



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town News

Town e-News: Week of August 10, 2015

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – August 19

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2015 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Suite Z. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

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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.

MLPD Friday Update

CALLS FOR SERVICE/OFFICER OBSERVATIONS

- 234, including 0 business/building checks

CRIME/INCIDENT REPORTS

- 15 reports, including 5 arrests

TRAFFIC STOPS/CITATIONS/TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

- 68 stops; 5 citations; 0 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 0 collisions

ANIMAL CONTROL INCIDENTS

- 2 incidents; 1 report

WILDLIFE

- 11 calls; 1 report

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Total Average Reported Projected Occupancies are as follows:

- Friday, August 7, 2015 = 89%
- Saturday, August 8, 2015 = 89%
(78% same weekend in 2014, up in 2015. Margarita Festival weekend)
- Sunday, August 9, 2015 = 71%
- Monday, August 10, 2015 = 68%
- Tuesday, August 11, 2015 = 70%
- Wednesday, August 12, 2015 = 67%
- Thursday, August 13, 2015 = 74%
(58% same midweek in 2014, up in 2015)

Hotels/Motels/B&B:

- Friday-Saturday = 100%
- Sunday-Thursday = 83%

Condos:

- Friday-Saturday = 73%
- Sunday-Thursday = 51%

Outlook for the following weekend:

- Friday, August 14, 2015 = 81%
- Saturday, August 15, 2015 = 80%

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

Sierra Classic Theater Presents "The Two Gentlemen Of Verona" – Aug. 6-16

Sierra Classic Theater's Shakespeare in the Woods is back with The Two Gentlemen of Verona, set in the Roaring 20's: A hilarious tale of love and friendship featuring Hollywood, gangsters and jazz. August 6th through 16th. 6:00pm at Sam's Woodsite. Bring a dinner picnic, and enjoy theater under the stars. \$10 suggested donation.

Chamber Music Unbound Presents "So Long, Farewell" – Aug. 7 Friday,

The 2015 Unbound Chamber Music Festival presents its final 2015 concert, "So Long, Farewell..." this Friday, August 7, 2015 from 7:30pm at Cerro Coso College. The Felici Trio, Corey Cerovsek, Tereza Stanislav and the festival team conclude the festival with music of Brahms and Mendelssohn (the incomparable "Octet for Strings"). Tickets (\$30 Adult, \$22 Senior, \$10 Student) available at The Booky Joint, online: www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org or at the door on concert nights beginning at 6:45pm.

Margarita Festival – Aug. 7-8

Celebrate fine food, music and tequila at the Mammoth Margarita Fest. Sip and enjoy your summer at the margarita bars serving skinnies, blends, peach, mango, strawberry, monster, Mammoth, jalapeno sting and more! Free musical guests on Friday and Saturday including salsa, flamenco, latin jazz and rock. From 3-7 pm on Saturday the tequila tasting includes 15+ tequila companies and 40+ vintages to sip and mix. Tasting tickets to go on sale by end of April in a special advance online offer.

Quake & Shake 10k/Half Marathon – Aug. 8

The Quake & Shake kicks off at 8am from the Inyo Craters parking lot. The race runs along Crater Flats, and winds back through the blue diamond single track trails.

Sierra Summer Festival – Aug. 13-16

Since 1978, the Sierra Summer Festival has presented classical symphonic concerts and programs of the highest artistic excellence to audiences in Mammoth Lakes and Eastern Sierra. This year, the Eastern Sierra Symphony will be led by guest conductor Edwin Outwater.

Mammoth Wine Weekend – Aug. 14-16

A weekend of wining and dining with exclusive Winemaker Dinners, a Wine Walk in The Village featuring 28+ wineries pouring over 50 vintages and a Sunday Champagne Brunch at Campo Mammoth. Call 800.MAMMOTH for tickets/reservations.

Kids Adventure Games – Aug. 21-22

Kids Adventure Games - The country's premier adventure race for children (6-14 yrs. old) is at Mammoth Mountain from August 21st-22nd. This event was created to get kids outside, without technology, engaging with the outdoors, challenging themselves physically and emotionally, and feeling a huge sense of accomplishment

when they cross the finish line. The race includes a variety of outdoor sports including mountain biking, hiking and running all while maneuvering through zip lines, rope swings, cargo nets, climbing walls, mud mounts, a giant slip-n-slide and more. To really get a feel for the event, watch this 2 minute sizzle reel. You'll love it! <https://vimeo.com/92366762>.

Event Details:

- Online registration and information available at www.kidsadventuregames.com
- Friday, August 21st, 2015, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Adventure racer check-in, registration and skills clinic.
- Saturday, August 22nd, 2015, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM - Race Day
- Cost: \$75 per person based on a team of two, \$150 per team

Mammoth Rocks & A Taste Of The Sierra – Aug. 21-22

Rock your socks off and eat great food in The Village at Mammoth on Friday and Saturday. The best cover bands and local eateries showcasing their best.

Mammoth Reggae Festival – Aug. 28-29

Featuring 10 bands playing rock reggae, roots reggae and more; plus beers and BBQ.

Ezakimak 11,053' Bike/Run Challenge – Aug. 29

Challenge yourself – and gravity – on an uphill moonlit 5k race from the base of Mammoth Mountain to the summit on mountain bike or foot, following the Kamikaze bike trail. Race at 7pm, sign up today on Active.com.

11,053' Full Moon Summit Party – Aug. 29

A unique summer experience at the summit of Mammoth Mountain. Ride the Panorama Gondola to the top of the Sierra at dusk to watch the sun set and the full moon rise, then party under the full moon and celebrate summer. The top of the mountain will be buzzing with indoor/outdoor fun including the Ezakimak Challenge finish line, a lighted glow walk to the Lakes Basin Overlook, music from DJ Science, food and drink stations, and a guided nature walk with the Eleven53 docent.

Thinning Projects Planned in Mammoth & June Lake

The Inyo National Forest announces plans to complete numerous mechanical thinning projects for community protection and forest health through the summer and fall.

These projects are designed to reduce fuels within Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Thinning reduces wildfire spread and intensity by removing surface and ladder fuels. Additionally, treatments will promote openness of crown fuels to reduce the likelihood of a sustained crown fire, thus decreasing the risk of stand-replacing wildfire. This also creates an environment where firefighters can more safely respond to fire events.

Thinning also promotes forest health by increasing resiliency to insects and disease by reducing competition for water, nutrients, and sunlight. This is especially important during California's extended drought where numerous trees are dying from

insect infestations or water stress. Where applicable, restoration work will be completed to enhance aspen habitat.

The Forest Service will construct shaded fuel breaks (thinning and piling fuels to be safely burned in the winter months) on approximately 270 acres within the Mammoth Lakes area. Locations include Sherwin Lakes Trailhead, Old Shady Rest Campground, Mammoth Knolls, the Minarets Road/ Scenic Loop Road, and the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA), north of chair 7. The MMSA project will be conducted after Labor Day to reduce impacts to recreational users. There will be delays or full closures on uptown/down town bike trails, shotgun bike trail, and the warming wall sport climbing area.

Approximately 240 acres of shaded fuel breaks are planned in the June Lake area near Silver Lake Tract, Clark Tract, Oh Ridge, and Gull Lake.

Six additional units totaling 700 acres are planned in other areas throughout the forest. The forest will create public firewood for 2016 in units not adjacent to town limits or recreational resident tracts.

For specific questions about the projects, please call Andrew Weinhart at 760-924-5550.

Ready for School – Preschool through College?

Getting all of the recommended vaccines is one of the most important things a parent can do to protect their child's health, especially when they are in a setting like a school or a child care center where disease outbreaks can occur. Whether it's a baby starting at a new child care facility, a toddler heading to preschool, a student going back to elementary, middle or high school – or even a college freshman – parents should check their child's vaccine records.

When parents are preparing to send their child off to day care, school or college, it's the perfect time to check if he or she is up to date on recommended vaccines. Child care facilities, preschool programs, schools and colleges are highly susceptible to outbreaks of infectious diseases. Children can easily transmit illnesses to one another due to poor hand washing, uncovered coughs, dense populations and other factors. When children aren't vaccinated, they are at increased risk for disease and can spread disease to others in their classrooms and communities. This includes babies too young to be fully vaccinated and people with weakened immune systems due to cancer or other health conditions. Now is the time for parents to check with their child's doctor, school or the local health department to learn about the requirements.

Follow the immunization schedule to provide your child with the best protection, and keep your child's vaccine records current.

Between the time your child is born and when they go off to college, they'll get vaccines to protect against a number of serious diseases.

- Make sure that you provide your child care facility with updated vaccine records each time you visit the doctor to get another important dose of a vaccine.
- Some children at your child care center may be too young for certain vaccines, and are therefore vulnerable to diseases. By keeping your children up to date on vaccines, you'll be protecting their younger classmates as well.

You will also be helping to protect people in your community with weakened immune systems, such as some people with cancer and transplant recipients, who are also at higher risk of disease.

- Preteens and teens are at risk for diseases like meningitis and HPV cancers and need the protection of vaccines to keep them healthy and in school.

Vaccines are recommended for preteens and teens because:

Some of the childhood vaccines wear off over time, so adolescents need shots to stay protected from serious diseases like tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).

As children get older, they are at greater risk of getting certain diseases like meningitis, septicemia, and HPV-related cancers. Specific vaccines, like HPV, should be given during the preteen (11 to 12) years because they work better at that age.

Vaccines not only protect your preteens and teens from serious diseases. They also protect siblings, friends and the people who care for them, like parents or grandparents.

- Even healthy college students can get sick from vaccine-preventable diseases. Protection from vaccines received during childhood can wear off with time, and college students may also be at risk for other vaccine-preventable diseases like meningitis.
- Many vaccine-preventable diseases can easily spread in child care and school settings.
- Schools are a prime venue for transmitting vaccine-preventable diseases, and school-age children can further spread disease to their families and others with whom they come in contact. For example, they can spread disease to vulnerable newborns too young to have received the maximum protection from the recommended doses of vaccines, or people with weakened immune systems, such as some people with cancer and transplant recipients who are also at higher risk of disease.
- From January 1 to June 26, 2015, 178 people in the United States have been reported to have measles. Measles is very contagious. It can spread through the air when people with measles cough or sneeze. It is so contagious that if one person has it, nine out of 10 people around him or her will also become infected if they are not protected. An infected person can spread measles to others even before knowing he or she has measles – up to four days before the telltale measles rash appears.

Vaccines are among the safest and most cost-effective ways to prevent disease. Protecting your children from preventable diseases will help keep them healthy and in school.

- When a child comes down with a disease such as whooping cough, chickenpox or the flu, he or she may miss a lot of school while recovering – and somebody will need to stay home to provide care and make trips to the doctor.
- If you haven't already, check your child's immunization record and schedule a visit to their physician or clinic. Doing so now will avoid a potential last minute rush and will help make sure there are no surprises on the first day of school.
- Schools require children to be up to date on vaccinations before enrolling or starting school in order to protect the health of all students. If you are unsure of the immunization requirements, check with your child's doctor, school, child care provider, college health center, or local health department.

Vaccines are recommended throughout our lives. Young adults need vaccines too, especially when they are college bound.

- The need for vaccination does not end in childhood. Vaccines are recommended throughout our lives based on age, lifestyle, occupation, travel locations, medical conditions, and previous vaccination history.
- Even healthy young adults can get sick from vaccine-preventable diseases. Protection from vaccines you received during childhood can wear off with time, and you may also be at risk for other vaccine-preventable diseases.
- You can send your kids off to college protected from serious diseases by making sure they've received all the vaccines recommended for them. Far too few adults are receiving the recommended vaccines, leaving themselves and their loved ones unnecessarily vulnerable to serious diseases.
- Talk to your child's healthcare provider or the health department to make sure your children get the vaccinations they need when they need them.
- Take advantage of any visit to the doctor – checkups, sick visits, even physicals for sports or college – to ask the doctor about what vaccinations your child needs.
- Families who need help paying for childhood vaccines should ask their health care provider or the health department about the Vaccines for Children program or other low cost programs, which provide vaccines at little or no cost to eligible children who do not otherwise have access to immunizations.

Recreation Department Highlights

All Recreation – All The Time!

Recreation is an essential component of a healthy and vibrant community. Our community relies on the Parks & Recreation Department for the many diverse and affordable programs, community events and seasonal activities. Whether you're looking for family fun at our many parks, challenging your endurance on our many trails or participating in one of our many signature youth summer camps or valued adult programs, the Parks & Recreation Department delivers!

Following is a sample of the many programs, events and promotions scheduled this August in Mammoth Lakes. Visit www.MammothRecreation.com or call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 to register or for additional information.

MiNi and Youth Summer Camps

Register for our youth (7-13) and MiNi (3-6) signature summer camps this August including:

- Aug. 10 – Youtheatre – Cinderella (5-10 yr. olds)/ Grease (11+)
- Aug. 10 – Wilderness Camp and Mini Camp
- Aug. 10 – Husky Prep Tennis Camp
- Aug. 10 – Tetra Brazil Advanced Soccer Camp
- Aug. 17 – Advanced Youth Climbing Camp

Every participant receives a FREE 2015 Parks and Recreation Camper T-shirt!

Mammoth RecZone

The Mammoth RecZone is the coolest place to hang out this summer! The facility is an outdoor venue (with shade, lights, and concessions) located in the heart of

Mammoth Lakes offering fun on skates, blades, boards, nets, hoops and on ramps. Come on over and enjoy these themed nights this August:

- THURSDAY - Mammoth Youth Hockey and Friends Night

Mammoth Youth Hockey is getting ready for the winter season playing street hockey. Drop-ins and new players welcome! Games are scheduled from 5:30-8:00pm. Cost is only \$3.00/skater (not scheduled for 8/6/15)

- FRIDAY – Kids Night!

Play volleyball, basketball, badminton, horseshoes, bean bag toss, blongoball and more! Roller/inline skates available for rental. Bring your RC cars! Free Hot dogs between 6:00-7:00pm (bring your meat to BBQ...) and only \$1.00 for ice cream floats. Drop-offs 10 years and older welcome! Festivities begin at 3:00pm. Cost is \$2 for local students and youth under 15.

- SATURDAY – Roller Skate Party!

Join us every Saturday night from 6:00-9:00pm and get your groove on at our jumpin' Skate Party – skate rental is FREE! Cost is only \$2 Youth / \$3 Adults.

- SUNDAY – Open Skate & Drop-in Street Hockey

The RecZone is programmed for open skate from 3:00-5:00 pm, Youth street hockey from 5:00-7:00pm and adult street hockey from 7:00-9:00. Normal fees apply.

Whitmore Pool

The Whitmore Pool is the home of the Mammoth Sharks and is open daily for recreation and lap swim. The facility offers six lanes (25m), hot showers, Free Wi-Fi and shade. Register your child in our Swim School – sessions are offered Monday-Friday. Call the pool at (760) 935-4222 for a complete schedule.

Community Tennis

Improve your strokes with Tennis Pro Kyle Osland every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at the Community Tennis Courts on Forest Trail. Purchase a \$65 Punch/Private Pass that includes 5 2-hour drop-in sessions plus a 15-minute private with the pro!

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation Department invites you to visit one of our many parks, swim at the stunning Whitmore pool, ride the Volcom Brothers Skate Park, or register for our many community-centric and affordable programs.

Visit www.MammothRecreation.com or call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 to register or for additional information.

Never have a slow day in Mammoth again!

Public Service Announcements

Eastern Sierra Transit Expands Mammoth Express Route!

Eastern Sierra Transit is making your commute between Bishop and Mammoth a little easier. Starting Monday, July 6, 2015, there will two additional runs on the Mammoth Express route to accommodate an 8 to 5 work schedule in Mammoth. The bus will depart Bishop Kmart/Vons Center at 6:50am. There is a 5:20pm and now 7:00pm departure from Mammoth to accommodate those who may need to work a little later or want to stay in Mammoth for dinner.

The new departure times are:

North from Bishop - Kmart/Vons			
6:50am	7:30am	1:00pm	6:10pm

South from Mammoth - McDonalds			
7:50am	2:05pm	5:20pm	7:00pm

The Mammoth Express also stops at Tom’s Place (by request only) and at the Crowley Lake Community Center. All busses have bike racks available on a first come first served basis.

Commuting with Eastern Sierra Transit is very economical. There are several pass options available to reduce the cost of commuting even further. Discounted one-way fares and 10-puch passes are offered to seniors 60+, disabled, and youth 5-16.

MAMMOTH EXPRESS FARES

		Adult	Disc	10-Punch	10-P Disc	1 Week	2 Week
Bishop to:	Mammoth	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$63.00	\$54.00	\$52.50	\$98.00
Tom's Place to:	Mammoth	\$4.00	\$3.50	\$36.00	\$31.50	\$30.00	\$56.00
Crowley to:	Mammoth	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$27.00	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$42.00

Contact ESTA at 760.872-1901 ext. 20 for more information or visit the website at www.estransit.com

Reduction of Wildland Fire Fuels

Website: <http://www.mlfd.ca.gov>

Now that winter seems to have faded, the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFD) wants to remind residents of your responsibility to keep your property fire safe. Long term residents are aware of the wildland fire incidence that can occur around town and especially after dry winters and with windy, hot, dry summers. From just about anywhere in town one can see the results of previous fire activity and the scars that have been left behind.

Establishing and maintaining defensible space around our property is all of our responsibilities. We are all part of the team that will protect our community should we find ourselves in the situation of a wildfire threatening town. A well-maintained landscape enhances the beauty and value of any property— and just as importantly, the work serves as a fuel break. The goal is to keep your landscape lean, clean and green. The following steps can reduce your home’s vulnerability from the threat of wildfire and reduce your use of irrigation.

ZONE 1: 30 feet or more adjacent to the home and beyond attachments such as wooden decks.

- Within the first 10 feet of the home, use nonflammable landscaping materials (rock, pavers), or low level annuals or perennials less than 18 inches in height. There should be nothing flammable within 10 feet of the home.
- Keep this area lightly irrigated and free from dead or dry vegetation, combustible debris, and accumulations of leaf and needle litter. Plants should be carefully spaced, low growing and free of vegetation high in resins, oils, and waxes that burn easily. Mow lawns regularly.
- Prune all trees up 1/3 the height of the tree or so the lowest limbs are 10-15 feet from the ground. If adjacent to a structure, prune up to the eave level. Clearance shall be a minimum of 10 feet from chimneys/stovepipes. Keep roof surfaces clear.
- Thin out living vegetation 30 to 50% within this zone to decrease fire intensity and continuous path of travel.
- Allow space between tops of trees to reduce the risk of crown fire.
- Keep firewood stacks/piles at least 30 feet from the home. If this is not possible, from June 1 to September 30, cover entire woodpile with properly secured, fire resistive, California State Fire Marshal tagged tarp.
- Water plants and trees as needed to ensure they are healthy. Do not use finely shredded mulch and mulch should be wetted periodically.
- Areas around and above propane tanks need to be kept clear of vegetation for 10 feet.

ZONE 2: Approximately 30 to 100 feet from the home (if your property size permits).

- Leave approximately 30 feet between clusters of two to three trees, or approximately 20 feet between individual trees. Do not remove more than 1/3 of the crown density.
- Limit vegetation that serves as a link between low level vegetation and tree tops (ladder fuels).
- Prune trees so branches and leaves are at least 10-15 feet above the ground.
- Give yourself added protection with "fuel breaks," such as gravel walkways, and lawns.
- Remove any dead or dying material from yard and break up continuous patches of brush species to slow fire advance and decrease heat productivity.

Property owners who are unable to do this work themselves are encouraged to hire a licensed professional who both understand this information and can apply it to the property. MLFD maintains a list of qualified contractors that can perform this work.

Failure to comply with the regulations and clear your property in a timely fashion is not only expensive, but endangers the lives and homes of your neighbors, the community, and the firefighters who protect them.

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.

Local Woodstove Replacement Program A Great Success - Limited Funds Remain

A successful Town of Mammoth Lakes woodstove replacement program comes to an end after replacing 150 older wood-burning systems resulting in the annual reduction of thousands of pounds of particulate matter. Mono County still has a small amount of public benefit funds remaining, or enough to provide for several more installations across the County.

There has been a silver lining to Mono County's dry winter months: With funding from local government agencies, new and much more efficient and cleaner heating systems have been installed to replace old fireplaces and woodstoves throughout the area all winter long!

In addition to the economic benefits, air quality has been improved. Each new heating system emits far fewer pounds of wood-smoke emissions than the older log-burning systems. According to U.S. EPA figures, an open fireplace burning logs emits over 46 pounds of 'particulate matter' (PM) per ton of wood burned (average amounts vary with wood type and dryness), while a new fireplace insert burning the same wood emits about 29 pounds of PM emissions per ton burned. A new pellet insert emits only around 6 pounds of PM per ton of pellets burned.

With almost \$275,000 in 'Environmental Public Benefit Funds' provided by the local Air District, the Town of Mammoth Lakes was able to help fund the replacement of around 150 older wood-burning systems throughout Town, resulting in the annual reduction of thousands of pounds of PM as well as the reduction of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides, and volatile organic compounds.

And while the Town's Woodstove Replacement Program is closed, Mono County still has a small amount of public benefit funds remaining, or enough to provide for several more installations across the County. All funds are committed on a 'first come, first served' basis, and interested property owners are encouraged to immediately contact a participating woodstove retailer. Shared costs will be required.

To qualify for funding, an existing wood-burning system (woodstove or open fireplace) must be a building's primary heat source, it must be located within Mono County (apart from Mammoth Lakes), and it must fall under one of two types for designated funding:

- 1) 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.
- 2) For woodstoves currently being used that 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.

Participating retailers serving Mono County: Alpine Stove & Mercantile (760) 934-4416; Angelo's Stove & Chimney (760) 937-0860, Clean Sweep (760) 934-3453; High Country Lumber (760) 873-5874 - ask for Kim Jones; Manor True Value Hardware (760) 873-3106, and Batchelder Enterprises for new kerosene heating systems (760) 873-3800. For additional information, please contact: Lisa Isaacs, Administrator, Woodstove Replacement Program at (760) 914-0388.

Update - Lee Vining Rockfall Safety Project Begins May 4

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is preparing for construction on the Lee Vining Rockfall Safety Project. The project's purpose is to improve safety for the traveling public by minimizing rocks falling from the steep adjacent slopes onto US Hwy 395 in Mono County, north of Lee Vining near Mono Lake, from postmile 52.3 to 53.7. The project also includes a plant establishment program on the six slopes involved to reduce erosion, establish healthy soil, and promote successful revegetation.

Construction is scheduled to begin on May 4, 2015 with the installation of stormwater protection and construction signage. A temporary traffic signal will be installed on May 6th, and traffic will be reduced to one lane with a 24 hour / 7 days a week reversing traffic pattern. This signal system uses video detection to reduce traffic delays to the extent possible.

The traveling public should be prepared for daily lane closures with delays no longer than 20 minutes.

As of May 12th, one hour delays could occur Monday thru Thursday from 6:00 am to 7:00 am. Notices will be posted when exact dates become available for the one hour closures. The contractor awarded the project is Papich Construction Co. Inc. from Pismo Beach, CA. on March 26, 2015. The contract bid amount was \$5,799,999. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2015 or spring of 2016. Six portable changeable message signs will be used for public notices related to the project

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) 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.

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.

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.

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:

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.

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.

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.

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.

Do I need a business tax certificate?

Yes, if you are renting your unit on a transient basis.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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:

- Go to 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.