



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

**From The Chair**

**By Evelyn Alemanni**

Remember what the hypnotists in cartoons say?  
“You’re getting sleepy: veerry, veerry sleepppppyy.”

Just looking at the giant pile of environmental impact reports (EIRs) on my desk is making me do just that – I’m getting very sleepy. Their authors are counting on it. Counting on the fact that we are just too tired, intimidated by the volume, or don’t have the time to do or say anything about the many projects that want to change the character of our community, increase the density, flatten the ridgelines, and eliminate wildlife habitat. EIRs are frequently filled with errors and omissions that must be identified and questioned during a limited review period. Those people actually being impacted must validate proposed mitigations for major project impacts.

Three EIRs (Quail Hills, Escondido Sphere Update, and Cielo del Norte) are now ready for review and another (Quail Ridge) is expected out within the next 30 to 60 days. Your Town Council Board members need your help and expertise in reviewing these documents and preparing comments. We can make a difference when we work together. Please read the details on these EIRs later in the newsletter, then call the review committee chairperson and offer a few hours of your time and talent.

Our guest speaker at the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting is the developer of Quail Ridge, who is proposing to build 69 homes along Elfin Forest Road. Don’t miss it.

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**September Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, Sept 4th, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Guest speaker: Developer of the Quail Ridge project, who proposes building 69 homes along Elfin Forest Road. Their EIR is due out for review in September.**

## Rachel Barnes Joins Board

Elfin Forest resident Rachel Barnes has volunteered to serve on the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board filling one of the two vacancies. Rachel, a Certified Public Accountant by profession, will be assuming the duties of Board Treasurer.

The Barnes family (Rachel, husband Rob, daughter Heather, and dog Amanda) has lived in Elfin Forest for three years where Rachel operates her own part-time controller practice. For four years she worked at accounting firm Ernst and Young participating in the audits of two Massachusetts townships. She also works for two not-for profit organizations and is familiar with the associated accounting requirements. Rachel looks forward to serving our community in any way she can.

The community thanks you, Rachel!

## Board Opening

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

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

## County Code Enforcement

At the last Town Council meeting the topic was fire preparedness. A question was asked about what we can do about neighbors who aren't as diligent about weed cleanup and fire prevention as they should be. Nona Barker suggested that the best thing to do is to call County Code Enforcement. Homeowners can be cited for non-compliance and, if they do not take care of the problem, someone is hired to do it for them. The homeowner is then billed for the cost of correcting the problem.

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.

## Elfin Forest Community Foundation Has Money For Your Project

**By Betsy Keithley, Secretary, Board of Directors, EF Community Foundation**

The Elfin Forest Community Foundation was established in 1995 with a mission to enhance the quality of rural life in the community of Elfin Forest. The Foundation provides funds for project supplies or community events and to date the most visible projects have included the fencing to define trails throughout the community and trees along Elfin Forest and other roads in the community. Some money also went towards the creation of the Fire Safe Garden at the Fire Station.

The mechanism for getting money for your project is to apply to the Foundation. Describe your project and explain how it will enhance the community. The budget should not exceed \$6,000. Any person or organization in the community is eligible to apply and the more applications that we receive the more opportunity there is to enhance our community.

**The next deadline is October 15, 2002** and the limit is your imagination. If you have any questions, call a member of the Board, Steve Barker, Mike Vallee, Betsy Keithley, Martha Blane, Virginia McManus, Trey Fairman, Patti Newton, Philip Brailsford, or Frank Twohy and review your proposal with them.

## San Elijo Hills Contact

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

## Elfin Forest Survey – Final Call

***Did you complete and return your survey yet? Hurry up – it was due in July. Your opinion is very important to us. It gives your Town Council Board important direction in its actions as it influences the many major events that affect our community. All survey input is and will remain anonymous.***

## Derbas Property Acquisition By Stacy McCline

Purchase of the Derbas Property by the County as a permanent open space easement is an imminent possibility and you can help! Pam Slater and Adian Derbas are asking for letters of support. Send a letter to the Board of Supervisors showing your support for this purchase. Supervisors are voting on September 18th. Please send your own letter of support to help the cause! Here's a draft of my letter:

Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Center  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

Please count my voice in asking for your support for the purchase of the Derbas property by the County as parkland. A park and trail system on the property will enhance the quality of life, not only for those who live in Escondido and in nearby neighborhoods like mine, but for every San Diegan.

This extremely rugged property rises steeply above Lake Hodges and provides a respite for the only remaining Golden Eagle's nest in the County west of I-15. It also harbors a rare, endangered native plant Encinitas baccharis. This property provides an important connection and wildlife corridor between the existing Elfin Forest Preserve, Lake Hodges and the San Dieguito River Park Coast to Crest Trail system.

The highest and best use for this property is not 84 high-end homes but as parkland shared by all. This is something I want you to create for San Diego!

The land available for purchase is a pristine, environmentally significant and exquisite parcel that should be protected and shared with the public forever. Please make this happen.

Thank you,  
Stacy McCline  
Del Dios resident

**Email to all five supervisors:**

[greg-cox@co.san-diego.ca.us](mailto:greg-cox@co.san-diego.ca.us)  
[dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
[bill.horn@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:bill.horn@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
[pam.slater@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:pam.slater@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
[ron-roberts@co.san-diego.ca.us](mailto:ron-roberts@co.san-diego.ca.us)

(Or mail to the address above)

## Anti-Wilderness Resolution Withdrawn By Pandora Rose

Good news! County Supervisor Bill Horn withdrew his anti-Wilderness resolution from the agenda of the 30 July 2002, meeting of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Thank you to all that sent letters to the Supervisors asking them to vote against this inaccurate and misleading resolution.

Please continue to lobby the Supervisors to endorse Senator Barbara Boxer's California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2002 (S. 2535). This important Wilderness bill will protect 44,000 acres as wilderness and designate four Wild and Scenic River segments in San Diego County. Contact information for the Supervisors is provided in preceding article.

## EIRs Out For Review

Here's a brief overview of Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) out for review now or expected in the near future:

**Quail Hills (*Out now*)** – Quail Hills is an industrial development near Country Club Road in Harmony Grove. (**Mid Hoppenrath** is heading the review committee.)

**Escondido Sphere of Influence Update (*Out now*)** – Oh yes, it's back AGAIN. What part of "NO" don't these people get? Escondido taxpayers should be outraged that the city is again spending thousands of dollars on another EIR just to have Harmony Grove show up at numerous hearings to tell them to back off. (**Mid Hoppenrath** is heading the review committee.)

**Cielo del Norte (*Out now*)** – 197 homes along Harmony Grove Road on lots ranging in size from .5 acre to 5 acres. This project will bring in sewer. Lots of issues with this one. Comments are due on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. (**Nancy Reed** is heading the review committee.)

**Quail Ridge (*expected mid-September*)** – 69 homes along Elfin Forest Road. (**Patti Newton** 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.

## Fire Safe Garden Gets New Caretaker By Betsy Keithley

In the wake of the October 1996 Harmony Grove Fire the County formed The Fire Safe Committee. We are fortunate to have several members from Elfin Forest sitting on this committee. Most important for our community, however, was the establishment and maintenance of the exemplary "Fire Safe Garden" created by Nils Lunnerdal at the Fire Station. Hopefully, everyone has taken the time to tour the garden: walking along the paths and watching the plants grow. The garden includes an informational kiosk for educational purposes. Groups organized by the County often visit it to show people what kinds of plants can be planted that do not easily burn.

After several years of effort Nils decided that the maintenance of the garden was becoming too much for him. Nancy Reed has stepped forward and volunteered to succeed Nils as caretaker.

Although one of the attributes of a fire safe garden is its low maintenance, I'm sure Nancy would be happy to accept the assistance of any other community member who might wish to volunteer to assist with the garden. The whole community will appreciate your efforts.

## Calendar for September 2002

Date	Time	Event
Weds, 9/4	7: 30 pm	EF/HG Town Council meeting
Tues 9/3, 9/17	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Bookmobile @ Firehouse
Tues 9/3	7 pm	Fire Training @ Firehouse
Every Fri	10 am – noon	Playgroup
Every Thurs	6:30 pm	Yoga
Tues 9/17	7 pm	Fire Training @ Firehouse
Mon 9/9	7 pm	Fire Board @ Firehouse
Weds 9/11	7 pm	Fire Auxiliary @ Firehouse
Sat 9/22	8 am	Fire Training @ Firehouse

## TECC Summer Celebration a Success By Nancy Reed

The TECC second annual Summer Celebration held on August 3<sup>rd</sup> was a huge success. Over 100 people attended the event hosted by the Lazy J Ranch on Elfin Forest Lane and raised over \$3,000. A picnic dinner was served with beer and wine. The beautiful views of the creek and oak woodland bathed in a summer sunset provided a spectacular backdrop for Berkley Hart's harmonies and humor.

TECC would like to thank Stone Brewery for its generous donation of beer. Thanks also go out to the wait team who worked for hours and not only served the food, but smiles as well. Several TECC members also put in hours of time setting up and fetching the food. A really BIG thank you to Tim and Claudia Costanzo for providing the shuttle service and moral support. This event could not have occurred if not for these big hearted people.

If you would like to purchase a Berkley Hart CD or get on their mailing list go to [www.berkleyhart.com](http://www.berkleyhart.com). If you would like to learn more about TECC, donate time or money go to [www.escondidocreek.org](http://www.escondidocreek.org).



TECC Summer Celebration revelers Claudia Constanzo, Hillary Olmstead, Nancy Reed, Suzanne Stoddard, and Bridget Thomas

## 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.



## Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting By Patti Newton

**Date:** August 7, 2002

**Board Members Present:** Bill Telesco, Evelyn Alemanni, Patti Newton, Nancy Reed, Mid Hoppenrath, Rachel Barnes, Janet McGurk.

**Call to Order:** 7:30 p.m.

**UPDATES:** Evelyn Alemanni stated that the Quail Ridge EIR is slated to be released mid-September but appears to be behind schedule.

**Mid Hoppenrath** discussed the County's preliminary plans for the Harmony Grove area. The proposal creates a town called Harmony Grove; the mixed-use region would encompass a square quarter-mile. Residents are excited about the potential of the plan that, among other things, incorporates small businesses with living areas above. Two workshops, called the Harmony Grove Workshop/Public Vision Forum, will be held to further develop the plan.

**Nancy Reed:** The Cielo del Norte and Santa Fe Creek project presentations scheduled for the San Dieguito Planning Group have been rescheduled from Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> to Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual TECC benefit concert was a sold-out success with over 100 attendees.

**Rachel Barnes** has been appointed to the Town Council Board and will be serving as Treasurer.

**Janet McGurk,** Fourth of July Picnic/Parade Coordinator, presented the Fire Department with a check in the amount of \$1,303.00. This amount represents one half of the net proceeds.

**ITEM #1: Nona Barker** updated residents on the Julian fire. CSA 107 is part of Zone I; several of our firefighters have spent the last two weeks there as members of this strike team. There were tense moments when the fate of one of our teams involved in the explosion of a propane tank was unknown. The truck and firefighters were reported (via radio) to have been burned over. Several agonizing minutes later, reports were broadcast that all of them were OK. Their heroism was tangibly measured for having saved two homes as well as themselves. Nona again stated the importance of clearing brush, dead and dying trees, and fuel "ladders" existing within 30 feet of homes. To date, the state has experienced 68,000 fires (the five-year state average is 46,000). For more information you can visit [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov) where you can view all the ordinances and find many interesting links.

**ITEM #2: Ali Shapourri,** from **Ali Shapourri & Associates,** presented updated information on the Cielo del Norte project. The draft EIR came out on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Comments to the draft are due 45 days from that date. The proposed project includes 187 lots (average lot size is one acre with others ranging in size from one-half acre to eight acres.) Reportedly, the trade-off in lot size was done to accommodate more open space; the total open space encompasses 365 acres (63%). The proposed "theme" trees include Sycamores and Coast Live Oaks. There are 5.4 miles of public trails. Custom and semi-custom homes are in the \$1 million range. The EF/HG Fire Department has a signed agreement with the RSF Fire Department to fund service to the area. The county environmental analyst assigned to the project is **Maggie Loy**. She can be reached at 858-694-3736. The county planner, **Bill Stocks**, can be reached at 858-694-3913.

**ADJOURNED:** 9:10 p.m.

## 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

## Elf Alerts

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

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

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

## chaparral by Email

If you're not already receiving a full color, PDF format copy of the *chaparral* by Email send an Email note to [alemanni@allea.com](mailto:alemanni@allea.com) to be added to the list. Cost for the PDF version is free to regular "hardcopy" subscribers and only \$10.00/year to receive the PDF version only.

## OMWD Questions Answered

By Sue Varty, OMWD Board Member

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As your representative on the Olivenhain Municipal Water District Board I have been asked a lot of unrelated questions lately regarding various water issues so I thought I would try to answer them here:

### 1) Is it possible for OMWD to extend sewer into Elfin Forest?

It's possible, but not probable. OMWD owns a 25mgd sewerage treatment plant located in the middle of the 4S Development. This plant was built by 4S, but is owned and managed by OMWD. It would take a lot of money to expand the plant (it is a long way away). Currently there is no capacity in any of the connecting pipelines or pump stations and they are not designed for expansion. Pipes would have to run over Escondido Creek (Fish and Wildlife would have a stroke). From an engineering perspective, pump stations would probably have to be built. From a political perspective, the Board of Directors (of which I am one of five lucky members) would have to approve. This is VERY unlikely.

### 2) Could Quail Ridge de-annex from OMWD and bring in sewer from Vallecitos?

Vallecitos (San Marcos' water and sewer agency) says it will not supply sewer service to non-water customers, so Quail Ridge would have to demand de-annexation from OMWD via LAFCO. OMWD would fight this, because OMWD has built the dam and the treatment plant assuming, at build out, that the district would incorporate the total area it now controls. Any decrease in that area would not be revenue neutral, OMWD needs all its current area to pay off the bonds. From an engineering perspective, Vallecitos would have to build a brand new plant and a pump station: a very expensive proposition. From a political perspective, the San Marcos Council has been after this area for years. But Elfin Forest has a history of fighting for what is right, and San Marcos knows this. The OMWD Board would also have to agree, and again, this would seem very unlikely.

### 3) Will OMWD's 4S treatment plant supply sewer to Rancho Cielo and Cielo Norte?

Yes, south of Escondido Creek.

### 4) When will the traffic light at Via Ambiente be removed?

The Olivenhain Dam is 65% complete. Work is currently ahead of schedule. With a little bit of luck it will be complete in January 2003. Then all the heavy equipment will have to be removed. After that, the light will be dismantled. So, let's estimate (and please, don't hold me too hard to this date!) by the middle of April 2003. Additionally, the road will then be restored to its original configuration, including removal of some asphalt. Also, slopes will be hydro-seeded and 26 oak trees will be replanted (specific areas to be determined.) My promise to the community is this: if SDCWA doesn't take the light down by the middle of April 2003 (plus or minus depending on rain/accident delays) **I'LL DO IT MYSELF!**

### 5) Where are my water rates going in 2003?

The OMWD board has suggested that *water rates decrease again in 2003* (a public hearing will be held at the end of August). What's new is that water rates are going to be separated from meter size. So you will be charged purely on volume. The reason for the change is that about 10% of all meters in the district are incorrectly sized. For example, a 3,000 square foot home, housing a mom, dad and two kids, with a 5/8<sup>th</sup> inch meter incurs large amounts of "C" rate water. "C" rate water costs \$1 more per unit and is a penalty rate. Even though the homeowners didn't put the meter in, they pay penalty rates almost every month. By separating meter size from volume, the homeowner has the choice of staying out of the penalty rate by using less water. System access charges (the fixed charges you have to pay regardless of the amount of water you use) will still be based on meter size.

### 6) Am I going to run for the OMWD board again?

I am up for re-election in November 2002, and filed for re-election by the August 9<sup>th</sup> deadline. No one else filed, so I am automatically elected for another term. You're stuck with me with four more years. I like hearing from you so please Email me ([susanvarty@hotmail.com](mailto:susanvarty@hotmail.com)) and let me know how we're doing.

## Cielo del Norte EIR Released

By Nancy Reed

The long awaited Cielo del Norte environmental impact report (EIR) has finally been released for public review and comment. This project is on 580 acres south of the intersection of Elfin Forest Road and Harmony Grove Road (including the old trailer park.) The Escondido Creek runs the entire length of the project. One hundred and eighty seven (187) clustered single family homes are proposed with 365 acres of open space. The open space is approximately 63% of the total project with the homes situated in the southeast corner. The project will use Via Ambiente at both Harmony Grove Road and the Del Dios Highway for access.

Due to its size, number of homes and traffic impacts this project will affect all of us. Some of the issues to address include community character (does it fit into Elfin Forest or not?), is 365 acres of open space an appropriate trade off for clustered development, will the added traffic cause gridlock, is a waiver of the Resource Protection (Steep Slope) Ordinance appropriate, how will the creek, flora and fauna be affected, will trails be lost?

To review the EIR and Specific Plan call Nancy Reed 471-7933, Doug Dill 736-4333, or Maggie Loy (the County of San Diego environmental planner) 858-694-3736, or look on the web: [http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/cnty/cntydepts/landuse/planning/ceqa\\_public\\_review.html](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/cnty/cntydepts/landuse/planning/ceqa_public_review.html)

Please mail all your comments to: Maggie Loy, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego, CA 92123 prior to September 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you cannot meet the deadline, call Ms. Loy and ask to send in your comments after 9/3. Your input is vital and it will make a difference.

## Market Has Failed to Capture the Value of Nature

Excerpt from the Wall Street Journal, August 9, 2002.

Economists have recently started to calculate the value, in dollars, of what nature provides to us free of charge. For example, trees turn carbon dioxide into oxygen. Natural wetlands help control floods. Coastal estuaries recycle nutrients, grabbing nitrogen out of the air and converting it into fertilizer. Robert Constanza of the Intstitute for Ecological Economics

gquestimated the worth of nature's services in 1997 at \$33 trillion a year. A team of 19 researchers from Britain and the US published a report in the journal Science that concluded, "An intact ecosystem is worth 82% more, on average, than the same parcel clear-cut, drained, paved, or otherwise developed in a nonsustainable way."

"In every case we looked at, " conservation biologist Andrew Balmford of the University of Cambridge, England, said, "the loss of nature's services outweighed the benefits of development, often by a large amount."

Which raises two obvious questions. If ecosystems are worth more intact, why are they being razed and paved? Dr. Costanza, who with his institute moves to the University of Vermont in September, readily acknowledges that past conversions – turning Nebraska into grain central and Silicon Valley into tech heaven – "benefited society as a whole: What's different now is that we're running out of nature. What's left has a higher marginal value."

"Every textbook says that the market is the most efficient way to allocate resources," says Dr. Portney, president of the Washington D.C. think tank, Resources for the Future. "But the market also fails, especially when it comes to public goods. If you could charge people for using nature, you might show that it's more valuable to preserve it than to convert it, but for now, there's no way to capture those values."

In contrast, owners reap the value of development, collecting real money. In a nutshell, market failures drive habitat loss. Although the benefits of conversion are often private, society bears the losses. "We've already done the profitable conversions," argues Dr. Balmford. "Developing what's left makes less sense, and the benefits of keeping ecosystems intact are much higher."

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**TIM & CLAUDIA COSTANZO**



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## View to a Fire

By John Rayes

The Elfin Forest Fire Department sent a strike team and structure engine to the Pines Fire this month. I was one of the firefighters that went and I stayed for eleven days. I came back to Elfin Forest with a new perspective and a lot of education regarding wild land fires.

We in Elfin Forest live in an area that will always have the threat of a fire because of the landscape and dry conditions. I watched homes in Ranchita and San Felipe during the Pines fire: some that survived and some that burnt to the ground. The difference: preparation by the resident.

I am very concerned, now that I am back in our community, that some of our residents are ill prepared to have their home survive a fire. I see that there is more to do to protect my own home. Never assume that during a fire that there will be an engine company poised to protect your home. Your home can survive a firestorm with preparation. You should clear a fire safety zone of at least **100 feet** around your home. Be prepared with your evacuation plan. A fire can change direction in minutes.

If you evacuate: Close windows, doors, non-flammable curtains, and blinds. Leave lights on in each room to increase visibility of your home in heavy smoke to the fire department. Leave the house unlocked for firefighter's safety access. Place combustible patio furniture inside or away from the house. Move BBQ's and portable propane tanks away from the house. Connect the garden hose to outside taps. Make and post a list of evacuation duties and items you would want to pack. Take the time now to prepare yourself and family. Thanks.

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## Reservoir Update

By Joe Alemanni

Recently, a number of community members and myself took advantage of a free tour of the County Water Authority's Emergency Storage Project now best known as the Elfin Forest Dam. The dam will contain a 24,000-acre foot reservoir that, as part of an expanded emergency water storage system, is expected to meet the region's needs through 2030.

Most striking to me was how much progress has occurred in the six months since I last visited the site as the dam's footprint was being prepared for placement of the first of what is to be 1.3 million cubic yards of roller compacted concrete. The nearly continuous effort by the dam construction crews has raised the dam to two thirds of its completed height of 318 feet. Construction of the dam is expected to be completed ahead of the Spring 2003 schedule.

Construction has occurred relatively incident free except for the recent diesel fuel spill on Harmony Grove Road and the injury of a worker in a blasting accident (the worker has been relocated to an out-of-county rehabilitation facility.)

The immensity of the project will be obscured when the reservoir is filled with water so now is the time to check it out. Tours are available on a first-come first-served basis on Thursdays, Fridays and one Saturday a month. Call the project information line at 877-426-2010 to make tour arrangements.



View of the reservoir dam toward the south.



View of the reservoir dam from the pumping station.



## Commuter Crows??

By Susan Cronshaw

Every morning for the last several weeks I have noticed some strange commuters along Harmony Grove Road. Crows. At about 7:30 am a large flock, and several small groups of stragglers, flies towards the coast. I do not know where they roost overnight, or where they are going, or when they return flying inland.

Fortunately I have had witnesses to this, so I know it is not an illusion caused by lack of morning tea. Anyone with any answers or even ideas? One suggestion is that they are departed commuters condemned to travel forever the traffic on Harmony Grove Road.....

## What Did the Bunny Leave You?

By Evelyn Alemanni

In the spring, we often ask children the question, “What did the bunny bring you?” The response comes with a joyful, often chocolate-covered smile. For gardeners, the question becomes not, “what did the bunny bring you” but rather “what did the bunny leave you?” The question reminds me of a friend whom I affectionately refer to as “Rita, the rabbit caterer.” The bunnies loved her dearly for all the choice morsels she brought. There must have been a lot of excited bunny tail wagging going on whenever they spied her wheelbarrow full of petunias, lobelias, pansies, and other tasty plants.

Bunnies are an expensive habit and a gardener’s nemesis. There are remedies like enclosing your entire yard with 1-inch chicken wire buried 6 to 12 inches into the ground, or applying blood meal around delicious plants. Some people have cats or dogs that hunt successfully. But my four basset hounds consider rabbits to be their long-eared cousins, and have watched contentedly as wild rabbits ate from their dinner bowl. The obvious solution is to plant what rabbits don’t like. The hard part is that the preferences of a bunny’s connoisseurs’ palate change with the season and the availability of food in general. In a dry year like we’re having, the list of plants they’re willing to devour becomes ever more extensive and expensive for you!

What don’t they eat? In general, they don’t like gray-leaved plants. They don’t eat artemesia, erysimum,

lambs ears, and gray-leaved succulents. I always thought there was no exception to the rule of “gray” until they ate the Spanish lavender down to a tiny stump, leaving the *lavandula intermedia* untouched. And just because they don’t eat gray-leaved succulents, don’t think the others are safe. Yesterday they took big chunks out of spiny cactus with thorns so sharp I won’t even touch it.

Before you give up in frustration and move to a condo in the city, here’s a list of what they haven’t eaten so far in my garden:

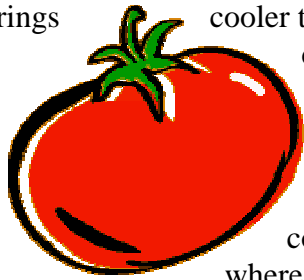
Agapanthus  
Alstromeria  
Amaryllis (all kinds)  
Artemesia  
Asparagus fern  
Budleia  
Bulbine  
Calla lily  
Canna  
Cistus  
Citrus  
Clerodendron  
Daffodils  
Datura  
Daylily  
Diascia  
Echium  
Eryngium  
Euryops  
Evergreens (all kinds)  
Fennel  
Feverfew  
Geranium (all kinds)  
Iris  
Ivy  
Moraea  
Montanoa  
Nasturtium  
Passion flower  
Pelargonium  
Penstemon  
Raphiolepis  
Rosemary  
Salvia leucantha and most salvias  
Society Garlic  
Sprekelia  
Tea tree  
Westringia  
**May all your bunnies be chocolate.**

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## Garden Greetings

By Nancy Reed

The best time to plant is almost here! Although September is often very hot, the end of the month brings cooler temperatures. This is very different from most of the world and will bring spectacular results come spring. Now while you await the arrival of those cooler days, start to plan where you want to plant, what you want to plant and how you will get water to it. Get your compost pile up and running so you will have free fertilizer when planting.



Due to the drought and fire safety I'd like to urge you to be especially concerned with plant and garden structure choices. As I look through all those beautiful garden magazines I'm constantly assessing the water requirements and ability to withstand or add to a wild fire. I must admit much of what I see does not meet these criteria. As much as I'd love to build a wooden wisteria covered arbor on the west side of my house, I won't, as it would only add to a fire. Darn!

For more information on fire safe gardens go to the beautiful one right here in Elfin Forest next to the Fire Station. This was built after the Harmony Grove fire and illustrates how beautiful a fire safe garden can be. Another wonderful resource, both close and on the web, is Los Pilitas Native Plant Nursery located at 8331 Nelson Way in Escondido, 760-749-5930. For a really excellent web site and landscaping for fire article go to [www.laspilitas.com/fire.htm](http://www.laspilitas.com/fire.htm).

If you are interested in community service and learning more about the fire safe garden, volunteers are needed to maintain our garden. Please call me at 471-7933 for more information. If several people volunteer, it will be only an hour or two a month.

Tip of the month: Are the bunnies munching all your plants? Try this; soak liver in HOT water for several hours. Strain and spray were you want to keep rabbits out. Reapply after it rains. I have not tried this, but have been told it really works. My personal policy is to let them eat the lawn (less to mow and they leave fertilizer), have a dog and plant perennials.

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## Fast Internet Alternative

By Joe Alemanni

If you're like me and are tired of waiting for the mythical broadband Internet connection to arrive, a new alternative is available. Satellite TV provider DIRECTV has a new deal for its DIRECWAY Satellite Return System (SRS) that amortizes the hefty up front equipment cost over the first year's reasonably priced monthly cost of service. This system allows you to send and receive information via satellite. DIRECWAY is coy in describing performance as "super-fast" but users I know are getting about a ten-fold speed increase over the typical 28.8kb dial-up connection. Not cable modem speeds, but it's available now.

Only for IBM compatibles, DIRECWAY requires a uniquely shaped satellite dish that can be equipped to concurrently receive DIRECTV signals so your rooftop doesn't have to look like a military installation. It's an "always on" service that replaces your current ISP and frees up (or eliminates) the phone line you might currently use and provides up to five Email accounts. More information is available at: <http://directv.direcway.com/>.

I'll report on my experience with DIRECWAY in a future edition of the *chaparral*.

---

## Watch Your Ox

If there is any predictor of which soft-spoken community resident is going to be transformed into the next foam-mouthed activist just check and see if their "ox is gored". We all know this axiom but where did it originate?

Bartlett's Quotations attributes "It makes a difference whose ox is gored" to the 15<sup>th</sup> century German church reformer Martin Luther. Searching on the Internet hints at a preceding Talmudic origin. If you know the source please contact the *chaparral* ([alemanni@vicrp.com](mailto:alemanni@vicrp.com)) to share your knowledge.

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## Free Street Trees

The group **People For Trees** has programs available in your community and throughout San Diego to provide street trees in the public right of way areas. If you would like to apply for their free street tree program, contact Program Directors Patrick Stevenson or Donna Griffith at 619-222-8733.

## Calling All Readers -- Read A Good Book Lately?

By Karen Gardner

If you are interested in reading and discussing new (or old) books or would like to share books that you have read in the past then maybe you should join a book group! I would like to start an Elfin Forest book group. If you are interested please call Karen Gardner at 744-9500 or Email me at [karen@vintagematerialism.com](mailto:karen@vintagematerialism.com)

## Opt Out Of Junk Mail

The Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act legislated a way for people to be able to reduce unwanted advertising (junk) mail. Simply call a hotline number linked to the three major credit bureaus to have your name and address removed from a database used by credit card companies and lenders who send unsolicited mail.

Request to have your name permanently removed from the credit bureaus' mailing list by calling 1-888-567-8688. Follow the prompts and be prepared to provide your social security number.

You will continue to receive mail from companies that compile their mailing list from sources other than credit bureaus. To stop this junk mail, cut out the mailing label from unwanted mail, attach the label to an index card along with a note asking that your name be removed from the firm's mailing list and mail this back to solicitor. Look for a phone number on the ad and call the company and request that you no longer receive their solicitations.



### Barn Owl Nest Boxes

Government study proves that one Barn Owl kills up to 1,000 rodents per year. Nest Boxes built and installed by certified Arborist/Master Falconer. Call:

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or (760) 789-1493

Exp.5/04

## chaparral Advertising

Do you advertise in the *chaparral*? We love our advertisers! Along with subscription fees, they help make this newsletter possible and they let the community know of the many wonderful businesses and services available.

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

### chaparral Advertising Rates:

	One-time rates:	Yearly rates:
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2" x 3.5"	\$7.50	\$55.00/year
5" x 3.5"	\$12.00	\$115.00/year
1/2 page	\$20.00	\$165.00/year

Community, Non-Commercial Classified Ads: 1" x 3 1/2"(approx. 4 lines): no charge - must be resubmitted every 3 months.

## Town Council Website

The Elfin Forest Website is up and running, and being improved every week. Check it out at: [www.efhgtc.org](http://www.efhgtc.org).

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

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## News From Questhaven Retreat



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

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

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

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

### Weekly - Meditation

*Wednesday at 7:15 p.m.*

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

The Way Within Meditation Classes

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

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

Exploration in Prayer Classes

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

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

## Elfin Forest Ladies Bunco Night By Lori Clark

The next Potluck-Bunco Party is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 27th from 7pm-10pm at Lori Clark'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 potluck dish, and beverage to share. Ladies Bunco Night happens on the 4th Friday of each month (provided we have a volunteer to host.) Please contact Lori at 510-2001 to RSVP and get directions. To volunteer to host, please contact Lori Clark at 760-510-2001 or Email: [clark-17@ix.netcom.com](mailto:clark-17@ix.netcom.com).



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## September Playgroup Schedule By Toni Fairman

September 6, 10:00 am: Playgroup at Scotts Valley Park in Encinitas. This is a great park for tricycles/bicycles!

Saturday, September 14, 2:00 pm: Put on your cowboy hat, it's Alex Fairman's 2nd birthday party at The School House Farm in San Marcos! Please RSVP 471-0875.

September 20, 10:00 am: Playgroup at Stagecoach Park in Encinitas.

September 27, 10:00 am: Playgroup at the Carlsbad Children's Museum, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Suite E. Directions - 5 North, Exit Carlsbad Village Drive, Go West 1/2 mile, Turn right into Village Fair Shopping Center, Suite E is located in the interior courtyard. 760-720-0737. Admission is \$4.00. Children under 2 years are free. There are several restaurants in the shopping center if you would like to stay for lunch.

Let's meet every Tuesday in September, 10:00 am at San Dieguito Park in Solana Beach. Directions - 5 South, Exit Lomas Santa Fe, Go East, Left at stop sign onto Highland, Park is on your right, \$2 park fee.

Happy Birthday to Isabel Delano and Alex Fairman!

## 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.

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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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## Elfin Forest Classified

### Local Baby, Animal and House Sitters

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

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

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

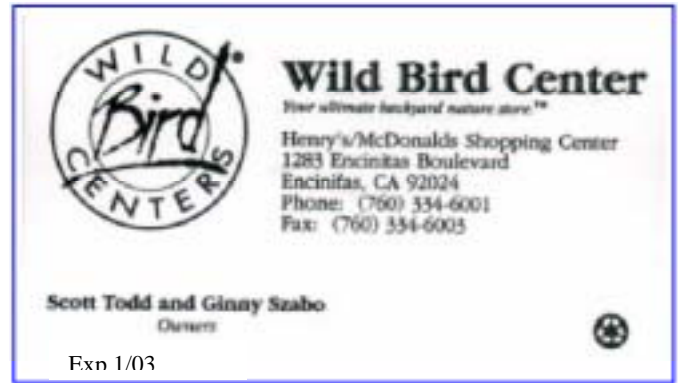
**Custom Home Site:** 9.25 acres in Harmony Grove. Panoramic Views! Ready to build. \$189,900. For sale by owner. Details online at [www.lot4sale.info](http://www.lot4sale.info). 760-471-7224.

**For Sale:** 4 Banquet Tables: One 8' and three 6' long tables with folding legs. Fair condition. \$20 for all. Call Lori at 510-2001.

**For Sale:** Grand Piano \$5700.00, Yellow Kitchen "Hutch" \$250.00, Handmade Rocking Horse \$140. All items are in very good condition and located in Elfin Forest. Please call Jayne at 510-2646. Leave message if not home. I will return your call.

**Guest House Needed:** EF/HG FD Captain wants to lease a guest house or private quarters in EF or HG. Please contact Darrin Lee at 619-571-9873.

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



## 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

## Got Dust?

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

**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, you?**

The Elfin Forest chaparral is published monthly by the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board and is distributed to residents of the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove communities for a \$15.00 annual subscription. Check the mailing label for your subscription expiration date. If it has expired please send a check, payable to the Elfin Forest Town Council, 20223 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest, CA 92029. For subscription or address label corrections, send Email to [alemanni@allea.com](mailto:alemanni@allea.com) or call Evelyn Alemanni 471-7224. To protect you from unwanted junk mail and solicitations, the Chaparral mailing list is not shared with anyone.

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

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