



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town News

Town e-News – Week of March 10, 2014

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – March 19

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2014 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.

March Commission Meetings

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|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 12 | Planning and Economic Development Commission, Suite Z, 2:00 p.m. |
| March 17 | Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR) Transition Formation Committee Meeting, Suite Z, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. |
| March 20 | Plan Your Parks – Community Priorities, Community Center, 4-7 p.m. |

"Plan Your Parks" Begin March 20

Get involved and help us make life better now and in the future!

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is in the process of completing parks master planning for four of the Town's parks as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Town is gathering broad community input on programming priorities for parks and recreation facilities, including the examination of alternatives for new facilities, and exploring opportunities for maximizing existing facilities.

Plan Your Park includes the Whitmore Recreation Area, Mammoth Creek Park East and West, the Community Center, Playground and Tennis Courts and the Bell Shaped Parcel.

"Plan Your Parks" Workshop Schedule

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is seeking community input at two community workshops on March 20 and April 17, 2014. The charrette style workshops will be facilitated by Verde Design and occur on the following days and times:

1. *Thursday, March 20: Community Priorities Charrette #1*
 - The goal of this first workshop will be to gather community, Town staff and Recreation Commission input on the programming priorities for Town parks and recreation facilities.

2. *Thursday, April 17: Community Design Charrette #2*

- The goal of the second workshop will be to select or combine elements from prepared conceptual park design alternatives in an interactive design process with the public.

Both workshops will take place in the Community Center located on the corner of Forest Trail and Minaret Road from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. Please visit the dedicated webpage: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=512> for comprehensive information and maps on the four parks to be master planned. Please contact Stuart Brown, Recreation Manager and Public Information Officer at (760) 934-8989 ext. 210 for additional information regarding this recreation planning process or to provide written comments.

Participate in the Mammoth Lakes Housing Survey

Town staff and Mammoth Lakes Housing are working on the Town's Housing Element Update (HEU) as required by State law. The HEU is required to demonstrate how the Town can provide its "fair share" of the State's expected housing needs and meet the housing needs of special populations (e.g., seniors, disabled, seasonal workers, large families, etc.).

To help us prepare this HEU, we are asking for public input through the following survey:

English survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Mammoth_Lakes_Housing_Survey

Spanish survey:

https://es.surveymonkey.com/s/Mammoth_Lakes_Encuesta_de_Vivienda

This anonymous survey should only take a few minutes to complete and will be available through mid-April. We would greatly appreciate your input. Please also pass this link along to others who may be interested.

The draft HEU will be available for public review in March 2014. After the public review period, the HEU will be considered by the Planning & Economic Development Commission and Town Council, anticipated in May and June.

Please contact Jen Daugherty, Associate Planner at (760) 934-8989 x260 or jdaugherty@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov for additional information.

Town Seeking Comments on the Pedestrian Master Plan

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Pedestrian Master Plan guides the future development and enhancement of pedestrian facilities within the Town and is intended to implement the General Plan Mobility Element goals, policies, and actions related to pedestrian infrastructure. This plan inventories existing infrastructure, assesses current and future needs, and makes recommendations for the funding and the implementation of projects.

The Plan was developed with extensive input from the community. It seeks to make Mammoth Lakes a pleasant, enjoyable, and safe place to walk. The comments from the 30 day review period will be used to make modifications to the Pedestrian Master Plan. Comments can be submitted to the Mammoth Lakes Planning Division via email to cquam@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov until March 15, 2014. Visit <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=568> to review the plan.

Town Seeking Comments on the General Bikeway Plan

The Town of Mammoth Lakes General Bikeway Plan will guide the future development of bicycle facilities and programs in Mammoth Lakes. Its recommendations will facilitate bicycling for transportation and recreation and help attain the General Plan Mobility Element goals, policies, and actions.

The Town first adopted its General Bikeway Plan in 1995, which has since undergone four addendums, the last update occurring in 2008. The Plan update will result in comprehensive bicycle facility planning, many on-street bicycle facilities, bicycle racks, street-separated multi-use paths, and their associated bridges and under-crossings have been constructed.

The Final General Bikeway Plan will include revisions based off of the comments received during the 30 day review period. The public may submit comments until March 15, 2014. Comments may be submitted via email to cquam@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov. Please review the plan online at: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=566>

Town Channel 51 Has Moved!

The Town's dedicated channel, TV 51 has moved to Channel 18. The move was necessitated by Suddenlink and their local programming needs. TV Channel 18 will still continue to provide access to all the Town's meetings with live and taped coverage of Town Council, and advisory body meetings such as the Planning and Economic Development Commission and Recreation Commission. For meeting dates and times, please visit: www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Calls For Service/Officer Observations

152, including 4 business/building checks

Crime/Incident Reports

20 reports, including 3 arrests

Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions

33 stops; 5 citations; 49 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 3 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

2 incidents; 1 report

Wildlife

0 calls; 0 reports

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Average Reported Projected Occupancies are as follows:

Friday, March 7, 2014 = 72%

Saturday, March 8, 2014 = 74%

Sunday, March 9, 2014 = 46%

Monday, March 10, 2014 = 37%
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 = 33%
Wednesday, March 12, 2014 = 35%
Thursday, March 13, 2014 = 55%

Hotels/Motels/B&B: 86% (Friday-Saturday) 51% (Sunday-Thursday)
Condos: 48% (Friday-Saturday) 21% (Sunday-Thursday)

Outlook for the following weekend:
Friday, March 14, 2014 = 70%
Saturday, March 15, 2014 = 71%

Please remember that the projected occupancy is calculated in order to assist the business community with staffing levels and product ordering. The actual occupancy percentages are reported from the lodging industry to the Town of Mammoth Lakes Finance Department

Community News

Mammoth Lakes Rotary Club Announces Outstanding Citizens of the Year at Winterfest Gala – March 8

The Mammoth Lakes Rotary Club names outstanding Mammoth Lakes citizens Brian Schuldt and Rebecca Hang as 2013's "Service Above Self" honorees. "The 'Service Above Self' award is presented to an individual or couple who model the motto "Service Above Self" by providing outstanding service to our community. This award is given to those who have demonstrated self-sacrifice, compassion for their fellow man, and significant hands-on involvement in one or more endeavors to improve the quality of life of individuals and the community." Last year Ken and Flossie Coulter received the inaugural award.

This year the award will be presented to Brian and Rebecca on March 8, 2014 at the Rotary Club's Winterfest event at Canyon Lodge. Many in the community know Brian and Rebecca, but few know the depth of their years of involvement in the Eastern Sierra. Brian and Rebecca have not only brought concerts to Mammoth Lakes, Bishop and Ridgecrest with stellar visiting artists but have taught music to hundreds of children and quite a few adults as well.

"We were surprised, and very honored, when offered this Award by Rotary and look forward to accepting it at the WinterFest event," commented Rebecca and Brian, "and hope we can continue to meet the Service Above Self standard in the future." "Brian and Rebecca are truly outstanding citizens and the breadth of their contribution to our community clearly meets the criteria for the Rotary Club 'Service Above Self' award," noted Club President Gary Boyd.

Winterfest is an annual celebration and fundraiser sponsored by the Mammoth Lakes Rotary Club with the proceeds to benefit school and youth activities in Mammoth Lakes. Individual tickets are \$100 each and sponsored tables of 10 are \$1,200. For more information about the event, attendance or sponsorship, please contact Rick Phelps at (760) 258-6704 or RickMLRotary@me.com or any Mammoth Lakes' Rotarian.

The Mammoth Lakes Rotary Club provides fundraising and support for local causes in Mammoth Lakes. It is one of 34,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide that are part of Rotary International. The mission of Rotary International, and its members clubs, is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Caltrans Making Winter Driving Safer!

For the first time in Mono and Inyo counties, Caltrans has begun using an anti-icing solution called salt brine on state highways in the Eastern Sierra that melts snow more quickly and reduces the chance of dangerous ice forming on the pavement.

"This is a win for everyone. We're making winter driving safer for the public, and we're also saving taxpayers money," said Caltrans Director 9 Tom Hallenback. "It takes four times less salt to prevent ice from forming than to remove the ice after it has formed."

Salt brine is also more environmentally-friendly – one-third less salt is used in the mixture when compared with other methods – and highways and bridges treated with brine will resist frost for several days per application. This decreases the length of time chain controls are in effect, the amount of traction sand used, and highway workers' exposure to moving traffic.

Caltrans sprays the solution onto a highway prior to the arrival of a winter storm – a proactive approach to winter road maintenance called anti-icing. In the same way that a light coat of cooking oil in a frying pan prevents food from sticking, the salt brine treatment prevents significant amounts of ice from building up on highways, making them easier to plow.

For more information, please visit [Caltrans' winter operations Web page](#)

Comments Solicited for Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Applications Public Open House March 13

The Inyo National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office have submitted preliminary applications for grant funds from the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division to enhance and manage motorized recreation.

The two agencies will hold an informal open house from 4 to 6 p.m. on March 13 at the Forest Service/BLM office located behind the Department of Motor Vehicles at 351 Pacu Lane in Bishop. You may drop in any time during those two hours to review and discuss the grant applications. Representatives from the two agencies will be there to answer questions and receive or facilitate comments on changes, concerns and support for the final grant applications, which will be submitted by May 5, 2014.

These and all other applicants' grant requests, as well as detailed instructions about the process and how to comment can be viewed from March 4 until April 7 on the OHMVR website at www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/. Comments can be submitted directly through the division website and/or sent directly to the responsible agency. Comments must be received by April 7, 2014.

For more information, or if you have special needs for accommodation in order to participate in this open house, please call Inyo NF Trails Coordinator, Marty Hornick

at (760) 873-2461 or mhornick@fs.fed.us; or BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner Rich Williams at (760) 872-5033 or rdwillia@blm.gov.

Upcoming Hikes in the Eastern Sierra

March 15 - [Volcanic Tablelands Hike](#): Join Friends of the Inyo and BLM Bishop Archeologist Greg Haverstock for an exploration of the history of the Volcanic Tablelands. We will be discussing and viewing examples of both the natural and human history of the area. Come out to learn about the history of human habitation and use along with the natural changes that have occurred over thousands of years. Please meet at 8:45 am at the Kiosk at the intersections of Fish Slough, Casa Diablo, and Chalk Bluff roads. Be prepared for all weather conditions, bring a lunch, plenty of water, and some sun screen. This outing requires moderate hiking. No dogs please. RSVP to Andrew Schurr: andrew@friendsoftheinyo.org or call (760) 873-6500

March 29 - [Chocolate Peak Hike](#): Join us for this annual Friends of the Inyo tradition! We will once again be tackling Chocolate Mountain in the awesome Piper Mountains Wilderness. Meet at the Friends of the Inyo office at 819 N. Barlow at 8:00 am and be ready to carpool to our starting point promptly at 8:30 am. This is a strenuous walk with significant elevation gain and loss. Please be prepared to be out all day and for all weather conditions. Bring a lunch, water, and maybe some chocolate, too. Please contact Andrew Schurr andrew@friendsoftheinyo.org or call [\(760\) 873-6500](tel:7608736500) with questions.

Chamber Music Unbound Present "Three of a Kind" – March 22

On Saturday, March 22 from 7:30 p.m. at the Cerro Coso College, Chamber Music Unbound presents The Felici Piano Trio in a concert, "Three of a Kind." Featuring music of Bach, Faure and Mendelssohn (his stormy *Piano Trio opus 66*).

Tickets (\$20 Adult, \$15 Senior, \$7 Student) are available online (www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org), at the Booky Joint, the Inyo Council for the Arts, or at the door on concert nights.

The Salvation Army's Mammoth Lakes Food Bank Needs Our Help!

Folks are out of work... a slow season and no snow has many workers without work and pay! Staple Goods Are the Most Needed, Such as: Pasta, Rice, Tomato Sauces and Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna, Peanut Butter, Jam and perhaps Spam! Please bring these items to the Health Department, located in the Minaret Village Mall, above Giovanni's.

Recreation Department Highlights

Drama Workshops at the Community Center

Need a little more drama in your life? Kevin Worden, in conjunction with Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation, is now offering Theatre Workshops for youth and adults at the Community Center. For over 30 years, Kevin has been an actor, director, choreographer, and acting coach. He has directed over 75 full-length plays and Broadway musicals. Come join him on Monday's and Wednesday's for a great time building theatre skills in a welcoming and safe environment.

- Youth ages 7+ Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30 – 5 p.m.
- Adults (and high school teens) Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- \$10/per class, or purchase a six-pass punch card for \$50.

Open Gym Basketball with William Bauwman

The MHS gym is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays (except March 5), and Thursdays from **7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** for adult drop-in basketball. The cost is \$4/person, or buy a three night pass for \$10. High school students welcome!

Coed Indoor Soccer Is Back!

Follow all the action from indoor soccer at the MHS gym every Sunday night online at: <http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/index.aspx?nid=575>

Gymnastics/Tumbling Program

Join Melissa (and Kari), our level 5 gymnastics coach here at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center for the following classes:

- * 3 yr. olds Saturday: 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.
- * 4-5 yr. olds Saturday: 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. & Tuesday: 5:00 – 5:45 p.m.
- * 5-8 yr. olds Saturday: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- * 8-12+ yr. olds Tuesday: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (invitation only)
Friday: 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Five session punch card for \$60, drop-ins welcome at \$15 session. Want to try it out? Try your first session for free! Please call (760) 934-8989 x222 for more information or visit 'Mammoth Gymnastics' on Facebook.

Youth Sports Funding Applications Close on March 21

Every year Town Council awards funds to local youth sporting organizations that are in need of additional funding to supplement organized, non-profit, youth sporting programs operating in and around Mammoth Lakes. Funding recipients in 2013 included: Mammoth AYSO Soccer, Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES), Mammoth Lakes Swim Team, Mammoth Youth Football, Mono County Little League and the Husky Club.

In 2014, the application period will open on Monday, March 3, and close on Friday, March 21, 2014. Applications will be available from the Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation Department Office located in the Minaret Village Mall, above Giovanni's or online at: www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=342.

The Recreation Commission is scheduled review funding applications on April 8, 2014. Special attention will be given to organized sport programs and activities that:

- Are a non-profit organization
- Involves a high number of local participants, including volunteers
- Made available to the children in our local area
- Encourages participation by our diverse population
- Are in need of financial support due to limited funding

In addition to providing information on the Youth Sports Funding Application, representatives from each organization are highly encouraged to attend the

Recreation Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 in Suite Z at 2:00 p.m. where the Commission will make their recommendations.

The Mammoth Lakes Town Council will review the Recreation Commission's funding recommendations on Wednesday, May 7, 2014.

Please submit the completed application to the Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation Department Office, located in the Minaret Village Mall (above Giovanni's Restaurant) by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2014. To obtain additional information, or assistance, please call Stephanie Daniel at (760) 934-8989 ext. 237.

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, 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, 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

Governor Brown Declares Drought State of Emergency

With California facing water shortfalls in the driest year in recorded state history, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. today proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for these drought conditions.

"We can't make it rain, but we can be much better prepared for the terrible consequences that California's drought now threatens, including dramatically less water for our farms and communities and increased fires in both urban and rural areas," said Governor Brown. "I've declared this emergency and I'm calling all Californians to conserve water in every way possible."

In the State of Emergency declaration, Governor Brown directed state officials to assist farmers and communities that are economically impacted by dry conditions and to ensure the state can respond if Californians face drinking water shortages. The Governor also directed state agencies to use less water and hire more firefighters and initiated a greatly expanded water conservation public awareness campaign (details at saveourh2o.org).

In addition, the proclamation gives state water officials more flexibility to manage supply throughout California under drought conditions.

State water officials say that California's river and [reservoirs](#) are below their record lows. Manual and electronic readings record the snowpack's statewide water content at about 20 percent of normal average for this time of year.

The Governor's drought State of Emergency follows a series of actions the administration has taken to ensure that California is prepared for record dry conditions. In May 2013, Governor Brown issued an [Executive Order](#) to direct state water officials to expedite the review and processing of voluntary transfers of water and water rights. In December, the Governor formed a [Drought Task Force](#) to review expected water allocations, California's preparedness for water scarcity and whether conditions merit a drought declaration. Earlier this week, the Governor toured the Central Valley and spoke with growers and others impacted by California's record dry conditions.

Town Administration Offices Closed to the Public On Friday

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Administrative Offices located on the second floor of the Minaret Village Mall will be closed to the public every Friday. Appointments with staff are available on Fridays by reservation only, for the submittal of plans, permits, payments, etc. so please plan ahead accordingly. There will be no changes to the daily operations of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mammoth Yosemite Airport or the Public Works Department.

This office closure is an initiative to enhance the productivity and efficiency of employees. Town Council established Priorities for Fiscal Year 2013/14 that included the provision to provide sufficient resources and support to Town staff to effectively do their work. Goals of effective management include: commitment to increase IT funding, support additional funding for the replacement of the finance system, fund sufficient staffing in the Town's departments that provide critical services (finance, Public safety), and to encourage an increase in productivity without reducing service levels.

The Town encourages our residents and visitors to purchase their Recreation products or reservations online at www.mammothrecreation.com or by calling (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 Monday through Thursday.

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and TBID remitters are also able to pay their taxes conveniently online. Please copy and paste the following links in your internet browser for additional information or to create an account.

TOT: <http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/index.aspx?nid=201>

TBID: <http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/index.aspx?nid=550>

For additional information regarding the Friday office closure beginning January 3, 2014, or to make an appointment with staff, please call (760) 934-8989 and follow the prompts.

Winter Preparedness Tips from Mono County Sherriff

It's that time of year again! Yes, winter is slowly creeping upon us. As we all hope for that massive snow storm to strike and an epic winter season, the question remains, are you prepared for the season?

The Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to remind citizens and visitors alike to always be prepared for winter conditions, whether you are simply out and about in

town on foot or driving across the many roadways of Mono County. Always have an emergency bag in your vehicle with extra food, water, warm clothing and shoes, and emergency supplies just in case you are stuck in your vehicle for an unknown amount of time as you try to reach your intended destination due to hazardous weather and road conditions. Remember, if you get stuck in your vehicle, stay in your vehicle until help arrives or you can safely continue on your journey. Remember to take some extra time while traveling, slow down, and obey all chain control requirements. Even those that are seasoned drivers on the Mono County roadways, please slow down and take your time when driving on the snowy conditions. This ensures your safety and those traveling around you.

Be aware of your surroundings while traveling the roadways and various communities of Mono County. Watch for snow removal equipment. This could be a large snowplow clearing the roadway or an individual shoveling a driveway or sidewalk. Both their safety and your own are important and will benefit from your awareness. Also, be aware of the various locations around Mono County that have parking restrictions during the winter months. Vehicles parked in the restricted areas will hinder necessary snow removal and be subject to citations and/or having the vehicle towed. These restrictions are in place and enforced for your safety and to allow proper snow removal for safer driving conditions for all.

Mono County utilizes what is known as the CodeRed Emergency Alert System when a critical incident or emergency situations takes place within the county. This system is a database of resident and citizen information for use only in critical and emergency situations to send critical communications from evacuation notices, to hazardous weather alerts, to missing children alerts. Your contact information remains private and is only used to contact you for community emergency communications. To register for the CodeRed emergency alerts, log on to www.monosheriff.org – Resources – CodeRed. There is also a mobile app available for all Android and Apple phones.

For more information on winter preparedness and safety, please visit the Mono County Sheriff's Office Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Mono-County-Sheriffs-Department/597961140216123) and listen to a panel radio interview, compliments of KMMT radio, on winter and emergency preparedness. The panel consists of members from the Mono County Sheriff's Department, Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, CERT, and California Highway Patrol. Let the experts give you the necessary tips you may be looking for to stay prepared this winter, and during other emergencies that could happen in our area!

Additional Snow Needed for Shady Rest, Obsidian Dome Nordic Trails and Snowmobiling Trails

Recent snowstorms have left the ground covered but are not providing the snow base required to use grooming equipment on the public Nordic and snowmobile trails on the Mammoth and Mono Lake Ranger Districts of the Inyo National Forest. Upon sufficient snowfall, grooming of the Shady Rest and Obsidian Dome Nordic Trails and the Groomed Snowmobile Trail System will begin.

This winter, Friends of the Inyo, a local non-profit organization, has received a Measure R grant from the Town of Mammoth Lakes to provide grooming services for the Shady Rest Nordic Trail system in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

The Nordini groomer will be back in action and operated by Friends of the Inyo providing the public, free of charge, over five miles of groomed trails for Nordic users compliments of local Measure R funds. Roads within the Old and New Shady Rest

Campground and along the paved bike trail will be groomed through the winter as snow conditions allow. The Nordic trails are part of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System and will be groomed five days a week by Friends of the Inyo, with additional grooming by the U.S. Forest Service as needed. Users may access the Shady Rest Nordic Trail system by parking in the front parking area (closest to Highway 203), adjacent to the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center. A groomed entrance to the trail system begins directly across from the Welcome Center.

Please remember, dogs must be on leash at all times and owners are responsible for removing dog waste from the trail system. Owners of dogs off leash or disposing of dog waste irresponsibly may be issued a citation.

The U.S. Forest Service is waiting for additional snow accumulations to begin grooming the California Department of Parks and Recreation funded snowmobile trail system and the Obsidian Dome Nordic trails. With a shallow, low density snowpack, snowmobilers should use caution and refrain from traveling in areas where snow depths are minimal. Snowmobile users are responsible for knowing all regulations and understanding closure area boundaries.

Maps and information on winter recreation in the Mammoth Lakes area and on the Inyo National Forest can be obtained at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, open daily 8:00AM to 5:00PM, by visiting the Inyo National Forest website, or by calling (760) 924-5500.

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 Acting Public Works Director Peter Bernasconi at (760) 934-8989 ext. 232 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/>

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 ext. 273.

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 ext. 273 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 ext. 275 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.

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.