

MOSQUITO BYTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION



Volume 39, No. 6

March 2026



MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

FINNON RECREATION AREA CAMPGROUND OPENS APRIL 5TH

Spring is nearly here, and with it comes the long-awaited reopening of the **Finnon Recreation Area Campground on April 5th**. After a quiet winter, the lake, trails, and campsites are ready to welcome visitors back for another year of outdoor adventure.

This season is already shaping up to be one of our strongest yet. Campers have booked **325 reservations so far**, including **five full-campground bookings**—a clear sign that Finnion Lake continues to be a favorite destination for families, anglers, and nature lovers alike.

Guests can look forward to the same clean, well-maintained facilities and the peaceful lakeside setting that make Finnion such a standout spot in El Dorado County. Whether you're planning a weekend getaway, a group event, or a quiet retreat under the pines, early reservations are encouraged.

To secure your campsite for the 2026 season, visit **HIPCAMP.COM** and search for **Finnion Recreation Area Campground**.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT AT FINNON LAKE

Spring fun is just around the corner as the **Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association**, hosts the **Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th at 10:30 a.m.** at beautiful **Finnion Lake**.

Families are invited to bring their baskets and join the community for a festive morning filled with colorful eggs, excited kids, and plenty of



smiles. The grassy lakeside area provides the perfect backdrop for this long-running tradition, and volunteers will be on hand to ensure a safe, fun, and well-organized event for all ages.

The Easter Bunny is expected to make an appearance, and children will have plenty of opportunities to search for eggs tucked throughout the area. This event is free to the community and a wonderful way to welcome spring together.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Finnon Lake for a joyful morning of celebration and community spirit!



RAINBOW TROUT STOCKING AT FINNON LAKE RESERVOIR!

As we approach spring, we're excited to share that **Finnon Lake Reservoir received a fresh stocking of rainbow trout on February 11, 2026.** The **American River Fish Hatchery** delivered **600 pounds of rainbow trout**, giving local anglers an early-season boost and adding even more energy to the lake.

CDFW oversees 21 fish hatcheries statewide, with Nimbus and American River playing key roles in raising Chinook salmon, steelhead, and—lucky for us—rainbow trout that make their way to Finnon Lake.

Finnon Lake Reservoir, located in Placerville, CA, remains a favorite destination for fishing, boating, picnicking, and outdoor recreation. With this latest stocking, anglers can look forward to excellent fishing conditions in a beautiful setting.



Whether you're an experienced angler or simply looking to enjoy a peaceful day by the water, Finnon Lake Reservoir is the perfect spot. Don't forget your fishing license and the **\$10 per car day-use fee** before casting a line.

Watch for future announcements as we continue to track upcoming stocking events. We hope to see you at Finnon Lake soon—and happy fishing!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Event dates will be conveyed if approved by the MFPD.

The **MVFA Board meeting** will be on **Thursday, March 19th at 3:00 pm** at the **Diner**

MVFA CRV RECYCLE PROGRAM

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 bottles must be removed before they can be redeemed. Lids and caps can be included for redemption. Stay green, stay responsible, and happy recycling! ♻️



SMOKE ON THE WATER

by Kirk Bronsord and Matt Ridgeway

March is rolling in, and things are getting lively here at the diner! February tried to hit us with a winter curveball, but we stayed warm, open, and cooking — and we're so grateful for everyone who braved the chill to support us. Your visits truly keep this little lakeside spot going.



We've got some exciting news brewing: we're in the middle of applying for our beer and wine license, and if all goes well, we'll be raising a glass with you by late spring. Until then, don't forget — we serve **lunch and dinner on Saturdays**, and **breakfast and lunch on Sundays**. So come on in, grab a seat, and treat yourself to something delicious. What are you waiting for?

If you haven't visited yet, now's the perfect time. We're proud to be ranked **one of the top five places to eat in El Dorado County** on Google, and our lakeside patio and pavilion make every meal feel like a getaway. You might even spot the eagles soaring over the lake while you dine.

Thank you for being part of our Smoke on the Water family — we can't wait to see you!

Diner Hours:

Monday - Friday- Closed
Saturday - 11 am - 6 pm
Sunday 9 am - 2 pm

(Breakfast served on Sunday only)

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

MVFA SWAG

STEP INTO SPRING WITH COMMUNITY SPIRIT

With longer days and green hills returning, it's the perfect moment to welcome spring and show your support for the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association. The MVFA apparel lineup has something for every kind of spring day—from crisp mornings to warm, sunny afternoons.

- **Layer-Ready Hooded Sweatshirts** — A cozy choice for cool mornings and breezy evenings, available in a range of sizes.
- **Fresh Colors & New Styles** — Seasonal shades and updated designs make it easy to find a favorite.
- **Lightweight T-Shirts for Warm Days** — Comfortable, casual, and ideal for trail walks, yard work, or community events.



Whether you're out enjoying the wildflowers, catching up with neighbors, or gearing up for spring activities, MVFA apparel is a simple way to show local pride while staying comfortable through the season's changing weather.

MVFA apparel—and local phone books—are available for purchase at the diner during regular business hours or at MVFA-sponsored events. For personalized orders or special requests, email MVFA95667@gmail.com.

Celebrate spring, support your fire association, and wear your Mosquito pride proudly.

SENIORS MEAL SERVICES

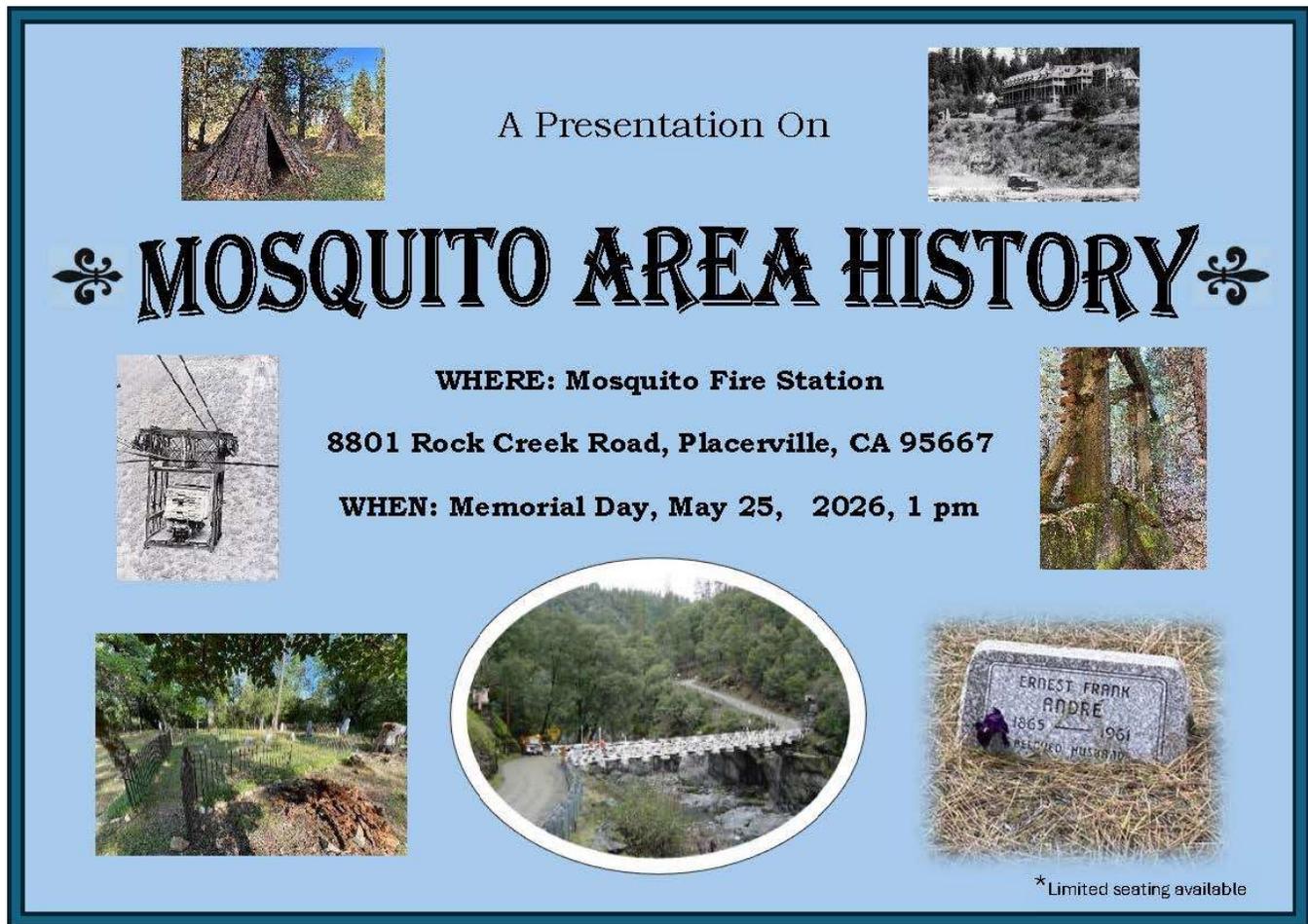
El Dorado County Senior Nutrition offers Home Delivered Meals for individuals 60 years of age or older who are homebound either temporarily or permanently, and unable to shop for their own food or prepare their own meals. Home delivered meal service is available to help them meet their nutritional needs. Dedicated, caring volunteers deliver meals Wednesday's, while also checking in on the well-being of each participant -- bringing peace of mind to clients and their families. Our goal is to provide nutritious meals and social contact to support overall wellness that will enable participants to remain living independently and with dignity in their own homes. Frozen meals for weekends and holidays are available upon request. Call today to see if you qualify! 530-621-6160

<https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Services/Assistance-Programs/Seniors/Senior-Services/Senior-Nutrition-Services>

MOSQUITO HISTORY PRESENTATION

By Steve Vrabel

This area has some amazing but somewhat unknown history. For instance, did you know that a relatively large Native American village was here before Mosquito ever existed? Want to learn more about these intelligent people and their amazing leader, who both led more people than Sitting Bull and managed to do it so wisely that his people were never forced onto a reservation? This story and other incredible events that occurred here will be explained during a presentation on the history of Mosquito on Memorial Day, May 25, 2026 at 1 pm at the Mosquito Fire Station. Mark your calendars—there's no better way to celebrate Memorial Day than by connecting with the history beneath our feet.



A Presentation On

❖ MOSQUITO AREA HISTORY ❖

WHERE: Mosquito Fire Station
8801 Rock Creek Road, Placerville, CA 95667

WHEN: Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, 1 pm

* Limited seating available

The poster features several images: a Native American teepee, a modern house on a hill, a utility box, a tree trunk, a cemetery, a stone bridge over a river, and a gravestone for Ernest Frank Andre (1865-1961).

NEW NEIGHBORS

If you are new to the area, or know someone new to the area, MVFA has welcome packets that contain great information about our community and helpful guidance for living in a high risk fire area. Please contact us at MVFA95667@gmail.com so we can get one delivered to your door!

MOSQUITO CRAFTERS

By Natasha Cutter

Greetings, Mosquito Neighbors!

The Mosquito Crafters are currently working hard and having a blast assembling Easter baskets!

We will offer a delightful selection of thoughtfully **crafted baskets** priced between **\$10.00 and \$25.00**. You'll discover wonderfully themed baskets suitable for various age groups, along with handmade treats sprinkled throughout the collection. This month, you can find them available on Facebook. You'll also be able to shop for them in person at **Smoke On The Water** on **March 21st and 28th, from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM** both Saturdays.



BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE

A gentle shift toward spring shows up clearly in this month's bird activity, with a mix of lingering winter residents and early-season movement across the Mosquito area. The March Bird Watch brought a rich variety of **46 species** and several standout moments that highlight how dynamic this shoulder season can be.

Seasonal Highlights

February delivered a blend of waterfowl, raptors, woodpeckers, and songbirds, reflecting both stable winter populations and the first hints of spring dispersal.

- **Waterbirds remained abundant**, led by 70 American Coots, steady numbers of Mallards, and a notable 6 Hooded Mergansers. Eight Double-crested Cormorants and a lone Great Blue Heron added to the activity along the lake.
- **Raptors made a strong showing**, with our 2 Bald Eagles and a Belted Kingfisher offering dramatic sightings.
- **Woodpeckers were especially active**, including 30 Acorn Woodpeckers, plus single sightings of Nuttall's, Hairy, and Northern Flicker—an excellent month for anyone who enjoys the percussion section of the forest.
- **Songbirds showed early spring energy**, with Mountain Chickadees, Oak Titmice, Bushtits, Wrentits, and a Hermit Thrush all making appearances. A Cedar Waxwing added a splash of color to the list.
- **Towhees and sparrows remained steady**, including 12 Dark-eyed Juncos (Oregon), 6 California Towhees, and 6 Spotted Towhees.
- **California Quail were plentiful**, with 26 individuals recorded—one of the month's most numerous land birds.

As the days lengthen and temperatures rise, March often brings noticeable shifts in migration and breeding behavior.

The Count

2 Canada Goose	1 Belted Kingfisher	3 Wrentit
5 Mallard	30 Acorn Woodpecker	4 White-breasted Nuthatch
6 Hooded Merganser	1 Nuttall's Woodpecker	1 Brown Creeper
26 California Quail	1 Hairy Woodpecker	2 Western Bluebird
1 Band-tailed Pigeon	1 Northern Flicker	1 Hermit Thrush
1 Anna's Hummingbird	1 Black Phoebe	1 Cedar Waxwing
70 American Coot	2 Steller's Jay	4 Lesser Goldfinch
2 Pied-billed Grebe	2 California Scrub-Jay	12 Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
8 Double-crested Cormorant	2 Common Raven	6 California Towhee
1 Great Egret	2 Mountain Chickadee	6 Spotted Towhee
1 Great Blue Heron	4 Oak Titmouse	10 Red-winged Blackbird
2 Bald Eagle	10 Bushtit	

SCPOA REPORT

By Meredith Blain

The Swansboro Country Property Owners Association (SCPOA) Board of Directors generally holds monthly meetings at the MFPD Fire Station, located at 8801 Rock Creek Road, on the fourth Wednesday of the month. All SCPOA members are invited to attend.

The next SCPOA meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

Meeting notices and agendas are posted on the bulletin board at Dyer Lake and on the official SCPOA website at SCPOA.info.

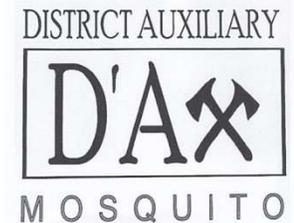
Visit SCPOA.info for general public information. SCPOA members can also access details about upcoming meetings, agendas and minutes, association bylaws, individual unit DC&Rs, use of the Swansboro Airport and common areas, and more.

Member access requires a login. If you need login credentials, please email Kpaulscpoa@gmail.com or Ashley.silva@managementtrust.com.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY aka D'Ax

By Meredith Blain

The District Auxiliary is working to plan a collaborative Pancake Breakfast with MFPD for April!. We hope to have our local, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors candidates for District Four present for a casual meet and greet at the breakfast. Look forward to seeing our Mosquito residents at the next breakfast event!



The next D'Ax* meeting will take place on Thursday, March 26, 2026. D'Ax* requested use to the MFPD Fire House Kitchen for the meeting and D'Ax* invites all members of the Mosquito area to attend their meetings.

Mark your calendar now, we have our March 26th meeting and our April meet the candidates pancake breakfast! We look forward to seeing you all soon! Visit our website at D'Ax-np.org

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. A great fact based read about a local legend. Perfect for gifting, \$20.00. A few books with section of upside down pages are still available for \$10.00.

UNIQUE JEWELRY

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

TREADMILL

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

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

JOTUL PROPANE HEAT STOVE

Complete with chimney thermostat. Can be seen at 6796 Log Cabin Lane 916-501-3444

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

NOTARY SERVICES ON THE HILL

Contact Devon at: 510-719-1247.

CALI CONSTRUCTION

General contractor 530-903-1869
Decks, fences, siding, flooring, and more.
5% senior or veteran's discount.
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HOUSE PAINTER – AMERICAN EAGLE PAINTING

Residential/Commercial
Specializing in repaints contact Steven
Martinez, 530-919-7612 or
americaneaglepainting4@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.

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.

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

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.

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.

WELDING & FABRICATION

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

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Donna Ables, Realtor, MBA/BBA Real Estate & Land Use Affairs, CSUS
Caldwell Banker Realty
Where Quality Meets Excellent Customer Service! CalDRE# 01887830
(916) 320-0365
Visit donnaablesrealestate.com

EL DORADO COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY OPENINGS

The El Dorado County Civil Grand Jury has opened the Application process for the 2026-2027 Grand Jury.

The Civil Grand Jury functions as a watchdog over local government operations to determine if local government can be made more efficient and effective. They are empowered to examine any aspect of county government, city government, and special districts including schools. In addition, they review and may inquire into citizen complaints.

The term is one year (July - June) and requires* a minimum of 8 hrs/wk participation. Usually all members attend a weekly plenary meeting and selected Committee Meetings that are topic specific. Grand Jurors are reimbursed for mileage and receive a \$15/day stipend.s

Desirable Qualities: Have sufficient time and commitment, be in good health, ability to work with others, open minded and respectful of the views of others, have a genuine interest in community affairs, possess basic investigative skills, and ability to use a computer and write reports.

Prior to the commencement of the term, all newly sworn members receive a two day orientation and training, typically in late June.

To apply or for additional information go to: Website www.edcgov.us/GrandJury or contact the Superior Court Administrative Analyst at (530) 621-7414. The Application period closes in early May.

HANDCRAFTED ART ON THE HILL

Unique and affordable glass art by Pam Angelo: plates, bowls, vases, birdbaths and more. Perfect as gifts or treat yourself. Studio open most days, text or call to set a time 530-391-5424

UNIQUE WOODWORKING

Created by Dave Angelo in his Swansboro wood shop. Beautiful trinket boxes, wildlife wall art, pepper mills, vases, puzzles, toys and more! Studio open most days, text or call to set a time 707-688-4659

WILD PEAK ENERGY

Licensed Electrical Contractor - CSLB 1138152. Visit our website for more information - www.wildpeakenergy.com
Your Local Electrical Experts! (916) 995-9655

MARCH 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	2	3	4	5	6	7 Support Group Training 9am Station 75
8 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	9	10 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	11	12	13	14 Bird Watch 9am Finnon Day Use Area
15 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	16	17	18	19 MVFA Board Meeting 3pm Diner	20	21
22 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	23	24 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	25 SCPOA Board Meeting 6pm Station 75	26 D'Ax Board Meeting 6pm MFPD Board Meeting 7pm Station 75	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)
 District Auxiliary - Mosquito
 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://dax-np.org>
<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.

No copyright infringement intended.

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PLACERVILLE, CA 95667-9040