



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town News

Town e-News: Week of April 17, 2017

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – April 19

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2017 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Suite Z. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Commission/Committee Meetings

April 12 Planning and Economic Development Commission, Suite Z, 2:00PM

Recreational Marijuana Workshop – April 26

Come learn about Prop 64, and how the Town plans to implement this Proposition – the legalization of recreational marijuana in Mammoth Lakes on Wednesday, April 26, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Suite Z. At the workshop, staff will provide a summary of what the passage of Prop 64 means for the public, the types of activities that are currently permitted, how the Town proposes to regulate the sale and cultivation of recreational marijuana, potential future tax implications, and timing for implementation of the proposed regulations. The Town will be seeking broad public feedback regarding the proposal. For additional information, please call the Town at (760) 965-3603.

Housing Needs Survey – We Want To Hear From You!

The Town is conducting a survey about housing needs. We want to hear from you if you live or work in Mammoth Lakes or Mono County. The survey will help us better plan for and accommodate the types of housing residents and workers want and need. If you complete the survey by May 26, 2017, you'll be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Visa gift card. Thank you in advance for your participation.

The survey is located at <https://www.research.net/r/LiveWorkMono>.

You can take the survey on your smart phone, iPad/tablet or computer.

Open Letter To Our Community Members

The Town Council, Police Department and Town Management have received a number of comments, expression of concern and questions related to federal immigration policy and the role of local government. The Town's position on working with our residents and visitors has not changed. We will continue to provide Town services and programs to all. We do not check on resident status for programs. The same standards apply today that have applied in the past. The Town has not and

does not intend to take any proactive approach to enforce federal laws, and as in the case of detaining immigrants we do not have the legal authority to do so. This federal law is outside of the role of local law enforcement.

We will continue to respond to requests for services, to keep the people of Mammoth Lakes safe and to provide a supportive business climate. To the extent we are called on to assist or take action to take into custody individuals with outstanding warrants or caught in committing a crime in Mammoth Lakes we will continue to serve our community and keep it safe. If those committing crimes are here illegally then they will be held accountable according to law. For normal day-to-day law enforcement operations, such as stopping someone for speeding, running a red light, DUI, or failure to obey traffic signs, etc. our officers will continue to give out warnings, tickets or other appropriate actions. This does not include turning a person over to federal authorities. Our officers do not and will not inquire about legal status of individuals. Local officials are not notified prior to any action being taken by federal authorities (ICE) and therefore we are not in a position to assist them.

The businesses in the Town of Mammoth Lakes employ hundreds of workers of various nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. All of us have come here to make Mammoth Lakes a great place to live, work and play. The fear and anxiety created through rumors and incorrect facts has not served our community well. The concerns expressed over the role or involvement of local officials in any immigration actions are not based on facts. It is our goal that all of us continue to enjoy a safe and productive time in Mammoth Lakes which includes not responding in fear to false rumors. The Town of Mammoth Lakes will continue to be proactive in providing services, programs and keeping all of the people of Mammoth Lakes safe and supporting our local business community.

Winter Parking Restrictions In Effect

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department is reminding citizens that there is no street parking from November 1 through April 30. Vehicles found parked in violation of these ordinances are subject to receiving a parking citation and/or in some cases, vehicles may be impounded at the owner's expense.

Be Snowsmart This Winter!

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

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

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, 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.

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, April 14, 2017	84%
Saturday, April 15, 2017	83%
Sunday, April 16, 2017	47%
Monday, April 17, 2017	56%
Tuesday, April 18, 2017	49%
Wednesday, April 19, 2017	53%
Thursday, April 20, 2017	58%
Friday, April 21, 2017	72%
Saturday, April 22, 2017	71%
Sunday, April 23, 2017	33%

If you're a lodging property and would like to sign up to report your numbers, please contact John Urdi at 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

Mammoth Resorts to be Acquired by Affiliates of Aspen Skiing Company and KSL Capital Partners From Starwood Capital Group

Mammoth Resorts, the owner of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Snow Summit, Bear Mountain and June Mountain, announced on April 12, 2017 that it has entered into a definitive agreement to be acquired by a newly formed entity controlled by affiliates of the Aspen Skiing Company, L.L.C. ("Aspen") and KSL Capital Partners, LLC ("KSL"). A Starwood Capital Group controlled affiliate owns a majority interest in Mammoth Resorts. The transaction is expected to close by the end of the third quarter of 2017, and is subject to certain closing conditions, including regulatory approvals. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. KSL and Aspen previously announced plans to acquire Intrawest Resorts Holdings, Inc. through this new entity.

"Mammoth has been Southern California's mountain home since 1948," said Rusty Gregory, Chairman and CEO of Mammoth Resorts. "After doubling down on our offerings to Southern California with the purchase of Snow Summit and Bear Mountain in 2014, joining this new venture led by Aspen and KSL is the next logical chapter in the story of Mammoth Resorts. This new platform, built around a

collective passion for the mountains and our commitment to the people who visit, work and live there, is exactly what the ski resort business needs.

"I am excited about the future prospects for Mammoth Resorts, our people and this new enterprise. We have taken great pride in our ownership of Mammoth over the last 12 years. We invested in the mountains, our people, and planning for the long term future. Together with Mammoth's talented management team, we successfully navigated a very tumultuous period. We implemented state-of-the-art marketing programs, installed modern RFID technology to improve traffic flow, and we added significant new lift capacity. By also acquiring and integrating Bear Mountain and Snow Summit into Mammoth we cemented Mammoth Resorts' position as the leading provider of ski and summer mountain experiences for all of Southern California," said Barry Sternlicht, Chairman and CEO of Starwood Capital Group. "We had greater plans for Mammoth but the Great Recession and then some less favorable weather, interfered with our strategic aspirations in a finite life investment vehicle. We know Aspen and KSL have the experience, commitment, and balance sheet to help make our vision a reality."

"If you live in Southern California and want to ski, Mammoth, June, Bear and Snow Summit universally come to mind first," said Eric Resnick, CEO of KSL. "This transaction will allow the combined company to better serve Mammoth's loyal customers while at the same time exposing these world-class resorts to a broader audience. Mammoth Resorts does so many things well. We are excited to learn from their talented team."

"Mammoth is a special place. The landscape is spectacular, the mountain is phenomenal and the place is in constant motion. Whether it's the vibrant park and pipe scene, the high quality alpine racing programs, or excellent mountain biking, Mammoth has it all," said Mike Kaplan, CEO of Aspen. "At the same time, Bear and Snow Summit serve local skiers perhaps better than anyone in the industry with high quality skiing and riding right on the doorstep of Southern California. We couldn't be more pleased to work with these extraordinary properties."

There will be a public meeting on Monday, April 17, at 5:00pm at the Mountainside Conference Center at the Main Lodge of Mammoth Mountain. Rusty Gregory, Chairman and CEO will be there to discuss the recent acquisition announcement and answer questions.

Seasonal Pass Opening Status

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 9 has begun working on clearing snow, removing rocks, and repairing roads to its eight mountain passes. As work progresses, pedestrians, bicyclists, skiers, etc. are advised to stay out of these areas. Safety is our number one priority, for the public as well as Caltrans' workers. This is the District 9 Seasonal Pass Status as of Wednesday, April 12, 2017:

SR 89 – Monitor Pass

Snow removal has begun from US Highway 395 to the Alpine County line. There is approximately 5 feet of snowpack at the Mono/Alpine County line. Road repair is required before reopening. There is no estimated date for reopening the highway at this time.

SR 108 – Sonora Pass

Snow removal equipment is in place and starting to work on the lower sections of the highway. The snowpack is estimated to be 5 to 12 feet on the highway. There is no estimated date for reopening the highway at this time.

SR 270 – Bodie Road

All snow has been removed but the highway remains closed at the request of Bodie State Park personnel.

SR 120 West – Tioga Pass (from the Junction of US 395 to the Yosemite National Park Gate)

Snow removal equipment is in place and starting to work on the lower sections of the highway. The snowpack is estimated to be between 8 to 15 feet on the highway, with up to 50 foot snowdrifts in some locations. There is no estimated date for reopening the highway at this time.

SR 120 East – Mono Mills

All snow has been removed and minor road repair is complete. Seasonal opening is scheduled for 2:00 pm Friday, April 14, 2017. If the area is impacted by inclement weather Caltrans may have to re-close the highway.

SR 158 – June Lake Loop

All snow has been removed and minor road repair is complete. Seasonal opening is scheduled for noon Friday, April 14, 2017. If the area is impacted by inclement weather Caltrans may have to re-close the highway.

SR 203 - From the Mammoth Mountain Parking Lot to Minaret Vista

This section of highway is under permit of Mammoth Mountain Ski area for the winter ski season. There is no estimated date for reopening the highway at this time.

SR 168 West – Above Aspendell

Snow removal has begun and there is approximately 2 to 5 feet of snowpack at the end of the highway. The estimated date for reopening is April 21, weather permitting.

Crestview Roadside Rest Area

Reopened on Wednesday, April 5th for the summer season.

State Route 182 Closed due to Rockslide - UPDATE

The California Department of Transportation would like to notify travelers that State Route 182 in Mono County near Bridgeport remains closed due to a rockslide across the highway. Work is continuing on clearing the roadway. The estimated date for reopening the highway is April 21st. The traveling public is advised to use U.S. Highway 395 as an alternate route.

All information is subject to change and is weather dependent.

For the latest highway information please visit the Caltrans QuickMap site at quickmap.dot.ca.gov or call the Road Condition Hotline at 1-800-427-ROAD (7623).

2017 Winter Ezakimak – April 15

Registration for the 2017 Winter Ezakimak is now open! Join Mammoth Mountain on Saturday, April 15th and take the challenge to ascend Mammoth Mountain! New this year, the Fastest Male & Fastest Female will each take home \$1k and each Finisher will receive a great long sleeve tech shirt at the Finish! Hope to see you there! Click here to register.

Tamarack Challenge – April 16

Head to Tamarack on Sunday, April 16 from 8:30am-3:30pm for the Tamarack Challenge! Ski every open trail at Tamarack XC Ski Center the last Sunday of the season. Dress up in your craziest costume for a day with friends, food, and good cheer. We'll take a group photo, then send you out to visit all five stations in the poker-race; just keep your eyes peeled for Easter eggs along the way. Lunch is on us at noon, and a \$5 donation is appreciated. Come out and celebrate a terrific 2016/17 season. Must have a trail pass or day ticket to participate.

Pond Skim – April 23

The crowds will fill up Canyon Lodge to watch the craziest skiers and snowboarders straight line it across an ice cold, 110ft pond. This is the most entertaining event you'll see all season.

Fishmas Weekend!

It's that time of year again...Fishmas Weekend is set for April 29-30, 2017! Opening day for fishing in Mono County is Saturday, April 29, so dust off that fishing gear and get ready for a weekend full of fun. For more information on fishing regulations and licenses, please visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Chix On Stix With Stacey Cook - Apr 29-30

Join Olympian Stacey Cook for a weekend of skiing, new experiences and lasting friendships. Open to women of all ages. Sorry guys, ladies only. Call 800.MAMMOTH to book.

Inyo National Forest Cautions Snowmobilers of Off-Limit Use

Based upon reports from rangers and visitors alike, the Inyo National Forest is reminding snowmobilers to respect off-limit areas of the forest that are closed to snowmobiles.

Forest Service rangers are patrolling closed areas for illegal snowmobile activity; focusing on locations where these incursions are problematic. These areas include designated Wilderness and Research Natural Areas, Mammoth Lakes Basin, Devils Postpile National Monument, McGee Mountain, Obsidian Dome cross-country ski trails, Shady Rest cross-country ski trails, and the area west of the G-trail from June Lake Junction south to the Glass Creek Hill.

This past weekend, based on public reports, several Violation Notices were issued to individuals who illegally rode snowmobiles into the John Muir Wilderness.

Pick up your free copy of the Eastern Sierra Winter Recreation Map at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center (a waterproof version is available for purchase as well), obtain it online, or download to your mobile device using the Avenza map app (www.pdf-maps.com). These maps inform recreationists of motorized restricted areas.

The nation's federally designated Wilderness areas prohibit motorized use; making them off limits to snowmobiles. The closures are there to protect the Wilderness experience, but snowmobile tracks and public reports indicate that numerous riders venture into these closed areas each season. Riding in a Wilderness or a winter motorized closure is a Federal and State offense carrying fines up to \$5,000 and/or six months in jail, in addition to possible seizure of the snowmobiles used in the commission of the crime.

It is the rider's responsibility to know where these closed or restricted areas are located and their boundaries. Major winter trailheads and launching points have maps showing these restricted areas. If in doubt, check with the local Ranger Station or visitor center.

There are miles of groomed snow trails and play areas that are safe and legal to snowmobilers in the Mammoth and Mono Lake areas. There are approximately 75,000 acres of open expanse east of Hwy. 395 with a variety of terrain from wide-open meadows to forested areas for beginners and experts. Please refer to <http://mammothweb.com/scripts/usfs/trailsreport.cfm> for the latest grooming report.

The Inyo National Forest provides a wide spectrum of winter recreational activities. Visitors and residents can vastly improve these recreational opportunities, reduce conflict, and protect the forest resources by practicing common courtesy and respecting others' experiences.

Permits for Personal Fuelwood Issued Early

The Inyo National Forest is offering early sale of personal use fuelwood permits for the 2017 season. Because of staffing shortages, permit sales will begin earlier than normal to help alleviate lines at the visitor centers. Locals are encouraged to purchase early to avoid crowds in the visitor centers as spring visitation season begins.

The personal use fuelwood season is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 1. Permits will be on sale beginning Monday, April 17 at local U. S. Forest Service visitor centers. Maps showing areas open to cutting are available with a purchased fuelwood permit. New this year, copies of fuelwood maps will be available on Avenza. Fuelwood permits are still \$15.00 per cord with a two cord minimum.

The forest requests that fuelwood permits are purchased between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., unless otherwise specified. Fuelwood permits may be obtained at the following locations:

- Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center in Lee Vining; (760) 647-3044
- Permits on sale, Thursday - Monday only (beginning April 27).
- Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center in Mammoth Lakes; (760) 924-5500

Permits on sale 7 days/week.

- White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop; (760) 873-2500

Permits on sale Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-11:30a.m, 1:00 p.m.-4:30p.m.

Please call ahead to your local visitor center to confirm hours of operations.

The Fuelwood Strategy, developed with public participation in 1998, remains valid and will be implemented this year. Large ends of all downed logs (those portions greater than 30 inches in diameter) are required to remain on the forest floor for wildlife habitat and recycling of soil nutrients. The majority of funds collected from permit sales are directly returned to the forest for continued implementation of this program. Comments on this strategy and fuelwood program are always welcome. For further information on the fuelwood program, contact your local ranger Station or visitor center.

Prescribed Fire Planned Near Sunny Slopes/Tom's Place

As weather conditions permit, the White Mountain Ranger District of the Inyo National Forest will complete prescribed fire projects at sites located along the Highway 395 corridor near Sunny Slopes and Tom's Place this spring.

These prescribed fire units are east of Sunny Slopes and are in the Jeffrey pine/sage/pinyon pine fuel type. The units are broken up into approximately 150 acre components to allow crews to use roads and other features for containment objectives and to limit smoke impacts near the communities.

Crews anticipate the project could start as early as April 17th and continue over the next two to three weeks as conditions allow.

Fire crews will take advantage the significant winter and snow that has created conditions ideal to safely complete this project. The primary purpose of the burning is to reduce hazardous fuels for the nearby developed areas as well as to restore fire-adapted ecosystem conditions.

Smoke will be visible at times from Highway 395 as well as from nearby communities. It may settle into down-valley communities in the evening.

Prior to burning, much consideration goes into current and forecasted wind direction to divert much of the smoke from communities and recreation sites. The Inyo National Forest works closely with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District to select days that will provide good smoke dispersal.

Groomed Trails at Shady Rest

The Shady Rest Winter Grooming program is underway thanks to the amazing snow this season and creative partnerships. The groomed winter trails throughout Shady Rest are located right at the entrance to Town and are accessed from the Welcome Center (currently closed due to flooding) and Ranger Station, near the historic cabin. This looped experience is shared with a variety of users, including snowshoers, nordic skiers and dog walkers, so please be mindful of others and share the trails. Weather permitting, the trails are groomed 5 days a week and are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.mammothtrails.org.

Parks and Recreation Department Highlights

Registration For Our Summer Programs Is Now Open

Registration can be completed at the following URL: <https://apm.activecommunities.com/mammothrecreation/Home>. To view program offerings, click on the "Activities" tab. In order to register, you will need to create an account. To create an account, follow the link on the upper right hand side of the page for "Create an Account." If you have any additional questions, or need assistance with creating your account online, please contact Lindsey Lyon at (760) 965-3699 or llyon@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Now at Mammoth Creek Park – April 14

Join us on Friday, April 14 for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! This year the hunt will take place at Mammoth Creek Park (be prepared to search in the snow!). The event will run from 3:00-4:00pm, with the egg hunt beginning promptly at 3:15pm. Don't forget to bring a basket or bag to collect eggs! For questions or more information please contact us at (760) 965-3694.

Register for Little Sluggers!

Little Sluggers T-Ball returns on Wednesday, May 3 for ages 1.5 to 5 years. Join us for this popular introductory program every Wednesday evening from 5:15-6:00pm. The program will run from May 3 – June 7. The cost of the program is \$43 if you register by April 23 and \$52 for any registrations after April 23.

Community Fitness Classes

Community Center programming continues weekly! Join us for the Turbo Kick Fitness Class every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm, or the Pilates/Yoga program every Tuesday starting at 6:30pm. Additionally, for toddlers we are offering Toddler Time at the Community Center every Tuesday morning with Angela and Victoria from 9:30-11:00am.

Public Service Announcements

Town Installs Hawk Signal in The Village

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has installed a High-intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) to improve pedestrian safety at the Minaret Road crosswalk adjacent to The Village. The HAWK signal is a pushbutton-activated pedestrian signal designed to aid pedestrian crossing at a mid-block crosswalk and reduce the amount of delay for vehicles. The HAWK signal differs from conventional traffic signals because it only becomes operational when activated by a pedestrian, allowing for normal traffic to flow unimpeded until pedestrians need to cross and minimizes wait time for vehicular traffic. Data suggests the pedestrian activated safety devices led to a 29% reduction in total crashes, a 69% reduction in pedestrian crashes, and a 15% reduction in severe crashes (2010 FHWA before-and-after study).

What Drivers Should Know: Pedestrian hybrid beacons are only activated by pedestrians wishing to cross a street press the signal button. If the lights of the beacon are dark, vehicles can proceed through the crosswalk. Flashing yellow lights

usually last around three seconds, during which the driver should prepare to stop. A solid yellow light indicates the driver must stop. Once the light turns red, pedestrians will cross. Flashing red lights indicate that if there are no pedestrians in the walk, the driver may proceed through the walk with caution. After the flashing red lights, the signal will go dark again, and vehicles may freely pass through the intersection again. Additional information may be found at the Town of Mammoth Lakes Offices, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R or on the website.

Old Mammoth Road Limited Transit Service

New Monday-Friday fixed route transit service (the Old Mammoth Road Limited) began Monday, January 23, 2017. This new service is intended to address concerns raised by area residents and businesses following the cessation of the Gray Line service last month and is a pilot program service which will operate through the spring in order to gauge demand and ridership from the area.

The service will be focused on employees traveling to work in the Minaret Village Mall and Mammoth Hospital area, and students/persons wishing to transfer to other fixed routes including the Purple, Red, and Green Lines. The new midweek service will operate three runs in the morning (7:13am, 7:45am and 8:05am) from Aspen Village, two afternoon return runs from the school area to Old Mammoth (1:52pm and 2:45pm from Mammoth High School), and one evening return run from the Hospital and Minaret Village Mall area to Old Mammoth (5:05pm).

For more information, check ESTA's website at www.estransit.com, or phone (760) 924-3184. Stops serviced are as follows: Aspen Village, Lower Red Fir/Old Mammoth Road, Juniper Springs Resort Meridian/Old Mammoth Road (transfer to Purple, Red, Green), Mammoth Elementary School, Mammoth High School and the Mammoth Hospital.

Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection Identify Potential Safety Issues

With the record monthly snow accumulation, and with Mammoth Lake's two statistically largest months yet to come, the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mammoth Lakes Fire Department would like to remind residents of several life safety issues. These include the accumulation of large amounts of snow/ice sitting on roofs, the blockage of vents for heating and hot water appliances, and the maintenance needed to safely use propane. Additionally, we request that residents keep addresses visible and hydrants available for use.

With the large accumulations of snow, our roofs are already supporting a tremendous load. Some signs of excess snow weight on the roof include exterior/interior doors that do not open or close easily, cracks or bulging that occur in sheetrock walling, and bowing in timber members of ceilings/walls. Existing structures should be able to structurally withstand our anticipated snow loads, but it is recommended that roofs have some snow removed from them to prevent excessive snow accumulation.

As the temperatures rise roofs will shed snow and ice, especially metal roofs, and any cornices that have developed will begin to fall. In addition, as the snow on the roof begins to melt, icicles and ice dams will form and can pose a significant hazard. Be extra careful where you walk and where children play, especially at all exits and entries. Safely removing the snow off of roofs is also issue and if you do not feel that you can accomplish the task, it is highly recommended that a licensed contractor be sought to perform the work.

At the same time, vents for any fuel powered heating appliances can be blocked or damaged by the deep snow or as snow sheds from the roof. Home owners, landlords, and tenants need to make sure that vents for these appliances are cleared of snow and inspected so that a buildup of carbon monoxide inside does not occur. Since carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless, and mixes well with air, blocked vents allow accumulations of the deadly gas to build up inside structures if not properly vented. It is highly recommended that carbon monoxide detectors be installed inside structures in order to alert occupants to the build-up of carbon monoxide gas.

Fire Code requires that all bedrooms have two means of exiting. Traditionally, this is accomplished by way of a bedroom access door and window. During the winter, first floor windows tend to become covered by snow and require attention. Resist the urge to cover up lower level bedroom windows with plywood and keep these exits open by keeping them accessible. If you own a complex or live in a rental or commercial unit, the owner is responsible to keep these exits open. The windows do not have to be cleared to ground level, but need to provide a route for exiting should the bedroom door not be available. If you have concerns with the snow accumulations in front of ground floor windows, bring this issue to the attention of your landlord, manager, or owner. The Fire Department will also be looking for infractions of this code.

For those homeowners that use propane, several responsibilities come with its use. The top of the tank needs to be routinely dug out to allow for quick access to the shutoff valve and to allow for regulator venting. In addition, make sure that unprotected sections of all exterior gas pipes are cleared of snow and ice and not subject to shedding snow and ice from your roof. Downward snow pressure from snow settlement and falling snow and ice from roofs has caused many pipe sections to crack resulting in leaks. Unfortunately, if the leak occurs under the snow, the snow traps the gas and it may be some time before the leak is detected. In the meantime, the gas will seek openings in the foundation or structure of a building and can create an explosion potential should the unburned gas come into contact with a source of ignition. The propane regulations that were implemented in the early 1990's have cut down on the number of building explosions and with adequate routine maintenance, we should be able to limit the number of future exposures.

Lastly, make sure that your address is clearly visible from the street. In times of emergencies, precious time is lost trying to find the proper structure when no address can be located. In addition, there are fire hydrants located throughout town that are used by the fire department in the event of a fire. The Fire Department is requesting interested individuals to routinely shovel out the hydrant nearest to their home. If maintained frequently, the amount of work is minimal and may even be shared by several neighbors. If interested in participating, please contact Jody Holl at 934-2300 for information about the program and the location of the nearest hydrant if it is not readily apparent.

Thank you for helping us keep you safe! If you did not place new batteries in your smoke detectors when we switched to daylight savings time, now is the time to do it. If you would like any additional information on these topics or anything else pertaining to the Fire Department, please feel free to contact the Fire Station at any time at (760) 934-2300 or the Town of Mammoth Lakes at (760) 965-3630.

Beware of Deer on the Roads

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) would like to notify motorists that deer are out and about in the Eastern Sierra. Due to the snowy conditions, deer are venturing out onto the roadways to escape from the snow. Motorists should

watch for deer as they are commuting especially during the dawn and dusk times of the day. Slow down and be vigilant!

Ways to Prevent a Collision with a Deer:

1. Slow Down. Motorists should take it slow especially with the low temperatures and icy conditions.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Wear your seatbelt. It may not prevent a collision, but if the inevitable happens a seatbelt can reduce injuries.
5. Look. First, look for the road signs. The yellow diamond shaped signs 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 traffic incidents.

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.

Important Information for Verizon Customers

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

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

Town's Owner-Occupant Housing Rehabilitation Program

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

owners to update homes, attend to deferred maintenance, and address energy efficiency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eastern Sierra Transit Expands Mammoth Express Route!

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

The new departure times are:

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

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

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

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

MAMMOTH EXPRESS FARES

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

Contact ESTA at 760.872-1901 ext. 20 for more information or visit the website at www.estransit.com

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 Recourses 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 or 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.

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. 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.

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
- 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.