



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By The Town Council Board

As we welcome the New Year, we often reflect upon the year past. Our community has enjoyed some major accomplishments. We influenced the RSF School District board to reject a development deal that would have brought sewer into Elfin Forest. We convinced SDG&E to stop using its Harmony Grove property as a truck yard and developers to rethink sewer management options in Harmony Grove. We continue to work with the San Dieguito Planning Group and County on downgrading Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest Roads and Country Club Drive and revised our town council bylaws.

There was unprecedented community involvement in the America in Bloom competition and the fantastic Spring Fling; and our private gardens received special mention. Funds raised by the Garden Festival combined with a County matching grant funded a split rail fence along the new trail on the vacated portion of Questhaven Road. We hosted another fantastic 4th of July parade and picnic. We formed a Heritage Committee and established a Heritage Trail with all the Citizens of the Year plaques proudly displayed. In July, the Johnston-Ward Farmhouse Heritage Gallery was dedicated as part of the proposed Harmony Grove Village project.

The County has initiated discussions about the town council board undertaking an advisory role concerning new development in our valley. And the town council published the first-ever community calendar with beautiful color photographs of our valley, and we await results of our latest survey. It's been quite a year!

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Get Town Council Stuff Online

Now you can order community guides, calendars, DVDs, and other town council merchandise online. Even renew your newsletter subscription. Click on www.efhgtc.org. It's that easy!

**Town Council Meeting –Wednesday, January 4th @7:30PM
At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station**

**Topics: Shannon Reed for the County Water Authority - Update on Pipeline Relining Project
Bruce Thompson, Candidate for 5th District County Board of Supervisors**

Town Council Board Elections

By Evelyn Alemanni

It's your turn to serve! The town council will have four board vacancies in the February election. Patti Newton, Evelyn Alemanni, Bob McGurk, and Jan Denny are not running for re-election. Nominations for the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board will be taken at the town council meeting on January 4th.

The Town Council Board consists of nine members who work on a variety of community projects. The time commitment is two meetings each month, help with the 4th of July parade and picnic, and to lead at least one or two special projects (you don't have to do it yourself!) Terms are for two years.

Serving on the board is a great way to meet lots of your neighbors, understand what's going on in the community and make a difference. If you have any questions, please contact any of the current board members.

Suerte del Este Closed

By Nona Barker

On December 14th, the Fire Department was called to a water problem on Suerte del Este (SdE). Dispatch reported waterfalls and boulders coming off Paint Mountain onto SdE. We discovered approximately 75' of SdE covered with dirt and boulders and water running everywhere. The fire department closed SdE and searched for vehicles possibly swept away; thankfully none were found.

We then met with officials from the Olivenhain Municipal Water District and San Diego County Water Authority. The CWA said they were aware of the problem and had turned off the source of the water. A switch malfunctioned in Twin Oaks causing water flow to be directed into a pipeline under repair. Valves in the pipeline are closed on top of Paint Mountain. When the water reached the valves, it could only go out the vent pipe where it ran down the west side of Paint Mountain and across SdE to the Escondido Creek.

SdE and the canyon to the west sustained major damage. The area is very unstable and everyone is advised to stay clear of the area. The road will remain closed until the CWA fixes it.

Thank You Thank You Thank You

By Mid Hoppenrath

I want to be certain we thanked all the folks responsible for helping our community overcome three difficult problems last fall. First, as you probably already know, New Urban West, Inc (NUWI) withdrew their request to LAFCO to study a possible connection to the City of Escondido sewer system for the proposed Harmony Grove Village. We were very concerned the introduction of city sewer service would lead to high-density development outside the Village.

Next, SDG&E has decided to permanently remove the tree service trucks, associated crew vehicles, support and sanitary facilities, and green waste piles that were on the SDG&E owned hill on Country Club Drive in Harmony Grove. These trucks created a significant negative impact.

And last, the county staff at the Department of Planning and Land Use has rejected the dense developments proposed for two projects in our valley, Harmony Grove Meadows and Eden Hills. They do not intend to facilitate sewer service to either project (see county planner Dahvia Locke's related article this issue). I sometimes feel that the county staff is our first line of defense against urban sprawl and are the ones "in the trenches" in this fight to save our rural communities.

I want to let these companies and organizations know that we are grateful that they are listening to the concerns of our community. We look forward to continuing our good working relationship with NUWI, SDG&E, and the county staff as our area develops according to the GP2020 Village Development Pattern.

Calendar For January

Date	Time	Event
Weds 1/4	7:30 PM	Town Council Meeting
Tues 1/3, 1/17	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Weds 1/11	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary @MaryGarman's House
Mon 1/9	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Sat 1/28	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Sat 1/7, 1/21	10 AM	Bookmobile@Firehouse
Every Thurs	6:30 PM	Yoga@Firehouse

Return Your Community Survey!

By Jan Denny

By now should have received your community survey. Please take the time to complete the survey and return it in the postage-paid envelope by January 14th, 2006. Results will be tallied then and used by the Town Council board to accurately represent the community when the board negotiates with developers and county organizations on behalf of our community members.

Thanks for your participation in this important effort. Many thanks to the survey committee which includes Jacqueline Benjamin, Linda Watson, Paul Curtis and others. Make your voice heard!

2006 Community Calendar

By Evelyn Alemanni



Every family in the valley has been sent a community calendar along with the community survey. We hope you enjoy your calendar and will refer to it for dates for community events and contact information that you frequently need. If you'd like to purchase additional calendars for family and friends, they are \$12. A limited number are still available. You can order them on line at www.efhgtc.org, or contact any town council member and pick them up at the January 4 town council meeting.

Town Council Website

The town council's website is continually updated. Check it out at: efhgtc.org. Note: the town council is not affiliated with elfinforest.net and elfinforest.com.

New Captain At Sheriff's Substation

By B. J. Williams, SD County Sheriff's Dept.

I want to let everyone know that we have a new captain at the San Marcos substation and Sergeant Dan Wilson (former COPPS sergeant on contact list) has retired. Captain Kim Quaco has been promoted to Commander of Law Enforcement Services-Northern Command. We are very excited to welcome Captain Tom Bennett to our station and feel fortunate to have someone of his caliber assume command of the San Marcos Patrol station.

Double Left, A Good Suggestion

By Ken Dubs

As the traffic around the San Elijo School increases with the school's enrollment, I offer the following suggestion to improve circulation and safety:

I propose allowing only left turns from the north bound number one lane of Elfin Forest Road to the west bound number one lane of San Elijo Road. You may then also turn left from the number two lane the North bound Elfin Forest Road to the West bound number two lane of San Elijo Road or you may choose to go straight continuing North on Elfin Forest Road. In short, you will be able to turn left from either lane of Elfin Forest Road onto westbound San Elijo Road.

(Editor's Note: Ken's suggested improvement to the traffic pattern near the San Elijo School was adopted by the San Marcos Traffic Safety Commission.)

Town Council Merchandise

Available Online

By Evelyn Alemanni

Click on over to www.efhgtc.org. On the home page, you'll see links that let you purchase the calendar, community guide, Voices of the Valley DVD, and even subscribe to the newsletter online! There's also a link so you can order other town council merchandise like license plate holders, mugs, and t-shirts by mail or email.

Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

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

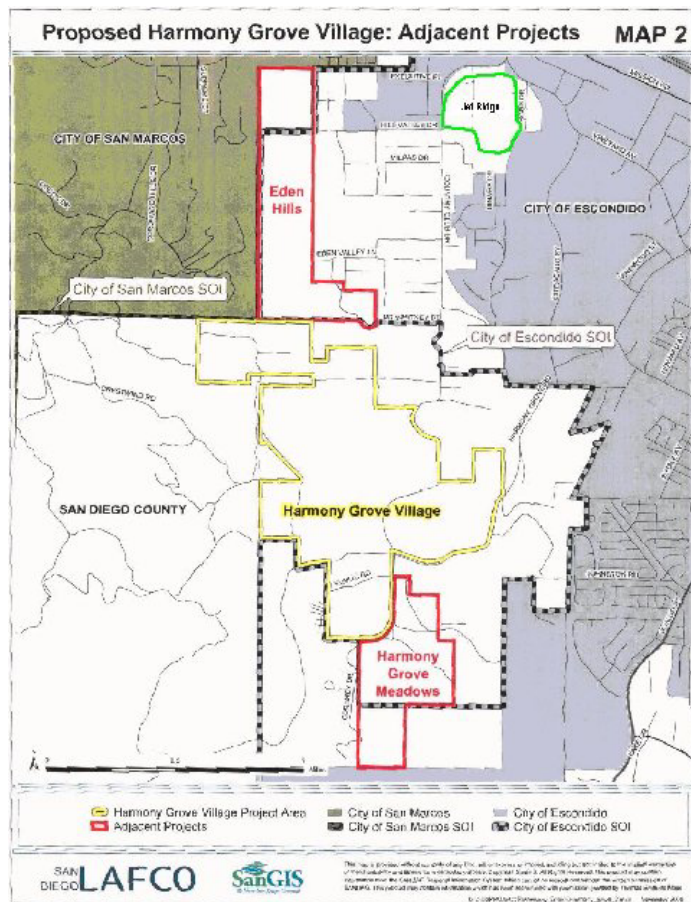
Proposed Developments For Harmony Grove and Eden Valley

By Dahvia Locke

(Editor's Note: The Eden Valley Bugle recently distributed the following LAFCO map and proposed development information. County planner Dahvia Locke provided more details.)

Currently 1263 new homes are proposed:

- Harmony Grove Village by New Urban West - 742 homes on 468 acres.
- Harmony Grove Meadows by Sun Cal - 224 clustered homes.
- Eden Hills by Brehm - 225 homes on 131 acres.
- Jet Ridge by Michael Crews - 72 homes on 44 acres.



From Dahvia: Our position regarding the SunCal & Brehm projects: In terms of the specific projects noted, we have no plans to allow either the SunCal or Brehm developments to submit for a General Plan Amendment at this time. Our director has rejected the Plan Amendment Authorizations for Brehm. We do have a Plan Amendment Authorization for SunCal that was accepted about two years ago, but an actual

project design or General Plan Amendment has not been accepted. Our position remains that we do not intend to facilitate sewer service to either project.

The County's intention for land use is expressed through the updated general plan, though this is still unclear for this area. The General Plan 2020 (GP2020) staff-recommended July 2005 land use map does not support the SunCal & Brehm developments. The Board Alternative map would. A final GP2020 map has not been selected. The land use map ultimately chosen will be selected through the open GP2020 public process and there will continue to be opportunity for public comment.

I don't expect any project would come in at a higher density than General Plan 2020 (GP2020) allows. The question remains whether the staff recommendation or the Board Alternative Map will ultimately be adopted by the Board of Supervisors as GP2020, but the densities of any project submitted would probably be consistent with one of those.

Any project that comes in to the County must either be consistent with the general plan regulations that are in place or the applicant must submit a request for a General Plan Amendment (GPA). Prior to acceptance of a GPA, the applicant must request authorization to even submit for a plan amendment, known as a Plan Amendment Authorization or PAA. This is a lengthy and involved process and it would not make sense to move forward unless the applicant knew that the project complied with the incoming regulations; i.e., GP2020 (either the Board or Staff recommended map).

The County absolutely can accept or deny the extension of sewer services on a project by project basis. It can be a legal condition of a project that the sewer pipe will serve *only* that project. This has been done throughout the County, on projects such as Mt. Woodson Ranch in Ramona and numerous others. A sewer pipe could also be physically sized to carry waste *only* from the project for which it is intended; i.e., the Harmony Grove village project.

In terms of the specific projects noted, we have no plans to allow either the SunCal or Brehm developments to submit for a General Plan Amendment at this time. Our director has rejected the Plan Amendment Authorizations submitted by both projects at this point in time.

(Continued next page)

(Proposed Developments continued)

The County has the authority to allow a sewer connection depending on the merits of an individual project. In fact, the County has specifically stated to SunCal and Brehm Communities that we currently have no intention of allowing a sewer connection to their properties.

In regard to SC1375, County staff has been directed by the Board of Supervisors to remove this road from the Circulation Element. If the land uses on the Board map require this road, then it is most likely that the Board will re-evaluate and decrease the intensity of the land uses and they will not support this road. Staff also does not support the road.

It is important to be aware that it is the land use map (the existing plan today and GP2020 in the future) that sets the growth plan for an area. This is the tool that will indicate what development is likely to occur. Providing services should only be a component of the implementation of growth that is already planned, not the other way around. If the proposed developments are not consistent with the GP2020 map ultimately adopted, it is very unlikely that an amendment would be accepted to allow these projects. If they are consistent with the map ultimately adopted, then we will be obligated to allow them to pursue the processing of their project at that time.

Here Comes The Judge

By Joe Alemanni

Elfin Forest's very own America in Bloom (AIB) judge, my wife Evelyn, has been selected to be an international judge for the Communities in Bloom contest. This program, similar to the AIB contest which Elfin Forest has entered twice, involves cities and towns in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Japan. Evelyn attends judge's training in the spring and receives her judging assignments shortly thereafter.

Evelyn's selection for this honor is, at least in part, a tribute to this year's AIB committee (Eric Anderson, Frank Twohy, Lynda Clerke, Cheri Smith, Patti Newton, Lisa Stephenson, Peggy Petitmermet, Natalie Chaffer) and the many other community members who participated in AIB.

(Editor's Note: Evelyn Alemanni is the better known half of Evelyn and Joe. No payments or other services were received for this article.)

An Elfin Ode

By Jaisa Bishop

hear
hark from the forest
luminous whispers
restless leaves
hooves galloping dust
laughter from the valleys
the light of the sun

feel
the harvest moon
a staff of centuries
picking you
picking me
a kiss to forever
the embrace of the night

drink
the azure rush
of love
of peace
of holding each other
rivers flowing our veins
the clarity of the stream

touch
whispers of grass
lapping our legs
licking our palms
for strength
for forgiveness
for one more ride
the divinity of the earth.

Community Guides Are Here

By Evelyn Alemanni



Our community guide is available at all town council meetings. This beautiful, keepsake edition has nearly 200 color photos showing our community's past and present. They make wonderful gifts and an indispensable marketing tool for realtors. It provides resources for rural living, a history of our community, and much, much more. The price is \$25 or five for \$100.

What's Happening At The Fire Department – January 2006

By Captain Dawn Pettijohn



Here we are, a new year, and hoping you all had a joyful holiday season with friends and loved ones.

Starting the year in great anticipation with mountains to climb and rivers to cross, we look forward to a busy year of forward progress, lead by the outstanding people who make us what we are.

The annual Department Christmas party was a great success as our time of year for promotions, awards, and a good bit of fun. We have some very special people at the EF/HG Fire Department, our beloved Fire Auxiliary and the communities that support us...and this was our opportunity to let them know how much we appreciate all they do. Many thanks to Nona Barker, Joy Schuler, Michelle Roberts and Henry Octavio for all their hard work that made this such a special event.

Four grants submitted to the SD County Fire and Emergency Services Trust Fund totaling just over \$104,000 requested Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 Computer Based Training Interactive DVD's, matching funds in our quest for a new BLS transport ambulance, an inflatable rescue boat for upgrade to a Type 2 Swiftwater Rescue Team, and a second thermal imaging camera for the new rescue. These grants demonstrate the great need of the volunteer and mostly volunteer fire agencies in unincorporated San Diego County. Wish us luck.

The Department participated in the recent San Diego County Operational Area Homeland Security Exercise held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. The drill simulated a full-scale terrorism high-explosive mass-casualty exercise. Participants included eighteen fire and police agencies, the FBI, the Bomb Squad, Hazardous Materials teams, Metropolitan Medical Strike Teams, County Public Health/Emergency Medical Services, the County Medical Examiner, the American Red Cross and the military. Literally hundreds of victims were coached in how to act injured, panicked and disoriented and local area helicopters and ambulances provided transport to area hospitals. An excellent drill in preparation for the disaster we pray never happens!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all Department personnel, the Fire Auxiliary and automatic aid units from Encinitas, Carlsbad, San Marcos and Vista that responded to the recent structure fire in Elfin Forest. Although there was significant damage to the home, it was held to the part of the house that was involved upon arrival. The team effort by all drives home the importance of our efforts in training and coordination within the North Zone. Good job EFF!

It's getting to the time of year where we can expect rain and although it has been fairly dry so far, don't be lulled into a false sense of security. Remember... Never cross moving water. Even though it may not seem deep and not actively be raining at your location, a stalled vehicle can be quickly swept away as water rises from rain occurring upstream. Don't take the chance... ***"Turn around, Don't drown"***.

New U.S. Postal Service Rates

New postal rates go into effect January 8th

WASHINGTON - The governors of the U.S. Postal Service recently voted to accept the Postal Rate Commission's recommendations to increase most postal rates and fees by approximately 5.4 percent across-the-board to take effect January 8th, 2006.

Selected Rate Changes

	<i>Current</i>	<i>New</i>
First-Class Letter (1 oz.)	37¢	39¢
First-Class Letter (2 oz.)	60¢	63¢
Postcard	23¢	24¢
Priority Mail (1 lb.)	\$3.85	\$4.05
Express Mail (1/2 lb)	\$13.65	\$14.40
Express Mail (2 lb)	\$17.85	\$18.80

Be Fire Wise And Fire Safe

Did you know that a shorted out electric blanket can start a fire? NEVER leave your blanket turned on when you aren't home. Don't fasten it with pins, which can short out the wires. Stay warm, stay safe.

January In The Garden

By Evelyn Alemanni

It's time to dispose of that Christmas tree. The best way is to put it through the shredder and move it to the compost bin. If you had a live Christmas tree this year, it's time to plant it – remember that for fire safety it should be planted at least 50' from the house – those things can get huge! Did you get a nice gift certificate to a local nursery for Christmas? Now is the time to use it. January is the best month to get a head start on your summer garden by shopping for bare root plants. That includes roses, deciduous fruit trees (apples, pears, peaches, plums, etc.), strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and more.

The Elfin Valley Nursery has received their bare root roses. When you bring your bare root roses home, put them in a bucket of water for an hour or more, and then plant them right away! Add a little humate and mycorrhizae (a beneficial fungus) to the planting hole and you'll see a big difference. A recent article in Fine Gardening suggested putting two cups of dry dog food in the bottom of the planting hole. I've never tried that, but it couldn't hurt, unless your dog digs up the rose looking for a treat.

Maintenance

Deadhead faded flowers.

Continue applying snail and slug bait.

Prune rose bushes and spray with dormant spray.

Spray deciduous fruit trees with dormant spray.

Protect plants from frost.

Pull emerging weeds or spray with Roundup now to avoid lots of work later.

Plant Now

Plant bare root roses, trees, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, shrubs.

Plant tulip bulbs, gladiolas, iris tubers.

Plant camellias and azaleas.

Plant ornamental trees like flowering plum, acacia, magnolia.

Sow seeds or plant seedlings of winter vegetables.

Plant spring color - pansies, Iceland poppies, stock, larkspur.

Fertilize

Feed cool season lawns.

Fertilize citrus, avocado, berries and grapes.

See what's blooming in my garden this month at

www.allea.com/gardening-ea.htm.



Flutterbye Rose photos by E. Alemanni



Seashell Rose



White Delight Rose

Thank You Kathleen

By Joe Alemanni

It is with regret we recently learned that Kathleen Humphreys has left the employ of New Urban West, Inc (NUWI) developers of the proposed Village in Harmony Grove. As NUWI Community Coordinator, Kathleen was always a pleasure to work with and generous in support of activities in Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest. Good luck, Kathleen.



Kathleen Humphreys

DSL Sneaking In

By Joe Alemanni

The one (debatable) benefit of encroaching development, broadband Internet access, seems to be slowly sneaking in from the west. Rob Hill reports that the telephone company, SBC, is now providing his Camino Cielo Azul home digital subscriber line (DSL) service because of new infrastructure installed with the continued build out of San Elijo Hills.

The availability of DSL, a technology that uses the existing copper telephone wires, is severely limited by the necessity of the subscriber to be close to nearest telephone switching center. Check with SBC to see if you might be one of the lucky few.

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Photo Highlights From 2005

Here are a few photo highlights from 2005.



Eric Anderson & family won the big prize for their flower-decked parade float at the 4th of July Parade/Picnic.



Enjoying the Spring Fling Potluck held as part of the America In Bloom festivities in April.



Mid Hoppenrath presented County Supervisor Bill Horn with a plaque for helping preserve our rural environment at the January 2005 town council meeting.

News From Questhaven Retreat



Sunday worship is at 10:45 AM.
All are welcome.
20560 Questhaven Road.
760-744-1500
www.questhaven.org.

Study groups meet on weeknights. Please call the office for times and locations.

Weekly Meditation - Wednesday at 7:30 PM.
January 1st - New Thoughts for the New Year
—*Evelyn Alemanni*

January 8th - The Great Ones, This Ministry, and You
—*Rev. Blake Isaac*

January 15th - Faith, the Bridge to Progress
—*Rev. Elizabeth Wood*

January 22nd - Living the Cosmic Life
—*Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire*

January 29th - Face Your Imperfections
—*Rev. Myrna Triggs*

Sheriff's Department Contacts

In an emergency, please call 911. For non-emergency reporting, contact the following:

General - 760-510-5200

Jackie Cruz - Agriculture crime prevention specialist
760-940-4350

Betty (B.J.) Williams - Crime Prevention
Specialist/Neighborhood Watch 760-510-5254

Elf Alerts

Elf Alerts are email notices about issues that need your immediate attention. They don't replace the newsletter, but supplement it. If you are not receiving your Elf Alerts, please send your email address to alemanni@allea.com and ask to be added to the list. Don't worry, the emails are sent as blind CCs, so your address is not made public, and we share the list with the fire department.

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www.efhgctc.org (town council website)

www.elfinforestgardens.info

www.coburntopiary.com

www.elfinforestcommunityfoundation.org

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Amanda Clerke – Baby sit or feed animals. Parents will supervise and transport. EF Resident. 11 years old. 760-510-0143.

Emily Dill - Baby Sitting/Pet Sitting, EF Resident, 15 years old. Contact at 760-736-4333.

Jessica MacKinnon - Babysitting/Feed Animals, EF Resident, 14 years old, SFC High School - 9th grade, took babysitting course through Red Cross. Contact at 760-744-8955.

Brooke York - EF Resident, LCC School 12th grader, Baby Sitting. Tel: 760-752-7784.

Jared York - EF Resident, RSF School 10th grader, Baby sit or feed animals. Tel: 760-752-7784.

For Lease: Older Quarter horse mare. Perfect starter horse for child or adult. Comes with all tack and supplies. Trail savvy, been there, done that horse. Call 760-579-1936.

For Sale: Solid maple dining set, 3 by 6 foot natural butcher-block top, whitewashed legs, 6 matching Windsor arrowback maple chairs, all good condition, \$250. Call Mid, 760-747-1145.

Firewood: You load. Donation basis. For info call, 760-744-1500.

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1" x 3.5"	\$5.00	\$36.00/year
2" x 3.5"	\$7.50	\$55.00/year
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1/2 page	\$20.00	\$165.00/year

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