



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town News

Town e-News – Week of November 12, 2012

News from the Town Manager

Special Town Council Meeting – Nov. 13

A special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Mammoth Lakes will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 commencing at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber/Suite Z, Minaret Shopping Center, Old Mammoth Road.

Measure U Application Committee Meeting – Nov. 13

The Measure U Application Committee has scheduled their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chamber/Suite Z, Minaret Shopping Center, Old Mammoth Road.

Recreation Commission Meeting – Nov. 13

The Recreation Commission has scheduled a tour of recreation facilities at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 and will convene the regular meeting at approximately 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber/Suite Z, Minaret Shopping Center, Old Mammoth Road.

Planning Commission Meeting – Nov. 14

The Planning Commission has scheduled their regular meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber/Suite Z, Minaret Shopping Center, Old Mammoth Road.

Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Committee Meeting – Nov. 14

The Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Committee (MLTSCC) has scheduled their regular meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Shopping Center, Old Mammoth Road.

Town Council Meeting – Dec. 5

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The regularly scheduled meeting for November 21, 2012 was cancelled. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Town Seeks Community Solutions for Proposed Restructuring Plan

On October 3, 2012 the Town Council presented the proposed restructuring plan to the community of Mammoth Lakes. All documents relating to the plan, including how and when you can provide comments can be viewed online at: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=498>. See below for public meeting dates, and times:

Public Input

The public is invited to comment on the proposed Plan in one of three ways:

- 1) By **attending** one of many public meetings, listed below. (All meetings will take place in the Town Council Chambers.)
- 2) By **calling** the Town Manager's office at (760) 934-8989, extension 223.
- 3) By sending an **email** to mllasettlement@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us, the Town Clerk, or the Town Council. All emails will be included in the next Town Council agenda packet.

The Town Council will take into consideration any and all comments received from the public through the above means, as well as through other interactions. If questions are asked, responses will be included in the "**Frequently Asked Questions**" document available on the Town's website.

Meetings on Phase 1 of Restructuring: Position Reductions to Finance the Settlement (October 3 – November 30)

Public Meeting Dates:

- o (Occurred) Wednesday, September 27, 2012.
- o (Occurred) Wednesday, October 3, 2012.
- o (Occurred) Thursday, October 18, 2012: Continued discussion of all aspects of the Restructuring Plan, and possible alternatives.
- o (Occurred) Wednesday, November 7, 2012: Town Council will deliberate on the proposed Restructuring Plan, based on the comments received to date, including the results of the online survey.
- o **Special Meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2012**
- o **Wednesday, December 5, 2012:** Town Council will **vote** on the proposed Restructuring Plan-Phase 1, and move to Phase 2.

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, November 9, 2012 - Saturday, November 10, 2012 = 21%

(24% same weekend in 2011, down 3% in 2012)

Sunday, November 11, 2012 - Thursday, November 15, 2012 = 12%

(10% same midweek in 2011, up 2% in 2012)

Hotels/Motels/B&B: 25% (Friday-Saturday) 9% (Sunday-Thursday)

Condos: 17% (Friday-Saturday) 15% (Sunday-Thursday)

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Community News

Forest Service Waives Fees for Veterans Day Weekend

The US Forest Service is waiving fees at hundreds of recreation sites across the country November 10-12, 2012 in recognition of Veterans Day Weekend. The Forest Service is working to ensure as many visitors as possible have the opportunity to experience the great outdoors and take advantage of the many recreational activities America's national forests and grasslands have to offer.

"This is our way of saying thanks to the brave men and women – past and present – who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe at home," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "We encourage veterans, their families and all visitors to take time out over the holiday weekend to enjoy the benefits that nature provides on public lands throughout the country." The fee waiver days support both the goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative and First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move Outside."

Here locally on the Inyo National Forest, day-use fees will be waived at South Tufa in the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area and Schulman Grove in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. The road to Schulman Grove, as well as the new visitor center are expected to remain open until snowstorms close them for the season. Due to recent storms visitors traveling the White Mtn. Road to Schulman Grove should be prepared for some snow and/or ice on the road. Fees on the Inyo National Forest will remain in effect for overnight camping and wilderness permit reservations.

By waiving fees on Veterans Day Weekend, the Forest Service hopes everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy the wonder and rejuvenation of recreation in the great outdoors. Recreation fees regularly collected at fee sites contribute significantly to improving facilities and visitor services at the specific area where the fees are collected. The Forest Service operates approximately 17,000 developed recreation sites nationwide. Of those, approximately 6,000 require recreation fees, which are used to provide visitor services, repairs and replacements, and facilities maintenance. Traditionally, fees are not charged on 98 percent of national forests and grasslands, and approximately two-thirds of developed recreation sites in national forests and grasslands can be used for free. Many recreation opportunities such as camping, sightseeing and hiking can be enjoyed throughout the year at no cost. For more information please call (760) 873-2427, or visit one of the local Forest Service visitor centers.

Mono County Sheriff Richard C. Scholl Announces Retirement

This decision does not come lightly, as those closest to me would agree, but after deep consideration and weighing all the options, I have made the decision to retire. I believe there is a time in everyone's life that work is not the primary focus, and family, along with personal health, must take the forefront. In the past, I have sacrificed my family, along with personal relationships, for "the job." I feel, at this stage in my life, it is time to move on and focus on the quality of life that retirement will allow my wife and I to enjoy.

I have been honored to be the 21st person to serve as Sheriff-Coroner of Mono County. To have the trust of the employees and the citizens over these past six years has truly been a privilege. I know our accomplishments have outweighed the

defeats and I believe the Sheriff's Office is poised to continue moving forward in a positive manner under the direction of Undersheriff Ralph Obenberger.

When I was sworn in as the Sheriff-Coroner on January 8, 2007, thirty two years after I was first sworn in as a Mono County Deputy on January 8, 1975, it was my goal to lead the department in a positive way with the attitude that we are accountable and responsive to the citizens and visitors to Mono County. It was a mandate that we build collaborative relationships with all departments throughout the County and Town. I believe we have been successful in that regard.

The decisions and changes made over the past six years may not have always been viewed by everyone in the same light; however, those decisions have always been made in the best interest of the department as well as for the citizens and visitors of Mono County. It has been an absolute privilege to represent and work with each member of the Mono County Sheriff's Office. They are truly dedicated professionals and I believe they have represented the Sheriff's Office in the best light.

There have been numerous accomplishments over the past six years, and I am thankful to be a part of those changes, never losing sight of enhancing the quality of life for our employees, along with the citizens and visitors to Mono County.

My wife of 37 years, Annette, and I plan on travelling the country wherever the weather is nice and look forward to exploring the back roads and many golf courses throughout the United States in our 5th wheel trailer. I have set my retirement date for Thursday, December 20, 2012.

Mammoth Moves – Nov. 14

What: Join the infamous Greg Newbry and the Nutrition & Physical Activity Taskforce for a 30 minute walk! Let's keep the momentum going despite the change in weather!

Where: Meet in the Sierra Center Mall main lobby (just down from Mammoth Sporting Goods) snow or shine!

When: Arrive at 12:10 p.m. Walk from 12:15-12:45 p.m.

Contact: Sandra Pearce at 760-924-1818 or spearce@mono.ca.gov. Also check out upcoming Mammoth Moves sessions at www.monohealth.com under Resources, or go to Mono County Health Department's **Facebook** page for the latest Mammoth Moves updates or schedule changes. Mammoth Moves is online: <http://monohealth.com/public-health/page/mammoth-moves>

Bluenose - Theatre For Young Audiences At The Edison Theatre – Nov. 17

The Edison Theatre announces that the Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) production of "Bluenose" presentations are coming the week of November 12, 2012 with a public performance on Saturday, November 17, at 2:00 pm. TYA is a movement that supports presentation of plays for children, performed by adults, with themes relevant to their lives. It helps develop critical and creative thinking skills by reinforcing thoughts and opinions about the play. Shira Dubrovner, Artistic Director at the Edison Theatre introduced the first local TYA production in 2008 with "Priscilla's Perfect Day." Now, as at that time, she approached local schools throughout Mono and Inyo County to bring their students to the production as a field trip experience. This year several schools are participating, providing their students with this unique opportunity of attending a fun show whose theme is about differences and tolerance.

In addition, Dubrovner provides teachers with an Educators Resource Guide in advance of the production to assist in preparing students before the show and to continue the process after. This year in the 2012-2013 Edison Theatre theatrical season TYA returns with a production of "Bluenose," a rollicking pirate tale with quick and witty banter, fantastic physical comedy, and a lovely story of tolerance and acceptance. Three red-nosed pirates stumble across a blue-nosed girl fishing in the water around their boat. Being different from them is an unthinkable offense, and they don't like it! Despite their bumbling and stumbling ways, she teaches them to let go of their prejudices and fears. And they all learn a little bit about themselves along the way

"We are very excited to be able to include this production in our theatrical schedule this season," commented Dubrovner. "We have a very talented cast of professionals bringing the story to life in Mammoth, led by LA-based director/actor Doug Oliphant, an alumnus of The Kennedy Center, The National Theatre Institute, The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, and the Russia's St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy. Our ability to include this important programming component in our schedule—educating future audiences, is thanks in part to contributions from Measure U and an anonymous donor."

In addition to performances for elementary school students from Inyo and Mono County during the week, and the Saturday public performance, Oliphant is presenting two workshops—one for adults and one for children. The "Movement for Actors" workshop, geared for adults, is scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 14 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm.

The physical comedy workshop for children is on Thursday, November 15 from 3:30 – 6:00 pm. Students will learn clowning basics including: tripping over yourself, shoulder rolls, how to run into a wall, get slapped, slap someone else, and more! Students will be working on acting tools - voice, body, and imagination - to improve individual creativity, confidence, and ability to work and communicate effectively with others.

Both workshops cost \$25 per person and space is limited. The Saturday performance and both workshops take place at Edison Theatre, 100 College Parkway, across from Cerro Coso College. No previous experience is necessary to participate in the workshops. Information and reservations can be made at (760) 934-6592.

American Red Cross Emergency Shelter Volunteer Training – Dec. 5

The American Red Cross is conducting Emergency Shelter volunteer training on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 on the 3rd Floor (Social Services Conference Room) in the Sierra Center Mall 452 Old Mammoth Road between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Training is free - All are welcome! Please RSVP to Marlo Preis at mpreis@mono.ca.gov or (760) 924-1793.

Course topics include:

- A. Disaster Services: An Overview is a basic level course that provides an introduction to Disaster Services at the ARC. An introduction to disaster preparedness and response. Engages participants through integrated video & interactive activities.
- B. Shelter Operations is a basic level course designed to give participants an overview of the American Red Cross policies and procedures for setting up, running and closing a shelter during a disaster.

- C. Shelter Simulation is a basic level course. The simulation builds on the information presented in the Shelter Operations and provides participants an opportunity to practice working with procedures for setting up, running and closing a shelter during a disaster.

The Friends of Education Dinner Celebrates with Fun & Surprises – Dec. 15

The 2012 Mammoth Lakes Foundation has special festivities planned as it announces its Friends of Education Celebration on Saturday evening, December 15, 2012. This annual event pays tribute to a Founder of the Year for their unprecedented support and dedication to education, the arts and the community, and to the Volunteer of the Year for selfless service to the mission of the Foundation. This year the event takes place in the Edison Theatre and features a performance of "A Dickens' Christmas Carol: A Traveling Travesty in Two Tumultuous Acts," with some sparkling additions to the festivities.

The evening begins with a devastatingly delightful display of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and wines, followed by a presentation of the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre's December production of a fun-filled holiday farce based on "A Christmas Carol"--with apologies to Mr. Dickens. During intermission tasty desserts and dessert wines accompany a presentation of awards to the Founder of the Year and the Volunteer of the year.

A special added feature of this year's event is a special Diamond giveaway! Each attendee has the opportunity to purchase a Diamond Raffle ticket and one lucky winner will walk away with a certified diamond. Diamond Raffle tickets will be available at a price of \$100, limited to one ticket per attendee. The evening will also include a "Holiday" raffle for which unlimited raffle tickets may be purchased. Prizes include two VIP tickets to the July 5-7 Mammoth Food & Wine Experience with other prizes soon to be announced.

Tickets for the event go on sale October 15, so plan your holiday celebration with us now. Seating is limited and the festivities and the setting are sure to be entertaining with a rib-tickling live theatre experience, honoring of some very special people, and awarding a Diamond of a prize!

To purchase tickets to the Friends of Education annual celebration, call (760) 934-3781, or visit the website at www.mammothlakesfoundation.org/theatre.html

Recreation Highlights

Get Your Skates On! Mammoth Ice Rink To Open November 23

The Mammoth Ice Rink is scheduled to open on Friday, November 23, 2012 (weather permitting). The Mammoth Ice Rink is an outdoor facility located at 416 Sierra Park Road adjacent to the new Mammoth Lakes Library offering public skating sessions, hockey clinics, pick-up hockey, lessons and is available for rental.

Admission

Adults skate for \$10.00 with skate rentals, \$8.00 for youth (5-15) with skate rentals, and kids 4 and under skate free with a paid adult. This winter get your 6th Skate FREE with the Five Skate Pass (5SP), Seniors and college students skate mid-week

for half-price, and local students skate for only \$2.00 per session (including skate rentals).

Lessons

Ice skating group lessons are scheduled every Friday night at the Mammoth Ice Rink. Lessons are scheduled for 45 minutes for a cost of only \$10 per student with a maximum of 8 students per session. Friday night lesson times are 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. for Elementary age children and from 7:00 – 7:45 p.m. for Middle/High School age skaters. Purchase five lessons in advance and get the 6th Lesson FREE! Ice skates are not included in the fee, but are available for rental. Private lessons are available for \$25/hour.

Ice Hockey

Pick-up Ice Hockey is programmed at the Mammoth Ice Rink for the entire season (includes holiday periods). Please refer to the winter schedule for details. Fees are \$10 for adults or \$5 for youth per session, or \$150/\$100 for an Adult or Youth Season Pass.

The Mammoth Ice Rink is owned and operated by the Town of Mammoth Lakes through a partnership with Mammoth Unified School District and Mono County Office of Education. The facility is drug-free, smoke-free and pet-free. We accept cash, credit cards, and personal checks with a valid driver's license. For the complete winter schedule, rates and special promotions visit www.mammothicerink.com, or call the Mammoth Ice Rink at (760) 934-2505 during winter operating hours.

We'll see you on the ice!

Gymnastics/Tumbling Program

NEW SCHEDULE: Beginning October 19, 2012, the Wednesday session will now take place on Friday. No class on October 26 – join us at the Halloween Party at the Mammoth Roller Rink!

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 programs are available:

- 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 – **Friday:** 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!

Sports & Recreation Calendar

- CLOSED Reds Meadow, Tioga, Sonora and the Lakes Basin
- Sept. 3 – Nov. 15 Ambush at the Lake – Convict Lake Fall Trout Derby
- Nov. 8 Mammoth Mountain Opening Day!
- Nov. 17 Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center Opening Day
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 23 Mammoth Ice Rink Opening Day!
- Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Art Festival
- Dec. 7 Official Town of Mammoth Lakes Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Dec. 14/15 Old Mammoth Road Jam
- Dec. 22 Mammoth Night of Lights

Public Service Announcements

Town And Partners Begin Construction On The Mammoth Gateway Community Project!

The Town and its partners have begun construction on the Mammoth Gateway Community Project, which is a citizen-initiated, public-private partnership, to construct a gateway entry on Main Street. The Project, which was spearheaded by local citizen Mrs. Elizabeth Tenney, involves a number of partners that have contributed many hours and resources, including Snowcreek (Chadmar), Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA), Mammoth Community Foundation (MCF), Mono County, Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD), the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the United States Forest Service (USFS), and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, as well as a number of local citizens.

The Project, which was designed by local artist Larry Walker, (architectural services were provided by architect Bruce Woodward), is intended to reflect the unique environment, culture, and heritage of Mammoth Lakes, and serve as a welcome to visitors and residents. Construction is expected to be completed in mid-November.

For additional information below on the gateway project, please visit the dedicated webpage: http://mammothgateway.org/Construction_Updates.html.

2012 Measure U Fall Award Postponed

Due to insufficient Measure U funds available for award in December, on September 19, 2012, Town Council directed staff to convene the Measure U Application Committee to draft a new timeline for a spring award, and determine an award amount (cap) for appropriation. This item will be added to the October 16, 2012 meeting of the Measure U Application Committee, and be returned to Town Council on November 7, 2012 for consideration.

Wardlaw Appointed As New County Of San Diego Director Of Planning And Development Services

Community Development Director Mark Wardlaw will be leaving the Town of Mammoth Lakes to lead the new revamped County of San Diego Department of Planning and Development Services.

Prior to becoming the Community Development Director for the Town of Mammoth Lakes in 2005, Wardlaw served as the Deputy Community Development Director and Planning Manager in Culver City, and prior to that was the Principal Planner for the Centre City Development Corporation in San Diego. He will assume his new duties with the County of San Diego on September 21, 2012.

"The Town of Mammoth Lakes congratulates Mark on his new appointment with the County of San Diego, and wishes him all the very best in his new endeavor," stated Town Manager Dave Wilbrecht. "Mark was instrumental in shaping the future character of this community, and more recently, leading efforts on economic recovery and achieving long-term economic sustainability."

Mark's leadership, initiative and resourcefulness have been integral to the successful completion of many major projects and strategic planning efforts during his time with the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Many of these achievements relied on building strong relationships and partnerships with the community, with Town Commissions, especially the Planning Commission, and the Town Council.

Just a few highlights, among the long list of his achievements:

- Development of an inclusive, community-based, process that led to the adoption of the 2007 General Plan
- Adoption of the 2009 Housing Element
- Adoption of the Trail System Master Plan, and Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Development of the Draft Mobility Plan
- Approval of the Destination Resort Community and Economic Development Strategy (DRCEDS)
- Completion of Neighborhood District Planning for key areas of town including Main Street, Old Mammoth Road, the North Village and Sierra Valley.
- Initiation and execution of the highly successful TOT enforcement program.
- Approval of major development projects such as Old Mammoth Place/Clearwater, Snowcreek VIII, Mammoth Crossing, Mammoth Hillside, Mammoth View, and Vista Point.

Wardlaw attributes these accomplishments to the hard work of his dedicated staff in the Community Development Department. He notes that this motivated team was always willing to take on any assignment or challenge to provide the highest level of service to the community. There are no immediate plans by The Town of Mammoth Lakes to advertise or fill the position.

Free, Real-Time Property Information Now Available!

The Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County are proud to present ParcelViewer, the Town and County's official web-based property information system. This free, public, on-line service can be relied upon to provide convenient, accurate and up-to-date information, based on the official Assessor's data-base. Use ParcelViewer to view and print customized parcel information and maps, including:

- Zoning Information
- Property Addresses
- Complex Names/ Condo Unit Numbers
- Parcel Lines*
- Valuation Data
- Acreage
- Aerial imagery of surrounding properties and more!

Visit Parcel Viewer today at <http://gis.mono.ca.gov/parcelviewer/>

California Mandates Recycling for Business and Multi-Family Residential Locations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Town & MLFD Identify Potential Safety Issue

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

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

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

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Frequently Asked Questions

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

1. What is a transient rental?

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

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

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

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

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

3. What is transient occupancy tax (TOT)?

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

4. Do I need to pay TOT?

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

5. Do I need a business tax certificate?

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

6. Do I need a transient occupancy tax certificate?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. Do I have a business tax certificate?

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

11. What is illegal rental activity?

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

12. How can I report illegal rental activity?

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

13. Questions & Anonymous TOT Hotline

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

Register for CodeRED

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

1. Go to monosheriff.org
2. scroll down left side panel to CodeRED community notification system;
3. click on it and follow directions.

Leash Law Reminder

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

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

Carbon Monoxide Detectors Save Lives

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

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

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

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

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

For a complete list of currently approved devices please visit the SFM's website at http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting_bml_searchcotest.php. 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.