



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

**From the Chair**  
**By Evelyn Alemanni**

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic and parade were another fun-filled Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove event. Our gratitude goes to Janet McGurk and Rachel Barnes, whose hard work and brilliant organizational skills made the event wonderful for everyone.

So far, we've been fortunate to be relatively fire-free this year. Much of that is due to the quick response from our fire department, and this issue of the *chaparral* is dedicated to our fire chief, Frank Twohy, who is celebrating 20 years with the Fire Department. Thanks, Frank, for your dedication and long years of service.

Hotter days are coming and with higher temperatures comes greater fire risk. At our August town council meeting, fire Chief Frank Twohy will discuss what we can all do to assure our safety during this fire season. This is a meeting you don't want to miss.

One aspect of fire preparedness is to be sure that our insurance is paid up. Elsewhere in the newsletter, you'll see an article from David Cronshaw asking for a survey on fire insurance costs. Because of the infinite variables in policies, including home location, size, deductibles, and ease of access for fire engines, it's hard to compare policies on price alone. But let us know what you think of your insurance company – do you get good service, do you think the price is reasonable? We'll print your responses in the next issue.

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**August Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 7th, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Guest speaker: EFHG Fire Chief Frank Twohy on fire preparedness.**

## San Marcos Landfill Closure

Great news! As a result of the efforts of the Town Council, EF/HG Fire Department and others, the County has dropped Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Roads as truck routes for the 800 truck trips per day for 7 months needed to supply soil for the final Landfill cover. Both the Town Council and an attorney for the Fire Department spoke on your behalf at the July 17<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting emphasizing the need for traffic safety.

At Evelyn Alemanni's insistence, the County will develop an emergency traffic plan in case of accidents, fire or other emergencies. They will also create a telephone hotline that is answered by a live person who has some responsibility for the project so that we can notify them of any problems.

The Fire Department spent \$3800 for an attorney to respond to the Landfill Closure EIR and attend the BOS meeting to emphasize the importance of safety and protection of the community. This was an unbudgeted expense.

The Landfill closure is expected to start in August 2003 and continue for up to 22 months. In reviewing the response to comments in the Closure EIR, a very funny Freudian slip was found. The County said they will not hire "floggers" to control traffic! Gosh, we certainly hope not.

## Board Openings

The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council has two openings for Board members. This is a very significant way to serve the community, and at the same time, get to know your neighbors. Contact any Board member if you are interested.

The time commitment is to attend the monthly Board and community meetings, help arrange for monthly speakers, review environmental impact reports, and lead projects as necessary.

## Elfin Forest Survey

***Did you complete and return your survey yet? Hurry up – it was due last month. Your opinion is very important to us.***

## Thanks, Linda!

Linda Hamilton has retired from the Town Council Board. She served on the Board for more years than anyone can remember and certainly holds the record for longest service. At the 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic, Linda was honored with a gift of a huge flower bouquet and a garden elf to commemorate her many years as a Board member. Well done, Linda!



## 2nd Annual TECC Berkley Hart Benefit Dinner Concert By Nancy Reed

Mark your calendar and save this date! The second annual TECC Berkley Hart benefit dinner concert is set for Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Lazy J Ranch. The \$50.00 admission includes food, beer/wine, dessert, coffee and the concert. Such a deal! Call Nancy Reed (471-7933) for more information. Tickets are available now.

## Mulch and Compost Fire Danger

How big is your compost pile? Did you know that large compost piles can become so hot that they spontaneously combust? Check your compost and consider spreading it around plants now to conserve moisture. You can also water it regularly to keep it somewhat moist and help with decomposition.

Because of the fire danger, landscapers have been asked to stop dropping mulch loads along the trails unless the mulch can be spread immediately. If you see anyone dropping a load of mulch by the trails, please get their license number and company name on the truck, if available, and report it to the Fire Department.

## San Elijo Hills Contact

If you need to report any problems with the grading, traffic, etc. regarding the San Elijo Hills project, please contact Phil Stillman who is paid by S.E.H. to act as liaison with the community. He can be reached at [philstillman@fstlaw.com](mailto:philstillman@fstlaw.com). If you feel the problem was still not resolved, call San Elijo at 760-918-8200.

## Parade and Picnic Highlights

The potluck food at our July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration was great! Elves certainly know how to cook! Did you prefer having a potluck or would you like to have all the food provided? Contact Janet McGurk, who has already volunteered to coordinate the picnic again, and let her know so we can prepare for next year.

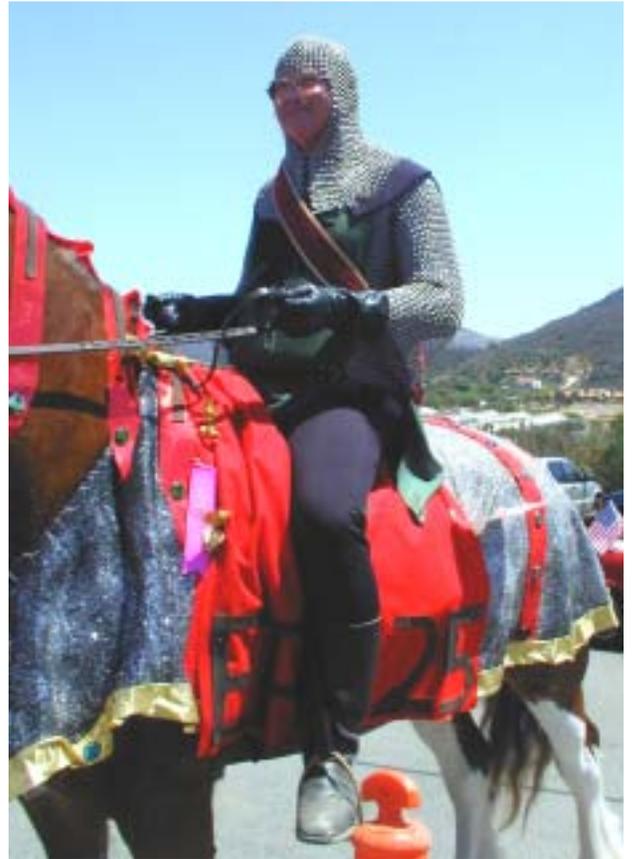
More volunteers than ever helped with setup, during events, and with cleanup. Your efforts made the events a lot of fun for everyone! Remember; contact Janet McGurk at 471-0831 or [mcgurk@bytebloc.com](mailto:mcgurk@bytebloc.com) with your ideas and offers of help.



Many thanks to our picnic “czarinas” Janet McGurk and Rachel Barnes.



Haley Wirth rides in tractor driven by dad, Steve.



Phil Young as our knight in shining armor. We sure need one!



Boy scouts and parents from Troop 668 (Escondido's Troop of the Eagles) helped set up: Billy Lambert, Andy Bonk, Matt Ludwig and his dad Raoul Ludwig. All three boys are Life Scouts. Billy and Andy presented the flag ceremony.

God Bless America and Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove!

## Susan and David Cronshaw Citizens of the Year 2002



Susan and David Cronshaw were honored as Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove 2002 Citizens of the Year. They enjoyed being paraded down Elfin Forest Road in Ginny McManus' red BMW convertible and received plaques from the Town Council.

Residents of Elfin Forest for 10 years, Susan and David jumped right in to serve the community. Susan has served on the Fire Board for 4 years and David was the Town Council Board chair from 1993 to 1996. He and Susan edited and produced the *chaparral* for 8 years – longer than anyone!

Both were born in England during World War II. Susan near London and David in Manchester. They met at a college dance while attending colleges in London. David became a computer engineer, Susan a schoolteacher. They emigrated to California in 1970. Their two daughters were born in England before the family moved to California.

After 35 years as a computer engineer for ICL (in England), Xerox, Teradata, AT&T and NCR, David became a self-employed, part time, computer consultant in 1996. Susan is his "Life Style Maintenance Manager." This is a more than full time occupation and she does a wonderful job at it.

Thanks, Susan and David for all you do!

## Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Special thanks to Claudia Costanzo for arranging the raffle and silent auction prizes. These neighbors and companies donated items for the picnic:

Abbie & TJ  
Bob and Janet McGurk  
Carters Hay and Grain  
CCCC Cleaning  
Chris Francis  
Ciao Bella's Garden  
Design Fabrication  
Eagle Creek  
Elfin Forest Community Foundation (financial support)  
HomeFed (financial support)  
Hunter Industries  
Jack and Hillary Olmstead  
Joan Hershfeld  
Joe and Evelyn Alemanni  
John and Carol Rayes  
Joyful Presence  
La Tapatia Restaurant  
R Hay and Grain  
Regal Entertainment Group  
Rokenbok Toy Company  
San Marcos Mills  
Sunshine Gardens  
Sunshine Glass  
Trinity Products

## Need Rocks? By Evelyn Alemanni

Many of our neighbors have admired the beautiful stonework in the entry monuments that the Landscape Foundation has built along Elfin Forest Road. Several have asked how they can get matching rocks to build similar projects. (Honest – color and texture matching of rocks is a very big deal.)

The source of the rocks (no surprise) is San Elijo Hills. They are making the rocks available to Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove residents at no charge – all they ask is that you first check at the information center during the week for the location of the rock pile, which is moved periodically.

## Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting By Mid Hoppenrath

**Date:** July 9, 2002

**Board Members Present:** Bill Telesco, Evelyn Alemanni, Mid Hoppenrath, Nancy Reed, Eric Anderson, Janet McGurk.

**Call to Order:** 7:35 p.m.

**Item #1:** Alex Newton and Lori, a reservoir project engineer, gave an update on behalf of the County Water Authority concerning the progress on the reservoir project. The main dam is nearly 50% complete, with almost half of the concrete, or 7,200 cubic yards, poured and about 1.5 million tons of rock already crushed for use on the site. The team expects dam construction to be finished by late January, or possibly sooner. The Olivenhain Municipal Water District had a dedication ceremony on June 1<sup>st</sup> for the new pump station.

Nancy Reed asked Lori about truck horns at the project sounding late at night. Lori explained that because the reaction that hardens the concrete is sensitive to temperature, most of the concrete pouring is done at night during the hot summer months.

According to OSHA safety regulations, the trucks on the worksite must honk their horns when picking up or delivering a load of concrete. Lori said the team is aware of the unpleasant effect of the work site noise on local residents. An independent company is monitoring the noise levels at several sites. The project has not violated the noise regulations (55 decibel limit; three violations are allowed each 24-hour period). Lori said they would ask whether anything could be done to lower the noise of the truck horns without compromising the safety of the workers.

Another resident asked what could be done to slow down the trucks on Harmony Grove Road. Lori said while truck speeds are closely regulated on site, they have less control over project trucks when they are on public roads. She said they have contracted with the California Highway Patrol to add additional coverage to the truck route, they have used “paycheck stuffers” to remind drivers about the concerns of the residents and to ask them to drive more slowly, and they have implemented mandatory training programs for the drivers. Lori concluded by inviting residents to tour

the project site and reminded the residents that there is a hotline number for any concerns or questions they may have about any aspect of the project.

**Item #2:** Dr. Daniel Vinson, Superintendent of Rancho Santa Fe School District (RSFSD), and Blake Issac, Administrator for the K-4 program, provided information on the need for a second school in the District. Dr. Vinson provided a summary that indicated projected enrollment for the next six years. It showed the student population was expected to double from about 820 to 1640 students. Dr. Vinson explained that they had established a “Supervisory Administration Committee” made up of 24 staff members and citizens, with Mickey Cross representing Elfin Forest, to help explore the issues surrounding selection of a suitable site for the second school.

The results of a preliminary survey of area residents (38% returned; 82% within the RSF Covenant) showed that about 58% supported improvements to the existing R. Roger Rowe School and the purchase of a site in Elfin Forest. There was somewhat less support for a \$32 million bond measure in November that would enable the District to renovate the existing school, build a second school, and acquire a site in Elfin Forest for a future third school.

After much discussion and research, the RSFSD had narrowed the search to two possible sites: the 27-acre Sahn property (parcel numbers 265-380-1000, 265-380-0900, 265-38033-1100, and 265-380-0800), which straddles two school districts, Rancho Santa Fe and Solana Beach, and the nearby 36-acre Quantum property, which is wholly within the RSFSD and also within the Covenant. A possible site for a third school, likely a K-6, within Elfin Forest is the 10-acre Garrison property.

Dr. Vinson said his recommendation was to initiate the process to acquire the Sahn property and to build a K-8 school on the property. That would involve invoking eminent domain because the Sahms do not wish to sell. The RSFSD would also like to renovate the existing Rowe School and acquire a site in Elfin Forest to reserve for future population increases. Dr. Vinson said that a \$32/36 million bond measure would mean about \$600 to \$700 additional dollars each year for a family with a million-dollar estate, and about \$2400 per year for a family with a two million dollar estate. **(Continued on next page)**

**(EF/HG Town Council Meeting Minutes  
continued from previous page)**

Bill Telesco asked whether the RSFSD could be extended to include Harmony Grove. Dr. Vinson replied that as long as the student population was under 900, the District could choose its own boundaries. He said that currently the Board had no plans to enlarge the District. He noted that the RSFSD funding is based on property taxes and does not rely on state funding (which is only \$120 per student) for their budget. They also benefit from an endowment to help keep the class size small. However, because the student population is predicted to exceed 900 within a few years, RSFSD will likely need to address the issue of boundary changes in the near future.

A resident asked whether the facilities for middle school students could be improved. Dr. Vinson said that the renovations will address those issues and would possibly include a new gymnasium if the district could acquire the Dacus property near the existing school for expansion.

Another resident asked about distribution of the endowment finds. Dr. Vinson said current by-laws call for the endowment finds to support only the current school. He said that this was an important issue and would be addressed later.

Evelyn Alemanni asked if Elfin Forest was in danger of being removed from the RSFSD. Dr. Vinson thought that would be extremely unlikely. He concluded by saying that a year 2005 date for the new school opening was likely if the bond issue is approved.

**Item #3:** Nona Barker first thanked Janet McGurk for all her hard work in managing the 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic that went very well and was thoroughly enjoyed by all attending. She next announced that the EF/HG Fire Department had acquired an ambulance and should soon be able to provide ambulance service to residents who are not covered by CSA 17. This means residents in Harmony Grove can now receive ambulance service; obviously a much appreciated and much needed service for this area. (Many thanks to Nona for her efforts to bring this service to Harmony Grove!)

Nona also mentioned that they are forming a Design and Planning Committee to oversee the construction of the new sleeping quarters for the fire station. The

sleeping quarters will allow the EFHG Fire Department to provide 24-hour non-stop service to the area. Any interested resident should inquire about joining the committee that will include the Fire Chief, two Fire Advisory Board members, two fire fighters, and five community members. They hope to start planning in the first week in August and to have an approved plan by November. Nona also cautioned residents to be extremely careful about clearing brush and debris from around their homes because the fire danger is very high this year.

**Item #4:** Nancy Reed reminded residents that the Annual Summer Benefit Concert for The Escondido Creek Conservancy, featuring Berkley Hart, will be held at her home, the Lazy J Ranch in Elfin Forest, on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tickets are \$50 for dinner, the concert, drinks, and dessert. Seating is limited, so contact Nancy quickly to reserve your place at this fun event.

**Item #5:** Evelyn Alemanni reported that the EIR for the San Marcos Landfill closure project would go to the County Board of Supervisors on July 17<sup>th</sup>. You may remember John Rollin from San Diego County telling us that this may involve 800 double-truck trips on Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Roads, depending on the route chosen. Those with concerns should plan on attending this meeting and contact your County Supervisor, Bill Horn or Pam Slater.

**ADJOURNED:** 9:30 p.m.

**Calendar for August 2002**

Date	Time	Event
Tues, 8/7	7: 30 pm	EF/HG Town Council meeting
Tues 8/6, 8/20	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Bookmobile @ Firehouse
Tues 8/7	7 pm	Fire Training @ Firehouse
Every Fri	10 am – noon	Playgroup
Mon 8/5	7:30 pm	Fire Board @ Firehouse
Wed 8/13	7 pm	Fire Training @ Firehouse (check)
Tues 8/14	7 pm	Fire Auxiliary @ Firehouse
Sat 8/17	9 am	Fire Training @ Firehouse

## Homeowner's Insurance Survey

By David Chronshaw

We just got our annual homeowner's and fire insurance renewal statement from State Farm. It's gone up quite a bit from last year and is now almost \$1,500 per year. Earthquake insurance is another \$250. I wonder what other Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove residents are paying and whether people would be willing to share their cost information?

The survey results could be printed in a future edition of the newsletter to find out which company offers the best rates. Let us know your thoughts. Email the newsletter at [alemanni@vicrp.com](mailto:alemanni@vicrp.com).

## Brownies Help Ronald McDonald House

By Lori Clark

Brownie Troop 1120 elected to donate the \$300 profit from their recent cookie sale to Ronald McDonald House. Troop 1120 includes girls from both Elfin Forest and Rancho Santa Fe and is led by Elfin Forest resident Lori Clark.



Pictured above (l-r): Alaina Kammergard, Helena Brantz, Macy Clark, Molly Millar, Nikki Voorhees, Ellen Ziegler, Ashlyn Winberg, Lia Jablonski and Krissy Witous.

## 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](mailto:alemanni@allea.com) to be added to the list. Cost for the PDF version is free to regular "hardcopy" subscribers and only \$10.00/year to receive the PDF version only.

## Topiary Dinosaurs

By Charles Coburn

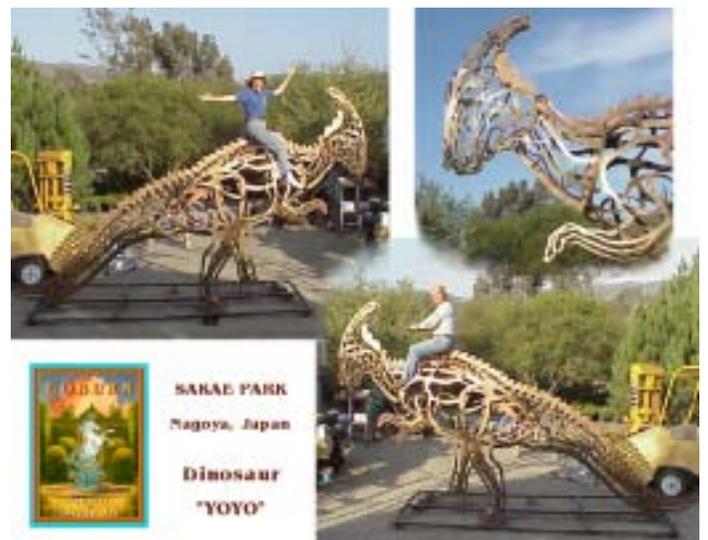
Two life sized Parasaurolophus dinosaurs were just completed by Elfin Forest based Coburn Topiary and Garden Art for permanent display at Sakae Park, in Nagoya, Japan. Dorio, the mother dinosaur is 17 feet high and 34 feet in length. YOYO, her son, stands 9 feet high and is 16 feet in length.

Jennifer Coburn developed conceptual drawings using Adobe Illustrator software. She completed the detailed design work using AutoCAD. Finally, the design files were translated into the machine code used by a computer-controlled cutting system to cut out the dinosaurs' steel skeletons.

From the massive bones of their legs and pelvises to their relatively thin, hand formed skins, nature was the model for their design. As assembled topiary forms, the dinosaurs are too large for sea going containers so they were designed with bolted joints at their heads, midsections, tails, and legs. The completed dinosaurs were zinc coated, then bronze painted and given patina highlights.

Because plants cannot be exported from America to Japan, planting will take place there with some guidance. Japanese Yew specimens were selected from Japanese nurseries using digital photos of potential plants.

The entire park project will be completed and open to the public in October 2002.



Elfin Forest residents Jennifer and Charles Coburn astride their creation, YOYO.

## Firefighter of the Year

### Chief Frank Twohy

By Deputy Chief John Hershfeld

Historically the award Firefighter of the year has been awarded to a good solid firefighter who has gone beyond the norm. This usually means the completion of a project, the implementation of a new policy or the improvement of an existing situation. It has almost always meant the commitment of more of their time. You can look around the station and find their “signature” on what they accomplished.

The firefighter of the year is selected by previous Firefighters of the Years. The past award recipients voted for Chief Twohy because of a long list of service and accomplishments:

- Joined the department in 1982.
- Became Chief in 1992.
- Guided the build out of current station.
- Upgraded the brush trucks
- Board member of the Task Force on Fire Protection and Emergency Services.
- Instrumental in establishing the Task Force Trust Fund Grant program by which rural fire agencies received complete packages of rescue and vehicle extrication equipment.
- Completed the 15-year financial plan for the fire department.
- Authored Proposition S – that led to the passage of the benefit fee increase.
- Authored grants that resulted in the purchase of new trucks and equipments.
- Founding and still member of the Elfin Forest Community Foundation

What the rank and file say about Chief Twohy:

- A dedicated, contributing member.
- Someone we can depend on being there.
- Frank has made great effort to be there regularly and his contribution, if not here is greatly missed.
- Frank has gone beyond what his job entails.
- He has done more work this year on our behalf and the communities’ behalf than ever before in recorded history.
- Frank is certainly deserving and it should be recognized.
- We are blessed to have Frank as our Chief

- He is the cornerstone of this department and without him we would not be where we are today.
- We are lucky to have him at the helm, and we should recognize him for being not only the professional that he is, but also such a good person. Always understanding, always there.
- He’s not only my Chief, he’s my best friend and hero!
- What our Chief is, is what we are. Hail to the Chief.

What the neighbors say about Chief Twohy:

- From our observations as next-door neighbors to Frank for some 20 odd years, his concerns for friends and neighbors go beyond his duties as Fire Chief. He has been ready and willing to assist in times of need and has offered help and friendship many times over. Obviously we think he is a really nice guy to know. - Myrna and Joe Rife
- I remember when Frank was teaching me to drive 2861 – in 1985; he was very brave and very compassionate. I succeeded in learning to drive that truck. - Betsy Keithley, Retired Firefighter



Firefighter of the Year, Chief Frank Twohy, accompanied by wife Gail Twohy and Fire Board Chairwoman Nona Barker accepting the citation proclaiming Sunday, June 30, 2002 as “Chief Frank Twohy Appreciation Day.”

## University Commons Contact

If you need to report any problems with the University Commons project that is currently in progress along San Elijo and Rancho Santa Fe Rds, please call David Poole at 858-481-8500.

## To Frank Twohy from Gail

By Gail Twohy

In reminiscing about Frank's varied path through life, I'm brought back to our college days. Frank's beloved Uncle Dan had taken us under his wing. Besides having a huge heart, Dan was gifted with true Irish wit and a way with words. I remember him once referring to Frank as the "peripatetic plumber". It proved to be a prophetic title. Plumbing is how Frank earned part of his college expenses. It's what he fell back on after college when a major in history led nowhere. It's the reason Sea World hired him. And Sea World led him to "peripatetic" times in his life.

Frank worked with birds at Sea World for 18 years. He has an incredible ability to know just what an animal needs. Frank raised birds that had never been successfully hand reared before. He developed formulas purely by instinct. He became a penguin expert in his own right. Penguins were hatched for the first time in captivity as a result of his care. And the adventures began, with Frank traveling to Antarctica on several occasions to collect penguins. Soon he had visited more countries than he had states. Peripatetic indeed!

Frank not only had a way with animals, he has a way with people as well. Corporate Sea World hardly knew what a make of a Curator who asked for input from all of his staff. He has never been a "from the top down" kind of leader (and aren't we all glad of it!), but a leader he is. Always ready to jump in and help, but ever-mindful not to step on anyone's toes, he inevitably endears himself to others. This is how he became a back-up usher at church- never mind that he is in shorts and not dressed for the part. He is also affectionately known at church as the "Minister of Fire". Not because of his role in the Fire Department but because he always prepares the fire that is part of the Easter Vigil service. Do I detect a trend here? Let's see, he loves to barbeque, we heat our house with a wood-burning stove, and we had a hot bath heated by a wood-burning stove. I think perhaps the fire department is a fit! I also feel comfortable in saying that he is a fit in this community, for which he works so very hard. And I know he's a fit in my life!!!

I love you Frank!  
Gail

## Look What We Have

By Nona Barker



The EF/HG Fire Department Inc. has been concerned with the lack of Paramedic services to a portion of its response area. Harmony Grove area west to the high 8000 block of Harmony Grove Road is the only area west of I15 whose residents are not currently served with paramedic service. Currently the area must rely on private basic life support (BLS) ambulance service for transporting patients to a hospital. BLS service itself is not bad. It's the time it takes a private ambulance to respond to the emergency.

Your fire department along with San Diego County Emergency Medical Service (SDCEMS) and County Service Area (CSA) 17 has been working on a plan to remedy this situation. Who are these folks? SDCEMS is the County's governing body for emergency medical services. They set the protocols, rules and regulations for all emergency care in the County. CSA 17 is a special district created 30 years ago to provide emergency medical care to a large portion of North County. Not all of CSA 107(EF/HG Fire service area) was included in CSA 17.

For the past year, the Fire Department has been working with the above entities and concluded the best way to begin and guarantee BLS ambulance service was for EF/HG Fire Department Inc. to staff its own BLS ambulance. As of July, we now have our own BLS ambulance. Although we already house the ambulance, it will not be ready to respond for a few months. Insurance issues, drivers license and training for the firefighters in proper use must be completed. The firefighters have just completed an Emergency Medical Technician I class to prepare for the arrival of this ambulance.

Gwen Jones of SDCEMS and the Chiefs of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department were instrumental in securing this ambulance for our fire department. We are fortunate to have them on our side.

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## Emergency Med Techs Graduate

By John Hershfeld

In May of 2002 Chief Frank Twohy implemented a plan to have a 140-hour California certified EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) class held at the EF/HG Fire Department. This course benefited five EF/HG firefighters (including myself) and ten other persons from as far away as Riverside County. Mitch Lee, a principal in Heart Start Inc., and formally a paramedic with the Vista Fire Department instructed this class. Mitch Lee was an excellent instructor. EMTs are the highest recognized State certified medical personnel below Paramedics in the state of California. The class hours are somewhat misleading. They do not include study time. The overall commitment was probably closer to three times that amount which means each member of the class devoted over 420 hours. Personal desire to enroll was to better serve our community with a higher level of medical competency and to operate our new ambulance.

We now have over 90% of our staff at EMT or higher. Do me a favor and contact the following people directly to thank them for their help in supporting our community: Mike Sampson 744-8575, Nona Barker 471-5559, Tim Costanzo 744-1377, Bethany Love 597-1710, and Mike Holmes 591-9010.

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## Wild Land Fire Web Sites

By Nona Barker

These web sites contain interesting facts and statistics about this year's wild land fires. The first is a link to the National Interagency Fire Center site. These are the folks that manage and keep track of all large fires in the USA and whose reporting and weather reports are the best: <http://www.nifc.gov>

The current wild land fire situation report can be found at this link on the same National Interagency Fire Center site. It's very easy to use. The fires in each state are listed with all their statistics. Some of the larger fires have their own web sites: <http://www.nifc.gov/fireinfo/nfn.html>

Finally, this is the Hayman Fire web site. If you don't want to look around the others, just go here: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/fire/haymen/index/html>

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## Current EF/HG Fire Department Roster



Engineer – EMT	Nona T. Barker
Captain	Steve Barker
Firefighter– EMT	Tim Costanzo
Head Mechanic	Chuck Daniel
Deputy Chief– EMT	John Hershfeld
Firefighter– EMT	Michael Holmes
Engineer	David Jones
Driver Operator	Bob Kephart
Captain– EMT	Darrin Lee
Firefighter– EMT	Bethany Love
Firefighter	Byron Macfarlane
Firefighter– EMT	Dave C. McQuead
Accountant	John Merli
Firefighter– EMT	Ryan Parker
Captain– EMT	Dawn Pettijohn
Driver Operator	John Rayes
Driver Operator– EMT	Mike Sampson
Firefighter– EMT	Pablo Scheibe
Firefighter– EMT	Grenville D. Smith
Firefighter– EMT	Matthew Terwilliger
Chief– EMT	Frank Twohy

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## Turtle Sighting

By Leonard Wittwer

The Escondido Creek Conservancy has received reports of turtle sightings at the Arizona crossing on Suerte Del Este. These creatures are probably Southwestern Pond Turtles, a native species and quite rare. The pond just upstream of the crossing is good turtle habitat; they like the combination of calm water with shade. Pond turtles were present at this location in the past, but weren't sighted during all the pipeline construction of the last few years. With construction winding down, the turtles have apparently returned. They sometimes sun themselves on the bank, so be careful when driving across the creek. If you happen to see one, rejoice at your good luck, but don't bother it - Southwestern Pond Turtles are fully protected by state law.

## Design Committee Being Formed

In keeping with the EF/HG Fire Department Inc. fifteen-year financial plan, time has come to begin the planning of the new sleeping quarters/house for firefighters. This is the first step towards the community having a station manned full time.

The Fire Department's Board of Directors is looking for community residents interested in helping with this process by forming a short-term committee. The first meeting will be mid August.

This Design Committee will consist of:

- Chief Frank Twohy
- 2 Fire Advisory Board members
- 2 Firefighters
- 5 Community members

The ultimate goal is an approved design plan for adoption by the EF/HG Fire Department Inc. Board of Directors at its November 11, 2002 board meeting. The committee will report directly to the EF/HG Fire Department Board. Several issues have already been adopted:

- The sleeping quarters must look like a home and fit with the surrounding area.
- The home shall be fire safe and water and energy efficient.
- The home shall be two stories.

Duties will include:

- Creating a goal calendar.
- Research of the various layouts of other stations (minus the truck bay) including but not limited to: Kitchen, bathroom, day rooms, meeting room, offices, laundry facilities, fire safe materials and design features.

Eric Anderson, Donald and Leslie Harris and Janet McGurk have already joined this Design Committee. Please contact Chief Frank Twohy 471-8825 or Nona Barker 471-5559 to reserve your seat on this committee.

## Town Council Website

The Elfin Forest Website is up and running, and being improved every week. Check it out at:

**[www.efhgtc.org](http://www.efhgtc.org)**

You can list your business in the Links section for only \$10 per year!

## Fire Department Seeks Volunteers

The EF/HG Fire Department Inc. is currently seeking volunteers to fill the following two support positions that do not require responding as a firefighter to emergencies:

### EF/HG Communication Specialist

Maintains emergency communication equipment in good working order, controls inventory and oversees the communications budget. Handles the repair, maintenance, upgrade and replacement of the communication equipment. This equipment includes: 800 MHz and VHF radios (built-ins, portables and base units), pagers, emergency lights, sirens, cell phones, antennas, and headsets. Does not require FCC certification or specialized electronics training.

### Station (Building) Manager

Responsibilities include: budget, meeting room schedules, direction of the cleaning service, trash and recycling, and the maintenance of fixtures, heating and plumbing, appliances and alarm system.

These positions report directly to the Chief. If interested contact Chief Frank Twohy 471-8825.

## Elf Alerts

Are you getting your Elf Alert? If you recently changed your email address, you are missing out.

Elf Alerts are email notices about issues that need your immediate attention. They don't replace the newsletter, but supplement it.

If you are not receiving your Elf Alerts, please send your email address to [alemanni@allea.com](mailto:alemanni@allea.com) and ask to be added to the list. Don't worry, the emails are sent as blind CCs, so your address is not made public, and we don't share the list with ANYONE.



## Commonly Used Fire Terminology

By Nona Barker

**Containment:** A fire is contained when it is surrounded on all sides by some kind of boundary but is still burning and has the potential to jump a boundary line. The boundary may be a “fire line” which is a strip of area where the vegetation has been removed to deny the fire fuel, or a river, a freeway or some other barrier that is expected to stop the fire. Hose lines from fire engines may also contribute to a fire being surrounded and contained.

**Control:** A fire is controlled when there is no further threat of it jumping a containment line. While crews continue to do mop-up work within the fire lines, the fire is over.

**Out:** The fire is out when mop up is finished and all crews can be released.

**Initial Attack:** This means the first attack on the fire. The number of resources sent on the first dispatch to a wildfire depends upon the location of the fire, the fuels in the area (vegetation, timber, homes, etc) and current weather conditions. Municipal fire departments would call this the first alarm. Most fires are caught within the first burn period (the first two hours). Therefore, the vast majority of the fires CDF responds to are considered initial attack fires.

**Extended Attack:** This is when the fire has burned beyond the area or building of origin, and beyond the initial attack phase, and additional resources are called. If the fire cannot be confined in the area or building of origin even with a substantial addition of resources, and a long-term resource commitment and logistical support will be required, then it is considered a major attack or a major fire.

**Air Attack:** This means support of the ground forces from the air by aircraft. Air attack planes fly overhead directing the air tankers and helicopters to critical areas of the fire for retardant and water drops. CDF has 13 air attack and nine heli-attack bases located statewide. Aircraft can reach any fire within 20 minutes and can access areas too steep, rocky or unsafe for ground forces to gain entry. CDF is responsible for 23 air tankers, 11 helicopters and 17 air attack aircraft.

**CDF Fire Crew:** The California Department of Forestry (CDF) maintains 195 fire crews, housed in 41 Conservation Camps and Fire Centers throughout

the state. A CDF fire crew consists of a fire captain and 15 to 17 firefighters. The firefighters that make up these crews are minimum-security inmates and wards from the California Department of Corrections (CDC) and the California Youth Authority (CYA). In addition, CDF, in cooperation with the California Conservation Corps (CCC), operates two Fire Centers utilizing corps member firefighters. A CDF fire captain directly supervises these fire crews. CDF fire crews are the infantry of the Department’s firefighting “ground attack” resources. Their primary function is to construct fire line by hand in areas where heavy machinery cannot be used because of steep topography, rocky terrain, or areas that may be considered environmentally sensitive.

## CDF Adopts San Diego County's Defensible Space Clearances

By Nona Barker

On October 10, 2001, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors’ then-Chairman Bill Horn wrote a letter to the California Department of Forestry (CDF) Director, Andrea Tuttle, requesting the CDF to exercise its authority to enforce the flammable vegetation clearance ordinances that require clearance beyond 30 feet (PRC 4291 (b)). This would allow SDU to perform fire prevention inspections using the County standard of 100-feet where possible.

Due to significant damage to structures and property in San Diego County (i.e. the January 2000 Viejas Fire, \$8 million to fight, >10,000 acres, 29 homes and other structures, \$2 million in property damage), the County Board of Supervisors enacted an ordinance to clear flammable vegetation out to 100 feet from structures to reduce damage caused by wild land fires.

Supervisor Horn, on behalf of the citizens living in unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego, urged CDF to initiate steps to develop an agreement that would permit CDF to enforce the 100-foot vegetation clearance ordinance as adopted on October 17, 2001.

On March 13, 2002, CDF Deputy Director James Wright responded to Supervisor Bill Horn’s letter for Director Tuttle accepting his recommendations.

## Diesel Spill in Escondido Creek

On June 21<sup>st</sup> a tandem fuel tanker truck on Harmony Grove Road headed to the Elfin Forest Dam site rolled over when the driver took a curve too fast spilling 2500 gallons of diesel fuel onto the road and into Escondido Creek. A unified response that included quick action by our EF/HG Fire Department was able to contain much of the spill but a good deal of fuel made its way into the creek.

The California State Department of Fish and Game and The Escondido Creek Conservancy have been sampling the Creek water to determine the extent of the damage.

No one was injured in the accident. Cost of the cleanup (borne by the insurance company for Meyers Tank Lines) is expected to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

## Snake Wrangling Tool

By Joe Alemanni

Nothing invokes more anxiety than the telltale sound of a rattlesnake that is searching your yard for its next meal. Neighbors have shocked me with stories of their bitten animals and young children naively trying to caress their newfound "pet."

Our Fire Department will respond to snake calls but immediate action is sometimes required. An essential purchase we made years ago was a pair of snake tongs. Snake tongs are specially designed tools for firmly grasping snakes without causing injury. They come in lengths up to 72" for the more squeamish. Prices range from \$30-\$100 and they can be found for purchase at <http://www.snaketongs.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.

## Caffeine Repels Slugs

Instead of capturing slugs with beer, try offering them some coffee! Research scientists in Hawaii found that spray solutions containing as low as .01 percent caffeine deterred slug activity, and solutions containing 1 to 2 percent caffeine killed slugs. This supports the idea of using coffee grounds to kill slugs--brewed coffee (as opposed to instant coffee) contains more than .05 percent caffeine. If slugs are a problem in your garden, try spraying full-strength brewed coffee in the worst areas. Take care, though. Toxicologists believe the caffeine may be just as harmful to beneficial insects.

## chaparral Advertising

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To renew your advertising, send a JPG format file and a check for the advertising. See rates below. Send your check, payable to the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council, 20223 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest, Ca. 92029.

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	<b>One-time rates:</b>	<b>Yearly rates:</b>
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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 - must be resubmitted every 3 months.



## 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

## News from Questhaven Retreat



Sunday worship is at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome.

**Questhaven Retreat is located at**  
20560 Questhaven Road.  
760-744-1500.

[www.questhaven.org](http://www.questhaven.org).

**Study groups** meet on weeknights. Please call the office for times and locations.

### Weekly - Meditation

*Wednesday at 7:15 p.m.*

*Meet at El Chapelito, Led by Jean Michalewicz.*

The Way Within Meditation Classes

*1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 12:00 Noon*

*Meet in the Academy, Led by Rev. Phyllis Isaac.*

Exploration in Prayer Classes

*2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 12:00 Noon*

*Meet in the Academy, Led by Rev. Elizabeth Wood.*

### Sunday Services

**August 4 - The Stepping Stones of Experience**

Rev. Elizabeth Wood

**August 11 - Sacred Connections**

Evelyn Alemanni

**August 18 - Art as Awakener**

Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

**August 25 - The Search for Our Becoming**

Anne Hubbell

## Elfin Forest Ladies Bunco Night

By Lori Clark

The next Potluck-Bunco Party is scheduled for Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7pm-10pm at Rachel Barnes' home. Whether you're new to Elfin Forest, a long-time resident or somewhere in between, you're invited to socialize with neighbors and play Bunco for fun and prizes. Please plan to bring a \$5 bill, a potluck dish, and beverage to share. Ladies Bunco Night happens on the 4th Friday of each month (provided we have a volunteer to host). Please contact Rachel at 471-4300 to RSVP and get directions. To volunteer to host, please contact Lori Clark at Tel: (760) 510-2001 or Email: [clark-17@ix.netcom.com](mailto:clark-17@ix.netcom.com)

## August Playgroup Schedule

By Toni Fairman

August 2, 10:00 am: Playgroup at the Children's Museum of San Diego, 200 West Island Avenue, San Diego. Younger children tend to paint themselves so dress your children and yourself in old clothing.

Directions - 5 North, Exit Front Street, Go all the way through downtown toward water, Right on Island Avenue, Park in metered area. 619-233-8792

Saturday, August 10, 1:00 pm: Kevin's 4th birthday party at the home of Mary Moore, 19919 Fortuna del Este, 591-3080. It's a swim party so bring your swim gear! Please RSVP.

August 16, 10:00 am: Playgroup at Stagecoach Park.

August 23, 10:00 am: Playgroup at San Dieguito Park in Solana Beach. Directions - 5 South, Exit Lomas Santa Fe, Go East, Left on Highland, Park is on your right, \$2 park fee.

August 30, 12:00 noon: Playgroup at the home of Michele Sidwell, 6856 Los Vientos Serenos, 471-8877

With summer and more free time, we can get the kids together more often. In August, we will meet at Leo Mullins Park (Target) every Tuesday at 10 am.

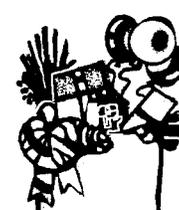
Happy 4th Birthday to Kevin Moore, Danielle Fredericks and Bailey Fredericks!!

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The Escondido Creek Conservancy  
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**619.368.5650 cell**

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 Other references upon request

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## Elfin Forest Classified

### Local Baby, Animal and House Sitters

Brittany York - EF Resident, RSF School 9th grader, 1yr experience. Tel: 760-752-7784

Aubrey Brennecke - EF Resident, High School student - 10th Grade. Tel: 752-9988.

Megan McLaughlin -EF Resident, Rancho Encinitas Academy 8th grader, infant CPR trained. Tel: 760-744-3664.

**Custom Home Site:** 9.25 acres in Harmony Grove. Panoramic Views! Ready to build. \$189,900. For sale by owner. Details online at [www.lot4sale.info](http://www.lot4sale.info). 760-471-7224.

**For Sale:** Yanmar 27hp 4WD tractor. PTO, 1/3 cubic yard front loader, 4' brush hog, box, rippers. 150 hrs since new. \$7500. Jan Gary, 804-0300, 801-2301.

**Live In Help:** Mature person needed immediately for light housekeeping, cooking. Live in. References required. 510-9998.

**Pet care:** Need someone for daily care of dogs, goat, and horses. 510-9998.

**Local Elfin Forest Carpenter for hire:** 25 years experience... Call Jamie at 591-0348

## Got Dust?

If you are experiencing problems with dust from any of the grading going on, report the problem to the county Air Pollution Control District. 858-650-4550. Contractors who are not in compliance with air pollution control regulations may be cited and fined.



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## Dam! Dangerous Traffic on Harmony Grove Road

PLEASE report any unsafe drivers to the sheriff. For other problems with the dam project, contact:

**Olivenhain Dam Hotline**  
**877-426-2010**

**Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board members:** Evelyn Alemanni 471-7224, Mid Hoppenrath 747-1145, Nancy Reed 471-7933, Bill Telesco 746-4692, Janet McGurk 471-0831, Patti Newton 471-8937, Eric Anderson 471-1464, you?

The Elfin Forest 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 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 Town Council, 20223 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest, CA 92029. For subscription or address label corrections, send email to [Alemanni@allea.com](mailto:Alemanni@allea.com) or call Joe Alemanni 471-7224.

Articles of up to 500 words should be sent to Joe Alemanni by email to [alemanni@vicrp.com](mailto: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.

The Board gratefully acknowledges efforts of Joe and Evelyn Alemanni for editing, producing and distributing this newsletter.