

**Town Council Meeting on  
Wednesday, October 3  
Crime Prevention**



## *From the Chair*

*By Jeff Swenerton*

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Is our neighborhood safe? According to Officer B.J. Williams, Crime Prevention Specialist with our Sheriff's Department, the crime rate for the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove neighborhood is very low. But are we really safe? This summer we have had several incidents that could cause concern including several fires of suspicious origin. Thanks to someone making a report and a rapid response from our fire department, all were extinguished in a timely manner. It is paramount that we all assess the fire danger to our homes, have evacuation plans, and provide appropriate areas free of combustible materials to ensure your safety and the safety of our firefighters in the event of a fire.

At the next Town Council Meeting on October 3

at the Fire House, Officer Williams will be discussing our police protection and a voluntary Neighborhood Watch Program. If your street or area is interested, this meeting will provide details on the program.

Last month we urged everyone to make sure all the residents on their street were signed up for Community Alerts, formally Elf Alerts. This communication has, over the years, informed us of everything from robberies and arson to lost pets and community forums. When something happens all the eyes of the community are at work immediately to apprehend the person and prevent further crime in the area.

As a result of last month's newsletter we had just a few people add their names. We know we are not reaching everyone.

We encourage people to check their area to ensure everyone is signed up. A special thanks to Karen Gardner for coordinating our Community Alerts. If you are not signed up, contact her at [Karen@vintagematerialism.com](mailto:Karen@vintagematerialism.com).

Your Town Council has been busy. Please note the committee updates in this newsletter. We will be conducting elections for the Town Council early next year. Each of us on the council is honored to serve. It is an exciting way to become involved in your community. We encourage your participation. Consider "throwing your hat into the ring" and running for a Board position.

## Resident Spotlight

### Fall Festival of Quilts “Celebrating Our Heritage”

**Date:**

October 19th and 20th

**Place:**

Cal State University, San  
Marcos, Clarke Field House

**Time:**

Sat—10:00—5:00

Sun—10:00—4:00

**Admission:**

\$7.00 (Husbands Free)

One of the first questions one quilter asks another is “How did you get into quilting?” When I asked Shawn York of the Rusty Crow this question, even I was surprised at the answer! “I signed my sister up to take a quilting class, and she forced me into going with her” Quilters and quilt lovers are lucky this happened.

Shawn, who grew up in Leucadia, and has settled into the hills of Elfin Forest, is a quilter who teaches small classes at

her business, quilts other people’s quilts on a long arm machine, has fabric and notions for sale, and supports many local projects of the Guild she is a member of – El Camino Quilters.

When I went to her house a class was in progress. About eight quilters worked on different projects, encouraged by each other and taught by Shawn. Quilts covered the walls, fabric was stacked in piles of gorgeous colors and textures, and the sun streamed in the glass doors. It was fabulous. A Quilter’s Dream. The energy and enthusiasm of the students and the teacher was so apparent. One of the students said they took every chance just to be together – they had become such good friends. Many of them are members of the el

Camino Quilters, a Guild that meets in Vista. The Guild is having a Quilt Show in October at Cal State San Marcos. Shawn will be a vendor there, and many of her students will be exhibiting quilts and attending the show.

For more information about Shawn and the Rusty Crow, contact her at 752 7784

For more information about el Camino Quilters go to [www.elcaminoquilters.com](http://www.elcaminoquilters.com)

Be sure to go to the show, it will be a great opportunity to view wonderful quilts, shop in the boutique and buy at the auction which benefits the Women’s Resource Center.

*By Heather Callaghan*



The Next Time You  
Leave Home, Your  
Pet Doesn't Have To.

Janean & Bill Huston

PHONE: 760.738.8822

1023 Country Club Drive  
Escondido, CA 92029

Insured, Bonded, Member of Pet Sitters International

## *Beautiful, Bountiful Bulbs*

This summer I had the privilege of judging the international edition of the Communities in Bloom program. To choose an international winner, I traveled to England, Scotland, Ireland, and Canada to visit and evaluate towns that had won for their respective countries. The thread that ties all these winners together is their spectacular visual appeal, not just in their parks, but at their businesses, in residential gardens and public spaces. All of them said that looking good is what sets them apart from other towns and is an important part of their community character. Which brings me to my point. As a community, we can help preserve our rural character and define who we are through beautification, and what better way to do that than by planting seeds of native California poppies supplemented by bulbs that will naturalize and multiply. Developers are less likely to bulldoze a community that looks like it cares about itself.

Whether planting along the roadsides or in your own garden, the secret to

a fabulous springtime bulb display is to plant bulbs native to Mediterranean climates, which is what we enjoy here. Narcissus that bloom at various times can spread the bloom period over more than six weeks. They are poisonous to deer, rabbits, and squirrels, so there is little or no risk of them being dug up or eaten by wildlife. Planting time and schemes are important to success. But most important is to choose bulbs wisely. Just remember three little words: bigger is better! Why? Because bulbs store food for the plants and some actually contain the buds of flowers for the next season. Select bulbs that are firm to the touch.

Bulbs grow well in full or part sun, in well drained soil amended with organic compost. Plant bulbs at a depth of about two to three times their height. Plant them when the soil temperature drops to 50 degrees or less.

At planting time, some people like to add a scattering of bone meal and/or blood meal, or special bulb fertilizer. If dogs share your garden, re-

member that they will do whatever it takes to get to the bone meal and eat it so use a commercial 10-10-10 fertilizer instead. Fertilize again when you see the leaves emerge, but stop fertilizing once the bulbs have started to flower.

When planting bulbs, arrange them in groups rather than a single, straight row. In general, the broad part of the bulb goes down, tips go up. Water right after planting, and if rains don't come soon, be sure that the bulbs receive about one inch of water per week.

If you are making a mass planting (think hundreds or thousands of bulbs), just toss the bulbs on the ground, sprinkle some fertilizer, then cover with three inches of compost, and another 3 inches of mulch. Water well.

*By Evelyn Alemanni*



## *Elfin Forest Town Council Meeting Minutes*

### **Town Council Committee Contacts**

#### **Bridges :**

Jacqueline Arsivaud-  
Benjamin 891-9061

#### **Sage Hills:**

Eric Anderson  
471-1464

#### **University Heights:**

Melanie Fallon  
744-7090

#### **Harmony Grove Meadows:**

Mid Hoppenrath  
747-1145

#### **Citracado Parkway:**

Mid Hoppenrath  
747-1145

#### **Cielo Del Norte:**

Betsy Keithley  
471-8515

#### **Heritage (including Citizen of the Year plaques):**

Gordon Fine  
291-1129

The meeting began at 7:35 pm at the Fire Station with the pledge of allegiance and introduction of members attending the meeting. There were good cookies available. Jeff Swenerton presented the format for the meeting. There is no invited speaker. There will be reports of committee activities and open forum.

**Treasurer's Report -** Betsy Keithley. There was no activity this month except that it now costs about \$430/month to produce the Chaparral because we are paying a professional printer. An accounting of the picnic is complete and we spent about \$600 more than we brought in.

**Secretary's Report -** Betsy Keithley. Although we have not had a General meeting in several months, the board has been meeting. Paul Malone, the City Manager of San Marcos met with us in June to talk about the current plans in San Marcos and their thinking on the University Heights Proposed housing develop-

ment.

Jeff Swenerton reported that DSL for internet communication is expected to be available in Elfin Forest early 2008. He also reported that the Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) fundraiser at Nancy Reed's house was a great success. The music was wonderful and the pit-roasted pig prepared by Tim Costanzo was delicious. Thanks to all who worked on and attended that event.

Jacqueline reported that the Bridges Developer is still pursuing the development of Unit 6. There will be no revised EIR. The Planning Commission is expected to hear the project in September or October. The application for Unit 7 development was withdrawn from the County Planning Dept, but the developer has not agreed to sell the property so that it can remain open space. Apparently the current homes in the earlier phases of the project are still selling very well.

The University Heights committee met and dis-

cussed strategies. If you are interested, please contact Melanie Fallon or Jeff Swenerton.

Mid Hoppenrath reported that she has no new information on HG Meadows and that there has not yet been a meeting with Escondido city representatives about the Citracado Extension across Harmony Grove Road to Del Dios highway.

Nona Barker presented an update on the Fire Department activities. They have 5 new firefighters whom Deputy Chief Don Heisser is training. Unfortunately, Bob Kephart retired from the Department. He took a job for OMWD and will remain on the Fire Board.

Fire Board elections are on October 8 when there will be the Annual Meeting. All residents/property owners in CSA 107 are urged to attend this important meeting concerning our fire protection and first response medical aid.

The County performed an audit of the finances

## Meeting Minutes ... Continued

of the Fire Dept and were impressed with our detail and accuracy of information.

Jeff reported that B.J. Williams from the Sheriff's Department will be here at the next meeting in October to discuss setting up Neighborhood

Watch programs for interested residents.

Elf Alerts have been re-named "Community Alerts". These e-mail notices are the best way to rapidly disseminate information about crime activity so everyone can be aware of specific peo-

ple or cars to watch for. Please contact Karen Gardner (karen@vintagematerialism.com) to add your e-mail contact to her list.  
8:15 pm adjourn

*By Betsy Keithley*

## Communications Committee Update

The communications committee has been reviewing the current production, distribution, and advertising situation with the Chaparral newsletter. Since going to an outside vendor in May, there have been a few hiccups in production, but those appear to have been smoothed out. The new layout and look has received accolade from many community members. The former elf logo still appears on the back page for those attached to tradition.

Renewals are slightly down – The former production method, where Evelyn and Joe Alemani did everything in house, allowed for more

flexibility, including a creative reminder: many of us have at one point or another received a blank newsletter if we forgot to send in a check. We can no longer do that with the outside printer, and as a result renewal rate is lower. Please send in your check if your subscription has expired! Thank you.

On the other hand, thanks to Karen Gardner's efforts, advertising revenues are up. We are looking at revamping the costs to advertise in the Chaparral – they have not changed in the last 20 or so years, when circulation was considerably lower. With the support of our advertisers

we can continue to hold subscription prices down. Make sure you patronize them first when you are looking for goods or services!

*By Jacqueline Ar-sivaud-Benjamin*

## Committee Contacts

### Communications Committee:

Jacqueline Ar-sivaud-Benjamin 891-9061

### Signs/Cell Towers:

Jeff Swenerton  
471-4312

### Fourth of July Picnic:

Jeff Swenerton 471-4312

### Garden Festival:

Jacqueline Ar-sivaud-Benjamin 891-9061,  
Karen Gardner 744-9500

### Fourth of July Parade:

Eric Anderson  
471-1464

### Trails Subcommittee:

Mid Hoppenrath  
747-1145

### Welcoming Subcommittee:

Karen Gardner  
744-9500

### Pecoff Subcommittee:

Eric Anderson  
471-1464

## *Elfin Forest Community Foundation Seeks Proposals for Fall Funding*



The Elfin Forest Community Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of rural life in the community of Elfin Forest (CSA 107). The Foundation provides funds for project supplies and community events. The mechanism for getting money for your project is to apply to the Foundation. Describe your project and explain how it will enhance the community. The budget should not exceed \$6,000. Any one or organization in the community is eligible to apply and the more applications that we receive the more opportunity to enhance our com-

munity. The next deadline is October 15, 2007. If you have any questions, call a member of the board, Steve Barker, Mike Vallee, Betsy Keithley, Martha Blane, Virginia McManus, Ted Hansen, Lori Vitale, Sue Hill or Frank Twohy and review your proposal with him or her. To obtain an application, go to our website, [www.elfinforestcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.elfinforestcommunityfoundation.com) or contact Betsy Keithley at [ekeithley@ucsd.edu](mailto:ekeithley@ucsd.edu). The completed application must be left at the fire station mail slot, not in the U.S. mailbox, by October 15, 2007. The Board will meet soon

after that to review the applications. Please provide some new ideas and new projects!

Trey Fairman resigned from the Board after the April meeting to spend more time with his family and new business. He was a very appreciated member because of his unbiased appraisal of proposals and his monetary sense. Ted Hansen, who ran for the Board in the last election, has accepted the invitation to fill his place. Thanks to both of you.

*By Betsy Keithley*

## *Trails Committee Update*



We are coordinating with the county to get the Kauana Loa multi-use pathway trail established. This trail will connect the north edge of Harmony Grove with southern Harmony Grove through the Village development, and further on, will connect to the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. The next step is to arrange

for a county survey of the road easement to allow trail building to begin. This trail will also connect to the Escondido Research and Technology Center and allow our residents to walk to the new Stone Brewing Company restaurant, and eventually, to the new hospital. We hope that it will encourage Village

residents who may work in the ERTC to bicycle there and leave their cars in the garage! We are coordinating with the planners for the Escondido Bicycle Master Trails Plan to help ensure that the county and city trails link together.

*By Mid Hoppenrath*

## *Update on University Heights*

Since my last update on this 453 acre parcel north of the Questhaven Retreat we have had one Committee meeting, but as of this date, we still have no new information from the City of San Marcos, or the property owner/developer. At the Committee meeting we reaffirmed that any potential development of this property needs to meet the long held principles of the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove communities, principles that are also contained in the County of San Diego's Draft Land Use Map – General Plan 2020. These principles include preserving our rural and

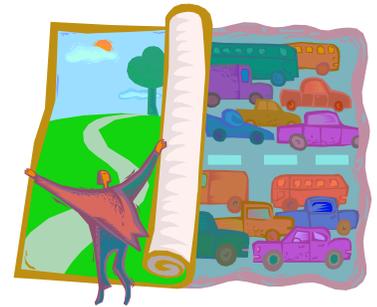
equestrian environment; protecting our diverse population of native plants and animals; and maintaining our many unique features – single family homes on large lots, equestrian ranches and trails, wildlife corridors and agricultural uses.

We also agreed that the City of San Marcos or the County of San Diego should not allow any development if it divides the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove communities in half; if it allows any densities higher than proposed in the County's Draft General Plan 2020; if more traffic is dumped onto Elfin Forest Road;

if it removes any sensitive environmental habitat or if it visually impacts any Elfin Forest or Harmony Grove residence.

We will continue to monitor this proposed development and are looking forward to beginning a dialogue with the City of San Marcos and planning consultants as to the possible future use of this property. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to join the University Heights Committee.

*By Mellanie Fallon*



## *Welcoming Subcommittee Update*

The Welcoming Committee is a subcommittee of the Communications Committee.

Each new neighbor will receive a welcome basket. The basket will include honey from TECC, a discount coupon from Sunshine Valley Nursery, a community guide, a newsletter and a survey for contact information.

We are hoping that this will provide new residents in with enough information to become involved in the Valley's many volunteer opportunities and events. If you know someone that has moved into Elfin Forest within the last year and half, please email with their name and address to

Karen@vintagematerialism.com. If you would like to present a new neighbor with a basket, let me know and I will make sure to get one to you.

*By Karen Gardner*



## *Harmony Grove Meadows Committee Update*

As you may remember, we submitted an 11-page, very detailed response to the Harmony Grove Meadows Notice of Preparation (NOP) to the county. In

this letter we provided many valid reasons why the current project was not compatible with our vision for a rural community. We believe the developer, Sun-

Cal, is considering resubmitting their project in the next few months, but we have no new information at this time.

*By Mid Hoppenrath*

## *Citracado Parkway Extension/Annexation*

We have submitted a response to this project NOP. In this letter, we noted the necessity of a buffer between the industrial development and the rural residential development and also provided suggestions for the

planned intersection of Citracado Parkway and Harmony Grove Road that would avoid eminent domain of our neighbors' homes and not interfere with county trails. We have been contacted by the City of

Escondido project team and are arranging a meeting to discuss our community's concerns.

*By Mid Hoppenrath*

## *Bridges to pursue Unit 6 Development*

You can still send in your petition by printing it from the town council's website at <http://www.ehgtc.org>, and faxing it to the following contacts:

Bill Stocks, DPLU Fax:  
858-694-3373

Bill Horn, Supervisor  
Fax: 619-685-2662

The Bridges at Rancho Santa Fe are actively working on a revised application to develop "Unit 6", a 9 acre parcel formerly set aside as permanent biological easement as a condition of the original project development. The County staff reports that they expect the project to come in front of the Planning Commission in the next few months. Because this is a down-scaled version of their

previous application, the County does not plan to allow for a public comment period.

We have been circulating a petition to oppose development of Unit 6. Our main concern is that Unit 6 could be the precursor to Unit 7, which would bring sewer and its growth-inducing effects to Elfin Forest. Without Unit 6 there is no access to develop Unit 7. As of now Lennar has still not agreed to

sell the Unit 7 to a land conservancy, even though offers have been made at fair market value.

As of September 16<sup>th</sup>, a total of 65 community members, from Harmony Grove to Elfin Forest, have signed the petitions. These are being delivered to the County staff and to each of the supervisors.

*By Jacqueline Ar-sivaud-Benjamin*

## *What's Happening at the Fire Department—October 2007*

Our fire department has been very busy with the recent San Diego County wildfires so there is no

update this month. Thank you Nona Barker for the incident report at

### *Fire Board Meeting*

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have received your ballots and agenda for the Fire Boards annual corporate business meeting and board election. We hope you appreciate the self-addressed stamped return

envelope. Your board decided to include the envelope hoping it would encourage you to vote. But please, don't let the ease of mailing in your ballot stop you from attending this meeting. This is your fire department and your money.

### *DSL Update*

Unfortunately our timeline has slipped from the original date of October, 2007. The good news is that while AT&T's 4th quarter budget cuts have impacted many parts of their business, they still have funding for the Elfin Forest project.

AT&T has received the

permit from the county, so DSL construction will begin this month. This is a large project for AT&T. The following is a list of what is involved in this project: tree trimming, 2000 feet of duct rodding, 450 hours of labor, 260 hours of splicing.

right.

*By Karen Gardner*

Come have a say!

Annual Corporate Meeting and Election - October 8 @ 7 PM at the Fire Station.

*By Nona Barker*

At this time it looks like DSL will come to Elfin Forest just in time for Christmas!

It's a bit longer than expected but the work is moving forward.

*By Shelley Fontaine*

## *Fire Department Incident Report—August 15th through September*

- Smoke Check - Elfin Forest Lane*  
8/19

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- Laceration - Elfin Forest Road*  
8/23

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- Vehicle Accident - Elfin Forest Road and Fortuna Del Sur*  
8/25

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- Flooding / Escondido Creek - Harmony Grove*  
8/26

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- Tree Down/Flooding - Harmony Grove Road*  
8/26

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- Investigation -Weather Balloon Down - Washingtonia*  
8/27

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- Illegal bonfire -Fortuna Del Este*  
8/28

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- Heart Problems - Fortuna del Este*  
8/28

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- Heart Problems - Fortuna Del Este*  
8/31

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- Vehicle Lock-in - Elfin Forest Reserve*  
9/1

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- Medical Aide - Cordrey Drive*  
9/3

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- Unconscious Person - Aguilera*  
9/10

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- Brush Fire - San Elijo Road*  
9/10

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- Medical Aide - Sunflower Lane*  
9/12

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- Suspicious Brushfire - Harmony Grove Road*  
9/12

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- Strike Team -Brush 2861 to Pine Fire*  
9/12

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- Strike Team -Brush 2861- From Pine Fire to Angel Fire - Julian*  
9/15

## *Routers & Switches & Modems, Oh My!*



### Which Router?

Read reviews at the “Networking” category at <http://reviews.cnet.com/>

CNET’s testing lab gave the D-Link DIR-655 Xtreme N Gigabit router its highest speed rating in April 2007.

As we (hopefully) get closer to a wider roll out by AT&T of DSL broadband Internet service I thought it’d be timely to review the current options for sharing that connection in your home. As I’ve previously described, DSL (or Digital Subscriber Line) is a technology that uses your land line telephone’s copper wire pair to carry the Internet Service Provider’s (ISP) signal. A DSL modem connected to the copper pair is required and filters must be installed on your land line telephones to prevent interference. The DSL modem has a 10BaseT (10 megabit) Ethernet interface used to distribute the Internet connection. The maximum DSL download speed will be 1-6 megabits/sec based on your distance from the point of service (a DSLAM along Elfin Forest Road) and service plan.

A router is an intelligent device (it has its own little computer inside) used to share the connection from the DSL modem. Look for one with a

WAN or Wide Area Network port (to connect to the DSL modem), multiple RJ45 (type of connector) ports and support for 802.11 b/g/n wireless Ethernet. I’ll provide a web address for product reviews of specific models at the end of this article. The RJ45 ports allow you to connect multiple PCs (IBM compatible and/or Mac) and devices with wired Ethernet interfaces such as laser printers. 802.11 wireless allows you to connect laptop computers (again both IBM and Mac) and other wireless devices like the iPhone. The router lets all the wired and wireless devices simultaneously share the Internet connection and also gives them Ethernet access to each other.

In order for the devices connected to the router to harmoniously co-exist, the router performs the important function of assigning them Internet Protocol (IP) addresses (a number used as an identifying computer alias) through a software feature called Dynamic

Host Control Protocol server. The router can also provide some immunity from unwanted Internet intrusion with a software “firewall”.

802.11 b/g/n wireless offers 11, 54, and 248 megabits/sec theoretical maximum data rates, respectively. Unless you bought your laptop in the last month, it will have either 802.11b or g networking. The wireless n standard is still evolving. As the maximum DSL speed is far below the 802.11b standard, g or n networking only improves the transfer speed between devices on your network. Also, wireless speeds and the ability to establish a connection at all significantly diminishes with distance from the router.

Finally, if the number of wired devices you want to connect exceeds the four RJ45 ports typically found on a router then you need another intelligent device called a network switch. Switches usually have from four to thirty-two RJ45 ports. An Ethernet patch cable connects the router to the

## Routers & Switches & Modems, Oh My! (Cont.)

switch. My home network includes a Linksys WRT350N router and twenty-four port Netgear JGS524 switch both of which support 1000BaseT (gigabit Ethernet).

Select the “Networking” category at <http://reviews.cnet.com/> for current reviews of routers and switches. CNET’s testing lab gave the D-Link DIR-655 Xtreme N Gigabit router

its highest speed rating in April 2007. But distance (or expense) rather than speed may be your criteria for purchase so shop around.

*By Joe Alemanni*

## Ham Radio

Ham Radio is an alternative way to communicate with others in the San Diego County as well as around the world. In order to operate a ham radio, you must be licensed by the FCC. In order to be licensed, you must pass a written exam. There are 3 license levels: 1. Technician, 2. General, and 3. Extra. In an emergency, regular phones and cell phones may be jammed or may be shut down, as was in the case of the Harmony Grove fire of 97. Ham radio operators can use “Repeaters”, which are very large antennas on large structures. Occasionally, these repeaters will not work if there is no electricity or if their batteries are out. In this case, ham radios can still oper-

ate by “ground wave propagation”, or by sending the radio waves over the ground. I have actually tried to see how far I could communicate via ground wave propagation, and so far I have been able to talk as far as Balboa Ave and Mercury Street in San Diego. For those people who are CERT trained, ham radio licenses are an additional help.

In February of 2006, I studied for and passed the Technician level ham radio exam. I had no understanding of electricity, radios, repeaters, etc, yet I still passed. This year I passed the General exam. That allows me to operate a radio worldwide. Since I could not hook up a stereo system, when I tell you that if I can pass this

exam, anyone can, please believe me. It takes some study and memorization. I have web links that can be accessed to study for this exam. I can also find out if there are local classes that can prepare you for you license exam. These classes are usually sponsored by the Palomar Amateur Radio Club or Escondido Amateur Radio Club. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a licensed ham radio operator, please call or e-mail me. If you are already a licensed ham radio operator, please let me know at 744-2034 or [mickeykc@juno.com](mailto:mickeykc@juno.com).

*By Mickey Cross*



### Club Contacts

Palomar Amateur Radio Club [www.palomararc.org](http://www.palomararc.org)

Fallbrook Amateur Radio Club [www.fallbrookarc.org](http://www.fallbrookarc.org)

Escondido Amateur Radio Club [www.earsclub.org](http://www.earsclub.org)

## TECC Talk

The 6th annual **Concert on the Creek** was held on August 25th. This year we returned to the Lazy J Ranch home of **Nancy Reed** and her daughter, Dani, who have hosted our concerts for many years. The event was a fitting tribute to the memory of **Jerry Gradisher**, Nancy's husband and Dani's dad, who tragically lost his life in January 2006 in a vehicle accident. Jerry's contributions to Elfin Forest and TECC were immeasurable, and TECC owes many of its land acquisition successes to Jerry's perseverance and dedication. Over 100 patrons enjoyed the live music by **Berkley Hart**, the deep-pit BBQ roasted pig dinner by **Tim and Claudia Costanzo**, and the silent auction featuring dozens of wonderful items. Over \$7,000 in

donations were raised specifically to fund the new **Elfin Forest Interpretive Center**, in memory of Jerry Gradisher... In July TECC received title to **72 acres** of prime coastal sage scrub (css) habitat in Misha Canyon, along Escondido Creek. Named **'Onyx Ridge'**, this property includes 'backyard open space' for nine future house lots, plus a 50-acre undeveloped parcel. The property is situated at the north end of Camino Sin Puente in the Rancho Santa Fe community of Cielo, just east of Paint Mountain. We'll be working with the sellers this month to remove some abandoned vehicles and other debris. TECC's monthly monitoring and management of the property has commenced, and is funded by a permanent endowment provided by the sellers, Sherman and Sons, LLC. We're excited

about adding this beautiful new property to the Elfin Forest Preserve, which now totals over 500 acres of land directly managed by TECC!... The **Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Interpretive Center** has reached the 50% architectural design milestone. The building is beginning to take form, and we really like what we see! You can see the plans yourself by visiting the TECC web site; all of the plans are posted there. As beautiful as this green, LEED-certified, living roof, solar-powered facility hopes to become, **we cannot build it without your support**. Please consider what an important asset this facility will be to our community, then make a **significant donation to the capital campaign fund**. We have so far raised about \$300,000 towards our campaign goal of \$600,000... Many of you have seen the 'official' TECC mobile, driving around Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. My personal white 1990 Volkswagen Vanagon camper sports TECC door magnets, but the vehicle be-

longs to me, and I pay the maintenance bills! As such, I am unable to haul debris or tools, ford streams, winch abandoned vehicles, nor drive off-road to service TECC's growing list of properties. We urgently need a **light-duty pickup truck**, and the funds to maintain it. If you can help with a vehicle or a \$10,000+ permanent endowment fund to support it, we would like to talk with you! If you run a business, imagine 'Vehicle donated by [Your Business Name Here]' emblazoned on the side of the vehicle, as we drive about the watershed. Think about it... If you like what you see here, please consider a membership in TECC. With 125 members and growing, we can't fulfill our mission of **preservation, restoration and protection of the natural open space within the Escondido Creek watershed** without you!... I'll see you in the watershed!

*By Geoffrey Smith*



*TECC Vice-President Steve Barker addresses a crowd of 100 patrons at the 6th Annual Concert on the Creek*



## Sue Hill

"Elfin Forest Specialist"

**760-744-3430**

suehill@prusd.com



**Prudential  
California Realty**

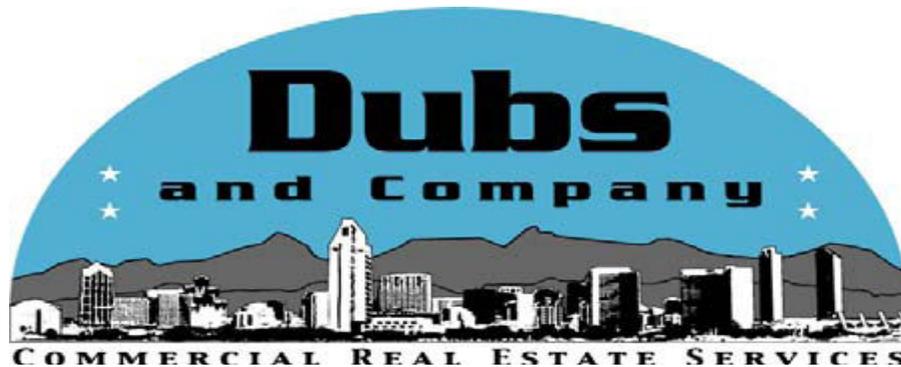
### **Marketing exceptional properties exceptionally well!**

Elfin Forest Resident for 25 years  
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## Sheriff Department Contacts



In an emergency, please call 911.

For non-emergency reporting, contact the following:

**General** - 760-510-5200

**Agriculture crime prevention specialist** (Jackie

Cruz ) - 760-940-4350

**Crime Prevention Specialist/Neighborhood**

**Watch** (Betty (B.J.) Williams) - 760-510-5254

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### Chaparral by e-Mail

If you're not already receiving a full color, PDF format copy of the *chaparral* by email send an email to Karen@vintagematerialism.com to be added to the list. The PDF version is free to regular "hardcopy" subscribers and \$10.00/year for the PDF version only.

## October Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Every Tuesday and Thursday	6:00 AM	Free Exercise Classes @ Firehouse
Tues 10/2, 10/16	7:00 PM	Fire Training @ Firehouse
Mon 10/8	7:00 PM	Fire Board @ Firehouse
Sat 10/20	8:00 AM	Fire Training @ Firehouse

## *Elfin Forest Hometown Halloween*

Last year the Elfin Forest Hometown Halloween was a huge success. Several truckloads of local kids ran up and down driveways to trick-or-treat in their own neighborhood. Everyone had a great time. If you

would like to welcome trick-or-treaters at your home (between 5:00-8:00 PM) on Halloween, please contact Lori Vitale by October 29 with your name and address at Vitale-Home@gmail.com

or 760-752-7868.

If you would like to obtain a list of neighbors welcoming trick-or-treaters, there will be a map at the fire house on Halloween after 3:00 PM.



## *Fall into Free Waterwise Landscaping*

The Olivenhain Municipal Water District, the Santa Fe Irrigation District and San Dieguito Water District are holding free landscaping workshops for residents in the three agencies' service areas. Beginning October 18, 2007 a workshop will be held every Thursday through November 8, 2007. Workshops will take place 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club (last workshop will be held 8:30 am to 11:30 pm). The workshops are designed to promote good water management practices while still enjoying a lush, colorful landscape.

When it comes to planting, many homeowners think only of spring;

however in much of the country, fall is the ideal time to plant cool-season veggies, turf grasses, perennials, trees and shrubs. Fall officially begins with the autumnal equinox in late September, and for most folks September and October is an ideal time for fall planting.

**Why is fall planting good for plants?** In the fall, the warm soil encourages root growth. Roots continue to grow through the winter. In early spring, roots begin new growth or continue to develop at a faster rate, and top growth begins. While the same plant planted in spring gets a slow start due to cool soils, those planted in fall are becoming well established. When sum-

mer finally arrives, the fall-planted specimen is far better equipped to deal with heat and drought, largely due to its well-established root system.

Of course, there are plenty of other good reasons to plant in the fall such as rainfall, cooler weather and fewer pest and disease problems. In addition, many plants are on sale at nurseries, which makes fall planting nice for your wallet too!

**The free workshops include:**

**Landscape Design** provides a general overview of how a landscape architect approaches a design for a homeowner. Themes to be covered include "Landscape as



## Workshops ... Continued

Part of Your Living Space,” “How to Develop a Landscape Plan,” & “Plant Selection.”

Participants will learn to organize their thoughts and resources to develop a landscape plan that works best for them.

Landscape plans and photos will be shown. Thursday, October 18, 2007

### **California Friendly Ornamental Plants**

covers 25 common & useful plants that grow well in San Diego. California friendly plants are beautiful, water saving & many are fire resistant. Brochures will be available that include photos, descriptions & useful information. **Thursday, October 25, 2007**

**Home Sprinkler Systems** looks at major design and maintenance principles of both overhead sprinklers and drip irrigation. Discover the right system for your home. **Thursday, November 1, 2007**

**Watering & Fertilizing** covers topics such as: “How Long Should I Run My Sprinklers,”

“How Does Soil Affect Plant Growth and Watering,” “Irrigation Control Clock Programming,” and “Fertilizers.” Participants will learn how to conduct a system test on lawn areas that will produce an estimated watering schedule.

**Thursday, November 8, 2007**

The RSF Garden Club is located at 17025 Avenida de Acacias in Rancho Santa Fe. Workshops are sponsored by the Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Santa Fe Irrigation District, San Dieguito Water District, RSF Garden Club and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. To reserve your seat, call Teresa Chase at (760) 632-4641.

There is an increasing need for water conservation in San Diego due to the dry weather conditions, environmental concerns, and the low levels of snow pack, rainfall, and the Colorado River. Water agencies now focus on ways to save water outdoors as irrigation accounts for

60% of urban water use. With increased awareness of water-efficient landscape techniques, communities can also be proactive in avoiding stagnant water, insect problems, unstable soil conditions and other saturation issues that occur with over-watering. Irrigation run-off can also contribute to storm water pollution, carrying pesticides, bacteria and litter to our waterways and beaches.

Currently, the District includes over 48 square miles, and serves a population of approximately 58,000 residents. The District includes portions of the cities of Encinitas, Carlsbad, and Solana Beach as well as the communities of Olivenhain, Leucadia, Elfin Forest, Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks Ranch, Santa Fe Valley and 4S Ranch. For more information on the workshops and other water-saving programs, visit [www.omwd.com](http://www.omwd.com).



## *Biking Across America*

How did you spend your summer vacation? If you're like many of our energetic neighbors maybe you remodeled, landscaped or painted. Most likely you didn't bike 3800 miles across the United States unless you're Marv Steinman, one of our very own local residents. Marv joined up with America by Bicycle, a bicycle tour group, and pedaled from Oregon to New Hampshire on a recumbent bike for 50 days this past summer. The ride was completed in its entirety along with approximately 60 other members who trained religiously starting in January in order to be prepared for their trek across the states.

Marv's training included rides up to 115 miles a day out to Palomar Mountain, Cabrillo National Monument and the North county inland area. Of the 60 or so riders who made the entire trip, Marv was the sole rider on an recumbent bike (the bike has one 20 inch front wheel, a standard size rear wheel and a wider seat which eliminates saddle sores). The disadvantage of the

recumbent bike is when climbing steep hills like when Marv climbed Teton pass which included a 10 mile continuous very steep climb in the heat of the day.

America by Bicycle's Cross Country Tour offers shorter rides as well as the Across America North tour which covered 11 states including Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario Canada, New York, Vermont and New Hampshire.

The tour's service included accommodations, meals, support and gear vans, and training instruction. Fortunately for Marv, not much gear support was needed with only two flat tires and not one drop of rain (yes, you read that right). The average number of flats on such a trip is 4 or 5 so he fared well (unlike another group on a 3 seater who had the most with 15). Some of Marv's most memorable moments were the views of the Teton Mountain range and Niagara Falls.

So what do you do after 3800 miles, 79 road kill sightings, 150 bananas,



75 packs of fig newtons and 1 sore gluteus maximus? Go back to remodeling, landscaping and painting, what else?

*By Mary Ellen Steria*

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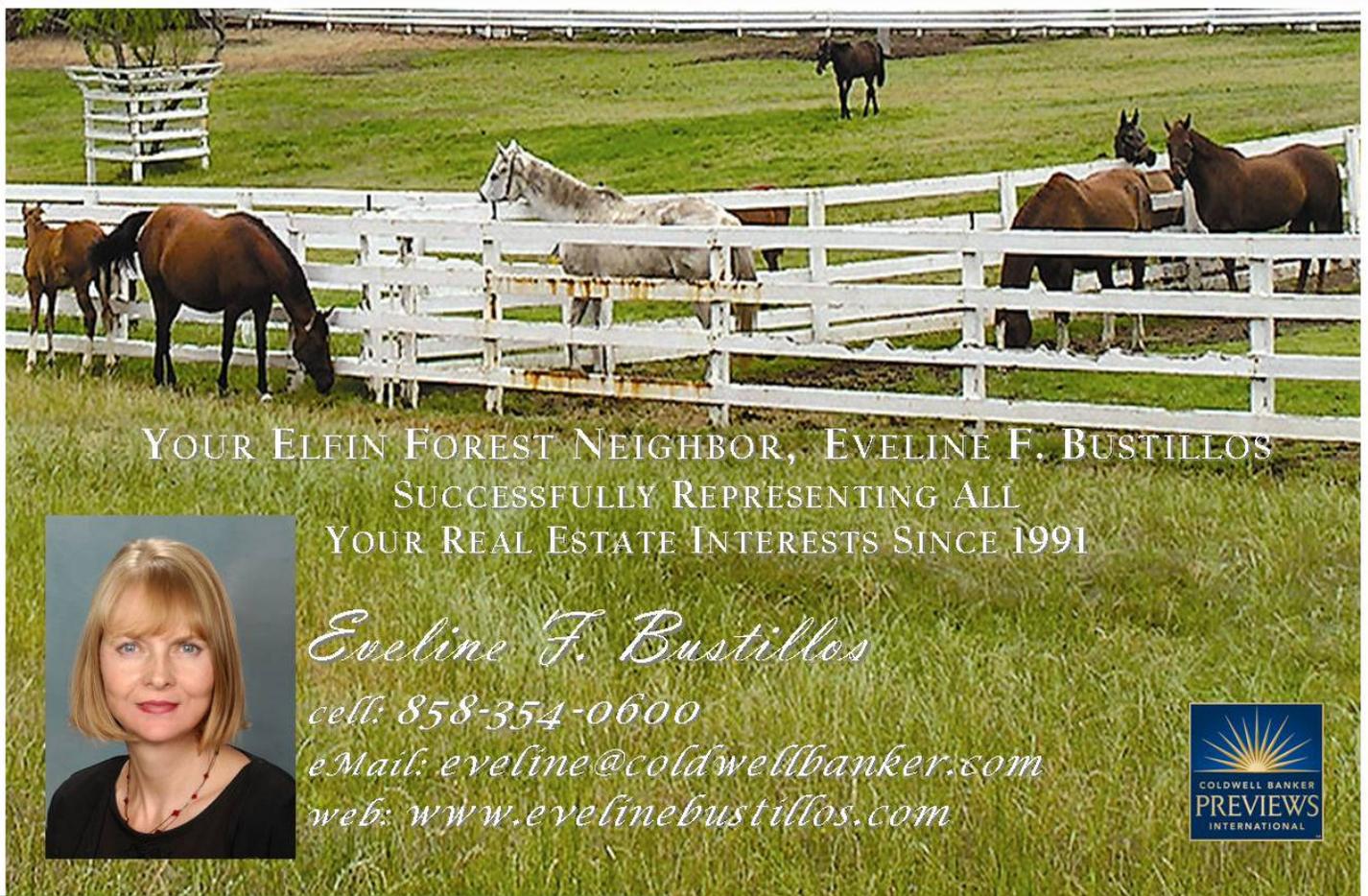
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Elissa Benjamin - Experienced babysitter and tutor for grades K-4, all subjects/pet care. Local references. Red Cross babysitter certification. Please call early to reserve babysitting. 760-274-5379.

Amanda Clerke – Experienced Babysitter/Pet Care. Elfin Forest resident, RSF School. YMCA babysitter certification. 13 years old. Please call 760-510-0143.

Jessica MacKinnon - Babysitting/Feed Animals, EF Resident, 15 years old, SFC High School - 10th grade, took babysitting course through Red Cross. Contact at 760-744-8955.

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*The **chaparral** is published monthly by the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board (a 501c3 non-profit corporation) and is distributed to residents of the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove communities and elsewhere for a \$20.00 annual subscription. Check the mailing label for your subscription expiration date. If it has expired please send a check, payable to the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council, to 20223 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest, CA 92029. For new subscriptions or address label corrections, contact Karen Gardner at [karen@vintagematerialism.com](mailto:karen@vintagematerialism.com) or 744-9500. To protect you from unwanted junk mail and solicitations, the **chaparral** mailing list is not shared with anyone. **This newsletter is copyrighted. Unauthorized reproduction in any form is strictly prohibited.***

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