



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town e-News: January 5, 2017

Town Announcements

Winter Weather Reminders

With the winter season upon us, we'd like to remind residents and visitors of the following:

- Remove ice and snow from your vehicle, including the roof, and make sure all windows and mirrors are completely clear. Violations will be subject to citation and fines may exceed \$750.
- Slow down and turn on your headlights for visibility. Acceleration, stopping and turning take longer on icy or snow-covered roads. Give yourself time to maneuver.
- Check road conditions before you travel and make sure you're properly equipped with chains, a snow scraper, and a shovel. The toll-free Caltrans Road Conditions Number is 1-800-427-ROAD (7623).

Winter Parking Restrictions In Effect

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department is reminding citizens that there is no street parking from November 1 through April 30. Vehicles found parked in violation of these ordinances are subject to receiving a parking citation and/or in some cases, vehicles may be impounded at the owner's expense.

Town Meetings & Events

Town Council

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for **Wednesday, January 17, 2017** beginning at 4:00 p.m. in Suite Z with a joint workshop with the Planning and Economic Development Commission. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Commission/Committee Meetings

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| Jan. 9 | Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 9:00AM |
| Jan. 10 | Planning and Economic Development Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 2:00PM |

Town Hosting Stormwater Public Meeting – Jan. 8

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is developing a Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) and is inviting the public to participate on January 8, 2018 beginning at 4:00pm in Suite Z. The SWRP is required by the California State Water Resources Control Board to establish eligibility for bond funding for stormwater quality improvement projects. The SWRP quantifies the multiple benefits of potential stormwater projects and prioritizes them for funding. The Town is hosting a public meeting to introduce the concept of an SRP, present highlights of the draft SWRP, and allow an opportunity for public participation.

The meeting will be held on **Monday, January 8, 2018** from 4:00-5:00pm at the Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Offices, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546 (Above the Vons Shopping Center). Please RSVP to jrobertson@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov by January 3, 2018. We look forward to your participation in this project.

Department Updates

'The Ice Is Calling' at the Mammoth Ice Rink!

Give the ice a try this month at the Mammoth Ice Rink in celebration of U.S. Figure Skating's 2018 National Skating Month. 'The ice is calling' at the Mammoth Ice Rink this January with FREE Public Skating Sessions every Friday night from 7:00pm-10:00pm. And for those new to skating, there are FREE 'First Timer' Skate Assist sessions every Friday night from 4:00-6:30pm. Register in advance at the Mammoth Ice Rink or call (760) 965-3695. Lessons are based on the *U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills Program*, are scheduled for 20 minutes, and are offered for both youth and adults.

The Mammoth Ice Rink is open 7-days a week weather permitting. The rink is located at 416 Sierra Park Road adjacent to the Mammoth Lakes Library. The facility offers free Wi-Fi, satellite radio, evening fire-pits, quality rentals, skate sharpening service, and hot snacks & drinks, all on refrigerated and professionally maintained ice. Call the Mammoth Ice Rink at (760) 965-3695, or visit www.mammothicerink.com for updated schedules and information.

Parks and Recreation Department News...

- Sunday, January 7 marks the beginning of Mammoth Lakes' Inaugural Curling League. League play starts at 7:00pm and continues until 9:00pm every Sunday through February 11 so come on out and cheer on your local curling league at the Mammoth Ice Rink this winter.
- Drop-In Curling is scheduled every Tuesday evening from 5:00-7:00pm at the Mammoth Ice Rink. Come try your hand at this Olympic sport with tips and fun times with your friends!
- Monday, January 8 is the start of our [6-Week Ice Skating Lessons](#) at the Mammoth Ice Rink. Open to ice skating enthusiasts grades K-8 of all abilities. Register online!
- Every Tuesday and Thursday evening is adult drop-in hockey at the Mammoth Ice Rink from 7:30-9:30pm. Come on over and hit the boards...
- Adult Indoor Soccer A-League starts Sunday, January 7 with drop-in play at the Mammoth High School Gym beginning at 6:00pm. This competitive league is

designed for adults with previous soccer experience. League play commences on January 21 and concludes on March 25, 2018.

- Hot Shot Basketball resumes Tuesday, January 8 at the Mammoth Middle School.
- [Toddler Time](#) continues to meet on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:00am. Each 4-week session is \$48 with a 50% sibling discount. Drop-in rates are available.
- [Peapod Playgroups](#): Mammoth runs through January 25. Crowley Lake session runs through February 23.
- New! Mammoth Peapod de Español! Meeting on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:00pm at the Community Center. All families with children birth to five years of age are welcome!
- Coming in February: Instructional Basketball geared towards K-2 graders who are just becoming interested in the sport of basketball. Stay tuned...

Coffee with a Cop!

A cup of coffee is a common bond, and, it can help officers build better relationships with the communities they serve. Join your neighbors and MLPD officers for coffee and conversation - without speeches or specific topics on **Wednesday, January 10**, from 9:00-10:00am at Black Velvet Coffee (3343 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes). Ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in your community and let them know about the issues that matter most to you.

Public Service Announcements

Be Snowsmart This Winter!

Mammoth Lakes receives some of the heaviest snowfall in California. To make your stay that much more enjoyable throughout the winter season, we ask that you slow down, keep a safe distance when following snow removal equipment, adhere to chain restrictions and park your vehicle on your driveway or lodging property well inside the orange snow stakes. Parking on all streets and roads within the Town of Mammoth Lakes is prohibited from November 1 thru April 30. For updated road conditions and chain restrictions call (800) 427-ROAD or simply dial 511. During severe winter storms, listen to KMMT 106.5FM or Sierra Wave 92.5FM and call 911 in case of emergency.

Beware of Deer on the Roads

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) would like to notify motorists that deer are out and about in the Eastern Sierra. Due to the snowy conditions, deer are venturing out onto the roadways to escape from the snow. Motorists should watch for deer as they are commuting especially during the dawn and dusk times of the day. Slow down and be vigilant!

Ways to Prevent a Collision with a Deer:

1. Slow Down. Motorists should take it slow especially with the low temperatures and icy conditions.
2. Watch for the rest of the gang. Deer are pack animals, and rarely travel alone. If a deer crosses in front of you, chances are there are more nearby. Slow down and keep an eye out for more deer darting across the road.

3. Timing is everything. Deer are most active at dusk and dawn: periods when your vision is most compromised. Slow down and stay alert, especially after dark.
4. Wear your seatbelt. It may not prevent a collision, but if the inevitable happens a seatbelt can reduce injuries.
5. Look. First, look for the road signs. The yellow diamond shaped signs with the deer on it are placed in high-traffic areas for deer. You may also spot a deer because their eyes will brightly reflect a car's headlights, making them easier to spot.
6. Stay Center. On a multi-lane road, the center lane is your safest bet for avoiding a deer collision, as long as your local traffic laws permit it. This gives deer plenty of space; and in case your vehicle does startle them, it gives you more time to react if one darts onto the road.
7. Stay the course. If you see a deer, brake firmly and calmly, and stay in your lane. Swerving could make you lose control of your vehicle and turn a bad situation much worse. Not to mention, deer are unpredictable, and you could swerve directly into their changed path.
8. Honk! Some experts recommend that one long blast of the horn will scare deer out of the road. Do not rely on hood whistles or other devices designed to scare off deer — studies have shown them to be largely ineffective at minimizing traffic incidents.

What to do if you hit a deer.

1. Pull to the side of the road as soon as it is safe to do so.
2. Turn on your hazard lights and remain in the vehicle until you are sure it is safe.
3. Call emergency services if injuries are involved or the local police for property damage.
4. Stay away from the deer. If it is still alive, it could be confused, injured and dangerous if approached. When contacting the authorities, let them know if the deer is in a dangerous spot on the road so that it can be removed.

For more deer migration information visit the Caltrans District 9 webpage: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/d9/deer.html>

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.