

DEDICATED TO A CONTINUING RURAL ATMOSPHERE

Next Town Council Meeting

EF/HG Fire Station

February 2 7:30 pm



From the Chair

By Melanie Fallon

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE! Hope this New Year is treating everyone well and that no one is struggling too awfully with all this rain! I think our hillside will continue to drain for a long while to come.

With the New Year, I just want to take a quick look back at a few of the actions that occurred that continue to accomplish our goal of "Keeping It Rural"! The 40 acre Garrison property east of the Fire Station was acquired by the County and will be preserved as natural habitat. Cielo Azul was acquired thru the great work of TECC and will also be preserved as valuable open space. The lawsuit against Lennar on their Bridges Unit 7 development has been resolved and there is an agreement that they will not build on the Elfin Forest side of the Escondido Creek, and now hopefully a conservation agency will be able to acquire this property also. Congratulations to everyone who helped on these projects!

THE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE IS ALMOST COMPLETED! (WE HOPE!) The County's General Plan is almost completed after 12 years! Thank you to all of our residents who drove downtown to testify before the Board of Supervisors in support of our Community Plan in October and November. We are now in the waiting mode. The public testimony is now complete and the Supervisors will deliberate on the new General Plan starting on February 9, 2011. We will keep you posted on their actions. Stay tuned and keep your fingers crossed especially when it comes to the future of the University Heights and Harmony Grove Meadows projects.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS AND HARMONY GROVE MEADOWS

Speaking of these two projects, now that the economy is starting to settle down again, we have heard that there may be some developer interest in the University Heights and Harmony Grove Meadows projects again. As we hear information, we will let you know.

OMWD PIPELINE PROJECT ON ELFIN FOREST ROAD STATUS

For those of you that are wondering when this project will begin, we understand that construction will not start until later in the spring. As OMWD finalizes their schedule they will be informing all of us as to next steps. We are also awaiting a final decision from OMWD's Board of Directors as to possible monetary compensation to the Elfin Forest community for the unique pain and suffering that will be occurring throughout this construction project. Once a decision has been made we will let you know.

TOWN COUNCIL AND ELFIN FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ELECTIONS AT THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 2, 2011

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending the February 2 Town Council meeting when we will have the annual election for the Town Council Board of Directors and the Elfin Forest Community Foundation. 7:30pm at the Fire Station. You should have received your ballots in the mail. Please send them or bring them to the Fire Station! See you there.

Melanie (mfallon1@att.net 760.744.7090)

2010 COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENTS

By Melanie Fallon

At the December Town Council Holiday Party, the Town Council honored many of our neighbors and friends for their hard work and good deeds during 2010 by giving each of them our coveted Community Award! The following is the list of the recipients and a short description of why they were honored.

Lori Vitale – for doing a great job of coordinating various activities throughout the year – ie. the food at the 4th of July picnic and rounding up kids for Halloween festivities. She also looks out for those in need in our community, whether it is Meals on Wheels or taking care of a neighbor in need.

Joanne Chen-Sullivan – for helping out at the last minute when she was really needed for the 4th of July picnic and for loaning her convertible for the Citizen of the Year float.

Jeff and Carolyn Swenerton – for their continuing and wonderful commitment to chairing the 4th of July parade and picnic!

May Meintjes for running all the games at the picnic which is one of the reasons it is such a wonderful event AND working with the 4th of July Committee to stay on budget.

Lisa and Katie Freistat – to thank them for being such great community neighbors! When neighbor Sandra Bartsch was in Germany last summer, one of her horses got severely tied up – Lisa and Katie saw this and saved his life. They contacted the vet and stayed with the horse 24/7 at Sandra's barn administering meds and watching out for her horse.

TECC – for saving Cielo Azul from development and adding it to the Elfin Forest Recreational Area! That is really what keeping it rural is all about!

Boris Said - for improving Canyon de Oro with his own Bobcat and with a paid grader to try to improve vehicle safety.

Betsy Keithley – for being willing to take on the job of editor of our Chaparral and making sure that communication within our Valley is ongoing.

Suzie Kaplan - for watching out for her neighbors, but especially for organizing the food deliveries and the memorial service for the Parman family after their loss.

2010 Elfin Forest Garden Hosts -

Frank and Susan Oddo – Susan stepped up to the plate before the Garden Festival and used her expertise to help publicize and “get the word out.” Her insight and experience in planning and hosting events were invaluable. On top of this she and Frank opened their exquisite garden with its specimen plants, sculpture and water elements to further make the Garden Festival a success.

Jennifer Coburn – Jennifer's whimsical garden, incorporating all of her years of sculpted metal and topiary design was a treasure to behold. Our Garden Tour was afforded a glimpse into her workshop with its designs for Disney and the Wynn Las Vegas Hotel.

Leonard Wittwer and Martha Blaine – Martha and Leonard opened their California Native garden for the Garden Tour. It was resplendent with ceanothus, California poppy, California Oaks and other native species as well as a well thought out vegetable garden and orchard.

Kathy Macon – Kathy was instrumental in our Garden Festival's success. Not only did she open her lovely garden with its panoramic views, quiet sitting areas and French culinary garden – but she also hosted the trade and craft fair and opened “Say Provence” to the garden viewers.

Susan Balmes – Susan is one of our newest neighbors having purchased her home from Jaisa Bright prior to the Garden Festival. Like a trooper she agreed to be one of our host gardens for the tour and came through with flying colors. Her home and surrounding gardens were lovely and we all enjoyed her horses and her barn.

Ron Martin – Ron and the Elfin Valley Nursery have been staunch supporters of the community and the Garden Tour for years. Ron opened the Nursery and allowed it to be our main gathering point on the day of the tour. He accommodated display areas, ticket sales, lunch and parking area and provided plants and greenery to decorate.

Continued from page 2

Ricky Meintjes – for all his hard work in the community. Whenever there is a need for volunteer work or manual labor – Ricky is always there to help. And his help on the 4th of July was awesome!

The Fire Auxiliary – for organizing the best community events and being so dedicated and helpful to our wonderful Fire Department! The Fire Auxiliary members are - Bobbie Macfarlane, Claudia Costanzo, Alice Courteau, Rachel Dimas, Vicki Hamilton, Joy Jackson, Betsy Keithley, Jan Murphy, Vicki Pillings, Linda Ragland, Myrna Rife, Nancy Sampson and Darlene Stapp.

Jerry Varty – for his commitment to the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove communities through his time and dedication to the Olivenhain Municipal Water District.

Bonnie Baumgartner - for rising to the challenge of chairing the Garden Festival as a new TC Board member, getting free outside help for PR, and pulling off another great event. Also for reviving the Trails committee and holding the first fundraising event in a long time, and working on much needed repair on trails.

Nancy Goodrich - for a great first year on the Town Council and always being willing to pitch in when and where needed, but especially for chairing the OMWD committee through some difficult negotiations.

Minoo Sohaey and Eric Anderson - for starting the signs committee and trying to keep the valley rural and beautiful (see article p.8). Minoo also delivers welcome baskets to newcomers.

Mid Hoppenrath - for bird dogging the Escondido General Plan and successfully negotiating with the City that Harmony Grove should have the same land uses as recommended in the County's proposed new General Plan.

Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin – for working tirelessly on conserving core gnat catcher land in our community including her tenacious work on Lennar's Unit 7 development, Cielo Azul and the case statement! And for being such a tiger on the General Plan Update!

Melanie Fallon - for continuing to provide strong and principled leadership for the Town Council Board, performing the most difficult job of being head referee of the Board, and doing so with grace, professionalism and much diplomacy.

Nona Barker – to thank her for the many years that she chaired the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Board. With her capable leadership, our community has had a well-regarded and best volunteer Fire Department in San Diego County!



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Fire Department Holds Annual Celebration

By Joni Calhoun



Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Department held its Annual Holiday Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Saturday December 18th. More than 80 attendees consisting of Fire staff, Fire Advisory Board and Auxiliary members along with their guests, were present for a night of great fun, great food (catered by Nacho's Mexican Restaurant), and the presentation of awards. Fire Chief Frank Twohy was honored for 30 years of dedicated service to our community. Chief Twohy was presented with a beautiful plaque and since he has a real interest in photography, a digital camera was also presented to thank him for his many years of service. Battalion Chief Steve Barker was honored for 25 years with Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Department. That is 55 years of service between these two Chiefs! Chief Twohy, Chief Barker and others shared some great memories of the "early days" of our Fire Department along with some hilarious stories. Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Department is proud to have Chief Twohy and Chief Barker at the helm, and we are grateful to them for their years of dedicated service to our community.

A very special part of the evening was the presentation of a Retirement Badge to Battalion Chief Dawn Pettijohn. Several standing ovations were testament to how the Department and the community feel about Chief Pettijohn and we were honored to have her attendance at the Banquet.

Our Firefighter of the Year Award is voted on by all of the firefighters. This year that award went to Firefighter Cory Iversen. Cory works with Cal Fire, but this has not prevented him from dedicating an enormous amount of time and energy to our Department for which all of us are grateful.

The Training Attendance Award went to Firefighter Alfredo Cabrera. Alfredo just graduated from the San Pasqual Fire Academy, and coupled with the fact that he has a job and a family, it is no small feat that he had perfect attendance at trainings! Our Probationary Firefighter of the year is Kenny Day. In just one short year, Kenny has accomplished every goal he has set, and since he is one of the youngest members of our Department we have to believe this is just the beginning of a stellar career. Captain John Rayes was acknowledged with a beautiful plaque for 15 years of service to EFF. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our Firefighters who have been hired by Paid Fire Departments or have graduated from a Firefighter Academy or Paramedic School.

Captain Octavio Vanzini was hired by Viejas Fire Department in November but still finds time and energy for EFF! Firefighter Matt Terwilliger was hired by U.S. Forest Service and will be leaving for his post in Bishop, CA soon. Firefighters Alfredo Cabrera, Johnny Hancock, Blaine Hensley and Johnny Daniels have graduated from Firefighter Academies. Firefighters Dan Aker, Nate Sanford, and Kenny Day recently graduated from Paramedic School, while Firefighters Phil Johnson, Chris Cincotta and Kevin Krainock are currently enrolled in Paramedic School. Firefighter Johnny Daniels has just been accepted into Paramedic School. Congratulations and Best Wishes to ALL! We are extremely proud of each and every one of our Firefighters. Their time, dedication and commitment to excellence puts Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Department in a league of its own.

Our Driver Operator Stipend Program was initiated in the Spring and it is a complete success! Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Department now has a Driver Operator on shift 24 hours a day. Chief Barker has been hard at work updating our Policies and Procedures and new manuals have been created for all personnel. Chief Calhoun continues to work hard in overseeing every area of our Department's Operations. Captain Michael Martinez has taken numerous classes including Hazardous Materials Incident Command and Vehicle Extrication and shares his knowledge at our Fire Department Trainings. Captain Martinez is our resident computer whiz as well and is always there to get us out of those tricky PC situations. As always Captain Nona Barker spends countless hours making EFF a Department we can all be proud of. Captain Barker has implemented the Target Safety Program which is a platform for delivering online technology solutions for managing risk, maintaining compliance, improving communications and streamlining operations. This new program is our ticket into the second decade of the twenty-first century.

Our wonderful Bookkeeper/Everything Keeper, Vickie Kleen, had shoulder surgery in early December and will be working from home until the middle of January. Our wishes for a speedy recovery Vickie!

Special thanks and acknowledgment go out to our Fire Advisory Board: Fire Chief Frank Twohy, Chair Mike Holmes, Vice Chair Tony DeBellis, Secretary John Olsen, Treasurer Byron Macfarlane, Directors Nona Barker, Tim Costanzo, Dave Jones and Alternate Director Rob Hill.

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Our sincere gratitude to our incredible Auxiliary: Bobbie Macfarlane, Claudia Costanzo, Nancy Sampson, Betsy Keithley, Jan Murphy, Alice Courteau, Rachel Dimas, Darlene Stapp, Vicki Hamilton, Joan Hershfeld, Joy Jackson, Vicki Pilling, Linda Ragland and Myrna Rife. Due to the many hours of dedicated service by the members of these committees, and the members of Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Department, our Fire Department is one of the most respected Volunteer Fire Departments in San Diego County. Once again, our sincere *Congratulations* and *Thanks* to Chief Twohy and Chief Barker for their many years of service!

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station Gets a Weather Station

By Nona Barker

The new weather station is now up and running at the station. You may access the weather information on line from anywhere in the world. Go to: <http://www.weatherlink.com/user/elfinfores/>. The first page to pop up is current weather conditions. On the top right of the page you'll see "SUMMARY" - This charts current and past weather day/month and year. Also on the top right, you'll see "MAP". This shows you the weather station location on Google Maps. You can also look at other weather stations on the map by clicking on them.

Thanks, Chief Twohy, for getting this wonderful equipment for us!!



Neighborhood Watch – Why YOU should be involved ...

The best way to discourage criminal activity in your neighborhood is to establish a communication network known as Neighborhood Watch.

Get to know your neighbors, share information, report suspicious activity, and become a crime prevention advocate. Be pro-active residents, offer to become street or block captains and encourage your neighbors to join Neighborhood Watch.

The Crime Prevention Unit of the Sheriff's Department is committed to educating all communities on numerous public safety topics. Please contact B. J. Williams of the Sheriff's Crime Prevention Unit to schedule FREE crime prevention programs and FREE home security consultations.

SHERIFF'S COMMUNICATION CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency

9-1-1(Life in Danger or Crime in Progress)

Sheriff's Dispatch

760-510-5200 Press 1- NON-EMERGENCY to

(24 hrs a day)

report a "Crime After the Fact" or to report "Suspicious Activity" or request information etc.

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

San Marcos Patrol Station

760-510-5200 Business Office – Information

182 Santar Place-San Marcos

Hours Mon-Fri 8 a.m to 5 p.m.

Closed Holidays

760-510-5254 County Crime Prevention

2010 Holiday Light Display Winners!

*Thanks for makings Spirits Bright during
the Dark Days*

Trees

Best Tree Over All	2114 Seaquest Trail
Best Palms	19848 Fortuna del Este
Best Forest	20111 Colina Encantada

Entry

Best Entrance	19928 Fortuna del Este
Most lights on an Entrance	20834 and neighbor Elfin Forest Road

Traditional

Classic Display	7970 Faraway Lane
Beautiful	6856 Los Vientos Sereno
Modern Light Display	19864 Fortuna del Este
Nicest	7739 Camino Sereno
Longest Strands	19939 Fortuna del Este

Theme

Best Theme with Animation	20260 Fortuna del Este
Santa Display	20220 Elfin forest Road
Dancing Santa's	20706 Elfin Forest Road
Santa	20570 Fortuna del Sur
All Around	20578 Fortuna del Sur
Trains	20461 Fortuna del Sue
Brightest	7129 Circa De Media

Cross

Most Incredible Cross	Christward Ministry
Most Visible and colorful	6808 Los Vientos Sereno

Barns

Best Barn	7102 Circa De Media
All around	20057 Elfin Forest Road
Best Wreaths	20148 Elfin Creek Trail
Best Reindeer	20858 Fortuna Del Sur
Best Gate	20282 Circa de Media

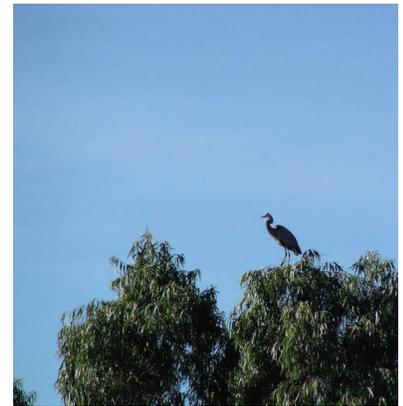
Best House Under Construction	New Faraway Lane
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Best Over all Display

20260 Fortuna del Este

Most Decked out Street

Fortuna del Sur



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Work of James Hubbell to be Featured at the Elfin Forest Recreational Area Interpretive Center and Other News by Jeff Swenerton

We are pleased to announce that our Spring Art Show will feature the works of the renowned artist and designer, James Hubbell. This promises to be a very popular exhibition and will tentatively run between April 1st and June 30th. Mr. Hubbell has been the recipient of many honors including recent recognition by San Diego Home and Garden as one of the top ten artists in San Diego County. The Escondido Creek Conservancy and the Olivenhain Municipal Water District will be hosting a reception to be scheduled in April.



We want to thank Cathy Carey, our featured artist for displaying her beautiful artwork in the Center this fall. She has been conducting very popular outdoor acrylic painting classes for those interested in learning to paint. Many Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove residents have participated including local resident Joanne Chen, pictured with Cathy. If you are interested in participating in classes, there are openings on February 19 and March 19. Contact Cathy at cathy@artstudiosandiego.com for a reservation. Classes are \$60. A portion of the fee is donated to TECC.

Don Parnell, one of the Interpretive Center docents who hosts hikes, turned 80 in January and led a 14 ½ mile, 6 ½ hour hike for over 20 of his friends on Saturday, January 8th. If you are interested in joining Don on a hike, information on this and other planned events are on our new TECC website at escondidocreek.org. (Note picture).

In February and March we will be displaying some of the winning photographs of the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve's 2010 Photo Contest. All photographs are taken within the Reserve.

Improvements planned for the Center in the next few months include the installation of Jennifer Coburn's large sycamore sculpture surrounding the front doors, completion of the photovoltaic building, and the installation of an entry trellis and column design by James Hubbell.

This is the best season to hike or ride in the Reserve, and we continue to have a large number of visitors to the Interpretive Center including several school and after-school groups. The Interpretive Center is open most Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (9:00 to 3:00) but we do rely on Docents for staffing, so open hours are subject to change. For current Interpretive Center hours or to become a Docent yourself, call the EFRR Rangers at 760-632-4212.



Please, Keep “For Sale” Signs on Property

By Minoo Sohaey

I moved from Hinsdale, Illinois to Elfin Forest four years ago. Hinsdale, 25 minutes from downtown Chicago, was our playground. We moved to Elfin Forest for our retirement, to enjoy the weather, land and quietness of the area. I tried my best not to be a “Citiot” (to learn the meaning of that word you need to refer to your community guide). After joining the Town Council Board, I was appointed to a committee with Eric Anderson called The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Beautification Committee. One of the first things we were asked to address was the abundance of “for sale” signs in our community, many inappropriately placed. We contacted the listing agents and a few of them removed the signs willingly and without conflict. Even though we are an unincorporated area, there are rules and regulations about sign placement that apply to us. In addition in 1995, the Town Council adopted a policy regarding realty “for sale” signs stating that they are to be placed only at the property that is for sale, not on the main road. We are asking listing agents and owners to comply with this community rule and help keep Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove a desirable and beautiful community for all of us. The best alternative, advertising for sale property on the web is easy, inexpensive and reaches more people than road signs.



We are Joe and Robbie Benson, your neighbors in Harmony Grove. We want to share with you that in early 2010 we started a non-profit 501c3 Animal Rescue called San Diego Animals Worthy of Life (SDAWOL).

Our goal at San Diego AWOL is to use proven life saving [programs and services](#) to take animals in jeopardy of euthanasia but adoptable, rehabilitate them where necessary, then find them permanent loving homes, thereby helping to dramatically reduce euthanasia in our local shelters. We feel by offering a helping hand we can truly be “a partner for life.”

We are an all volunteer organization and rely on the generosity and compassion of our community, citizens and partners to help provide our animals, a soft place to land in a loving home.

You can see us at our local Escondido PetSmart where we hold adoption events regularly. As well, we set up at various other businesses and locations where we introduce people to our mission and our work.

If you have it in your heart or home to help us by volunteering or fostering we would love to have you join us in our very important life saving work. If you have a business location and would consider helping by allowing us to share our mission there we will be extremely grateful.

Lastly, we are run entirely on donations and appreciate any contributions to sustain our work. As you may imagine, many euthanasia bound animals come with medical needs, some requiring extensive vet care to fix.

To learn more about SDAWOL please visit our website: www.SanDiegoAWOL.org

Classifieds

Karlynn Murphy - Babysitter, CPR certified for ages 1-13. 16 year old, Elfin Forest resident. CONTACT INFO
cell: 858 229-9799. email: k.murphy.8@hotmail.com

Get the best farm fresh eggs from Eli on Faraway Lane, (mom is Mary Ellen). They are only \$3.00 a dozen and are wonderful! These eggs stand up in the frying pan and the yolks are a rich orange color. Eli's Farm Fresh Eggs, 7910 Faraway Lane, 760-510-8229, elisteria4@gmail.com. Just stop by and pick up a dozen from the stand out front.

Elissa Benjamin, babysitter, pet sitter, tutoring - born and raised in Elfin Forest, 11th grader at Canyon Crest Academy, own transportation. Red Cross certified, several local references. Call 760-274-5379 or email beretnoir@gmail.com.

Alex Fairman - Pet Sitter, loves all animals, responsible, will feed/walk/play with pets, (760) 471-0875

Amanda Clerke - Babysitting & Pet Care, High School Junior, 16 years old, Elfin Forest Resident, YMCA Babysitter certification, please call 760-510-0143.

Jessica MacKinnon- Experienced Babysitter/Pet Care, Elfin Forest resident, 19 years old, College student, Red Cross babysitter certification. References. Contact at 760-420-5860

Riding Arena Grading- Grading horse arenas weekly- Looking to add more arenas to current route, Use Honda Rhino to grade arenas, LCC High School Junior, Elfin Forest resident, Have references, if requested. Shawn 760-471-6847 voorheesfamily1@hotmail.com

Pet Sitting Chad Clerke 13 years old. Loves animals and is very responsible. Attends Rancho Santa Fe Middle School. Experience with taking care of animals while you are away. Parents will supply transportation. References available if desired. Please contact 760-510-0143.

SWIM LESSONS & BABYSITTING for all ages! I'm CPR certified & a competitive swimmer
babysitting-\$10/hour & swim lessons- \$20/hour Kasey Fontaine @ 760-685-5655

Computer Consultant, Phil Cohen—Contact your local, UCSD educated, computer scientist as needed for support. I specialize in Apple software and hardware service and support. Silicon Valley veteran, Apple certified, friendly, mature, courteous, humorous and hygienic. No travel charges for Elfin Forest residents. Contact 619-534-8408 for a free consult.

Tessora Bustillos Pet Sitter, Elfin Forest resident, future veterinarian, loves all animals, will feed/play/walk your pets 760-471-6355

Horse boarding available on Fortuna Del Sur. Large open areas with shelter. Contact Wende Crabtree at 760-471-2286, 760-522-2566, wende.crabtree@gmail.com

\$1,250 for **one bed one bath** on 5 gated acres in very quiet neighborhood. All utilities are included. Available now. Randy 760 535-6649

Piano teacher wanted in Elfin for weekly lesson for an adult. Randy 760 535-6649

Wanted to buy: **Pipe Corral**. Please call Paul at 760-518-8170. I can take it down and move it out as well.

Please e-mail your ads to Betsy Keithley
for inclusion in the next issue -
ekeithley@ucsd.edu



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