



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**

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## Town News

Week of April 9, 2012

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### News from the Town Manager

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#### Town Council Meeting – April 18

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

#### Letter to the Editor from the Mammoth Lakes Town Council addressing a Letter from Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition (MLLA) to the Town dated March 23, 2012

On March 23, 2012, MLLA sent the Town a letter with their demand for a full payment of their \$42 million judgment. They chose to make their request publicly, breaching the confidentiality agreement between MLLA and the Town and obliging us to make this public response.

As a point of fact, since the start of the negotiations, the Town Council has been receiving many requests for information and desires to communicate important information to the community about the status of the negotiations and settlement. Last fall, we formulated information in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document and were prepared to send to the media. In respect for the confidentiality process, the FAQ was sent to MLLA. MLLA immediately demanded the Town not send it as proposed, claiming a breach in our agreement with them. In respect to the process, and MLLA's specific request of the Town to not distribute the FAQ, we held back sending it.

The Town Council has reported publicly and to MLLA that it is facing structural financial challenges above and beyond MLLA's \$42 million judgment. After balancing a \$2.8 million Fiscal Year 2010-11 shortfall in June 2011, the Town now estimates a \$0.9 million budget gap in FY 2011-12, and a \$2.5 million baseline shortfall in the following year, FY 2012-13.

While MLLA's judgment is the Town's largest liability, we must make difficult cuts in expenditures and restructures of existing indebtedness simply to balance the above baseline budget issues, and must make even more cuts and restructures in order to finance any sort of payment on the judgment. For context, the \$2.5 million baseline budget shortfall represents some 13% of the Town's General Fund budget for FY 2012-13. If the Town were simply to make across-the-board cuts to balance that baseline issue without any other restructuring, all of its expenses would need to be reduced by 13%. This hypothetical, across-the-board reduction would include employee compensation, cuts to marketing, housing and transit dollars, reductions in public safety and snow removal services, cuts to recreation programs, and so on.

This is why a fundamental financial plan involving both cuts and debts restructuring is important.

During discussions last fall, the Town Council and staff were intent on a settlement with MLLA that would withstand the test of time – a settlement that would not fail in the future due to financial conditions beyond our control, which could force the Town into a crisis. This was sound reasoning then and still is. As we have experienced this winter, financial crises do happen. This crisis has and will affect the Town's ability to deliver services now and into the future. The Town Council and staff have a fiduciary responsibility to preserve essential services. The Town's restructuring plan, once finalized, will balance the need to continue providing these services with the need to satisfy the MLLA judgment and other obligations of the Town.

Resolving the Town's baseline fiscal issues and the additional issues posed by the MLLA judgment will require a broad and carefully crafted restructuring of the Town's finances that is sustainable and can be supported by the community. The Town continues to formulate a plan to accomplish this goal that will involve concessions from multiple interested parties, including MLLA, who have been invited to participate in the mediation process provided by section 53760.3(a) of the California Government Code. So far, MLLA has refused to participate in that mediation.

As we continue to develop the Town's restructuring plan and negotiate a fair and sustainable solution to the Town's many financial challenges in the mediation, we will be able to make more detailed proposals in response to MLLA's most recent demand.

### **MLPD Police Academy 3**

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department will be hosting its third Community Police Academy starting on **April 19, 2012**. The Community Police Academy is open to community members who are interested in learning about how the Mammoth Lakes Police Department works.

The goal of the Community Police Academy is to form and maintain partnerships between the community and the police by educating residents about the role of law enforcement. Participants will have the opportunity to see the criminal justice system as only an insider could; learn about the day-to-day operations of the department, detectives, narcotics, DUI enforcement, traffic enforcement, police equipment and much more. Participants will also tour the Mono County Superior Court in Bridgeport, tour the Mono County Jail and dispatch center and have hands on experience with police firearms at the police gun range.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older, live in the Mammoth Lakes / Mono County area and be of good moral character. The class will be limited to a maximum of 15 students. Classes will be held every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., beginning April 19, 2012 and ending June 21, 2012. Applications are available at the Mammoth Lakes Police Department (568 Old Mammoth Road) Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For additional information please contact Officer David Scobie at (760) 934-2011 ext. 55 or at [dscobie@mammothlakespd.org](mailto:dscobie@mammothlakespd.org).

### **Calls for Service/Officer Observations**

126, including 4 business/building checks

### **Crime Incident Reports**

23 reports, including 5 arrests

### **Traffic Stop/Citations/Traffic Collisions**

18 stops; 3 citations; 6 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 3 collisions

### **Animal Control Incidents**

3 incidents; 0 reports

### **Wildlife**

5 calls; 0 reports

### **Projected Average Resort Occupancy**

Friday, April 6, 2012 - Saturday, April 7, 2012 = 58%  
(50% same weekend in 2011, up in 2012)

Sunday, April 8, 2012 - Thursday, April 12, 2012 = 42%  
(26% same midweek in 2011, up in 2012)

### **Twitter**

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

## **Community Development**

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### **TOT Enforcement and Collection Update - April 6**

In August 2011, the Town of Mammoth Lakes implemented an aggressive transient occupancy tax (TOT) enforcement program. TOT collection, compliance and enforcement are critical components to the success of our resort community of Mammoth Lakes. The following is our bi-weekly update of enforcement and collection activity and progress.

#### **Major Accomplishments**

- The Town Manager established the Community Development Department and Finance Department TOT Enforcement and Collection Team who are dedicated to implementing this high priority program directed by the Town Council.
- Regular meetings are held with Town staff team and the "TOT Committee" representing the Town's lodging community to discuss progress, new issues and ideas and program improvements.
- On January 1, 2012, changes to the Municipal Code became effective that strengthen and clarify Chapter 3 "Revenue and Finance" and Chapter 5 "Business Taxes, Licenses and Regulations" improving TOT enforcement.
- Extensive public information has been made available through periodic press releases and Public Service Advisories (PSAs), by direct mail to property owners and on the Town's web page to increase awareness and knowledge of the importance of TOT to the community, and about TOT and zoning rules. For TOT-related information, please visit [www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us),

call us at **(760) 934-8989 ext. 275**, or send an email to: **[tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](mailto:tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us)**.

- The TOT hotline and email address are checked each day to obtain TOT tips and complaints which are quickly turned into active enforcement cases. We also respond to public questions received through these sources.
- Based on tips and research, both TOT revenue and zoning violations are being processed according to the Municipal Code. Staff conducts web and field research to find possible TOT violations and is issuing warnings (citations and fines are now underway) to responsible parties for both revenue and zoning collection violations.
- Administrative Citations are being issued to responsible parties who have failed to respond and comply with letters of warning. The Administrative Citations describe the specific zoning and/or revenue violation of the Municipal Code, the initial fine, subsequent fines and legal action, the time to correct the violation, and how to appeal the citation.

### What's New?

- **TOT Violation & Collection Activity** - 170 total enforcement cases (up from 152 prior report)
  - 10 New cases (opened in the last two weeks)
  - 85 Closed cases (cases are periodically monitored to ensure continued compliance)
    - 56 cases determined to be legal use with valid business and/or TOT certificate
    - 29 cases transient rental activity abated, business and/or TOT certificate obtained
  - 75 Open Cases
    - 41 cases under investigation and/or notice of violation letters in progress
    - 21 notice of violation letters issued, awaiting reply by responsible party
    - 13 cases administrative citation letter issued, awaiting reply and abatement
  - 83 New Business Tax Certificates (Since August 8, 2011)
- On February 15, 2012 Town Council approved changes to Municipal Code Chapters 1, 3 and 8 about "Nuisances" and "Revenue and Finance" to clarify and simplify fines and recovery of legal costs related to processing administrative citations and misdemeanors and nuisance abatement. Second reading will be on the March 7, 2012 Town Council meeting; the ordinance will become effective on April 6, 2012.
- The real estate residential disclosure form required for all future real estate transactions prior to the close of escrow has been provided to the Board of Realtors.
- **Find out if your property is zoned for transient rentals!** Staff has developed a web application to help property owners, realtors, property management companies, and other members of the public to determine whether or not transient rentals are permitted on all property around town. Use the link below to search by address, APN, or complex name to find your property. **<http://gis.mono.ca.gov/TOT/>**

### **What's Next?**

- **Staff is now processing assessments to capture escaped TOT revenues.** With the enforcement program well established and underway, and with a list of more than 100 assessment cases, this is now the main effort of the TOT Enforcement and Collection Team.

### **We Want to Hear From YOU!**

The Town values the quality of life of our residents and visitors. Because TOT is so important to maintaining our community's vitality, we are making a concerted effort to make it easier to find information about, and to comply with, TOT and zoning rules. For TOT-related information, please visit [www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us), call us at **(760) 934-8989 ext. 275**, or send an email to: **tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us**.

### **\$271 Million in New Funding Awarded to Upgrade Transportation and Enhance State's Economic Recovery**

The California Transportation Commission today allocated \$271 million in new funding to 73 projects that will improve the state's highways and rail systems and enhance the state's economic recovery. The awarded funding includes \$214 million from Proposition 1B, a transportation bond approved by voters in 2006. In total, more than \$11 billion in Proposition 1B funds have been distributed statewide.

The remaining \$57 million in allocations came from assorted transportation accounts funded by state and federal dollars. Among the projects that received funding today were \$343,800 for a College connector Path in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The project is to build a 0.25 mile long recreational multi-use paved path. Project will provide year round recreational and commuting access. Part of a larger trail network which is called the Town Loop, users will have the ability to commute to open space parks, playgrounds, backcountry wilderness areas, educational facilities, commercial locations including shipping facilities and other connections.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Community News**

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### **State Route 270 – Bodie Road – Opens for the Season!**

District 9 Director Tom Hallenbeck is pleased to announce that State Route 270 - Bodie Road re-opened at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2012, from its winter closure status. As is often the case this time of year, the opening is dependent on favorable weather. If the area is impacted by inclement weather Caltrans may have to re-close the highway. Please check local highway conditions by calling 511 before you begin your travel.

### **Measure U Spring “Test” Award Closes April 11**

The Measure U spring “Test” award application period will close on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. The Measure U or “Mammoth Lakes Mobility, Recreation and Arts & Culture Utility Users Tax Ordinance” is a special fund designated for use only for the planning, construction, operation, maintenance, programming and administration of facilities and projects for Mobility, Recreation and Arts & Culture. Contact Stuart Brown, Recreation Manager & Public Information officer at (760) 934-8989 ext. 210 for additional information.

### **2012 Measure R Spring Award Application Period Now Open**

The application period for the 2012 Measure R Spring Award opened at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 2, 2012 and will close on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. The Recreation Commission is scheduled to review the applications on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 in Suite Z at 4:00 p.m., with tentative adoption by Town Council on June 20, 2012 (subject to change). All Measure R information, downloads and reference documents can be found on the Town’s website: [www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us) under “Quick Links.” The Measure R spring process is intended to cover unanticipated emergency or maintenance/administration costs of projects already awarded in the fall of 2011, but can also include funding for new awards. Preference has been given to previously awarded projects and once-in-a-lifetime or time-limited opportunities.

The Measure R, or “Mammoth Lakes Recreation, Trails and Parks Investment Initiative,” Ordinance (No. 08-01) adopted by the Mammoth Lakes Town Council on February 20, 2008 specifically designates the use of Measure R funds for planning, construction, operation, maintenance, programming and administration of all trails, parks and recreation facilities managed by the Town of Mammoth Lakes without supplanting existing parks and recreation facility maintenance funds. For questions regarding the Measure R Spring funding award or to schedule an appointment, please contact Stuart Brown, Recreation Manager (760) 934-8989 ext. 210.

### **2012 Mammoth Invitational**

From **April 13-15**, the Mammoth Invitational is your opportunity to ski or ride Mammoth Mountain's incredible terrain, race gates, or work on radical turns under the expert guidance of well-known US national and Olympic ski, snowboard and free ride team athletes and professionals – all while helping kids of all types; under-privileged, athletic, academic, talented... and yes, just our fabulous kids! At night, the rhythm changes with great food and entertainment – live and silent auctions, Heroes+Kids – a chance for the kids to meet their heroes one-on-one and Casino Royale the night where the grown-ups get to play. Please visit <http://www.mammothfoundation.org/> to register or for more information.

## **Recreation Highlights**

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### **Easter Play Day & Community Egg Hunt – April 6**

This Recreation Department activity is fun, festive, and free! On Friday, **April 6, 2012** come join the Mammoth Lakes Easter Bunny and Recreation staff from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center (on Forest Trail) for springtime crafts and the “not to be missed” Community Easter Egg Hunt. Activities begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. with the Egg Hunt beginning at 3:30 p.m. Don’t be late! Bring your own basket to fill with goodies. Prize eggs will be hidden for each age grouping. Toddlers through elementary aged kids are encouraged to attend. For more information or to volunteer please call John at (760) 934-8989 x234.

### **Little Sluggers Instructional T-Ball Begins May 9**

This is a great program for ages 2 – 5, designed to introduce your child to the wonderful sport of baseball. It will provide a unique opportunity for parents to share quality time with their children while preparing them for future softball and baseball activities. This program is designed to teach the fundamentals of baseball in a clinic and mock-game setting. (All parents are encouraged to help with their children, don’t be shy just hop right in there). The program is scheduled every Wednesday from, 5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. beginning May 9 – June 13, at the Mammoth Elementary School. Cost is \$36, but register before April 25 and get the \$30 Early Bird deal!

### **Mammoth Men's 4 on 4 Basketball League**

The Men's 4 on 4 Basketball League is underway. Scheduled every Monday and Wednesday evening at the MMS gym, the League concludes on April 16, 2012. For more information please call John at (760) 934-8989 x234 or William at (619) 987-2670. Team and individual sign-ups are taking place now at the Recreation office located upstairs in the Minaret Village Mall.

### **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.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us), 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!

### **Get Gymnastics Fever!**

This year-round program is designed to introduce children from 3-18 years old the wonderful and exciting sport of gymnastics. Offered by Michelle DeJong, a level 8 competitive gymnast and Level 1-5 gymnastics coach, participants will learn to tumble and more in a safe and structured environment. This program is also a recipient of Measure R funding with \$7,000 of gymnastic equipment. Three age sessions are available at the Community Center on Forest Trail.

- 3-5 yr. olds – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- 5-8 yr. olds – Saturday: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- 8-12+ yr. olds – Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. & Saturday: 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- 8-12+ yr. olds – Tuesday: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Invitation only.

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

### **Zumba Fitness**

Party yourself into shape with Zumba® Fitness offered by Kaysie Williams from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail. Cost: 10 punch-\$77.50; 5 punch-\$42.50; Drop-In rate \$10 per class and your first class is only \$5!

## **Recreation Events & Activities in Town...**

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### **HSTC Spring Training Camps**

It's that time of year... time to train for the June Lake Triathlon! The club hosts 6-week camps every spring to help you get race ready. These coached workouts focus on fun, technique, strength, speed and power. CAMP SESSION 1 is scheduled from April 10 - May 19, 2012 (6 week camp). Two sessions per week (2-hours each session) are offered for only \$149 for HSTC & Snowcreek members, or \$199 for non-members. *Choose from either:* Tuesdays & Saturdays at 9:00-11:00am or Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm & Saturdays at 9:00am. Sign up at Snowcreek Athletic Club.

### **Striders are Running!**

The High Sierra Striders (Running Club of the Eastern Sierra) have begun their Tuesday morning practices. Please visit the Striders website, [www.highsierrastriders.org](http://www.highsierrastriders.org), for detailed information regarding training locations, workouts, races and more.

### **Friends Of The Inyo Alabama Hills Day**

The Alabama Hills Stewardship Group will host the first-ever "Alabama Hills Day" on Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lone Pine Museum of Film History and with "in the field" field trips and self-guided tours in the Alabama Hills. This new annual event is intended to celebrate the uniquely scenic landscape and educate the public about the wide variety of groups that use and enjoy the Alabama Hills, including Friends of the Inyo, which will be among the 20 to 30 user groups and information tables at the film museum. Come by and say hello! Admission is free. For more information, call Chris Langley at (760) 937-1189 or FOI Membership & Outreach Manager Catherine Billey at (760) 873-6500.

### **Grouse Mountain Hike**

One of Friends of the Inyo's seasonal favorite explorations! Join us this Saturday, April 14, 2012 for six hours of moderate hiking up to Grouse Mountain which is uniquely positioned below Mt. Humphreys and Mt. Tom for great views. Add fantastical rock formations, newly arrived migrant birds, and interesting flora and you have all the ingredients for a terrific spring hike! Meet 8:00 a.m. at the FOI

Office, 819 North Barlow Lane, Bishop, or 8:30 a.m. at the Line Street (Hwy 168) and Buttermilk turn off. Please bring clothing for any weather condition, food and water. Dogs okay. Email leader Todd Vogel at [todd@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:todd@friendsoftheinyo.org) for more information.

### **Conglomerate Mesa Hike**

Rising south of the Inyo Mountains near the mining ghost town of Cerro Gordo, Conglomerate Mesa lies just outside the west boundary of Death Valley National Park with terrain including mixed pinon, juniper forest, sage brush and Joshua Trees. Join Friends of the Inyo on Sunday, April 15, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for this moderate hiking exploration! Meet in Lone Pine at the Inter-Agency Visitor Center one mile south of town. Bring clothing for any weather condition, food and water. Dogs okay. For more information, email leader Todd Vogel at [todd@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:todd@friendsoftheinyo.org).

### **Sierra Club X-Country Ski And Snowshoe Conditioning Tours**

Join the Sierra Club for conditioning tours on April 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2012. Tour typically covers 3-5 miles, and all skill levels welcome. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot behind Mammoth Lakes Union Bank. Call John (760) 934-1767 or Mary Kay (760) 934-0355 for additional information.

### **Sierra Club X-Country Ski And Snowshoe Tours**

Join the Sierra Club for intermediate/advanced Snowshoe Tours on April 8, 15 and 22, 2012. The tour covers 5-7 miles. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot behind Mammoth Lakes Union Bank. Call John (760) 934-1767 or Mary Kay (760) 934-0355 for additional information.

### **Sierra Club Potluck And Program**

The Sierra Club is hosting their monthly potluck on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at the Crowley Lake Community Center. Beginning at 6:15 p.m., bring a dish to share and your own non-disposable dinnerware. Rich Foye, Mono Lake Interpretative Guide, will take us on a virtual tour of Panum Crater, the most accessible of the twenty one Mono cones.

### **Sierra Club X-Country Ski And Snowshoe Tour In The Mono Basin**

Join the Sierra Club on Sunday, April 29, 2012 for a 5-7 mile tour of the Mono Basin. Intermediate and advanced skill levels and endurance required! Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot behind Mammoth Lakes Union Bank. Call John (760) 934-1767 or Mary Kay (760) 934-0355 for additional information.

## Sports & Recreation Calendar

- On-going Gymnastics/Tumbling Program at the Community Center
- On-going Zumba Fitness at the Community Center
- On-going Men's 4 on 4 Basketball League (Mon. & Wed.)
- April 6 Town Easter Playday and Community Egg Hunt
- April 6 FWRA Championships
- April 6 Sierra Star Masters Party and Spring Blowout Sale
- April 10 Village Championship FINALS
- April 11 2012 Measure U Spring "Test" Award Closes
- April 13-15 Mammoth Invitational presented by Alaska Airlines
- April 15 June Mountain Closing Day
- April 16 Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center Closing Day
- April 17 U.S. Professional Ski Patrol Olympics
- April 20 Spring Fest
- April 21 DSES Slide-a-Thon
- April 21 MMST Mogul Bash
- April 21 FW Speed Finals
- April 21 Volcom's Peanut Butter & Rail Jam Championships
- April 22 Active Brodown Showdown
- April 22 Annual Pond Skim and Spring Fest Party
- April 23 DSES Springtacular
- Apr 28 Rossignol Summer Race Camp
- May 2 2012 Measure R Spring Award Application Period Closes
- May 9 Little Sluggers Instructional T-ball begins

## Public Service Announcements

### Town & MLFD Identify Potential Safety Issue

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

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

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

### **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, tune your car radio to Caltrans Highway Advisory Radio (HAR), call 1-800 ROAD (7623) or check the internet at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo>

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" 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.

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.

SLOW DOWN – CARRY CHAINS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you suspect illegal rental activity, you may submit an anonymous tip via the Town's TOT hotline at (760) 934-8989 x275 or on the Town's website via the Transient Occupancy Tax information page. Please include any information that you have that would substantiate the claim, along with the property address and owner's name if you have it. You may also email [tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](mailto:tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us). Note that emails are not anonymous, however, staff will do its best to keep your information private.

### **13. Questions & Anonymous TOT Hotline**

If you have questions about TOT enforcement, or if you would like to report suspicious activity or rental advertisements please contact our anonymous hotline. The Town will follow-up on any reports submitted. The Hot Line Number is (760) 934-8989 ext. 275 or email your information to: [TOT@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](mailto:TOT@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us).

### **Help Keep Mammoth's Air Clean This Winter**

When the Town of Mammoth Lakes experiences periods of clear, cold, and calm weather with minimal breeze, the air quality deteriorates. Wood smoke from fireplaces and stoves cannot dissipate, and sometimes builds up to unhealthy levels that could have serious health consequences. To keep our air as clean as possible, please do your part by following these simple steps:

- Only burn clean and hot fires
- Check your chimney periodically for emissions (if smoke is clearly visible, then your fire needs more air, the wood is not dry enough, or the wood is not split small enough)
- Call (760) 934-1010 for any wood burning restrictions
- Abide by the "no wood burning" days restrictions

The Town of Mammoth Lakes continually monitors air quality, and will announce "no wood burning" days when air quality is forecast to approach unhealthy levels. To find out if wood burning restrictions have been announced, please call (760) 934-1010, listen to local radio announcements, or sign up for air quality notifications via the Town's Notify Me feature at <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/list.aspx>.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### **Register for CodeRED**

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

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

### **Mammoth Lakes Police Department is Looking for Reserve Police Officers**

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department is reactivating its Police Reserve Officer Program. Police Reserve Officers are part-time volunteers who supplement the full time officers. They can serve a variety of assignments including patrol, special events, prisoner transportation, and wildlife management. Police Chief Dan Watson reports that he and other Eastern Sierra law enforcement personnel have been working with Cerro Coso College to institute a Reserve Academy at the Bishop or Mammoth Lakes campus. In the meantime, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department is looking for any retired police officers who live in the general area who may be interested in joining the MLPD as a Reserve Officer. Anyone interested in learning more about the MLPD Police Reserve Program should contact Sergeant Marc Moscowitz at (760) 934-2011 ext. 68 or at [mmoscowitz@mammothlakespd.org](mailto:mmoscowitz@mammothlakespd.org).

### **Leash Law Reminder**

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

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

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

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

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

existing dwelling units having a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or attached garage.

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

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) has developed a list of certified CO devices that meet the requirement specified within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010.

For a complete list of currently approved devices please visit the SFM's website at [http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselistings\\_bml\\_searchcotest.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselistings_bml_searchcotest.php). Under the search categories provided select Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors for a complete list of devices.

Further details contained within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010:

- Owners shall install CO devices in a manner consistent with building standards applicable to new construction for the relevant type of occupancy if it is technically feasible. See the 2010 California Building Code, Section 420.4, and the 2010 California Residential Code, Section R315.
- CO devices shall produce a distinct audible alarm.
- CO devices may be combined with a smoke detector, if the combination device meets all specified SFM listing and approval requirements.
- Violation of Health & Safety Code Section 17926 is an infraction punishable by a maximum fine of two-hundred dollars for each offense.
- A local enforcement agency shall provide the property owner a 30-day notice to correct.
- Local jurisdictions are authorized to adopt ordinances requiring CO devices if the ordinance is consistent with the requirement of this bill.

For a full list of this legislation's stipulations please review the Department of Housing and Community Development's Information Bulletin 2011-01 at <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/shl/infobulls/IB2011-01.pdf>.

### **Town Outdoor Lighting Ordinance**

In 2003, the Town implemented an outdoor lighting ordinance to eliminate light pollution and preserve views of our starry skies. The outdoor lighting ordinance was adopted to encourage residents to administer a lighting system that not only promotes public safety and night-time ambiance but to maximize energy conservation. To eliminate glare and light trespass into neighboring properties and roadways, the outdoor lighting fixtures on your property should be shielded and re-directed to shine downward or changed out to a lower wattage. More information about responsible lighting can be found at [www.crlaction.org](http://www.crlaction.org).