



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Evelyn Alemanni

Last Sunday in church, a stanza from a hymn seemed to sum up life in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove: we sang, “*To do or to endure.*” These few words speak volumes about our need to be aware of what’s going on in our community and the surrounding cities, *and* for each of us, as individuals, families, and as a community, to do something to influence events. If we don’t *do*, we will have to *endure* the consequences. Consequences like hills blasted and hauled away in trucks, ridgelines disappearing under rooftops and the increasing occurrence of displaced wildlife slaughtered on the road by commuters.

Surely, each one of us can spare an hour or two every month to be involved in some way to make a difference and help preserve our community as the pristine rural jewel that it is today. What it gets down to is “enlightened self-interest.” That means, quite simply, to do something for someone else, for a cause, for a common goal, and in the process, helping improve one’s own lot in life. Seems like a pretty good idea.

Please start practicing enlightened self-interest today. Get involved. Come to Town Council meetings, write letters, help the Fire Department, volunteer to help The Escondido Creek Conservancy, pick up trash along the road, review an EIR. Meet your neighbors and participate in any way you can. Just an hour or two each month would make a big difference.

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October Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, Oct 2nd, 7:30 p.m.

Guest speakers: Sheriff’s deputies, Rancho Santa Fe School Board of Trustees candidates, and Dr. Daniel Vinson, Rancho Santa Fe School District Superintendent.

Elves Speak Up Via Community Survey

In June, the Town Council sent surveys to all homeowners in Elfin Forest (EF). More than half of the surveys were returned. What we're very clearly seeing is that you like things the way they are and that you strongly support our stated goal of preserving the rural environment. As we complete the compilation of results they will be made available at the Town Council Website: www.efhgtc.org. In the next few months, we will be bringing you excerpts of survey responses in the *chaparral*. Here's the first installment.

In short, here's how EF residents responded to the survey. They are:

- opposed to cell towers in EF (42.4%)
- feel strongly about keeping a minimum 2 acre lot size (91.41%)
- don't want commercial properties in EF (53.13%)
- don't want to widen EF or Harmony Grove Road (68.75%)
- don't want stop signs on EF Road (51.56%)
- don't want industrial use properties in EF (78.91%)
- don't want new roads in EF (72.66%)
- believe that rezoning to smaller lots leads to loss of community character (89.84%)
- believe rezoning to smaller lots will not enhance property values (71.09%)
- don't care whether there's a school in EF (41.41%)
- would not be willing to pay for the paving of Suerta del Este (63.28%)
- believe that sewer would result in high density developments (70.31%)
- don't want sewer service (76.56%)
- want ridgelines protected (82.03%)
- prefer trails to sidewalks (99.63%)
- prefer propane to piped in natural gas (64.06%)
- don't want a community park and playground (46.88%)
- don't want a sports park with lighted ball fields (77.34%)
- prefer custom homes (72.66%)

Elfin Forest Garden Tour Date Set By Evelyn Alemanni

Seven Elfin Forest gardens will be open to the public next May 3rd as a fundraiser for the Elfin Forest Landscape Foundation. The tour will include a lunch served at the Fire Station with an opportunity for artists and craftspeople to sell their wares. We announce the date now so you can plan ahead. We need volunteers to help in the individual gardens, with lunch, with organization, coordinating artists and craftspeople, and to help get sponsors. A web site with details will soon be set up. Work in progress on that web site is located at a temporary URL: www.lot4sale.info/gardentour.htm. Contact Evelyn Alemanni (alemanni@allea.com or 760-471-7224) if you'd like to help in any way.

Derbas Decision In By Nancy Reed

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to purchase the Derbas property. These 345 acres are adjacent to the eastern border of the Elfin Forest Reserve and go all the way to the Del Dios Highway. It has stunning vistas, existing trails and is home to several sensitive species, including golden eagles and Encinitas Baccharis. Without the hard work of The Escondido Creek Conservancy and Supervisor Pam Slater this land would have been just another housing project adding over 1,000 cars a day to the Del Dios Highway. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to preserve this beautiful land. A special thank you to the Derbas's who sold the land instead of developing it. Good things do happen!

Calendar for October 2002

Date	Time	Event
Weds 10/2	7: 30 pm	EF/HG Town Council meeting
Tues 10/1, 10/15	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Bookmobile@Firehouse
Tues 10/1	7 pm	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Fri	10 am – noon	Playgroup
Every Thurs	6:30 pm	Yoga
Tues 10/15	7 pm	Fire Training@Firehouse
Mon 10/7	7 pm	Fire Board@Firehouse
Weds 10/9	7 pm	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Sat 10/26	8 am	Fire Training@Firehouse

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting By Mid Hoppenrath

Date: September 4, 2002

Board Members Present: Bill Telesco, Evelyn Alemanni, Nancy Reed, Mid Hoppenrath, Rachel Barnes, Janet McGurk, Eric Anderson

Called to Order: 7:30 pm.

Doug Dill, Vice Chair of the San Dieguito Planning Group (SDPG), described his concerns about the density in the proposed Cielo del Norte project. This development currently has 187 homes on lots ranging from ½ acre to 8 acres. It follows a clustered design with dedicated open space (that is, open space is not within private yards.) Doug felt that this design is not in keeping with the rural setting of the adjacent community of Elfin Forest. He suggested that 2-acre minimum lots would be more appropriate. He urged all concerned residents to attend the SDPG meeting to be held the following evening (Sept. 5th). **Frank Twohy**, Chief of the EFHG Fire Department, told us that he would be speaking in favor of the project at the SDPG meeting.

Bill Telesco reported the happy news that the full amount of money needed to purchase Bernardo Mountain has been raised. Thanks to the many generous persons and groups who donated to ensure that this land will be preserved as part of the San Dieguito River Park for all of us to enjoy.

Janet McGurk reminded the attendees that Questhaven retreat would be open on September 11th for all those who may wish to pray, meditate, or otherwise reflect on this fateful anniversary.

Mid Hoppenrath reported that the review of the Quail Hills EIR was progressing. In general, the residents are happy with this project. The city engineers report that the southern end of Citracado Parkway will be barricaded within the industrial park. This would route southbound traffic to Andreasen and help keep project traffic within the city of Escondido. This plan was mentioned in a meeting with city representatives and was not written in the EIR, however, so this apparent oversight will be noted in our formal comments. The preliminary review of the EIR for the modifications to Escondido's sphere of influence shows that the plan does not study removal of the entire Harmony Grove

/Eden Valley community as requested during the Notice Of Preparation (NOP) period by residents, local civic groups, and the SDPG, but rather of just the 940 acres of central Harmony Grove that Escondido has been trying to annex for industrialization. Our comments will note this serious and continuing disregard for the cohesiveness of the 100-year-old Harmony Grove community.

Nancy Reed reminded us to write to the county Board of Supervisors to urge them to approve the purchase of the Derbas property on Del Dios Highway across from Date Lane. This property will be preserved as wildlife habitat and will have a critical gateway trail to allow access to the Lake Hodges recreational area.

Item #1: Tom Hover, representing the Quail Ridge development, gave the residents a second look at his proposed development just west of the Fire Station along Elfin Forest Road. There are still 69 units planned on approximately 225 acres; all lots have a 2-acre minimum. Open space is partly allocated to private lots and partly to public lands. The development will have a total of three gates to prevent traffic from Questhaven Road from accessing Elfin Forest Road through the development. Horse keeping is currently not allowed, but may be considered for some of the larger lots. **Fred Palarico** reported that they are considering using microseptic systems to allow home sites on some of the parcels that do not perk. He said the Regional Water Quality Control Board currently is the regulatory body that would approve the microseptic systems, and they are trying to change this process to allow approval to come through the County Board of Health.

Residents were concerned that if the microseptic systems are not approved, Mr. Hover would seek to annex to San Marcos to acquire sewer services that would allow a greater density on the project. Mr. Palarico said they were considering all their options but that they hoped to design a development that would be acceptable to the Elfin Forest community. Residents urged them to consider the history of the relationship between San Marcos and Elfin Forest, and repeated their extreme disapproval of annexation of any part of Elfin Forest to San Marcos. It was also requested that Mr. Hover do more to discourage off road use of his land, such as posting warning signs or installing gates.

ADJOURNED: 8:48 pm.

Harmony Grove . . .Village? (To Sphere Or Not To Sphere)

By Mid Hoppenrath

I am very pleased to report that the uniform 7.3 dwelling units per acre for Harmony Grove has been eliminated from the County's GP2020 plan. County planners, Dahvia Locke-Rubinstein and Howard Blackson, along with regional planner Lee Ann Carmicheal met recently with Harmony Grove residents in two workshops to discuss how to handle the anticipated buildout of the valley floor.

The meetings were very well attended, and the residents seemed cautiously optimistic that the concept of a rural town may be their "last best hope" of actually protecting the rural way of life in Harmony Grove. It seems that a small village core with decreasing density as one travels outward from the center would preserve our community character and allow residents more opportunities to interact and socialize at the town square and shops. The alternative, which would be to allow independent residential development, would establish many different communities. As we have seen from Rancho Cielo, Cielo del Norte, and most recently, Quail Ridge, newer communities do not always share our love of the country and our tolerance for all that comes along with rural life (roosters, flies, manure.) Certain valley attributes (such as the creek or scenic vistas) may become inaccessible to those outside of gated communities.

Because Harmony Grove is mostly undeveloped, those in newer communities would soon outnumber the original residents and we would lose our voice in important community decisions such as commercial development and road widening. But developing a single village would allow us to set design standards and zoning ordinances to help preserve what we truly value about our way of life and attract others who enjoy it as well.

The village core would be situated roughly in the area of Ward's Egg Ranch and would extend one-quarter mile in each direction from the center. This would make a rural town center about the size of that in Rancho Santa Fe or Julian. The small size is necessary to keep everything within walking distance. The area would have local-serving shops, such as a bakery, small organic foods market, ice cream shoppe, restaurant, perhaps a feed store, and

would feature a town square with civic buildings such as a sheriff's office, village meeting hall, fire station, charter school, and perhaps a County agriculture extension office. To prohibit urban sprawl, the County would enforce a village limit line at the edge of the core area beyond which higher densities would not be allowed.

The shops and the residential housing within the village would be designed to foster "eyes on the street," a law enforcement concept that reduces crime. The shops would have residences directly above, so that during the day when the residents are away at work the shops are full of people, and during the evening and weekends when the shops are closed the residences are full of people, so there is no time when the area is uninhabited. Thus these areas make poor targets for vandals and thieves. Outside the main retail area, single-family homes would have porches in front and garages in back (on an alley), again, to keep the front of the homes and the street, a people-friendly area, and channel the cars and services (garbage pickup) to the back.

The village would have a grid work of many small residential streets to discourage commuter cut-through and avoid long traffic back ups on a few streets. This layout is also the perfect setting for a large network of multipurpose trails, so that horseback riders, pedestrians, and bicyclists can get just about anywhere in the village (including to that soda/ice cream shoppe!) and reduce the dependence on the automobile. We are hoping to attract a small organic farm to the area and perhaps have them sell their produce in the village market. All homes outside the village core would have horse keeping privileges. A community equestrian center is a possibility as well.

The County planners will be returning with their preliminary map by the end of September, and we will post it on the Harmony Grove/Eden Valley Web site www.hgev.info. The big question is can we trust the County to do all they have proposed.

Of course, if we stay in the sphere of influence and annex to Escondido, the village idea is out, as the Escondido General Plan will not allow it. The way I see it, at best, we will be lost in a sea of gated suburban estate development, and at worst, we will revisit industrialization. Unfortunately, nothing has changed since Escondido's last push for
(Continued on next page)

(Harmony Grove...Village? Continued)

industrialization. An excerpt from the *NC Times* article on 2/23/01 is chilling:

Holt Pfeiler said Thursday she has always supported industrial development because of the city's need for higher-paying jobs and still thinks it is needed in the rural areas and in the 200-acre parcel called Quail Hills that sits in the city limits. "I have come to see that the time is not right to push industrial development in that area." She said. "It has been hard enough to get industrial going in Quail Hills. So, if it is that hard with Quail Hills, it is not the right time for Harmony Grove and Deer Springs."

Trouble is, we will never be certain when the time will be right in Mayor Holt Pfeiler's mind. I guess we have to ask ourselves, "Do we feel lucky?"

Some say that Prop S will save us from higher density. But Prop S was "there for us" during the last attempt at annexation and industrialization and I, for one, didn't sleep any the better for it. I guess I wasn't alone in this thinking because the Harmony Grove/Eden Valley Citizen's Group (then known as HGEVCCSEG) organized and fought hard against the threat of industrialization, requesting removal from the sphere of influence to eliminate the threat of annexation. Some will say that Prop S has been tested and proves that the Escondido voters do not want higher density. What has been proved is that the Escondido voters did not want the zoning on a few small parcels to change from residential to industrial. This is very encouraging. But will the Escondido voters feel the same way about rezoning almost a thousand acres that could provide enough revenue from sales tax, permitting, and mitigation fees to help build new schools, improve the roads, create public parks, and add hundreds of jobs, all at no cost to them? Would you? I can just imagine the letters to the editor in the local papers "If they wanted to stay rural, why didn't they leave the sphere when they had the chance? No, they wanted our sewers, our shopping centers, our schools. Well, now they can support the industry to help us pay for them!!"

I do not think we can rely on Prop S and the Escondido voters to save us from industrialization. It would appear that our decision of whether to stay or leave the sphere of influence will come down to who we can better trust to accommodate the lifestyle of

Harmony Grove, the County or the City. Yes, I was shocked when the County proposed the 7.3 DU/acre zoning density, but they responded to our complaints, eliminated that zoning, and are working closely with the residents and the HGEVCG map to design a village concept that should preserve our rural community character. To date, Escondido has a perfect score of not listening to anything we have ever asked for. The choice seems clear to me.

EIRs Out For Review

Here's a brief overview of Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) out for review now or expected in the near future:

Escondido Sphere of Influence Update (*Out now*) – Oh yes, it's back AGAIN. What part of "NO" don't these people get? Escondido taxpayers should be outraged that the city is again spending thousands of dollars on another EIR just to have Harmony Grove show up at numerous hearings to tell them to back off. (**Mid Hoppenrath** is heading the review committee.)

Cielo del Norte (*Out now*) – 187 homes along Harmony Grove Road on lots ranging in size from .5 acre to 5 acres. This project will bring in sewer. Lots of issues with this one. Comments were due on September 2nd. (**Nancy Reed** is heading the review committee.)

Quail Ridge (*expected soon*) – 69 homes along Elfin Forest Road. (**Patti Newton** is heading the review committee.)

San Elijo Ridge (*Out soon*) – 120+ homes on 4000 square foot lots on Questhaven Road. (Max Altmann's project formerly referred to as "Pulte".) (**Evelyn Alemanni** is heading the review committee.)

All of these projects will significantly affect your quality of life. After an EIR is certified it is extremely difficult to get objectionable elements of a project modified or to seek mitigation. Get involved and help with the review. Make a difference.

San Elijo Hills Contact

If you need to report any problems with the grading, traffic, etc. regarding the San Elijo Hills (SEH) project, please contact Phil Stillman who is SEH liaison with the community. He can be reached at philstillman@fstlaw.com. If you feel the problem was still not resolved, call San Elijo at 760-918-8200.

Elfin Forest's Existence is Threatened **By Jeff & Carolyn Swenerton and Betsy Keithley**

Two important pieces of information that have great potential impact on our future were discussed at the September Town Council meeting (9/4/02) and at the San Dieguito Planning Group meeting on Thursday 9/5/02. First, the Quail Ridge project along Elfin Forest Road, proposes to build 69 homes on 2-acre lots in accordance with the general plan zoning of the County. Unfortunately, many of the lots do not "perc" meaning that they are not suitable for a septic system. The landowner has hired a consultant to solve the sewer problem and one potential solution could be to annex to San Marcos, join the Vallecitos Sewer district and bring in a sewer line from San Elijo Hills. This idea has the snag that the property is not contiguous to San Marcos, however, it is contiguous with property owned by Max Altmann who has expressed interest in annexing to San Marcos. It is expensive to install the infrastructure for sewer, so, if this happens, it will likely come with new zoning – that of San Marcos – which looks like San Elijo Hills.

The second piece of information is that the developer of the Cielo del Norte project, who proposes to build 187 homes where the trailer park used to be, was approached by the Rancho Santa Fe Fire District with a recommendation that they leave CSA 107 and join the RSF district. At present they propose to remain in CSA 107, our County Service area. If we do not want their project, however, they have the right to choose the RSF district.

What is the significance of these facts? Our standing in the County is dependent on our ability to provide our own services for fire protection and first response to accidents. It is the responsibility of the County to assure that each community in their jurisdiction has these services. We recently resoundingly approved Proposition S, which effectively confirmed our community's commitment to remain in the County and not become a part of San Marcos or Escondido. Both of these cities have interest in high-density development, not the preservation of open space.

Each district that provides a service, be it fire, water or sewer, would like to get bigger and stronger by serving a bigger area. In the early 90's we fought a long and expensive battle to prevent the City of San

Marcos from annexing all the property north of Elfin Forest Road. The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) was satisfied that we could indeed provide services and remain in the County. This assures the zoning is defined by the County.

If, however, we lose the Quail Ridge property, Max Altman's property and the Cielo del Norte property from our CSA, we will have a very difficult time convincing LAFCO that we can provide services. San Marcos will be happy to annex our open space and rezone it for condos and high-density housing.

How do we prevent this from happening? One solution might be to convince the Cielo del Norte developer to purchase the Quail Ridge project as their mitigation property. We should also be sure that Cielo Del Norte does not "pull out" of our CSA and that LAFCO understands these issues before they are confronted with requests to allow the Quail Ridge property into Vallecitos Sewer District.

[Editor's note: Betsy Keithley has offered to be the contact for those interested in implementing these solutions: ekeithley@ucsd.edu]

That's The Law, Again **By Elton (Joe) Rife**

What is a Major Use Permit? A permit issued by the County that allows a change in the use of a parcel of land. The operation of a horse business where one sells, trains, or board horses would be an example. Obtaining this permit requires notification of the owners of the surrounding properties that this use is intended. In essence it requires the approval of all property owners who are directly affected! Why does a property owner have to go through such a procedure to use their own land?----Zoning Laws!! Doesn't matter though, that's the law!!

Elfin Forest Hometown Halloween **By Lori Clark**

Last year the Elfin Forest Hometown Halloween was a HUGE success. A couple of truckloads of local kids ran up and down driveways to trick-or-treat in their own neighborhood. Everyone had a great time. If you would like to welcome trick-or-treaters (between 5pm-8pm) or obtain the list of neighbors welcoming trick-or-treaters, please contact Lori Clark at: clark-17@ix.netcom.com or 760-510-2001.

[Editor's note: The following articles regarding the RSF School District bond issue, PROP Y, are authored by candidates in the upcoming RSF School District Board of Trustees election.]

Prop Y Promises Relief

By John Stiker

Growth and change were the themes of the day as students returned back to the R. Roger Rowe Rancho Santa Fe School last Thursday. Not only did the current school welcome over 830 students, a record increase of 60 new students over last year, but changes had to be made on campus this summer to accommodate this growth. Proposition Y has been placed on the November ballot to help relieve the overcrowding through purchase of two new school sites, including one in Elfin Forest.

The current ten-acre site that houses the R. Roger Rowe Rancho Santa Fe School was originally planned to accommodate 600 students at the current ratio of 20 students to one teacher. Tremendous community growth has required renovations and temporary classrooms to the site in order to accommodate the growing number of young families. The District's enrollment is projected to reach 1400 in the next few years.

Two new portable classrooms were added to the site, bringing the current total to sixteen portable classrooms. In addition, a portable bathroom will be placed on the upper portion of the campus to meet code regulations for the current enrollment.

Due to the glaring problem of our overcrowded school campus, the School District has placed a general obligation bond measure, called Proposition Y, on the ballot for November 5th.

- Proposition Y will:
- Relieve current campus overcrowding through the purchase of a site and building of a second state-of-the-art K-8 school
- Renovate and repair current classrooms and school facilities built over 45 years ago
- Bring current classrooms up-to-date by equipping them with new technology, modern labs and learning tools
- Reduce school related traffic congestion in the village
- Plan for the future by acquiring property in Elfin Forest for long-term possible use as a third school

site (though Prop Y will not fund construction of that school)

"We take great pride in keeping our class sizes small and the quality of education we provide our students the best available," said R. Roger Rowe, former superintendent of Rancho Santa Fe Elementary School District. "We need Proposition Y to ensure our children continue to receive excellence in education."

A formal campaign committee, Friends of Rancho Santa Fe Schools – Vote YES on PROP Y, has been formed with the goal of passing Prop Y. The Committee's web site, www.YesOnPropY.org, contains extensive information regarding Prop Y.

Prop Y calls for up to \$46 million in funding, though only \$27 million would be available in the first two years, with the rest used for longer-term projects. It was prepared in consultation with professional facility planners, architects, financial advisors, parents, teachers and community leaders. Interested Elfin Forest voters can attend the next school board meeting prior to the November 5th vote, on October 15th, at the R. Roger Rowe School.

Five Good Reasons Why Every Elfin Forest Resident Should Vote No On Proposition Y

By Nick Pisano

1. Proposition Y calls for money only to purchase an Elfin Forest site, but under Proposition 39, NONE of the \$46 million raised can actually be used to build a school on that property because no such line item is listed in the Measure's language. The Bond will be repaid over forty (40) years -- and that's how long the people of Elfin Forest will be waiting to build a new school in their community.

2. Proponents of Proposition Y say that the Bond Measure provides for a Citizens Oversight Committee (COC). The Committee will be required to meet only ONCE a year (and in addition, whenever they feel like it). There is no requirement in the Bond Measure, or in the Education Code, that the COC comprise a majority of professionals knowledgeable in the fields of construction and finance - leaving plenty of room for mismanagement!

(Continued next page)

(Five Good Reasons – Continued)

3. There is nothing in the State Education Code to stop the District Board from moving the 16 portable classrooms to the site of the New School, and declaring that school “DONE” until renovations at the Rowe School are complete. Certainly nothing in the Bond Measure! The Bond Measure calls for major renovations, a new gymnasium, and an ancillary (read Performing Arts) building for the Rowe School, but no such line items are included for the New School. Presumably the New School will have no such facilities.

4. The District Board does not represent interests of the ENTIRE District. Originally, the District Board favored the Quantum site, but changed its recommendation to the Sahn property to appease certain members of the RSF Covenant Board. Then, the District Board refused to identify the attendance boundaries for the New School until after the election. With the Covenant voters divided over this issue, the District Board announced on September 16th 2002, that the attendance boundaries for the New School would include all children living outside the Covenant – and none inside Covenant boundaries.

5. All deadlines for amending the Bond Measure language have passed. Nothing the District Board says with respect to implementation of Bond monies is binding, so if you believe what the Proponents of Prop Y are telling you, do so at your (and all other non-Covenant residents) peril. The bond measure is the first step towards deannexation of non-Covenant properties from the District. We need a sensible Measure that will unite our PUBLIC school District to represent the ENTIRE DISTRICT.

For more info, log on to www.nickpisano.com.

Six Candidates Run For Two School Board Seats

By Mickey Cross

On this November ballot, there will be two seats up for election on the Rancho Santa Fe School District Board. Those six names are, Kathy Stumm, current School Board President, John C. Stiker, Richard Burge, Nick Pisano, Demetri Brizolis and Laurel Lemarie’.

I recommend that you vote for KATHY STUMM for School Board member in November. I have worked

with Kathy Stumm in the past on the Superintendent’s site committee and believe we need to re-elect her. She will work as a school board member for all of the District’s children, not just one area. She will insist on a quality education for all of our children, as she has done in the past. Kathy is in favor of the School Bond.

I also recommend you vote for JOHN C. STIKER for School Board member in November. I have spoken with John on the phone, and my son has been in class with one of his triplets for the last two years. I believe that he, too, will work for what is best for all of the children in the District, and not be beholding to only one area. John is also in favor of the School Bond.

Both of these candidates realize that the current school is overcrowded and as the student population increases, it can only hurt the quality of education if a new school is not built soon. They understand the urgency in passing the Bond this November. The other candidates either do not favor the Bond or want to spend more time looking for sites. I can tell you that from what I learned on the site committee, there are really only two sites for a new school (out of the 19 + that we looked at). Those two sites are the Sahn and Quantum sites. They are both on Del Dios Highway (almost across the street from each other.) The other sites had environmental issues (high tension power lines, pollution from pesticides from nurseries, chlorine tanks, on aqueduct access, poor or non-existent road access, steep slopes or narrow neighborhood roads for access.) Someone will always be complaining about a potential site.

We need to stay focused on what will be the best and safest place for our children, while trying not to impact the surrounding community much. Remember this School Bond also provides money for a future school site in Elfin Forest. They would buy the land now and build when needed. With the last two large parcels off Elfin Forest Road in the process of being developed, we need to get the land now. Land will not be available in a few years for us to buy. The District needs about ten acres for a site.

Siting new schools in the District is a tough job, but Kathy Stumm and John C. Stiker can get the job done with our support.

PLEASE VOTE YES ON “Y” AND VOTE FOR KATHY STUMM AND JOHN C. STIKER.

Gatekeepers Get The Ax

By Evelyn Alemanni

One of the joys of coming home to Elfin Forest along San Elijo Road (formerly Questhaven Road) was the welcoming sight of the huge eucalyptus and other trees that lined both sides of the road. Early Elfin Forest residents planted these trees many years ago. They stood as quiet, gentle guardians of the road, providing homes for birds and shade for deer. Their roots held the soil together. These magnificent, living beings survived many years of drought and miraculously recovered from the scorching inferno of the Harmony Grove fire.

Their strength was no match for the chainsaws of Brookfield Homes' contractors who massacred them starting the week of 9/9. It was particularly galling that most of the trees came down on 9/11 and it speaks volumes about the terrorist nature of the development process in San Marcos. Consulting arborists have told us that the trees were worth hundreds of thousands of dollars and that they could have been incorporated into the landscape design of the community to enhance its value.



Let's learn from this tragedy and when we review EIRs or negotiate with developers, insist that ancient trees be preserved and their habitats enhanced even if it means moving roads or rearranging plot plans.

Praying for Rain

By Evelyn Alemanni

A recent article in the Wall Street Journal described the current drought as the most expensive in history, inflicting economic damage far beyond the farm belt. Government officials are closely watching a chain of events rarely seen, including rivers running dry, disappearing ground water, and conditions for a big forest fire along the normally damp East coast. This situation may continue through November. Ponds, wells, and streams normally used by rural fire departments to fill their trucks are running dangerously low. If people deplete these water sources to take care of their houses and crops, water will not be available to fire fires.

Further, the article in the WSJ stated that even if normal levels of rain resume this fall and winter, it will take years to bring the water tables back to normal. These facts, combined with the 10,000 homes that will be built in our vicinity, make us remember the importance of rain.

Questhaven Retreat will be offering a special Sunday service on October 6th. The talk will be titled, "Praying for Rain." You are all invited to attend and join in the prayers. For more information, check www.questhaven.org. The retreat is located at 20560 Questhaven Road and the service begins at 10:45 am. Well-behaved pets are welcome. Sunday school is available for children.

New Road Director

By Elton (Joe) Rife

I am resigning as road director of the Elfin Forest 1 Road Maintenance Agreement. Greg Pahlmer on Fortuna Del Este will be assuming the role of road director and will be taking control of the road maintenance funds of \$13,669.00. This is a sobering moment for me because after over 25 years I will no longer be officially involved in the road that I named Fortuna Del Este. Good luck Greg, and may your problems be small and rewards great.

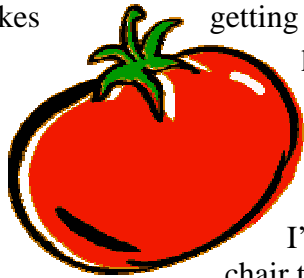
University Commons Contact

If you need to report any problems with the University Commons project that is currently in progress along San Elijo and Rancho Santa Fe Roads, please call David Poole at 858-481-8500.

Garden Greetings

By Nancy Reed

Help!!!! Wanted: *A garden loving soul to co-chair the Fire Safe Garden* (translation, someone who likes



getting dirty, can deal with many personalities and would rather work in the garden than go to the gym.) I must have been caught at a weak moment or perhaps I'm crazy, but I agreed to co-chair the Fire Safe Garden. This is

the garden planted by Nils Lunderdal after the Harmony Grove Fire six years ago. Next to the Fire Station, it demonstrates fire safe gardening practices.

Here is the bottom line, I CAN NOT DO IT ALONE, I NEED A CO-CHAIR! With that said, the Fire Safe Garden is a real treasure. Not only is it fire safe, it is bunny proof and drought tolerant. Nils and company were so smart in designing and planting it. The "bones" of the garden are beautiful, but it needs some TLC. I hope some one will step forward and help so the garden will be a star at the first Elfin Forest Garden Tour to benefit the EF Landscape Foundation set for May 2003 (see Evelyn Alemanni's article.)

What needs to be done? General clean up, trimming and planting. I would like to put the sprinklers on a timer and plant the bank. I would also like to plant an area in different types of thyme and have several sundials set to different time zones. A hawk perch and owl box would be nice. How about a bench or two to sit on and more rock to line the paths? What would you like to see be done?

Back to earth, on an administrative level an overall plan needs to be drawn up and costs estimated so a grant can be applied for. Some labor will be paid for and some will be volunteer. So, it's up to us in the community of Elfin Forest to take care of our community garden. Please help: call me at 471-7933.

Don't forget, now is the best time of the year to plant just about anything. Plant for permanence with shrubs, trees, and perennials. Don't forget some sweet peas, my all-time favorite! SO go, get dirty and have some fun!

P.S. How about a shade structure and shade plants? Is a children's play area too much? How about an equine safe or gourmet garden (did you know horses love watermelon?) Keep dreaming!

October Garden Projects

By Evelyn Alemanni

October is one of our happiest months in the garden. This month is our "second spring" when days start to get cooler, and nights get longer. It's the ideal time to plant spring flowers, annuals, perennials, and bulbs.

Almost all bulbs can go into the ground now. A general rule of thumb is to plant them about twice as deep as they are tall. You can also scatter a little bulb food or bone meal into the hole. If gophers and squirrels are a concern, wrap the bulbs in hardware cloth (this is like chicken wire, but the holes are smaller). This really works. You can also encase bulbs in those little plastic produce baskets that strawberries come in. Use two baskets to make a complete enclosure. If you are planting tulips or hyacinths, WAIT! Put them in the refrigerator for at least 6 to 8 weeks before planting. That means, buy them now, and plant them around Christmas. If you have a mini-fridge, toss out the beer and soft drinks and cool your bulbs instead.

Spring annuals to plant now include pansies, alyssum, lobelia, stock, snapdragon, poppies of all kinds, cyclamen, calendula, cineraria. But remember, the bunnies like all these flavors, so be sure to surround them with a chicken wire fence or they'll be gone in minutes. Anything you plant now will have a few weeks to grow strong roots, and will reward you with abundant flowers in the spring when the weather warms up again.

Perennials of all kinds can be planted now.

October is a great month to plant vegetables, too. Right now, you can start potatoes, onions, carrots, radishes, peas, fava beans, and anything in the cole family: cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, kale, and brussel sprouts.

Worried about weeds? Put down a ¼" layer of newspaper and cover it with mulch. Put soaker or dripper hoses under the newspaper to irrigate plants. This is foolproof weed control and the worms love to eat the newspaper.

Remember to put down a layer of mulch on all your plantings to conserve water and enrich the soil. Tree services are usually happy to drop off a load of chipped branches. El Corazon (Agriservice) in Oceanside is also a wonderful source of mulch. Happy gardening!

News From Questhaven Retreat



Sunday worship is at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome.

Questhaven Retreat is located at
20560 Questhaven Road.
760-744-1500.

www.questhaven.org.

Study groups meet on weeknights. Please call the office for times and locations.

Weekly - Meditation

Wednesday at 7:15 p.m.

Meet at El Chapelito, Led by Jean Michalewicz.

The Way Within Meditation Classes

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 12:00 Noon

Meet in the Academy, Led by Rev. Phyllis Isaac.

Exploration in Prayer Classes

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 12:00 Noon

Meet in the Academy, Led by Rev. Elizabeth Wood.

Michaelmas Retreat

September 27-29 - Michaelmas Retreat

Friday, September 27

7:30 p.m. Communing with the Angels

An evening of music, art, sacred dance and sharing of Angel experiences devoted to these Divine Beings of Light.

Saturday, September 28

9 a.m. - 12 noon. Bring a sack lunch, walk the trails and enjoy this holy sanctuary of nature.

12 noon. Guided meditation in the Church of the Holy Quest

1:30 p.m.- 4 p.m. Using pastels, charcoal and pencils learn to attune to the Angels and create Angel drawings.

5 p.m. Potluck dinner in Friendship House

Sunday, September 29 - The World Uplifted: The Value of Invoking Angelic Presence

10:45 a.m. Worship Service with hand bell and vocal music, sacred dance and a talk by Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire.

October 6 - Praying For Rain

Evelyn Alemanni

October 13 - Compassion of Animals

Nancy McCormick

October 20 - God Imminent, God Transcendent

Rev. Susan S. Cary

Elfin Forest Ladies Bunco Night

By Lori Clark

The next Potluck-Bunco Party is scheduled for Friday, October 25th from 7pm-10pm at Debbie Russo's home. Whether you're new to Elfin Forest, a long-time resident or somewhere in between, you're invited to socialize with neighbors and play Bunco for fun and prizes. Please plan to bring a \$5 bill and beverage to share. Food provided by Russo's Pasta Shop (a couple of dollars donation in lieu of bringing a dish would be appreciated). Ladies Bunco Night happens on the 4th Friday of each month (provided we have a volunteer to host). Please contact Debbie at 858-759-9115 to RSVP and get directions. To volunteer to host, please contact Lori Clark at: 760-510-2001 or e-mail: clark-17@ix.netcom.com.

October Playgroup Schedule

By Toni Fairman

October 4th, 10am: Playgroup at San Dieguito Park in Solana Beach.

October 11th, 2pm: Playgroup at La Costa Canyon Park.

Saturday, October 19th, 10am: Potluck playgroup at Powerhouse Park in Del Mar. Please RSVP Lona Tomlinson at 744-4050. Look for big blue tent on grass near play area.

Saturday, October 26th, 5pm: Halloween party at home of Michele Sidwell hosted by Michele and Toni. Please RSVP Toni at 471-0875.

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By Stephen Isaac

Birds of feather flock together.
Opposites attract.

Many hands make light work.
Too many cooks spoil the broth.

Seeing is believing.
The hand is quicker than the eye.

A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.
Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

You can't judge a book by its jacket.
Clothes make the man.

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.

Three strikes and you're out.
Third time's a charm.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
Out of sight, out of mind.

Look before you leap.
He who hesitates is lost.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
Hope springs eternal.

You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
It's never too late to learn.

Two's company, three's a crowd.
The more, the merrier.

Sheriff's Department Contacts

In an emergency, please call 911. For non-emergency reporting, contact the following:

Jackie Cruz – agriculture crime prevention specialist
760-940-4350

Robert Jennings – Deputy 760-510-5223

Norma Nares – Sargeant 760-510-5217

Tim Mahoney – Deputy 760-510-5224

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619.368.5650 cell

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Brooke York - EF Resident, LCC School 9th grader, Baby Sitting. Tel: 760-752-7784

Jared York - EF Resident, RSF School 7th grader, Baby sit or feed animals. Tel: 760-752-7784

Wanted: Kids horse for 10 and 12 year old, mid age, midsize, sound. Call Lori 744-3858

For Sale: Top of line Hot Springs Spa jacuzzi, originally \$4,000, 6.5' round with redwood siding and brown insulating cover, green fiberglass inside - \$1,250. Call Jacqueline on 760-891-9061.

For Sale: Fridge/Freezer, 22cu. Ft. side by side with automatic ice-maker, white, great condition \$300.00 OBO call 760-471-0390


For Sale: Sony color TV 27 inch Trinitron looks great \$300.00 OBO call 760-471-0390

For Sale: 4 Banquet Tables: One 8' and three 6' long tables with folding legs. Fair condition. \$20 for all. Call Lori at 510-2001.

For Sale: Grand Piano \$5700.00, Yellow Kitchen "Hutch" \$250.00, Handmade Rocking Horse \$140. All items are in very good condition and located in Elfin Forest. Please call Jayne at 510-2646. Leave message if not home. I will return your call.

Guest House Needed: EF/HG FD Captain wants to lease a guesthouse or private quarters in EF or HG. Please contact Darrin Lee at 619-571-9873.

Local Elfin Forest Carpenter for hire: 25 years experience... Call Jamie at 591-0348.



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The Board gratefully acknowledges the efforts of Joe and Evelyn Alemanni for editing, producing and distributing this newsletter.