



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**  
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## **Town News**

### **Town e-News: Week of March 2 2015**

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

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##### **Town Council Meeting – March 4**

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2015 in Suite Z beginning at 6:00 p.m. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

##### **Recreation Commission Meeting Change**

On February 3, 2015 the Recreation Commission by motion changed their regular monthly meeting time to 9:00 a.m. (previously 2:00 p.m.) and now meets on the first Tuesday of every month in Suite Z. For additional information regarding the Recreation Commission please visit: [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

##### **Round Fire Recovery Information**

On Friday, February 6, 2015 at approximately 2:07 p.m. a fire started on the westside of HWY 395 at the Sherwin Grade. Gusty and erratic winds boosted the fire and within a matter of hours the fire swept through the communities of Paradise and Swall Meadows destroying 40 residence & outbuildings with additional damage to five residences.

CAL FIRE from San Bernardino were the lead response agency and were supported by the USFS, BLM, Wheeler Crest Fire Dept., Paradise Fire Dept., MLFD, Long Valley, Inyo and Mono County Sheriff, CHP, Cal Trans, and Cal OES. Over 250 fire personnel responded to the fire including 20 engines, one helicopter, four dozers and two water tenders.

As of February 11, 2015, 7,000 acres were burned and containment is at 98%. All evacuations have been lifted and the repopulation for Paradise and Swall Meadows residents began on Monday at 4:00 p.m.

During the fire a large portion of Verizon's infrastructure was damaged resulting in a loss of wireless and internet service to Mammoth Lakes. Thanks to the hardworking Verizon crews, cell and internet service was restored to both Bishop and Mammoth Lakes on February 9, 2015.

Consider helping those in need who lost everything in the fire by making a donation online at <http://www.gofundme.com/roundfirerelief>. Funds donated through the

gofundme page will be deposited in an account at Alta One in Bishop. The account will be held by the Bishop Chamber of Commerce. Every amount, no matter how big or how small, will help our friends, neighbors and community get back on their feet. Over \$ 54,912 has been generously donated so far.

### **Round Fire Recovery Recourses**

Cal OES has invited representatives from the Department of Insurance, State Contractor's License Board, Franchise Tax Board, Department of Motor Vehicles, Board of Equalization, and Public Health Vital Record to be at the Crowley Lake Community Center located at 458 S. Landing Road, Crowley Lake, CA 93546 beginning Thursday, February 12 through Sunday, February 15, 2015. Hours of operations will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Any changes or updates to the days and hours of operations for the Local Assistance Center will be posted to the Mono County website at <https://gis.mono.ca.gov/roundfire/#/>. For additional information, please contact Cathy Young, Mono County Emergency Shelter Coordinator County of Mono Department of Social Services at (760) 924-1780.

For up to the date information on the Round Fire, including local assistance and grief support resources provided by the American Red Cross at the Crowley Lake Community Center and the Salvation Army at the Tri County Fairgrounds please visit: <https://gis.mono.ca.gov/roundfire/#/>.

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer: Mono County Sheriff's Office at (760) 616-4428, or Stuart Brown Recreation Manager and Public Information Officer for the Town of Mammoth Lakes at [sbrown@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](mailto:sbrown@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov) or (760) 709-2481.

### **TOWN HALL MEETING: Mammoth Lakes Police-Community Hispanic Advisory Committee – March 19**

The Mammoth Lakes Police-Community Hispanic Advisory Committee (MLPCHAC) has scheduled its ninth Town Hall meeting for Thursday, March 19th at 5:00 pm in the Emerald Room at the Grand Sierra Lodge, 1111 Forest Trail. Refreshments, child care, and interpreters will be provided.

Speakers at the Town Hall will include representatives from the following:

- Members of the Mexican Consulate
- Immigration Attorney Lazaro Salazar

The goal for the evening so to provide information about President Obama's Executive Orders on deferred action for undocumented children and for undocumented parents and how to avoid scams related to deferred action applications.

Food, child care, and interpreters will be provided. Questions can be asked confidentially.

The MLPCHAC was formed in early 2011 to improve relations with between the local Hispanic community and law enforcement. It has the following Mission Statement:

It is the Mission of the Mammoth Lakes Police-Community Hispanic Advisory Committee to build a bridge of communication and understanding between law enforcement and the Hispanic community to improve relations and trust in each other through education and cultural collaboration while improving the quality of life for all residents.

## **TV 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](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

## **Projected Average Resort Occupancy**

Total Average Reported Projected Occupancies are as follows:

- Friday, February 27, 2015 = 76%
  - Saturday, February 28, 2015 = 78%
- (66% same weekend in 2014, up in 2015)
- Sunday, March 1, 2015 = 51%
  - Monday, March 2, 2015 = 40%
  - Tuesday, March 3, 2015 = 39%
  - Wednesday, March 4, 2015 = 38%
  - Thursday, March 5, 2015 = 46%
- (24% same midweek in 2014, up in 2015)

Hotels/Motels/B&B:

- Friday-Saturday = 91%
- Sunday-Thursday = 52%

Condos:

- Friday-Saturday = 59%
- Sunday-Thursday = 31%

Outlook for the following weekend:

- Friday, March 6, 2015 = 67%
- Saturday, March 7, 2015 = 67%

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.

## **Mammoth Lakes Police Department Weekly Report**

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

138, including 1 business/building check

### **Crime/Incident Reports**

15 reports, including 6 arrests

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

62 stops; 18 citations; 4 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 0 collisions

### **Animal Control Incidents**

1 incident; 0 reports

### **Wildlife**

2 calls; 0 reports

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## **Community News**

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### **Lakes Basin Planning Meetings – March 2 & 13**

Things are "happening" up in the Mammoth Lakes Basin, so it's time to get folks together and review the latest developments. Two items concerning planning and possible construction efforts are scheduled for the [Town Council's agenda next Wednesday, March 4](#), and two Mammoth Trails meetings have been scheduled to review the relevant items and to prepare comments for a NEPA process initiated by the USFS that are due on March 17. Here are the details:

- Monday, March 2 at 10:00 AM at the Mammoth Lakes Library
- Friday, March 13 at 10:30 AM at the Mammoth Lakes Library

#### LAKES BASIN SPECIAL STUDY (LABSS)

[Mammoth Lakes Recreation \(MLR\)](#) - at their February 23, 2015 meeting - took action to recommend that the Town Council consider acceptance of two documents from [LABSS, aka the Lakes Basin Special Study](#). The two documents include the "[LABSS Preliminary Management Concepts](#)" and the "[LABSS Executive Summary](#)". MLR is recommending that the Town Council consider accepting these two documents as "reference and informational documents" for the Town. Town staff is also recommending that the Town Council include the "Lake Mary Loop Road Multimodal Transportation Concept Alternatives Evaluation".

#### NEW MULTI-USE-PATHS TO LAKE GEORGE

[On Feb 12, the United States Forest Service \(USFS\) announced a formal NEPA process for building new Multi-Use-Paths \(MUPS\) up in the Mammoth Lakes Basin.](#) The project is referred to by the USFS as the "Mammoth Lakes Basin Bike Path Construction Project" which they describe as follows: "This project proposes to issue the Town of Mammoth Lake a special use permit to construct and maintain 0.75 miles of paved multiple-use path to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle access in the Mammoth Lakes Basin. The new, paved path would travel from the Pokenobe

intersection of Lake Mary Road, across the Lake Mary outlet, up to the Lake George parking area, and would include a short spur to connect users back to the Lake Mary Road." [Download and review all of the USFS documentation here](#), including the scoping letter from District Ranger Jon Regelbrugge and detailed project maps from the USFS.

#### MEETING DETAILS

- Monday, March 2: 10:00 AM at the Mammoth Lakes Library  
Preparation for Town Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 4.  
Special presentation by Grady Dutton, the Town's Public Works Director, on the proposed "[Mammoth Lakes Basin Bike Path Construction Project](#)" and other efforts up in the Mammoth Lakes Basin that the USFS has started to analyze under NEPA.  
[Review of LABSS documents](#) that will be considered by the Town Council for acceptance as "reference and informational documents"
- Friday, March 13: 10:30 AM at the Mammoth Lakes Library  
Final comments on the "Mammoth Lakes Basin Bike Path Construction Project" for USFS NEPA process. Review of proposed "[Mammoth Lakes Basin Bike Path Construction Project](#)" in the Mammoth Lakes Basin. Drafting of Final Comments on USFS scoping letter for proposed new MUP projects. Comments are due by Monday, March 17.

#### **Tahoe Adventure Film Festival returns to Edison Theatre March 6/7**

Designed to capture the intensity and passion of extreme sports, the Tahoe Adventure Film Festival is a perfect summary of outdoor culture. Films cover the full spectrum of adventure including skiing, snowboarding, kayaking, rock climbing, surfing, skating, mountain biking, BASE jumping and other heart-pounding sports. Many of the segments are special edits, including previews of films that have not yet been released. Featuring at the Edison Theatre on Friday & Saturday, March 6 & 7 at 7:00 p.m. Buy your tickets online at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/759473>.

#### **Friends of the Inyo: Wildflowers of Short Canyon – March 7**

Join Friends of the Inyo and the Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for a wildflower exploration of Short Canyon, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern at the edge of the Owens Peak Wilderness on Saturday, March 7, 2015. We will be taking advantage of spring to catch a glimpse of some of the nearly 300 species of plants that have been described in this canyon. Meet at the Short Canyon trailhead parking lot at 9am. For questions or to carpool from the junction of Highways 395 and 14, email [jora@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:jora@friendsoftheinyo.org) or call 760-873-6500. More information is also available at [www.friendsoftheinyo.org](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org).

#### **Open House to Solicit Comments for Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Applications – March 12**

The public is invited to an informal open house to review Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) grant applications for the Inyo National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bishop Field Office.

The agencies have submitted preliminary applications for grant funds from the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division to enhance and manage motorized recreation. The agencies invite comments on the preliminary grant applications.

The two agencies will hold an informal open house on Thursday, March 12 from 4:00 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service and BLM office located behind the Department of Motor Vehicles at 351 Pacu Lane in Bishop. You may drop in any time during those two hours to review and discuss the grant applications. Representatives from the two agencies will be there to answer questions and receive or facilitate comments on changes, concerns and support for the final grant applications, which will be submitted by May 4, 2015.

These and all other applicants' grant requests, as well as detailed instructions about the process and how to comment can be viewed from March 3 until April 6 on the OHMVR website at [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/). Comments can be submitted directly through the division website and/or sent directly to the responsible agency. Comments must be received by April 6, 2015.

For more information or to provide your comments through other means, please call Inyo National Forest Trails Coordinator, Marty Hornick at (760) 873-2461 or [mhornick@fs.fed.us](mailto:mhornick@fs.fed.us); or BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner Rich Williams at (760) 872-5033 or [rdwillia@blm.gov](mailto:rdwillia@blm.gov)

### **FREE 39th Annual Village Championships Begin March 17**

We are going to give Mother Nature a little more time to add to our fabulous Fascination race arena's snow pack. With that said the VC's will start Tuesday, March 17, 2015. Races will be held for four consecutive weeks (March 17, 24, 31 & April 7).

And the best news...race the VC's for FREE this season! So tell your friends, get your team together and get fired up for some fun. Questions? Please call the (760)934-0642 or stop by the Race Department office.

### **Wings Of Change: Friends Of The Inyo To Celebrate First-Ever Owens Lake Bird Festival April 24/25, 2015**

Each year in spring and fall Owens Lake, at the terminus of the Owens River near Lone Pine, CA, supports hundreds of thousands of shorebirds during their annual migrations between continents. Dried by drastic diversions to bring water to the people of Los Angeles, today dust mitigation and restoration efforts have returned water, creating habitat and attracting birds to the lake once again. Designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society in 2001, it is the largest and richest wildlife area in Inyo County.

This April, Friends of the Inyo invites all birders and lovers of wildlife to celebrate the spring migration during the Owens Lake Bird Festival, April 24th and 25th. In its first year, the Owens Lake Bird Festival promises to honor this extraordinary place and the huge migrating flocks of birds that depend on it for rest and nourishment. It will also celebrate the communities of the Southern Owens Valley and their ties, through the watershed, to Los Angeles.

The festival begins Friday evening with a reception at the Lone Pine Film History Museum featuring the Audubon-California's short film The Legacy of Owens Lake. On Saturday, expert guides will lead morning and afternoon field trips to Owens Lake with explorations for beginners through experts in bird identification, avian photography, a tour of the invertebrate food web, discussions of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Master Project (dust control and wildlife), and the wonders of migration. Lunch will include several short talks about the lake including 'Owens Lake Master Project' by Jeff Nordin of LADWP, 'Audubon's Important Bird

Areas' by Andrea Jones of Audubon-California, 'Why is that Lake Red?' by Dave Herbst, PhD of the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory, and 'The Magic and Wonder of Owens Lake' by influential friend of the lake, Michael Prather. The festival will close with a reception at the Interagency Visitor Center featuring the photography exhibit "The Owens Lake Project" by Robin Black.

"This will be a brand new bird festival in a spectacular, world-class location," promises organizer and speaker Michael Prather. "Birds from as far away as South America will be coming through to see us."

Friends of the Inyo is honored to be working with several supporters and partners to host the Owens Lake Bird Festival including The Metabolic Studio, Inyo County, Audubon- California, the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association, Eastern Sierra Audubon, and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power among others.

"Hosting the Owens Lake Bird Festival is a natural extension of our work to inspire people to care for and preserve the outstanding beauty, recreation opportunities, and natural resources of the Eastern Sierra's public lands," says Friends of the Inyo's Executive Director Laura Beardsley. "We're excited to kick off what we hope will become an annual festival."

**EVENT DETAILS:**

- Friday, April 24 through Saturday, April 25, 2015
- Tickets – \$35; Students – \$20; Children under 12 – free with an adult
- Registration includes evening receptions, a continental breakfast, lunch with inspiring speakers, and in-depth tours with expert guides.
- For more information or to register, visit [www.friendsoftheinyo.org/foiD7/owenslakefestival](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org/foiD7/owenslakefestival) or call (760) 873-6500.

**Inyo National Forest Seeking Comments on Mammoth Lakes Basin Bike Path Construction Project**

The Inyo National Forest is seeking comments for the Mammoth Lakes Basin Bike Path Construction Project. This project proposes to issue the Town of Mammoth Lake a special use permit to construct and maintain 0.75 miles of paved multiple-use path to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle access in the Mammoth Lakes Basin.

The new, paved path would travel from the Pokenobe intersection of Lake Mary Road, across the Lake Mary outlet, up to the Lake George parking area, and would include a short spur to connect users back to the Lake Mary Road.

To facilitate path construction and improve visitor safety, the forest proposes to authorize these additional actions:

- Realignment of approximately 1/16th of a mile of Lake Mary Road, north of the Lake Mary outlet.
- Relocation of 0.35 miles of soft-surfaced trails used under permit by Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit.
- Restoration of approximately one acre of user created trails.
- Placement of boulders, logs, and other obstacles along and adjacent to the newly constructed path and adjacent to the Lake George Road.
- Issuance of a ten-year special use permit to the Town of Mammoth Lakes to maintain public roads within the Mammoth Lakes Basin.

The proposed trail project has been designed and engineered to minimize tree removal, to avoid removal or impacts to any of the western white pine trees that

grow within the project area, and to avoid and mitigate other potential resource impacts.

For a full project description, maps of the proposed project, and information on how to submit comments, please visit this [webpage](#) or obtain copies at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, 2500 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes, CA.

Please direct questions and comments to Jon Kazmierski, District Recreation Officer, at 760-924-5503 or [jkazmierski@fs.fed.us](mailto:jkazmierski@fs.fed.us). To be most helpful, comments should be received by March 13, 2015.

### **Travel Analysis Process Underway**

The Inyo National Forest announces that the Travel Analysis Process (TAP) is underway. TAP is required by the 2005 Travel Management Rule and requires that forests provide a safe, financially, and environmentally sustainable road system that can realistically be maintained. Due to increased use, aging infrastructure, and decreasing budgets, the forest cannot maintain all roads to standards for safety and environmental protection. TAP fulfills the requirement in Subpart A of Travel Management that states each forest uses a science-based roads analysis to help identify the minimum road system.

The Inyo National Forest, as well as other national forests in the country, is required to complete TAP by September 30, 2015 to receive federally appropriated funds for its road system.

The purpose of the TAP is to inform future travel management decisions; it does not designate the minimum road system. TAP does not produce a decision, but rather a set of recommendations. Therefore National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is not required and the process is not subject to objection. It will not close roads, add roads to the system, or otherwise change the current road system.

However, TAP will be used to inform future planning regarding management of the forest's roads. Any proposals regarding the forest's system roads will be subject to more site-specific analysis and NEPA. TAP does not address unauthorized routes, and will not make any recommendations about adding new routes to the system.

Under TAP, the forest will determine the risks, benefits, and opportunities for every designated system road and identify possible changes or repairs to the road system. These may include safety, the cost of maintenance, recreational experience, or environmental impacts. The results will be shared in a Travel Analysis Report (TAR). To learn more, check out [this worksheet](#) that explains the process further.

There will be a public meeting in the upcoming weeks (more details will be available shortly) to share the results of the Draft TAR. We encourage anyone who uses roads, or benefits from a national forest, to share ideas for a sustainable road system.

TAP does not replace the decision made during Travel Management, Subpart B; which designated routes for the National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) for the Inyo National Forest. That process was subject to NEPA, and implementation of the 2009 Travel Management Decision is on-going. Rather, TAP will help to identify possible changes to the road system that was identified in Travel Management. The forest will also complete the over-snow component of the Travel Management Rule, Subpart C. This is anticipated in the upcoming year.



Travel Analysis and Forest Plan Revision are separate regulations and are not interdependent; however, the TAP should be consistent with the direction in the forest plan.

## **Recreation Department Highlights**

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### **Adult Coed Indoor Soccer League**

The Adult indoor soccer league is back at the MHS Gym every Sunday night. Games are scheduled between 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Visit [www.mammothrecreation.com](http://www.mammothrecreation.com) to review the schedule or to register call the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for additional information. Come and check out the championship games on Sunday, March 22, 2015.

### **FREE Instructional Basketball – Feb. 5**

Get your child ready for the sport of basketball. Parks and Recreation has a comprehensive basketball program for grades 1-5 giving your kids a solid foundation leading into Middle School. Instructional basketball is free for boys and girls in 1-2 grades. Kindergarteners are welcome also with a volunteering parent. Program will run from February 5 - March 19, 2015.

### **Adult Drop-in Basketball – March 29**

Join Coach Will and play some pick-up ball every Sunday night at the MHS gym from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Fee is only \$4.00 per session. Call the Recreation Dept. for information at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222.

### **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.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov), 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.

## **Upcoming & On-Going Events...**

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- On-going Mammoth Ice Rink OPEN

## Public Service Announcements

### **Town's Woodstove Replacement Program Still Open**

Limited funding is still available through the Town's Woodstove Replacement Program for heating system upgrades throughout Mammoth Lakes!

Property owners who would like to replace open fireplaces, woodstoves, or wood-burning inserts can still benefit from subsidies provided by the Town's program. Since September, more than 73 heating system replacements have been completed with funding from this Program, amounting to hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds annually of wood-smoke emissions being eliminated from Mammoth's air.

Following an agreement in early 2014 between the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Air District agencies, including the Town of Mammoth Lakes, received settlement funds specifically for local air pollution prevention projects. The Town chose to spend its funds on reducing smoke from wood-burning heating systems, because such an action would provide the most direct, and immediate, health and air quality benefits possible.

To qualify for program funding, an existing wood-burning system (open fireplace, woodstove, or wood insert) must be a building's primary heat source, it must be located within the Town, and it must fall under one of the following categories:

- 1) For properties purchased in 1990 or earlier\*, and currently relying on pre-1990 wood burning systems, \$1,500 may be available toward a new EPA Phase II wood-burning system, or \$2,000 for a new pellet stove or gas heating system.
- 2) For properties currently relying on post-1990 EPA Phase I or II-certified woodstoves (not pellet stoves), \$2,000 may be available toward a new, cleaner-burning pellet stove or gas heating system. This offer includes replacing EPA-compliant wood inserts that do not meet required clearances with pellet or gas systems.
- 3) For recently purchased properties\* that are required by Town Code 8.30 to replace a noncompliant wood-burning system, \$500 may be available for a new pellet or gas heating system if the Town permit is applied for within 90 days of property purchase. New wood-burning systems are not eligible.

\*Official documentation noting purchase date is required.

Allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis until all funding is exhausted, payments are made by the Town to participating retailers only, with remaining costs paid by property owners. All interested Mammoth Lakes property owners are encouraged to *immediately* contact one of the following participating retailers:

- Alpine Stove & Mercantile. Call (760) 934-4416
- Angelo's Stove & Chimney. Call (760) 937-0860
- Clean Sweep. Call (760) 934-3453
- High Country Lumber. Call (760) 873-5874 and ask to speak with Kim Jones
- Batchelder Enterprises for kerosene heating systems. Call (760) 873-3800

## **MLFD PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE: Weak Ice Conditions**

In the past two weeks there have been three incidents due to poor ice conditions within the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Two of the incidents involved humans while the other appears to have involved a bear. The emergency responders of Mammoth Lakes want to advise all visitors and locals that the ice conditions currently are questionable at best and to use extreme caution in and around all ice covered water bodies at this time.

While the ice may appear to look solid, the warm daytime temperatures have not permitted the ice to thicken to adequately support significant weight. As a result persons may obtain a false sense of security when looking at an ice covered lake and first venturing out onto the ice. Due to the lack of ice thickness, weak spots have resulted in the three incidents.

With the holidays quickly approaching, emergency responders want to ensure that the word is out there this may not be the year to venture out on ice covered lakes, at least not at this point in the winter season. Please be extra careful around our lakes and be very observant of children and pets. If you would like more information on this or any other fire safety related matter, please feel free to contact the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department at (760) 934-2300.

## **Winter Recreation on the Mammoth and Mono Lake Ranger Districts**

Winter has fallen upon the Inyo National Forest and the U.S. Forest Service would like to provide the following information to help visitors enjoy their national forests safely and responsibly.

Free Winter Maps! The Town of Mammoth Lakes and U.S. Forest have produced a new and free "Eastern Sierra Winter Recreation Map." Pick up your copy at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, obtain it online at [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo) or download to your mobile device using the "Avenza" map app ([www.pdf-maps.com](http://www.pdf-maps.com)). A waterproof version of the map can be purchased at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.

Know Before You Go! When pursuing outdoor winter activities in the mountains, the current conditions, the weather forecast, the terrain and geography that will be traveled, and the equipment needs of your journey must be given consideration. Even when visiting one of the maintained ski resorts, planning ahead, knowing what to expect, and being prepared will make your winter visit much more enjoyable. Anyone who may be traveling in potential avalanche terrain is encouraged to seek education and training resources, travel with a shovel, beacon, and probe and knowledge required to use these tools, and visit the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center website for the most recent information on snowpack and conditions [www.esavalanche.org](http://www.esavalanche.org).

*Play with Your Pet Responsibly* – Forest regulations require that all dogs travel on a leash in all developed recreation sites, including ALL groomed trails. Within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, all dogs must be on a leash. Dogs are prohibited on groomed trails in the Mammoth Lakes Basin and are required to be on leash if traveling through the Lakes Basin off groomed trails. Leaving pet waste behind on a groomed trail or in a developed recreation area is littering. Please remove all dog nuisances and deposit in the nearest trash receptacle. By doing so, you'll help improve water quality and make everyone else's recreation experience more enjoyable.

*Nordic Opportunities* – There are several areas where visitors can pursue Nordic recreation.

The Shady Rest Nordic Trails are open and being groomed, as long as the snowpack holds. All Nordic users should access the trail system by parking at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and using the trail portal in the Welcome Center Plaza. The Forest Service asks that Nordic users refrain from parking at Shady Rest Park, as the Park is a primary snowmobile staging area and parking is limited.

At this time, the Obsidian Dome trails do not have enough snow to allow for grooming, but are open and being used by skiers and snowshoers. Grooming will begin after the next significant snowfall.

The “Miracle Mile” from Mammoth Inn to Minaret Vista is open and groomed. Parking at the Main Lodge is limited and visitors are encouraged to ride the bus from town and to the Main Lodge.

Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center is open and offering rentals, lessons, tours, and concessions to its patrons. All users of the groomed trail system at Tamarack must be in possession of a valid ski pass. Users wanting to access the Mammoth Lakes Basin without a pass may travel on the un-groomed roads, trails, and forest.

*Snowmobiling* - The U.S. Forest Service is waiting for additional snow accumulations to begin grooming the California Department of Parks and Recreation funded snowmobile trail system. With a shallow, low density snowpack, snowmobilers should use caution and refrain from traveling in areas where snow depths are minimal or vegetation or soil may be damaged. Snowmobile users are responsible for knowing all regulations and understanding closure area boundaries. The Eastern Sierra Recreation Map is a helpful tool and all snowmobilers are encouraged to obtain and read a copy in advance of their snowmobile outing.

*Snowplay and other Winter Activities* – The only designated snowplay area on the national forest is Woolly’s Tube Park on Hwy 203 above the North Village, in route to Main Lodge. More information can be obtained at [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com). There are several areas on the national forest where visitors find it convenient and fun to play in the snow, although these sites are not maintained in any formal manner. Additional information is available at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and at [www.mammothtrails.org](http://www.mammothtrails.org).

Snow bikes or “fat tire bicycles” and all vehicles with wheels are prohibited from using groomed trails. Those wanting to ride bicycles on the snow may do so on any trail or road that is not maintained for Nordic skiing or snowmobiles and where bicycle riding is not otherwise prohibited.

The Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center is an excellent resource for winter recreation information, maps, and guidebooks. The Center is open daily from 8:00AM to 5:00PM and can be reached by phone at (760) 924-5500. The Inyo National Forest and Mammoth Lakes Trail System websites are also excellent sources of information. Visit [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo) and [www.mammothtrails.org](http://www.mammothtrails.org).

## **SNOW SMART WAYS YOU CAN MAKE WINTER A SAFER SEASON**

Mammoth Lakes receives some of the heaviest snowfall in California. The Town’s snow removal operators work diligently to ensure safe driving conditions for our residents and visitors. Our snow removal operators work around the clock in twelve-

hour shifts that may extend for weeks at a time. Priorities are established to consider which streets need to be cleared first in order to maintain emergency access and safe driving conditions throughout the town.

***Be Snow Smart by observing a few simple rules:***

**Child Safety**

- Keep children indoors while snow removal operations are under way.
- Children should not play in yards, build snow forts or dig caves near the road during snow removal operations.

**Pedestrian Safety**

- Don't watch snow removal operations from the edge of the road, and do not walk in-front of snow removal equipment.

**Back Off**

- While in your vehicle, it is recommended that you stay at least 50 feet behind snow removal equipment. Poor visibility makes it difficult for the operator to see you.
- Passing of a snowplow on the road should be done with extreme caution.

**Slow Down**

- Excessive speed is the major cause of traffic accidents during winter.
- When chain control conditions are in effect, the maximum speed limit throughout town is 25 mph.
- Black ice frequently forms in shady areas and at night on seemingly clear and dry roads; use extreme caution when driving at night throughout the winter months. Patience goes a long way!

**Protect Your Property**

- It is a violation of the Town of Mammoth Lakes municipal code to park on any roadway from November 1 through April 30.
- Park all vehicles, including boats and trailers, as far off the roadway as possible and inside the orange snow stakes
- Identify your vehicle's location with poles to keep it visible for snow removal operators.

**Light It Up**

- Leave the exterior lighting of your home on at night during winter storms. The lights are helpful to snow removal operators who may have poor visibility during storms and assists them in identifying the location of your driveway and home.
- Please identify the entrance to your driveway with reflective poles, placing them a minimum of 2ft. to the property side of the Town's orange snow stakes.

**Snow Storage**

- When clearing your driveway, do not place snow in the roadway or on the Town's snow storage easement (10ft.-wide area immediately abutting the pavement edge).
- All snow must be stored on your property.
- Please contact the Town of Mammoth Lakes if you require additional snow storage for your property.

**Got Questions?**

Call... do not try to stop or flag down the snow removal operators in their equipment as they are under instructions not to get out of their cabs while conducting snow removal operations. Instead, please call the Town of Mammoth Lakes:

- Todd Murphy, Maintenance Manager (760) 934-2422 x 23

### **Chain Restrictions**

- R-1: Chains are required on all vehicles under 6,000 pounds except those equipped with snow tires on the drive wheels. All vehicles over 6,000 pounds are required to place chains on the drive wheels.
- R-2: Chains are required on all vehicles except four-wheel drives equipped with snow tires on all four wheels.
- R-3: Chains are required on all vehicles without exception. Please be aware that these designations are for the safety of all and are enforced by public safety officers including our local Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mono County Sheriff and the Highway Patrol.

The penalty for failure to observe the posted chain controls may include a citation and a severe fine. Remember to always carry chains and use them when required to do so.

Call 800-427-ROAD for current chain control restrictions or road conditions, listen to KMMT 106.5 or look for chain control signs throughout town.

### **CALTRANS - We're Here to Get You There!**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Department of Highway Patrol (CHP) want you to get where you're going safely this winter. The following are some driving tips that will help you prepare for winter driving conditions:

- Winterize your car – Check your brakes, windshield wipers, exhaust system and heater/defroster to make sure they are in good working condition. Check your radiator fluid level and add antifreeze/coolant as needed. Replace wiper blades if needed. Add a winter formula windshield wiper fluid. Make sure your tires are properly inflated and the tread is in good condition
- Check road conditions frequently –During Storms, call 1-800 ROAD (7623) or check the internet at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov>
- Carry in your car - a flashlight with extra batteries, blanket, extra clothing, water and snacks, towel, gloves, ice scraper/deicer, shovel, small broom, spare key, sand/kitty litter.
- Allow enough time - Slow down.
- Don't panic - If you begin to slide while driving on snow or ice, slowly take your foot off the gas pedal and steer your vehicle in the direction you wish to travel. If you must use brakes and your vehicle is equipped with anti-lock brakes (ABS), apply firm steady pressure. If you do not have ABS brakes gently pump the brake pedal. Do not allow the brakes to lock up.
- Black Ice –Black ice is nearly invisible. The temperature doesn't have to be below freezing in order for ice to form on road surfaces. Ice can form, especially when it's windy, when the air temperature drops below 40

degrees. Low or shaded areas surrounded by landscaping or with a nearby source of water, such as bridges and underpasses, can have icy spots.

- Be observant - Do not pass snow removal equipment unless the operator directs you to.
- Stay with your vehicle - If you become stranded stay with your vehicle. Conserve fuel while maintaining warmth and be aware of possible exhaust or carbon monoxide problems.
- Chains – All vehicles, including those with four-wheel drive and snow tires are required to carry chains when traveling in areas that have chain control. Make sure they are the correct size for your tires and in proper working order. Chains must be installed on drive wheels. Know if your vehicle has front or rear wheel drive. Cable chains are acceptable, but may not provide as much traction as traditional chains. The speed limit when chains are required is 25, 30, or 35 MPH: it is posted and enforced. Chain installers may be available to help install your chains. They are not Caltrans employees. They are independent business people who are licensed to install chains. If you choose to use their services ask for a receipt that includes the installer's badge number. Chain installers are not allowed to sell or rent chains. When removing chains or installing chains, drive beyond the signs reading "Chain Control/End Chain Control." Pull over out of the lanes of traffic.
- Chain Control Information
  - R-1 – Chains or snow tread tires with a tread depth of 6/32" and a "M&S", "MS", "M+S", or "M/S" imprint on the tire's sidewall.
  - R-2 – Chains required on all vehicles except four-wheel or all-wheel drives with snow tread tires on all four wheels. Engage the four-wheel drive in the 4-high.
  - R-3 – Chains required on all vehicles; no exceptions.
- Tires – To find out if your tire tread depth is at least 6/32", place a quarter into several tread grooves across a tire. With George Washington's head upright, if the bottom of his neck completely disappears, your tread depth is at least 6/32". If you can see any part of the bottom of George Washington's neck, your tread depth is at or below 6/32" and should be checked. Remember to check to make sure the tires have the imprint "M&S", "MS", "M+S", or "M/S" which indicate the tire is rated for mud/snow conditions. You may also see the mountain snowflake symbol on the tire.

High winds and blowing snow often cause zero visibility conditions. To protect travelers, the CHP may close the road temporarily until conditions improve. During winter storms spinouts and accidents happen closing the highway. Heavily traveled routes are particularly vulnerable to such closures. Caltrans may meter traffic during the storm, letting fewer vehicles into the area reducing congestion and giving motorists the option of turning around and waiting out the delay in a warm place.

### **Mammoth Lakes Courthouse Further Furlough Day Closures and Other Service Reductions**

In August, the Superior Court of Mono County issued public notice that it would close the Mammoth Lakes Courthouse every third Friday, from October 31 2014 through the remainder of the fiscal year (13 days). Unfortunately, the Court recently learned that it will not receive supplemental funding it had hoped for. This means that the court must

extend its Friday closures to include four additional dates (a total of 17 closure days). These will be unpaid furlough days for court staff. The following is the revised list of Friday closure dates (with the new dates bolded and underlined):

- 2014: October 31, November 14, December 5, December 26
- 2015: January 9, January 16, January 30, February 13, February 20, March 12, March 13, April 3, April 24, May 15, May 22, June 5, June 26.

In addition, increasing workloads and reduced staffing resources compel the court to reduce services to the public beginning January 16, 2015, as follows:

- **Reduced Court Clerks' Office Hours—Half Days:** Currently, the Mammoth Lakes Courthouse Clerks' Office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Beginning on January 16, 2015, those hours will be reduced. The office will be open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and on Tuesday and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Clerks' Office Telephone Hours Eliminated:** Beginning on January 16, 2015, court clerks will no longer be able to provide assistance by telephone to the general public. The public may come into the office in person, or submit requests by mail, fax, or e-mail. Any requests submitted by mail should be addressed to: Mono County Superior Court, P.O. Box 1037, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Fax requests may be directed to: 760-924-5419. E-mails may be sent to: [superiorcourt@monocourt.org](mailto:superiorcourt@monocourt.org).

On the 17 furlough days listed above, and during the portion of the regular business day that the clerks' office is closed on or after January 16, 2015, a judge will be available to conduct any criminal arraignments and examinations as required by statute, and to sign any orders or documents on an emergency basis. A drop box also will be available at the courthouse to accept same day filings on closure days, and after January 16, 2015 on all other non-holiday week days. All documents deposited before 4:00 pm will receive a same day date and time stamp.

If you would like to submit a written comment regarding the reduced services described in this notice, please address them to: Hector Gonzalez, Court Executive Officer; by e-mail to: [SuperiorCourt@monocourt.org](mailto:SuperiorCourt@monocourt.org); or by regular mail to: P.O. Box 1037, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

### **Time to Check Wood Burning Appliances**

With the change in the seasons, the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District would like to remind all users of wood burning appliances to make sure that your heating system is ready to keep you and your family warm this winter. There are numerous activities that one needs to perform on the system to give you heat and a winter free of problems. The National Fire Protection Association reports that a third of the people using wood type heating have never cleaned or inspected their chimneys or stovepipes, or knew that they needed to.

In addition, there are many who have never used wood as a source of heat or who are looking at ways to reduce their heating bills and have decided to add a wood heating source to cut costs. Many are turning to a wood type heating source and will be assuming that the wood heating system that is located in a rented apartment, condo, or house is ready for use. Now is the time to check all of the components of your heating system and to become familiar with how to use wood as a heating



source. If you are not qualified to make this type of evaluation, refer to a specialist before use.

There are several simple steps that one can take to ensure that your system will be safe for use:

First, make sure that the device, be it a woodstove, fireplace, or pellet stove, is sound and in good working order. If you do not possess the skills to make this evaluation, refer to a specialist. Part of this evaluation must include an examination of the flue pipe (this includes pellet stove pipes) that exhausts the products of combustion to the outside air. Make sure that all components are sound, have adequate clearance, are clean of all combustible materials, and operational.

Make sure that you are inserting the proper fuel type for the burning device that you are using. The use of seasoned firewood in a fireplace or woodstove is important to keep the amount of creosote buildup to a minimum. Burning higher quality pellets will also result in less creosote buildup and less ash in a pellet stove. Burning a hot fire will decrease the buildup of creosote while emitting the least amount of the smoke. Also, use dry paper for fire starter and never burn glossy colored paper or pressure treated wood. If using compressed logs, make sure that the manufacturer recommends that this type of fuel can be used in your appliance.

Dispose of the ashes in a proper fashion. Do not place hot ashes outside or in a dumpster. Obtain a metal can for placing hot ashes into and store the ashes inside until completely cold. Remember that a can of ashes can be cold on the surface, but still hot in the center. The quickest way to cool hot ashes is to mix water thoroughly with the ashes in the metal can and let stand for several hours. Then the ashes can be safely placed outside.

Do not store or place anything flammable within 18 inches of a fireplace or wood stove. Code requires that you have a non-combustible surface in front of the stove or fireplace that extends out 18 inches to the front of the unit. Be extra careful with hanging anything above a stove or fireplace.

Check the exterior of the structure to see that the exhaust pipe has 10 feet of clearance around the cap area from any tree limbs and make sure that all needles and dead branches resting on the roof are removed prior to starting your stove or fireplace.

If your unit has a wood burning insert placed inside a zero clearance fireplace box (original fireplace) with factory built metal flue pipes contained in a wooden chase, an evaluation of the concealed clearance to combustible materials needs to be performed. If this situation exists in your unit, per Town Ordinance 13-03, the owner has until October 31, 2022 or upon sale prior to that date, to comply with the conditions of the ordinance. For more information on this item, please contact the Fire Department to schedule an assessment.

If electric heat is being used, vacuum the unit to remove any dust accumulations before startup and ensure that all combustible materials are at least 3 feet from the heating unit at all times.

Remember most home heating fires can be prevented. The winter season results in an increase of structure fire activity and most of these fires are a result of improper heating uses. If you would like any additional information on these topics or anything else pertaining to your safety, please feel free to contact the Mammoth Lakes Fire Station at any time at (760) 934-2300.

## **Popular Woodstove Replacement Program Back For Limited Time**

In response to popular demand, Mono County and Town of Mammoth Lakes officials announce the return of the Woodstove Replacement Program for property owners who want to upgrade from wood-burning stoves and fireplaces to cleaner and more efficient heating systems.

Following an agreement in early 2014 between the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Air District Board-member agencies received settlement funds allocated on a per capita basis to pay for air pollution prevention programs across their districts. With several hundred thousand dollars between them, officials from the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County chose to spend their funds on reducing wood smoke emissions from wood-burning heating systems throughout the region.

Similar to the Air District's recent CAPP-funded woodstove replacement program, funding will be provided to local retailers who are contracted by qualified property owners to provide and install the new systems. Shared costs will be required from property owners, with amounts dependent on the new system and installation requirements.

To qualify for program participation, an existing wood-burning system (woodstove or open fireplace) must be a building's primary heat source, it must be located within Mammoth Lakes or Mono County, and it must fall under one of several qualifying categories:

1. Within Mammoth Lakes: For properties purchased in 1990 or earlier\* with owners who want to replace pre-1990 wood burning systems, \$1,500 may be available toward the cost of a new EPA Phase II wood-burning system, or \$2,000 toward a new EPA certified pellet stove or gas heating system. Documented proof of property purchase date is required.
2. Newly purchased properties within Mammoth Lakes: For properties required to replace an old, noncompliant wood-burning system by Town Code §8.30.050, and changed title within last few months, \$500 may be available toward a new pellet or gas heating system. Documented proof of property purchase date and submittal of building permit is required. New woodstoves are excluded from this offering.
3. Within Mono County, excluding Mammoth Lakes: For pre-1990 wood burning stoves and open fireplaces (not EPA compliant), \$1,500 may be available toward a new EPA Phase II wood-burning stove or fireplace, or \$2,000 toward a new pellet stove or gas system.
4. Within Mammoth Lakes and Mono County: For woodstoves currently being used which are newer than 1990 (EPA Phase I or II-certified stoves, excluding pellet stoves), \$2,000 may be available toward a new, cleaner-burning pellet stove or gas heating system. This amount applies to replacing post-1990 woodstoves with pellet or gas (propane or kerosene) systems only.

\*Mammoth Lakes 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 replaced stoves must also be freely relinquished to the retailer during new installation, and open fireplaces must be rendered inoperable.

This program is open to public participation through local participating retailers only on a 'first come, first served' basis until allocated funds are exhausted, and qualified payments for new systems will only be made to participating retailers.

All interested Mammoth Lakes and Mono County property owners are encouraged to immediately contact one of the participating retailers serving the area: Alpine Stove & Mercantile (760/934-4416); Angelo's Stove & Chimney (760/937-0860), Clean Sweep (760/934- 3453); High Country Lumber (760/924-2720); Manor True Value Hardware for Mono County only (760/873-3106), and Batchelder Enterprises for kerosene heating systems (760/873-3800).

For additional program information, please call (760) 914-0388 or email [ljm.isaacs@gmail.com](mailto:ljm.isaacs@gmail.com).

### **Cycling Etiquette and The New Three Feet For Safety Act**

The Town will be actively communicating proper cycling etiquette and the rules of the road to both motorists and cyclists when the new "Three Feet for Safety Act" goes into effect September 16, 2014.

Known as the "Three Feet for Safety Act," new state vehicle code section (21760) requires that a driver of a motor vehicle shall not overtake or pass a bicycle proceeding in the same direction on a highway at a distance of less than three feet between any part of the motor vehicle and any part of the bicycle or its operator.

Police Chief Dan Watson is urging all drivers in Mammoth Lakes to comply with the new law. "This law includes public streets and even if three feet is not possible, the motor vehicle must slow to a reasonable and prudent speed and only pass when no danger is present to the bicyclist. Failing to do so can incur a fine, regardless of a collision or not."

Chief Watson also urges all bicyclists to comply with the rules of the road, including stopping for stop signs and pedestrians, riding as far to the right as practicable, and riding in single file. Bicyclists are also encouraged to use the Town's extensive system of bike paths when possible. The Town will not be pursuing a local ordinance to implement the new law as the definition applied is very broad and includes all public streets. It should also be noted that currently the Town of Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code does not prohibit bikes on sidewalks.

Additional information about the "Three Feet for Safety Act," including violations; can be viewed online at: <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/vctop/d11/vc21760.htm>.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) that details the factors behind traffic fatalities on our roads, in California (2011), the statewide percentage of bicyclist fatalities was 4.1% of all fatalities, which is nearly twice the national average of 2.1%.

FARS also identified that between 2009 and 2011, collisions between bicycles and motor vehicles are more likely to occur on local roadways than the State Highway System, and 85% of fatalities involving bicycles and 89% of severe injuries involving bicycles occurred on a local road compared to 57% of fatalities overall and 64% of severe injuries overall.

Supporting the passage of AB 1371 (Bradford) was the California Association of Bicycling Organizations (CABO). From the CABO President's point of view, "I support this bill because of my expectation, well hope, that incidences of antagonistic or clueless "buzz-backs"/scary

close passing and hit from behind crashes will subside as people learn about the Three Feet for Safety Act.”

Local cycling advocate and Eastside Velo (ESV) President John Armstrong hopes that someday a sign will be erected upon entering Mono County that says "We Respect People on Bikes.”

ESV has over 200 active members who ride regularly throughout the Eastern Sierra. As an organization, they actively promote proper cycling etiquette and even have a short video on their website that promotes safe and responsible riding practices. Their Top 3 “Rules to Ride by...” are as follows:

1. Be courteous and share the road. Being courteous gains respect and helps make the roads safer for all cyclists.
2. Signal your intentions if you can safely do so. If you are turning, point in the direction you plan on going. If you are slowing, put your hand out behind you.
3. Be friendly. If someone is courteous to you and does the right thing, wave and smile. Everyone likes to be acknowledged for doing the right thing.

Please visit the ESV website ([www.eastsidevelo.org](http://www.eastsidevelo.org)) to review the complete list of “Rules to Ride by.”

Armstrong hopes that common sense will prevail regarding the new “Three Feet for Safety Act,” but understands that the best strategy for cyclist’s safety is educating our motoring public.

“Many times on my bike I have been in a situation where a motorist does not slow down. The motorist powers onwards and forces a squeeze play with another vehicle and me, and guess who comes off the worst? Oftentimes I end up in the dirt or on the sidewalk.”

To facilitate effective education, Armstrong recommends cyclists and motorists pick up a copy of the new “Quick Guide to Smart Cycling” distributed by the League of American Bicyclists that will be available locally this fall. This full-color, 24-page Quick Guide covers just about everything you need to know to ride a bike safely and confidently, providing an easy-to-understand resource that appeals to all demographics: prospective bicyclists, novice riders, and even seasoned pros.

To read the Smart Cycling Quick Guide online, visit this link: <http://bikeleague.org/quickguide>.

Mammoth Lakes Police Department Reserve Officer Mike Braun will be actively communicating proper cycling etiquette and the rules of the road to both motorists and cyclists within Mammoth Lakes this fall.

“Cyclists have the same rights and duties as drivers. They need to obey traffic signals and stop signs, and most importantly, need to ride with traffic, and use the rightmost lane headed in the direction they are going,” stated Braun.

Officer Braun also encourages cyclists to be predictable by making their intentions clear to everyone on the road. “Signal turns and check behind you well before making a turn or changing lanes.”

Above all, stay safe, stay visible and ride on the right!

For additional information regarding the new “Three Feet for Safety Act” and proper cycling etiquette, please call the Mammoth Lakes Police Department at (760) 934-2011 or contact Officer Braun at [mbraun@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](mailto:mbraun@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

## **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](http://www.recyclesierra.com) or [www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://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](mailto:Brian@recyclesierra.com).

## **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](http://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.

### **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](mailto:tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us). Note that emails are not anonymous, however, staff will do its best to keep your information private.

### **13. Questions & Anonymous TOT Hotline**

If you have questions about TOT enforcement, or if you would like to report suspicious activity or rental advertisements please contact our anonymous hotline. The Town will follow-up on any reports submitted. The Hot Line Number is (760) 934-8989 ext. 275 or email your information to: [TOT@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](mailto:TOT@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us).

### **Register for CodeRED**

Residents of Mono County can register their cell phones to receive emergency CodeRED (reverse 911) alerts from Mono County. This is a county public service available to all Mono County residents so please tell your friends and neighbors in Mono County that they can register for this service. CodeRED announcements are for personal notification and will not replace CERT CAHAN notification. Here is how to sign register/sign up using the INTERNET:

- Go to [monosheriff.org](http://monosheriff.org)
- Scroll down left side panel to CodeRED community notification system;
- 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](http://www.crlaction.org).