



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Mid Hoppenrath

Happy New Year! As usual, there are many issues confronting our community so it is more important than ever to stay informed. The Escondido Union High School Board of Directors is still considering the site in Harmony Grove for the new 2,000+ student high school, complete with lighted playing fields for spectator-attended games and lots of concrete parking spaces for all that new traffic. If this doesn't sound rural to you, attend the next school board meeting January 18th and complain!

On a happier note, New Urban West has decided to restore the old white DeRaadt farmhouse, built in 1937. Tentative plans call for it to be eventually moved into the Harmony Grove Village Square. It may be available sooner, however, for community meetings. Any residents interested in forming a historical society, let any Board member know.

More good news. . . those of you living within 1,000' of a fire hydrant should contact your fire insurance agent. You may be eligible for a big reduction in your rates because our outstanding Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Department has improved its ISO rating.

Soon you'll be seeing poppies popping out all over, thanks to the America in Bloom committee. We need to all work toward beautifying Elfin Forest, cleaning up our properties and planting flowers, so we can win the contest this year. Think flower power!

Contents

From The Chair 1

Community Service Awards 2

Community Foundation Elections..... 2

Community Foundation Grants 2

Elfin Forest Garden Festival 2005 2

What's Happening At The Fire Department..... 3

Bylaw Changes Require Community Vote 3

Community Guides Are Here – Special Offer..... 4

Homeowner Resources..... 4

Calendar For January..... 4

Zoning Changes In The Works 4

Garden Club Notes 4

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting..... 5

A Grand For The Garden Festival 5

America in Bloom 6

Turf and Groundcovers..... 6

San Elijo's Own Newsletter..... 6

On The Trail..... 6

Exemplary Ground..... 7

January In The Garden..... 7

News From Questhaven Retreat 9

Classified..... 12

Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, January 5th @ 7:30PM
At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station

Topics: Supervisor Bill Horn, Community Service Awards

Community Service Awards

By Evelyn Alemanni

So many people in our valley do so much and, at the January 5th town council meeting, we will thank them and acknowledge their efforts. Here's your chance to nominate your friends and neighbors for their contributions to a maintaining a continuing rural environment. There's no limit to how many people you can nominate, but town council board members are not eligible. Deadline is December 31.

Natalie Chaffer has graciously volunteered to coordinate the awards again, so please send nominations to her at natalie@chaffer.us or call her at 760-744-7233. Please be sure to tell her the name of the person, why they are being nominated, and their phone number.

Community Foundation Elections

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 invested assets on November 4th, 2004 were \$345,321. The Foundation provides funds for project supplies or community events.

It's time again for annual elections for Board membership. The election will occur in February, 2005 at the time of the Town Council and Fire Board elections. The term is three years with a minimum of two 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 two community residents. Also 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 keithley@ucsd.edu. See the EFCF web site: www.elfinforestcommunityfoundation.org for more information.

Community Foundation Grants

By Betsy Keithley, Secretary EFCF

The board of directors of the Elfin Forest Community Foundation met on November 4th to evaluate four grant proposals submitted by the October 15th deadline. The applications requested about \$7,000. The funded projects are (in no particular order):

- 1) Mid Hoppenrath Town Council, funds to send the *chaparral* to all Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove residents twice a year free of charge. \$600.00
- 2) Eric Anderson Town Council, America in Bloom Committee received money to provide our entry fee, lodging for judges and community signs. \$1000.00
- 3) Jan Denny Town Council, funding for the preparation and mailing of a community survey. The information will be used by the Town Council in representing the community. \$440.00
- 4) Jan Denny Town Council, money to provide house addresses on Elfin Forest Road (EFR) for all homes that have EFR addresses but are on unnamed roads that branch off EFR. Boulders with numbers at the intersections of these off-shoot roads will help identify the location of the homes. \$4466.00

Congratulations to all the recipients and the community thanks you for your involvement and commitment to helping maintain the rural environment of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove.

Elfin Forest Garden Festival 2005

By Evelyn Alemanni

Plans for our garden festival (Saturday April 23rd, 2005) continue to take on momentum. Gardens on the tour this year have been in magazines such as Sunset, Better Homes and Gardens, San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles, and more. Order your tickets on the website now! Tickets are limited, so get yours today.

You can see details of the garden festival at www.elfinforestgardens.info. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the event in any way or to be a garden marketplace vendor or sponsor, please contact me at 760-471-7224 or alemanni@allea.com.

Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

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

What's Happening At The Fire Department

By Captain Dawn Pettijohn



A grant submitted to the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program through the California Fire Chiefs Association requests new dash mounted VHF mobile radios to provide us the ability to access all the radio frequencies needed for communications with state and local fire agencies on mutual aid wildland and disaster responses. Previous grants addressed our need for handheld VHF radios.

We have final approval of our request to use the WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) FY03 Part II grant money for station alerting. We currently depend on alphanumeric pagers to alert us to a call. This can be an issue when personnel are sleeping at the station at night or when we use noisy equipment. Station alerting will provide a visual and audible alert throughout the station for call response.

December training includes continuing education for the Automatic External Defibrillator/Combitube training with Russ Fraser of Palomar Medical Center and our annual EEOC Unlawful Harassment class. The final business meeting and Christmas party this year includes our Fire Auxiliary and Board of Directors. This should be a fun event and a chance for us all to get together and socialize.

Welcome back PFF/Paramedic Matt Sampson! Matt left in January to go to Paramedic School and now rejoins the Department. We're thrilled at his return and his medical expertise will be of great benefit.

Congratulations to Capt. John Rayes, FF Mike Shea, FF Ryan Parker, PFF Daniel Twohy, PFF Trevor Whitehead, PFF Lance Candelaria, PFF Rodney Ortiz, PFF Matthew Conroy for their 24 hour certification as Swiftwater Rescue Technician 1. This brings our current staffing of Swiftwater trained personnel to 17. We take swiftwater hazards very seriously and strive to maintain an effective number of people trained in river and flood water rescue.

Luckily, the weather has helped us to avoid any catastrophic fires. As we reflect, we see a year of growth, accomplishment and success. A year of a forward thinking Department that knows where we need to go and has a plan to get there. From all of us at the Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

January 2005

Bylaw Changes Require Community Vote

By Jan Denny

The Board has evaluated its operating procedures and discussed ways to improve its effectiveness in our community. As a result, we have proposed updates to our Bylaws and posted them on the Town Council website: (www.efhgtc.org/bylaws.htm).

These changes must be put to a vote of the residents of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove at the election in February. All content changes are numbered as footnotes.

The vote will ask whether there are any numbered changes that should not be accepted. Note that the Town Council refers to everyone who owns property in Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove and is eligible to vote on local issues being addressed by the Board.

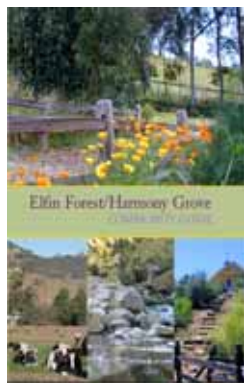
The following changes are proposed:

1. Clarification of requirements for membership in the Town Council and eligibility to vote on Town Council issues, specifically anyone whose name is on a title.
2. Statement that the Board will not represent communities outside the CSA107 border.
3. Update to reflect how meetings and agendas are communicated (via the website and the Chaparral newsletter), versus the notice board at the fire station.
4. Removal of the requirement that Town Council members register with the Secretary of the Board.
5. Clarification of the procedure to elect a Board member and appoint a Board officer.
6. Clarification on the Board's oversight role regarding committee activities.
7. Definition of activities that constitute a conflict of interest.
8. Procedure to address community input

Please take a moment before the February elections to review the changes to our bylaws.

Community Guides Are Here – Special Offer

By Evelyn Alemanni



Our brand new community guide is here and will be available at all town council meetings. This is a beautiful, keepsake edition with 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. *If you ordered your community guide already, pick it up at any town council meeting.*

When you renew your newsletter subscription for two years, you can purchase the community guide for \$20. Renew for five years and the guide is yours for only \$15.

Just Moved Here?

If you just moved here, contact Karen Gardner 760-744-9500 to get your free six month subscription to the newsletter and discounts on town council merchandise.

Homeowner Resources

A Homeowner's Guide to Fire and Watershed Management available for free download at www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/index.shtml.

Also, a CD with garden designs and listings of drought tolerant plants is available at the OMWD office. It is called Southern California Heritage Gardening Guide. Info at www.bewaterwise.com.

Calendar For January

Date	Time	Event
Weds 1/5	7:30 PM	EF/HG Town Council Mtg
Tues 1/6 1/20	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Thurs	6:30 PM	Yoga@Firehouse
Mon 1/12	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Weds 1/14	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Sat 1/31	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse

Zoning Changes In The Works

By Jan Denny

The Town Council is working with New Urban West to solicit the following zoning changes from various county agencies. We believe these changes will help us preserve our rural lifestyle:

1. **Department of Public Works:** Re-classify Country Club Drive from 4 lane collector to 2 lane collector within the New Urban West project.
2. **Department of Public Works:** Re-classify Harmony Grove Road west of Wilgen Road and Elfin Forest Road from Harmony Grove Road to the City of San Marcos boundary from 4 lane collector to 2 lane collector.
3. **Department of Planning and Land Use:** Allow no further quarrying in Harmony Grove.
4. **Parks & Recreation:** Dedicate multi-use trails to the county.
5. **Parks & Recreation:** Specify that the Equestrian Park is for the local community, the trail head is for horseback riding, and both are to allow only day use, with no overnight parking.
6. **Parks & Recreation:** Prohibit formal playing fields for organized sports. Instead provide multi-use community parks with no night lighting that can be used informally for sports or other recreational activities.
7. **Department of Public Works:** Reduce exterior lighting to a level consistent with a rural area to maintain dark skies.

Feel free to contact a member of the Town Council with your comments on these items (www.efhgtc.org).

Garden Club Notes

By Teri Brand

The next Elfin Forest Garden Club meeting will be on January 22nd at 10 AM. We'll meet at the Elfin Valley Nursery. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a chair if you wish to sit. We'll take a tour of the nursery and talk about plans for future meetings. You can check the dates, times, and topics for meetings on the town council website, www.efhgtc.org.

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Patti Newton

Date: November 3, 2004

Board Members present: Jan Denny, Patti Newton, Bob McGurk, Greg Parman, Evelyn Alemanni, Mid Hoppenrath, Ari Franken, Eric Anderson

Call to Order: 7:35 PM.

Item #1: Party Time! Representatives from most of the local non-profit organizations were invited to familiarize residents with who they are and what they do. Each explained their purpose, origins, histories, funding sources, benefits to the community, and how interested residents can become involved. The town council was represented by **Jan Denny**; the Fire Auxiliary by **Mary Garman**; the fire department by **Frank Twohy**; the Elfin Forest Community Foundation by **Patti Newton**; America in Bloom by **Eric Anderson**; the Elfin Forest Garden Festival by **Evelyn Alemanni**; the Block Captains by **Peggy Petitmermet**; The Escondido Creek Conservancy by **Steve Barker and Tim Conzanzo**; the *chaparral* by **Joe Alemanni**; the Elfin Forest Greeters by **Karen Gardner**.

Adjourned: 8:10 p.m. to party time



Longtime Elfin Forest resident Max Altmann donates \$1000 to the upcoming Elfin Forest Garden Festival

A Grand For The Garden Festival By Evelyn Alemanni

A few weeks ago, I was at Kinkos getting signs made for our America in Bloom effort, when a lady behind me in line insisted the signs must be for the Garden Festival, because she recognized the elf. It seems that almost weekly, someone I've never before met says something to me about the Garden Festival without any solicitation.

At the town council holiday party, longtime Elfin Forest resident Max Altmann donated \$1000. Max said, "I want to thank the town council for all it does and the Garden Festival does so much for the community." Max and his late wife, Esther, were citizens of the year in 1987. Max also promised additional help to cleanup Questhaven Road before the garden festival.

New Urban West representative Kathleen Humphries also made a \$1000 donation. We are so appreciative of this help and support. These funds help with the promotional materials, mailings, and all the upfront costs of the event.



New Urban West representative Kathleen Humphries presents Elfin Forest Garden Festival Chair Evelyn Alemanni a check for \$1000.

America in Bloom Turf and Groundcovers

By Evelyn Alemanni

This is the fifth in a series of articles on Elfin Forest's 2005 entry in the America in Bloom contest

(www.americainbloom.org).

In May, 2005, we will be

judged on eight criteria:

community involvement,
tidiness, heritage,

environmental awareness, turf and groundcover, floral displays, landscape, and urban forestry. In 2003, we received high marks in the turf and groundcover category. How can that be, when most of us don't have big lawns? In keeping with the rural character of our community, we need to remember that native chaparral can be considered groundcover. So can wildflower meadows. Using appropriate groundcovers wins points. Did you know that lawns are among the most environmentally unfriendly plantings you can have? They require more maintenance than other plantings, use more fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides, all of which can pollute the groundwater. The pollution created by mowers and leaf blowers diminishes our air quality. When it comes to lawns, less is definitely more.

In this category, judges will be looking for nicely mowed lawns, choices of groundcovers appropriate to the climate, and good maintenance in all areas.

To keep up to date on who's on the AIB committee and what we're doing, check the town council website, www.efhgctc.org/aib.htm. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Eric Anderson at eric@seedcoseeds.com or 760-471-5850. Judging will be in early May 2005, so we need to get busy now!

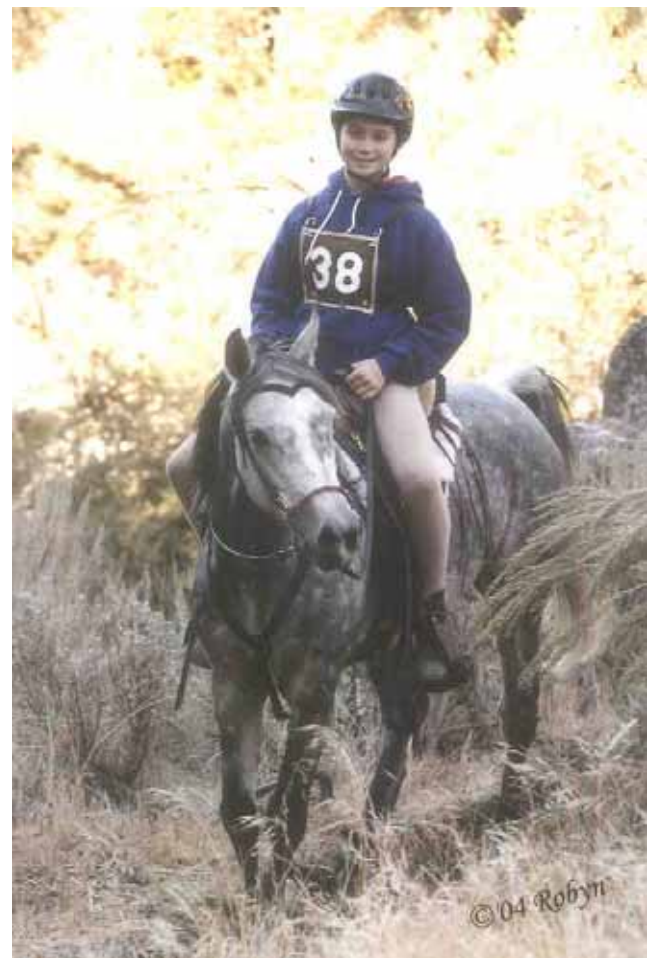


On The Trail

By Nancy Reed

Danielle (Dani) Gradisher, pictured at the Bear Valley Springs competitive trail ride on Lyric, is currently ranked third in region 2 of the National American Trail Riding Conference, junior division. This year, Dani and Lyric have logged over 100 miles in competition at both CTR and endurance rides.

Dani and Lyric have been very busy training as general wisdom states it takes 3 training miles to successfully complete one competition mile. Fellow Elf, Corrine Siegal also competes with Dani on her Welsh/Connemara cross pony Merryleggs. Both girls have learned horse and people care, good sportsmanship and even Shakespeare while seeing southern California from the back of their equine partners. If you are interested in CTR or endurance go to NATRC.org, AREC.org or contact Dani's mom, Nancy Reed at nancy@elfinforest.net.



Danielle Gradisher on the trail with Lyric

San Elijo's Own Newsletter

By Evelyn Alemanni

San Elijo Hills now has its own community newspaper, published independently of the developer and homeowner's association. It's called "The Fountain". Back issues are available at

www.sehfountain.com.

Town Council Elections in February

By Evelyn Alemanni

February is the month for town council, fire board, and community foundation elections. Why not make this the year that you run for a position on any of these boards. You get to find out first what's going on in the community, make new friends, work on interesting projects, and make a difference in a big way. We need a few smart, civic-minded people to help out.

Nominations for the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board will be taken at the town council meeting on January 5th. 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.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the current board members.

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.

January In The Garden

By Evelyn Alemanni

Did you get a nice gift certificate to a local nursery for Christmas? Now's 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, and more. Elfin Valley Nursery has received their bare root roses; they have 475 varieties. You can check the availability list at www.sunshinegardensinc.com. When you bring these plants home, put them in a bucket of water for an hour or so, and then plant them right away! Add a little humate and mycorrhizae to the planting hole and you'll see a big difference. (Check www.marilynsown.com for these products.)

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 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.

Water newly planted items.

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

Fertilize

Feed cool season lawns.

Fertilize citrus, avocado, berries and grapes.



Peace Rose. Photo copyright Evelyn Alemanni.



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www.sunshinegardensinc.com
www.sdhortsoc.org
www.efhgtc.org (town council website)
www.elfinforestgardens.info
www.coburntopiary.com
www.elfinforestcommunityfoundation.org
www.newcoursejumps.com
www.edgehillherbfarm.com
www.buenacreekgardens.com
www.fishmagiciantackle.com

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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 7:30 p.m. Led by Jean Michalewicz.

The Way Within Meditation Classes

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 12:00 Noon Phyllis Isaac

Jan 21-23 — The Holy Quest Series III – call the office for details and to register.

Sunday Services

January 2 - *Putting Your Imprint on the New Year*
Evelyn Alemanni

Jan 9 - *New Horizons-Charting Our Spiritual Course*
Rev. Phyllis Isaac

Jan 16 - *Blessing and Healing Through Light and Color* - Richard Wold, M.D. & Lucy Wold

Jan 23 - *Conscious Immortality-The Vision of Emanuel Swedenborg* - Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

For more information, call the office at 760-744-1500. www.questhaven.org.

chaparral Advertising

Please support our advertisers! Many of them are your friends and neighbors. **Consider advertising your business here.** Along with subscription fees, ads help make this newsletter possible and let the community know of the many wonderful businesses and services available.

To renew your advertising, send a JPG format file and a check (see rates below) payable to the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council, 20652 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest, CA. 92029.

One-time rates:	Yearly rates:
1" x 3.5" \$5.00	\$36.00/year
2" x 3.5" \$7.50	\$55.00/year
5" x 3.5" \$12.00	\$115.00/year
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.

January 2005

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 888-336-7553.

chaparral by Email

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.

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

Sgt. Dan Wilson – COPPS – 760-510-5231

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 don't share the list with ANYONE.



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(858)382-6428

exp. 7/05



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exp 7/05

New Urban West, the builder of Harmony Grove Village,

has been busy meeting with residents in Eden Valley, Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest. NUWI is working with the residents to successfully implement these requests. A few of the requests are:

- Trails dedicated to the County of San Diego.
- Quarry- no future quarrying operations.
- Dark Skies.
- Open Space- No soccer, No baseball fields, No night lights other than the minimum required for security.
- Bus stop in Harmony Grove Village.
- Re-classification of Country Club Drive from 4 lane collector to 2 lane collector on site.
- Re-classification of Harmony Grove Road and Elfin Forest Road from 4 lane collector to 2 lane collector.

Working together we will strive to incorporate all of the above requests into Harmony Grove Village.



120 West Grand Avenue,
Suite 104
Escondido, CA 92025
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Exp. 4/05

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Jared York - EF Resident, RSF School 9th grader, Baby sit or feed animals. Tel: 760-752-7784

For Sale: Canon 10D SLR 6.3 megapixel camera. Awesome. In original box. \$795. Details and specs at www.allea.com/camera.htm. 760-471-7224.

For Sale: 2003 Feather Lite two-horse slant trailer with dressing/sleeping area. Also horse for lease. Lori. 760-744-3858.

For Sale: Solid Oak Bar - Great Condition, stainless steel sink, tiled counter w/shelves, approx. 7 feet long. Asking Price: a \$250.00 donation to the Elfin Forest Fire Department. If interested please call Lynda Clerke @760-510-0143.

For Sale: Firewood: Split & seasoned eucalyptus w/some oak. Pick up in Elfin Forest: \$ 90/cord, Fencing, building materials, etc: Open to offers. 760-744-0670.

For Sale: New toilets in unopened boxes. (Originally bought to fulfill Fire Department's wish list, but new plans mandate handicapped height.) Proceeds will go from me towards EFHG Fire Department. You offer. 760-744-0670.



Wild Bird Center
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Fax: (760) 334-6003

Scott Todd
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Exp. 2/05

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