



# SWANSBORO COUNTRY PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter - January, 2019

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## Welcome to the January newsletter.

**Important note:** Authorized SCPOA information is only found either on the SCPOA.info website or in this SCPOA newsletter. Articles in other publications are not SCPOA authorized and may report incorrect, biased, and plagiarized information and photos. Do not rely on 3rd party publications for accuracy or truthfulness regarding SCPOA information.

2018 seems to have gone by all too quickly, yet many positive additions were made to your association this year. A playground was a terrific addition for our families with younger children, and for the kid in all of us as many adults have been enjoying the larger swing set. A dump truck was added to the equipment for use by the maintenance department, and long overdue. New signage at the most used common areas alerting folks of use and safety protocols. A \$420,000.00 grant for fire fuels reduction, to benefit all of Swansboro (more information in a separate article on page 2). An overhaul of the bylaws to bring them into the 21st century as a restatement of the present bylaws, which you as a member should review and vote on as information is included within your January packet. A more streamlined website in which you can find all DC&Rs, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, Resolutions, and much more in one location, as well as a monthly newsletter. Increased professional treatment of our five lakes, an aggressive professional roadside and runway weed spray program, along with road repair by crack sealing are a few additional projects that occurred. All done with one thing in mind—making Swansboro a great place for all. The best part is all of this was accomplished without an increase to your annual dues. A vast improvement to past years.



As 2019 is here this is a reminder for all eligible members to vote. There are four board positions requiring your vote this year. As of the writing of this article there are nine members vying for the four positions. Some are new to the neighborhood, some have served on your board presently, or in the past. These people will be deciding the future of Swansboro; if dues rise, if dues lower; what will be added; what will be subtracted. It becomes your responsibility to make sound voting decisions to ensure future fiscal responsibility and ensure the board does their fiduciary best for all members not just the few. Your ballot for voting is included in the January packet, please use it.

## AIRSTRIPE INSPECTION BY CALTRANS



Chris Brooks, Aviation Safety Officer for Caltrans, Division of Aeronautics, performed an inspection of our airstrip on Thursday, December 20, 2018. He was met by Gordon Smith, Chair of the Runway Committee, Paul Beacham, Secretary and Jerry Pullin, Treasurer. Mr. Brooks will be writing his report and processing it through Caltrans' channels. Your SCPOA Board expects to receive a copy of the report in mid to late January and will share that report with the community. This anticipated visit was discussed at the October 1, 2018 Runway Committee

meeting. We had hoped to get a note out to all members who live along the runway but the inspection was not confirmed by Caltrans until the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup>. To the best of our knowledge the last inspection occurred in 2004. This inspection was done to ensure the runway and surrounding properties meet current safety standards and to mitigate liabilities before a liability occurs. Caltrans and your current board are committed to the safety of your airport common area.

## 2019 Budget

At the December 10th board meeting the main agenda item was to review and approve the budget for the fiscal year ending February 28, 2020. Board Treasurer, Jerry Pullin, began the review by discussing each budget item line by line with the board as well as the members that attended. Everyone attending was able to provide feedback and input. The meeting was most productive and Jerry thanked all for their feedback. The largest single item that required to be inserted into the budget was the funding for Swansboro's participation in obtaining the Fire Fuels Reduction Grant. This amount, \$40,000.00, showed those awarding the grant that Swansboro was quite serious in its intentions to make Swansboro a fire safe community. This is more important now than ever considering the devastating wildfires that have occurred over the past two years throughout California. SCPOA's commitment has garnered a wonderful opportunity for all member's. More information can be found in the article below. Although \$40,000.00 is a good sum of money it did not effect the amount of the annual assessment. Jerry hoped to provide a fourth in a row reduction which just wasn't possible for this budget. It shall remain at \$600.00 per annum as it was for 2018. Additional discussions at that meeting were the Browning Reserve Study and the aforementioned grant. Go to SCPOA's website at [scpoa.info](http://scpoa.info), navigate to the Board/Meetings/Agenda page, and review the minutes of the December 10th meeting for a more complete listing of budgetary changes.

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### \$420,000 Grant Awarded to Benefit SCPOA (Amount increased to \$720,000 after this was published)

SCPOA's partnership with the Mosquito Fire Safe Council, under the leadership of Karen Pullin, has led to the receipt of a grant that allows the Association to provide its members with free fuel reduction services. The grant, written and coordinated by Chuck Schnell, has generated \$300,000 to supplement our \$120,000 cash and in kind services matching funds. This \$420,000 will be used over two years to promote the safety of our members and their properties through a collection of activities in both Association common areas and on the individual properties of those who choose to participate.

In our common areas, our intention is to create shaded fuel breaks where appropriate. A shaded fuel break is essentially the clearing of a large area of continuous brush, downed vegetation and small trees that create heavy fuel loads while leaving the canopy intact. In our proposal we saw the One Eye Creek and Yankee John Creek drainages as the likely place to begin.

Available to individual property owners, who choose to participate, will be two main benefits:

Defensible space creation, which is a set of specific requirements that create a best chance for defense of your home in case of a forest fire. The grant enables us to create teams which will be available to assist property owners in the implementation of their defensible space plan.

Dead tree removal, which will provide assistance with chipping, cutting of rounds and splitting of downed trees for firewood.

The grant will also allow us to create a series of preparedness events and trainings and will support community clean up days in cooperating with other local organizations.

At our December 10, 2018 meeting, your Board approved other in kind services to be used in a much larger grant to be submitted by December 19, 2018 by the Fire Department. The recent Camp Fire has reminded us of the near disastrous impact of the King Fire on our community four years ago, and your Board has given fuel reduction a much higher priority in its discussions and decisions. Our hope is that by continuing to work in concert with the Fire Safe Council and other organizations, we will attain designation as a Fire Safe Community.

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The annual member meeting will be held on Saturday, February 9th, 2019 at 10 AM at the fire station, 8801 Rock Creek Road. Please attend.