



Town of Mammoth Lakes

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Town e-News: August 3, 2018

Town Announcements

Upper Main Street Sidewalk Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On July 18, Mayor Wentworth and members of Town Council, Mono County Supervisor Corless, Caltrans District 9, MLPD and Town staff officially opened the Upper Main Street Sidewalk Project. The new sidewalk and bus shelter allows our many residents and visitors to walk in safety from Minaret Road to Mountain Boulevard.



Inyo National Forest Enters Fire Restrictions

Inyo National Forest is implementing fire restrictions effective on all Inyo National Forest lands. The forest is basing this decision on national level fire activity, local fire activity, and the availability of firefighters for response. Effective August 4, and until further notice, the following restrictions will be in effect:

- No campfires, briquette barbecues, or stove fires are allowed outside of designated developed recreation sites and specifically posted campsites or areas. The list of designated campgrounds and recreation sites is available at visitor centers and is posted here.

- Persons with a valid California Campfire Permit (available free of charge at visitor center or online at <http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/>) are not exempt from the prohibitions but are allowed to use portable stoves or lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel.
- No fireworks. It is prohibited to possess or discharge any fireworks, including "safe and sane" fireworks.
- No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

Resorts, pack stations, recreation residences and other sites operated under special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service may be exempt from the special orders, as long as any fire activity is conducted in compliance with their permit. These are listed here.

- Residents and visitors are reminded that simple steps can help prevent human-caused fires.
- Prevent vehicle related fires by maintaining proper tire pressure, ensuring adequate tire tread, and checking your brakes for overheating. Avoid traveling or parking on brush or grass. Ensure chains are not dragging while towing.
- Make sure your campfire is dead out! Drown it, stir it, feel it. If it's not cool to the touch, it isn't out.
- Use of exploding targets, such as Binary Explosive Targets, and tracer rounds, while recreationally shooting is both a fire hazard and illegal. The use of steel-core ammunition, although legal, can greatly increase the chance of a wildfire. Motorcycles, ATV's and chainsaws require an approved spark arrestor.

Help prevent wildfires.....One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire.

Inyo National Forest releases revised land management plan and draft decision

Aug. 3, 2018— The Inyo National Forest is releasing a revised land management plan and draft record of decision for a 60-day objection filing period. When approved, the plan will provide guidance for managing 2 million acres of the forest's resources for the next 10-15 years.

The forest supports about 3,400 jobs in recreation, tourism and generating electricity and clean water. An estimated \$120 million of annual labor income is generated by the forest. The revised plan guides grazing, mining and renewable energy. More than four million people visit the Inyo National Forest each year.

The plan recognizes that fire is integral to forest health, while still taking proactive measures to protect communities and mitigate smoke impacts, which affects residents, visitors, and tourism. The plan strikes a balance of treating fuels, protecting our communities from wildfire, and allowing fire to provide ecological benefits, including fuel reduction, when safe to do so.

Every national forest is required by federal law to have a land management plan that is periodically revised with public involvement. The Inyo National Forest has worked with the public, area tribes, and local, state and federal agencies since 2012 to revise its plan. Public input shaped direction for recreation, aquatic resources, eligible wild and scenic rivers, and species of conservation concern.

"In 1907 the Inyo National Forest was established to protect lands that provide clean water to Los Angeles," said Forest Supervisor Tammy Randall-Parker. "Since then the forest has become an international destination for people seeking exceptional landscapes and recreation opportunities. The revised plan will help balance these uses with maintaining a healthy forest."

More about the plan and its associated documents can be found on-line: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/landmanagement/planning>.

A public meeting is planned for Tuesday, August 7 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Cerro Coso Community College, Eastern Sierra College Center, 4090 W. Line Street, Bishop, CA 93514. The meeting is designed to explain the revised land management plan and objection filing process.

The decision to approve the revised plan is subject to a 60-day objection filing period. People who have provided comments previously in the planning process may file an objection. Refer to the How to Participate in the Objection Process factsheet on the project website for more information.

Town Meetings & Events

Town Council

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for **Wednesday, August 15, 2018** beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Suite Z. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Commission/Committee Meetings

August 7 Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 9:00AM

August 8 Planning & Economic Development Commission Mtg., Ste. Z, 2:00PM

Notify Me!

Receive updates sent directly to your email or phone from the Town of Mammoth Lakes by subscribing to "Notify Me." Found on the left side of www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov, stay current with Public Service Announcements, Emergency Alerts, Town e-News, Recreation This Week, No Burn Announcements, DNDP updates, bid postings, news flash, calendar items, and more! Make smart decisions, subscribe today.

Department Updates

Parks and Recreation News...

- Come check out a Men's or Coed Softball game! Men's League plays on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Coed plays on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Games start at 5:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. and the Women's Club is out there selling concessions from the snack shack. Support your local softball enthusiasts!

Men's League Standings

The Originals	6-0
Thunderstruck	4-3
XRC	3-3
MaxBP	3-3
Goodlife Cafe	0-7

Coed League Standings

Rock N Dirt	6-0
Balls Deep	4-2
Clocktower	4-2
Hit It N Quit It	4-2
Blacktie	2.5-3.5
Beerocracy	1.5-4.5
Outlaw Saloon	1-5
Dirtbags	1-5

- The Whitmore Pool is open for lap swim, open swim, and private swim lessons! Come swim with us this summer before it's too late! Open swim continues through August 26 and lap swim continues through August 31. Check out our schedule and put us on your calendar today!
- Community Center Tennis Programs
 - Adult Drop-In Tennis Clinics are available for intermediate and advanced adults every Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m at the community courts. Each session is just \$10 per person. Punch cards available!
 - Join our free Sunday Tennis Social from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Meet some new people and practice your game.
 - Private tennis lessons are also available on Tuesdays from 2:30 until 3:30 p.m. with advanced reservations. \$25 per half hour.
 - Adult Tennis Camp and Social III: Join our tennis pro, Kyle Osland, the week of August 6 to learn new skills and perfect the ones you already have! This is a wonderful group learning experience, and great opportunity to connect with other tennis enthusiasts in the area. Register today!
- Mammoth Peapods resumes August 2 and continues every Thursday from 10:00 am to 11:00 through September 27 at Shady Rest Park. This is a fun group for families with children age 0-5 to socialize and encourage development through play.

Mammoth Lakes Police Department News...

Leash Your Dog – It's The Law

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department would like to remind citizens that the Town of Mammoth Lakes has several ordinances to keep their animals and the public safe. The Mammoth Lakes Police Department has responded to an increasing number of dog-related incidents and may issue citations for dog owners in violation of the following ordinances:

MLTO 6.12.010 License (Required) – *If you live within the Town of Mammoth Lakes limits the owner of any dog over the age of six months shall procure a town dog license and pay thereafter an annual license fee for each dog.*

MLTO 6.12.210 Dog at large - *It is unlawful for any person owning, harboring, or having the care, custody or possession of any dog within the town limits of Mammoth Lakes to allow such dog to run at large. All such dogs shall be kept securely fastened by a chain, rope or leash unless securely confined within private property legally controlled by the person in possession of the dog. Further, any dog off the premises of its owner, or the person charged with the care, custody or possession of the dog, shall be presumed to be at large unless it is securely fastened to a rope, chain or leash not exceeding six feet in length and is under the immediate physical control of a competent person.*

Pet ownership comes with the responsibility of humane care and management of their animal, along with a legal obligation as well. A dog owner is liable for a victim's injuries if their dog bites and injures the victim. These ordinances also apply at Town parks and facilities. Additional ordinances regulating the responsibilities of pet owners can be found in the Town of Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code (https://library.municode.com/ca/mammoth_lakes_/codes/code_of_ordinances).

Public Service Announcements

Lions Fire Update – August 3

The Lions Fire is estimated to be 6,648 acres and 60% contained, showing an increase of 118 acres yesterday. However, the fire could not be accurately mapped due to smoke inversion and growth is likely greater than what mapping reflects.

Fire activity remains on the western flank, into heavy fuels in the Cargyle Creek Drainage on the Sierra National Forest. Similar fire activity is expected today. The Lions Fire did not see any measurable precipitation yesterday.

Crews completed burning operations along the northeast flank of the fire (south of Fern Lake), strengthening the control line and improving a buffer to keep the main fire from spotting into King Creek and further protecting Devils Postpile National Monument, Reds Meadow, and Mammoth Lakes. Approximately 50+ acres were burned yesterday and burnout operations will continue to occur in the interior to secure the perimeter from fire runs.

Along the western flank, crews continue to scout trail networks and rock barriers to determine the best location for new containment lines. Crews also continue to construct fireline along the southwest flank of the fire. Helicopters are supporting them by cooling the fire's edge with water drops.

The area has experienced approximately 50% tree mortality from bark beetles and drought conditions. Fire activity includes short duration crown runs and group torching. The south and west flanks are expanding slowly, and in some locations the fire is moving downslope.

The Lions Fire currently has 180 total personnel assigned, including seven crews and four helicopters.

Hot and dry conditions remain in the forecast with the potential for continued thunderstorms for the next several days. A Red Flag warning is in effect Saturday August 4 from noon to 10 PM for gusty winds and low humidity.

The Reds Meadow Road and all services in the Reds Meadow Valley, including Devils Postpile National Monument and Rainbow Falls, remain open.

Closures: There is an emergency trail closure for the Fern Lake and Beck Lake Trails on the Inyo National Forest and emergency trail closures and a Forest Order to close the area on the Sierra National Forest (west of the North Fork of the San Joaquin River, north of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River and South of Iron Creek).

Owens, Hot Creek Fire Update – August 2

Both the Owens Fire (312 acres) and the Hot Creek Fire (436 acres) remain at 80% contained.

The Owens Fire is located along the Owens River Road, which is east of Hwy. 395 in the June Lake area.

The Hot Creek Fire is burning near Hot Creek, east of the Mammoth Lakes Airport. This fire has been determined to be on Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Field Office and Inyo National Forest land.

Both have been determined to be lightning-caused fires.

Fire activity on both fires is minimal. Both fires have dozer and handline completed around them. Crews continue mopping up; the process of cooling hot spots with water within the fire perimeter. Crews start near the edge of the fire and work interior (if safe) to find areas such as stumps or logs that may retain heat. This is a slow, deliberate process to help contain the fire.

As of 6:00 pm tonight, the road closures (Owens River Road between Big Springs Campground and Cashbaugh Ranch, Antelope Springs Road (3S05) between Cashbaugh Ranch and Antelope Springs) will be lifted.

At 6:00 pm tonight, the evacuation advisors will be lifted. This includes the Big Springs Campground, Inaja Ranch, and the Arcularius Ranch.

Fire crews remain in the area, so please drive slowly for your and their safety.

Thanks to the response from numerous local agencies including Bureau of Land Management, Cal Fire, Mono County Sheriff, and numerous local fire agencies.

The next update will be when there is something significant to report.

Friendly reminder, Bears have no sense of personal space!

WHEN TO MAKE A BEAR CALL

DO NOT CALL:

- Bear walking through your property or neighborhood
- Bear in a tree

OPTIONAL NON-EMERGENCY - call Wildlife Expert Steve Searles at (760) 934-2327:

- Bear on porch or deck
- Bear in unoccupied vehicle
- Bear making regular visits to property or under deck or house

EMERGENCY - CALL 911:

- Bear inside any building or home
- Bear seen trying to open window or door of occupied dwelling
- Bear in confined space with human beings
- Bear apparently confronting human beings

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 adopted Exterior Lighting Ordinance 17.36.030 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.