MOSQUITO BYTE

MOSQUITO

Volunteer Fire Association

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION

Volume 37, No. 7 April 2024

CHIEF'S REPORT

by Chief Jack Rosevear



Calls for Service: February 22- March 25
Medical Aid- 5
Assist Citizen stranded in Forest- 1
Lift Assist- 1
Water Main Break- 1
Check Burn Pile- 1
Public Assist- 3

Congratulations to Firefighter Scott Montgomery, who recently completed EMT academy through Sacramento State University. Scott will complete his National Registration Test and El Dorado County certification within the next few weeks. Scott is a local resident, a professional plumber with previous firefighting experience, out of state. He started his first shift at Station 75 on Saturday March 23rd. Scott's son, Mecklin, has joined the Department as an Explorer Scout.

Fourteen members of the Support Group are participating in Title 22 Public Safety First Aid, which involves 24 hours of hands on training, in addition to ongoing training. The training certifies participants in the administration of Narcan, Glucose, Epinephrine (anaphylaxis) and advanced bleeding control. The class was certified by the County of El Dorado EMS Agency and delivered by El Dorado Hills Fire Department Training Division. There will be on-going training of the group by our EMTs and Paramedics, which forms a basic Medical Response Group, to assist duty firefighters, as needed. The added personnel having certified medical skills training will be a tremendous benefit to our community, to compensate for the long response times paramedics have to get to our incidents. For critical patients, the Support Group will continue to meet the dispatched air ambulance and transport the flight crew to the patient (when the medic ambulance is not yet in the area).

We are currently onboarding a new firefighter, who is a current EMT. He will complete his physical and background check, which will include his El Dorado County EMT certification. Upon successful completion he will begin orientation shifts within three weeks. There is another firefighter candidate which will start the onboarding process in the next 30 days.

Austin Eby, Tony Christensen, Trevor Dillender and Angel Rosevear continue each day in Firefighter 1 academy at Sierra and American River Colleges. They will graduate in June. This is a very intense program, requiring the firefighters to attend academy and related training (or physical training), seven days a week. Both EMT and Firefighter 1 training are funded by our FEMA SAFER Grant.

We are currently preparing wildland firefighter training for Fire Season 2024 and in the process of recruiting additional firefighters and part-time supervisors for the upcoming fire season.

We have submitted grant applications to FEMA Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) program, which we have had past success for training and equipment. The new applications request a replacement Type 6 Fire Engine (\$327,380), updated portable radios (\$60,569), and breathing air compressor (\$76,213). Awards will be announced beginning April 30. We are currently working on the application for the FEMA SAFER staffing program to request three full time positions to staff the Station. The deadline for that application is April 12th. We are currently being considered for a grant extension of residual funding from our previous volunteer Recruitment and Retention Grant (\$117,000). This will purchase a number of items and services for marketing to recruit new volunteers.

We have completed purchasing the Cal Fire 50/50 grant (\$20,000). Items purchased included 5 Bendix King portable radios, training fire shelters, forceable entry tools, wildland hose, nozzles and fittings. We will apply again for the next open application period in May for 2025 purchasing.

In the Fall of 2023, our District was awarded \$666,320 from the FEMA SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) program. The grant was applied for in February 2023 and we were successful in the first round of awards. This gives us another four years of grant funding for our productive volunteer program, which has resulted in the fire station being staffed 24/7 for over two years. The funding covers volunteers' stipend pay for shift coverage and response to emergencies, training classes, new volunteer expenses including physicals. background checks, uniforms and safety gear, support of the Explorer program, salary and benefits for a volunteer coordinator (Fire Captain), and more. Residual money from the current grant ending in December 2023 can be used for enhanced marketing and other volunteer support needs. Many thanks for grant writing efforts by Meredith Blain and Didi Everhart (Gatchell Grant Resources-Canton, OH). We are currently awaiting the results of a parallel SAFER grant application for full time station staffing (3 positions- 1 firefighter/supervisor 24/7/365). I have posted a success story about our grant experiences on the US Congressional website for SAFER and AFG staffing. The District has also been awarded \$10,000 from Cal Fire for wildland PPE and equipment to be spent in the Spring 2024 (50/50 grant- \$10,000 matching from District- \$20,000 purchase total).

Our Fire District staff is fully committed to our community. We stand ready to assist our residents with any needs they may have, to prepare, support and provide the most up to date information.

We are happy to conduct an interior or exterior fire safety inspection upon your request. Please call us at 530-626-9017 or stop by the station.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday April 2, 16 & 30 - Fire Training- 6pm - Station 75 (Public Welcome) Thursday April 4 - MVFA Board Meeting - 3pm - Station 75 Saturday April 6 - Support Group Monthly Training - 9am - Station 75 Friday April 12 - MFPD Finance Committee Meeting - 5pm - Station 75 Saturday April 13 - D'Ax/Firefighter Pancake Breakfast - 9-11am - Station 75

The next MFPD Board meeting will be on April 25th. at 7:00 pm at Station 75

MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

DINER AND DAM COSTS

Most members of the Mosquito community are unaware of the costs incurred by the MVFA in maintaining the Finnon Lake Recreation Area and our local diner. Some of these costs are the ongoing costs of utilities and insurance which most are familiar with. However, there are some special ongoing costs associated with maintaining the lake as well as those that are unexpected infrastructure related costs for the diner. One of the significant ongoing costs each year is the state required dam fee. The MVFA is required to annually have a California Department of Water Resources (DWR) inspection of the Finnon reservoir dam to assess its continued structural integrity and soundness. The annual fee for this activity has increased from \$10,476 in 2018 to \$12,137 this past year. On an ongoing basis, the cost of this must be covered by the proceeds received from the campground reservation fees and the day use fees paid by disc golfers and those who fish. As mentioned, there are some unexpected costs which can have a significant impact on the association's budget as well. One of the recent examples of this was the need to install a ground water barrier above the leach field for the diner septic system (see photos). This past year,





during the heavy snow and rainy season, we had noticed that the leach field was staying saturated and therefore reducing the ability of the septic system to process the waste water. It was determined that a significant amount of higher elevation ground water was impacting on the leach field area.

To resolve this, a water barrier was installed above the leach field with fill material and a piping system to route the ground water to the creek. The cost of this barrier installation was \$10,250. Our board continues to demonstrate competent fiscal responsibility and budget management in order to support the MVFA mission of maintaining the Finnon Lake for fire suppression and recreation, the community diner infrastructure as well as providing funding for the maintenance and equipment needs of our local fire department.









FINNON LAKE DOG WALKERS

The Finnon Lake Recreation Area is very popular for dog walkers as well as many other community members. The MVFA Board promotes the use of the property by all community members and provides the following article which was generated from advice provided by professional dog trainers using AI.

Learn to Love the Leash: The Importance of Dog Leashes

Dog leashes are often referred to as "a dog's lifeline," and for good reason. Let's explore **10 compelling reasons** why using a leash is crucial for the safety and well-being of both your furry friend and the community:

1. Good Neighbor Policy:

Keeping your dog on a leash during walks ensures safety for everyone. Even if you trust your dog's behavior, unexpected stimuli can startle them. A leash also signals to others that you are in control of your pet.

2. Improved Companionship:

 A well-trained, leash-trained dog provides a more enjoyable walking experience for both of vou.

3. **Disease Prevention**:

 Leashed dogs are less likely to contract illnesses from exposure to animal droppings, reducing the risk of diseases like Parvo or Distemper.

4. Safety in High Traffic Areas:

 Leashed dogs are less likely to dart into traffic or encounter unrestrained animals, minimizing accidents and bites.

5. Representing You:

o An obedient dog reflects positively on you as a responsible owner.

6. Easier Relocation:

Leash-trained dogs trust their owners and are more likely to follow during relocations.

7. Anticipation of Adventure:

o Dogs associate leashes with exciting walks or outings, wagging their tails in anticipation.

8. Not a Stray:

o If your dog escapes, a leash instantly communicates that there's an owner looking for them.

9. Wildlife Relief:

o Leashed dogs avoid chasing or disturbing wildlife, benefiting both animals and ecosystems.

10. Legal Requirement:

o Most places (including El Dorado County) have leash laws to ensure safety for everyone.

Remember, using a leash isn't just a legal requirement—it's a responsible choice that benefits your dog, other people, and the environment. So, next time you head out for a walk, embrace the leash and keep your furry companion safe!

Sources:

- 1. <u>Learn to Love the Leash: The Importance of Dog Leashes</u>
- 2. Leash Your Dog! American Kennel Club
- 3. 35 Reasons to Keep Your Dog on a Leash Inside Your Home
- 4. Leash Laws: What They Are and Why They're Important Dog Training Elite
- 5. 5 Reasons Leashes Are A Good Idea New Life K9s

MVFA ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

The weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the youngsters in the community for the 2024 MVFA Easter Egg Hunt. Due to the inclement conditions the hunt was held at Station 75 rather than the normal venue of Finnon Lake. The participants competed in four separate age groups from 0 to 13 years old to find the candy filled eggs with hopes of snagging one of the twelve golden eggs that netted them a special gift card. There were a hefty number of participants in each age group, but all were able to fill their baskets with the prize filled eggs. The youngsters and their parents enjoyed the frenzied hunt and had a fun time despite the weather. Thanks to all the families who ventured out in the rainy conditions to make this year's hunt another great success!



















MVFA RECYCLE

Thank you to all the Mosquito/Swansboro community donators of recyclable containers and the volunteers who help sort and redeem the materials. We generated over \$600 with our last trip to the recycling center. The money is allocated to the Station 75 account for exclusive use by the MFPD fire department at the Fire Chief's request. The funds are earmarked to be specifically used for the purchase of materials and equipment for our fire department. We meet typically every other month to prepare the plastic and cans to be transported to the recycle center for redemption. Keep your recyclable plastic and aluminum containers coming; it is making a difference for our firefighters and the station!





READY FOR CAMPERS

Thanks to the efforts of our community volunteers, we are ready for this season's campers to visit and enjoy the Finnon Reservoir Recreation Area campground. We trimmed trees, raked up leaves, collected pinecones, cleaned ditches and graded the roads to provide a clean and safe environment for the many who visit our campground each year. Thanks, Steve, Dustin, Natasha, Jack, David, Dave, and Heide for helping the board members do the cleanup. Your support was much appreciated!





COMMUNITY EVENTS

The MVFA Board has set the dates for the association's annual community events. Please mark these on your calendars and plan to join us on these dates for fun and community comradery.

- Saturday April 13 DAX/Firefighter Pancake Breakfast 9 to 11am- Station 75
- Saturday, May 18, 2024 Yard Sale at Station 75 parking lot 9 am to 1 pm, <u>Please</u> note change of date.
- Saturday, June 15, 2024 Spaghetti Dinner at Station 75 6:00 pm, <u>Please note</u> change of date.
- Saturday, October 12, 2024 Fall Festival at Finnon Lake 10 am 3 pm Free Lunch
- Saturday, October 26, 2024 Trunk-or-Treat at Station 75 6 pm 8 pm
- Saturday, December 7, 2024 Christmas Dinner at Station 75 5:30 pm Free Dinner

The next MVFA Board meeting will be on April 4th at 3:00 pm at Station 75

CONGRATULATIONS SUPPORT GROUP

Congratulations to the fourteen Support Group members and three other MFPD participants who were certified in the Title 22 Public Safety/First Aid program delivered by the El Dorado Hills Fire Department Training Division in March! The Support Group members and fire department personnel continue to increase their knowledge and skill set to provide for a safer community.



Swansboro Drive & Fly In

(Formerly the Big Boy Toy Show). by Tom Harris

Saturday June 22, 2024, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Swansboro Airport and Dyer Lake Park. (Set up time: 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM) Pending SCPOA board approval. Bring your antique and classic autos and motorcycles, hot rods and aircraft. A donation of \$10.00 will enter your "Toy". Vendors are welcome. A \$10.00 donation is required for vendor's booth space. For Swansboro residents and their guests.

All proceeds to benefit the Mosquito Fire Protection District Auxiliary (D'Ax).

For information call: Tom (Motorcycles and Cars) 530-957-0900 Kim (Aircraft) 530-409-2357 Dee (Vendors) 415-823-5443



BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE

by Dave Angelo

Here are the results of the bird watch for March. The next bird watch is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th at Finnon Lake, just past the Boat Launch area. We will start at 9:00 A.M. There is no parking charge to the participants of this free event.



MVFA CRV RECYCLE PROGRAM

Please drop off bags of Plastic Bottles and Aluminum Cans (Sorry no Glass) from 8 am - 5 pm at Station 75. Please consider this option when you organize your recycled materials.



NOTE: Lids/Caps on plastic water bottles **MUST BE REMOVED** before they can be redeemed. Lids/caps can be included for redemption. If you have a chance and can remove the lids, it will sure help the recycling volunteers.

All proceeds go to Station 75



CRAFTERS

By Eileen Reisner

The Mosquito Firehouse Crafters have spent the last month working on Easter projects. We advertised Easter baskets, soaps, and gnomes on Facebook. Sales total over \$300.00, all proceeds go to Station 75! We now have a Facebook page that you can follow. To access our page go to



https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557122943742&mibextid=ZbWKwL

Please follow us to receive updates to the page on your Facebook feed.

Our next Crafters meeting will be on April 26 at 10:00 AM. Please contact Eileen Reisner at 530-748-7962 if you're interested in joining our team.

SCPOA Report

By Meredith Blain

The Swansboro Country Property Owners Association (SCPOA) Board of Directors will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at the Mosquito Fire Station, 8801 Rock Creek Road, at 6pm. Agendas are posted on the bulletin board at Dyer Lake and all SCPOA members are invited to attend! SCPOA committees meet throughout the month and SCPOA members are invited to join committees as well as attend their meetings to provide input and get accurate information about what is going on in Swansboro.

Go to SCPOA.info for committee dates and times and read minutes from past meetings.

SCPOA.info is the only place to find accurate and factual information about SCPOA.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY

By Meredith Blain

It is hard to believe that the District Auxiliary has been in existence for an entire year! We have been busy supporting Mosquito Fire Protection District in many ways, including events, providing funds for meals for training, equipment for firefighters, and more!



In addition, D'Ax supports the MFPD Volunteer Firefighters with their pancake breakfasts by providing funds to purchase the food, shopping, setting up, serving, selling swag, accepting donations, and cleaning up! The next pancake breakfast is on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 9 to 11 am. Residents interested in helping with the event are welcome to reach out to any D'Ax board director or send an email to admin@dax-np.org! D'Ax will find a suitable job and time frame for volunteers!

After a year of service, Director Harris stepped down from her position on the D'Ax Board and we thank her for her tireless service to the organization and to the Mosquito Fire Protection District. At the January meeting, the board voted unanimously to add a new Director, Elisabeth Bingham, who will serve out Director Harris' term that ends in December of this year. We are happy to welcome Elisabeth to the board and fill the role of Vice Present. Directors Blain and Stever, with no other candidates declaring their seats, were voted in for a two-year term.

The District Auxiliary meets the same day as the MFPD Board of Directors Meeting, generally on the fourth Thursday of each month. Dates and times can

be verified by checking the <u>MFPD.us</u> 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 D'Ax meetings.

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

We hope Mosquito residents will join us at our next meeting, Thursday, April 25, 2024.





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

Westinghouse Generator 9500 \$600.00 OBO, like new . Call ,408-218-6687.

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 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

MEETINGS

MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Meet new friends, get refreshed and restored. Join us for challenging Bible study, fun events and worship here in Mosquito. We meet Sunday mornings 10 am at 3342 Stope Drive and throughout the week. Check our website mfom.net or call (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

CALI CONSTRUCTION

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

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.

SIERRA SHIELD FIREARMS & TRAINING

Mention MOSQUITO BYTE and get 25% off CA CCW Class. Also, receive FREE box of ammo with each firearm purchase. www.SierraShield.com or call 530-387-0110

WELDING & FABRICATION

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

VHS VIDEOS CONVERTED TO DVDs

Have any family vacations, precious memories or baby pictures on videos? I can copy them to DVDs. Call Dee at (530) 642-2333.

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

April 2024 Sunday Monday **Tuesday** Wednesday **Thursday Friday** Saturday 2 3 4 5 MFPD MVFA **Support Group** Firefighters **Board Meeting** Training 3pm Station 75 9am Station 75 **Training** 6pm Station 75 7 8 9 10 11 13 **MFOM** Pancake **MFPD Finance** Mountain Breakfast 9 to Meeting **Fellowship** 11am Station 5pm Station 75 Gathering, 11am **Bird Watching** Finnon Lake, Day use area 9am 14 15 17 18 19 20 16 MFOM **SCPOA Board** Mountain Meeting, Fellowship 6pm Station 75 Gathering, 11am MFPD **Firefighters Training** 6pm Station 75 21 22 25 26 27 23 24 MFOM D'Ax Board **Crafters** Meeting Mountain Meeting Fellowship 5:30pm 10am Gathering, Station 75 11am **MFPD Board** Meeting 7:00pm Station 75 28 29 30 MFPD **MFOM** Mountain **Firefighters** Training Fellowship Gathering, 6pm 11am Station 75

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 Rob Kirkpatrick 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.

MOSQUITO BYTE 9009 ORVAL BECKETT CT PLACERVILLE, CA 95667-9040