
Wednesday, January 7th at 7:30 pm

Review County's New General Plan



From the Chair

By Melanie Fallon

All nine of us on the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

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ECONOMY IS IMPACTING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT!

I don't like to celebrate others' problems, but in this case I am and you probably will also! The owners of the University Heights property and the developer (SunCal) of the Harmony Grove Meadows project have filed for bankruptcy! These are (or were) the two largest developments threatening to negatively impact our Valley so it appears that we can take a breather for the time being. It also gives us time to get our new Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Community Plans adopted by the County so that we are in a better situation in the future to influence and better control what happens in our Valley.

BYLAW CHANGES

In December the EFHGTC made some preliminary decisions regarding changes to our bylaws. We will detail these changes in the next Chaparral, because we will need all residents of the Town Council to vote on these changes. In summary they include an expansion of the area that is included within the Town Council boundary and a number of clean-up items.

WITH OUR HEAVY RAINS DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR MANURE IS GOING?

As many of you know, one of the Town Council priorities in 2009 will be educating everyone in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove on proper manure management. With the heavy rains we have received this month, please take a moment to think about where your manure is going. Is it running into the Escondido Creek or your neighbor's property? If so, you need to find a better solution – like turn it into compost or have it hauled away?

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 – “REVIEW THE COUNTY'S NEW GENERAL PLAN.”

From the Chair Continued

Please plan on attending our first meeting of the new year. Mid Hoppenrath and I will be going over our comments on the County's Updated General Plan and generally discussing what is contained in the new Plan. Your input and thoughts are very important to us.

I also want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy happy wonderful holiday season and may we all have the very best 2009 possible!

What's Happening at the Fire Department— January 2009

So we start off 2009 with high hopes and enthusiasm. Here's hoping your holiday season was as great as ours.

The Department Christmas Party and annual meeting was a big success. Congratulations to Firefighter of the Year Octavio Vanzzini, known lovingly to us as "Henry". Having worked hard to obtain his Driver Operator certification this year, Henry also heads up our overworked Equipment Committee. He spends countless hours training with the new probationaries, helping to guide them through their first year. Through it all, he does anything you ask him to do maintaining a great attitude and spirit. Way to go, Henry! A well deserved acknowledgement from your peers for your hard work and dedication.

Outstanding Probationary Firefighter went to Daniel Aker. Being a probie isn't easy, and Dan did it with grace and style, earning many "Atta Boys" along the way. Best Training Attendance went to Probationary Firefighter Shepard Casey. Training is critical to our effectiveness, and Shepard embraces that ...always making time to be here. Length of Service Awards went to Engineer Mike Martinez, Engineer Jeff Coppens, and Engineer Daniel Twohy for 5 years. And Length of Service Award for 15 years...Captain Darrin Lee. That's awesome!

Chief Twohy gave a big welcome aboard to our new Division Chief Mike Calhoun. Retired from Escondido Fire, Chief Calhoun brings a wealth of knowledge and joins Division Chief Heiser to assist Chief Twohy in leading us through the upcoming year. And, in recognition of their time and commitment, Chief Twohy thanked the Fire Auxillary and the Fire Board members. Without them, we would not be what we are today.

What's Happening Continued

We had a great time with our “*What the Elf Were You Thinking*” awards, giving recognition to the many personal health problems we had among the department this year. Why is it that Firefighters won't call 911 when they are sick? We had a raffle for an iPod, two emergency radios and a door prize. For a little extra fun we even auctioned off some of our Firefighters, with all proceeds to go to the new building fund.

The honor of the evening, though, was to say farewell to Captain David Jones. David is retiring after some 22 years of fire service to the community. Through all his years, David has been instrumental in the success of the department and a driving force in the progress we have made to keep pace with the increased training and education required of Volunteer Firefighters. His calm demeanor is admired by all, both in training and at incidents. We will miss him terribly, but are asking him to stay on as Fire Corps and continue to assist us with the Driver Operator Training Program that he developed. Thank you, Dave, for everything. You have always been an inspiration to me.

December finished our Auto Extrication training. A big thanks to Steve Carpenter from Holmatro for a great New Vehicle Technology class, and as always to Cardinal Auto Wrecking for bringing us wrecked cars to practice our extrication techniques. Chief Heiser has the first quarter of this year packed full of great training, and we are ready to buckle down and get going.

The Departments Swiftwater Team assisted in a Swiftwater Rescue last month at Harmony Grove Road and Howard Ave. Chief Twohy got a call from NorthComm requesting assistance to Escondido Fire, and we immediately dispatched our team with equipment. Arriving on scene first with Encinitas Lifeguard Captain Larry Giles, they immediately entered the water to search for a victim in the flood channel that could not escape as the water rose quickly to a depth of 8 to 12 feet. The guys did a great job with Encinitas Fire and Lifeguards and San Diego Lifeguards. Pictured here is our boat, and a couple our team members as they bring the victim to shore with the other teams. Kudos to our guys for being there and doing such a good job!



So quickly we went from fire to floods. Remember, don't cross moving water. Even if it's not deep, your car could stall. If the water then comes up, you could quickly be swept away. It's just not worth the risk. Come hang out at the fire station till you can get through. We have always got coffee, tea and hot cocoa!

Your Volunteers

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

February 2009

If you care about —
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We meet twice monthly on Wednesday nights at the Fire station

If you are interested in running please contact Melanie Fallon at mfallon@hughes.net. If you think you might like to run, contact any board member listed on the back of this document for further information.



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Amanda Clerke – Experienced Babysitter/Pet Care. Elfin Forest resident, RSF School. YMCA babysitter certification. 14 years old. Please call 760-510-0143.

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

Retired pre-school teacher and animal lover available for evening and late night child care. CPR, First Aid is up to date. Plenty of references. I would love to care for your animals as well. Elfin Forest resident. Mary Ann 760 591-3111.

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