

Wednesday, February 4th at 7:30 pm

Identity Theft—presented by the

San Diego County Sherriff's Department



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From the Chair

By Melanie Fallon

Well, believe it or not, another year is about to end for the Board of the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council. We will conduct our annual election for one-half of the Board seats at the February 4 Town Council meeting. If you are free that evening please plan on attending this important meeting. B.J. Williams from the Sheriff's Office will be making a presentation on identity theft and how to protect ourselves, so it should be an interesting meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, please mail in your ballots or deliver them to the Fire Station. This will also be the last meeting for Mid Hoppenrath and Karen Gardner. They will be sorely missed as they both have dedicated many hours to our community and we owe them much gratitude.

YEAR IN REVIEW

After working with the County for many years on GP 2020, now called the General Plan Update, I think that we can now see the light at the end of this long tunnel! The DPLU staff is working hard to complete the County's new General Plan. We commented on the draft General Plan last week and have advocated very strongly to keep our low density rural character in place.

We finished our draft Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Community Plans this year and should be receiving comments from the DPLU staff any day now. Once we have their comments in hand, we will let you know if there are any major changes that need your assistance or feedback.

Concerns about new development pressures (either from University Heights or Harmony Grove Meadows) have waned as the economy has pushed both developers/property owners to the brink of bankruptcy.

With assistance from some key residents, the County acquired the 200 acre Sage Hills property and the County will be preserving this environmentally-sensitive land.

From the Chair Continued

Discussions with Lennar continue on two fronts with the Bridges property; the development and/or preservation of Unit 6 and 7 and conditions regarding the development of a tennis complex to be located across the street from the Bridges.

We continue to work with The Escondido Creek Conservancy and major land preservation groups (The Endangered Habitat League, the Nature Conservancy and others) to identify key areas that may be preserved in our valley.

Finally, the County has really come through by allocating some major dollars to the resurfacing of Elfin Forest/Harmony Road this past month! The time delays have been a small burden to pay for the wonderful new road that we will have when it is completed!

ANY TOPICS OF INTERESTS FOR OUR UPCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS? And lastly as we plan for our upcoming year, if you have any special topics or speakers that you would like to see at some of our future Town Council meetings, please let me know. We sure would like to plan some community meetings that are of interest to you! You can call me or email me with your interests at 744-7090 or mfallon@hughes.net. THANKS.

Town Council Candidate Statements

These Four community residents will be running for five of the open seats on the Town Council

Christopher J. Dye

Harmony Grove resident on Cordrey Dr since Jan 1996, Cert team member, USN Retired, San Diego resident since 1979

Horses are a big part of my life. I love the country life and hope to keep as much open land for everyone to hike, ride, walk, or view.

I was born in Tucson Arizona and retired from the Navy in 1998. I am currently working for Northrop Grumman in Rancho Bernardo doing IT support for the last 2 years. I hunt, fish, bowl and ride horses. I reside in Harmony Grove with my wife, 2 children, 3 dogs, and 8 horses. My son is into soccer and gymnastics' and my daughter is into cheer. I am a soccer coach (3 yrs) and commissioner (1yr) in ESC soccer club.

Yes I am a busy man but I would rather be busy doing something than sitting around and waiting for it.

We all know changes will come and we cannot stop it, but we can help define what changes can occur. I hope

Town Council Candidate Statements Continued

to help point these changes for the better of all.

Bonnie Baumgartner

I would like to express my candidacy for the Town Council of Elfin Forest- Harmony Grove. My past experience, professionally, as a pharmacist that practiced both in the retail sector, managing a retail pharmacy, and as a geriatric clinical consultant to long term care facilities has provided me with a background in both business management, and public relations.

Though I and my husband, Ken, are fairly new residents of this valley (April 2006), we chose this area for its beauty and classy, rural atmosphere. I have always owned horses and animals and have a great love for the natural beauty of the surrounding preserve areas. I walk every day in the Escondido Creek area.

I am an avid gardener, and participated in the Garden Tour last April. In addition I am a USEF Dressage and Eventing judge, and have a great love for animals, and the 'wild' spaces. I would like to see this Elfin Valley maintain its unique character, and friendly small- town atmosphere.

I believe in giving back to the communities that I live in. And I hope I can be of some help on the Town Council this year.

Melanie Fallon

I have lived in the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove community for almost five years. My husband, Tony DeBellis and I consider ourselves very fortunate to have found this wonderful rural community to call home. I spent 30 years of my professional life working in the city planning and city management field in the greater Los Angeles area, so residing here in this beautiful quiet area is all the more important to me. It is because of my love of this area, that I am interested in being on the Town Council. That love coupled with my many years of government experience make me uniquely qualified to be on the Town Council. I have been on the EFHGTC now for 2 years, last year as chair and would like your support to be on the board for another 2 years. While I still have much to learn about the community, I am always willing to listen and learn. I also believe that one of the reasons that this Valley is as special as it is because of the time and commitment of so many of the residents over the years to make it this way. I am willing to do my share in making sure that our rural community stays as special as it is.

Eric Anderson

To the Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Community, I would be honored to be re-elected to the Town Council Board for another term. I have lived near the Fire Station for 10 years and have worked on our family nursery operation here for 24 years. There continue to be so many challenges confronting our community including the massive County General Plan Update.

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council 2009 Board Member Election Ballot

Please vote for **four** of the four candidates listed below. Mark an "X" next to your candidates of choice.

_____ **Eric Anderson**

_____ **Bonnie Baumgartner**

_____ **Christopher Dye**

_____ **Melanie Fallon**

Please drop you ballot off at the fire station (put it in the Town Council box located in the office) or drop your ballot by the Town Council meeting on Wednesday, February 4th at 7:30.

New board members will be announced at the end of the meeting on February 4th.

Elfin Forest Community Foundation 2009 Board Member Election Ballot

Please vote for 3 names or write one in

Lori Vitale

Sue Hill

Steve Barker

Write-In _____

Please drop you ballot off at the fire station (put it in the Town Council box located in the office) or drop your ballot by the Town Council meeting on Wednesday, February 4th at 7:30.

Proposed Bylaw Changes Require Community Vote

The Town Council Board has two areas of bylaw changes that we are proposing this year. Please take a minute to review the changes below because it is very important to have the community vote on these changes. They will be voted on by you, the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council members at the March Town Council Meeting. Please note that our bylaws define members of the EFHG Town Council as everyone whose name is on the title for property within the Town Council boundaries.

CLEAN-UP CHANGES. The first area of bylaw changes is a series of clean-up pieces. There are four (4) recommended changes that are described in detail below. They are:

ARTICLE VI. Add a new section – “**Section 12. Directors may be removed by a vote of a majority of the board members.**” This language had been included in our bylaws for many years and inadvertently was omitted in 2006.

ARTICLE VII Section 1. The past Town Council board had contemplated this additional language (in red below) however; it was not included in the current bylaws. The current Town Council board also supports this additional language. We recommend that this article should be written as,

“The Chairperson with the approval of the Board of Directors shall create standing and ad hoc committees as deemed necessary. Creation of the committee will be announced at the next Town Council meeting and published in the next Chaparral newsletter.”

ARTICLE VIII Section 8. The past Town Council board had contemplated this additional language (in red below); however it was not included in the current bylaws. The current Town Council board also supports this additional language. We recommend that this article should be written as,

“The Board shall represent the community by formally or informally soliciting community input on specific issues. The Board shall take positions that are consistent with their community standards and with community input.

Any Board member receiving informal input from a community member shall ask permission to formally submit that input to the Board, with attribution to the community member. If the community member declines, that Board member must explain that the input cannot be officially considered until it is formally submitted and attributed. The input can be shared anonymously outside the board, either personally, publicly, or with the media, but cannot be attributed to the community member without the express written permission of the community member.”

ARTICLE VIII Section 9. The current bylaws state,

“The Board shall conduct a yearly self-evaluation of its performance and effectiveness representing the community. If inefficiencies are identified, options will be proposed and voted on by the Board.”

Bylaw Changes Continued

We agree that a self-evaluation of the Board is an important tool and should be conducted regularly, however, we feel that doing it on a yearly basis is too much for a volunteer board that only meets twice a month and we would like to remove the word “yearly” from our bylaws.

BOUNDARY CHANGES TO THE ELFIN FOREST/HARMONY GROVE TOWN COUNCIL AREA. The second set of recommended changes to the bylaws came out of the preparation of the Draft Elfin Forest Community Plan and the Draft Harmony Grove Community Plan.

Within the draft Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Community Plans, we have proposed to amend the boundary of the Town Council area to reflect changes in our communities. The Town Council boundaries were originally described as the same as CSA 107. As more of the undeveloped and open space land in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove becomes built, these residents want a voice in the Town Council. We find that we have created areas of “no man’s land” where residents found themselves neither within the boundaries of adjacent municipalities, yet not within the Fire Department boundary, as defined by CSA 107 and therefore without representation. Therefore with this proposed bylaws change we hope to rectify this situation.

ARTICLE III Section 1.

“The boundaries of the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council shall be that area as depicted in the map approved by the members of the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council in an amendment to the bylaws in February 2009. (Attached.) (delete the following language)

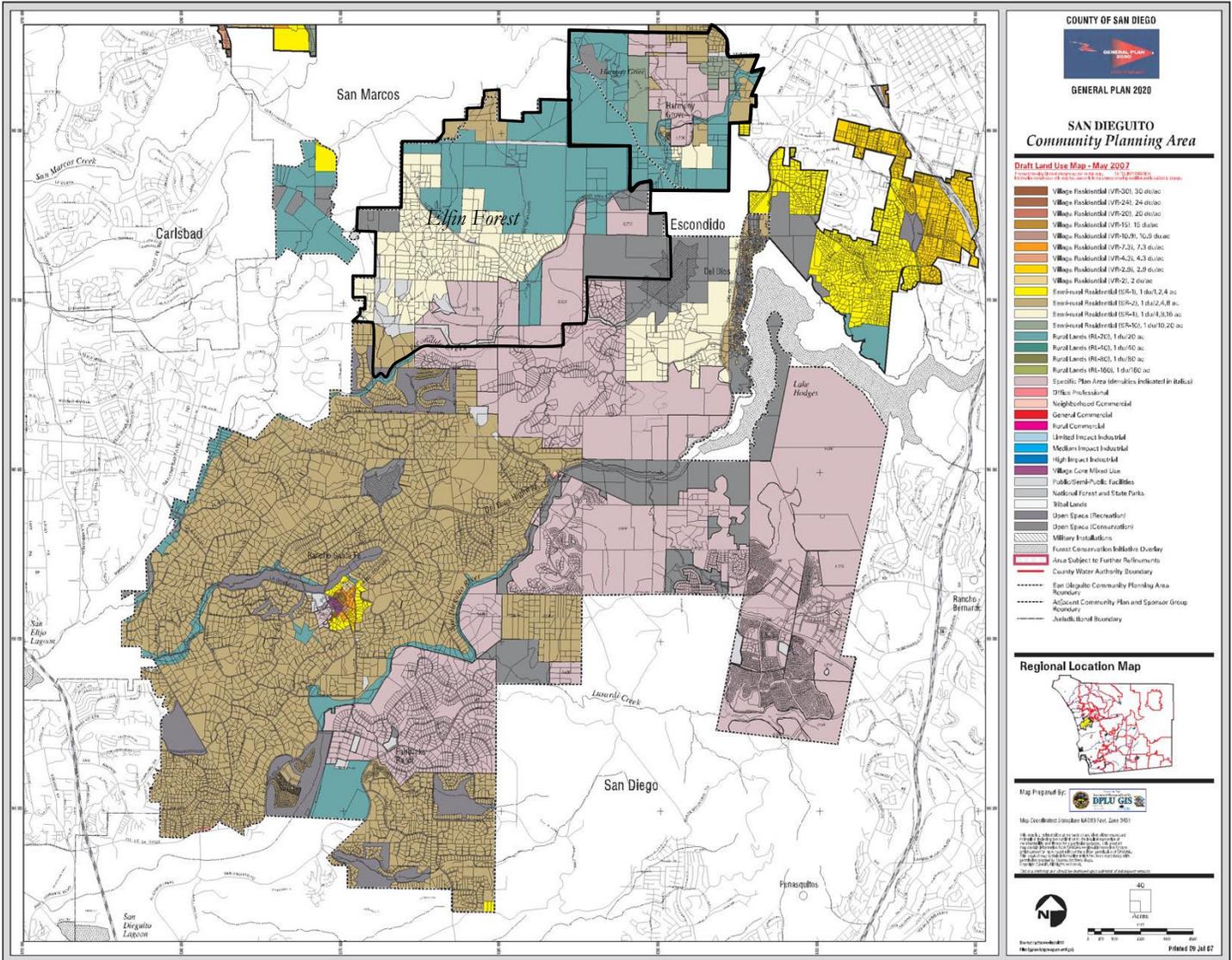
Covered by the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Volunteer Fire Department as of 1979 (otherwise known as CSA 107) and include the approximately 22 homes in the area south of Mt Whitney Road and south of Kauana Loa to the current CSA 107 border (near the power lines), and the 6 homes in the triangle near the intersection of Kauana Loa and Harmony Grove Road. Residents in these areas of Harmony Grove have petitioned to join the town council.”

The proposed Elfin Forest boundary changes will extend our western boundary to meet the City of Encinitas and our southern boundary to the Escondido Creek, the historical dividing line between Elfin Forest and Rancho Santa Fe.

The proposed Harmony Grove boundary was adjusted slightly to incorporate a handful of properties which were neither in CSA 107, nor in the revised boundaries after the 2004 boundary adjustment in Harmony Grove, nor in the City of Escondido

By Melanie Fallon

Map approved by the members of the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council in an amendment to the bylaws in February 2009



Map By Karen Gardner

Ballot for Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Bylaw Changes

Please vote for either for or against the proposed by-law changes as detailed on pages 6 and 7 of this publication.

_____ Approve Bylaw Change

_____ Do not approve Bylaw Change

Please drop you ballot off at the fire station (put it in the Town Council box located in the office) or drop your ballot by the Town Council meeting on Wednesday, March 4th at 7:30.

Motorcycles and Horses Do Not Mix

On January 3rd there was a tragic incident on the trails at Folsom Lake in northern California north of Sacramento. Three dirt bikes terrorized two riders until both riders were thrown and the two horses galloped off. Luckily both riders were not severely injured. One rider's helmet was cracked in the fall and both were traumatized and bruised. One horse ran back to Folsom Lake Equestrian Center and was not physically injured. However the second horse, a 4 year old was not so lucky. This young horse suffered a broken leg and had to be put down. See <http://www.kcra.com/news/18436790/detail.html> and <http://www.folsomtelegraph.com/detail/102636.html> for more information.

Why is this story in the Elfin Forest Chaparral? With the continuing intrusion of motorized bikes and 4 wheeled vehicles on our trails, this tragic event will be repeated here in all its horrific glory. Along with the personal danger motorcycles and other illegal vehicles pose they also cause major damage and erosion to the trails. In the open space west of Sequest, a beautiful single track trail has recently been used by a 4 wheel off roader, causing damage to the delicate native plants and wetland.

There are several things we can do to avoid our own Elfin Forest tragedy. First, if at any time you see a motorized vehicle on the trails call the sheriff at 760-510-5200. Second, when using the trails carry a cell phone and have the above number programmed. Third, talk to your family, neighbors and guests and educate them regarding trail etiquette, i.e., no motorized anything allowed on the trails, hikers and mountain bikes yield to equestrians, attach a small bell to your mountain bike or person to let other trail users know you are near, all equestrians and mountain bikers should always wear an appropriate helmet (had the above rider NOT been wearing a helmet she could have been killed or suffered a severe brain injury). Horse owners should train their horses regarding mountain bikes and hikers (those backpacks will not eat a horse – really). OMWD has a printable trail sheet at

http://www.olivenhain.com/elfin_content.php?content=parks click under rules and regulations.

Our trails are one of the best aspects of living in Elfin Forest. We have miles and miles of trails to wonder through some of the most diverse and rare habitat on the planet. Enjoy them with your loved ones - both 2 and 4 legged. I hope to see you on the trail!

Nancy Reed

Lazy J Ranch



February Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 2/4	7:30 PM	EF/HG Town Council Meeting @ Firehouse
Every Tuesday and Thursday	6:00 AM	Free Exercise Classes @ Firehouse
Tues 2/3, 2/17	7:00 PM	Fire Training @ Firehouse
Mon 2/9	7:00 PM	Fire Board @ Firehouse
Wed 2/25	7:00 PM	EF/HG Board Meeting @ Firehouse
Sat 2/28	8:00 AM	Fire Training @ Firehouse

Wanted

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Newsletter Editor

I am scaling back on my community volunteerism and am searching for someone to take on the responsibilities of newsletter editor. You need to be computer literate, semi-literate in the English language and have approximately 15 hours per month to donate to this task. Please contact me at 760-744-9500 or write to me at Karen@vintagematerialism.com for more information.

What's Happening at the Fire Department— February 2009



Good start up in January. We had another RCS (Regional Communications System) training on the upcoming reprogramming. Beginning in March or April, all 800MHz radios in the County will be reprogrammed. A daunting task that will take some 10 months to complete, there will be periods of time where we work with agencies who are at a different stage of the reprogramming process. That means that two agencies, working side by side, will have radios that are not only laid out in a different order, but also have frequencies with names that are different than before. This training will be critical to our understanding of the process and the ability to work with conversion charts supplied to us by RCS. Getting this right is paramount, as effective communications are critical to Firefighter safety.

Now begins our annual structure training. The Saturday training in January started with the basics of hoselays, personal protective equipment and SCBA's. Because we do not get a lot of structure fires in rural areas, we depend on our training each year to keep us in a ready state to respond to these types of incidents. We will continue structure training through February and part of March.

Sadly, we must say goodbye to Firefighter/Medic Taylor Larsen. Taylor accepted a Firefighter/Medic position with Carlsbad Fire Department, and must resign for his probationary year. Joining the Department in September of 2006, he's been there for us through thick and thin. What a great attitude. What a great Firefighter. We are sad to lose him, but proud to see him move forward with his career. Way to go, Taylor...you've earned it!

But welcome about to new Probationary Firefighter Erinn Chounard. Erinn comes to us as an EMT with a lot of desire. That's what we need in these new folks...desire and dedication. They have to really want it, and work hard for it...that of becoming a Firefighter!

Fire Academy season has hit. In January Probationary Firefighters Ryan Works, Brennan LeClair, Cory Iverson and Gabe Tieman attended the CDF Basic Fire Academy in San Luis Obispo. January 7th, Probationary Firefighter Kevin Krainock started a Fire Academy in San Pasqual Fire. January 22nd, Probationary Firefighters Dan Aker and Nate Sanford started the Fire Academy at Palomar College. February 9th, Probationary Firefighter Tina Timonian will begin a Fire Academy at San Pasqual Reservation. So needless to say, we are a little busy with the hustle and bustle of Academy fever. It's all worth it though, because the end product we get back is a well trained, disciplined Firefighter ready to hit the ground running.

Notice of approval from the San Diego County EMS and Fire Protection Trust Fund Grant will provide us with ten new sets of structural turnouts. The shortage of personal protec-

What's Happening Continued

tive equipment is holding us back from increasing the number of personnel on the Department to meet our staffing needs. The approval of this grant will help quite a bit. A set of structure turnouts is the single most expensive item at about \$2000 each. To add a new member, we have calculated a cost of about \$5000. We are working hard to find the funds to increase our staff by ten personnel, and this grant is a big piece of that. We are thrilled to have been approved.

So what's up with this weather. We go in and out of fire weather event staffing, to rain. One day is blowing, with very dry dead fuel moistures and 6% humidity at 4am. Two days later it's raining. It's keepin' us on our toes. Stay heads up and be flexible. You never know what Southern California weather is going to do. As a wise Chief once told us..."If it isn't raining, its fire season."

Your Volunteers



Sheriff Department Contacts



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(Open 24/7 365 days a year)

(Countywide number)

Crime Prevention Services (Free)

B. J. Williams

Agricultural Affairs

Jackie Cruz

San Marcos Patrol Station

182 Santar Place

San Marcos, CA 92069

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858-565-5200 Non-emergency

760-510-5254

betty.williams@sdsheriff.org

760-525-1213

Jackie.cruz@sdsheriff.org

(Mainline) 760-510-5200



Happy 50th Anniversary!

The Olivenhain Municipal Water District (District) is celebrating 50 years of Pure Excellence. The District was first established in 1959 and began serving water to its customers in 1961. In the beginning the District's service area consisted of 37 square miles, today the District covers 48 square miles and serves approximately 63,000 residents.

The District will hold a community education fair in the coming months to celebrate its 50 years of dedicated public service Details available soon!

Attention Business Owners: If your business would like to be a sponsor of the fair and/or have a booth call (760) 632-4650 for details.

EFRR/TECC Visitor Center Update

As many of you may have noticed while driving by the Reserve, the Visitor Center in the staging area is nearing completion. It is expected to be accepted from the contractor on January 28th, and from there the second phase of construction will commence. During the second phase, the ceiling mural will be applied, the floor tile mosaic will be installed, the living roof and surrounding planters will be planted with natives and the interior/exterior educational components will be designed and installed. TECC and OMWD hope to have an opening ceremony for the Visitor Center in May. Initially, the Center will only be open on the weekends, but we hope to extend its open hours to the weekdays. In order to be open during the week, we are looking for volunteers to start a docent program for the Visitor Center. EFRR is starting an "interest list" for anyone who may be interested in becoming a docent at the Visitor Center. If interested, please email me with your name and contact information I will get back to you in the spring once we have designed a docent program for the Center. Thank you for your interest and we'll see you at the Reserve.



By Jeff Anderson

janderson@olivenhain.com

Landscape Foundation Update

The California Oak and pepper trees that were put in by the Elfin Forest Landscape Foundation along Elfin Forest Road have now been trimmed. The goal is to annually remove bottom growth, remove dead branching from the interiors to allow in light, and raise the canopy to ten feet above the ground for those trees tall enough to do so. Now that our some 200 trees are getting so large this process is taking a lot longer than it used to. Just a year ago we were able to get it done in a few Saturdays. This year it took 2 months! Think about volunteering to help next year; its great exercise and fun visiting time while helping to make our valley beautiful.

Some of the split-rail fencing along the trail has been repaired but it is apparent that we will need to replace some posts and rails this spring. Supplies will be ordered as soon as the weather is clear and we will be asking for volunteers to help with this project.

On December 20th we worked all day repairing a major washout with the invaluable help of Blancas Flowers. This good neighbor nursery ran loads of rocks and fill dirt down to the washout with their tractor over a four-hour period! Without them, this job would not have gotten done in time for the next rain. Please remember Blancas Flowers for all of your floral needs whatever the occasion (760-591-0842). They are located at 20203 Elfin Forest Road. The next time you stop by tell them how much you appreciate their help.

You can help prevent or reduce erosion damage too by removing debris you see clogging any of the drainage pipes that run under or alongside of the trail. Even a single stick across the mouth of a pipe will catch plant debris and soon cause the opening to clog.

You can also help keep our trails beautiful by carrying a bag on your walks and picking up unsightly litter. If you have workers, spend a few moments educating them about putting litter in trashcans, not on our roadside or trails.

Jennifer Coburn will be starting the remaining street signs and numbers the first week in January. Once she has completed her design and production steps, we will have them zinc coated to prevent rust. The final steps are painting and mounting on the monument walls. The numbers will be done in the same way and mounted on the boulders. We're very excited to see the new signs, Jennifer!

With the current situation in our economy, we are unsure if any funding will be available to connect the north and south sections of the trail. We will keep you posted on that project as we learn more.

Frank Oddo

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 & elfin forest resident

Jaisa Bright is a native San Diegan with an intense passion for California, its homes, history and ranches. A graduate from UCSD and an avid equestrian since age 5, Jaisa has been one of California's top luxury home and ranch brokers for over 9 years. She is an eco savvy broker who looks for alternative energy opportunities for every home and ranch she sells. Jaisa has aided in the procurement of open spaces and land for local conservancies. Her office is located in Rancho Santa Fe California, and she is not only a ranch broker, she is a rancher herself calling a small avocado and equestrian ranch in Elfin Forest home. "San Diego has a majestic serenity that is both calming and awe inspiring and I know that with every ranch or home I sell I am able to help my clients find a personal sanctuary, the idea that this refuge can also aid in preservation is a beautiful thing for everything and everyone."

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ALLEA

Evelyn Alemanni 760-591-0417

alemanni@allea.com

www.allea.com

Classifieds

Local Baby, Animal and House Sitters

Ryan Anderson - Baby Sitting/Pet Care. High school junior, responsible, with own transportation. 760-471-5850.

Elissa Benjamin - Experienced babysitter and tutor for grades K-4, all subjects/pet care. Local references. Red Cross babysitter certification. Please call early to reserve babysitting. 760-274-5379.

Amanda Clerke – Experienced Babysitter/Pet Care. Elfin Forest resident, RSF School. YMCA babysitter certification. 14 years old. Please call 760-510-0143.

Jessica MacKinnon - Babysitting/Feed Animals, EF Resident, 15 years old, SFC High School - 10th grade, took babysitting course through Red Cross. Contact at 760-744-8955.

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