



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town News

Week of April 25, 2011

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting– May 4

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Minaret Village Mall. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Negotiations with Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition (MLLA)

The Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition (MLLA) LLC have agreed to jointly develop a plan addressing the \$30 million Hot Creek Airport judgment awarded to MLLA against the Town. Representatives of both parties, including MLLA partners and their legal firm Quinn Emanuel, Mammoth Lakes Mayor Harvey, Councilmember Wood, and Interim Town Manager Marysheva-Martinez, as well as the Town's legal firm (Sulmeyer Kupetz), and financial consultant (Kibel Green) held their first meeting on April 18, 2011, and have agreed on the process to develop a settlement. Both parties will next be meeting to review the Town's financials and determine how the Town could satisfy MLLA's judgment requirements while maintaining its current municipal services and continuing on the path of becoming a world-class resort destination. The joint process established by the Town and MLLA is truly unprecedented, and speaks to the shared interests of the Town and MLLA in ensuring the Town's long-term financial and economic stability. Both sides hope to reach a mutually agreeable settlement within months.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Budget Review

At the April 20, 2011 Town Council meeting, the Town Council reviewed a comprehensive agenda bill on the Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget from the Town Staff. The report provides a great level of detail on the Town's financials in a clear and straightforward way, and is the outcome of true team work. The Interim Town Manager and the Town Council thanked and acknowledged staff for their hard work on the budget at last night's meeting. Staff was given direction to: (1) remove the substandard playground equipment from the Mammoth Creek Park as soon as possible; and (2) use General Fund dollars to replace the equipment this fiscal year, at an estimated cost of \$131,000.

TOML Policies and Procedures

One of Town Council's priorities is to update the Town's policies and procedures in order to create a transparent template for staff and the public to follow. Town staff has begun the process of developing and implementing policies, starting with

recruitment and claims handling. In addition, a resolution will be proposed at the next Town Council meeting to streamline the claims handling process.

MMH Airport Recruitment

We are in the process of reviewing all employment applications received for the Airport Maintenance Coordinator position for candidate selection. Candidates will be contacted to schedule interviews in the coming week, and all applicants will be notified of their status.

New Tipping/Disposal Fees - Effective May 1

In an effort to balance the county Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (SWEF), the Mono County Board of Supervisors voted to increase tipping fees to \$68.50/ton. For Mammoth Lakes services (residential/commercial), this will translate into a 15% fee increase across the board. The new fees will go into effect on Sunday, May 1, 2011. The Benton Crossing Landfill will now be closed on Sundays and all holidays observed by the County (Mammoth Disposal will have access on holidays). Please contact Mammoth Disposal at (760) 934-2201 for the updated fee structure.

Eastern Sierra Law Enforcement Compete in Baker-to-Vegas Relay Race

Officers from the Mammoth Lakes Police Department teamed up with deputies from the Mono and Inyo County Sheriff's Departments and officers from the California Highway Patrol to compete in the 27th Annual Baker-to-Vegas Relay race. On April 16 and 17, over 260 teams consisting of 20 runners each ran a 120 mile relay race from outside of Baker, California, through Shoshone, Pahrump, Nevada, and ending at the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas. Mammoth Lakes Officers Ruben Ramos, Ron Gladding, Luke Schwartzkopf, Arturo Torres, and Dan Casabian, and Lieutenant John Mair ran for Team Eastern Sierra. The other runners were from the other departments. Each team requires several support personnel and Chief Dan Watson and Detective Doug Hornbeck drove the follow vehicle for the first six legs.

Watson said, "This is the largest law enforcement athletic competition in the world. Literally thousands of police officers from throughout the United States and other countries converge in the Mojave Desert. I'm real proud of our guys. It was over 100 degrees and many of the legs are very challenging, with two mountain passes traversed. One third of the sworn members of the Department participated as runners and I doubt if any other police departments can match that. The benefits of Baker to Vegas include encouraging physical fitness, camaraderie, and esprit 'd corps."

Team Eastern Sierra finished 19th out of 27 teams in the Open Category. This is the most competitive of all categories with teams from large agencies like LAPD, LA Sheriff's, and the FBI. The local team finished in 164th place overall.

Calls for Service/Officer Observations

142, including 1 business/building check

Crime/Incident Reports

38 reports, including 8 arrests

Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions

25 stops; 5 citations; 1 parking citation; 0 skate park citations; 3 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

9 incidents; 2 reports

Wildlife Calls/Reports

5 calls; 1 report

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, April 22 - Saturday, April 23 = 45%

Sunday, April 24 - Thursday, April 28 = 27% Easter Weekend!

Twitter

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

Community Development

Town Seeks Community Input on the Sign Code Update

The Town is inviting you to the Planning Commission Public Hearing on the Sign Code Update on **Wednesday, April 27, 2011** at 2:00 p.m. in Suite Z/Town Council Chambers. The Town is updating sign regulations as part of the Zoning Code Update. We heard your comments about signs during our February Workshops and revised our sign regulations to address your issues. Check our website for information on the Sign Code Update at www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=387.

Sign Chapter Proposed Changes

A number of changes are proposed through the Sign Code Update to address your issues:

- Attractively designed internally lit signs would be allowed subject to certain requirements (e.g., halo lit signs, signs with neon details, etc.).
- Banners would be allowed for a limited period for sales and promotions.
- Flexible standards to address issues with sign size, height, and location in special circumstances.
- Tables and graphics are included to be user-friendly.
- Sign regulations are streamlined to reduce time and cost of sign permits.

What We'll Discuss – Public Hearing

The Planning Commission will review and discuss the proposed update to the Sign Chapter and listen to public feedback. After completing the public hearing, the Planning Commission will forward a recommendation on the proposed Sign Chapter to the Town Council. A public hearing will then be held with the Town Council to make a decision on the Sign Code Update. The Town Council public hearing is expected to occur in May or June.

If you can't attend this public hearing, please email or call Jen Daugherty, Associate Planner, at (760) 934-8989 ext. 260 or jdaugherty@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us, to provide your comments.

Sierra Valley Neighborhood District Plan Special Workshop – April 27

The Town of Mammoth Lakes wants to hear from members of the community at special public workshops for the Sierra Valley Neighborhood District Plan. The Sierra Valley Neighborhood includes Manzanita Road, Mono Street, Lupin Street, Joaquin Road and Dorrance Drive, as well as Chaparral Road and Arrowhead Road. Come and share your ideas about the Sierra Valley neighborhood — we'll be talking about traffic, safety, housing, and other topics, looking at important issues and ways to solve them. For additional information, please contact Ellen Clark at (760) 934-8989 extension 269. It's your chance to have your say about your neighborhood!

Two workshops are scheduled:

- Workshop in English on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 from 5:00 to 7:00PM in Suite Z at the Minaret Village Shopping Center (Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chambers)
- Workshop with Spanish language interpretation on Thursday, April 28, 2011 from 5:00 to 7:00PM at the Mammoth Lakes Library

Planning Commission Meeting – April 27

The April 27, 2011 Planning Commission meeting includes the following items:

- Public Hearing – Sign Code update.
Staff contact: Jen Daugherty (760) 934-8989 Extension 260
- Zoning Code Update – Standards for all Development and Land Use.
Staff contact: Sandra Moberly (760) 934-8989 Extension 251
- Zoning Code Update – Height and Mass Workshop.
Staff contact: Mark Wardlaw (760) 934-8989 Extension 238

Public Arts Commission Meeting Rescheduled to May 4

The Public Arts Commission meeting of April 28, 2011 has been rescheduled to May 4, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in Suite Z.

Reduced Prices at Aspen Village

Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc. recently reduced the price of the Aspen Village Town Homes which has caused a lot of sales activity on these energy efficient condos. There are only THREE Two-Bedroom units left at the Aspen Village complex. The units have Energy STAR appliances, efficient forced air heating, under structure parking, amazing views, low HOA's and are Brand NEW! There is down payment assistance available to eligible buyers. Contact Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc. at (760) 934-4740 for more information.

Final Downtown Concept for Main Street – Now Available!

The Town Council unanimously accepted the Downtown Concept for Main Street - Downtown Neighborhood District Plan (DNBP) in September 2010. A final version (clean, not redlined) is now available on the Town's website at <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=133>. For additional

information, please contact Associate Planner Jen Daugherty at jdaugherty@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us, or at 934-8989, ext. 260.

Community News

Annual Pond Skim & Spring Fest Kick Off Party

Sunday, April 24 is the day you've all been waiting for: The Annual Spring Fest Kick Off Party & Pond Skim at Mammoth! Come and join the crowds as they fill up Canyon Lodge to watch the craziest of our Mammoth guest's straight line it on their skis/snowboards across the 110ft pond! It's one of the most entertaining events you'll see all Spring! Come and spectate, or why not give it a shot?! The Pond Skim is open to the public. Registration begins at Canyon Lodge at 11:00 a.m. The Skim starts at 2:00 p.m. There is no pre-registration, the first 50 (fifty) guests IN COSTUME will be entered to Skim.

Meet and Greet Receptions to Be Held for New Forest Supervisor Ed Armenta

The public is invited to come meet new Inyo National Forest Supervisor Ed Armenta at one of a number of receptions being hosted for him by the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA.) Ed arrived in Bishop on April 11 from his most recent position as the District Ranger of the Payson District of the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. Born and raised in Southern California, Armenta graduated from Humboldt State University with a degree in Wildlife Management. He has worked on the Plumas and Sequoia National Forests in California, the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico, and the Prescott, Kaibab and Tonto National Forests in Arizona.

Please join Forest staff and ESIA at one of the following receptions and help welcome Ed to the Eastern Sierra.

- Thursday, April 28 @ 4:00-6:00pm - Whiskey Creek Restaurant, 524 N. Main Street, Bishop
- Monday, May 2 @ 4:00-6:00pm - Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center, Lee Vining
- **Thursday, May 5 @ 4:00-6:00pm - Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center**
- Wednesday, May 11 @ 5:00-7:00pm - Lone Pine Film History Museum

For more information please call Nancy Upham at (760) 873-2427 or Debbe Eilts at (760) 873-2411

Firewood Season Opens May 1

The Inyo National Forest is announcing opening of personal use fuelwood season starting Sunday May 1. Fuelwood permits will go on sale at local Forest Service Ranger Stations and Visitor Centers beginning Monday, April 25. Maps showing areas open to cutting are available with a purchased Fuelwood permit. Fuelwood permits are \$14.00 per cord with a two cord minimum purchase. The maximum purchase remains 6 cords per person and 12 cords per household. The Inyo National Forest again will institute shut down days (for chainsaw use) based upon the daily Project Activity Level. Permit holders can call (760) 873-2555 for information on shut down days. For further information on the fuelwood program, contact your local Ranger Station or Visitor Center.

Current supplies of firewood can be found at Hartley, Smoke, and Rust Forest Management Areas, which can be located on the fuelwood map. Due to a heavy snow year, not all areas are snow-free at this time. Permittees are advised to check in with their local Forest Service Ranger Stations and Visitor Centers for current conditions and accessibility.

Fuelwood permits may be obtained at the following locations:

Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center in Lee Vining; (760) 647-3044
Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center in Mammoth Lakes; (760) 924-5500
White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop; (760) 873-2500
InterAgency Visitor Center in Lone Pine; (760) 876-6222.

Recreation Highlights

Easter Egg Hunt and Play Day

Join the Mammoth Lakes Easter Bunny and Recreation Department staff for a fun, festive, and free community Easter Egg Hunt this Friday, April 22, 2011, at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center. Activities begin promptly at 3:00 p.m., so don't be late! Bring your own basket to fill with eggs and goodies, as prize eggs will be hidden for each age group.

New Tennis Pro at Community Center Tennis Courts

The Recreation Department is excited to welcome Tom Sherry, our new tennis professional, to the Community Center Tennis Courts. Tom is a United States Professional Tennis Association ([USPTA](#)) Certified Tennis Instructor. He is also a USRSA Racquet Stringer in the summer and a PSIA Certified Ski Instructor at Mammoth Mountain in the winter. Tom has been teaching tennis since playing for his college Div. III team in 1993.

Founded in 1927, USPTA is the world's oldest and largest association of tennis-teaching professionals. With more than 15,000 members worldwide, USPTA offers more than 60 professional benefits to its members, including certification and extensive educational opportunities.

Tom will run clinics, camps, and private lessons for all ability levels at the Community Center Tennis Courts on Forest Trail that emphasizes stroke production and strategy. Programs commence on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 with a "Meet the Pro" day scheduled for Sunday, June 12, 2011. Please contact the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 Extension 222 or contact Tom directly at (707) 365-9361 or tennis@thomassherry.com for more information or reservations.

RecStrats Workshop Updates

The RecStrats interactive workshops resumed last week with "Winter Recreation + Trails" on April 13, 2011 and "Non-Winter Recreation + Trails" held on April 14, 2011. Attendance was high with a total of 68 recreation enthusiasts participating in a robust discussion of products, programs, and facilities that they would like to see in Mammoth Lakes. Workshop notes will be made available on www.recstrats.com and additional comments or suggestions can be included in the discussion by completing

a survey in either English or Spanish online at: <http://recstrats.com>. The public is also invited to complete a survey at key locations around town including the Mammoth Lakes Library, Mammoth Lakes Post Office, and Snowcreek Athletic Club.

The remaining RECSTRATS topic-specific workshops are as follows:

- Wednesday, May 11, 2011 - Special Events
- Thursday, May 12, 2011 - Arts & Culture
- Wednesday, June 8, 2011 - High Altitude Training & Trails
- Thursday, June 23, 2011 - Linkages & Priorities

For additional information, please visit www.recstrats.com or call the Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 Extension 222.

Great Soccer Starts Here!

Register for Mammoth AYSO fall soccer at the Mammoth Middle School on **Monday, May 2, 2011**. Millions of players got their start in AYSO including Landon Donovan. Fun, safe, affordable, trained coaches... and memories that will last a lifetime. Register your player or yourself as a volunteer parent, coach or referee. We need your Help!

Join us at Does de Mayo hosted by MMSO at the Mammoth Middle School MPR on Monday, May 2, 2011 for a fun and festive evening celebrating Cinco de Mayo. Enjoy games, music and Tamales, rice, beans and a drink for only \$7.00 per plate all while registering your players and yourself for fall soccer. Festivities get underway at 4:00 p.m. Cost is only \$60 per child or \$50 / \$40 for second or third child. Fees include new uniform, team photo, great coaching, tournaments and awards! Age Divisions: U5 / U6 Coed / U8 / U10 / U12 / U15 & U19.

Soccer Swap: Exchange your old cleats for new – only \$5.00 & donate your old soccer jersey, shorts or socks to a worthy cause. For complete registration information, call (760) 709-2481, email: Mammothayso@gmail.com or visit www.Mammothayso.com.

April Activities for the Sierra Club, Range of Light Group

The Sierra Club - Range of Light Group hosts Winter Outings every Thursday and Sunday. Thursday is a cross country ski outing for 3-5 miles, about 2 1/2 hours. Sunday is 6-8 miles, back about 3:00 p.m. Intermediate or advanced-beginner skill levels and endurance required. Snow shoe-ers must be able to keep up. Often off groomed trails. If you are unsure of your abilities try a Thursday morning trip first. Participants are asked to meet at M.L. Union Bank parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Abominable weather cancels. Contact: John Walter (760) 934-1767 or Jean Dillingham (760) 648-7109.

Open Gym at the Mammoth High School

The Recreation Department in collaboration with the Mammoth Unified School District (Thanks Rich!) is hosting open basketball at the Mammoth High School Gym every Sunday (excluding April 24) from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Additional programming is being developed and we welcome any programming suggestions. Cost is \$2.00 per participant. Please contact John at (760) 934-8989 ext. 234 for additional information.

Hoop it up!

Get Gymnastics Fever!

This year-round program is designed to introduce children from 3-18 years old the wonderful and exciting sport of gymnastics. Offered by Michelle DeJong, a level 8 competitive gymnast and Level 1-5 gymnastics coach, participants will learn to tumble and more in a safe and structured environment. This program is also a recipient of Measure R funding with \$7,000 of gymnastic equipment. Three age sessions are available at the Community Center on Forest Trail and are all on schedule for February, 2011.

- 3-5 yr olds – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- 5-8 yr olds – Saturday: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- 8-12+ yr olds – Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. & Saturday: 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Fees are only \$50/month (8 sessions) for residents and \$60/month for non-residents. Five session Punch Cards are available for \$50 and Private lessons are available upon request at \$20 for 30-45 minutes. Drop-in's are welcome and encouraged - First one is FREE! Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for more information or to register your aspiring Gymnast!

Gymnastic Schedule Changes

The following changes have been made to the Wednesday gymnastics session at the Community Center. Sorry for any inconvenience.

- May 11 to May 10, 2011
- June 8 to June 7, 2011

Sports & Recreation Calendar

- On-going: Gymnastics/Tumbling Program at the Community Center
- On-going: Open Basketball at the MHS Gym, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- April 1: Mammoth Value Pass (MVP) on sale
- April 22: Recreation Dept. Easter Egg Hunt & Play Day @ Community Center
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 22-24: Easter Week Art Show
- April 23-28: USSA Far West Speed Finals
- April 23: 5th Annual Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament
- April 24: Bunny Hop: Mammoth's Largest Easter Egg Hunt
- April 24: Annual Pond Skim & Spring Fest Kick Off Party
- April 24: Canyon Lodge, Eagle Lodge and Village Gondola Closing Day
- April 24: Mammoth Snowmobile Adventures Closing Day
- April 24: June Mountain Ski Area Closing Day
- April 26-29: DSES Springtacular!
- April 30: Opening Day of Mono County Fishing Season
- May 3: Recreation Commission Meeting

Public Service Announcements

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