



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Evelyn Alemanni

How's your crystal ball working these days? Mine's been broken for a long time. Apparently, the County is still trying to discern some images in theirs. They continue trying to come up with a plan to jam more people into the County over the next 20 years.

Actually, over the next 18 years since they've already used up two years in the planning process. The plan is called GP2020 (more inside) and it will affect how our community builds out. The Town Council submitted its community character documents last year and preliminary maps have been presented, but the final map has still not been determined.

Guest speakers at our next Town Council meeting on November 6th will address the GP2020 process and what it means to our future. We will also hear about proposals for a village center in Harmony Grove. San Marcos officials have been invited to present their plans for the widening of San Elijo Road, although they have not yet confirmed they'll attend.

Unless you haven't ventured out into the big world in the past months, you know that widening of Rancho Santa Fe Road is underway and San Marcos has waived the restriction on building permits for San Elijo. While there's no way to mitigate the traffic impacts, SEH management has committed to paying for additional sheriff patrols on random days and times. So please, drive within the speed limit and stop at the stop signs. They are also paying for someone to pick up trash on Elfin Forest Road between their town center and our fire station.

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Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, November 6th @7:30 pm Guest speakers: Lois Jones from the San Dieguito Planning Group on GP2020. Harmony Grove Village update. San Elijo Road widening update. Parks. Lots of important issues you need to understand – be there!

Karen Gardner Joins Board

Elfin Forest resident Karen Gardner has volunteered to serve on the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board filling the last vacancy. Karen and her family (husband John Phillips, son Jacob, and their multitude of pets) moved from Washington D.C. to Elfin Forest about a year and a half ago.

While living in Washington, Karen worked in the intelligence community for approximately ten years, was a consultant to the transportation and environmental protection industries, and a research manager for both the National Restaurant Association and the Food Marketing Institute. Holding a B.A. in Russian Language and Literature and an M.S. in Operations Research, Karen currently owns a retail vintage clothing business. She enjoys reading, shopping at Amvets, and hanging out with her three alpacas and her new llama, Ole (courtesy of Nona Barker.) Karen looks forward to serving our community in any way she can.

Harmony Grove/Eden Valley Citizen's Group Is Dissolved

By Ann Beck-Witte

October 15, 2002

Dear Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council:

This is to formally notify you that the Harmony Grove/Eden Valley Citizen's Group (HGEVCG) has officially been dissolved.

The Harmony Grove/Eden Valley Citizens Group formed in January 2000 to fight off an industrial park. We accomplished these goals in that the industrial proposal seems very remote.

We knew that development would come and wanted to reach a point of consensus between critical landowners in the valley and the community. We have come as close to that as could be reasonably expected.

With this we have attained our goals. We see more formal processes carrying on from here.

Regards,
Ann Beck-Witte (on behalf of Betty Miller,
Secretary)
Harmony Grove/Eden Valley Citizen's Group

Yeah On Trails -- Nay On Parks

By Karen Gardner

According to the Elfin Forest survey conducted over the summer, 66% of survey respondents said they would like more community trails in Elfin Forest. Interestingly, only 50% of survey respondents reported using the trails. It would appear that the equestrian spirit is alive and well if even just in spirit! 30% of respondents weren't sure if they wanted more trails and only 3% were opposed to adding trails.

One-third of the respondents stated that they currently had community trails on their property. 38% said they would be willing to have community trails on their property and another 30% were unsure. The remaining 30% did not want community trails on their property.

Building a community park is not high on the agenda for Elfin Forest residents. 47% of survey respondents did not favor the development of a community park. Only 16% of respondents wanted to see the development of a community park. The remaining 37% didn't care about a park one way or another.

Only 19% of the residents with children favored building a community park whereas 40% of residents with children did not want a park and the other 40% with children didn't care about the development of a park one way or another.

And don't even discuss the development of a sports park! An overwhelming 78% of survey respondents strongly disagreed with building a sports park that would incorporate lighted ball fields in the Elfin Forest Community.

[Survey fielded in July 2002. 128 total survey responses. For further information on survey results please view the Elfin Forest Website: www.efhgtc.org.]

San Elijo Hills Contact

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

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Patti Newton

Date: October 2, 2002

Board Members Present: Bill Telesco, Evelyn Alemanni, Nancy Reed, Mid Hoppenrath, Rachel Barnes, Janet McGurk, Eric Anderson, Karen Gardner

Called to Order: 7:30 pm.

UPDATES: Evelyn Alemanni discussed the mitigation measures undertaken by San Elijo Hills (SEH) to manage traffic and other issues of concern. SEH has agreed to, among other things, fund extra (random) CHP patrol in the area and pick up trash on Elfin Forest Road to Harmony Grove Road.

Bill Telesco introduced our new Board member, Karen Gardner.

Patti Newton reported a delay in the EIR for Quail Ridge; a meeting with Max Altmann and Jim Simmons regarding the former Pulte project ensured the project will be presented to the County with all the changes/mitigation measures agreed to in place.

Mid Hoppenrath said the next workshop regarding the village concept for Harmony Grove would take place October 10th. The existing egg ranch and dairy will likely be the town center.

Nancy Reed stated there was a press conference this morning regarding the Derbas property acquisition by the County and TECC. This 345-acre parcel will remain open space in perpetuity.

ITEM #1: John Herrera, Democratic candidate for the 74th Assembly District, outlined his position on issues of concern to voters. A retired military man, former IRS agent, and administrative officer with US Customs, Mr. Herrera said the Democratic Party had drafted him at the last moment. The focus of his campaign is the economy. He champions “2020 Energy Independence” through the active support of alternative energy sources. He cited the fact that over the last several years California has built over twenty new prisons and only one university. Transportation and education issues are also high on his list.

ITEM #2: San Diego County Sheriffs: B.J. Williams, Crime Prevention Specialist, explained to residents that she’s the liaison between the

community and the Sheriff’s Department. Feel free to call her for an inspection of your home to find out how you can improve your security and reduce the chances of becoming a crime victim.

Deputy Sheriff Kim Quaco told residents that crime statistics had gone down for the year. Not surprisingly, there is little crime reported in Elfin Forest. In the unincorporated areas of the County, property crimes and auto theft are up.

Q & A: A resident cited continued vandalism as a problem and wanted to know how to handle it:

The best thing you can do is call to report such incidents, even if you feel they are of little consequence. This is the Sheriff’s only/best way to know what is going on in a given area; the more calls, the more attention it receives. Patterns will get attention. **How best to deal with off-road activity:** The Sheriff’s Department has an off-road team with four-wheel drive vehicles and motorcycles; residents should put in a request and it will be scheduled relative to the times/places in which it most often occurs. **Is it legal to shoot firearms in the Elfin Forest area?** Any shooting in the area is illegal. Report it when you see/hear it. **How do I report (cigarette) butt tossers?** Take down the license plate number and vehicle description if possible and email B.J. Williams at betty.williams@sdsheriff.org. You can also contact Detectives Mahoney and Horst at the San Marcos substation at 510-5224. This year the Halloween patrol will be stepped up in this area.

ITEM #3: Proposition Y: John Stiker, a candidate for the Rancho Santa Fe School District Board of Trustees and volunteer on the Yes on Prop Y Committee, presented a slide show outlining his reasons for supporting the \$46 million bond. Briefly, current and projected overcrowding has not been adequately planned for. Portable facilities are stretched to the limit. The money will go toward the purchase of two new school sites, one inside the Covenant, and one outside: a controversial issue at best. The existing R. Roger Rowe, RSF school site will be improved. Interestingly, the bond will only cover the cost of acquiring an Elfin Forest site, not the construction of the school. If the bond is passed it will cost taxpayers \$30/\$100,000 of assessed value. For example, if your property’s assessed value is \$1 million, you would pay an additional \$300/year to cover the cost of the bond. Due to Proposition 13
(Continued on next page)

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

constraints, new residents will carry a disproportionately higher share. A fiscal control is in place should the school board wish to spend more than \$27 million, requiring an advance advisory vote. The site selection is fraught with obstacles, many of which cannot be overcome or will ensure years of costly litigation. The use of eminent domain is a tool available to the board but is seen as a last resort. Mr. Stiker believes that if Prop Y fails that, among other things, the only available alternatives will be increased class sizes and the risk of losing K-3 State funding; a year-round schedule; acquiring property adjacent to the R. Rowe RSF school site.

ITEM #4: RSF School District Board of Trustees Candidates: Nick Pisano, expressed his opposition to Prop Y. A resident of Cielo (outside the RSF Covenant), Pisano, an attorney, resents efforts to exclude non-Covenant students from the district. He thinks the Board is too ready to appease Rancho residents without the benefit of public input. He has many questions regarding Prop Y: Why K-8? A non-Covenant middle school won't have enough kids to fill it. Where are salaries coming from for the new school? Prop Y fails to provide a roadmap. Why not expand the existing site? The traffic generated on Del Dios Highway is negligible if the Quantum site were developed. Why not create a new district for K-6? What about the suitability of an Aliso Canyon site? The board has not responded and failed to explore these and other options fully. Many questions remain to be asked. Visit www.nickpisano.com for more information.

Kathy Stumm, current president of the RSF School Board of Trustees, and president of the Torrey Pines High School Foundation, is seeking re-election to the Board. In touch with current trends in education, Stumm supports Prop Y. She sees overcrowding as a huge issue and cites safety as her number one concern. She thinks the Pacifica site has potential and sees the Elfin Forest site as appropriate for K-5 in the future. It is premature to discuss boundaries and attendance areas because too much is left to speculation at this time.

Laurel Lemarié, a 26-year RSF resident and self-professed "horseperson", supports Prop Y but with the caveat that it can achieve its goals using a lot less money. A career mathematician, Lemarié has been

treasurer for many different organizations over the years and "follows the money." She is dedicated to upholding the standards already long-established at the R. Rowe RSF School, like low student-teacher ratios. Lemarié insists the bond should be more in the neighborhood of \$18 and likes the Pacifica site (warts and all.) She's uncomfortable with the fact that the ceiling in the bond is not binding. With the economic downturn and with this being the third year of a bear market, she doesn't like to burden taxpayers. Why not fund buses for outlying students?

Richard Burdge, a retired investment banker and longtime RSF resident, supports Prop Y. Doesn't like the power line issues associated with the Pacifica site. He thinks the board should scrap a RSF site altogether and build immediately in Elfin Forest but recognizes the enormous political muscle it would take to do this. He advocates the idea of forming a citizens committee of communities in need of a site, i.e., Rancho East, Cielo, Bridges, Elfin Forest.

John Stiker, a 15-year RSF resident and Senior VP of Marketing at BumbleBee Seafoods and father of triplet boys, supports Prop Y and favors the Sahn site. Stiker's opinions on Prop Y are listed in Item #3. He thinks a forward-thinking board is necessary to handle issues beyond the immediate challenges. His marketing background comes into play when he "over-communicates" the issues surrounding Prop Y to educate district residents on core issues.

Roger Wooley, a 51-year resident of RSF is not running for the Board but registered his strong opinions opposing Prop Y. It is important to note that he is the attorney for the Sahms who own one of the sites under consideration (in the Covenant.) They are not willing sellers and could ultimately lose a good part of their property through the invocation of eminent domain. Wooley had many questions, among them: Why not build a second school in the Covenant? Why not expand existing site? There are seven acres available very close to the existing school. In addition, there are three more acres near the Water District building. The Victor Mature property could also be available. Busing would handle traffic problems.

A candidate Q & A followed after adjournment.

ADJOURNED: 10:00 p.m.

NO On Y (The School Bond Measure)

By Lynda Clerke

We support efforts to relieve overcrowding, but cannot vote for this Bond Measure because:

- No site is specified for the second school - The bond language only specifies the second school be outside the Rancho Santa Fe Covenant and configured for K through 8.
- No specific allocation and timing of bond money is written in the bond language – It only specifies funds to purchase a site outside the Covenant for a second school, build the second school, purchase an Elfin Forest site, and make major improvements and additions to the current school.

Do you really want the RSF School Board to decide where to site the school non-Covenant kids will attend?

The School Board's most recent site of choice called "Pacifica" suffers from severe environmental concerns including high-power electric lines, a nearby greenhouse that has potentially sprayed many chemicals over the last thirty years, and worst of all, the potential for release of chlorine and ammonia gases stored nearby. Although this site is "off the market" to the School District at this time (but may be resurrected) there are several sites nearby with the same problems.

Do you really want to give \$27+ million to a school board you don't even know, to use as they see fit?

The School Board has caved to requests of the RSF Association Board (the body that governs the Covenant) to site the school outside the Covenant and make it a K-8 disregarding the recommendations of the site selection committee, the desires of the Superintendent, and the voice of many school parents. Two out of five Board seats are up for grabs this year and one next. Concerned parents are voting for two of the following three candidates who are considered most friendly to Elfin Forest: Kathy Stumm, John Stiker, and Nick Pisano.

Do not feel guilty for voting against an ill-written bond measure that is being passed off as the only solution.

Prop. Y guarantees RSF Covenant children a neighborhood school with small class size, space for

enrichment programs, a completely renovated school, and a new multi-use building.

Prop. Y presents safety and education risks to non-Covenant children and makes NO guarantee of small class size, enrichment programs, a gym or multi-use building, an experienced staff, adequate capital equipment, and comparable educational materials.

A NO vote is a vote for finding the best solution for ALL kids in the district, not just Covenant kids.

We will support a future bond measure that specifies a second school site without safety concerns as well as fair and equitable fund allocation and timing decisions.

Please VOTE NO on PROPOSITION Y (The School Bond Measure)

Elfin Forest Hometown Halloween **By Lori Clark**

Last year the Elfin Forest Hometown Halloween was a HUGE success. A couple of truckloads of local kids ran up and down driveways to trick-or-treat in their own neighborhood. Everyone had a great time. If you would like to welcome trick-or-treaters (between 5pm-8pm) or obtain the list of neighbors welcoming trick-or-treaters, please contact Lori Clark at: clark-17@ix.netcom.com or 760-510-2001.

The Halloween Trick-or-Treat Route will be available at the Fire Station by 5pm on Halloween for those who do not receive it by email.

Calendar for November 2002

Date	Time	Event
Weds 11/6	7: 30 pm	EF/HG Town Council Meeting
Tues 11/5, 11/19	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Bookmobile@Firehouse
Tues 11/5, Tues 11/19	7 pm	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Fri	10 am – noon	Playgroup
Every Thurs	6:30 pm	Yoga
Mon 11/11	7 pm	Fire Board@Firehouse
Weds 11/13	7 pm	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Sat 11/23	8 am	Fire Training@Firehouse

Yes Or No – Make Sure You Know What You Are Voting FOR!

By Kari Perry

Recently a friend asked me, “What is motivating you to work so hard on the bond issue? It doesn’t call for a middle school like you wanted, and the property to be chosen has to be outside the Covenant.” My answer was simple. In life we all have to make compromises and choices. I won’t get everything I wanted with PROP Y, but what I will get is: A state-of-the-art K-8 school, close to where I live with a plan that could include physically separating the middle school from the elementary school on the same campus.

When I weigh this option against what has a high risk of occurring if the bond were to fail:

- Inability to do anything for another two years, further delaying any site purchase or start of construction of a new school, or upgrades to our current school. (As a Prop 39 measure, the next time a 55% voter approval vote could be pursued for the school would be March 2004.)
- Larger class sizes
- Reduced enrichment programs due to lack of space
- Increased overcrowding on an already overcrowded campus (current enrollment of 834 projected to go to 1400 in the next few years)
- Increased traffic in what is now an unbelievable traffic situation –1800 more trips projected into the Village to accommodate projected student growth over the next few years. (As it is, I have to leave 30 minutes before school starts to drive my children three miles to school and get them there on time)
- Loss of families to private schools who have been key supporters in our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) and Endowment programs
- Continued degradation of current school facilities built over 50 years ago that need updating
- Loss in technology updates in current classrooms that are at their “max” right now in terms of accommodating the latest technology
- Loss in property value due to two more years of an unresolved school situation and overcrowded school

Not to mention the extreme measures being discussed like, eminent domain of buildings adjacent to current campus and year round schooling, neither of which would do anything to pull this community together for the future.

We have an opportunity to use this issue to come together as a community with each of us making compromises (which we’ve had to do our entire lives in order to achieve the successes we have) and reach the best solution possible for our community.

Get informed. Be willing to make compromises and vote in the best interest of our children and community – Vote Yes on Prop Y. For more information on Prop Y, attend the next school board meeting, November 13th, at 7:00 p.m. at the RSF School and check out www.YesOnPropY.org.

Thank you.

TECC Acquires Eleven Acres By Deborah LeLevier

The Escondido Creek Conservancy is pleased to announce the addition of an eleven-acre parcel to its growing preserve. The property, known as The Quarry, is located at the southeast corner of Harmony Grove and Country Club Roads and has 1,000 feet of creek frontage. Although the property is quite disturbed, plans are to restore it to its former native splendor.

Special thanks to Elfin Forest resident and real estate agent, Jerry Gradisher, for finding this property and locking up the initial deal with personal funds. And once again, TECC thanks The San Diego Foundation for its support and for sharing in TECC’s vision. The purchase would not have been possible without a grant from The San Diego Foundation’s Escondido Creek Conservancy Land Acquisition and Maintenance Fund.

Sheriff’s Department Contacts

In an emergency, please call 911. For non-emergency reporting, contact the following:

Jackie Cruz – agriculture crime prevention specialist
760-940-4350

Robert Jennings – Deputy 760-510-5223

Norma Nares – Sergeant 760-510-5217

Tim Mahoney – Deputy 760-510-5224

Prop Y – We Can't Afford It By Scot Cheatham

I must admit I'm a big part of our problem. I have four children attending our Rancho Santa Fe School. So I have done my share to contribute to the current overcrowding crisis. Like many others, we moved to the school district in 1995 largely because of the school's standing as one of the top schools in San Diego County.

At first glance, it appears that the obvious solution to the overcrowding problem is to build a new school. This proposal seems so obvious. If we can just spend twenty to thirty million on a new school, and put half of the students in it, all will be solved, right?

WRONG! And the reason is fundamental. WE CANNOT AFFORD IT.

This week I received a copy of the adopted budget for the Rancho Santa Fe School District (RSFSD) for the current year. It shows total revenue of approximately \$5.6 million and total expenses of approximately \$6 million. As a result, the school is projecting a deficit of about \$400,000 for the 2002-2003 year. To make matters worse, this budget assumes that about 10% of its revenue, or \$572,000, comes from money raised from donations (The Endowment). Without this money, the budget deficit would approach a million dollars.

The RSFSD is what is known as a Basic Aid District, as opposed to a Revenue Limit District. What this means is that the District gets most of its money based on a percentage of the property taxes collected by San Diego County for properties within the District. Most other districts in California get their money based on the average number of students attending the school each day, or the average daily attendance. In essence, our District gets the same amount of money regardless of student numbers.

A pro-forma budget for the new school has not been prepared. We must have this information **before** we decide to build a new school, not after. Prop Y can pay for building a new school, but it cannot pay for running it. This is why simply building a new school is a disaster waiting to happen. There are too many unanswered questions, such as:

1) What is the projected revenue for the two schools? Even with the hot real estate market, district revenue from the secured property tax roll increased

only slightly from 2001 to 2002. Remember that this revenue does not increase just because we have two schools.

2) How will we pay for the extra costs related to running a second school? Some of these costs include another principal, administrative staff, utilities, insurance, security, and other separate costs.

3) How does each school give equal time to the enrichment programs like music, art, language, sports, computer education, etc.?

Is there a permanent solution to these problems? I think there is, but it will take a commitment of all of us within the District community to support the education of each child within our District.

First, we should vote NO on Prop Y. Despite its good intentions, it is a knee-jerk reaction to a crisis.

Next, since it is clear that the current level of income at the District is insufficient to run two schools, we should propose a new bond measure that will expand the current campus in order to relieve the immediate overcrowding crisis. The District already has \$2 million in its capital budget, so it doesn't have to wait. It is likely the District will continue to operate at a deficit, however, economies of scale will make the single District operation more efficient. Also, needed donations from the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) and the Endowment will continue to benefit all of our children, and not be diluted between two schools, each struggling to survive financially.

Finally, part of the new bond proceeds would be used to acquire a site for a second school, but the district would not build a second school until it is clearly affordable.

To summarize, if you are planning on voting Yes on Prop Y, please go ask the District for a copy of this year's budget. Once you see where the income comes from and how it is spent, it will be clear to you that building a second school is not in the best interests of our children.

Please vote NO on Prop Y.

Brushing, Grading, Clearing Questions?

If you have questions about guidelines, policies and standards for brushing, grading, and clearing, or if you need to report a violation, call the County Department of Planning and Land Use 760-940-2893.

Can Changing Zoning Stop Urban Sprawl Into EF/HG?

By Doug Dill

The surrounding cities, particularly San Marcos, grow by annexation of unincorporated low-density rural land. We are all reminded of this striking contrast between our rural community and the San Elijo Hills (SEH) urban sprawl as we drive west on Elfin Forest or Questhaven Road. It was not too long ago that the SEH land was unincorporated chaparral covered hills.

How can we break this vicious cycle of turning pristine coastal chaparral covered hills into more SEH type suburban sprawl? One way is to find sources of funding to purchase the still vacant land and turning it into dedicated open space. We can see progress of this by following the activities of organizations like TECC (The Escondido Creek Conservancy) with their efforts to acquire land. Unfortunately there is more developable land to go around than sources to buy it all for open space.

Many owners of these large tracts of land adjacent to San Marcos have intentions of eventually being annexed into San Marcos so they can subdivide for very high-density housing projects. And why not? As an investment, any reasonable party wants to get the maximum return on their land. With County zoning, why subdivide into septic based 2-acre minimum sized lots when annexation can allow sewer based 4000 square foot lots?

A second option would be to change the zoning on the parcels of land surrounding San Marcos. In the unincorporated area formulate a transitional zoning from the suburban cookie cutter housing density of San Marcos to the rural/agricultural density of EF/HG. As an example of how it could be done, starting at the city boundary, assign 1/2-acre lot sizes, then 3/4 to 1-acre lots sizes, and finally 1.5 to 2-acre lots.

By raising the density in the unincorporated land next San Marcos, the County provides a reasonable development option to the owners to stay within the County. It would be more difficult to annex because the striking contrast of density between the city and the County is reduced. Establishing this kind of graduated density could contain or break this vicious cycle of annexation by the cities and form a pleasant transition from suburban to our rural community. It

would also allow the County to add more density to the Elfin Forest area as part of its General Plan 2020 mandate.

What Is General Plan 2020?

The General Plan is a "blueprint" that will guide future physical development in the unincorporated County of San Diego through the year 2020. California state law requires general plans and the County is in the process of preparing a comprehensive update to its existing general plan.

GP2020 is a regional plan for all unincorporated areas of San Diego County that provides policies related to land use, transportation, housing, conservation, public safety, public services and community character. The general plan will also include individual Community Plans for the County's 24 subregions and community plan areas.

Public meetings within the communities are one aspect of a larger process that involves the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, community planning and sponsor groups, and a Board-appointed advisory committee.

GP2020 Issues:

- **Growth:** The region is expecting about 800,000 new residents by the year 2020 and the unincorporated County needs to accommodate its share of anticipated growth.
- **Density:** Some areas may realize an increase or decrease in general plan density. "Density" is the number of permanent residential dwelling units allowed per acre.
- **Community Character:** Changes to land use may impact the location and appearance of roads, parks, homes and schools, shaping the general look and feel of your community.

Attend the November Town Council Meeting. Have a say in this process. At the next Town Council meeting, November 6th, the main topic for discussion will be this issue of density and dealing with future threats of annexation.

University Commons Contact

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

In The Future Does EF/HG Need More Parks And If So What Kind?

By Doug Dill

As a member of the San Dieguito Planning Group (SDPG) an agenda item that we address annually is an updated priority list of possible locations within the planning group area for parks in the distant future. The County Parks and Recreation Department has a "bucket" of money they call Park Land Dedication (PLD) Funds for acquiring land for this purpose. Generally, the County is looking for large flat parcels that could someday be developed into regional "active recreational" parks. These parks feature ball fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, etc., what I would call a suburban park like Stagecoach Park on the east side of La Costa in Carlsbad. Unfortunately EF/HG is horizontally challenged for these types of parks with its hilly topography.

Since I've been on the SDPG, I have used a parcel list prepared by The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) of available land for sale within the EF/HG area that TECC deems important for open space acquisition. This has been used as EF/HG's submission for this PLD Fund priority list. The logic of this being to keep consistent with the EF/HG motto of "dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere", that more open space is the best means to maintain our rural community character. Also, the EF/HG community already has a regional "active recreational" park called the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve.

The Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve is 750 acres of open space that offers 17 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian viewing points. All wildlife and natural resources at the Reserve are fully protected so that future generations may also enjoy these wonders. Located on Harmony Grove Road, the Reserve provides a wealth of opportunities for recreational use, educational research and environmental appreciation. This type of "active" park is in keeping with the rural atmosphere.

So is the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve enough? Twenty years from now Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove may have many more houses and the demographics of the families may be very different from the equestrian, agricultural and open space oriented families that live here now. The large scale subdivisions now proposed for Elfin Forest and the

future 'Village' concept for Harmony Grove are planned have houses situated on lots that are 1/2 acre or less. There won't be much room for equestrian or agricultural hobbies on those size lots.

What's the community to do? These proposed future densely populated neighborhoods need recreational facilities. Do we abandon the "Rural Character" in order to accommodate the needs of the future suburban residents? I don't think this is necessary, for this is the reason that developers wish to build out here. The qualities of EF/HG are very desirable and should be preserved even with more new residents.

So, how to add future neighborhood recreational features without needing another regional park? I would propose the following guidelines and ask for the Town Council's adoption of something like this as an EF/HG policy to use as input for future park development:

- The County Parks Department to continue to acquire more open space in EF/HG for similar purposes. The EF/HG Town Council to continue to maintain a priority list of available parcels for this purpose. (List based on TECC's parcel list)
- Large scale developers (such as Cielo del Norte and Quail Ridge) to provide private active neighborhood parks within their development footprint for the sole use of those residents.
- The future Harmony Grove Village concept proposed in the new County General Plan 2020 to accommodate for local neighborhood recreational park needs within its defined border.
- EF/HG residents wishing to create active recreational parks, identify parcels on private roads in their neighborhoods for this purpose.
- If RSF School District acquires land in EF/HG for location of a future school, it is appropriate that active recreational parkland be collocated at that site.
- Do not support the acquisition of land by the County specifically for regional active recreational parks in the EF/HG communities. Conventional active recreational parks are not in keeping with a rural atmosphere.

So, what do you think? If this is of interest to you, please provide input to the Town Council by attending the monthly community meetings at the Fire Station or contacting Town Council members directly by phone or email listed on the back page.

Harmony Grove/Eden Valley Citizens' Group Community Meeting Minutes

By Ann Beck-Witte

Date and Location: October 10, 2002 at the Harmony Grove Spiritualist Association

Board Members Present: Kevin Barnard, Diane McMillen, Ann Beck-Witte, Bob Nielsen, Mid Hoppenwrath, Lali Mitchell, Bill Wilgenburg, Kathy DaSilva

Called to Order: 7:10 pm

At the beginning of the meeting **Mid Hoppenwrath** interjected a non-agenda item and questioned whether the Board was representing the wishes of the community. She was asked to save her issue until agenda items were finished.

Kevin Barnard delivered a PowerPoint presentation. This presentation gave a history of political happenings in Harmony Grove/Eden Valley from November 1999 to present and was well received. This set the background for review of sphere of influence issues. The presentation asked questions for the review of citizens: How can this community retain its rural character and community? Should Harmony Grove/Eden Valley remain within Escondido's sphere of influence or should it be removed from the sphere of influence?

Mid Hoppenwrath asked the question of why HGEVCG had requested that the San Dieguito Planning Group not make a statement that HGEVCG wanted to be removed from Escondido's sphere of influence. Kevin and others asserted that the Board was unsure about how citizens felt about this issue. As of the 9/19/02 San Dieguito Planning Group meeting the County had not yet come back with their plans for HGEV. These plans were delivered on 10/1/02 during a planning workshop sponsored by the County. The County had left a draft map on the premises after the 10/1 meeting and during the week of 10/7 they had delivered another plan that is, presumably, another alternative. Kevin also advised that the County's most recent plans prior to the 10/1/02 workshop included a uniform 7.3 dwelling units (DU) per acre zoning that is a significant increase from Escondido's 1 DU per 8 acre zoning. He reminded the group that in June many citizens had signed letters stating that they were opposed to the County's densification plans. **Lali Mitchell** stressed

that this meeting was to provide all information to citizens necessary for them to make an informed decision and that the citizens have a right to voice their opinion based on the new information.

Bill Wilgenburg was asked to state his review as a large landowner about whether he wanted to remain in the sphere of influence or to be removed from it. Bill and other landowners had initially thought to sell their land to be developed as industry but changed their plans due to the citizens' wishes to not have industry in the valley. Bill stated he and several other large landowners had proceeded to start the process of developing plans for their land with residential developers. These developers would be working with the County of San Diego and not the City of Escondido. This process will proceed whether the area stays within Escondido's sphere or is removed from Escondido's sphere.

A citizen suggested the need for more structure to the group. **Bill Telesco** and **Nona Barker** from Elfin Forest stated that the group could be folded in as sub-committee under the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council.

Kevin asked for a show of hands on whether those present would prefer to:

- Be removed from Escondido's sphere of influence.
- Stay in Escondido's sphere of influence.
- Remain undecided.

A count of hands was not taken. It looked roughly split between those wanting to be removed from the sphere and those unsure or wanting to stay in.

Meeting Adjourned

Elf Alerts

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

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

Harmony Grove/Eden Valley: Annexation vs. Sphere of Influence

By Stephen Witte

Harmony Grove and Eden Valley are at a difficult, emotionally tumultuous period that will cast the region's future for a long time. Local citizens are making tough decisions about population density and future roads through the region.

One of the most difficult decisions is whether this region should be annexed into Escondido, left in Escondido sphere of influence, or placed completely in the control of the County of San Diego. All three choices have risks and benefits.

My decision to support annexation into Escondido is primarily driven by the zoning densities supported by two key developers in the region. One developer desires densities of 10 DU/acre over parts of his 110 acres and both favor the road, SC1375. The 110 acres, adjacent to property we have owned for 12 years along Harmony Grove Road, will almost certainly require secondary access from the Del Dios Highway to support the densities being sought.

The region has long been a target for development. It is only a matter of time before the pressures of population will overwhelm and densities rise. Unfortunately, along with increased density, will come a major new thoroughfare, the son of SC1375, which is another primary reason why I am in favor of annexation.

The Escondido City Council is changing politically as a result of Prop S, the growth control measure put into effect in 1998. Prop S is our only ally. In November 2000 the citizens voted down zoning density increases in eight different areas around Escondido. Citizens are voting down zoning density increases because they are stuck in traffic. The traffic problem will only get worse and citizens will continue voting down density increases.

Immense increases in traffic are inevitable if SC1375 gets resurrected. This will be a big road and will allow a shortcut from 78 to 15. SANDAG Chairman Morrison says in a letter dated October 9, 2002:

"SANDAG over the next year will be looking at the potential to move more people in a transportation corridor that would parallel Interstate 15. The corridor could be east or west of the existing interstate. We will be conducting community

outreach so we can "listen" to the people who live and travel the corridor in an effort to develop a series of potential transportation alternatives (e.g. transit, regional arterial, expressway, and/or a highway solution for detailed evaluation. This work will begin in early 2003."

Other regional leaders gave their perspective on the three choices: Kevin Johnson, Jerry Harmon, and Connie Witt. NONE advocates leaving the Sphere of influence of Escondido.

Kevin Johnson (a key attorney helping defeat outrageous zoning increases around the County) says: "Influencing Board of Supervisor decisions is much more difficult than controlling a city council. I don't think you have much to gain by staying unincorporated and therefore would lean towards annexation. Then, everyone will have to stay energized on the ever present challenge of city elections."

Jerry Harmon (20 years Escondido City Council, 4 as Mayor) says: "I have always wanted more County voters to annex to Escondido. That is the best way to keep Escondido rural. I agree with point three. You will have more control locally than with the County. This is why many cities like Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Poway incorporated. It is easier for developers to get three votes at the County level than locally. And it is harder to fight county government than a local city hall."

"I would urge all residents of Harmony Grove who want to remain rural to take advantage of Escondido's Prop S. And your area is planned for large lot residential. It now takes a majority vote of the people to increase land use intensity rather than just three votes put together by a developer in a back room deal. It may take a while before we have the same protection county wide, but we're working on a county wide effort too."

Connie Witt (co-author Prop S and now running for State Assembly): "You have a difficult choice. I don't trust Horn or the GP 2020 program. If you go into the City that means you would be under Prop S and able to vote as well and put someone on the Council from your area. However, you would also be more apt to receive sewer and that is your biggest problem. Staying where you are means you have little representation and, as everyone knows, your group is good at fighting.

(Continued next page)

(HG/EV Annexation continued)

The question is: Can you continue? Whatever the decision you must stay politically active! If you came into the City, I would suggest that you work together with City neighborhoods to form a coalition with EMPAC, FIRE DEPARTMENT, and THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. It's only through such a coalition that the people can have a true voice."

Thanks all of you for taking the time to read the above and I tell you from my heart that I put a lot of careful deliberation into making this choice. Please vote in favor of annexation. At the very least, do not support any efforts to push back the Escondido sphere of influence!

Escondido Citizens' Ecology Committee Meets

By Rick Mercurio

A regional meeting on the state of North County's environment Sponsored by Escondido Citizens' Ecology Committee (ECEC) will be held on Saturday, November 16, 1-4 pm at the North Broadway School (North Broadway at Country Club, three miles north of the 78 Freeway.) Beverages and snacks will be provided by ECEC.

The featured speaker is San Diego County Planner Tom Oberbauer who will give the latest information on the County's Plan for habitat protection in the unincorporated area of North County. This is the County's version of the MHCP. He will bring maps and charts and info.

A networking opportunity will be provided as many groups interested in the environment will attend, and a representative from each organization will be encouraged to speak for 3-5 minutes on their latest projects and objectives. For more information contact ECEC President Joan Perron at 760-747-7416 or ECEC secretary Rick Mercurio at 760-746-1391 or email MercFamily@aol.com.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Escondido Mayor and Council candidates forum on Thursday, Oct. 10 from 7-9 p.m. at the Escondido City Hall. You may ask questions of the candidates, and all eight of them have confirmed their attendance. The ECEC and the League of Women Voters cosponsor the forum.

Elfin Forest Book Group

By Karen Gardner

The Elfin Forest Book Group will hold its next meeting on Thursday November 14th at Aileen Cheatham's house (1408 Paint Mountain Road). Meetings start at 7:30 and are held on the second Thursday of each month. The book this month is "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston. Please join us. We welcome anyone over the age of 16 years old!!

If you are interested in obtaining additional information please contact Karen Gardner at Karen@vintagematerialism.com or 760-744-9500.



Nancy Reed, Nils Lunnerdal, and Karen Gardner - custodians of the Fire Safe Garden

EIRs Out For Review

Here's a brief overview of Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) expected in the near future:

Quail Ridge (out soon) – 69 homes along Elfin Forest Road. (**Patti Newton** is heading the review committee.)

San Elijo Ridge (Out soon) – 120+ homes on 6000 square foot lots on Questhaven Road. (Max Altmann's project formerly referred to as "Pulte".) (**Evelyn Alemanni** is heading the review committee.)

All of these projects will significantly affect your quality of life. After an EIR is certified it is extremely difficult to get objectionable elements of a project modified or to seek mitigation. Get involved and help with the review. Make a difference.

Queen of the Knoll As Told To Lorry Brown

My name is KC, short for Kids Classic Blond. I'm a 15-½ year old quarter horse mare. I came to Elfin Forest when I was less than a year old. The McFarlanes hosted my mom and me until our corral was built. Thank you Bobby and Byron.

My favorite pastime is to stand on my knoll and watch the cars go by. It's the only flat spot on my hillside home. I sure don't like the changes in traffic over the past few years. I guess people call it progress. I call it disgusting.

I was a typical teenager, but when threatened with boarding school, shaped up and became a great trail horse. My mistress and I know all the trails. I'm very sad over the trails we have lost due to this disgusting progress, but love the efforts of the trail and landscape committees to fence and improve our existing trails. Did you notice the new trail in my own front yard and up and down my road? It is wonderful and I love the new rock road markers with the road names and iron works of rabbits and deer, birds, and butterflies. What a fabulous artist we have! I wanted to pose for the sign on our street but was told we couldn't have a rock wall because of water lines in the area. My mistresses' granddaughter thinks I should be done up in bronze. Oh, to be a star!

Many thanks to all the considerate drivers in Elfin Forest. My kind and I really appreciate good drivers and wish everyone would drive safely.

I love Elfin Forest and hope to be standing on my knoll for many years to come. Wave to me next time you drive by. I will be watching for you. Love, KC.



KC, Queen of the Knoll, assumes her favorite pose overlooking Elfin Forest Road

More On Satellite Internet Access By Joe Alemanni

As I reported in a previous issue of the *chaparral*, I gave up waiting for terrestrial broadband Internet service (DSL or cable modem) and subscribed to DirecWay. This is a satellite two-way always on connection that offers about a ten-fold speed increase over dial-up.

Except for a few very short and confusing periods of service disruption (the DirecWay mail server or signal went down) I am very pleased. My wife and I share the connection on our home network and we love the always-on connection. Despite the service's higher first year cost that amortizes the equipment (dish and transceiver) expense, we are already saving money having eliminated our monthly ISP and dedicated phone line charges.

The negatives are: a speed far slower than DSL or cable modem, "fair-use" restrictions that limit user download within 24 hours to a total of 120 megabytes before the system limits your bandwidth, and a latency (signal delay) that makes it unsuitable for playing many Internet games like Counterstrike (DOH!). The geostationary satellites that relay the signal are 22,223 miles above the Earth making the distance it travels roughly twice the Earth's circumference.

Fellow elf, Dr. Alan Lasnover, made me aware of a similar satellite service called Starband (www.starband.com) that he first began using while a Bay area resident and continues using here. Starband, like DirecWay and DirecTV, is affiliated with a satellite TV provider, Echostar's DISH Network. It is equivalent with DirecWay and, similarly, can use a single dish for both TV and Internet reception. The monthly cost of Starband is a little higher (about \$10) and Alan successfully uses a third-party software product, known as a proxy server, to share the connection with a Macintosh computer.

Town Council Website

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

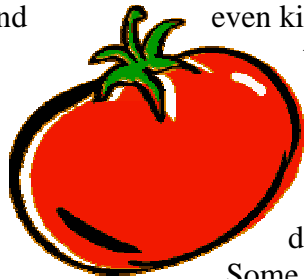
www.efhgtc.org.

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

Garden Greetings

By Nancy Reed

This month I'd like to focus on plants that can cause trouble. This plant list includes those that can hurt and



even kill. I will focus on equine troublemakers as Elfin Forest is an equestrian community and many of us (myself included) may not be aware of the many dangerous plants available. Some are well known and some

will surprise you!

I recently reviewed a landscape plan for a horse ranch in a neighboring community. The plan called for an oleander (*Nerium oleander*) hedge between the pasture and road. As oleander is very highly toxic, not only to horses but to humans as well, it was not a good choice for that situation.

The good news about horses is that, unless they are starved, nine out of ten horses will not eat what will harm them. Unfortunately for my neighbor, she has two horses that are the exception to the rule. Both horses decided to eat the native sumac that had been in the pasture for years. The next day they both coliced (that's a deadly horse tummy ache) and required an expensive vet visit.

Here is a list of more toxic equine plants: Caster bean (*Ricinus communis*, also a very invasive pest in the creek), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*, a beautiful semishade plant with tall many-flowered spires), larkspur (*Delphinium*, I knew there was a reason I could never get these beauties to grow!), nightshade family (potato, eggplant, and potato vine are a few of the members of this interesting and sometimes toxic family), hemlock (thought to have caused hundreds of late term spontaneous abortions (foal loss) in Kentucky over the last several years), sagebrush (*Artemisia*, moderate to low toxicity, I do not know if other members of this popular family are toxic), Saint-John's wort (*Hypericum* species), avocado (yes AVOCADO is toxic!), Rhodendron family (contains azalea, and laurel), yellow oleander (*Thevetia peruviana*), Yew (evergreen pine-like shrub) elderberry (*Sambucus*), and oak (*Quercus*). This list is not exhaustive; consult your equine vet if you have any questions. Please take care when planting where horses are, either at the barn, around the trail or near pastures.

On a more positive note, November is the second month of the best time to plant in Southern California. Go, get dirty and plant, plant, plant! They say the rains are on the way, which will make it easier to get just about anything established. The exception to the rule is tropical and subtropicals, wait until it warms up in the spring.

On a thankful note, I'm grateful to Karen Gardner who's volunteered her time and energy to co-chair the Fire Safe Garden with me. I'm thankful for my husband, Jerry, who puts up with me and my crazy ideas and our lovely daughter Danielle who makes all the trouble in life worth it. I'm thankful for my horses that have become my partners allowing me to be a little girl again. Lastly, I'm thankful for this magical place we call home, Elfin Forest.

Giant Pumpkin Madness

By Evelyn Alemanni

This month's harvest of giant pumpkins was made even more exciting by the generous folks at the Armstrong Garden Centers who hosted the Giant Pumpkin Project and Family Harvest Festival. Growers throughout Southern California brought their crop to the nearest Armstrong Garden Center to compete in categories such as size, best color, and most beautiful shape.

Elfin Forest was represented by our entries that took second and third prizes for size at 106lbs and 96lbs. We were bested by a 150lb pumpkin from San Marcos (a 315lber from El Cajon was largest in the County.)



Curious basset checking out this year's award winning pumpkin crop

We'll save the seeds from our prizewinners and make them available for a community pumpkin-growing contest next year. Watch for details.

News From Questhaven Retreat



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

20560 Questhaven Road.
760-744-1500.

www.questhaven.org.

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

Weekly - Meditation

Wednesday at 7:15 p.m.

Meet at El Chapelito, Led by Jean Michalewicz.

The Way Within Meditation Classes

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 12:00 Noon

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

Exploration in Prayer Classes

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 12:00 Noon

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

November 3-Listening to God Rev. Elizabeth Wood

November 10-Awaken to the Spirit of Truth

Rev. Blake Isaac

November 17-Ancient Wisdom of Indigenous

People Dr. Richard and Lucy Wold

November 24-The Grateful Heart: Fountain of

Goodness and Plenty Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

December 1-Christ's Infinite Spirit

Rev. Phyllis Isaac

Elfin Forest Ladies Bunco Night

By Lori Clark

The next Potluck-Bunco Party is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 22nd from 7pm-10pm at Suzie Kaplan's home. Whether you're new to Elfin Forest, a long-time resident or somewhere in between, you're invited to socialize with neighbors and play Bunco for fun and prizes. Please plan to bring a \$5 bill, a dish to share, and beverage to share. Ladies Bunco Night happens on the 4th Friday of each month (provided we have a volunteer to host). Please contact Suzie at 760-752-1010 to RSVP and get directions. To volunteer to host a future Bunco event, please contact Lori Clark at: 760-510-2001 or email: clark-17@ix.netcom.com. NOTE: There will be no Bunco Party in December.

November Playgroup Schedule

By Toni Fairman

November 1, 10:00am: Playgroup at San Dieguito Park in Solana Beach. Call Toni for directions, 471-0875.

November 8, 3:00pm: Playgroup at Stagecoach Park in Encinitas. Call Toni for directions, 471-0875.

Thursday, November 14, 4:00pm: Playgroup at the home of Lona Tomlinson,

19901 Rocky Road. It's Brianna's 4th birthday party! Please RSVP Lona, 744-4050.

Friday, November 15, 10:00am: Baby playgroup for children under 2 years old hosted by Michele Sidwell, 6856 Los Vientos Serenos, 471-8877.

Saturday, November 23, 4:00pm: Thanksgiving potluck hosted by Lori Wazny, 20763 Fortuna del Norte. Please RSVP Lori, 761-1152.

Happy Birthday to Brianna Tomlinson, JD Schott, and Nicolas Wiltshire!

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Dam! Dangerous Traffic on Harmony Grove Road

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

Olivenhain Dam Hotline

877-426-2010

On The Wing

By Scott Todd - Wild Bird Center Encinitas

Feeders for birds come in many different shapes and sizes. Some of us buy a “cozy cabin” design on our way through a favorite tourist town in the Sierras. Others find just the right feeder through a nationally distributed catalog. Many of us find the right feeder for our yards at a nearby specialty store. No matter where you find your bird-feeding delivery system, certain sanitary conditions need to be considered on behalf of your wild birds.

Clogged food ports are the number one reason reasons birds will stop using a well-stocked feeder. Unless you are using a de-hulled (shell free) seed or seed mix, you will want to shake or clean out your feeder ports regularly.

To thoroughly clean plastic tube feeders soak the cylinder and removable parts in a safe combination of hot (not boiling) water and plain white vinegar and then scrub the surfaces clean. Use a bird-feeder brush designed to fit your individual feeder. Rinse the feeder and allow it to air dry before refilling. Wooden feeders (Hopper feeders) can be scrubbed periodically with hot soapy water and a stiff brush. A 10% bleach solution is also an effective way to stop molds and bacteria on feeders. Just remember to rinse well and let it dry before displaying birdseed for your backyard visitors.

A 50/50 cleaning solution of white vinegar and hot water every two weeks works very well on hummingbird feeders, as well. A bottlebrush for the interior of the reservoir and a round tipped mini-brush for the feeder ports will make the feeder mold-free, just the way your little hummers like it.

In the next issue we will explain how you can make your backyard friendlier to wild birds that are not seedeaters.

chaparral by email

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1/2 page	\$20.00	\$165.00/year

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Exp.5/04

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 Elfin Forest Vol. Fire Dept. & Aux.
 Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation
 San Marcos Mill, Inc.

**John P. Merli
 619.368.5650 cell**

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exp. 703

Classified

Local Baby, Animal and House Sitters

Brooke York - EF Resident, LCC School 9th grader, Baby Sitting. Tel: 760-752-7784

Jared York - EF Resident, RSF School 7th grader, Baby sit or feed animals. Tel: 760-752-7784

Wanted: Kids horse for 10 and 12 year old, mid age, midsize, sound. Call Lori 744-3858

For Sale: Top of line Hot Springs Spa jacuzzi, originally \$4,000, 6.5' round with redwood siding and brown insulating cover, green fiberglass inside - \$1,250. Call Jacqueline on 760-891-9061.

For Sale: Fridge/Freezer, 22cu. Ft. side by side with automatic ice-maker, white, great condition \$300.00 OBO call 760-471-0390

For Sale: Sony color TV 27 inch Trinitron looks great \$300.00 OBO call 760-471-0390

For Rent: *The Farmers House* 21065 Questhaven Road. Available Oct 22nd. Call Phil Cancellier 760-436-7456

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Call Phil 760-436-7456

exp. 12/02



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Fax: (760) 334-6003

Exp. 1/03

Scott Todd
Owner



Exp 5-03

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board members: Evelyn Alemanni 471-7224, Mid Hoppenrath 747-1145, Nancy Reed 471-7933, Bill Telesco 746-4692, Janet McGurk 471-0831, Patti Newton 471-8937, Eric Anderson 471-1464, Rachel Barnes 471-4300, Karen Gardner 744-9500

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Articles of up to 500 words should be sent to Joe Alemanni by e-mail to alemanni@vicrp.com in plain text format by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next issue. Anonymous articles will not be published. Space limitations may cause articles to be held over to the next issue or edited for brevity. Articles considered unsuitable for publication will not be published.

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