

MOSQUITO BYTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION

MOSQUITO



Volunteer Fire Association

Volume 31, No. 4

January 2018

Chief's Corner

WOW, 2018 IS HERE! Not sure where the year went but it was a fast-paced challenge for the District. But a lot was accomplished so here's a quick look at **some** of the things that occurred in 2017.....



"2017 In Review"

At the time of this publication, we had responded to 147 "Calls for Service". That's a 23% increase in the past annual Calls for Service. A tremendous THANK YOU to the Volunteers and Paid Staff for being there when you were needed! For the first time ever, El Dorado County Emergency Medical Services Agency has authorized the District to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) services on certain medical calls. What does that mean? Well, we now have 5 Paramedics associated with the District. If one of them is on duty at the Station and responds on a medical call for service, they can practice their paramedic skills. Without the ALS authorization, these responders could NOT function as a Paramedic.

We had several Volunteer Firefighters successfully complete the Regional Academy. Academic and leadership honors were certainly present in our Mosquito attendees. The District and the community is fortunate to have these committed people. To you graduates, thank you for your service and welcome to our ranks.

The District applied for and received a 3-year staffing grant from FEMA. After reviewing some of the "fine print" requirements for acceptance, the District Board determined that fiscally we could not provide the required funding during the grant period and the maintenance period after the grant expired. Unfortunately, we had to reject the grant. BUT, we aren't giving up. We are preparing to submit a similar staffing grant in which we have a better chance of meeting the funding requirements.

The District Board of Directors established a desired minimum staffing level of 2-24/7 (two people on duty 24 hours, 7 days a week). Right now we are staffed 2-8/7 (two people on duty 8 hours a day, 7 days a week). So any call for service that occurs AFTER 5 PM falls on the shoulders of our volunteer cadre. Our volunteers are a fantastic, dedicated group of people but ultimately we would like to provide them some assistance by having a minimum of 2 paid staff on-duty all the time. Fiscally, we can't provide this service level right now but it is a goal that the District is working toward.

The District entered into an operational "Shared Services" agreement with our neighbor, Garden Valley Fire District. This was covered in detail in last month's Byte but generally this will mean that we will train together, make purchases together when appropriate, and provide unpaid staffing assistance to each other and much more.

A Parcel Assessment Review Committee was established. It's no secret that there's a fairly large gap between the funding we receive (\$331,000) and the current cost of operations (\$421,000). For the last two years we have been covering that difference with "Reserves" but this can't continue. The District is exploring ways to provide the additional revenue needed to maintain services. One possible way that's being examined is an increase in our annual parcel assessment. This is a "work in progress" committee and we will no doubt hear more from them in 2018.

Yes, 2017 has been a very active year for the District, but we would be remiss if we didn't include a fire safety message. So let's make a New Year's Resolution for 2018 to "Do something to make our home safer". Whether it's clearing brush, improving the visibility of your address, changing the smoke detector batteries, placing a fire extinguisher in your kitchen or garage; little things like this can make a difference. Let's agree to at least do something!!! (Just an FYI, if you are elderly or disabled and need help with your smoke or CO2 detector, give the station a call and staff will be happy to assist you.)

Wishing you the best in 2018 from the Chief, Staff and Volunteers of the Mosquito Fire Protection District.

**The next MFPD Board meeting is Thursday, January 11th at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station.
You are welcome to attend!**

Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA)

By the MVFA Board of Directors

Another year has gone by and MVFA faced and overcame a number of challenges. We have so many people to thank. First, the café is repaired, cleaned and returned to the community as a full restaurant, social hub and meeting place. Thanks to Frank, Heidi and Chana Ethridge for accepting this challenge. Thanks to Café liaison Kim Purcell, Dave Angelo and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to return the café to the community with safety upgrades and improvements. MVFA asks that the community show its support and give Frank's Diner a chance to succeed. MVFA is moving back to Frank's Diner to conduct their monthly meetings and Bingo.

Don't forget, **Bingo is back** in January 2018 on the fourth Thursday of the month, which is **January 25th**!. Games start at 7:00 PM, and Frank will provide food at a special price. Frank also offers catering in house or at your home. The café, patio and pavilion are also available for family events and club outings. Call Frank for more information at (530) 409-1977 or visit: www.franksmosquitodiner.com.

The annual MVFA Christmas Turkey Dinner and membership meeting took place on Saturday, December 9th at the Fire Station. This dinner was provided by MVFA volunteers to show our thanks and support to the wonderful members of our special Mosquito community, our superb Fire Department personnel, and the great many volunteers who work to make our community the best.

MVFA would like to thank Dave Angelo for his many years of service to the community and the board as Wildlife Committee Chairman and Café Liaison. Dave did not seek re-election to the board, but will continue to chair the Fish and Wildlife Committee at Finnon.

The MVFA Board would like to thank all the members that ran for the board this year. This was a big change from past years. We also recognize that the election had its challenges due to the current By-Laws. Candidates with the most votes were: Linda Heyart, incumbent. Gary Morris, incumbent. Kim Purcell, appointed incumbent. Eileen Reisner, candidate. Thanks to Eileen Reisner for volunteering to take the Secretary's position. Thanks also to Elisabeth Bingham for first, her undaunted dedication to the well-being of our community, and second for her service as previous MVFA secretary.

Many rural communities across the country have organizations similar to MVFA: Granges, churches, community centers, etc. Like MVFA, these organizations are designed with a primary purpose - to provide an opportunity for community volunteerism, friendship and support. These are not political organizations, nor designed to be politicized. They are comprised of volunteers willing to do the work necessary to continue the mission of the organization.

Over the past few months, the MVFA board listened to various comments regarding the MVFA By-Laws and recognized the need for change. In the December Board meeting we had a lengthy discussion with community members regarding ideas around change. There was a general consensus that making changes before the election was not a good idea. With many ideas gathered, it was decided to take the time to do a thorough review rather than attempt a quick fix. The board will take the next few months to review and make changes to the By-Laws. Once completed, the changes will be presented to the community.

MVFA operates as a public benefit corporation pursuant to the laws of California. It is organized as a non-profit tax exempt entity and is funded entirely by grants, donations, fund raisers and rents and fees at Finnon Lake - which it owns. MVFA receives no tax revenues, nor any dues money from SCPOA. As per IRS mandate, MVFA gives no cash nor has any financial connection to any non-501(c)(3) organization or to the Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD). MVFA has no paid employees, and operates entirely with volunteers who donate their own time and often their own money to make our community a better place. If you would like to enhance your membership in MVFA, please become a volunteer.

If you can't volunteer, please consider a donation to MVFA. We have a community fund designed to help neighbors in need, and the MVFA Station 75 Fund that provides funds to purchase tools, equipment and other items at the Chief's request. And there are always maintenance and improvement projects at the Fire Station and at Finnon Lake Recreation Area.

MVFA is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible. A letter stating your donation will be provided on request. Send your donation to MVFA, 9009 Orval Beckett Ct., Placerville CA 95667.

If you have any questions about MVFA, please attend the MVFA Board of Directors meeting at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month at Frank's Diner, 9001 Rock Creek Road, Placerville, CA 95667. At the meetings, you have the opportunity to obtain correct information about MVFA, it's committees, it's legal obligations at Finnon Lake, it's events and volunteer opportunities. In the meantime, please visit both MVFA websites for legal, historical and event information: www.GoMVFA.org for by-laws, mission statement, Mosquito Byte online and upcoming events. Visit www.finnonrecreationarea.com and click "EVENTS" for the 2018 MVFA events schedule. Click "ABOUT" for the message board and historical information about MVFA and Finnon Lake Recreation Area.. Or call Tom Harris at (530) 642-2333 with any questions about the campground and/or Day Use facilities. Call Dave Angelo at (530) 621-3688 with questions about the lake, fishery, wildlife or to obtain a Resident Annual Day Use Pass. The board can also be contacted at mvfa95667@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support.

Notices: The views expressed on social media by individual board members may not represent the views or policies of the MVFA Board.

The MVFA Board of Directors values the privacy rights of its board members - who are private citizens and not public servants. Membership on the MVFA board does not constitute a waiver of this right to privacy. Public display of a photograph or video recording of any board member without his or her permission is considered a violation of their right to privacy, and legally actionable.

Please join us for the MVFA Board meeting on Thursday, January 4th at 7:00 p.m. at Frank's Diner.

SCPOA Report

by Roger Stenbock

Budget

Your SCPOA Board approved its 2018-19 fiscal year budget. It includes a reduction in annual assessment from \$650 to \$600. At the \$600 rate, the Association collects \$417,000 in revenue from its 695 lots. Of this, the Board allocates \$150,000 to its reserves, and then allocates the remaining \$267,000 to:

- \$10,000 Utilities
- \$28,000 repairs and maintenance
- \$90,000 payroll, taxes and benefits
- \$32,000 insurance
- \$80,000 management, legal and administration
- \$20,000 Bad Debt allowance
- \$5,700 contingencies

By law, SCPOA must prepare a capital asset replacement and repair plan to cover the next 30 years. Browning prepares our annual Reserve Study. It analyzes both our replacement costs over time and how well our current reserve allocation prepares us to meet those costs. Though there are no fixed rules as to the amount the Boards must set aside, the generally accepted guideline for a healthy organization is 70% of projected need. Our approved reserve study shows SCPOA at a record 93.1% level. We discovered and corrected an error in the reserve calculations in the 2016-17 budget. This allowed us to reduce you assessments for three consecutive years. We reduced your annual cost from \$780 to \$600 as a result. We'll publish a summary in January.

Election

Three director positions are up for election. Any SCPOA member or supporter may self-nominate (deadline is January 5). Ballots with the nominee's statements, are sent to each lot owner. Voting is by secret ballot. It can be mailed or brought to the annual meeting. Ballots are counted by a group of volunteers (neither board members nor candidates) and the results are announced. I encourage you to run for a seat if interested. Be sure to vote and attend the Annual Meeting at the Fire Station this February. There'll also be a Meet and Greet the candidates held at the Fire Station in January.

The SCPOA meeting is Thursday, January 18th at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station. You are welcome to attend!

Crafters

by Sharon Hern

ATTENTION LADIES – Our 2018 Crafting begins. We had a great “Crafting” year in 2017 with several new Holiday related items. If you’re a “crafter” or just one of us who can do simple (?) cut, paste/glue, paint, etc. jobs, you are encouraged to come join us at our Craft Meeting. There’s the fun of learning new crafts, meeting new friends, coffee, and goodies. Our first meeting of 2018 is on **January 19th** (see time and location below). This is our planning meeting where we set the dates for our Craft Sales this year and determine the projects that we will be working on. Our craft meetings are generally held on the 4th Friday of each month (except this month is different) from 10 AM to 12 Noon at the home of Darlene Rood, 2211 Swansboro Road. Hope to see you on January 19th.

Christmas Baskets

By Sharon Hern & Mary Ann Haywood

What a wonderful community we live in! With all of the food, toys, gift cards and monetary donations that were received, MVFA was able to make a lot of families, children and seniors smile and their holidays a little brighter. Thank You” to all of our helpers who sorted and packed the food baskets, sorted and wrapped the presents, Dee Harris and her “Cookie Elves” for the wonderful Cookie Boxes, Kim Purcell for her great “Pumpkin Bread” and to our “Delivery Team” who delivered all the Christmas Baskets and Santa Hugs. And a very special “Thank You” to our community for their very generous donations.



By Dee Harris

THANK YOU to all my 'Cookie Angels' for baking and contributing wonderful goodies to add to the MVFA Christmas Baskets again this year. And thank you to Nese and her girls for creating beautiful cards to be included with the cookies.



WANTED!!! ALL CA CRV ALUMINUM CANS, BEER BOTTLES AND PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES.

Please drop off bags from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Fire Station. Please consider this option when you organize your recycled materials. (Sorry, wine bottles do not have CRV so we cannot use them)

NOTE: Lids/Caps on plastic and glass CRV containers **MUST BE REMOVED** before they can be redeemed. If you have a chance and can remove the lids, it will sure help the recycle volunteers.



MVFA THANKS YOU!

Birding at Finnon Lake

By Dave Angelo

Our next bird watching will be on **Saturday, January 20th** at 9:00 am. We meet at the Finnon Lake Pavilion. The community is welcome to participate. It's a nice leisurely walk around Finnon Lake using the campground address road. Hope to see you there!



43	Canada Goose	2	Mallard
3	Bufflehead	3	Pied-billed Grebe
2	Double-crested Cormorant	1	Great Egret
2	Turkey Vulture	44	American Coot (Red-shielded)
3	Killdeer	1	Anna's Hummingbird
6	Western Bluebird	6	American Robin
1	Lesser Goldfinch	1	Common Merganser

Number of Taxa: 14

In Memory of Dan Giesler and Esten Atwood



Christmas Bazaar

By Kim Purcell

Thank you to all who participated in and attended the third annual MVFA and Trading Post community Christmas bazaar. It was a beautiful day to be out shopping and we had a great selection of items for sale. The best part was taste testing the edible items prior to purchasing, once you tasted you couldn't resist. We look forward to our fourth Christmas sale next year and will be planning our spring bazaar for 2018.

Frank's Diner

By Frank Ethridge

Happy New Year 2018!!

It's a new year and we are getting geared up for lots of fun and events this year. We would like to thank you, the community, for the support of Frank's Diner and we look forward to many years of serving you. Keep an eye out for upcoming events like Bingo and a painting party night. Don't forget that you can pick up a Take N Bake pizza from the café. Our Hours are Wednesday through Friday 11am-8pm and Saturday and Sunday 8am-8pm. Let us help you with any catering needs that you may have. You may reach us at 409-1977 or at franksmosquitodiner@gmail.com

Wednesday Family Night Specials

January 3 rd	Beef Stew	January 10 th	BBQ Chicken
January 17 th	Tostadas (Beef and Chicken)	January 24 th	Lasagna
January 31 st	Rosemary Chicken		

Chef's Corner

By Frank's Diner

Recipe of the month: **Southwestern Tortilla Soup**

Feeds 6 to 8 people

This will put a little warmth in you on those cold winter evenings

Ingredients: 12 each 6 inch corn tortillas cut in strips 2 ounces corn oil
3 cloves garlic minced 1 fresh jalapeño minced
¼ cup chopped cilantro 28 ounces chopped tomatoes (canned)
26 ounces vegetable or chicken stock 8 ounces tomato juice
½ teaspoon cumin ½ teaspoon light chili powder
1 tablespoon lime juice 1 cup heavy whipping cream

Directions: In a medium sauce pot, heat the corn oil, add the tortilla strips and cook until crisp but not brown. Add all of the other ingredients (except the cream) simmer for 15 to 20 minutes. Place in a food processor or blender (be very careful the liquid is going to be extremely hot) and blend until smooth add the cream. Maybe garnished with grated cheese or grilled chicken and avocado.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

16' Toy Hauler (Carson FunRunner) sleeps four. Queen pull down mattress, 2 pull-down twin/bench seats, 1 removable dinette table. Kitchen/shower/toilet. Air Conditioner/Heater, Radio/CD, 1 propane tank, holds 2 batteries, and has AC hookup. Also comes with 2 large 80-watt solar panels to recharge the batteries. Back opens up for easy loading of ATVs, motorcycles, etc. Less than 500 miles on it. \$9,000 will consider an offer. Call Ken at 925 360-8262 for more info or to make an appointment to see it. (0318)

MEETINGS

MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP – Meet new friends, get refreshed and restored. Join us for challenging Bible study, fun events and worship here in Mosquito. We meet Sunday mornings 10 a.m. at 3342 Stope Drive and throughout the week. Check our website www.mfom.net or call (530)295-0503. (0618)

SERVICES

SIERRA SHIELD FIREARMS & TRAINING - Mention MOSQUITO BYTE and get 25% off CA CCW Class. Also, receive FREE box of ammo with each firearm purchase. www.SierraShield.com or call [530-387-0110](tel:530-387-0110). (0618)

FLORIST ON THE HILL – December brings a plethora of get-togethers with friends and family. Let us help make every occasion extra special with fresh flowers. Stop by the flower shop, 3342 Stope Drive or call Elaine Galvan 530.295.0503 to order. We ALWAYS provide FREE DELIVERY ON THE HILL. Thanks for your business. Look forward to providing the best service and beautiful flowers for you in 2018 (0618)

SEWER SNAKE RENTAL - On the hill. Ridgid K750 100 ft. snake. Call Dustin [530-306-9291](tel:530-306-9291). (0818)

HOUSE CLEANING – I have been cleaning houses for 10 years. I enjoy cleaning and would love to make your house sparkle for you! I am a trustworthy, honest, and a very hard worker, with 10 years' experience. \$15 - \$20 per hour. Call Sylvia at (530)417-7315 (1018)

PET CARE - Pet feeding while you are away. We will give your pet the same love and care as you would if you were here. No pet too large or too small. Reasonable rates. Call Dylan's Pet Feeding Service at (530)295-9165. (1018)

WELDING & FABRICATION – Steel, Stainless Steel, Aluminum. Certified to military standard. Call (530)621-3300 (0618)

LOW WATER LANDSCAPE DESIGN - We create landscape designs for sustainable long-term visions of your landscape with unique outdoor rooms, water features, visual beauty, all while lowering your water use and fire risk. Call Aaron Reddick at (805)234-6485 or go to www.LowWaterLandscapes.com to reserve a consultation today! (0118)

RESPIRE CARE – Available in Swansboro /Mosquito, M-F, weekends or overnight as needed. Also available for short periods of time (barring previously scheduled commitments) and/or for hospice care for your family member. I have 17 local home-care references to verify my skills and the level of care I will provide for your loved ones. Call Nancy West at (530)626-7975.v (0618)

CONCRETE AND BOBCAT SERVICE - Driveways, patios, retaining walls, finish grading, property clean up. \$80/hour Bobcat rental. Call Dustin [530-306-9291](tel:530-306-9291). (0818)

CLOCK REPAIR — Antique/Vintage, Electric and Quartz. Pick-up and delivery free in Swansboro area. Call Gary at (530)409-0526. (0918)

UNIQUE JEWELRY - Handmade jewelry using recycled aluminum cans, and more. To view, call Dee at 642-2333. (0718)

FREE VEGAN VEGETARIAN COOKING CLASSES - Food preparation demonstrations, recipe handouts, video clips, resource materials, generous samples provided. Interact with health-minded folks, learn healthful lifestyle principles and discover tasty new recipes. We meet once a month at the Camino SDA Church, 3520 Carson Rd. on Mondays at 11 a.m. Call Fred Adams at (530) 642-9441 or

AdamsAmigos@gmail.com for dates and to reserve your space. (0000)

PERSONAL FITNESS PROGRAM - Improve mobility! Lose weight! Feel younger! Live longer! Enjoy home personal fitness program conducted by certified, insured and experienced Air Force veteran trainer located in Swansboro. 1st session includes a free consultation and fitness evaluation. Call James Porter at (907)328-9544 for a free consultation today. (0218)

ONE LOVE REFILL STATION - Protect your home: use products that are septic safe and biodegradable. Refill old clean containers at **ONE LOVE REFILL STATION**: 617A Main St., Placerville. (530)344-9058. Chemical free products sold in bulk! Shampoos, conditioners, lotions, cleaning products, essential oils & carrier oils, beauty products and much more! (0519)

GREAT ESCAPES LANDSCAPING AND HANDYMAN SERVICES - Interior or exterior. Forest/land management, irrigation, fencing, clearing, trees/brush removal and trimming, deck painting or staining and repair and much more. Call Jonathan Varvais 530-409-7202. (0119)

SEARS & SONS LAND MANAGEMENT & FIREWOOD SALES- Wood Splitting, Tractor Work, Tree & Brush Removal, Dump Runs and More! Give us a call, free estimates. If we can't help you, we'll put you in touch with someone who can. Friendly honest service. Call Dustin K. Sears Sr. at (530)363-4991. (1217)

VHS VIDEOS CONVERTED TO DVDs – Have any family vacations, precious memories or baby pictures on videos? I can copy them to DVDs. Call Dee at (530)642-2333. (0718)

CREATIVE ADMIN SERVICES – Your office and project support team specializing in office management, business/personal contact management, event coordination, online services, and much more. Visit our website at www.creativeadminservices.com or call (530)295-1779.(0818)

HANDCRAFTED GLASS ITEMS – Birdbaths, flowerpots, plates, bowls, etc. Also, handmade wooden jewelry boxes. Affordable and unique. Studio open most days; call first. Do your gift shopping here on the hill! Call Pam or Dave Angelo at (530)621-3688. (0819)

REAL ESTATE SERVICES – Live the American Dream: the ownership of a home and a little acreage to call your own! Sally Long Johns, your resident Mosquito Road Realtor, will help you buy or sell any property in El Dorado County! You can reach me at www.mosquitoadneighbors.com or (530)295-4641 or toll free (866)SALLYRE, snlongjohns@yahoo.com. (0000)

NOTARY SERVICE – I'm a mobile Notary Public living here in Mosquito. I am experienced in all areas of notary work including loan packages, real estate transfers, etc. Call Elaine Galvan at (530)295-0503 (0618)

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Beef Stew Frank's Diner	4 MVFA Board Meeting 7 p.m. Frank's Diner	5	6 Support group 10am
7	8	9	10 BBQ Chicken Frank's Diner	11 MFPD Board Meeting 7 p.m. Fire Station	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Holiday	16	17 Tostadas (Beef & Chicken) Frank's Diner	18 SCPOA Board Meeting 7 p.m. Fire Station	19 Crafters 10am Darlene Rood	20 Birding at Finnon Lake 9 a.m. Finnon Lake Pavilion
21	22	23	24 Lasagna Frank's Diner	25 Bingo 7pm at Frank's Diner 	26	27
28	29	30	31 Rosemary Chicken Frank's Diner	1 MVFA Board Meeting 7pm Frank's Diner	2	3

The **MOSQUITO BYTE** is mailed first class to subscribers each month. A subscription is \$15.00 per year, with a two-year maximum pre-pay. Please mail your check, payable to MVFA, to 9009 Orval Beckett Ct., Placerville, CA, 95667. The deadline for advertising and articles is the 20th of each month. It is also posted on the www.goMVFA.org website each month.

Editors have the right to edit, limit, or refuse any article submitted for publication. Authors are responsible for article accuracy and their opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the MVFA Board of Directors or the editors.

The MOSQUITO BYTE accepts ads from subscribers without endorsement.

ADVERTISING POLICY

There is no charge to subscribers advertising in the MOSQUITO BYTE. Ads must be limited to 7 column lines maximum. Please email ads for the Classified Section to Robert Kirkpatrick at mbyte.editor@gmail.com. Ads in the "Free", "For Sale", and "Wanted" categories will run for three months unless the submitter requests it to be removed or extended.

The **MOSQUITO BYTE** and other updates are posted each month on the www.gomvfa.org website.

PLACERVILLE, CA 95667-9040

9009 ORVAL BECKETT CT

MOSQUITO BYTE