

## **DEDICATED TO A CONTINUING RURAL ATMOSPHERE**

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**Next Town Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 5th at 7:30**  
**EF/HG Fire Station**

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### ***From the Chair*** ***By Melanie Fallon***

Happy Spring Everyone!

I just love this time of year in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove! The green hills and yellow flowers everywhere! The monument signs in Elfin Forest are looking especially lovely!

**WE HAVE A NEW TOWN COUNCIL BOARD!** – In our February Town Council elections, two new Board members were elected – Minoo Sohaey and Nancy Goodrich. Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin and May Meintjes were re-elected! Congratulations and thank you for running! Our Board is now – me, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, Vice-Chair, May Meintjes, Treasurer, Nancy Goodrich, Secretary and Board members Eric Anderson, Bonnie Baumgartner and Minoo Sohaey. Our thanks to Bill Telesco and Manu Sohaey for serving the last three years.

## This is the last printed issue of the Chaparral!

**A VERY SUCCESSFUL GARDEN FESTIVAL!** – A very big thank you to Bonnie Baumgartner who chaired the April 3 Garden Festival – the Garden Festival Committee members, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, Nancy Goodrich and Hounada Caras – the five garden hosts, the Macons, Jennifer Coburn, the Oddos, the Balmes and Martha Blane and Leonard Wittwer – Ron and Gary at Elfin Valley Nursery and the 30 plus community volunteers who helped the day of! It was a wonderful beautiful day and the gardens were just awesome!

**WE NEED A WEB MASTER!** – We are looking for some help in revamping our website and keeping it up to date! (If you haven't noticed it is in pretty bad shape!) Is there anyone in our Valley who has the skills to take on such an assignment? Or does anyone have a teenager or college student who could do this and would like to make some money?

**FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING** – The main discussion at the February meeting was lead by George Brist, the Engineering Manager for OMWD and centered around the fact that OMWD is going to build a new \$13,000,000 48 inch raw water feed pipeline through Elfin Forest to their water treatment plant. An Environmental Impact Report should be released soon and more discussions about the impact of this pipeline on our community will be scheduled once it has been released. Nancy Goodrich has volunteered to chair a special committee to monitor this project. Please see her article later in this Chaparral.

**MARCH GENERAL MEETING** – Two important discussions took place at the March 3 Town Council meeting. The first discussion was led by Kevin Barnard of The Escondido Creek Conservancy and described the newly completed Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Case Study which was prepared by the Conservation Biology Institute. This important study describes the environmental and biological importance of our area and why it is so important to find funds to conserve as much of our undeveloped land as possible. The study can be downloaded from the TECC website.

The second discussion was lead by Jake Enriquez, the District Park Manager for the County Department of Parks and Recreation. He gave the community a status report on the work on Sage Hills. They are still working on the environmental assessment of the area and during this period the park is technically closed, so that they can finish their assessment without any damage to the habitat. He also asked that we be the Department's "eyes and ears" and let him know if we see any illegal activities such as off-roading, dumping or hunting occur.

*Continued next page*

## *From the Chair*

Continued from page 1

**SHOP LOCAL!** – As we continue to come out of this economic slump, please don't forget to frequent two of our best local businesses! The Elfin Valley Nursery and Blancas Flowers have been in our community for years and deserve all the business we can give them! They are the best and do a lot for the community – so stop by and get your spring flowers or new plants for your garden.

## *ELFIN FOREST/HARMONY GROVE COMMUNITY PLAN*      *By Melanie Fallon*

The County Planning Commission is wrapping up their deliberation on the County's new General Plan and it will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for the consideration this fall.

Based on the discussion that we had at our March 3 Town Council meeting, there is one issue that I want to make sure that everyone in Elfin Forest understands – the Elfin Forest Community Plan is recommending that the General Plan designation for a majority of the Elfin Forest valley be changed from SR-2 (one housing unit per 2, 4 or 8 acres) to SR-4 (one housing unit per 4, 8 or 16 acres.) This has been the Town Council recommendation for a number of years and I believe that this lower density recommendation has been based on a number of factors. They include the fact that most properties cannot perc for septic on only two acres and that there is so much endangered habitat in our midst. Therefore the SR-4 designation will more accurately reflect the reality of Elfin Forest.

In addition, after a number of discussions with the County staff we have learned that the SR-4 density will only be applicable to the future subdivision and development of land, and this density will not affect the ability to build a home if you have a pre-existing legal parcel which is 2 acres. Likewise if you currently have a home on an existing 2 acre parcel (which many of us do!) and it is destroyed, you can rebuild it even with a General Plan designation of SR-4.

If I have thoroughly confused you or you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

## *Community Garage Sale*      *By Eveline Bustillos*

Time to clean out those closets and garage again! Spring cleaning can be fun – and profitable – by selling all your unwanted items at our Annual Community Garage Sale, scheduled for Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>. From 7am to noon.

Like last year, I will provide:

- Signs for your front yard, as well as directional signs on major streets;
- Advertising on all on-line websites and the Penny Saver;
- On the day before the event, I will provide you with a sign and a list of participating household addresses;
- The morning of the sale, I will come around again, with doughnuts to see how things are going.

You will provide:

- Me with a call at 858-354-0600 or email at [eveline@coldwellbanker.com](mailto:eveline@coldwellbanker.com) 48 hours in advance confirming participation;
- Advertised time is 7 am to noon. Early birds might show up sooner. You are welcomed to put your sign up earlier and down before the advertised times. I'll come by and pick up the sign later in the day or you may drop it off at my home at 20555 Fortuna Del Sur.

Please don't hesitate to call or email me with any questions or concerns. Have fun !!

## *WHO SHOULD BE 2010 ELFIN FOREST/HARMONY GROVE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR?*

Who should be the person most deserving to ride in our 4th of July parade this year as **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR!** Our community has dozens of residents who donate many, many hours making this such a great place to live. It is never an easy decision and we really need your input. So please give this award a few minutes of thought and let us know at [efhgtc@gmail.com](mailto:efhgtc@gmail.com) who you think this deserving person should be.

### *"ONE MORE BITES THE DUST!" by Melanie Fallon*

Really don't mean to be sarcastic, but one more major development project has been formally withdrawn from the County's development permit planning process! This time it is the Harmony Grove Meadows project which was proposed for the 100+ acres near Harmony Grove Road and Country Club Drive. The developer, SunCal was proposing approximately 225 smaller lot units for this area and the Town Council has been very concerned about this prospect, so this is very good news!

## *TOWN COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2009*

*by Melanie Fallon and May Meintjes*

Please see our financial statement for 2009. You can tell from the numbers that in 2009 the Town Council made \$16,215 in income and expended \$15,347 and that we ended the year with a balance of \$14,937.07. During this next month the Town Council will approve a budget for 2010/2011 and we will consider funding such things as hiring a webmaster to revamp our website, community beautification and community cleanup to mention a few items currently on the table. We will report on our new budget in the next Chaparral.

## *At-Large Representative to Focus on Harmony Grove Issues*

*By Mid Hoppenrath*

For the first time in nearly a decade, there is no one from Harmony Grove on the Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council. This means that the very busy Elfin Forest board members will have to work extra hard to keep up with Harmony Grove issues, a particularly difficult task given that they are working with a reduced number of members (there are two vacancies). As an interim measure, I have been appointed to act as an "At-Large" (non-voting) member to assist the board, and the entire community, in keeping informed of Harmony Grove issues. While my history of 8 years' service on the EFHG TC board and my familiarity with Harmony Grove makes me a good candidate for this role, please help me out by letting me know of any concerns or issues that affect Harmony Grove residents. You can reach me, Mid Hoppenrath, at 760-747-1145, or [mail@hoppub.com](mailto:mail@hoppub.com).

### **EFHGTC Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2009**

	<b>Dec 31, 09</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
<b>Checking Account - General</b>	14,937.07
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	14,937.07
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	14,937.07
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>14,937.07</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Opening Bal Equity</b>	22,866.32
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	-8,797.37
<b>Net Income</b>	868.12
<b>Total Equity</b>	14,937.07
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>14,937.07</b>

# *Depolo Family Express their Thanks to Firefighters*

February 16, 2010

To all the Volunteers:

When the unexpected happens, I know that I can always rely on our own wonderful EFHG Fire Volunteers...

I want to send my heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful neighbors and friends who came to help us all that seemingly quiet Sunday afternoon in February. While I have always observed the professional handiwork of our hard-working volunteers, this time I was a direct recipient and cannot express how much I appreciate all the rescue, medical, organization and trauma triage performed by such a fantastic crew.

I feel that I have so much to thank each and every member of the fire and EMT team for; the young men who came onto the scene as first responders, taking charge and making sure that everyone was taken care of, Chief Twohy who exercised his incredible management and organizational skills to assess the situation, ensure that everything got under control and the response went without any further accidents. Chief Twohy's calm direction, making sure that everyone complied so they could begin care, getting a crew to manage oncoming traffic, and just knowing that he was there was comforting to Jim, our boys and me. I can only imagine what a mess it is to get immediate care to those involved, clean up mangled cars, keep everyone safe and stave off any residual accidents.

The outpouring of concern and help in this small community does not stop at those who are on our rescue team. Amidst all the confusion and wrecked cars, I saw neighbors come out of their houses and cars to help, their expressions of support and care is undeniably touching. Just seeing Jacqueline Benjamin's and Alyssa's faces there was comforting. Specifically, thank you to Cherie Smith for running back and forth getting me wet rags to clean up and to the adjacent neighbors for their most welcomed support and reassurances. Even those of us involved in the accident, were so concerned for each other. In a time of crisis, it is so hard to fully grasp all the things that need to be taken care of and just to understand what happened.

On top of that, while waiting to get a room at Palomar Hospital, a familiar voice called out. There was Nona's smiling face. What an unexpected blessing. Being on the receiving side of medical attention was an unfamiliar event for me and seeing her there was the best medicine that day.

This unfortunate event reminds me that each day, our neighbors and friends give their time, 24 hours a day, to keep us safe. From my heart I want to thank most especially Frank and the EFHG Fire Volunteers, along with the expeditious, most friendly RSF Ambulance EMTs, Nona and Steve Barker, all my wonderful neighbors and friends, and the CHP for coming to all of our aid when the unexpected happened.

I am struck with just how wonderful a place this is to live. From the responders to the accident, the supportive neighbors, all those who support the efforts of the fire volunteers; it is clear that this is a great neighborhood community and the reason Jim, Sean, Matt and I love being part of Elfin Forest.

Thank you from my heart,  
Laurel Depolo

## *Welcome Committee by Minoo Sohaey Welcome to the val-*

Recently the EFGHTC board established the Welcome Committee. We believe that it is a kind gesture to welcome our new neighbors and inform them of the services and facilities in the area. Since we started the committee, we have delivered eight welcome baskets to the new residents in the area. The baskets contain important information about the area, a copy of our Community Guide and also a jar of honey from TECC. Often the new residents are very surprised to see a member of the committee at their front door, but are happy that such a thing exists. The basket also contains a registry sheet that we ask the new residents to fill out with their contact information and family interests. The Town Council committee believes that this information is crucial so that we can communicate with each other, especially during possible emergencies.

Please contact me via email [minoosoh@yahoo.com](mailto:minoosoh@yahoo.com) if you are interested in being part of the committee or if you know of anybody who moved to the area recently and we may have missed them.

Please welcome Colette Larsen and Ric Mazey, on Elfin Forest Road who have six grown children, all but the youngest married, and twelve grandchildren ages 1 to 10. Ric likes horse drives, sky diving, hiking and archery, while Collette enjoys travel, hiking and reading. Alan and Aimee Smith on Elfin Forest Lane moved here from La Costa, attracted to the area by the open space, the views, and the chance to let their kids run around in nature. You might meet them with their children AJ, seven, and Alex, four and a half. They enjoy running, hiking, biking and swimming, and look forward to meeting the neighbors.

## *Tour Evelyn's Garden By Evelyn Alemanni*



For those who missed seeing my garden on the garden festival tour this year (it wasn't on so we wouldn't duplicate the gardens of years past), you can still see it. Bring your friends on May 8 between 1 and 4 when it will be open as a fundraiser for Elizabeth Hospice. This magnificent organization in Escondido took excellent care of my mom and assured that the last weeks of her life were as good as they could be before she passed away in January 2009.

My garden has been featured in Better Homes and Gardens and many of their special interest publications. Good Morning America named it one of the top five gardens in the nation in 2001, and San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles twice named it one of the gardens of the year. It's been a glorious spring and we've been working hard to make it look nice, so come on down. You can get more information at <https://www.elizabethhospice.org/content/File/GT-Flyer.pdf>.

## *This is the Last Printed Chaparral*

This is THE LAST hardcopy Chaparral. We are moving to an electronic-only version starting with the next issue. With DSL in the valley, and the desire to be environmentally conscious, as well as save several thousand dollars a year, e-only is the way to go.

In order for this to work, we need everybody's email address. If you are not currently receiving the Community Alerts on email, you will not receive the future Chaparral editions. In order to continue to receive our community newsletter, please send your email address to [efhgtc@gmail.com](mailto:efhgtc@gmail.com).

If you do not have access to email, or if you know of a neighbor who does not, let us know (ideally by email or you can call 760-855-0444) and depending on demand we may make hardcopy versions of the Chaparral available either for pick up at the Fire Station or mail to their address. Or you could consider printing a copy and giving it to them.

Thank you for your support in this transition and please don't forget to send your email address so you get the next edition!

# *The mightiest local non-profit you've never heard of!*

*By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin and Eric Anderson*

## **Friends of the Creek**



Ever heard of Friends Of The Creek, aka Amigos of the Creek? I didn't think so... FOTC is a non-profit California Corporation started by some of your neighbors (most notably Eric Anderson and myself), to take on one of the mightiest companies around, Lennar Corp, the largest homebuilder in the US.

Back in 2008 it became obvious to us that after having successfully fought off Lennar's attempts to encroach into Elfin Forest with the Bridges Unit 7, which would have brought suburbia and sewer to our southern flank, we needed to get ready to sue the developer to fight off another piece of their strategy to eventually come into Elfin Forest, a project called Unit 6. So we created Friends Of The Creek. Board members grew to include your neighbors Patti Newton, Karen Gardner and Jaisa Bright. Much of our funding came from the Town Council's Rural Preservation Fund (to which we encourage all residents concerned about fighting off development to make a tax-deductible contribution!). We eventually hired the largest environmental law firm in the state of California, Shute Mihaly and Weinberger LLC, who adjusted their fees to meet our meager resources, and embarked on an arduous litigation with Lennar.

We won't bore you with the details, but suffice it to say that after two plus years of settlement talks, the contents of which remains confidential, little FOTC was able to fend off mighty Lennar, and in the process forge a working relationship with our neighboring community of Bridges at Rancho Santa Fe. As a result we even testified in support of Lennar at the Board of Supervisors, playing a key role in the approval of their new tennis complex. This was quite a change from a few years ago when some of us were sporting buttons against Lennar at another hearing on the Bridges expansion. Our motto: Forging win-win solutions.

Stay tuned for further news....



### **Carla D. Hayes**

REALTOR®

*22 years real estate experience in Elfin Forest*

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**Lets help TECC together.**

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**[www.carlahayesrealtor.com](http://www.carlahayesrealtor.com)**

## *Fire Department* by Nona Barker

Our Volunteers are Professional



Your Fire Department and Board of Directors has had a hectic spring. We have trained new recruits and firefighters, attended fire academies, maintained the vehicles and painted the fire station. We have developed budgets, negotiated a building lease and service contract and, of course, provided emergency services.

After nine months of negotiations with "the County" the Fire Board voted to accept and sign a new service contract. Over the previous 15 years, we have operated under a service contract. Last year the county determined, Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc. needed a new and improved service contract. In reality, this newest service contract is simply updated with the up-to-the-minute county policies and legal gibberish. The County has some new requirements, which we believe are reasonable. The Service contract is for 5 years with an automatic 5-year renewal.

The Board will soon begin long term planning. Our current plan is 10 years old and needs to be updated. Our growth projections have not and will not hit the target set by the community 10 years ago. Thus our benefit fee dollars (income) will no longer be sufficient to run daily operations. Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department Inc. will need to increase funding for the daily operations of the Fire Department unless the benefit fee is increased or other funding is discovered.

At the beginning of this year we had several firefighters who were hired by local fire departments and we hired new recruits to replace them. Most come with little training and leave us as fully trained firefighters, so we are very pleased with the addition of Engineer Jack Glassford. Jack, a Carlsbad resident, has worked with Encinitas Fire Department for the last 31 years. He retired from Encinitas Fire and decided to continue firefighting as a volunteer. Jack brings skills, knowledge and a passion for teaching. Engineer Glassford's shift is currently on Fridays. Stop by and welcome him.

Congratulations to Brian Kuklinski, Ryan Ferguson, Phil Johnson, Chris Vail, Johnny Daniels, James Hancock and Kevin Krainock. They just completed the CAL Fire Academy in San Louis Obispo. (See picture)

By completing this academy they will now become full members of our Fire Department.



Our training this past winter and spring was concentrated on Structure Fires. Our crews attended training with the Encinitas Fire Department on ventilation and spent several days training at the Rancho Santa Fe Burn Tower.

Now that the weather is warming up and the spring-green is turning to brown, we are on to Wildland Training. You can rest assured your Fire Department will be ready for these fires. Our firefighters are wondering if you and your home will be ready?

**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove  
4<sup>TH</sup> of July Parade and Picnic**

**SUNDAY, JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**11:30 a.m.** Parade line up just east of Fortuna Del Norte

**12 noon** Parade Begins

Fire trucks will lead the way followed by your own decorated floats, tractors, ATV's, bikes, strollers and horses...

**12:30-2:30** Barbecue Lunch at the Fire Station

(menu/ticket info on next page)

**12:30-4:00** Disc Jockey, Games and Picnic

\* \* \* \* \*

***Awards for the Best Parade & Cake Decorating Entries***

***Limbo, Hula Hoop, Egg Toss and Horseshoe Contests***

***Carnival Booths, Jump House, Cake Walk & Dunk Tank***

***Firefighters' Water Hose Blast***

\* \* \* \* \*

**Cake Decorating Contest**

Both Kids and Adults are welcome to enter decorated cakes, cupcakes or cookies in the cake decorating contest. The cakes are used for the very popular cake walk. Prizes are given for Best Example of **Rural Life, Most Creative** and **Patriotic**.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Cake Decorating Contest Entries and Desserts for the Bake Sale  
can be dropped off at the Fire Station all day  
Saturday or Sunday morning.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Barbecue Lunch Menu**

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs  
Barbecued Pulled Pork  
Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Potato Salad  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Watermelon and Popsicles  
(veggie burgers available if ordered in advance)

\* \* \* \* \*

Pre-Registration recommended. Limited meals available day of event.  
*Please, only cash & checks day of event, no credit cards accepted.*

**Lunch & Game Tickets**

**Before 6/30      Day of Picnic**

**Adult Lunch**                      \$9.00                      \$12.00  
**Child Lunch (12 & under)**      \$5.00                      \$ 6.00

**45 Game Tickets - \$20.00**

**22 Game Tickets - \$10.00**

(Game tickets good for carnival booths, jump house, cake walk & dunk tank)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults @ \$9.00: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children @ \$5.00: \_\_\_\_\_

Game Tickets: 45 tickets @ \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ OR 22 tickets @ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Veggie Burgers: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make Checks Payable to EF/HG Town Council*

**Detach & Mail by June 30th to:**

**Betsy Keithley, 19918 Elfin Forest Rd., Escondido, CA 92029**

*Please pick up tickets at picnic*

Questions or would like to volunteer? E-mail.....

Jeff Swenerton – [JeffSwenerton@aol.com](mailto:JeffSwenerton@aol.com)

Lori Vitale – [VitaleHome@gmail.com](mailto:VitaleHome@gmail.com)

**Thank you to ALBERTSON’S San Elijo Hills  
for sponsoring our picnic & providing food & beverages!!!**

## *Silent Auction is Coming!*

*By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin and Claudia Costanzo*

It seems like summer is a long ways away but our very own 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Parade and Picnic is just around the corner, this year on Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>. A key fundraiser for the community is the Silent Auction, where generous donors give us items and “experiences” to auction off, and generous neighbors purchase those. Last year we raised over \$7,000 for the community! We need everybody to pitch in to make this a success.

How you can help:

Do you, a family member or friend own a vacation rental anywhere in the US or overseas? This is by far the largest grossing type of item at the Silent Auction. Please consider donating a week or a week-end, as appropriate. You can specify black-out dates, contribution to defraying of associated expenses like cleaning, and purchasers are likely folks you will know, right here in the community.

Do you work for a company that could donate a product or a service?

Do you patronize local businesses, such as restaurants, nail salons, or pet stores you would feel comfortable asking for a donated gift certificate?

Would you consider purchasing a gift certificate, or putting together a basket to donate? Each year neighbors are very creative and we have been the lucky recipients of gift certificates to the likes of Mille Fleurs and Savory restaurants, golf rounds at the Bridges, gorgeous baskets for gardeners, for kids cookie baking, for lovers of Italian food... your imagination is the limit!

Please contact us at [efhgtc@gmail.com](mailto:efhgtc@gmail.com) or 760-855-0444 to let us know of any items you could donate.

On the day, we can also use some help setting up starting at 9 in the morning. Before then we need to develop bid sheets and descriptions, so if you want to lend a hand please don't hesitate, we always have fun putting this event together. Thanks for helping us help you!

## *What's Happening with Gates in Elfin Forest?*

*By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin*

In case you thought that project was dead, a few updates:

Paint Mountain Association secured a \$35,000 corporate donation towards building a gate on Fortuna del Este. Several other potential large institutional contributors have been approached, and early feedback looks encouraging.

Current strategy is to fundraise as much as possible from large contributors to minimize required contribution from local community users, making access as inexpensive as possible.

Work is ongoing to remove the Irrevocable Offer to Dedicate on Fortuna del Este (the right for the County at some point in the future to take over a private road to turn it into a public right of way, which would force us to keep gates open).

One of the other three gates proposed has been fully funded and is being actively planned, with an expected installation date before the end of the year.

As noted in our presentation last May, we encourage all neighbors interested in reducing risk from arson or partying teenagers, or in eliminating dumping along the dirt roads and in our open space, or in improving the dirt roads to Rancho Santa Fe and Encinitas, to join the effort in making this happen – it will definitely take a village! You can volunteer to pitch in by contacting [j.arsivaud@gmail.com](mailto:j.arsivaud@gmail.com). I should also clarify this is not an effort I coordinate as a member of the Town Council Board, but wearing one of my other hats as President of the Paint Mountain Association.



ANN VAN LEER  
PRESIDENT

4079 GOVERNOR DRIVE, #330  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92122

858 452-2027 LAND  
858 442-0937 CELL  
858 452-7914 FAX

ANN@LANDCONSERVE.COM  
WWW.LANDCONSERVE.COM

## Prepare for Fire

By Jack Glassford

Hello. I am Fire Engineer Jack Glassford and I am one of the new additions to your local fire department. Although I'm new to *this* fire station, I am not new to the fire service. I've recently retired, after 31 years, from the City of Encinitas Fire Department. It was an enjoyable career and now, I'm enjoying giving back to the fire service.

I'll bet I'm the only fireman you'll ever meet that had his own house burn down. Yes it's true. In February of 1994, my home caught fire due to faulty electrician work. I lost much of what I owned and learned a great deal. I now know what to do before a fire, during and after. And some of that knowledge I would like to pass onto you.

The first thing is to know what the coverage amount for your home insurance is. Your insurance agent is the expert but he needs to work with you in determining how much coverage you need. You certainly would not want to get caught under insured.

Look around at all you have accumulated in your home and then think about having to replace it in a matter of a few months. The TV, your shirts, that nice chair.

To build back your home in case of a fire, there is a somewhat simple square footage formula. For brevity's sake... I'm making that part of this discussion short. For the contents of your home, that's a little more involved.

You'll be asked to make an inventory of all that you want the insurance company to pay for. What is it, where did you get it and when. The easiest way to do this is by using a digital camera BEFORE the fire. Once a year (or more) you need to take pictures of every room. Pull out drawers and open closet doors to show the contents. This simple documentation will help you to remember your items you want to make part of your claim. After you have made these photos, it's a simple matter of keeping them in a file at your email account or some such other electronic station that is separate from your home.

By doing this little prep work, you will save yourself much grief in the event of a devastating fire. I hope you found this information useful.

## Thank you to all the Garden Festival Volunteers!

We just had a very successful Garden Festival on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and besides our generous garden hosts, who opened their yards to hordes of strangers, it could not have happened without the 41 volunteers who donated their day on a beautiful Spring Saturday to pitch in and make our 300+ visitors feel welcomed to our community. We had docents in each of the five private gardens, volunteers help park cars at the nursery, set up and pick up signs, drop off water and ice, fill out County permit information, organize lunch, coordinate vendors, administer ticket sales, solicit sponsors for donations, get promotion for the event...you name it, we did it!

Thanks again to all who made it possible for the Town Council to net over \$5,000!

## *Why it's not a good idea to leave your dog off leash when hiking in open space* By Jeff Anderson, OMWD

Here are some facts I was able to find regarding the effect dogs can have on open space and wildlife.

You may be a “dog person” but the individual or family coming down the trail may not be. Off leash dogs are often excited when they encounter new people on the trail and can jump up on or scare fellow hikers.

Unruly dogs can pose safety concerns to riders on horseback or bicycles.

The state of California has a strict liability policy which means people are liable for any injuries or damage that a dog does, whether or not the owner was negligent. Owners are not only liable if the dog attacks a human, they are also liable if the dog attacks any animal, except for another dog or cat.

According to the ASPCA, leash laws were created to restrict animals from running around unattended in inappropriate places. Respecting the leash laws of a state is vital to the legal well-being of the pet owner, and also critical to the overall well-being of the dog. California leash laws were created to protect owners and [pets](#).

Dogs can easily spread Poison Oak from off-trail locations to their owners.

Domestic dogs can pick up and transport seeds in their hair and paws. Dogs can travel and deposit seeds in locations far removed from roads and trail systems. Because these areas are not traveled as frequently as roads, emerging weed plants may go undetected and not be treated in a timely manner.

Dogs extend the zone of human influence when off-leash. During summer, concerns are primarily related to the birth and rearing of young for all wildlife species. Dogs are predators for various wildlife species in all seasons.

Dogs can cause extensive damage to fragile habitats such as chaparral when they run through it following a scent or movement.

Domestic dogs not vaccinated can potentially introduce diseases (distemper, parvovirus, and rabies) and transport parasites into wildlife habitats. Dogs host endo- and ectoparasites and can contract diseases from, or transmit diseases to, wild animals.

Dogs may flush incubating birds from nests, disrupt breeding displays, disrupt foraging activity, and disturb roosting activity.

Off-leash dogs are susceptible to snake bites. Domestic dogs do not know how to interpret the warning signs a rattlesnake puts off when it feels threatened. As a matter of fact, the rattle sound from a rattler may attract dogs which often results in a bite.

Dogs can have an impact on wildlife reproductive performance. Some nesting birds are sensitive to disturbance, and if disturbances are frequent enough or are of sufficient magnitude, an entire reproductive season could be forfeited by the individual or colony.

Dog feces has been implicated in the transmission disease to ungulate species including elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer. While the carnivorous hosts are seemingly unaffected, ungulates may be adversely affected to the point of illness or death.

Dogs have been linked to the spread of Leptospirosis, which is a bacterial disease that affects the kidneys and urinary tract. Many species of wildlife are affected, including small mammals, muskrats, white-tailed deer, antelope, moose, bobcats, foxes, beaver, raccoons, and skunks.



# GARDEN FESTIVAL- A SUCCESS !

THANK-YOU HOST GARDENS, VOLUNTEERS, GARDEN TEAM



GARDEN TEAM SELLING TICKETS AT ELFIN VALLEY NURSERY\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*GARDEN TEAM AND VOLUNTEERS ON PREVIEW DAY

## ELFIN FOREST GARDEN FESTIVAL 4/3/10

The Saturday of the Garden Festival was sunny and bright, as were the faces of our Host gardens and our volunteers. Finally, all the work was done and the show was on! What a kudo for our community to have so many people participate in making this endeavor a success. The Garden Planning Team put in may long hours

organizing, The Host Gardens: Balmes, Coburn, Oddo, Macon, Blane-Wittwer put in countless hours of weeding and gardening in preparation for the day. Our day of volunteers put out signs, delivered water, ice, lunches, sold tickets, directed people on the tour, guarded water elements from accidents, parked cars, directed people

to gardens and scenic spots, and even sold popcorn. Elfin Valley Nursery courtesy of Ron Martin and Gary was Garden Festival central. Thanks to our sponsors: OMWD, Sempra Energy, Grangetto's, Sunshine Gardens, Jaisa Bright, and Synergy Communications. Thank you Community of Elfin Forest for your support.



JENNIFER COBURN WITH JUDY WIGGINS AT HER STUDIO



NANCY REED AT THE VENDOR'S, MACONS



MAY MEINTJES AT THE BALMES



# ELFIN FOREST TRAILS



ABOVE: SHARE THE TRAIL

LEFT: TRAIL NEXT TO THE CREEK

## TRAIL COMMITTEE :

Trail Committee members; Bonnie Baumgartner, Chair; Chris Dye, Joy Jackson, Nancy Reed, Alan and Aimee Smith, Carolyn Swenerton, and Carla Zilka

THE TRAIL COMMITTEE has been meeting to discuss trail use consistent with passive trail use allowed on our trails. We are currently working on a 'trail etiquette brochure', and have planned a trail improvement work party day on June 13, 2010. Contact Bonnie Baumgartner [bonnie@doubleb-ranch.com](mailto:bonnie@doubleb-ranch.com) to help.

Please be mindful that our trails system exists because your fellow homeowners allow us to use the trail easements over their property. Good manners are a must. Dogs need to be under your control and according to San Diego County regulations- on leash.

If the trail near you needs improvement, grading, mulching, etc. Please contact us. We are working on monies for fencing repair, surface repair. Our trails are a powerful, valuable asset to our community and quality of life. Let's keep them looking great for everyone



### SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2010

TRAIL WORK PARTY DAY

SAT., AUGUST 14, 2010

RUMMAGE SALE

SUN., OCTOBER 10, 2010

PARTY/FUNDRAISER



Over 40 years of combined equestrian experience

# HORSE CAMP

[kgreenwood.com](http://kgreenwood.com)

Barking Elf Ranch in Elfin Forest near San Elijo Hills

YOUR TEACHERS:  
**QUEEN KAY AND SHAYLA**  
& their crew of horsemanship  
Counselors, who've ridden for years

\$400  
FOR THE WEEK

REGISTER:  
760-744-2422

## Welcome to Barking Elf Ranch *Summer Horse Camp*

"It was awesome! I really learned to ride a horse. And fairy picture day was so much fun!"  
~ Phoebe B.

### HORSE CAMP DATES:

**June** 21st to the 25th

**June** 28th to July 2nd

**July** 12 to the 16th

**August** 9th to the 13th

**Mon - Thu** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Wed** is Fairy Picture Day

**Fri** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with Horse Show and games from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### HORSEMANSHIP INSTRUCTION:

All campers will learn about the Horse and how to ride first-level dressage. Queen Kay and Shayla, along with a crew of horsemanship counselors who've been riding for years, will give each camper one-on-one assistance. You'll ride a different horse every day!

### CAMP EXTRAS:

Crafts and Archery daily. Fairy Picture Day on Wednesday! Snacks included. We'll make lemonade from our own lemon trees, gather eggs from the chickens, and watch the pigs wallow in mud.

*Bring your own lunch and a great attitude. You'll work up an appetite, and you'll sure have fun!*



*Well yeah, it's fun!*



*Safe, one-on-one horsemanship instruction.*



*This is real riding!*



*You'll get to know the horses.*



*Everyone loves Fairy Picture Day.*

## *Classifieds -*

**Karlyn Murphy** - Babysitter, CPR certified for ages 1-13. Elfin Forest resident. CONTACT INFO  
cell: 858 229-9799. email: k.murphy.8@hotmail.com

**Guest house** on gated property - detached upstairs with deck. 1 Bdrm/1 Bath with parking, W/D & Refrig  
Looking for mature, quiet, single person. Cats ok, no dogs. Available now in Harmony Grove  
Call for further information. 760-746-4692

**Get the best farm fresh eggs** from Eli on Faraway Lane, (mom is Mary Ellen). They are only \$3.00 a dozen  
and are wonderful! These eggs stand up in the frying pan and the yolks are a rich orange color. Eli's Farm  
Fresh Eggs, 7910 Faraway Lane, 760-510-8229, [elisteria4@gmail.com](mailto:elisteria4@gmail.com). Just stop by and pick up a dozen  
from the stand out front.

**Elissa Benjamin**, babysitter, pet sitter, tutoring - born and raised in Elfin Forest, 10th grader at Canyon Crest  
Academy, own transportation. Red Cross certified, several local references. Call 760-274-5379 or email [be-  
retnoir@gmail.com](mailto:be-retnoir@gmail.com).

**For Rent:** 1800 Square feet. 2 bedroom 1 bath. Kitchenette. Large quiet downstairs unit with panoramic  
views of Rancho Santa Fe. Suitable for 2 people. \$1500 per month. Email form more information  
[RbarnesCPA@aol.com](mailto:RbarnesCPA@aol.com)

**Alex Fairman** - Pet Sitter, loves all animals, responsible, will feed/walk/play with pets, (760) 471-0875

**Amanda Clerke** - Babysitting & Pet Care, High School Sophomore, 16 years old, Elfin Forest Resident,  
YMCA Babysitter certification, please call 760-510-0143.

**Jessica MacKinnon**- Experienced Babysitter/Pet Care, Elfin Forest resident, 19 years old, College student,  
Red Cross babysitter certification. References. Contact at 760-420-5860

**Riding Arena Grading**- Grading horse arenas weekly- Looking to add more arenas to current route, Use  
Honda Rhino to grade arenas, LCC High School Junior, Elfin Forest resident, Have references, if requested.  
Shawn 760-471-6847 [voorheesfamily1@hotmail.com](mailto:voorheesfamily1@hotmail.com)

Please e-mail your ads to Betsy Keithley  
for inclusion in the next issue -

- [ekeithley@ucsd.edu](mailto:ekeithley@ucsd.edu)

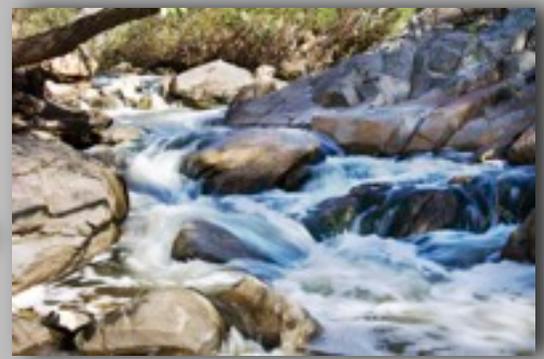


[WWW.COASTALGSR.ORG](http://WWW.COASTALGSR.ORG)

**Coastal German  
Shepherd Rescue**

P.O. Box 722381  
San Diego, CA 92172

Tel: 858.779.9149



# Watershed Voice

Please join in our conservation efforts by becoming a member - application form on page 4 ...

## 2009 Achievements, Future Plans...



I hope all of you were able to join us at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve for our celebration of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day on **Saturday April 17th**. If you were there then you would have heard about the launch of the capital campaign by The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) to raise a minimum of \$500K for land acquisition over the next two years. The campaign is off to a very successful beginning, but we need your help. We are pleased to announce that we received an anonymous donation of \$100,000, however, ***we must match it to receive the money***. Your donation of any size (up to the \$100,000 total) will be doubled by this donation. In the past 18 months, TECC has been able to leverage private donation dollars at the rate of over 100 to 1 by matching funds set aside by federal, state, and local resources specifically designated for the acquisition of lands with

threatened and endangered habitat. Thus a past donation of \$100 enabled \$10K dollars worth of land to be purchased. All it requires is the ongoing generous support of benefactors like you.

In my other life I'm a business guy, and in that world any request for investment requires an analysis of ROI (return on investment) and a look at past achievements of the group requesting the money. I'm sure you agree that the same disciplines should apply to the non profit world. So let me give you a quick overview of what TECC achieved last year and invite you to sit with any of our Board members to get an in depth explanation of our plans for the next 5 years.

In 2009, with your help, TECC:

- \* Expanded our creek side property on Harmony Grove at Country Club by 10 acres by acquiring the Hoover parcel. Our vision is to use some of this 21 acre holding to site a rescue hatchery for the endangered Southern Steelhead. Come and hear more about plans to reintroduce the Southern Steelhead into Escondido Creek on Thursday April 22nd (see upcoming events at the Interpretive Center below).
- \* Acquired and then sold to the County the 119 acre Family Stations property on Harmony Grove Road across from the Reserve.
- \* Opened the Interpretive Center at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. The cost of this building was \$600K of which \$535K was provided through the fund-raising efforts of you our members. The Interpretive Center was designed by James and Drew Hubbell and harmonizes the beauty of art with the functionality of architecture. Please come visit or better yet volunteer!
- \* Opened an office in Escondido. As part of TECC's goal to broaden it's base throughout the Escondido Creek Watershed, an office has been established at a central location in downtown Escondido at Broadway. Stop by and say hello!
- \* Hired Ann Hough to manage our office and day to day activities. She's doing a super job.
- \* Published, in partnership with The Endangered Habitats Conservancy, a case study prepared by the Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) entitled "*Escondido Creek - Crossroads of a Community Lifeline for a Lagoon*". This comprehensive study details the conservation values of the Escondido Creek Watershed and presents the strong case as to why it needs to be protected. Copies of this 22 page study are available for download on-line at the CBI's website [www.consbio.org](http://www.consbio.org).

I'm proud to say that 2009 was a productive for TECC and 2010 is shaping up to be another significant year as we are engaged in several even bigger land deals. All these achievements for the watershed and our community are due to your generosity and support. Thank you.

## Major Art Exhibit and a New Science Lab at the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center

One of the missions of the Interpretive Center is to enhance everyone's appreciation of the wonders of our beautiful watershed. Through our "Connecting Art and Nature" program we provide a unique view of our environment through the eyes of talented artists. Our first artist to be exhibited is local, very popular and talented American Impressionist Robert Ferguson. His work is featured in the Rancho Santa Fe Inn, and his beautiful landscapes are in many homes throughout San Diego, Los Angeles, the desert, and even Elfin Forest. His studio in Escondido was selected as one of the top three in San Diego. All of the paintings in the exhibit are executed in the local area, some in the Reserve. The exhibit will be on display at the Center during April, May, and June.



Our new Children's Science Lab presents ever-changing excitement for our younger visitors. The highlight is a powerful video microscope, which will open an amazing world to everyone. The lab is a reality through funds given to the Center in memorial of Susan J. Varty, local Elfin Forest resident and dedicated OMWD Board member, and donations of wood and labor by talented local cabinetmakers Joan Hershfeld and Tim Costanzo.

For our mountain biking community we have on display 16 photos of the recent Racer and Chasers event.

The Reserve is in all its spring glory and offers over 11 miles of beautiful trails with spectacular views. The Interpretive Center is open most Friday mornings and on weekends, 9:00 to 3:00. With the not-to-be-missed Robert Ferguson exhibit and exciting hands-on explorations in our new science lab, plan a visit soon. The paintings in the exhibit are for sale with a percentage of the proceeds going to the Center.

If you are interested being a docent contact Supervising Ranger Jeff Anderson at [JAnderson@olivenhain.com](mailto:JAnderson@olivenhain.com).

**Jeff Swenerton, Chairperson of the Interpretive Center Advisory Committee**

## **WATER QUALITY UPDATE**

TECC's Water Quality Committee continues to be actively involved in two significant projects. Most of our attention these days is focused on the ongoing effort to develop a rescue hatchery for endangered southern steelhead on TECC-owned land along the creek. We currently have two grant applications pending – one with Patagonia and a second with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – to support the initial phases of the hatchery development, which encompass the preparation of a facility master plan, permitting, and water quality sampling. In addition to garnering the support of both the National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish & Game, the Water Quality Committee has also engaged the Aquacultural Engineering Society (AES) for support and consultation. During the organization's annual meeting, held here in San Diego in early March, members of the committee met with the AES President, Dr. Steve Hall of Louisiana State University, to discuss hatchery project. It is our hope that our continuing outreach efforts will not only improve the concept for the steelhead hatchery, but also bring local, regional, and even national recognition to Escondido Creek as a valuable natural resource for the North County area. As the project is beginning to progress to more serious concept development and design, your support is more important than ever to keep our momentum going. If you'd like to donate to the steelhead hatchery effort, please contact Ann Hough at the TECC office for information. As always, we sincerely appreciate your ongoing support!



Our second project is helping a group of researchers at the California State Polytechnic Institute at Pomona Department of Landscape Architecture (one of whom grew up right here in our watershed!) create a vision for the future of Escondido Creek throughout the urban area in downtown Escondido and beyond. This group, known as Revealing Escondido Creek, has already conducted several meetings and events in the area to solicit community feedback, and an exciting vision is taking shape. If you'd like additional information on this project, please visit the web site: [www.revealthecreek.com](http://www.revealthecreek.com) or contact the team at [info@revealthecreek.com](mailto:info@revealthecreek.com).

**Brent Alspach, Chairperson of the Water Quality Committee**

## **Education Committee Update**

The Education Committee kicks off its community education programs this Spring/Summer with three free lectures held at the Interpretive Center located in the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. Environmental leader, Kevin Barnard's presentation on "Reintroducing Southern Steelhead to Escondido Creek," April 22, 6-7:30 p.m., inspires us to restore the natural biodiversity of the creek. Chaparral ecologist, Rick Halsey, will now offer his hike and lecture "Grizzly Bears, Chaparral, and Fire: A different way to see Escondido Creek" on Sunday, June 6th from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Rose Romeraz and Deborah Small will speak on "Edible, Medicinal, Material, Ceremonial: Contemporary Ethnobotany of Southern California Indians" on May 27th 6-7:30 p.m. To reserve a place at any of these events please contact Ann Hough at [information@escondidocreek.org](mailto:information@escondidocreek.org).

Our ongoing permaculture oriented workshops continue this year in collaboration with Sky Mountain Institute. The recent workshop on Wild Edibles featured an overview of the nutritional and medicinal attributes of wild edible plants found throughout the watershed and often plentiful in one's own yard at this time of year - miner's lettuce, stinging nettle, mallow, etc. Besides a guided hike to identify edible and poisonous wilds, participants learned to prepare delicious recipes such as stinging nettle soup, chia porridge, and cactus fruit (tunas) smoothies. Our next free workshop led by Alden Hough will feature hands on experience in "Rainwater Harvesting using Earthworks." Learn to turn your yard or property into a water harvesting and sequestering oasis. To register for this workshop please contact Alden at [permaculture@skymountaininstitute.com](mailto:permaculture@skymountaininstitute.com).

**Lali Mitchell, Chairperson of the Education Committee**

The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to the preservation, enhancement, and protection of the natural open space within the Escondido Creek watershed. We support educational programs and compatible outdoor recreation within the watershed for the benefit of all residents of the area.

The Escondido Creek Conservancy Board of Directors

Steve Barker	President	Tim Costanzo	Director
Jeff Swenerton	Vice President	Jerry Harmon	Director
Brent Alspach	Secretary	Laura Mitchell Ph.D.	Director
Jon Dummer	Treasurer	Jack Olmstead	Director
Kevin Barnard	Director	Leonard Wittwer	Director

# We Need Your Help

The Escondido Creek Conservancy has made great progress during 2009 in the acquisition of many additional acres of preserved open-space land, implemented innovative educational programs, and completed construction of the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center. **Our primary source of funding for our work comes from private donors such as you. Please help us in 2010 with an annual membership donation!** (See below for application form).

**Please join our conservation efforts by becoming a member or renewing your membership for 2010**

**Complete and detach the form below and mail to TECC, P.O.Box 460791, Escondido, CA 92046 or donate online at [www.escondidocreek.org](http://www.escondidocreek.org)**

Cut here...

Cut here...



Yes! I support TECC's mission of watershed protection. Here's my gift...  
Please make checks payable to: The Escondido Creek Conservancy

**Membership Levels**

- Friends of the Creek - \$50
- Protectors of the Creek - \$1,000
- Advocates of the Creek - \$5,000
- Defenders of the Creek - \$10,000
- Guardians of the Creek - \$20,000
- Other amount - \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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My Company will match my gift: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer. Please send information.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have included TECC in my Estate Plans.

Please charge my credit card:  One time  Monthly

Visa  MasterCard  Amex

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec Code on Back of Card \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.  
Securities area also acceptable-Please contact TECC at  
760.471.9354

Mail to: TECC  
PO BOX 460791  
Escondido, CA. 92046



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