



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**

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**Town e-News: July 3, 2018**

**Town Announcements**

**Lions Fire Morning Update: July 3, 2018**

The Lions Fire is currently 3,850 acres and 50% contained. Yesterday's burn-out operations were effective with good fuel consumption, resulting in strengthened fireline and reduced vegetation and dead and down wood throughout the burned area. Crews plan to complete the remainder of burn-out operations by hand today.

Smoke production from the Lions Fire is expected to be reduced today, and will continue to decrease throughout the coming week. Fires elsewhere in the region may affect air quality in the coming days. Nearly 20 miles of fire perimeter have been mapped for containment with handline or natural barriers, and air resources have logged approximately 680 flight hours. Operations are drawing down, and several crews and helicopters have been released to respond to other fires, regionally and nationally. Five crews currently remain on the fireline, and are focusing their efforts on the northern part of the fire.

This lightning-caused fire was detected in early June, and is located in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. It is located primarily in the Stairway Creek drainage, north and west of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River.

The following National Forest System Trails near the burned area have been temporarily closed: Sierra National Forest Trails No. 26E01 (Mammoth Trail) to the Inyo NF Boundary, 26E14, 26E56, and 26E46 from the Inyo NF boundary. Inyo NF trail closures include 26E01 from the Sierra NF to 2601 junction, and 2601 from the boundary of the Inyo NF and Devils Postpile National Monument (King Creek Trail). Trail closures will remain in place until fire management staff determines that it is safe to reopen the area for recreational use.

Shuttles to Devils Postpile National Monument and Reds Meadow Valley are running, and trails there are open. The Pacific Crest Trail and the John Muir Trail are open. Visitors should expect smoke impacts of variable intensity.

Air quality forecasts are available at [https://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=topics.smoke\\_wildfires](https://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=topics.smoke_wildfires)

For more information about smoke conditions in the area, visit webcams at [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com) and the alert tab at [www.nps.gov/DEPO](http://www.nps.gov/DEPO).

For more information, visit: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/news/5850/> or call (760) 582-5203.

## **Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes in partnership with Crowley Lake Fish Camp is extremely proud to host the annual Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular at Crowley Lake on Wednesday, July 4. Admission to the Fourth of July Fireworks Show is once again only \$25.00 per car, RV, or truck (excludes camping), and \$5.00 per individual/bike (walking/riding). Please enjoy our national holiday in a safe and responsible manner.

## **Fireworks Prohibited in The Town Of Mammoth Lakes**

All fireworks are prohibited in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. In addition, personal use of fireworks is prohibited in the non-incorporated areas of Mono County, on the Inyo National Forest (INF), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

## **Inclusive Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

In celebration of National Park and Recreation month, please join us at Mammoth Creek Park for the Inclusive Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 1:00pm on the Fourth of July. The new, 7,700 square-foot playground will serve as National Demonstrate Site and incorporates the Seven Principles of Inclusive Playground Design, providing opportunities for the physical, social-emotional, sensory, cognitive, and communicative benefits of play for all. A big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, donors, supporters and staff who made this project possible!

## **POPS in the Park**

Enjoy a 40-45 piece orchestra performing an hour-long pops program at Mammoth Creek Park. Starting approximately 30 minutes after the last float concludes in the Fourth of July parade, Chamber Music Unbound will be showcasing all your favorite tunes in this beautiful setting by the creek.

## **Mammoth Pacific Geothermal Donates \$75,000 to Support New Inclusive Playground in Mammoth Lakes**

Mammoth Lakes Recreation announced that it has received a pledge for \$75,000 from local geothermal energy producer Mammoth Pacific Geothermal to assist with the construction of a new inclusive playground in Mammoth Lakes.

The playground, which is located at Mammoth Creek Park West, is designed to allow people of all abilities, including those with cognitive, developmental and physical challenges to use the facilities. Mammoth Pacific's gift will be used to install additional impact absorbent accessible surfacing to allow wheelchair access and other mobility-assisting devices on and around the playground.

"Access is a critical component of inclusive play," notes Betsy Truax, Chair of the Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commission.

Truax, along with Town of Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation Director Stuart Brown, were instrumental in securing grant funding to help build the playground, which will be designated a National Demonstration Site (NDS) for inclusive play after it opens.

"We are dedicated to keeping Mammoth Lakes a wonderful place to live," says Paul Thomsen, Executive Director for Mammoth Pacific's parent company Ormat

Technologies, Inc. "We share the Town's vision of becoming a recognized leader in inclusive and sustainable recreation."

Representatives from Mammoth Pacific Geothermal will be joining members of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council, PlayCore, and local volunteers who assisted in the community build effort, at a ribbon cutting ceremony for the playground on Wednesday, July 4th, at 1:00 p.m.

### **Mono County Sheriff's Office on the lookout for drunk and impaired boaters**

The Mono County Sheriff's Office will be conducting heightened enforcement targeting boating under the influence as part of the national *Operation Dry Water* campaign. Law enforcement will be focused on educating boaters about safe boating practices, which includes boating sober, and enforcing the state's boating under the influence laws.

With the summer boating season underway, and the July 4th holiday approaching, the Mono County Sheriff's Office reminds boaters that impaired boating is against the law. Operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal on all bodies of water and can lead to serious injuries and consequences. In California it is illegal to operate a vessel with a BAC level of .08 or higher - the same as it is to operate a vehicle.

"The accidents and tragedies that happen because individuals chose to drive drunk or impaired, on land or on the water, are preventable. The decision lies with the individual on whether they chose to operate a boat or vehicle while under the influence", says Sheriff Ingrid Braun. "As law enforcement, it is our job to do all we can to ensure the safety of our recreational boaters and paddlers. That is why the Mono County Sheriff's Office is joining other states and agencies across the country to do our part in keeping boaters safe and preventing accidents related to boating under the influence."

Alcohol is the leading contributing factor in recreational boating deaths, and a major contributor to accidents. The Mono County Sheriff's Office encourages boaters to enjoy the boating season to its full extent by boating sober, wearing a life jacket, and taking a boating education course.

The national Operation Dry Water weekend will take place June 29 - July 1. The mission of Operation Dry Water is to reduce the number of alcohol and drug-related accidents and fatalities through increased recreational boater awareness and by fostering a stronger and more visible deterrent to alcohol use on the water.

Visit [www.operationdrywater.org](http://www.operationdrywater.org) or [www.monosheriff.org](http://www.monosheriff.org) for more information about boating under the influence.

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## **Town Meetings & Events**

### **Town Council**

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for **Wednesday, July 18, 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**

July 11          Planning & Economic Development Commission Mtg., Ste. Z, 2:00PM  
August 7          Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 9:00AM

## **Department Updates**

### **Mammoth Lakes Police Department...**

#### **MLPD Welcomes New Officer Logan McCutchan**

In May, MLPD welcomed new Police Officer Logan McCutchan to the team. Raised in the Ventura County Area, McCutchan started his first responder career as an EMT in San Francisco and Torrance. He was later hired by Los Angeles Police Department in 2014 and then moved to Santa Barbara Police Department in 2016.



Officer McCutchan has been coming to Mammoth Lakes since he was a year old. He was happy when he was brought on as a MLPD reserve in January of 2018 and thrilled when he received an offer as a fulltime officer.

McCutchan has performed his duty with enthusiasm and professionalism. In February, McCutchan received a letter of commendation for Superior Performance which resulted in felony criminal charges. He continues to represent the

department and the town with pride and Logan has become a department favorite. Join us in welcoming Officer McCutchen to the Eastern Sierra.

(Pictured Officer McCutchan with his parents Colleen and Charles McCutchan)

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

July is National Parks and Recreation Month! To celebrate we are hosting a variety of fun, family friendly events. Follow us on Facebook (Mammoth Parks N Rec) to check out all of our events. We are kicking off the first week of July with the opening of our new inclusive playground at Mammoth Creek Park on July 4!

- The [Ribbon Cutting Ceremony](#) and grand opening of the new inclusive playground will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July immediately following the parade (approximately 1:00 p.m.) We kindly ask that all volunteers come back in their t-shirts for a group photo following the ceremony.



- Join us down at [Whitmore Pool](#) for lap swim, open swim and swim lessons! We still have some openings in Week Long Swim Lessons (session III-V). Season passes and 5-punch passes are available at the pool. Come swim with us this summer!
- [Men's and Coed Adult Softball Seasons](#) are just around the corner. If you are interested in joining Men's, Coed or both please contact me Lauren Plum at [lplum@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](mailto:lplum@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov) or call (760) 965-3699.
- 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. Each session is just \$10 per person. Punch cards available!
  - Starting this Sunday, June 24 and continuing through September join us for a free Sunday Tennis Social from 9:30 a.m. until noon.
  - Private tennis lessons are also available on Tuesdays from 2:30 until 3:30 p.m. with advanced reservations. \$25 per half hour.
  - Take your game to the next level!
- Peapod Playgroups continue in Mammoth on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Shady Rest Park and in Crowley Lake on Fridays from 10:30 to 11:30 at Crowley Lake Park. Due to the smoke, please check the website or call for alternative locations if needed.

## **Public Works News...**

### **Upper Main Street Sidewalk Project**

The Town contracted with Spiess Construction to build a sidewalk from Minaret Road to Mountain Boulevard. Traffic safety controls are in effect for the right lane traveling west towards Minaret Rd from Mountain Blvd to View Point Rd. Pedestrian and bike travel is still permitted within designated lanes. Construction will occur during normal work hours Monday through Friday, and possible Saturday and Sunday. Please be aware and careful when traveling by foot or bike within designated pedestrian lanes. Expect delays due to the reduced lane, or seek alternate route when traveling west bound on Main St. Work will be continue until July 2018 and will affect pedestrian and vehicular traffic. If you require further information or have issues during the construction please feel free to contact: Haislip Hayes, Engineering Manager at (760) 965-3652. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

## **Public Service Announcements**

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