



SWANSBORO COUNTRY PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter - October 2019

Visit us at SCPOA.info

SCPOA.info and this newsletter are the only sources for official and accurate information about your association.

Welcome to the October 2019 newsletter.

At the last SCPOA board meeting the board approved to purchase fire hydrant indicator flags and blue reflective road markers. The hydrant flags are red in color and mount directly to the hydrant. This will provide a visible indicator to locate the hydrant if it becomes hidden by brush, weeds, or snow. The blue road reflectors will indicate the location of a hydrant, and should be a benefit to first responders that are assisting Station 75 and who may not be familiar with the area. These two styles of hydrant indicators will be a benefit to our neighborhood by assisting all fire fighters with quick and easily identifiable visual markers. They have been ordered and should arrive soon, so keep an eye out for these. There are only 29 hydrants in the area. The flag style will be mounted to hydrants in the upper elevations which tend to get more snow. The blue reflectors will be placed at all hydrant locations and water tanks. MFPD has yet to find locations for the three 10,000 gallon tanks donated by EID. They have also been notified that a water tank on Claim Street leaks and requires repair or replacement.



Get involved—become a SCPOA board member. Nominations and elections will all occur sooner than we think. This year there are 3 openings for board members. Board members serve for two years, beginning with the annual meeting in February. Board members also serve as committee chairs for the following committees— Budget/ Finance; Common Areas; Communications; Airport/ Runway; and Roads. Serving as a board member you can help keep the budget balanced, promote ideas to better Swansboro and the membership, and , to put it simply— make Swansboro better. Nominees will be expected to attend the “Meet and Greet”, held in December or early January. (Date not yet determined.) The “Meet and Greet” is intended to be the opportunity for members to meet all the candidates, and ask questions. It is also the time when candidates can provide members with their thoughts as to why they would like to become a board member, answer your questions, and let us know how they can make Swansboro better. These positions are volunteer positions. Payment comes in the form of knowing you have participated in making our community an even better place for all residents. Members must be ‘in good standing’ to become a board member, and one board position is available to a non-member as set forth by the 2019 Bylaws. Nomination forms will be available soon on scpoa.info under the ‘[More](#)’ menu tab and include directions for submitting the form to The Management Trust.



The Mosquito FSC is hosting a Veterans Day recognition event to honor the service of our veterans. This will take place on November 11th, at 11 AM at the flagpole at Dyer Lake. Refreshments will be served. If weather is inclement please meet at the Dyer Lake pavilion.

Everyone is invited to take a moment to say thank you for their service.

ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART?



Just like the sign asks— well are you? On behalf of the Mosquito Fire Safe Council, and SCPOA as well, the importance of making all of Swansboro and Mosquito fire safe is your responsibility. If you don't step up who will? The photo depicts two signs recently installed. They serve as a reminder that making the area fire safe is everyone's concern. Yes the area received a grant of \$540,000 to remove shaded fuels, but that's not going to happen on your property. Doing that is your responsibility and it is something you more than likely already do. Did you weed whack? Do any mowing? Trim any bushes? Cut down dead wood, trim a tree, fell a tree? Anything you have done to make your property a defensible space is how you can help. The contingency of the \$540,000 grant is for everyone to participate in the 'in-kind' portion of

the grant. Items mentioned above are the 'in-kind' participation that you already do. The twist is this— you simply have to keep track of what you do, write it down on a tracking sheet (available as page four of this newsletter, or available on the home page of the Mosquito Fire Safe Council's website; mosquitofsc.org) and email it, or bring a completed form to the SCPOA maintenance shed on Sluice Street.

This is important for your home, family, neighbors, and the entire Mosquito area. By simply keeping track of what you do to make your property fire safe you can help turn Mosquito into a fire safe community. Doing so makes your property safer, your neighbors, your community. It may even stem the tide of insurance cancellations and non-renewals of your home owners insurance coverage. Your participation may even help in obtaining future grants by showing the State, and the US Forest Service, that we, as a community, are serious.

The \$540,000 grant is being used to create fire-break areas along portions of Rock Creek Road, Gravel Road, and the area from the north end of Swansboro Road (end of pavement) over to the One Eye Creek area. These tracts of land have been selected by the project administrator as high priority to for ingress of fire fighting personnel, and the egress of residents in the event of an evacuation. Stopping a fire's spread by clearing these overgrown areas is paramount for this grant. Again, the grant does not provide for work on your property, unless that property is within the boundaries of the areas noted above.

As to the aforementioned tracking log— here are easy to use instructions: (copy of form attached)

- 1– Fill in you name, phone, and email. Sign your name, or if filling out electronically type in your name and place an "X" in the box.
- 2– In the boxes below your name enter the date, location, and type of work performed, and how long it took. Use the sheet till it is full.
- 3– If you used gas, oil, diesel, rented a chainsaw, a tractor, a mower, etc. then list the date, the item, and its cost. Use this area as well if you paid someone to perform work for you such as cutting down a tree, weed whacking, and the such.
- 4– Submit your completed form.

defensiblegrant@gmail.com'."/>

The form may be completed on-line, simply download it, make your entries, and save it. When complete email to the address at the bottom of the form. You may also download and print it out, complete by hand writing and then scan and email it or drop it off at SCPOA's maintenance shed, 6770 Sluice St.

Again, copies can be obtained on the home page of mosquitofsc.org

So—Have you done your part? Let's all pitch in for the safety of all of us.

Q&A REGARDING the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) grant -

ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART? The Mosquito Fire Safe Council (MFSC), an affiliate of the El Dorado County FSC, was recently awarded US Forest Service money in the form of an in-kind/matching grant in the amount of \$540,000+. The money is meant to be used to hire professional companies to clear potential wildfire ladder fuels along sections of Rock Creek Road and along the Swansboro Road/One-Eye Creek areas, with the goal of creating shaded fuel breaks to prevent and protect Mosquito from wildfires coming from those directions. Every resident and every absentee owner in the Mosquito Fire Protection District has a stake in this effort and as such is being urged to work to create and maintain defensible space on his/her own private property.

The grant provider requires a coordinator from the MFSC to compile records of all the work the individual residents and owners perform and send in quarterly reports. We provide tracking sheets and ask everyone to use them regularly to help us reach our committed matching goal. Tracking sheets are available on the home page of the Mosquito Fire Safe Council's website— mosquitofsc.org — scroll down the page to the topic "Tracking Log, You'll Need This One". Instructions for use were listed on page two of this newsletter.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: When is my property going to be cleared?

A: The grant was not designed for individual property cleanup, it was designed to create community firebreaks within the identified treatment areas.

Q: How much money does the property owner receive from the grant?

A: No monies are received by an individual or their property. The grant monies have allocated to hire professionals to work on those areas deemed needing the work to create firebreaks. However, we should still do our part.

Q: What is my part?

A: Your part is to follow the CalFire guidelines to create a defensible space on your property, and to utilize the tracking work log, available on the home page of the Mosquito Fire Safe Council's website at mosquitofsc.org.

Q: What is the CWPP (County Wildfire Protection Plan)?

A: This is a plan that allowed us to receive grant monies. It identifies the high risk areas around communities such as the MFPD where cleanup needs to be concentrated.

Q: Why is SCPOA the only organization to pledge cash toward the grant if it is for the entire district, not just SCPOA members?

A: The rationale is that other organizations in the area are all volunteer groups. SCPOA is not a volunteer organization. The monies SCPOA put up were to 1) help protect SCPOA and its members; 2) as a by-product helps the overall community, 3) was necessary to obtain a \$540,000 grant, 4) benefits you and all of our neighbors.

Q: Will all my trees be cut down and a mess be left behind?

A: No. The grant monies are to abate shaded fuels, and ladder fuels. Only smaller trees and brush will be masticated, burned, or removed. This pertains to properties within the grant area.

Q: Will the grant remove all the trees I want removed?

A: No. This grant is not about removing trees, unless they are dead, or dying. It is for the abatement of shaded fuels, and ladder fuels.

Q: Am I signing away my rights in signing the Right of Entry form? When and where is the grant work going to start?

A: No. The Right of Entry form only allows for the workers to enter your property to do the work, which they must tell you the scope of prior to it being done. They are fully bonded and insured. The grant work is scheduled for either December or January, weather permitting. Work will begin on Rock Creek Road, dependent upon receipt of the Right of Entry forms.

Q: Can I get some help on my defensible space? If so, where do I go for help?

A: Yes help is available, but not as a monetary assistance. There are four programs available. Go to mosquitofsc.org or edcfsc.org for assistance.

EIGHT crime prevention safety tips -

#1. Get to Know Your Neighbors

The first thing you can do to improve your neighborhood safety is to simply get to know your immediate neighbors. Make sure to share contact information and perhaps give a spare key to a trusted neighbor.

#2. Let Your Neighbors Know When You Go Out of Town

Your home is more vulnerable when you aren't there, so if you're heading out of town, let your neighbors know. Not only can they keep an eye on your home, but they can help prevent a break-in by keeping up appearances such as collecting the mail.

#3. Form or Join the Neighborhood Watch

A great way to know what's going on in your community is to join the local neighborhood watch group. If your neighborhood doesn't have one, perhaps you can organize one. Leverage social media and create a local community group everyone can access and share updates.

#4. Install a Visible Home Security System

Burglars are less likely to break into homes with visible security systems. Protect your home and encourage neighbors to do the same by installing a DIY home security system. If your security system includes motion-activity lighting or an alarm it can further help deter intruders.

#5. Maintain Appearances

Overgrown yards provide hiding spaces for burglars and create the appearance that no one is around which can make your home an easy target. Maintain your yard and encourage neighbors to do the same to show potential criminals that people are active in the community and reduce hiding spots.

#6. Teach Your Children Safety Tips

Keeping your home and neighborhood secure is one thing, but you can also take a few steps to keep you and your neighbor's kids safe. If you're new to the neighborhood, walk around with your kids to help them to be familiar with the area. You can also set boundaries for where they can go giving them some freedom to explore within reason.

#7. Spend Time Outside in Your Neighborhood

If a lot of people are outside the neighborhood is likely to be less inviting to burglars as there are more people to see them, especially as most burglaries occur during the day. Spending time outside is also a great way to get to know your neighbors (back to tip #1).

#8. Close Your Blinds at Night

At night with the lights on and blinds open can make your home a fishbowl for someone to peer into. If you leave your blinds open potential burglars can easily 'case' your home and get an understanding of your habits. A good neighborhood safety tip everyone can practice is to close all blinds and windows at night.

(Security tips thanks to Swann Security—Swann.com)

Grilled Portobello Quesadillas

INGREDIENTS

- 4 medium portobello mushrooms
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- kosher salt and black pepper
- 8 8-inch flour tortillas
- 8 ounces grated pepper jack (2 cups)



DIRECTIONS

- 1) Heat grill to medium. Brush mushrooms with 1 tablespoon of the oil and season with 1/2 teaspoon of salt and 1/4 teaspoon of pepper.
- 2) Grill, covered, until tender, 8 to 10 minutes per side; thinly sliced.
- 3) Lightly brush 1 side of each of the tortillas with remaining tablespoon of oil. Form 4 sandwiches with the tortillas (oiled side facing out), mushrooms and cheese. Grill, covered, until cheese is melted and the tortillas are crisp, 1 to 3 minutes per side.

Recipe thanks to realsimple.com

