



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**  
P.O. Box 1609  
Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546  
Main Office Line: (760) 965-3600  
Public Information Line: (760) 965-3612  
Website: [www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov)

## **Town News**

### **Town e-News: Week of January 16, 2017**

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

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##### **Town Council Meeting – January 18**

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2017 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.

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

Jan. 18      Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 9:00AM (rescheduled from Jan. 10)

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

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department is reminding citizens that there is no street parking from November 1 through April 30. 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.

##### **Be Snowsmart This Winter!**

Be Snow Smart this winter by observing a few simple rules: <http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/index.aspx?nid=510>

Mammoth Lakes receives some of the heaviest snowfall in California. To make your stay that much more enjoyable throughout the winter season, we ask that you slow down, keep a safe distance when following snow removal equipment, adhere to chain restrictions and park your vehicle on your driveway or lodging property well inside the orange snow stakes. Parking on all streets and roads within the Town of Mammoth Lakes is prohibited from November 1st thru April 30<sup>th</sup>. For updated road conditions and chain restrictions call (800) 427-ROAD or simply dial 511. During severe winter storms, listen to KMMT 106.5FM or Sierra Wave 92.5FM and call 911 in case of emergency.

##### **Mammoth Creek Park West Draft EIR Now Available For Public Review**

Pursuant to State of California Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21091(a) and the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines), as amended to date, as Lead Agency, the Town of Mammoth Lakes is

circulating for public review a Draft EIR for the proposed Mammoth Creek Park West New Community Multi-Use Facilities Project.

A 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR began on Friday, December 29, 2016 and will end on February 13, 2017. Depending on the number of comments, we anticipate the Final EIR will be completed in early March. Staff will then schedule a PEDC meeting on March 8th and a Town Council meeting on March 15th for consideration of the design review and certification of the EIR.

Copies of the Draft EIR are available during the 45-day public review period at the following locations:

1. Town of Mammoth Lakes, Community and Economic Development Department, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546;
2. Town of Mammoth Lakes website: [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov) (News Flash item)
3. Mono County Library, 400 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

All comments and responses to this notice should be submitted in writing to: Sandra Moberly, Community and Economic Development Manager, Town of Mammoth Lakes, Community and Economic Development Department, P.O. Box 1609, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R, Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546, (760) 965-3633, or via email at [smoberly@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](mailto:smoberly@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

Staff recommends the Commission and public, review the project website: [www.planmcp.com](http://www.planmcp.com) for the most up to date information regarding the Community Multi-Use Recreation Facilities project at Mammoth Creek Park West.

### **Help Connect Mammoth Lakes, ONLINE!**

The community vision for Mammoth Lakes is to be a progressive and sustainable community that provides seamless access to key destinations in and around the immediate area of Mammoth Lakes utilizing a multi-modal system of transit, trails, and integrated mobility options. If you share this vision then have your say online at [www.connectmammothlakes.com](http://www.connectmammothlakes.com). The deadline to submit comments online is January 7, 2017.

The Town has contracted with Alta Planning + Design to develop a Multi-Modal Bicycle, Pedestrian, Transit and Parking Action Plan to accelerate the Town's action plan for bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and parking alternatives within the community. This Action Plan will include a recommended implementation strategy including priority projects, "quick victory" early implementation projects, cost estimates and funding mechanisms.

For more information about the development of the Multi-Modal (Walk, Bike Ride) Action Plan, please contact Sandra Moberly, Community & Economic Development Manager at (760) 965-3633, [smoberly@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](mailto:smoberly@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov) or visit [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

We look forward to getting better connected with you!

## **What's Up With Downtown?**

Help revitalize the downtown area by sharing what you like, don't like, and would like to see changed in Downtown. Visit [www.connectmammothlakes.com](http://www.connectmammothlakes.com) and participate in a community-driven process to refine, update and reflect a shared community vision of what a revitalized Downtown Mammoth Lakes represents. The deadline to submit comments online is January 7, 2017.

Public can expect to review a summary of information learned through the public meetings as well as the online information and survey tool. The comments received will help determine the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in Mammoth Lakes' Downtown. The final piece of this program will include an Action Summit to discuss Mammoth Lakes' Downtown. The date of the Action Summit will be announced in December. The final piece of the program will include an implementation plan that will include identification of a variety of funding tools that can help finance projects identified through the process. This will include public/private partnerships, grant opportunities, as well as Tax Increment Financing tools. A draft process agreement will be created to help launch a catalyst project/program.

For more information about the development of the Downtown Action Plan, please contact Sandra Moberly, Community & Economic Development Manager at (760) 965-3633, [smoberly@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](mailto:smoberly@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov) or visit [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov). We look forward to welcoming you Downtown!

## **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).

## **Mammoth Lakes Police Department: Friday Update: 01/02/17 - 01/08/17**

### **CALLS FOR SERVICE/OFFICER OBSERVATIONS**

204, including 0 business/building checks

### **CRIME/INCIDENT REPORTS**

21 reports, including 3 arrests

### **TRAFFIC STOPS/CITATIONS/TRAFFIC COLLISIONS**

23 stops; 14 citations; 6 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 5 collisions

## **ANIMAL CONTROL INCIDENTS**

1 incident

## **WILDLIFE**

0 calls

## **Projected Average Resort Occupancy**

Friday, January 13, 2017	85%
Saturday, January 14, 2017	89%
Sunday, January 15, 2017	47%
Monday, January 16, 2017	47%
Tuesday, January 17, 2017	45%
Wednesday, January 18, 2017	45%
Thursday, January 19, 2017	58%
Friday, January 20, 2017	84%
Saturday, January 21, 2017	86%
Sunday, January 22, 2017	53%

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.

## **Community News**

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### **A Sneak Peek at "Squeeze My Cans" – Jan. 14**

Tickets are selling fast for this special limited engagement of Squeeze My Cans, so reserve your tickets today. Two nights only: Saturday, Jan. 14 @ 7PM & Sunday, Jan. 15 @ 4PM.

The Church of Scientology had actress Cathy Schenkelberg for 14 years of her young, adult life. It took another five years for her to escape in the face of harassing phone calls, midnight knocks on her door by "outreach" staffers, an expensive custody battle, and social rejection.

In this original solo show, Schenkelberg shares a glimpse behind the velvet curtain of this strangely hilarious and unbelievably horrifying story of loss, isolation, manipulation, and the relentless power of survival through persistence and humor.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$18 for seniors and students, or \$22 at the door (sorry, no discounts). This production is suitable for mature audiences.

### **Fat Bike Winter Race – Jan. 14**

Head up to the Main Lodge for the first Fat Bike Winter Race brought to you by Sierra Eastside Mountain Bike Association (SEMBA). Registration begins at 4:30pm; race

begins at 5:30pm. This is a free event with bikes and lights available for rental at a discounted price.

### **Sierra Club Cross County Trip – Jan. 15**

Sunday, January 15 the Sierra Club will be hosting a cross country ski/snowshoe trip to make up for last weekend's cancelled outing. Location is TBD depending on snow conditions. Call Brigitte (760) 924-2140 for more information.

### **RSVP for Chamber Power Lunch on TBID Renewal – Jan. 17**

Join the Chamber of Commerce on **Tuesday, Jan. 17** for the first [Power Lunch](#) of the year. John Urdi, executive director of Mammoth Lakes Tourism, will host a discussion on the TBID renewal process and how it affects your business. Mammoth Lakes Tourism's mission is to drive traffic for local tourism-centric businesses, and the TBID is an essential part of that mission. Join us at Power Lunch to get up to speed on the TBID renewal process while networking with fellow Mammoth Lakes business people. In the meantime, learn more about the TBID at [MLTBID.com](http://MLTBID.com). This month's lunch is at Lakanuki from 12:00-1:00 pm on Jan. 17. Power Lunch is \$20 for members and guests of members, \$30 for non-members. [RSVP](#) by **Friday, Jan. 13** to save your spot.

### **U.S. Freeskiing & Snowboarding Grand Prix - Feb 1-4**

Get front row seats to this nationally televised FIS World Cup contest and 2018 Olympic qualifier. Watch the top snowboarders and skiers go big in Unbound's Main Park and 22' halfpipe. Events takes place Wednesday - Sunday and concludes with an after party on Saturday night.

### **U.S. Revolution Tour - Feb 7-12**

The U.S. Revolution Tour is back with week-long action in Unbound's Main Park and Halfpipe as amateur athletes compete for a chance to join the elite.

### **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—recreationalists 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.

### **It's Not Too Late, But Why Are You Waiting?**

It's that time of year again. During the holidays, families travel, and give the gift that keeps on giving - the flu! Although levels are still low, we are beginning to see increases in flu activity. Positive tests have been reported in Sierra Park Clinics at Mammoth Hospital, in Reno, and in So Cal.

Here are the facts:

- Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death of every age, including people in good health, are at risk of flu.
- Influenza can cause illness and sometimes severe disease in persons of any age.
- Flu causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands or tens of thousands of deaths each year in the United States.
- Although a majority of hospitalizations and deaths occur in people 65 years and older, even healthy young children and younger adults can have severe disease or even die from influenza. California just reported its first influenza-related death of the season in a person <65 years of age.
- About 100 deaths from influenza among children are reported each year to CDC.

#### Flu Vaccination

- An annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect against this potentially serious disease.
- Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctor visits, pneumonia, need for antibiotics, missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations.
- Flu vaccination also may make your illness milder if you do get sick.
- Getting vaccinated yourself also protects people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness, like babies and young children, older people, and people with certain chronic health conditions.

Despite the unpredictable nature of the flu, you should know:

You need the 2016-2017 flu vaccine for optimal protection against the flu this season because:

- Flu viruses are constantly changing, and this season's vaccines have been updated to protect against the viruses that surveillance data indicate will be most common this flu season, and
- A person's immune protection from vaccine declines over time so annual flu vaccination is needed for the best protection against the flu.
- It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body that protect against influenza virus infection.
- While seasonal flu outbreaks can happen as early as October, flu activity is usually highest between December and February, though activity can last as

- late as May. As long as flu activity is ongoing, it's not too late to get vaccinated, even in January or later.
- With flu activity increasing and family and friends planning gatherings for the holidays, NOW is a great time to get a flu vaccine if you haven't been vaccinated yet this season. A flu vaccine can protect you and your loved ones from the flu. Vaccine is available at your pharmacy, healthcare provider, or the Health Department for everyone older than 6 months of age.

## **Parks and Recreation Department Highlights**

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### **Give The Ice A Try This Month At The Mammoth Ice Rink!**

Give the ice a try this month at the Mammoth Ice Rink in celebration of U.S. Figure Skating's National Skating Month. The theme for National Skating Month this year is "Skating is a Blast!"

Have a blast at the Mammoth Ice Rink this January with FREE 'First Timer' Skate Assist Sessions every Friday night from 4:30-6:30pm (Lessons resume Jan. 20). Register in advance at the Mammoth Ice Rink or call (760) 965-3695. Lessons are based on the *U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills Program*; are scheduled for 20-30 minutes, and are offered for both youth and adults.

The Mammoth Ice Rink is open 7-days a week weather permitting. The rink is located at 416 Sierra Park Road adjacent to the Mammoth Lakes Library. The facility offers satellite radio, evening fire-pits, quality rentals, skate sharpening service, and hot snacks & drinks, all on refrigerated and professionally maintained ice. Call the Mammoth Ice Rink at (760) 965-3696, or visit [www.mammothicerink.com](http://www.mammothicerink.com) for updated schedules and information.

### **New Adult Programming at the Community Center**

NEW to the Community Center is the Turbo Kick Fitness Class which runs every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm. Also at the Community Center is the ongoing Pilates/Yoga program at the Community Center. The program runs every Tuesday starting at 6:30pm. For toddlers we are offering Toddler Time at the Community Center every Tuesday morning with Angela and Victoria from 9:30-11:00am.

### **Adult Co-Ed Indoor Soccer Returns January 15**

Adult Co-Ed Indoor Soccer returns this month! Due to the inclement weather conditions forecasted for the weekend and the MHS gym designation as an emergency shelter, the "A" League Indoor Soccer opening night will be moved to Sunday, January 15. This season we will offer an "A League" for experienced teams on Sunday nights, plus a NEW "Rec League" for less experienced or more casual teams wishing to join in on the fun on Monday nights. The Rec League is also open to any individuals interested in playing indoor soccer (no previous experience required) who may not be able to put together a team. The first few nights of the Rec League will be all about meeting new people, forming teams, and starting up the new league! "A" League will begin on January 15, and the Rec League will begin on January 23, 2017. Please see information below if you are interested in officiating for the leagues.

### **Sports Officials Needed For Indoor Soccer!**

The Parks and Recreation Department is now hiring sports officials for the upcoming winter Adult Indoor Soccer Leagues. Interested applicants should apply online or call Lindsey at (760) 965-3699 for more information. The job posting can be viewed online.

### **Toddler Time at the Community Center**

Toddler Time is offered at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center (1000 Forest Trail) every Tuesday from 9:30-11:00am (4-week sessions) by Victoria Farber and Angela Jacoby. Victoria is a mother of two, local business owner and has a passion for art, baking and bringing people in the community together to share like-minded experiences. Angela is also a mother of two, was a special education teacher in Los Angeles and worked as a substitute teacher at Mammoth Elementary, Mammoth Middle School and Mammoth High School. Angela also taught Adult Education classes at the Mono County office Education and was hands on teaching after school science programs with a company called Science Adventures.

Toddler Time is open to all parents who have children under kindergarten ages with typically 6-8 kids per class (max. enrollment 16). Sessions commence on September 6, 2016 and conclude on May 16, 2017. Cost is only \$48 / child, per 4-week session with a 50% sibling discount. Payment is requested at time of enrollment in each 4-week session. For additional information please contact Victoria Farber (760) 793-8339; Angela Jacoby (805) 407-6297 or the Parks and Recreation Department at (760) 965-3699.

## **Public Service Announcements**

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### **Deer Migration in Full Force**

As the weather changes, the deer population is moving to their winter range. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) would like to remind motorists to remain alert for migrating deer on the highways in the Eastern Sierra.

"It's important that motorists, when driving through areas frequented by deer, elk and other animals, do all they can to protect themselves as well as some of California's greatest natural resources – our wildlife," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

The Defenders of Wildlife, a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting native animals and plants, report that more than 200 people are killed in collisions with wildlife each year with an estimated 1.5 million animals hit annually in the United States.

To reduce deer/vehicle accidents Caltrans identifies known deer migration crossings on State highways with warning signs. New construction and rehabilitation projects include flattening of the slopes next to the roadway and the removal of bitter brush seed from the re-vegetation mix. Biologists from Caltrans and Department of Fish & Wildlife continue to study the habits of the deer population working to develop new technology that will improve driver safety as well as deer safety.

### **Ways to Prevent a Collision with a Deer:**



1. **Watch for the rest of the gang.** Deer are pack animals, and rarely travel alone. If a deer crosses in front of you, chances are there are more nearby. Slow down and keep an eye out for more deer darting across the road.
2. **Timing is everything.** Deer are most active at dusk and dawn: periods when your vision is most compromised. Slow down and stay alert, especially after dark.
3. **Wear your seatbelt.** It may not prevent a collision, but if the inevitable happens a seatbelt can reduce injuries.
4. **Take a moment to reflect.** First, look for the road signs. The yellow diamonds with the deer on it are placed in high-traffic areas for deer. You may also spot a deer because their eyes will brightly reflect a car's headlights, making them easier to spot.
5. **Stay Center.** On a multi-lane road, the center lane is your safest bet for avoiding a deer collision, as long as your local traffic laws permit it. This gives deer plenty of space; and in case your vehicle does startle them, it gives you more time to react if one darts onto the road.
6. **Stay the course.** If you see a deer, brake firmly and calmly, and stay in your lane. Swerving could make you lose control of your vehicle and turn a bad situation much worse. Not to mention, deer are unpredictable, and you could swerve directly into their changed path.
7. **Honk!** Some experts recommend that one long blast of the horn will scare deer out of the road. Do not rely on hood whistles or other devices designed to scare off deer — studies have shown them to be largely ineffective at minimizing accidents.

#### **What to do if you hit a deer.**

1. Pull to the side of the road as soon as it is safe to do so.
2. Turn on your hazard lights and remain in the vehicle until you are sure it is safe.
3. Call emergency services if injuries are involved or the local police for property damage.
4. Stay away from the deer. If it is still alive, it could be confused, injured and dangerous if approached. When contacting the authorities, let them know if the deer is in a dangerous spot on the road so that it can be removed.

For more deer migration information visit the Caltrans District 9 webpage: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/d9/deer.html>

#### **Town Of Mammoth Lakes Updates Phone System Taking Advantage Of Digital 395**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is excited to announce that the aging old analog phone system has been upgraded to a new digital Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) system. The introduction of Digital 395 into our community allowed the Town to benefit from a robust fiber-optic network which provides connectivity between Town facilities. The network provides the opportunity to leverage Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) based communication to replace the aging phone system, which not only offers better connectivity in a modern and maintained system, but also reduces costs.

The new phone system will offer a significant improvement in functionality and ease of use for Town staff while providing more efficient integration between all seven of the Town's facilities, offering staff the ability to call any employee at any location simply by dialing the extension. Additionally, the system will provide a variety of options for call handling and routing, voicemail, auto-attendant/phone tree options,

and mobility. All of these enhancements will greatly help Town staff with their day-to-day responsibilities of serving the public and providing high quality customer service. Improved access to Town Departments and employees and connectivity between Town operations will enhance public access and Town responsiveness.

As a result of these improvements, all of the Town's phone numbers will be changing, effective Thursday, June 23, 2016. Each department will have its own direct phone line and each employee will have a new extension number.

Below is a list of the new department phone numbers:

- Administration - (760) 965-3600
- Airport - (760) 965-3620
- Community and Economic Development - (760) 965-3630
- Engineering - (760) 965-3650
- Finance - (760) 965-3660
- Public Works Yard - (760) 965-3680
- Parks and Recreation - (760) 965-3690
- Police Department - (760) 965-3700

The new VoIP system will replace the Town's 20-year old Nortel analog phone system which is no longer supported, difficult to maintain, and not interconnected between Town locations. The new system furthers the Town Council's goal of using enhanced technology to improve Town operations, enhance customer service, and reduce costs.

Please be patient with us while we transition to our new system. For a full list of employee phone numbers, please visit our website at [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

### **Mammoth Lakes Plastic Bag Ban in Effect March 1**

Beginning Tuesday, March 1, 2016, Ordinance No. 15-06 went into effect that prohibits the use of single-use carryout bags in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Town Council's action will reduce negative impacts on the environment, including reducing the use of natural resources and energy; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and helping to eliminate waste in landfills, roadside litter, and pollution to lakes, streams, and soils. Most importantly it will contribute to a cleaner and more welcoming Town of Mammoth Lakes!

When the plastic bag ban goes into effect, consumers will be affected in the following ways:

- Retail establishments will no longer be able to utilize plastic, single-use bags.
- Customers may purchase paper bags for a minimum of 10 cents each.
- Customers may purchase or bring their own reusable bags.
- Restaurants are exempt and may still use plastic bags for take away orders.
- Some other exemptions exist, such as plastic bags used for produce and meats.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes will work with local businesses, including the Chamber of Commerce, to assist in the progressive elimination of plastic, single-use bags in our community. If you have questions about the plastic bag ban, please visit [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov) to review Ordinance No. 15-06, or contact Pam Kobylarz, Assistant to the Town Manager, at (760) 934-8989 ext. 223 or [pkobylarz@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](mailto:pkobylarz@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

## **Inyo National Forest Announces Further Fire Restrictions**

The Inyo National Forest is expanding fire restrictions to include wilderness areas of the Inyo National Forest. Previously, certain wilderness areas had been exempted.

Beginning on Friday July 29, the following restrictions will be in effect:

- No campfires, briquette barbecues, or stove fires are allowed outside of designated developed recreation sites and specifically posted campsites or areas. A list of designated campgrounds and recreation sites is available at visitor centers, and on the website [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd511823.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd511823.pdf).
- Persons with a valid California Campfire Permit (available free of charge at visitor center or online at <http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/>) are not exempt from the prohibitions but are allowed to use portable stoves or lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel.
- No fireworks. It is prohibited to possess or discharge any fireworks.
- No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

Resorts, pack stations, recreation residences and other sites operated under special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service may be exempt from the special orders, as long as any fire activity is conducted in compliance with their permit.

Residents and visitors are reminded that fireworks, even "safe and sane" are not allowed at any time on public lands.

## **Be Prepared - Increased Wildlife Activity**

With the warming weather and thawing snow, Mono County is experiencing an increase in wildlife activity. Although this trend extends through the entire county, Crowley Lake and June Lake have been the hot spots for bear activity. The bears are seeking food and are already damaging property and attempting to gain access to houses and out buildings. Residents and visitors also need to be mindful of the presence of mountain lions. While mountain lion attacks on humans are extremely rare, it is important to be educated on what to do should one encounter a mountain lion. The following are some steps that people can take in an effort to exist responsibly with wildlife:

- Invest in bear-proof garbage containers. This can include specialized commercial trash bins or can be as simple as buying surplus 55 gallon re-sealable barrels. Trash should be stored in secured containers away from buildings if possible. Always secure communal trash bins, either with a chain or a lock
- Properly store pet food. Pet food should be in an airtight, sealed container if stored in the garage. Bears are obviously attracted to pet food and have broken into numerous garages and residences.
- Do not leave anything in your vehicle that may attract bears. This includes, but is not limited to, food, wrappers, gum, perfume, mints, etc.

- Watch out for wildlife on the roads. The deer are migrating and other wildlife is moving around. Motorists need to be alert and watch the road in order to cut down on the number of animal involved collisions and deaths.
- NEVER feed wildlife. Feeding of wildlife is a violation of the law and also a death sentence to the animals. Once conditioned to human sources of food, bears will seek them out, creating conflicts with humans. Bears may be killed to ensure public safety if the nuisance behavior cannot be corrected. Attracting bears to urban areas can also increase risk of vehicle collisions, harming both humans and bears. Feeding deer is also illegal and the presence of deer will attract mountain lions.

### **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, combustible 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.

### **Important Information for Verizon Customers**

As of April 1, Verizon customers in California, Texas, and Florida will now be serviced by Frontier Communications. Residents should expect to have the same exceptional FiOS TV, Internet, and phone service from the new telecommunications provider.

Existing Verizon customers can request more information regarding their Internet service provider transition by clicking on this link: <http://internet.frontier.com/fios-network-acquisition/>. If you have questions regarding establishing Frontier service or switching to Frontier from your current service provider, please click on the following link: <http://internet.frontier.com/California/>

### **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.

**MAMMOTH EXPRESS FARES**

		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)

**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 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.

### **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).