
Holiday Desert Potluck
Wednesday, December 5
Community Service Awards



Inside this issue:

<i>Fire Department Incident</i>	2
<i>Thank You EF/HG Fire Department</i>	2
<i>Happenings at the FD</i>	3
<i>Reverse 911</i>	5
<i>Recent Potluck</i>	5
<i>Fireboard Election Results</i>	6
<i>San Dieguito River Park</i>	7
<i>Off-Roading (NOT)</i>	7
<i>Block Captain Update</i>	8
<i>Block Captains</i>	9
<i>TC Minutes—Oct</i>	10
<i>Pecoff Subcommittee</i>	11
<i>TC Minutes—Nov</i>	12
<i>Grant Recipients</i>	14
<i>Community Spotlight</i>	14
<i>OMWD Rates</i>	15
<i>Reserve Matching Grant</i>	16
<i>EF Street Sign Walls</i>	16
<i>More TECC News</i>	17
<i>Adopt Your Corner</i>	18
<i>December Calendar</i>	19
<i>November Garden</i>	20
<i>A Thanksgiving to Remember</i>	20
<i>Service Awards</i>	20
<i>Sheriff Contacts</i>	22
<i>Theft in The Valley</i>	22
<i>Suspicious Activity</i>	22
<i>Thank You Firefighters</i>	23
<i>Debris in Fire Areas</i>	24
<i>Large Animal Evacuation</i>	26
<i>Classifieds</i>	27

From the Chair

By Jeff Swenerton

As we head into the holidays, the events surrounding the fire are still on our minds and we all realize how fortunate we are that our valley was spared. On the Monday night of the fire, my wife and I arrived from out of town to witness flames towering over the homes in Cielo.

Through the smoke we could see fire trucks holding their ground to save houses surrounded by flames. As we could feel the heat of the fire that was over a quarter-of-a-mile away, we could only imagine the challenges faced on that ridge that resulted in successfully saving all the homes. We learned the next day that at least one of the fire crews on that ridge was from Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department.

Many of you shared similar stories at our potluck tribute to our fire fighters highlighting their courage and our struggles faced during that week. We are certainly proud of our fire department and the role they played in saving this valley again!

The Town Council is pleased to welcome Karen Gardner to the Board to fill our recent vacancy. Karen will be a great asset with her past experience as a Board member, our newsletter editor, and coordinator of the Community Alerts. Thank you Karen.

During this time of year we invite you to honor those people that have served our community over the past year by nominating them for a service award. All nominees will be honored at our Holiday Dessert Potluck on December 5 at

7:30. More information is enclosed in this newsletter. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this inspiring and fun evening.

As we change from daylight savings, we encourage everyone to monitor their outside lights (except Christmas lights) to preserve our beautiful clear night skies.

From all the Town Council Board we wish everyone the very best during this holiday season and we look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Dessert Potluck on December 5.

*Fire Department
Incident Report—
September 15th –
November 5th*

18-Sep	Vegetation fire San Marcos, San Elijo Hills
19-Sep	Vehicle over the side, Suerte del Este
28-Sep	Vehicle Fire - Attabury and Questhaven Rds
29-Sep	Vehicle over the side, Attabury and Questhaven
1-Oct	Smoke investigation Via de las Flores
2-Oct	Suspicious person setting fire on Harmony Grove Rd
8-Oct	Smoke investigation Country Club Drive
13-Oct	Vehicle accident, Harmony Grove Road
15-Oct	Debris in road, Harmony Grove Road
17-Oct	Vehicle over the side with injuries, Harmony Grove Road
17-Oct	Vehicle accident with injuries, Harmony Grove Road
18-Oct	Medical aid, Avendia del Diablo
21-Oct	Vehicle accident, Harmony Grove road
22-Oct	Tree down, Harmony Grove Road
22-Oct	Tree down, Elfin Forest Road
22-Oct	Tree down, Harmony Grove Road

Thank You, EF/HG Fire Department

A big thank you to our fire department for saving Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove again. Early Monday morning as the wind was blowing and we were trying to sleep we were told to leave Elfin Forest. Nona and Steve Barker and another fireman were in San Marcos trying to save our community with one bush truck and one San Marcos fireman with

his bush truck. They fought the fire back as well as many other areas. Nona was saying that on Tuesday, when the Del Dios fire came over Mount Israel, she and a small crew with 500 gallons of water were in the that area trying to decide if they could save us. She looked up and a helicopter came over the ridge and doused the fire. She

said she fell to her knees and said, “Thank you. Thank you”. That is what our whole community needs to do with our fire fighters. As you noticed we were the little green area left amongst all the red burned area. Thank you. Thank You.

By Mary Garman



The Witch Creek Fire.

What's Happening at the Fire Department—November/December 2007

Sorry for missing the October Chaparral. I missed the deadline for submission because I was off to the fires in late September. The Department sent Brush Engine 2861 to the Pine Fire in Pine Valley, and the Angel Fire in Julian. BR2861 responded as part of a Type 3 strike team along with engines from Rancho Santa Fe, Encinitas, Carlsbad, and Camp Pendleton. A strike team is a request for five like pieces of apparatus...in this case Type 3 brush engines. The guys worked hard and did a great job, with good reviews from their Strike Team Leader.

Training in October *was* to include Multi-Company Night Fire-fighting Operations with San Diego Copter 1. Our own resident **Tom Stephenson**, a Fire Captain/Helicopter Crew Chief assigned to Copter 1, arranged this important training for Night Operations using advanced Night-Vision-Goggle technology. The ability to drop water on fires at night in San Diego is new, and will only be conducted if one of the five following

conditions exist:

1. Lives are, or will be threatened.
2. Structures are, or will be threatened.
3. Resources of significant economic value are, or will be threatened.
4. Excessively high suppression cost will be prevented by taking action.
5. Potential for large fire growth and/or extended resource commitment deemed unacceptable.

This will be a great addition to San Diego's wild-fire suppression capability, and afford the opportunity to consider the use of Copter 1 for night time rescues when no other option is feasible.

Well, you know what happened. The helicopter training didn't happen.

What's with the 3rd week of October in Southern California? All hell breaks loose every few years.

Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove have some good spirits working. Three fires on our borders and none reached us.

Your volunteer firefighters worked nonstop from

Sunday afternoon (Oct 21) until Friday (Oct. 26) catching a few hours of sleep here and there. That's 3000 hours of work!! Volunteer hours. Your volunteers left their families and jobs to protect Elfin Forest, Harmony Grove and neighboring communities. By Friday, the main threat of fire passed and crews were released and normal duties resumed.

Brush 2861 worked fires from the wee hours on Monday October 22, until Thursday afternoon. The crew worked on the fires in Coronado Hills, Camp Pendleton, Rancho Cielo, Mount Israel, and Del Dios.

Again, they left their families and work to protect you.

We can't say enough about how well our own community alert system worked. The Block Captains were able to get the word out on evacuating. No, it's not a perfect system but it worked the first night of the fires until the phones went out. If you are in an area without Block Captains, contact Peggy Petitmermet at 744-0649. Peggy will guide you through

22-Oct	Tree down, Elfin Forest Road
22-Oct	Tree down, Harmony Grove Road
22-Oct	In-zone strike team, Vegetation fire, Attabury and Washingtonia
22-Oct	Tree down - wires arching, Cordrey Drive
22-Oct	Tree down, Harmony Grove Road
23-Oct	In zone strike team, vegetation fire, Harmony Grove
24-Oct	Strike Team - Structure, Camp Pendleton
25-Oct	Investigation Fire, Harmony Grove Road
25-Oct	Vegetation fire, Washingtonia and Indian Ridge
25-Oct	Vehicle accident, Harmony Grove Road
27-Oct	Smoke Check, Lake Drive and Via Rancho Parkway
30-Oct	Vehicle accident with injuries, Harmony Grove Road
5-Nov	Medical aid, Fortuna del Este

What's Happening ... continued

"We realize evacuating is ill-timed, emotional, inconvenient, tiresome and annoying. We thank you for evacuating. It does make our job easier."

the process of setting one up for your street or area. We realize evacuating is ill-timed, emotional, inconvenient, tiresome and annoying. We thank you for evacuating. It does make our job easier. We worry about you our residents. We worry about your kids, animals and homes. Planning what to do in your neighborhood is emotionally easier on us when we don't have to worry about your well being.

The new locker room is now complete and everyone likes the new layout. Attention has now shifted to the day / workout room, and construction is well underway. Chief Heiser is busy trying to keep us on task. The walls are painted and we are preparing for the floor to go in. This important project will provide the Firefighters a

convenient place to workout and stay in good physical condition.

Welcome aboard to new Probationary Firefighters Cody Spinos, Dan Aker, and Nick Cardone. Dan is new to the field, but Nick comes to us with a Firefighter I academy under his belt. Cody just completed medic school with Engineer Ryan Parker, and joined up with us upon Ryan's return. And we say good luck to Probationary Firefighter Jeff Mulvey and Firefighter Trevor Whitehead who are both off to medic school.

Well, we have been very lucky so far. Such strange weather is not to be trusted and it can certainly change in a heartbeat. So be prepared for just about anything...you never know what could happen. Hopefully the helicopter training can be rescheduled soon.

On a side note, our own administrative assistant and Battalion Chief, Dawn Pettijohn, is also the Assistant Chief at the San Pasqual Volunteer Fire Department. Her entire fire district was burned to the ground. They lost 53 homes and several lives. They lost 2 fire engines through a bridge. One of her firefighters lost his home. Dawn is quite busy trying to recover and rebuild San Pasqual. We sent one of our crews to cover their station last weekend so that the San Pasqual firefighters could get some much needed rest. When she returns to her duties here stop by and give her a big hug!!

Your Volunteers



**The Next Time You
Leave Home, Your
Pet Doesn't Have To.**

Janean & Bill Huston

PHONE: **760.738.8822**

1023 Country Club Drive
Escondido, CA 92029

Insured, Bonded, Member of Pet Sitters International

Residents urged to register with Reverse 911 system

Residents are urged to register their cell and home phone numbers and e-mail addresses to receive emergency notifications from the county's Reverse 911 system.

San Diego County residents may register at www.alertsandiego.org, and are encouraged to do so before forecasted Santa Ana winds come through the region again next weekend.

Once e-mail addresses and phone numbers are registered, it can take 24 hours for the information to be updated to the system. Residents are urged to register multiple phone numbers and addresses, and those without computers may use those at county libraries, which are available free of charge.

If a resident of the city of San Diego registers a cell phone number with the city's Reverse 911

system, it is automatically shared with the county registry, however, e-mail addresses must be registered specifically with the county system.



Community Raises Money for Fire Department

Hopefully you were able to join us at the recent community potluck held at the fire station to honor the Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Firefighters. We had a record turnout!!!

As a special thank you we raised over \$5000.00 for the department's new day/workout room . We also raised over \$2500

for families of the San Marcos firefighters who were burned in the Harris fire.

Thank you to the community for you generous donations and the delicious food.

Thanks to the Town Council and Fire Auxiliary particularly Melanie Fallon, Myrna Rife, Lori Vitale and Bobbie

McFarlane for their work on the event.

And again, thank you Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department for all that you do!!

By Karen Gardner



Fire Board News: Election Results



This year's election for the Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc. and County Service Area 107 Board of Directors had a new twist to it. To encourage more voter participation, the board of directors decided to include, with the ballot, a self addressed stamped envelope. The result was the return of 160 plus ballots. A record number!

The Board of Directors for the 2007/2008 term will be:

Nona Barker
 Tim Costanzo
 Ken Dubs
 Rob Hill
 Mike Holmes
 Byron Macfarlane
 Robert McGurk
 Chief Frank Twohy
 Bob Kephart is now the non-voting alternate member of the board.

Each term is 2 years. The exception is the alternate board member whose term is for one year.

Bob Kephart, not being reelected as a full Board member, was a surprise to many of us.

Bob Kephart has been a director since 1986. He was first elected with Nona and Byron, way back when.... Bill Barker was Chief; the fire station was at the old barn on the corner of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Roads; the fire trucks were old, outdated and parked outside the station; the locker room was the meeting room; the county had no idea how to run a CSA fire department; the budget was less than \$60,000 a year and no one knew what a grant was; and the picnic needed to raise \$30,000 per year to keep the station open.

Bob was an integral part in turning the fire department into what it is today. He helped wade through the bureaucratic nightmare to secure the current fire station site. He helped secure funding to remodel the current station. He was in-

strumental in figuring out how to financially manage a CSA fire department and how to read the county financial reports. As a board member, Bob had nothing but the best intentions for the fire department and the community. His heart was always in the right place.

Each and every community member should thank Bob for his many years serving you.

From the Board of Director's a big THANK YOU Bob. You're one hell of a volunteer!

By Nona Barker

Important Request from San Dieguito River Park

To all residents of Lake Hodges area and the San Dieguito River Project Basin:

The SDRP and the Forest Rangers, of which there are only 4 for all of Lake Hodges, and the entire San Dieguito River Project are frantically trying to get the message out to all who use the trails and recreational areas. Their website posts all the trails that have been closed due to the fires.

It is imperative that we all follow the closure requirements or the likelihood of reestablishing the natural habitats for the endangered creatures will be most impossible. There is very little foliage if any in many of these areas which necessitate the lack of human

presence for the creatures to return without fear. This is not just about the return of the habitat foliage but about the security that is sensed by the animals who now have no cover. An off leash dog will frighten away even a hawk who is having trouble finding food. There are volunteer patrols that have been attempting to assist the rangers at informing people that they need to stay out of the devastated areas but they are being ignored. Please let others know that if we do not do everything in our power to reestablish this area as a wildlife refuge, there will be no funding in the future and the land will return to the city and sold for development.

Those of us who live here can surely sacrifice a few months of our use of this land to protect it for the future to come, can't we? If you see personnel in orange vests asking that you stay out of certain areas, know that they have been trained to be there and are present by request of the Rangers and are volunteering their time to assist in any way they can to protect what we all value. Please treat them with respect.

Thank You ,

Cheryl K Sheil (A volunteer patrol person)

For a list of closed trail please refer to the map at <http://www.sdrp.org/>.

Off-Road Activity in the Valley

There has been substantial off-road activity in Elfin Forest over the past few weeks. In fact, quite a bit occurred immediately after the fire evacuation. Off-roading is illegal throughout the valley whether or not it has been posted. Often times signage is removed

or knocked over. Note that vehicles of any type are not permitted on the horse trails.

Though in many cases it is individuals from San Elijo, Rancho Santa Fe, or Olivenhain who are riding through the chaparral blazing new trails, it is often our own Elfin

Forest residents. Please report any off-roading activity to the Sheriff's Department at 760-510-5200.

Off-roading presents a high fire danger.

By Karen Gardner



Block Captain Update

"Cut and clear roadways along your property, overhanging trees, dry vegetation, etc. This will allow firefighters access, and you a safe passage in case of an evacuation."

The block captains are a volunteer group formed to alert the community by phone, to the best of their ability, in case of an emergency. It should be understood that residents of Elfin Forest are first and foremost, responsible for the safety of themselves, their families and their property. Please be responsible and clean up your property. Cut and clear roadways along your property, overhanging trees,

dry vegetation, etc. This will allow firefighters access, and you a safe passage in case of an evacuation. What you do not only affects your property but also the homes around you. This can make the difference in saving your home and your neighbor's.

On the following page is the block captain list. Remember, block captains function as a courtesy to the community.

Make sure your Block Captain has you most current information. This is your responsibility. You must rely on yourself and your good judgment in case of an emergency.

We were very lucky in the recent fires. Let's get organized and look out for one another.

By Peggy Petitmermet

Thank You Block Captains!!!!

Thank you Block Captains for all that you do!! We recognize that you prioritize the community during potentially life threatening (and always harrowing) conditions. We appreciate the time and effort that you take to get your neighbors' information and coordinate this data with Peggy Petitmermet. Speaking of which

A special thank you to

Peggy Petitmermet. For years Peggy has organized the Block Captain program and has coordinated with the Fire Department on the community's behalf. For those who don't know Peggy is somewhat fire phobic:) The fact that she is willing to coordinate this effort and the fact that she is willing to make all of these calls under dire circumstances is a testament to her very good nature and her con-

cern for community residents.

By Karen Gardner



BLOCK CAPTAINS**LISTED BY STREET NORTH TO SOUTH OFF OF ELFIN FOREST RD****North Elfin Forest Road**Kay Greenwood

744 -2422

Leah Bookhamer

471-4662

Shannon Bingham

619-852-1346

Camino Cielo AzulSue Hill

744-0505

1st Half Fortuna Del SurLinda Watson

744-3489

(C)858-829-1894

Jan Denny

736-8436

Meagan Fleming

744-3204

2nd Half Fortuna Del Sur, Sequest Trail, Sea View WayJan Denny

736-8436

Linda Watson

744-3489

Meagan Fleming

744-3204

Fortuna Del Norte & Carib DriveLori Vitale

752-7868

Patti & Richard Newton

471- 8937

Middle Elfin Forest RoadKathy Pickard

Jennifer Schroeder

471-2347

Elfin OaksPetra Jakawich

761-0967

Maria Morgan

619-823-9758

Circa De MediaMickey Cross

744-2034

Laurel Depolo

744-7999

Fortuna del EsteVirginia McManusVictoria Kindel

510-1943

Jan (Gloria) Murphy

471-2061

Vickie & Michael Pilling
752-8331**Fortuna Del Este & Canyon de Oro**
Joe Russo

858-759-9115

Fortuna del Este (up Paint Mountain and Paint Mountain Road)Jacqueline Benjamin
891-9061**Cerro Pedregoso, Los Vientos Serreno**Peggy Petitmermet

744-0649

cell - 519-8041

Jeanne Benowitz

505-8848

Joy Jackson

752-8682

Aguilera LaneRicky Menintjes

744-7336

May Menintjes

470-3744

Eric Anderson

471-5850

(W)471-1464

Elfin Forest LaneShelly Kolkey**Colina Encantada**Cindy Jones

591-3810

Elfin Forest Creek TrailTerry Brand

752-7747

South Elfin Forest Rd.Carolyn Swenerton

471-4312

Judy Holmes

591-9010

Harmony Grove Road
Greg Hamilton

619-520-2600

Faraway LaneMarlies Calvillo

505-0094

Liz Dill

736-4333

Camino SerrenoNancy Noble

591-0378

Elfin Forest Town Council Meeting Minutes for October

Town Council Committee Contacts

Bridges :

Jacqueline Arsivaud-
Benjamin 891-9061

Sage Hills:

Eric Anderson
471-1464

University Heights:

Melanie Fallon
744-7090

Harmony Grove Meadows:

Mid Hoppenrath
747-1145

Citracado Parkway:

Mid Hoppenrath
747-1145

Cielo Del Norte:

Betsy Keithley
471-8515

Heritage (including Citizen of the Year plaques):

Gordon Fine
291-1129

1) The meeting began at 7:35 pm at the Fire Station with the pledge of allegiance and introduction of members attending the meeting. Jeff Swenerton reported that John Phillips resigned from the Board because of other commitments. Jeff also reminded everyone of the December, Holiday Party where awards will be given to community members for their appreciated activities during the year. Please contact Jeff with your ideas of recipients. There were good cookies available.

2) Treasurer's Report - Betsy Keithley. We have received \$320 during the last month for Chaparral subscriptions and spent \$1750 on legal fees related to the Bridges development.

3) Secretary's Report - Betsy Keithley. The minutes of the last Town Council meeting were printed in the October 2007 Chaparral. They were approved.

4) Jeff Swenerton introduced B.J. Williams, Crime Prevention Specialist from the County

Sheriff's Department, who made a presentation about The San Diego County Sheriff's Neighborhood Watch program. Captain Don Crist and Deputy Ralph also attended the meeting.

The main strength of the Neighborhood Watch Program lies in people staying involved and paying attention to what goes on around their home and on their street. BJ would like to set up meetings with interested residents who would be willing to set up phone trees among their immediate neighbors. If you are interested, please call B.J. at 760 510-5254 or contact her through e-mail, betty.williams@sdsheriff.org.

She requested that all suspicious activity be reported to the Sheriff's office using the non-emergency number, 760 510-5200. If appropriate, contact Karen Gardner to send out a Community Alert: Karen@vintagematerialism.com. Do not hesitate to call the non-

emergency number. However, please do not call to ask if there was an earthquake. Call your neighbor to ask this. Do call the non-emergency number to report vehicles driving in the chaparral and kids partying in the chaparral.

Since July 1 there have been 2 residential burglaries, 2 car burglaries and several thefts of vegetation and irrigation equipment in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. One was in the evening. When the owners returned home, someone was in their house. Do not enter under those circumstances. Try to obtain the make, color, year and body type (2 or 4 doors, truck or sedan) of any suspicious vehicles even if you can not get the license plate number.

Response times (15-20 minutes) vary depending on where an available sheriff is. In an emergency the response may be faster because a closer sheriff may be re-assigned depending on need.

Cell phones and 911. The location of the caller

Meeting Minutes ... Continued

can now be determined by the dispatch receiver so the call is directed appropriately to the nearest emergency dispatch service. So the use of cell phones in emergency calls is improved. Newer phones also have GPS locators built in so the location of the caller can be determined by the receiver.

Traffic issues are within the jurisdiction of the California Highway Patrol, not the Sheriff's office. Report traffic incidents to the CHP.

5) Jacqueline Benjamin-Arsivaud reported that the Bridges Developer is

still pursuing the development of Unit 6. They are moving forward with a habitat loss permit application. November 12 is the date on which the response comments are due.

6) Mid Hoppenrath reported that she has no new information on HG Meadows. She and others did, however meet with Escondido city planners about the Citracado Extension across Harmony Grove Road to Del Dios highway. They discussed potential changes to the proposed plan that would make the road less noisy and intru-

sive on the Harmony Grove residents.

7) Pecoff Property. The neighbors met with Fred Schnedeaker, the current property owner, to discuss planting of vegetation and screening of the green houses. The house is currently being rented.

9:05 pm adjourn

By Betsy Keithley

Pecoff Subcommittee Update

Eric Anderson met with the neighbors and interested parties with the purpose of creating a subcommittee to respond to any development proposals from the new owner. In the meantime the current owner met with the county and reported to the community

that he has no plans for proceeding with any proposals at this time. The subcommittee recommended to the board that the owner mitigate the visual impacts and that he follow the county rules to conform to the existing zoning on the property. Please contact

me if you would like to be part of the subcommittee in the future in the event of a development proposal.

By Eric Anderson

Committee Contacts

Communications Committee:

Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin 891-9061

Signs/Cell Towers:

Jeff Swenerton
471-4312

Fourth of July Picnic: Jeff

Swenerton 471-4312

Garden Festival:

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

Fourth of July

Parade: Eric
Anderson

471-1464

Trails

Subcommittee:

Mid Hoppenrath
747-1145

Welcoming

Subcommittee:

Karen Gardner
744-9500

Pecoff

Subcommittee:

Eric Anderson
471-1464

November Town Council Meeting Minutes

Large Animal Evacuation

Many residents of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove have large animals and/or livestock. It is important to have a plan for evacuation for both you and your animals before disaster strikes.

Please consult the following websites for advise and checklists for evacuating your animals. A sample checklist is located on page 26 of this newsletter.

www.deerspringsfiresafecouncil.com

www.etinational.com

www.equestriantrailsinc.com

<http://www.sclar.org/>

<http://www.kindplanet.org>

1) The meeting began at 7:35 pm at the Fire Station. Jeff Swenerton reported that \$5365 was raised last night at the community potluck for improvements to the Day Room at the Fire Station. Another \$2500 was raised for the families of the injured wildland fire fighters, stationed in San Marcos who cover our area and were fighting the Harris fire. Thanks to community for making last night such a special event and being so generous. Jeff also reminded everyone of the December Holiday Party where awards will be given to community members for their appreciated activities during the year. Please contact Jeff with your ideas of recipients.

2) Jeff Swenerton introduced Captain Don Crist and B.J. Williams from the San Diego County Sheriff's office. Captain Crist spoke about the role of the Sheriffs during the fire. They were the servants of the fire departments implementing the evacuations and safeguarding the evacuated neighborhoods from

potential thieves. They worked for 9 straight days first in Elfin Forest and then in Valley Center. He then answered questions from the audience.

The major issue was why people with identification (drivers license) can not be allowed to re-enter if the area is safe from fire danger at the time. The answer was that deputies at the entry points can not be responsible for making decisions on a case-by-case basis when they do not know the street names in the evacuated area and do not know any of the people requesting entry.

Another issue that was raised during the discussion is that when leaving phone messages to people (family, friends etc.) during the fire always leave your name and the time of your call because electronic time keepers on recording devices may be inaccurate.

Captain Crist emphasized that because we are in a rural area, relatively far from a city center, we need to be self-reliant and that includes evacuating without being told

when danger is imminent, e.g., you see fire and you know it is hot, dry and windy, get packed and get out.

3) Georgia Herman (gherman7@cox.net) spoke about large animal evacuation during fires. She is a member of the Deer Springs Fire Safe Council (www.deerspringsfiresafecouncil.com). She gave information about numerous resources for animal owners and many recommendations to make evacuating your large animal easier. These include "Have a horse, have a safe trailer". Know how to load your horse into the trailer in the dark, with a flash light and know how to attach the trailer to the hauling truck and how to drive the whole thing. Join CERT and get training on emergency rescue. Join Animal Rescue Response (ARR). 619 299-0871 or 619 243-3466. Google San Diego Humane Society and look for ARR.

County Agencies are the only legal entities that can evacuate horses. If you evacuate someone else's horse you may be

November Town Council Meeting Minutes .. Continued

liable if something happens. Georgia plans to prepare a comprehensive re-location map of places that have the facilities to handle evacuated animals. If you take your horse somewhere, you also need to have food etc. for them and be prepared to clean up after them. Have a leather halter and lead rope. Have a name and phone number on the halter. If you leave your horse, reclaiming them may be harder in the future. It is therefore, a good idea to

get an identifying microchip in your horse. Elfin Forest could set up a clinic and get many horses implanted at once to reduce the individual cost. Avid (800 434-2843) is the company that makes the chips. At a minimum you should have photos of the horse from all sides including specific identifying marks. Have a photo of you with the horse. See www.usrider.org and www.elfinforestfire.com for more information. Nancy Reed and Colleen

Taggart plan to develop a large animal evacuation plan for the Elfin Forest community.

Never forget that your life is more important than the animal. Make sure that you can get out safely.

9:00 pm adjourn

By Betsy Keithley

Chaparral Advertising

Please support our advertisers! Many of them are your friends and neighbors. **Consider advertising your business here.** Along with subscription fees, ads help make this newsletter possible and let the community know of the many wonderful businesses and services available.

To renew your advertis-

ing, send a JPG format file and a check (see rates below) payable to the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council, 7101 Circa De Media, Elfin Forest, CA. 92029.

One-time rates:

Yearly rates:

1" x 3.5" \$5.00 or \$36.00/year
2" x 3.5" \$7.50 or \$55.00/year

5" x 3.5" \$12.00 or \$115.00/year
1/2 page \$20.00 or \$165.00/year

Community, Non-Commercial Classified Ads:

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

Chaparral by e-Mail

If you're not already receiving a full color, PDF format copy of the *chaparral* by email send an email to Karen@vintagematerialism.com to be added to the list. The PDF version is free to regular "hardcopy" subscribers and \$10.00/year for the PDF version only.

Congratulations to Community Foundation Grant Recipients



The board of directors for the Elfin Forest Community Foundation met on Nov 13, 2007 to evaluate 7 proposals requesting a total of \$23,602 that were submitted for the October 15, 2007 deadline. Because we could not fund them all a compromise was reached and the following projects will be funded at the amounts indicated.

1) \$500 to E. Alemanni for purchase of poppy seeds and mulch to plant along the road.

2) \$1500 in addition to the previously granted \$3000 to M. Fallon for a road monument at the intersection of the newly named, Elfin Creek Trail and Elfin Forest Rd.

3) \$7700 to the Landscape Foundation for new Coburn signs, to replace the ones that had to be removed from the original monuments.

4) \$325 to A. Lasnover for trail repair across his driveway

5) \$1332 to T. Stephenson for trail fence im-

provement on his property.

6) \$620 to M. Cross for Ham radio equipment at the fire station

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

*By Betsy Keithley,
Secretary Community
Foundation*

Community Spotlight — Elfin Forest Resident Voted Teacher of the Year



Elfin Forest resident Vicki Pilling (2nd from left)

Vicki Pilling, an Elfin Forest resident was honored as a 2008 San Diego Teacher of the Year.

Vicki teaches Special Education at Solona Santa Fe in the Solona

Beach School District. She has taught for 23 years, currently working with third through sixth graders.

With 26,000 teachers in San Diego County this is a career achievement!

OMWD and Water Rates

Interim Agriculture Water Program (IAWP):

Metropolitan Water District (MWD) (the wholesaler that sells water to SD County Water Authority who sells water to OMWD) provides almost 90% of our region's water supply. They have declared a shortage of surplus water which will affect some of you in 2008 through the IAWP. Those customers who are "Agricultural Certified" users entered into an agreement with MWD. MWD supplied "ag water" at a discount with the understanding that in a drought the ag users would experience reduced allocations. For all ag customers in the program as of 1/1/07 30% cutbacks will begin 1/1/08. Most of the ag users in OMWD's service area have houses on their lots. For this rea-

son, OMWD has clarified with MWD that the first 26 units of water that are billed at the domestic water rate are not subject to the 30% reduction ordered by MWD. OMWD will be sending out revised allotments for IAWP participants reflecting this change.

Domestic Water Rates:

OMWD directors and staff are reviewing water rate schedules to incorporate MWD's and SDCWA's 7.7% projected increases in the wholesale cost of water. Through Tiger Team projects and grant funding we are trying very hard to keep rates steady. However, if we don't get rain soon SDCWA will be forced into a drought pricing program which will dramatically increase the cost of water for heavy water users.

OMWD is represented on a task force (by GM Kim Thorner) that is reviewing the drought management plan. I will let you know the details when they become available.

Conservation:

OMWD offers Agricultural Water Surveys to IAWP participants free of charge. The Survey will assist you in identifying conservation measures to help you meet your allocations. OMWD also offers rebate programs for high-efficiency clothes washers, weather based irrigation controllers and artificial turf.

By Susan Varty

"The Metropolitan Water District (has) declared a shortage of surplus water which will affect some of you in 2008 ..."

"OMWD offers rebate programs for high-efficiency clothes washers, weather based irrigation controllers and artificial turf."



Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Capital Campaign Receives Matching Grant

**HURRY!!!! TIME IS
RUNNING OUT!!!!**

*Every gift received
through November
30th will be automati-
cally doubled by Mr.
Larry Dodge.*

Due to the generosity of Mr. Larry Dodge, a 1-for-1 matching grant has been pledged to support the capital campaign for the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Interpretive Center. The donor has established NO upper limit to this remarkable gift -- however we have to raise money to make money! **EVERY gift received through November 30** will be automatically doubled! To see how this will benefit the campaign, let's do the math:

If you give **\$100**, your

gift is doubled to yield **\$200!**

If you give **\$1,000**, your gift is doubled to yield **\$2,000!**

If you give **\$10,000**, your gift is doubled to yield **\$20,000!**

If you give **\$50,000**, your gift is doubled to yield **\$100,000!**

Substantial progress has been made in raising the funds to build this fabulous new nature interpretive center, designed by James and Drew Hubbell architects. Despite this success, we remain \$200,000 short of our

goal of \$600,000 to 'build it right the first time', with a living plant roof, photo-voltaic power system, outdoor amphitheater, and beautiful architectural features that will define this James Hubbell creation as a true regional treasure! You can help! Consider a significant gift today to beat the November 30 match deadline!

By Geoff Smith

Street Sign Walls Being Rebuilt



San Diego County has issued the encroachment permits for the Elfin Forest street sign walls. The existing walls must be replaced with special break-away construction and the work on this project has begun. The process started with the artistic signage being removed by the Coburns. Next the walls were demolished and the debris

removed. The framing and facing with break-away faux rock materials is almost complete. Once all of the walls are completed, the Coburns will re-hang the artistic street signs. While these signs are down they will be refurbished. Please keep an eye out for the work crews while we complete this project. The Elfin Forest Landscape Foun-

dation thanks you for your patience. Lynda Clerke 760-510-0143. Frank Oddo 760-744-6393.

By Lori Vitale

Our Neighbors at the San Dieguito River Park Loose Their Office in the Witch Creek Fire

The devastating Witch Creek fire claimed hundreds of homes and other properties in its remarkable sweep towards the ocean in October. TECC is saddened to learn that the staff and ranger headquarters of the San Dieguito River Park were lost to the fire. Learn more about how the park fared with pictures and text at <http://www.sdrp.org/>

. For information on scientific and educational responses to the fires, visit the [San Diego Fire Recovery Network](#). Please join with TECC in offering condolences and offers of assistance to the staff and board of the Park.

By Geoff Smith



The office of Executive Director Dick Bobertz, San Dieguito River Park

Del Dios Highlands Open Space Preserve is Dedicated

100 people attended the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at the new 460-acre preserve on Thursday, October 18th. The opening heralded the completion of a multi-year project during which TECC acquired the 'Derbas' property, then transferred it to the County of San Diego which established a vehicle staging area and trail system. Now instead of an estate homes development, the citizens of San

Diego County can enjoy this beautiful preserve linkage connecting the San Dieguito River and Escondido Creek watersheds! Del Dios Highlands County Preserve is located at 9860 Del Dios Highway in Escondido. The preserve will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to a half-hour before sunset.

By Geoff Smith



TECC President June Rady, County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority Executive Director Dick Bobertz, and County Ranger Nick Sloan join in cutting the ribbon

Adopt Your Street Corner



What if every intersection along Elfin Forest Rd. was as pretty as can be? You could be part of that, by adopting the area around your road monument (or boulder) and keeping it looking nice. The Garden Festival committee is ready to do its part, too. We have made arrangements to get nine kinds of narcissus that are known to grow well and naturalize in our climate. These bulbs are toxic to rodents, rabbits and deer. If we don't get sufficient rains this year, they will still bloom the following

year if it rains then.

This is a wonderful win-win opportunity for beautifying our community. Won't you donate an hour or so of your time to plant the bulbs? No digging needed – we'll train you and even provide compost.

We also hope to have wildflower seeds to plant in the same areas and along the trails on Elfin Forest Rd.

Bulbs will only be planted at those areas that are adopted, so come spring, it will be easy to see who cares

about their community. As a thank you, our volunteers will also receive their choice of bulbs or seeds for their own gardens. Planting will occur sometime in November after we have had a little rain.

If you want to adopt your street corner, send me a note at alemanni@allea.com and indicate which corner.

By Evelyn Alemanni

December Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 12/5	7:30 PM	Holiday Desert Potluck
Every Tuesday and Thursday	6:00 AM	Free Exercise Classes @ Firehouse
Tues 12/4, 12/18	7:00 PM	Fire Training @ Firehouse
Mon 12/10	7:00 PM	Fire Board @ Firehouse
Sat 12/22	8:00 AM	Fire Training @ Firehouse

November Gardens

November... shorter days, cooler days, maybe the rain we've been hoping for. It's a transition time in our gardens. If you haven't already done so, it's time to pull out the summer annuals, say goodbye to the zinnias, sunflowers, petunias, and anything that has a whitish cast (that's powdery mildew that inhibits photosynthesis and will eventually kill the plants anyway).

It's also time to stop feeding your roses so they can go dormant.

As trees and some shrubs start to lose their leaves, remember, they are probably deciduous, not dead. To eliminate a fire hazard, be sure to clear the leaves from the ground, put them in the compost pile.

As days grow cooler and rains come, check in early morning and evening for snails. They've been "hibernating" over the summer. They actually seal themselves into their shells until it's cooler and moisture is available. The best way to get rid of these pests is to lightly sprinkle problem areas just before dusk. Wait ten minutes, then come back and hand pick. After that, spread some snail bait and pick up the snails again in the morning.

In the flower garden, it's time to plant our spring flowers. Sweet peas (be sure to provide a fence or trellis for them to climb on), pansies, violas, alyssum, stock, Iceland poppies are on my list of favorites. Scatter seeds of California

poppy, larkspur, godetia and linaria in places where they will get regular moisture, and be amazed with the flowers that will start blooming as early as the end of February.

If we don't have an exceptionally wet winter, we are sure to have water restrictions in 2008 (OMWD has already told those who are on agricultural water rates that they MUST cut back by 30% starting January 1.) So as you plant, plant responsibly and think in terms of optimizing your landscape for water conservation.

For great ideas about firewise and water-wise gardening ... Visit the award winning Elfin Forest Firewise Garden located next to the EF/HG Firestation.



By Evelyn Alemanni

Clinical Psychologist with Office in Elfin Forest	
<p>TRAYCE HANSEN, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist PSY 16380</p>	<p><i>Specializing in Adults & Couples</i></p> <p>19969 Elfin Forest Lane Elfin Forest, California 92029 Telephone 760-522-2720 trayce@drtraycehansen.com</p>

<p><i>Allegiance</i> Mobile Notary Service</p> <hr style="border: 2px solid red;"/> <p>Patricia Mack Newton NPS Certified Loan Signing Agent</p> <p>760-471-5195</p> <p>www.allegiancemobilenotary.com Member National Notary Assn.</p>	
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A Thanksgiving to Remember



Growing up in a family of 10 children, the thanksgiving season has always been overly robust with cinnamon spices, endless family festivities, piles of cookies and a feeling that our big blue house was simply the place to be. So, it will seem a bit strange this season for all of us I think, that these familiar fares will not be nestled behind those wood and glass doors on Sunset Oaks Drive, that there wont be that familiar warmth crackling from the old rock mantle, above our younger faces smiling back. This year our Thanksgiving will be more profound in so many ways. With the recent fires taking our family home, we lost the walls that housed our

familiar celebrations and helped us create eternal memories, but in return the fires gave us an incredible looking glass into the beauty that is the human spirit. In a strange play on words, the fires seem to flame much more than seemingly deadly embers, they ignite a special part in all of us that lies dormant waiting to warm the hearts of our fellow sisters and brothers in need of a meal, a hug and a shower from the ashes.

Our family has seen first hand this renaissance of caring and generosity. We have felt the embrace and selflessness of countless firefighters, distant friends, crews of teenage volunteers, complete strangers, and even insurance ad-

justers, all of whom have been incredible. We feel this Thanksgiving we have so much to celebrate, everyone we love is here. Everyone we love is here. Our hearts are light with hope for the excitement of what tomorrow will bring. Alive with anticipation for another day filled with the knowledge that our world really is touched with a latent warmth that surges through and finds a way to do good. There is really nothing else we can say but thank you, and so we together create another true thanksgiving.

By Jaisa Bright

Honor Thy Neighbor



It is that time of year when we recognize Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove citizens for a job well done over the past year.

Community stewardship can consist of anything from going the extra

mile in roadside property beautification to saving the valley from a potentially devastating wildfire.

Please nominate anyone that you think deserves some extra recognition.

Send nominations and a brief paragraph about why this person should be honored to me at Karen@vintagematerialism.com or call me at 760-744-9500

By Karen Gardner



Sue Hill

"Elfin Forest Specialist"

760-744-3430

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Sheriff Department Contacts

In an emergency, please call 911.

For non-emergency reporting, contact the following:

General - 760-510-5200

Agriculture crime prevention specialist (Jackie

Cruz) - 760-940-4350

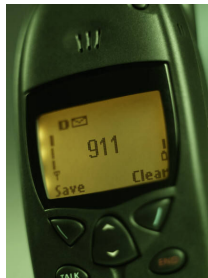
Crime Prevention Specialist/Neighborhood

Watch (Betty (B.J.) Williams) - 760-510-5254

San Marcos Patrol Station:

182 Santar Place

San Marcos, CA 92069



Theft in the Valley

If you don't know already, we have had a lot of theft in our valley over the past few months. A home was burglarized shortly after the fire evacuation, things have gone missing from garages and front porches but most persistently, the landscape bandit strikes again and again.

Many residents throughout the valley have had landscape lighting, plants, plant containers, and irrigation parts stolen. Even the firewise garden at the fire department wasn't spared!!!

The sheriff has been repeatedly alerted. If you notice anything or anyone unusual please notify the

sheriff at 510-5200. It is VERY IMPORTANT to ALWAYS file a police report. The more reports that are filed in the area, the more patrol coverage we will have.

By Karen Gardner

Suspicious Activity

On Saturday, November 3, at 7:45 a.m. I came across a truck at the corner of our property. When I approached, the truck hastily turned around and proceeded on Elfin Forest Rd. I followed the truck through the Olivenhain dirt road. The truck eventually turned right (north) on Lone Jack Road. The occupants of the truck

were two Hispanic males that were NOT lost. They were very familiar with the roads. Another neighbor mentioned seeing a green truck lurking around previously. Here is the description of the truck: Dark green large truck California license plate number 7AO9945. The truck had large tires, black metal construction rafters above the truck bed and a large

silver brush guard on the front of the truck. I don't know the make and model of the truck as there were no identifying markers on the back of the truck, but it was NOT a Ford. Let's keep an eye out for this one.

By Shawn Wirth

Dear Volunteer Fire Fighters,

The residents of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove would like to express our gratitude for all you do in our valley. Thank you for all of your hard work over the past month.



We wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

COUNTY TO REMOVE DEBRIS IN FIRE AREAS

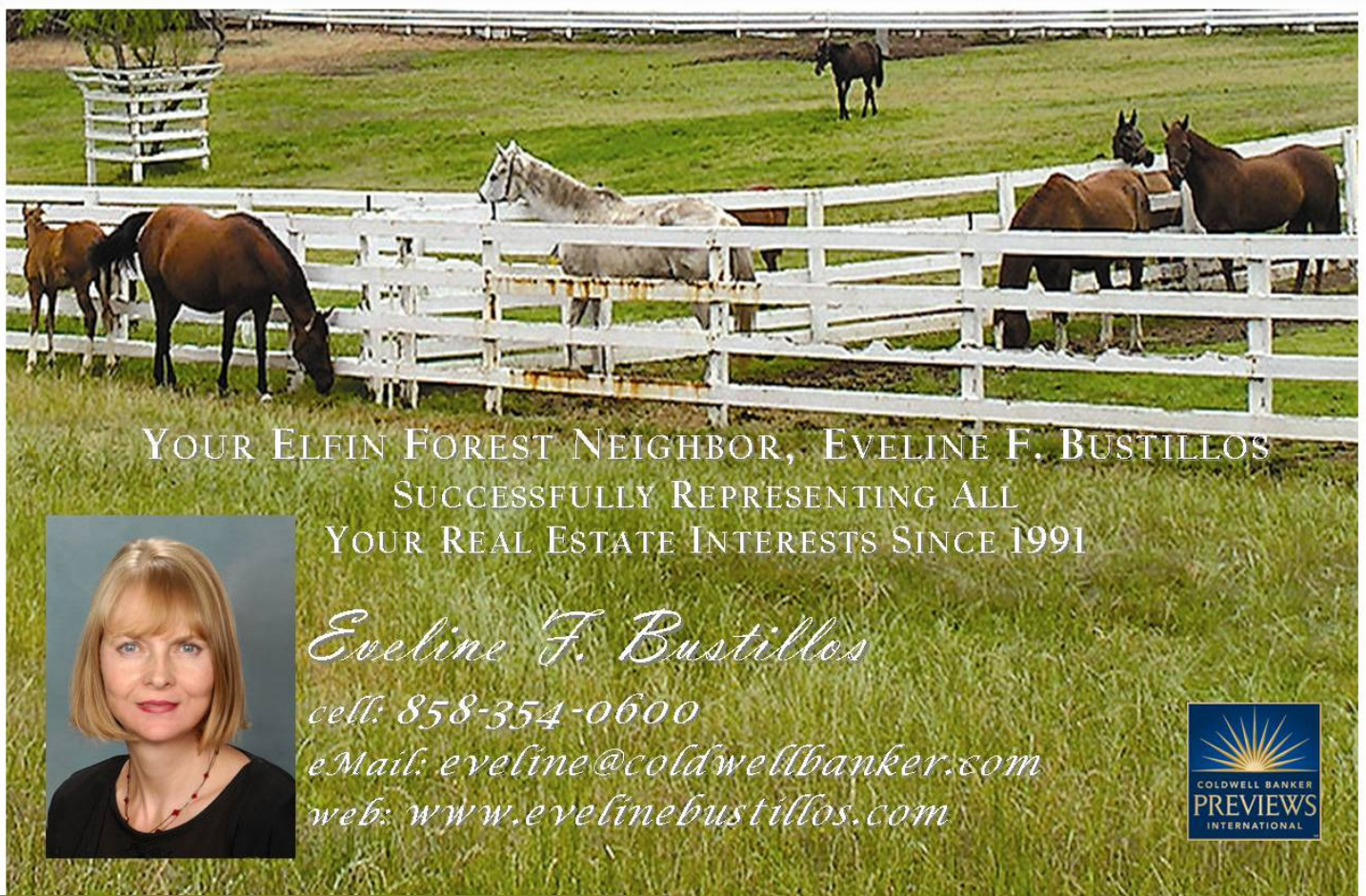
Victims in Unincorporated Areas Can Participate in Voluntary Program

The County of San Diego Board of Supervisors today approved a \$30 million Fire Cleanup Program to assist property owners in the unincorporated areas with the removal of structural fire debris. The California State Office of Emergency Services has committed to funding \$23 million of those debris removal costs, while the Board committed \$7 million to fully fund the program. The County received \$5 million toward the State's commitment on Monday in order to implement the cleanup process. The program is provided at no cost to property owners.


The first phase of the County's comprehensive debris removal program, with the removal of identifiable household hazardous waste from residential sites, will begin this week. The work will be conducted by teams from the California and U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies. Common hazardous waste items include aerosol cans, batteries, paints and solvents, fertilizer, fluorescent lights and household cleaners.

The general debris removal phase of the cleanup program will begin later this month with a goal to have all debris removed before the end of the year. Property owners whose homes or businesses were damaged or destroyed in this year's wildfires will be mailed a Right of Entry (ROE) form and additional information about the County's Fire Cleanup Program. Those wishing to participate should complete the ROE and return it to the County. The ROE grants the County and its contractors the right to enter the property for purposes of inspecting, sampling, removing and clearing fire-generated debris. The ROE form is also available online at www.sdcountyrecovery.com.


A hotline number has been established for any property owners who want information about the program at 1-877-308-8111. The County also has scheduled a series of workshops for property owners to learn more about the Fire Cleanup Program and the Right of Entry forms. For information on the workshop schedule as well as the Fire Cleanup and the Household Hazardous Waste Removal programs, visit the Web site, www.sdcountyrecovery.com.



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Halters Marked

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Recent Photos

Inventory List

Temporary Restraint Equipment

Halters

Lead Ropes

Veterinarian Information And Medical Supplies

Veterinarian's Name _____

Phone _____ Address _____

Alternative Vet's Name _____

Phone _____ Address _____

ER Veterinarian's Name _____

Phone _____ Address _____

Vaccinations Records

Special Medical Needs - Instructions Attached

Two Weeks Supply of Prescription Medications

First Aid Kit

Species Specific First Aid Book

Conforming bandage

Absorbent gauze pads

Q-tips

Antiseptic wipes



Classifieds

Local Baby, Animal and House Sitters

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

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

Amanda Clerke – Experienced Babysitter/Pet Care. Elfin Forest resident, RSF School. YMCA babysitter certification. 13 years old. Please call 760-510-0143.

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

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

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Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board members: Eric Anderson 471-1464, Steve Barker 471-5559, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin 891-9061, Melanie Fallon 744-7090, Gordon Fines 291-1129, Mid Hoppenrath 747-1145, Betsy Keithley 471-8515, Karen Gardner 744-9500, Jeff Swenerton 471-4312

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