



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Mid Hoppenrath

Be sure to plan on attending the community picnic to be held on Sunday afternoon, the 4th of July, at the Oak Groves property at the rear of Ward’s Egg Ranch on Harmony Grove Road. Admission is free and there will be lots of games for adults and kids. The theme for this year’s parade is “Old Fashioned Fun,” so none of that newfangled, Eee ‘lectronic stuff allowed!

The new Community Guide books are in. Those who reserved a copy of this beautiful and useful reference can pick it up at Town Council meetings. Those who wished they had can purchase a copy at the same venue.

Be sure to take advantage of the cool weather to finish weedwacking your tall grass and weeds. Remember that snakes can be hiding in dense brush, so wear tall boots and look before you reach under rocks or into shrubbery. Don’t wait until the grass has turned brown, dry grass is much more likely to ignite from a spark from the engine or blade and start a brush fire.

There seems to have been a lot of illegal truck traffic on Elfin Forest Road recently. This road, like the northern part of Country Club Drive, has a 7-ton weight limit, and should not be used by trucks bigger than a pickup. Report offenders to the California Highway Patrol. See you at the May Town Council meeting. The topic is the landfill closure.

Contents

From The Chair 1

Garden Festival Results 2

Community Guides are Here 2

First Fire of the Season 2

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting..... 3

What’s Happening At The Fire Department..... 4

A Sad Loss For Elfin Forest..... 5

Calendar For May 2004 5

Remembering David Cronshaw..... 5

Snakes In The Grass..... 5

Better Representation For The Rural Areas: Better For Everyone 6

EF/HGFD Grant and Tax Summary..... 6

See Like A Hawk 7

Hormone Horses Need Rescuing..... 7

The School Yard..... 8

Wildland Fire Outlook – April through August 9

News From Questhaven Retreat..... 10

Sheriff’s Department Contacts 10

The Holy Quest..... 10

May Playgroup Schedule..... 11

Classified..... 14

Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 5th @ 7:30PM

At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station

Topic: San Marcos Landfill Final Closure

Garden Festival Results

By Evelyn Alemanni

On Saturday April 24th, Elfin Forest opened its most beautiful gardens to guests who came from all over the country to see “Blossoms and Barns” and experience our tiny corner of paradise. The Newtons, Youngs, Pickards, Coburns, Gardner-Phillips, Questhaven Retreat, Firesafe Garden, and Alemannis hosted garden guests which arrived from Ohio, Illinois, Washington, D.C., Arizona, Nevada, Northern California, and even Canada. We are so grateful to the garden hosts who made the tour possible and to Ron Martin of Elfin Valley Nursery for providing a venue for the event. Ron turned over nearly 4000 square feet of greenhouse space for ticket sales, free consultations with garden experts, a book signing, and marketplace. Marvelous volunteers helped with setup, ticket sales, vendor coordination and more. Many thanks to our volunteers for their efforts: Sue Tolman and family, Sue and Rob Hill, Chase Fields, Marlies Calvillo, Doug and Liz Dill, Natalie Chaffer and family, Sue Varty, Rachel Barnes, Eric Anderson, Peggy Petitmermet, Leslie Harris and parents, Fran Lambert, Teri Brand and family, Zana Parman, Ann Carpenter, Cheri Smith, Tom and Lisa Stephenson, Maria Morgan.

Many more volunteers served as docents at the host gardens. Thank you everyone for a successful event. Next year’s tour is April 23rd. You can reserve your tickets online NOW at www.elfinforestgardens.info.

Community Guides Are Here

By Evelyn Alemanni

Our brand new community guide is here and will be available at the May town council meeting. We hope to have most of the past citizens of the year at the meeting at 7 p.m. for an impromptu book signing, so come early, get your book, and have it signed by citizens of the year and those who contributed articles.

This is a beautiful, keepsake edition with nearly 200 color photos showing our community’s past and present. They make beautiful gifts.

It provides resources for rural living, a history of our community, and much, much more. The price is \$25.

First Fire of the Season

By Nona Barker

On Friday April 23rd Elfin Forest experienced its first brushfire of the 2004 season. April 23 is the same day the California Division of Forestry declared fire season open. The fire, on the west side of Paint Mountain, consumed between five and eleven acres depending on who you ask. It was accidentally started and CDF is investigating.

These Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Dept. personnel responded to this incident:

Chief Frank Twohy 2801

Engine 2811 with Captain Steve Barker, Engineer Bob Kephart, and Firefighter Jeff Coppens

Utility 2881 with Firefighter Byron MacFarlane, Firefighter Mike Shea, Firefighter Bryan Mortenson

Water Tender 2851 with Engineer David Jones, Firefighter Tim Costanzo

Brush 2862 with Captain Dawn Pettijohn, Engineer Nona Barker, Firefighter Bethany Love

Rescue Ambulance 2891 with Fire Fighter EMT Joy Schuler, Firefighter EMT Mike Martinez

Other units responding: Two CDF helicopters, County Chopper 1, Solana Beach Fire, Rancho Santa Fe Fire, Encinitas Fire, Carlsbad Fire, San Marcos Fire and a CDF hand crew.

I am thankful our department’s brush fire training began early this year. My gear is always ready. We should be ready for a brush fire at all times. We are partners in safety of our community. Please do your part by making your home, your property fire safe and by preparing for evacuation, planning escape routes and meeting places.

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.

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Patti Newton

Date: April 7, 2004

Members Present: Evelyn Alemanni, Mid Hoppenrath, Patti Newton, Greg Parman, Jan Denny, Arie Franken, Eric Anderson

Call to Order: 7:35 p.m.

UPDATES: Mid Hoppenrath announced the Fourth of July picnic will be held on property owned by Bill Wilgenburg on the Ward Egg Ranch. Also, during last month's town council meeting it was requested that the Board prepare and send a letter to the Sheriff's department requesting more coverage for our community; the letter was read aloud.

Arie Franken stated that Ricochet (wireless Internet provider discussed during our January meeting) would start installing antennas on Friday. You can pick up modems the following week. Call Ricochet directly, (visit www.ricochet.com) or give Arie a call for more information.

Bob McGurk gave the treasurer's report. The town council received \$2,906 in income (primarily from garden festival ticket sales), and expended \$4,486 (most of which was spent on the new community guide).

Jan Denny reported attending the San Dieguito Planning Group meeting regarding the Dorn property under consideration for a high school site. The consensus among those who attended was strong opposition. The Escondido Superintendent of Schools, who is not authorized to make a decision, is seeking input from all quarters. The district needs a site with at least 50 acres; it may look north of Route 78; however, most of the need is in the southern area of the district. It is too early for an EIR.

Evelyn Alemanni was asked by Jim Depolo (who could not attend the meeting) to announce there will be a meeting regarding potential RSF school sites at the firehouse next Tuesday at 7 p.m. The new community guide will be offered for pre-publication sale for \$20; when it becomes available the price will be \$25. It is a stunningly beautiful edition. Garden festival tickets are going fast (with a limit of 500) so purchase early. Over 30 vendors will be on site at Elfin Valley Nursery. In addition there will be a silent auction and prizes.

Eric Anderson announced Elfin Forest would not be competing in this year's American in Bloom contest.

Greg Parman spoke with Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) member, Maria Lopez, regarding CHP's re-certifying Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Roads for radar. She suggested we not seek re-certification as it may well increase the speed limit on these roads (in the absence of major accidents, etc.), rather than decrease it.

Item #1: Mike McLaughlin, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) presented the Draft Regional Comprehensive Plan using a PowerPoint presentation. He stated we are at a prime moment to work in harmony with synchronizing a plan in the region. SANDAG is currently responsible for transportation and transit plans. He has been conducting workshops and focus groups all over the county to get regional input. The idea is to direct growth back to the urban cores and away from unincorporated areas.

SANDAG allocates all the funding and uses this power as incentive for agencies/cities to participate in the planning process. It is critical to take into consideration surrounding counties, tribal neighbors, and Mexico in planning for regional needs. This cooperation is vital since 150,000 housing units (and associated 30,000 to 40,000 car trips/day) are planned during the next seven years. A startling, yet increasingly more common statistic is that one-third of the people purchasing homes in west El Centro work in San Diego.

The SDRCP mission statement is "to preserve and enhance the San Diego region's unique features – its vibrant and culturally-diverse communities, its beaches, deserts, mountains, lagoons, bluffs, and canyons, and its international setting – and promote sustainability, economic prosperity, and an outstanding quality of life for everyone."

McLaughlin showed a series of merged satellite photos to illustrate the growth patterns of the region from 1982 through 2002. The regional population will increase by over 1 million in the next 30 years. This growth rate, at 1.2%/year, is commensurate with the national average, and comes primarily from within.

(Continued next page)

(Minutes EF/HG Town Council continued)

Planners are optimistic they can accommodate this growth through careful design and planning. If we continue to develop in the same vein, then 600,000 acres will be consumed. The alternative approach is smart growth managed through land use and transportation issues, which are inextricably linked. If the SDRCP is enacted, 350,000 acres will be preserved as green belt. Choices to implement these positive changes would have to include housing, employment, and transportation. For example, single occupant autos are symptomatic of bad planning decisions. Wise land use places employment and residential areas along transportation corridors. Planners are exploring concepts like managed lanes, HOV lanes with bus service in order to make bus service competitive with autos. The buses would use dedicated rights of way and also move on streets.

Walkability and connectivity are key elements around transportation corridors. The plan envisions morphing existing areas into smart growth centers while synchronizing land use with services. Incentives, like affordability, must be built into housing choices; we need to build for the workforce. These housing communities can and do dovetail nicely into existing communities near or in areas where people work. Preservation of beaches, clean air, water, and open space for active and passive uses are all goals to be recognized and incorporated into the plan.

The plan also seeks to provide economic prosperity through the movement of goods a la NAFTA and through fiscal reform. Alternative sources of energy will be a consideration. Regionally, the solid waste stream has already been reduced by 25% in spite of an increase in the population. Border issues are considered as are social equity and environmental justice. Accountability is an important component in the planning process as well.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to accept the SDRCP last November and is enthusiastic. A lengthy Q&A session followed. This plan is available for viewing on SANDAG's web site.

OPEN FORUM: Bob Kephart announced that the fire department received a check in the amount of \$18,000 from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company to purchase five new radios and a thermal imaging camera that has the ability to "see" through smoke.

ADJOURNED: 9:25 p.m.

May 2004

What's Happening At The Fire Department

By Nona Barker

The 2004 FEMA Grant was submitted thanks to a lot of work by Mary Garman and Chief Twohy. The 2004 SAFE Grant was submitted late March. The Department was notified April 6th of our selection as a grant winner in the Fireman's Fund Heritage Grant Program for an award of \$18,000.00. We'll use the money to purchase a thermal imaging camera and five VHF radios. Thermal imaging technology allows us to locate victims in a smoke filled room, overheated electrical circuits in walls, and lost or injured victims at night. New VHF radios fix the critical situation of poor VHF communications on large wild land fires providing increased firefighter safety and better-coordinated firefighting efforts.

The new Brush 2861 is settling in to its new home. The Firefighters are outfitting and stocking it to prepare for the upcoming fire season. Stop by and take a look. We're thrilled to have received 3 new nozzles for the hose lines on our new brush truck and 8 sets of new brush gear for brush fires. The brush gear comes complete with pants, jacket, gloves, and a "Whiffs" mask to provide respiratory protection in extreme fire behavior. The purchase was made possible by a grant from Supervisor Bill Horn.

Work on ISO continues. The request for re-evaluation of our classification was submitted in January after months of preparation. We've been answered with a request for additional information. Structure training wrapped up with our final scenario. Thanks to the hospitality of the folks at Questhaven Retreat, Chief Twohy arranged a night training consisting of an initial attack scenario in an old building slated for demolition. We were joined by Carlsbad Engine 2215 from Station 5 and had an excellent training complete with smoke, forcible entry, vertical roof ventilation, make-believe victims, rapid intervention crews and the works. The training is invaluable and doing it somewhere other than inside our fire station makes it much more realistic.

Fire season has begun early this year. Homeowners should evaluate their properties and identify ways to increase the fuel reduction zone to a minimum of 100 feet from their home. It creates a defensible space that is so crucial to our ability to protect you from an advancing wildfire.

A Sad Loss For Elfin Forest

By Candy Crain

Long time resident David Cronshaw passed away on March 24th from a long and difficult battle with cancer. David is survived by his endearing wife Susan Cronshaw, his bride for over 40 years, his daughters Helen Snodgrass and Kathleen Schott and their families which include David's two grandchildren, Emma and Jackson.

David was a good friend, neighbor, teacher, and a true role model to those who were fortunate to have him touch their lives. David and Susan set sail from England on a 21 day journey to the United States with their two small children in 1976. David brought his passion for technology with him. David was amongst the brightest on the cutting edge of research and development for many leading companies and was on the original team that developed the computer mouse. For the last 15 years of his career he worked for Terada, NCR, and AT&T.

He then "retired" by starting his own computer IT, network business systems, and tutorials for a variety of businesses in the area.

David and Susan have volunteered countless hours to various committees throughout the years they have resided in Elfin Forest. David was also the newsletter editor and publisher for several years. They have been honored with the citizen of the year award. David was a man of few words but his love for his community was ever so evident by all the things he did for Elfin Forest.

David will be truly missed but will remain in the hearts of all who knew him.

Calendar For May 2004

Date	Time	Event
Weds 5/5	7:30 PM	EF/HG Town Council Meeting
Tues 5/4 5/13	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Thurs	6:30 PM	Yoga@Firehouse
Mon 5/10	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Weds 5/12	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Sat 5/22	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse

Remembering David Cronshaw

By Susan Cronshaw

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to thank all of our friends and neighbors who have called, emailed, and sent cards to support us in the loss of David. An especial thanks to the Fire Department who stood by to help in the event of falls or other emergencies. We loved David and saw him in our family setting. It was quite eye opening to realize how many of you loved him too, and how you saw different sides of him. Thank you for telling us of your memories, we will add them to our store to share in times to come. It is in times of stress like this that the warm feeling of community caring that is such a valuable part of the valley we live in really comes through.

We hope to soon get busy on implementing some of David's plans to remodel our home so that our daughter and her family can live here, too. If all goes well there will be the sound and dust of construction to enliven the summer months.....our apologies in advance. Stop by and get to know the new family; your company is always welcome. Susan Cronshaw, Kathleen and Wes Schott, Jackson and Emma.

Snakes In The Grass

By Jonathan Wiltshire

A week before Easter one of our Questhaven Retreat residents, Susan Cary, was bitten by a rattlesnake while walking her dog. First on the scene after calling 911 was our own Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department. They quickly assessed and monitored Susan's condition to gather necessary information for the agency that ultimately flew Susan to the hospital. By the time the air ambulance arrived there was little if anything to do that the EFHG fire crew hadn't already done.

At Palomar Hospital an expert in herpetology was on duty and knew instantly that Susan was bitten by the speckled rattlesnake by just observing her symptoms. She was receiving anti-venom serum in no time. Our dear friend is again home and walking the trails. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the speedy and professional work of our fire department. What I find even more commendable is that this crew not only treated Susan's condition, they cared for her. That distinction is what makes their service to our community invaluable and deserving of our support and deepest appreciation.

Better Representation For The Rural Areas: Better For Everyone

By Supervisor Bill Horn

There's a critical need in the County of San Diego to give residents of unincorporated communities like Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove a permanent voice on the Board of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). This is the public agency that controls all regional transportation planning.

In late March, Chairwoman Dianne Jacob joined me in winning support of the Board of Supervisors in a unanimous vote to seek an additional seat on the SANDAG Board. A Supervisor who represents the unincorporated area would hold it. The County's Chief Administrative Officer is now pursuing state legislation that would secure the seat by amending SB 1703, the "brain child" of former State Senator Steve Peace.

Currently, the County has one seat on the SANDAG Board held by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Because the position of Chair rotates each year among the five members of the Board of Supervisors, it periodically happens that the County does not have one representative on the SANDAG Board elected by the people of the unincorporated area. Right now, nearly 460,000 people live in the unincorporated county and currently Districts 5 and 2 share the majority of unincorporated residents. By 2030, that population is projected to approach 700,000.

Ensuring that rural areas have a voice at the table when it comes to regional planning issues is an obvious need for people who live outside city limits. But why should people care about that who live in such places as Oceanside, Carlsbad, Vista and San Marcos? Simply put, more often than not, our freeways, highways, roads and streets do not begin or end with city limits. Freeway gridlock knows no boundaries and a pothole is no respecter of one's home address. To solve our regional transportation planning needs, we must have the perspective of unincorporated area residents. I would encourage every resident to contact SANDAG, their local Assembly member and Senator and ask them to support amending SB 1703.

Who ya gonna call?

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

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

May 2004

EF/HGFD Grant and Tax Summary 2003 and 2004

By Bob Kephart

The following chart is to keep the community informed of the financial situation of the Fire Department. As you can see, grant awards outweigh community donations and taxes collected. The grants and donations compensate for the difference between actual costs of running the fire department and taxes collected. If you have questions about the fire department financials please call the station at 760-744-2186. Chief Frank Twohy or Board Treasurer Bob Kephart can answer all your questions.

2003 Grant and Amount

San Diego Foundation Apparatus Grant	\$25,000.00
Fidelity Charities Apparatus Grant	\$100,000.00
SD County Supervisor Horn Community Grant Apparatus and Equipment	\$60,000.00
Charles Stout Foundation Medical Equipment	\$15,000.00
SD Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies Emergency Equipment Grant	\$6,500.00
FEMA Video Conferencing Grant	\$30,000.00
San Diego Foundation Video Screen Grant	\$10,000.00
Total Grants 2003	\$246,500.00
Revenue from Taxes and Benefit Fees	\$167,342.00
Total Donations 2003	\$4000.00

2004 Grants and Amount

SD Task Force on Funding Grant	\$40,000.00
San Diego Foundation – Apparatus Repair	\$3,000.00
San Diego Foundation – Fire Storm 2003 Replacement Grant	\$2,500.00
Fireman's Fund Heritage Grant -Radios and IR Imager	\$18,000.00
Total Grants as Of 4/15/04	
Revenue from Taxes and Benefit Fees (Projected)	\$192,611.00
Total Donations 2004 as of 4/15/04	\$400.00.

See Like A Hawk

By Scott Todd, Wild Bird Center, Encinitas

When was the last time you saw far away objects and creatures with true clarity and light? If you want to see your feathered friends up close this summer you may want to invest in a pair of binoculars. With a friendly pair of birding glasses and a spirit of adventure you have a whole world of discovery ahead you.

Why do you need binoculars? Well, most birds in North America see much better than humans so we need to compete on a more equal basis so we can study them before they fly away. Some backyard birds will let us get fairly close-up, however, raptors and elusive water birds will see us approaching long before we see them.

How does one choose the right pair of binoculars?

The power of binoculars is not a measure of quality. Indeed, it is only one of several factors to consider. Let me share a brief overview of some key optical features to watch for before you buy any pair of binoculars.

Binoculars are usually labeled 8X42, 8X36, 7X35, 10X50, etc. The first number simply indicates a *magnification level*. For example, an object 80 yards away will appear 1/8th of that distance, or only 10 yards away with an 8X power lens. The second number, 42, is the diameter, in millimeters, of the front, or objective lenses. Larger second numbers, mean more outdoor light will enter the binocular and reach your eyes. Birders usually look for 7X and 8X power glasses with large objective lenses. 10X binoculars, for many people, display a narrower field of view, transmit less light and are prone to shakiness.

Field of View (FOV) measures the diameter of an area, in feet, at a distance of 1,000 yards away. For example, 430 means you can see an area of 430 feet left to right through the glasses when standing a 1000 yards away. Birding glasses should display at least 6 degrees or 300 feet of information at 1,000 yards.

Eye Relief (ER) is important to eyeglass users and those who will be bird watching with sunglasses on for the day. You should not have to look down a “narrow tunnel” when using binoculars. Since your eyeglasses cause your eyes to be further from the ocular lenses (lenses closest to your eyes) be sure to get fitted for binoculars with long eye relief. A 15mm to 20mm distance of eye relief is recommended for eyeglass wearers.

Close Focus (CF) features will give you the opportunity to see nature up closer even when you are only 10 to 15 feet away. Many small birds and butterflies appear suddenly on the trail just ahead of you and you’ll want to study them just as much as the hawk on the ridge high above.

Other factors such as weight, waterproofing, lens coatings and style will also be part of your decision-making activities. With the changing of the Goldfinches as they begin to turn bright yellow and our colorful orioles back in San Diego County, now is the time to get a closer view of the world around you.

Hormone Horses Need Rescuing

By Nancy L. Harrison, MD

The most commonly prescribed drug in America is Premarin, derived from the urine of pregnant mares. The pregnant mares that produce this urine, formerly numbering some 37,000 throughout the U.S. and Canada, are impregnated year after year on PMU “ranches.” What happens to all those foals? They’re mostly sold for slaughter, as are many of the mares.

But, beginning in July 2002, the Women’s Health Initiative began releasing data that showed an increased risk of cancer, heart attack and stroke in women on certain hormone replacement therapies. Prescriptions for Premarin plummeted by 31% in 2003 alone. The number of pregnant mares required has been decreased to 25,000 and will be reduced further to 11,000 by this fall.

What would *you* do with 25,000 unemployed peehorses on your hands? Wyeth-Ayerst, maker of Premarin, has provided some modest subsidies but many animal groups are uniting efforts to help ranchers delay auctioning their horses at the killer markets until adoption programs can get up and running. One such effort is www.PMUrescue.org. You can view photographs and read detailed descriptions of recently retired Premarin mares.

Horses are of varying breed, but tend to be the larger breeds such as clydesdales, percherons and other drafts. They range in age from two to fourteen years old. When available, temperament information is shared. Since launching in December 2003, PMURescue.org has facilitated the adoption of more than 125 horses.

The School Yard

By Jim Depolo

Welcome back to the School Yard!

Superintendent - Last column we talked about the three superintendents who came to our March 10th meeting. They gave us a good perspective of what we should be looking for. At our next meeting on April 21st we will discuss the timeline and search process for a permanent Superintendent. Some of the questions we will be addressing are: When should we start the process? Who should make the final selection? (Post November election?) What criteria should we have? What about salary? What about a housing allowance? Do we limit our search to those with knowledge of California? Do we search the private sector? Do we look only in districts with high test scores, which limited our applicants last time, or use criteria of improvement? How do we consider accomplishment, effectiveness, and growth as key factors in defining a worthy candidate? While we won't answer all these questions on the 21st, we hope to discuss the process and will be looking at the criteria as we move forward. We would love to hear your input on these and any other issues regarding the superintendent process.

Site Status - We will be looking at the status of Quantum and discussing another possible site alternative that may exist. This does not mean we are starting over, but as a board we need to continue to make prudent decisions based on the information available. There may be some new information that will be presented April 21st that we will have an opportunity to discuss. The Rancho Cielo Group may present some ideas to the board, and we would like to hear them in open session. It is important to note we have not yet seen an actual offer, but we would like to hear what they have to say.

Open House - A little rain did not dampen anyone's spirits last Thursday night. For the first time in recent history the school held an open house night for the kids to bring in their parents and show them what they have been doing. It was obvious how much work teachers and students put into the event. The displays of work were fantastic! The evening was enjoyed by everyone and even included the school jazz band playing in front of the library. It was obvious to me how proud the kids were to show off what they had done. Many teachers remarked during the day how excited the students were to have their

parents coming that night. Congratulations to everyone for a successful evening!

Science Discovery Day - After open house Thursday night, Friday brought Science Discovery Day to School. The event that has been held for the last 14 years just continues to get better. The students rotate through different grade appropriate sessions all day exposing them to monkeys, pythons, tortoises, tarantulas, physics, chemistry, electricity, volcanoes-- I could go on and on. There were over 80 presenters and 100 parent volunteers. A special thanks to Star Lerach and Meredith Grimm-Sobel in helping organize the event and thanks to all of the parent volunteers for making the day special for the students. Events were hosted by groups from LA to San Diego including the Wild Animal Park, LA Science Center, Reuben H. Fleet, and many parents. It is a great day where kids get to enjoy and learn in a hands-on environment.

Moving Forward - April 21st promises to be an important meeting where we will discuss the process and timing surrounding a permanent superintendent search and look at the latest on school site selection. We would very much like to hear your input on these issues. If you can't make the meeting, you can still contact any of us via email through the school website or by phone. We constantly welcome your input, feedback, questions, and ideas.

*(Editor's note – Submission of The School Yard is often not in synch with the preparation and distribution of the **chaparral**. The most recent submission is always published.)*

ARROW
Print & Copy
(760) 591-4646 • Fax (760) 591-4604
1790 La Costa Meadows, San Marcos, CA 92069, Ste. 103

- Single to full Color Printing
- Graphic Design
- Concept to Completion
- Pre Press
- Full Serve Copy Center
- Digital Copying
- Promotional Material
- Complete Bindery Services

Free Pick-up & Delivery

Quality Service at Affordable Prices

Wildland Fire Outlook April through August, 2004

The following article was taken from the National Interagency Fire Center forecast report. The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho is the nation's support center for wildland firefighting. Each year the NIFC combines weather patterns, rain fall, bug kill data, etc. to come up with their forecast. Their web site is very informative:

www.nifc.gov/news/intell_predserv_forms/season_outlook.html

National Wildland Fire Outlook
National Interagency Fire Center
Predictive Services Group
Issued: April 15, 2004

Northern and Southern California:
Potential: Normal to Above Normal.

Winter precipitation has generally been near normal in northern California and drier than usual in southern California. An exceptionally warm March has lead to significant snowmelt and an early green-up of annual grasses. Spring and summer should be warmer than normal with rainfall at or below normal. This could lead to an early start to the fire season in the lower elevations due to annual grasses curing quicker than normal. Higher elevations should see a more typical start to the fire season. These conditions, along with significant brush die-back and drought/bug killed timber, will likely lead to greater fire potential through most of southern California, the southern Sierra and areas along the northeast border with Nevada. Another area with above normal fire potential is in Shasta County of northern California where snow damage has produced greater fuel loadings.

Since January, much of the West and the Southeast have been generally warmer and drier than normal. March, in particular, was very warm and dry in the West. Snow packs, which were at or above normal on March 1st, decreased to well below normal by early April. Spring and summer are expected to be warmer than normal in the West while dryness is expected to continue in the Southeast. These forecasts are based on continued near normal Pacific sea surface temperatures (i.e., no El Niño or La Niña) through the summer.



BLT
Grading and Backhoe
lic #025456

Todd Freistat
(760) 471-1810 • Pgr (760) 809-5805
Fax (760) 471-1299
7711 Camino Sereno • Escondido, CA 92029

exp 6/04

Need a website?
Call for a free consultation.

Check these samples of our recent work:

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

ALLEA

Evelyn Alemanni 760-591-0417
alemanni@allea.com
www.allea.com

DON GLATTS OWNER

INSURED & BONDED
LICENSE #15879



ALTOYS
BOATS
MOTORCYCLES
R.V.s

PHONE 760-522-7897 • FAX 858-759-8493
exp 4/05 WWW.OLIVENHAINAUTO SHINE.COM

FULL SERVICE MOBILE DETAILING AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

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.

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.

Women's Blessing by the Elders Saturday, May 8th at Friendship House.

Sunday Services

May 2 - More Lessons from the Garden Angels

Evelyn Alemanni

May 9 - Mothers in Deed, Mothers in Truth

Gwen Hulbert

May 16 - Expand Your Consciousness to Know God -

Rev. Blake Isaac

May 23 - Metamorphosis -The Process of Changing

Oneself into a Higher State - *Felice Reynolds*

May 30 - Life, Death and Immortality -

Rev. Elizabeth Wood

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

Darren Dollard - COPPS - 760-510-5220

George Barrone - COPPS - 760-510-5221

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

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

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, meals, study materials, and a certificate of completion. Course is limited to 20 individuals.

Dates for the 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.

chaparral Advertising

Please support our advertisers! Many of them are your friends and neighbors. Do you advertise in the *chaparral*? 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.

chaparral Advertising Rates:

	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.

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.

May Playgroup Schedule

By Anna Waite

Wednesday, May 5th, 9:00-12:30PM. Mother's Day Spa Retreat at La Costa Spa. Spend a relaxing day at the new spa. Call ahead to book your own treatments. Go online to view treatments at www.lacosta.com. Please call Trish Stallone to make reservations at 760-929-6383. Let her know that you are with the Elfin Forest Playgroup and you'll receive a 10% discount. We'll all meet for lunch afterwards at Legends Restaurant at 12:30PM. Please RSVP for lunch to Anna at 760-752-1835.

Friday, May 7th, 10:00-12:00PM. Playgroup at Megan Fleming's house, 2209 Sequest Trail 760-744-3204.

Friday, May 21st, 10:00-1:00PM. Old Town San Diego. You can drive or take the train. We'll meet in the park area and have a picnic lunch. Everyone packs for themselves.

Friday, May 28th, 6:00-9:00PM. Mom's Night Out. To be determined.

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.

Past chaparral Issues On Web

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

Allegiance
Mobile Notary Service

Patricia Mack Newton
NPS Certified Loan Signing Agent

760-471-5195

www.allegiancemobilenotary.com Member National Notary Assn.

Outdoor Furniture

**Redwood and Cedar Tables, Benches, Chair,
Loveseats, Gliders and More
Will Deliver**

909-965-6933

or

909-657-3050

Ask for Sissy

Exp. 10/04



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

Janean & Bill Huston

PHONE: **760.738.8822**
EMAIL: janean@houndstohorses.com

Insured, Bonded, Member of Pet Sitters International

Yoga on Fire!

Please join us on

**Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.
at the Elfin Forest Fire Station
20223 Elfin Forest Rd.**

**Practice led by Tia Lanzetta, RYT
Six week session begins April 29th and
runs through June 3rd**

Just \$10 per class when all six classes are pre-paid!
Only \$12 per class when four of the six are pre-paid!
\$15 drop-in fee for guests, or just \$25 per couple!
(Sorry, but there are no refunds or rollovers)

For more information, please call
760/310-5732, 858/523-1SPA (1772),
or e-mail Fire@SpaCucina.com

exp 6/04

Letting vegetation grow uncontrolled around your home can be a dangerous habit.



Cut it out!

During Wildfire Awareness Week please establish a defensible space around your home by cutting back

excessive or overgrown vegetation. That space could be the only thing that gives our fire-fighters a chance to save your home during a wildfire.

It's also the perfect time to clean out your gutters and move stacked firewood away from the house or any wooden fence. These are a couple of simple things you can do to make your home and neighborhood safer. For a complete homeowner's checklist and more fire safety information come by our "house" at www.FireSafeCouncil.org.

Wildfire Awareness Week, May 5-11; there's no better time to cut back on bad habits.



Contact your local Fire Safe Council at 800-000-0000



SUE HILL

“Elfin Forest Specialist”

**Marketing exceptional properties...
Exceptionally well!**

- *Elfin Forest Resident For 22 Years*
- *North County Real Estate Professional For 17 Years*
- *Supporter of Elfin Forest Fire Dept, Town Council
& Community Events*

Call:
(858) 759-6548
or
(760) 744-3430

Exp. 4/05



**Listing & Selling More Elfin Forest
Properties Than the Competition!**



**Spotlighting the Village Cottages
Harmony Grove Village
A Collaborative Community Plan
New Urban West, Inc.**

120 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 104
Escondido, CA 92025
(760) 741-6211
lindab@nuwi.com

Exp. 4/05

Classified

Local Baby, Animal and House Sitters

Brooke York - EF Resident, LCC School 10th grader, Baby Sitting. Tel: 760-752-7784

Jared York - EF Resident, RSF School 8th grader, Baby sit or feed animals. Tel: 760-752-7784

For Sale: Engineered wood flooring. Robbins Urban Exotics Walnut Bister, 5" width, various lengths. 28SF per box, 40 boxes available. Regularly \$6+ per SF, only \$4SF OBO. Call Dan at 760-809-5955.

Reliable stableman, gardener, handyman and house sitter available by the day: We're downsizing and moving back to RSF now that the kids are grown and gone and won't be able to use this gentleman five days a week as we do now. We're looking to find him some regular day work. 100% honest, reliable, has own transportation. Has worked for us over 20 years. Fair English. References in Elfin Forest available. Contact Phil Young. 760-752-1310 or peyoung@direcway.com

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.

Got Mitigation Land?

San Elijo needs to acquire 41.1 acres of coastal sage as mitigation land. If you know of available property, please contact Curt Noland at 760-918-8200.



Wild Bird Center
Your ultimate backyard nature store™

Henry's/McDonalds Shopping Center
1283 Encinitas Boulevard
Encinitas, CA 92024
Phone: (760) 334-6001
Fax: (760) 334-6003

Scott Todd
Owner

Exp. 2/05

KITCHEN AND BATH DESIGN
FLOOR AND WINDOW COVERING
SINCE 1960



San Marcos Mill, Inc.
20089 Elfin Forest Lane
Escondido, CA 92029
(760) 744-1377 • Fax (760) 744-4271
By Appointment

License #479372
Exp 6/04

TIM & CLAUDIA COSTANZO



Barn Owl Nest Boxes

Government study proves that one Barn Owl kills up to 1,000 rodents per year. Nest Boxes built and installed by certified Arborist/Master Falconer. Call:

Stephan's Tree Maintenance
(858) 748-1141
or (760) 789-1493

Exp. 5/04

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board members: Evelyn Alemanni 471-7224, Mid Hoppenrath 747-1145, Jan Denny 736-8436, Arie Franken 471-2648, Robert McGurk 471-0831, Patti Newton 471-8937, Eric Anderson 471-1464, Greg Parman 752-9599

The *chaparral* is published monthly by the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board and is distributed to residents of the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove communities and elsewhere for a \$15.00 annual subscription. Check the mailing label for your subscription expiration date. If it has expired please send a check, payable to the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council, 20652 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest, CA 92029. For new subscriptions or address label corrections, contact Evelyn Alemanni at alemanni@allea.com or 471-7224. 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.

Articles of up to 500 words should be sent to newsletter editor Joe Alemanni by email to alemanni@vicrp.com in plain text format by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next issue. Anonymous articles will not be published. Space limitations may cause articles to be held over to the next issue or edited for brevity. Articles considered unsuitable for publication will not be published.