MOSQUITO BYTE PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION



Volume 38, No. 2

November 2024

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

by Chief Eddie Dwyer



To The Community

On October 5, an open house for the kickoff of Fire Prevention Week was held at the Fire Station. This was an event hosted by the Department Auxiliary (D'Ax). It was a successful day that showed a promise of cooperation that can benefit the whole community. The Mosquito Fire Safe Council (MSFC) and Mosquito Volunteer Firefighters Association (MVFA) also participated.

Firefighters placed Fire Apparatus and Advanced Emergency Medical Equipment on display. Firefighters demonstrated an emergency response that included interior Fire Attack and Rescue.

What I believe was most successful was that D'Ax, MFSC and MVFA all came together to establish stronger working and cooperative ties, that in the future will highlight and support the Fire District.

Each group that participated is integral to this community. Each Group having their own specific function enhances the quality of life and safety here in Mosquito.

MVFA manages Finnon Lake and campground, the jewel of the community, MVFA fundraises for the upkeep of the lake and campground. Their members have over the years provided considerable support to the Fire District and our personnel. More recently paying for and conducting work to refurbish the Firefighters Dormitory Kitchen.

MFSC seeks grants for fuel mitigation and a focus on a Fire Wise and Fire Safe Community. MFSC also manages fuel reduction projects. The MFSC provides a great service which impacts on homeowners' insurance premiums.

D'Ax is a California nonprofit corporation created in 2022. Its primary mission is to financially support the Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD) by way of fundraising. D'Ax fundraising supports the Chief and the personnel and volunteers of the MFPD, as well as the community at large. With donations received from generous community members in November 2022, D'Ax purchased, and now manages and maintains MFPD's fundraising assets, using those assets solely for the good and welfare of the Mosquito Fire Protection District community.

The District Auxiliary accomplishes its mission through social activities, fundraising events, campaigns, and by fostering good relationships with all other community groups within the Mosquito Fire Protection District.

Events:

D'Ax will be holding a Pancake Breakfast November 16, 2024.

Public Safety and Training:

CPR Courses will be scheduled quarterly, beginning February 2025.

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 6-8, 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:

District Fleet Maintenance Randy Campos will be working with Stretch Fab to evaluate the engines and water tender. The goal is to identify repairs that require immediate attention, and establish a projected budget for this fiscal year and FY 25/26.

SG-75 is out of service due to an electrical issue.

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.

Requsts For Service:

Medical Calls:	9	Debris Burns:	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	1	Public Assist:	1

Logistics:

Nothing to report.

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, November 21st at 7:00 pm at Station 75

MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

FINNON LAKE RECREATION AREA

MVFA Campground News

We are winding down for the year with campers as the weather cools down. Last month we did

have a scout troop here for their annual visit. They are a special group of boys and girls that thoroughly enjoy our campground. They bring something different each year for the kids to do. This year they brought a climbing rock wall. As you can imagine it was a big success. During the afternoon they were given two pieces of corrugated cardboard, and a roll of duct tape and had to build a boat that one in each group could get in and see how long it lasted on the lake. Seeing the joy and excitement on their faces made our day. We look forward to next fall when they are back again.



Campground Septic System

The campground restroom septic leach lines, which were likely installed by the state in the mid 1950's, recently failed and needed to be replaced. The MVFA Board solicited a system design along with multiple quotes for





construction from local contractors. The construction project was awarded at a cost of \$10,500 to complete. The contractor completed the installation in mid-October. This is another in a series of improvements that the current board has funded to upgrade the Finnon Lake

Recreation Area campground and diner. We are pleased to be able to make these investments in our assets as a result of high demand at the campground and the benefit of our leasing space to Shimmick for the bridge replacement batch plant.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Annual Fall Festival

We hosted our annual Fall Festival last month at the beautiful Finnon Lake Recreation Area. The weather was perfect, and we were thrilled to have over 40 vendors join us, making the event an overwhelming success. Our diverse array of craft vendors featured jewelry, wreaths, woodworking, candles, glass art, homemade bread, soap, and historical information about



Mosquito and so much more. We even had local businesses offering their services. We were especially delighted to see children selling





their stunning artwork. Music services were donated by Alan Thompson of Sierra SoundBox.



We were honored to have local agencies such as the American Red Cross, Commission on Aging, Cal Fire, Mosquito Fire Safe Council, and the Neighborhood Radio Watch participate. Our local Mosquito Fire Department also joined us, bringing their engines for the kids to enjoy. The firefighters generously gave away pumpkins, and we provided toys for the children.

The festival offered something for everyone, with a wide variety of vendors and organizations. We served lunch to all attendees, an impressive feat.



We deeply appreciate everyone who came out to enjoy the day with us. A special thanks goes to all the volunteers who helped make the event such a great success. We could not have done it without your support. We look forward to making next year's event even better!

Trunk or Treat and Haunted House

On Saturday night October 26th, the community came together for a thrilling and spooky evening at the annual Trunk or Treat and Haunted House event. Held at the Mosquito Fire Station and sponsored by the MVFA and Mosquito Firefighters, the event saw an impressive turnout, with families and children eagerly participating in the festivities.



The evening kicked off with the Trunk or Treat, where cars were creatively decorated and filled with candy for the kids to collect. This family-friendly event provided a safe and fun alternative to traditional trick-or-treating, allowing children to enjoy the Halloween spirit without the need to venture door-to-door.

As the evening progressed, the excitement only grew as attendees ventured into the haunted house. The station was transformed into a spine-chilling maze filled with creepy characters, eerie









sound effects, and unexpected scares. Volunteers and firefighters created a terrifying yet safe environment for everyone to enjoy.

The turnout and the positive feedback from the community was amazing, and several participants, young and old left with rewards for their costume and decorating efforts.

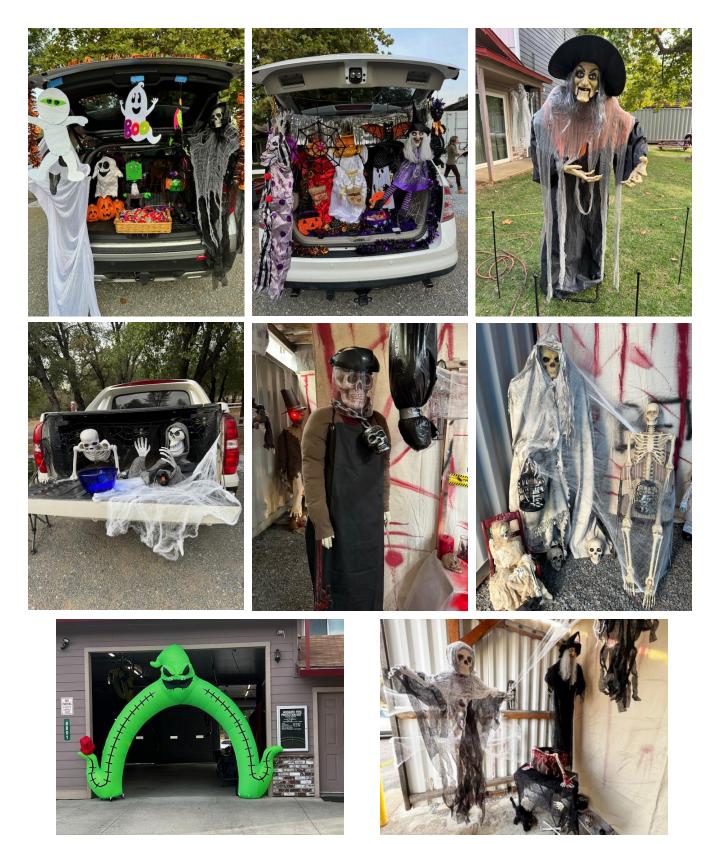








The event not only provided a night of frights and fun but also fostered a sense of community spirit and togetherness. Families left with bags full of candy, looking forward to next year's event.



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. The year to date recycle refund which goes directly to the Station 75 fund is \$1,803.97. 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 Wednesday, November 6th at 3:00 pm Note Change in Date

CRAFTERS

By Natasha Cutter

Mosquito Crafters will be attending the Cold Springs Church craft sale on Friday November 8th and Saturday the 9th. Cold Springs Church is located at 2600 Cold Springs Road. Come shop our selection of wonderful



handmade goodies along with other great vendors. On Saturday November 30th the crafters will have a table at station 75 for the Holiday Craft Sale. 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.

COMMUNITY HAZMAT COLLECTION DAY

By Kim Purcell

On behalf of the Swansboro Pilots Association, I would like to thank the El Dorado County



hazardous waste collection crew (an all woman crew) and the SCPOA board members for partnering with us for a very successful event. The hazardous waste crew was very impressed with our community, our ability to host this event, and the fact that we filled the truck! We are looking forward to hosting another event next year. Thank you to everyone who participated!



SCPOA REPORT

By Meredith Blain

The Swansboro Country Property Owners Association Board of Directors (SCPOA) meets monthly at the MFPD Fire Station, 8801 Rock Creek Road, however, there will not be 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.

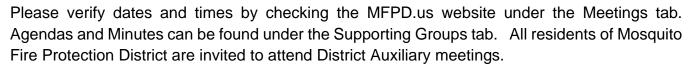
In the August issue of the BYTE, the SCPOA article about the upcoming election to fill director seats set a deadline of November 28th for nominations for director positions. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the date has been revised to be November 22, 2024. Nomination forms must be received by The Management Trust on or before November 22, 2024, at 4pm. The Management Trust has sent information and self-nomination forms to all members either by email or USMail. If you have not received anything, contact any SCPOA director for assistance. Also, check the Board tab on the SCPOA.info website for additional information.

Members of SCPOA can visit SCPOA.info, the official SCPOA website, and get information about upcoming meetings, meeting agendas and minutes, association bylaws, individual unit's DC&Rs, using the Swansboro Airport, and find information for use of common areas, and much, much more! If you have not requested a login for the SCPOA website, please send an email to **Kpaulscpoa@gmail.com**, or **Melissa.bell@managementtrust.com** to gain access.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY aka D'Ax

By Meredith Blain

The District Auxiliary usually meets the same day as the MFPD Board of Directors Meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the November meetings will take place a week earlier and the D'Ax meeting will be November 21, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the MFPD Firehouse Kitchen.



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

SMOKE ON THE WATER

by Kirk Bronsord and Matt Ridgeway



As fall settles in, exciting changes are coming to Smoke on the Water. We are updating our hours and menu for the fall and winter seasons. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the latest updates.

Don't let the cooler weather keep you away. We need your support to keep

our doors open! It's been wonderful seeing new faces from our community, and we'll continue to bring fresh flavors as the holidays approach.

Join us again, or for the first time, and let us make this season special together.

Thank you all so much for your support!

BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE

by Dave Angelo

Here are the results of the bird watch for October. The next Bird Watch will be on the 9th of November. 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.



3

3

Canada Goose	5	American
Mallard	5	Great Blu
California Quail	1	Acorn Wo
Pie-billed Grebe	2	California
		Violet-are

American Coot Great Blue Heron Acorn Woodpecker California Scrub Jay Violet-green Swallow

56

1

10

7

3

Western Bluebird Lesser Goldfinch

Diner Hours:

Monday - Friday - Closed

Saturday - 11 am - 7 pm Sunday 9 am - 3 pm

(Breakfast served on Sunday only)

https://www.facebook.com/smokeon

thewaterplacervilleca

Dark-eyed Junco 1 Spotted Towhee 4

DISTRICT AUXILIARY



Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD) <u>www.mfpd.us</u> Job Announcement – Fire Chief \$80,000 +Benefits

Mosquito Fire Protection District is currently recruiting qualified applicants for the position of Fire Chief. The position reports directly to the elected District Board of Directors. This position is full-time; however, an alternative work schedule could be negotiated with the right candidate.

The MFPD is in the Sierra foothills an hour east of the State Capitol, Sacramento. It provides fire suppression, prevention, and first responder medical services to about 2,000 residents in a 13 square mile area. The Mosquito community is in a rural setting rich in history dating back to the California Gold Rush days.

The fire chief is responsible for the operations of a combined fire department. The chief leads recruitment, mentoring, training, and retention of both paid and volunteer firefighters to meet the needs of the district within the limited budget available. The paid staff includes the Chief, a paid Captain, and a part-time Administrative Assistant. A contingent of volunteers—firefighters and civilian support group members—covers the rest.

The district has been awarded a 3 year FEMA SAFER grant to improve volunteer recruitment and retention.

The district is a non-PERS agency but offers a negotiable benefit package.

Qualifications for the successful applicant include: (California specific requirements can be equated to out-of- state certifications, training or licensing)

- An AA degree in fire management or fire technology, public administration, business administration or closely related field; OR relevant work experience.
- A combination of education, training and experience that clearly demonstrates the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the position.
- 5-7 years proven ability to provide administrative duties, such as fire district finance, budgeting, and cost control for a rural Fire Department in concert with Board policy and guidelines including the strategic plan.
- Seven years supervisory fire suppression experience, three of which must be at a Battalion Chief's level or higher which has afforded the opportunity to become familiar with all aspects of a fire department's operations; or an equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities.
- Certified Fire Officer or equivalent.
- Experience with the Incident Command System.
- Experience with rural fire districts and volunteer recruitment, retention, and management.
- Experience in developing and managing strong, supportive community relations.

- Must possess or obtain within 6 months an El Dorado County EMT Certification.
- Possess intermediate level computer skills.
- Possess and maintain a valid California Class C drivers' license with a fire fighter endorsement within in 30 days of hire.
- Meet medical physical standards as determined by the district's occupational medical and/or insurance provider.
- Successfully pass a drug screen and background check, such as the DOJ live scan report.
- Able to be in the district within 60 minutes.
- Needs 2-5 years' experience managing Federal, State, and Local government grants.

Desirable qualifications:

- Previous experience as a Fire Chief.
- Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science, Public Administration, Business Administration or related field.
- California SFM Certified Chief Officer, National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer.
- Certified Fire Instructor with expertise in the management and delivery of training and EMS programs.
- Experience working with a combination career and volunteer workforce.
- Experience in wildland protection and interagency coordination.
- A high level of professionalism, work ethic and the ability to exercise fiscal management to include creation of an annual budget for approval by the Board of Directors.
- Knowledge of Fire equipment maintenance procedures.

Please submit a letter of interest and a current resume to:

Mosquito Fire Protection District:

Sharlyn Fields Email: admin75@mfpd.us

8801 Rock Creek Road Placerville, CA 95667

Position to remain open until filled. Initial deadline: Application to be in the district office by November 30, 2024

THE MOSQUITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF: RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, RELIGIOUS CREED, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, CITIZENSHIP, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY, MEDICAL CONDITION, GENETIC INFORMATION, MARITAL STATUS, SEX, GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION, AGE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, VETERAN AND/OR MILITARY STATUS, PROTECTED MEDICAL LEAVES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM STATUS, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, OR ANY OTHER STATUS PROTECTED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW.

CLASSIFIED ADS

(Classified Ads are free to all paid subscribers)

FREE

1989-1991 3/4 TON SUBURBAN AXLES

front and rear, complete from wheel to wheel with springs. Must pick up in Swansboro. Call 669-254-0456

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 email daviddudleyca@comcast.net

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

WELDING & FABRICATION

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

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."

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.mosquitoroadneighbors.com or 530-295-4641 or toll free 866-SALLYRE, snlongjohns@yahoo.com.

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

NOVEMBER 2024								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
					1	2 Support Group Training 11am Station 75		
3 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	4	5 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	6 MVFA Board Meeting 3pm Station 75	7	8	9 Bird Watching Finnon Lake, day use area 9am		
10 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	11	12	13	14	15	16 MFPD Pancake Breakfast 9 am Station 75		
17 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	18	19 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	20	21 D'Ax Board Meeting 5:30pm MFPD Board Meeting 7:00pm Station 75	22			
24 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	25	26	27	28	29	30		

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 <u>www.goMVFA.org</u> 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 <u>mbyte.editor@gmail.com</u>. 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

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