



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town News

Town e-News – Week of May 26, 2014

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – June 4

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2014 in Suite Z. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

June Commission/Committee Meetings

- June 3 Election Day – get out and vote!
- June 10 Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 2:00 p.m.
- June 11 Planning and Economic Development Commission, Suite Z, 2:00 p.m.

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.

Mammoth Lakes Police Department Weekly Report

Calls For Service/Officer Observations

90, including 0 business/building checks

Crime/Incident Reports

22 reports, including 8 arrests

Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions

16 stops; 5 citations; 4 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 2 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

0 incidents; 1 report

Wildlife

1 call; 1 report

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Total Average Reported Projected Occupancies are as follows:

- Friday, May 23, 2014 = 46%
- Saturday, May 24, 2014 = 59%

(55% same weekend in 2013, down in 2014)

- Sunday, May 25, 2014 = 50%
- Monday, May 26, 2014 = 18%
- Tuesday, May 27, 2014 = 17%
- Wednesday, May 28, 2014 = 16%
- Thursday, May 29, 2014 = 17%

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

Hotels/Motels/B&B:

- Friday-Saturday = 68%
- Sunday-Thursday = 31%

Condos:

- Friday-Saturday = 35%
- Sunday-Thursday = 15%

Outlook for the following weekend:

Friday, May 30, 2014 = 27%

Saturday, May 31, 2014 = 25%

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

Reds Meadow Road to Open May 23

The Reds Meadow Road will open on Friday, May 23, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. This weeks' weather has hampered crew efforts to patch potholes and make repairs to water and sewer systems. Crews may have to continue this work in the following week; however the road will be open this weekend.

The Reds Meadow area is a popular recreation destination for visitors and locals alike and provides access to the Devils Postpile National Monument, trailheads that access the John Muir Trail and destinations such as Agnew Meadow, Thousand Island Lakes, Rainbow Falls, and the Minarets. Fishing, camping, horseback riding, and the Reds Meadow Resort are also popular with visitors.

Employees with the Inyo National Forest and Devils Postpile National Monument have been working to clear snow and trees from roads, trails, and campgrounds as well as repairing potholes, and ensuring that water and sewer systems are in working order.

The Devils Postpile National Monument will open with the opening of the road. Potable water and flush toilets will be available.

Camping opportunities will be available in the Reds Meadow Valley through the US Forest Service. Devils Postpile Campground is anticipated to open on June 20 and be open until early to mid September.

The mandatory Reds Meadow Shuttle Bus will run for Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting. Only exception vehicles will be allowed to drive into the Reds Meadow Valley.

After Memorial Day weekend, the mandatory shuttle bus will not resume operation until June 14.

The roads in the Reds Meadow Valley are narrow and visibility is limited. All vehicles should use caution on both the Reds Meadow and Devils Postpile roads. For more information about Devils Postpile National Monument, visit nps.gov/depo, or contact Devils Postpile at 760-934-2289 or at depo_visitor_information@nps.gov.

Hayden Cabin/Mammoth Museum Opens May 23

Mammoth's historic museum opens to the public on Friday, May 23, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. The Hayden Cabin is located at 5489 Sherwin Creek Road, and will be open daily from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Memorial Weekend through the end of September. Cost to visit is free though donations and memberships encouraged.

The Hayden Cabin/Mammoth Museum is housed in the original 1920's log cabin built by Emmet Hayden, map maker of the Eastern Sierra. It contains many artifacts from that period as well as historic photographs and displays. The museum is located in a park-like setting beside the meandering waters of Mammoth Creek. This is the perfect spot to enjoy a picnic and reflect on times past when the pace of life was just a little slower. Call (760) 934-6918 or visit www.mammothmuseum.org for additional information.

Celebrating Federal Lands, Wilderness Act 50th at Bishop Mule Days

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), and the US Forest Service are attending Bishop Mule Days to share the opportunities that federal lands offer for residents and visitors.

One of the many attractions of Bishop, the Eastern Sierra, and the environs is the multitude of recreational opportunities on public land that attract visitors worldwide. Employees from the Bishop Field Office, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Death Valley National Park, and Inyo National Forest will be staffing booths at the fair grounds to highlight some of the special features of these lands. Among the activities:

- Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The Eastern Sierra is home to premier Wilderness areas that attract backpackers, hikers, packers, and mountaineers to experience the rugged beauty, solitude, and adventure in these mountain and desert areas.
- Participate in activities that teach children and adults alike about how to be responsible stewards of public lands through Leave No Trace methods as well as understanding the skills required to care for and pack stock animals. The Inyo National Forest is a Region 5 Pack Stock Center of Excellence that is dedicated to maintaining the traditional role of pack stock on federal lands and passing this skill onto the next generation.
- Smokey Bear and the Inyo National Forest's fire prevention staff will be on hand to help you be safe with fire both at home and on camping trips.
- WildCorps crew members from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and BLM's Seymour Pronghorn will share ways to enjoy BLM lands in the eastern Sierra.
- Rangers from Death Valley National Park and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks will have activities highlighting the various species of wildlife that are found in the parks. Some of the species that will be featured are owls and bighorn sheep. Often people think they can identify animals by their tracks. Stop by the NPS booth to test your skills.

Come visit the booths at the fairgrounds to learn a little more about your public lands and the opportunities they provide, including family friendly activities such as picnicking, fishing, and short hikes, to encourage children of all ages to explore the great outdoors.

Sierra Club Activities in May

Sunday May 25: Destination TBD. Meet at Mammoth Lakes Union Bank parking lot at 10am. Info Mary K mkp@npgcable.com

Field Trip, May 27, 28 & 29. Central Nevada including Berlin Ichtyosaurus State Park, Buffalo Middle Miocene Plant Fossil collecting, New Pass mine tour, Bull Canyon Middle Triassic ammonite fossil collecting. Camp at New Pass Mine or stay in nearby motel. Contact Brigitte for arrangements. jungberman@mac.com

June Mountain Ski Area Test Well Project

The Inyo National Forest has received a proposal from June Mountain Ski Area (JMSA) to drill three or four test wells at JMSA for snowmaking for ski trails.

The purpose of this initial phase of the project is to drill test wells with the objective of locating groundwater in sufficient quantity to support additional snowmaking at

mid-elevation and upper mountain ski trails. This initial phase of the project only involves drilling the test wells and performing pump tests.

Three of the test wells are located in the vicinity of the base of chair lifts 4 and 7. A fourth test well would be located near the base area building and parking lot.

NEPA analysis for this proposal is expected to be a Categorical Exclusion. If sufficient water is located to justify a "production well", a separate NEPA analysis would be initiated and would include an additional opportunity to provide comments. That analysis would include a new hydrologic analysis to be contracted by the proponent. If you are interested in this proposal and would like to learn more about this project or if you would like to provide input for the "test well" project analysis, please submit your comments to project lead Rod Wilson by June 15, 2014. You will then be included on a project mailing list and will receive future information related to this project.

Contact Mr. Wilson by email at rmwilson@fs.fed.us, by phone at (760) 924-5518, or send comments by mail to Rod Wilson, Mammoth Ranger District, Inyo National Forest, P.O. Box 148, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

Pavement Rehabilitation Project on US Hwy 395 - 12 miles North of Lee Vining

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is beginning a project to rehabilitate the pavement on Highway 395, 12 miles north of Lee Vining. This \$2.282 million dollar project will rehabilitate the roadway using a process called cold-in-place recycling, which mills the existing asphalt concrete pavement, combines it with new emulsifiers, and places it back on the roadway. Once it is placed, a final thin overlay of new hot mix asphalt is applied. This process reduces the impacts of paving by reusing existing materials, reducing trucking, and limiting the greenhouse gas emissions for material production and construction while still creating a quality, long-life roadway.

Construction is scheduled to begin the week of June 2nd, 2014, and to be completed in July 2014, contingent on weather conditions. Working hours will be Monday through Thursday from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Fridays from 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The traveling public is advised that during daylight hours, there will be various lane closures with flaggers guiding traffic. Anticipated delays are less than 20 minutes.

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

Firewood Available in the Reds Meadow Valley

The Inyo National Forest announces a special opportunity for personal use fuelwood collection in the Reds Meadow Valley for the dates of May 28 thru June 11, 2014. This is a one-time event for these 14 days only, which will be supervised by U.S. Forest Service personnel.

The Reds Meadow visitor fee will be waived for firewood collection with a valid 2014 personal use fuelwood cutting permit and tags during this two week period. Permittees will be required to check-in and check-out at the Minaret Vista during business hours to validate compliance with wood cutting regulations.

You must have a valid 2014 personal use fuelwood permit to collect dead and down material only. Permittees will be required to park along the shoulder of established

roads during collecting activities, and will not be permitted to drive off-road for firewood retrieval.

Firewood gathering will be permitted throughout the valley except as follows: no firewood cutting will be allowed within Reds Meadow Resort & Pack Station, Agnew Meadow Pack Station, and Devils Postpile National Monument Boundaries. Fuelwood gathering from existing burn piles is prohibited. All other wood cutting regulations are in effect.

Fuelwood permits may be purchased at local Forest Service Ranger Stations and Visitor Centers. Fuelwood permits are \$15.00 per cord with a two cord minimum purchase. The Inyo National Forest will institute shut down days (for chainsaw use) based upon daily Project Activity Levels. Permit holders can call (760) 873-2555 for information on shut down days.

Fuelwood permits may be obtained at the following locations:

- Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center in Lee Vining; (760) 647-3044
- Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center in Mammoth Lakes; (760) 924-5500
- White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop; (760) 873-2500
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Please call ahead for current business hours.

MONO COUNTY HEALTH ALERT: MERS coronavirus

E-MERS-gency? Not yet!

Ongoing investigation of the first imported case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection in the United States has identified evidence of apparent past MERS-CoV infection in an Illinois man who had close contact with the Indiana MERS patient. The Illinois resident did not seek or require medical care. However, local health officials have monitored his health daily since May 3 as part of the investigation. At this time, the Illinois resident is reported to be feeling well.

The previously reported Indiana MERS patient is a U.S. resident who had traveled from Saudi Arabia and was admitted to an Indiana hospital on April 28; the patient was confirmed to have MERS on May 2, and has since been released from the hospital.

For the Illinois resident, laboratory test results showing apparent past MERS-CoV infection were reported late night on May 16. CDC officials explained that these laboratory test results are preliminary and suggest that the Illinois resident probably got the virus from the Indiana patient and the person's body developed antibodies to fight the virus. There are two main ways to determine if a person is or has been infected with MERS-CoV. We can collect a respiratory sample and use a test called PCR to determine if a person has active infection with the virus. Or we can do a blood test that looks for antibodies to MERS-CoV that would indicate a person had previously been infected with MERS-CoV.

"This latest development does not change CDC's current recommendations to prevent the spread of MERS," said David Swerdlow, M.D., who is leading CDC's MERS-CoV response. "It's possible that as the investigation continues others may also test positive for MERS-CoV infection but not get sick. Along with state and local health experts, CDC will investigate those initial cases and if new information is learned that requires us to change our prevention recommendations, we can do so."

The Illinois resident has no recent history of travel outside the United States. He met with the Indiana patient on two occasions shortly before the patient was identified as having MERS-CoV infection. As part of the MERS follow-up investigation, the local health department in Illinois contacted the Illinois resident on May 3. The health department first tested this person for active MERS-CoV infection on May 5. Those test results were negative. Public health officials are collecting blood samples from people who were identified as close contacts of the Indiana patient. On May 16, the test result was positive for the Illinois resident, showing that he has antibodies to MERS-CoV.

Reports of the first two confirmed imported cases of MERS in the United States – the first in Indiana on May 2, and the second in Florida on May 11 – have resulted in large-scale multistate investigations and responses aimed at minimizing the risk of spread of the virus. As part of this effort, public health officials are reaching out to healthcare professionals, family members, and others who had close contact with the patients to provide guidance about monitoring their health and recommendations about when to see a healthcare provider for an evaluation. Public health officials also are working with airlines to identify and notify U.S. travelers who may have been exposed to the patient on any of the flights. Efforts are now under way to identify, notify, test, and monitor close contacts of the Illinois resident.

All reported cases of MERS have been linked to countries in and near the Arabian Peninsula. In some instances, the virus has spread from person to person through close contact. However, there is currently no evidence of sustained spread of MERS-CoV in community settings.

At this time, CDC's recommendations to the public, travelers, and healthcare providers have not changed on the basis of this new information.

- For the general public: While experts do not yet know exactly how this virus is spread, CDC routinely advises that people help protect themselves from respiratory illnesses by taking everyday preventive actions like washing their hands often; avoiding touching their face with unwashed hands; avoiding contact with people who appear sick; and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.
- For travelers: CDC currently does not recommend that anyone change their travel plans. If you are traveling to countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula, CDC recommends that you pay attention to your health during and after your trip. The CDC travel notice for MERS-CoV was upgraded to a level 2 alert. The travel notice advises people traveling to the Arabian Peninsula for health care work to follow CDC's recommendations for infection control, and other travelers to the Arabian Peninsula to take general steps to protect their health.
- Healthcare professionals should evaluate patients for MERS-CoV infection who have
 - (A) a fever and pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome, and either a history of travel from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula within 14 days before symptom onset, or have had close contact with a symptomatic traveler who developed fever and acute respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia) within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula, or
 - are part of a cluster of patients with severe acute respiratory illness of unknown etiology in which MERS-CoV is being evaluated;
 - (B) or anyone who has had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of MERS while the person was ill, in consultation with state and local health departments.

Background: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus is a virus that is new to humans and was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. As of May 16, there have been 572 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS in 15 countries. Most of these people developed severe acute respiratory illness, with fever, cough, and shortness of breath; 173 people died. Officials do not know where the virus came from or exactly how it spreads. There is no available vaccine or specific treatment recommended for the virus.

For more information about MERS-CoV, please visit:

- Middle East Respiratory Syndrome: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/index.html>
- Frequently Asked MERS Questions and Answers: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/faq.html>

USFS Forest Plan Revisions Continue – June 19

The U.S. Forest Service will host a series of public workshops for forest plan revisions on the Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests. The meetings were originally scheduled for April 7, 8 and 10.

These workshops follow those 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 Conditions.

"The public and our partners asked for more time to understand and engage with us on the Need to Change and we listened," said Regional Forester Randy Moore. "We are committed to ensuring that the public remains engaged as we move forward with revising these three forest plans."

The public is welcome at any of the three upcoming workshops:

- Sierra National Forest: Monday, June 16, 2014
Holiday Inn Fresno Airport, 5090 E. Clinton Way, Fresno, CA
- Sequoia National Forest : Tuesday, June 17, 2014
Woodrow W. Wallace Elementary School, 3240 Erskine Creek Rd., Lake Isabella, CA
- Inyo National Forest: Thursday, June 19, 2014
Cerro Coso Community College, Eastern Sierra College Center, 4090 W. Line Street, Bishop, CA

Each workshop will be held from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. with presentations by Forest Service staff. The public will have time to visit topic-specific stations and to talk with Forest Service staff. Additionally, the public is invited to bring an 8 ½ x 11 inch copy of a photo depicting Forest Service lands they have strong feelings about. This photo may be recent or historic. Photos will be shared at the "Desired Conditions" station and the public should be able to answer the following questions regarding their photos:

- Where was the photo taken?
- When was the photo taken?
- What do you like about this place?
- Does this picture need to change? If so, how and when should this happen?

For more information regarding forest plan revisions visit the Pacific Southwest Region's [planning website](#) at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/landmanagement/planning>. Pertinent information for the June workshops will be posted there prior to the meetings.

For forest-specific information, please contact that forest directly:

- Sierra NF: Dirk Charley at 559-297-0706, extension 4805 or dcharley@fs.fed.us
- Sequoia NF: Maria Ulloa at 559-784-1500 or mtulloa@fs.fed.us
- Inyo NF: Deb Schweizer at 760-873-2427 or debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us

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.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if special assistance to participate in this meeting is needed, please contact the appropriate National Forest. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Forest Service to make reasonable arrangements.

Reconstruction of Rock Creek Road Underway

Major reconstruction on the Rock Creek Road has started and is planned for the duration of the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

Survey work, fencing, and erosion work have been completed thus far with minimal delays. Ground breaking activities that will reduce traffic flow to one-lane are expected to start the week of May 12 and will begin the longer (up to 30 minute) delays.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is overseeing the project that will improve the road, widen it, and provide a bicycle lane along a nine-mile stretch between the Rock Creek Pack Station and Crowley Lake Drive.

This year, re-building of utilities and culverts is planned. Additionally, the reconstruction will begin along the upper part of the project (near the Rock Creek Pack Station).

While the road will remain open to traffic throughout the project, visitors may experience delays of up to 30 minutes. Additionally, at certain times, the road may need to be closed for longer periods of time, Monday through Friday. These closures will be planned approximately two weeks in advance so that recreationalists can plan their visit.

Parking will be extremely limited in the canyon and prohibited within the active construction zone. This includes trailhead parking areas for the Hilton Lake trailhead. Please carpool if possible. When roadside parking, ensure that your vehicle is entirely off pavement. Construction will be suspended for Memorial Day weekend, the Independence Day holiday, and Labor Day weekend in order to minimize delays.

Recreation Department Highlights

Lap Swimming at Whitmore is Underway!

The 2014 swim season for Whitmore Pool is underway with Lap Swim commencing on Monday, May 19, 2014 and will run through Friday September 5, 2014. Lap Swim is offered five mornings a week, Monday through Friday from 6:30 - 8:30 am. Cost is \$4.75 for drop-in, season passes: \$130, or a 5-punch card for only \$22. Reduced senior (65+) rates are \$3 for drop-in and \$14 for 5-punch cards.

The Whitmore Pool opens to the public for recreation swimming and a FREE swim day on Saturday, June 21, 2014. Beginning on Monday, June 23, midweek transit service to the Whitmore Pool will commence. To celebrate this expanded service, a promotional 10-ride Punch Pass will be offered for only \$10 (\$2.00 round trip). Regular, one-way fee is \$3.00 for adults and only \$2.50 for children. For additional information please visit ESTA at www.estransit.com or call (760) 924-3184.

Children's Yoga at The Community Center

Children's yoga is healthy fun. It will help your child focus and relax while developing strength, coordination, and movement skills. Instructor Desiree Federman encourages all children ages 4 and up to join her in this supportive class environment. Class meets Wednesday mornings in the Mammoth Lakes Community Center from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., on June 18, 25, and July 2, 2014. Cost is only \$10/class, drop-ins 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 x234. Volunteer parent helpers welcome. Sign up online at www.mammothrecreation.com

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.

Register for Challenger Sports Soccer Camps!

The Mammoth Lakes British Soccer Camp is almost 7-weeks away. This means you have 7-days to register for the camp and receive your British Soccer Jersey! Sign up online for Challenger Sports British Soccer Camp running July 14-18 in Mammoth by Friday, June 30th to receive your FREE British Soccer Jersey. The Tetra Brazil Academy Camp is also August 11-15. For more details contact Lee Dunne at 916-596-1664 or sign up by clicking: www.challengersports.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. & 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.

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

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.

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>

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.