



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Mid Hoppenrath

I hope you have gotten a chance to see the dam overflow at Lake Hodges. It was spectacular and continues as I write this. The combination of this wet winter and living on a hillside has taught me the value of having a well-thought-out drainage plan to manage the storm water runoff. As the coastal areas got soggy and soggy, I appreciated our hard granite ground more and more (I will likely forget this when I dig the next hole for a fence post).

But now spring is in the air. We are gearing up for the Garden Festival and continuing to beautify Elfin Forest for the America in Bloom contest (judges will be visiting in May). Please continue to do your part to clean up around your house and yard.

We are beginning to look ahead to the next Fourth of July parade and picnic, to be held this year in Elfin Forest at the fire station, and need volunteer co-coordinators. Please let any board member know if you will be able to help us with this fun event. We are also looking for volunteers to help us draft a rural school policy (see board member Joe Benson for details).

Our new Heritage Committee will be collecting antique farm implements, photos and mementos from our earliest days in the valley. Please let board members Cheri Smith or Bill Wilgenburg know if you have anything you would like to donate.

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Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, April 6th @7:30PM
At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station

Community Cleanup Day

By Evelyn Alemanni

In preparation for visits to our community from both attendees of the EF Garden Festival and the judges of the American in Bloom competition, Saturday, April 9th, is designated as a community cleanup day. Many thanks to Lynda Clerke for working with EDCO on their donation of Dumpsters for this community wide cleanup. Dumpsters will be available for your use at the fire station on Saturday, April 9th, **ONLY**. This is a great opportunity to clean up the stuff on the roadsides. Please, no hazardous waste. The dumpsters will be attended.

Garden Club Notes

By Teri Brand

The next Elfin Forest Garden Club meeting will be on April 2nd at 10 AM. We'll meet at the Firewise garden at the fire station and help prepare it for the garden festival. Everyone is welcome. Bring gloves, trowels, clippers, weeding implements, rakes, and sunscreen and drinking water. **One lucky helper will win a gift certificate from Grangettos!** Dates, times, and topics for future meetings on the town council website: www.efhgtc.org/garden_club.htm.

Quilts Needed To Cozy Up The Fire Station!

By Cheri Smith

The EF/HG Town Council's Heritage Committee would be most grateful to borrow your American quilts to enhance the interior of the Fire Station for the April 29th potluck dinner during the judging for America in Bloom. If you have a quilt you would consider loaning to us for this event, we will love to hear from you! The hanging and installation of the quilts will be done at our cost in a manner to insure no damage is done to the quilt or the fire station walls.

Providers/quilters' names will be displayed. The fire station interior will be much warmed by your generous sharing of this great American traditional folk art. Please contact Heritage Committee Chair: Cheri Smith, cherilsmith@earthlink.net, 760-891-0294.

Elfin Forest Garden Festival 2005

By Evelyn Alemanni

Remember, April 23rd is the big day. Gardens on the tour this year have been in magazines such as Sunset, Better Homes and Gardens, San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles, and more. Order your tickets on the website now! Tickets are limited, so get yours today. \$20 in advance or \$30 at the door. Lunch is \$12.

Preview the gardens and order tickets at www.elfinforestgardens.info. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the event in any way or to be a garden marketplace vendor or sponsor, please contact Sue Tolman 760-591-0190 or stolman1@yahoo.com.

School for Elfin Forest?

By Evelyn Alemanni

A special meeting of the Rancho Santa Fe School Board was held on March 17th. According to the meeting notice received by the town council, the closed session portion of the meeting concerned purchase of the following parcels in what was called the Quail Ridge project along Elfin Forest Road: 679-060-06 through 679-060-07, and 679-100-01 through 679-100-04. If you have any concerns about this, please contact the school district at 858-756-1141.

Harmony Grove On TV

By Mid Hoppenrath

Here is the URL to the Harmony Grove story that aired on the Channel 8 March 7th evening news: www.kfmb.com/features/larry_himmel/story.php?id=6983 Be sure to click on the "Watch video" link to the right. Our newest board member, Bill Wilgenburg, was on TV!

Calendar For April

Date	Time	Event
Weds 4/6	7:30 PM	EF/HG Town Council Mtg
Tues 4/5 4/19	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Weds 4/13	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Mon 4/11	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Sat 4/30	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Thurs	6:30 PM	Yoga@Firehouse

Hover Property And The Rancho Santa Fe School District

By Mickey Cross

From what I understand, the Hover Property has offered the Rancho Santa Fe School District property for a school in exchange for the District's support of the Hover Property's annexation into the City of San Marcos. Regardless of how you feel about a school in Elfin Forest (and remember, we are talking about a school that could happen 15 or more years from now...we would never be a "second" school site) you must let the school district know, in writing, that as an Elfin Forest resident you are not in favor of the annexation of the Hover Property, or any other property in Elfin Forest, into the City of San Marcos.

We must convey to the RSF School Board that we are a rural community with lots ranging from two acres and up. Any annexation would alter the community character of our area from rural to city and suburban. The Hover Property is located in the north and cuts into the south-center of Elfin Forest at Fortuna del Norte on the west and to almost Fortuna del Este to the east. I, personally, do not have a problem with the district purchasing property for a future school in the distant future. Having served on the first school site committee, I can tell you why I feel this way if you call me.

My recommendation to the school board would be to purchase/condemn the amount of property that they would need to be able to site a school on SEPTIC here in Elfin Forest. Although we do not know what will happen in the future with sewer and septic, we all know that sewer, if not properly controlled, can lead to density increases. I, for one, do not want Elfin Forest to become any more dense (dwelling units per acre) than it already is.

Share with the School Board that you know that the residents in Elfin Forest will fight any annexation attempt. We must convey to them that we will not tolerate any more land grabs that eat away at our community. If you would like to contact me, my number is 760-744-2034.

Just Moved Here?

If you just moved here, contact Karen Gardner 760-744-9500 to get your free six month subscription to the newsletter and discounts on town council merchandise.

April 2005

Order Your Elfin Forest Shirt Now



New Elfin Forest t-shirts are now available for \$15 (in sizes S, M, L). Profits support the America in Bloom effort. Use the order form on the outside of the newsletter or buy yours at the Elfin Forest Garden Festival on April 23rd.

Elfin Forest Trail Improvements

By Mary Moore

The recent heavy rains have taken a large toll on our local trail system. Some trails have become their own creeks, washing away mulch and creating very unsafe footing, and fence posts and rails are rotting or have become broken.

The Elfin Forest Trails Committee has financial aid to improve our local trail system. If you are one of the special neighbors who have allowed a section of our trail system on your property, we'd like to hear from you. We are also interested in suggestions for improvement on drainage and damage from future rainfalls (i.e., decomposed granite, gravel, asphalt realignment).

Please call me, Mary Moore, at 760-591-3080 if you are interested. Financial reimbursement may be available to certain trail owners based on individual need and existing money available.

Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

Past issues of the *chaparral* are now posted at www.efhgctc.org in downloadable PDF format.

chaparral

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Patti Newton

DATE: March 2, 2005

Call to order: 7:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Evelyn Alemanni, Joe Benson, Mid Hoppenrath, Bob McGurk, Patti Newton, Cheri Smith and Bill Wilgenburg.

Introductions: **Max Altmann** introduced residents to his late wife, **Esther Altmann**, who passed away in 1995 by showing a portrait of her. He provided this introduction because she would be mentioned later in the meeting during discussion of the heritage trail plaques.

Board updates: **Evelyn Alemanni** stated that new Garden Festival T-shirts are in and available for sale for \$15 each. Proceeds from sales will go to the Firewise garden and America In Bloom contest efforts. At the last town council meeting, **Ken Hoppenrath** suggested creating a community calendar. Evelyn Alemanni created a prototype and solicited input from the community for ideas. March 20th and April 16th have been dedicated to weed whacking in preparation for the America In Bloom judges' visit. EDCO has pledged to donate five Dumpsters toward the community-wide cleanup effort. Extra newsletters are available. Garden Festival preparations are going great – all volunteers in place. Evelyn Alemanni's garden is featured in Better Homes & Garden's "Dream Gardens Across America", page 38. **Peggy Petitmermet's** garden will be in an upcoming San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles garden guide. **Alan Zachary**, site manager for the Palomar Energy project, presented a \$2,500 check for the garden festival.

Frank Twohy presented checks to resident grantees on behalf of the Elfin Forest Community Foundation as follows:

\$1000.00 to the America In Bloom committee.

\$600.00 to the town council for the February 2005 mailing of the *chaparral* to everyone in CSA107.

\$439.00 for town council survey.

\$4,461.74 for street boulder project – Jan Denny is spearheading.

Mid Hoppenrath reported that the Escondido High School District board removed all three sites in this area from consideration. It is seeking smaller sites from willing sellers. We will keep an eye on this. The town council formed a committee to create a school site policy to be included in our community character text. **Joe Benson** is chairing and is seeking volunteers to assist. Contact Joe for more information. A group of Del Dios residents has formed a Small Schools for Escondido task force headed by Stacey Klein. This Friday the county is seeking direction for industrial planning. For example, Harmony Grove will have a rural commercial designation.

Bob McGurk gave the financial statement. Last month's income was approximately \$600 from garden festival ticket sales. Expenses were approximately \$327. Net \$273.

Joe Benson thanked residents for electing him to the town council board. He said he wanted to facilitate conversations regarding the need to get residents of HG involved.

Cheri Smith (vice chair) will give presentation of plaques. A standing Heritage committee has been formed to work on issues related to the heritage trail and other historic projects. The committee wants to identify historic landmarks and items for donation to a museum (at the DeRaadt house). This house will be moved to the center of the NUW village and restored. It may be opened up for use by community members. Items of interest would be old farm tools, Indian artifacts, etc.

Bill Wilgenburg is also on the heritage committee. NUW said it would dedicate one room in the house (today). It will soon be available for meetings prior to its relocation. It may be ready in the spring.

Jim Depolo: RSF school district is looking at a site off Aliso Canyon (Bishop property). Bishop's now willing to sell. It looks promising at this point. Several special meetings are forthcoming for discussion. An Elfin Forest site (formerly Quail Ridge, now called Sage Hill) is still under consideration. The district is looking at 10 to 14 acres east of Livingston's.

Item #1: Guest speaker, Greg Rubin, California's Own Landscape Design, discussed plans for the native planting garden at the fire house.

(Continued next page)

(Minutes EF/HG Town Council continued)

He strives to dispel misconceptions regarding natives. For example; not all native plants are flammable. This landscape plan will be separate from the fire wise garden. It will go in on the east edge. Sycamores and oak trees will help screen the nursery on the other side. It will wrap around to front slope and be filled with shrubs, trees and groundcovers and incorporate a dry stream bed. An informal path will be installed so people can walk through and enjoy the garden. It will include a picnic area and screening shrubs. In the end, about ¾ of the property will be planted in native plants.

What is a native plant? Most people are surprised to learn how many locally seen shrubs are not native. Using natives saves water and require less maintenance and captures our regional identity. Natives are colorful and fragrant, attracting butterflies and other animals. Natives are symbiotic in the plant community and they all work together as a giant mechanism which provides water to areas it's needed within that organism. Most of the grasses you see here are not native, which don't look very grass-like. Native Engelmann Oaks are rare and endangered.

Weed control is vital to maintaining a healthy native plant habitat. Interestingly, cattle target non-natives before they'll graze on natives. Careful grazing practices can be quite beneficial and cost effective. It is sometimes necessary to use chemicals to battle weeds and exotics before the natives become established. Greg likes Round-Up because it is biodegradable. Pre-emergent chemicals are used (Sur-Flan) to allow natives to emerge. It is exciting to see natives begin to emerge and prosper.

There are many misconceptions about fire. Because thunderstorms are rare, there are actually very few natural ignition sources. Every 100 to 200 years is the natural fire cycle. Post-fire is like a gaping wound – it becomes vulnerable to weed infestation. Weeds love a rapid burn cycle. Any more frequently than about every 50 to 100 years or more is detrimental to the native plants. Seeding after fires causes more damage than if they'd done nothing because the subsequent plantings don't prevent erosion. Fungi and biomass is a better way to prevent erosion. Strong evergreen backbone is important to add color when other plants aren't in bloom. Many styles of gardens (even Japanese gardens) are using native plants. Use

decorative rocks and benches to add interest and function. Dry stream beds can be used to manage drainage and add interest to the overall plan. They hold water and filter it before it runs off the property.

The National Wildlife Federation backyard habitat program requires a water source for consideration as such. Drip systems kill native plants because they foster the wrong ecology – it becomes a bacteria sewer. Natives don't like little wet spots and will avoid them if they can. Use a micro spray or some other kind of overhead system. Riparian plants love drip. Spritz them occasionally.

Natives make great slope stabilizers. Greg listed many of his favorite native plants. No manure or fertilizers. There is no advantage to using plants any larger than 1-gallon (including trees). Dig a hole and stick them in, that's it. Water heavily initially but taper. The soil must settle around the root ball. Control weeds and turn on sprinklers for 10 to 12 hours to super-saturate the area. Plant and space specimens to equate with their final size. Q & A followed.

Frank Twohy: The fire department applied for and won an \$80,000 grant through FEMA under fire prevention category to turn this landscape into an example for people to utilize natives for fire safety. They are also producing educational brochures. Picnic area and walking paths will enhance this education through graphics and supporting materials.

Cheri Smith: The Heritage Trail starts at the fire department and runs along Elfin Forest Road. Trees will be planted in honor of each of the citizens of the year. Some trees exist already. Below every tree will be a plaque commemorating citizens who can choose a quote for the plaque to be placed under the tree along the trail. Should they be plastic or cast metal? Prototypes were passed around. Cast aluminum (\$132, \$182 w/ a stake, ea.) \$3415 for 20 delivered for 8"x4". \$3643 for same in 8"x5" vs. cast bronze (\$3800 for 20). Custom colors to match our existing monuments. Plastic cost w/ stake is \$15. Consensus is to go with the plastic for now.

Open forum: Mid Hoppenrath mentioned the discussion regarding the possibility of adding NCRT bus stops in the HG and/or EF areas. Kirby Hughes sent a letter of concern which Mid read aloud. Buses don't operate on two-lane roads or turnarounds unless there are a significant number of riders.

(Continued next page)

(Minutes EF/HG Town Council continued)

Don't know what the criteria are at this point. The consensus was that it was better left alone.

Nona Barker encouraged residents to trim weeds to reduce fire danger. The fire department is offering a CPR class on March 12th, cost \$5 and is limited to 20 people. If response is greater they can schedule another class.

Cheri Smith called for volunteers to help others to improve their properties ready for AIB contest.

Frank Twohy informed residents about details regarding the fatality in creek. It was a 34-year-old man from Valley Center. Don't know yet how he happened to be there. The fire department rescued three other people who had stalled their vehicles at the creek and were in serious danger.

Adjourned: 9:15 p.m.



Frank Twohy presents EFCF grants to Mid Hoppenrath for Town Council projects.



Alan Zachary, site manager for Sempra Energy, presented a grant of \$2500 for the garden festival and America in Bloom activities.

Heritage Committee Formed

By Cheri Smith

Old is good! Preserving and enhancing our rich heritage in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove are the slated tasks of the Town Council's new Heritage Committee, created at the February board meeting.

While working on our America in Bloom entry, it came to our attention that EF/HG needed more focus on its history and heritage. The Community Guide offers a sample with an excellent overview of our history and unique rural heritage complete with archeological petroglyphs, the old Butterfield Stage Coach Route, and unique spiritualist history.

At this same meeting the future possibility was opened to us to use museum and meeting space at the historic landmark Johnson-Ward Farmhouse slated to be moved to Harmony Grove Village center. We offer hearty congratulations to all those in Harmony Grove who worked to accomplish this great achievement!

We are eager to hear from anyone in the community who has or knows someone who may have:

- historic photos or memorabilia related to Elfin Forest or Harmony Grove
- memories of the 'old days' you'd like to share.
- historic or antique non-moveable artifact on your property (petroglyphs, an old windmill, etc.)
- old farm instruments and tools, small farm machines, carriages or buggies, pump handles, cow bells, wooden wagons,
- wagon wheels, old benches, arrowheads, pottery shards, archeological artifacts, etc.

Rust and condition are no problem. The idea is that should you wish to donate any historic item for preservation, you can now do so. Whether or not you wish to donate an item, it would be helpful to learn of it and, with your permission, take a photograph. Donations are tax deductible. Some items can be housed in the new museum space and some may be displayed with a planting around Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove in a tasteful manner to highlight our rural heritage. If you have an historic artifact and would consider allowing us to photograph it, or for information on how to donate an item for preservation or to share your valuable memories, we greatly appreciate your contacting the Heritage Committee Chair: Cheri Smith, 760-891-0294 or cherismith@earthlink.net.

Weedwhacker Weekends

By Eric Anderson



Help keep our valleys safe and beautiful – get out your mower or weedwhacker and cut down those weeds that have grown so bountifully with this winter’s generous rain. The weeds are a great place for ticks and snakes to hide, and once they dry, will become a fire hazard.

Watch for the Weedwhacker Weekend posters to remind you. We’ll also be sending elf alerts, and you may receive a call from your block captain. **April 16th is the next community-wide weedwhacking effort.** Please remember to leave the wildflowers and watsonias alone. Photos of wildflower seedlings were included in the last issue of the Chaparral for your reference. Watsonias are shown in various growth stages below. Let them grow and we’ll all enjoy the colorful flowers in just a few weeks.



Watsonia sprouts, leaves, and flower.

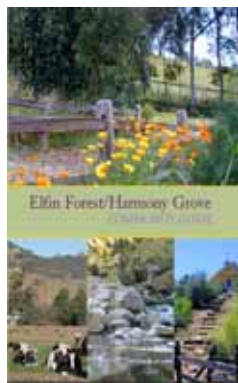


Town Council Website

The town council’s website is continually updated. Check it out at: efhgtc.org. **Note:** the town council is not affiliated with elfinforest.net and elfinforest.com.

Community Guides Are Here – Special Offer

By Evelyn Alemanni



Our brand new community guide is here and will be available at all town council meetings. This is a beautiful, keepsake edition with nearly 200 color photos showing our community’s past and present. They make wonderful gifts and an indispensable marketing tool for realtors. It provides resources for rural living, a history of our

community, and much, much more. The price is \$25 or five for \$100. *If you ordered your community guide already, pick it up at any town council meeting.*

When you renew your newsletter subscription for two years, you can purchase the community guide for \$20. Renew for five years and the guide is yours for only \$15.

YOU Could Be A WINNER....

By Lisa Stephenson

As we did in 2003, we’re going to have a landscape competition open to everyone in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. We’ll be judging the following: best street, best garden, best gate, best barn, best grove, best greenhouse, best native plantings, and best garden art, and judges’ pick.

Judging criteria are the same as the America in Bloom judges use – you can find those at www.americainbloom.org. Judging will take place the last week of April. The judges (local residents) plan on driving or walking by and will not enter any properties without the owner’s express permission.

Awards will be given at the potluck dinner on April 29th at the fire station while the America in Bloom judges are here. It will be a great party – plan to come.

If you have any questions or would like to nominate someone (or yourself) for an award, please contact Lisa Stephenson at 760-744-7744 or send an email to surfhorseranch@aol.com. Lots of local gardens have appeared on television and in regional and national magazines, so this might be your ticket to fame!

Earth Day Volunteers Needed

By Todd Nordress, OMWD Park Ranger

The Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve is looking for volunteers on Saturday, April 16th, from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM to help celebrate Earth Day 2005 by protecting the natural environment in and around the Escondido Creek watershed. This year's historic amount of rain has deposited an inordinate amount of debris onto the banks. This not only increases pollution by collecting trash, but also causes erosion of the banks changing the path of the creek itself.

The Reserve is a spectacular 750-acre open space park and recreational area developed by OMWD in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management and the San Diego County Water Authority, as an element of the Olivenhain Water Storage Project. The Project also includes a dam, reservoir and water treatment plant. The Reserve offers approximately ten miles of hiking, mountain biking, equestrian trails, primitive picnic areas, and scenic mountain viewing points. In addition, the natural beauty of the Reserve includes such native plant communities as oak riparian, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral.

Come share in a fun, productive, and rewarding day as we give something back to Mother Nature. Interested volunteers will meet in the main parking lot of the Park where refreshments, sunscreen, and t-shirts will be provided. For increased safety, please bring a pair of gloves, sturdy shoes, and a long sleeve shirt and pants are recommended. If you have questions about the Reserve or the cleanup event, please contact Ranger Todd Nordress at 760 753-6466 ext. 170.



Volunteers at the 2004 Earth Day Cleanup. Photo by Todd Nordress

America in Bloom: Judgment Day

By Evelyn Alemanni

Judgement Day begins on April 29 – when national judges from America in Bloom come to Elfin Forest.

If you've followed this series, you know that they'll be evaluating us not just on pretty flowers, but our efforts in landscape, heritage, urban forestry, turf and groundcover, environment, tidiness, community involvement, and floral displays.

The judges are Jana Kattenhorn, from San Jose. She is a retired science teacher and graduate of the Longwood Gardens horticulture program. She has fond memories of Elfin Forest, having visited often when her grandmother lived in Escondido. The other judge is Gerald Klingaman, a professor of horticulture at the Univ. of Arkansas and head of the master gardeners' program.

Our America in Bloom committee has put together an exciting two day tour for them. On April 29, we'll be hosting a potluck dinner at the fire station, so that you can all come and meet them.

Important! Mary Garman reminded us that the 29th is trash day, and it would be awful to have the judges come when trash cans are scattered about. Thanks to the efforts of Eric Anderson, EDCO has agreed to change trash day to April 27th. Be sure that all your trash cans are brought inside before Friday morning!



Computer Geek Needed

By Joe Alemanni

Keeping up with technology isn't getting any easier. The personal computers we increasingly depend on for communication and managing our personal lives remain a vulnerable target for the hacker and virus creator. When your computer has a problem, who ya gonna call?

If you think you're ready to respond to the myriad ways a computer can ruin your day while gaining the admiration and gratitude of your stymied neighbors and getting paid, I offer you free publicity in the *chaparral* for your services. Send me an email describing your powers and abilities (and rates) and I will publish them in an upcoming issue.

April Garden Projects

By Evelyn Alemanni

It's finally time to set out those summer herbs and vegetables! As the soil warms up, you can start planting favorites like peppers, corn, and tomatoes. You can also continue planting roses, trees, berries, etc. Start planning your summer vegetable garden and prepare the soil.

It's been a wet winter, so be sure to bait for snails and, if you're obsessed, take a flashlight and go "hunting" at night when snails and slugs are active. Feed snails to turtles, ducks, and chickens.

Maintenance

- Check your irrigation system for leaks and clogs. Repair as needed.
- Deadhead faded flowers.
- Continue applying snail and slug bait.
- Remove emerging weeds or spray with herbicide now to avoid lots of work later.
- If gophers are a problem, try traps or an owl box! One owl eats 1000 rodents each year.

Plant Now

- Plant trees, shrubs, vines, citrus, avocados, fruit trees.
- Plant drought-resistant plants. Keep them watered for the first year until they're established.
- Plant perennials, roses, trees, shrubs.
- Plant gladiolas, tuberous begonias, canna, dahlias, tuberose.
- Sow seeds or plant seedlings of spring and summer vegetables.
- Plant summer color - cosmos, marigolds, zinnias, asters, impatiens, lisianthus, lobelia, petunia, alyssum, verbena.
- Water newly planted items.
- Buy seeds for summer flowers and vegetables to start indoors now.

Fertilize

- Fertilize groundcovers and roses, irises, lawns.
- Fertilize citrus, fuchsias, avocados, berries and grapes.

Spread The Word So The Seeds Don't

By Todd Nordress, OMWD Park Ranger

Last year in the staging area of the EFRR I noticed a plant I had never seen before. I referred to my "bible" of invasive plants: *Invasive Plants of California Wildlands*. Not being able to find it in there, I assumed it was ok. This season I kept an eye on the plant as it tripled in size and had recently flowered. Just the other day Joyce from The Carlsbad Watershed Network called to inform me that there was a noxious plant in the reserve that was of some concern. We determined the location of it and identified it as my "mystery" plant. I asked her what it was and she identified it as Onion Weed, (*asphodelus*.)

She explained to me that it was of concern as it is a new invader in the area. She told me that it should be pulled right away and said that she wouldn't be surprised if it had seeded already. This prompted me to go and investigate the area. In the immediate vicinity there were no seedlings. I looked further in the downwind direction to discover a 30' by 20' patch of it. I now had a new project to eradicate this new invasive.

As I embarked on this mission it did not seem to be that daunting of a task. Once I was engrossed in the project I realized that there were literally hundreds of bulbs needing to be pulled. Four hours and ten Hefty bags later I still did not have the area completely cleared.

That being said; in all my years of dedication to the eradication of invasive plants, unscientifically, I have never come across such an intrusive invader.

My next plan of action was to do some research on the internet. Apparently its origins are from the Mediterranean region, western Asia to northern India. At the turn of the last century Australia was inundated with it. It is said to have originated from contaminated animal feed. Dispersal came in the usual methods such as: vehicles, machinery, animals, clothing, and waterways.

So if you are not familiar with this invader, I wanted to share this hands-on experience. If we don't already have our hands full with the "usual suspects," let's keep our eyes open for this new invader.

Living With Snakes

By Nona Barker

We all love where we live. The hills, the oak trees, the chaparral and wild flowers. We love our homes and community. The wildlife around us also loves our community and they were here first. We must learn how to live with them and allow the plant and animal community to live with us.

Most of our wildlife is harmless. The deer and rabbits may eat your roses, but they won't hurt you. Rattlesnakes live here too. They don't want to hurt you but, if provoked or surprised, they may bite you. As soon as the days warm to 60 degrees, rattlesnakes come out of their homes and look for food.

Most rattlesnake bites that occur in our area are delivered by baby rattlesnakes. They haven't learned you're too big to eat and are easily frightened. They are difficult to see because they are quite small and their colors blend in with the surroundings. To reduce your encounter with baby rattlers is to be aware. LOOK BEFORE YOU REACH. Into, around, or over anything and everything you're going to pick up or pull out.

Adult rattlesnakes will also wander into your yard. They are looking for food. Rattlesnakes eat mice, rats, squirrels, gophers, etc. To reduce the chance of snakes in your home, keep your yard waste, dropped fruit from trees, trash, and birdseed, and animal food, grain picked up. Clean up daily. Keep your grain, grass seed, etc., in metal bins with lids. Clean up any spills right away. Keep your garage door and doors to your home closed. Snakes will come in and hide. If left alone most of the time, rattlesnakes will go away. If you encounter a snake here is what to do:

- On the trail, turn around and go the other way. If you must go past the snake, leave a wide berth around it.
- Teach your kids to turn around slowly, and walk away fast. Teach them to find an adult and tell the adult about the snake.
- At home, turn around and go the other way. Bring your pets and children into the house. The next day, the snake should be gone.
- If all this fails, call 911 and ask for a snake removal. The fire department will remove the snake from your property and take it to designated open space in our area.

If you or someone with you is bitten by a rattlesnake.

- STAY CALM.
- Get away from the snake, walk slowly. DO NOT RUN.
- As soon as you can, sit down.
- CALL 911.
- Keep the site of the bite at or near heart level.
- NEVER cut and suck the wound – this only introduces more bacteria into wound.
- NEVER apply any constrictor bandages - This only increases damage to the bite area.
- NEVER apply ice to bite site - This only increases damage to the bite area.

I hope this helps you stay safe. For more information on rattlesnake safety, call the fire department @ 744-2186.

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.

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 to be added to the list. The PDF version is free to regular "hardcopy" subscribers and only \$10.00/year to receive the PDF version only.

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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 7:30 p.m. Lenten Series at the church.

The Way Within Meditation Classes

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 12:00 Noon Phyllis Isaac

Apr 3rd - Questions and Answers
Rev. Blake Isaac & Rev. Elizabeth Wood

Apr 10th - Sowing the Seeds of Faith
Evelyn Alemanni

Apr 15th - 17th - The Holy Quest Series II

Apr 17th - Our Gifts to Our Lord Renewed
Rev. Blake Isaac

Apr 23rd - Annual Open House

Apr 24th - Lessons We Can Learn From the Saints
Rev. Elizabeth Wood

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To renew your advertising, send a JPG format file and a check (see rates below) payable to the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council, 20652 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest, CA. 92029.

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Community, Non-Commercial Classified Ads:

1" x 3 1/2" (approx. 4 lines): no charge to residents - must be resubmitted every 3 months. Non-residents cost is \$10/month.

Playgroup Schedule

By Pam Sanford

Friday, April 8th: Meet at Stagecoach Park at 10AM. Bring a snack to share.

Friday, April 15th: Megan Flemming's house at 11:30AM. 2209 Sequest Trail.

Friday, April 22nd: Meet at San Elijo Park at 10AM. Bring a snack to share.

Friday, April 29th: Lynn Frank's house at 10:00AM. 20445 Fortuna del Sur.

Sheriff's Department Contacts

In an emergency, please call 911. For non-emergency reporting, contact the following: Gen -760-510-5200
Jackie Cruz – Agriculture crime prevention specialist 760-940-4350
Sgt. Dan Wilson – COPPS – 760-510-5231
Betty (B.J.) Williams – Crime Prevention Specialist/Neighborhood Watch 760-510-5254

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Thank you!

New Urban West, the builder of Harmony Grove Village, would like to acknowledge the residents who have joined us in making Harmony Grove Village a better community.

Together, we can hopefully encourage the County to incorporate all of following ideas into Harmony Grove Village:

- Trails to be build and dedicated to the County of SD
- Quarry – no future quarrying operations
- Dark Skies
- Open Spaces
- Bus Stop in Harmony Grove Village
- Re-classification of Harmony Grove Road and Elfin Forest Road from 4 land collection to two lane
- Re-classification of Country Club Drive from 4 lane collector to 2 lane on site



Your continued support and dedication means a lot to us!

120 West Grand Avenue,
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Escondido, CA 92025
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Brooke York - EF Resident, LCC School 11th grader, Baby Sitting. Tel: 760-752-7784

Jared York - EF Resident, RSF School 9th grader, Baby sit or feed animals. Tel: 760-752-7784

Dog Sitting: A 10 year old Rancho Santa Fe student is available for dog sitting. Parents will supervise. Please call 760-510-0143.

For Sale: Canon 10D SLR 6.3 megapixel camera. Awesome. In original box. \$1700 new. Make offer. Details and specs at www.allea.com/camera.htm. 760-471-7224.

For Sale: Ab Lounger exercise device, never used. Brand New. \$149. 760-510-9998.



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