



Town of Mammoth Lakes

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Town e-News: February 2, 2018

Town Announcements

Municipal Election - June 5, 2018

A Municipal Election will be held in the Town of Mammoth Lakes on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 for the purpose of electing three members to the Town Council. The Councilmembers presently occupying these offices are Colin Fernie, Shields Richardson, and John Wentworth. The term of office for each seat is four years. Councilmembers are paid \$735 per month.

Candidates must be registered voters and reside within the Town. Nomination Papers will be available from the Town Clerk starting on Monday, February 12, 2018. The deadline for filing of Nomination Papers is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 9, 2018. If nomination papers for an incumbent officer of the Town are not filed by March 9, 2018, the voters shall have until March 14, 2018 to nominate candidates other than the incumbents. Citizens interested in running for a seat on the Town Council are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk, Jamie Gray, at (760) 965-3602 for further information. The Town Clerk's Office is located in the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R and is open from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, holidays excepted and Fridays by appointment only.

Inyo National Forest Announces Over Snow Fat-Biking Opportunities

The Inyo National Forest announces that new over snow fat biking opportunities are available for the 2018 winter season. The following areas are now open to over snow fat bike use:

- Groomed motorized OSV trails identified on the Eastern Sierra Winter Recreation Map as "Snowmobile Routes"
- Obsidian Dome and Shady Rest Park Trails Nordic Recreation Areas identified as "Nordic Routes" on the Eastern Sierra Winter Recreation Map

The Inyo National Forest over snow vehicle (OSV) trail grooming program has been ongoing within portions of the Mammoth and Mono Lake Ranger Districts since 1993. The forest grooms approximately 85 miles of OSV trails annually using funding from the California Department of Parks and Recreation. These groomed trails are open to motorized vehicles specifically designed for over snow use, such as snowmobiles, and to non-motorized uses such as walking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The 1992 Forest Order prohibiting the use of non-motorized bikes on groomed trails is not reflective of new, appropriate recreation activities and did not contemplate changes in biking technology when originally drafted. Therefore the forest is opening up the opportunity for over snow fat bike use on these groomed trails.

The Inyo National Forest is working collaboratively with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR), Mammoth Lakes Trails System (MLTS), Sierra Eastside Mountain Bike Association (SEMBA), Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, and Mono County to provide consistent information for users on the over snow fat biking opportunities now available, on proper trail etiquette, and on signage and wayfinding.

Winter sports enthusiasts are encouraged to have a copy of the Eastern Sierra Winter Recreation Map (https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5211392.pdf) or available at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, so that they can responsibly plan their activities.

The Mammoth Lakes Basin (including all snow-covered areas above the road closures on Lake Mary Road and Twin Lakes Road) is closed to over snow fat bike use during the period of operation of the Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center. Bikes are prohibited on groomed Nordic trails, on the Public Access Corridor, and everywhere else in the Mammoth Lakes Basin. Bikes will be permitted in the Mammoth Lakes Basin after April 17, 2018, subject to posted rules and regulations. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area will, however, partner with SEMBA, the Inyo National Forest, and other groups to carry out organized fat bike special events.

To ensure the enjoyment of the trail system for all users, the Inyo National Forest and collaborative partners encourage proper trail etiquette for over snow fat bike users. Fat bike users should yield to all other users, leave room for others to pass (don't ride side-by-side blocking the trail), don't ride in cross country ski tracks or in such a manner as to disturb cross country ski tracks or skating lanes, and don't ride in soft conditions (if you leave a rut deeper than 2 inches, it's too soft). More information on fat biking opportunities and trail etiquette can be found at: <https://blog.mammothtrails.org/blog/the-inyo-national-forest-announces-new-over-snow-fat-biking-opportunities>. As a reminder, mountain bikes are not permitted in wilderness areas.

The Inyo National Forest provides a wide spectrum of winter recreational activities. Visitors and residents can vastly improve these recreational opportunities, reduce conflict, and protect the forest resources by practicing common courtesy and respecting others' experiences.

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

Cannabis Workshops

The Town will be holding several workshops and taking action on items related to cannabis in the coming weeks. All meetings will be in the Town Council Chamber (Suite Z).

- February 6, 1:00 p.m.: The Town Council will hold a workshop regarding proposed regulatory and land use requirements for cannabis businesses. Council will provide direction to staff, but no action will be taken.
- February 7, 4:30 p.m.: The Town Council will hold a workshop regarding proposed cannabis business tax. The Council will hear a presentation from Hinderliter, de Llamas & Associates (HdL), who have extensive experience and knowledge related to cannabis business taxes. Council will provide direction to staff regarding a proposed cannabis business tax ballot measure on the June election.
- February 14, 2:00 p.m.: The Planning and Economic Development Commission will take action on amendments to the land use requirements for cannabis businesses.
- February 21, 6:00 p.m.: The Town Council will take action regarding a cannabis business tax ballot measure on the June election.
- March 7, 6:00 p.m.: The Town Council will take action on an urgency item regarding regulatory and land use requirements for cannabis businesses.

Town Council

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for **Wednesday, February 7, 2018** 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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| Feb. 6 | Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 9:00AM |
| Feb. 8 | Special Meeting of the Recreation Commission, Suite Z, 5:00PM |
| Feb. 14 | Planning and Economic Development Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 2:00PM |

Department Updates

Parks and Recreation News...

- Reminder for Adult Indoor Soccer and Adult Curling that there is no play this Sunday, February 4 in observance of our unofficial national holiday (SuperBowl). Play will resume Sunday, February 11.
- Instructional Basketball is underway every Thursday evening from 5:15-6:00pm at the Mammoth Middle School Gym. This FREE program is for 1-2 graders who are just becoming interested in the sport of basketball. Registration is required and is available online or swing by the gym.
- Adult Coed Volleyball league will begin on Wednesday, February 7. This is a recreational 6 vs. 6 volleyball league. Don't forget to register your team by Sunday, February 4 - one team member must register per team and registration is just \$94. Space is limited so register today!
- Sierra Mountain Guides Avalanche Awareness Course is scheduled for this Saturday, February 3 from 5:15-8:45pm. Start your life-long educational journey into avalanches this weekend at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center! Pre-registration is required and is just \$15. All ages welcome!
- Sierra Mountain Guides continues to offer Backcountry Touring Program on Wednesdays through April 18. Rates are available with or without equipment provided. Additional information is available online at www.MammothParksandRec.com.
- Toddler Time meets 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 continue in Mammoth in Spanish on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00pm and in Crowley Lake on Fridays from 10:30-11:30am. Sessions meet at the community center and all families with children birth through age five are welcome!

Mammoth Ice Rink Hosts Olympic Curling Session

Get your skates on and celebrate the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics at the Mammoth Ice Rink. Attend a FREE curling clinic and match play on Saturday, February 10 from 5:00pm to experience your own Olympic action. Children's Tea Kettle Curling offered simultaneously for those 10 years and under. Registration is required. Come learn the game that might have you on your way to Beijing 2022!

Enjoy public skate sessions, hot snacks and drinks, learn to skate sessions, youth hockey clinics, adult pick-up games and, NEW this year, drop-in curling – all on a refrigerated and professionally maintained ice surface. For an up-to-date schedule, rates and promotions, please visit www.mammothicerink.com or call (760) 965-3695. Weather permitting, the Mammoth Ice Rink is open 7 days a week to inspire future Olympians.

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.