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**Holiday Dessert Potluck**  
**Wednesday, December 3 at 7:30 pm**  
**Community Service Awards**

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## *From the Chair*

*By Melanie Fallon*

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### **Holiday party and Annual Community Service Awards**

Mark your calendars for Wednesday evening December 3 and plan on joining us for the Town Council’s annual Holiday Dessert Potluck and the presentation of many deserving Community Service Awards to many in the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove community. It is always a great time and you can join your neighbors to share a little holiday cheer!

### **Consider joining the EFHGTC Board of Directors**

It is almost that time of the year when we gear up to have our elections to elect new community members to the Town Council Board of Directors. We will have anywhere from 2 to 4 vacancies on the February ballot and we really need some of our great Valley residents to stand up and volunteer to be on the Board. We really are a great group of people who are committed to maintaining our rural lifestyle and the workload is really not too bad and we almost never have any disagreements! J If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to talk to a current Board member.

### **The Poor Economy does have an upside for Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove**

The one bright spot in our economy is that for communities like ours we don’t have the residential development pressure to contend with as much as we have in the past. We have not heard from University Heights since May and the planned draft EIR that was going to be released 6 months ago for the Harmony Grove Meadows project has still not been released. It has been fortuitous for us since we have been able to spend our energies on the development of the Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest Community Plans which are currently being reviewed by the County. Within a few months we will have our Community Plans in hand to use with any future property owner and developer who want to destroy our rural way of life in this Valley and we will be in a much better position to advocate for our community and to be successful. So look at this poor economy with at least one pair of rose-colored glasses!

## *From the Chair Continued*



### **The Town Council is planning a Hazardous Waste and Electronics Clean-up Day.**

Start sorting through your old paints, pesticides, batteries, printers, computers, etc and making a big pile in your garage! The Town Council is gearing up to hold a hazardous waste and electronics disposal day in the spring. Stay tuned – more details and the date will be announced after the first of the year.

**I also want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy happy wonderful holiday season and may we all have the very best 2009 possible!**

## *Community Foundation Awards Two Grants*

October 15th was the deadline for submission of grant proposals to the Elfin Forest Community Foundation and the Board met on October 29 to review the proposals. Two proposals were approved. One from the Town Council to cover the cost of the disc jockey at the 4th of July picnic in July 2009 (\$700) so that ticket prices can be reasonable, and the other to partially cover the cost of placing large boulders (\$4000) at the entrance of a designated "open space" property south of Paint Mountain to prevent/reduce illegal use of the area. Congratulations! The community thanks you for your involvement and commitment to helping maintain the rural environment of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove.

The next deadline for proposals is April 15, 2008. Please go to our website: <http://www.elfinforestcommunityfoundation.org> for application instructions. Also please note that we recently developed a maintenance policy as follows: Since 1996 the Elfin Forest Community Foundation (EFCF) has provided funding for many community improvement projects such as construction of fencing and signs. Unfortunately, many of those early projects were funded without provision for future maintenance. As these improvements age without upkeep, it is evident that they detract from the beauty of the community. Unfortunately, the EFCF does not have the resources to fund both new projects and maintain the old. In the future, grant proposals that request funds for structures that will require maintenance, must also include information on how maintenance will be provided. Acceptance of EFCF money requires an agreement that you or your organization will accept the responsibility for maintenance.

## *Community Foundation Continued*

In February, 2009 there will be an election for 3 seats on the Board. If you are interested in serving on the Elfin Forest Community Foundation (3 year term), please let me know ([ekeithley@ucsd.edu](mailto:ekeithley@ucsd.edu)) and prepare a paragraph about yourself and your interest in the Foundation and submit it to Karen Gardener for publication in the Chaparral.

*By Betsy Keithley, Secretary Community Foundation.*

## *Ham Radio Antenna Installed*

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, Tom Martin, ham radio operator (& son-in-law of Dan & Nancy Goodrich of Elfin Forest) and Jim Egerton, another ham radio operator, installed a ham radio antenna on the Elfin Forest Fire Dept roof. The equipment was purchased through a grant from the Elfin Forest Foundation by Mickey Cross.

As many of you will remember, the 1996 Harmony Grove fire left us without land lines or cell phones. The fire department radios, which were not as good as the ones we have now, did not function well. Mickey felt it was important that we have an alternative way to communicate, should we experience another such fire and loose communications again. The ham radio can also be used to call for animal rescue or additional aid through the Office of Emergency Services should the fire department be too busy with more important issues.

As soon as the radio is programmed, we will be up and running. Our thanks go out to Tom & Jim for volunteering to get our radio up & running.

If anyone is interested in learning about or wanted to become a ham radio operator, please contact Mickey Cross at 760-744-2034. She has information on free classes and free study sites online.

*By Micky Cross*



## *WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT*

*THIS MONTH: December 2008*

The year has gone by so fast, it's hard to believe that it's the end of the year already and that the holidays are upon us. Sure hope you all had a great Thanksgiving.



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

And it's been some time since I wrote, but I would like to start with a big "congratulations" to our new Paramedic Firefighters Bob Berkey and Taylor Larsen. Both have successfully completed over nine months of didactic, clinical and field internship training through Palomar College Paramedic school. Even more amazing is that both were able to complete their education and still maintain their commitment with us for both shifts to staff the station and training. It takes a special kind of person to be able to do that, and we appreciate and admire their dedication. We have come to depend on them as highly skilled senior Firefighters, and their medical expertise will bring us a wealth of knowledge. Way to go guys...you rock!

And as they complete their training, we send two more off to school. Firefighters Mike Roy and Nick Cardone have now begun their Paramedic training. Mike is also attending Palomar, and Nick is off to Imperial County. Both are well into the didactic, or classroom, phase. It's amazing to see these guys go after their careers with such enthusiasm and they are an inspiration to us all.

The Department recently completed training and certification in Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational. Low angle rope rescue training is vital to our ability to better respond to over-the-side accidents. It was excellent training, and a special thanks to Bob Berkey and Henry Vanzzini for all their assistance with the class. Next month...it's Vehicle Extrication with our Holmatro rep, Steve Carpenter, giving us a class in New Vehicle Anatomy. The new high tech vehicles bring with them serious safety concerns to Firefighters. Steve will make sure we know how to safely work with them during an extrication.

Our hearts go out to Ventura, Los Angeles and Orange County residents who were so recently devastated by wildfires. It is all too familiar, and something I would not like to remember. We have been graced so far in San Diego County this year, but the season is not over yet. Who knows what the weather will do, but we always have to be prepared for the possibility of winter fires. A little rain only helps for a few days, what we need is a lot of rain.

There have been some inquiries about a Barricade Fire Gel order. If you are interested, let us know. If there are enough folks, we might be able to try to get a bulk deal like last time and save you some money. They sell the home applicator

## *What's Happening Continued*

so you could apply it yourself. Some residents just leave it out front, visible, so that if a fire occurs while you are gone the Firefighters can try to apply it for you if we can find it.

We will end the year with our annual Department Christmas party. I will have to get back to you with the Firefighter of the Year and Probationary Firefighter of the Year awards. We have had a great year and can't thank you enough for your support. And with that, we wish you all a Very Happy Holiday Season and hope that you can spend the time with the ones you love. Thanks for all that you do for us. We certainly appreciate our communities and the rural environment we live in.

*Your Volunteers*



## *Community Holiday Party*

Please join us for our annual dessert potluck where we share good cheer and honor our neighbors that have made important community contributions over the past year.

When: Wednesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 at 7:30 pm

Where: EF/HG Fire Station

Please bring a dessert to share – beverages will be provided.

## Valley Community Plans

The Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Community Plans were submitted to the county last month and last night they were approved by the San Dieguito Planning Group. This means they advance to the next step in the process and the county planning and legal departments will review them. When they have a draft version, it will be up for public hearings with the entire General Plan Update, sometime in 2009.

We have accomplished an important first goal, our land use map with reduced densities on the Harmony Grove Meadows and University Heights properties, among others, is the basis for our community plans (and we will try to keep it in there through the county review process). But all that we have gained could be lost at the next step in the process.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that we protest the Referral Map, that is the one the supervisors called for that allows the developers to build more homes on the Harmony Grove Meadows property and the University Heights property along our western ridgeline. If this map is approved for the new General Plan, our community plans will HAVE TO BE REVISED to allow more density on these properties. We will be asking our residents to email or write in with comments, and you will need to get all your neighbors to do the same.

The county General Plan update is now out for public comments, deadline for comments is January 16th. You can find it on the county web site at this URL: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/gpupdate/draftgp.html>.

The EFHGTC board will be reviewing this and we will be posting post our draft comments in a few weeks on our web site [www.efhgtc.org](http://www.efhgtc.org). Stay tuned for further instructions!!

*By Mid Hoppenrath*

## November Town Council Meeting Minutes Continued

### Minutes of the Town Council Meeting November 5, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm. Board members in attendance were Karen Gardner, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, May Meintjes, Eric Anderson, and Mid Hoppenrath.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and the introduction of the membership, May gave the treasurer's report. In the chairperson's report, Vice-Chair Jacqueline thanked all those who helped create the new community plans for Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. Both plans can be viewed on our Web site at [www.efhgtc.org](http://www.efhgtc.org). She pointed out that the Town Council Board elections are

### Town Council Committee Contacts

#### Bridges :

Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin 891-9061

#### University Heights:

Melanie Fallon  
744-7090

#### Harmony Grove Meadows:

Mid Hoppenrath  
747-1145

#### Citracado Parkway:

Mid Hoppenrath  
747-1145

#### Cielo Del Norte:

Karen Gardner  
744-9500

#### Heritage (including Citizen of the Year plaques):

Open

Fund Raising: Manu Sohaey 510-9114

## November Town Council Meeting Minutes Continued

coming up and urged interested residents to consider volunteering for the Board of Directors. She also reminded us that the community service awards will be given out at the Holiday Party on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and nominations are being accepted now. Details will be in the *Chaparral*.

Captain Crist of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department spoke to our residents concerning off road vehicles in Sage Hills and the particulars of posting no trespassing signs. Chief Twohy reported that a limited number of free flu shots would be available at the Fire Station.

Stephanie Gaines of the San Diego County Watershed Planning Division (858-694-3493) gave a presentation on the Watershed Protection Ordinance as it pertains to low impact development. She explained that urban runoff waters pick up pollutants and end up in our main bodies of water and eventually in the ocean. In undisturbed areas, surface water is filtered by vegetation and only 10% becomes runoff. In cities with large areas of impervious surfaces, over 55% of water becomes runoff. Originally it was thought that runoff waters should be conveyed directly to the ocean through a series of hard-surfaced ditches and channels, but it is now realized that runoff should be absorbed on site to the greatest extent possible by using the natural hydrology of the land. This is best accomplished through a customized approach that is different for each project.

Starting March 24, 2008, priority development projects must drain runoff from impervious to pervious surfaces; design pervious areas to receive runoff; use permeable pavements where appropriate; and implement site design best management practices. Stephanie showed photos of several low impact landscaping designs that used decorative rock swales or vegetated berms to contain or direct runoff waters and allow recovery into the natural ground water system.

Stephanie explained that residents can help keep our oceans clean by using low impact design in their yards and landscaping, and by reporting violations to the regional stormwater hotline: 1-800-846-0800. Fines as large as \$10,000 per day can be brought against large-scale violators. For more information visit [www.projectcleanwater.org](http://www.projectcleanwater.org).

Mid and Jacqueline reported that the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Community Plans will be reviewed by the San Dieguito Planning Group at their November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and we hope they will be approved.

In open forum Mid reported that the county is considering allowing boutique wineries in agricultural zones such as Harmony Grove. Public review is expected in the spring of 2009. Also Escondido is holding a public hearing on November 12<sup>th</sup> to add Lariat Drive, the main road into the approved Harmony Grove Village, to the city circulation element and to reclassify portions of Harmony Grove Road.

The meeting was adjourned at ~9:00 pm.

### Town Council Committee Contacts

#### Communications :

Karen Gardner 744-9500

#### Fourth of July Picnic:

May Meintjes 744-7090

#### Garden Festival:

Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin 891-9061,  
Karen Gardner 744-9500

#### Fourth of July

**Parade:** Eric  
Anderson

471-1464

#### Trails:

Mid Hoppentrath  
747-1145

#### Welcoming :

Tony De Bellis 744-7090.

#### Animal Evacuation:

Karen Gardner 744-9500

## *OMWD Launches Public Outreach for Water Conservation*

Olivenhain Municipal Water District today launched a public outreach campaign, dubbed “H<sub>2</sub>O Running Low,” that is designed to encourage its customers to increase their water conservation efforts.

Water deliveries to the District will be reduced in coming years due to below-average rainfall and snowmelt, court-ordered restrictions on pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, and reduced allocation from the State Water Project. “We learned through a recent survey that most of our customers have done the easy things in terms of conserving water,” said Kimberly A. Thorner, General Manager of the OMWD. “Our challenge now is moving to the next level and cutting water use even more, indoors as well as outdoors.”

The state’s reservoirs are at 14-year lows and the Colorado River reservoirs are at near-record lows. Some climate models predict that drought conditions are likely to continue throughout California and the West at least through 2011, if not longer. Meteorologists say it will take five years of above-average rainfall to catch up. “Echoing the words of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger when he declared a statewide drought in June, we must recognize the severity of the crisis we face,” Thorner added. “Through this outreach



campaign, we will communicate directly with our customers to impress upon them that this drought is not a temporary situation and to provide them with information on how to conserve.” Some examples include replacing unused lawn with low-water-use plants and xeriscaping, using weather-based irrigation controllers and replacing older, high-volume toilets and clothes washers.

In July, the District took the lead in water conversation in San Diego County by prohibiting new service connections and annexations during a Level 2 drought condition. The restriction is part of the District’s Drought Response Conservation Ordinance, which also declared a Drought Watch Level 1, calling for a 10 percent reduction in consumption through voluntary measures.

In Level 2, conservation measures become mandatory to achieve a 20 percent reduction in water use. Those

who fail to comply may be charged with a misdemeanor and penalized. On August 13, 2008, the District Board of Directors awarded a contract to the firm, Cook & Schmid, in order to assist the District design and implement the public outreach campaign. Cook & Schmid’s first line of business was the development of the “H<sub>2</sub>O Running Low” brand for the campaign.

Key components of the campaign include a new drought-related Web site, posters to

## *OMWD Continued*

be handed out at public

events, monthly newsletter and informative bill inserts that convey the facts about our drought and shrinking water supply, and the steps residents can take to further reduce their consumption.

The campaign also involves increased communications with homeowners' associations, agricultural growers and high-volume commercial users, as well as encouraging the use of recycled water for landscape irrigation, where available.

"Efficient use of water is needed more than ever, not only for the months ahead, but for generations to come, and the easiest, least expensive way to reduce demand and ensure that we meet our basic water needs is through

conservation," Thorner said. The District's drought Web site can be found by visiting [www.OMWD.com/drought](http://www.OMWD.com/drought).

## *Your Tax Dollars At Work*

Those of you using Canyon de Oro on your way to school or to Encinitas will have noticed a major effort cleaning up the open space at the junction with Fortuna Del Este. This property belong to the County and is designed to stay as undisturbed open space to preserve the local habitat. This parcel has been severely compromised over the last few years by off roaders trespassing and joyriding through the chaparral (some from our own community!), and by landscapers dumping green waste along the SDG&E access road. Those of you who have worked to secure the acquisition of open space in the community know how long and arduous a task it is, so we all need to be good stewards of the gift of public dollars and do our part to keep it in its pristine state. Off roaders also present a real risk to the community, as sparks from their engines could ignite a brush fire.

We were able after much effort to get the County Parks Department to help us clean up and protect this particular parcel. First the County rangers came and outlined the area to be cleaned up from the weeds that had grown on either side of Canyon de Oro. Next a crew of 25 members of the California Conservation Corps filled two dumpsters with the landscaping and construction waste that had been concealed by the tall weeds. In the weeks ahead you will see gates being erected to prevent vehicular access to the SDG&E access road. Don't worry, your access to Suerte Del Este, the dirt road to Rancho, will not be affected.

## *Your Tax Dollars At Work Continued*

Finally, in a great example of community resources coming together, the Elfin Forest Community Foundation gave us a grant to pay for BLT Grading to move the pile of boulders at the corner of Fortuna Del Este and Canyon de Oro along the newly cleaned up road, in an effort to discourage future would-be off roaders. Our thanks to Richard Green who generously donated the boulders.

So please join us in thanking the Community Foundation board, and the County Parks Department, for investing significant resources in preserving the integrity and beauty of our community resources. You can do your part if you happen to drive by and see kids on off-road vehicles, please ask them to stay on the dirt road, or even better, to go elsewhere. New signs are posted prohibiting off-road activity, and the Sheriff has been notified by the County that they should issue citations and that the County will press charges. The fine is apparently upwards of \$1,000, so please ask your own teenagers if you have any at home to be respectful of the posted prohibition. The number to call to report unauthorized off-loading is 760-510-5200. As more dedicated open space is added to the existing portfolio in Elfin Forest, such as the Sage Hills property along Elfin Forest Road, we need to stay vigilant and creative as a community, until would-be trespassers understand this is a community that means business, and that is serious about *keeping it rural*.

*By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin*

# TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

February 2009

If you care about —  
our trails,  
keeping out development,  
minimizing traffic,  
maintaining the current zoning,  
or any of the other issues that can threaten your  
lifestyle in our amazing valley please consider  
running for a position on the Town Council Board.

***Please consider serving this very special  
community of ours.***

**We meet twice monthly on Wednesday nights at the Fire station**

If you are interested in running please contact Melanie Fallon at [mfallon@hughes.net](mailto:mfallon@hughes.net). If you think you might like to run, contact any board member listed on the back of this document for further information.



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

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# Happy Holidays



## **HOLIDAY SAFETY**

Use common sense and follow a few simple rules to have a happy and safe holiday season. Crime increases during this time of year. Do not become a victim! Follow some simple crime prevention tips, be safe, and enjoy the holidays.

### **When out and about**

**ALWAYS** lock the windows and doors of your vehicle. Everyone can become a victim but you can reduce the chances. Nearly 65% of the time windows or doors are left unlocked.

**Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.** Criminals look for people that are preoccupied. (on the cell phone, placing bags in their vehicles, looking down when walking etc.)

**Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Limit the number of credit cards you carry.** Use credit cards or checks whenever possible. If you must use cash, carry different amounts in different pockets to not expose the entire amount to a potential thief.

**Discourage pick pockets by taking precautions with your purse and wallet.** At the mall, carry your purse close to your side or across your chest in front of you if the purse has a strap. Place your wallet in your front pocket with a rubber band wrapped around it. Sounds silly but you want to make it harder for criminals to access your hard earned cash or credit cards.

**Always shop with a friend or two (the buddy system).** Shop during daylight hours when possible. At night, park close to the building and under a light. If you are alone, have a mall or store employee escort you to your vehicle.

**As you approach your vehicle, have your keys ready, look under your vehicle, into the back seat and then the front seat.** Get in quickly and lock the doors. Start your car and move to a different, well lit location to arrange your packages or wait until you get home, If you see a piece of paper on your windshield or back window, do not get out immediately to remove it. Drive to a safe location to remove it unless it obstructs visibility.

**DO NOT TEMPT THE THIEF!** Leave nothing inside your car in view of others. If you do not want your items stolen, remove them from the inside of your car. If you drive an SUV or Mini Van, cover your packages so that they are not visible from the outside.

### **While At Home.**

**ALWAYS** keep your windows and exterior doors locked, even when at home.

**NEVER** open your door to a stranger.

**Do not put large displays of gifts in view of your windows or doors.** After Christmas, cut up and conceal the larger containers that gifts came in because you do not want to advertise what is now inside your home to a potential burglar.

## October and November Crime Report for Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove

10/3	Residential burglary in the 1400 block of Country Club Dr	Entry-window	Stolen: Cash, coins & jewelry
10/3	Recovered stolen vehicle 2700 block of Country Club Dr	Resident reported	
10/10	Stolen Vehicle & residential burglary 4200 blk of Canyon de Oro (vehicle recovered later)	Entry-garage door	Stolen: Sony laptop and Ford mustang  Arrest of suspect
10/15	Driving under the influence - Calico Ln		Arrest of suspect
11/6	Felony Vandalism (over \$400)-1400 blk of Country Club Dr Wooden gate and driveway gate damaged		Arrest of suspect
11/8	Grand Theft (during party in house)-21000 blk of Bresa de Loma Dr.	Guest at party	Stolen: several electronic games (X-Box, Nintendo)
11/14	Stolen vehicle-1200 blk of Country Club Dr	No visible signs of forced entry	
10/6	Felony Vandalism to residence-8800 blk of Mt. Israel Rd — \$6100 in damage	Entry-Unknown	

## Classifieds

### Local Baby, Animal and House Sitters

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

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

Amanda Clerke – Experienced Babysitter/Pet Care. Elfin Forest resident, RSF School. YMCA babysitter certification. 14 years old. Please call 760-510-0143.

Jessica MacKinnon - Babysitting/Feed Animals, EF Resident, 15 years old, SFC High School - 10th grade, took babysitting course through Red Cross. Contact at 760-744-8955.

Retired pre-school teacher and animal lover available for evening and late night child care. CPR, First Aid is up to date. Plenty of references. I would love to care for your animals as well. Elfin Forest resident. Mary Ann 760 591-3111.

Live-out Full Time Nanny/Caregiver Available: I live in Elfin Forest and am looking for a full time nanny/caregiver position. I'm a US citizen, have a CDL with a clean driving record, & almost 4 years local employment history with excellent references. Virginia Romero (760) 522-2900.

**Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board members: Eric Anderson 471-1464, Jacqueline Ar-sivaud-Benjamin 891-9061, Melanie Fallon 744-7090, Karen Gardner 744-9500, Mid Hoppenrath 747-1145, Chris Dye 420-8161, May Meintjes 744-7336, Manu Sohaey 510-9114 and Bill Telesco 746.4692.**

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