



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Mid Hoppenrath

The America in Bloom judges were treated to a rare glimpse inside a great rural community during their recent visit. The potluck dinner was well attended and fun and showed the depth of our community pride and heritage (and great handmade quilts). Congratulations to all those who participated in showcasing Elfin Forest for this competition.

I think we got a lot accomplished at our first school policy workshop. It was good to see so much participation and support from our residents. We have just started, watch for more progress and join in the planning.

I hope you are planning on attending this year's Fourth of July parade and picnic. It will be held on Sunday, July 3rd at the Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Station and should be lots of fun for the whole family. Watch the newsletter for more details.

The June town council meeting will feature a visit from Berwick Production's trained birds. Berwick Productions is partnering with Eco-Life Foundation, a local non-profit organization, to spread the word about protecting wildlife habitats and conserving natural resources. Afterwards, Ray Gray of the Affordable Housing Group will discuss his plans for the Harmony Grove Meadows residential development (proposed for the area near the old adobe ruins off Country Club Drive north of the old Kestings dairy). Be sure to join us for the June town council meeting.

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Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 1st @7:30PM

At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station

Topics: Bird Show! Proposed 224 homes in Harmony Grove (Ray Gray project)

Citizen of the Year Nominations

By Evelyn Alemanni

Help choose this year's citizen of the year. Who comes to mind when you think of someone who serves the community tirelessly, day in, day out, year in, year out? Maybe a neighbor is doing that one special thing that makes a difference to all of us. Let them know how much we appreciate their efforts by letting us know.

Send your nomination to alemanni@allea.com no later than June 25th. We'll print all the nominations in the next issue of the *chaparral* and announce the citizen of the year for 2005 at the 4th of July picnic. All residents of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove are eligible.

Annual 4th of July Parade and Picnic

By Janet McGurk

You're invited to the annual 4th of July parade and picnic on Sunday, July 3rd. This year's theme is *Elfs in Bloom*. See the flyer on the back of your *chaparral* cover sheet for times and costs. We have lined up a banjo band for your entertainment, great games for the children, ping pong, food and drinks. The old dunk tank is coming back! So be prepared to get wet!

Of course, none of this works without the much needed **VOLUNTEERS. WE NEED YOU!** Please call us and give us a helping hand for setup on Saturday, July 2nd, help with games, tickets, or cleanup on Sunday, July 3rd. Call Rachel Barnes 760-471-4300 or Janet McGurk, 760-471-0831.

Put the flyer on your refrigerator keep the date and times handy. See you there!

Calendar For June

Date	Time	Event
Weds 6/1	7:30 PM	EF/HG Town Council Mtg
Tues 6/7 6/21	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Weds 6/15	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Mon 6/13	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Sat 6/25	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Thurs	6:30 PM	Yoga@Firehouse

Help Wanted

By Nona Barker

Your local volunteer firefighters are getting old and need younger help! Volunteering as a firefighter or EMT can be the most rewarding and enjoyable thing you can do. As those of us who volunteer can tell you, being a member has changed our lives and allows us to give back to our community.

You don't have to have fire or EMT knowledge, be a bodybuilder, or have loads of extra time. There's a job for everyone in the fire department. You do have to be at least 18 years old.

If you're interested in a career in the fire service, our department provides training opportunities that can help you to develop a fire career and give you a taste of what firefighting is all about. Our department also provides for a family atmosphere and a way to socialize with your community. Members often call fellow members their family, as that is how close we become.

So, how do you join? The first step is to come on down to the station @ 20223 Elfin Forest Road. You may come to trainings to see first hand what is involved. Or you can stop by the station Monday through Friday between the hours of 9-5 and talk with Chief Twohy.

Trainings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month from 7 - 9 PM and the 4th Saturday each month from 8 AM until 2 PM. This is a list of Elfin Forest residents currently on the Roster. Currently we have no one on the roster from the Harmony Grove area.

Frank Twohy	Chief / EMT	joined 1982
Steve Barker	Capt. / EMT	joined 1984
Dave Jones	Eng.	joined 1987
Bob Kephart	Eng. / EMT	joined 1989
Nona Barker	Eng. / EMT	joined 1994
Tim Costanzo	Firefighter / EMT	joined 1995
John Rayes	Captain / EMT	joined 1995
Byron Macfarlane	Firefighter	joined 1999
Mike Holmes	Firefighter / EMT	joined 2001
Jeff Coppens	Firefighter / EMT	joined 2003

The rest of the roster is made up of volunteers who live outside our communities. We have 25 people on the roster and need 30. Most of our locals joined the department a few years after moving here. Most of our children are now grown with families of their own.

Beautification Awards

By Evelyn Alemanni

Lisa Stephenson and Rachel Barnes were judges for this year's beautification contest. Together they drove all the roads in the valley, peered over fences and, if no one was looking, checked out backyards for a close up peek. The winners were announced at the America in Bloom potluck and received a gift of a garden trowel.

Best Barn - Sam and Kathy Pickard

Best Gate - Dave and Susie Kaplan

Best Yard Art - Nancy Reed

Best Grove - Brian and Jaisa Bishop-Bright

Best Green House - Janel McDonald

Best Succulents - Peggy Petitmermet

Best Native Plantings - Martha Blaine and Leonard Wittwer

Best Roses - Claudia and Tim Costanso

Best Street - Elfin Forest Lane

Congratulations everyone, and keep up the good gardening. You make Elfin Forest beautiful and inspire all of us.



Susie Kaplan being awarded her award for Best Gate by Lisa Stephenson and AIB judges Gerald Klingaman and Jana Kattenhorn

Garden Club Notes

By Teri Brand

The next Elfin Forest Garden Club meeting will be on June 25th meeting at my house with Rosemary and Ivan Harrison regarding orchids. Dates, times, and topics for future meetings are on the town council website: www.efhgtc.org/garden_club.htm.

Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

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

What's Happening At The Fire Department – May 2005

By Captain Dawn Pettijohn

You may have noticed smoke coming from the fire station on Tuesday nights, as we continue our structure training and reinforcement with scenario based situations. These scenarios put all of our individual skills together with command operations to perform rescue and extinguishment. The Department is training with the new *North Zone Training Manual* to provide regionalized standard procedures. This lets us operate efficiently on automatic and mutual aid requests with any department in the North Zone using standard methods of operation and individual skills performance.

Congratulations to our three Palomar Fire Academy graduates...Firefighter Trevor Whitehead and Probationary Firefighters Rodney Ortiz and Mark Light. Completing 576 hours of intense training over the last three months earns them a Firefighter 1 course completion certificate. After one year of volunteer service, they'll qualify for California State Fire Marshal Firefighter 1 certification.

Things are slowly beginning to take shape with the fire safe landscaping project provided by the 2004 FEMA grant. With the deconstruction complete, the tedious work of laying the irrigation lines is progressing. The dry stream bed construction will begin next and should be quite an improvement over the present ditch. Once the planting begins, you should see the transformation occur rapidly.

We say congratulations and goodbye to firefighter/paramedic Matt Sampson. You may remember that while a volunteer here, Matt took a leave of absence to obtain his paramedic license last year. He returned in December and has worked with the Department since, providing us with outstanding medical expertise on scene. We are sad to say that Matt has now accepted a position in Las Vegas with Rural Metro as a paramedic. He is excited and plans to visit us every chance he gets. Good luck, Matt... and make us proud!

Don't let the "*May gray*" weather fool you. The grasses are already beginning to cure and are perfectly capable of active burning if a fire gets started. As always, be vigilant about your fire watch and start your brush clearing early.

Heritage Committee News

By Cheri Smith, Heritage Committee Chair

A big thanks to all who made the America In Bloom judging a wonderful experience here in Elfin Forest! It was a pleasure to host judges Gerald Klingaman and Jana Kattenhorn for several heritage events. A special thanks goes to Eric Anderson, an incredible AIB Chairperson, and to all members of the AIB committee and to the fire department who put up a permanent aluminum railing for us so pictures, quilts, etc. can be hung without damage to their wall. To Chief Twohy for his ongoing assistance and to Bob Kephart who installed the railing along with Richard Clutter and Margaret and Oscar Cowart who helped. Richard devised, at the eleventh hour, an amazingly effective hanging system using binder clips.

Thanks as well to all who labored with love to make the *Spring Fling Potluck*, Friday April 29th with nearly 40% of our community there, a huge success. The quilts, the sparkling trees and flowers, the tables of food and drink, all the magical decorations by Lynda Clerke, what a transformation of the fire station! Warm thanks again to Margaret Cowart, Shawn York, Alice Courteau, and Linda McKim for sharing their beautiful quilts with all of us. We are discussing whether to have this event again next Spring. Your comments and feedback would be helpful.

Citizen of the Year Heritage Trail: Our greatest heritage is our citizens and the Heritage Trail was created to honor them. We set up the plaques on a temporary basis for the judging. Final cementing into place awaits the completion of the fire station's landscaping.

Butterfield Stage Coach Route? One of our AIB judges, Gerald, was from Arkansas, a point of origin for this famous stage coach line. It turned out to be a topic of much interest to him. We were alerted to the need to research and identify any route through and/or coach stops in the EF/HG area. If you have information or can help with the research on this project, please contact me. It would be good to write this judge a written memo with our information by July. Future community celebrations could include 'Stage Coach Days'...well, if we find the route!

Spanish Land Grant here? We also were asked by our other judge, Jana, what the Spanish Land Grant

history was in this area. If you can help in the response I would like to send Jana soon on this question, it would be much appreciated.

Reminder: Keep all historic items such as old farm tools, and artifacts or tools used in this area for possible inclusion into our new Museum space. Old photos, arrowheads, quilts, old 'rural' furniture, signs, whatever is of archeological or historic interest would, with your permission, be displayed. Tax deductions are available for donations....**and loans?**

Please contact me on any of the above at:
cherismith@earthlink.net, or 760-891-0294.



Cheri Smith holding Elfin Forest Citizen of the Year commemorative plaques

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.

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Patti Newton

Date: May 4, 2005

Call to order: 7:30 PM.

Members Present: Mid Hoppenrath, Bill Wilgenburg, Eric Anderson, Bill Osborn, Jan Denny, Cheri Smith, Bob McGurk, Evelyn Alemanni, Patti Newton.

Board Updates: **Mid Hoppenrath** said the America in Bloom potluck dinner was a smashing success and expressed thanks to all who worked so hard to make it happen. The Garden Festival had 400 people show up. No final count yet but proceeds from the event will go toward maintenance and acquisition of new plants for the Fire Wise garden and AIB activities.

Treasurer, **Bob McGurk** reported \$843.00 in income for last month. Expenses were about \$44.

Questhaven Road is now legally closed and trail construction is underway. The timeline for completion is unknown at this point. County grant money and funding from town council was earmarked for the removal of the old chain link fencing to make way for the installation a new split rail. Bob recommended that people walk it to see what a gem this trail already is.

Cheri Smith reported that the heritage committee was involved in and had a fantastic turnout for the AIB potluck dinner at the firehouse. It truly was a wonderful night made all the more special because donated quilts made by several residents were displayed on the walls. Dam visit for judges – we can access the new dam now – is an awesome sight! There are picnic tables at the top. Cheri has met with several local, longtime elders who are sharing history which Cheri will begin to record. The Butterfield Stagecoach route, which passed through here from its origin in Arkansas, will be explored,

Jan Denny discussed county plans to come to our July town council meeting to present traffic changes slated for the area. Workshops will be scheduled and information for community participation will be available.

Eric Anderson thanked the community for its support of the AIB efforts. Thanks also went to the fire department for putting up the rail to hang quilts. The tour went well and Eric thinks we have a strong
June 2005

entry; we'll know results in September. Many people were involved in the effort.

Bill Wilgenburg brought up the issue of rattlesnakes. ¼" x ¼" mesh fence at 4' high is the most effective way to dissuade them from coming into your yard. Underground the mesh. Vets have a vaccine that makes a snake bite less volatile. Snake avoidance classes are a good way to deter dog/snake encounters.

Patti Newton attended the RSF school board meeting to address the Quail Ridge request for support for its desire to annex into the city of San Marcos in exchange for a school site. It was made clear to the school board members that the community will vigorously oppose any such attempt.

ITEM #1: Shannon Reed, public affairs for San Diego County Water Authority presented the re-lining project of the pipeline. She displayed aerial maps to show project along the length of the pipe. It is formally known as the Paint Mountain to Del Dios Pipeline #4 Re-lining Project. Its goals are to identify early deficiencies and to extend the life of the pipes while minimizing community impacts.

There will be several access points to allow insertion of the liner into the existing pipeline, as opposed to a large, intrusive project as when the pipeline was installed. 85% to 90% of our water is imported. The plan involves activities from the ridge at Paint Mountain and south. The north part is steel pipe so it won't need to be re-lined. Exterior cracks in the cement coating necessitate repair. There are some breaks as well. Sound walls will be erected at portal sites for environmental and residential reasons. They then excavate a section and remove part of the pipe (after shoring up walls). The pipelines were the best technology at the time but there are failures like this all over the world.

Steel liners will be delivered on flatbed trucks. The timeframe will be two to three weeks maximum (transportation of pipe liners at each portal site). Community outreach efforts have been and continue to be underway. There will be trucks on Fortuna del Este; project predicted to last six months, November through April (this may be pushed back until 2008).

Mitigation is in place to repave the road. They walk and video (and take stills) of area to document its condition. They will make plans to meet with the fire dept. on need for rescue training for trenches, etc.

(Continued next page)

(Minutes EF/HG Town Council continued)

They will work with fire department on whatever it requests relating to pipeline activities and potential problems. Radio in trenches, confined space rescue are a whole lot different than usual. They must work with the fire department on these issues to make sure it is up to speed for 911 calls. Fortuna del Este will remain open during construction. Is there an existing danger with the pipes? They would do a patch repair if that is the case. Work hours will be from 7 AM to 7 PM M-F. Sometimes Saturday work will be required to stay on schedule. Security will be evident at portal sites. Environmental considerations are in place. Right of way...they will endeavor to stay within the right of way as much as possible. They will notify residents if there are property issues, etc. They will provide updates as necessary.

ITEM #2: Mid Hoppentrath discussed the proposed Harmony Grove Meadows Project. The developer has applied to the county for a plan amendment. We have plenty of time for review and comment since it is in the preliminary stages. Mid invited the developer, Ray Gray, to our June 1st town council meeting to discuss this 224-home project on 81 useable acres. It is located near the old dairy and old adobe house on Country Club Drive and is south of the NUW project.

As proposed, this project does not comply with county density. They have applied for a variance from the GP 2020 designation of 1 du/2 and 4 acres. It is not in keeping with the community plan. There will be plenty of opportunity for input from the community. The worry is it will trigger SC 1375, which we strenuously oppose. The county is very aware of this issue and our feelings about it.

Mount Whitney is another area that may be coming to the fore with a development plan, although it is very preliminary at this point. We need to dig in our heels and make our desires known with the Board of Supervisors (BOS). The town council will draft a letter to the BOS and LAFCO to underscore our points and concerns.

ITEM #3: Del Charro is negotiating a purchase agreement. With the RSF school board. The board meeting is scheduled for May 12th at 7 PM. It will discuss the Aliso Canyon site and moving forward on school configuration. The board voted to configure an elementary school to become a K-8 eventually. This vote was not unanimous; Stumm and Depolo dissented. They prefer students stay at Rowe

Elementary until there are enough students to split them. Meantime, the Quail Ridge (aka Sage Hill) developer approached the RSF district knowing they were seeking a site. It has been on the agenda, looking at it as a long term eventuality. Neither the negotiations nor Memorandum of Understanding is public at this point. Offered land in exchange for joint application for subdivision approval. Rumors abound. Those kinds of things have not been talked about as far as Jim Depolo knows.

You need to let the board know what you think about a school out here versus a development. The community is not against a school necessarily, but it doesn't want a subdivision either. San Marcos would have to annex the property for the school to become a reality so it seems fairly remote. However, we need to address this issue at the school board, LAFCO, and the city levels to ensure our voices are heard. Must a bond pass to purchase property? Yes and no. The board is looking to get a certificate of participation which is essentially borrowing money against the property to be paid back via the general fund. There may be some shifting of the political winds in LAFCO (regarding annexation) so we must remain vigilant.

Evelyn Alemanni suggested the RSF school district purchase the entire 234-acre Quail Ridge site, build the school, and sell off the balance for permanent conservation easements. The PR would be awesome for the district— conservation, preservation, etc.

OPEN FORUM: Nona Barker: The fire department has five openings; one captain retired; another firefighter retiring in July. Numbers are down. No one in the department is from Harmony Grove. We are reaching out for volunteers. It has great training and certification programs. Firefighters do a variety of things. 90% of calls are medical aid (50% of those are car wrecks). Eleven people are from in the district, the balance from outside.

Frank Twohy: SDPG cell tower application at fire department location. Scheduled May 12th hearing. Town council supports. Because it is county property, it has asked for \$200 more per month for maintenance as a condition of approval, this is a deal breaker for Nextel. They will likely go with Blanca's property next door. Paperwork has been submitted. Tower was designed to look like a bell tower.

Adjourned: 9:15 p.m.

Minutes Of School Policy Workshop

By Patti Newton

Date: May 4, 2005

Call to order: 9:15 PM immediately following town council meeting.

Bill Osborn chaired. Purpose of workshop is to brainstorm ideas about dealing with the possibility of a school out here within certain guidelines. We anticipate that a NIMBY moniker will be applied whether we're guilty of it or not. We have many questions to develop. What is acceptable for a school here? It appears inevitable so we can presumably exert some control and guide the process. We need to think about attendant issues. Smaller schools? We should advance policies that promote our commitment to maintaining a rural atmosphere.

What isn't acceptable? What kind of direction can we give a school board? Should we develop a policy relating to what we expect if a high school were to be proposed, an elementary or middle school? What can this area support; what makes economic sense? Can we ever support a school with our projected population?

We need to make our policies comprehensive, i.e., consider many details. Public transportation, night lighting, etc. Tailor a policy for both districts (RSF and Escondido)? Explain in detail the issues that cause us to accept or reject a particular type of school. The board may be appreciative of this information.

Let's get the state requirements for each level, e.g., infrastructure, etc. **Bill Osborn** will get this from a web site. A comprehensive statement may help us to help a board to make a decision away from our community (or not!). We will go over this information to guide our policy development. The issues will be evident as we glean info. Develop a survey to gauge community desires and concerns.

Adjourned: 10:15 PM.

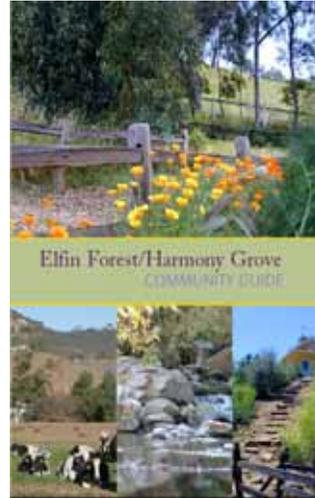
Just Moved Here?

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.

June 2005

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. *You can also pick one 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.

Order Your Elfin Forest Shirt Now



Elfin Forest t-shirts are now available for \$15 (in sizes M, L). Profits support the America in Bloom effort. Use the order form on the outside of the newsletter.

America in Bloom: Thank You Everyone!

By Eric Anderson

As the Chair of the Elfin Forest AIB committee, I thank the entire Elfin Forest community for the huge effort. Evelyn Alemanni and the whole committee spent countless hours (Chief Frank Twohy, Lynda Clerke, Cheri Smith, Patti Newton, Lisa Stephenson, Peggy Petitmermet, Natalie Chaffer) creating, planting, weeding, planning and touring.



I also appreciate all the spouses and kids who allowed the committee to spend countless hours and got dragged into the many projects for our AIB entry. Cheri did so much, organizing many meals including the potluck, tracked down the amazing quilt artists in our valley and talked them into loaning their quilts to decorate the fire station. She also got the quotes for the citizen of the year plaques and countless other details.

It was great to have such good attendance at the potluck, entire families attended and filled every available seat. Linda Clerke, and Janet McGurk, and Janet Gothard did the set up for the pot luck and how they got Ron Martin's bougainvilleas set up in the fire station I have no idea. They transformed the fire station into a cozy, flower-filled and quilt bedecked dining room, complete with trees and twinkling lights. The food was fantastic.



Enjoying the Spring Fling Potluck

Many thanks to the poppy planting volunteers, who planted almost 50 lbs of seed last fall; with the rains they really look nice. Lisa Stephenson and her family did a ton of work including weed wacking next to a large rattlesnake and planting 1,000's of watsonias.

The same group and many others planted the over 10,000 bulbs and many are growing nicely, although it was a little late to plant and they did not bloom for the judges (except in some gardens). The clean up day went very well and a special thanks to Jerry Gradisher and his daughter Danielle for cleaning the huge mess down Fortuna del Este. Our previous citizen of the year Frank McCulloch was the first one out cleaning up.

The community was also great in hosting the judges. Patti and Richard Newton provided a place for them to stay. Many of our bet gardens were available for touring. We also want to thank the staff at OMWD and CWA for their tour of the Elfin Forest Reserve, the water treatment plant and the dam and reservoir. General Manager David McCollum gave the tour of the Elfin Forest Reserve himself.



Robert and Peggy Petitmermet hosting AIB judges Jana Kattenhorn and Gerald Klingaman

The CWA arranged for the CCC to demonstrate their re-vegetation effort along the creek, and a tour of the filtration facility and the overlook at the dam (it is full!) The many other tour hosts, Karen Gardner (garden tour and tea), Peggy Petitmermet (hosting and planting lots and lots of stuff), Natalie Chaffer, the tour of the school garden group, the Coburns and their magical garden, Questhaven Retreat and all the native open space they maintain, Phil Favell and his aloes, Leonard Wittwer and Martha Blaine (and for donating those neat flags that really were ephemeral and special.) Rachel and Rob Barnes hosted a lovely dinner.

I especially want to thank Bob Kephart for installing the rails in the fire station so the quilts could be hung. What a project! It was very special to see all the quilts made in the community at the potluck.

(Continued next page)

(America In Bloom continued)

We thank quilt artists Margaret Cowart, Shawn York Linda McKim, Alice Courteau and others for the loan of their precious artwork. Richard Clutter gets the genius award for finding a way to hang the quilts.

Citizen of the year plaques can now be found along the trail near the fire station, and new labels were placed in the Fire Wise garden (both supplied by Gary at Plantsigns.com) by Rikki Meintjes and his wife. The support of the industry was great: EuroAmerican gave plants, Flower Fields/Ecke attended and hosted a tour of the flower fields and sent Edgar Engert to one of the events. Elfin Forest Nursery donated lots of work and plants.

I want to thank the whole community for all the involvement and support. As the smallest community entered in AIB we have the highest participation rate of anybody, and that really helps. This year's effort was much more work than two years ago and the judges did notice. We have set a very high standard for our category. Thanks everyone for dealing with the inconvenience of changing the trash day (and Arturo at EDCO for arranging it) that was monumental!!!

Evelyn Alemanni really is the person who organized everything and with all she learned last summer as a national AIB judge, made our entry that much better. Elfin Forest looks great with all the weed wacking that went on. I hope it will also help keep us fire safe. It is really nice to be part of such a special community. AIB allowed us to showcase this and I feel like we won just by entering.



Phil Favell and AIB Judge Gerald Klingaman

Tree Blessing

By Evelyn Alemanni

Continuing a charming tradition started by her mother, Janet McGurk named and blessed a mimosa tree planted by our America in Bloom judges in the Fire Wise demonstration garden on April 30. Said Janet, "With this blessing, may you know the heart of the Creator warm and golden within. May your roots know much nourishment from deep with the earth. May your branches reach up to the sunlight and wind. May all who come and visit you here receive your blessing. We give you the name of Galadriel, after the Elf Queen in the Lord of the Rings. May your reign be long and beautiful."



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 share the list with the fire department.

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.

A Culvert Story

By Nancy Reed

As hundreds of visitors were enchanted by local gardens during the 3rd annual Elfin Forest Garden Festival, a small but dedicated Boy Scout troop toiled at the eastern end of Elfin Forest Lane putting the finishing touches on Nick Jakawich's Eagle Scout project. The project consisted of placing two culverts and a French drain under the community trail that leads to Escondido Creek.

Although this trail was one of the first built with funds from the Elfin Forest Community Foundation, the drainage aspects were never addressed. One culvert ended on the uphill side of the trail and a second culvert opened in the middle of the trail bed. The first culvert sent rivers of water running down the trail and the second one was a safety hazard. Hand dug trenches did not stop all the erosion. The changing landscape and dangerous trail footing caused many horses to spook and caused endless problems for even the most seasoned horse.

Nick's mom Petra, an equestrian, wondered if fixing this trail problem would qualify for Nick's Eagle Scout project. An Eagle Scout project must address either an environmental or safety issue and must take a minimum of 150 man hours to plan and construct. Most important to Nick was to do something for his community, Elfin Forest. Nick consulted with Frank Oddo of the Elfin Forest Landscape Foundation for design and installation details, obtained permission from the landowners, wrote a budget and materials list and organized work parties. In total the project required four weekend workdays, a total of 267 man hours of labor and over \$500 in materials.

Many thanks to Nick and his crew from Olivenhain Troop 2000 for providing the physical labor, Frank Otto for technical advice and installation instruction, Nick's dad, Jim Jakawich, for providing his tractor, Tim "Depot" Costanzo for providing extra parts, Eagle Scout councilor Steven Hallet for his guidance, the Elfin Forest Trails Committee (Mary Moore) for providing the funds for materials and Nancy Reed for being the "go for." Lastly and especially, Thank You Nick for recognizing a community need, problem solving the solution and seeing it through to completion. Elfin Forest is truly blessed by this Elf!

National Trails Day

By Maryanne Vancio

On June 4th, 2005, trail enthusiasts from all over San Diego County will join thousands of volunteers all across the Country in celebrating National Trails Day (NTD). This year's theme, "Take the Path to a Healthier You", highlights trail activities to improve health. Improve your health by getting outdoors on a trail! This special day presents an opportunity to bring everyone with an interest in trails, the natural environment and a healthier lifestyle together in an effort to support the preservation and protection of our outdoor resources.

In 1993, the American Hiking Society set an ambitious goal to support the creation of trail access within 15 minutes of every residence or business throughout the nation. National Trails Day was conceived to bring an awareness to the diverse benefits of trails. Trails provide health, fitness and recreation opportunities. They promote alternative modes of transportation linking neighborhoods, schools, parks and shopping centers. Cleaner air and less pollution are a result and an additional health benefit of trails.

More information about trails is at www.sdparcs.org.

(Ed note: Elfin Forest will soon have a new trail created from the unpaved portion of Questhaven Rd. It has been closed since last year, and gates are now being constructed, so please remember to use an alternate route. Only emergency vehicles are permitted on that section of the road.)



Nick Jakawich and Troop 2000's Eagle Scout project

Trails Reopen

By Susan Oddo

The equestrian and pedestrian trail along Elfin Forest Road is now passable once again. This winter's rains washed it out three times. The Elfin Forest Landscape Foundation's volunteers were diverted to manicuring the trees and trails for the America in Bloom contest so were only now able to complete the task.

Take a stroll or a ride through our lovely valley. Near the fire station you will see the new plaques honoring Elfin Forest Citizens of the Year which were supplied and installed by Eric Anderson and Cheri Smith of the town council. You can also watch the progress as the new fire and water wise landscaping is being installed in front of the fire station. Along the way, stop and enjoy the hundreds of native wildflowers that now line both sides of Elfin Forest Road thanks to the efforts of many volunteers last fall. Happy trails to all!



Landscaping in progress at the fire station

Free Trees

By Shawn York

I came across an article in the Rancho paper about the Cool Communities Shade Tree Program. The San Diego Regional Energy Office, in cooperation with People for Trees, is giving away over 17,000 shade trees throughout San Diego County to single-family and multi-family residents, and K-12 schools (small businesses are not eligible under the new program). And not little tiny trees either. They are full-sized, 10 to 15 gallon nursery quality specimens in your choice of over 20 varieties, up to 5 trees per household.

Their web site is <http://trees.sdenergy.org> and tells you how to participate in the program. I'm sending in my application today. Perhaps if enough people sign up we can get an Elfin Forest delivery?

June 2005

June Garden Projects

By Evelyn Alemanni

Summer is definitely here. What ever happened to June gloom? We sure could use some. This is the time of year when we need to get serious about fire prevention. Don't wait until September or October. Cut down the weeds now. Check your irrigation system. Make sure all the emitters emit, the drippers drip, and learn how to manually turn them on in case of power failures which can happen during a fire.

It's time to pull out all the spring flowers and toss them on the compost. I tried a compost experiment last fall and was amazed at the results. While shredding the compost, I added a cup of humate (buy it at Hydro-Scape called Tri-C humate) per cubic yard of shredded compost and it decomposed in six weeks instead of six months! Try it, it works.

Plant your summer annuals now, especially sunflowers. It's also time to plant pumpkins for a Halloween harvest. Happy gardening.

A Sad Farewell

By Todd Nordness

I am writing this with mixed emotions to



unfortunately announce that I am no longer employed by Olivenhain Municipal Water District and thus no longer rangers at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve.

It had been four years to the date. Oh how time flies. I put my heart and soul into the Reserve and I know many of you appreciated the effort. I will miss the reserve and its natural surroundings. Most of all, I will miss all of you. It was the personal relationships that I developed that were the most rewarding. I will now be actively pursuing a career in the industry. The experience that I gained at the Reserve will be invaluable in this quest.

I want to thank you each and every one of you for making this journey a joyous and fulfilling one. I do wish to stay in touch and will cherish the memories. Take care for now, sincerely, former "Ranger Todd."

News From Questhaven Retreat



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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 PM.

The Way Within Meditation Classes

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June 5th - Equilibrium: The Art of Keeping Balance in this Challenging World - *Felice Reynolds*

June 12th - Appreciating Everyday Miracles - *Evelyn Alemanni*

June 19th - A Father's Imprint on Our Life - *Rev. Blake Isaac*

June 25th-26th - Vernal Art Festival - Call office for details.

June 26th - Listening, Key to the Creative Life - *Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire*

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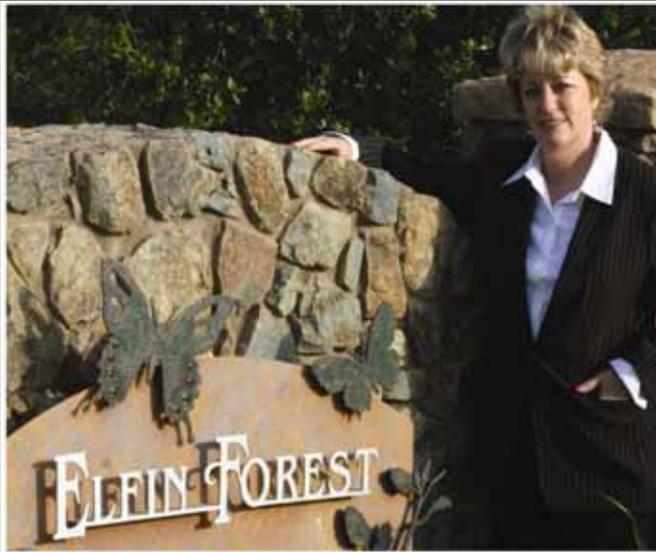
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