

**Next Town Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 4th at 7:30**  
**EF/HG Fire Station**

*Getting Ready For Fire Season — Presented by the  
 Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department*



*From the Chair*  
 By Melanie Fallon

**Inside this issue:**

<i>What's Happening at the Fire Department</i>	2
<i>TC Meeting Minutes</i>	4
<i>Save Money—Plant Trees</i>	5
<i>Non-Profit Research</i>	8
<i>Community Foundation News</i>	9
<i>Garden Festival Wrap-up</i>	9
<i>Citizen of the Year</i>	10
<i>4th of July Bake Sale</i>	10
<i>4th of July Ho-Down</i>	11
<i>4th of July Silent Auction</i>	11
<i>4th of July Invite</i>	12
<i>Chaparral Advertising</i>	14
<i>Calling New Elves</i>	14
<i>Be Firewise Now</i>	15
<i>OMWD Proceeds with Litigation</i>	16
<i>Mountain Lion Sightings</i>	17

April is always such a beautiful month in our Valley and it was especially so this year because we had so much warm and sunny weather – California poppies were up everywhere and all of our gardens were in prime shape with spring flowers and spring weeds! This brings me to our Annual Elfin Forest Garden Festival. We had another successful event on April 26 with 300 people visiting 5 of our beautiful gardens. Thank you Baumgartners, Pettermets, Sidwells, Casapakis, and Dwardys for volunteering your private beautiful gardens – they were all charming, creative, educational and fun! And thank you to the additional 30 volunteers who helped with all the chores necessary to pull off this event – we couldn't have done this without you!

The Elfin Forest/  
 Harmony Grove Town

Council is working on a number of issues this month. One major focus is to communicate with the County of San Diego on 3 issues pertaining to the General Plan Update. These include: Preparing a letter to DPLU requesting that the Bridges Unit 7 area be reviewed as part of the environmental review process and that it be included in the Environmentally Sensitive Draft Map. As part of our community review of this area our biologists determined that this area contains 19% of all of North County gnatcatcher breeding area and hence is high value environmentally sensitive land.

We are requesting that as part of the General Plan Update process, that the County place a Village Limit Line around the Harmony Grove Village Specific Plan area. This Village Limit Line specifically directs that development as allowed in

the General Plan and Zoning regulations stay within that Limit Line and that applications from property owners in areas outside of this Limit Line for General Plan Amendments would be not be encouraged (and hopefully denied!)

In addition, we are requesting that Harmony Grove Village become part of the San Dieguito Planning Group. Currently, some projects are reviewed by San Dieguito, but not all because there is no mandate to do so. The General Plan Update will include this as a recommendation and we are requesting that the DPLU put in place an administrative process to start this process now with the staff.

Our Communications Committee (chaired by Karen Gardner) has been working on a number of recommen-

## *From the Chair (Continued)*

dations to revise how we communicate to the community via the Chaparral. We are looking at a number of new options to maximize our communications – so stay tuned, some changes may be in the offing.

We continue to closely monitor 3 potential development projects. Harmony Grove Meadows has not come out yet with their EIR for community review, but we are primed and ready for it when it does and we will need lots of our residents to help us convince the decision makers that project is inappropriate for our valley. Stay tuned! We are still hopeful that we will be able to achieve a positive

resolution on the Bridges project – again stay tuned! And, the University Heights project is still talking about building residential units on their 450 acres – now they are realizing that they cannot build 1200 units on that site (THANK GOODNESS), but they are still doing their internal planning and strategizing and are still thinking they want to build a residential neighborhood in those hills, we just don't know where they will land yet – we are trying to influence their thinking to be focused on the preservation of this land. Again stay tuned! Planning for development projects is a very slow process – we are

tracking these projects and will let everyone know when something moves. And if any of you are interested in working on any of these 3 projects, give me a call.

And, finally make sure that you have our Annual Picnic and Parade on your calendar! This year we are having this celebration on June 29. It is our Western 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration so plan on attending, wear your cowboy hat, have some great food, play some games, participate in the parade and win the best float contest. Check out the article in this edition of the Chaparral for all the details.

## *What's Happening at the Fire Department—May 2008*

If you have driven by the fire station lately, you may have seen our beautiful new ambulance sitting out on the apparatus pad. It is wonderful, and we are just thrilled. The process of raising the money has gone on for years and we can't thank Frank Ault and the San Diego Fire and

Emergency Services Foundation enough for helping to secure the funding. Hats off to Chief Twohy and Captain Nona Barker for all their hard work in nailing down the details. They put in a lot of long days and drove many miles to make it happen. If

Lots of activity to report. We received final approval on the San Diego County Emergency and Fire Protection Trust Fund Grant and the State Homeland Security Grant (SHGP). Together, we will be able to purchase six additional 800MHz portable radios.

## *What's Happening (Continued)*

That will really help out on making sure we have enough portables radios for personnel on incidents. It has been a challenge, and radios are such an important part of their personal protective equipment as the ability to communicate is vital to Firefighter safety.

The Firefighters workout/day is almost complete. Our newest addition is a 50" big screen donated to all the fire stations in San Diego for their efforts during the firestorms. The guys promptly scooped it up and placed it proudly in their room. All we need to do now is to get it hooked up to the cable and they will have TV for news, music and of course....movies. The last thing we need to do now is to get the drop ceiling in and hopefully insulate from the heat and the cold. It's a great addition as it allows the Firefighters to come here to work out here instead of to a gym far from here. It saves them money and provides us extra staffing while they are here.

We must say congratulations to Firefighter Mike Roy for graduating 2<sup>nd</sup> in

his class from his Firefighter I Academy. The grueling schedule of 455 hours over 3½ months is made even more difficult holding down a full time job. Through it all, he still worked his weekly shifts here to staff the station plus responding for calls. Sadly, Mike lost his grandfather in the middle of the Academy. But he was able to come back after two weeks family leave and still pull off 2<sup>nd</sup> in a graduating class of 23 with an overall score of 93.892%. Absolutely amazing, and that's what being a Firefighter is all about. Being able to stay focused in the face of adversity. Congratulations Mike...you rock!

Welcome aboard to new Probationary Firefighters Brittney McMahon and Brennon LeClair. Both are recent graduates of Palomar's Firefighter I Academy and want to get some experience under their belt. It will be great having them on board.

**It's so hot, and so dry. Please start clearing your property for 100' of defensible space around**



**your home. Clear escape routes, and get ready for fire season...it's here.**

*By Battalion Chief  
Dawn Pettijohn*



*New Ambulance RA2891*

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2008

### Town Council Committee Contacts

#### Bridges :

Jacqueline Arsivaud-  
Benjamin 891-9061

#### Sage Hills:

Eric Anderson  
471-1464

#### University Heights:

Melanie Fallon  
744-7090

#### Harmony Grove Meadows:

Mid Hoppenrath  
747-1145

#### Citracado Parkway:

Mid Hoppenrath  
747-1145

#### Cielo Del Norte:

Open

#### Heritage (including Citizen of the Year plaques):

Open

**Fund Raising:** Manu  
Sohaey 510-9114

**Present:** Melanie Fallon, May Meintjes, Sal La-Corte, Bill Telesco, Eric Anderson, Mid Hoppenrath, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, Karen Gardner, Manu Sohaey

1) Meeting began at 7:40 pm.

2) Wayne Dunlap gave a brief presentation introducing himself and reviewing his background as an economics professor at San Diego State University. He is a Libertarian candidate running against incumbent Brian Bilbray for Congress, 50<sup>th</sup> District. Mr. Dunlap said his highest priority was fighting wildfires and he wanted to allow military helicopters to help the community during brush fires. He also believed that it was important to secure fresh water supplies for California. He noted the high drop-out rate for high school students and called for changes in our education system to address this issue. Mr. Dunlap wanted to shore up the failing social security system and reduce government spending. More about this candidate and

his political views can be found at his web site, [www.dunlapforcongress.com](http://www.dunlapforcongress.com)

3) May gave the treasurer's report.

4) Chair Melanie Fallon commented on our successful Garden Festival, which attracted over 300 visitors to Elfin Forest. More than 40 volunteers helped to make this year's festival a success. Melanie reported that the Town Council Board was sending out three letters: one concerning the sensitive gnatcatcher habitat on the Bridges Unit 7 property; one concerning adding Harmony Grove to the San Dieguito Planning Group Area, and one concerning adding a Village Limit Line to Harmony Grove Village to restrict urban infrastructure and densities to within the central portion of the Specific Plan Area. She felt this would prevent high density developments surrounding the Village and help us realize our original goal for the Harmony Grove area.

5) Melanie reported on progress for the University Heights Project that divides the western edge of Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest and is cur-

rently seeking annexation to San Marcos for 1,200 homes. The City formed a Working Group with representatives of the developer/owner and residents from San Elijo Hills, Coronado Hills, Elfin Forest (Melanie), and Harmony Grove (Mid). Melanie and Mid have represented the Town Council position against annexation and in support of the county staff recommendations of fewer than 100 homes for the property. At the last meeting the group toured the hilly property site. A substantial reduction in density is anticipated by the next meeting.

6) Kevin Barnard, Executive Director of The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC), gave a presentation on the history of TECC and the native wildlife and plants found along the 26 mile long Escondido Creek watershed area. He noted that San Diego County had more endangered species than any other county in the United States. Bear Valley is named for the large grizzly bear shot near Lake Wohlford in 1866. Grizzly bears have been extinct in Califor-

## Meeting Minutes ... Continued

nia since 1924.

He cautioned that while sewage spills from the Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility (HARRF) and invasive plants like the Arundo threaten the natural riparian habitat, 70% of the polluted run-off comes from urban non-point sources such as our streets, driveways, and yards.

Some native species that are threatened or of concern are the coast horned lizard, the Stephen's kangaroo rat, the California gnatcatcher, the Bell's least vireo, and Encinitas Baccharis.

Kevin briefly reviewed

Smart Growth principles. He finished his presentation by distributing brochures from TECC and soliciting donations to help preserve the natural environment.

7) Committee reports: Karen, our newsletter editor, **thanked Sal La-Corte for taking over the printing of the newsletter, free of charge. This has been a large expense every month and Sal's generosity is expected to save the Town Council about \$6,000 per year.**

8) Items are needed for the silent auction to be held at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic.

9) Michelle Roberts reported that the next Citizen's Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program would be beginning on May 22 at the EFHG Fire Station. Melanie noted that the June 4<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting would feature Fire Safety information.

10) Open Forum: no discussion.

11) Meeting adjourned ~9:30 pm

*Respectfully submitted by Mid Hoppenrath, Secretary, Elfin Forest Harmony Grove*

## Save Money, Plant a Tree

Planting trees can help you save the big bucks. That's according to the Center for Urban Forestry Research at the University of California (Davis, CA 95616). Through its own studies and compiling information on tree planting across the country, the Center has assembled a formidable array of proof that trees are an impressive superior investment economically as well as environmen-

tally.

The Center's analyses are extremely detailed. Street trees in Minneapolis were found to save \$6.8 million in energy costs and \$9.8 million in benefits in storm water control costs annually. In Modesto, CA, trees returned \$1.89 in benefits for each \$1. spent on planting and maintenance. An analysis by the Center resulted in New York City allocating \$400 million in its

budget for tree planting.

The Center offers publications, videos and computer programs that aid and instruct every phase of present and projected costs, selection of tree species, planting and care, and detailed long term benefits. For information contact [cufr.uc.davis.edu](http://cufr.uc.davis.edu) or google Center for Urban Forest Research.

*By Evelyn Alemanni*

### Town Council Committee Contacts

#### Communications :

Karen Gardner 744-9500

#### Fourth of July Picnic:

May Meintjes 744-7090

#### Garden Festival:

Jacqueline Arsvaud-Benjamin 891-9061, Karen Gardner 744-9500

#### Fourth of July Parade:

Eric Anderson

471-1464

#### Trails:

Mid Hoppenrath

747-1145

#### Welcoming :

Tony De Bellis 744-7090.

#### Animal Evacuation:

Karen Gardner 744-9500



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equestrian property specialist,  
 multi million dollar producer  
 & 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."

858.382.6428  
 jaisabright@yahoo.com



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 REAL ESTATE

## *Satellite TV Wiring Made Simpler*



A newly released product now makes cabling your home for the latest DirecTV compatible satellite DVR much simpler. Known as a single-wire multiswitch (SWM), this device allows you to use a single antenna cable with a dual-tuner receiver instead of the two cables previously required. Obviously, this is a tremendous advantage to the homeowner with existing single cable wiring. The

SWM will only do its magic with DirecTV's newest HD equipment, models HR20, HR21, H20 and H21, and an older non-HD dual-tuner DVR, the R16. The SWM has three "legacy" ports for older receivers including DirecTV TiVo.

The SWM works with the new high definition five-LNB dish, requiring all four coax cables from the dish LNB to be connected to the inputs of

the SWM. This means the SWM has to be installed near the dish. From there you'll only need a single coax to the receiver input labeled "SWM" (or "FTM" on some models). With the addition of a wide-band splitter you can share the SWM among up to four DVRs. Cost of the DirecTV SWM-8 Single-Wire Multiswitch is \$299.00 at Amazon.com.

*By Joe Alemanni*

## Community Foundation News

The annual election of board members for the Elfin Forest Community Foundation resulted in a tie between Martha Blane, an incumbent and Tony DeBellis, a relatively new resident of the community. Betsy Keithley was also re-elected, so it was decided to add Tony and now there are 10 members of the Board.

April is the time to review applications and although there was very little money to distribute this round because of low interest rates on our more recently purchased certificates of deposit (CDs) we did have enough to fund a proposal from the Fire Department for new safety gear (clothing) for the firefighters and a pro-

posal for a mapping system for the Escondido Creek Conservancy to help them keep track of parcels along the creek from Lake Wolford to the Ocean. Congratulations! The community thanks you for your involvement and commitment to helping maintain the rural environment of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. The next deadline for proposals is October 15, 2008.

At our recent board meeting we also developed a maintenance policy as follows:

Since 1996 the Elfin Forest Community Foundation (EFCF) has provided funding for many community improvement projects such as construction of fencing and signs. Unfortunately,

many of those early projects were funded without provision for future maintenance. As these improvements age without upkeep, it is evident that they detract from the beauty of the community. Unfortunately, the EFCF does not have the resources to fund both new projects and maintain the old. In the future, grant proposals that request funds for structures that will require maintenance, must also include information on how maintenance will be provided. Acceptance of EFCF money requires an agreement that you or your organization will accept the responsibility for maintenance.

*By Betsy Keithley,  
Secretary Community  
Foundation.*

## Another Successful Garden Festival

The 2008 Garden Festival was a great success thanks to all of our wonderful gardens and our amazing volunteers. We had over 300 guests and netted over \$5000.00. This year all proceeds will go to the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Rural Preservation Fund.

Special thanks go to Ron Martin of Elfin Forest Nursery for again donating his time and wonderful nursery as the head quarters for the festival. Thank you Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, Melanie Fallon and Evelyn Alemanni for the amazing organization and follow-through.

Most importantly, thank you Sidwells, Baumgartners, Petitmets, Casapakis, and Dwardys for opening up your lovely gardens.

*By Karen Gardner*



*Garden Festival Volunteers  
by Evelyn Alemanni*

## *Citizen of the Year Nomination*

Help choose the citizen of the year for 2008. Who comes to mind when you think of someone who serves the community tirelessly, day in, day out, year in, year out? Maybe a neighbor

is doing that one special thing that makes a difference to all of us. Nominate that person for the Citizen of the Year Award.

Send your suggestions to [Karen@vintagemateriali](mailto:Karen@vintagemateriali)

sm.com by June 20th. The board will choose from among those names submitted. All residents of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove are eligible.

*By Karen Gardner*

## *4th of July Bake Sale and Cake Decorating*

### **CAKE DECORATING ENTRY FORM**

*Please attach to cake*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Age Group:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5 and under  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6-10  
\_\_\_\_\_ 11-17  
\_\_\_\_\_ Adult

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic Committee is planning a very fun event for the community, and you too can be a part of it!

We are going to hold a bake sale to benefit the Fire Department, and we need your contributions to help raise much needed funds for our great firefighters. The most popular baked goods are *brownies, cookies, rice crispy treats and cup cakes*. Please bring wrapped in clear plastic, or individually wrapped if you think they can be sold individually.

Another opportunity to show off your baking skills will be the Cake Decorating Contest. In the spirit of Independence Day, we are looking for decorated cakes of all sorts celebrating

the occasion; think red, white and blue! Judging will occur in four categories: 5 years old and under; 6 to 10 years old; 11 to 17, and 18 and older. We will also award three prizes for Most Patriotic, Most Creative and The Wild West, this year's picnic theme.

The cakes from the Decorating Contest will be used as prizes in our Cake Walk. The more cakes you bring, the longer we can run the cake walk, always a winner with children and adults alike. Don't feel like you have to bake from scratch. A store-bought cake decorated with your own creativity will be welcomed, too. The same applies to the Bake Sale: if you don't have time or inclination to turn on your oven in July, maybe you can

pick-up some of your favorite treats at the store and bring them for the Bake Sale.

You can bring your goodies for either event to the Fire Station on Saturday afternoon from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. or Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Refrigeration is not available but the fire station is air conditioned.

Any questions or if you would like to help with the cake walk, contact Michele Sidwell at [Sidwell.Michele@gmail.com](mailto:Sidwell.Michele@gmail.com) or 471-8877 or Megan Fleming at [flemingtile@aol.com](mailto:flemingtile@aol.com).

*By Michele Sidwell & Megan Fleming*

## *Wild West Fourth of July Picnic and Parade will Feature Great Fun and a Silent Auction*

For the last 29 years the 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic has served as the largest social event in our community bringing together families and children of all ages and even grown children bringing their children back to the community. Come join the fun on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

This year we will be featuring a silent auction with money going to the Town Council. We are in need of items and volunteers to help with the setting up of the auction. If you have an item or are interested in helping, please e-mail [jeffswenerton@aol.com](mailto:jeffswenerton@aol.com).

The theme this year is a

Wild West Fourth of July so pull on your boots, put on your vest, and get out your Stetson for the parade and picnic.

Everyone loves a parade. What parade has more participants than viewers?

The food is going to be great. Remember to look out because you might get wet with the fire fighters water blast or in the dunk tank. Dust off your horseshoes and start practicing for the horseshoe tournament with the winning team names etched onto the perpetual plaque.

We need volunteers to help with various parts of the Picnic. Please contact Lori Vatalie at [vitalhome@gmail.com](mailto:vitalhome@gmail.com).

Buy your tickets early and save money!

*By Jeff Swenerton*

*The 4th of July Parade & Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 29th.*

*Mark your calendars!*

*Activities include the fire fighters water contest, a dunk tank, children's games, a best float contest and GREAT FOOD.*

*Remember, Elfin Forest Road will be closed from 11:30 until 12:30 for this important event!!!*

## *4th of July Silent Auction*

Please support the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove community by donating something to be auctioned off at the 4th of July picnic.

Need ideas? Babysitting service, horse train-

ing, pet sitting, a dinner in your home, a vacation rental, surf lessons, a piece of art .... the list is endless. Also, what a great way to advertise your business. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Jacqueline Arsivaud-

Benjamin at 891-9061 or [simshona@aol.com](mailto:simshona@aol.com) or Jeff Swenerton at [jeffswenerton@aol.com](mailto:jeffswenerton@aol.com).

*By Karen Gardner*



**30<sup>TH</sup> Annual  
WILD WEST  
Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove  
4<sup>TH</sup> of July Parade and Picnic**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup>**

- 11:30 a.m.** Parade line up just east of Fortuna Del Norte
- 12 noon** Parade Begins. Fire trucks will lead the way followed by your own decorated floats, tractors, ATV's, bikes, strollers and horses...  
Remember this year's Wild West theme!
- 12:30-2:30** Barbecue at the Fire Station (menu on reverse side)
- 12:00-4:00** Disc Jockey and Wild West Picnic

\* \* \* \* \*

*Awards for the Best Wild West Parade Entries & Cake Decorating Contest  
Limbo, Hula Hoop, Egg Toss and Horseshoe Contests  
Carnival Booths, Jump House & Dunk Tank  
Firefighters' Water Hose Blast (back by popular demand)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Cake Decorating Contest entries and Desserts for the Bake Sale  
can be dropped off at the fire station all day Saturday or Sunday morning

**Join the Fun and Volunteer**

Parade Volunteers contact Eric Anderson 471-5850 or [eric@seedcoseeds.com](mailto:eric@seedcoseeds.com)  
Picnic and Game Volunteers contact Lori Vitale 752-7868 or [VitaleHome@gmail.com](mailto:VitaleHome@gmail.com)

**BARBECUE MENU**

- Hamburgers
- Hot Dogs
- Pulled Pork with Barbecue Sauce
- Coleslaw
- Baked Beans
- Potato Salad
  
- Watermelon
- Potato Chips
- Popsicles

\* \* \* \* \*

A special Thank You to Sue Hill of Prudential Realty  
for providing the hamburgers and hot dogs for the picnic.

**BARBECUE TICKETS**

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u> (10 & under)
<b>Before June 24</b>	\$ 9.00	\$5.00
<b>After June 24 &amp; Day of Picnic</b>	\$12.00	\$8.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults @ \$9.00: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children @ \$5.00: \_\_\_\_\_

Veggie Burgers: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make Checks Payable to EF/HG Town Council; Please pick up tickets at picnic*

**Detach & Mail by June 24th to:**

**Treasurer, 19918 Elfin Forest Rd., Escondido, CA 92029**

## *Chaparral Advertising*

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**Community, Non-Commercial Classified Ads:**

1" x 3 1/2" (approx. 4 lines): no charge to residents - must be resubmitted every 3 months. Non-residents cost is \$10/month.

## *Calling All New Elves*

The Town Council recently decided to establish a mechanism to welcome all new residents of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. All of us here in EF&HG want to have our new elves informed of the issues facing our residents and the efforts in place to deal with those issues.

We also want to have you be aware of the community wide events which we hold every year such as the Garden Festival and the Community Fourth of July Parade and Picnic, as well as the monthly Town Hall meetings.

To maintain our wonder-

ful lifestyle here we need our new elves to become informed about and actively participate in our Volunteer Fire Department, The Escondido Creek Conservancy [TECC], serve on the Town Council, Block Captain System, the Fire Board, the Community Foundation, and the Firewise Garden, among others.

We have assembled a nice basket of arriving gifts which we would like you to have for being smart enough to move here, including a community guide, a recent issue of the Chaparral, a jar of chaparral honey, and other to-

kens of our appreciation.

If you purchased a home in Elfin Forest or Harmony Grove within the last two years will you please send your contact information to Tony De Bellis at [tony-mel@hughes.net](mailto:tony-mel@hughes.net) or by calling 744-7090. He will contact you and bring your basket and attempt to answer your questions.

Any block captains that have had new elves move in please forward information to Tony.

*By Tony DeBellis*

## Be Firewise Now!!!

The recent Santa Anas and extremely hot days were a dramatic reminder of how quickly vegetation can dry out and become extremely flammable. They also brought to mind those terrifying days of October 2007 when thousands of acres of our county were engulfed in flames. How safe is your property? More important, how safe are your neighbors? This is an

important consideration, because if your neighbor's property catches fire, chances are good that winds will carry embers to your property and ignite it. Fire safety is a community-wide effort and initiative. Check the fire department's website for fire safety tips. [www.eff-fire.org](http://www.eff-fire.org). Visit the wonderful firewise demonstration garden next to the fire station for ideas

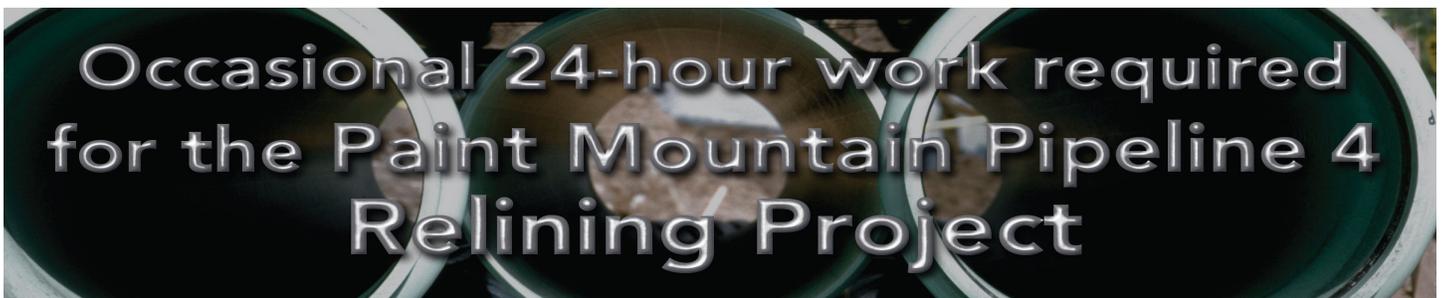
on landscape safety. Once you have set an example by mowing, thinning brush, pruning trees to eliminate fire ladders, and assuring that fire engines can easily access your property, talk to your neighbors about doing the same. We're all in this together

*By Evelyn Alemanni*

PLAN TO ATTEND  
THE NEXT EF/HG  
TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING ON JUNE  
4TH AT 7:30 AT THE  
FIRE STATION

LEARN ABOUT FIRE  
SAFETY IN THE VAL-  
LEY

PRESENTED BY THE  
EF/HG FIRE  
DEPARTMENT



***The San Diego County Water Authority anticipates project completion in August. Please review the information below describing May and June construction activities.***

In mid-May, contractors will begin disinfecting the pipeline. They will then restore the water flow back to Pipeline 4 at the end of this activity. This requires periodic work at all project sites (24-hours a day):

**Thursday, May, 15 – Friday, June 6, 2008**

***Contractors will minimize work as much as possible during the evening, weekend, and Memorial Day hours.***

**This will not interrupt the delivery of water to your neighborhood.** Last fall, the Water Authority conducted a similar procedure just before work began. For more information visit the “Infrastructure” section of the Water Authority’s website at [www.sdewa.org](http://www.sdewa.org) or call the toll-free project information line at **(877) 682-9283, Ext. 7005**.

*The Water Authority is a public agency serving the San Diego region as a wholesale supplier of water. The Water Authority works through its 24 member agencies to provide a safe, reliable water supply to support the region’s \$157 billion economy and the quality of life of 3 million residents.*



## *OMWD Proceeds with Litigation*

At the May 14, 2008 Olivenhain Municipal Water District (District) Board of Directors meeting the Board unanimously voted to pursue litigation against the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) for their plan to transfer water from Lake Hodges into the Olivenhain Reservoir. This is in reaction to the Water Authority's approval of its Reservoir Regulating Plan (RRP) for Lake Hodges. The RRP states that the Water Authority will transfer at least 17,000 acre feet (enough water for 17,000 families of four for one year) or at least 60% of the capacity of Lake Hodges into the Olivenhain Reservoir in the first operational year. The District presented at a recent Water Authority Board Meeting and urged the Water Authority to reconsider the RRP as Lake Hodges water has been deemed an impaired body of water by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Water Authority will proceed with their plans despite the District's efforts to assist in the development of a more sustainable approach to the

issues involving the Hodges water transfer.

There are 78 federally listed hazardous waste contaminants that have been tested for and found in Lake Hodges over the last ten years. If the Water Authority does go through with the RRP these contaminants will be introduced into the Olivenhain Reservoir and mixed with the rest of the County's water supply. These 78 hazardous waste materials have known health and environmental impacts and will need to be treated by different technology than is currently available at Olivenhain's David C. McCollom Water Treatment Plant (DCMWTP). The introduction of the contaminated water in Lake Hodges will cause Olivenhain's DCMWTP to halt operation as it is not designed to handle the contaminants found in Lake Hodges. The District is pursuing design options for the DCMWTP to treat the Hodges water effectively and avoid plant malfunctions. It will cost the District \$40 million in retrofitting to be able to treat the Lake Hodges water

at its DCMWTP. The District is looking to recover these costs via litigation if the Water Authority continues to refuse to fix the Hodges water before it is moved into the Olivenhain Reservoir. Additionally, the water quality testing protocol in the RRP does not remove the contaminants from Lake Hodges before they enter the Olivenhain Reservoir, rather it tests only a few contaminants at the Olivenhain Dam inlet/outlet tower after the contaminants in Lake Hodges have already entered the Olivenhain Reservoir and have become part of the regional supply system.

Since 1998 the District has been voicing its concerns to the Water Authority over the slowly deteriorating quality of water from Lake Hodges. The District was always promised that the water quality issue would be addressed, but nothing has been done and now the District is forced to take legal action in order to protect its customer's right to high-quality water.

## OMWD Continued

The Water Authority plans to begin transferring the Lake Hodges water to the Olivenhain

Reservoir in late 2009. The District is moving forward with litigation and action will be seen

as early as August 2008 in an effort to resolve matters before the transfers begin.

## Mountain Lion Sighting

### Elfin Forest Sightings

As many of you know we had a recent mountain lion encounter in our valley. A gentleman hiking down near the Escondido Creek at the end of Elfin Forest Glen was followed. He was able to scare the cat away by yelling and waving a large stick. His dog weighs 70 pounds and the cat was considerably bigger.

Other recent sightings include —

- frequent sightings over on Paint Mountain Road where the cat has been seen wandering

through neighbor's yards,

- a sighting of a mountain lion cub on Fortuna Del Sur,
- and most recently, a sighting in the very early hours of the morning, running across Elfin Forest Road and chasing a deer.

### Protecting Your Homes

- Don't feed deer
- Deer-proof your landscape
- Trim brush to reducing hiding places for mountain lions
- Don't leave pets or

small children outside unattended

- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house
- Provide sturdy, covered shelter for vulnerable livestock
- Don't allow pets outside when mountain lions are most active—dawn, dusk, and at night
- Bring pet food inside to avoid attracting raccoons, opossums and other potential mountain lion prey.

By Karen Gardner



Bobcats average between 15 and 30 pounds, are spotted or striped, have very short tails and have a tuft of fur on the top of their ears which makes them appear pointed.

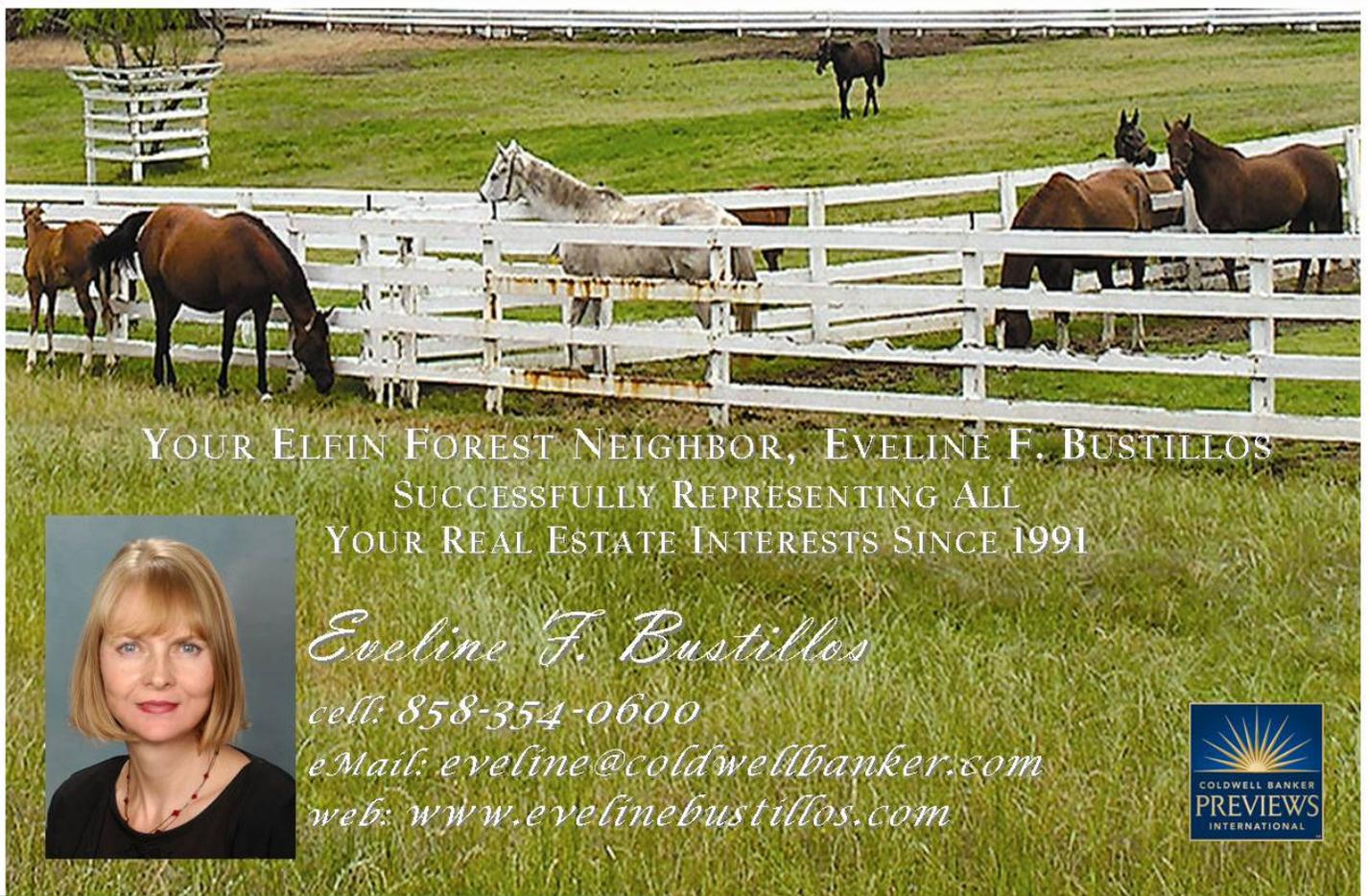


Mountain lions average between 75 and 150 pounds, are a tawny gold, have very long tails and have wide-set ears.

### Staying Safe

Mountain lions are quiet, solitary and elusive, and typically avoid people. Mountain lion attacks on humans are extremely rare. However, conflicts are increasing as California's human population expands into mountain lion habitat.

- Do not hike, bike, or jog alone.
- Avoid hiking or jogging when mountain lions are most active—dawn, dusk, and at night.
- Keep a close watch on small children.
- Do not approach a mountain lion.
- If you encounter a mountain lion, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to look bigger by waving your arms; throw rocks or other objects. Pick up small children.
- If attacked, fight back.
- If a mountain lion attacks a person, immediately call 911.



YOUR ELFIN FOREST NEIGHBOR, EVELINE F. BUSTILLOS  
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 YOUR REAL ESTATE INTERESTS SINCE 1991



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 web: [www.evelinebustillos.com](http://www.evelinebustillos.com)



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## 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.

Retired pre-school teacher and animal lover available for evening and late night child care. CPR, First Aid is up to date. Plenty of references. I would love to care for your animals as well. Elfin Forest resident. Mary Ann 760 591-3111.

**Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board members: Eric Anderson 471-1464, Jacqueline Arsvaud-Benjamin 891-9061, Melanie Fallon 744-7090, Karen Gardner 744-9500, Mid Hoppenrath 747-1145, Sal La Corte 443-4265, May Meintjes 744-7336, Manu Sohaey 510-9114 and Bill Telesco 746.4692.**

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