

**DEDICATED TO A CONTINUING RURAL ATMOSPHERE**

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***Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Meeting***  
***EF/HG Fire Station***  
***None Scheduled***

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***From the Chair***

***By Bonnie Baumgartner***



Greetings fellow Elfin Forest/ Harmony Grove neighbors. Once again I want to send a huge thank-you to Betsy Keithley for editing and publishing this Chaparral. Communication is one of our chief charges, as the Town Council and we realize that not everyone looks for or gets our E-Alerts, so the 'Chaparral' is one more way to get the word out. The Chaparral is also a unique feature of our community, and part of our very important Communication Committee.

The importance of 'communicating' really hit home in May when our chief Communication person- J.P. Theberge- kept the community informed on a minute to minutes basis about the Cocos Fire via e-alert on your smart phone when the power was down, and we were evacuating family, horses, dogs and other pets in front of the fire. JP is our 'Citizen of the Year' this year, and deservedly so.

Our 'rural community' has no sidewalks and narrow roads that give us our rural feel and look. In fact, that 'signature look' is a reason why people move here, and our property values stay higher. Our trails are a hallmark of the community. All of our trails are on private property, allowed by the generosity of your neighbors. Thanks to our active trail committee we have some newly graded trails in the community. Check out the article by our Trail Committee Chair, Jan Denny in the newsletter. Remember that the trails are for walking, bicycling, and equestrian use. Please use them respectfully- and remember- NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES allowed. The Trail Etiquette article gives an overview of activities allowed on the trails.

We have a newly activated-'Welcome Committee'- enthusiastically – being worked by Amy Cahill, a community volunteer. A newer addition to the community herself, Amy is sharing the special nature of the EFHG community, and is delivering a 'welcome basket' to new arrivals. She is also adding new arrivals to the E-Alert system, so that they are updated on crucial events, and can be in the loop for updates on current events like fire evacuation, lost pet notices, and current county policies affecting our 'rural' status. Please share with her your email address so this vital piece of communication is enabled.

In fact, our little community of EFHG has been blessed with many pro-active individuals and volunteers, who work hard to champion our rural life style, and unique community feel. Please check out articles by The Escondido Creek Conservancy, and others that are working to 'keep it rural' in this valley.

The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Department Board has been seeking a merger with the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, which the Town Council supports. The EFHG Fire Department has been a rallying point for this community for decades, as well their exemplary, dedicated fire protection efforts. They do free "fire-readiness" property inspections- very important in our fire prone area.

The Town Council has many other committees designed to help keep our rural atmosphere, and to keep you informed. Please feel free to contact any of us for information, and to participate.



## *The 2014 EFHG PICNIC AND PARADE was A FUN DAY!*

JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> MARKED OUR 35<sup>TH</sup> annual picnic and parade. We had some spectacular entries in our parade. ATV'S, FLOATS, TRACTORS, HORSES, FIRE ENGINES. BICYCLISTS. All who participated enjoyed themselves immensely.

-The food was catered by Rudi's Tacos, and was so delicious that it didn't last long enough! We estimated that we had 300 + adults and children.

-The smaller kids loved the games run by Jan Denny and many volunteers. The larger kids loved the horseshoes. Everyone got into the egg toss, the cake walk, and the water cannon!

Our Citizen of the Year- JP Theberge –was honored in our celebration; As were our firefighters, in both EFF Fire and RSF Fire Departments for their exemplary efforts during the Cocos Fire.

The community thanked the EFF Fire Fighters -in a very small way -with new set of pots and pans for their kitchen- and a special thank-you banner carried in the parade, as well as free meals for firefighters and families.

The Rancho Sante Fe Fire Department also participated in the parade and festivities.

The Silent Auction was so well supported that the picnic expenses were covered and a donation of \$3,000. was given to EFF Fire.

The EFHG Town Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the Picnic Committee, and Silent Auction Committee:

Lori Vitale, Jan Denny, Nancy Goodrich, Joy Jackson, Amy Cahill, Nona Barker, Chief Twohy, Melanie Fallon, Joanne Sullivan, Claudia Costanzo, Karen Tangorra, Mike Calhoun, Betsy Keithley, JP Theberge, Bonnie Baumgartner and the many firefighters and community members involved in set-up-tear down, and running of this event-for their arduous efforts to make this picnic a success. Thank-you all!!!





# *We Had Another Great Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Parade and Picnic - View From the Cake Walk*

*By Joy Jackson*

Wow!! Where can you attend a community event welcoming family and neighbors together to eat and drink and celebrate our country's Independence Day? It is rare and pretty special. What a great time for meeting and greeting our neighbors and their extended families!

Where else is the parade participation greater than the spectators? Where kids on their ponies and bikes can show off July 4<sup>th</sup> decorations and compete for prizes, each one getting a participation ribbon at least. There were spectators throwing candy to the parade participants and visa versa, fire trucks shooting fountains of water to cool off participants and spectators alike as they made their way down the parade route on Elfin Forest Road to the Fire Station.

There were so many people volunteering to keep everything running smoothly. So grateful for all! Community involvement is the rule here in Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove. We are truly blessed to live here!

This year I worked at the Cake Walk with a new neighbor Amy Cahill and her husband. What a great time we had playing music while children walked around our grid, hoping to land on the winning number and take home a beautiful cake. Many cakes were made and decorated by neighbors--children and adults-- for the cake decorating contest held earlier.

Here's hoping we never stop gathering our community to celebrate!

So lucky to be in a place where "Keeping it Rural" means knowing neighbors, volunteering, being there to help when needed as well as celebrating what a wonderful neighborhood we live in!



## **2014 Picnic Income & Expenses**

### **Income**

Elfin Forest Community Foundation Grant	\$1,875
Sales of Food and Game Tickets	\$3,431
Silent Auction Donations	\$9,680
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,985</b>

### **Expenses**

Rudy's Mexican Food	\$3,275
Disc Jockey	\$775
Allies Party Rentals	\$1,294
Diamond Sanitation	\$210
County of San Diego Permit	\$173
Prizes	\$240
Supplies	\$110
Printing & Postage	\$239
Coburn Metalwork - 50%	\$1,403
<b>Donation - Pots &amp; Pans for EFHG Fire Dept</b>	<b>\$230</b>
<b>Donation - Cash to EFHG Fire Dept</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,948</b>

**Net Proceeds to Town Council General Fund: \$4,037**

## *It's Community Foundation Grant Time*

*By Melanie Fallon*

It is time again to think about applying for an Elfin Forest Community Foundation grant that will enhance the quality of our rural life in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove (CSA 107). We usually have \$3000 to \$6000 available in grant funds each funding cycle.

The Community Foundation was established in 1995 with funds given to us by the City of San Marcos for impacts to our community resulting by the now defunct San Diego County landfill. So, if you have a project you think is worthy, please submit 9 copies of your application (follow the instructions provided on our website, [elfinforestcommunityfoundation.org](http://elfinforestcommunityfoundation.org)) All applications are due in the Community Foundation mailbox at the Fire Station by 5:00 pm on October 15, 2014.

During the April 2014 funding cycle the Community Foundation approved \$3995 in grants to the following groups: Elfin Forest Harmony Grove CERT - \$570 to fund a CERT class.

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council - \$1875 to cover some of the costs for the 4th of July Picnic.

The Escondido Creek Conservancy - \$1550 to fund stewardship and trail maintenance.

Good Luck!

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## *Private Roads - How Are They Maintained?*

*By Joy Jackson and Ken Baumgartner*

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove = Heaven, right? I know I thought so when I first saw it, and still feel so lucky to live here after 20 years. We have gorgeous country roads that wind through scenic valleys studded with oaks and chaparral. We would never trade that country road for a 24' striped county highway. Those private country roads are part of what keeps us "Rural". BUT---you may have questions about road maintenance.

Who is responsible for maintaining these beautiful roads?

WE ARE!! California Civil Code 845 mandates that those who own an easement on a private road are responsible for maintenance. CC845 has been on the books since 1948.

Do you live on a private road?

Unless you access your driveway directly from the county maintained roads (Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove), YES, you do.

What if some people refuse to participate in the maintenance (NOT improvement) of our shared private roads? AB 1927 passed in January of 2013 makes it easier to collect the funds from delinquent easement holders by allowing claims to be resolved in small claims court.

What is an RMA?

The acronym stands for "Road Maintenance Agreement". This is a legal document on file with the county. It is a covenant that follows the land when it is sold. The shared maintenance of the private road easement is detailed and the means of accomplishing the work are outlined. Fortuna del Este RMA was filed with the county in 1976. An RMA will supersede CC845, making it the final word on maintenance for the streets covered in the document. New county regulations require an RMA for all communities with private roads.

Many roads in our community were built 30-40 years ago when the lots were created by lot splits and County standards called for a 16 foot, well-graded road. No RMA was required prior to home construction. Many roads in Elfin Forest were constructed with only 1 ½ inches of asphalt over native soil! These roads today are showing wear including alligating asphalt, poor drainage and pot holes.

The challenge we face is to organize with our neighbors who share easements and restore these roads. Often times slurry seal and patch work of holes is chosen as a solution, although some would say slurry sealing over the damage is like painting rotten wood.

One of the bigger challenges on roads where there is no RMA is to develop a consensus for what maintenance is needed and for a fair allocation of costs. Neighbors need to work together to find solutions.

By combining road-maintenance projects in our community, we can gain a cost advantage by increasing the size of the project for the contractor. This enables the contractor to move in heavy equipment only once. Other savings of scale can contribute to lower square foot costs.

Some have questioned, "What if we just let the road go? Well, technically owners of the easement on a private road are legally responsible for maintaining it by Civil Code 845 and an RMA if one has been filed for your streets. Consequences could occur if damage was claimed due to lack of road repair. But, by waiting, we are risking higher maintenance costs in the future. If the road bed becomes damaged, patching and overlays are no longer possible. To understand how this happens, think mud! When there are cracks in your street and alligating, or worse, potholes--rain water comes into contact with the road bed. (This is probably DG, but could be native soil!) When wet it is like mud, very soft. Now when cars or even heavier vehicles drive over it, depressions and ruts are formed. Once the road bed is not level anymore, pavement cannot be successfully re-applied. To re-do the road bed is hugely expensive. At least 3-4 times the cost of an asphalt overlay. As an example, one large pothole off of Fortuna del Este cost \$6000.00 to re-level and pave.

Our home values are impacted and benefit from a maintained road. Safety issues also apply--fire trucks can not travel safely or with normal speed over a disintegrating road. Also, the new county regulations say if a road is NOT maintained, and there is no RMA, the county can take over the road. Now we know the county doesn't want to spend money to take care of anything more right now, but in the future?

Let's work together to maintain our beautiful country roads and "Keep it Rural"!

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## *Come Join Your Town Council Board!*

*By Bonnie Baumgartner*

It's time... to be thinking about making a difference in the beautiful community we are all so lucky to call home, by throwing your name in the hat for Town Council Board Member. Each February elections take place where the community elects a portion of the nine-member Town Council Board. In addition, you can become a member at large even if not elected, so that you can stay abreast of what's happening in your backyard.

We would like to encourage any of the residents of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove who really feel strongly about the uniqueness of our valley to think about serving on the Board for a two-year term. This is a chance to get to know more of your neighbors and your community, and to use your talents and energy to support our mission, which is to "keep it rural". Each year brings new challenges to our quiet corner of paradise, and it is only through the dedication of those serving on the Town Council that we can influence the outcome of the many battles to "keep it rural", from developer encroachment to road rezoning and input into County planning process. Think of your commitment on the board as an investment in *your* property value.

You don't need experience in land use issues, although that would be great, there are other projects such as

communications, community events, traffic, trails, welcome committee, all of which could all use your unique expertise and talents. If you are not sure about the commitment, think of it as taking your turn in preserving what you enjoy. You are not making a life long commitment, just two years of meetings once a month and service on one of our subcommittees.

This year we are trying a new format, which is a board member application form (attached and also on our website at [www.efhgtc.org](http://www.efhgtc.org)). Fill one in and send it to [bonniedblb@gmail.com](mailto:bonniedblb@gmail.com).

We look forward to welcoming you aboard!

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## *EF / HG Block Captain Program*

*By Mickey Cross*

For many years now, our area has utilized an emergency phone tree system to let the residents know of an approaching disaster. Each street in our area has a block captain and an alternate block captain. The block captain is responsible for gathering the contact information of the residents on the street so that, if needed, they can contact them and pass important information (ie: immediate evacuation) that comes to us from the fire department. They will call you day or night, as the emergency dictates. If the block captain is out of town, the alternate will contact you. It is important that you know your block captain and alternate and important that if you get a call from them, even if it is at 3:00 in the morning, you pick up your phone. Some block captains will text information. If phones are not operational, they may use a walkie talkie. Contact your block captain and ask what back up communication plans they may have. If you don't know your block captain, contact Mickey Cross at [mickeykc@juno.com](mailto:mickeykc@juno.com) or 760-744-2034.

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## *Your Neighborhood CERT Program*

*By Mickey Cross*

Have you ever wondered where help will come from after a disaster? What if the Sheriff and Fire Department are overwhelmed? Who will be able to extricate you from under part of a fallen building, who could treat you for certain injuries you received? Who could help put out a small fire? These and other skills are known by our very own Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove CERT group. CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team. There are many CERT teams around the County of San Diego and they are trained in the exact same skills. We are a volunteer group, so we do not receive any pay for our services. At this time, we only will respond to emergencies in the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove areas. If you have interest in joining our CERT group, there is a class that will be offered in Rancho Santa Fe in October. If you have any questions, please email [mickeykc@juno.com](mailto:mickeykc@juno.com) or call Mickey Cross at 760-744-2034.

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## *Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc., Firefighter Activities*

*By Our Volunteer Firefighters*

September sees two of our senior Driver/Operators secure full-time positions with fire departments on both coasts of the United States. D.O. Kevin Krainock accepted an offer of employment as a firefighter/paramedic with the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District and begins this month. D.O. Marc McKinley heads to the east coast as he has accepted a firefighter/EMT position with DeKalb County in Georgia. We are excited to see two extremely deserving firefighters take new steps in their careers and appreciate all of their dedicated service to EFF.





Congratulations to FF Michael Saldaña on successful completion of Palomar's 45<sup>th</sup> Firefighter I Academy. FF Saldaña completed more than 576 hours of training and instruction to graduate from the Academy this past summer. He is a great asset to our department and has taken on a leadership role sharing knowledge he has gained with our newer members. FF Saldaña also completed the Academy with a now former member of the department, PFF Pierre Breton. PFF Breton accepted a position as a firefighter in Arizona shortly following Academy graduation and has since moved on from EFF.

We are proud to share that EF/HG Fire has 5 probationary firefighters participating in Palomar's 46<sup>th</sup> Firefighter I Academy this fall. Congratulations to PFF Dylan Hoppe, PFF Ryan Kennedy, PFF Daniel Rosenberg, PFF Steven Michel and PFF Daniel Sprague. Their training began in August and they are hard at work for the next 3 months gaining valuable fire service knowledge and skills. Upon successful completion of the Academy and one year of volunteer service, they will be eligible for the CA State Fire Marshal Firefighter I certification. We are extremely proud that Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Department has five members participating amongst approximately 40 Academy recruits this fall.

During August, 22 members of our Department participated in a California State Fire Marshal Fire Control 3B class hosted by the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District. This two-day class provided our members hands-on training for structural firefighting in live-fire simulators. Fire attack, ventilation control and air flow management drills in addition to live fire simulations gave our Department the opportunity to gain valuable experience and become even better prepared for our next incidents.

Our Department continues to focus extensively on training and preparing for future incidents and the current fire season. Our department-wide trainings over the next several months will focus a wide variety of topics including, but not limited to, wildfire suppression, structure protection, vehicle fires, auto extrication, structure fire scenarios, and emergency medical services. We will continue to stay vigilant and committed to training at the highest level to ensure we are providing the highest quality service to our residents and our district.

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## *The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) Presents Fire and Rebirth Exhibit*

TECC is proud to invite you and your family and friends to visit the Interpretive Center at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve to see the new Exhibit entitled:

**Fire/Rebirth** that was installed on September 8 and will be displayed through the end of the year.

This is the first exhibit presented by TECC's new Educational Program Manager, Simon Breen, with contributions from Jeff Anderson, Jeff Swenerton, and TECC intern, Meghan Hilbert with photos contributed by Tom Munnecke, Richard Murphy, and Greg McBain. The IC is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., contingent on docent availability. The Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve's Interpretive Center is located at

8833 Harmony Grove Road and if you have never been there, you have yet to experience a beautiful place along the Escondido Creek.

**Fire/Rebirth** is a free exhibit featuring displays on:

- Fire in the context of the chaparral plant community
- Fire's effects on oaks, sycamores and native wildlife
- History of fires in the area (including the recent Cocos fire)
- Fire behavior





Dear Community members of the Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc. and County Service Area 107- Elfin Forest,

On August 26, 2014, the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Board of Directors approved a resolution and application to Reorganization County Service Area 107-Elfin Forest into the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District.

The Resolution and application was submitted to the Local Agency Formation Commission, LAFCO, on August 29, 2014. LAFCO has 30 days from submission to accept or return the application. The application may be sent back to RSFFPD for being incomplete. At publication of this article, we don't know if LAFCO accepted the application. Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department will know in time for EFF's Board of Directors Annual meeting and Election on October 20, 2014.

We know that in the near future the Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc. and County Service Area 107 – Elfin Forest is going to change. There will be either reorganization into the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District or a take-over by the San Diego County Fire Authority, aka CALFIRE.

We should know about the time frame and LAFCO's Reorganization process by our annual Board meeting on October 20. This should include meeting dates and possible timeline for the process of Reorganization. LAFCO will study, analyze, scrutinize and hold the County of San Diego to their obligations of providing the best Fire and EMS service for County Service Area 107- Elfin Forest.

The agenda and your election ballots will shortly be in your mailbox. Please vote and keep informed by attending the:

**Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc.**

**Annual meeting and Election.**

**October 20, 2014**

**7 PM**

**Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc. Fire Station**

**20223 Elfin Forest Road**

Thank you,

Nona Barker, President, Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc.

County Service Area 107- Elfin Forest

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## *Trails Committee Adds and Maintains Trails* By Jan Denny

The Trail Committee has added and maintained the following trails in our network this past summer:

A split rail fence was installed on the new trail along the north side of Canyon de Oro near Rancho Summit Drive. Thanks to the Trail Elf!

Trail markers have been placed along Sequest Trail and Canyon de Oro.

The Trail Committee is currently working on the following projects:

Connecting the county-maintained trail with the Canyon de Oro roadway: The Trail Committee is still working with the county and Salem Corporation for permission to bench in a trail on the side of this steep hill to safely connect



trail users with the road. This connection is on the south side of Canyon de Oro, between Sequest Trail and Rancho Summit Drive.

Clearing a trail on the blind curve gulley on Canyon de Oro: The Trail Committee is trying to find out who did the biological survey of this mitigation land so we can set clear boundaries for clearable road easement.

The Trail Committee is working to meet with the new property owner on the steep curve on Sequest Trail to plan a new trail location that is within the road easement. The current trail runs through the middle of their property where they want to build their house.

Installing Horse Crossing signs in appropriate locations.

Please let the Trail Committee know if you have a trail near you that needs maintenance, or if there's an area near you that needs a trail.

Now get out there and enjoy your trails!



## *Rules of the Trails* By Bonnie Baumgartner

Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove are blessed to have a unique trail system for hikers, joggers, mountain bikes, walkers, and equestrian use. They maintain the scenic beauty of our community while allowing safe travel off the narrow lanes and roads.

These recreational trails however, are ALL on PRIVATE property, and are maintained by volunteers. Property owners are protected from liability or damages from any person using the trails by CA Civil Code 846 and 846.1

When using the trails please remember you are a guest on someone's property. Please respect the landscape and stay on the trails. Use common sense and courtesy.

Dogs must be on leash by law.

Horses must be kept under control and not be loose.

Bicyclists yield to all- hikers and horses.

Pick up trash and garbage if you see it and leave no trace of your passing.



If you have boarders, please pass the rules of trails use on to them, and consider asking them to contribute to the EFHGTC - Trail Committee for their maintenance and up keep, or ask them to help maintain the trails by volunteering for the trail committee.

## *Cocos Fire Recovery Continues*

*By Bonnie Baumgartner*

Immediately after the Cocos Fire in May a committee comprised of Tim Costanzo, JP Theberge and Bonnie Baumgartner was formed to help the fire survivors. Sadly over 30 structures were lost in Harmony Grove due to the fire. Because of his expertise in fund raising and non-profit organizations, Tim Costanzo quickly raised over \$50,000 from our community which is now administered by the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation. Lists were compiled in conjunction with Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire personnel of people who needed help. Tim's untiring efforts got Visa gift cards to people who had lost everything, and needed money for everyday expenditures, like new clothes and tooth paste. The committee worked in conjunction with VOAD and the Red Cross Response teams to identify need.

Subsequently there have been several workshops set up for and attended by fire survivors and held at EFHG Fire Station. Topics have included dealing with Insurance Companies- no easy feat; and Grief and Loss with Ken Druck from the Jenna Druck Foundation, and Ken Blanchard, (One Minute Manager) who is a Cedar Fire survivor.

More workshops will be held, as needed, to help our Harmony Grove Neighbors in their recovery process.

## *Newcomer's Corner*

Amy Cahill is our new Greeter so if you notice new people moving into your neighborhood, please send an email to [efhgtc@gmail.com](mailto:efhgtc@gmail.com) so the Welcome Committee can drop off a welcome basket. Also direct them to the New Resident section of the new web site at <http://www.efhgtc.org/newresidents.html>.

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## *Donate Blood In Honor of Karl Watson*

**Wed. November 12, 2014 | 1:00 pm – 7:15 pm**  
**Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department**  
**20223 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest 92029**

Signup online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) (code: Karl)

Walk in's welcome – or donate on your regular day in honor of Karl

Questions? Contact Nona Barker 760.744.2186  
[nbarker@eff-fire.org](mailto:nbarker@eff-fire.org)

### Tips for a positive donation

Eat healthy, iron-rich meals prior to your donation.  
Drink extra fluids beginning the day before your donation.

Get plenty of rest and wear comfortable clothing  
Bring personal identification, such as a driver's license



Elfin Forest resident for 29 years, W. Karl Watson was a Firefighter for 33 years, with the last 30 in the San Diego Fire Dept. He has been married to his wife, Linda, for 43 years, and has three grown sons, and three grandsons. His very active life of volunteering, traveling, hiking, and having a great time with his family and friends was interrupted in January of 2013. His hemoglobin level was dropping for some reason, and he was experiencing severe fatigue. By May there was a diagnosis of Myelodysplastic Syndrome, a blood cancer. His bone marrow was no longer producing any red blood cells. He had chemotherapy called Vidaza for 10 months, but then it stopped working. During that time and for several months following he received 46 pints of blood to keep him alive. During his career, prior to his disease, he regularly donated blood and gave 40 units to The Blood Bank.

Fortunately, a bone marrow donor was found, and on June 17, 2014 he received a bone marrow transplant, and as of two weeks ago the new donor's bone marrow has completely taken over. He is still on several medications, including an immune suppressant to prevent graft versus host disease, but his prognosis is excellent. He is extremely thankful for all of those who donated blood, and for the selfless act of kindness from the bone marrow donor.

## Announcement

# Nominations for Fire Board of Directors

The Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc. Board of Directors is requesting nominations for the Fire Board.

In order to create a degree of geographic diversity, citizens living in the Harmony Grove, Questhaven and Coronado Hills areas of CSA 107 are encourage to run for election.

You may nominate yourself.

To be included on the ballot, please contact a board member by September 10, 2014

- Directors attend an average of one regular meeting per month and represent the citizens of the service area at-large.
- Directors attend a variety of meetings in San Diego County, concerning the Fire Department and CSA 107.
- Active Directors are vital to the success of the fire department.
- There is no compensation for this position.
- To learn more about the duties of the Board of Directors, we encourage you to attend an upcoming meeting. The public is always welcome.

Board meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month @ 3:30 p.m. at the fire station in Elfin Forest.

The Board of Directors appreciates your interest in this position and looks forward to your active participation.

Email or phone with your nomination to;

Nona T. Barker

Captain

President - Fire Board

Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc.

County Service Area 107

20223 Elfin Forest Road

Elfin Forest, CA 92029

760.744.2186 - Station

760.415.6635 - Mobile





# *Have You Seen a Badger in Elfin Forest or Harmony Grove?*

*By Ann Van Leer*



The American Badger is a rarely-seen small, wide-ranging predator, often moving over 10 kilometers per day, through grasslands and open areas. Badgers weigh between 15 and 20 pounds and eat mice, rats, squirrels and other small animals. Badgers are a covered species under the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) and have been identified as a target species for monitoring regional habitat connectivity of upland and grassland areas.

But badgers present a dilemma for researchers as they are difficult to find.

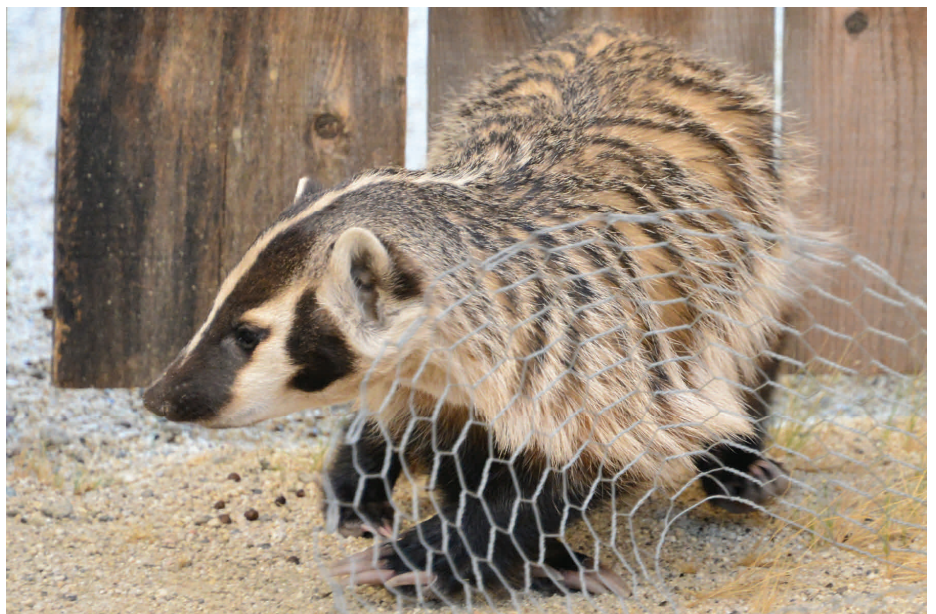
Enter the 40-pound dynamic bundle of ball-obsessed energy known as 'Pips,' a cross of Australian cattle dog and blue heeler rescued from an animal shelter in Washington state. Pips now has a new important job, Conservation Canine with

the University of Washington, and an impressive resume that indicates his expertise includes sniffing out badgers plus wolverines, mink, short-tailed weasel, fisher, cougars and the saw whet owl. In exchange for positively identifying the scent of one of his target species Pips gets to play ball. That is it---plus room and board at Conservation Canines.

Pips was a key participant in an initial study done in 2012 by the U.S. Geologic Survey, Western Ecological Research Center, to learn more about badger distribution, movement or habitat use within western San Diego County. Pips identified badgers at 12 sites in the region, including a site at the Daley Ranch. (Pips wasn't given author credit, which really doesn't seem fair...) The study recommended further follow-up, focused surveys to identify target areas for future live trapping and radio telemetry that will better define areas with higher densities of badgers.

That follow-up work is now underway and researchers were recently in the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve looking for badgers. Scientists are expanding on the 2011 data to better identify the areas that badgers are using within the County--as well as to get a better understanding of seasonal patterns of use. Pips, sadly, is not a part of current studies.

Researchers would like YOUR help. If you see a badger, fresh burrows or even a dead badger, please contact USGS at 619-225-6458 or e-mail to [SDBadgers@usgs.gov](mailto:SDBadgers@usgs.gov).



# ***HARMONY GROVE WELCOME SIGN***



After three years of much hard work and persistence in design, implementation and permits- Harmony Grove has its welcome sign. Thank you Mid Hoppenrath for staying on task. The sign is placed on the east side of Country Club Dr. south of Kauna Loa.



20223 Elfin Forest Rd. Elfin Forest, CA 92029

**Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board members:** Bonnie Baumgartner 619-277-7105, J.P. Theberge 619-884-2694, Nancy Goodrich 760-591-9489, Mark Shields 619-564-3600, Sandra Bartsch 310-600-8184, Jan Denny 760-736-8436, Betsy Keithley 760-471-8515. At-Large members: Melanie Fallon, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin 760-855-0444

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