
No Town Council Meeting

In March



Inside this issue:

<i>Short Term Project</i>	2
<i>News for Septic Tank Owners</i>	3
<i>Community Foundation Seeks Proposals</i>	3
<i>More Changes to the Chaparral</i>	4
<i>What's Happening at the Fire Station</i>	6
<i>Sheriff Department Contacts</i>	7
<i>Wanted—Newsletter Editor</i>	9
<i>Sheriff Department Citizen's Academy</i>	11
<i>Classifieds</i>	21

From the Chair

By Melanie Fallon

The daffodils are popping up everywhere – it must mean that spring is almost here! It also means that we have had another Town Council election and we are taking a new direction with the Chaparral that I want to share with you.

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS – This year after many years of serving, I am sorry to say that Karen Gardner and Mid Hoppenrath decided not to run again. These two ladies will be sorely missed – they have committed many tireless hours to our Valley and the Town Council – we cannot thank them enough for all that they did for the Town Council, Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove! Xoxo But, the good news is that Bonnie Baumgartner from Elfin Forest Lane was elected to the Town Council and brings a lot of good experience to the Board – organization, equestrian care, gardening, management and pharmaceutical knowledge. (I am sure that knowledge will come in handy often! J)

The officers on the Board for this upcoming year will be – me again as Chair; Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, Vice Chair; May Meintjes, Treasurer and Bonnie Baumgartner, Secretary.

WE NEED ONE MORE TOWN COUNCIL BOARD MEMBER – The Town Council Board is to be comprised of 9 members. We currently have eight members – myself, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, May Meintjes, Bonnie Baumgartner, Eric Anderson, Chris Dye, Manu Sohaey and Bill Telesco. Please consider joining the Board this year so that we have the benefit of a full board to do the best we can for Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. Please contact me if you are interested.

NEW PROCESS FOR THE CHAPARRAL – After trying to communicate with everyone in our Valley via an electronic Chaparral for this past year the Town Council Board has decided to change direction in order to do a better job

From the Chair Continued

of making sure that we are reaching everyone! Starting this month we are going to switch to a quarterly printed Chaparral which will be mailed to every household in May, August, November and February. And, in the months that are "Chaparral-less" we will increase our elf alerts to make sure that everyone also still receives notices about the many important issues, activities and meetings that occur. To get a glimpse of this new Chaparral, please read Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin's article elsewhere in this edition of the Chaparral. Please give us some feedback on this new strategy.

NEED SOMEONE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP US WITH THE NEW CHAPARRAL! One more thing, we really really need some help from someone in the community to help us be the editor of the new Chaparral. With the new concept, the time commitment will be much less and it will make you feel great to help out in the community. Please give this some thought and let me know.

Thanks, Melanie mfallon1@att.net or 760.744.7090

Looking for a Short Term Project with Big Impact for Your Community?

The Town Council's communications committee is looking for a volunteer to help update and streamline the contents of the community web site. We already have a great volunteer web master, Joe Benson, who diligently posts updates as we send them to him, so you don't need any web design experience. What you need is good organization skills and an interest in streamlining the current contents and making it more useful and targeted. We have a long list of edits we know need to be made but would love the help of a community member to organize those and work with Joe to get them implemented. If you are interested, contact Jacqueline on 7600-855-0444 or simshona@aol.com.

If you are not sure about that specific project but interested in communications in general, we are also looking for new members to add to committee - we "meet" mostly by email so commitment is minimal, but impact can be very visible. Thanks for pitching in!

By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin

Rigorous Inspections Loom for Septic-Tank Owners

New regulations will mandate inspections and potentially costly replacements

New rules scheduled to take effect next year throughout the state will require businesses and homeowners with septic tanks to have the units periodically inspected, a process expected to cost about \$700.

For more of this story, click on or type the URL below:

<http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2009/01/22/news/californian/riverside/z605119c667404bdc88257543006def2d.txt>

By Nancy Reed

Elfin Forest Community Foundation Seeks Proposals for Spring Funding Cycle

The Elfin Forest Community Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of rural life in the community of Elfin Forest (CSA 107). The Foundation provides funds for project supplies and community events. The mechanism for getting money for your project is to apply to the Foundation. Describe your project and explain how it will enhance the community. The budget should not exceed \$6,000. Any one or any organization in the community is eligible to apply and the more applications that we receive the more opportunity to enhance our community. The next deadline is April 15, 2009. If you have any questions, call a member of the board, Steve Barker, Mike Vallee, Betsy Keithley, Martha Blane, Virginia McManus, Ted Hansen, Lori Vitale, Sue Hill, Tony DeBellis or Frank Twohy and review your proposal with him or her. To obtain an application, go to our website, www.elfinforestcommunityfoundation.org or contact Betsy Keithley at <<mailto:ekeithoey@ucsd.edu>>ekeithley@ucsd.edu. The completed application must be left at the fire station mail slot, not in the U.S. mailbox, by April 15, 2009. The Board will meet soon after that to review the applications. Please provide some new ideas and new projects!

Maintenance Policy

The Community Foundation has provided funding for many projects within the community since 1996 that include construction of fencing and signs. It is now clear that we also need to consider how these projects will be maintained. The beauty of the community is drastically reduced by the presence of broken and rotten fencing. If the Foundation were to undertake the financial responsibility for maintaining these structures, there would be no money available for any new projects. It is our new policy therefore, that proposals that request funds for structures that need maintenance include some proposal for how the maintenance will be provided. Acceptance of Community Foundation money implies an agreement that you or your organization also accept the responsibility for maintenance in the future.

By Betsy Keithley, Secretary, Board of Directors, EF Community Foundation

Chaparral Proposed Changes: Please Chime In!

Over the years many of you in the community have volunteered your time and effort to write, edit, stuff, mail, and bring to the post office our trusted community newsletter, the Chaparral. It has evolved over time and it is time to try a few changes. We are losing our amazing editor, Karen Gardner, in June 09, and are actively looking for someone who wants to contribute to the community from home, doing things at their pace, to produce the newsletter. We have gone 100% electronic but have received feedback some of you don't read the Chaparral any longer because of various technical and other issues. So we are going to try the formula described below for a year, and see how it works. We are making changes along three axis, and we are looking to your feedback as we implement those: think it's a good idea? Would you like to pitch in for some portion of the effort described below?

Make it cheaper:

- ✦ Produce 4 times a year (February, May, August and November) as hardcopy, rest of time send elf alerts on email as needed
- ✦ Keep to a maximum of 12-14 pages to keep cost down
- ✦ Revert to stapled assembly rather than stitching
- ✦ Use recycled inexpensive paper

Organize quarterly mailing parties (with wine and cheese?), and invite the community to come relax with neighbors, gossip and fold/stuff. This could also be a good opportunity for local teenagers looking for community service hours...

Make it easier:

- ✦ Assign different sections to different contents coordinators to lessen the burden on the editor. Is there a section below you'd like to coordinate 4 times a year? How about trying it for one issue?

Include a donation envelope for voluntary contributions.

Make it more community focused:

Add new section "From the neighborhood"

newcomers profile from new people moving into the valley

in depth profile of one current family

updates on births, deaths, weddings, engagements and other life events

Birthdays this month or this quarter (from new resident profile sheets and from community submissions)

Consider a "Kids and family" section, where parents can brag about their kids' sports win or academic accolades, or announce upcoming community plays or concerts in case neighbors want to attend.

Chaparral Changes Continued

Consider a “Keeping it rural” section, where we report on the efforts of the Town Council board and others to do just that: update from relevant committees, news from local paper relevant to our residents, upcoming calendar items you can save the date for (BOS meeting, dates comments have to be in by, etc...). This section could also have educational component: what is the dark skies ordinance? Why is it important to keep sewer out? What are some ways to dispose of manure in safe and cost effective ways? etc...

Consider a “Local real estate” section, where a sponsoring local realtor provides a summary of homes sold in the last quarter, with basic details and prices, to keep residents apprised of how property values are evolving. Maybe we can have one section for Elfin Forest and one for Harmony Grove since real estate market is different for each community.

Keep advertising to local businesses. “Local” is defined by either the business being located in the community, or the owner of the business being a local resident. The broader community for advertising purposes is defined as Elfin Forest, Harmony Grove, Eden Valley and San Elijo.

What will not change:

✦ We will still devote many pages to the Fire Department and their updates and reports. We will still offer free classified advertising to residents for babysitters and the like.

We will still offer local businesses who want to reach our 400-strong households the chance to buy advertising.

So take a look at the ideas above, and think about how you might be able to become a part of the effort: do you like to talk to people? Maybe you could “interview” a family a quarter (start with your neighbors, or your own family!) to have a profile written so we get to know each other. Do you prefer solitary pursuits? How about volunteering to take the newsletter to be printed, or to the post office – it’s only 4 times a year? Do you have school age kids and know other families from school? How about trying your hand at the “Kids and family” corner, starting with just asking your friends what awards their kids’ sports team have won, or whether they are in an upcoming play? Always dreamt of being a journalist, or have writing talent? How about writing up the “Keeping it rural” section, based on interviews with board members and review of local news?

We are all looking to your feedback and to the community coming together to produce a down home local newsletter which will serve all of our residents. Please share feedback, questions, comments or suggestions with the current editor, Karen Gardner, at 760-525-9511 or Karen@vintagematerialism.com, and thank you!

By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin

What's Happening at the Fire Department— March 2009



www.elfinforestfire.org

We are continuing with our annual structure training. Chief Heiser has us going back to the basics, each training taking on a different skills refresher. Since the end of January we have reviewed structure personal protective equipment (PPE), self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's), tools and equipment, hooking up to hydrants, performing supply hoselays, deploying attack lines, making entry to a structure and laddering buildings. Structure training is so important because, thankfully, it's the one subject that we just don't get a lot of experience in here in our rural communities. But we must always be ready, and rely greatly on our training.

"Academy Central" sends good reports about our Firefighters out in fire academies. Dan Aker is doing very well in Palomar's Fire Academy. What a smart guy! Now 8 weeks in, he looks a little haggard, but otherwise doing fine. Tina Timonian just started her academy at San Pasqual Reservation, and studying like crazy. And Kevin Krainock, at the Inland Fire Academy *has the nozzle* so far for the highest academic score. Way to go, Kevin. And a big congratulations to Ryan Works, Brennan LeClair, Cory Iverson and Gabe Tieman for successfully completing their CalFire Basic Fire Academy in San Luis Obispo. They came back thrilled with all that they learned, and highly motivated to do more. And throughout it all, these folks are doing these academies while still working their shifts and coming to training here at the station. Now, that's dedication!

With completion of his academy, Ryan Works has satisfied all probationary requirements and was promoted to Firefighter by Chief Twohy last Tuesday training. A Ranger with OMWD, Ryan originally came to us to get First Responder medical training, and got hooked on firefighting. What a wonderful young man, we are blessed to have him with us. Congratulations Ryan, and thanks for being who you are!

We have been approved for a grant of \$10,639.00 from the San Diego Fire and Emergency Services Foundation for the purchase of a Skid Mount unit to go on the back of UT2881. This skid mount, with a pump and a 100 gallon tank, will allow us to have a small and highly mobile Type 6 apparatus seating 5 personnel. A Type 6 is highly desirable as it will allow for patrol and quick attack capability during high fire danger and wind events. Chief Twohy is working with the Apparatus Committee to make this happen.

As another piece of the puzzle to find grant funds to provide personnel protective equipment to increase our staffing level by ten (10) personnel, the department has applied for a grant with the San Diego Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE). A big part of the grant is to purchase ten (10) additional masks for SCBA's (self-contained breathing apparatus). By OSHA regulations, each Firefighter must fit tested and issued a personal mask. At almost \$900 each, that's a chunk of change. Also in the grant, we have applied to replace our life safety ropes, which will soon be non-compliant because they are reaching the end of the 5 year maximum allowable life span. So, step by step, Chief Twohy just keeps chipping away to stay on top of it all.

What's Happening Continued

We have requests for a Barricade Fire Gel order. If you would be interested, please call Dawn at the fire station at 760-744-2186. If we get enough interest, we will see what kind of a deal we can make with the vendor.

Your Volunteers



Sheriff Department Contacts



Communication Center (Dispatch)
(Open 24/7 365 days a year)
(Countywide number)

Crime Prevention Services (Free)
B. J. Williams

Agricultural Affairs
Jackie Cruz

San Marcos Patrol Station
182 Santar Place
San Marcos, CA 92069

9-1-1 Emergency
760-510-5200 Non-emergency
858-565-5200 Non-emergency

760-510-5254
betty.williams@sdsheriff.org

760-525-1213
Jackie.cruz@sdsheriff.org

(Mainline) 760-510-5200



www.houndstohorses.com
exp. 4/07

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

Janean & Bill Huston

PHONE: 760.738.8822

1023 Country Club Drive
Escondido, CA 92029

Insured, Bonded, Member of Pet Sitters International

al.lea

Evelyn Alemanni
760.471.7224

alemanni@allea.com

www.allea.com

- Technical writing
- Marketing consulting
- Web site design
- Graphic design
- Garden design



Todd Freistat

(760) 471-1810 • Pgr (760) 809-5805
Fax (760) 471-1299

7711 Camino Sereno • Escondido, CA 92029

exp 6/04

Allegiance
Mobile Notary Service

Patricia Mack Newton

NPS Certified Loan Signing Agent

760-471-5195

www.allegiancemobilenotary.com

Member National Notary Assn.



Sue Hill

"Elfin Forest Specialist"

760-744-3430

suehill@prusd.com



Prudential
California Realty

**Marketing exceptional properties
exceptionally well!**

Elfin Forest Resident for 25 years
North County Real Estate Professional for 19 years
Supporter of Elfin Forest Fire Department, Town
Council & Community Events

*Listing & Selling more Elfin Forest
properties than the competition!*



For more information on this and other
Elfin Forest properties, call Sue!

Sales • Leasing • Management • Construction

Whether you require a commercial property for sale, lease, purchase, property management, or commercial construction, please contact Dubs and Company, Inc. We strive to provide the unparalleled expertise, service, and the attention to detail that you deserve.

Notary service is now available at our office.

•Elfin Forest Residents•

Kenneth P. Dubs, Sr., CCIM

Debra A. Dubs, GRI

Kenneth P. Dubs, Jr.

Deanna K. Dubs, CA Notary Public

“Your smallest requirement is our biggest concern.”

1850 Diamond Street, Suite 105

(760) 591-4100

San Marcos, CA 92078

www.dubsandcompany.com

Proud to be a Member of The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC)

Wanted

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Newsletter Editor

I am scaling back on my community volunteerism and am searching for someone to take on the responsibilities of newsletter editor. You need to be computer literate, semi-literate in the English language and have approximately 15 hours per month to donate to this task. Please contact me at 760-744-9500 or write to me at Karen@vintagematerialism.com for more information.

fine homes by
JAISA BRIGHT



equestrian property specialist,
 multi million dollar producer
 & elfin forest resident

Jaisa Bright is a native San Diegan with an intense passion for California, its homes, history and ranches. A graduate from UCSD and an avid equestrian since age 5, Jaisa has been one of California's top luxury home and ranch brokers for over 9 years. She is an eco savvy broker who looks for alternative energy opportunities for every home and ranch she sells. Jaisa has aided in the procurement of open spaces and land for local conservancies. Her office is located in Rancho Santa Fe California, and she is not only a ranch broker, she is a rancher herself calling a small avocado and equestrian ranch in Elfin Forest home. "San Diego has a majestic serenity that is both calming and awe inspiring and I know that with every ranch or home I sell I am able to help my clients find a personal sanctuary, the idea that this refuge can also aid in preservation is a beautiful thing for everything and everyone."

858.382.6428
jaisabright@yahoo.com



WILLIS ALLEN
 REAL ESTATE



YOUR ELFIN FOREST NEIGHBOR, EVELINE F. BUSTILLOS
 SUCCESSFULLY REPRESENTING ALL
 YOUR REAL ESTATE INTERESTS SINCE 1991



Eveline F. Bustillos

cell: 858-354-0600

eMail: eveline@coldwellbanker.com

web: www.evelinebustillos.com





SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Citizen Academy

SIGN UP NOW FOR A FREE 2-DAY ACADEMY!

Applications available – see contact information below:

***** Last day to apply is March 11, 2009 *****

(Apply now - Class size limited to 50 students -Waiting list after first 50)

Both Saturdays –April 18 & 25, 2009

7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(Class locations will be provided upon final approval of application)

The Citizen Academy consists of two days of information-packed sessions to acquaint you with the operations of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. One of the major principles of Community Oriented Policing is the empowerment of our communities' citizens. Those who attend the program will have a better understanding of law enforcement and will become part of the strong partnership necessary in making our county a great place to live.

Topics Include:

K-9 Demonstration

Jail Tour

Crime Scene Investigations

Financial Crimes--Crime Prevention

Sheriff's Museum

and more!

Attend both class sessions and receive an Official Graduation Certificate

*All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and will undergo a background check
prior to acceptance into the Citizen Academy.*

For application information contact:

Crime Prevention Specialist: B. J. Williams

Station: San Marcos Patrol Station 182 Santar Place San Marcos, CA 92069

Telephone: 760-510-5254 or e-mail: betty.williams@sdsheriff.org

Classifieds

Local Baby, Animal and House Sitters

Ryan Anderson - Baby Sitting/Pet Care. High school junior, responsible, with own transportation. 760-471-5850.

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

Amanda Clerke – Experienced Babysitter/Pet Care. Elfin Forest resident, RSF School. YMCA babysitter certification. 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.

Responsible, loving animal caretaker. I am an Elfin Forest resident and have had an animal business since 1995. My web site is: <questhavenpets.com>

Mary Ann Holden 760 591-3111 email: questhavenpets@sbcglobal.net

Marty Benowitz has three offices to sublet within his law office in LaCosta Meadows. \$495 a month, with conference room, kitchen, copier and fax available, dsl to each office, phone system available, shared secretarial available. Call Marty at 591-9700 or cell 619 818-6700.

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board members: Eric Anderson 471-1464, Jacqueline Ar-sivaud-Benjamin 891-9061, Bonnie Baumgartner, Melanie Fallon 744-7090, Chris Dye 420-8161, May Meintjes 744-7336, Manu Sohaey 510-9114 and Bill Telesco 746.4692.

*The **chaparral** is published monthly by the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board (a 501c3 non-profit corporation) and is distributed to residents of the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove communities. For new subscriptions or address label corrections, contact Karen Gardner at karen@vintagematerialism.com or 744-9500. To protect you from unwanted junk mail and solicitations, the **chaparral** mailing list is not shared with anyone. **This newsletter is copyrighted. Unauthorized reproduction in any form is strictly prohibited.***

Articles of up to 500 words should be sent to newsletter editor Karen Gardner at karen@vintagematerialism.com by the 20th 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.