



# Board of Supervisors Update

November 2017

**Who's in the  
News?**



# Behavioral Health

This November, Mono County Behavioral Health implemented a new substance use prevention program at Mammoth High School. MCBH worked with school stakeholders and the Public Health Department to choose the Botvin's LifeSkills Training program, which is an evidence-based curriculum that has been shown to impact attitudes, behavior, and knowledge. Sofia Flores, a case manager at MCBH, was trained in the curriculum and will be teaching the program at Mammoth Middle School next! We will also be offering the program to Eastern Sierra Unified School District next semester. Here's what Sofia had to say about teaching the program:



"WOW, is the word that comes to mind as I finish teaching the last unit in the Life-Skills Training program. It has been a great experience meeting the high school students and being part of insightful discussions. I had the privilege of meeting 46 students during our department's first run at the program. The high school program consists of seven units that promote health and personal development. The students were responsive to the program and participated in important discussions. I'm excited that our department is offering the LifeSkills program throughout the County. I believe the topics are beneficial for all students."



# Community Development

**LDTAC** – The Land Development Technical Advisory Committee (Building, Planning, Public Works and Environmental Health) met Dec. 4 to consider a short-term rental on a Commercial parcel at June Lake, presented by **Michael Draper**. Compliance Officer **Nick Criss** presented a mining operations permit and reclamation plan, and **Gerry Le Francois** led a review of manufactured housing building permit process within White Mountain Estates Specific Plan.

**Planning Commission** – At the Nov. 16 meeting, Planning Commission held a public hearing on a use permit for an 18'-diameter yurt for winter recreation guests at Virginia Lakes presented by **Gerry Le Francois**. **Wendy Sugimura's** in-depth presentation of the June Lake Area Plan update was followed by public comment from several area residents.

**Cannabis Moratorium** – At the Nov. 21 Mono Supervisors meeting in Mammoth, an ordinance extending the moratorium on commercial cannabis activities for one year to allow the County additional time to develop a regulatory system was presented by **Michael Draper** and **Christy Milovich**.

**Fond farewell** – Also at the Nov. 21, a resolution of appreciation was presented to longtime Community Development Director Scott Burns. Numerous staff spoke of their experiences with him at the helm. The following week a group of current and former employees from Mono and Inyo counties as well as public agencies held a festive gathering at a local eatery to wish Scott well. **Supervisor Fred Stump** spoke, as did former **Supervisor Tim Alpers**. Scott will retire at the end of this month after 33 years with Mono County.



# Economic Development

## **COMMUNITY EVENT MARKETING FUND (CEMF):**

At its regular meeting of Tuesday, November 28, the Economic Development, Tourism & Film Commission allocated grant funds from the Community Event Marketing Fund. CEMF is a grant program which is designed to assist local non-profits promote and advertise their tourism events to destination markets outside the Eastern Sierra in order to drive overnight visitation to our communities. Approximately \$50,000 was requested by the applicants; the total amount available in the grant was \$20,000 which was divided equally among the four communities with non-profits that applied.

### **Antelope Valley (Walker/Coleville/Topaz):**

\$2,000 - Antelope Valley Geocache Event, June 15-17, 2018 (Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce)

\$2,000 - Antelope Valley Birding Festival, September 8-9, 2018 (Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce)

\$1,000 - Eastern Sierra ATV/UTV Jamboree, September 11-15, 2018 (Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce)

### **Bridgeport:**

\$3,000 - Bridgeport Autumn Festival, September 29, 2018 (Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce)

\$2,000 - Bridgeport Fish Fest & Poker Run, July 27-28, 2018 (Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce)

### **June Lake:**

\$3,500 - June Lake Jam Fest, September 8-9, 2018 (Mono Arts Council)

\$1,500 - June Lake Winter Festival, March 3, 2018 (June Lake Loop Chamber of Commerce)

### **Mammoth Lakes:**

\$1,000 - Eastern Sierra History Conference, October 26-28, 2018 (Eastern Sierra Interpretive Foundation).

\$1,000 - Mammoth Gran Fondo, September 8, 2018 (Mammoth Mountain Community Foundation)

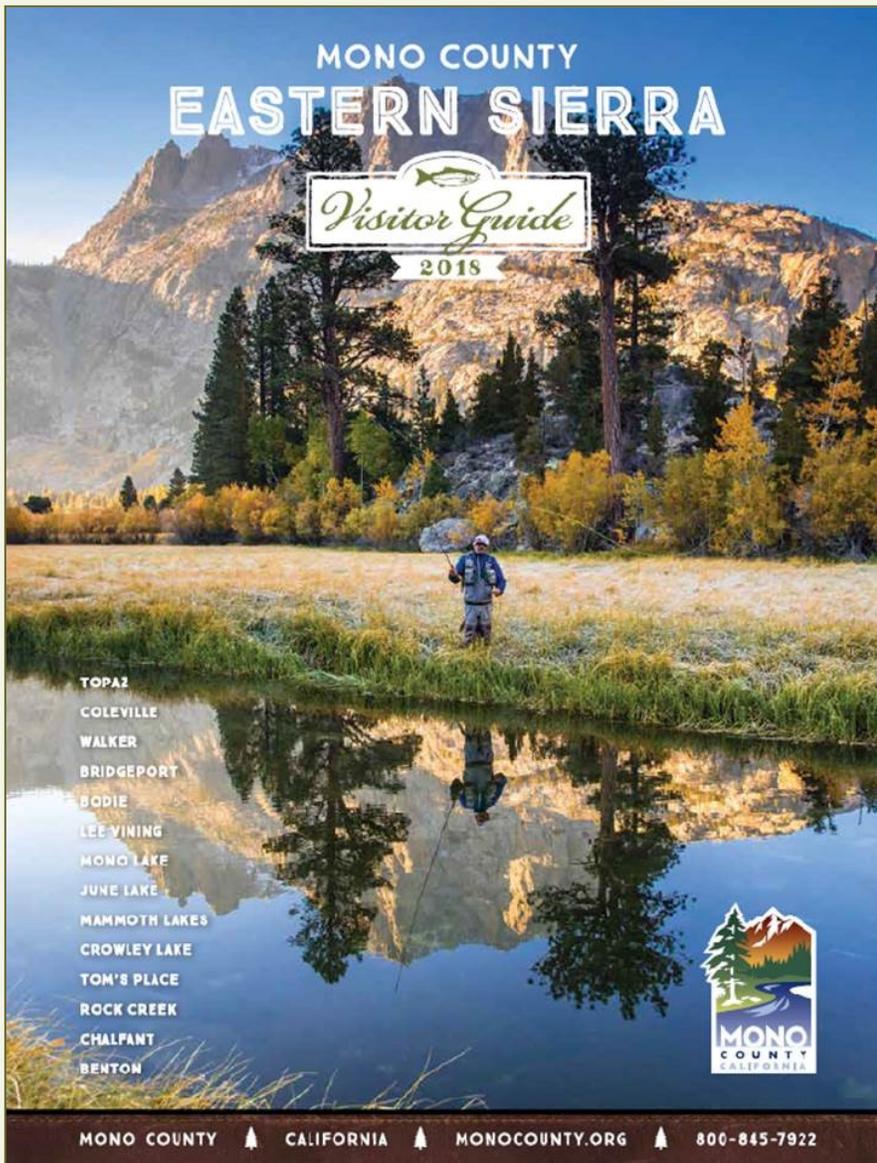
\$1,000 - Eastern Sierra Symphony's Spring Woodwinds event, Date TBA - possibly May 4-5, 2018 (Eastern Sierra Symphony)

\$1,000 - Jazz by the Creek, July 8, 2018 (Southern Mono Historical Society)

\$1,000 - Mammoth Events and Wedding Expo April 21, 2018 (Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce)

## **MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

- Our "off-season is the new in-season" news release was picked up in several outlets, including NBC LA "Worth the Trip" - <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/The-Cool-Quiet-of-Mono-Countys-Late-Fall-460863783.html> and in the Record Courier in Minden/Gardnerville: <https://www.recordcourier.com/news/local/late-fall-good-time-to-visit-mono-county/>
- Mammoth and June Ski Areas were included in Bailey Gaddis's article in TRVL.com - <https://trvl.com/stories/where-to-go-skiing-usa>
- New York Times featured a story on Mono Lake: [Read the full story](#)



**COLLATERAL:** The updated 2018 Mono County Visitor Guide and the annual scenic/events Calendar are both in the final stages of production, and should arrive between Christmas and New Year's. The cover images are both from wonderful local photographers –Christian Pondella's photo of fly fishing Rush Creek is the cover of the Visitor Guide, and Jeff Sullivan's photo of Bodie is the Calendar cover. We print 50,000 Visitor Guides and 8,000 Calendars and distribute them at all the consumer travel/fishing trade shows we attend, at visitor centers and businesses throughout the 395 corridor and on the west side, and as fulfillment to all the requests for information that we receive on our tourism hotline and website. Many, many thanks to local businesses who have advertised in the Visitor Guide – we could not produce this popular visitor guide without their support.



# Mono County Launches New Website!

Mono County is pleased to announce the launch of our brand new website (<http://www.monocounty.ca.gov>)!

For the past year, Mono County staff have been working to overhaul the content and design of our existing eight-year-old website with the intention of improving the user experience and increasing access to the services we provide.

The new website features a clean and modern design which is '*mobile first*' and completely responsive, meaning that it works well on virtually any device or screen size. We have worked hard to improve navigation and better organize content so that information is easier to find and faster to access with fewer clicks. Additionally, the site's Search functionality has been upgraded to help users track down harder to find topics more quickly and easily.

The navigational structure of the site groups relevant topics to help the Residents, Businesses, and Visitors of Mono County quickly connect with information, forms, and contacts for the most common services. Additionally, we have provided a series of key link buttons for the subjects which our constituents are most regularly interested in.

IT would like to thank all County staff who assisted in this effort and our website vendor Aha! Consulting for bringing this project to reality.

Please take a few moments to tour our new site. We hope you find what you are looking for, and we welcome any [feedback](#) you may have to further improve the visitor experience.

**MONO COUNTY**  
*California's Eastern Sierra*

RESIDENTS BUSINESS VISITORS GOVERNMENT

Search

< More **SPOTLIGHT**

Health Insurance Open Enrollment - Now's the time to get covered.

Job Flyer- Chief District Attorney Investigator

Press Release: Survivors of Las Vegas Tragedy

[View all News](#)

< **CALENDAR**

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## Mono County Public Health Board Update

### *Flavored Tobacco Makes the Poison Go Down Easier*

In August this year, the Public Health Department implemented a tobacco retailer survey to determine the prevalence of flavored tobacco and retailer attitudes about flavored tobacco sales. Flavored tobacco is sold in the form of cigarillos, cigars and chew tobacco in fruit and candy flavors, alcohol flavors, menthol, and mint. Historically, when the federal government prohibited the sale of flavored cigarettes, the tobacco industry went to flavored cigarillos and chew to maintain tobacco use and sales. There is now a movement around the nation to remove this product from the shelves. Thirteen counties and cities in California have policies to prohibit sales of flavored tobacco.

**Thirteen tobacco retailers in unincorporated Mono were interviewed; the results were positive and surprising!**

#### Unincorporated Mono County Tobacco Retailer Survey August 2017 n = 13

How important to your business are sales of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes?	Very important	0
	Pretty important	3
	Not very important	5
	Insignificant	6
How important to your business are sales of just the menthol tobacco products?	Very important	0
	Pretty important	2
	Not very important	8
	Insignificant	4

#### Unincorporated Mono County Tobacco Retailer Survey August 2017 n = 13

Do you think it would be a burden on your business if ALL stores in unincorporated Mono, including yours, stopped selling ALL flavored tobacco products?	Definitely a large burden	1
	Somewhat of a burden	0
	No Difference	10
	Don't sell flavored products	2
Do you think it would be a burden on your business if ALL stores in (jurisdiction), including yours, stopped selling all menthol tobacco products?	Definitely a large burden	2
	Somewhat of a burden	2
	No Difference	9

*Our September 2016 Public Opinion Survey found that the Unincorporated Mono County Residents (n=184) were 62% in favor of a policy that bans the sale of flavored tobacco products!*

***Therefore, removing flavored tobacco and menthol from stores in unincorporated Mono would have little impact on retailers.***

## Public Health and Smoke Free Multi-Unit Housing

Mono County Public Health is implementing a survey in Crowley Lake regarding a policy that would make multi-unit housing smoke free. This means public and private multi-unit housing smoke free within units, porches, balconies, and 20 feet from buildings. We continue to receive a steady flow of responses and hope to report on the survey outcomes in January's Board Update!

### Public Health Policy Rationale

Smoke free policies effectively do the following:

- › Reduce tobacco use
- › Reduce exposure to secondhand smoke
- › Increase the number of tobacco users who quit
- › Reduce initiation of tobacco use among young people
- › Reduce tobacco-related illnesses and death

### Multi-Unit Housing Points

- › Smoking is not a protected status under the law.
- › Litigation favors smoke free multiunit housing residents.

**51** (formerly 37) CA cities and counties have 100% smoke free multiunit housing ordinances which include both public and private housing.

### INDOOR-OUTDOOR AIR LEAKAGE OF APARTMENTS AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS California Energy Commission 2006

- › Leakage from individual apartments to and from the outdoors.
- › Leakage from one apartment to another from the standpoint of occupant health and safety.
- › Interaction between the whole building and one suite can affect another.
- › Opening a window can change air flows into or out of every apartment on the floor or even through out the building.

### Second Hand Smoke & Marijuana

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air Conditioning recommends:

Multiunit housing be free from environmental tobacco smoke, marijuana smoke, and electronic smoking devices' aerosol

HUD housing is 100% smoke free as of July '18

**NEW!!!** As a result of a legal settlement for racketeering, the Tobacco Industry is advertising that there is *no safe level* of second hand smoke exposure! Check out the link below to view the new Tobacco Industry ads:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/amp/big-tobacco-finally-tells-truth-court-ordered-ad-campaign-n823136?cid=eml onsite>

# Risk Management



On 11/30/2017 the county held a training on Tools for New Hire Success. Attendance and participation by department heads, managers, and supervisors was very high. Thank you to those who participated for being engaged and committed to creating a great team.

# Social Services

October 11 was a beautiful morning and team-building experience for the Child Welfare and Adult Services team. As a part of a team building exercise, the group decided to spend some time walking the dogs that were at the County Animal Shelter, while enjoying the nice beautiful fall colors around Convict Lake. The team was able to provide some walking time for the dogs, promote adoption of the animals from the shelter and enjoy time together through a little bit of exercise and fresh air.



*(Pictured above: Raymond Gaffney, Pedro Figueroa, Mitchell Cyr, Sandra Villalpando, Rose Martin, Krista Cooper, and Tiffany Montanez)*

As a result of this outing, and photos that were shared, at least one of the dogs were adopted by another family!

The main goals of team-building are to improve productivity and motivation. Taking employees out of the office helps groups break down political and personal barriers, eliminate distractions, and have fun. Some of the benefits of team building include: Improving morale and leadership skills, finding the barriers that impede creativity, improving processes and procedures, improving organizational productivity, identifying a team's strengths and weaknesses and improving the ability to problem solve.

# Health Insurance Open Enrollment - Now's the time to get covered.

## TAKE ACTION FOR 2018 COVERAGE

Open enrollment for health coverage in 2018 is happening now and will end on January 31, 2018.



Current members can renew or change their health plans until Jan. 31.

Medi-Cal and Covered California use the same application. When you apply, depending on factors such as your family size, income and citizenship or immigration status, you will find out whether you qualify for:

- A Covered California health plan, with or without financial assistance.
- Medi-Cal.
- County Children's Health Initiative Program.
- Medi-Cal Access Program for pregnant women.

### Tax Penalty Details and Exemptions

Most people are now required to have "minimum essential coverage" through an employer, a government health program or a health plan they purchase themselves. Those who do not have health insurance will pay a tax penalty. Some people qualify for an exemption from this requirement, and they do not have to obtain health insurance or pay a tax penalty.

When consumers file their tax return, they will have to enter information about their coverage (or their exemption) on their tax return. If consumers do not maintain minimum essential coverage during the year and do not qualify for an exemption, they will pay a tax penalty to the Internal Revenue Service on their tax return for that year.

The annual penalty is the greater of:

\$695 for each adult and \$347.50 for each child, up to \$2,085 per family.

2.5 percent of the tax filer's annual household income minus the federal tax filing threshold.



The Stove and Wild Iris present:

## THE COMMUNITY GIVING TREE

# 2017



THIS HOLIDAY SEASON ...

share the gift of giving to a child or family in our  
community

- 1) Take an ornament from **Giving Tree located at The Stove**
- 2) Buy the gifts on the ornament
- 3) Return the unwrapped gifts to the Stove by December 18

*Extra Incentive: **FOOD & BASICS DRIVE**: Bring new, unwrapped non-perishable food, socks, undergarments or toiletries to the Stove between 12/12 and 12/17 and receive a free mimosa or hot chocolate!*