



Town of Mammoth Lakes

P.O. Box 1609

Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546

Ph: (760) 934-8989

Fax: (760) 934-8608

Town News

Town e-News – Week of February 11, 2013

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – Feb. 20

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2013 beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a Recreation Department, Measure R and Measure U workshop. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Change In Top Leadership Within The Town Of Mammoth Lakes

In a closed session held on February 6, 2013, the Town Council made two critical personnel decisions: to accept a resignation of the current Town Manager, David Wilbrecht, and to appoint Marianna Marysheva-Martinez to the position of the Town Manager. Both actions are effective February 13, 2013.

Marianna Marysheva-Martinez will serve as the Town Manager under the same employment contract as she currently has as the Assistant Town Manager, and will receive limited paid leave accrual.

The Town Council and Town Manager look forward to working collaboratively, in partnership with Town employees and outside partners, to address a multitude of challenges and engage in exciting new initiatives. Due to a confidential nature of personnel decisions, the Town will be unable to provide any further comment at this time.

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.

Calls For Service/Officer Observations

131, including 0 business/building checks

Crime/Incident Reports

32 reports, including 6 arrests

Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions

29 stops; 11 citations; 31 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 4 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

1 incident; 0 reports

Wildlife

0 calls; 0 reports

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, February 8, 2013 - Saturday, February 9, 2013 = 74%

(48% same weekend in 2012, up 26% in 2013)

Sunday, February 10, 2013 - Thursday, February 14, 2013 = 43%

(27% same midweek in 2012, up 16% in 2013)

Hotels/Motels/B&B: 86% (Friday-Saturday) 44% (Sunday-Thursday)

Condos: 62% (Friday-Saturday) 42% (Sunday-Thursday)

Follow 'TownofMammoth' daily on Twitter at www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Disclaimer: Social media communications regarding Town business may be subject to disclosure. Social media is not the official method of communicating with the Town. Please contact Town staff via telephone, in writing or in person.

Community News

Forest Service Proposes Restoration of Unauthorized Routes

The Inyo National Forest is initiating three separate projects aimed at restoring routes that are not part of the designated motorized National Forest Transportation System (NFTS). The proposed projects are in four distinct areas of the Forest – Mono Craters, Upper Owens River Watershed, Bishop Creek Watershed (includes areas both east and west of Bishop), and 2009 wilderness additions (White Mountains and the eastern escarpment of the Sierra). A fourth planning effort that proposes additional restoration in the Bishop and Upper Owens areas will be forthcoming in future months.

Most routes in the project areas require no treatment beyond work authorized in the 2009 Travel Management Decision, and should recover naturally without active restoration. For routes not likely to recover naturally, the Forest is proposing a variety of restoration treatments to prevent resource impacts and to promote revegetation and recovery. Treatments could include visual disguising with native materials, loosening of soils (either by hand or machinery), water diversion, revegetation or seeding, and a variety of other restoration techniques.

While conducting detailed surveys of the areas, Forest Service personnel discovered the need for some changes to the NFTS in order to provide key access to important recreation opportunities and to protect various resources. These potential changes are described in the project proposals as well.

Public meetings will be held in Mammoth Lakes and Bishop. Detailed maps and descriptions of the projects will be available for review after a short presentation. Forest Service staff will be available to answer questions and assist with your comments. Maps and project proposals will also be posted on the Forest website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/landmanagement/projects/?cid=stelprdb540746>
[2](#)

- Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Inyo National Forest Supervisors Office, 351 Pacu Lane (behind the DMV on West Line St) in Bishop.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 20, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail in Mammoth Lakes.**

Scoping letters announcing each project are being sent to potentially affected parties and members of the public who have expressed interest. If you wish to be added to

the mailing lists, or need information about the proposals please contact Marty Hornick at 760-873-2427 or mhornick@fs.fed.us

Objection Period for Sherwin-Scenic Loop Project

The Inyo National Forest, Mammoth Ranger District, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Sherwin-Scenic Loop Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. This project proposes to conduct fuels treatments by mowing brush and thinning trees on approximately 1,100 acres managed by the Inyo National Forest around Sherwin Creek, Mammoth Creek and Mammoth Scenic Loop areas, in and around the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Some units are in close proximity to private and recreation developments. This project was planned under the authorities outlined in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003. A copy of the EA is available at the following internet site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=28888>.

The Responsible Official who will issue a decision on the project is District Ranger Jon Regelbrugge. The proposed project is subject to a 30-day objection process pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218, subpart A. It is not subject to notice, comment, and appeal procedures in 36 CFR Part 215.

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted written comments specific to the project during scoping or other opportunity for public comment. Objections will only be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of the legal notice in the Inyo Register, which is expected on Tuesday, February 5, 2013. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the objection period for this proposal. Written objections must be submitted to Ed Armenta, Forest Supervisor/Reviewing Officer. Detailed instructions for filing an objection can be found within the Legal Notice document at the web address above.

Additional information regarding the EA and objection period for the Sherwin-Scenic Loop Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project can be obtained from: Sue Farley, Project Leader, Mammoth Ranger Station, 2500 Hwy. 203, P.O. Box 148, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; phone 760-924-5535; or email sfarley@fs.fed.us.

Now Hiring for Public Safety Officers

The Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to announce that we are accepting applications to hire Public Safety Officers to join our Correctional Facility team.

The Public Safety Officer position, under supervision, supervises the conduct of prisoners at county holding facilities. The Public Safety Officer assists with and performs booking and screening procedures; assists with the transportation of prisoners; receives and transmits radio and telephone communications and dispatches law enforcement and other public safety personnel. The Public Safety Officer performs a variety of Sheriff's Department office support work and provides information to the public relating to the Sheriff's Department. The Public Safety Officer answers questions concerning prisoners and inmate status

If you would like more information, or are interested in the position and would like to fill out an application, please visit www.monosheriff.org or contact Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer, at (760) 932-5279 or jhansen@monosheriff.org.

MCOE Winter Adult Education Classes

Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun®

Day: Wednesdays, January 23 – March 13

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

Location: Mono County Office of Education

Info: This class is for parents or childcare providers with children ages 0-5 yrs old.

Cost: \$8 for the workbook.

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent®

Day: Wednesdays, January 23 – March 13

Time: 6:00-8:00 pm

Location: Mono County Office of Education

Info: Love and Logic® provides simple and practical techniques to help parents with kids of all ages.

Cost: \$8 for the workbook.

For more information, contact Laura Timpano at ltimpano@monocoe.org or (760) 934-0031.

Chocolate Peak Expedition – Feb. 10

Back for a sixth year is Friends of the Inyo's annual Chocolate Peak Expedition and Chocolate Tasting Seminar (BYO chocolate) scheduled on Sunday, February 10, 2013. This peak rises at the north end of Eureka Valley, near the northern border of Death Valley National Park, and has an impressive view. Snowshoes may be required and are not provided. This moderate, 7 mile hike is on an old mining trail with 1,500 ft. of gain and loss. Plan for an all day event. When & Where: Meet 8:00 a.m. at Friends of the Inyo, 819 North Barlow Lane, Bishop, or 8:30 a.m. at the Glacier View Campground in Big Pine. Please contact: Todd Vogel at [\(760\) 920-0774](tel:7609200774) or todd@friendsoftheinyo.org

Recreation Highlights

Instructional basketball for 1 & 2 Graders is Underway!

Register your 1st and 2nd grade student for FREE "Instructional Basketball" that begins on Thursday, February 7, 2013. This Co-ed basketball program will improve everyone's basic basketball techniques including: shooting, dribbling, passing, offense, defense, and the rules. Parents are welcome to participate actively as coaching helpers and crowd control. Play begins Thursday evening at the Mammoth Middle School Gym from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and will conclude on March 21, 2013. Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 234 or visit the Recreation Department offices located above Giovanni's in the Minaret Village Mall to register.

Get Your Skates on at the Mammoth Ice Rink

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, Friday night lessons and is available for rental. We ask for your patience and consideration during efforts to re-open the facility after a winter storm.

Admission

Adults skate for \$10.00 with skate rentals, youth (5-15) for \$8.00 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).

Friday Night 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, 7:00 – 7:45 p.m. for Middle/High School age skaters, and 8:00 – 8:45 p.m. for adults. 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 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: Through March 2013, Saturday Gymnastics will begin at 11:30 a.m. We apologize for any inconvenience. 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 yr. olds – Saturday: 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
- 4-5 yr. olds – Saturday: 12:15 – 1:00 p.m.
- 5-8 yr. olds – Saturday: 1:00- 2:00 p.m.
- 8-12+ yr. olds – **Friday:** 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. & Saturday: 2:00 – 3:00 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!

Public Service Announcements

Boxer Applauds President Obama for Signing the 'Mt. Andrea Lawrence Designation Act'

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) today praised President Obama for signing her bill, the Mt. Andrea Lawrence Designation Act, into law. This legislation will name a mountain peak in Mono County "Mt. Andrea Lawrence" in honor of the renowned conservationist, three-time Olympian and former member of the Mono County Board of Supervisors who passed away in 2009. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent, and passed the House on a 408 to seven vote.

"I am so pleased that President Obama signed this bill honoring the life and contributions of one of Mono County's most distinguished residents," Senator Boxer said. "Andrea Lawrence dedicated her life to protecting the treasures of the Eastern Sierra. Her passion and achievements were larger than life, which is why I cannot think of a more fitting tribute than to name this majestic peak in her honor."

Andrea Mead Lawrence was a three-time Olympian who remains the only American double Olympic gold medalist in alpine skiing. She was inducted into the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1958 at the age of 25, and in 2002, sports writer and documentary filmmaker Bud Greenspan called her "the greatest Winter Olympian of all time."

Lawrence was also a committed conservationist who worked to protect and restore Mammoth Lakes, Mono Lake, Bodie State Historic Park and other important natural and cultural resources of the Eastern Sierra. She served for 16 years on the Mono County Board of Supervisors as well as on the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District and in 2003 founded the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers to promote environmental protection and economic vitality in the region.

Peak 12,240, previously identified only by its elevation, is located in Mono County near the Tuolumne County border. It is on the border of the Ansel Adams Wilderness, just east of Yosemite National Park. The John Muir trail passes close to the peak.

Senator Boxer and Congressman Buck McKeon (R-Santa Clarita) – who sponsored identical House legislation – first introduced the legislation during the 111th Congress. Supporters of this bill include Andrea Lawrence's family, the Mono County Board of Supervisors, the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the Mono County Democratic Central Committee, the Mammoth Town Council, the Mono Lake Committee, the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers, the Sierra Nevada Alliance, the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Town of Mammoth Lakes Council Member Wendy Sugimura and former Mono County Supervisor Tim Alpers.

Winter Parking Ordinance – Nov.1 – April 30

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department would like to remind residents, visitors, and business owners that parking is prohibited on Town streets between November 1 through April 30. Obstructing snow removal equipment is also prohibited.

The Police Department only enforces these sections when it is snowing, or after a storm while snow removal equipment is in operation. Motorists should be aware of weather forecasts and make sure their vehicles are off the street when snow removal equipment is operating or may be operating. Any accumulation of snow means the plows will be out and the snow removal is not complete until the snow blowers have removed berms created by the plows.

Vehicles should always be parked behind the snow stakes. Operating snow removal equipment is complicated and when there are heavy accumulations of snow, vehicles parked partially on the street side of the stakes cannot always be observed. A passenger vehicle struck by snow removal equipment can receive substantial damage and if the vehicle is parked on the street side of the stakes, the accident is the fault of the driver of the illegally parked vehicle.

Please help the Town of Mammoth Lakes in its snow removal operations by parking legally during Winter months.

Reds Meadow Area Open for Winter Use

Logging operations in the Reds Meadow Valley have been completed for removing down trees from the wind event of last November 30, 2012. Consequently, the area closures in the Reds Meadow Valley will no longer be in effect. While the Reds Meadow Road is closed to wheeled motor vehicles for the season due to snow, access to Reds Meadow Valley will now be open to winter public use, including snowshoer, skier, snowmobile and pedestrian traffic.

Before travel into the Reds Meadow Valley, visitors should be aware of winter conditions and hazards in the area. The Reds Meadow Road is not maintained during winter, and may be subject to avalanche hazard. No services are available in Reds Meadow Valley during the winter. In case of need for emergency communication, public pay phones are located at the Reds Meadow Resort, Devils Postpile National Monument Ranger Station, and across from the Pumice Flat Group Campground.

For more information, please call the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center at (760) 924-5500 or visit the Welcome Center at 2510 Hwy 203 next to the Mammoth Ranger Station.

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.

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.

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.