

Volume 38, No. 3

December 2024

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

by Chief Eddie Dwyer



To The Community

There have been many rumors that the fire district is in turmoil. This can't be further from the truth. Yes, we are going through growing pains, which as I stated in an earlier Chief's report, would occur.

We have had considerable challenges this year from the retirement of Chief Rosevear, followed by the Crozier Fire, Prepositioned Task Force Deployments, Single-Resource Deployments, Staffing and Grant Compliance.

One Of the biggest issues being managed, is that prior to Chief Rosevear announcing his retirement, I paid for a Paramedic refresher program. It is an 8 week long intensive training program requiring 40 hours education for each session.

My original plan was to have it completed by May of this year. Due to the needs of the district, I had to delay trainings which were scheduled at in-state venues. I had to adapt my schedule, which required me to travel out of state, primarily to Michigan and Pennsylvania to complete the requirements of this course. This caused an exponential increase in cost for hotels and travel, forcing me to attend back-to-back sessions. All expenditures were paid out of pocket, and not being reimbursed, nor do I plan to request reimbursement for tuition or travel expenses to attend this course.

I chose this endeavor to ensure that, as a Paramedic, I am providing the best service to the community that I can. My goal always is to ensure that the best EMS and Fire Services be provided to the residents Mosquito. I have been in Detroit, Michigan for the last three weeks completing this course.

Prior to his retirement, Chief Rosevear established committees to assist in the administrative oversight of the fire district. These committees provide for writing and evaluation of the budget, longevity of the fire district, capital improvement and more.

Since taking on the position as Interim Chief of the fire district, my focus has been on operations, ensuring that the fire district is no longer reliant on a single person. Through training of our firefighters, recruiting former Volunteer Chief and command officers back to the fire district, we have changed the profile of the fire district.

Our personnel are now capable and equipped, with experience, and training, to manage many types of emergency incidents. They have learned the skills of emergency radio communication,

assessment of emergent situations, and requesting appropriate external resources necessary for resolution of emergency events.

A recent call included a response to a resident experiencing a critical life-threatening medical emergency. Partnering with our Support Group medical cadre, Support Group helicopter LZ team, the patient was transported to the appropriate hospital in the Sacramento area. The patient was receiving in-hospital emergency medical care 53 minutes following the activation of 911. These actions made considerable difference in the residents' recovery.

Earlier this year, our members were able to respond to a structure fire taking command, deploying hose lines, establishing water supply, communicating with Fire Dispatch at Camino, and giving direction to incoming resources, then extinguishing the fire with minimal damage to the house, leaving it habitable for the homeowner and family.

Though I responded from home, the fire was managed by our volunteer personnel. Each day, our focus is to continue to build upon the strengths of our members, increasing the capability with which they respond to emergencies in the community.

We have also focused on reconciling relations with community groups, seeing value in all who wish to provide a service to residents of the Mosquito Fire Protection District.

The administration of the fire district has a successful working model that has allowed me to focus on the operational needs of the fire district. Building the operational capability of the fire district, restructuring command, increasing the ability for response, maintenance and repair of fire assets has been and continues to be a priority. Servicing tools and equipment, increasing training, building mechanisms to increase income to the fire district through deployment of personnel and equipment, while increasing the ability of our personnel to earn a higher rate of income which does not impact our budget, are also all part of the operational build up.

The issues our operational ability faces should take little more than a year to resolve. We are on our way to fully integrating both administration and operations. It is my belief that with the actions taken so far, this endeavor should take about a year and a half. Once the integration of the administrative and operations functions occur, and as our in-district capability increases, it was my intent, if at all possible, to reduce the Fire Chief's position to a part time 20 – 30 hour work week, leaving the position scalable based on the needs of the community and changing conditions.

One of the committees serving the community was charged with identifying the needs of upper-level command, Their decision was to go to the outside to fill the Fire Chief's position. I informed the MFPD Directors in a meeting prior to my being placed in the position of Interim Chief, should they choose that direction, I will not apply. Once the notification is made that a new Chief has been hired. I will resign and immediately vacate my position.

Earlier this year, I made a promise to the community, I would remain in my position. I am basically a volunteer not bound by contract paid at a level just above minimum wage, I have remained in my position working 14-18 hours daily to achieve what is needed for the district.

Though recent actions taken negate my promise, I remain without contract. It is my intent to remain as interim chief if the MFPD Board of Directors wish, vacating the position on notification

that a new Chief has been hired. It must be understood, this is not a resignation! That decision will be made when appropriate.

This letter is not written in anger, it must be stated I do not and will not fault the committee or the board for making the hard decision to go to the outside. They obviously believe my performance has not met the standards required to serve the community. As I have always said, the district cannot be held hostage by a single person, which is why I have worked hard building the operational capability of our personnel. The community's needs must be the priority of any person sitting behind the Chief's desk.

I can only apologize to the community for my failure to properly serve all of you.

Events:

On November 16th DA's held a successful pancake breakfast, bringing in donations to assist the fire district in serving the community.

Public Safety and Training:

All future CPR Courses have been cancelled.

Support Group Training:

Monthly training on the first Saturday of each month.

Department Training and Safety:

Firefighters will undergo Low Angle Rope Rescue training December 4-6, this is the first step in becoming Rescue Systems Technicians,

Six MFPD Volunteer Members will undergo an IDLH Academy being held at El Dorado Hills Training Ground. This 8 week Academy beginning in January 2025 will provide personnel with the basic training necessary to enter the Life Hazardous Environment of a structure fire.

Operations Report:

A report on district asset repair needs will be provided in December.

Recruitment & Retention:

MFPD is recruiting for in district residents looking to participate as Volunteer

Firefighters. We will be sending new members to an IDLH Academy being held at El Dorado Hills Fire District Training Grounds, starting in January for 8 consecutive Saturdays. Dates to follow.

Requests For Service

Medical Calls:	7	Public Assist:	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	1	Smoke Check:	1
Debris Burns:	2		

Logistics:

Nothing to report.

Projected income earned by the fire district for participation in the state mutual aid system;

Crozier Fire: 12 days deployment. Vehicle rental and administrative fees equal roughly \$55,296.

Bridge Fire: 12 days deployment. Vehicle rental and administrative fees, equal roughly \$55,296.

Prepositions: 10 days deployment. Vehicle rental and administrative fees, equal roughly \$46,080.

Estimated Total: \$156,672

** This does not include employee fees and all are estimates of earnings. **

Fire Chief's Association / El Dorado County Regional Fire Authority:

The El Dorado County Regional Emergency Service Authority is in contract negotiations with the County. More info to follow in December.

The next MFPD Board meeting will be on Thursday, December 19th at 7:00 pm at Station 75

MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

FINNON LAKE RECREATION AREA

MVFA Campground News

The campground is officially closed for the winter. Now it's time for us to do our annual maintenance. We take a couple months in-between all the holiday festivities to ready the campground for the next season. We are very pleased with another successful year at our small



campground. In April we received notification that 'Finnon Lake Recreation Area' had been crowned the #1 best Hipcamp to visit in California in 2024! We continue to get more reservations each season and this year was no different. This year's camping proceeds exceeded

last year's amount by almost \$7,000. The board works hard each year and it is paying off. The reviews we receive are confirmation that everyone enjoys coming up to Finnon. The board would like to thank all the community members that have helped us during the year whether it was on a work party day or financial support with camping and day use fees.

Recent Reviews From Our Campers

Elizabeth says:

Extremely peaceful and beautiful spot! Will definitely return! Highly recommend taking the Rock Ridge Rd. route over Mosquito Rd.

Matthew says:

As always, Finnon is the best. Quiet and calm. Family, friends, disc golf, swimming. I really appreciated the camp host checking to see if we were using propane for our bonfire since there is a fire ban in place.

Lisa says:

A gem of a campsite. Huge area, well maintained, right on the water. Clean bathrooms with hand soap. We've come before and we will come again!

John says:

Thank you for the hard work you do on the site and the extra help when needed. We brought friends fairly new to camping and they really enjoyed the site. See you again, soon!

M says:

A perfect respite after a long day of motorcycle riding. The campground was clean, well organized and quiet. The birds on the lake were chatty and entertaining. Cheryl, our host, was lovely and accommodating. I'd fully stay here again.

Nathan says:

Loved my time at beautiful Finnon Lake! Easy to find and navigate through the Maps app. My big rig RV spot was right on the water ~ so peaceful & quiet. Enjoyed the disc golf course & swims in the pristine waters. Great place for paddleboarding or fishing too! Planning to return with my family in tow. Thank you!

Debi says:

We've been going to Finnon Lake 3 yrs now and our favorite site is A3 but there is no really bad site. We love that it's a small lake with no motorized vehicles. Each lake front site has it's own little input/output for kayaks or paddleboards which makes it really convenient. We originally discovered it because we were looking for a place that didn't have fireworks so we could bring our dog for July 4th.

Sahara says:

This was definitely one of the most beautiful places we ever camped on! The area was quiet and deep in the nature. We were nearly alone and had the paradise for us. Restrooms were very clean... The only thing is the trip to the place. But it was worth it.

Bobbi says:

We really enjoyed the beautiful lake and the peacefulness of the camp. We were able to make some wonderful memories and my grandsons enjoyed every minute of the time we spent there.

William says:

The camp ground was honestly amazing! Good amount of space, right along the lake, and a stunning view. Wonderful experience overall

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MVFA Christmas Dinner

Christmas festivities are fast approaching. We want to thank the whole community with a free holiday dinner so please make plans to attend the MVFA annual Christmas dinner on December 7th at 5:30 pm. It will be a special night for the whole family. We heard there may be a special visitor there that night to put a smile on all the children's faces. We will light the Christmas tree shortly after everyone arrives, followed by the arrival of our special guest. There will be something special for each child. Also bring an ornament for you and your family to place on the tree. Dinner will be served around 6:15. We look forward to seeing everyone there.



MVFA SWAG



Explore MVFA's collection of Mosquito T-shirts and Sweatshirts, available in an array of sizes and colors. New colors and style choices have been recently added, so please check them out. Apparel and local phone books are conveniently for sale at the diner during regular business hours or at MVFA sponsored events.

For personalized orders, reach out to us at mvfa95667@gmail.com.

MVFA CRV RECYCLE PROGRAM

The MVFA Recycle Program continues to provide a valuable resource of funding for the Mosquito Fire Station to be utilized by the department at the Fire Chief's request. Your participation in this program is appreciated and is benefiting our fire department!

Please drop off bags of Plastic Bottles and Aluminum Cans (Sorry no Glass) at the back of Station 75. Note: Lids and caps on plastic water bottles must be removed before they can be redeemed. Lids and caps can be included for redemption.



The next MVFA Board meeting will be on Thursday, December 5th at 3:00 pm

Community Christmas Caroling at Finnon

By Mountain Fellowship

Christmas CAROLING



Come join us for an evening of community fun and Christmas caroling.

This free event will be held Saturday, December 21st, at 4 pm in the patio at Finnon Lake to celebrate the Christmas season by singing familiar carols.

Smoke On The Water will be open for dinner. So bundle up and bring the whole family for a memory making evening.

Sponsored by Mountain Fellowship. Questions? (530) 295-0503

CRAFTERS

By Natasha Cutter

Mosquito Crafters had a very successful sale at the Cold Springs Church. We made \$2,719 for the Mosquito Fire Station. Our Crafters have provided beautiful, unique, and quality items so our sales have increased because of this. Which means our

contribution to the fire station also grows! We are very proud of the hard work and time that our crafters have put into our group, their crafts, and at our sales. Our next meeting will be on the last Friday of the month in

January. If you are interested in joining us or donating crafts to our sale, please contact Natasha Cutter at (831) 435-0626 for more information.



SMOKE ON THE WATER

by Kirk Bronsord and Matt Ridgeway



'Tis the season, and we're feeling the holiday spirit here at Smoke on the Water!

To better accommodate everyone during these busy winter months, we've updated our hours. Here's the scoop:



- **Saturday Lunch:** 11 AM to 4 PM
- **Saturday Dinner:** Served from 4 PM to 6 PM
- **Sunday Breakfast & Lunch:** Open from 9 AM to 3 PM

We're cooking up warm, hearty meals all season long. Don't forget to check out our updates and special menus on Facebook and Nextdoor. Your support means the world to us—especially during the holidays and chilly winter days.

Happy Holidays!

Your Smoke on the Water Team

Diner Hours:

Monday - Friday - Closed

Saturday - 11 am - 6 pm

Sunday 9 am - 3 pm

(Breakfast served on Sunday only)

<https://www.facebook.com/smokeonthewaterplacervilleca>

SCPOA REPORT

By Meredith Blain

The Swansboro Country Property Owners Association Board of Directors (SCPOA) generally meets monthly at the MFPD Fire Station, 8801 Rock Creek Road, however, there was not a meeting in November. **The next SCPOA board meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.** Meeting agendas are posted on the bulletin board at Dyer Lake and on the SCPOA website. All SCPOA Members are invited to attend.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY aka D'Ax

By Meredith Blain

With another MFPD Pancake Breakfast behind us (November 16th), we are now looking forward to 2025! We'll support the fire department again in January with the Pancake Breakfast including biscuits and gravy!

Happy Holidays to all and thank you for your continued support! There are a few more holiday community events coming up and we hope to see you all soon.

The District Auxiliary usually meets the same day as the MFPD Board of Directors Meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month, our next meeting will be **December 19, 2024, at 5:30pm.**

Please verify dates and times by checking the [MFPD.us](https://www.mfpd.us) website under the Meetings tab. Agendas and Minutes can be found under the Supporting Groups tab. All residents of Mosquito Fire Protection District are invited to attend District Auxiliary meetings.

Find us at MFPD.us. Email us at admin@dax-np.org.



BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE

by Dave Angelo

Here are the results of the bird watch for November. The next Bird Watch will be on the 14th of December. Our new starting time for Fall and Winter is 9:00 A.M. at Finnon Lake, just past the Boat Launch area. There is no parking charge to the participants of this free event.



Canada Goose	17	Cooper's Hawk	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10
Ring-necked Duck	20	Bald Eagle	2	Western Bluebird	1
Bufflehead	6	Belted Kingfisher	1	Hermit Thrush	1
American Coot	117	Acorn Woodpecker	27	Dark-eyed Junco	7
Killdeer	1	California Scrub-Jay	8	Golden-crowned Sparrow	3
Pied-billed Grebe	4	Common Raven	2	California Towhee	3
Great Egret	1	Wrentit	1	Spotted Towhee	3
Great Blue Heron	1			Taxa	22

CLASSIFIED ADS

(Classified Ads are free to all paid subscribers)

WANTED

LOCAL ORGANIC FARM

Seeks manure source, specifically goat, sheep, chicken, llama or alpaca. Please contact Ryan at THREE GOATS FARM. 530-497-4279 or farm3goats@gmail.com

FOR SALE

THE GOAT DOCTOR OF THE SIERRAS

book by Gloria Hockensmith is available locally. Call Taffy 530-626-8689 to buy your copy (\$20). A great fact based read about a local legend. Perfect for gifting.

UNIQUE JEWELRY

Handmade jewelry using recycled aluminum cans, and more. To view, call Dee at 530-642-2333.

OXBOW FIREWOOD \$375 for hardwood, \$300 for softwood. Delivery on the hill gratis. Are you cold? Call the Ox at 916-862-7511

RABBITS FOR SALE by Finnegan the Rabbit Rancher. California/NZ, Lionhead/Flemish, California. \$35 So many pretty colors. Email for details. FinnOson7@gmail.com

2012 HARLEY-DAVIDSON SPORTSTER 883

Super low mileage Original 875 miles
New Michelin Tires, New Drive Belt
Just Serviced, New Battery, Freshly
Detailed - daviddudleyca@comcast.net

TREADMILL

Pro-Form J4 Electric Treadmill \$60.00
Gary at 530-626-0265 or 310-541-7710

MEETINGS

MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Join us for Christian worship and fellowship
Sunday mornings 11AM at 3342 Stope
Drive. Bible studies throughout the week.
530-295-0503

SERVICES

GOLDIE LOCS OF LOVE - Loc creation /
extension installation / decoration /
maintenance kelsvanfleet@gmail.com
916-295-9059

NOTARY SERVICES ON THE HILL

Contact Devon at: 510-719-1247.

FIREWOOD

Tired of paying outrageous prices for wood? I will cut and split downed trees and/or rounds for you. Call Daniel @ 530-919-8878

HOUSE PAINTER – AMERICAN EAGLE

PAINTING Residential/Commercial
Specializing in repaints contact Steven Martinez, 530-919-7612 or
americaleaglepainting4@gmail.com
Lic# 960086

HARP TEACHER

Have you always wanted to play the harp? There is now a Harp Teacher in Swansboro. Over 20 years' experience teaching children and adults. I have a few harps available for rent. For more Information, please call 530-344-1531 and ask for Paula or e-mail: harppaula@gmail.com.

CALI CONSTRUCTION

General contractor 530-903-1869
Decks, fences, siding, flooring, and more.
5% senior or veteran's discount.
CSLB#1054550

FLORIST ON THE HILL

I am your community florist providing long lasting flowers for all occasions. We ALWAYS deliver FREE on the hill! Stop by and check out our collection of Honey House products, gifts, jewelry, & handmade cards. Also offering flower subscriptions specifically created for you. Call me Elaine Galvan 530-295-0503 for all your floral needs.

WELDING & FABRICATION

Steel, Stainless Steel, Aluminum. Certified to military standard. Call 530-621-3300

HANGTOWN RANGE

1540 Broadway, Placerville Wednesday – Saturday 10 to 6 and Sunday 10 to 5 with 10 Indoor Shooting and 8 Archery Ranges, Firearms and Recurve Bow rentals, Milo Virtual Shooting Range w/ live fire ammunition, Archery and Handgun classes, CCW classes, One on One training, Basic Pistol Classes, Women's Classes. Call 530-497-5443 for more information.

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.

MOSQUITO CREEK OUTFITTERS

3000 Mosquito Road, Placerville, Tuesday – Friday 9 to 6, Saturday 9 to 5, El Dorado County's premier source for the best hunting, fishing, archery and outdoor products. Mosquito Creek Outfitters is always stocked with the best gear to accompany you wherever you may roam. 530-621-4500.

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.

DECEMBER 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 MVFA Christmas Dinner 5:30 pm Station 75
8 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	9	10 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	11	12 MVFA Board Meeting 3pm Station 75	13	14 Bird Watching Finnon Lake, Day Use area 9am
15 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	16	17 SCPOA Board Meeting 6pm Station 75	18	19 D'Ax Board Meeting 5:30pm	20	21 MFOM Christmas Caroling 4 pm Finnon Lake
22 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	23	24 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	25	26	27	28
29 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	30	31				

Local Area Web Links

Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA)
 Finnon Lake Recreation Area
 Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD)
 Swansboro Country Property Owners Association
 Mountain Fellowship in Mosquito (MFOM)
 El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

<https://www.gomvfa.org>
<https://www.finnonrecreationarea.com/>
<https://mfpd.us>
<https://scpoa.info>
<https://mfom.net>
www.edcfiresafe.org

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 19th 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.

MVFA is organized as a non-profit tax-exempt entity and is funded entirely by grants, donations, fundraisers 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 primarily 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. 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.

MVFA values and promotes voluntary efforts in our community. MVFA continues to carry on the work begun by its predecessors many years ago. If you have any questions about MVFA, please attend the MVFA Board of Directors meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Mosquito Fire House, 8801 Rock Creek Road, Placerville at 3:00pm. At the meetings, you have the opportunity to obtain correct and updated information about MVFA and its committees, legal obligations at Finnon Lake and events and volunteer opportunities. Mosquito residents may request a copy of approved MVFA Board meeting minutes by emailing your name and address to mvfa95667@gmail.com, or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: MVFA, 9009 Orval Beckett Ct. Placerville CA 95667.

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 Mosquito BYTE Editor 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 accepts ads from subscribers without endorsement.

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

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PLACERVILLE, CA 95667-9040

9009 ORVAL BECKETT CT

MOSQUITO BYTE