

DEDICATED TO A CONTINUING RURAL ATMOSPHERE

Next Town Council Meeting**EF/HG Fire Station****7:30 pm**

From the Chair***By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin***

New Town Council Board: After the February elections, we are welcoming new members Amy Molenaar and Gordon Taggart. The rest of the board includes Bonnie Baumgartner, Melanie Fallon, Nancy Goodrich, May Meintjes, and Minoo Sohaey. Bonnie is our new Vice Chair, Amy gamely took on the Secretary position, and May remains as our indispensable Treasurer. Many thanks to Eric Anderson who stepped down after too many years to count serving the community, and to Melanie who has set a very high bar for the Chair position in the last few years.

Equine Ordinance: Bonnie Baumgartner has been chairing the Animal Use Regulations Committee, in response to a county-led effort to determine whether or not the current animal regulations, especially as they relate to horse boarding, should be changed. There are a few articles on the topic in this issue, and the dates of public hearings if you are interested in chiming in with the county.

Web site redesign: Sandra Bartsch and I have been working with a student team from Mira Costa College to redesign our very out of date Town Council web site. We are hoping to go live by the end of the month of May. Because they are doing this project for their class on web design, it is not costing us anything (just frustration sometimes, but that's a good trade-off – we hope!).

OMWD pipeline: We received a \$50,000 check from OMWD, negotiated by Melanie Fallon and Nancy Goodrich, as a token of the water district's appreciation of the inconvenience the project will create for our residents. If you have a great idea for a project that would add to the community's quality of life, please apply to the Community Foundation for some of that funding.

Citizen of The Year: Having had the good fortune to be voted Citizen of the Year last year with my good friend Eric Anderson, I can vouch it's a lot of fun to ride in the parade. I would like to urge you to spend a few minutes thinking about who in our community deserves this honor this year – see the article on how to nominate somebody in this issue.

4th of July picnic and parade: Mark your calendars for Sunday July 3rd and come celebrate another old-fashioned independence day with your neighbors. Forms to purchase your tickets are in this issue; please try to turn the form in early so we can plan for the food and drinks accordingly. There are all sorts of ways for you to get involved if you have extra time: come join the committee, help on the day an hour or so, donate something to the silent auction. I look forward to seeing you all there!

The Community Foundation also elected new members and the Board now consists of Steve Barker, Martha Blane, Ginni McMannus, Will Stosic, Alan Lasnover, Frank Twohy, Mike Vallee, Lori Vitale and Tony DeBellis.

**The Annual Independence Day Parade and Picnic
will be celebrated on July 3, 2011. See p 3 for ticket purchase**

33nd Annual Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove 4TH of July Parade and Picnic

SUNDAY, JULY 3rd

11:30 a.m. Parade line up just east of Fortuna Del Norte

12 noon Parade Begins --- Fire trucks will lead the way followed by your own decorated floats, tractors, ATV's, bikes, strollers and horses...

12:30-2:30 Barbecue Lunch at the Fire Station
(menu/ticket info below)

12:30-4:00 Disc Jockey, Games and Picnic

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Awards for the Best Parade & Cake Decorating Entries

Limbo, Hula Hoop, Egg Toss and Horseshoe Contests

Carnival Booths, Jump House, Cake Walk & Dunk Tank

Firefighters' Water Hose Blast

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Cake Decorating Contest

Both Kids and Adults are welcome to enter decorated cakes, cupcakes or cookies in the cake decorating contest. The cakes are used for the very popular cake walk. Prizes are given for Best Example of **Rural Life, Most Creative and Patriotic.**

*Cake Decorating Contest Entries and Desserts for the Bake Sale can be dropped off at the Fire Station all day
Saturday or Sunday morning 8:00-10:00*

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**Thank you to ALBERTSON'S San Elijo Hills
for sponsoring our picnic & providing food & beverages!**

Barbecue Lunch Menu

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Barbecued Pulled Pork

Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Potato Salad

Macaroni & Cheese

Watermelon, Popsicles

(veggie burgers available if ordered in advance)

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Pre-Registration recommended. Limited meals available day of event.

Please, only cash & checks day of event, no credit cards accepted.

Lunch & Game Tickets

	<u>Before 6/28</u>	<u>Day of Picnic</u>
Adult Lunch	\$9.00	\$14.00
Child Lunch (12 & under)	\$5.00	\$ 8.00

45 Game Tickets - \$20.00

22 Game Tickets - \$10.00

(Game tickets good for carnival booths, jump house, cake walk & dunk tank)

Name: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

Number of Adults @ \$9.00: _____ Number of Children @ \$5.00: _____

Game Tickets: 45 tickets @ \$20.00__ OR 22 tickets @ \$10.00__

Veggie Burgers: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

*Make Checks Payable to **EF/HG Town Council***

Detach & Mail by June 30th to:

Betsy Keithley, 19918 Elfin Forest Rd., Escondido, CA 92029

Please pick up tickets at picnic

Questions or would like to volunteer? E-mail....

Jeff Swenerton – jeffswenerton@aol.com

Lori Vitale – VitaleHome@gmail.com

4th of July Bake Sale

Our 4th of July picnic will be featuring our annual bake sale to benefit the Fire Department,. We need your favorite baked goods to help raise much needed funds for our great firefighters. The most popular baked goods are brownies, cookies, rice crispy treats and cup cakes....or bring your favorite family recipe. Please bring wrapped in clear plastic, or individually wrapped if you think they can be sold individually. Items can be dropped off Saturday 7/2 from 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m. or Sunday before the picnic from 8:00-10:00.

4th of July Cake Decorating By Michele Sidwell

Show off your creativity at our annual Cake Decorating Contest. In the spirit of Independence Day, we are looking for decorated cakes of all sorts celebrating the occasion; think red, white and blue! Judging will occur in four age categories so the entire family can participate:

0 -5 years old, 6 to 10 years old, 11 - 17 years old and Adults

We will also award Grand Prizes for **Most Patriotic** and **Most Creative**.

The cakes from the Decorating Contest will be used as prizes in our very popular Cake Walk. The more cakes you bring, the longer we can run the cake walk, always a winner with children and adults alike. Don't feel like you have to bake from scratch? A store- bought cake decorated with your own creativity will be welcomed, too.

Please bring your cakes for either event to the Fire Station Sunday morning of the picnic from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Any questions or if you or your children would like to help with the cake walk, contact Michele Sidwell at Sidwell.Michele@gmail. com or 760-471-8877.

Join the Parade! By Nancy Goodrich

Uncle Sam wants **YOU** to star in our very own Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fourth of July Parade! Get out the bunting, get creative and enter your family and friends in the parade on foot, on horseback, on bicycle, in your antique car, on your decorated ATV or lawn tractor, or on any other kind of float you create from your tractor, truck, car or trailer. Challenge your neighbors to a friendly float building competition!

Parade participants should be lined up no later than 11:30 am at the Sage Hill Park area on Elfin Forest Road, east of Fortuna del Sur, so judging can take place prior to the start of the parade at noon. The parade will proceed east on Elfin Forest Rd from the Sage Hill Park area to the Fire Station. Categories to be judged will include, "Best Horse", "Best Bike", "Best Motorized Small Vehicle", "Best Car", "Best Float" and "Best Overall".

The parade is always a lot of fun for all ages and everyone is encouraged to participate. Let's celebrate America's birthday in style!



Nominate the 2011 Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Citizen of the Year

Who is be the person most deserving to ride in our 4th of July parade this year as 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. Nominate that person for the Citizen of the Year Award by June 20th at efhgtc@gmail.com with a short paragraph as to why you think they deserve this honor. The board will choose from among those names submitted. All residents of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove are eligible.

The 4th of July Silent Auction is coming!

By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin

It seems like summer is a long way away, but our very own Parade and Picnic is just around the corner on Sunday July 3rd. A key fundraiser for the community is the Silent Auction, where generous donors give us items and "experiences" to auction off, and generous neighbors purchase these. Last year we raised over \$7,000 for the community! We need everybody to pitch in to make this a success.

How you can help:

Do you own a vacation rental anywhere in the US or overseas? This is by far the largest grossing type of item at the Silent Auction. Please consider donating a week or a week-end, as appropriate. You can specify black-out dates or a contribution to defraying of expenses like cleaning. Purchasers are likely folks you know from the community.

If you don't personally own another home, do you have a family member or a good friend who does?

Do you own or work for a company that could donate a product or a service?

Do you patronize local businesses, such as restaurants, nail salons, or pet stores you would feel comfortable asking for a gift certificate?

Would you consider purchasing a gift certificate, or putting together a basket to donate? Each year neighbors are very creative and we have been the lucky recipients of gift certificates to the likes of Mille Fleurs and Savory restaurants, golf rounds at the Bridges, gorgeous baskets for gardeners, for kids cookie baking, for lovers of Italian food... your imagination is the limit!

Please contact us at efhgtc@gmail.com or 760-855-0444 to let us know of any items you could donate.

On the day, we can also use some help setting up starting at 9:00 am. Before then we need to develop bid sheets and descriptions, so if you want to lend a hand please don't hesitate, we always have fun putting this event together, it's a great way to get involved. Thanks for helping us help you!

\$50,000 AWARDED TO ELFIN FOREST FROM OMWD

By Melanie Fallon

As you probably already know the Olivenhain Municipal Water District is getting ready to install a new pipeline underneath Elfin Forest Road late this summer and fall. They prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on this project and the Town Council held a number of community meetings to solicit community concerns and possible mitigation for the impacts of this pipeline. The EIR was approved by OMWD's Board of Directors this fall. In addition to the mitigation measures that were contained in the EIR, the Town Council continued to advocate that the community of Elfin Forest deserved additional financial compensation from the Water District above and beyond the mitigation measures in the EIR.

I am pleased to announce that the OMWD Board of Directors agreed with us and on January 26, 2011 awarded \$50,000 to the Town Council as additional community mitigation. In March, the Town Council adopted the following policy regarding the expenditure of these funds. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please do not hesitate to ask.

DISBURSEMENT OF OMWD COMMUNITY MITIGATION FUNDS

In February 2011 the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council received \$50,000 as community mitigation from the Olivenhain Municipal Water District to mitigate for impacts from the construction of the Unit AA Pipeline which is scheduled to begin late this spring. The Town Council has determined that these funds shall be distributed as follows:

\$15,000 to be put into a special Town Council contingency account to be used only for the purpose of ensuring that large development projects do not negatively impact our rural lifestyle and community.

\$15,000 to be allocated to the EFHGTC Trails Committee to develop several new trail connections and re-fencing and re-grading of existing trails where needed, in addition this money can be used to maintain the trails. Every effort will be made to find matching funds for projects including Community Foundation monies if appropriate. The Committee will develop a scope of work which will detail the trail projects and timing of the expenditures. In addition, the Trails Committee will regularly report in the Chaparral on the usage and progress of the expenditure of these funds.

\$20,000 shall be given to the Elfin Forest Community Foundation so that additional community projects can be funded. The Community Foundation has created a community funding process that has been successful and is understood and respected by the community. After much discussion and Board action, the Town Council requires that the Community Foundation disperse these special OMWD funds as follows:

1. All monies must be distributed within two years or less. If all \$20,000 has not been allocated to projects within this two year timeframe, any balance shall be returned to the Town Council.
2. Funds should be used on the same type of projects that are outlined in the Community Foundation charter and bylaws, "...aimed at preserving, maintaining, or enhancing the overall quality of life within the Elfin Forest area."
3. All projects that are awarded a grant with the OMWD money shall expend their money within a 12 month period or the money shall be returned to the Town Council.
4. There shall be no limit on the award amount or the number of awards given within this \$20,000. (i.e. one great idea or project could be funded for \$20,000 or 20 projects could be funded at \$1000 each.)

-adopted by the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council March 30, 2011.

County Proposes Equine Ordinance Update

By Mid Hoppenrath

San Diego County is considering updating the Zoning Ordinance, stating that "it has been determined that revisions to the Equine regulations are necessary as existing regulations are out of date and a more comprehensive code and policy with regard to these uses could be implemented" (<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/advance/Equine.html>). These changes would not affect horse businesses that have been in continuous operation since 1978 (when the current Zoning Ordinance went into effect), with no more than 1 year discontinuation of commercial service during that time (they are "grandfathered").

Current regulations in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove allow only horsekeeping by right. Any boarding, breeding, or leasing of horses is considered a commercial use and requires a major use permit (MUP) that can cost \$60 thousand or more. This means to board a horse for a friend is financially prohibitive (one horse could not return enough money over its entire lifetime of boarding fees to pay for the permit). So to help pay the rising costs of caring for their own horse, some residents must break the rules and board illegally, which is what we

see happening throughout our valley. The County's ordinance is based on any commercial use of the property, which means if you "buy" the horse from your friend who wants to board, and then collect money to keep the horse, the County sees this as "leasing" your horse, which still requires an MUP. Many feel these regulations are forcing horse owners out of the county, and with them leaves an important ally in the fight to keep the area rural.

Here is an overview of the updates that the County is considering:

No Change – Does not require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

This option would continue to keep the existing regulations in place if the County determines as part of this process that the existing regulations are adequate. This option would not require an EIR, which is a study of how any proposed changes would affect the community and the environment and requires significant impacts to be properly mitigated. The need for an EIR means the development of a particular option will be more costly and time consuming than options that do not require an EIR.

Conservative Ordinance Option – Does not require an EIR

With this option, while large horse facilities will still require an MUP, boarding just one or a few horses will require an administrative permit, which starts at \$10,000 for the application and runs upwards to about \$20,000 to \$30,000. So half the cost, but obviously still way too expensive for our backyard horse owners, so we are left with, in essence, a no change option here, too.

Tiered Ordinance Option – Requires an EIR

This option would require permitting for all commercial horse services, but with fees and regulations gradually increasing according to impact to the community. Boarding just a few horses would be "by right," in this case meaning it would require only a ministerial permit, which would be available over-the-counter for about \$100 dollars, have a checklist of best management practices (BMPs), and probably come with a brochure describing how to be compliant with the BMPs (see link at end of article). There is no on-site visit, but building permits could still be required for any new structures. BMPs cover things like proper manure storage, erosion control, and storm water drainage. If a resident who is boarding horses is found to not be following these BMPs and their neighbors complain, County Code Enforcement will show up, give them a grace period to bring the problems into compliance, and revoke their permit and charge a fee if they don't comply. This provides a means of protecting those who may live near folks who do not, for ignorance or malice, follow good horse keeping practices. Boarding or leasing more horses will require a more expensive permit with more restrictions, at some point an administrative or minor use permit will be required, and for very large commercial ranches, an MUP will still be required, along with site visits, public hearings, and oversight of planning groups.

By-Right Horse Stable Option – Requires an EIR

This option would allow any size commercial stables by right throughout the county with no requirement for an administrative permit or MUP. This is allowed currently in many "backcountry" areas of the County (see map at http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/advance/POD_10-010_Horse_Stable_All_Map.pdf). This option is the most controversial, and would not have increasing restrictions and costs for larger facilities with more animals.

Key Issues for an Equine Ordinance

Currently there are no restrictions on the number of privately owned horses that may be kept on property in Elfin Forest or Harmony Grove. It is important to note, however, that the number of horses allowed to be boarded or leased on private property will be restricted, and the County is looking for guidance on how to regulate this, for example, as a maximum number, by lot size, or by number of privately owned horses already on the property. In addition, factors like expected additional car trips on private roads, or "horse" trips on private trails, number of extra horse trailers stored on property, etc, are potential problems. It is possible that an additional per horse "tariff" could be added to the permitting fees and returned to the local community to help defray the costs of these impacts.

Management issues like manure storage/disposal, fly control, dust/grading, and erosion/storm water runoff will be regulated by the BMPs. Some folks are not aware that all of us will be required to observe these practices in the future to safeguard our clean air and ocean water, but it will be required now by the updated

ordinance for all our neighbors who are boarding or leasing even one horse on their property.

To make an informed decision, you should have some information about horse manure and flies. You may not be aware that if horse manure is hauled away in a dumpster once a week, that property is not adding even a single fly to the local neighborhood. The life cycle of the stable fly is longer than 1 week, so no flies can emerge from any eggs that may have been laid in the manure...think of it as birth control for flies! Also, horse manure that is thin spread (no deeper than 2 inches) over a non-irrigated field will dry out and also prevent the emergence of any flies.

What might surprise you is that dog poop in an irrigated lawn is the perfect breeding ground for "garbage" flies that can really be annoying when you want to use that great outdoor kitchen! Garbage flies, those metallic looking blue-green flies, cannot breed in horse manure because it does not have a high enough protein content, but they will breed in dog feces or garbage. House flies breed in any damp organic material, so the gardener's compost pile is ideal. While the temperatures in the center of a well-managed compost pile are too hot for flies, the outer 3 or 4 inches are just right! Compost piles must be turned at least once a week to move eggs and maggots to the deeper, hotter layers to prevent the emergence of adult flies. Leaking, dripping irrigation heads near damp, rotting vegetation are good fly breeding areas, too. So before you blame the neighbor's horses, take a walk around your own yard to be sure you are not contributing to the local fly population!

Useful Links

For further information about the Equine Ordinance, contact Contact Carl Stiehl, Advance Planning, San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use (858) 694-2216.

Carl.Stiehl@sdcounty.ca.gov or web site <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/advance/Equine.html>

For more information about BMPs, see http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/watershedpdf/equestrian_facilities.pdf

For more information about types of flies and fly control, see <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7457.html>

TRAIL COMMITTEE REPORT *By Bonnie Baumgartner*

Spring is here! AND The trail committee is happy to report that most all of our monuments in the community are looking colorful, weeded, and mulched. A huge 'Thank-you' to all of the people of this community and their display of activism for the good of the community.

A sign that our civic mindedness extends not only to our own streets- but down the road apiece was shown by Danny and Nancy Goodrich and the great job they did on Colina Encantada's entry- not their street- but one down the road.

The EFHGTC has set aside \$15,000. of the OMWD 'pain and suffering' money ear-marked for trail creation, maintenance, fence replacement, planting. They have obligated us to apply for matching funds, labor etc. We have been charged to improve trails in a 'visible way'. Thank-you to the Town Council for this support of the trails.

The next work party day is Sat. April 23, 2011. We will be grading the link between Elfin Forest Lane and Fortuna del Este. Permission and active participation has been granted by the property owners. Some of the grading had already been accomplished by homeowners on the link. The garage sale last August netted about \$532. which will be used towards split rail fencing. Tractors, fuel have been donated, as has labor in most instances.

Ted Hansen of Hansen Associates has donated a beautiful logo for the "Trails". Look for it when we are working on the trails- it will be your alert that there are people, vehicles, tractors at work to make your trails better, safer. Thank-you Ted!.

Please remember the "Trail Etiquette Rules"

*Our trails are meant for passive recreation: walking, hiking, running, mountain biking and equestrian use.

*Be courteous always!

*This is a quiet rural neighborhood: turn off cell phones, no yelling etc.

*Leave no trace- if you see garbage, bottles on trail- pick them up- and don't drop them yourself.

*Yield the trail to those with bikes or horses- they have less ability to stop than a hiker.

*Wet weather rule: if you sink with your feet, bike, horse 3" or more- STAY OFF THE TRAIL until it dries out.

*Use common sense and always good manners.

If you have a trail on your property that needs grading, mulching, erosion control or replacement fencing- please contact the Trails Committee. We are:

Bonnie Baumgartner, Chair 760-510-1175 bonnie@doubleb-ranch.com or bonniedblb@gmail.com

THE TRAILS COMMITTEE : CHAIR, Bonnie Baumgartner, Joy Jackson, Carla Zilka, Carolyn Swenerton, Mid Hoppenrath, Sandra Bartsch, Nancy Reed

See you on the trails!

The larger context of the proposed changes to the current animal regulations By Jacqueline Ardivaud-Benjamin

Several neighbors who are not horse owners, but live near horse facilities, have written to the Town Council with their concerns about the notion of making it easier to board horses or to run horse related businesses in our community. The County has also brought up some larger issues raised by this project. Both are summarized below.

The County presentation on the topic ended with these bullet points (*explanation in italics*):

Key Issues for an Equine Ordinance

Lot size and the number of animals (*currently the county of San Diego is the only one in California to allow an unlimited number of horses, regardless of lot size. Yep, that means here in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove too. Should there be a maximum per acre? Should it apply just to boarded horses or all horses on a given property?*)

Traffic and private road usage (*Only Elfin Forest Road is a public road in Elfin Forest. Boarders and customers taking lessons using private trails and private roads could create a liability issue. Some have expressed the opinion that the community trails are for the private enjoyment of residents only and not for outside paying clients. A related issue is emergency evacuation on narrow private roads: if boarding facilities are allowed on those roads, some as narrow as 12 to 15 ft, and incoming trailers come pick up the boarded horses, is there a risk residents might get trapped and not be able to evacuate?*).

Community Character

Intensity of development (*Are we Rancho Santa Fe or Lakeside? Are we primarily a residential rural area with horse keeping (a la RSF), or a rural ranching area with large commercial horse farms and facilities (a la Lakeside). Would property values be affected if boarding facilities, some conceivably without resident owners, sprouted up in our neighborhood?*)

Best Management Practices

Manure Management/Vector Control (*described in Mid's article. Do note though that the proposed BMPs are exactly the same as those currently in place, there are no new regulations or new enforcement resources proposed under this new ordinance*)

Grading and Stormwater

Biology Impacts (*more lenient boarding regulations mean potentially more commercial boarding operations which could have an impact on stormwater and overall biological balance*)



20223 Elfin Forest Rd., Elfin Forest, CA 92029

2011 Board Members:

Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, Chair
 Bonnie Baumgartner, Vice-Chair
 May Meintjes, Treasurer
 Amy Molenaar, Secretary
 Melanie Fallon
 Nancy Goodrich
 Minoo Sohaey
 Gordon Taggart
 Sandra Bartsch, At-Large Member
 Mid Hoppenrath, At-Large Member

Carl Stiehl, Planner

Advance Planning, San Diego County DPLU
 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
 San Diego, CA 92123-1666

May 11, 2011

Re: Proposed update for equine regulations in the Zoning Ordinance

Dear Carl,

The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed updating of the equine regulations in the County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance. Over 78% of our residents feel that keeping horses is important (results of 2005 community survey), and we believe that some limited boarding of horses may help to make this possible for more members of our community. But we feel strongly that horse owners must maintain their horse barns and pasture fencing, follow best management practices (BMPs) regarding storm water runoff and drainage, establish erosion control on slopes, practice on-site insect abatement, and properly dispose of manure and soiled bedding. In addition, the impacts of "non-resident" horses and riders on our trail system and private roads must be mitigated.

Therefore, EFHG Town Council supports the tiered option with the following restrictions:

Tier 1 - Allows horse keeping and boarding of up to 1 horse per acre

Designed to help home horse owners defray expenses of caring for their own horse with minimal impact to the community. This category would allow boarding/leasing of 1 horse per acre (\geq half acre portions rounded up) to a maximum of 4 horses per property with an over-the-counter ministerial permit and full compliance with BMPs. The permit could be revoked for non-compliance and requires personal ownership of at least 1 horse. Any boarded/leased horses must be registered yearly with the County and part of the registration fee should be returned to the local community for code enforcement and trail maintenance (see general notes). Public riding/lessons are not allowed in this tier. No signage is allowed.

Tier 2 - Allows boarding of up to 8 horses per property

Same as Tier 1, but allows boarding of more than 1 horse per acre up to a maximum of 8 boarded/leased horses per property with an approved minor-level affordable administrative permit, and notification of all adjacent property owners. As in Tier 1, full compliance with BMPs is required. Public riding/lessons are not allowed. No signage is allowed. Unlike Tier 1, personal ownership of horses is not a requirement.

Tier 3 - Allows boarding and possible riding establishment

Same as Tier 2, but it would allow public riding and lessons with an approved administrative permit, (with fee set by County but the EFHGTC requests that it be as reasonably-priced as possible.) This process should require the notification of adjacent property owners, submission of a business plan and site plan to ensure that the business will be operated in a safe and non-intrusive manner and that adequate conditions be placed on the business including but not limited to such items as no more than 4 individual riding lessons per day, and that a parking plan be provided for off street parking to limit the impact on neighbors. No group lessons or horse camps would be allowed to minimize impact on neighbors. Full compliance with BMPs is required. No advertising or signage is allowed.

Tier 4 - Allows for larger horse boarding, riding stable establishments – we request that this tier option *only be made available in Harmony Grove, not in Elfin Forest*, as it would be incompatible with existing community character.

Same as Tier 3, but allows for more than 8 boarded/leased horses. This tier would require a major use permit and again the EFHGTC requests the fee to be reasonable and notification of adjacent property owners. Minimal signage allowed.

General notes:

The EFHGTC strongly recommends that a portion of any annual fees and Permit fees be dedicated to County Code Enforcement and Animal Services so that effective equine BMP's and code enforcement can be conducted in the community where the funds were generated. In addition we request that the County create a reimbursement system so that a portion of the funds also be returned to bona fide, not-for-profit representative local organizations willing and able to take on management and disbursement of these funds for local recreational trail maintenance. Where this is not possible, monies should be reserved for County Department of Parks and Recreation for use in the community where funds were generated.

Offspring of boarded horses will be considered to be additional horses when they are 2 years old. Leasing a horse to more than one person will be considered a "public" use, that is, allowed only in Tier 3 and 4. All valid permits are one-time expenses. If permits have been revoked for noncompliance, they must be re-purchased when fees have been paid and enforcement issues have been resolved.

In addition, we understand that our wishes and recommendations may not work in all equestrian neighborhoods in San Diego County and if that is ultimately the situation we would urge the staff, the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to consider making our recommendations specific to Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove through the Animal Use Designator system in the zoning code.

While the EFHG Town Council believes that some of the San Diego County Animal Use ordinances have placed inappropriate financial burdens on "backyard" horse owners in particular, we also believe that horse owners must be prepared to take responsibility for keeping their animals comfortable, their environment healthy, and their neighbors happy. We look forward to further discussions on these proposed updates to the equine regulations in the Zoning Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Bonita Baumgartner Chair, Equine Ordinance Committee

Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council

And if you want to make your voice heard on the proposed changes to the Equine Ordinance...

If anybody in the community is interested in chiming in on the changes being contemplated to the way horses are regulated in our community, you might want to make a note of the dates below. The purpose of both Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors hearings are to take the public input. You may either go in person and testify, and/or write to either regulatory bodies with your comments. A group of three or more can also put together a "group presentation" and get additional speaking time.

At this point the county is considering whether to modify the current regulations regarding horse boarding and possibly horse stables (riding academies). No changes are being proposed that we know of to horse keeping (the owning of horses by private owners).

The Equine Ordinance Options is scheduled for the **May 20** Planning Commission Hearing and the **June 29** Board of Supervisors Meeting. Both the Planning Commission and the Board start at 9am.

The Planning Commission Hearings are here at DPLU, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego 92123. The Board of Supervisors Meetings are in downtown San Diego at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego 92101.

Update on the County's General Plan Update *By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin*

On April 13th the Board of Supervisors voted to approve a block of "referrals", which are exceptions to the staff recommendation, and were called by the San Diego Union Tribune "dubious at best". Part of the properties included the 200 + acres of Harmony Groves Meadows, situated off Country Club Drive South of Harmony Grove road. The supervisors ignored your many letters and the Town Council letters indicating the area had already been planned for as part of the Harmony Grove Village project years ago. As a result instead of the 24 to 26 homes that could be built under the current General Plan, the developer has the green light to build 168-180 units, though they will still need to complete an Environmental Impact Report. The Town Council is evaluating the appropriate response to this action. Further details can be found at:

http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/gpupdate/docs/BOS_March_2011/C18_SanDieguito_3162011.pdf

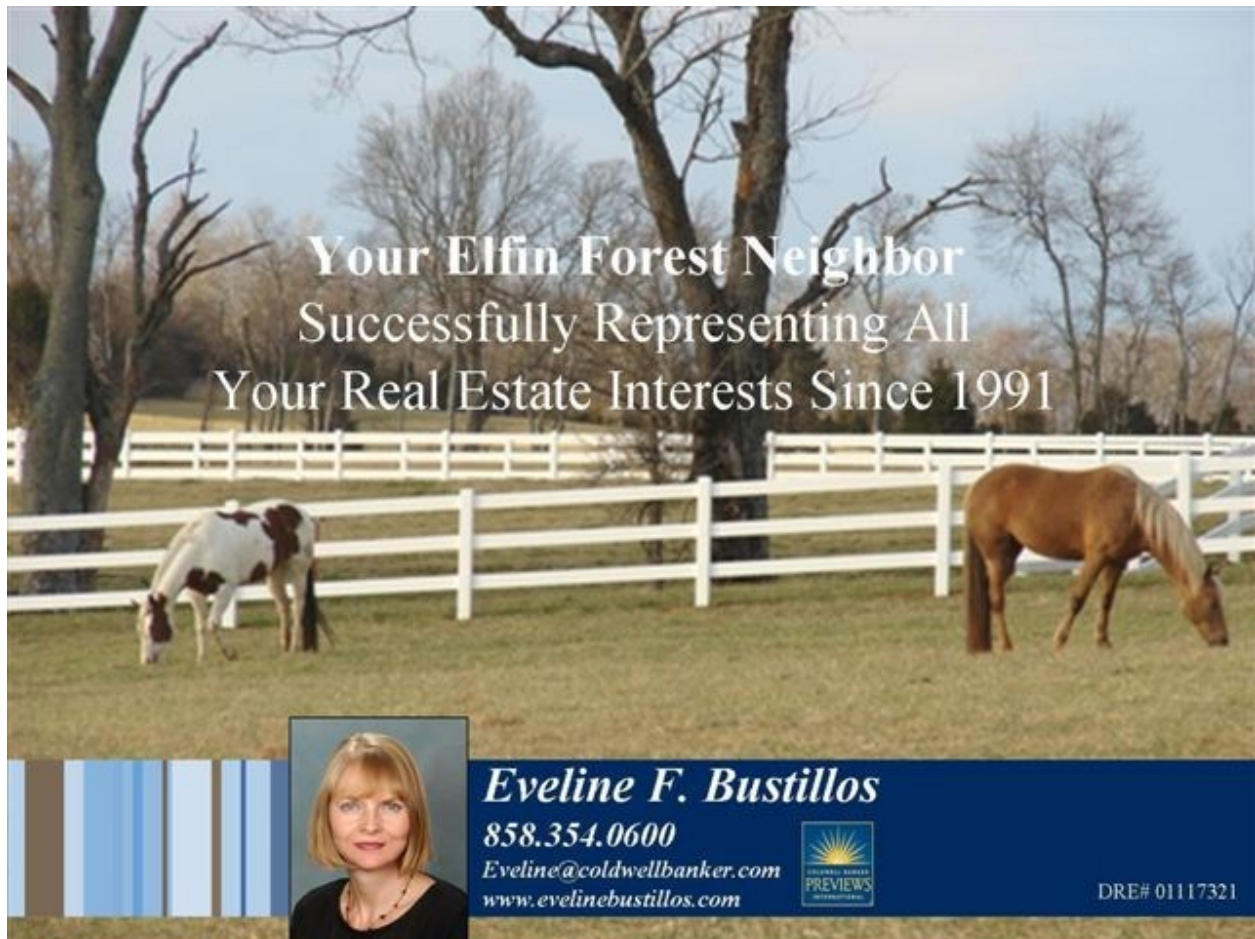
Harmony Grove Village Update By Tony DeBellis, Vice Chair, EFHGFD BOD

On April 13th staff members of your Fire Department and its Board of Directors met with representatives of Standard Pacific Homes [SPH] as well as the San Diego County Land Use Department [DPLU]. Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Department [EFHGFD] will be required to provide fire service for this new development of 740 homes.

Some of the highlights from the meeting are:

1. Standard Pacific [SP] hopes to have their application into LAFCO [Local Agency Formation Commission] to amend boundaries of water districts and fire districts submitted within the next couple of months with approval hoped for by the end of 2011.
2. Four parcels comprising 55 acres will need to be moved from San Marcos coverage into our CSA 107 area.
3. SPH must build a new fire station within the development and funding will have to be provided for staffing.
4. The property is divided into two grading phases with 7 subdivision units in one phase and 4 subdivision units in the second phase .
5. SPH hopes to begin grading in August of 2012.
6. There will be design scenarios developed for Harmony Grove Road, Country Club Drive, and Village Road.
7. There will be four traffic signals installed.
8. SPH will be selling some lots to other developers who must follow the approved plans.
9. SPH's time-line projects the first model homes to be built in 2014.

There were assurances given by DPLU that if any conditions were proposed for changing those proposals would have to go back to the approving authority and could not be approved at staff level.



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Overview of Flies

By Bonnie Baumgartner

“Overview of Flies”, presented by Bill Burkhardt, entomologist, was presented May 4, 2011 at the EFHG Community meeting. Bill has a B.S. in Biology and a M.S. in Entomology from Virginia Tech. His specialty is aquatic entomology. Retired from the San Diego County Health Department he now works in private industry as a food safety specialist for restaurants. He is an avid hiker and is a docent at the Elfin Forest Reserve, where he has given in service training to his fellow docents, and has dazzled inner city children from Escondido with the amazing insects wriggling around in healthy Escondido Creek water. Bill gave the community an overview of House flies, Stable flies, Blow Flies, Little House flies, Flesh Flies, Soldier flies, and Horse flies- a small list of the myriad of existing flies. Did you know that House flies eat only liquid and cannot bite? Stable flies however have a proboscis that allows them to suck blood from mammals- and they do bite. House flies are always associated with humans and their activities- farm and home. Hot weather allows the flies to complete their life cycle in 6 days- cold weather slows it down. Flies that breed in manure need moisture so spreading manure and allowing it to dry out prevents fly breeding. Bill commented that spreading horse manure on the trails in thin layers away from the creek would not contaminate the creek and would help with fly control by drying out manure and not allowing breeding of flies. Composting manure generates heat of up to 105- 110 degrees which kills fly larva. Chickens scratching in manure are a good thing- they spread it out so it dries, and they eat larva. Blow flies are the first flies to land on a corpse. (CSI flies), and are not in animal manure. The Little House Fly (*Fannia*) is associated with chicken manure and dog manure- so cleaning up after Fido is important!. Flesh flies -*Sarcophagidae*- ‘sarco’ meaning ‘dead flesh’ and is the root of the word ‘sarcasm’- are not in urban areas, but wooded areas. Soldier flies (wasp-like) have no mouth parts- they live off their accumulated fat for about 2 days as adults and are great for compost piles, and are often used for fish and reptile food. That big ole’ Horse Fly with its most painful bite lives and breeds along streams and banks and is not related to people, but is attracted to the color black. So don’t wear a black -T-shirt when you hike! Flies can transmit disease thru mechanical transmission by landing on an unsanitary item (corpse, manure, dog feces) and then landing on your food. So fly management and abatement is important. Bottom line: If you have animals of any sort: have manure hauled away, compost it, or spread it so it dries out- Be a good neighbor. Bill has generously offered to answer ‘insect questions’ including identifying that mysterious bug. Just pop the offending critter into your freezer for 24 hours to humanely destroy and contact Bonnie, the courier, at bonnie@doubleb-ranch.com or bonniedblb@gmail.com.

Bill made bugs fun! Great lecture!

What to do about Darkness at Night?

Reprinted from the Community Guide at the request of Eveline Bustillos

A note of courtesy. One of the great attractions of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove is the lack of city lights at night. Most residents observe the unwritten rule of turning outside lights out after 11:00 p.m. if they are not entertaining. Like sound, light carries a long way. If you must have an outside light on all night, please use shielded, low density, carefully placed lights that do not shine into your neighbor's house. Motion detector lights are an excellent alternative to an all night light.

RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER *By Linda Ragland*

Taylor Ragland, a resident of Elfin Forest and Junior at The Bishops School, is the school's Team Captain for the June Relay for Life event. The Relay for Life is an event celebrating Cancer Survivors and also raises money for the American Cancer Society. Teams collect donations and then gather at a local high school track for a 24 hour relay where each team is asked to have a member walking the track, at all times, during the over-night event. The continuous walking symbolizes that Cancer never sleeps. The light and darkness of the day and night parallel the physical effects, emotions, and mental state of a cancer patient while undergoing treatment.

If you would care to donate to Taylor's team, please log on to "main.acsevents.org/goto/bishopsknights".



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 Sheriffs Department is committed to educating all communities on numerous public safety topics. Please contact Jackie Cruz 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
182 Santar Place-San Marcos

760-510-5200 Business Office – Information
Hours Mon-Fri 8 a.m to 5 p.m.
Closed Holidays

760-510-5254 County Crime Prevention
jackie.cruz@sdsheiff.org

Golden Eagles were Here in 1918

by Amy Molenaar

The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove area has always been an area rich in biodiversity, as you will read in this August of 1918 excerpt from *The Oologist*. The article references the lands surrounding the Escondido Creek.

... Our auto containing the editor, his wife and a number of the best known Oologists of Escondido, headed west of the city where we entered "Spook Canyon," which is a great rift in the range of mountains, bordering the Pacific and extending from the ocean, clear through the range to Escondido.

It is a wild, rugged, rocky, well-named cleft, at places widening out to a considerable width and in other places the sheer walls of rock rise hundreds and hundreds of feet. The sides are brush covered and in many places are huge trees and magnificent live oaks and there is very little habitation in this mountainous valley.

A beautiful stream winds and crooks and tumbles and runs along the bottom, finding at last the sea. As we followed the mountain road down this canyon we were compelled many times to ford this creek in first one place, and then in another, and on the way down were shown several nesting sites of the Golden Eagle which had been used in times gone by. Finally arriving amidst a little grove, in the bottom of the canyon, the car was stopped and the party alighted and struck off afoot toward the object of the expedition. Finally Mrs. Barnes seated herself on a large boulder and was left with the field glasses to observe the further advance of the army. Pushing, pulling and forcing our way through the brush and up a very precipitous, rocky, hillside on the opposite side of the creek, we at last arrived at the foot of an immense live oak tree. And there in the forks of which rested the huge nest of the *Aquila Chrysaetos*, but which you and I reader call the Golden Eagle.

It was a short matter to negotiate that tree and peer over the rim of the flattened top and rest our eye for the first time on the eggs of this bird in situ. Never will the editor live long enough to forget the thrill of that morning. No oologist ever forgets his first view of this kind. This nest overlooked the wide expanse of the valley for miles and miles and in it rested the two priceless specimens which come to the lot of but few oologists as personally taken.

R.M. Barnes. *The Oologist* August 1, 1918: pgs 153 - 156

Newcomer's Corner

If you know of any new residents in your neighborhood, let Minoo Shaey know at minoosoh@yahoo.com. The Welcome Committee will bring them a basket with information on the area, a jar of TECC honey and other goodies.

Please help us welcome to the Elfin Forest community Sarah and Jeff Witt, on Canyon de Oro. They recently moved here from Encinitas with their two boys, attracted to the area by the chance to raise their kids in a more rural setting. Jeff is a stock market analyst and Sarah a structural engineer. You might meet them hiking around with their children Branson, six, and Kaleb, two. They enjoy hiking, cooking and traveling, and look forward to meeting the neighbors.



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858 452-7914 FAX

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WWW.LANDCONSERVE.COM

Classifieds

Karlyn 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. Parents transport. References available if desired. 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—Local, UCSD educated, computer scientist as needed for support. 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.

Pet Care Tessora Bustillos, Elfin Forest resident, responsible & loves all animals, will feed, play, walk & sit your pets. Please call 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

Pet/Dog Sitting/Dog Walking. HG Resident, Responsible 4-H member; Jr. AKC member. Dogs, Cats, Goats, Rabbits, etc. Call Lily Molenaar: 760-741-1111 or email molenaarae@yahoo.com

Basic Leather repair and reconditioning. Do you have any broken tack you want fixed? Call Paul [760-518-8170](tel:760-518-8170) for an estimate. I live on Sequest trail.

Goats (3) FOR FREE- We have three goats for free (2) Nubians and (1) Dwarf Pigmy Very friendly and must go to good home. Very easy to have and maintain. Can stay with other animals. Call Bob Voorhees [760-420-4213](tel:760-420-4213)

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

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