" and should be checked. Remember to check to make sure the tires have the imprint "M&S", "MS", "M+S", or "M/S" which indicate the tire is rated for mud/snow conditions. You may also see the mountain snowflake symbol on the tire.



High winds and blowing snow often cause zero visibility conditions. To protect travelers, the CHP may close the road temporarily until conditions improve. During winter storms spinouts and accidents happen closing the highway. Heavily traveled routes are particularly vulnerable to such closures. Caltrans may meter traffic during the storm, letting fewer vehicles into the area reducing congestion and giving motorists the option of turning around and waiting out the delay in a warm place.

### **Mountain Lion Activity in the Crowley Lake Area**

On Tuesday, November 17, a mountain lion attacked a dog near Mountain View Drive. The dog was badly mauled but survived the attack. On Saturday, November 21, a mountain lion attacked and killed a llama near Willowbrook Road. We do not know if both attacks were by the same mountain lion.

Mountain lions are solitary and elusive, and their nature is to avoid humans. They are most active at dawn, dusk and night. Mountain lions prefer deer, but they also eat pets and livestock. In extremely rare cases, people have fallen prey to mountain lions.

Although mountain lions are neither threatened nor endangered, they are a specially protected species in California, and it is illegal to hunt or otherwise take a mountain lion absent specific circumstances. Mountain lions that threaten people are immediately killed. Those that prey on pets or livestock can be killed by a property owner after the required depredation permit is secured. Moving problem mountain lions is not an option. It causes deadly conflicts with other mountain lions already there, or the relocated mountain lion returns.

To keep your family and animals safe, please heed the following advice:

- Do not hike, bike, or jog alone and avoid hiking or jogging when mountain lions are most active.
- Don't leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Keep a close watch on small children.
- Do not approach a mountain lion.
- If you encounter a mountain lion, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to look bigger by waving your arms; throw rocks or other objects. Pick up small children.
- If attacked, fight back.
- If a mountain lion attacks a person, immediately call 911.
- Don't feed deer; it is illegal in California and it will attract mountain lions.
- Deer-proof landscaping by avoiding plants that deer like to eat.
- Trim brush to reduce hiding places for mountain lions.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Provide sturdy, covered shelters for sheep, goats, and other vulnerable animals.
- Don't allow pets outside when mountain lions are most active.
- Bring pet food inside to avoid attracting potential mountain lion prey.

### **Town's Owner-Occupant Housing Rehabilitation Program**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Eastern Sierra Transit Expands Mammoth Express Route!**

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

The new departure times are:

North from Bishop - Kmart/Vons			
6:50am	7:30am	1:00pm	6:10pm

South from Mammoth - McDonalds			
7:50am	2:05pm	5:20pm	7:00pm

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

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

<b>MAMMOTH EXPRESS FARES</b>		Adult	Disc	10-Punch	10-P Disc	1 Week	2 Week
Bishop to:	Mammoth	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$63.00	\$54.00	\$52.50	\$98.00
Tom's Place to:	Mammoth	\$4.00	\$3.50	\$36.00	\$31.50	\$30.00	\$56.00
Crowley to:	Mammoth	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$27.00	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$42.00

Contact ESTA at 760.872-1901 ext. 20 for more information or visit the website at [www.estransit.com](http://www.estransit.com)

**Reduction of Wildland Fire Fuels**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Local Woodstove Replacement Program A Great Success - Limited Funds Remain**

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

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

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

With almost \$275,000 in 'Environmental Public Benefit Funds' provided by the local Air District, the Town of Mammoth Lakes was able to help fund the replacement of around 150 older wood-burning systems throughout Town, resulting in the annual

reduction of thousands of pounds of PM as well as the reduction of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides, and volatile organic compounds.

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

To qualify for funding, an existing wood-burning system (woodstove or open fireplace) must be a building's primary heat source, it must be located within Mono County (apart from Mammoth Lakes), and it must fall under one of two types for designated funding:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recyclable materials make up a large percentage of the waste produced in our residential complexes and businesses," stated Brian Robinette, owner of SCP. "These community-based programs aim to divert recyclable materials from our local landfill, while also educate our residents and visitors on the need for need for

convenient recycling programs. We are confident that by providing start-up infrastructure for these complexes and businesses it will help make program implementation affordable and reduce the environmental impacts of each resident and guest," said Robinette.

To register for the Condominium Recycling Program, please visit [www.recyclesierra.com](http://www.recyclesierra.com) or [www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](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:

- Go to [monosheriff.org](http://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](http://www.crlaction.org).