



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Mid Hoppenrath

Welcome to the New Year in our rural community. One of the things that make this area so special is that we have an organization, the Town Council (TC), to channel and focus the strength of our community members. Any adult resident owning property within the borders of Community Service Area (CSA) 107 is eligible to vote in our upcoming February elections and to serve on the Board of Directors. We will accept nominations at our January meeting.

We are also considering a proposed boundary extension to include the thirty or so homes that are in Harmony Grove but outside of CSA 107. Many residents living in this area wish to be included in the TC and feel that it would be stronger if it could represent all of Harmony Grove. Because there is no clear consensus on how Eden Valley should be represented, no action is proposed to include Eden Valley.

We will be handling the election a little differently this year to allow for immediate representation of the remainder of Harmony Grove, should it be included. This year’s ballot will allow special nominations for a representative from the new area of Harmony Grove who would serve on the board only if the proposed boundary change were to be approved in the same February election.

Please consider participating on our TC board. It’s a great way to help preserve our rural lifestyle.

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Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, January 7^d @ 7:30 p.m.
At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station
Topics: Nominations for Board of Directors, Community Internet Service

Nominations For Town Council Board Elections

Nominations for the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board will be taken at the town council meeting on January 7th. 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.

Fire Board Elections Board Members Wanted

February 4, 2004 is Election Day in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. If you want to be a member of the most progressive volunteer fire department board of directors in San Diego County, then put your name on the ballot. To be elected you must be a resident or landowner registered to vote in the county of San Diego and reside or own property within the legal boundaries of the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department, County Service Area (CSA) #107.

Ballots will be mailed the first week of January. Contact any Fire Board Member for more information or to place your name on the ballot:

Nona Barker, Chairman	760-471-5559
ecllamas@aol.com	
Byron McFarlane, Vice Chairman	760-471-1235
byronbobbie@aol.com	
Dorothy Caldwell, Secretary	858-756-2225
dcaldwell@ricochet.com	
Bob Kephart, Treasurer	760-471-0689
bdkept@tns.net	
Susan Cronshaw, Director	760-736-9257
scronshaw@tns.net	
Rob Hill, Director	760-744-0505
wrhmarketing@aol.com	
Stephanie Lawr, Director	760-420-8802
stephanielawr@yahoo.com	

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EFCF Board Elections in February By Betsy Keithley, Secretary EFCF

The Elfin Forest Community Foundation was established in 1995 with the mission to enhance the quality of rural life in the community of Elfin Forest. The net assets at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2003) were \$348,791. The Foundation provides funds for project supplies or community events.

Our last deadline for submission of applications was October 15, 2003 and 4 proposals were funded for a total of \$6,800. The projects and recipients were Jane Bernasconi for trees along Elfin Forest Road by Fortuna del Norte, Arie Franken for carpet in the community room at the fire station, The Escondido Creek Conservancy for computer equipment for making presentations to groups about the work and needs of the Conservancy and the Trails Committee for maintenance and replacement of existing fencing. Thanks to all these people for their community service.

It is time again for annual elections for Board membership. The election will occur in February, 2004 at the time of the Town Council and Fire Board elections. The term is 3 years with a minimum of 2 face-to-face meetings per year to review grant applications that are due in April and October. If you would like to run for election, please submit to the EFCF, a letter so stating and include signatures from 2 community residents. Also please include a short paragraph - about your community experience or interests that will be included in the February issue of the Chaparral. Just mail to, or drop off your letter at the fire station mail-drop-slot. If you have any questions, call a member of the board, Steve Barker, Mike Vallee, Betsy Keithley, Martha Blane, Virginia McManus, Trey Fairman, Patti Newton, Sue Hill, or Frank Twohy or contact Betsy Keithley at ekeithley@ucsd.edu.

In addition to our grants at our last meeting, we decided to revamp our web site. Evelyn Alemanni did it for us and it is quite beautiful. Please look at it: www.elfinforestcommunityfoundation.org.

Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

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

Report On RSF Association Meeting About Suerte Del Este

By Karen Gardner

A few weeks ago the Rancho Santa Fe Association hosted a meeting to discuss the recent move toward paving Suerte Del Este. The Association invited members from the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council as well as representatives from the County of San Diego, the San Dieguito Planning Group, SDG&E, OMWD, San Diego County Code Enforcement, Lennar (the developer of the Bridges) and various other agencies and landowners.

It was evident at this meeting that the Association does not want Suerte Del Este paved and is concerned about the amount of traffic currently coming from the Elfin Forest area into Rancho Santa Fe. There are community-wide concerns about overburdening this road.

Though the majority of Suerte Del Este users from Elfin Forest have children in the Rancho Santa Fe school (and thus may have easement rights across the Lennar property), there is an increasing number of users who do not have any business on this road and are trespassing private property. Issues that were discussed included:

- Who has easement rights along Suerte Del Este? (Currently only SDG&E has an easement along the entire road.)
- What is entailed in terms of permits when paving a private road?
- What resource agencies need to be contacted when paving such a road?
- How difficult is gating and enforcement?

Though nothing was officially resolved at this meeting, the meeting provided a chance for the Elfin Forest Town Council to meet with concerned neighbors and enforcement agencies to learn more about the Suerte Del Este problem.

Calendar For January 2004

Date	Time	Event
Weds 1/7	7:30 PM	EF/HG TC Meeting
Tues 1/6, 1/13	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Thurs	6:30 PM	Yoga
Mon 1/12	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Weds 1/14	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Sat 1/24	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse

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Our Ever Popular “Dirt Roads”

By Karen Gardner

Evidenced by stories in this month’s *chaparral*, the issues associated with gating and paving either/or Suerte Del Este and Canyon de Oro are on many minds lately. As traffic becomes worse on Elfin Forest Road, as well as Fortuna Del Este and the two “dirt roads”, problems associated with dumping, safety and expediency are getting out of hand.

At the Town Council’s March meeting we’ll discuss potential solutions and provide insight on what is required to gate or pave any or all of these roads (remember that most of the roads in our community are private and will require action beyond simply “finding the money”.) An overview/background presentation will be provided and then an open forum for discussion will ensue. We hope to have speakers from Rancho Santa Fe, OMWD, SDGE, TECC, etc. to provide further insight and background with regard to both Suerte Del Este and Canyon de Oro.

If you are a stake holder on any of these roads and would like to be put on the agenda to speak, please contact any Town Council member or contact Karen Gardner at 760-744-9500. We’d especially like to hear from you if you have a good understanding of the legal issues associated with these roads.

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Did you know that your Christmas tree can go on to do good after the holidays? Sixty-nine percent of Christmas trees are recycled in five programs: chipping for garden mulch, erosion prevention, shoreline stabilization, fish habitat, river delta sedimentation management.

Check out www.realchristmastrees.org or call 1-800-CLEANUP for the location of the nearest tree recycler. Note: dropping trees off on the side of the road is LITTERING and punishable by a \$1000 fine. If you see someone dumping trees or other trash, take down the license number and call the sheriff.

Who ya gonna call?

To report **illegal dumping**: 858-495-5143

To report **excessive noise**: 858-694-3741

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Karen Gardner

Date: December 3, 2003

Members Present: Mid Hoppenrath, Evelyn Alemanni, Patti Newton, Rachel Barnes, Arie Franken, Nancy Reed, Janet McGurk, Karen Gardner, Eric Anderson

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

Updates: **Mid Hoppenrath** welcomed the large group and announced that only the central 900 acres in Harmony Grove had been removed from the Escondido Sphere of Influence. Eden Valley and portions of Harmony Grove closest to the preserve were not removed by LAFCO.

Updates for the New Urban West Village at Harmony Grove development included the fact that the public park will now be referred to as play fields, not ball fields, and that the new Fire Station may be located in the quarry area as opposed to the village area. Additionally, Country Club Drive outside of the Village area will not change and Harmony Grove Road outside of the Village area will not be widened. All multiuse recreational trails shown on the County Master Trail Plan map that are within the development will be dedicated to the county to preserve them for the community. New Urban West planned to file their development applications with the county on December 15th.

Evelyn Alemanni announced that Garden Festival tickets are selling quickly and that there is a limited quantity. She reminded everyone to order their tickets early on the website, www.elfinforestgardens.info.

Arie Franken announced that the January Town Council meeting will be dedicated to discussing valley internet service. This will be a meeting that you won't want to miss!

Nancy Reed reported on the recent Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting with regard to Cielo Del Norte. The BOS approved this very large Elfin Forest project. Community character and traffic concerns were ignored. However, the developer will be required to build traffic circles in Rancho Santa Fe to help ease the traffic problem. Nancy also reported that the developer agreed to restore the trails that have disappeared from the planning map but noted that various resource agencies might not allow the January 2004

trails to be restored. Nancy resigned her position on the Town Council. Her efforts, especially with regard to her trail work, will be missed.

Eric Anderson also reported on the BOS meeting. He let everyone know that Cielo Del Norte will double the size of the Elfin Forest community. Home square footage is not known but lot sizes will be less than the desired minimum of 2 acres.

Mid Hoppenrath announced that the trial period for Eden Valley and parts of Harmony Grove participating in the EF/HG Town Council (TC) had come to an end. All residents from the portion of Harmony Grove not in CSA 107 who were present wanted to join and presented petitions from neighbors who could not attend requesting to join the TC. While some Eden Valley residents wanted to join the TC and submitted petitions with this request, others were skeptical with regard to the benefits of joining our organized group. Much discussion ensued with regard to whether Eden Valley should become a permanent part of the TC.

The fun part of the meeting started after 8:15 PM when **Natalie Chaffer** announced the recipients of this year's Community Service Awards. There were 10 awards given:

- **Harry and Julie Zahner** who were the first people to spot the Harmony Grove Fire.
- **Richard Newton** for his hard work in repairing the Elfin Forest sign that had been in place for less than 24 hours before struck and severely damaged by someone driving a stolen car.
- **Ron Martin** for his generous donations of plants to the community.
- **Jan Young, Kathy Pickard, and Carla Zilka** for all of their hard work on the Quail Ridge project.
- **Doug Dill** for everything he does.
- **Mike Holmes** for his work on the new horse trails.
- **Susan Oddo** for her work with the landscape foundation.
- The **Worth Family** for all of their hard work on debris cleanup along Elfin Forest Road.
- The California Conservation Corps.
- And last but not most surely not least **THE ELFIN FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS**.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 for desserts and coffee.

Have You Seen Me?

The next time you're hiking in the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve keep an eye out for the herds of mountain goats that the developers of Cielo are using to promote their project. Since, from this picture in a recent Cielo ad, they're wearing bells they shouldn't be too hard to spot.



We're Not In Elfin Forest!

By Joe Alemanni

The developer of the recently approved Cielo del Norte project took exception to San Diego Union-Tribune reporter John Berhman's December 10th story characterizing the development of 154 homes on the 482 acres south of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove roads as being in Elfin Forest. Berhman was contacted the next day by a representative of the developer who claimed that (despite being in CSA 107) Cielo del Norte was actually in Rancho Santa Fe and they wouldn't share Elfin Forest's use of an Escondido zip code. Nothing was mentioned about Cielo del Norte being in the Escondido school district.

This reaction should highlight the assimilation problems associated with gated developments in CSA 107 that, at least for marketing purposes, try to align themselves with communities other than Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove. How or should we promote a relationship to gain the value of our greater combined voice? Share your thoughts with the rest of us.

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2003 Community Service Awards



Natalie Chaffer announcing the 2003 Community Service awards at the December town council meeting



Richard Newton, Carla Zilka, Mike Holmes, Susan Oddo, members of the Worth family and Chief Frank Twohy receiving their community service awards

Brushing, Grading, Clearing Questions?

If you have questions about guidelines, policies and standards for brushing, grading, and clearing, or if you need to report a violation, call the County Department of Planning and Land Use 760-940-2893.

Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Threatened by Development

By Deb LeLevier

The Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve (EFRR) is at grave risk of losing land to new development! The developer who recently won approval for the 482-acre, 147-home Cielo del Norte project also has options on the San Elijo Vista property just downstream of the EFRR staging area. He proposes building twenty-nine homes at the top of the "The Way Up Trail" the primary access to the reserve and its new reservoir. Portions of the "Way Up Trail" are actually on the San Elijo Vista parcels and if the developer is successful, the trail would be at the foot of huge fill slopes to new homes.

Access to these homes would require the construction of a road through the reserve staging area, cross the Escondido Creek, and carve its way up the cliff. The only other option would require a road from the Cielo del Norte project up the valley, effectively decimating the "Equine Incline Trail". Either option spells certain disaster for the EFRR. To add insult to injury, the San Elijo Vista property is completely surrounded by open space owned by the water district, the County of San Diego, and TECC. To stick an island of homes in the middle of thousands of acres of open space would be an environmental, aesthetic, and ecological tragedy.

For several years TECC has lobbied the county for assistance in preserving this land. While we've met with some success, we have failed to secure a firm commitment. The good news is the developer is willing to entertain offers; the bad news is he's not willing to wait indefinitely to initiate the planning process while we locate funding. Therefore, TECC must take immediate direct action to save this beautiful area and prevent its associated, widespread destruction.

WHAT WE MUST DO - Nothing demonstrates community support for a project like successful fundraising efforts. TECC is asking you to donate toward the acquisition of this key site. If TECC can come to the table with a sizable contribution, it can leverage the support of the county and other large foundations.

We can't say it loudly enough; developments like this invariably end up with a net loss of open space and quality of life. One look at San Elijo Hills, University
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Commons, and the newly approved Cielo del Norte projects portend the future if we fail to act NOW! With San Elijo Vista we have the opportunity to preserve the entire parcel, a more satisfying endeavor with a much more satisfying outcome.

Please consider a donation to TECC's Land Acquisition and Maintenance Fund at the San Diego Foundation. Designate "Land Acquisition" or "EFRR" on the memo line and your contribution will be used exclusively in our campaign to save San Elijo Vista and protect the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve.

Please mail donations to TECC at P. O. Box 460791, Escondido, CA 92046. Your donation is completely tax-deductible. Thank you for your immediate action and generosity toward averting this crisis.

"Blossoms and Barns" Get Your 2004 Garden Festival Tickets Now!

By Evelyn Alemanni



Visit barns and enjoy the gardens that surround them, while doing a good deed for our community at the same time. The April 24, 2004 garden festival benefits the construction

and maintenance of trails in our community. Tickets are limited, so order yours today. Don't miss out while people from all over the country ooh and ah over Elfin Forest gardens. (That's *country* – not county – people are coming from as far away as New Mexico, Georgia, and Ohio.) Preview the gardens and order tickets at www.elfinforestgardens.info.

Eight gardens will be open, lunch will be served at Questhaven Retreat, and a garden marketplace featuring garden products, arts, and crafts will be part of the festivities. Many thanks to our wonderful new



sponsors, Hunter Industries, Tri-C, Ecke, and Proven Winners. Want to be a sponsor? Contact Evelyn Alemanni at 760-471-7224 or alemanni@allea.com.

Paving Canyon de Oro

By Jack Olmstead

Traffic is bad and will soon be worse! We all travel through San Elijo Hills (SEH) where, at this time, there are about 1200 homes occupied. There will be a total of about 3500 homes in the next few years. SEH residents traveling to and from home, construction traffic, and commuters from Escondido heading west in the AM and back in the PM make for even more traffic congestion. The new school, library, condos, and stores in the SEH Village will make traffic move even slower. When these are built, add at least 5 to 15 minutes to get through the intersections. Heading west through University Commons, an expanded business park and Wal-Mart; how much time to get through all that? I'm not trying to be a pessimist, but we should recognize the obvious and plan for it.

I'd like to propose that we start working on gating and paving our special hidden access way to Encinitas, Canyon de Oro, before the trip through SEH becomes too horrendous! Some of us have deeded rights to use the road and most can show prescriptive rights to use it. I live close to the road and don't want to increase traffic by my home anymore than anyone, but I realize this access is a valuable asset for Elfin Forest. We can limit access (to local residents) with a gate. When the road is re-graded to its original 22' width and paved we'll have a valuable all-weather access way to Encinitas and Rancho Santa Fe. Travel to Rancho Santa Fe School will take only a couple minutes longer than taking an unpaved Suerte del Este and provide alternate access to the San Dieguito Academy and La Costa Canyon and Torrey Pines high schools.

Emergency vehicles will have another access to our community and we gain another emergency exit. Another important reason is it will probably eventually happen anyway by developers or the City of Encinitas. We need to do it ourselves in order to keep it a private access road!

Canyon de Oro is supposed to be partially paved soon by a developer from the Encinitas side to Rancho Summit Road. Rancho Summit Road will be paved up the hill to the north to a new development that was approved several years ago. This leaves only about 0.55 miles of roadway to improve.

I recommend that the site for the gate on Canyon de Oro be located just east of the intersection of Canyon del Oro and Rancho Summit Road. This allows a

single gate to do the job of limiting access from Canyon de Oro and Seaquest Trail/Fortuna del Sur and keeps the gate in public view limiting vandalism.

I volunteer to do what I can to make this project become a reality. The project size will and should require an association to implement and maintain the road and gate. I suggest that we expand one of the existing road associations to encompass this project. All parties who live in Elfin Forest should be invited to participate. We can begin by communicating via email. My address is jacko@nctimes.net. Road association people, what do you think?

Elfin Forest Welcoming Committee

By Karen Gardner

The Elfin Forest Welcoming Committee is being formed. It's envisioned to be responsible for welcoming new neighbors and serving as a resource for people unfamiliar with the area. Those with questions about Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove, the school system, or any other concern will be able to contact a local Committee member.

Welcoming Committee members will be organized by street or neighborhood area and provide new homeowners with a copy of the EF/HG Community Guide, a copy of the *chaparral* and other material pertinent to living in our community. Additionally, Committee members will serve as an information conduit between residents and the Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Town Council. By providing your local Committee member with your telephone number and/or e-mail address you'll receive periodic updates about important upcoming civic meetings, community events, and community fundraisers.

For more information on this organization and to volunteer, please contact Karen Gardner at 760-744-9500.

Landfill Closure Progress

The County appears to be making slow progress on their closure plan. A Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting is scheduled to review their final closure plan which would be followed by a Solid Waste Management Board review in March 2004. Then comes the contract bidding process. The County supposedly has a source for their dirt cover. This could lead to a late 2004 start of the actual work, but our experience leads us to think that it won't be until 2005 before they get going on the ground.

The School Yard

By Jim Depolo

Welcome back to the School Yard! It's been an exciting two weeks once again, with lots to talk about! Before we jump in just a reminder; our next regular meeting is on Wednesday January 21st. As part of the January 21st meeting we will have our second EIR workshop, similar to the one held on December 17th with the intent of gathering community input. We hope to hear from you!

Yes on Proposition K "Mini-Bond" for Rowe -

After much discussion the board voted to go forward and place a small bond, of \$4.8M on the March ballot focused solely on improvements to the R. Roger Rowe site. The bond, now called Proposition K, will be used for improvements in student safety at drop-off and pick-up, updating of fire and electrical systems, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), upgrading to current seismic standards, and similar "non-glamorous" infrastructure improvements that need to be made regardless of whether we get a second school or not.

The discussion centered not on whether the improvements were needed at Rowe, to which everyone agreed; but rather how the March bond would/could impact a November bond to build a new school. In the end, a majority of the board felt that the March bond could help build momentum and help educate the public in preparation for the larger November bond. It is important to realize that this bond in no way "solves" our over-crowding problem. It is as important as ever that we continue moving forward with plans for the second school.

At our meeting on December 10th we called for nominations for the bond oversight committee with applications due in the school office by 4 PM on January 30th. Please pick up an application if you are interested. We need representation from across the district. There will also be a bond committee forming to help with the public awareness campaign and passing the bond in March.

Quantum - As many of you may have heard, there appears to be a breakthrough on solving "the Del Dios problem" of Quantum. On December 3rd the County gave permission for the developers of Cielo Norte to proceed contingent upon constructing roundabouts at the Del Dios intersections with Via de la Valle and El Montevideo. We believe an additional

roundabout at Camino del Norte may also be added, either for other developments in the works or triggered by the school. But importantly, this move will dramatically improve traffic flow into the area and drives some urgency into the process. While there are many details yet to be worked, this is a HUGE breakthrough for placing a school on Quantum.

On December 10th the board approved a Request for Proposals (RFP) to be sent out requesting architectural proposals for designing the new school. The RFP will be sent out after the first of the year with proposals due back on March 5th. As part of the EIR many studies are either starting or in progress at the site including habitat studies, traffic studies, and soil studies. Things are moving along!

School Board Business - December is our organizational meeting and we approved our meeting dates for next year and elected new officers. Our very energetic John Stiker will lead the board in 2004 as President, and we are thrilled that Deb Plummer will continue as Vice President. Jim Depolo will take on the role of Clerk, and will also be writing more of the School Yard articles this year (starting now). Barbara Taylor took on representation at some of the county committees. We all thank Kathy Stumm for the past two years of leadership as Board President! We all look forward to a fruitful 2004 year -- with two bonds now on the horizon it will be a busy one!

School Support - We are looking good in the first interim budget forwarded to the county and would be delinquent if we did not complement both the Endowment and the PTO who are doing a wonderful job of meeting their commitments and supporting the financial health of our school. A highlight to all: the Endowment has a matching gift challenge from now until the end of the year, so if you have not made your contribution yet now is a great time! Contact the school office at 858-756-1141 for more information.

Next Steps - Continue work on the EIR for Quantum, including preliminary design work. Continue to develop Rowe renovation plan beyond the immediate fixes included in Proposition K. Hopefully all of us will enjoy our upcoming holidays, and we certainly wish all the best to you and your families (we're taking a break from the School Yard next issue for the holidays). We'll start up again with our regular meeting on January 21st. Season's Greetings!

Enjoying the Winter Garden

By Evelyn Alemanni

My garden gets three traditional treats on New Years day: the roses are pruned, and tulip and gladiola bulbs are planted. January is the best month to plant bare root roses, although if you can buy your “bare root” roses in pots, they will make the transition to your garden much more quickly and be stronger and healthier.

Here’s a different way to plan a rose garden. Instead of a color theme, plant roses with the names of family members. I have “St. Joseph” and “Just Joey” for my husband, and the English rose called “Evelyn.” You could do a patriotic theme with “Climbing America”, “Peace”, “Mr. Lincoln”, “John F. Kennedy” and “Ronald Reagan” for starters. Or you could have the actor’s corner, with celebrities including “Marilyn Monroe”, “George Burns”, “Barbra Streisand”, “Bing Crosby”, and “Bob Hope”.

Try a celestial theme with “Angel Face” and “Our Lady of Guadalupe.” You can even do a series with cities or composers’ names. You get the idea. Email me your favorite combinations! You can check the availability list at www.sunshinegardensinc.com. They’ll have 575 varieties this year and most of them will also be available at the Elfin Valley Nursery on Elfin Forest Road.



Peace Rose

photo by Evelyn Alemanni

Garden Projects for January

January is the best month to get a head start on your summer garden. This is the month for planting all the wonderful bare root items that are available at this time of the year, starting with roses. But fruit trees, strawberries, and lots of other wonderful plants are available in "bare root" form right now, so don't wait. When you bring these plants home, put them in the ground right away!

Maintenance

- No need to water unless several weeks pass without rain.
- 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 herbicide now to avoid lots of work later.
- Water newly planted items.

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.
- Buy seeds for summer flowers and vegetables to start indoors now.

Fertilize

- Feed cool season lawns.
- Fertilize citrus, avocado, berries and grapes.

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 don't share the list with ANYONE.

Project Wildlife Owl Boxes

By Fran Lambert

Want to give back to our wild neighbors this holiday season and help Project Wildlife's raptor team as well? Project Wildlife is working with the Merced High School "Raptor Works" program. The Merced High wood shop uses recycled wood from ranchers in the San Joaquin Valley to build barn owl nest boxes. All proceeds from the Raptor Works program go to a scholarship fund to send Merced High School students to college. Cost is \$32.18 (includes tax) plus \$23.00 for shipping directly to you.

Barn Owls (*tyto alba*) are commonly found throughout San Diego county. They're often called "nature's mouse traps". These birds are extremely efficient predators of mice, rats and gophers. By putting up a barn owl box, you provide a place for owls to roost and a safe place to nest and raise their family of owlets (typically, 5 to 7 per box.) A 1998 study of the barn owl diet in CA showed that 42% of their diet was pocket gopher, 30% voles (large field mice), 17% deer mice, 6% house mouse and 5% other prey. One barn owl will eat on the average of 155 gophers per year or 53 pounds of gophers! To learn more about visit: www.owlpages.com.

The Project Wildlife raptor team receives a large number of "orphaned" barn owls every year. Typically, we get nestlings that have fallen or been trimmed out of palm trees. Our nest box program is designed to provide a place for the owls to roost and raise a family. In addition to purchasing the box for a worthwhile cause your name would be added to our "Barn Owl Database". During our busy baby season, our raptor team could contact you to see if you have an "occupied" nest box and potentially place one to two Project Wildlife "orphans" in with your owl family to be raised by owl parents in the wild.

If you are interested in purchasing a box or have further questions, please feel free to contact Project Wildlife Program Manager Leslie Van Epps. Thanks for caring about our wild neighbors!

Leslie Van Epps
Program Manager
Project Wildlife
San Diego, CA
619-449-4145

www.projectwildlife.org

Wildlife Hotline # 619-225-9202



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

Janean & Bill Huston

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EMAIL: janean@houndstohorses.com

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ALL.EA
Evelyn Alemanni 760-591-0417
alemanni@allea.com

News From Questhaven Retreat



Sunday worship is at 10:45 a.m.
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 7:15 p.m.

Meet at El Chapelito, Led by Jean Michalewicz.

The Way Within Meditation Classes

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 12:00 Noon

Meet in the Academy, Led by Rev. Phyllis Isaac.

Sunday Services

Dec 28—More Milestones of Discipleship
—Evelyn Alemanni

Jan 4—Taking a Fresh Look at Reincarnation
—Rev. Susan S. Cary

Jan 11—Train the Jedi Knight Within You
—Rev. Blake Isaac

Jan 18—The Blessings of Winter
—Rev. Elizabeth Wood

Jan 25—Archetypes-the Spiritual Architecture of Our Lives—Rev. Phyllis Isaac

Feb 1—Holy Spirit Dwell With Me—Ben Wisckol

Sheriff's Department Contacts

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

Jackie Cruz – agriculture crime prevention specialist
760-940-4350

Robert Jennings – Deputy 760-510-5223

Gary Floyd – COPPS - 760-510-5231
gary.floyd@sdsheriff.org.

Tim Mahoney – Deputy 760-510-5224

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

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.

The Holy Quest

The Holy Quest is offered as a three-day course based on the teachings of Flower A. Newhouse designed to lead you to the discovery of a way of life that opens you to your highest purpose in God's Plan. Topics to be covered: Christian Mysticism; Our Sevenfold Bodies; Christian Discipleship; Angels; and Flower A. Newhouse: Mystic, Seer and Teacher. Registration fee: \$225.00: Includes two nights accommodations, study materials, and a certificate of completion. Course is limited to 20 individuals.

Dates for the 1st series: Feb. 6-8, 2003; 2nd series: March 5-7, 2004, 3rd series May 14-16, 2004. See the web for further details or please call 760-744-1500, www.questhaven.org. The Christward Ministry, 20560 Questhaven Road, Escondido, CA 92029.

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1/2 page	\$20.00	\$165.00/year

Community, Non-Commercial Classified Ads:
1" x 3 1/2"(approx. 4 lines): no charge to residents - must be resubmitted every 3 months. Non-residents cost is \$10/month.

San Elijo Hills Contact

If you need to report any problems with the grading, traffic, etc. regarding the San Elijo Hills (SEH) project, please contact Phil Stillman who is SEH liaison with the community. He can be reached at philstillman@fstlaw.com. If you feel the problem was still not resolved, call San Elijo at 760-918-8200.

January Playgroup Schedule

By Mary Moore

Thursday, Jan. 8th, 3:30 PM, at Stage Coach Park in Carlsbad.

Friday, Jan. 16th, from 10 AM-Noon. It's a combined toddler birthday party for Reese Wazny who turned 2 on December 19th, for Olivia Sidwell who turns 2 on January 10th, and for Clayton Moore who turns 2 on January 11th. The location is at the Sidwell's home, 6856 Los Vientos Serenos. Please RSVP with Michelle at 760-471-8877.

Saturday, Jan. 17th at 11:00 AM. Faith Martin is turning 3 years old and celebrating with a birthday party. The Martin's address is 20919 Questhaven Rd. Please RSVP with Lisa at 760-471-8454.

Thursday, Jan. 22nd at 6:30 PM. We'll have a combined baby shower for Amanda and David Wright who had little Danika in November and Michelle and Pete Sidwell who are expecting a baby boy in early March. We'll meet at the Tuscany restaurant in Carlsbad. Call Mary Moore at 760-591-3080 to RSVP and for directions.

There is no playgroup scheduled for the last week of January.

Congratulations to David and Amanda Wright who had their little girl Danika Noell Wright at 11:11 AM, November 7th, 2003. Danika weighed 6 lbs., 12 oz, and was nineteen inches long. She is the little sister or Jordan who is twenty-one months old.

Happy birthdays to Oliver Delano who turns 3 on Jan. 8th, Olivia Sidwell who turns 2 on Jan. 10th, to Clayton Moore who turns 2 on Jan. 11th, to Ashley Goetz who turns 6 on Jan. 15th, and to Faith Martin who turns 3 on Jan. 21st.

We started our Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove playgroup in early 1999 after a minor "baby boom" hit Elfin Forest. Since then, we have grown with new families and siblings. I take honor in having such a cohesive playgroup in our community.

I have served as the playgroup captain, and Toni Fairman as the co-captain. We have truly enjoyed our participation in the playgroups, but now feel it is time to allow new ideas and energy to its leadership. We are pleased to have Anna Waite volunteer to be the new captain. We feel she will bring new spirit and enthusiasm to our playgroup. Thanks Anna!

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



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