



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Mid Hoppenrath

Welcome to the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove residents who have never before read our monthly newsletter. You will find the pages full of useful information about your neighborhood and events and happenings. This special issue contains your ballot for our upcoming election. Be sure to check your eligibility to vote (you must be a titled property owner) and then make your wishes known by voting at the meeting on February 2nd, 7:30 PM, at the EFHG Fire Station. If you prefer to mail the ballot, instructions are elsewhere in this issue. *We hope that you will find this newsletter so valuable you will want to subscribe to receive it each month.*

Those of you who love gardening, be sure to attend our ever popular Garden Festival held this year on April 23rd. The theme is “*Published Perennials*” and features gardens that have been seen in popular magazines and television shows. Our community continues to prepare for the next America in Bloom contest and Elfin Forest residents are doing their best to show off the natural beauty of our valley.

Those of you who love nature will be pleased that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the adoption of the County Trails Program. Thanks to this visionary act, our children’s children are assured of a linking trail system that will encourage walking, hiking, bicycling, and riding and discourage automobile use.

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Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, February 2 @ 7:30PM

At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station

Topics: Town Council and Community Foundation Elections

Town Council Board Elections

By Evelyn Alemanni

February is the month for both the Town Council and Community Foundation elections. To vote you must own property and reside in Elfin Forest and be listed on the deed to the property where you live. There are five open town council seats and five candidates. Candidate statements can be found elsewhere in this month's *chaparral*.

Your town council ballot is located on the inside of the address/cover sheet of this month's *chaparral*. Make additional copies as required and mail or drop them off at the fire station in an envelope that contains a visible return address.

Mail your ballot to 20652 Elfin Forest Road Escondido, CA 92029. All ballots must **received** by February 2nd. Ballots will also be available and can be submitted at the February 2nd town council meeting.

Community Foundation Elections

By Betsy Keithley, Secretary EFCF

The Elfin Forest Community Foundation was established in 1995 with the mission to enhance the quality of rural life in the community of Elfin Forest. The Board of Directors decides Foundation policy and what projects will be funded. They are also financially responsible for the funds in the Foundation.

The annual election will occur in February, 2005 at the time of the Town Council and Fire Board elections. The term is three years with a minimum of two face-to-face meetings per year to review grant applications that are due in April and October.

The Board has three open seats and incumbents Martha Blane, Fortuna del Este, Patti Newton, Carib Drive and Betsy Keithley, Elfin Forest Road are running for re-election for those seats.

Please mark the ballot is located on the inside of the address/cover sheet of this month's *chaparral* and make sure it is at the fire station on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 where the ballots will be collected and counted at the Town Council/Fire Board meeting.

Bylaw Changes Require Community Vote

By Jan Denny

The Board has proposed bylaw changes to improve its effectiveness. Proposed updates are posted on the Town Council website (all content changes are numbered as footnotes):

(www.efhgtc.org/bylaws.htm).

These changes must be approved by the residents of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove at the February election (see ballot elsewhere). You can choose to accept all the changes *or* vote on individual changes. The following changes are proposed:

1. Clarification of requirements for membership in the Town Council and eligibility to vote on Town Council issues, specifically anyone whose name is on a title.
2. Statement that the Board will not represent communities outside the town council boundary.
3. Update to reflect how meetings and agendas are communicated (via the website and the Chaparral newsletter), versus the notice board at the fire station.
4. Removal of the requirement that Town Council members register with the Secretary of the Board.
5. Clarification of the procedure to elect a Board member and appoint a Board officer.
6. Clarification on the Board's oversight role regarding committee activities.
7. Definition of activities that constitute a conflict of interest.
8. Procedure to address community input

Please take a moment before the February elections to review the changes to our bylaws.

Calendar For February

Date	Time	Event
Weds 2/2	7:30 PM	EF/HG Town Council Mtg
Tues 2/1 2/15	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Thurs	6:30 PM	Yoga@Firehouse
Mon 2/14	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Weds 2/9	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Sat 2/26	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse

Meet the Candidates

Incumbent Statements

Mid Hoppenrath

I would like to continue to serve on the Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council. I have served for the past four years and was chairperson for the last two years. During this time I have worked with the EFHGTC board to make public agencies such as the DPLU and LAFCO more aware of our community and our desire to stay rural. I organized the successful effort to remove Harmony Grove from the Escondido Sphere of Influence. I am member of the San Dieguito Planning Group Trails subcommittee and the SDPG GP2020 subcommittee representing the Harmony Grove area.

I am an internationally certified editor in the life sciences and was one of those who critically reviewed the Harmony Grove Industrial Study EIR, the ERTC EIR, and the SOI EIR. My family and I have lived in Harmony Grove for over 5 years and enjoy hiking, bicycling, and riding horses. I am looking forward to continuing to work with Elfin Forest, Harmony Grove, and Eden Valley residents to help the area continue to grow while developing into an independent rural community, and would appreciate your vote in the coming election.

Eric Anderson

Eric Anderson owns Anderson's Seedco. He has been a strong supporter of the garden festival and is also chairing our America in Bloom entry for the second time.

New Candidate Statements

Cheri Smith

A fifth generation Californian, I went to high school in Huntington Beach (with Sue Hill!), then to the University of California at Berkeley. After graduating with a B.A in math and physics, I worked at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena on space radiation shielding for the Voyager II spacecraft, before returning to graduate school at Caltech. At Caltech I received a M.S. in Applied Physics and transferred to Cornell University to the English Ph.D. program. I taught freshman writing there, wrote for the literary journal, *Ubu*, and gave poetry readings.

In 1998 I graduated from Weston Jesuit School of Theology with a Masters of Divinity, a four-year

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professional degree in ministry. I was a hospital chaplain at Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, MA before moving to San Diego in 2001. I have four sons. When I am not caring for my two youngest sons, Evan (18) and John Michael (22), I write fiction and non-fiction, work as a free lance editor, give poetry readings, and teach small groups on a variety of subjects, including healing and self-help techniques in expanded awareness.

It would be a privilege to serve on the town council and to bring the ministerial skills of listening and service, the maternal ones of organization and endurance, and a big dose of elfin enthusiasm to the job. Thanks for your vote of support!

Joe Benson

Joe is originally from Casper, Wyoming. He has lived in the San Diego area for 16 years. Joe and his wife, Robbie, lived in Point Loma for 10 years before moving to the Avenida del Diablo area of Harmony Grove, where they have lived for nearly 3 years. Joe is Vice President of Information Technology at J P Morgan Chase.

Joe moved to Harmony Grove to enjoy the rural lifestyle, and as a board member, Joe would work to keep Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove rural. Joe has been very active in opposing placement of the new Escondido Union high school site in our community.

Bill Wilgenburg

Bill has lived and worked in Harmony Grove for more than 35 years. He and his brother own the Ward Egg Ranch. Bill was a member of the Harmony Grove Citizens Group.

Elfin Forest Garden Festival 2005 By Evelyn Alemanni

Plans for our garden festival (Saturday April 23rd, 2005) continue to take on momentum. Gardens on the tour this year have been in magazines such as Sunset, Better Homes and Gardens, San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles, and more. Order your tickets on the website now! Tickets are limited, so get yours today.

You can see details of the garden festival at www.elfinforestgardens.info. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the event in any way or to be a garden marketplace vendor or sponsor, please contact Sue Tolman at 591-0190 (stolman1@yahoo.com).

Community Service Awards

By Mid Hoppenrath

Supervisor Horn's Award

You all know first-hand how hard it is to stay rural. Many of you may remember our long battle to leave the Escondido sphere of influence. Evidently, never before had a community been able to leave the planning area of a city. Those of us who attended the LAFCO meeting that day remember Supervisor Horn's remarks in strong support of rural communities in general and of our community in particular. His vote and comments in favor of our community leaving the SOI influenced others on the board and was a critical factor in our success. We would like to commend Supervisor Bill Horn for his leadership in helping rural communities by presenting him with our first ever Honorary Town Council membership.



Mid Hoppenrath presented Bill Horn with a plaque for helping preserve our rural environment. (Photo by Evelyn Alemanni).

Community Service Awards

The following individuals were recognized with certificates of appreciation for their community service. Many thanks to Natalie Chaffer for coordinating the award nominations.

Doug Dill for countless hours of service on the San Dieguito Planning Group, which helps protect community interests.

Nancy Reed for her years of service on the San Dieguito Planning Group.

Frank Twohy, Bob Kephart, and Dawn Pettijohn for their work on getting our Fire Department's insurance service ratings improved, which will help the community qualify for lower fire insurance premiums.

Joe Alemanni, newsletter editor, because he volunteers enormous effort each and every month to edit and produce the community's main means of communication and distribution of information, the *chaparral*. This service is so desperately needed yet I think we often forget the many hours it takes to produce and distribute the newsletter.

Karen Gardner for establishing the Welcoming Committee, which helps new residents adjust to living in our rural community.

Frank and Pat McCullough for their continuing hard work to clean up our local roadsides.



Bill Horn hands community service awards to Bob Kephart and Frank Twohy. (Photo by Evelyn Alemanni).

Thanks Fire Department

By Joe Alemanni

While heading home on my motorcycle on Dec 20th I had the misfortune of colliding with an out of control minivan which itself had just been struck by a sedan speeding around the corner of Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest roads. I got not only a fractured pelvis but direct experience with members of our fire department who were on the scene in minutes.

While I lay on the ground trying to recall if I had ever signed a do not resuscitate order, fire department members carefully and efficiently prepared me for transport to the hospital. It was comforting to see familiar faces and the obvious care they took in dealing with the injured. Thank you all very much!

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Patti Newton

DATE: January 5, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mid Hoppenrath, Patti Newton, Evelyn Alemanni, Arie Franken, Jan Denny, Bob McGurk, Eric Anderson.

Item #1: Board updates: Mid Hoppenrath – The Avenida del Diablo site is under serious consideration for the proposed Escondido High School. Some of the issues to consider are the cost of mitigating 50 acres of flood plain, the cost of liability insurance, especially with a nearby creek during swift water conditions. The county trails program will be heard on January 17th at 9AM at the County Administration Building. New Urban West will preserve and restore the old DeRaadt farmhouse and move it to the town center. **Evelyn Alemanni** announced that our neighbor, Julie Brennecke, passed away on Tuesday. **Eric Anderson** stated that members of the committee for the America In Bloom contest are busy planting bulbs on our trails; we have about four thousand more bulbs to go. Eight thousand are already done. Contact Eric for some to plant ASAP. Poppies are doing very well.

Item #2: Awards presentation: Supervisor Bill Horn is a strong supporter of rural communities in general, EF/HG in particular. The town council commended Horn for leadership in this regard with its first-ever honorary TC membership plaque. Horn distributed community service awards. (See related article elsewhere)

Item #3: Bill Horn made the following observations: he spent most of adult life in Valley Center. He was Rotary Club president years ago. He stated he has a “mashed potato mentality” (one pot) in regard to rural communities and small areas within the county. There are at least fifty small communities and he tends to think of them as one unit. His LAFCO seat is vital to unincorporated areas to fend off cities land grabs. Harmony Grove is the first area ever to be taken out of a city’s sphere of influence – another community wants out of Escondido sphere now. It tends to create holes when a city cherry picks the areas it wants to service and it results in the destruction of rural areas like ours. Horn is trying to

clean this up. One of the reasons he ran for public office was because of land use issues, private property issues that affected him personally. He has many constituents with diverse issues but for him at this point the biggest is the gang problem. He has had some success in keeping them suppressed but they are reappearing – this hurts property values. The county was sued by ACLU for sanctioning gang members. It enlisted about 30 churches for intelligence regarding gang activities with costs about \$50K/year.

San Diego is the sixth largest county in the US – bigger than many states in the US with a \$4.4 billion annual budget. Fire departments are not part of this budget. Some are volunteer, quasi-volunteer, and professional. How to mesh these without destroying what’s out there now is the challenge. Considered the best-run county in the state and the third best in the US, its bond rating is the highest in the state. Supervisor Horn helped to close trash plant to forestall bankruptcy of the solid waste system.

A question and answer period ensued. Topics covered were the proposed Escondido high school site, county transportation issues; Horn thinks there should be a third freeway from I-10 S and East of Escondido but LAFCO is a far from approving it. County has less influence with SANDAG due to procedural changes instituted by Steve Peace. Horn has more casinos in his district than any other state in the US. There are huge issues regarding infrastructure. Granting of the liquor license is the only leverage the county has to deal with them. The roads are dangerous and must be changed to save lives. Contact Horn’s aide, David Graham, regarding land-use issues. Vista office available. Email works as an effective communication tool. Call 531-5555. Three congressmen represent the fifth district. The supervisor can be very influential if you need attention from your congressional representative.

BJ Williams San Diego County Sheriff’s Department - Covers the unincorporated area for crime prevention. Likes to update twice a year. Good response from residents. Do call her as a liaison. Last six months: Beat 375 – rash of car thefts (6), three recovered. Thefts usually only for transportation; the car shows up elsewhere out of gas or otherwise abandoned. Four residential burglaries. Country Club (3), one on Los Vientos Serenos.

(Continued next page)

(Minutes EF/HG Town Council continued)

one vandalism, one assault with a deadly weapon. Attend a neighborhood watch meeting and call BJ for information. We can prevent crime this way. Her time is flexible.

Jim DePolo was re-elected to RSF school board. When it comes to siting a new school, the use of eminent domain is a last resort. There are two new members on board. Recall John Styker effort underway – DePolo asks you not support it. The district bought property adjacent to existing RSF school when it came up for sale. Immediate neighbors are upset and initiated the action. Next meeting 1/13 Thursday. Still looking for a new school site, including Quail Ridge. There are major challenges regarding all the sites. Calzada del Bosque and Quantum sites have been under serious consideration but politically it hasn't been moving forward.

Robbie Benson will lose her home if Ave del Diablo site is chosen and stated she is here to ask for town council help. **Clarence Wiler** is the grandfather whose story appeared in the North County Times; he saved money, raised five kids, and counted on the family occupying the property for generations to come. They all currently occupy the property and he doesn't want to lose it all. **Ann Shepherd** lives there too. Should the HS go in there the area will then go into the city of Escondido again in order to utilize public services. This will be a big loss for EF/HG.

This site is viewed as one that will not provide the health and safety issues – flood plain and two sides is Escondido Creek. HARFF is nearby with plans for expansion. Chemicals? Dangerous. Citracado Parkway (four lanes) will cut through the school property and the industrial area. This will go to I-15. Eight homes stand to be taken through eminent domain. LAFCO has a say in this issue. They like to deal only with willing sellers but this policy may have changed (as per Horn). They brought petitions with them. Horn suggested they attend school board meetings and contact board members. Use the public comment period if the item is not on agenda. Are there historical buildings? Write letters to the editor and guest commentaries in north county papers to draw attention to this matter.

Town council nominations for three vacancies. **Arie Franken** will not run again. Revisions to by-laws will also be included. Next *chaparral* issue will go

out to all residents because of its importance (thanks to a grant from EFCE). **Rob Hill** nominated **Susie Franken** but she declined. Think about this – you have until the 15th to throw your hat into the ring. Talk to your neighbors and see if they are interested.

Open Forum: Frank Twohy invited residents to take a look at the new four-wheel drive vehicle (with rescue boat) that has swift water rescue capability. We have Horn to thank for the funding. **Nona Barker** announced that next month is the meeting for fire board elections and meeting. She asked residents to attend this meeting because a quorum is increasingly difficult to attain. Makes the board and business meetings legal. 7 PM, Feb. 7th. Please attend. Come at 6:30 to tour the facility and learn about issues facing our department like reorganization (countywide), ISO rating (find out how you are rated – this is very important to your fire insurance costs).

Jane Kugelman welcomed the Baumgartners to the community.

ADJOURNED: 8:45 p.m.

Elfin Forest Garden Festival 2005

By Evelyn Alemanni

Plans for our garden festival (Saturday April 23rd, 2005) continue to take on momentum. Gardens on the tour this year have been in magazines such as Sunset, Better Homes and Gardens, San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles, and more. Order your tickets on the website now! Tickets are limited, so get yours today.

You can see details of the garden festival at www.elfinforestgardens.info. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the event in any way or to be a garden marketplace vendor or sponsor, please contact Sue Tolman at 591-0190 (stolman1@yahoo.com).

Garden Club Notes

By Teri Brand

The next Elfin Forest Garden Club meeting will be on February 19 at 10 AM. We'll meet at the Elfin Valley Nursery. Everyone is welcome. We'll work on plantings around street monuments. Bring gloves, shovels, rakes, and water. You can check the dates, times, and topics for future meetings on the town council website, www.efhgtc.org/garden_club.htm.

What's Happening At The Fire Department

By Captain Dawn Pettijohn



We begin the year with enthusiasm. Still anticipating rain, January training will begin with a review of our swiftwater rescue skills in a dry land scenario. After that, we begin structural firefighting training.

Our seven new emergency medical technicians (EMTs) received final confirmation of completion of the state exam and certification through the CA State Fire Marshall. Congratulations to Capt. Steve Barker, FF Jeff Coppens, Eng. Bob Kephart, PFF Bryan Mortenson, FF Mike Patton, Capt. John Rayes, and FF Mike Shea for completing this final step. Your skills and knowledge will be a great asset to the Department and the community.

Congratulations to FF Trevor Whitehead and PFFs Rodney Ortiz and Mark Light. All were accepted to Palomar's Firefighter I Academy. Set to begin mid January, they'll receive 576 hours of training in the next 3 months. Upon successful completion they'll need one year of volunteer service to qualify for the CA State Fire Marshall Firefighter I certification. The EF/HG Fire Department sponsored these individuals by supplying their personal protective equipment. It's significant that three members from one volunteer organization were accepted out of 138 applicants competing for 45 available positions. We should all be proud that our department has an excellent reputation among our paid counterparts.

Additionally, PFFs Elizabeth Lutz and Brianna Saulnier are currently enrolled in a 12 week 250 hour volunteer firefighter academy at another volunteer fire department. This is a huge commitment for these new firefighters, and will result in CA State Fire Marshall Volunteer Firefighter certification upon successful completion.

Heavy rains resulted in county-wide flooding problems. Escondido Creek was higher than we've seen in a long time. Despite warnings, four vehicles were stuck in the creek by drivers trying to cross. Drivers who put their lives at risk by ignoring road closed signs. Don't take the chance. Water levels can increase dramatically in short periods of time. A stalled vehicle on a flooded road can quickly be engulfed by raging waters. It's not worth the risk. Remember...*Turn Around, Don't Drown!*

Fire Auxiliary Meeting

By Joy Jackson

DATE: January 12, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: 7:15 PM

The minutes were read and approved. Old business 2005 slate of officers: President Mary Garman, Vice President Terry Rife, Secretary Myrna Rife, Treasurer Joan Hershfeld, Special Events Coordinator Claudia Costanzo, Photo Historian Alice Corteau, Corresponding Secretary Joy Jackson.

On Dec 4th Auxiliary members met to help Joan Hershfeld with her original and creatively designed Christmas cards and gift tags.

The firemen's training day lunch in November was provided by Myrna Rife and Jan Murphy. There was no training in December. January's training day lunch will be provided by Alice Corteau and Darlene Stapp. The two Auxiliary members who serve lunches will also be on call to assist the firemen as needed during that month. Auxiliary members signed up two per month to cover the new year.

New Business: On January 11th Myrna Rife and Joan Hershfeld prepared breakfast for a special task force of firemen who checked our community for possible flood damage after the latest storms.

The pancake breakfast was discussed. A menu of scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, fresh fruit, orange juice, coffee and tea was proposed. The fruit chosen was strawberries, melon, and grapes. The group will apply for sponsors to offset cost as in the past. The cost will be kept very low at \$4.00 for children and \$6.00 for adults and free to all children under two, so as to encourage families to participate. A tentative date of May 15th was proposed. About 200 people are expected to attend.

The 5K, 10K and fun-run and walk was discussed. This event will be a major fund raiser for our fire department. We will be looking for major sponsors and anticipating that the race could be an annual event. The date is not determined at this time but will probably be in the fall of 2005.

February 7th is the annual fire board meeting with an election of officers. The community is encouraged to come and to vote on the slate of officers.

ADJOURNED: 8:30 PM

Update On Effort To Gate Canyon de Oro

By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin

Most of you may be aware that an effort is underway to gate some of the roads in Elfin Forest, specifically Canyon de Oro (dirt road to Encinitas) and Suerte Del Este (dirt road to Rancho). This update summarizes our efforts to date.

First, the objective of the project is to address three issues:

- Increased non-resident traffic through private roads,
- Increased incidence of dumping everything from stolen cars to construction debris, including one case of hazardous materials, and
- Risk of brush fire as teenagers light bonfires on week-ends in the middle of the chaparral.

Some residents would also like to pave some or all portions of the roads mentioned above, and it is imperative to first have a gate to control traffic flow.

Jack Olmstead and I are in the process of creating a road maintenance association with our neighbors at that end of the valley to manage a project that would put two gates in place: one on Canyon de Oro at Fortuna del Este, and another one on Canyon de Oro at Fortuna Ranch Road. Jack secured approval from the County Parks Department to site the first gate on their property. Greg Parman is working the details with the head of the Parks Department. On the Encinitas side, I met with the City of Encinitas traffic engineer and while there are some in city government opposing the placement of any gate anywhere on Canyon de Oro, things are looking hopeful for a site at the corner of Canyon de Oro and Fortuna Ranch Road (right before the “Mike and Kathy’s place” sign). Those two gates will completely prevent non-authorized access to the dirt roads from the Elfin Forest side. We are also working with the Bridges and the Rancho Santa Fe Association on the other side of Suerte del Este to speed up erection of the gate planned at the intersection of Suerte del Este and Via de Las Flores.

The model for the design of our gate, for those who might be familiar with it, is the Zumaque gate in Rancho Santa Fe – a gate blocking a private road that has survived vandalism and legal challenges for 12 years. The gate itself would be automatic, operated by a code or a clicker. The gate operation will be

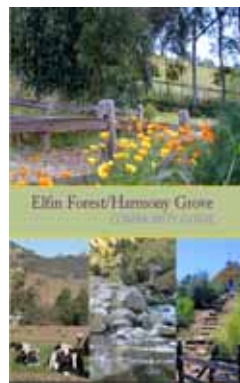
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monitored so that those codes that are being over-used (read: your gardener gave it to all his buddies!) can be disabled immediately. Access codes only good for a day can be created if a resident is having a party and expects many visitors. We also expect to have to place significant boulders along the road leading up to the gate so it makes circumventing it impossible. After all the first gate will be in the middle of habitat mitigation land and we don’t want to invite disturbances to that pristine environment.

Finally, we are interviewing several real estate lawyers with expertise in easement issues to develop the best possible criteria to determine access. We’ll continue to keep you posted as we make progress.

Community Guides Are Here – Special Offer

By Evelyn Alemanni



Our brand new community guide is here and will be available at all town council meetings. This is a beautiful, keepsake edition with nearly 200 color photos showing our community’s past and present. They make wonderful gifts and an indispensable marketing tool for realtors. It provides resources for rural living, a history of our

community, and much, much more. The price is \$25 or five for \$100. *If you ordered your community guide already, pick it up at any town council meeting.*

When you renew your newsletter subscription for two years, you can purchase the community guide for \$20. Renew for five years and the guide is yours for only \$15.

Just Moved Here?

If you just moved here, contact Karen Gardner 760-744-9500 to get your free six month subscription to the newsletter and discounts on town council merchandise.

Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

Past issues of the *chaparral* are now posted at www.efhgtc.org in downloadable PDF format.

OMWD Year In Review 2004

By Sue Varty OMWD Director

The year 2004 was eventful and brought the culmination of several projects which will provide OMWD with long term service reliability and financial stability (OMWD's bonds are still "A rated" by S & P).

Treatment Plant Expansion Complete: OMWD completed a 9 million gallon per day (mgd) expansion of its existing state-of-the-art 25 mgd membrane ultrafiltration potable water treatment plant, for a new total capacity of 34 mgd. This expansion was originally intended to allow OMWD to sell excess treated water from the plant to its wholesaler, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). However, due to a hot summer, higher water consumption, and faster than anticipated growth, OMWD ended up using the expanded capacity to meet its own water needs for most of the hot summer months. During the winter months, OMWD will be selling the excess capacity to SDCWA at a profit.

The Dam is Full! In 2003, the construction of a 24,000 acre foot Olivenhain Dam and Reservoir was completed. In 2004, the dam was filled making OMWD independent of SDCWA in the event of an emergency. OMWD can now buy cheaper water in the winter to keep costs down in the summer.

23,000 Meters: OMWD has been averaging 68 new meters every month. As of December 1st, the total number of meters in the District is 22,960, with 23,000 expected by year's end.

Grant Funding: OMWD received several grants this year from some new sources. A grant for \$60,000 was received from the California Department of Parks and Recreation for the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. The money will be used to replace the bridge at the beginning of the trail. Metropolitan Water District (MWD) awarded OMWD a \$10,000 grant for a garden makeover program created by the Conservation Committee at OMWD. OMWD also received \$771,000 and \$210,000 from EPA and Title 16 funds for various pipeline projects, thus substantially reducing construction costs. Grant funding will be sought after with even greater zeal as these funds dry up in 2005 due to federal and state financial problems.

Office Renovations: OMWD completed a renovation of its office headquarters in 2004. By renovating the existing facilities, the District was able to postpone the construction of additional buildings. In 2005, the street bisecting the OMWD office from Carter's Hay and Feed will be closed. The intersection of Olivenhain Road and Rancho Santa Fe Road will be improved to accommodate the traffic.

Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve: 30 sycamores and oaks were planted last spring in the staging area to provide shade for park visitors. The Hodges Trail, which leads to a beautiful overlook of Lake Hodges was re-opened in 2004, providing an additional 2 ½ miles of recreational trails.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me: 760-471-7786.

Order Your Elfin Forest Shirt Now



At the December town council holiday party, your friends and neighbors chose their favorite from 12 designs. The California poppies in the design by Evelyn Alemanni echo those that have been planted along the roads.

T-shirts are now available for \$15 each, or \$18 for scoop neck style. Profits support the America in Bloom effort. Use the order form on the outside of the newsletter or buy yours at the Elfin Forest Garden Festival on April 23rd.

Happy Trails to You!

By Maryanne Vancio & Daniel Greenstadt

January 12, 2005, was an historic day for the County of San Diego. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the adoption of the County Trails Program. The approval included the adoption of a General Plan Amendment, amendments to the Subdivision Ordinance, amendments to the Public Road Standards, a new regulatory trails ordinance and the Community Trails Master Plan.

The General Plan Amendment included the Regional Trails Map that identified nine regional trails. The Community Trails Master Plan, the planning and implementing document for the program, includes 18 community trails plans and maps. (*Excerpt from an email announcement sent by Maryanne Vancio, County Trails Program Coordinator, County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation.*)

For those of us who have been around long enough to witness or participate in even a fraction of the trails planning process that has been ongoing in San Diego County for more than a decade, this is indeed great news. In the face of countless false starts, ridiculous obstacles, baseless opposition, mean spirits and meager resources, the forces of goodwill, good intentions, and good public policy have finally prevailed. And I think we all know that one of the main differences between the dark days of the past and the accomplishments of this week is your presence and your work as a champion for the cause of sound planning and good policy that for years to come will benefit recreational trails, trail users, the natural environment, the local economy, and the San Diego community as a whole.

There are plenty of challenges ahead but the CTP now provides a blueprint that I'm sure will help guide and inspire us all as we continue to work for a better San Diego where the fun, the challenge, the adventure, and the myriad benefits of recreational trails are here for all to enjoy. Keep up the good work. And go take a hike! (*Response to Maryanne's note sent by Daniel Greenstadt, International Mountain Bicycling Association, San Diego County Trails Council, San Diego Mountain Biking Association; reproduced with permission.*)

America in Bloom

Floral Displays

By Evelyn Alemanni



This is the sixth in a series of articles on Elfin Forest's 2005 entry in the America in Bloom contest (www.americainbloom.org). In May, 2005, we will be judged on eight criteria: community involvement, tidiness, heritage, environmental awareness, turf and groundcover, floral displays, landscape, and urban forestry.

In 2003, we received high marks in the floral displays category, mainly due to the amazing private gardens which the judges visited. This year, our floral displays will tie into the heritage and environmental categories, because we have chosen to plant wildflowers along the main roads. The poppies and lupines are already starting to sprout. Check the photos in this newsletter so you'll know what the seedlings look like. Use it as a resource to be sure that you don't accidentally eliminate them while weedwhacking. PLEASE!!!

The town council also received from easytogrowbulbs.com a donation of 10,000+



watsonia bulbs to plant along the roads. The colors range from white to pink, peach, orange, and red. These have been planted along the main roads and trails.

Watsonias are a Mediterranean bulb which does not require summer irrigation and is well suited to our climate.

It is not considered invasive, but multiplies

into attractive groupings. The blossoms make excellent cut flowers.

To keep up to date on who's on the AIB committee and what we're doing, check the town council website, www.efhgctc.org/aib.htm. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Eric Anderson at eric@seedcoseeds.com or 760-471-5850. Judging will be in early May 2005, so lets get busy now!

Ignore The No Trespassing Signs At Your Own Risk

Text and photos By Patti Newton

It really was criminal and I was beginning to feel a bit guilty but I figured my delightfully naive new neighbor would have to learn the ropes sooner or later. So I made the bet, except the odds were like betting against the return of the swallows to Capistrano, or that the Chargers were going to the Super Bowl this year.

My poor neighbor never had a chance. I just *knew* at least one SUV or pickup truck would be buried up to its axles before this rain moved out of the area. I hit the mother lode on my hike across Quail Ridge when I spied not one, but two pickups, just yards apart! Damn, I should have added a bonus bet for two vehicles! Even more gratifying than seeing these two hapless carcasses was discovering the temporary DMV sticker in the window of one brand new Dodge Ram 1500 4x4! There is a God!

However, my sanctimonious pleasure in witnessing the reckless self-inflicted pain of these morons soon gave way to anguish as I viewed the destruction they'd wreaked upon the land. Deep gouges in the trails they had no right to traverse went on and on before the landscape exacted its revenge. Adding insult to injury was the presence of trash strewn about as they evidently struggled in vain to extricate their vehicles. I did take some comfort in the assumption they were probably scared and likely had mud in their ears and up their noses by the time they'd given up. The sheriffs who responded to my call the next day were chomping at the bit as they approached a group of kids making their way up the hill armed with carpet remnants, boards, and shovels.

Later that day, I knocked on my neighbor's door to collect my winnings. As money changed hands she proposed another bet (I'm thinking, my God, she's a quick study)! She wagered that the developer who owned the property, if asked nicely, would put up boulders and maybe some trail fencing to keep off-roaders out. Oh, this was too easy -- I just couldn't resist those odds! We shook hands. And as I walked away I began to wonder whether the swallows would really return to Capistrano this year and I got sweaty palms thinking about the Chargers' next season.



Please Don't Whack The Wildflowers

Text and photos by Evelyn Alemanni

Poppy, lupine and other wildflower seeds have been planted along the roads and are starting to sprout after the recent rains. To assure a beautiful display this spring, please don't weedwhack the seedlings. Here's what they look like:



Lupine seedlings



California poppy seedling



California poppy seedling

Gentle Reminders

1. Noise carries in the valley. Please control your noise.
2. The county's dark sky policy requires outdoor lights off after 10 p.m.
3. Motorized vehicles are **not permitted** on trails.
4. Equestrians – please ride on the trails ONLY.
5. Please dispose of refuse responsibly. Canyons and watersheds are no place for trash.
6. Mind your manure so that runoff does not enter the watershed, and odors do not bother others.

Elf Alerts

Elf Alerts are email notices about issues that need your immediate attention. They don't replace the newsletter, but supplement it.

If you are not receiving your Elf Alerts, please send your email address to alemanni@allea.com and ask to be added to the list. Don't worry, the emails are sent as blind CCs, so your address is not made public, and we don't share the list with ANYONE.

First Poppy Sightings

Congratulations to the Stephenson family for having the first California poppies to bloom. You can see them at the corner of Elfin Forest Rd. and Fortuna del Norte.

Lake Hodges Trail

Text and photos by Ranger Todd Nordress

Hi there Elfin Forest enthusiast! We're announcing the much anticipated grand opening of the Lake Hodges Overlook Trail. This has been my project and it has taken six months to complete. It adds 1.8 miles one way. For you who have traveled the same trail over and over again; this trail will provide some spectacular new view points. When you get to the top of the way up trail, follow the signs. Hope to see you out there and happy new year.



The park will be closed until further notice. The swollen creek is still breaching the bridge. There are problems all over the reserve but the main concern is the cliff failure depicted in the picture. This shot was on the Way Up Trail towards the top of the switchbacks. There are precarious boulders lodged in the hillside. We are going to have to consult with a geologist to assess the situation. There were copious other small failures.



Free Landscaping Workshops

By Teresa Chase OMWD

Saturdays from 9:00 AM to NOON

The workshops are held at the District office located at **1966 Olivenhain Road in Encinitas**. If you have questions, please call Teresa Chase at **760-632-4641**.

Residential Landscape Design on February 19th

provides a general overview of how a landscape architect approaches a design for a homeowner. Topics include "Landscape as part of your living space," "How to develop a landscape plan," & "Plant selection."

The class will give you ideas on how to organize your thoughts and resources to develop a landscape plan that works best for you. Landscape plans and photos will be shown.

Plant Identification on March 12 covers 25 common & useful plants that work well for homeowners. California-friendly plants are beautiful, water-saving & many are fire-resistant. Brochures will be available that include photos, descriptions & useful information.

Home Sprinkler Systems on April 9 looks at major design and maintenance principles of both overhead sprinklers and drip irrigation. Discover the right system for your home.

Maintenance & Fertilizing on May 21 follows up on the above class. It covers topics such as; "How long should I run my sprinklers," "How does soil affect plant growth and watering," "Irrigation control clock programming," and "Fertilizers." This class will teach you how to conduct a system test on lawn areas that will produce an estimated watering schedule.

A **\$10 deposit** is required to hold your seat (for one or all workshops). It will be refunded to you after you attend the last workshop of interest or if the workshop is cancelled due to lack of attendees. Please mail in or drop off your deposit at the OMWD District office at 1966 Olivenhain Road and indicate which workshop(s) you are registering for and whether you prefer to have the deposit credited to your water account or to have a check mailed to you after the workshop.



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News From Questhaven Retreat



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

20560 Questhaven Road.
760-744-1500

www.questhaven.org.

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

Weekly Meditation

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Led by Jean Michalewicz.

The Way Within Meditation Classes

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 12:00 Noon Phyllis Isaac

Jan 30—The Many Aspects of Consciousness

—Rev. Elizabeth Wood

Feb 6—The High Summons of Lent

—Rev. Susan S. Cary

Feb 13—Season of Renewal

—Ben Wisckol

Feb 20—Purification in His Footsteps

—Rev. Alexandra Alba

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 advertising, send a JPG format file and a check (see rates below) payable to the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council, 20652 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest, CA. 92029.

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

Town Council Website

The town council's website is continually updated. Check it out at: efhgtc.org. **Note:** the town council is not affiliated with elfinforest.net and elfinforest.com.

February 2005

Playgroup Schedule

By Michelle Sidwell

Wednesday, February 2nd 10 AM at Stagecoach Park. Bring a snack to share.

Friday, February 11th at 11:00 AM. It's a Valentine birthday celebration at the home of Anna and Lance Waite. Both Brooke Waite and Kate Fleming are turning two. Please RSVP to Anna at 760-752-1835.

Wednesday, February 16th at 10:00 AM at the home of Amanda Wright. Her phone number is 760-471-9894.

Wednesday, February 23rd at 10:00 AM at the home of Pam Sanford at 760-591-7909.

chaparral by Email

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

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

Sgt. Dan Wilson – COPPS – 760-510-5231

Betty (B.J.) Williams – Crime Prevention

Specialist/Neighborhood Watch 760-510-5254



Sandy Holden
REALTOR

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New Urban West, the builder of Harmony Grove Village,

has been busy meeting with residents in Eden Valley, Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest. NUWI is working with the residents to successfully implement these requests. A few of the requests are:

- Trails dedicated to the County of San Diego.
- Quarry- no future quarrying operations.
- Dark Skies.
- Open Space- No soccer, No baseball fields, No night lights other than the minimum required for security.
- Bus stop in Harmony Grove Village.
- Re-classification of Country Club Drive from 4 lane collector to 2 lane collector on site.
- Re-classification of Harmony Grove Road and Elfin Forest Road from 4 lane collector to 2 lane collector.

Working together we will strive to incorporate all of the above requests into Harmony Grove Village.



120 West Grand Avenue,
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Escondido, CA 92025
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Fax 760 741-4917

Email KathleenH@nuwi.com



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Jared York - EF Resident, RSF School 9th grader, Baby sit or feed animals. Tel: 760-752-7784

Dog Sitting: A 10 year old Rancho Santa Fe student is available for dog sitting. Parents will supervise. Please call 760-510-0143.

For Sale: Canon 10D SLR 6.3 megapixel camera. Awesome. In original box. \$1700 new. Make offer. Details and specs at www.allea.com/camera.htm. 760-471-7224.

For Sale: 2003 Feather Lite two-horse slant trailer with dressing/sleeping area. Also horse for lease. Lori. 760-744-3858.

For Sale: Firewood: Split & seasoned eucalyptus w/some oak. Pick up in Elfin Forest: \$ 90/cord, fencing, building materials, etc: Open to offers. 760-744-0670.

For Sale: One natural gas (40 gallon), one propane water heater (50 gallon). Great condition. Yours for a donation to the Elfin Forest fire department. 760-471-7224.



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Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board members: Mid Hoppenrath 747-1145, Jan Denny 736-8436, Arie Franken 471-2648, Robert McGurk 471-0831, Patti Newton 471-8937, Eric Anderson 471-1464, Greg Parman 752-9599, Evelyn Alemanni 471-7224

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Articles of up to 500 words should be sent to newsletter editor Joe Alemanni by email to alemanni@vicrp.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next issue. Anonymous articles will not be published. Space limitations may cause articles to be held over to the next issue or edited for brevity. Articles considered unsuitable for publication will not be published.

***Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc. &
County Service Area 107
Annual Board of Directors Election and Membership Meeting***

When: February 7, 2005
7 PM (6:30 Social time)
Where: 20223 Elfin Forest Road (Fire Station Meeting Room)

Your Fire Board needs your direction. Your Fire Board needs your input.

Each year the communities population served by your Fire Department grows larger and larger. Yet, the attendance at the Annual Board meeting plummets.

As Chairwoman of *your* Board of Directors, I must ask why? Are we, your Board of Directors doing such a first-rate job, that you the citizens trust us entirely?

Your Fire Board needs your direction. Your Fire Board needs your input.

Your Board has some important issues on its plate. One gargantuan issue is the County of San Diego's desire to consolidate all of the counties unincorporated fire departments. Do you, the citizens of County Service Area 107 want your tax dollars/benefit fees (voted for in 1991) going to the rest of the county fire departments? The County Board of Supervisors and LAFCO are changing the wording of the recently passed proposition C – so you won't have a vote on where you current CSA 107 tax dollars are spent.

Your Board wants your direction. Your Board wants your input.

This meeting requires a quorum of 1/3 of our community's members. ***The bylaws require a quorum.*** Business may not be conducted if this bylaw is not met. The election cannot be confirmed.

Uncertain if you're a member? Not sure if the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department serves you? Look on your property tax bill for County Service Area 107 - that's your fire department. If you are renting your house or live with you're parents- over the age of 18 and reading the Town Council's Chaparral newsletter, you're most likely a member and should attend to this meeting.

Your fire department responds to your needs 24 hours a day 365 days per year. Your fire department does not have the choice of when or where to respond to an emergency incident. You have the choice of which meeting to attend. Choose this meeting.

We are asking you to come to one meeting. @ 7 PM on February 7 –

The Agenda includes:
Election of Board members,
Year-end financial report
ISO Insurance rating
San Diego County Consolidation issues
Emergency Incident reviews
2nd Station Update

Thank you for trusting your Fire Board of Directors.

Nona Barker
Chairwoman
Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc
CSA107
760-744-2186

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc. & County Service Area 107

Annual Board of Directors Election and Membership Meeting

On behalf of the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc., it is my pleasure to invite you to attend the 23rd Annual meeting of the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc. Board of Directors to be held on February 7, 2005 at the fire station in Elfin Forest. The meeting begins at 7 pm.

The Annual meeting is the highlight of the year for the fire department. The 23rd Annual meeting will be held at the fire department, in the newly heated meeting room located at 20223 Elfin Forest Road.

Please join us at 6:30 pm for a social time and hors d'oeuvres. Meet your Board of Directors, Fire Chiefs, Officers, Firefighters, Emergency Medical Personal, Fire Auxiliary and Firewise garden members. Tour the station. Look at fire and rescue equipment, learn about and view the video conferencing emergency system connecting all North County fire departments.

Agenda for the 23rd Annual meeting will be the election of the Board of Directors and a financial overview. Regionalization and consolidation will be discussed. Of special interest to most will be a discussion on the new ISO Public Protection Classification the fire department received this past year. ISO ratings are used by most insurance companies to determine homeowners fire insurance rates. Emergency incident overview, sleeping quarters update and second station will be covered.

Hope to see you in February.

Nona T. Barker
Chairwoman of the Board of Directors
Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc.