



2021

Town of Mammoth Lakes

Year in Review



2021 started with so much promise and as a community we were ready and eager for better times ahead. Looking back, I am incredibly proud of the way the entire community came together to help each other get back on their feet and collectively contribute to the health, well-being, and resiliency of our Town. Town Council, our dedicated employees, and committed volunteers all worked hard to deliver core municipal services, capital projects and public amenities ensuring the highest quality of life for our residents and a great experience for our visitors.

BILL SAUSER | MAYOR



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INTRODUCTION

DANIEL C. HOLLER, TOWN MANAGER

2021 was a successful and productive year for the Town of Mammoth Lakes. This report describes the highlights of our accomplishments and reflects on the efforts and dedication of Town employees to provide valued public services.

The first half of the year began with various state and county COVID-19 restrictions in place throughout our community. The ongoing pandemic required the support of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by several Town staff. By the second half of the year, most staff transitioned back to their normal roles, however, COVID-19 impacts on individuals, families, businesses, and schools continued to constrain recovery efforts. The Town and region saw record visitation and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues during the second half of 2021, as visitors returned to the outdoor beauty, recreation and freedom offered in the Eastern Sierra and the Town.

Town Council priorities, goals, and key objectives, updated and adopted in May 2021, continue to guide the Town's work program. The Town made significant advancements to increase community housing. Phase I of The Parcel broke ground in September and the Town purchased a vacant lot at 60 Joaquin Road with the intent to construct several affordable housing units. Several existing units were purchased by the Town and converted to affordable housing. The Town has also partnered with Mammoth Lakes Housing on several initiatives that will result in additional housing units for residents.

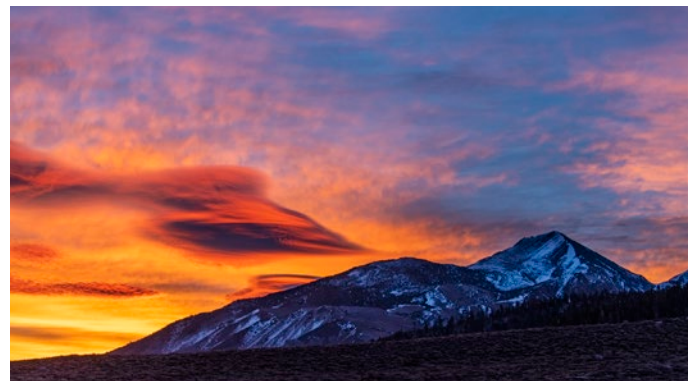
In April, the Town broke ground on the Community Recreation Center (CRC) project at Mammoth Creek Park West and T-Mobile awarded the Town \$50,000 to build a community dog park. Several trail enhancements were completed for both our winter and summer trails systems,

highlighted by repaving of a significant portion of our Multi-Use Path (MUP) network.

The Town made significant progress on capital improvements again this year including sidewalk, and street improvements and new transit shelters. At Mammoth Yosemite Airport, new security fencing and general aviation ramp rehabilitation projects were completed. The Town and Mammoth Lakes Tourism also worked with Advanced Airlines to provide scheduled charter service to three destinations in Southern California from the Mammoth Yosemite Airport.

The Town continues to work to enhance municipal services. Community outreach was a strong focus over the past year, with the introduction of the weekly Community Update and the monthly Did you Know? publications. The Town was awarded several large grants and implemented new software systems to assist with permitting and public meetings. This report provides additional details on these and other accomplishments. While the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over, the Town of Mammoth Lakes continues to provide core public services and advance Town Council goals to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitor experience.

Photo: Joel Rathje



EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY



COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

The response to the COVID-19 pandemic continued into 2021, however, the accessibility of ground-breaking and highly effective vaccines transitioned the Town from response to the start of the recovery. The county-wide recovery was led by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) under a unified command structure that included the Mono County Public Health Officer, County Chief Administrative Officer, and the Town Manager.

In the first six months of 2021, the EOC continued to provide overall direction, strategic objectives and tactical decisions while managing the progress of the county and Town through the Blueprint for a Safer Economy. On June 15, California celebrated the end of the Blueprint when restaurants, shopping malls, movie theaters, and most everyday places opened as 'normal' with no capacity limits or social distancing requirements. The path forward for the community included the roll-out of the vaccines, scaled COVID-19 testing, and community support, communication, and recovery efforts.

After 47 weeks of collaborative and determined leadership as the Director of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Chief Frievalt transitioned back to his daily duties with the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District. **Thank you Chief!**

"COMMUNITY FIRST" PROGRAM

Throughout the pandemic, the Town invested \$875,000 in a Business Assistance Program. The program funded small, local businesses to help retain local jobs, preserve active, tenanted commercial spaces, prevent blight in the Town's commercial sectors, and assist in sustaining the local economy. Five rounds of funding were conducted helping over 50 local businesses stay in business. The Town also provided \$650,000 for a local rental assistance program. The Town would like to recognize and acknowledge the resiliency of our community and our collective efforts to help each and every person, family, neighbor and business get through this devastating pandemic.

HOUSING ACCOMPLISHMENTS



THE PARCEL

The Parcel has gone from concept to reality over this past year as a result of numerous actions taken by the Town Council and a great deal of work completed by Town staff. In accordance with the Surplus Land Act, Town Council approved the contract for the sale of The Parcel to Pacific West Communities Inc., along with the approval of the use permit and design review for Phase 1 of The Parcel to allow 81 units (80 affordable, 1 manager) of housing to be built at The Parcel. Phase 1 will also include childcare space for up to 34 children, community space, and a 0.8-acre park.

In the fall, tree removal and rough grading of the site began. The Town held a groundbreaking ceremony in November that was attended by many community members.



HOUSING NOW!

The Town's "Housing Now!" program was initiated this past year with funding allocated by Town Council. The program has a focus on meeting housing needs for households in the 80-120% of Area Median Income (AMI). This segment of households is often referred to as the "missing middle." The households are not eligible for state and federal housing programs, while many are still priced out of market rate housing.

Programs to assist these households include:

- The purchase of market rate housing units and the resale of units to missing middle households who are part of the regional workforce. The units are deed restricted to ensure ongoing affordability. The lower sales price is possible due to a subsidy provided by the Town. Working with Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH) the Town is in the process of making four units available in early 2022, with a goal to have up to 8 units in the program by the end of the fiscal year. Town Council allocated \$1 million for this effort.
- The Town purchased a vacant lot at 60 Joaquin Road. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued in December to begin the design-build process to construct 4 for sale units targeted for "missing middle" households. Funds from the sale of the units will be "recycled" in the Town's Housing Now! program. Town Council allocated \$3 million for this project.

Rendering of Access Apartments, located at 238 Sierra Manor Road



- The Town is working with the private sector to create for-sale housing units to be marketed primarily to "missing middle" households. Town Council allocated \$1.5 million for this program.
- The Town retains a revolving loan program to partner with MLH to "buy back" deed restricted properties that come on the market and sellers cannot find qualified buyers. The program ensures that units continue to be retained as affordable. The program funding was increased from \$300,000 to \$600,000 this past year. Additional revenue from the Town's housing fees is used to maintain the funding level. Mono County also commits \$300,000 to this program.
- The Town has partnered with MLH on the Access Apartment Project (238 Sierra Manor Road) by committing \$1.5 million to support the development of 11 low-income housing units.
- The Town and MLH continue to provide first time homebuyer assistance through state grant funding. The Town received \$314,184 in CDBG funding from the CARES Act for public service related activities, including rental and mortgage assistance.

Photo: Josh Wray / Mammoth Lakes Tourism



RECREATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS



TRAILS UPDATE

Shady Rest Winter Trails continue to be a highly used amenity for Nordic skiers, walkers, fat-bike riders and snowshoers. A pilot program was approved by the USFS to groom a trail at the Sherwins Trailhead and will continue into 2022. A year-round Trail Conditions page is updated in real-time highlighting current trail conditions, maintenance activities, seasonal closures, winter grooming and avalanche forecasts. Recreation enthusiasts can also grab a new Winter Recreation Map developed with Mammoth Lakes Recreation grant funds and Measure R. The map is available for FREE download at www.mammothtrails.org.

Winter Access Signs are located at Sherwins Trailhead, Mill City and Sherwins Boot Pack. The signs were designed in collaboration with U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center, Mammoth Lakes Recreation, the Town and the Mammoth Trails Committee. In summer, over 130 volunteers from the “Summer

of Trail Days” constructed over 1 mile of new trail in the Lakes Basin, installed 8 New “Adopt A Trail” signs, and collected hundreds of pounds of trash in the Lakes Basin. Trail Maintenance crews and volunteers also rebuilt another bridge on the Horseshoe Lake Loop with funds secured by Mammoth Lakes Recreation. The Host Program is a huge success. Initially funded as a pilot in 2020 through grant funds secured by Mammoth Lakes Recreation, the program continues to flourish and is staffed year-round. Hosts provide information, collect data, and help residents and visitors have fun safely. Mammoth Lakes Tourism provided additional funding to continue the expansion of this visitor-centric program.



COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER (CRC) UPDATE

On February 17, Town Council awarded the contract to build the new Community Recreation Center (CRC) at Mammoth Creek Park West to Hamel Contracting Inc. The CRC will be a Sprung Performance Arena enclosing an Olympic size ice rink that will operate in the winter and in the summer, durable sport tiles will cover the rink area creating a 20,000 square foot Mammoth RecZone. Combined with community-driven and professionally branded programming, the new year-round facility operated by the Parks and Recreation Department will be a game-changer for recreation in Mammoth Lakes. The CRC will be the major recreation amenity at Mammoth Creek Park that includes three complementary components: the natural play area, a National Demonstration Site 7,700 sq. ft. inclusive playground, and the new minor-mobility hub with parking for up to 118 vehicles along with electric vehicle charging stations and convenient

access to the Town's expansive trails system. Members of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council, the Planning and Economic Development Commission (PEDC), the Recreation Commission, Town staff, and the Mammoth Stars, the local youth hockey team, celebrated the groundbreaking for the CRC on April 21, at Mammoth Creek Park.

Hamel Contracting Inc. made great progress on the site throughout summer, completing the ice rink slab, perimeter foundations and the placement of concrete for all the support and operational spaces. In late November, Hamel Contracting Inc., was placed on winter suspension, with work planned to resume in the spring of 2022 coinciding with the arrival of the Sprung Structure.

Look for weekly **#crcupdates** in 2022 on the [Town's Facebook page](#).



EASTERN SIERRA CLIMATE & COMMUNITIES RESILIENCE PROJECT

The Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP) is a bold and proactive step towards climate resilience in the Eastern Sierra that plans to restore over 55,000 acres surrounding the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The \$3.38 million grant project seeks to safeguard the priceless ecosystem services of this landscape and the livelihoods of local communities. Through landscape scale forest restoration and strategic prescribed fire, the project will return natural processes to the declining forest landscapes surrounding Mammoth Lakes and put the Eastern Sierra on the path to achieving regional resilience.

Grant funding has also been secured to conduct multi-year fuel reduction efforts on Town-owned parcels (Bell Shaped and along Mammoth Creek) as well as other public lands.



T-MOBILE AWARDS TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES \$50,000 TO BUILD A COMMUNITY DOG PARK

On September 23, T-Mobile announced 25 lucky small towns awarded with Hometown Grants to jumpstart vital community development projects to re-energize towns and build upon what makes them unique. The Town of Mammoth Lakes was the only small, rural town in California to be awarded with \$50,000 to build a community dog park.

As a recipient of the T-Mobile Hometown Grant program, the Town is one step closer to installing a free, pet-friendly dog park that will not only promote community inclusion and socialization for both dog owners and their pets, but will ultimately build a stronger, safer, and happier community of Mammoth Lakes.



CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

The Public Works Department had a busy summer with numerous Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) ranging from sidewalks and bus shelters to airport and other property improvements.

TRANSIT SHELTER PROJECT

The Transit Shelter Project included replacing the old shelters in front of the Post Office and Fire Station 1. The project included concrete work - new curb and gutter, building foundations, and a nice new strip of sidewalk behind the fire station shelter. Significant work was completed on the project in 2021 and will be finished in early 2022.



STREET AND MULTI-USE PATH (MUP) REHABILITATION

The Town identified several roads and sections of multi-use paths for repair in 2021. Through core samples and asphalt evaluations, a best method of repair was identified for each section for long-term repair. The Eastern Sierra has not been immune to the global supply chain crisis, and a lack of labor and material meant the project was not able to start until late September. With unusually early winter storms coming in, Qualcon Contractors had a short window of weather. They worked quickly and efficiently to complete Commerce Circle and all sections of the multi-use path before the mountain-opening storm. They will continue their work as soon as weather permits in the spring to complete Red Fir Road, sections of Majestic Pines Drive, Monterey Pine Road, and Mountain Boulevard.



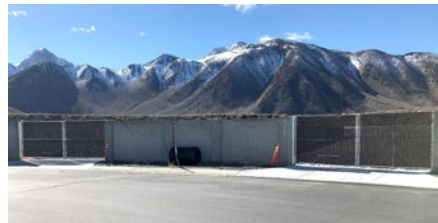
SIERRA BUSINESS PARK

The work at the recently purchased parcels at the Sierra Business Park is complete! The driveways, fences, gates, walls, drainage infrastructure, pavement, and electrical and water connections have all been installed, and we also worked with the building department on approval for the placement of two side-opening shipping containers on the westerly lot.

The Town will utilize this lot as a new storage yard, protected from some of the harsher weather we see in Town, for storage of road and parks maintenance equipment. The easterly lot is currently being leased to Mammoth Disposal for long-term bin storage and repair.

MAMMOTH YOSEMITE AIRPORT RECONSTRUCT EAST GENERAL AVIATION APRON

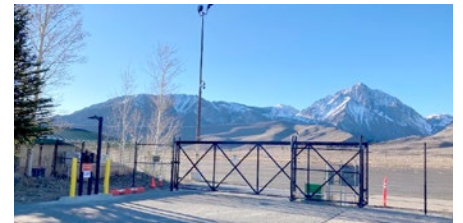
This project included the reconstruction of 211,000 square feet of asphalt surface, known as the East General Aviation (GA) Apron. The East GA Apron is located just southwest of the terminal building. The construction work included grading, drainage, paving, paint markings, and new tie downs. Construction began July 12 and was completed on September 17.



MAMMOTH YOSEMITE AIRPORT SECURITY GATES AND TERMINAL AREA FENCING

This project included construction of a new 8-foot-tall chain link fence along a portion of the north side of the airport, with two single cantilever gates for vehicles, one pedestrian gate, and a new security camera system. Construction began in August and was substantially complete by November.

Sierra Business Park, airport gates and fencing



TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

A 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was developed, presented, and approved by Town Council in 2021. The 5-year CIP for the Town of Mammoth Lakes

is the community's plan for short and mid-range development, maintenance, improvement and acquisition of infrastructure assets to benefit the Town's residents, businesses, property owners and visitors. The CIP provides a linkage between the Town's General Plan, several master planning documents and the annual budget to more effectively plan, prioritize, schedule, and implement capital projects over the next 5-years.

Projects included in the CIP are major non-recurring projects, have a long service life, and will be underway (or are planned, but

are unfunded) during the 5-year cycle beginning with fiscal year 2021/22 and ending in fiscal year 2025/26. The plan is dynamic in nature and changes year to year as priorities, needs and funding change. Projects include: roads, bike lanes, sidewalks, multi-use paths (MUPs), parking, parks, airports, offices and other types of facilities necessary to provide our community with services.

The projects also include significant maintenance and replacement of existing infrastructure and facilities.

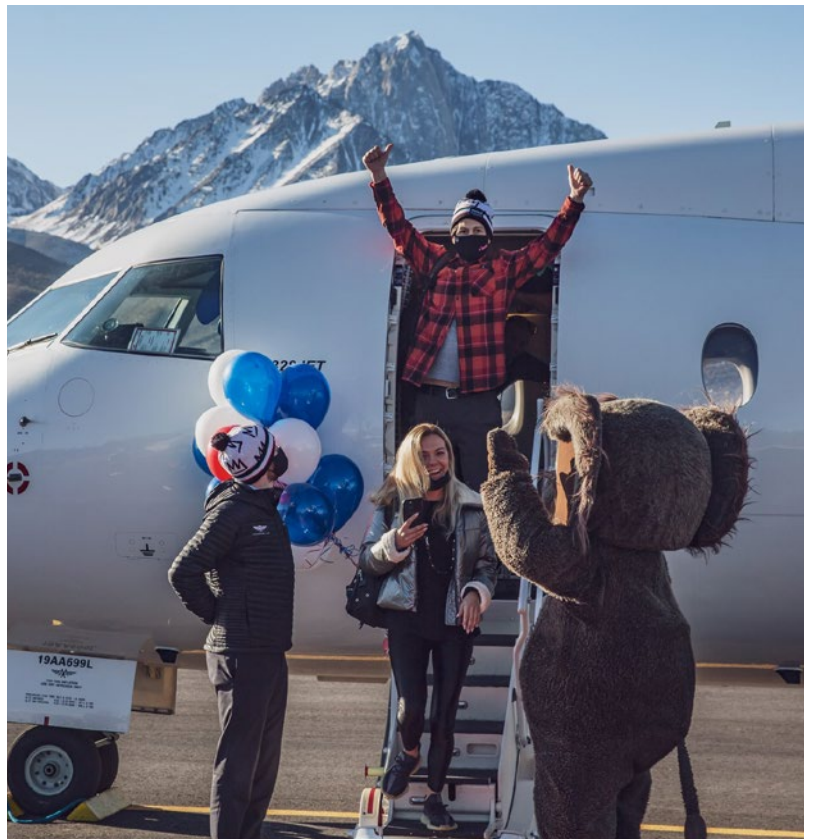


ADVANCED AIRLINES BEGINS SERVICE TO MAMMOTH LAKES

The Town partnered with Advanced Airlines to establish scheduled charter service from Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH) to three locations in Southern California. The first Advanced Air charter flight landed at MMH on November 24. Advanced Airlines will fly 30-passenger Dornier 328 jets from Southern California destinations Burbank (BUR), Carlsbad (CLD) and Hawthorne (HHR) directly into MMH.

Charter service provides enhanced level of services as passengers reduce time spent at the airport in lines. Charter flights can also divert and land in Bishop (BIH) if needed.

Photos: Dakota Snider / Mammoth Lakes Tourism



MUNICIPAL SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE GRANT

The Police Department was awarded \$23,832 from the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program for equipment purchases and wages for OHV Patrols. During summer, 406 miles of trails were patrolled that included 74 OHV rider and dispersed camper interactions and the issuance of five warnings. In addition, several dispersed campers were moved from illegal sites and were advised about illegal campfires. The goal of the OHV program is to provide safety and education for both residents and visitors and to reduce intrusions into the wilderness and other protected areas.

POLICE PROGRAMS

DOCUPET

In 2021, the Police Department launched DocuPet – a new online dog licensing portal. Licensing dogs in Mammoth Lakes is now easier, modernized and more valuable for all pet owners. To educate dog owners, a new Town Critters and Code Compliance Facebook page was also launched along with a new Dog Services webpage. This webpage includes an interactive map highlighting Town and municipal boundaries, high-use areas, dog waste stations and more.

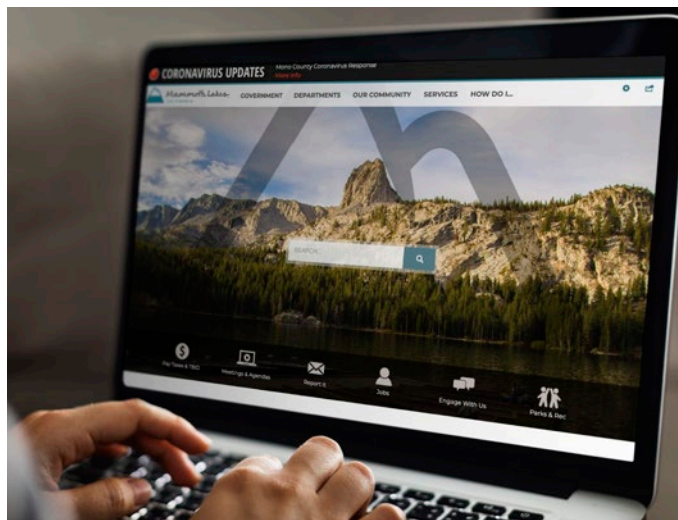
TOBACCO GRANT

The Police Department was the recipient of a \$344,273 California Department of Justice Tobacco Grant award. This competitive grant is authorized under the California Research and Prevention Tobacco Act of 2016 (Proposition 56) and provides program funding to the Department for the next three years. Funding will be used to continue employment of a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) and to reduce illegal tobacco sales to minors through retail enforcement.

TOWN BOOSTS PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Town has expanded its public outreach and community relations efforts with the goal to increase community awareness and comprehension of Town activities, programs, projects, products and services and to encourage the public to engage with the Town through a variety of publications. Increased public outreach, incorporating text, photos and videos can be viewed across multiple platforms. These include the [Town's website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, and the new Community Update published every week.

The Town also delivers Recreation This Week and Town e-News directly to your inbox and new this year, "Did you Know?" This new informative and compelling piece is shared through our local newspapers, on Facebook and as a News Flash item on the Town website. The Town manages several informative and timely e-newsletters and public service announcements. Please click on "[Engage With Us](#)" on the Town's homepage and opt-in using the "Notify Me" link – it's fast and easy to stay connected!



OTHER MUNICIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TOWN TRANSITIONS TO ESCRIBE FOR AGENDA MANAGEMENT SERVICES

In 2021, the Town transitioned from Granicus to eSCRIBE for streaming and agenda management services. The five-year agreement includes closed captioning services, elevated customer service, technical support, and a user-centric Customer Community Portal. The eSCRIBE meeting management platform will help the Town improve their efficiency and increase stakeholder engagement while boosting transparency and digital inclusion utilizing a variety of mobile devices. View eSCRIBE in action: pub-townofmammothlakes.escribemeetings.com/?Year=2022.

BUILDING PERMIT INSPECTION REQUESTS NOW ONLINE!

The Town is now scheduling building inspections online. Permit inspection cards will include our website address as well as a QR code (see below) that contractors can use with their smart phones to access the online form. Inspection requests may still be scheduled by calling (760) 965-3639



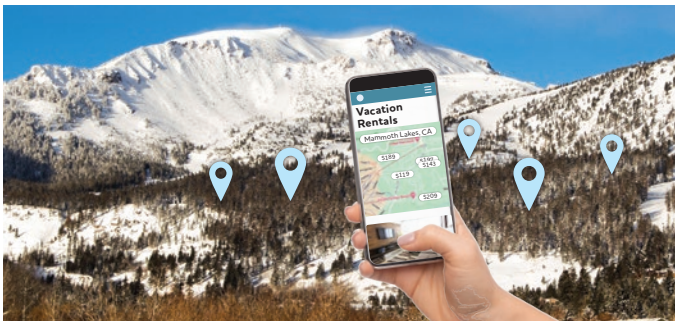
as well. The form is located on the Town's website: www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/120/Building-and-Engineering-Inspections or by searching the website using the keyword "Inspection Request."

TOWN ENHANCES SHORT-TERM RENTAL MONITORING CAPABILITIES

The Revenue Team doubled down on Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) enforcement in 2021 by enhancing its short-term rental monitoring capabilities and adding a part-time staff member whose role is solely focused on pursuing illegal rentals. The Town contracted with a new technology provider to monitor online advertisements and rental calendars for all short-term rental operators. Rentalscape maximizes data capture and analysis for online short-term rentals. The program not only identifies the advertisement and general location within the Town, but also identifies actual property addresses that are intentionally obscured. In addition to property identification, the Rentalscape monitoring program has a specific process that helps to identify activity on each operator's rental calendar. Having this additional information reduces the complexity of our enforcement of illegal rentals as well as helps with our audits.

The goal when performing TOT enforcement is to level the playing field for legal operators by ensuring rental standards are being achieved by all operators. Utilizing the Rentalscape technology to monitor new advertisements allows the enforcement team to bring operators into compliance quickly and limits the total outstanding TOT owed.

The legally remitted TOT in 2021 broke \$21.5M with \$400K collected from illegal operators. Along with the TOT collected, there were 213 administrative citations issued making 2021 one of the most successful enforcement years ever for the Town.



CALRECYCLE GRANT

The Town was awarded a Beverage Container Recycling Grant by CalRecycle for \$247,500. This grant will help to increase beverage container recycling by installing approximately 100 bear-proof beverage container recycling bins at multi-family housing (MFH) complexes and other public locations within the Town. The grant will also fund the purchase and installation of 96-gallon bear-proof beverage container recycling rolling carts compatible with an automated recycling truck. This upgrade will increase capacity for residential recyclers and make the pickup and sorting process far more efficient and cost effective. This grant will also fund the purchase of a new sort line for Mammoth Disposal's Buy Back Center, which will provide necessary upgrades to its aging sorting and processing infrastructure to support increased beverage container recycling volumes. This project will also provide education and outreach through a multimedia campaign including radio, television, social media, and print advertising.



LEADERSHIP

TOWN COUNCIL

Bill Sauser | Mayor
Lynda Salcido | Mayor Pro Tem
Sarah Rea | Councilmember
John Wentworth | Councilmember
Kirk Stapp | Councilmember

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Michael Vanderhurst | Chair
Jennifer Burrows | Vice Chair
Greg Eckert
Jessica Kennedy
Paul Chang



RECREATION COMMISSION

Elizabeth “Betsy” Truax | Chair
Laurel Martin | Vice Chair
Christi Constable
Dan O’Connell
Sean Turner



Bottom photo: Joel Rathje

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Daniel C. Holler | Town Manager
Andrew Morris | Town Attorney
Jamie Gray | Town Clerk
Pam Kobylarz | Assistant to the Town Manager
Al Davis | Chief of Police
Grady Dutton | Special Projects Airport Manager
Haislip Hayes | Public Works Director
Rob Patterson | Administrative Services & Finance Director
Sandra Moberly | Community & Economic Development Director
Stuart Brown | Parks and Recreation Director & Public Information Officer

CONTACT INFORMATION



Address: 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230 | P.O. Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Main Phone: (760) 965-3600

Mammoth Lakes Police Department: (760) 965-3700

Public Information Line: (760) 965-3612 (updated during emergencies)

Notify Me: www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/list.aspx

Website: www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

Mono County COVID-19 Portal: coronavirus.monocounty.ca.gov

Email: Initial of first name and last name @townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
For example John Doe: jd@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

Photo: Joel Rathje

