

*DEDICATED TO A CONTINUING RURAL ATMOSPHERE*


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*Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Meeting*  
*EF/HG Fire Station*  
*February 4, 2015 7:30 pm*

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*From the Chair**By Bonnie Baumgartner*

*Greetings and Happy New Year from the  
 Town Council. We wish you all a happy,  
 prosperous and healthy 2015.*

As I leave the Town Council this month, I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow TC members for their time, efforts, and contributions to the community over this last year. Without JP Theberge, we wouldn't have had the Elf Alerts, and outstanding fire communication. Without Betsy Keithley, we would not have had the Chaparral. Without Jan Denny the picnic games and our new trails along Sequest area would not have happened. Without Nancy Goodrich the parade organization, the all important Treasurer accounting, and the traffic reviews would not have gotten done. Without Mark Shields we would not have had minutes for meetings. Without Angelique Hartman we would not have vigilant eyes on Harmony Grove, and input on development there. Without Melanie Fallon the silent auction, our money maker for the year, would not have happened. Our community clean-up efforts were enthusiastically met by Sandra Bartsch. Without all of you in this community to support our efforts, our community spirit, that makes this area special would not exist. I thank all of you for all your volunteer efforts that continue to make this community a special place to live.

Both the Town Council Board Members and the Elfin Forest Community Foundation Board Members are elected. The ballots are in this Chaparral. Please print them out and submit them to the fire station by February 4 or bring them to the Town Council Board meeting at 7:30 that evening. Each adult property owner is eligible to vote.

Thank-you for your support.

Bonnie Baumgartner - soon to be ex-chair.

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*February is Election Time in Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove*

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## *How's the Traffic on Elfin Forest Road ?* By Nancy Goodrich, Chair, Traffic Committee

Do you have a tough time turning from your private road or driveway onto Elfin Forest Rd or Harmony Grove Rd at certain times of the day? Do you think it's going to get better once the 740 homes in Harmony Grove Village are fully occupied? Your Town Council Traffic Committee is just as concerned about these issues as you are and has been exploring options to mitigate the increase in future traffic. We are open to ideas and welcome any and all input regarding these matters which affect us all.

Some of the options we have been exploring include additional signage to slow traffic, doing what we can to retain our rural ambiance, such as pursuing California "Scenic Highway" status' and traffic calming measures that may be needed if our traffic doubles or triples, such as roundabouts. Roundabouts could possibly slow down traffic enough to be a disincentive to both commuters just passing through our community and the large packs of cyclists that take over and block our roadways from time to time. It is important that our roads remain safe and that our community trail system remains accessible. Pedestrians, mountain bikers and equestrians must continue to be able to cross our main roads safely.

Several community members have already suggested that we need stop signs on Elfin Forest Rd to allow them onto Elfin Forest Rd at peak hours. It is unlikely, however, that we have the traffic or accident volumes yet that the County requires to justify them. That will change within the next few years. We may need one or more stop signs to allow residents onto what may become a very busy road. We must be very careful with our planning and choices though, and consider every possible alternative, as I don't think any of us want Elfin Forest Rd to become the gridlock that Rancho Santa Fe Rd is through Olivenhain with a stop sign on almost every block. If we do not plan for ourselves and express our wishes, we will have to live with what the County decides for us.

There have also been requests for additional enforcement. The California Highway Patrol has jurisdiction for traffic enforcement in our area but, since we are an isolated unincorporated pocket removed from the freeways that are their primary responsibilities, we don't see them out here very often. While they are most needed out here during the morning and evening commutes, those are also the times when freeway problems are magnified. We all need to understand that if we do request additional enforcement out here, officers would take action against everybody they observe speeding or making illegal turns or passing, including our kids and us, and not just "those other folks" passing through.

We recently met with a County of San Diego Traffic Engineering Supervisor regarding our concerns and he has been very responsive. He drove our roads, observed our terrain and visibility issues, and observed a driver almost being run off the road by someone wanting to pass in spite of the double yellow line. He was very open to ideas and suggestions, while also being candid about the County's limitations. He has since told us that the County has already approved our request for additional warning signage for the bad curve between Elfin Forest Lane and Colina Encantada where there are frequently new skid marks and where the fatal accident occurred in 2013. They have also approved a solar "driver feedback" sign for Elfin Forest Rd, which will let drivers know how fast they are going. We are hoping to have him attend a community meeting in the near future so he can hear directly from you, our residents.

As Harmony Grove Village evolves, we will continue to monitor and work on these concerns. If we're lucky, the City of Escondido will expedite the completion of Citracado to the freeways so residents from the new development may choose to go those routes rather than on our winding country road. That would be a win for everyone. If you have ideas, suggestions or observations that may help us address these or any other traffic issues, please feel free to pass them on to me or the rest of our Traffic Committee members, Jan Denny, Melanie Fallon, Mark Shields, J.P. Theberge.

# *FOUR CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING FOR THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD*

The Elfin Forest Community Foundation is a local organization that awards grants to worthwhile community projects that enhance our goal of "keeping it rural." We are a nine member board and every year 3 positions are open for election or re-election. This year 4 people are running for 3 positions:

CLAUDIA COSTANZO - I have resided in Elfin Forest for 20 years with husband, Tim. My community involvement includes many years of service with the Fire Auxiliary and coordinating fundraisers for The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Department, the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council and the Escondido Creek Conservancy. I am hoping to branch out into more areas of community involvement. Thank you for your support.

MELANIE FALLON - I am running for reelection to the Community Foundation board. I have lived in Elfin Forest for 10 years and have been active in the community as a member of the Town Council and now serve on the Board of the Community Foundation. I believe in being involved in the community and hope that you will vote for me to continue to be on the Community Foundation.

ALAN LASNOVER - I am a candidate for re-election to the Elfin Forest Community Foundation. The Foundation meets twice per year to consider grants for money to be used by a variety of local organizations in projects or programs aimed at enhancing the quality of life in Elfin Forest. Members of the Foundation serve a three-year term without compensation, donating time and effort to apply objectivity in the awarding of limited financial aid, all of which serves to enhance the quality of life of all residents of Elfin Forest and surrounding areas. In this past year, I have proudly served as Foundation Treasurer and seek support to continue my service.

LORI VITALE - I have been an Elfin Forest resident for 11 years. I have been on the Community Foundation for 8 years and have been involved with planning the annual 4th of July picnic for 10 years as well as other community events. I am married to Todd and have two teenage boys.

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## ELFIN FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BALLOT

Please vote for 3

\_\_\_ Claudia Costanzo

\_\_\_ Melanie Fallon

\_\_\_ Alan Lasnover

\_\_\_ Lori Vitale

\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

# *The Community Foundation Funded 4 Grants in Fall 2014*

*By Carolyn Swenerton*

The Elfin Forest Community Foundation, established in 1995, funds grants aimed at preserving, maintaining or enhancing the overall quality of rural life within the greater Elfin Forest community. The original funding of this Foundation was a Remedial trust established by the San Marcos City Council for impacts to the community resulting from the nearby landfill. Interest earned on the principal is made available to fund grants twice a year.

The EFCF received four grant proposals and we are pleased to announce the following results:

1. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will receive \$580.00 for a first aid class and LiveScan background checks for its members.
2. Harmony Grove Spiritualist Center will receive \$900.00 to be used for a small native plants garden and hiring a consultant to determine the feasibility of installing water wise irrigation and native plants in a 1 ½ acre area. The previous water system and plants were destroyed in the Cocos Fire.
3. The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) will receive \$1021.80 for removal of Eucalyptus trees at Via Ambiente and to purchase and install more trail/conservation area signage.
4. The Elfin Forest Trails Committee will receive \$1500.00 to clear a new 900ft. section of trail parallel to Seaquest Trail road.

Spring Grant Application Period is February 1 thru April 15.

## *Rules of the Trails* *By Bonnie Baumgartner*

Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove are blessed to have a unique trail system for hikers, joggers, mountain bikes, walkers, and equestrian use. They maintain the scenic beauty of our community while allowing safe travel off the narrow lanes and roads.

These recreational trails however, are ALL on PRIVATE property, and are maintained by volunteers. Property owners are protected from liability or damages from any person using the trails by CA Civil Code 846 and 846.1

When using the trails please remember you are a guest on someone's property. Please respect the landscape and stay on the trails. Use common sense and courtesy.

Dogs must be on leash by law.

Horses must be kept under control and not be loose.

Bicyclists yield to all- hikers and horses.

Pick up trash and garbage if you see it and leave no trace of your passing.



If you have boarders, please pass the rules of trails use on to them, and consider asking them to contribute to the EFHGTC - Trail Committee for their maintenance and up keep, or ask them to help maintain the trails by volunteering for the trail committee.

## *Candidate Statements for Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board Member Election*

**Jacqueline Arsivaud** - I have served on the Town Council Board from 2004 to 2012, and currently as an “at-large” member since then, due to extensive business travel which precluded other activities. I served as chair and Vice-chair for several years, and led the successful effort to fight off encroachment into Elfin Forest from the largest developer in the US at the time. I am ready and willing to serve the community again as it faces upcoming challenges where my broad experience in land use issues, understanding of the county decision-making system, fundraising abilities, and track record of crafting win-win solutions can contribute to the talent pool on the existing board.

Retired computer industry executive and entrepreneur; Board member, San Dieguito Planning Group. Resident of Elfin Forest since 1991.

**Teri Bair** - Resident of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove since: 2009 and native San Diegan.

Currently I am a mom and a farmer. Previously I was a business owner as a west coast distributor of dental products. I also worked in the small and large animal veterinary field for 13 years.

I am a San Diego native who was born and raised in the rural communities of San Diego and firmly believe in preserving all that these unique areas of San Diego have to offer. I have watched other areas, such as La Jolla, Carmel Valley, Santa Luz and 4S Ranch, which were my stomping grounds as a young child, teenager and avid equestrian, develop into congested, gentrified communities that are no longer recognizable. My family and I moved to Elfin Forest in 2009 from Leucadia because I wanted to raise my children in a place that preserved all of the things that I experienced in my own youth; things that have become such an increasing rarity in San Diego. I believe that what makes Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove such a special and unique place is its commitment to “keeping it rural”, and the diverse community that is committed to supporting and sharing this environment together. While we may have different views and ideas about what “keeping it rural” means and how to accomplish that, I look forward to the opportunity to work with my fellow board members and the members of this community to collectively pursue this incredibly important goal, and to maintain all that is special about our community.

**Jan Denny** - Ms. Denny is a Software Project Manager at The Marlin Alliance and has lived in Elfin Forest since 2001. She has an AS in Technical Writing, a BA in Journalism with a minor in Jazz, and certificates in project management and web publishing. She has been a block captain for 10 years. She served on the Town Council from 2004 – 2006, where she was the Town Council Vice Chair, Traffic Committee Chair, and reviewed Environmental Impact Reports for several developments. She also served on the Town Council from 2013 – 2015, where she was Town Council Vice Chair, Trail Committee Chair, a member of the Fourth of July Picnic and Parade Committee for two years, and a member of the Traffic Committee. Ms. Denny will use her previous board experience to assist with discussions and decisions on issues affecting our community, and will use her project management experience to continue supporting our trail system. Her priorities are to keep our community close-knit, rural, and safe; and to protect our native plant and animal species.

# *Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council*

## **Town Council Ballot — vote for 4**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Jan Denny** Incumbent

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sandra Bartsch** Incumbent

\_\_\_\_\_ **Jacqueline Arsivaud**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Teri Bair**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Write –in**

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**Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board members:** Bonnie Baumgartner 619-277-7105, J.P. Theberge 619-884-2694, Nancy Goodrich 760-591-9489, Mark Shields 619-564-3600, Sandra Bartsch 310-600-8184, Jan Denny 760-736-8436, Betsy Keithley 760-471-8515. At-Large members: Melanie Fallon, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin 760-855-0444

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