



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town News

Town e-News – Week of April 21, 2014

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – May 7

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 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.

April Commission/Committee Meetings

No meetings are scheduled for the remainder of April.

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

144, including 0 business/building checks

Crime/Incident Reports

14 reports, including 4 arrests

Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions

57 stops; 12 citations; 17 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 1 collision

Animal Control Incidents

2 incidents; 0 reports

Wildlife

0 calls; 0 reports

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, April 18, 2014 = 39%

Saturday, April 19, 2014 = 34%

(21% same weekend in 2013, up in 2014)

- Sunday, April 20, 2014 = 23%
- Monday, April 21, 2014 = 20%
- Tuesday, April 22, 2014 = 19%
- Wednesday, April 23, 2014 = 18%
- Thursday, April 24, 2014 = 22%

(17% same midweek in 2013, up in 2014)

Note: Easter falls on April 20 this year and fell on March 31 last year.

Hotels/Motels/B&B: 51% (Friday-Saturday) 41% (Sunday-Thursday)

Condos: 29% (Friday-Saturday) 13% (Sunday-Thursday)

Outlook for the following weekend:

- Friday, April 25, 2014 = 37%
- Saturday, April 26, 2014 = 21%

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

Snowcreek Athletic Club Opens April 18

It has been a long winter of waiting. For many of us who frequent Snowcreek Athletic Club, the devastating water main break of last November 6 was heart breaking and a real shock. You never know how much you will miss something until it's gone, right? Well, the great news is that the Club will reopen on April 18th!

The Club has undergone a huge transformation during its restoration: A new second level of classrooms above the cardio/weight rooms, new trampoline training rooms, completely redesigned locker rooms and so much more. We greatly appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during the Club's closure.

Join us April 18th for our Grand Re-Opening and see all of the new improvements to your club. Light appetizers and beverages available with a no-host bar at the Bistro from 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Mammoth Mountain Announces Skiing and Riding through Memorial Day

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area is pleased to announce it plans to be open for skiing and snowboarding through Memorial Day weekend. Officially the longest ski season in California, Mammoth will once again deliver some of the best spring terrain in the country.

With a 27-year streak of skiing and riding through Memorial Day weekend, Mammoth Mountain is committed to offering top to bottom terrain through late May.

"Although winter got off to a slow start, the past month brought a series of strong storms with nearly 100 inches of snow, and more in the forecast this week," said Mammoth Mountain CEO Rusty Gregory. "With excellent conditions typical of this time of year, we look to continue our long-standing tradition of skiing and riding well into May."

To celebrate, Mammoth has a jam-packed spring event calendar with all-ages activities on and off the hill. Events such as the JLA Banked Slalom, Mammoth Invitational, Grenade Games 10, Pond Skim and the annual Easter celebration are back in addition to new offerings like Spyder's massive "Where's the Party?" concert at Canyon Lodge.

Mammoth currently has a base depth of 4 – 6 feet and 100% of terrain open. A series of storms are forecast over the next week with 8-10" of new snow having fallen since early this morning. For the latest snow conditions, travel information and event details, visit <http://www.mammothmountain.com/>.

Foster Parent Orientation – April 29

Mono County Social Services is looking for Foster Parents and we are hosting an orientation meeting coming up on April 29, 2014 from 5:30pm- 7:00pm in Mammoth Lakes at the Sierra Center Mall.

Many prospective foster parents are interested in becoming a parent, but can't commit to providing long term care or adoption. That's okay! Mono County needs foster parents of all types; those who can care for a child short-term, on an emergency only basis, as well as those who can provide long-term care. Children come into foster care when their birth families are unable to care for them for a variety of reasons. We provide support & training for you to be a successful foster parent. Learn more by attending the upcoming Foster Parent Orientation Meeting. Please contact Marlo Preis at (760) 924-1793 or mpreis@mono.ca.gov to RSVP.

Mad Hatter's Tea Fundraiser

Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre announces a new event to help raise fun and funds to support the arts. The Mad Hatter's Tea, scheduled for Sunday, May 4th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, is sponsored and hosted by Kathleen Rudder and Mammoth Luxury Outlets and the Sierra Event Center. Rudder is assisted in putting on the inaugural event by the Executive Committee of Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. Tickets are \$35 per person, and everyone attending is asked to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the local food bank.

"I am very excited that Kathleen wanted to do a fundraising event and came up with a unique, fun, and engaging way to support the performing arts," said MLRT's Artistic Director Shira Dubrovner.

"I'm looking forward to hosting the event at the Sierra Event Center," stated Rudder. "It's going to be so beautiful. We all worked together to create some amazing centerpieces with repurposed dishes to hold our scones. Each one is unique." Unique describes the venue's decorations as well. Local women will each act as the "Duchess" of her table, providing all the decorative linens and dishes. The look will be diverse and the afternoon is sure to be colorful!

Attendees are encouraged to wear their maddest hat, bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank, and come prepared to enjoy three courses of teas and tasty tidbits prepared by Chef Dan Molnar. "Scones will definitely be part of the menu as well as lemon curd and cream, tasty finger sandwiches, and dessert," added Rudder. "We asked Dan to come up with appetizing ideas for sandwiches and then the committee did a sampling--and that was a lot of fun as well."

While ladies enjoy their tea and scones, they can peruse the fantastic hat designs created by local artists that will be part of the silent auction. The one-of-a-kind hats project is being coordinated by committee member and local artist Kendra Knight. "I volunteered to coordinate not only because I work with so many artists at Bluebird Imaging and Gallery, but because I could make sure I was able to create a beautiful hat myself," stated Knight. All the artists start with the same basic hat, then have a set budget with which to create the most artistic creation they can come up with. These will then be available for purchase in the silent auction.

Additional items available for bidding include: season passes to the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre, various artworks, shopping sprees at the Outlet Mall, tickets to the Grand Tasting of the Mammoth Food & Wine Experience, and more.

FACT SHEET:

WHAT: Mad Hatter's Tea Fundraiser
WHEN: May 4th - Sunday @ 11:00 am
WHERE: Sierra Event Center, Old Mammoth Road at Meridian
HOW MUCH: \$35 per person
WHAT TO BRING: A non-perishable food item and your Maddest Hat and Spring Attire (hats will also be available to borrow for the event upon arrival from Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre)
BUY TICKETS: (760) 934-6592

Tis The Season for Hantavirus

Although mice carry the hantavirus all year, this is the start of the season when humans typically begin activities that put them at risk of being exposed to the hantavirus. Spring cleaning activities, such as opening up closed buildings that have been unused overwinter, often provide habitats for deer mice and become sites for human exposure to the hantavirus. Although hantavirus infections are relatively rare, it is not unusual for us to have several cases per year in the Eastern Sierra. The risk of death is significant. Individuals cleaning areas where the mice may be present are well advised to heed the recommendations below in order to avoid exposure.

Hantavirus is carried by certain species of rats and mice, and especially the deer mouse, pictured above. Infected rodents shed the virus in their urine, droppings, and saliva. The virus can be transmitted to people when infected mouse urine, saliva, droppings, or nesting materials are stirred

up, temporarily aerosolizing the virus, which can be breathed in by humans.

We recommend the following precautions:

- seal openings that may allow mice to enter homes and workplaces
- remove brush, woodpiles, trash, and other items that may attract mice
- tightly close garbage cans, pet food containers, and other food sources
- wear protective gloves to handle dead mice or to clean up nesting areas, urine, or droppings
- before cleaning up nests or droppings found inside, open windows and doors to ventilate the area for at least 30 minutes
- do not stir up nests by sweeping or vacuuming. Dampen areas before clean-up
- use a disinfectant or 1-to-10 bleach-water mixture to clean up dead rodents, nests, urine, and droppings

Early symptoms of hantavirus infection include fatigue, fever, and muscle aches. These symptoms may be accompanied by headaches, dizziness, chills, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. Later symptoms include coughing and shortness of breath. If hantavirus is suspected, people should contact their health care provider immediately. Remember, infections with hantavirus may feel like the "flu"; however, it is no longer flu season!

For more information, including an interactive map showing Mono and Inyo County specific information, go to: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/HantavirusPulmonarySyndrome.aspx>

Elevated Levels of Metals found at the Mill City Stamp Mill

Elevated levels of mercury, lead, and arsenic have been detected during preliminary sampling of soils and historic mill tailings at the Mill City Stamp Mill.

In 2012, CalTrout received a grant from the Lahontan Regional Quality Control Board to monitor water quality in Mammoth Creek. Monitoring included mercury, manganese, and others. The study conducted by CalTrout in 2012-2013 showed elevated levels of mercury in Mammoth Creek and that concentrations were the highest near the Mill City Stamp Mill. Based on the CalTrout study, the US Forest Service conducted the preliminary site sampling near the Stamp Mill in 2013.

The US Forest Service preliminary sampling at the Stamp Mill showed elevated levels of mercury, lead and arsenic in the soil and historic mill tailings. The detected levels of arsenic, lead and mercury in the preliminary sampling indicate that there is a potential risk to site visitors and nearby residents. Additional sampling is required to fully delineate the nature and extent of contamination that may be present as a result of historic mining activities at the site.

The US Forest Service will be conducting a Site Investigation this spring and summer to determine the full nature and extent of contamination and to better assess the degree of risk to recreational visitors, nearby residents, and to the environment and what actions may be needed to mitigate these risks.

"While we do not know the nature or extent of mercury contamination, we want to share the information we currently have with residents and visitors to the area," said Ed Armenta, Forest Supervisor.

For more about mercury and human health, visit <http://www.epa.gov/mercury/effects.htm>

Desert Springs Trout Farm to Stock Trout in Mammoth Lakes this Year

As fishing opener nears, the latest angling news in the Eastern Sierra is that the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mammoth Lakes Tourism are working with Desert Springs Trout Farm for fish stocking in the Mammoth Lakes Basin for 2014.

"Conway Ranch's water issues are very unfortunate, but luckily we have found a solution for this year with Desert Springs," explained Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director, John Urdi.

Desert Springs will provide at least 11,000 pounds of fish compared to the 7,600 pounds (nearly a 45 percent increase year over year) the Lakes Basin received last year, which means anglers will have an even greater opportunity to land a big one this summer.

"The fish that will be stocked in the Lakes Basin would be the same types of trout that Eastern Sierra anglers have caught in the past, from browns to rainbows, etc.," said David Mcfarland, partner of Desert Springs Trout Farm. The trout will also be the trophy-sized, 3-5 pounders to which Eastern Sierra anglers are accustomed.

"Not only will we continue to have frequent fish stocking, but in the Mammoth Lakes Basin we will have even more fish," Urdi continued. The extra fish are coming from a combination of Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mammoth Lakes Tourism funding.

The extra fish mean the lakes will continue to be stocked well into October ensuring great fishing opportunities through the end of the season on Nov. 15. Anglers visiting in the fall at the end of the season will have just as good of a shot to catch a huge fish as someone visiting earlier.

As always, anglers 16 years of age and older must have a fishing license. You can purchase an annual, one-day or two-day fishing license (valid for two consecutive calendar days). Information concerning license requirements, places to purchase and fees may be obtained from the [Department of Fish & Wildlife](#) or by calling 760-934-2664. Fishing licenses may be purchased in several locations around the town of Mammoth Lakes.

U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region Postpones Public Meetings on Forest Plan Revisions

The U.S. Forest Service is postponing a series of public meetings scheduled for forest plan revisions on the Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests. These meetings were originally scheduled for April 7, 8 and 10. The meeting for the Inyo National Forest was scheduled for April 10.

The Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement, which was previously scheduled to be published in early April, will be postponed as well. The Notice of Intent marks the beginning of the National Environmental Policy Act process. Dates for the rescheduled meetings and Notice of Intent have not yet been set.

These meetings would have followed workshops the Forest Service hosted in January. At those workshops, the public provided feedback on the Forest Service's preliminary Need to Change, Draft Roles and Contributions, and example Desired

Condition statements. Those comments are being considered as we update these documents and move forward with plan revision work.

"We have heard from the public and our partners that they need more time to understand and engage with us on the Need to Change," said Regional Forester Randy Moore. "By postponing these meetings we will provide more time to do so. We are committed to ensuring that the public remains engaged as we move forward with revising these three forest plans."

For more information regarding forest plan revisions and new meeting dates, visit the Pacific Southwest Region's planning website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/landmanagement/planning>.

The Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo are three of eight national forests that were selected as "early adopters," meaning they will be the first to revise their land management plans using the new National Forest System Planning Rule, completed in 2012. The planning rule provides the framework for Forest Service land management plans across the nation.

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

Easter Play Day and Community Egg Hunt – April 18

This recreation activity is fun, festive, and free! On Friday, April 18, come join the Mammoth Lakes Easter Bunny and Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation staff from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center (on Forest Trail) for springtime crafts and the Community Easter Egg Hunt. Activities begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. with the legendary Egg Hunt beginning promptly at 3:30 p.m. Don't be late! Bring your own basket to fill with goodies. Prize eggs will be hidden for each age grouping. Toddlers through elementary aged kids are encouraged to attend. For more information please call the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989, ext. 222.

Open Gym Basketball with Will Bauman

The MHS gym is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 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, and open gym basketball will conclude on Wednesday, April 30, 2014.

Open Gym Indoor Soccer – April 27

Beginning on Sunday, April 27, the MHS gym will be open for adult drop-in soccer. For \$4/person come get involved in pick-up games from 6-9 p.m. High School students welcome.

"Little Sluggers" Instructional T-Ball – May 7

This is a great chance to introduce your child to the wonderful sport of baseball. This program, for kids ages 2 - 5, will happen on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 – 6:00 p.m. (at the MES field) and is designed to teach the fundamentals of baseball in a clinic and mock-game setting. Early bird cost per child is \$35, which includes a shirt. After 5/2/2014 the price increases to \$42. Program is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, May 7, and will run through June 11. For more information call John C. at (760) 934-8989 ext. 234. Volunteer parent helpers welcome. Sign up online at www.mammothrecreation.com.

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 Wednesdays 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.

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. & <u>Tuesday: 5:00 – 5:45 p.m.</u> |
| * 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.

Join Friends of the Inyo for an exceptional hike up Grouse Mountain in the spectacular Buttermilk Country. At over 8,000 feet, you will enjoy spectacular views of the Sierra Nevada and the surrounding Owens Valley. Come prepared for varied mountain weather with appropriate clothing, sturdy hiking shoes, water, and a lunch. Meet at the Friends of the Inyo office, 819 North Barlow Lane in Bishop at 8:30 am. Please email andrew@friendsoftheinyo.org or call 760-873-6500 with questions or to RSVP.

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

Limited Funding Now Available to Replace Wood Stoves in Mammoth Lakes

Property owners in the Town of Mammoth Lakes who would like to replace old wood stoves with more efficient and cleaner heating systems may now qualify for up to \$2,000 toward the cost of the new heating system.

To qualify for replacement costs, the existing wood-burning system (wood stove or open fireplace) must be a building's primary heat source, it must be located within Town limits, and it must fall into one of two qualifying categories:

- 1) For homes or buildings purchased in 1990 or earlier,* and still relying on pre-1990 wood burning systems, \$1,500 may be available toward the cost of a new EPA Phase II-certified wood burning stove or fireplace, or \$2,000 toward the cost of a new EPA certified pellet stove or gas heating system. Documented proof of property purchase date is required.
- 2) For wood stove models currently being used that are newer than 1990 (EPA Phase I or II-certified), \$2,000 may be available toward replacement costs for a new, cleaner burning pellet stove or gas heating system. This applies to replacing post-1990 wood stoves with pellet or gas (propane and kerosene) systems only.

**Properties that were purchased or changed ownership after 1990, and not upgraded to EPA certified heating systems (Phase I or Phase II) as required by Town Municipal Code 8.30, do not qualify for funding under this program.*

All old stoves replaced through this program must be freely relinquished to the participating stove retailer or installer at the time of the new system's installation, and program funding will be paid to participating retailers only. No exceptions to these requirements will be granted.

Funding is limited and available for two months only - sooner if funds run out - through a 'first come, first served' basis. All interested Mammoth Lakes property owners are encouraged to immediately contact one of the local participating retailers serving Mammoth Lakes: Alpine Stove & Mercantile; Angelo's Stove & Chimney, Clean Sweep; High Country Lumber; and Batchelder Enterprises for kerosene heating systems.

For more information about qualification requirements, contact the Clean Air Projects Program, at 760.914.0388 or email capp@gbuapcd.org

This program is funded through a CAPP block grant awarded to the Town of Mammoth Lakes from the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. <http://capp.gbuapcd.org>

Sierra Conservation Project and Town of Mammoth Lakes Partner to Expand Condominium and Business Recycling Program

The Sierra Conservation Project, Inc. (SCP) and Town of Mammoth Lakes are pleased to announce the expansion of the current condominium, commercial and recreational area recycling programs in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

"This long-standing and successful partnership between the Sierra Conservation Project and the Town enabled us to submit and receive a substantial \$108,000 CalRecycle grant to expand on-going recycling programs within the community that benefits our residents, visitors and wildlife," stated Peter Bernasconi, Acting Public Works Director for the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

The Sierra Conservation Project is working in partnership with the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to provide an additional 30 bear proof containers to the remaining Condominium complexes in town that currently don't have a recycling program in place. In addition, CalRecycle grant funds will enable SCP to upgrade all commercial bear proof containers at restaurants, bars and other business locations in town, including the enhancement and placement of recycling infrastructure in the Lakes Basin and at key park locations in Mammoth Lakes, such as the Whitmore Recreation Area and Shady Rest Park.

Recyclable materials make up a large percentage of the waste produced in our residential complexes and businesses," stated Brian Robinette, owner of SCP. "These community-based programs aim to divert recyclable materials from our local landfill, while also educate our residents and visitors on the need for convenient recycling programs. We are confident that by providing start-up infrastructure for these complexes and businesses it will help make program implementation affordable and reduce the environmental impacts of each resident and guest," said Robinette.

To register for the Condominium Recycling Program, please visit www.recyclesierra.com or www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

For additional information on the **Condominium and Business Recycling Program**, please contact Sierra Conservation Project at (760) 914 0115 or e-mail Brian@recyclesierra.com.

Protect Your Children... Child Seats Save Lives!

California Highway Patrol Bridgeport Area officers participated in the Health and Safety Fair's held in Lee Vining and Bridgeport, California today. Between the two locations, the officers checked five child safety seats. During child safety seat checks, officers make sure the seat is installed properly, is the appropriate size for the child, is free of defects and has not been recalled. The California Highway Patrol receives specialized training and funding for this program through a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The goal is to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries in collisions in which victims did not use, or improperly used their vehicle occupant restraint systems.

Many people are unaware of the recent child seat safety laws. Current California law states each child SHALL be properly restrained in a child safety seat, booster seat or other restraint system in the back seat, until the child is 8 years old OR at least 4 foot 9 inches in height.

Exceptions are:

- There is no rear seat.
- The rear seats are side-facing jump seats.
- The child passenger restraint system (CPRS) cannot be installed properly in the rear seat.
- All rear seats are already occupied by children under the age of 12 years.
- Medical reasons require that the child not ride in the rear seat. The court may require satisfactory proof of the child's medical condition.

Additionally, the law states that a child may not ride in the front seat of a motor vehicle with an active passenger air bag if the child is: under one year of age, weighs less than 20 pounds, or is riding rear-facing in a CPRS. Refer to: www.chp.ca.gov or contact your local California Highway Patrol (CHP) office for more information and/or assistance with the installation of your child safety seat.

Would You Leave A Loaded Gun on the Floor?

If you have children in your home, hopefully you would not! However, a new threat to the health of our children is emerging. These are e-liquids, sold legally in stores and online in small bottles that may be carelessly and casually left around the house, used for the regular re-filling of e-cigarettes.

The danger is from the nicotine content in these vials of "juice". Children can happen upon a vial and ingest it. These fluids come in flavors and bright colors that are attractive for kids – cotton candy, cherry, chocolate, and bubble gum among others. In addition, nicotine is absorbed through the skin, presenting a risk from a broken vial.

Electronic cigarettes, called e-cigarettes, are drug delivery devices originally designed to look like regular tobacco cigarettes. Now they are larger reusable gadgets that can be refilled with liquid, generally a mixture of nicotine, flavorings, and solvents. It is estimated that roughly four million Americans use these battery powered devices. They have been hailed by proponents as a way for addicted smokers to get their nicotine fix without sucking in the thousands of carcinogens found in traditional cigarettes.

However, the evidence of their effectiveness in assisting persons in weaning off their nicotine addiction is less than stellar. In addition, evidence is rapidly mounting that they are serving as a "gateway" for young teens into the world of nicotine addiction. A recent study found nearly 1.8 million youth had tried e-cigarettes, and the number of middle and high school e-smokers doubled in one year. No wonder the industry targets the young who will be potential customers for decades to come! Their goal – to have the number of e-smokers quadruple in the next few years.

So how bad is the risk of exposure? Nicotine is a naturally occurring powerful neurotoxin, and in its potent liquid form, can be ingested or absorbed through the skin. Tiny amounts can cause vomiting, seizures, and even death. A teaspoon of even the highly diluted liquid can kill a small child.

A dose of 50 to 60 milligrams (mg) is potentially fatal for an adult; a 30 pound child could die from 1.36 mg. A vial of e-juice as commonly sold in retail stores is 17

milliliters, and with a 2.4% concentration would have 408 mg of nicotine. This year it is estimated that 1 to 2 million LITERS of liquid will be sold, much of it on the Internet. A liter of 10% concentration costs about \$110, a gallon \$195, and one company even offers a 55 gallon drum!

Nationwide, reports of accidental poisonings linked to e-liquids in 2013 jumped 300% from 2012, and is on pace to double again this year. Most cases are under the age of 4. A shop owner says that "We tell them that this stuff is poisonous. We do everything we can to protect the consumers, but at the end of the day, you leave a loaded gun on the floor, and your child gets hold of it, it's not gonna be the gunmaker's responsibility." A CEO of e-cigarette franchises says "It's the wild, wild west right now." There is no FDA regulation so far. So at the moment, if you are a user, your child has to go no farther than your own home to find a lethal dose of poison. Be aware of the risks, and keep vials out of reach. You are responsible for the safety of your children.

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.

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.