



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**

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[www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov)

## Town News

### Town e-News: Week of November 7, 2016

#### News from the Town Manager

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##### **Town Council Meeting – Nov. 16**

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Suite Z. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

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

Nov. 9 Planning and Economic Development Commission, Suite Z, 2:00PM

Dec. 6 Recreation Commission Special Meeting, Suite Z, 4:00PM

##### **Trails End Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Nov. 10**

Celebrate the completion of Trails End Park and the renewed partnership with Volcom at 4:00pm on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at the new Trails End Park Pavilion located on Meridian Boulevard.

Trails End Park is a 4.9 acre neighborhood park featuring the world-renowned Volcom Brothers and Little Brothers Skate Park including a small and inviting neighborhood park and playground. This park project began in 2004 and was finally completed 12 years later in October 2016 for a total cost of \$2.3 Million dollars.

On August 17, 2016 Town Council unanimously approved the final funding required to complete Trails End Park. This \$190,000 project included the installation of red concrete around the playground structure, complimented by two new shade structures and picnic tables. A new 24'x24' pavilion was installed on a concrete slab that is connected to a concrete walkway, with steps, railings, display case, recycling and trash containers, and 4 picnic tables - one fully ADA accessible table.

This ceremony will celebrate the many partners that worked diligently together to deliver a stunning recreational neighborhood park and world-renowned skate park for the community of Mammoth Lakes. The Town will be recognizing the JLA Project, Volcom, Mammoth Lakes Recreation and the many donors and volunteers who participated in the completion of this valued community recreation asset.

For additional information regarding the Trails End Park Project, please contact Stuart Brown, Parks and Recreation Director at (760) 965-3696. Thank you in advance for your participation at this memorable and exciting event.

## **Get Moving To The Walk, Bike, Ride Community Workshops – Dec 5 & 8**

The community vision for Mammoth Lakes is to be a progressive and sustainable community that provides seamless access to key destinations in and around the immediate area of Mammoth Lakes utilizing a multi-modal system of transit, trails, and integrated mobility options. If you share this vision then walk, bike or ride to the Town facilitated mobility workshops this December and help connect Mammoth Lakes with our public lands. The Town has contracted with Alta Planning + Design to develop a Multi-Modal Bicycle, Pedestrian, Transit and Parking Action Plan to accelerate the Town's action plan for bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and parking alternatives within the community. This Action Plan will include a recommended implementation strategy including priority projects, "quick victory" early implementation projects, cost estimates and funding mechanisms.

Get mobile and get connected at the Walk, Bike, Ride community workshops listed below.

### **1. Walk, Bike, Ride Public Kickoff Meeting**

When: Monday, December 5, 2016  
Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Where: Mammoth Lakes Fire Station #1 (3150 Main Street) Parking is limited, please carpool  
Topic: Participate in an interactive SWOT analysis and visioning exercise for multi-modal mobility in Mammoth Lakes. Listen and learn about ideas and best practices from other peer recreational destination communities.

### **2. Walk, Bike, Ride Action Plan Strategies and Recommendations**

When: Thursday, December 8, 2016  
Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Where: Town Council Chambers, Suite Z (437 Old Mammoth Road)  
Topic: Provide input to the proposed strategies and recommendation options in a public workshop. Schematic plans, potential designs of critical areas including recommended parking, transit, and active transportation facilities, programmatic recommendations, and photo simulations of select areas will be presented. Come prepared to provide input on the benefits and trade-offs of each option, along with potential impacts, cost considerations, and responsible implementers. Feedback from this public workshop will help the Town incorporate public feedback into the priorities and direction as we move forward.

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

We look forward to getting better connected with you!

## **Crossing Guards for Safe Routes to School**

With the start of the school year, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department will be posting crossing guards at Meridian Boulevard at Sierra Park Road effective Monday, September 12, 2016, from 7:15–8:15AM, 12:00–12:30PM, and 2:20–3:20PM. They will assist with the safe crossing of students across Meridian Boulevard and help alleviate traffic issues around the schools. The Mammoth Lakes Police Department

will be enforcing applicable traffic laws. When a crossing guard displays a stop sign, the driver of any vehicle approaching the school crossing shall stop before reaching the crossing and remain stopped until all persons have cleared the roadway. Pedestrians and students are required by law to follow the official direction of the crossing guards. With strong partnerships between the Town, the Mammoth Unified School District, Mono County School District and parents, we can continue to foster a safe environment for our students throughout the school year.

### **Notify Me!**

Receive updates sent directly to your email or phone from the Town of Mammoth Lakes by subscribing to "Notify Me." Found on the left side of [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov), stay current with Public Service Announcements, Emergency Alerts, Town e-News, Recreation This Week, No Burn Announcements, DNDP updates, bid postings, news flash, calendar items, and more! Make smart decisions, subscribe today.

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

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

### **Projected Average Resort Occupancy**

Friday, Nov. 4, 2016	32%
Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016	36%
Sunday, Nov. 6, 2016	19%
Monday, Nov. 7, 2016	13%
Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016	9%
Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016	14%
Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016	26%
Friday, Nov. 11, 2016	48%
Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016	53%
Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016	18%

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

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

## **Community News**

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### **Reds Meadow Valley Road Closed for the Season**

The Inyo National Forest makes every effort to keep the Reds Meadow Valley Road open through October 15. After October 15, the road remains open until natural conditions such as snow or ice warrants closure of the road. The road temporarily closed for a mudslide that occurred on October 16 but re-opened on October 21 to provided continued access to the valley and Devils Postpile National Monument into the late season. The road closed (temporarily) for the incoming storm last Friday and remained closed for the season due to winter conditions.

### **Fire Restrictions Lifted**

The Bishop Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management and the Inyo National Forest announce that fire restrictions put into place for the Eastern Sierra this summer will be rescinded on Wednesday, November 2, 2016.

Recent rain and snow, combined with increased humidity, shorter days, and cooler night time temperatures have prompted the land management agencies to lift the fire restrictions put into place earlier this summer. Taro Pusina, Interagency Fire Management Officer for the Bishop Field Office and Inyo National Forest, urges the public to keep fire safety in mind to avoid resource and property damage. "While we are comfortable lifting the fire restrictions at this time, we urge the public to use common sense and exercise caution when recreating outdoors in order to decrease the chance of human-caused fires," said Pusina.

A campfire permit is still required for those camping outside of developed campgrounds and can be obtained at visitor centers or online at [www.PreventWildfireCA.org](http://www.PreventWildfireCA.org).

Important fire safety reminders for outdoor activities on public lands include:

- Prevent vehicle related fires by maintaining proper tire pressure, ensuring adequate tire tread, and checking your brakes for overheating. Avoid traveling or parking on brush or grass. Ensure chains are not dragging while towing.
- Use of exploding targets, including Binary Explosive Targets, while recreationally shooting is both a fire hazard and illegal. Use of tracer rounds while target shooting is also a fire hazard and illegal. The use of steel-core ammunition, although legal, can greatly increase the chance of a wildfire.
- Motorcycles, ATVs and chainsaws require an approved spark arrestor.

Get your California Campfire Permit online at [www.PreventWildfireCA.org](http://www.PreventWildfireCA.org).

*Help prevent wildfires.....One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire*

### **Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre Presents a Unique Version of the Children's Classic STELLALUNA – Nov. 5**

Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre's annual Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) production for 2016 is the children's classic "Stellaluna." It will be presented free of charge to children throughout Mono and Inyo Counties the week of October 31st

thanks to the generous support of Mammoth Lakes Foundation, Town of Mammoth Lakes/Measure U, Paul and Kathleen Rudder, and Anonymous Donor, and the California Arts Council. There will be one public performance on Saturday, November 5th at 11:00 am in Edison Theatre. Tickets for that show are on sale now.

"Last year we had 1200 children come to the theatre and see our TYA production of "Go, Dog, Go," stated Artistic Director Shira Dubrovner. "Our goal this year is to increase that number to 1300. Every Mammoth Lakes student in grades K-6th makes a field trip to the theatre. In addition, we welcome students from Bishop, Lee Vining and Round Valley and Bridgeport."

This unique production of STELLALUNA by author Janell Cannon, playwright Saskia Janse, and composer Guus Ponsioen, has been produce exclusively for MLRT. This production will use music, shadow puppets, and narration to convey this beautifully crafted production developed by the Glass Eye Shadow Pictures of Sacramento. After the show, the audience will be able to join the presenters onstage to see how the imagery is created.

MLRT also provides a Teacher's Guide in advance to all the teachers to help enhance the storytelling and educational experience of the production. Dubrovner also makes it a point to include a quick lesson on theatre etiquette before each performance.

"It's important for young people to have a positive experience in the theatre and prepare them for life," added Dubrovner. "The arts afford a myriad of opportunities to experience life lessons on the stage and in the audience."

The one public performance on November 5th is an opportunity for parents to share the experience with their children, as well as for visitors, home schooled students, and all those who still have the light of childhood in their hearts. Please join Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre on November 5th for an experience that you and your child will not soon forget. Purchase tickets in advance at [www.MammothLakesRepertoryTheatre.org](http://www.MammothLakesRepertoryTheatre.org) (\$15 Adults/\$10 Children). Tickets at the door- \$15 per person - No discounts.

**FACT SHEET:**

What: STELLALUNA presented by Mammoth Lakes Repertory theatre  
Where: Edison Theatre – 100 College parkway  
When: Saturday, November 5th at 11:00 am  
How: [www.MammothLakesRepertoryTheatre.org](http://www.MammothLakesRepertoryTheatre.org)

**Chamber Music Unbound presents "A Winning Ticket" – Nov. 5**

Chamber Music Unbound presents The Felici Piano Trio in a concert entitled "A Winning Ticket" on Saturday, November 5, 2016, 7:30pm at Cerro Coso College, Mammoth Lakes. Celebrate election season with an unbeatable lineup of composers – Beethoven, Franck and Schubert! Tickets (\$22 Adult, \$17 Senior, \$7 Student) are available online ([www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org](http://www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org)), at the Booky Joint, the Inyo Council for the Arts, or at the door on concert nights.

**Fall Highball Stewardship Project – Nov. 6**

Finish up the 3-day grassroots Bishop Fall Highball Climbing Festival with a stewardship project. Grab a free volunteer breakfast at Black Sheep, and then spend

Sunday morning helping care for popular local climbing areas- the Buttermilk and the Volcanic Tablelands. Meet at Black Sheep at 8:30 for breakfast. Project starts at 9. Work runs until 12:30. Please wear appropriate clothing- long pants and close-toed shoes. Tools and gloves provided. Bring plenty of water. Check out the Highball website for info on other festival events: <https://americanalpineclub.org/bishop-cc/>. Call (760) 873-6500 or visit Friends of the Inyo's website ([www.friendsoftheinyo.org](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org)) for info on the stewardship project.

### **Turkey BINGO! – Nov. 16**

The Mammoth Lakes Women's Club is hosting Turkey BINGO! On Wednesday, November 16 at Lakanuki in The Village beginning at 5:30pm. Play all 8 rounds for just \$20 which includes 3 game boards per round. For \$10 more, receive 3 additional game boards per round. Bingo prizes include turkeys, holiday pies, baked goods and holiday decorations; the grand prize is a Catalina Island Get-Away. Raffle prizes include a Wine gift Basket and a Best of Mammoth Basket to name a few. Play Restaurant Roulette where a nominal purchase could win a \$25 (or higher) restaurant gift card or a \$10 restaurant gift card - it's all about your luck! Food and beverage available throughout the evening. Come early to get your lucky seat! The Women's Club is a non-profit organization and all proceeds are redirected back into our community. Visit [www.mammothlakeswomensclub.org](http://www.mammothlakeswomensclub.org) for info.

## **Parks and Recreation Department Highlights**

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### **Hot Shots!**

Returning November 1 is our popular Hot Shots Youth Basketball program! Hot Shots is an instructional basketball program for 3rd-5th graders, held every Tuesday and Thursday at the Mammoth Elementary School gym. If you are interested in being a parent volunteer/coach for the program, please contact Lindsey at (760) 965-3699. Stay tuned for more details to come!

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

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

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

## Public Service Announcements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The new phone system will offer a significant improvement in functionality and ease of use for Town staff while providing more efficient integration between all seven of the Town's facilities, offering staff the ability to call any employee at any location simply by dialing the extension. Additionally, the system will provide a variety of options for call handling and routing, voicemail, auto-attendant/phone tree options, and mobility. All of these enhancements will greatly help Town staff with their day-to-day responsibilities of serving the public and providing high quality customer service. Improved access to Town Departments and employees and connectivity between Town operations will enhance public access and Town responsiveness.

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

Below is a list of the new department phone numbers:

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Invest in bear-proof garbage containers. This can include specialized commercial trash bins or can be as simple as buying surplus 55 gallon re-sealable barrels. Trash should be stored in secured containers away from buildings if possible. Always secure communal trash bins, either with a chain or a lock
- Properly store pet food. Pet food should be in an airtight, sealed container if stored in the garage. Bears are obviously attracted to pet food and have broken into numerous garages and residences.
- Do not leave anything in your vehicle that may attract bears. This includes, but is not limited to, food, wrappers, gum, perfume, mints, etc.
- Watch out for wildlife on the roads. The deer are migrating and other wildlife is moving around. Motorists need to be alert and watch the road in order to cut down on the number of animal involved collisions and deaths.
- NEVER feed wildlife. Feeding of wildlife is a violation of the law and also a death sentence to the animals. Once conditioned to human sources of food, bears will seek them out, creating conflicts with humans. Bears may be killed to ensure public safety if the nuisance behavior cannot be corrected. Attracting bears to urban areas can also increase risk of vehicle collisions, harming both humans and bears. Feeding deer is also illegal and the presence of deer will attract mountain lions.

### **Reduction of Wildland Fire Fuels**

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

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

Establishing and maintaining defensible space around our property is all of our responsibilities. We are all part of the team that will protect our community should we find ourselves in the situation of a wildfire threatening town. A well-maintained

landscape enhances the beauty and value of any property— and just as importantly, the work serves as a fuel break. The goal is to keep your landscape lean, clean and green. The following steps can reduce your home's vulnerability from the threat of wildfire and reduce your use of irrigation.

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

- Within the first 10 feet of the home, use nonflammable landscaping materials (rock, pavers), or low level annuals or perennials less than 18 inches in height. There should be nothing flammable within 10 feet of the home.
- Keep this area lightly irrigated and free from dead or dry vegetation, combustible debris, and accumulations of leaf and needle litter. Plants should be carefully spaced, low growing and free of vegetation high in resins, oils, and waxes that burn easily. Mow lawns regularly.
- Prune all trees up 1/3 the height of the tree or so the lowest limbs are 10-15 feet from the ground. If adjacent to a structure, prune up to the eave level. Clearance shall be a minimum of 10 feet from chimneys/stovepipes. Keep roof surfaces clear.
- Thin out living vegetation 30 to 50% within this zone to decrease fire intensity and continuous path of travel.
- Allow space between tops of trees to reduce the risk of crown fire.
- Keep firewood stacks/piles at least 30 feet from the home. If this is not possible, from June 1 to September 30, cover entire woodpile with properly secured, fire resistive, California State Fire Marshal tagged tarp.
- Water plants and trees as needed to ensure they are healthy. Do not use finely shredded mulch and mulch should be wetted periodically.
- Areas around and above propane tanks need to be kept clear of vegetation for 10 feet.

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

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

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

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

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

**Important Information for Verizon Customers**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The new departure times are:

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

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

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

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

**MAMMOTH EXPRESS FARES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

same wood emits about 29 pounds of PM emissions per ton burned. A new pellet insert emits only around 6 pounds of PM per ton of pellets burned.

With almost \$275,000 in 'Environmental Public Benefit Funds' provided by the local Air District, the Town of Mammoth Lakes was able to help fund the replacement of around 150 older wood-burning systems throughout Town, resulting in the annual reduction of thousands of pounds of PM as well as the reduction of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides, and volatile organic compounds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

key park locations in Mammoth Lakes, such as the Whitmore Recreation Area and Shady Rest Park.

Recyclable materials make up a large percentage of the waste produced in our residential complexes and businesses,” stated Brian Robinette, owner of SCP. “These community-based programs aim to divert recyclable materials from our local landfill, while also educate our residents and visitors on the need for need for convenient recycling programs. We are confident that by providing start-up infrastructure for these complexes and businesses it will help make program implementation affordable and reduce the environmental impacts of each resident and guest,” said Robinette.

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

For additional information on the **Condominium and Business Recycling Program**, please contact Sierra Conservation Project at (760) 914 0115 or e-mail [Brian@recyclesierra.com](mailto:Brian@recyclesierra.com).

### **Would You Leave A Loaded Gun on the Floor?**

If you have children in your home, hopefully you would not! However, a new threat to the health of our children is emerging. These are e-liquids, sold legally in stores and online in small bottles that may be carelessly and casually left around the house, used for the regular re-filling of e-cigarettes.

The danger is from the nicotine content in these vials of “juice”. Children can happen upon a vial and ingest it. These fluids come in flavors and bright colors that are attractive for kids – cotton candy, cherry, chocolate, and bubble gum among others. In addition, nicotine is absorbed through the skin, presenting a risk from a broken vial.

Electronic cigarettes, called e-cigarettes, are drug delivery devices originally designed to look like regular tobacco cigarettes. Now they are larger reusable gadgets that can be refilled with liquid, generally a mixture of nicotine, flavorings, and solvents. It is estimated that roughly four million Americans use these battery powered devices. They have been hailed by proponents as a way for addicted smokers to get their nicotine fix without sucking in the thousands of carcinogens found in traditional cigarettes.

However, the evidence of their effectiveness in assisting persons in weaning off their nicotine addiction is less than stellar. In addition, evidence is rapidly mounting that they are serving as a “gateway” for young teens into the world of nicotine addiction. A recent study found nearly 1.8 million youth had tried e-cigarettes, and the number of middle and high school e-smokers doubled in one year. No wonder the industry targets the young who will be potential customers for decades to come! Their goal – to have the number of e-smokers quadruple in the next few years.

So how bad is the risk of exposure? Nicotine is a naturally occurring powerful neurotoxin, and in its potent liquid form, can be ingested or absorbed through the skin. Tiny amounts can cause vomiting, seizures, and even death. A teaspoon of even the highly diluted liquid can kill a small child.

A dose of 50 to 60 milligrams (mg) is potentially fatal for an adult; a 30 pound child could die from 1.36 mg. A vial of e-juice as commonly sold in retail stores is 17 milliliters, and with a 2.4% concentration would have 408 mg of nicotine. This year it

is estimated that 1 to 2 million LITERS of liquid will be sold, much of it on the Internet. A liter of 10% concentration costs about \$110, a gallon \$195, and one company even offers a 55 gallon drum!

Nationwide, reports of accidental poisonings linked to e-liquids in 2013 jumped 300% from 2012, and is on pace to double again this year. Most cases are under the age of 4. A shop owner says that "We tell them that this stuff is poisonous. We do everything we can to protect the consumers, but at the end of the day, you leave a loaded gun on the floor, and your child gets hold of it, it's not gonna be the gunmaker's responsibility." A CEO of e-cigarette franchises says "It's the wild, wild west right now." There is no FDA regulation so far. So at the moment, if you are a user, your child has to go no farther than your own home to find a lethal dose of poison. Be aware of the risks, and keep vials out of reach. You are responsible for the safety of your children.

### **Mammoth Lakes Police Department Implementing Reserve & Volunteer Program**

In an effort to off-set some of the impact resulting from the loss of 7 sworn officers, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department has been moving forward on developing Reserve and Volunteer Programs, and evaluating various forms of technology to help make the MLPD more efficient and effective. The following are some of the programs the MLPD is moving forward on:

#### RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM

On February 6, the Town Council approved the establishment of pay scales for Reserve Officers. The pay will be:

- Level 1 Reserve - \$25/hour
- Level 2 Reserve - \$23/hour
- Level 3 Reserve - \$20/hour

Providing pay for Reserve Officers will make the MLPD competitive with other local agencies that have reserve programs and serve as a recruitment and retention tool.

Anyone interested in learning more about the MLPD Reserve Program should contact Sergeant Marc Moscovitz at (760) 934-2011.

#### VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Many police departments benefit from active volunteer programs where trained volunteers assist police personnel by staffing front counters, completing reports, and providing community patrols. Retired Sergeant Karen Smart has agreed to manage the MLPD's volunteer program. At some time in the future, information will be released about the types of volunteer work available and the selection criteria. Anyone interested in volunteering with the MLPD should be on the look-out for a news release announcing the start of the program.

#### TECHNOLOGY

The MLPD is moving forward with technological advances on several fronts. They include:

- An on-line reporting system where certain crimes can be reported on-line.
- An on-line crime and traffic report purchase program where victims of crimes and parties in traffic collisions can purchase copies of reports on-line.



- Access to surveillance cameras at the North Village.
- Surveillance cameras at the Volcom Brothers Skatepark.

The MLPD is also exploring other technology that will make the Police Department more effective in addressing crime, the fear of crime, and quality of life issues.

### **Free, Real-Time Property Information Now Available!**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **What is a transient rental?**

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

#### **Can I rent my unit as a transient rental?**

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

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

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

#### **What is transient occupancy tax (TOT)?**

Transient occupancy tax, or TOT, is a 13% tax that is charged "for the privilege of occupancy of any transient occupancy facility." The tax is required to be paid to the

operator of the transient occupancy facility at the time the rent is paid. It is the operator's responsibility to remit the TOT to the Town.

**Do I need to pay TOT?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Town's website contains information regarding business tax certificates, including an application for a business tax certificate: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=182>. Transient Rentals fall under schedule F for condominium rentals and schedule E for hotels, motels, lodges, and campgrounds. This application can be mailed back to the Town, or submitted in person. The total cost for one unit is \$118.00 (\$65.00 application fee, \$5.00 planning review fee, \$25.00 fee to rent one unit, \$23.00 TOT certificate fee). Additional costs apply for additional units. Business tax certificates are required on or before the first day business commences; penalties will apply for late filings. If you have additional questions regarding this process please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 273.

**Do I have a business tax certificate?**

To find out if you have a valid business tax certificate on file, please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 273 or your property management company.

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

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

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

If you suspect illegal rental activity, you may submit an anonymous tip via the Town's TOT hotline at (760) 934-8989 ext. 275 or on the Town's website via the Transient Occupancy Tax information page. Please include any information that you have that would substantiate the claim, along with the property address and owner's name if you have it. You may also email [tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](mailto:tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us). Note that emails are not anonymous, however, staff will do its best to keep your information private.

### **Questions & Anonymous TOT Hotline**

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

### **Register for CodeRED**

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

- Go to [monosheriff.org](http://monosheriff.org)
- Scroll down left side panel to CodeRED community notification system;
- Click on it and follow directions.

### **Town Outdoor Lighting Ordinance**

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