



*Dedicated to a Continuing Rural Atmosphere*

**From The Chair**

by Doug Dill

I hope all of you can attend the Wednesday, May 2nd Town Council meeting. A very special guest, our District 3 representative on the County Board of Supervisors, the Honorable Supervisor Pam Slater, will be our guest speaker.

Note that because of Supervisor Slater's schedule, the meeting will start promptly at 7:00 P.M. Please plan to be at the fire station by 6:45 P.M.

I anticipate, Supervisor Slater will share with us her position on the issues that concern this community. Such as:

- stronger policies in the 2020 plan that protect our rural life style
- preservation of CSA 107 and the viability of the EF/HG Fire Volunteer Department
- fighting off threats of annexation from San Marcos and Escondido
- protecting our community from higher density development
- maintaining the rural character of our roads
- mandate purchase of open space mitigation land in CSA 107 by EF/HG developers
- expedite completion of the Twin Oaks Valley Road extension into San Elijo Hills project
- increase CHP patrol coverage in Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest
- encourage development of EF/HG trails through county-sponsored incentives for landowners to allow right of use as well as allocating funding for maintenance

I strongly urge ALL EF/HG residences to attend! A strong turn out will show Supervisor Slater that we as a community are concerned about these and other issues that need her attention and support.

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**Be sure to pay attention to the this month's insert from the EF/HG Fire Dept. It concerns their future and the future of the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove communities.**

## May is National Wetlands Month

By Deborah LeLevier

In honor of National Wetlands Month, TECC is intensifying its efforts to find even more ways to preserve and protect the Escondido Creek in perpetuity. TECC promises to continue fund raising for acquisition and preservation, restoration of its two riparian parcels, educating the public, and working with legislators. TECC will not only work independently but in concert with its watershed community partners such as the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, the Carlsbad Watershed Network, and the Wetlands Recovery Project.

Efforts may involve something as simple as encouraging members to get out and enjoy the areas we all work so hard to protect. TECC's members understand the integral role of wetlands and are alarmed by their increasing scarcity; this May, honor wetlands through sharing your appreciation and knowledge with your family, friends and neighbors. Take the opportunity to introduce them to the natural beauty of the Escondido Creek; go on a hike, bird watching, or pack a creek side picnic. There is no better way to develop that knowledge and understanding than to experience it firsthand.

More than half our national wetlands have been destroyed since the mid-19th century. Sadly, the 20th century showed just as much disregard. Population explosion, unchecked development, and urbanization continue to ravage waterways as though it was without consequence. Unbelievably, it remains a difficult concept to grasp and convey that wetlands are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also act as a vital, natural filtration and flood prevention system.

When we bury streams and rivers under concrete the consequences are severe and lasting. Appreciation of the biodiversity they support go by the wayside, as do populations of indigenous birds, fish, mam-

mals, and plants. Costly, accelerated flood damage and urban runoff are two by-products of this loss. Water quality and the general quality of life declines -- repeated beach closures affect local residents and devastate tourism and our local economy.

TECC endeavors to make this a truly new millennium by working to make sure we can all help stem the tide of degradation. Let May be the kickoff month for daily, concerted efforts to be aware of our impact on the environment. With fewer wetlands to save, the problem has become even more acute. California's new, stricter laws regulating storm water runoff are a promising step in the right direction. Cognizant of the causes and consequences of contamination, these laws have sharp teeth that can inflict serious pain on those who fail to comply.

On May 2, 2001, TECC, along with three other local conservancies, will be honored for its wetlands work by Supervisor Pam Slater at the County Board of Supervisors' meeting. TECC is proud to stand up and be counted among those who share the same vision.

## chaparral by e-mail?

by David Cronshaw

If you're not already receiving a **full color** copy of the *chaparral* by email, **in addition** to the regular hard copy, send an email note to **efchaparral@yahoo.com** and I'll add you to the list.



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## EF News

by Evelyn Alemanni

### Community Meeting

For our May meeting, we are privileged to have County Supervisor Pam Slater as our guest speaker. Her topic will be "Preserving our Quality of Life."

To accommodate Supr. Slater's busy schedule, we will start the meeting promptly at 7 p.m. Please try to arrive early. We have also invited all the members of the Olivenhain Town Council to join us for this meeting, since we have so many issues in common. Please tell your neighbors to come, too.

### Elf Alerts

Are you getting your Elf Alert? If you recently changed your email address, you might be 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 them, please send your email address to Alemanni@allea.com and ask to be put on 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!

### Garden Club

Join us at the home and vineyard of John and Carol Rayes on Fortuna del Sur on the 19th of May. You'll get to see not only vineyard, but the flower garden, vegetable garden and Shed, followed by a walk around the property to see Elfin Forests' natural garden plants! Remember to wear good shoes for walking 7 acres!

Want to host a meeting? Contact Evelyn Alemanni, 471-7224 or Alemanni@allea.com

### Pet is home alone tag

A few months ago, the Animal Rescue people spoke at the town council meeting. One of the important suggestions they had was to carry a card in your wallet that tells about any animals you have at home. If you become ill or injured, the card can indicate the person to contact to care for your pets. The card should include the following information: Name, address, phone, pets, species, vet's name and phone, special diet, other.

### What if there were no trails?

For years, people in this community have worked hard to create a network of trails for the enjoyment of equestrians and pedestrians alike. Individual property owners have granted access across their properties to accommodate their neighbors. In addition, an established trails committee, ably headed by Phillip Brailsford, has worked with the Elfin Forest Community Foundation to obtain grants and install fencing along the trails.

So far, so good. But recently, since the "motocross" on San Elijo (Questhaven) Rd. closed, we've had many incidents of dirt bikes and four wheelers on the trails. Even Elfin Forest residents!

Please remember that motorized vehicles damage the trails and are not compatible with horses. Some people think that if they are only going a few hundred yards to a friend's home in the valley, it won't matter if they take their dirt bike on the trail. WRONG! All it takes is for someone driving on the road to notice and tell their friends. Before you know it, Elfin Forest could turn into the biggest motocross in the county. Then, people will again fence their entire properties, making it difficult or impossible to have a nice, long ride.

When you see a motorized vehicle on a trail, take the time to speak with the rider and explain the rules. We can't count on the sheriff or CHP for enforcement, it is our responsibility.

### The Wild West

Some of the newcomers to Elfin Forest and the unincorporated area seem to think that they can leave their common sense in the city. They also seem to think that the county has fewer rules to follow - that unincorporated equals Wild West and anything goes. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Town Council members often receive calls from residents complaining about violations. The Town Council has no authority to enforce violations - you need to call the County Department of Land Use, Zoning Enforcement, Health Department or other related agency. The people are generally helpful and well informed.

If you are new to the area, here are just a few of the items you should be aware of. These are all issues on which town council members have received calls, so we thought it would be a good idea to share the details with everyone.

See EF News, page 4

## **EF News, from page 3**

**Roads** - Because we live in an unincorporated area, we have to pay for the maintenance of our private roads. Many of our private roads have established road maintenance committees.

**Septic** - Although we don't pay for sewer, it is each homeowner's responsibility to assure that they maintain their own septic system, to prevent overflows, and to prevent system failure which can be extremely expensive.

**Grading** - Another area that is often disregarded is grading ordinances. Did you know that if you are moving more than 100 cubic yards of earth, you need a grading permit? And when you grade, you should keep in mind not only what you're doing to your property, but what the affect is on your neighbor and any adjoining waterways, seasonal creeks, springs, and so on. Does your grading route water onto the road? Will it undermine any paving? Did you know that you are required to have a water truck available to minimize the dust? And that there are limits to the hours of operation for equipment?

**Signs** - Did you know that the county has a sign ordinance? That you must check with the county before putting up a sign?

**Driveways** - Driveways must be approved by the county. There is an important reason for this. While traffic emerging onto a small, private road is not a major issue, the placement of driveways onto busy roads like Elfin Forest Rd. is critically important because of line-of-sight impacts. You don't want to put a driveway where oncoming traffic can't see you pull in or out.

**Building permits** - Building permits are important, too. All of the above items may seem trivial or even a nuisance, but if you violate county ordinances, the county has the option of requiring you to restore the property to its original condition. Besides that, when you go to sell your home, you may be asked to provide proof that you had building permits and other approvals for the modifications you have made.

If you're unsure about the rules, check **FIRST!** Your Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Community Guide and the government section of the phone book have a complete listing of phone numbers to call.

## **Why a Town Council?**

What is the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council?

It is a volunteer organization (501c3 non-profit corporation) that has existed for more than 22 years. It is open to all the residents and property owners of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. It serves as the voice and watchdog of the people in the community, and at its monthly meetings provides a forum for issues of importance to the community. It is managed by a seven member board of directors.

## **Why is a town council needed?**

For representation. Because we live in an unincorporated area, we have no city council to turn to. Since the town council's inception, we have had to fight projects like the landfill expansion, incinerator, mulch processing plants, sludge treatment plants, freeways through our community, just to name a few. We believe that our area needs to retain its rural character, and to do that, we all need to be aligned to that purpose and vision.

## **How does the town council accomplish its goals?**

We communicate with you through our monthly newsletter, the Chaparral, through emailed "Elf Alerts", through monthly community meetings, and by phone calls from your block captains. As a voice before the county and surrounding cities, we express strong leadership and a "can do" attitude. We are known for our ability to rally the strong support of the entire community for issues that affect us.

## **When does the town council meet?**

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the fire station.

## **How much does it cost?**

It's **FREE!!!!** It costs nothing to participate in the town council. But not participating will cost you the quality of life you now enjoy. The town council is funded through your subscription to this newsletter, by the sale of community guides, and the sale of other gift items such as mugs, decals, and other items.

Any contribution you make to the town council is tax deductible. Contributions help support the various costs associated with the many projects in which we are involved. By participating, you will become better informed and become involved in preserving our community's character. You will have an opportunity to work with outstanding citizens and com-

**See EF News (2), page 4**

## **EF News (2), from page 3**

munity leaders who care deeply about Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard and to make a difference.

Smart Growth for Californians AND Wildlife: A Call To Action

The Planning and Conservation League Foundation (Carlsbad CEQA Workshop organizer) and the National Wildlife Federation proudly announce our 2001 symposium and workshop - Smart Growth for Californians AND Wildlife: A Call To Action - to take place May 19-20 at the University of California, San Diego.

Come and learn how you can make a difference in your community and save California's wildlife and natural resources from urban sprawl.

Leading experts from around the state will highlight funding options to reduce traffic congestion and will let you know how to get involved with regional transportation planning. Information that they share will also help give you a voice in the development of growth plans that will accommodate an estimated 1 million new residents in the San Diego region by the year 2020 - growth that will undoubtedly affect your quality of life!

Additional panels and workshops during the day and a half conference will update you on California's energy crunch, discuss how we can improve our water quality, and teach you how to have an active role in shaping California's environmental legislation. Sessions will also address solutions to California's water wars, explain how to take advantage of funds available from Propositions 12 and 13 to support your local park and water projects, and provide you with the information that you need to apply for California's new tax credit for land conservation law.

You won't want to miss this empowering weekend of panels, workshops and speakers. Come meet active citizens and state and local officials, browse displays from environmental organizations, agencies and businesses, and test-drive an electric or natural gas vehicle!

Registration on Saturday is \$60 and Sunday is \$25. Sign up before April 20 to receive \$5 off for each day registered. Students may attend for free with a valid student ID. Please order your meals separately. Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday are each \$5, Saturday lunch is \$10, and dinner on Saturday is \$16. The registration deadline is Friday, May 11, 2001.

Visit [www.nwf.org/smartgrowth/sdsymp.html](http://www.nwf.org/smartgrowth/sdsymp.html) or [www.pcl.org](http://www.pcl.org) for the latest symposium information and to register on-line. Questions? Please call Jennifer Palyash, PCLF Conference Coordinator at (916) 313-4516 or e-mail her at [jpalyash@pcl.org](mailto:jpalyash@pcl.org).

## **The Elfin Forest experience?**

**II Corinthians 4:8-9** - We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.

## **Pancake Breakfast**

**Betsy Keithley**

Please save May 19 for a local pancake breakfast at the Fire Station prepared by the members of the Fire Auxiliary. There will be plenty of pancakes, scrambled eggs and other egg delicacies prepared by the Fire Auxiliary chefs. There will also be fresh fruit, ham and beverages.

Festivities will begin at 8:00 and last until 11:00. I recommend getting there early while the best kinds of eggs are still fresh. Visit with your friends and neighbors and have a relaxing morning. See you there.

## **Playgroup Schedule**

**by Toni Fairman**

May 4th - La Costa Canyon Park

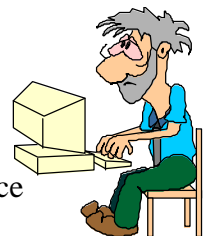
May 11th - Zana Parman's House, 19856 Fortuna del Este, 752-9599. Celebrate Paetyn's 3rd birthday party.

May 18th - Julie Fredericks House, 20257 Elfin Forest Road, 591-9360. Start time is 11:00am instead of the usual 10:00am.

May 25th - Toni Fairman's House, 7040 Elfin Oaks Road, 471-0875.

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## From the Internet

### Airplane Jokes

All too rarely, airline attendants make an effort to make the in-flight "safety lecture" and their other announcements a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

On a Continental Flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."

On landing the stewardess said, "Please be sure to take all your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."

As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Washington National, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker, "Whoa, Big Fella. WHOA!"

After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."

From a Southwest Airlines employee: "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight XXX to YYY. To operate

your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, > >and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."

In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with more than one small child pick your favorite.

Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."

"Your seat cushions can be used as flotation devices; and, in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."

"Should the cabin lose pressure, oxygen masks will drop from the overhead area. Please place the bag over your own mouth and nose before assisting children... or other adults acting like children."

"As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

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## Between The Lines

by Kim Hunter

Jeff O'Conner of San Elijo told me April 9th that only about 30 San Elijo homes have actually closed escrow and are now occupied, yet a recent San Elijo prospective buyer E says all but a few of 140 home available are "sold". (Obviously sold within marketing propaganda means Interested.) Jeez, there were some 130 or so little red "sold" buttons on paper maps back in November. So the question is, did those red buttons induce the true 30ish to put up funds in belief that by sheer luck a button opened for them the day they joined a waiting list or have 130 families been waiting anxiously for occupancy certification for over 4 months?

How many of the 30 are made up of "Geeze we owe you big time" friends like Hal Martin. Wonder if he's moved in yet.(yes San Marcos council member, Hal, champion of San Elijo was overheard complaining about San Elijo delays after he sold his mobile home and was waiting beyond promise date to move into his new San Elijo home.) Now just how Hal managed to shrug the mobile home life and afford a larger San Elijo home mortgage with additional baggage of San Elijo mello-roos fees, San Elijo homeowner fees, property taxes and increased energy bills is suggestive. Is this his final San Elijo reward? Doubt it. There are more San Elijo council votes to come, and I bet he will soon also earn rewards by over-ruling San Elijo home owners through the SE's homeowner's association.

Jeff also said San Elijo is now selling Phase 2's 6 neighborhoods, with 2 in escrow. Wonder if these builders know San Elijo is now asking us to help beg Slater to beg Horn to beg SANDAG for road funding that their EIR and approvals already promised us? Isn't every new neighborhood builder and every new home buyer an additional beggar in San Elijo's book? Once in, they are invested in San Elijo and locked into a mutual future. How many more will be told San Elijo will build it, only to learn later the hard way.... that it was always a maybe, dependent upon twisting Santa's, the Easter Bunny's or SANDAG's arm. By last meeting's "not so well masked" pleas for help, San Marcos and San Elijo are saying "we will not fund our promised roads. It's a regional problem and they want regional funds... everyone but San Marcos should pay.

Though Elfin elves are fighters, San Elijo's beggar recruitment is wasted on us. Like Santa's elves and the Easter Bunny, we don't do pavement. Nor do we like being lied to, tricked, cheated, or used. If we do any SANDAG arm twisting, It should be to stop development that isn't willing to complete promised roads and improvements necessary to carry their created traffic burden. If San Elijo can't build the roads, then they shouldn't be building a traffic producing project.

As for SANDAG's position, I really don't know where they stand. But I'm sorry to hear San Marcos banter them around as if SANDAG will undoubtedly wind up in San Elijo's back pocket. Let's face it, for every dollar San Elijo squeezes out of SANDAG', San Elijo is a buck richer and a truly public project has just lost out.

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## Elfin Forest Classified

### Local Baby, Animal and House Sitters

Brittany York - EF Resident, RSF School 8th grader, 1Yr experience. Tel: 760-752-7784

Aubrey Brennecke - EF Resident, High School Student - 9th Grade. Tel: 752-9988.

### Ski Utah!

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**E.F. Calendar - May 2001**

Date	Time	Event
Tuesdays (1 <sup>st</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> )	1:30pm to 3:30pm	Bookmobile @ Firehouse
1st Tue, (1 <sup>st</sup> )	7:00pm	Fire Training @ Firehouse
1 <sup>st</sup> Wed (2 <sup>nd</sup> .)	7:00pm	E.F.T.C Forum @ Firehouse
Every Friday	10:00am -Noon	Playgroup.
2nd Mon (14 <sup>th</sup> )	7:30pm	Fire Board @ Firehouse
2nd Wed, (9 <sup>th</sup> )	7:00pm	Fire Auxiliary @ Firehouse (check).
3rd Tue, (22 <sup>nd</sup> )	7:00pm	Fire Training @ Firehouse
Last Sat (26 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am	Fire Training @ Firehouse TECC Spring Flowers Hike @ EF Reserve

**Elfin Forest Town Council Board**

Board members: Evelyn Alemanni 471-7224, Doug Dill 736-4333, Linda Hamilton 744-7952, Mid Hoppenrath 747-1145, Nancy Reed 471-7933, Patti Newton 471-8937, Bill Telesco 746-4692, Elizabeth Wood 744-2594

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Articles for publication should be sent to David Cronshaw by email to efchaparral@yahoo.com or fax (call first) to 736-4524 by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 help from Susan Cronshaw towards production and distribution of this newsletter.