



EFTC News Items

by Evelyn Alemanni

Elections

Town Council elections are coming up in February. We will take nominations at the January meeting. Anyone interested in running must be over 18 and be a property owner within CSA107 (Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove). The term is for two years. Each board member is expected to attend the monthly board meeting and the monthly community meeting, as well as to participate in several community projects. This is a very special way to serve your community and help preserve our rural environment. Call any board member if you have questions.

January Meeting

Guest speakers for the January 2001 meeting will be David Poole from Brookfield Homes which is going to be developing University Commons on Questhaven Rd. and Jim Simmons, who will give us an update on the Pulte project.

Garden Club

The first meeting of the year is on January 13 and you'll have an opportunity to tour the flower fields on Questhaven Rd. Hosted by Phil Chanceliere. Meeting starts promptly at 10 a.m. We are in the process of putting together a garden club program for 2001. If you're interested in hosting a meeting, please contact Evelyn Alemanni (471-7224) or Alemanni@allea.com. The garden club is a wonderful way to share the joys and challenges of gardening in our beautiful valley, to share plants, techniques, and resources.

Elf Alerts

Would you like to be informed of upcoming Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove events via email? If you haven't been receiving "elf alerts", please send your email address to Alemanni@allea.com to be added to the list. This is an expedient way for the town council to send items of importance to the community. Don't worry - we absolutely will not give your email address to anyone.

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Heads Up!

**Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council
and
CSA 107 Fire Board Election Night
is
February 7th. at 7:00pm at the
Firehouse
Please Plan To Attend**

Thanks from Kim

By Kim Hunter

One of my Questhaven neighbors called to tell me a couch had been dumped into the Escondido Creek tributary along Questhaven Rd. She didn't know how to get it out, and didn't have a truck to haul it away.

Remembering that TECC had put an illegal dumping blurb in the Chaparral this year, I went to TECC's web at <http://www.escondidocreek.org> and clicked on trash. The web allowed me to E mail TECC about the couch. By the time my husband and son had hauled the ugly monster up to the side of the road, Deb LeLevier of TECC had responded saying TECC would take care of it. A few days later the ugly monster disappeared, along with some other misc. items we had not even piled. Wow! Was this easy and wonderful!

BIG THANKS TO:

Our COMMUNITY FOUNDATION for granting TECC funds to deal with illegal dumping and pay those fees to legally dispose of trash.

THE ESCONDIDO CREEK CONSERVANCY (TECC) for taking on such a labor intensive and time consuming project to benefit Elfin Forest and our public waterways. With special credit to Deb Le Levier for promptly responding to TECC issues and public communications.

And biggest Thanks of all to the McCullochs, for tirelessly picking up and hauling trash from our community. Without Frank, we would be trashed. Frank and his wife labor to keep us all in paradise, without requesting a penny for their tireless community work.

Playgroup Schedule

by Mary Moore

January 5th at Mary Moore's, 19919 Fortuna del Este, ph. 591-3080, 10-12

January 12th meet at the fire department at 10am. Firefighter Tim Costanzo will give us a brief tour of the station, equipment, fire engines, and an overview of fire safety with children. We'll then go to Julie Frederick's home at 20257 Elfin Forest Rd. (within walking distance of the fire station). Julie's ph. number is 591-9360.

January 19th at Michelle Sidwell's, 6856 Los Vientos Serenos, ph. 471-8877, 10-12.

January 26th at Bronwyn Colin's, 7115 Circa de Media, ph. 471-1214, 10-12.

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Not All Golf Course's Are Created Equal.

by Kim Hunter

Many of you have received a notice of intent from San Marcos about the proposed golf course at San Elijo Hills. While on the face of it, this might sound like a nice addition to the project, there are some serious impact to consider...

Pollution of tributaries, waterways and elfin forest wells, including questhaven retreat

Expanses of year-round perfectly green, weed and pest free fairways and greens mean heavy use of chemicals, pesticides, poisons, and fertilizers. Statistically, courses use minimally a half ton of pesticides a year. On average, golf courses use three times as much pesticide as do farms. Pesticides aside, even nitrogen is deadly to add to waterways and natural habitats. Coupled with full time irrigation and an underlayment of rocky clay soil, which promotes both leaching and runoff, San Elijo's golf course could feed devastating amounts of toxins into our numerous waterways. Not only are San Marcos Creek and Escondido Creek linked to this mountain location, but Elfin Forest well water is also fed from there.

Personally, I think Elfin Forest owes much of its rural character to The Questhaven Retreat, who has fought many expensive battles for our benefit. The Retreat, right below San Elijo, operates totally on well water. Elfin Forest owes it to ourselves and our future to assure all our wells and waterways remain healthy.

Double cross history

San Elijo hoodwinked their way into approval for 1200 additional units, commercial etc., and down sizing Elfin Forest Rd., under the pretext of eliminating the golf course from original plans. Yet here it slinks back, in a much deadlier location.

The now dead 1990 San Elijo EIR, covered a project with a golf course at lower elevation, with NO commercial or institutional. That original golf course plan was approved for 2300 homes, a 6 lane highway connection to Twin Oaks Valley Rd., widened habitat corridors and elimination of all grading on the upper ridge line. That plan met with the approval of the then Elfin Forest subcommittee. San Elijo subsequently decided not to proceed with those approvals, primarily saying they had decided to drop the golf course.

The 1995 EIR (released in 1997 & covering the current project), requested an increase to 3398 homes, reduction in the 6 lane highway to 4 lanes, and addition of commercial and institutional, primarily due to ELIMINATION of the golf course and related facilities from the new plan.

Consequently, the developable space, where the forsaken golf course once was, is now crammed with approved wall-to-wall buildings, pavement, and postage stamp lots.

San Elijo is not giving up one home site, parking lot or anything else to now add back a golf course, related facilities and all their impacts. Instead, the new golf course is proposed to eliminate mountain top natural open space lands. Fairness dictates that the course and facilities, if resurrected, should return to the buildable envelope by eliminating the add-on 1200 units, etc. that were gained by its previous elimination.

Destruction and defacement of the primary ridge line

Primary ridges with their highly visible natural curves are protected by San Marcos' general plan, except in San Elijo. Go Figure. Only San Elijo gets the special privilege of flattening San Marcos mountains.

Loss of regional natural park

The course is proposed on natural open space land, that currently contains plans for hiking/equestrian trails and overlooks through natural habitat, similar to Nature park off Harmony Grove Rd. We Elfs especially know the value of such regional parks.? Do we want to trade equestrian open space for a graded ridge line topped with 10-12,000 sq. ft. club-houses and related buildings?

Destruction and fragmentation of core habitat

Eliminating habitat destroys sensitive species, while forcing San Elijo's hardier species (deer, coyote, snakes, rats, etc.) to move our way. Our coyote etc. problems of today are nothing compared to what we will experience if further natural habitat is lost to manicured fairways, golfers, and lawn mowers.

MORE TRAFFIC The roads cannot handle what is already planned. San Elijo has reduced improvement plans for Rancho Santa Fe Rd. and San Elijo Rd. from 6 lanes to 4 lanes, while steadily increasing their traffic impacts. Gridlock is already approved

Golf Course, from page 3

within existing plans. The proposition of adding course traffic is insult to injury.

What does related facilities mean?

Is San Elijo or San Marcos capable of taking a conservative view to development? The term Related Facilities when used by San Elijo makes my hair stand on end. Is San Elijo marketing green fairways, while hotels, spas, tennis and swim facilities, restaurants, bars, and night clubs dance in their head?

Don't count on them spilling the beans now, but watch how they dance around setting ANY specific limits.

The big picture

San Elijo has repeatedly proved their ability to change specifics within their Specific Plan. They are expert at hiding contradictory, double meaning, and open ended options within wording of their approvals. They always leave the door open for future change. With San Elijo, nothing is Specific and nothing presented to the public is certain. San Elijo's Specific Plan is simply the public shell of a much more impacting plan that is being introduced in smaller glimpses so as to cushion the ultimate shock by conditioning the public to accept repeated smaller shocks over time.

.The Unpalatable big picture won't be revealed for years yet. We have numerous step by step doses to swallow before then. Mark my words, we will receive notices of San Elijo proposed plan changes for the next 10 years. We need to keep tally. And we need ensure that San Marcos citizens and representatives are aware of that tally, lest the unaware public willingly consumes an entire bottle of arsenic, sip by sip, never recognizing the folly of their action.

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From The Internet

The Essential Guide to Women's English:

Yes = No

No = Yes

Maybe = No

I'm sorry = You'll be sorry

We need = I want

It's your decision = My correct decision should be obvious by now

Do what you want = You'll pay for this later

We need to talk = I need to complain

Sure go ahead = I don't want you to

I'm not upset = Of course I'm upset, you moron

You're so manly = You need a shave and you sweat a lot

Be romantic, turn out the lights = I have flabby thighs

This kitchen is so inconvenient = I want a new house

I want new curtains = and carpeting, and furniture, and wallpaper

I heard a noise = I noticed you were almost asleep

Do you love me? = I'm going to ask for something expensive

How much do you love me? = I did something today you're going to hate

I'll be ready in a minute = Kick off your shoes and find a good game on TV

You have to learn to communicate = Just agree with me

Idiots At Work

This week, all our office phones went dead and I had to contact the telephone repair people. They promised to be out between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. When I asked if they could give me a smaller time window, the pleasant gentleman asked, "Would you like us to call you before we come?" I replied that I didn't see how he would be able to do that, since our phones weren't working. He also requested that we report outages by email. -----(Does YOUR email work without a telephone line?).

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained

that it was necessary to compare the signature I had just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared the signature to the one I had just signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: too many deer were being hit by cars and he didn't want them to cross there anymore.

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for "minimal lettuce." He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg.

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" To which I replied, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" He smiled knowingly and nodded, "That's why we ask."

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectual-challenged coworker of mine when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, "What on earth are blind people doing driving?!"

At a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear coworker who was leaving the company due to "downsizing," our manager commented cheerfully, "this is fun. We should do this more often." Not a word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that deer-in-the-head-lights stare.

I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the life of her couldn't understand why her system would not turn on.

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. "Hey," I announced to the technician, "it's open!" To which he replied, "I know - I already got that side."

NOW DON'T YOU FEEL BETTER?

Creek Happenings. December 2000

By Deb LeLevier

The Escondido Creek Conservancy's (TECC) trash hotline has been ringing off the hook this month. One neighbor called in an illegal dumping (found in 3 large piles, "thoughtfully" spread over the entire length of a steep hill) on Canyon de Oro. TECC quickly made a trip to assess the situation and then followed up 2 days later by picking up all of the trash and taking it to the Resource Recovery Center. Once again Frank McCulloch joined the merry TECC'sters, lending his truck and strong arms to clean up the neighborhood. We filled one truck beyond its sides with discarded wood- some of it burned-, pipes, trellises, a large amount of metal debris, including auto parts, a tricycle, and the usual cans, bottles, and miscellaneous litter.

Earlier in the month, we had a call about a dumping on Questhaven, just off Harmony Grove Road. For details, see Kim Hunter's article in this issue.

TECC hates to hear about illegal trash dumping in our beautiful valley, but we are proud that our trash hotline (760-471-9354) and able-bodied members are available to serve the community in such an important way.

The month of December has been kind and generous to TECC. At this month's Town Council Meeting, we were presented with a \$45,000.00 check from C.A.R.E.! Thanks to all involved, and again TECC pledges to use the money to protect open spaces along Escondido Creek.

We also received a \$1000.00 grant through the San Diego Foundation HW Fund at the recommendation of David Wellborn. We are immeasurably grateful to the Foundation for their continued support and benevolence.

TECC has set up the "Escondido Creek Conservancy Land Acquisition and Management Fund" at the San Diego Foundation. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, point your browser to www.escondidocreek.org where you will find our address and payment options. Or you can contact the San Diego Foundation directly at 1-619-235-2300 or www.sdfoundation.org. Any money donated to this fund will be used to preserve open spaces along Escondido Creek and in its watershed.

Thanks to our individual donors this month: Gregory Dennis, Nils & Elfriedel Lunnedal, Michael & Nancy Sampson, Inez Yoder and Scott & Alicia Woodson. TECC could not do it without your continued support and generosity! "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you" to all who shared their wealth with TECC in the year 2000. Our membership has never been larger. If you want to contribute before the end of the year, we can still match every dollar you give 2:1 and of course every dollar is tax-deductible.

Look for new volunteer opportunities in 2001. We will be informing you about these on our website, in our newsletter, and right here in the Chaparral. One area we need help with IMMEDIATELY is grant writing. I know we have some members with talent in this area. Please get in touch with us A.S.A.P. (we have a very important proposal that we need your expertise on 1st thing in January.) Contact us at: 760-471-9354 or teccsters@msn.com. What a great way to begin the New Year by volunteering your time right here in your own community! Remember: "Think Globally, Act Locally".

TECC's Board of Directors: Leonard Wittwer, Tim Costanzo, Steve Barker, Jack Olmstead, Patti Newton, Wendy Slijk, Anita Hayworth, Jerry Harmon and Brent Alspach says a Happy Holiday and a Healthy, Gratifying New Year to All!

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Fire Board Elections

by Susan Cronshaw

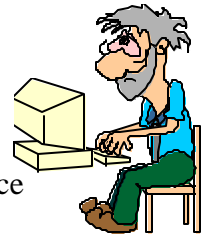
There is a dedicated group of friends and neighbors serving our community all day, every day, during every season and during every weather. The holiday season is upon us and we look forward to relaxation and family time. This group has an added element to their gatherings - the possibility of a call to service. The name of this group of neighbors? The Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Volunteer Fire Department.

They are a small group serving a rapidly growing and changing community. Houses going up, traffic increasing, and more outside impact on our way of life. They need our support year round, as well as at the few fund raising activities held.

Could you find time to join the Fire Auxiliary and help with their work of seeing to the practical comfort of the firefighters? Find out more by calling Joan Herschfeld at 471 4585.

Then there is the Fire Board which governs the policies and finances of the Department. At the combined EFTC/EFHGFDD meeting in February there will be 3 positions open for election. A news letter and ballot will be coming in January. Watch for it, VOTE, and attend the meeting. Are you interested in standing for election? Call Nona Barker at 471 5559 for information.

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News from Questhaven Retreat

by Evelyn Alemanni



Meditation Class:

The Way Within class meets at noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Academy on the first and third Wednesdays of

each month. All who have participated have found the power of group meditation and prayer of great value and we invite others to join us.

Prayer and Meditation

Weekly, Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. - Meet in Chapelito. Meditation is a sacred time to build the bridge into Divine Reality. You are welcome to join in meditative attunement and prayer.

Exploration in Prayer Classes

Bi-monthly, 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 12:00 noon - Meet in the Academy. Prayer is communion with God. When properly done, prayer is an opening of the inner door. This series of classes will focus on the necessary steps to prepare us for communion with God's Presence.

Sunday Services

Sunday worship is at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome. Tape recordings of all Sunday services are available for rental or purchase.

Questhaven Retreat is at 20560 Questhaven Rd.

760-744-1500. Visit us on the Internet at

<http://www.questhaven.org>.

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Piano Teacher Wanted

We are looking for a good piano teacher for our son and daughter, ages 8 and 6. Someone who comes to Elfin Forest and is recommended by one of our neighbors. Call Jeff & Elaine Brandon, (760) 471-3836 email: crf@att.net

Arab Mare For Sale

Beautiful black Arab mare for sale. Sweet disposition, great on trail. Gentle yet forward. Sound, no vices. Must see \$1500. Call Sheila @ 944-0433 (H), 598-7191 (W) or Lori @ 744-3858.

Horse Equipment For Sale

Pony cart and harness. 17 1/2 inch Stuben Siegfried saddle, 17 1/2 inch Stuker Tristan saddle, 18 1/2 inch Stuben DeLand saddle, 15 1/2 inch Apollo saddle. 5 bar pipe corral with shelter 24' x 24'. 2 sets of 4' training jumps. Call Joan 471 4585

For Sale: Children's Clothes

Boys' Navy blue suit (jacket, slacks, white shirt)--size 14-- \$25. Slacks--1 blue, 1 khaki--size 31 Husky-- \$10 each. Girls riding pants, one size 8; 2 mediums. \$15 each or 3 for \$40. Boys' Adidas baseball cleats, size 6 1/2--\$10. Ski clothes--pants, jackets, bibs--size 8 & 10--\$10 each article. Call Sylvia--591-4751

Mothers Helper Wanted

Need help with child care, light cleaning, and cooking two days per week and some weekends. Must speak English. Spanish a plus. Pay based on experience with children. Call Toni at 471-0875.

Ski Utah!

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E.F. Calendar - January 2001

Date	Time	Event
Tuesdays (6 th & 20 th)	1:30pm to 3:30pm	Bookmobile @ Firehouse
1st Tue, (6 th)	7:30pm	Fire Training @ Firehouse
1 st Wed (7 th .)	7:00pm	E.F.T.C Forum @ Firehouse
Every Friday	10:00am -Noon	Playgroup. See page 2
2nd Mon (12 th)	7:30pm	Fire Board @ Firehouse
2nd Wed, (14 th)	7:00pm	Fire Auxiliary @ Firehouse (check).
3rd Tue, (20 st)	7:30pm	Fire Training @ Firehouse
Last Sat (24 th)	9:00am	Fire Training @ Firehouse

Elfin Forest Town Council Board

Board members: Evelyn Alemanni 471-7224, Doug Dill 736-4333, Linda Hamilton 744-7952, Pam Perry, Nancy Reed 471-7933, Patti Newton 471-8937, Steve Witte 858-748-5577, Elizabeth Wood 744-2594

The Elfin Forest chaparral is published monthly by the Elfin Forest & Harmony Grove Town Council Board and distributed to residents of the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove communities for a \$15.00 annual subscription. Check the mailing label for your subscription expiration date. If it has expired please send a check, payable to the Elfin Forest Town Council, 20223 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest, CA 92029. For subscription or address label corrections, send email to efchaparral@yahoo.com or call David Cronshaw @ 736-9257.

Articles for publication should be sent to David Cronshaw by email to efchaparral@yahoo.com or fax (call first) to 736-4524 by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next issue. Anonymous articles will not be published. Space limitations may cause articles to be held over to the next issue or edited for brevity. Articles considered unsuitable for publication will not be published.

The Board gratefully acknowledges help from Susan Cronshaw towards production and distribution of this newsletter.