



Town of Mammoth Lakes

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Town News

Town e-News – Week of September 24, 2012

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – October 3

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Town and MLLA Announce Terms of the Settlement

The Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition LLC (MLLA) jointly announced the settlement's specific terms, executed by parties on September 20, 2012. Parties to the settlement are the Airport Developer, Terrence Ballas and his related development entities ("Ballas entities").

Terms of the settlement, the Town's rationale for settling, and the Town's plan to finance payments are discussed further in the Press Release posted on the Town's website. The Town will hold a series of public meetings to review the settlement documents, answer questions from the community, and begin a dialogue regarding the Town's plans to reorganize its operations in order to become more creative, effective and efficient, and afford the long-term settlement payments.

The first of such meetings has been scheduled for **Thursday, September 27, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers (Suite Z).**

All questions relating to the settlement can be sent to mlasettlement@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us, or by calling (760) 934-8989, extension 223. Town staff will compile all questions and answers into a report available at the September 27, 2012 meeting, and later post information on the Town's website.

All enquiries are to be directed to Assistant Town Manager, Marianna Marysheva-Martinez at mmartinez@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

2012 Measure U Fall Award Postponed

Due to insufficient Measure U funds available for award in December, on September 19, 2012, Town Council directed staff to convene the Measure U Application Committee to draft a new timeline for a spring award, and determine an award amount (cap) for appropriation. This item will be added to the October 16, 2012 meeting of the Measure U Application Committee, and be returned to Town Council on November 7, 2012 for consideration.

2012 Measure R Fall Award Opens September 24

On September 19, 2012, Town Council voted to approve the 2012 Measure R Fall Award Timeline, application/evaluation material, and funding principles and priorities. The 2012 Measure R Fall Award application period will open on September 24, 2012 at 8:00 a.m., and close on October 24, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Funding consideration by Town Council is scheduled on December 19, 2012. Detailed information regarding the fall award, and application material can be found online at www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us on Monday, September 24, 2012.

Caltrans Conducting Roadway Preservation

Caltrans crews will be fog sealing US Hwy 395 & SR 120 as per the following schedule to extend the life of the roadway:

Wednesday, Sept. 26

- SR 120 from Yellow Jacket Rd in Old Benton to postmile 50 near Black Lake. Expect one lane traffic control with a pilot car. Crews will begin working on the road way at 7:00 am.

Monday & Tuesday, Oct. 1 & 2

- US Hwy 395 – Northbound from the bottom of Sherwin Grade to the top of Sherwin Grade. Expect one lane traffic control. Crews will begin working on the road way at 7:00 am.

The purpose of fog sealing is to rejuvenate the roadway by adding the naturally occurring oils back into the roadway that have oxidized out of the pavement. This adds life to the pavement and allows it to perform better and be more flexible.

For the safety of the construction crew and motorists, please be attentive to closures, slow for the cone zone, and move over one lane where possible.

Inyo National Forest, Town Of Mammoth Lakes, Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association and MLTPA Foundation Unveil Mammoth Lakes Trail System

On Saturday, October 20, the public is invited to a special day of celebration marking the completion of a series of important federally, state, and locally funded trail projects, and the official Grand Opening of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS) and the agency partnerships that support it. All activities are free and open to the public.

The Inyo National Forest (INF), Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML), Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA), and the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) have teamed up to commemorate this occasion with MLTS tours, Summer of Stewardship volunteer trail projects, demonstrations of the new MLTS website (www.MammothTrails.org), and a 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center (2510 Main Street.)

Several noteworthy long-term trails projects are to be honored on October 20, 2012. These include the completion of the Lakes Basin Path, and the wayfinding and interpretive signage installed along various Town paths including the Lakes Basin Path.

Lakes Basin Path

Conceived in the mid 90's with planning funds appropriated in 2000, the ambitious \$11 Million project to construct a 5.3 mile Class 1 bike path in the spectacular Lakes Basin began construction on Monday, August 27, 2007, and opened to the public four years later on Friday, August 26, 2011 as a much larger, partner-funded \$17 Million project.

The Lakes Basin Path officially begins at the intersection of Main Street and Minaret Road and gains 950 ft. of breathtaking elevation over 5.3 miles of Inyo National Forest to Horseshoe Lake. The project also included realignment and reconstruction of approximately 2-miles of Lake Mary Road to make room for the Lakes Basin Path.

The Lake Mary Road Bike Path Project and Road Rehabilitation Project was funded through an impressive array of funds received from a variety of sources including Federal Transportation Enhancement Act, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), State Local Transportation, Recovery Act through the Forest Service, Local Development Impact Fees, and Measure R (Mammoth Lakes Recreation, Trails and Parks Investment Initiative.)

Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage

A total of 125 wayfinding signs were installed along various Town paths including the Lakes Basin Path. The fabrication and placement of wayfinding signs on national forest land were funded by Recovery Act funds and jointly managed by Inyo National Forest and Town Public Works Department personnel through a Challenge Cost Share Agreement.

Wayfinding signs on town land were funded by Measure R, and managed by the Public Works Department. Assistance was provided by MLTPA for wayfinding maps and sign content, as identified in the Trail System Master Plan. Adopted by the Mammoth Lakes Town Council on October 11, 2011 the Trail System Master Plan (TSMP) guides the development and implementation of all kinds of trails and recreational facilities that may be built, managed, operated, or programmed by the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

16 new interpretive exhibit panels have been designed, with 8 of them currently installed, that help travelers along the bike path to learn more about the cultural and natural history of the Mammoth Lakes area. These were funded by Recovery Act and Measure R funds.

Integral to this new signage are QR (quick response) codes that, when scanned with a smartphone, will connect visitors with additional information about the trail. This enhanced content is channeled through the brand-new MLTS website, www.MammothTrails.org - the first comprehensive digital resource for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS). The website offers detailed trail, destination, activity, and experience information for the entire system, comprised of some 300-plus miles of trails and connecting users to nationally renowned parks, wilderness areas, and other outdoor attractions.

For additional information regarding the MLTS projects, and a schedule of the celebration events, please visit www.mltpa.org, or contact Nancy Upham, INF Public Affairs Officer, at (760) 873-2427 or nupham@fs.fed.us, or Stuart Brown, Town of Mammoth Lakes Public Information Officer at (760) 934-8989 ext. 210 or sbrown@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

TOT Enforcement and Revenue Collection Update – Sept. 21

In August 2011, the Town of Mammoth Lakes implemented an aggressive transient occupancy tax (TOT) enforcement and revenue collection program. TOT collection, compliance and enforcement are critical components to the success of our resort community of Mammoth Lakes. The Community Development Department and Finance Department TOT Enforcement and Collection Team are dedicated to implementing this high priority program directed by the Town Council and work with the "TOT Committee," who represents the Town's lodging community, to discuss progress, new issues and ideas and program improvements.

The following is our bi-monthly update of enforcement and collection activity and progress.

What's New?

- **TOT Revenue Collection Activity.** The Town has received **\$222,239.72** in new TOT remittance since the TOT Enforcement and Revenue Collection program began last August! (\$203,689.73 in taxes, \$18,549.99 in penalties and interest)
- **134 New Transient Occupancy Tax Certificates** since August 8, 2011! This is a huge increase from the average of 10 TOT Certificates per year that the Town normally receives.
- **201 TOT Enforcement Cases! TOT Violation Activity as of Monday 9/17/12:**
 - 5 New cases (opened in the last two weeks)
 - 115 Closed cases (cases are periodically monitored to ensure continued compliance)
 - 65 cases determined to be legal use with valid business and/or TOT certificate
 - 50 cases transient rental activity abated, TOT remitted, business and/or TOT certificate obtained
 - 81 Open Cases
 - 39 cases under investigation and/or notice of violation letters in progress
 - 8 notice of violation letters issued, awaiting reply by responsible party
 - 34 cases administrative citation letter or assessment issued, awaiting reply and/or abatement
- **Assessments/Audits.** The Town has assessed 24 properties for back taxes. The Finance Department is working with property owners to arrange hearings and payment options. Audits will be moving forward in September and October.
- **The list of TOT remitters with Business Tax and TOT Certificates is now online!** You can download this data table that details approximately all 600 TOT remitters in Town as of June 2012. This includes single unit owners, hotels, campgrounds, and management companies. The table includes rental unit, property name, address, and owner. You can find the table here: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/3002>.
- **Find out if your property is zoned for transient rentals!** Staff has developed a web application to help property owners, realtors, property management companies, and other members of the public to determine

whether or not transient rentals are permitted on all property around town. Use the link below to search by address, APN, or complex name to find your property. <http://gis.mono.ca.gov/TOT/>

What's Next?

- **September-November:** The Town will continue with assessments and enforcement, begin the auditing process, and will automate the TOT payment system to make it easier for remitters to pay. The Town will also begin preparing for the next winter season by issuing press releases, conducting public outreach while continuing with the enforcement and revenue collection program.

We Want to Hear From YOU!

The Town values the quality of life of our residents and visitors. Because TOT is so important to maintaining our community's vitality, we are making a concerted effort to make it easier to find information about, and to comply with, TOT and zoning rules. For TOT-related information, please visit <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=201>, call us at **(760) 934-8989 ext. 275**, or send an email to: tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

You can also sign up to receive up-to-date information regarding the TOT Enforcement and Revenue Collection Program via the following social networking platforms:

- **Town e-News:** <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/list.aspx>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Town-of-Mammoth-Lakes/102051836512495>
- **Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/TownofMammoth>

Calls for Service/Officer Observations

119, including 2 business/building checks

Crime Incident Reports

19 reports, including 6 arrests

Traffic Stop/Citations/Traffic Collisions

19 stops; 5 citations; 1 parking citation; 0 skate park citations; 1 collision

Animal Control Incidents

0 incidents; 0 reports

Wildlife

11 calls; 4 reports

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, September 21, 2012 - Saturday, September 22, 2012 = **37%**

(37% same weekend in 2011, same in 2012)

Monday, September 23, 2012 - Thursday, September 27, 2012 = **21%**

(17% same midweek in 2011, up 4% in 2012)

Hotels/Motels/B&B:45% (Friday-Saturday) 19% (Sunday-Thursday)

Condos: 29% (Friday-Saturday) 23% (Sunday-Thursday)

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

Community News

Mammoth Moves!

Please join the Mono County Nutrition & Physical Activity Taskforce and local leaders in the community on our new campaign to get moving! It's easy to get bogged down in the workplace, or settle into your favorite chair at home, so let's carve out some time to get together and exercise. We will meet at 12:10 p.m. each Wednesday afternoon (weather permitting) to take a stroll or engage in some form of exercise for 30 minutes. Put on some comfortable clothes and shoes and join us for motivation and fun! For the latest Mammoth Moves updates, visit the Mono County Health Department on Facebook

- September 26th Dan Watson: Mammoth Lakes Chief of Police - Mammoth Creek Park

Village Oktoberfest – Sept. 21/22

A unique Mammoth-blend of traditional fare and family fun activities create a perfect fall weekend. The annual Oktoberfest features live music from The Warsaw Poland Bros and Those Darn Accordions, a petting zoo, stein challenges and more; all outdoors in The Village at Mammoth.

Dancing with the Docs – Sept. 22

Mammoth Hospital presents Dancing with the Docs, a fundraiser including a gala dinner, silent auction and dancing competition between physicians and local celebrities hosted by the Healthcare Trust of Mammoth Lakes. To make a donation, to purchase tickets or for sponsorship opportunities please contact Bubby Greene at 760.924.4128 or bubby.greene@mammothhospital.com.

Lakanuki Fall Golf Scramble – Sept. 27

The annual Lakanuki Fall Golf Scramble will take place at Sierra Star Golf Course on Thursday, September 27, 2012. \$65/player includes round of golf, food and drink. Sign up at Lakanuki in The Village at Mammoth or Sierra Star Golf Course.

Afterschool Youth Theatre At Edison Theatre – Sept. 27...

"The Suessification of Romeo and Juliet" Directed by Allison McDonell Page will run from Sept. 27 - Nov. 1 at the Edison Theatre. Sign ups / Auditions for Grades 3-8 is scheduled on Wednesday, Sept. 26th from 2:40pm - 5:00pm at the Edison Theatre,

100 College Parkway. If you can't make this date, please contact Allison at almcdon@earthlink.net or call (323) 646-5055. Program runs: Tues. Wed. Thurs. 2:40 to 4:40 pm
Tuition: \$200/ child - checks/ cash only.

The Play - A hysterical, whimsical modern day reinvention of Shakespeare's love story told entirely in rhyme as if Dr. Seuss had come up with the story himself. A comedy for all ages with fantastical machines, a crazy cast of characters, and no death and dying.

Chamber Music Unbound presents "Fantasia"- Sept. 29

On Saturday, September 29, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. at Cerro Coso College, Chamber Music Unbound presents the Felici Piano Trio and guest violinist, Corey Cerovsek, in a concert entitled "Fantasia". Music by Schubert, Clara Schumann and Dvorak. Tickets (\$25 Adult, \$17 Senior) are available online (www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org), at the Booky Joint, the Inyo Council for the Arts, or at the door on concert nights.

Everest Challenge Bike Race – Sept. 28

If you dare, tackle the undisputed hardest 2-day USA cycling race and ride on September 28-30, 2012. The California Nevada Climbing Championship with 2 days, 208 miles and 29,035 feet of climbing!

September Fish Stocking Schedule

During the week of September 17th, Inland Aquaculture Group the home of Alpers Trout will be stocking a location near you. Happy Fishing! The following locations will be stocked with 3,328 pounds (collectively) of Alpers Trophy Trout (3 to 4 pounders) from Conway Ranch courtesy of the County of Mono.

- Lower Twin Bridgeport
- Upper Twin Bridgeport
- Bridgeport Reservoir
- Convict Lake
- Grant Lake
- Gull Lake
- June Lake
- Silver Lake
- Lundy Lake
- Mammoth Lakes Basin - Mary, Mamie, George and Twin
- Rock Creek
- Rock Creek Lake
- Little Virginia
- Big Virginia
- West Walker River
- Robinson Creek
- Saddlebag Lake

The following locations will be stocked with 1,900 pounds (collectively) of Alpers Super Stockers aka Rent Fish (1 to 2 pounders) from Conway Ranch courtesy of the Inland Aquaculture Group and Mono County.

- Lower Twin Bridgeport
- Upper Twin Bridgeport
- Bridgeport Reservoir
- Convict Lake
- Grant Lake
- Gull Lake
- June Lake
- Silver Lake
- Lundy Lake
- Mammoth Lakes Basin - Mary, Mamie, George and Twin
- Rock Creek
- Rock Creek Lake
- Little Virginia
- Big Virginia
- West Walker River
- Robinson Creek

Recreation Highlights

"The Best Summer Ever" Keeps Rolling At The Mammoth Roller Rink!

Great news! The Mammoth Roller Rink has extended the summer season into September. Skate every Friday and Saturday evenings from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., hit the mini-ramps, play some roller hockey, shoot some hoops, toss some washers or bean bags, or just chill out playing table tennis/golf through September 29, 2012. The Mammoth Roller Rink is also open for special events, and birthday parties by reservation. Call us to customize your party on wheels! All inclusive birthday party packages are available from as low as \$75/10 kids.

In September you will also be able to redeem your Free Skate Pass. Free Skate Passes were distributed to every Postal Patron in Mammoth Lakes in August. Simply present the ticket, complete the registration form and receive one (1) FREE Admission to the Mammoth Roller Rink. The offer excludes skate rental (\$2.50/person), and has a limit of one per person. Please call the Mammoth Roller Rink at (760) 934-2505 for all the details, or visit us online at www.mammothrollerrink.com.

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.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us, 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!

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 programs are available:

- 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.
- 8-12+ yr. olds – Tuesday: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Invitation only.

Five session Punch Cards are available for \$60 for the first family member and \$55 for each additional family member. Private lessons are available upon request, please inquire with the instructor. Drop-ins cost \$15 per session are welcome and encouraged - First one is FREE! Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for more information or to register your aspiring Gymnast!

Zumba Fitness

Party yourself into shape with Zumba® Fitness offered by Kaysie Williams from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail. Cost: 10 punch-\$77.50; 5 punch-\$42.50; Drop-In rate \$10 per class and your first class is only \$5! **ZUMBA RESUMES SEPTEMBER 10.**

Sports & Recreation Calendar

- On-going Mammoth Roller Rink OPEN Fri. & Sat. evenings through 9/29/12
- OPEN Reds Meadow, Tioga, Sonora and the Lakes Basin
- Sept. 3 – Nov. 15 Ambush at the Lake – Convict Lake Fall Trout Derby
- Sept. 21 Annual Oktoberfest in The Village
- Sept. 22 Dancing with the Docs
- Sept. 27-Nov.1 Afterschool Youth Theatre at Edison Theatre
- Sept. 27 Lakanuki Fall Golf Scramble
- Sept. 28-30 Everest Challenge Bike Race

Public Service Announcements

Wardlaw Appointed As New County Of San Diego Director Of Planning And Development Services

Community Development Director Mark Wardlaw will be leaving the Town of Mammoth Lakes to lead the new revamped County of San Diego Department of Planning and Development Services.

Prior to becoming the Community Development Director for the Town of Mammoth Lakes in 2005, Wardlaw served as the Deputy Community Development Director and Planning Manager in Culver City, and prior to that was the Principal Planner for the Centre City Development Corporation in San Diego. He will assume his new duties with the County of San Diego on September 21, 2012.

“The Town of Mammoth Lakes congratulates Mark on his new appointment with the County of San Diego, and wishes him all the very best in his new endeavor,” stated Town Manager Dave Wilbrecht. “Mark was instrumental in shaping the future

character of this community, and more recently, leading efforts on economic recovery and achieving long-term economic sustainability.”

Mark’s leadership, initiative and resourcefulness have been integral to the successful completion of many major projects and strategic planning efforts during his time with the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Many of these achievements relied on building strong relationships and partnerships with the community, with Town Commissions, especially the Planning Commission, and the Town Council.

Just a few highlights, among the long list of his achievements:

- Development of an inclusive, community-based, process that led to the adoption of the 2007 General Plan
- Adoption of the 2009 Housing Element
- Adoption of the Trail System Master Plan, and Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Development of the Draft Mobility Plan
- Approval of the Destination Resort Community and Economic Development Strategy (DRCEDS)
- Completion of Neighborhood District Planning for key areas of town including Main Street, Old Mammoth Road, the North Village and Sierra Valley.
- Initiation and execution of the highly successful TOT enforcement program.
- Approval of major development projects such as Old Mammoth Place/Clearwater, Snowcreek VIII, Mammoth Crossing, Mammoth Hillside, Mammoth View, and Vista Point.

Wardlaw attributes these accomplishments to the hard work of his dedicated staff in the Community Development Department. He notes that this motivated team was always willing to take on any assignment or challenge to provide the highest level of service to the community. There are no immediate plans by The Town of Mammoth Lakes to advertise or fill the position.

PLEASE DON’T FEED OUR BEARS!

Welcome to Mammoth Lakes. **We hope you enjoy are beautiful scenery, friendly people, and abundant wildlife.** Among the wildlife that you are likely to see during Spring, Summer and Fall are black bears. Mammoth Lakes has a resident population of black bears and later in the Summer and into the Fall, additional bears find their way into town to forage and get ready for their winter hibernation.

It is not unusual to see bears wandering through town. Enjoy them, but keep your distance. Bears are shy and generally afraid of people. Some bears will “bluff charge” if you don’t give them distance. 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 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 frightened more than you and leave.

Bears have excellent noses and they like human food. They recognize ice chests as food containers and will break into a car to get food or anything that resembles or smells like food. A bear can do a significant amount of damage to a vehicle.

It is everyone’s 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 or fragrant items, even in a cooler, in a vehicle.
- Don't leave pet food out doors or use a bird feeders. Bears love bird seed!
- Always deposit trash in a bear proof trash can or dumpster. Do not ever leave trash unsecured outdoors. Make sure to secure the lock on a dumpster.
- Keep your car locked and your garage door closed and locked.
- Close and lock ground floor windows when no one is home.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has a world renowned Wildlife Specialist named Steve Searles. You may have seen him on the popular TV show "The Bear Whisperer" on Animal Planet. If you see a bear that is misbehaving, such as trying to get into a trash dumpster, vehicle, or building you can call Steve at (760) 937-BEAR or dial 911. If Steve is not available, all MLPD officers are trained and equipped to handle bear problems.

Daniel B. Watson
Chief of Police

Steve Searles
Wildlife Specialist

Protect Your Home!

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

Establishing and maintaining defensible space around our property is all of our responsibilities. A well-maintained landscape enhances the beauty and value of any property— it can also serve as a fuel break. The goal is to keep your landscape lean, clean and green. The following steps can reduce your home's vulnerability from the threat of wildfire and reduce your use of irrigation.

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

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

- Water plants and trees regularly to ensure they are healthy. Do not use finely shredded mulch and mulch should be wetted periodically.
- Areas around and above propane tanks need to be kept clear of vegetation for 10 feet.

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

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

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

1st Inspection:

The first inspection is done by MLFD, beginning shortly after the snow melts and continues until the first snow in the fall. Parcels found to be non-compliant are issued an inspection form detailing the problems. The homeowner is given a year to correct the identified issues.

2nd Inspection:

If the property is then found to be in compliance, the owner will receive a maintenance letter. Thereafter, routine inspections will be conducted periodically by MLFD.

If the property is not in compliance, the owner will be notified in person or via certified mail and the property owner will be given a citation notice. The citation will provide the owner with a time period to correct the identified problems or the individual will be assessed the fine amount. If the problems are left unaddressed, the owner will be subject to a misdemeanor.

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

Free, Real-Time Property Information Now Available!

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

- Zoning Information
- Property Addresses
- Complex Names/ Condo Unit Numbers
- Parcel Lines*

- Valuation Data
- Acreage
- Aerial imagery of surrounding properties and more!

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

California Mandates Recycling for Business and Multi-Family Residential Locations

A new State of California Bill (AB 341) directed by CalRecycle mandating commercial recycling in California goes into effect July 1, 2012. The Town of Mammoth Lakes will be providing education and outreach to help the community comply with the new regulations.

The goal of AB 341 is to increase the statewide recycling rates to 75% by 2020. Starting July 1 2012, businesses and public entities that generate four cubic yards or more of waste per week, including multi-family units of five or more will be required to recycle. The purpose of this new law is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting commercial solid waste to recycling efforts while expanding opportunities for additional recycling services and recycling manufacturing facilities in California.

Please use the following link for additional information provided by CalRecycle that addresses the "Frequently Asked Questions:" <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/Recycling/FAQ.htm>.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML), Sierra Conservation Project (SCP) and Mammoth Disposal (MD) are taking active steps to assist businesses and multi-family residences to comply with the new regulations.

Brian Robinette, owner of Sierra Conservation Project commented, "This is a big step in the right direction for recycling and diverting recyclables from our local landfills. The new regulation will give the extra incentive needed to make recycling programs a reality at all Mammoth Lakes business and residential locations."

The TOML, SCP and MD have been working together for several years to develop and grow recycling programs here in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Johnny Goetz, Town of Mammoth Lakes Senior Building Inspector states, "Now is a great time for local businesses to take advantage of the numerous recycling opportunities we have available in Town. Condominium complexes can also take advantage of the TOML and SCP's recycling programs which are currently providing start-up infrastructure to the complex at no cost - while supplies last."

The TOML and SCP have applied for additional grant money to continue to offset the start-up cost for multi-family and businesses here in town. Bear proof recycling containers are provided to participating condo complexes, and are serviced by SCP.

Pat Fenton, General Manager of Mammoth Disposal added, "Recycling is at the core of the company's goal of sustainability, and it's the core of our commitment to business owners and the Town of Mammoth Lakes to meet this mandate."

The following recycling programs are currently available within the Town of Mammoth Lakes:

- Commercial cardboard recycling
- Restaurant and bar programs
- Lodging and hospitality programs

- Business recycling
- Office recycling
- Residential recycling
- Aluminum, plastic, and glass
- E-Waste
- Used oil and batteries

Some of the benefits of recycling identified by CalRecycle are creating jobs in California, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, keeping valuable materials out of landfills, and creating a healthy environment for the community and future generations by recovering natural resources.

For more information regarding recycling programs and opportunities within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, contact Johnny Goetz at (760) 934-8989 ext. 244 or jgoetz@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Town & MLFD Identify Potential Safety Issue

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Development Department (Town) and Mammoth Lakes Fire Department (Fire District) have identified an issue with inserted wood burning fireplace installations in town. If you have either a pellet/gas insert installation or a masonry flue/chase, these types of appliances or installations are not an issue. The issue is that wood burning inserts placed into zero clearance fireplace boxes (fireplace) with factory built metal flue pipes and wooden chases may not have adequate clearance to combustible materials (wood, plywood, and/or sheetrock behind the rock, brick, metal and/or wooden material that doesn't allow you to see on the interior surface of the fireplace façade). This issue can exist in all types of residential occupancies, from single family to multi-family projects. As a result of the clearances that may not have been met, combustible materials are igniting and several fires have resulted around town. Thus far there have been no injuries, but both the Town and Fire District feel that we cannot wait until something tragic occurs before we take necessary action. At this point both agencies are hoping to educate the town population to the concern.

The original fireplace contained fires that never obtained very high burning temperatures, due to the amount of heat that went up the flue. Once the insert was installed, the appliance burned much more efficiently causing the combustibles surrounding the original installation to be exposed to significantly greater heat levels. Another factor is the amount of use the insert is experiencing. The issue is occurring throughout town; no certain complex, no certain installer, no certain type of product, nor any other common characteristic that allows the agencies to narrow down the likely installations of concern. One complex in town had 23 of 60 units show some sign of heat damage to combustibles.

Permitted installations during the last 18 to 24 months that followed the manufacturer's installation instructions have been installed correctly. The Town and Fire District do not mean to alarm anyone, but strongly believe that this situation is serious enough to inform the public on the use and installation of these types of wood burning installations. If you need any further assistance or have any questions, please contact the Fire District at (760) 934-2300 or Town at (760) 934-8989, ex 244. For more information: <http://mammothlakesfd.intuitwebsites.com>

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Frequently Asked Questions

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

1. What is a transient rental?

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

2. Can I rent my unit as a transient rental?

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

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

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

3. What is transient occupancy tax (TOT)?

Transient occupancy tax, or TOT, is a 13% tax that is charged "for the privilege of occupancy of any transient occupancy facility." The tax is required to be paid to the operator of the transient occupancy facility at the time the rent is paid. It is the operator's responsibility to remit the TOT to the Town.

4. Do I need to pay TOT?

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

5. Do I need a business tax certificate?

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

6. Do I need a transient occupancy tax certificate?

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

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

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

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

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

9. How do I apply for a business tax certificate?

The Town's website contains information regarding business tax certificates, including an application for a business tax certificate: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=182>. Transient Rentals fall under schedule F for condominium rentals and schedule E for hotels, motels, lodges, and campgrounds. This application can be mailed back to the Town, or submitted in person. The total cost for one unit is \$118.00 (\$65.00 application fee, \$5.00 planning review fee, \$25.00 fee to rent one unit, \$23.00 TOT certificate fee). Additional costs apply for additional units. Business tax certificates are required on or before the first day business commences; penalties will apply for late filings. If you have additional questions regarding this process please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 x245.

10. Do I have a business tax certificate?

To find out if you have a valid business tax certificate on file, please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 x245 or your property management company.

11. What is illegal rental activity?

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

12. How can I report illegal rental activity?

If you suspect illegal rental activity, you may submit an anonymous tip via the Town's TOT hotline at (760) 934-8989 x275 or on the Town's website via the Transient Occupancy Tax information page. Please include any information that you have that would substantiate the claim, along with the property address and owner's name if you have it. You may also email tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us. Note that emails are not anonymous, however, staff will do its best to keep your information private.

13. Questions & Anonymous TOT Hotline

If you have questions about TOT enforcement, or if you would like to report suspicious activity or rental advertisements please contact our anonymous hotline. The Town will follow-up on any reports submitted. The Hot Line

Number is (760) 934-8989 ext. 275 or email your information to:
TOT@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Register for CodeRED

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

1. Go to monosheriff.org
2. scroll down left side panel to CodeRED community notification system;
3. click on it and follow directions.

Leash Law Reminder

Mammoth residents and visitors are reminded that the Town has a leash law, and it is a violation of the ordinance to allow your dog to run loose off of your property. While budget cuts eliminated the Animal Control Officer position, the laws pertaining to controlling your pets did not change, and you can still be cited by Mammoth Lakes Police Department officers if your dog is at large. The PD is currently receiving a large number of complaints from several neighborhoods, and will be targeting patrol time in those areas when possible to apprehend loose dogs and to cite their owners. In addition to the citation fine, you could also be charged boarding fees by Mono County Animal Control if we choose to impound your dog at the Whitmore Shelter.

At-large dogs are a traffic hazard, and even the most well behaved dog can bite if provoked. If your loose animal causes a traffic collision or injures/bites someone, you would likely be liable for damages, which could add up to thousands of dollars. Please respect your neighbors, AND your pet and obey the leash law.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors Save Lives

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has launched a community outreach effort to inform community residents that on July 1, 2011 many homes will be required to install carbon monoxide detectors.

The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that carbon monoxide kills approximately 500 people each year and injures another 20,000 people nationwide. In an effort to prevent these accidental deaths and injuries, the California legislature enacted SB 183 (Lowenthal) which mandates owners of dwelling intended for human occupancy to install carbon monoxide devices in existing dwelling units having a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or attached garage.

CO devices must be installed in all specified single-family dwellings by July 1, 2011. All other specified dwelling units must have CO devices installed by January 1, 2013.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) has developed a list of certified CO devices that meet the requirement specified within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010.

For a complete list of currently approved devices please visit the SFM's website at http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenseslisting_bml_searchcotest.php. Under

the search categories provided select Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors for a complete list of devices.

Further details contained within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010:

- Owners shall install CO devices in a manner consistent with building standards applicable to new construction for the relevant type of occupancy if it is technically feasible. See the 2010 California Building Code, Section 420.4, and the 2010 California Residential Code, Section R315.
- CO devices shall produce a distinct audible alarm.
- CO devices may be combined with a smoke detector, if the combination device meets all specified SFM listing and approval requirements.
- Violation of Health & Safety Code Section 17926 is an infraction punishable by a maximum fine of two-hundred dollars for each offense.
- A local enforcement agency shall provide the property owner a 30-day notice to correct.
- Local jurisdictions are authorized to adopt ordinances requiring CO devices if the ordinance is consistent with the requirement of this bill.

For a full list of this legislation's stipulations please review the Department of Housing and Community Development's Information Bulletin 2011-01 at <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/shl/infobulls/IB2011-01.pdf>.

Town Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

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