



Town of Mammoth Lakes
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Town e-News: April 5, 2019

Town Announcements

April 3, 2019 Town Council Action

- The Town Council appointed Jessica Kennedy to the Planning and Economic Development Commission (PEDC) with a term expiring on July 21, 2020.
- Town Council approved the proclamation declaring April, 2019 as Fair Housing Month.



- Town Council approved the proclamation declaring April, 2019 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month.



- Town Council awarded a contract to Mountain Carpet Services, Inc. in the amount of \$17,777.26 to replace all the old carpet/vinyl flooring in the Community Center with a new vinyl flooring resembling a grey wood design. Work will be completed in May of this year.

- Town Council awarded a contract to the Tahoe Fence Co. in the amount of \$47,843.50 to install a new chain link fence at Shady Rest Park, fix the damaged fence at the Community Center Tennis Courts/Mammoth Ice Rink/RecZone and install required entry/exit gates at the Whitmore Pool. Work will be completed this spring/summer.
- Town Council waived the first reading and introduced by title only the ordinance amending Municipal Code Section 12.20.310. The ordinance will return to Town Council on April 17, 2019 for the second and final reading. The new ordinance is as follows:

12.20.310 - Model airplanes, model rockets or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

The operation of motor-driven airplanes, model rockets, or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), commonly called drones are prohibited on park property except in designated areas and without first obtaining a town permit.

The proliferation of drones in public spaces and parks is a concern for many parks and recreation agencies across the country. Town staff believe that it is appropriate to recognize the popularity and use of drones in and around the Town of Mammoth Lakes by including them in an existing ordinance that allows model airplanes and model rockets to be used in designated areas with a Town permit. The Town believes this action provides basic regulation and guidelines to address public safety in Town parks and as public policy becomes more defined, with drone usage over time, the Parks and Recreation Department will continue to reevaluate and present proposed regulations.

This ordinance amendment will assist the Town in managing drone usage in our parks and facilities. However, for uses in other locations we can only refer them to the FAA information page for the most up to date information and regulations.

The FAA establishes and enforces all rules and regulations for airspace including drone usage. The Town's draft permit for drone users states all drones must be registered and operators must abide by FAA regulations. This language has been recommended to us by JPIA and is considered standard practice at this time as the regulations are changing too rapidly for us to include specific language within our permit. For example, drones are supposed to stay under 400 ft., however, the Town cannot state this in our permit as this requirement can be modified by the FAA at any time and our permit cannot be in conflict with FAA regulations.

Regarding drone usage in the following areas:

- Drone usage on BLM land is allowed by certified drone operator – FAA has a certification class and operators are required to have their license on them and provide upon request when operating a drone.
- USFS defers to any and all FAA regulations; operators must abide be aware of and obey temporary flight restrictions
- Wilderness areas - Drones are classified as "mechanized equipment" and their use is prohibited, although it is not clear how this is enforced.

This amendment is a first step in aligning the use of drones with industry and FAA best practices and guidelines for use. Staff have a developed a permit process for the safe use of these devices on park property and upon adoption of the proposed ordinance by Town Council will implement this new procedure.

- Town Council awarded a contract to Spiess Constriction Co. Inc. in the amount of \$79,370 to construct a retaining wall along the South Frontage Road near 3163 Main Street. Work will be performed this summer.
- Town Council authorized the Town Manager to finalize a consulting agreement in the amount of \$400,000 with Lisa Wise Consulting Inc. for planning consulting services for The Parcel.

On March 30, 2018, the Town completed the acquisition of the approximately 25 acre "Parcel" with an investment of approximately \$6.5 million. Since that time, staff has provided regular updates to Town Council. On December 19, 2018 Town Council authorized resources to further the predevelopment efforts. The December 19 Town Council action also addressed overall housing program support resource needs. Those actions were in keeping with the identification of housing as an extremely high priority for the Town. On January 9, Town Council and the Planning and Economic Development Commission received a comprehensive update on The Parcel. Since January 9, staff has been providing monthly updates through Town Council Department Head Reports. The Town Council has conveyed the importance of both completing a thoughtful and engaged public process while also completing the planning process quickly to achieve new affordable housing opportunities in a short time frame.

In response to the Town Council's December 19, 2018 actions, the Town advertised a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Conceptual Land Use Planning and Related Civil Engineering Services for The Parcel. In advance of the January 24, 2019, 5:00 PM deadline for submittal, the Town received five responses, listed here in alphabetical order:

- Design Workshop, Stateline, Nevada
- Evolve environment architecture, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- JK Architecture Engineering, Tahoe City, California
- Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc., San Luis Obispo, California
- The Planning Associates, Irvine, California

A panel of four Town staff members, including representatives from Public Works Engineering and Community and Economic Development Departments, as well as a representative from Mono County Community Development reviewed the information provided and evaluated the responders' qualifications in accordance with the criteria included in the RFQ. The panel identified Lisa Wise Consulting (LWC) as the top ranked firm.

Eastern Sierra Office of Sustainable Recreation and Tourism

At its Cameron Park, CA board meeting on March 7, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board authorized \$618,750 of Proposition 68 funding to the Town of Mammoth Lakes for the "The Eastern Sierra Office of Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Project", a project to benefit the SNC's Eastern sub-region, including Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties.

In consultation with the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG), the Town of Mammoth Lakes submitted the grant application on behalf of its regional partners. The purpose of the Project is to support the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP), a unique and locally generated public/public partnership between Eastern Sierra governments and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). As documented in the Partnership's agreement, the stated goal of the ESSRP is to

"...design, plan, implement, and report out projects to improve and maintain recreational opportunities as well as restore ecosystems to their natural resiliency and functions." The USFS has provided staff support for the establishment of the Partnership - which includes two USFS forests and two USFS regions - through its Washington, D.C., office, desiring to use this public/public partnership as a replicable model for USFS units and their gateway communities across the country. The Partnership is a direct outcome of forest management planning for the Inyo National Forest, one of eight "Early Adopter" forests to use the 2012 Planning Rule, establishing three primary focus areas for the Inyo National Forest's new management plan: fire management, ecological integrity, and sustainable recreation.

SNC Project funding will facilitate and ensure on-the-ground implementation for projects developed and recommended for funding by the Partnership through four deliverables:

- Regional Recreation Stakeholder Engagement — Deliverable #1
- Technical Assistance: ESSRP Project Funding — Deliverable #2
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience — Deliverable #3
- Connection to the Eastern Sierra Visitor Audience — Deliverable #4

The Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County have committed local funds and hired an Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Coordinator, a full-time position that, while constrained by local funding restrictions, supports the Partnership's project-development efforts. The SNC Governing Board's investment in the Project demonstrates a pioneering, commitment to rural California's outdoor recreation economy, and the natural resources that make it possible. For more information, please visit www.essrp.org.

Town Meetings & Events

Town Council

The next regular meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council has been scheduled for **Wednesday, April 17, 2019** 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

| | |
|----------|---|
| April 10 | Planning & Economic Development Commission Mtg., Ste. Z, 2:00PM |
| May 7 | Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 9:00AM |

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

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS...

Construction for the south side of the Lower Main Street Sidewalk project will begin April 15, 2019. The sidewalk, which is consistent with the design along the north side of Main Street, will extend from Manzanita Road to Laurel Mountain Road. Also included is a section on the north side from Sierra to Mountain. Construction is expected to last through the end of summer. During construction, all business access will be maintained and kept open. However, much of the Frontage Road parking near the proposed sidewalk will be closed for a portion of the project. Business owners should keep an eye out for an informational meeting to be held prior to the start of construction. If you have any questions, please contact Haislip Hayes at (760) 965-3652 or via email at hhayes@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

The Town is excited to complete this project, the largest phase of the program that represents an investment of over \$8 million and includes (from west to east):

- a) Minaret Connector from 8050 to the Mammoth Brewing, substantially complete;
- b) Utilities undergrounding from Mountain to Minaret, complete;
- c) Upper Main Street Wall and Sidewalk from Mountain to Minaret, substantially complete;
- d) Lower Main Street Sidewalk, north side from Post Office to Forest Trail, substantially complete; and,
- e) Lower Main Street Summer 2019 as described above.

PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS...

An Open Letter from the Director to our Recreation Parents

On Monday, April 1, many of our Town signature and award-winning summer camps sold out in minutes. We feel incredibly gratified by the love and recognition expressed by our loyal customers, but we also deeply share and feel your frustrations. As the Director of your Parks and Recreation Department, I want to assure you that we are listening, we sympathize with you, and over the next two months, we will stay in constant contact with you to adjust spots, shift resources and do what we can to address this extraordinary demand.

The Facts

To put April 1 in perspective we enrolled over 500 children in summer camps and programs - over 73% of our total summer registrations. To prepare for this one-time momentous event, staff arranged for priority server support, reviewed each and every product, merged customer profiles, and offered registration tips by phone, via email and in person at the March 26 Summer Recreation Expo. It helped, but we were astonished by the escalating level of demand. By 8:01 a.m., 28 camps were sold; at 8:05 a.m., 209 transactions had been processed; by 8:10 a.m., 331 transactions had occurred, and by 9:00 a.m., 441 camps/lessons had been purchased. These are staggering numbers and demonstrate a significant increase in sales volume compared to 2018. In short, summer camps sold out twice as fast as last year. In addition, we had 60 less camp spots to offer parents this summer. Because of the extended school year, we were unable to offer the School's Out Camp and due to circumstances outside the Department's control, we removed 40 spots from the Wave Rave Skate Camps. This is not what you want to hear but my

takeaway from this process is simple – demand is overwhelming our program capacity.

We've Come a Long Way

Less than a decade ago, parents waited in line at the front counter or were on hold for hours trying to secure their children's spot in our small but growing summer camp program. In 2010, we hosted just over 200 children in summer camps, fast forward to 2019 and we are pushing 700, a 250% increase. We've come a long way with the Active online registration platform, but we clearly have some technological opportunities to explore.

What We're Hearing

Town employees did not take your spots, nor were the camps already full when registration opened. These families (many of whom work supporting the camps) made up less than 3% of our total enrollments leaving plenty of room for families to register. Some parents believe that local residents should receive priority over visitors or second homeowners. The Recreation Commission participated in a lengthy discussion prior to endorsing the annual programming menu and stated that such prioritization is difficult to fairly determine and inconsistent with the Department's mission statement to provide recreation opportunities accessible to all residents and visitors.

What We Are Doing for You

My first words of advice for parents are not to panic and stay calm. I don't want to sound trite or dismissive, but from experience, camp enrollments are dynamic and continually change as families finalize their summer plans. We see the most amount of movement in the first couple of weeks after registration and then more movement about 10 days prior to the camp start date. Expect to receive frequent communications and outreach from staff regarding camp opportunities from the heavily scrutinized waitlist. In addition, I encourage you to stay on the waitlist or enroll in a camp to allow us to work to meet this demand.

Other Recreation Opportunities

Although many of the signature camps have exceeded capacity, the UK Soccer and Challenger Sport soccer camps have unlimited enrollment and offer full-day options. In addition, Youtheatre, Youth Tennis Camp and many of our Mini camps still have availability. Other full-day options include Mono Arts Camps, Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre Shakespeare Kids Camp, Playhouse 395, Husky Club, Bishop Parks and Rec. day camps, Ground Up Climbing Camps, Sierra Mountain Guides Scramblers Rock Climbing Camp and Mammoth Mountain overnight camps. Additionally, Valentine Reserve offers half-day educational science camps. I encourage you to seek out the many recreation opportunities offered throughout the Eastern Sierra as showcased at the recent Summer Recreation Expo.

In closing, thank you for sharing your concerns and frustrations - we are listening. I strongly encourage you to stay involved by engaging our staff and the Recreation Commission in meaningful solution-orientated dialogue about the Department's capacity and resource issues: limited transportation, staffing, financial and facility constraints.

Our exceptional team of park and recreation professionals are solely committed to delivering high quality, affordable and memorable experiences for each and every child, youth and adult.

I look forward to seeing you this summer at our parks, pools, fields and facilities.

Sincerely,

Stuart Brown, Parks and Recreation Director

Department Programs:

- Yoga continues each Sunday evening at the Community Center! Stretch and clear your mind each Sunday evening at 5:30 p.m. A suggested donation of \$5-\$10.
- Join a [SMG Backcountry Tour](#), occurring each Wednesday through April 17. Take advantage of epic conditions and register today!
- [Adult Volleyball](#) continues to play on Wednesday evenings at the Mammoth Middle School Gym. Matches take place at 6:00 or 7:30 p.m. Come check out a match next week!
- [Registration for Little Slugger T-Ball](#) is now open. Introduce your 2 to 5 year old to the sport of baseball with this fun, safe and educational program. Parent involvement is required. Little Slugger T-Ball will be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Elementary School fields. This program begins May 1 and continues on Wednesday evenings through June 5. Register today!

MAMMOTH LAKES POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS...

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.

10.12.100 - Winter Parking Prohibition

The parking or standing of vehicles in designated areas on the roadside of the snow stakes along any town road from November 1 through April 30 is prohibited unless the location has been designated for winter parking as specified herein.

10.12.106 - Obstructing Snow Removal

It shall be unlawful for any person to park, abandon, or otherwise leave unattended any vehicle as defined in Section 670 of the California Vehicle Code on any town right-of-way at any time or in any manner which will obstruct, hinder, delay or otherwise inconvenience any town officer, employee or town contractor during snow removal operations or which will leave the vehicle in such a position that it is subject to damage by town officers, employees or town contractors engaged in snow removal operations



10.12.110 - Towing Of Parked Vehicles

Any member of the California Highway Patrol and any designated employee of the police department of the town, may remove any vehicle parked or left standing upon any town road in violation of this article during the period of November 1 through April 30.

Please note: the Town's easement is 10 foot off the edge of pavement, so please park accordingly.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT NEWS...

Work for the Town of Mammoth Lakes

As we continue to grow and expand our workforce, the Town is pushing recruitment efforts with a number of exciting temporary and year-round employment opportunities! The Town of Mammoth Lakes knows our employees are our most valuable assets, which is why we strive to attract and retain the best talent. If you're committed to public service and you want to be part of the changing face of local government, apply now! Visit our [career portal](#) for more information.

Public Service Announcements

Fly to Mammoth Lakes!

Fly to Mammoth Lakes with fares starting from \$79 one way*

Mammoth Yosemite Airport is only 10 minutes away making travel to Mammoth Lakes even easier. You can reach Mammoth Lakes from over 100 cities worldwide – including New York, Chicago, Dallas, and Sydney. Enjoy convenient year-round flights to Mammoth Lakes via Los Angeles (LAX) and flights from Denver, San Francisco, Burbank, and Orange County available during the winter season. Go to [VisitMammoth.com](#) to get detailed information on commercial air service to Mammoth Lakes.

Airport shuttles, hotel shuttles and car rental agencies are available at the Mammoth Yosemite Airport. Be sure to check with your individual hotel to see if airport pick-up is available. And once you're booked, you can track your flight.

*Restrictions apply. See site for full terms and conditions.

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).

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

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.