



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

**From The (Blooming) Field**

By Eric Anderson

Come down to the next town council meeting! Meet your neighbors, friends and the little elves! *No More excuses!* This next meeting you'll get a chance to get up close and personal with raptors (don't worry they're not velociraptors).

Well, it is time to check your beautiful Elfin Forest calendar and plan to attend the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Fourth of July Parade and Picnic. The parade will be on Sunday July 2 (see the attached parade announcement). The picnic committee is working hard to make this a most excellent event! Buy your tickets early and save \$\$'s! They are even having a cake walk, so all you cake maker's heat up your ovens and let's show the elves a thing or two about baking cakes. There will be **plenty** of good food and drink! Finally, call me if you have some time July 1 or during the day of the parade to help set up. We still need more volunteers!!!

At the last meeting the Proposition H discussion was very calm. The main reason for this was the No on H folks, despite repeated invitations on their campaign phone line, did not attend. The town council offered the venue as an informative discussion for the voters in the community. To cover some outstanding issues left unresolved at the end of the meeting, I need to offer this clarification. Due to the type of non-profit

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**Call For Volunteers for the EF/HG  
4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade/Picnic on July 2.**

Parade/Picnic details, picnic menu, and early registration information is found on the last page of this issue of the *chaparral*.

**Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> @7:30PM**

**At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station**

**Topic: Scott Todd of the Encinitas Wild Bird Center**

**“Birds of Your Backyard”**

## From The Field (continued)

organization that the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council is, we are prohibited from making endorsements and campaigning for or against candidates or ballot propositions. No matter how you feel please vote June 6!!!! It is not too often that you get to vote two times on the same ballot for the same congressional seat.

Finally, I would like to mention how beautiful our community looks. The cleanup organized by Cheri Smith (Thank You) was a huge success. The California poppies are nothing short of phenomenal!

It is so gratifying to see all the effort made in previous years for America in Bloom, for the trails, and for the Garden Festivals to have a lasting effect. I especially want you all to point out and thank Frank Oddo and Linda Clerke for the work on the Elfin Forest trails. The mulching, trimming and clean up is a lot of effort and the results look fantastic.

The Farming Elf, Eric Anderson.

## Trail Cleanup and Rehabilitation By Frank Oddo

The main pedestrian/equestrian trail along Elfin Forest Road is undergoing a renovation. The weeds have already been whacked and overhanging branches and bushes that intrude into the trail have been trimmed. For the first time since it was put in four years ago, the entire length of trail is now being re-mulched. The purpose of the mulch is to help preserve the trail bed and reduce maintenance costs. The plan is for the trail to be finished and ready for the community's enjoyment by the end of May or sooner.

## Calendar For June

Date	Time	Event
Weds 6/7	7:30 PM	Town Council Meeting
Tues 6/6, 6/20	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Wed 6/14	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary@Mary Garman's House
Mon 6/12	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Sat 6/24	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Sat 6/3, 6/17	10 AM	Bookmobile@Firehouse

## Electronic Waste Clean-up Day By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin

Do you have old PCs, TVs, and bulky monitors cluttering up your garage? Instead driving to the EDCO recycling facility in San Marcos and paying upwards of \$25 per item, your town council has secured a recycler for Saturday, June 10, from 9AM to 1PM to come to Elfin Forest to pick up your e-waste *for free!*

Recycle San Diego will have a big truck on the fire station parking lot for you to bring your electronic items. A smaller truck will make house calls (Harmony Grove too) to pick up large heavy TVs (TVs only, you will still have to bring your PCs, monitors et al to the fire station). Residents will need to sign a form identifying them as owners of the items, as well as a release for those using the pick up option stating that Recycle San Diego did not damage their property in the process. Items that will be accepted that day:

Computer Monitors  
Televisions -- of any kind  
Computer Towers  
Small Inkjet printers  
Cell Phones

They will accept laser printers for a fee of \$12 each (for the smaller ones). They will not accept large copiers. You can schedule a large TV pick-up directly with the recycler, Recycle San Diego, by either emailing [info@recyclesd.com](mailto:info@recyclesd.com) or calling 858-525-1010. You can check their website at [www.recyclesd.com](http://www.recyclesd.com).

Please only schedule pick-ups for very large TVs too heavy to fit in your car – if you also have PCs and other e-waste, you will still need to bring those to the fire station. We don't want to send the truck to pick up items that can fit in somebody's car, so there is enough time and truck space to pick up all the bulky TVs.

Watch this space for another town council-sponsored clean-up event in the summer; that one to get rid of hazardous waste (solvents, paints, oil, car batteries, pesticides, auto fluids, etc.) as well as “universal waste” (fluorescent tubes, batteries and thermostats). The county will come to the fire station and you will be able to safely dispose of all your hazardous waste at no cost to you.

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## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade / Picnic

By Kelli Graham

The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and BBQ will be in full swing on Sunday, July 2. Enjoy live music by Retro Rockets, games, cake walk, basketball and horse shoe contests, prizes and a bake sale. The day begins at 11:30AM with the parade line-up just east of Fortuna del Norte. The parade starts at noon sharp making its way to the fire station. Join the parade and show your spirit by decorating floats, tractors, ATV's, bikes, strollers, and horses with 4<sup>th</sup> of July colors and accessories.

Come and relax in the shade with a cold beverage and visit with friends and neighbors while our very own fire department makes fresh burgers and hotdogs with all the trimmings. Enjoy pulled pork and great side dishes catered by Santa Fe Barbeque.

Please see the enclosed flyer for pre-registration (the last page of this issue of the *chaparral*). Advance registration is greatly appreciated. The cost for adults is \$8.00 and children \$5.00. After June 26 and on the day of the picnic cost for adults is \$10.00 and children \$8.00 (LIMITED amount). Contact Lori Vitale concerning registration at [lori@ricochet.com](mailto:lori@ricochet.com)

Volunteers are greatly appreciated. Get involved and make this 4<sup>th</sup> of July one to remember. To help with the parade please contact Eric Anderson at 760-471-1464 or 760-471-4840 or [eric@seedcoseeds.com](mailto:eric@seedcoseeds.com). To help with serving food, providing items for the bake sale, cake walk, or games contact Kelli Graham at 760-744-8811, [thegrahams@ricochet.com](mailto:thegrahams@ricochet.com).

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## DSL Reminder

By Joe Alemanni

Shelley Fontaine ([shelley.fontaine@hp.com](mailto:shelley.fontaine@hp.com)) is acting as a contact to residents desiring DSL in the hope that knowledge of demand in our under served area might convince AT&T to expand their service. So far, close to 40 families have indicated interest. There is no obligation and AT&T will use the information (your phone number) to determine service requirements.

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## Town Council Website

The town council's website is continually updated. Check it out at: [efhgtc.org](http://efhgtc.org). Note: the town council is not affiliated with [elfinforest.net](http://elfinforest.net) or [elfinforest.com](http://elfinforest.com).

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## Congratulations to Community Foundation Grant Recipients

By Betsy Keithley, Secretary EFCF

The board of directors for the Elfin Forest Community Foundation met on May 4, 2006 to evaluate the grant proposals that were submitted by the April 15, 2006 deadline. We had five applications requesting a total of \$18,000. They were all good projects but, unfortunately, we had only \$7400 to give away. The funded projects are (in no particular order):

- 1) The Escondido Creek Conservancy received \$350 to send out leaflets to all residents about native vegetation that can be used for home landscaping.
- 2) The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department received \$5400 for a week long memorial / educational event to reflect and learn from the devastating 1996 Harmony Grove Fire. Keep watching the *chaparral* for more information about this event that is scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire in October 2006.
- 3) Resident Jeff Coppens received \$1,200 for trail maintenance. Eucalyptus trees have grown so big they block the trail past his house and require removal.

Congratulations to the recipients and the community thanks you for your involvement and commitment to helping maintain the rural environment of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove.

The Community Foundation Board has been struggling with the issue of how to prevent being overwhelmed by future residents in proposed planned communities that are likely to be built on some large parcels that are now open space or agricultural land. Once these communities are built the future residents are eligible to apply for foundation grants. We approved some changes in our bylaws at the May meeting. If anyone is interested in reviewing these changes please contact Betsy Keithley at [ekeithley@ucsd.edu](mailto:ekeithley@ucsd.edu).

I am sad to report that Patti Newton chose not to seek reelection to the board after serving since 2002. She brought order, consistent process and follow-through to the Foundation. It is hoped that we can maintain that improvement. Our newly elected Community Foundation member, Lori Vitale, will take her place.

## Got Community Character?

By Mickey Cross

Having purchased our property in 1979 and moved here in 1983, we have not only seen many new homes built but also a vast change in land surrounding Elfin Forest. While on the San Dieguito Planning Group over 16 years ago I learned a tremendous amount about zoning, density and the County of San Diego. We moved to Elfin Forest because of the dark skies, a quiet and rural atmosphere and large lots. We continue to stay because of all those things and because so many wonderful people live here.

Given all of the high density development that surrounds us or is proposed to be developed near us, I worry that we are "a stone's throw" away from having sewer encroach into our community. Sewer, in itself, is not bad. It is what sewer brings to our community that I worry about. The reason we have large lots is primarily due to the need for leach lines for our septic systems. Once that is no longer needed, I fear that the County of San Diego will no longer require us to have 2+ acre lot sizes. At that point the lot split frenzy and profit taking will begin. That will alter our community character permanently and, I believe, not for the better.

What can we do? We can wait and deal with it if and when it happens, if anything can be done at that point. The other alternative is we can act now and look into forming a very low-key homeowner's association that only deals with minimum lot sizes and sizes of secondary "granny flats". We can even adopt the current standards that the county has set for our area on those items. We have very few large lots left in Elfin Forest. Many of us are concerned about what will go on those lots. Oftentimes developers want the local residents to support them (rather than sue them). In this case, working with a developer, and bringing them into the "association" to control the land use, can also get them the support they want for their development.

A homeowner's association does not need to be expensive nor does it need to be too intrusive in our lives. I, for one, would simply like some guarantees that Elfin Forest will keep the community character and charm that it has now. What do you think? Contact me at [mickeykc@juno.com](mailto:mickeykc@juno.com).

## Ice Cream Social A Success

By Joy Jackson

The Fire Auxiliary ice cream social on Sunday, May 7, fully sponsored by Jaisa Bright, was free to all Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove residents. Thank You Jaisa! A great time was had by all and lots of great ice cream sundaes and banana splits were served. If you missed it this year be alert for next year's date as it is a wonderful time to meet new neighbors and socialize with those you already know.

Children took advantage of this event to meet our fire fighters and have their pictures taken aboard the fire trucks. The Auxiliary received over \$500.00 in donations. The Fire Auxiliary is a small group of fun neighbors who get together to support our fire department. We have meetings once every two months unless we are working on an event. If you are interested in joining this community minded group, please give our new chair Bobbie MacFarlane a call at 760-471-1235.



## From The School Yard

By Jim Depolo

Welcome back to the School Yard! Our next regular meeting is Thursday, June 1 at 7 PM in the school's LGI located at 5927 La Granada, Rancho Santa Fe. There great deal going on both in the community with the bond and at school.

**Prop H Bond Update** - The bond campaign is now in full swing. It's our hope that everyone will listen and understand the real issues and vote on June 6. The School Board of course, having put the bond on the ballot, believes it will pass and is the best for our community and children both now and in the future. We've been trying for many years with no results. It's easy to find fault with every site, in fact easiest for the neighbors. While this has occurred at our meetings and somewhat in the paper, it's now being felt through the political process of mailers, ads, phone calls and more. If you'd like to know more we welcome your questions are happy to talk with you. Please contact any board member, via our website [www.rsfschoolboard.org](http://www.rsfschoolboard.org) or contact the Yes On Prop H committee at [yesonproph@gmail.com](mailto:yesonproph@gmail.com). We believe that Proposition H is an opportunity for our community to come together and support our children. Last issue Richard shared some basic facts on the bond which are updated and shared again here:

### Proposition H Facts

**What will Proposition H accomplish?** Prop H will provide the community a new school with permanent, modern classrooms with updated technology and relieve overcrowding at the Rowe campus.

**Why do we need a new school?** The current campus is built for only 600 students. The 835 students we currently have are housed among 17 portables classrooms and toilets that take 1/3 of the children's playground area. A new school will increase the safety of all our children.

**How are class sizes affected?** A new school ensures class size in local schools stay small. Without a new school, class sizes will only increase and negatively affect property values.

**Isn't the site in a Very High Fire Hazard Area?** So is the current school. In fact, nearly all of our school district is in the same Very High Fire Hazard Area.

**Is the site safe?** It meets the requirements of the State and is not opposed by the Fire District.

Secondary emergency access is being pursued which will meet all fire and safety requirements.

**How much is Proposition H?** The bond is for \$44,500,000. This includes land purchase, all site work and actual construction. Construction costs are in line with schools built within the last 12 months across the state.

**How much will this cost taxpayers?** Proposition H is a proposition 39 bond under California state law requiring 55% voter approval. It also sets a maximum annual tax rate of \$300 per \$1,000,000 of **assessed** value to the District's taxpayers. For example, a home assessed at \$500,000 would pay \$150/year, \$1M would pay \$300/year and \$2M would pay \$600/year. These payments are also tax deductible.

**Where is this new school to be built?** A new K-6 elementary school is proposed to be built on a 7 acre site at the corner of Aliso Canyon road and Via del Charro. A model of the new school is currently on display in the RSF Public Library.

**How will this new school affect our community traffic?** The new school will dramatically improve traffic in virtually every intersection studied. The two intersections that are negatively impacted can be mitigated. (See the traffic addendum on the school web site [www.rsf.k12.ca.us](http://www.rsf.k12.ca.us) by Linscott, Law and Greenspan traffic engineers).

**Is money budgeted for traffic?** There is \$1M budgeted for offsite traffic mitigation in the bond. We continue to work with the county to resolve those issues and hope that we would not have to put school money towards traffic, but are prepared to do so if needed.

**Why are we voting on this now?** The District desperately needs a new school now. Construction costs are going up at a rate of 1% per month or 12% per year. A new school will only be more expensive in the future and land that much more difficult and expensive to obtain.

**School Update.** At the May board meeting we heard the state of the District report from our administrative team. They did a great job of summarizing the progress made the past year in education and what the plans are for next year. Thanks to Ms. Delaney, Mrs. Schaub, Mr. Issac and their teams who presented. It is great to hear about the fantastic educational opportunities we offer our students.  
*(Continued next page)*

### *(From The School Yard – Continued)*

For example, we are utilizing new assessment tools to better meet the needs of each student. Teachers are excited about educational programs they attend and come back to share with other teachers. In fact we may become a Columbia University affiliate to strengthen that relationship. Ms. Delaney said parents and students alike are pleased with the daily science in grades 5 and 6 and would like to move that to grades 3 and 4 if we can manage the logistics of room availability. Overall the teachers and staff continue to do amazing things.

On the note of amazing things, we recognized the years of service of our teachers and staff starting with those with 5 years up to the highest recognition of 35 years for teacher Barbara Brown and 34 years for Kathy Klink. It was a chance to thank them for all they do every day to make our school great. If you notice them wearing a pin sometime ask them about how they got it. The names are too numerous to list, but we offer congratulations and thanks to everyone who attended and received an award that evening. Also, our own Blake Isaac was recognized for his outstanding teaching and received a crystal apple award that same evening.

Don't forget our next meeting is Thursday, June 1 at 7 PM in the LGI at school. Hope to see you there!

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## **Public Hearing – The Bridges**

**By Joe Alemanni**

The Planning Commission of the County of San Diego will conduct a public hearing on two Specific Plan Amendments, a Tentative Map, a vesting Tentative Map, two Major Use Permit Modifications, an Administrative Permit and a Vesting Site Plan on **Friday, June 2, at 9 AM** at the Department of Planning and Land Use Hearing Room, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego, California 92123.

The changes being considered include: 1) a request to amend the Bridges Specific Plan to change a 9.2 acre area currently designated as open space to residential use (5 estate units); 2) a request to subdivide 83.5 acres into 29 residential lots; 3) a request to amend the Santa Fe Creek Specific Plan to allow recreational open space on the rear half of lots located along the west boundary.

For additional information regarding this proposal contact William Stocks at 858-694-3913.

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## **Garden Musings for June**

**By Evelyn Alemanni**

No matter what the calendar says, summer starts the day school lets out. The first day of summer is June 21 and that brings with it a whole new way to garden. Starting this month we can be fairly sure that the next rainfall is a l.o...n...g way off, so it's time to check your irrigation system and be sure all the sprinklers are sprinkling and emitters are emitting. Also check for leaks and fix them right away. Reset your irrigation timer so that your plants are getting adequate water, and remember, natives don't like water in the summer.

If you haven't already done so, cut your grass and tall weeds. But on hot days don't mow between 10 AM and 3 PM. It's more pleasant for you, and cuts down on fire danger. If you're mowing or weedwhacking (two VERY important jobs this month for fire safety) be sure to have a hose and shovel or fire extinguisher nearby because the smallest spark can ignite dry grass.

June is a great month to plant rose bushes and summer flowering annuals including zinnias, angelonia, petunias and cosmos. Get everything in the ground and established before the really hot days start in July. In the vegetable garden, it's time to plant the heat-lovers including tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, cantaloupes, and corn. Herbs including basil and parsley can be planted now. It's also time to get pumpkin seeds into the ground for a Halloween harvest.

When watering fruit trees, remember that one long soak is better than many short ones. It encourages the roots to grow farther into the earth, making them more drought tolerant. Also take a few minutes to thin developing fruit and if necessary, cover fruit trees with netting to keep the birds away.

This month I will be traveling to Ohio and Kentucky for America in Bloom judging of towns in the 10,000 to 15,000 population categories. Two of the towns are entering for their fourth time because they truly enjoy to process of continually making their town better every year. I am always highly impressed and inspired by their level of commitment, effort and creativity.

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## Yes on H Good for Our Children

By Jeff Swenerton

Many of our community members will be participating in an election regarding a new kindergarten through sixth grade school in the Rancho Santa Fe School District. Even though I do not reside within the boundaries of the District, as a former teacher and principal in the Del Mar I have taken a great deal of interest in Proposition H.

After reviewing the extensive planning that has gone into this proposition, I feel this is doing the right thing for the children, the parents and the community. As a Del Mar Principal, I had the opportunity to be directly involved with the design of three Del Mar Schools and work closely with Trittippo Architects. The new school design for Rancho Santa Fe is exemplary, reflecting the wishes of the staff and community, and many of the elements that we had in Del Mar.

For a community and particularly the children there is nothing more exciting than the opening of a new school. The smaller school setting provides many new learning experiences and opportunities for your child to excel. As parents there will be new ways to be involved in their education. During my career I had the opportunity of working directly with many of the past and present administrators of the Rancho Santa Fe District. I am confident they will ensure a wonderful educational program for all the students in the district including those students at the new school. With the great kids, the professional staff, a state of the art school in a smaller setting, and the supportive community your child will be provided the very best education there is to offer.

Your Yes vote on H benefits children now and for the future.

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## Elf Alerts

Elf alerts are periodic email messages regarding important local events. They supplement the newsletter. To subscribe, contact Rachel Barnes at [rbarnesCPA@aol.com](mailto:rbarnesCPA@aol.com). Your email info may be shared with the fire department but no one else. Have you changed your email address? Be sure to let Rachel know.

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## Another Prop H Opinion

By Hershel Price

Dear Editor,

The Rancho Santa Fe School Board has resorted to the lowest level of misrepresentation and intimidation in its effort to convince everyone that the proposed \$44.5 million bond issue to build a new school is worthy of our support. Nothing could be further from the truth. As a matter of fact, the Board no longer has a contract to purchase the Bishop property. The agreement expired in January and yet the Board has neglected to inform the voters of this fact. How can they expect the voters to approve the issuance of bonds for a new school when the property is no longer under their control?

Also, the County of San Diego has found many deficiencies in the Environmental Impact Report and was preparing to sue the Board until the Superintendent convinced the County to delay any action until after the Bond vote on June 6. Unless the traffic, public safety and fire response issues can be resolved, the County will bring suit to stop this irresponsible project from moving forward.

How does it make sense to spend \$2.3 million per new classroom when the enrollment at the existing school has actually declined since the beginning of this school year? The Board has neglected to inform the voters of this fact also. Using current projections, the school enrollment will only increase by 29 students between now and 2008. In fact, over the past three years only 27 new students have been generated from outside the Covenant. Why waste \$44.5 million on a new school when it is not necessary? Why destroy a rural equestrian-oriented neighborhood and the lives of many of our neighbors unnecessarily?

Ask your friends and neighbors to vote NO on this horrible waste of taxpayer money. An increase in our property taxes of over \$750 per year for the next 30 years cannot be justified. Do the right thing and stop this unworthy plan.

Hershel Price

Rancho Santa Fe property owner

858-481-3357

[htprice@adelphia.net](mailto:htprice@adelphia.net)

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## What's Happening At The Fire Department – June 2006

By Captain Dawn Pettijohn



We would like to take one last opportunity to promote the EF / HG Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and introduce our CERT

Coordinator, Michelle Roberts. A firefighter and resident in the Harmony Grove area, Michelle is excited to assist our communities.

The Department has completed the Train-the-Trainer classes, certifying eleven personnel to provide CERT instruction. Michelle is in the process of setting up a training schedule and contacting residents who have previously signed up. The focus of the free training is normally delivered in 2½ hour or 4 hour blocks as follows:

### TRAINING CURRICULUM

- **Emergency Preparedness...** Disaster workers, threats, impact on the infrastructure, structural and non-structural hazards, and hazard mitigation.
- **CERT Organization...** Decision making, documentation, and tabletop exercises.
- **Fire Safety...** Fire chemistry, hazardous materials, reducing hazards, CERT size-up, and firefighting resources safety, and fire suppression.
- **Emergency Medical-Part I...** Recognizing and treating life threatening conditions and triage.
- **Emergency Medical-Part II...** Organization of disaster medical operations, head-to-toe assessments, establishing treatment areas, treating burns, wound care, treating fractures, sprains, splinting, hypothermia, frostbite, and public health considerations.
- **Light Search and Rescue Operations...** Planning, size-up, conducting light search/rescue, and cribbing techniques.
- **Disaster Psychology...** Teams well-being, working with survivors of disasters or emergency situations.
- **Terrorism and CERT...** Define and identify terrorism, B-NICE indicators.

- **Wildland Urban Interface...** Planning, evacuations.
- **Course Review and Disaster Simulations...** Final exam; course review, disaster simulation, and exercise critique and summary.

The training commitment for the CERT Volunteer is approximately 25 hours. We want to prepare you to be able to help yourselves, your neighbors and your community in the event of a disaster. The first two trainings in Emergency Preparedness and CERT Organization are designed to make that all clear. Don't be shy. CERT takes all kinds specialties and interests, and a well prepared community that is organized and trained to respond safely and appropriately to the emergency.

For more information, please contact Michelle Roberts or Dawn Pettijohn at the Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department 760-744-2186.

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## Farewell Elfin Forest

### By John and Carol Rayes

We bid a fond farewell to all our Elfin Forest neighbors as we begin a new chapter in our life. We have sold our home and will move back to the first home we bought after we were married in Cardiff. It is a duplex and Carol's parents live in the other half.

The time has come to be close at hand to assist and support them in their senior years. We have had just over ten years in Elfin Forest and enjoyed all it has to offer but especially the unique people that have been our friends and neighbors. John is happy that with Cardiff not too far away he can remain a Captain on the Elfin Forest Fire Department. So we will still be a part of this community.

The couple that bought our home, Jon and Tara Welcher, will be moving from Leucadia. They have a new baby daughter, Ava. They are very excited to make the move. Tara is especially interested in gardening and Jon will continue to grow the Cabernet grapes we have planted.

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## Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

Past issues of the chaparral are now posted at [www.efhgtc.org](http://www.efhgtc.org) in downloadable PDF format.



# Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Steve Barker

Date: May 3, 2006

Call to Order: 7:30 PM.

**Members present:** Eric Anderson, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, Steve Barker, Gordon Fines, Betsy Keithley, Mid Hoppenrath, Cheri Smith, Jeff Swenerton and Bill Wilgenburg

**7:30:** Meeting to Order and introductions including a load of Andersons in town for a family event.

**7:35:** May's "Eric's Elves" introduced, **Sean and Matthew DePolo.**

**7:45:** **Mid Hoppenrath** received a commemorative gift and card from Eric Anderson as appreciation for her service as immediate past chair.

**7:50:** **Eric Anderson** introduces the evening's event, a presentation by both sides of Proposition H, the

school bond proposal on the June ballot.

Unfortunately only the pro Prop H folks showed up. Eric apologized to the members present and said he had tried to make contact with the Prop H opponents to invite them to the meeting but was unsuccessful.

**Jim Depolo**, Rancho, Santa Fe School Board President, and **Lindy Delaney**, Rancho Santa Fe School Superintendent, gave a 30 minute presentation and answered questions from the audience. A scale model of the proposed school was also presented.

**8:20:** Town Council Treasurer, **Betsy Keithley**, gave her report. Town Council checkbook balance is \$29050.86. Income from April, \$635.00 with expenses of \$85.00.

**8:25:** Eric recognizes **Cheri Smith** for organizing a successful clean up event.

**8:30:** Eric announces that **Lori Vitale** has volunteered to chair the 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic committee.

**Adjourned:** 8:35 PM.



As many in the community know, it was my intention to own and operate the proposed Harmony Grove Village Equestrian Ranch, south of Escondido Creek that would greatly enhance the Harmony Grove Village. However, I have changed my business plans.

Having a great love and admiration of horses for more than 25 years, I had the opportunity to sell this new equestrian ranch to dozens of owners and operators. I am proud to announce that I have sold this proposed new equestrian facility to New Urban West, the owner and developer of Harmony Grove Village.

I am convinced that New Urban West will fulfill my vision and that of the community's in building the finest boarding and equestrian facility in all of San Diego County.

New Urban West and I will host a preview event in the next month or so, where everyone in the entire valley will be invited. We look forward to your attendance and are excited to share the initial plans with you.

Bryan H. Keith  
Managing Member  
Forest Hill Farm LLC

Paid for by New Urban West, Inc.

## News From Questhaven Retreat



Sunday worship is at 10:45 AM.  
All are welcome.  
20560 Questhaven Road.  
760-744-1500  
[www.questhaven.org](http://www.questhaven.org).

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

**Weekly Meditation** - Wednesday at 7:30 PM.

Jun 4 - The Beauty of Wholeness —Rev. E. Wood

Jun 11 - Measuring Our Application of Truth  
—Rev. Blake Isaac

Jun 18 - Defining Moments in Our Lives  
—Rev. Phyllis Isaac

Jun 25 - Discovering Heaven on Earth-Spiritualizing  
Our Faculties—Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

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## HG Spiritualist Church Services

The Harmony Grove Spiritualist Church services are:

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Church Service 2 PM – 3 PM

Sunday: Healing 10 AM – 11 AM  
Church Service 11 AM – Noon

## Sheriff's Department Contacts

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

General - 760-510-5200

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

Betty (B.J.) Williams – Crime Prevention  
Specialist/Neighborhood Watch 760-510-5254

# When Voting on Prop. H, Consider the FACTS— Not Hysteria or Misinformation

Don't believe the irresponsible misinformation about Prop. H. As fellow parents and neighbors, we want to set the record straight.

**Fact:** Rowe Campus was built for 600 students but now holds 837. It is 150% over capacity and is unsafe for the number of students it is serving.

**Fact:** The new Prop. H school site is safe, and is not opposed by the Fire District. Emergency access through the back of the Cielo development will meet fire and safety requirements. To say that we would recommend a plan that jeopardizes children is ridiculous.

**Fact:** Land in RSF is expensive—that's reality. Solana Beach recently paid more than \$40 million for the 9.6 acre Solana Pacific elementary school site<sup>1</sup>. Land only – Buildings extra.

**Fact:** The cost of the Aliso Canyon school construction is entirely consistent with what elementary schools cost today. Costs for schools bid in the past 12 months range from \$314/sq ft to \$386/sq ft. The new school is budgeted at \$350/sq ft.<sup>2</sup>

**Fact:** Prop. H costs \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value<sup>3</sup>. For example:

Assessed Value	Tax Increase/Year	Tax Increase/Month
\$ 250,000	\$75	\$ 6.25
\$ 500,000	\$150	\$12.50
\$ 750,000	\$225	\$18.75
\$1,000,000	\$300	\$25.00
\$2,500,000	\$750	\$62.50

*Foot notes:*

- <sup>1</sup> *Union Tribune* article dated June 15, 2004. Jury set price at \$42M, district estimated price at \$24.1M  
<sup>2</sup> Cesar Chavez ES, Calexico \$358/sqft; Luther Burbank ES, San Diego \$331/sqft; Farmdale ES, Merced \$368/sqft; W. Coachella Valley ES, Coachella \$386/sqft; Southbrook ES, Fairfield \$314/sqft; Mary Lanyon Fay ES, San Diego \$354/sqft  
<sup>3</sup> Proposition 39 Bond requirements

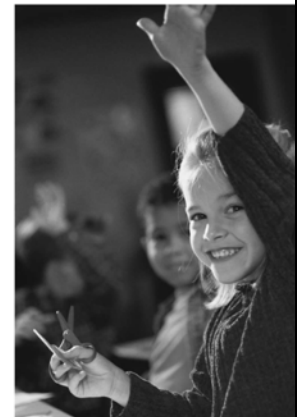
Remember, all payments are tax-deductible.  
Please join your neighbors and friends by voting YES on H to:

- ✓ Reduce Overcrowding
- ✓ Maintain Small Class Sizes
- ✓ Upgrade our Classrooms
- ✓ Upgrade Technology

Connie Pittard • Anne Gruzdownich • Julie Klaus • Allison Roesser • Barbara Baker  
 Lisa Ruh • Keely Barrera • Carol Streeter • Ann Reed • Cindy Leonard • Sonia Kanner  
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*Connie Pittard*  
*Anna Lillian*  
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Paid For By Friends Of Rancho Santa Fe Schools Fppc# 1284913

# Ten reasons why Prop. H is a mistake for our children and our community.

- 1 **It wastes our tax dollars.** The School Board wants to pay over \$9 million for property appraised for only \$6.5 million – and it's still not nearly enough land to accommodate a new school.
- 2 **Over-priced land acquisition costs translate into outrageous project costs.** Based on the School Board's plans, a new school will cost over \$2.3 million per classroom – over four times what it should.
- 3 **Inflated project costs mean a whopping tax burden.** Taxpayers in our tiny District would incur an astounding \$44.5 million tax increase – a cost of \$750 or more per year per household.
- 4 **The School Board put the financial stability of the District at risk** by selling millions of dollars worth of risky Certificates of Participation to acquire property at the Aliso Canyon site without voter approval.
- 5 **It puts our children in harm's way.** Both the Fire Marshall and the Sheriff told the School Board the site – located in a High Fire Danger Area – limits access and response time for emergency vehicles.
- 6 **It puts the District's new school on a site that's too small to meet the needs of our children.** State guidelines call for a minimum of 12 acres, but the School Board's Aliso Canyon site is only 7-acres.
- 7 **There are better, less-costly and safer alternatives.** The state Department of Education completed an exhaustive study and recommended six preferred sites for the new school. The Aliso Canyon site was not among them.
- 8 **Among those recommended sites, the School Board's own public opinion poll found that residents preferred the Quantum site** – a property more than five times the size, that was available for \$3 million less than the 7-acre Aliso Canyon site.
- 9 **Prop. H results in worse traffic congestion.** The School Board's own Environmental Impact Report projects 1,595 additional vehicle trips per day on Del Dios Highway, Paseo Delicias, El Montevideo, Via de Fortuna, El Camino del Norte and Aliso Canyon Road.
- 10 **It leaves residents holding the bag for traffic problems created by the new school.** The School Board's EIR confirms the site will require construction of roundabouts or stop lights for safety, though neither the School Board nor the County of San Diego have allocated funds for their construction.

Paid for by Rancho Santa Fe Taxpayers for Fiscal Responsibility, No on Prop. H, P.O. Box 7293, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

# **Yes on Prop H – It's the right thing to do!**

**By Lynda Clerke**

Many of you with children attending the R. Roger Rowe RSF Elementary School are familiar with proposition H. For those of you without children you will probably learn more than you would like about the proposition in the next few weeks. However, this is a decision that affects our entire community and especially the children. I have been very involved in this process since it began 6 years ago, when there was standing room only in the gym for school board meetings. Since that time, it has been a slow, painful and sometimes ugly process but we have come a long way.

Many decisions had to be made along this journey, some popular and some not so popular. Through this process there were many site options (some good, some bad) and many suggestions regarding grade configuration. With the current overcrowding the school board and Ms. Delaney, our superintendent, had to make some tough choices. I haven't always been in favor of every decision, but I'm not an educator so I have put my trust in them and have been supportive. I truly believe that the school board and Ms. Delaney have the children's best interest at heart and have come up with a great solution that I support.

The truth is we need more facilities to properly educate our children NOW. I don't want to see an increase in class sizes. I don't want play areas to become even more crowded. I don't want children's education to suffer. Some have asked why am I so passionate about this since my children, because of their age, probably won't be impacted. I say, "It's because I really believe it's the right thing to do for all the children in our district. Its time we put our personal needs and desires aside and take a look at the real issue – our kid's education."

I believe that the current configuration and location for the new school is a good solution. The new K-6 elementary school will provide for half of the district K-6 population with the district wide middle school remaining at Rowe. The new school will have small class sizes, a library, media center, advanced classes, the latest technology and after school programs provided by the community center. There will be one district wide endowment and PTO fund. The school has secured a great site on the corner of Via Del Charro and Aliso Canyon Road from willing sellers. The site is flat so minimal grading is needed and utilities are present. The architectural drawing is fabulous and displays a state of the art facility with wonderful playing fields. The model is available for viewing at the village library in Rancho Santa Fe, it's worth taking a look at and I am sure you'll be impressed.

It's time to move forward. This is great for our children and our community. If you don't have children remember that property values are impacted by our school district as well. Having a new school closer to Elfin Forest is good for everyone. Let's come together as a community on June 6<sup>th</sup> by voting **YES on Prop H!** The children will thank you!!

# Your Children Deserve Better!!

...don't let the oppositions misinformation and hysterics deprive your children

Rowe was originally built for only 600 students; there are currently 837 students. The situation is so bad that there are currently 17 portables and a portable restroom, all occupying what should be outdoor areas for children to play and grow.



The majority of our community actually **favor and support** the proposition because of its simple ambitions: giving the children what they deserve - a **small class size, excellent teachers, up-to-date technology, and permanent well-equipped, modern facilities.**



There are a select few individuals who strongly oppose the proposition and its goals. The No Campaign is well funded and will stop at nothing to get their way, including using fear tactics and misinformation.



## Join

your community leaders, friends and neighbors on supporting Prop. H:

*Eric Anderson*

*Jeff Swenerton*

*Jacqueline Benjamin*

*Steve Barker*

*Mid Hoppenrath*

*Cheri Smith*

*Greg Parman*

*Dave and Suzie Kaplan*

*Lynda and Dennis Clerke*

*Jim and Laurel Depolo*

*Vicki Hamilton*

*Bob and Yumi Voorhees*

*Rose and Bob Goetz*

*Joe and Julie Herrick*

*Scott and Sandra Mac Kinnon*

*Sue and Jeff Drawdy*

*Trey and Tony Fairman*

*Julie Fredricks*

*John and Janet Gothard*

*Rick and Mary Moore*

*Jennifer and Charles Coburn*

These are only a few of the many supporters that have our children's best interest in mind.

## VOTE YES ON PROP. H!

For more information, please contact Lynda at 760.510.0143 or email [yesonproph@gmail.com](mailto:yesonproph@gmail.com)



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### Local Baby, Animal and House Sitters

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

Amanda Clerke – Experienced Babysitter/Pet Care. Elfin Forest resident, RSF School. YMCA babysitter certification. 12 years old. Please call 760-510-0143.

Emily Dill - Baby Sitting/Pet Sitting, EF Resident, 15 years old. Contact at 760-736-4333.

Jessica MacKinnon - Babysitting/Feed Animals, EF Resident, 14 years old, SFC High School - 9th grade, took babysitting course through Red Cross. Contact at 760-744-8955.

Brooke York - EF Resident, LCC School 12<sup>th</sup> grader, Baby Sitting. Tel: 760-752-7784.

Jared York - EF Resident, RSF School 10<sup>th</sup> grader, Baby sit or feed animals. Tel: 760-752-7784.

**For Sale:** 2003 Club Car golf cart. Excellent condition, 36 volts, windshield, green, perfect for getting around Elfin Forest. \$2500. 760-420-4213

**Wanted:** Local daycare in your home or ours. References required. Call Jan or Paul at 760-736-8436.

**Wanted:** Honest housecleaner who doesn't break things. Call Jan or Paul at 760-736-8436.

**Wanted:** Parking space for Dodge 2500 pickup or 5'x8' box trailer. Don't necessarily need a garage but want somewhat protected area. Truck is insured, has LoJack and is used periodically. Jan or Karen Gary, 744-7272, 801-2301.

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**SHOW YOUR STARS AND STRIPES  
IN THE ELFIN FOREST/HARMONY GROVE  
28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY PARADE AND BBQ**

**SUNDAY, JULY 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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**Great Food and Fun**

- **Parade line up** 11:30 – just east of Fortuna Del Norte
- **Parade begins** at 12:00 – leading the Parade is Steve Baker along with fire trucks and your own creative floats, tractors, ATV's, bikes, strollers, horses and more
- **BBQ** 12:30-2:30 – see reverse side for details
- **Meet the community Citizen of the Year**
- **Band, Retro Rockets ,games, prizes, contests, bake sale**

**JOIN THE FUN!!**

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\_\_Veggie Burger(s) quantity\_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed\_\_\_\_\_

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Hot Dogs

### Catered by Santa Fe Barbeque

Pulled Pork w/ BBQ 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, Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council, Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department, Fire Auxiliary, and all neighborhood volunteers.