



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**

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## **Town News**

### **Town e-News – Week of October 7, 2013**

#### **News from the Town Manager**

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##### **Town Council Meeting – October 16**

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2013 in the Minaret Village Mall, Suite Z. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

##### **October Commission/Committee Meetings**

**Oct. 7** – Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Committee, Suite Z, 1:30 p.m.

**Oct. 8** – Recreation Commission meeting, Suite Z, 2:00 p.m.

**Oct. 9** – Planning and Economic Development Commission mtg., Suite Z, 2:00 p.m.

**Oct. 15** – Measure U Application Committee meeting, Ste. Z, 8:30 a.m.

**Oct. 16** – Joint Town Council and Planning & Economic Development Commission meeting, Suite Z, 4-6PM: Shaping the future of Downtown and Main Street

**Oct. 22** – Recreation Commission meeting, Suite Z, 2:00PM: Recreation Facilities Planning workshop.

##### **Mammoth Lakes Police Department Adds a New Police Officer**

For the first time in more than 5 years, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD) has hired a new, full-time police officer. Jack Loera was sworn in by Town Clerk Jamie Gray and presented with his police badge by Police Chief Dan Watson during a short ceremony at the Police Station on Monday, September 30. Officer Loera is a 17 year law enforcement veteran, most recently with the Banning Police Department. Officer Loera previously served in the Beaumont and Upland Police Departments.

The MLPD suffered severe cutbacks in staffing as a result of the MLLA lawsuit settlement. At one time there were 23 MLPD officers. During the 2012/13 fiscal year, the Police Department went from 17 sworn staff to 10, a 41% reduction. In the Spring of 2013, the Town Council authorized carrying over savings from the Police budget to allow for the funding of an officer for at least 19 months. Officer Loera was selected to fill that position.

Chief Watson said, "With the addition of Officer Loera, the Police Department has grown by 10%. This is a good step in the direction of rebuilding the Police Department to an appropriate level."

Once Officer Loera completes his field training, he will be assigned to the evening shift on the weekends.

### **Calls For Service/Officer Observations**

86, including 0 business/building checks

### **Crime/Incident Reports**

8 reports, including 1 arrest

### **Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions**

8 stops; 1 citation; 2 parking citations; 2 skate park citations; 0 collisions

### **Animal Control Incidents**

2 incidents; 1 report

### **Wildlife**

11 calls; 2 reports

### **Projected Average Resort Occupancy**

Friday, October 4, 2013 - Saturday, October 5, 2013 = 34%

(35% same weekend in 2012, down 1% in 2013)

Sunday, October 6, 2013 - Thursday, October 10, 2013 = 22%

(16% same midweek in 2012, up 6% in 2013)

Hotels/Motels/B&B: 44% (Friday-Saturday) 21% (Sunday-Thursday)

Condos: 25% (Friday-Saturday) 23% (Sunday-Thursday)

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.

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## **Community News**

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### **Fire Is Everyone's Fight**

Mammoth Lakes Fire Department would like to take this opportunity during National Fire Prevention Week (October 6-12) to urge all community members to replace batteries in smoke alarms, make sure that all heating appliances are ready for winter operation, and to practice a family escape plan. Across the United States, 83% of all

fire related fatalities occur in family residences. Make your residence as fire safe as possible.

Build layers of fire safety in your home. Smoke alarms provide an early warning of a potentially deadly fire and can reduce the risk of dying from a fire in your home. Have alarms on every floor of your home, along with alarms in each of your bedrooms (within three feet of the door) and in hallways leading to bedrooms. Install a mix of both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms throughout the home as both work on different technology. Replace the batteries in the alarms to ensure that the alarms will work should the need arise. About two-thirds of fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or smoke alarms that don't work.

Now is the time to check all heating appliances for fire safety prior to operation. Check clearances around all heating appliances to ensure adequate space; Three feet of clearance is adequate to all combustibles. Have fireplace flues and chimneys inspected for leakage and blockage from creosote or debris. Make plans to store fireplace ashes in a fire-resistant container with a tight fitting lid. Keep the container outdoors and away from combustibles. Dispose of ashes carefully, waiting until completely cold before discarding. For electrical appliances, check the wiring to ensure that cords are not frayed.

Development of a fire escape plan is an essential part of being prepared to act and get out quickly if a fire occurs. Remember that every second counts, so you and your family must always be prepared. The fire escape plan should identify two ways out of every room and a family meeting place once outside. Teach children how to escape on their own incase a parent is not available to help them. Practice your plan at least twice a year, including having all family members hear what your smoke alarms actually sound like. Once outside, stay out! During the winter in Mammoth Lakes, it is a requirement that all bedroom windows be accessible so that this can provide secondary egress from the bedroom.

If you have any questions about these or any other fire related matter, please feel free to contact the Fire Department at your convenience at (760) 934-2300.

### **DSES & Rotary Want To Suck Your Blood!**

Find the hero in you, and this Halloween season get in touch with your inner vampire, by donating blood during United Blood Services Mammoth Community Blood Drive. Co-sponsored by Mammoth Lakes Noon Rotary and Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra, the drive will be held at Fire Station #1 on Main Street on Tuesday, Oct. 22, and Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m.-5: 30 p.m. daily, and again on Thursday, Oct. 24, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Blood donors will receive vouchers for Whoa Nellie Deli & Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. And October is "SPOOKTACULAR DAYS" month. All presenting donors will be entered into a drawing to win one of two \$500 Gift Cards! New this year, save time and complete your pre-donation interview online the same day you give. Visit [www.unitedbloodservices.org](http://www.unitedbloodservices.org) and click on the "Health History Questionnaire" link on the left side of the home page.

To schedule an appointment, log on to [www.BloodHero.com](http://www.BloodHero.com), click "Donate Blood" and use sponsor code: SNOW, or call 1-800-696-4484.

### **In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Mono County Sheriff's Office announces the implementation of VINE services**

One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. During the month of October, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, various agencies across Mono County will bring awareness to the seriousness of domestic violence. As statistics show, an estimated 1.3 million people are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. There are an estimated 16,800 homicides and 2.2 million medically treated injuries due to domestic violence each year. These statistics are major concerns for law enforcement as a majority of domestic violence incidents go unreported.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office is one of the 53 counties throughout California that has implemented VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) services. VINE is an automated database system that has combined California county jail and state inmate information that keeps crime victims and their families informed when an offender is released from jail. Some other benefits for this service include:

- VINE is a free service that is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week.
- VINE is available in English and Spanish and all victim registrations remain confidential.
- VINE allows victims to be notified with accurate information regarding offenders so they can protect themselves.
- VINE provides a 24-hour service and gives registered victims an instant notification via phone or email about offender's whereabouts.

In law enforcement, it is all about safety first and the VINE service is another avenue that can be used to keep victims of domestic violence safe. To access the VINE service, visit [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com), call (877) 411-5588, or download the mobile VINE app for any smartphone.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office is pleased to be one of the 53 counties throughout California to offer this service to keep those domestic violence victims within the communities of Mono County safe.

### **SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to California Small Businesses Economically Impacted by the Rim Fire**

The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest working capital federal disaster loans to small businesses economically impacted by the Rim Fire that began on August 17, U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Acting Administrator Jeanne Hult announced today. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster in response to a request SBA received from Gov. Edmund G. Brown's designated representative, Mark Ghilarducci, Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, on September 24, 2013.

The disaster declaration makes SBA disaster assistance available in Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties and the neighboring counties of Alpine, Calaveras, Madera, Merced, Mono and Stanislaus.

"The U. S. Small Business Administration is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist California's small businesses with federal disaster loans. We will be swift in our efforts to help these small businesses recover from the financial impacts of this disaster," said Acting Administrator Hult.

"Beginning Tuesday, October 1, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to help small businesses impacted by the Rim Fire," said SBA's Fresno District Director Carlos Mendoza. "SBA representatives will answer questions about SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, explain the application process, and help each business owner complete their application," he continued. The centers will be open on the days and times indicated. No appointment is necessary.

Mono County  
Lee Vining Community Center  
296 Mattley Avenue  
Lee Vining, CA 93541

Open: Tues. Oct., 1 & Wed. Oct. 2  
Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

"Small, nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private, nonprofit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred," Mendoza said.

"These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. Disaster loans can provide vital economic assistance to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing," Mendoza added.

Eligibility is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4 percent for small businesses and 2.875 percent for private, nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship.

Applicants may apply online using SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955 or e-mailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call (800) 877-8339. For more information about SBA's disaster assistance programs, visit <http://www.sba.gov/disaster>.

The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 26, 2014.

### **Winter Air Service To Mammoth Lakes Begins December 19**

Winter air service to Mammoth Lakes resumes on December 19, 2013. Offered by both United Airlines and Alaska Airlines, connections are available to Mammoth Yosemite Airport through Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and Orange County.

The flight schedule for winter/spring 2013-14 will benefit several markets with additional daily flights, making it easier for snow enthusiasts to enjoy more time in the mountains. Daily non-stop service to and from San Diego will now be offered by Alaska with an earlier arrival scheduled for Saturday mornings. Weekend flight

service on United out of Orange County will add a Monday and Thursday flight, allowing guests additional travel flexibility.

"The air travel experience to and from Mammoth Lakes is a breeze now," said John Urdi, executive director, Mammoth Lakes Tourism. "We have flights connecting through all of California's gateway airports. A traveler from almost anywhere on the east coast, the south, or in the midwest can now make it to Mammoth with one easy connection. It translates to more time on the snow and less time in the air."

United service also includes non-stop flights daily throughout the winter from San Francisco with a second flight four days per week. Daily non-stop Alaska Airlines service from LAX will resume November 15th with a second daily flight (other than Saturdays) beginning December 19th.

"The theme here with the added flights and adjusted times is ease. It's easier to get here, and to spend more time on travel days on the mountain," said Erik Forsell, Mammoth's chief marketing officer. "Once you land, you're basically here. The Mammoth airport is five miles outside of town, with free transport into town and it's a small airport so lines are minimal. You can be on the chairlift within an hour of landing in Mammoth, no problem."

Mammoth Lakes Yosemite airport is just 15 minutes from Mammoth Mountain Resort. Complimentary airport shuttles are available to all guests who book their stay at [Mammothmountain.com](http://Mammothmountain.com) or through 800.MAMMOTH.

For more information about the new flights on United or to reserve a seat visit [www.united.com](http://www.united.com). For more information on Alaska Airlines service visit <http://www.alaskaair.com>. For more information about Mammoth Lakes go to <http://www.visitmammoth.com> and <http://www.mammothmountain.com>.

## Recreation Department Highlights

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### **'Hot Shots' Youth Basketball League Begins Nov. 5**

Register your 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade student for "Hot Shots"! This Co-ed basketball league will improve everyone's techniques through shooting, dribbling, passing, offense, defense, and the rules. Parents are welcome to participate actively as coaches, scorekeepers or referees. Come one, come all! Play begins Tuesday evening at the Middle School gym, November 5 through January 30, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Sign up at the Parks and Recreation Office. Cost is only \$40, or register online at [www.mammothrecreation.com](http://www.mammothrecreation.com) for the early bird price of \$32. Please call John at (760) 934-8989 x234 for more information or to volunteer.

### **Haunted Rink Skate Party – Oct. 25**

The haunted rink skate party will take place on **Friday, October 25, from 6:00 – 9 p.m.** at the Mammoth Roller Rink. Set time aside now to bring the family to what is sure to be a great time. This year's festivities will include a few carnival games such as tin can alley, hit the witch, evil clown throw, rat head lollipop pull, and the famous fairy and dragon realm. There will also be cakewalks and food vendors throughout the night so be sure to arrive in plenty of time to participate. Recreation has lots of fun prizes for everyone, so no one will leave empty handed. Admission is \$5 per person and includes skate rentals while they last. (skateboards and scooters

welcome). The Zamboni shed may also be staffed with zombified hockey players so enter at your own risk.... For more information please call John at (760) 934-8989 x234.

### **Adult Flag Football – This Sunday 12 Noon At Whitmore**

Parks and Recreation is gearing up for another season of adult coed flag football. Teams will be comprised of 7 – 12 men and women ages 18 and up. League play will be on Sundays beginning October 6 through November 3 (weather permitting). Games will be played at Whitmore and the fees this year are \$150 per team. Contact adult sports coordinator Rob at (805) 796-7197 or [rob.gill86@gmail.com](mailto:rob.gill86@gmail.com) for more information. Register at the Parks and Recreation office in the Von's shopping center, second floor above Giovanni's Pizza.

### **Coed Dodge Ball at The Roller Rink – Need More Teams To Show Up!**

If you can imagine taking a ball to the face at the roller rink under the lights on a cold fall evening then this team sport is right for you! For plenty of fun (and laughs) we are now taking registration for Fall coed dodge ball. Action begins Tuesday and Thursday nights, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. beginning October 3 and concluding by October 29. Register your team by next Tuesday. Fees are \$100/team. (6 players with up to 10 per roster) Contact adult sports coordinator Rob at (805) 796-7197 or [rob.gill86@gmail.com](mailto:rob.gill86@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Adult/Teen Drop-In Street Hockey At Roller Rink**

Don't forget about Street Hockey on Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Bring shoes and a stick, all adults and high school age teens welcome. Cost is \$2/participant, and a signed waiver is required. Great exercise and fun, this program is scheduled every Wednesday evening under the lights beginning October 2 -- and will go until the rink freezes over.

### **We Want To Hear From You!**

The Recreation Department would like to hear what you have to say about our products and programs – the good and bad! If you participated in one of our many youth and adult programs, or enjoyed one of our parks or facilities, please take the time to complete the Customer Satisfaction Survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PZ3JCYQ>. Customer Satisfaction Survey's are also available for collection from the Recreation office located in the Minaret Village Mall, above Giovanni's. Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for additional information.

### **Skip's Farmers Market – Ongoing, Weather Permitting**

Skip's Market is now meeting every **Wednesday from 4-7 p.m.** on the Main Street frontage road in front of the Luxury outlet malls. Available for purchase are fresh grown fruits, vegetables, flowers, and other various merchandize from other non-farming vendors and artists. For more info please call Kathleen at (760) 937-0889.

### **Gymnastics/Tumbling Program Is Back!**

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 over \$7,000 of gymnastic equipment. Three age sessions are available at the Community Center on Forest Trail.

- 3 yr. olds – Saturday: 8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
- 4-5 yr. olds – Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 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. 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!

### **Recreation Department Launches Online Registration**

In an effort to improve customer service and streamline operations, the Recreation Department – compliments of Measure R, has partnered with the Active Network to provide 24/7 web-based activity and facility reservations. To begin, visit us online at [www.mammothrecreation.com](http://www.mammothrecreation.com), click on the *Online Activity/Facility Reservations* tab and your first step is to "**Request Account.**" All you need is an email and password. The system will allow you to register online for an activity, reserve a facility or request Measure R equipment...it's fast and easy! Please drop by the office or call us at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 if we can be of assistance to you.

### **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](http://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!

## **Public Service Announcements**

### **Black Bear Activity Is On The Increase**

The black bears in the Mammoth Lakes area have become very active over the past few weeks and the drought conditions mean that there will be high activity for the next three months. Recent sightings have been observed throughout Town, and second year cub has been very active in the Old Mammoth Area. Unfortunately, some residents have been encouraging bad bear behavior such as not properly securing their vehicles or residences. Some have also been reluctant to report problems with the bears to the Police Department or its Wildlife Specialist, Steve Searles.

Mammoth Lakes has a very successful bear management program that includes public education and aversive conditioning for bears. It's especially important for young bears, such as the one causing havoc in Old Mammoth, to be "taught" that certain behavior, such as entering cars or buildings for food, is unacceptable. The Wildlife Specialist spends many hours during the day providing public education and interacting with the bears, but he and the officers of the MLPD need to be informed when a bear is misbehaving.



Another big problem is created by unsecured dumpsters. It is vitally important for businesses, residents, and visitors to always properly secure dumpsters. All food, ice chests, and sweet smelling products like shampoo should never be left outdoors or in a car overnight. Bears are highly intelligent animals and when they see an ice chest they know it may contain food. So if a bear sees an ice chest in the back of a car or truck, they will figure out a way to get into the ice chest, and it's usually an expensive repair.

The best way of preventing bears from becoming dependent on humans for food is to follow these common sense rules:

- Never leave food out for bears or other wild animals
- Securely store food and fragrant items such as shampoo and deodorant in an airtight container. When camping, use a bear-proof box
- Don't leave food, even in a cooler, in a car, tent, or other unsecure location
- Don't leave pet food outdoors or use a bird feeder. Bears love bird seed!
- Put away picnic leftovers and keep barbecue grills clean
- Always deposit trash in a bear proof trash can or dumpster
- Keep your car locked and your garage door closed and locked
- Never leave food on or near a window sill or on a counter near an open window
- Close and lock ground floor windows when no one is home and at night

Bears that have been conditioned to rely on humans for food become unmanageable and unfortunately, sometimes have to be destroyed. Please help to keep our bears healthy. Enjoy their presence, but do not encourage behavior that is harmful to them. DON'T FEED OUR BEARS!

For more information on co-existing with wildlife or to report a bear problem, contact the Town's Wildlife Specialist Steve Searles at (760) 937-BEAR.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:jgoetz@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us).

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](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](http://www.crlaction.org).