



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Mid Hoppenrath

The annual Independence Day Parade and Picnic was a great success and enjoyed by a particularly large crowd. It is a credit to this community that so many volunteered to help out. Thanks to all participants.

The search for future school sites continues in our valley. The Quail Ridge (aka Sage Hill) sub-committee has extended an offer on behalf of the Town Council to the Rancho Santa Fe School District Board to visit our community and experience our rural character to understand the impact of their choices during this important site selection process. The Escondido Union High School District is currently considering sites outside of our valley; the Citracado and possibly Mountain Meadows site.

We have extended another invitation to the Harmony Grove Meadows development team to present their project at our September 7th Town Council meeting. They are scheduled to present at the San Dieguito Planning Group meeting on September 15th.

The grand opening of the newly restored Johnston-Ward Farmhouse (as a museum/community center) donated by New Urban West was also well attended. It was very interesting to see the inside of this historic building, and talk to the former owners about growing up in our valley many years ago. Did you know at one time there was a playpen kept in the kitchen where a premature calf was cared for until she could survive on her own?

Hope to see you all at the next Town Council meeting August 3rd where we will be able to view more local history in the video presentation by Bob Ganey called "Voices of the Valley."

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Mid Hoppenwrath, current town council chair and recipient of the 2005 Citizen of the Year award, addresses the crowd at the 4th of July Picnic.

Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 3rd @7:30PM
At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station
Topic: "Voices of the Valley" Video Documentary

EF/HG Film Festival Starring You!

By Evelyn Alemanni

You will want to be sure to come to the August town council meeting! We'll be showing "Voices of the Valley" a film about Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove by Harmony Grove resident and producer, Bob Ganey. Bob's production was funded last year by a grant from the Elfin Forest Community Foundation. You may have seen Bob around our communities in the past months – filming the Fourth of July picnic, interviewing various residents (we wondered why Chief Twohy was dressed up the other day!) Please join us for what will be a most memorable town council meeting. We might even spring for the popcorn.

4th Of July Parade Results

By Lisa Stephenson

As usual, our beloved Elfin Forest Fourth of July parade went pretty well. The kids were thrilled to receive first place ribbons and people enjoyed voting for their favorite floats (even though no one read my article and needed a bit of guidance).

A very unexpected six floats participated with a few trailing in just the nick of time. You voted and sure enough, Russell, Ryan, and Eric Anderson won! Their entry was really beautiful with flowers everywhere! Thank you all so much for your participation. It was a great event.



Eric Anderson accepts the 4th of July Parade Perpetual Trophy from parade co-chair Tom Stephenson.

Parade and Picnic Recap

By Evelyn Alemanni

Thanks to the volunteers who participated in setup, running games, selling tickets, and post picnic cleanup. So many people worked hard to make it a day of family fun. Thanks especially to Janet McGurk and Rachel Barnes for coordinating the picnic and to Nona Barker for enlisting the many firefighters to help with setup and teardown. We couldn't have done it without you. Thanks also to NUWI for their donation of \$1000 and Brookfield Homes for their donation of \$250.

The event was lots of fun with a record turnout but, the loss was approximately \$1000. As you know, we share the profits (if any) with the fire department.

Our apologies for running out of food. Since food service was on the honor system, attendees helped themselves to several hamburgers and hot dogs instead of one. The ticket price pays for more than food. It covers the cost of renting tables, chairs, tents, hay bales, games and prizes, the band, portable toilets, insurance, and lots of other miscellaneous expenses. So if you're one of those people who unintentionally "overindulged" you might consider sending the town council or fire department a donation to cover it.

It's time to start planning for next year. Some of the improvements we'd like to see (and we need your help on this) is more ticket sellers, servers in the food line, and more volunteers to run the kids games. We hope to have tickets available for sale online starting next April so you can order tickets early, pick them up at the picnic (or maybe even have them mailed to you) to avoid the rush. It will also help us plan for the right amount of food. We want to hear your ideas for making the parade and picnic at least break even and be more fun for everyone.

Calendar For August

Date	Time	Event
Weds 8/3	7:30 PM	Town Council Meeting
Tues 8/2 8/16	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Weds 8/10	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Mon 8/8	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Sat 8/27	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Sat 8/13 8/27	10 AM	Bookmobile@Firehouse
Every Thurs	6:30 PM	Yoga@Firehouse

Citizen of the Year

By Evelyn Alemanni

Nominations for Citizen of the Year were officially requested via the newsletter starting in June. We also sent several elf alerts asking for nominations. The nominee's names were published in the July issue of the *chaparral*.

Nominees included: Eric Anderson for his leadership in the America in Bloom contest and his kindness and helpfulness on a moment's notice; Mid Hoppenrath for her consistently high level of community involvement; Peggy Petitmermet and Karen Gardner for their stewardship and vision for the Fire Wise garden; Jan Denny for her tireless work on the town council and the traffic committee; and Evelyn Alemanni for another amazing garden festival, co-chairing the America in Bloom, and many years of effort to turn Questhaven Road into a trail.

Not surprisingly, Mid Hoppenrath received more nominations than anyone else and your town council board agreed with you, naming her Citizen of the Year for 2005.



Bob McGurk crowns Mid Hoppenrath Citizen of the Year.

More Parade Photos



Nona Barker, Janet McGurk and Rachel Barnes were acknowledged for all their work on the picnic and other community projects.



Ladies rode their horses in the parade.



Eric Anderson & family won the big prize for their flower-decked parade float.

CERT

By Captain Dawn Pettijohn



Things are taking shape in the development of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). A \$4000 grant

received last month is to be used for a 30 member CERT Team in the communities of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. Currently, we have 27 volunteers interested in the program. We will join a list of twenty CERT Teams from the communities of Bonsall, Campo, Chula Vista, Coronado, Deer Springs, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Fallbrook, Hidden Meadows, Imperial Beach, Lakeside, Pauma Valley, Ramona, Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego, Santee, Solana Beach, Valley Center, and Vista.

The program trains community members to prepare to respond to emergency situations. CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the communities.

Along with the training, each CERT member will receive a member kit which includes a CERT hard hat, CERT reflective vest, CERT backpack, safety goggles, first aid kit, medical gloves, emergency blanket, flashlight, light stick, leather work gloves, adjustable wrench, dust mask, duct tape, and whistle. The focus of the free training is normally delivered in 2½ hour blocks as follows:

- Emergency Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Emergency Medical-Part I
- Emergency Medical-Part II
- Light Search and Rescue Operations
- CERT Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism and CERT
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Course Review and Disaster Simulation

The training commitment of 25 hours is usually delivered over 6 to 8 weeks. If you are interested, please contact the Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department at 760-744-2186. For more information, check the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services website at www.co.san-diego.ca.us/oes/community/programs/CERT

Bookmobile

By Mickey Cross

The bookmobile days and hours have changed again, but this time it is FOR THE BETTER!! New days will be the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. The new time will be from 10 AM until noon (2 hours again!). Location will still be at the fire station.

This will be a great opportunity for parents to take their children (or go for themselves if empty nesters) to get books, DVD's, VHS tapes, etc. They have books for younger children as well as teens and adults. Books, books on tapes, books on CD, DVDs, and VHS tapes can be ordered if they do not have them on board. Rental fees for DVDs and VHS tapes are \$1.00 each with a limit of three titles per check out. Check out period for VHS tapes and DVDs is two weeks. Items to be checked out can be ordered on line at www.sdcl.org or call 760-643-5125.

In addition, the County library system is sponsoring a summer reading program to encourage your children to read. If you don't have a library card you can get one on the spot at the bookmobile.

Due to a change in librarians, the bookmobile may not show up as consistently as they have in the past until they hire a permanent librarian. If you wish to be on an e-mail list for Elfin Forest for confirmation of days the bookmobile will be here, send your e-mail address to Mickey Cross: mickeykc@juno.com.

Having the bookmobile stop here on a Saturday is a privilege that not everyone has. It is easier for those of us who are busy, elderly, or have children in school because it is close to us. For school children, it doesn't conflict with class time or pick up time.

Please visit the bookmobile on Saturdays. Remember the old saying: Use it or lose it! If the bookmobile doesn't see enough usage, they could drop slow sites in favor of more used sites (and Saturday is a much requested day).

Questions? Contact Mickey Cross at 760-744-2034 or mickeykc@juno.com.

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.

News From Questhaven Retreat



Sunday worship is at 10:45 AM.
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 PM.

Holy Horticulture – Tuesdays 1-4 PM

August 7th Solitude, Silence, Serenity -Awakening
Our Inner Life Through Retreat - Rev. J. Wiltshire

August 14th Walk with the Masters –
Rev. Blake Isaac

August 21st The Seasons and Cycles of Life -
Rev. Elizabeth Wood

August 28th Life's Labyrinth - Rev. Susan Cary

chaparral Advertising

Please support our advertisers! Many of them are your friends and neighbors. *Consider advertising your business here.* Along with subscription fees, ads help make this newsletter possible and let the community know of the many wonderful businesses and services available.

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.

One-time rates:		Yearly rates:
1" x 3.5"	\$5.00	\$36.00/year
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 to residents - must be resubmitted every 3 months. Non-residents cost is \$10/month.

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.

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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www.elfinforestcommunityfoundation.org
www.newcoursejumps.com
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Exp. 6/06



**Elfin Forest/
Harmony Grove
Town Council**

Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

20223 Elfin Forest Rd. Elfin Forest, CA 92029

July 14, 2005

2005 Board Members:

- Mid Hoppenrath (chair)
- Cheri Smith (vice chair)
- Robert McGurk (treasurer)
- Patti Newton (secretary)
- Evelyn Alemanni
- Eric Anderson
- Bill Wilgenburg
- Jan Denny
- Joe Benson

Dear RSF School Board Members and Superintendent Delaney:

The community of Elfin Forest was very disappointed to learn that Quail Ridge (a.k.a. Sage Hill) representatives of Hover Development have approached Superintendent Delaney and members of your board regarding support for their project in exchange for a potential school site. Given its history with this community and the Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU), we are offended they would solicit your help, and once you learn more background, we are confident you will be offended too.

First, it is important to note that Hover Development has no project proposal at this point. Formerly known as Quail Ridge, this 69-home development was wholly rejected by the DPLU after four years of foot dragging, missed deadlines, and requests for multiple extensions followed by total non-performance by Hover Development, represented by Mr. Talarico. Over the years, despite promises, no studies of any kind were made available to the DPLU or the public, no draft Environmental Impact Report was ever circulated and multiple county requests were ignored. Further, much of what was proposed was in direct violation of our community standards, e.g., lowering ridgelines by as much as 40', extensive grading and blasting, using only four architectural plans among 69 homes, disallowing large animal keeping, consideration of (growth inducing) sewer, and gating the project on both sides, effectively isolating it from the community it would bisect. At best, this proposal would have cut the very heart out of our tight-knit community; at worst, it would have extinguished the rural lifestyle we all enjoy and cherish.

We've heard Mr. Talarico advance the fiction that 69 homes are better than 300 homes. This is not an either/or situation. As mentioned above, the formerly proposed 69-home project is dead, therefore it is irrelevant. The 300-home ploy is a thinly veiled threat of annexation into the city of San Marcos, a maneuver that Mr. Talarico knows will result in a costly, time-consuming battle on every front. Tom Hover has gone so far as to publicly say he will "do whatever it takes" to get this project through, and stated he has a primary, fiduciary responsibility to his investors (the parcel is owned by foreign interests). Ultimately, he has made it eminently clear that this community and its zealously guarded rural character are of no consequence.

Had it complied with existing zoning and ordinances, it's quite possible Hover Development could have reasonably built 40 to 45 homes, and certainly with the friendly cooperation of Elfin Forest residents. However, through inaction and non-cooperation with the county, it has, in

August 2005

effect, shot itself in the foot. The project is now "pipelined" under GP2020 guidelines; DPLU staff has recommended the entire 234-acre parcel be zoned 'one dwelling unit/20 acres' (1du/20). Most of this acreage has been identified by the county as the highest value habitat, a designation made even more critical since the development of the extremely dense 3,400-home San Elijo Hills just to the north destroyed and disrupted flora and fauna. The Quail Ridge site hosts several pair of breeding endangered black-tailed gnatcatchers among other at-risk plant and animal species, has steep slopes, intact archeology sites, and has been identified by state and federal wildlife agencies as a critical connecting corridor for wildlife movement.

Please understand that it is not the intent of this community to stand in the way of locating a school in this area if the demographics warrant the need for one. However, it appears that the (projected) demographics don't support the need for a school; especially on a distant district boundary (with few local students) that is difficult to access from Rancho Santa Fe. Regardless, given all the challenges of this site (legal, environmental, biological, topographic, aesthetic, social), it may have occurred to you as you read and appreciate some of the details associated with the Quail Ridge parcel, that it is a particularly poor choice for a school.

Take a moment to consider if assisting this developer is in the best interest of the children in your district. Should your board support the development of a residential project that does not comply with published community standards? How will this quid pro quo be perceived by both the public and the county staff who have rejected this plan? Are you setting a dangerous precedent? Why is the developer seeking your assistance? Shouldn't the project (whatever it is) pass or fail on its own merits? What are they asking you to do and why? Who is helped? Who is harmed? Put plainly, how would this shoe fit if it were on the other foot?

The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council would like to extend an invitation to Superintendent Delaney and members of your board to take a tour of our community to give you a more tangible understanding of our rural character and why we defend it so vigorously. Also, we would like to invite you to participate during one of our monthly town council meetings to discuss these issues with concerned residents.

On behalf of our community, the town council requests that until the developer presents a formal project proposal to the county, that the Rancho Santa Fe School District cease any further negotiations with Hover Development and its representatives on this property. Failing that, we request that two members of the Quail Ridge sub-committee be invited to attend and participate in any and all relative discussions. This would eliminate time-consuming speculation and provide your board with valuable input garnered from our years of experience with this project.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Patricia Newton
Secretary

cc: Quail Ridge Sub-committee members
Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council, Supervisor Horn

**New Urban West is proud to announce the
Endorsement of Harmony Grove Village by the
Harmony Grove Spiritualist Association.**



Harmony Grove Spiritualist Association
2975 Washington Circle
Escondido, CA 92029
Phone: (760) 745-9176
Fax: (760) 745-3482
Web site: www.harmonygrovespiritualist.org

May 26, 2005

New Urban West, Inc.
120 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 104
Escondido, CA 92025

Re: Harmony Grove Village Project

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Harmony Grove Spiritualist Association, its residents and members we would like to thank you for your consideration and sensitivities in regard to the planning and design of Harmony Grove Village Project. We particularly appreciate the efforts made by New Urban West to work with our community to continue to uphold the special pastoral setting in our community. You listened to our concerns and made changes to your plans in order to accommodate our requests. As a 109 year old Spiritualist community - the oldest in California - preservation of the harmony of our surrounding landscape is important to us.

We endorse the community outreach and coordination which New Urban West has shown toward our community. Your actions are greatly appreciated and we look forward to continuing the "Good Neighbor Policy" which you have initiated.

New Urban West has our endorsement for the Harmony Grove Village project and we look forward to being able to continue this endorsement in the future.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Bradshaw".

Rick Bradshaw, President
Harmony Grove Spiritualist Association



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New Community Calendar Planned By Evelyn Alemanni

To help keep everyone informed about community events and opportunities to get involved, the town council approved the creation of a full-size calendar which will be distributed at no charge to every family in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. The design and layout are being donated by ALL.EA.

The calendar will include dates for town council meetings, fire training, due dates for grant proposals, and much more. Each month will include special information on the rural lifestyle and/or a community group. Here's what you can do to help move this project forward:

Submit photos (we need 12-14). You can either send me a 300 dpi .jpg or .tif file sized to a max of 8" wide or give me an original which I'll scan and return.

Send a list of important dates/meetings for your group – all groups are eligible. Email those to me at alemanni@allea.com.

Send contact info and URL for your group's website to me, same as above.

Advertise. We're sending this calendar FREE to everyone, but we need to cover printing and postage expenses. Tell everyone in the community about your business by placing your ad. Send a .jpg or .tif file to me at the email address above.

Ad rates:

3.5" x 1/2"	\$50
3.5" x 1"	\$80
3.5" x 2" (Business card)	\$150
3.5" x 4"	\$275
3.5" x 6"	\$400

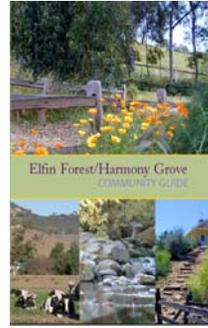
Contact me if you need a different size.

Due date: Materials must be submitted by Oct. 1st.

Iraq War Casualties Web Site By Joe Alemanni

The placement of this article in the *chaparral* isn't meant to belittle the seriousness of the subject. Since the United States government only sporadically releases the casualty totals from the Iraq War (now almost 1800 military dead and about 15,000 wounded) the Iraq Coalition Casualty Count web site at: <http://icasualties.org/> keeps a daily tally. You'll also find links to the stories behind these statistics.

Community Guides Are Here By Evelyn Alemanni



Our new community guide is available at all town council meetings. This beautiful, keepsake edition has 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.

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.

Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

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

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

Amanda Clerke - Baby sit or feed animals. Parents will supervise and transport. EF Resident. 11 years old 760-510-0143.

For Sale: 1999 Cadillac DeVille 4-door, white, leather seats, good condition. 48,500 miles. \$11,000. Call Mid Hoppenrath 760-747-1145.

For Sale: 1990 G & F two horse aluminum bumper pull horse trailer. King size, solid, tows perfect, needs paint \$2,500. Call 760-579-1936 for details

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 share the list with the fire department.

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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Articles of up to 500 words should be sent to newsletter editor Joe Alemanni by email to alemanni@vicrp.com 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.



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Just who IS the Rancho Santa Fe School Board listening to?

The Rancho Santa Fe School Board has allowed almost no public participation in the selection of a new school site - except for input from a select few.

School Board meetings are a charade. Board members ignore questions from residents and make their decisions behind closed doors.

The School Board has tuned out valid objections and turned a blind eye to the obvious flaws of their preferred site.

The School Board has bowed to pressure from the Rancho Santa Fe Association, which has demanded a school site outside Covenant boundaries.

The Rancho Santa Fe Association has agreed to sell property adjacent to the Rowe School to the school district for expansion of the Rowe School only after a second school is sited outside Covenant boundaries.

What can you do?

- Call or write the Rancho Santa Fe School Board and tell them to stop wasting our tax dollars on an unnecessary second school!

P.O. Box 809
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
Phone: (858) 756-1141
Fax: (858) 756-0712

To email school board members, go to www.rsfschoolboard.org

- Join Citizens for Better Rancho Santa Fe Schools by calling (858) 756-6950 or visiting our website www.rsfcitizens.org.

Paid for by Citizens for Better Rancho Santa Fe Schools

School district representatives have publicly stated:

“First, we want to reiterate that acquiring a second school site outside the Covenant remains our first priority.”

- School Board Member Jim Depolo and Superintendent Linda Delaney, Rancho Santa Fe Review, January 2005

“...a long-range plan to address the growth must be put into place between the school board and the [Rancho Santa Fe] Association board. The proper outcome of this longrange plan is crucial in maintaining our property values.”

“We need a plan to be devised that would open up a second campus, outside the Covenant...”

- School Board Member Richard Burdge, Rancho Santa Fe Review, April 2003

The Bottom Line:

By giving in to pressure from the Rancho Santa Fe Association, the School Board has sided with narrow parochial interests at the expense of our children's quality of education.



The Escondido Creek Conservancy 4th Annual Summer Celebration, Silent Auction and Moonlight Dinner Concert

Saturday, August 20th, 2005

at 6 pm

Lazy J Ranch
Elfin Forest

featuring award winning
acoustic duo

Berkeley Harf

Escondido

Rancho
Santa Fe



\$50 per person includes dinner,
beer/wine/coffee and dessert

Purchase tickets at Lou's Records in Encinitas, at www.escondidocreek.org, or mail check to:
The Escondido Creek Conservancy, PO Box 460791, Escondido,
CA 92046

Information: (760) 471-9354

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