News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting– July 6

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Suite Z in the Minaret Village Mall. Visit the Streaming Media Archive to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting. Some of the agenda items include:

- **Council Presentation**: Twenty-five year service awards to Sergeant Karen Smart and Officer Tim Smalley.

- **Study Session**: Joint workshop with the Planning Commission to discuss building height and mass.

- **Commission Updates**

- **Department Reports/Emerging Issues**

- **Consent Agenda**: 1. Resolution declaring its intention to order assessments for a previously approved benefit assessment district (Old Mammoth Road Benefit Assessment District 2002-1) pursuant to the Benefit Assessment Act of 1982, preliminarily approving an Engineer's Report in connection with such district and appointing a time and place for comment (public hearing) on the Engineer's Report. 2. Resolution declaring its intention to order assessments for a previously approved benefit assessment district (North Village Benefit Assessment District 2002-2) pursuant to the Benefit Assessment Act of 1982, preliminarily approving an Engineer's Report in connection with such district, and appointing a time and place for comment (public hearing) on the Engineer's Report. 3. Resolution authorizing preparation and approval of the 2011 Cycle 3 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant for the Meridian Boulevard Sidewalk Gap Closure Project. 4. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the updated Memorandum of Understanding for the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Plan with an effective date of September 1, 2011. 5. Letter opposing the closure of the Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve.


**Town Offices Closed July 4**

In observance of Independence Day, the Town of Mammoth Lakes offices will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2011. The Mammoth Lakes Town Council and entire staff would like to wish you a happy and safe Fourth of July!
MLPD Open House Suspended

In an effort to save a substantial amount of overtime, there will not be an open house at the Police Station on the Fourth of July. The Police Department will be fully staffed during the parade and the combined Police/Fire Honor Guard will be participating in the parade. Chief Watson and the MLPD apologize for the change in schedule, and hope this does not cause any inconvenience for anyone.

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, July 1 - Monday, July 4 = 68%  July 4th Holiday
(63% July 4, 2010, up 5% in 2011)

Tuesday, July 5 - Thursday, July 7 = 40%
(38% July 5, 2010, up 2% in 2011)

Twitter

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

Community Development

Lakes Basin Special Study (LABSS) Draft Report Out for Public Review!

The “Lakes Basin Special Study Preliminary Management Concepts” draft report is now available for public review and input! The culmination of months of data gathering and three public meetings, this report lays out four different management scenarios that could be applied to the Lakes Basin in the future, as a way of keeping this popular area rich with recreation opportunities and environmentally sustainable for the long-term.

Whether or not you attended the public meetings held last fall, please review this important document and provide your feedback to the LABSS partners (the Inyo National Forest, the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and Friends of the Inyo) by taking the online questionnaire. The draft report is available for download as a PDF by clicking on the LABSS graphic on www.mltpa.org. Instructions for participating in this public-input process are listed on the LABSS draft report web page as well as on the opening pages of the PDF. The questionnaire can be accessed from the web page as well as directly from the PDF.

Public feedback on “LABSS Preliminary Management Concepts” will be received through July 15, 2011. Your opinions, suggestions, and engagement with this process continue to be critical to the success of the Lakes Basin Special Study and to the long-term sustainability (and enjoyment) of the Lakes Basin itself. If you have questions about this process, or about LABSS in general, please contact MLTPA by emailing LABSS@mltpa.org or calling (760) 934-3154.

Sierra Valley Neighborhood District Planning Report & Recommendations – July 20

The Town Council will review the Draft Sierra Valley Neighborhood District Planning Study at their July 20 meeting in Suite Z, Minaret Village Shopping Center beginning at 6:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and provide comments and input on the draft Study. For more information, please contact: Ellen Clark, Senior Planner:
Community News

GOT ISSUES ABOUT OUR TOWN?

Councilman - SKIP HARVEY
Open Office Hours: Tuesday July 5, 2011 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Base Camp Cafe on Main Street
YOU TALK - I LISTEN

Mammoth Lakes 4th of July Celebrations

Independence Day promises to be better than ever in Mammoth Lakes. Festivities get underway at 7:00 a.m. with the wildly popular Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, followed at 10:10 a.m. with fast-paced Footloose Freedom Mile. “The Centennial Celebration of Devils Postpile” Chamber of Commerce Parade begins at 11:00 a.m. traveling down Main Street, then Old Mammoth Road, and concluding at Mammoth Creek Park. Approximately 30 minutes after the parade enjoy a 40-45 piece orchestra performing an hour long pops program at Mammoth Creek Park. Light food and refreshments will be available for sale.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes will be hosting the annual Fireworks Spectacular at Crowley Lake on Monday, July 4. This year’s Fireworks Show promises to be a bright and striking display of color in the spectacular Eastern Sierra night sky. High Definition Fireworks are set to go off at approx. 9:15 p.m., weather permitting and are scheduled for 20 minutes. Music coordinated with the show will be broadcast live on KMMT / 106.5. Admission to the 4th July Fireworks Show is $25.00 per car, RV or truck, and $5.00 per individual/bike (walking/riding).

The Town of Mammoth Lakes would like to recognize Rick Elkus and his “Lucky Duck Group” as a special sponsor this year with their generous contribution to the 4th of July fireworks display.

Prior to the fireworks show, Hot Chicks Rotisserie will be serving tasty BBQ meals and beverages from the Mammoth Brewing Company. The Crowley Lake Fish Camp convenience store will be open until 7:00 p.m. selling soda, ice cream, and snack items. Crowley Lake Fish Camp will also be providing free entertainment from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., featuring “Milo & Chris” of “The Akoustik 2.” Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and family to enjoy the festive entertainment.

Camp permitting for the 4th of July holiday weekend begins Friday, July 1, 2011. The entire lake shore at the South Landing of Crowley Lake is open for camping, and the fee is $100 per vehicle Friday through Tuesday, including the fireworks show. The North Landing/North Shore of Crowley Lake will be closed beginning 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, thru 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 5, 2011.

To ensure a safe holiday experience for everyone, please observe the following:

- No personal fireworks are permitted within Mono County.
- Be smart; leave the fireworks to the professionals!
- Please obey road closure and no parking signs. No parking will be allowed along Highway 395 or Crowley Lake Drive at any time.
- Do not park in fire lanes.
- The Mono County Sheriff's Department will be patrolling on Crowley Lake. Do not boat within 100 yards of the fireworks detonation site at Hilton Bay.
- Help us keep Mono County clean. Please use designated trash facilities.
- Do not drink and drive. Please use a designated driver or plan to camp at Crowley Lake Fish Camp.

Please enjoy our national holiday in a safe and responsible manner. For more information, please contact the Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222, visit www.townofmammothlakes.com or log onto www.Mammothfestivals.com.

**Prescribed Burn Scheduled in and Around Yosemite National Park – July 6**

Yosemite National Park Fire Managers are planning a prescribed fire in the northwestern portion of the park near the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station on Highway 120 (Big Oak Flat Road) on **Wednesday, July 6, 2011**. The ignition of the burn is dependent on weather conditions. The total prescribed burn area will include 500 acres. The prescribed area is beginning to dry out from a heavy winter snowpack and fuel moistures and other fire factors within the burn unit are reaching optimal levels to successfully burn the unit. This will be the first prescribed burn of the 2011 fire season.

The Hodgdon Prescribed Burn will include 389 acres in Yosemite National Park and 111 acres in the Stanislaus National Forest. The fire will be managed as an interagency effort, with the agencies sharing personnel and equipment. It is estimated that the burn will take approximately three days to complete. Temperatures over the scheduled burn dates are predicted to be in the mid-70’s.

Smoke from the burn may be visible throughout the park, but may be more evident in the northern portion of the park. The goal of this prescribed burn is to reduce fire fuels near the park boundaries, Hodgdon Meadow Campground, the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station, and the Hodgdon residential area. This will be the first prescribed fire in this specific location, however there is evidence of natural fire history by burn scars on mature trees in the area.

For more information on this specific prescribed burn, or the fire program, please visit: [www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/current_fire.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/current_fire.htm).

**Blue Sky Food & Wine Seminars – July 8-10**

Join us for two fun days of learning and tasting with renowned chefs and wine experts at the Blue Sky Food & Wine Seminars **July 8-9, 2011** at Edison Theatre! Each seminar features wine tasting paired with tapas-style plates to bring out the best flavors of each. A choice of seven seminars over two days includes: Spanish Wine and Tapas, The Emergence of Paso Robles, An Intro to the Art of Wine and Food Pairing, Chef Frederic’s Best, Your Fit Gourmet Yvonne Tally and California Vintage. Food & Wine Seminar tickets are $50/person and include all seven seminars. Seminars are also included with the Blue Sky Food & Wine Experience ticket. Visit [www.mammothlakesfoundation.org](http://www.mammothlakesfoundation.org) for all the details or to purchase a ticket.
Devils Postpile Announces Centennial Celebration and Events Schedule

This summer Devils Postpile National Monument will celebrate 100 years of preservation, partnerships and progress as they commemorate the centennial of the designation of this unique local monument. To kick off the celebration, historic photos will be on display at the Mammoth Lakes Library starting on Wednesday June 1, 2011. The official celebration will begin on Wednesday July 6 at the Mammoth Lakes Farmer’s Market on Main Street with a Devils Postpile Birthday Party from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. On Thursday evening from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m., all are invited to the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center Auditorium for a celebration of the community effort to stop the proposed Trans-Sierra Highway through Reds Meadow and Devils Postpile. Friday July 8 at 9:00 a.m., all are welcome to join National Park Service Pacific West Regional Director Chris Lehnertz at a celebration to commemorate the establishment of the monument in 1911. This celebration will take place at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.

Special events will follow throughout the weekend both at Devils Postpile National Monument and at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center. Highlights will include a living history presentation by local John Muir expert Lee Stetson on Friday July 8 at 8:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center Auditorium, and a special evening program presented by National Park Service Historian Christopher Johnson on Saturday July 9 at 8:30 p.m. at the Devils Postpile Amphitheater. For more information and a complete schedule of events, please visit the Devils Postpile website at www.nps.gov/depo or contact the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center at (760) 924-5500.

Recreation Highlights

Mammoth Creek Park Playground Now Open

The new $136,550 playground at Mammoth Creek Park is now open to the public. On April 20, 2011, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council approved funding to remove and replace the substandard and non-compliant playground equipment from Mammoth Creek Park. The playground equipment includes separate play equipment for kids (5-12 years), tots’ & toddler’s (2-5 years), including three spring riders (lady bug is cool) and a new swing set. A new safety-compliant soft surface (wood fibers) to meet state requirements was also installed, including ADA access to the playground. Unfortunately the previously used sand surface does not meet the state safety requirements. The Town is proud to present the updated play equipment to the community of Mammoth Lakes. Please contact the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 Extension 222 for additional information about park use or the manufacturer Miracle Recreation – the oldest and largest playground manufacturer in the world.
Reds Meadow Road Now Open

Reds Meadow Road with access to the Devils Postpile National Monument opened on **Wednesday, June 29, 2011.** Mandatory shuttle service will operate through Wednesday, September 7, 2011. Shuttles will depart from the base of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area Main Lodge “Adventure Center” every 15-20 minutes during peak times (10:00am - 4:00pm) and 45 minutes during off-peak times (7:30am - 9:45am; 4:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.). The first shuttle will depart the Adventure Center daily at 7:30 a.m. Shuttles depart from The Village at Mammoth Lakes daily at 7:15, 8:00, 8:45, 9:15, and then every 30 minutes or less from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Motorists traveling as exception vehicles are urged to use caution, drive slowly, and watch for wildlife!

The snowpack in the valley is variable and is preventing the opening of several campgrounds and trails. Facilities that will be open on June 29th include Reds Meadow Resort, Devils Postpile National Monument (including trails to the Postpile and Rainbow Falls), and Reds Meadow Campground. Devils Postpile Campground will open on Friday, July 1, 2011 but may have snow patches. Additional facilities, campgrounds and trails should open before the July 4th holiday weekend, depending on weather conditions.

Backcountry travelers must take extra precautions and understand the many hazards that exist with the late spring conditions. Stream crossings are deep, swift, and dangerous. Many trails are covered with deep snow and large drifts. Passes are covered in snow and ice. Most lakes above 9000 feet are covered with snow and ice and unsafe for travel. Snow-free hiking opportunities are limited above 8500 feet. For information on the road opening and shuttle fees, or if planning a trip to the Reds Meadow Valley, please contact the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center at (760) 924-5500 extension 0, or visit [www.fs.usda.gov/r5/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5/inyo) or [www.twitter.com/mammothinfo](http://www.twitter.com/mammothinfo).

The Village Rubber Ducky Race and the Mammoth Sharks – July 2

The Village is hosting the 6th annual Village Rubber Ducky Races as part of its 4th of July celebrations. The event is on Saturday July 2, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Village Pond. The Village has partnered this year with the Mammoth Lakes Swim Team (The Mammoth Sharks) and the Sharks are out in force with an effort to pre-sell 600 ducks. Ducks can be purchased from the Sharks for $2 each (or 6 ducks for 10 bucks). Sold ducks will be placed into The Village Pond water feature where ten ducks from three heats will move on to the final round. The top three ducks from the final race will win prizes donated by Village businesses; Ben & Jerry’s, Pita Pit, Busy Bee General Store, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and The Side Door.

Sports & Entertainment Memorabilia Silent Auction in The Village – July 2/3

The Village has partnered with the Mammoth Lakes Swim Team to host a silent auction on Saturday and Sunday, July 2nd and 3rd from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. in The Village walkway. This auction will feature authentic sports and entertainment memorabilia. Auction items will include Bode Miller, Lindsey Vonn and Shaun White hand-signed original framed pieces. A special hand-signed, Lindsey Vonn Wheaties box was also donated for the Shark’s auction from Dion’s private collection. For more information about the Mammoth Sharks or how to buy a duck, please contact Nicole Godoy: 760-914-2186 - nicole@thegodoys.com
**Adult Summer Softball League Begins July 5**

The Recreation Department has closed enrollment for the 2011 adult softball season and is welcoming back 8 returning Men’s teams and 13 returning (and new) coed teams. First night of play is 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, July 5, at Shady Rest Park. Coed will play every Tuesday and Thursday nights, Men’s league plays Mondays and Wednesdays. The snack bar will be open courtesy of the Mammoth Lakes Women’s Club, so come on down and see what summer softball is all about at Shady Rest Park.

**Grom Mania Skate Camp – July 6**

Designed for beginner to intermediate skaters, the Grom Mania Skate Camp beginning on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 will meet daily at the Shady Rest Skate Park for drop-off and pick-up. In addition to a heavy emphasis on street scene skateboarding, the camp will also travel to summer hot spots and enjoy activities like bowling, swimming, and vert skating. The schedules for these Wednesday through Friday camps are available at the Recreation Office. Helmet, elbow pads and kneepads are required. Cost is only $35/day or $100 for the 3-day camp. Call the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 to register.

**NEW Challenger British Sports Camp – July 11**

Experience a Bit O’ Britain! If your child loves playing soccer, baseball, football and other team sports, then come check out what Challenger has to offer from July 11-15, 2011! Their team of British coaches will provide campers with a week of non-stop action, fun, and competition. Campers will enjoy games like Tag Rugby, Cricket, Rounders, Kick Ball, British Bull Dogs and Team relays and obstacle courses! Each player receives a camp T-shirt and certificate. The camp runs Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for ages 6-13. Call the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 to register, or visit [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com) for more information or to register online.

**Spaghetti & Meatballs Sports Camp – July 11**

Offered after the Challenger British Sports Camp, this popular camp runs Monday – Friday from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. for ages 6-13 (July 11-15, 2011). Enjoy active sports including beach volleyball, basketball, frisbee golf, flag football, geocaching, swimming, and much more. Excursions into town are also planned with a lunch or two out, and possibly a movie. Look for the daily schedule at the Recreation Office. Cost is only $20/day or $75 for the week. Call the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 to register.

**Adult Softball Tournament – July 16/17**

The Men’s ‘E’ Softball Tournament is scheduled on July 16 & 17, 2011. A round-robin format will be used with 1st and 2nd place individual awards, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place team trophies, and two MVP awards. Only ASA approved aluminum barreled bats allowed. For information call Grover Swick, Tournament Director: (760) 963-4902, or email [hardlinedrives@gmail.com](mailto:hardlinedrives@gmail.com). A $100 deposit is due 2 weeks before the tournament (Entry fee: $350).

**Mammoth Sharks Summer Workout Schedule**

- No Monday morning workout ever
- Monday 10 & Under 4-5:30, 11 & Over 5-7pm
Mammoth Lakes Farmers Market

Farmers Market is back in Mammoth every Wednesday between 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. until the end of summer. Grab your re-usable shopping bag and get over to the Luxury Outlet Mall on Main Street for some home grown produce, arts & crafts, entertainment and more. For vendor information contact: info@greenfoxevents.com, (760) 709-6744 or Facebook us.

Sierra Club, Range of Light Activities

- Sierra Club evening hikes every Wednesday. See http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/
- Sierra Club Outings every Sunday. See http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/
- Sierra Club Social and Program: Tuesday July 19, Hayden Cabin Museum BBQ.
- Go to http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/ for details.
- Sierra Club Hike with Birders Steve Brad & Ken Wells, Saturday July 30. http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/

Mammoth AYSO Registration

Register your player or yourself as a volunteer parent, coach or referee by June 30, 2011. Registration & volunteer forms are available at the Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation Department Office (above Giovanni’s) Monday - Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. A player will be guaranteed placement on a team if registered prior to July 1, 2011. After July 1, and before August 1, 2011 players are requested to complete forms, submit late payment fees of $10/player and wait to be placed – space available – on a team.

The current player fees are $60 per child or $50 / $40 for second or third child (please bring birth certificates for new players). Fees include new uniform, team photo, great coaching, tournaments and awards! Age Divisions: U5 Coed / U6 Coed / U8 / U10 / U12 / U15 & U19. For complete registration information, call (760) 709-2481, email: Mammothayso@gmail.com or visit www.Mammothayso.com.

ON-GOING RECREATION PROGRAMS...

Sharpen Up Your Stroke at the Community Center Tennis Courts

Tennis lessons are now being offered by USPTA Tennis Professional Tom Sherry at the Community Center Tennis Courts. Clinics, camps, and private lessons for all ability levels are scheduled every Tuesday through Thursday that emphasize stroke production and strategy. The Mammoth Lakes Tennis Club (MLTC) has programmed a number of special events hosted at the Community Center Tennis Courts, including the new “Sunday Social” beginning on June 19, 2011. Socials get underway from
9:30 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. with snacks provided by the MLTC. For more information about the tournaments and socials, contact MLTC president Gail Lonne at (760) 934-0150 or glonne@verizon.net. To purchase your tennis lesson punch cards, please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222, visit www.townofmammothlakes.com or pick up a copy of the new 2011/12 Annual Mammoth Lakes Recreation Guide available throughout town.

**Party Yourself into Shape!**

Zumba® Fitness is offered every Monday by Kaysie Williams from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail (near The Village). Zumba® Fitness is an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness-party™ that’s moving millions of people toward joy and health. Participants don't even have to know how to dance. Just move your body and follow the instructor’s lead. It's easy! Participants can purchase a 10 class punch card for $77.50 or a 5 class punch card for only $42.50. The Drop-In rate is $10 per class. For more information or to register call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222. Feel the music and let loose!

**Learn to Swim this Summer at the Whitmore Pool**

The Whitmore Pool is your venue for swim lessons of all ages and abilities this summer. Located adjacent to the ball fields on Benton Crossing Road, this unique outdoor aquatic facility has a 360-degree view of the Eastern Sierra, including the Glass and White Mountain ranges. Stroke Improvement classes are offered every Monday and Wednesday from 8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. between May 11 - June 15, 2011, and Mondays only from June 20 - August 8, 2011. Cost is $10 per day. American Red Cross Swim Lessons are progressive lessons offered for all ages. The Whitmore Pool staff will help you place your child in the correct level and provide information regarding times of the specific class needed. Classes are subject to cancellation due to low enrollment if the minimum class size of 3 students is not met. The first session begins June 27 between 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. for Tiny Tot, and level I, between 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. for Tiny Tot, II, III. Please call the Whitmore Pool at (760) 935–4222 for reservations or stop by to make arrangements.

**Sports & Recreation Calendar**

- On-going: Gymnastics/Tumbling Program at the Community Center
- On-going: Zumba Fitness at the Community Center
- On-going: The Whitmore Pool is open – swim lessons...
- On-going: Little Sluggers Begins at MES (ends June 29)
- On-going: Tennis Lessons every Tuesday/Thursday
- On-going: Main Street Farmers Market every Wednesday
- May 1 – June 30: Convict Lake Spring Fishing Derby
- June 29: Reds Meadow Road OPEN
- July 1: Footloose Sports Tour of Mammoth Bike Challenge begins
- July 2: Mono County Free Fishing Day
- July 2: Summer of Stewardship Trail Day
- July 2: Mammoth Lakes Swim Team 4th of July Triathlon
- July 4: Footloose Freedom Mile – 10:10 a.m.
- July 4: Chamber of Commerce Parade – 11:00 a.m.
- July 4: POPS in the Park – 1:30 p.m.
- July 4: Fireworks Spectacular at Crowley Lake – 9:00 p.m.
• July 5: Swim Lessons Session 11
• July 5: Coed Softball Leagues Begins
• July 6: Men’s Softball League Begins
• July 6-8: Grom Mania Skate Camp
• July 8-9: June Lake Triathlon and Festival
• July 8-10: Blue Sky Festival
• July 11: Challenger British Sports Camp - AM
• July 11: Spaghetti & Meatballs Sports Camp – PM
• July 11: Swim Lessons Session 111
• July 12: Mammoth Sharks Swim-a-Thon
• July 12: Recreation Commission Meeting
• July 13-17: Mammoth Lakes Jazz Jubilee
• July 16-17: Adult Softball Tournament, Men’s E
• July 17 – ESV Wildrose Summit Ride

Public Service Announcements

The Bears are Back!

Now that spring has arrived, the black bears who call the Mammoth Lakes area their home are coming out of hibernation, and they are hungry! It is time to remind all our residents and visitors that it is our responsibility to KEEP WILDLIFE WILD. The best way of doing this, and preventing bears from becoming dependent on humans for food, is to follow these common sense rules:

• Never feed any wildlife, or leave food out for bears or other wild animals.
• Securely store food and fragrant items such as shampoo and deodorant in an airtight container. When camping, use a bear-proof box.
• Don’t leave food, even in a cooler, in a car, tent, or other unsecured location.
• Don’t leave pet food outdoors or use a bird feeder. Bears love bird seed!
• Always deposit trash in a bear proof trash can or dumpster.
• Keep your car locked and your garage door closed.
• Close and lock ground floor windows when no one is home.

It is not unusual to see black bears wandering through town. Enjoy them, but keep your distance. If you see a bear that is misbehaving (such as trying to get into a trash dumpster, vehicle, or building) call 911 immediately. The Town’s Wildlife Specialist and police officers are trained to handle situations such as this. Bears are shy and generally afraid of people. If you feel threatened by a bear, yell or bang on something to scare the bear away. If by chance a bear enters a structure looking for food while you are inside, make a lot of noise and go into another room, close the door, and call 911. The bear will most likely be more frightened than you and leave.

It is also time to remind everyone that all wildlife, including deer, are on the move. When driving, especially at dusk and dawn, be on the lookout for wild animals crossing the roadway. Striking a deer or bear can be fatal – not only to the animal, but also to people in the car.

For more information on co-existing with wildlife in Mammoth Lakes, contact the Town’s Wildlife Specialist Steve Searles at (760) 937-BEAR or Lieutenant John Mair at (760) 934-2011 Extension 44.
New Rule Before School Opens in the Fall!

All students entering grades 7-12 this fall must provide proof of having immunization against whooping cough ('Tdap') before starting school. In light of California’s recent and ongoing whooping cough (pertussis) epidemic, there is no reason to wait for the new school year. Besides, the first day of school is busy enough as it is without having to “get shot”!

This new school requirement applies to all public and private schools, and includes students who are home schooled. California’s parents are being urged not to wait for the new fall school year, since there will be no grace period. Under the new law, students will not be allowed to start school without proof of vaccination. All schools will be subject to selective review and audit.

If a child does not have health insurance, or is only partially insured, your child’s doctor or the Mono County Health Department can provide information about the Vaccines for Children Program which provides free or low-cost vaccines. The Tdap vaccine is also available at Von’s.

Be sure to add this to your “to do” list, and have your child vaccinated before you get distracted by all the fun summer activities. The first day of school will arrive before you know it! For more information, please visit www.ShotsforSchool.org, or call us at (760) 924-1830 for more information.

Motorists Urged to Use Caution

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department would like to caution motorists to be extra alert for migrating deer on Highway 395 and State Route 203. Large numbers of deer are on the move at this time of year and they pose a real threat to motorists. On Thursday, May 12, one vehicle swerved to avoid a deer and ran off Highway 395 near the airport. The deer was struck and killed and the driver and passenger were transported to Mammoth Lakes Hospital for injuries received in the collision. Both occupants were wearing safety belts which prevented more serious injuries from occurring. Another deer was struck and killed in the same area by a Mono County Sheriff’s vehicle that was enroute to the first collision.

SR203 Resurfacing Project

The SR203 pavement overlay that was completed October 2009 by Caltrans and subsequently failed in many areas along the route will be corrected this summer. Caltrans District 9 plans to start work just after the July 4th holiday and complete work mid-August 2011. Town staff will be meeting with Caltrans to review their detailed project schedule sometime in the next two weeks.

Leash Law Reminder

Mammoth residents and visitors are reminded that the Town has a leash law, and it is a violation of the ordinance to allow your dog to run loose off of your property. While budget cuts eliminated the Animal Control Officer position, the laws pertaining to controlling your pets did not change, and you can still be cited by Mammoth Lakes Police Department officers if your dog is at-large. The Police Department is currently receiving a large number of complaints from several neighborhoods, and will be targeting patrol time in those areas when possible to apprehend loose dogs and to cite their owners. In addition to the citation fine, you could also be charged boarding fees by Mono County Animal Control if we choose to impound your dog at the Whitmore Shelter. At-large dogs are a traffic hazard, and even the most well
behaved dog can bite if provoked. If your loose animal causes a traffic collision or injures/bites someone, you would likely be liable for damages, which could add up to thousands of dollars. Please respect your neighbors, AND your pet and obey the leash law.

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 TownofMammothLakes.com, 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!

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 redirected to shine downward or changed out to a lower wattage. More information about responsible lighting can be found at www.crlaction.org.