



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**  
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Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546  
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Website: [www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov)

## Town e-News: March 1, 2018

### Town Announcements

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#### 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.

#### Know Your Limit!

'Know Your Limit' 2018 is scheduled this Saturday, March 3 at the Liberty Bar from 9:00pm to midnight.

#### Notice of Vacancies: Building Advisory Committee/Board of Appeals

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that three terms of office will become vacant on the Building Advisory Committee/Board of Appeals. The terms of this office are four (4) years, expiring on April 1, 2022. The Building Advisory Committee/Board of Appeals meets quarterly. Interested parties should file an application with the Town Clerk on or before Monday, February 26, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Application forms may be obtained at the Town Offices, Minaret Village Shopping Center; or by writing to P.O. Box 1609, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; or by phoning 934-3602; or by visiting the Town's website at [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov).

#### 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.

## Town Meetings & Events

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### Town Council

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for **Wednesday, March 7, 2018** beginning at 6:00 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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|----------|---|
| March 6  | Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 9:00AM                        |
| March 13 | Special Meeting of Town Council, Suite Z, 5:30PM                      |
| March 14 | Planning and Economic Development Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 2:00PM |
| March 20 | Special Meeting of the Recreation Commission, Suite Z, 5:00PM         |
| March 21 | Town Council Meeting, Suite Z, 6:00PM                                 |

## Department Updates

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### Mammoth Lakes Police Department

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department & Mono County Sheriff Explorer Post recently sent five Explorers to the Orange County Law Enforcement Explorer Advisors 2018 Winter Academy (OCLEEA). The academy was a 5-day program that had 160 Explorers from Explorer Posts throughout the Orange County area. Some of these agencies included the Anaheim Police Department, Irvine Police Department, Santa Ana Police Department, Garden Grove Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff's Department. The academy is a high stress academy that includes 20 hours of class room instruction relating to law enforcement and 15 hours of physical

fitness. Topics of instruction included criminal law, narcotics, DUI investigations, crime scene investigation and internet safety, just to name a few. The academy also hosted demonstrations from the Anaheim Police Department K-9 Team, Orange County Sheriff's Department Air Operations and Santa Ana SWAT/Bomb Squad. The MLPD is pleased to announce that all five explorers graduated.



From left to right: Officer Daniel Hansen, Explorer Brayan Garcia, Explorer Andrew Gray, Explorer Chris Garcia, Explorer James Rangel, Explorer Corbin Randall and Deputy Nino Hernandez.

### **Mammoth Lakes Housing Seeking Board Members**

Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc. (MLH) seeks three new directors for the Board. Minimally, one of the three new directors must meet the following Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) requirements:

- Be a low-income resident,
- Live in a low-income neighborhood, or
- Is elected by a local organization that serves low-income community members

All those interested in volunteering on the MLH Board should work well in a team setting, be willing to put in time and effort, share in the mission and values of MLH, and enable the Board to address the corporation's program areas. Some of the exciting programs include homebuyer assistance, below-market rate rentals, assisting the Town to implement the Community Housing Action Plan, and the adaptive reuse of existing properties for conversion to rentals for locals such as MLH's recently acquired 238 Sierra Manor Road.

There are many personal and professional benefits that come from serving on a non-profit Board of Directors such as: the development of leadership skills, a chance to affect change, networking opportunities, the chance to give back to the community, an understanding of non-profit governance, and experience with big picture thinking. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Halferty for an application, or submit your resume/CV, or letter of interest to Jennifer Halferty at [jennifer@mammothlakeshousing.org](mailto:jennifer@mammothlakeshousing.org), (760) 934-4740, or 587 Old Mammoth Road Suite 4 | P.O. Box 260, Mammoth Lakes.

### **Parks and Recreation News...**

- Ongoing programs this week include Instructional Basketball on Thursday evenings at the Mammoth Middle School Gym, Adult Indoor Soccer on Sunday evenings at the Mammoth High School Gym, and Adult Coed Volleyball League on Wednesday evenings at the Mammoth Middle School Gym. Competition in both adult leagues is heating up so check out a game this week!
- 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.
- Sierra Mountain Guides continues to offer Backcountry Touring Program on Wednesdays through April 18. Rates are available with or without equipment provided.
- Peapod Playgroups continue in Mammoth in Spanish on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00pm and on Thursdays in English from 10:00 to 11:00am and in Crowley Lake on Fridays from 10:30 to 11:30am. Sessions meet at the community center and all families with children birth through age five are welcome!
- Lastly, Sierra Mountain Guides will be hosting an Avalanche education class on Saturday, March 10 at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center beginning at 5:45pm. Begin your lifelong education of avalanches! All ages are welcome. Advanced registration is required and is just \$10. Sign up today!

### **Celebrate Hockey Weekend Across America at the Mammoth Ice Rink**

Get some time on the ice before it is too late – scheduled closing day for the Mammoth Ice Rink is Sunday, March 4! We have a variety of closing week promotions including our celebration of the 11th Annual “*Hockey Weekend Across America*” from Friday, March 2 through Sunday, March 4 (weather permitting). Promotions include:

- Friday, March 2: Join our FREE “Learn to Play Hockey” clinic for adults and youths from 5:30 until 7:30pm, followed by our FREE Friday Night Skate Session from 7:45 until 10:00pm.
- Saturday, March 3: Support your local hockey heroes with the Mammoth Stars Youth Exhibition Hockey game at 6:00pm
- Sunday, March 4: Wear your favorite hockey jersey and enjoy FREE admission on our last scheduled day of the season!

For an up-to-date schedule, rates and promotions, please visit [www.mammothicerink.com](http://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**

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.crlaction.org).