



Town of Mammoth Lakes

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Town News

Town e-News – Week of April 22, 2013

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – May 1

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2013. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Town Manager's Update: April 18, 2013

It is Thursday after a Town Council meeting, and, as it has become a norm for me, I am providing a briefing on the last night's Council meeting, and on a few other noteworthy items. Previously addressed to the Town's staff only, this bi-weekly update has now been expanded to include the community at large, and the media. In addition, my regular updates will now be posted online, under the "Town Manager Updates", and continue to be sent via email. Utilizing the opportunity to communicate with a larger group of constituents,

I wanted to mention two things upfront:

- Building on the Town Council's priorities for the Town, I have established Town Manager goals. These currently focus on Economic Development, addressing solid waste issues, engaging the community through regular communication and a Volunteer Program, strengthening the Town's Information Technology infrastructure and services, continuing to strengthen finances, and some others. A complete document of the goals is available online, on the Town Manager web page.
- I have been meeting monthly with local businesses - an opportunity made available through the Chamber of Commerce. My next monthly meet-and-greet meeting is on Tuesday, April 23, from 1pm until 2pm, at CJ's Grill. Business owners, residents and employees are all welcome to come by.

And now on to the updates - April 17th Town Council:

The Council presented a certificate of appreciation to Kathy Copeland, for her organization's work. The organization, the Disabled Sports of the Eastern Sierra, "is a volunteer-based nonprofit dedicated to changing the lives of children and adults with disabilities and their families by offering year-round outdoor sports and activities, creating inspiring challenges, providing expert instruction and adaptive equipment, and rallying the community to comfortably accommodate people with disabilities." (From the organization's website.) Thank you, Kathy and the DSES team, for all that you do for this community!

The Police Chief presented to the Town Council and the public the department's three civilian employees: Renee Placensia, Kari Orr and Crystal Schaefer. All three are instrumental to the work of the sworn staff in the department, and are a key part of the Police Department's team.

The Town Council received an informational report regarding the Town's efforts to improve its information technology infrastructure and services. I spoke with the Mono County Board of Supervisors on April 9th regarding the Town's interest to contract with the County for IT services, and to help us resolve our critical IT issues. I will be formally seeking a contract with the County at the Board's meeting on May 7, and hope to get us the much-needed help shortly thereafter.

The Town was recently informed of the 2011-12 Mono County Grand Jury Report, which raised concerns regarding the Town's airport operations. Town's staff drafted a response to the Grand Jury, which the Town Council authorized the Mayor to sign.

The Council discussed staff's recommendations in response to an unsolicited request from Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLTPA), concerning an establishment of a non-profit to oversee funding and projects for the trails. Staff's recommended that the idea be discussed as part of a larger dialogue regarding Mammoth Lakes Recreation – a concept discussed in 2010 and which became the foundation for the RecStrats process. Mammoth Lakes Recreation may take several forms, including but not limited to an outside nonprofit like MLT, and would focus on projects and activities funded by Measures R and U. Town's recreation staff will continue focusing on the traditional, General Fund-supported municipal activities.

At the April 17th meeting, the Town Council designated two members of the Council (Jo Bacon and Rick Wood) and two members of the Recreation Commission (Teri Stehlik and Betsy Truax) to work with Town staff on a report for the May 1st Town Council meeting, with parameters for the MLR discussion led by the Recreation Commission and other stakeholders.

Other items:

- Airport Layout Plan / Future Airport Planning: On April 11, representatives from the Town, the Ski Area and Mammoth Lakes Tourism met with Federal Aviation Administration officials in Brisbane to collectively discuss the Town's recent submittal of its Airport Layout Plan. A meeting was productive and allowed the Town's representatives to have a lot of their questions answered. The Town is seeking approval from the FAA on the Airport Layout Plan, which includes a new terminal building to accommodate the additional flights, both currently and in the future. Both the Town and FAA agreed that the airports future success lies in resolving the airport's key constraints, a key of which is the lack of the terminal space and insufficient ramps. It is expected that the Town will have a conditionally approved ALP this summer.
- FY 2013-14 Budget Preparation: Various Town staff have been working on developing a budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14, which will start on July 1, 2013. The first presentation of that budget before the Town Council is on May 1, 2013. Additional budget meetings will occur in May-June 2013, with the final adoption expected on June 19, 2013. This time, preparation of the budget is an Town Manager's Update: April 18, 2013 easier undertaking than in prior years, and will use as a foundation the five-year plan / forecast approved by the Town Council in December 2012. The five-year financial plan is through FY 2016-17, and will be updated annually.

Have a great rest of the week and a wonderful weekend.

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, April 19, 2013 - Saturday, April 20, 2013 = 21%

(32% same weekend in 2012, down 11% in 2013)

Sunday, April 21, 2013 - Thursday, April 25, 2013 = 17%

(17% same midweek in 2012, same in 2013)

Hotels/Motels/B&B: 17% (Friday-Saturday) 12% (Sunday-Thursday)

Condos: 26% (Friday-Saturday) 22% (Sunday-Thursday)

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

Disclaimer: Social media communications regarding Town business may be subject to disclosure. Social media is not the official method of communicating with the Town. Please contact Town staff via telephone, in writing or in person.

Community News

Save The Date: May 18 is Town Clean Up Day!

Take pride in your neighborhood and volunteer to help clean up our Town on Saturday, May 18, 2013. Drop off your trash, recycling and green waste at the TOWN CLEAN-UP DAY STATIONS conveniently located throughout town. These include locations at the MHS Parking Lot, Community Center, Sierra Valley Sites, Canyon Lodge and the Mammoth Disposal Transfer Station. Mammoth Creek Park will once again host the community picnic at 1:00 p.m., and be the HQ for Town Clean Up Day.

The Town will not be distributing or collecting complimentary orange trash bags. Please purchase your yard-waste bags from local businesses, including the Do-It Center (DIY) or High County Lumber/ACE Hardware. Please do not leave bags on the side of the road. These items will not be collected by Town staff or Mammoth Disposal.

The Town encourages property owners, renters, community groups, local non-profit organizations, and homeowner associations to purchase their own trash bags and pitch in to clean-up their neighborhood.

Town Clean-Up Day is proudly supported by the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Disposal, United States Forest Service, Mammoth Lakes Fire District, Sierra Conservation Project, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, and the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

Look for more information about Town Clean Up Day in our local papers, on the radio or at the Town offices located in the Minaret Village Mall above Giovanni's.

For additional information on Town Clean-Up Day, or to arrange for collection of abandoned vehicles, please contact Sr. Building Inspector Johnny Goetz at (760)

934-8989 ext. 244, or Recreation Department Supervisor John Connolly at (760) 934-8989 ext. 234.

The Town thanks you in advance for taking pride in your community!

Mammoth Lakes Basin And Reds Meadow Road Plowing Starting Early - Fishing Opener And Memorial Day Weekend Targeted

High temperatures combined with a light snowpack will allow for an early start to plowing area roads this spring. The Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) will begin plowing roads in the Mammoth Lakes Basin on Wednesday, April 17th. Cal Trans will begin plowing to the Minaret Vista at the end of April, and TOML crews will begin plowing into Reds Meadow Valley soon after.

The Forest Service is working with the Town to open Mammoth Lakes Basin before the fishing opener on April 27th. After the roads are plowed, warm weather is needed to melt ice caps from the road surface and to melt back parking areas and road intersections. Opening dates of the roads for vehicles will depend on snow, ice and road conditions. The Lakes Basin will be open to pedestrians, but not vehicles while the roads are being plowed. Visitors should avoid areas where equipment is operating. Keep as far away as possible and be sure that the operator can see you if you need to pass by. Visitors should stay aware of hazards in the area, such as wind damaged trees and soft lake ice that is particularly dangerous during this season.

Cross country ski operations at Tamarack Lodge ended Tuesday, April 16th. Plowing is scheduled to begin the following day. Due to very limited snowpack and dangerous lake ice conditions, snowmobiling opportunities in the Lakes Basin will be scarce this year. The use of snowmobiles in the Lakes Basin after April 16th is not encouraged this year due to poor conditions and potential conflicts with plowing operations. Snowmobilers are reminded that it is their responsibility to know where snowmobiling is legal, and to keep away from developed recreation areas, campgrounds and buildings to avoid damage to these facilities.

The Forest Service will be working to prepare the Reds Meadow Valley for opening by Memorial Day Weekend. Once the road is plowed, road repairs must be made and hazard trees removed. The Forest Service expects this work to take only a couple of weeks, barring any unforeseen circumstances, and intends to open the Reds Meadow area and facilities to public access by Saturday, May 25.

For more information, please call the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center at (760) 924-5500 or visit the Welcome Center at 2510 Hwy 203 next to the Mammoth Ranger Station, or go to the Inyo National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

Caltrans Installing New Signs Statewide to Remind Motorists to "Move Over" for Law Enforcement and Highway Workers

Caltrans workers and the California Highway Patrol will be out in force today on highways throughout the state, installing "Move Over" signs intended to help save lives and increase safety for motorists, highway workers, CHP officers, and other law enforcement.

"Every day, highway workers put their lives in danger just by going to work," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "We're asking motorists to slow down, watch out for highway workers and CHP, and safely move over a lane when they see flashing amber lights on Caltrans or other emergency vehicles."

The new signs will display the messages, "Move Over or Slow for Stopped Emergency and Maintenance Vehicles" and "Move Over or Slow When Amber Lights Flashing." In addition, more than 700 existing electronic highway message signs statewide will display, "Move Over or Slow for Workers, It's the Law."

"Every year, a growing number of law enforcement, emergency personnel, and highway workers are killed or injured along California's roadways," said California Highway Patrol Commissioner Joe Farrow. "One way to help minimize the risk for these workers is for the motoring public to do their part by paying attention and exercising caution on the road. If you see emergency lights on the shoulder ahead, the law requires you to move over or slow down."

The Move Over law, which took effect in 2007, was amended in 2009 to add Caltrans vehicles displaying flashing amber warning lights to the list of vehicles for which motorists must move over if safe to do so, or slow down.

Highway construction and maintenance work is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. Since the 1920s, 178 Caltrans employees have died while on the job.

For more information about Move Over, please visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/moveover/>.

Monitor Pass (State Route 89) Now Open

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has removed the packed winter snow, cleared the debris and made the necessary repairs to open State Route 89 over Monitor Pass. The diligent work of Caltrans crews enabled the opening of the pass for motorists who utilize this route.

Caltrans crews responsible for the pass opening extend their best wishes for safe summer traveling to those who enjoy the recreational opportunities this part of California has to offer. For the latest in highway information please visit Caltrans QuickMap site at quickmap.dot.ca.gov or call our Road Condition Hotline at 1-800-427-ROAD (7623). For the safety of workers and other motorists, please Slow For the Cone Zone and Move Over where possible.

Earth Day – April 20

Celebrate Earth Day 2013 at the Bishop City Park on Saturday, April 20 and stop by the Friends of the Inyo table to say hello! There will be live music and entertainment in the park from local bands, an "over the top" human-powered Ferris wheel, arts & crafts, food booths, kids games, a t-shirt designing contest, information displays, and a "ReFashioned" Fashion Show, where used clothing is repurposed into something unique and wearable. When: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Where: Bishop City Park, 688 North Main Street More info: bloggingbishop@gmail.com

Tablelands Adopt a Crag Event - April 20

On Saturday, April 20 with the Bishop BLM, the Access Fund, The American Alpine Club and the Bishop Area Climbers Coalition, Friends of the Inyo will co-host an Adopt a Crag event in the popular Happy Boulders Climbing area on the Volcanic Tablelands just north of Bishop. Work will consist of trail alignment, trash clean up, trail restoration and invasive weed removal. Where & When: Meet 8:30 a.m. at the Happy Boulders Parking area. A light breakfast and coffee will be provided. Work will begin at 9 a.m. and run until 12 p.m. More info: andrew@friendsoftheinyo.org

Firewood Season Opens May 1

Inyo National Forest announces the opening of personal use fuelwood season starting Wednesday May 1, 2013. Fuelwood permits will go on sale at Forest Service Ranger Stations and Visitor Centers in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes and Lee Vining beginning Saturday April 27. Maps showing areas open to cutting are available with the purchase of a fuelwood permit. Fuelwood permits are still \$15.00 per cord with a two cord minimum purchase. The Inyo NF is instituting the Point of Sale System (POSS). Permittees will now be able to use credit cards to purchase fuelwood permits.

The Forest Service is requesting persons interested in purchasing fuelwood permits to do so between the hours of 8:30-noon and 1:00-4:30. 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

Permits may not initially be available at the InterAgency Visitor Center in Lone Pine. Please call ahead at (760) 876-6222.

Initial supplies of firewood can be found at Antelope, Smoke, Dry Creek, Hartley, Oh Ridge and Reversed Peak Forest Management Areas located on the fuelwood map. Other areas may be opened later this season. Not all open areas may be 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. The Inyo National Forest will again institute chainsaw shut down days for fire safety based upon the daily Project Activity Level. Permit holders can call (760) 873-2555 for information on activity levels.

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

Recreation Highlights

Little Sluggers Instructional T-Ball

This is a great program designed to introduce your child to the wonderful sport of baseball. It will also provide a unique opportunity for parents to share quality time with their children while preparing them for future baseball and softball activities. Count on plenty of socializing and fun at no extra charge. All parents are encouraged to help with their children. (Don't be shy just hop right in there) Registration Deadline is Friday, May 3, 2013.

- WHO: Youth ages 2-5
- TIME: Wednesdays, 5:15 – 6:00 p.m.
- DATES: May 8 - June 12, 2013

- WHERE: Mammoth Elementary School
- COST: \$30 (includes shirts)

2013 Measure R Spring Award Closes May 1

The application period for the 2013 Measure R Spring Award opened on **Monday, April 1, 2013** and will close on **Wednesday, May 1, 2013** at 5:00 p.m. The Recreation Commission is scheduled to review the applications on May 7, 2013 and make their funding recommendations for Town Council on Tuesday, June 4, 2013.

All Measure R information, downloads and reference documents can be found on the Town's website under the dedicated 2013 Measure R Spring Award Page: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=518>.

The Measure R spring process is intended to cover unanticipated emergency or maintenance/administration costs of projects already awarded in the fall of 2012, but can also include funding for new awards. Preference has been given to previously awarded projects and once-in-a-lifetime or time-limited opportunities.

The Measure R, or "Mammoth Lakes Recreation, Trails and Parks Investment Initiative," Ordinance (No. 08-01) adopted by the Mammoth Lakes Town Council on February 20, 2008 specifically designates the use of Measure R funds for planning, construction, operation, maintenance, programming and administration of all trails, parks and recreation facilities managed by the Town of Mammoth Lakes without supplanting existing parks and recreation facility maintenance funds.

Applicants are asked to review the *Measure R Applicant Information* document that provides additional information on the application process. If your organization was a recipient of previous Measure R funds, the Recreation Commission requires each organization demonstrate that they have used the funds appropriately and for the purpose(s) it was awarded by completing a Performance Report.

Applicants are also required to cite references in the following Town adopted plans:

- Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- Trail System Master Plan
- RecStrats II – Implementation Strategy

All 2013 Measure R spring applicants are required to meet with staff prior to completing their application.

For questions regarding the Measure R Spring funding award or to schedule an appointment, please contact Stuart Brown, Recreation Manager (760) 934-8989 ext. 210.

Gymnastics/Tumbling Program

NEW SCHEDULE: Last class for spring is May 17, 2013. Classes resume July 30, 2013.

This year-round program is designed to introduce children from 3-18 years old the wonderful and exciting sport of gymnastics. 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 yr. olds – Saturday: 8:30 – 9:15am
- 4-5 yr. olds – Saturday: 9:15 – 10:00am
- 5-8 yr. olds – Saturday: 10:00 – 11:00am
- 8-12+ yr. olds – **Friday:** 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. & **Saturday:** 11:00am-12:15pm
- 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

Last day for Zumba is May 6, 2013.

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!

Public Service Announcements

Town Announces Results of Mid-Year Budget Review for Fiscal Year 2012-13, including Anticipated Savings in the General Fund

The Town of Mammoth Lakes released the results of a mid-year financial review for the current fiscal year, which will end on June 30, 2013.

The Town's analysis shows an anticipated General Fund surplus of nearly \$1 million by year-end, all due to unexpected one-time events, such as:

1. Return of \$350,000 in MLLA-related legal retainers.
2. Savings of over \$300,000 in the Police Department, due to early officer departures in the current fiscal year.
3. Higher Gas Tax revenue from the State, coupled with lower road expenses.

The Town is pleased that its financial health continues to improve, particularly in light of the recent draconian cuts to the budget, following a settlement with MLLA.

"The improving fiscal landscape of the Town is certainly a reflection of the financial discipline instituted by our leaders and implemented by our staff," said Town Manager Marianna Marysheva-Martinez.

The Town will discuss the mid-year financial review at the 5:00pm meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2013, in the Town Council Chambers (Suite Z in the Minaret Mall). Included with the Town's mid-year report is information pertaining to the next fiscal year planning, including: (a) introduction of budget principles and budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2013-14; and (b) a proposed schedule of meetings for the Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget.

Town Amends Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code Regarding Woodstove Inserts

On March 20, 2013, Town Council adopted a resolution amending the Town ordinance establishing standards for new and reconstructed woodstove inserts. Over the last several decades, large numbers of open fireplaces in town have been modified by the installation of woodstove inserts. However, neither the Town nor the fire district nor the woodstove insert manufacturers have had clear and consistent standard governing how the inserts must be installed. The result has been installations that have been demonstrated to be unsafe by a number of fires occurring around woodstove inserts in town.

The fire district and Town staff jointly developed installation standards for woodstove inserts, which are contained in the new ordinance. The ordinance also contains a list of approved woodstove insert manufacturers, but allows contractors and homeowners to request the building official to add other manufacturers.

The amended ordinance would require all new woodstove insert installations to meet the new standards. Recognizing that reconstruction of existing woodstove insert installations can cost several thousand dollars, the ordinance does not require immediate removal and reconstruction of existing inserts. Instead, the ordinance requires nonconforming inserts to be removed or reconstructed upon sale of the residential unit, or by October 31, 2022 if no sale of a particular unit has occurred before then.

Because the woodstove insert installation standards constitute a local amendment to the requirements of the California Mechanical Code, the ordinance includes the specific findings necessary for such local amendments. The findings acknowledge that the unique climatic, geological, and topographical conditions in Mammoth require these amendments. Please contact Town of Mammoth Lakes Senior Building Inspector, Johnny Goetz at (760) 934-8989 ext. 244 for additional information.

Mammoth Lakes Police Department Implementing Reserve & Volunteer Program

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

RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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

TECHNOLOGY

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

- An on-line reporting system where certain crimes can be reported on-line.
- An on-line crime and traffic report purchase program where victims of crimes and parties in traffic collisions can purchase copies of reports on-line.
- Access to surveillance cameras at the North Village.
- Surveillance cameras at the Volcom Brothers Skatepark.

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

Boxer Applauds President Obama for Signing the 'Mt. Andrea Lawrence Designation Act'

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) today praised President Obama for signing her bill, the Mt. Andrea Lawrence Designation Act, into law. This legislation will name a mountain peak in Mono County "Mt. Andrea Lawrence" in honor of the renowned conservationist, three-time Olympian and former member of the Mono County Board of Supervisors who passed away in 2009. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent, and passed the House on a 408 to seven vote.

"I am so pleased that President Obama signed this bill honoring the life and contributions of one of Mono County's most distinguished residents," Senator Boxer said. "Andrea Lawrence dedicated her life to protecting the treasures of the Eastern Sierra. Her passion and achievements were larger than life, which is why I cannot think of a more fitting tribute than to name this majestic peak in her honor."

Andrea Mead Lawrence was a three-time Olympian who remains the only American double Olympic gold medalist in alpine skiing. She was inducted into the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1958 at the age of 25, and in 2002, sports writer and documentary filmmaker Bud Greenspan called her "the greatest Winter Olympian of all time."

Lawrence was also a committed conservationist who worked to protect and restore Mammoth Lakes, Mono Lake, Bodie State Historic Park and other important natural and cultural resources of the Eastern Sierra. She served for 16 years on the Mono County Board of Supervisors as well as on the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District and in 2003 founded the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers to promote environmental protection and economic vitality in the region.

Peak 12,240, previously identified only by its elevation, is located in Mono County near the Tuolumne County border. It is on the border of the Ansel Adams Wilderness, just east of Yosemite National Park. The John Muir trail passes close to the peak.

Senator Boxer and Congressman Buck McKeon (R-Santa Clarita) – who sponsored identical House legislation – first introduced the legislation during the 111th Congress. Supporters of this bill include Andrea Lawrence’s family, the Mono County Board of Supervisors, the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the Mono County Democratic Central Committee, the Mammoth Town Council, the Mono Lake Committee, the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers, the Sierra Nevada Alliance, the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Town of Mammoth Lakes Council Member Wendy Sugimura and former Mono County Supervisor Tim Alpers.

Winter Parking Ordinance – Nov.1 – April 30

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department would like to remind residents, visitors, and business owners that parking is prohibited on Town streets between November 1 through April 30. Obstructing snow removal equipment is also prohibited.

The Police Department only enforces these sections when it is snowing, or after a storm while snow removal equipment is in operation. Motorists should be aware of weather forecasts and make sure their vehicles are off the street when snow removal equipment is operating or may be operating. Any accumulation of snow means the plows will be out and the snow removal is not complete until the snow blowers have removed berms created by the plows.

Vehicles should always be parked behind the snow stakes. Operating snow removal equipment is complicated and when there are heavy accumulations of snow, vehicles parked partially on the street side of the stakes cannot always be observed. A passenger vehicle struck by snow removal equipment can receive substantial damage and if the vehicle is parked on the street side of the stakes, the accident is the fault of the driver of the illegally parked vehicle.

Please help the Town of Mammoth Lakes in its snow removal operations by parking legally during Winter months.

Reds Meadow Area Open for Winter Use

Logging operations in the Reds Meadow Valley have been completed for removing down trees from the wind event of last November 30, 2012. Consequently, the area closures in the Reds Meadow Valley will no longer be in effect. While the Reds Meadow Road is closed to wheeled motor vehicles for the season due to snow, access to Reds Meadow Valley will now be open to winter public use, including snowshoer, skier, snowmobile and pedestrian traffic.

Before travel into the Reds Meadow Valley, visitors should be aware of winter conditions and hazards in the area. The Reds Meadow Road is not maintained during winter, and may be subject to avalanche hazard. No services are available in Reds Meadow Valley during the winter. In case of need for emergency communication, public pay phones are located at the Reds Meadow Resort, Devils Postpile National Monument Ranger Station, and across from the Pumice Flat Group Campground.

For more information, please call the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center at (760) 924-5500 or visit the Welcome Center at 2510 Hwy 203 next to the Mammoth Ranger Station.

Help Keep Mammoth’s Air Clean This Winter

When the Town of Mammoth Lakes experiences periods of clear, cold, and calm weather with minimal breeze, the air quality deteriorates. Wood smoke from

fireplaces and stoves cannot dissipate, and sometimes builds up to unhealthy levels that could have serious health consequences. To keep our air as clean as possible, please do your part by following these simple steps:

- Only burn clean and hot fires
- Check your chimney periodically for emissions (if smoke is clearly visible, then your fire needs more air, the wood is not dry enough, or the wood is not split small enough)
- Call (760) 934-1010 for any wood burning restrictions
- Abide by the "no wood burning" days restrictions

The Town of Mammoth Lakes continually monitors air quality, and will announce "no wood burning" days when air quality is forecast to approach unhealthy levels. To find out if wood burning restrictions have been announced, please call (760) 934-1010, listen to local radio announcements, or sign up for air quality notifications via the Town's Notify Me feature at <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/list.aspx>. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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/licenselisting_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.