



From The Chair

by Doug Dill

The last couple of months I've been summarizing a laundry list of housing development projects in and surrounding our community. Most of them are NOT rural residential. In many ways they threaten our way of live here in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove. Will a family in a clustered home on a 1/2 acre lot raise horses, have a citrus or avocado grove, grow a great big garden or have a vineyard? I don't think so. As I drive past 1/2 acre subdivisions in Encinitas or Escondido, I observe lush, exotic (non-native) fully landscaped yards and other characteristics of suburbia. A Seven-Eleven is not far, or a gas station, strip malls, professional building, etc. Does Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove have to turn into this in order to appease the pressure of development?

I think not. The times have changed, we can't assume to be a quiet backwater community that no one knows of anymore. But that does not mean we have to accept higher density or commercial development. But there is a cost to preserving what we have, at the same time continue growth at a rate and density that is in character with our community.

Come to the next Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council meeting and participate in a dialog of what you want the future of EF/HG to be. In a couple of months, some tough decisions have to be made by the entire community about our fate. Hope you can be there.

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April Tax Reminders

- 10th - 2nd Property Tax payment due.
- 16th - 2nd Estimated tax payments for 2001 due.
- 16th - Tax return filings due.



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Pancake Breakfast

Betsy Keithley

Please save May 19 for a local pancake breakfast at the Fire Station prepared by the members of the Fire Auxiliary. There will be plenty of pancakes, scrambled eggs and other egg delicacies prepared by the Fire Auxiliary chefs. There will also be fresh fruit, ham and beverages.

Festivities will begin at 8:00 and last until 11:00. I recommend getting there early while the best kinds of eggs are still fresh. Visit with your friends and neighbors and have a relaxing morning. See you there.

chaparral by e-mail?

by David Cronshaw

If you're not already receiving a **full color** copy of the *chaparral* by email, in addition to the regular hard copy, send an email note to **efchaparral@yahoo.com** and I'll add you to the list.

E-mail copy not being received?

I have received information that some people may not be receiving an e-mail copy after requesting it. Two reasons for this are possible:

1. I forgot to put your e-mail address into the recipients list.
2. For some reason, you can't receive e-mail where your name is in the Bcc: recipients list.

Whatever the reason, if this applies to you, please send me another request for it so I can fix the prob-



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EF News

by Evelyn Alemanni

Community Meeting

The CHP will be our guest speaker at the April community meeting. You'll have a chance to ask them about enforcement on dumping, speeding, weight limit, and all the other things we'd like to have enforced out here.

Another topic that will be discussed is the lawsuit regarding the gate at Suerte del Este. Lots of issues to cover on this one.

Animal Rescue Fire Drill

Animal Rescue is a division of the Humane Society. You remember that their volunteers rescued many Elfin Forest large and small animals during the Harmony Grove Fire. On April 22, they will be holding a fire drill in our area. The purpose is to become familiar with the locations of homes and the types of animals that may need rescuing in the event of an emergency. If you would like to participate, please call Terry Halverson at 760-789-8689.

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 yet receiving them, please send your email address to Alemanni@allea.com and ask to be put on the list. Don't worry, the e-mails are sent as blind CCs, so your address is not made public, and we don't share the list with ANYONE!

Who's Your Block Captain?

Block captains are essential to communicating urgent items within the valley. If you have recently moved to Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove, please contact Peggy Petitmermet at 744-0649 to find out who your block captain is. Your block captain can answer questions that you might have about living in a rural community, and she will also give you a complementary edition of the Community Guide.

Garden Club

The April meeting of the Elfin Forest Garden Club will be hosted by Evelyn Alemanni on April 21 at 10 a.m. 20652 Elfin Forest Rd. Topic is propagation. Bring plants or cuttings to trade. The cuttings you start this month will be full size plants and ready to go into the ground by fall.

New EF/HG Town Council Officers

Town Council Officers for 2001-2002 are as follows:

Doug Dill - Chairman

Bill Telesco - Vice Chairman

Patti Newton - Secretary

Elizabeth Wood - Treasurer

New Weight Limit on Elfin Forest Rd.

Many thanks to Linda Hamilton for her untiring effort (more than 1 year!) to get the weight limits reinstated on Elfin Forest Rd. You'll see two signs - one at the county line to the north, and near Harmony Grove Rd. to the south, both of which indicate that vehicle over 7 tons are prohibited on the road except for local deliveries. The sheriff will be enforcing this. If you see cement trucks, haulers, etc. please let them know there's a big fine attached.

New Speed Limit on Country Club Dr.

Diane Mc Millen

Thanks to the efforts of neighbor Gary Bothum, 417 Country Club Dr, the issue of establishing a formal speed limit on Country Club was discussed Friday at the San Diego County Traffic Advisory Committee meeting.

They monitored the speed on 2/01. 85th Percentile 48.6 MPH This was for a 24 hour period - 2930* cars *Two-way count

The recommendation that will go to the Board of Supervisors is: 45 MPH with Radar Certification. If approved, signs will be posted at both ends of the valley. Below the 45 MPH sign there will be another one stating it is "Radar Enforced". They will also paint the pavement. Additionally, the committee recommended installation of an "Equestrian" sign somewhere along Country Club Dr.

See EF News, page 4

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20767 Fortuna Del Norte in Elfin Forest

EF News, from page 3

It isn't necessary to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting, April 25, as long as we feel we have Bill Horn's support. It's been suggested we call his Vista office, 940-4660, after he has received the paperwork (about 3 weeks) and let him know we support the proposed speed limit.

Putting a 7 ton restriction on CC will be discussed at the Traffic Ad. Comm. April 6 meeting. Placing a stop sign on Country Club Dr. at Live Oak will also be discussed. It's unlikely they will approve the stop sign but they seemed interested in the weight limit.

Thanks to Wayne Hartley for helping Gary with this problem and to Bob Nielsen for going to the meeting.

GP2020 Update - Sierra Club gets Busy

Terry Weiner

The executive committee of the Sierra Club unanimously passed the motion below. They will be working on the drafting of the actual letter and soliciting support from as many Planning Groups and conservation groups as possible. Plus, at some point they will make it a media event. Please send any thoughts and comments regarding how to make this an effective, momentous action.

The Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter will draft and send a letter to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors urging them to immediately adopt an interim moratorium ordinance with the authority given to them by California State Law, Government Code, section 65858. We are urging the County Board to enact this interim ordinance for these reasons: to protect the integrity of the planning process during the General Plan Update 2020; to prevent land uses in the unincorporated areas of the County that may conflict with contemplated changes to the General Plan, while the new General Plan is under consideration; to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of San Diego County, which is currently threatened by further adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure, traffic congestion, electric power demand, community character, public facilities and services, ground water supply, air and water quality, and other natural resources.

This interim moratorium should prohibit the issuance of building and grading permits for projects in the unincorporated areas of the County other than building a single family residence on an existing parcel, or modifications or additions to single family residences. It should also prohibit the issuance of

new major or minor subdivision maps, any further amendments to the current General Plan, any other Urban and Multiple Residential Land Use Designations, and other entitlements, without any waivers, exceptions, or exemptions until a General Plan is adopted that will protect the sustainability of these resources. They will solicit support for this letter from Community Planning and Sponsor Groups, conservation organizations, and other civic groups.

Save the Box Canyon Area Walk!

CanyonsNetwork will have an awareness walk to save the Box Canyon area on Saturday April 28 from 9 am to noon starting at La Costa Canyon Park in south Carlsbad. Free Box Canyon tee-shirts (until they run out) for all participants in the walk.

Directions from I-5: Exit La Costa Avenue and turn east. Continue about 1.5 miles and cross El Camino Real. (From El Camino Real, turn east up the hill.) Turn left at Cadencia Street (third traffic light after El Camino Real-approximately 2 miles). Left at first street, Del Rey, and right at Pueblo Street.

From I-78: From the west (Oceanside/Vista), exit Rancho Santa Fe Road and head south and past San Marcos Blvd. From the east (San Marcos/Escondido), exit San Marcos Blvd. headed west, then turn left at Rancho Santa Fe Road to head south. Continue for a few miles-downhill, then up the big hill. Rancho Santa Fe Rd. opens up to four lanes at La Costa Ave. Turn right at La Costa Ave. At the next light, turn right (Cadencia Street). Left at first street, Del Rey, then right at Pueblo Street to the park.

If you have any questions, Email us at: admin@canyonsnetwork.org or call us at 760-509-7667.

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Creek Happenings

by Deb LeLevier

Conservancy Acquires 76 Acres Along Escondido Creek

The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) closed escrow Feb. 1, on a 76.2-acre undeveloped parcel along Escondido Creek in the Harmony Grove/Elfin Forest area. Adjacent to the 750-acre Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, TECC plans to maintain the parcel as open space, creating a larger, continuous block of unspoiled habitat. Indigenous plants and animals will be protected and North County residents will share in the many benefits associated with its preservation.

Coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral, dramatic, towering granite cliffs, and 6.5 acres of riparian woodland all contribute to the breathtaking scenic beauty of this invaluable piece. Higher elevations on site will protect view sheds and help preserve the spectacular beauty of San Elijo Canyon.

Many generous donors enabled TECC to acquire this key parcel. The San Diego Foundation provided substantial grants from three anonymous donors totaling \$580,000. One of these, a two-for-one challenge grant, tested TECC's ability to successfully raise funds; TECC rose to meet the challenge and received \$120,000 from concerned local residents and another \$70,000 from Citizens Against Rural Exploitation (CARE). In addition, TECC was supported by numerous private donors, The HW Fund and The Escondido Creek Conservancy Land Acquisition and Maintenance Fund at the San Diego Foundation, and The Descanso Foundation.

TECC's President, Leonard Wittwer stated, "The support TECC received from the community was critical to the successful completion of this acquisition. It validates TECC's long-standing hard work

and efforts to preserve Escondido Creek habitat and speaks to the desire of residents to safeguard rapidly dwindling, irreplaceable open space."

TECC is a non-profit, public benefit corporation dedicated to the preservation and protection of Escondido Creek and the natural open space within its watershed.

Hike Amongst the Spring Flowers

In Celebration of Earth Day & our new Land Acquisition TECC invites you on a spring wildflower hike Saturday, April 28th 2001 @ 9:00 A.M. We will be hiking through & touring our new 76 acre property Meeting place: The Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Parking Lot by the information board in the back corner. The flowers should be great! Hope you can make it!

Playgroup Schedule

by Toni Fairman

April 6 - Michelle Sidwell's House, 6856 Los Vientos Serenos, 471-8877.

April 13 - Nicole Macaluso's New House, 6311 El Montevideo, P.O. Box 7034, Rancho Santa Fe, (858)756-0765. This is a potluck and Easter egg hunt. Please RSVP to Nicole.

April 20 - Victoria Kindel's House, 20177 Fortuna del Este, 510-1943.

April 27 - Kelle Ferreira's House, 2024 Acacia Drive, San Marcos, 92069, 734-3892. Call Kelle for directions.

April 18 - Mom's night out at The Wokery in San Marcos. Please RSVP to Toni at 471-0875.

*"The earth is but one country
and mankind its citizens."*

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Dirty Business on Fortuna del Este

by Nancy Reed

I have only been a lucky Elfin Forester for 10 months. My point of view is as a newcomer, and thus all of the background is not included. I do not know the complete story and some of the facts may not be correct. With that disclaimer, I will attempt to tell the dirty story of the dirt road litigation.

Sometime ago a group of developers got together to plan a multimillion-dollar development in northeast Rancho Santa Fe. The developers are known as "HCC Investors" and the development is known as "The Bridges." Now these developers wanted their development to be exclusive and did not want the trash from Elfin Forest on Suerte del Este or Via de Las Flores. Somehow HCC got a hold of a Rancho Santa Fe School roster and sued every Elfin Forest resident on the list for trespass. Now, it is my understanding this road has been in public use for at least 100 years. It was a Butterfield Stage route and has been used by EF's parents to get their children to school since the opening of the school.

Thus the current litigation began. It is currently in the latter parts of settlement negotiations. To date, the agreement is as follows: there will be 2 gates opened by key cards. I do not know the placement of the gates and the cost and upkeep of the gates details

are not finalized. If you do not have a card, you will not be able to use the road. If you want to get a card and use the road you must become a defendant in the litigation. Once the gate goes up and you have not joined the suite it will be next to impossible to get a card and gain access to the road.

I strongly urge every single homeowner to join the litigation and preserve the right to use the dirt road. If you do not have children at the Ranch School it is still extremely important to preserve your rights as the ability to use it will run w/ your property. This is so very important as it will increase your property value and makes it easier to sell. When the time comes to sell your property don't you want to be able to include the right to use the dirt road?

To obtain a card you need a lawyer. Sorry, but that's the plain truth. Please do not let this step cause you to lose your rights and possibly tens of thousands of dollars down the line. Now you can join w/ a lawyer already involved in the litigation or go find one of your own. Just do it---today!

The lawyers who are currently representing EF residents are Joel Incorvaia 858-259-2220 or Terry Helenkamp 858- 792-0973.

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Volunteerism

by Patti Newton

“A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit.” --Greek Proverb

April is national volunteer month, and TECC extends a heartfelt thank-you to all who donate their time to the preservation and enhancement of the Escondido Creek watershed. Volunteers are invaluable to TECC and without their dedication and hard work, it would be impossible to achieve its goals.

“Volunteers are somebody! Somebody who cares, Somebody who devotes time without pay, Somebody who praises all, large or small and somebody who has a common bond with others to make things better.” --Self

Every one of our volunteers is priceless! However, there is one volunteer whose star shines steadfastly and brilliantly; his name is Frank McCulloch. TECC would like to bestow the title of “Volunteer of the Year” upon Frank, who is a tireless member of TECC and a passionate steward of the creek.

A self-appointed guardian of Escondido Creek, Frank's enthusiasm is contagious as he talks about the pleasures and politics of such endeavors. Year after year, Frank patrols and cleans a two-mile stretch of country road that parallels the creek. In spite of its becoming a heavily traveled commuter and construction route, one would be hard-pressed to find a single piece of litter on any given day! Frank contacts the county for disposal of large items, which he hauls up the creek banks alone; items like sofas, mattresses, and auto parts are all too common. He always participates in TECC organized cleanups, and anytime we receive a Trash Hotline call (760-471-9354) reporting illegal dumping, Frank is immediately on the job to make things right. Thanks a million, Frank.

“People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it”. -- Unknown

TECC would like to acknowledge the considerable effort of its talented Board of Directors. Without its collective diligence and guidance, the goals would not be set nor achieved. The direction provided over the last several months enabled TECC to secure its first acquisition, a milestone it's proud to have

reached. The goals outlined for this year are lofty but achievable; the end result will be good news for the Escondido Creek watershed.

“Fund raising must proceed from the inside out. A volunteer gives time, a donor gives money. But a board member has the responsibility to give both.” -
-David Lansdowne “Fund Raising Realities Every Board Member Must Face”.

While each member contributes his/her own unique talents, TECC would like to name one “Board Member/Volunteer of the Year”. The smooth talking man with the Midas touch, Tim Costanzo is a fund-raiser extraordinaire! Tim is responsible for the grants and large donations enabling TECC to purchase “the 76 acres”. Thanks, Tim.

Consider joining the list of TECC volunteers -- there is a job waiting for you!

I wondered why somebody didn't do something. Then I realized, I am somebody. -- Source unknown

Internet Filler

A couple went on vacation to a fishing resort up north. The husband >liked to fish at the crack of dawn. The wife liked to read. One morning the husband returned after several hours of fishing and decided to take a short nap.

Although she wasn't familiar with the lake, the wife decided to take the boat out. She rowed out a short distance, anchored, and began reading her book.

Along came the sheriff in his boat. He pulled up alongside her said, “Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?”

“Reading my book,” she replied...as she thought to herself, “Isn't it obvious?”

“You're in a restricted fishing area,” he informed her.

“But officer, I'm not fishing. Can't you see that?”

“Yes, but you have all the equipment. I'll have to take you in and write you up.”

“If you do that, I'll have to charge you with rape,” snapped the irate woman.

“But, I haven't even touched you,” grouched the sheriff. “That's true,” she replied, “But you have all the equipment.”

MORAL: Never argue with a woman who knows how to read

News from Questhaven Retreat

by Evelyn Alemanni



Meditation Class:

The Way Within class meets at noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Academy on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Prayer and Meditation: Weekly, Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. - Meet in Chapelito.

Exploration in Prayer Classes

Bi-monthly, 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 12:00 noon - Meet in the Academy. Prayer is communion with God. When properly done, prayer is an opening of the inner door. This series of classes will focus on the necessary steps to prepare us for communion with God's Presence.

Lenten Meditation Classes every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Church of the Holy Quest until Easter.

PROGRAM

March 25-The Mystery of Time Rev. Phyllis Isaac

April 1-Rejoice and Be Glad! Rev. Elizabeth Wood

April 8-Carpe Diem: Seize the Day Rev. Blake Isaac

EASTER RETREAT April 13, 14, 15

- Friday 7:30 p.m.-Holy Communion Service

- Saturday-A day of events to uplift your spirit

-Sunday - sunrise service at Inspiration Point. Please call office for time (744-1500).

-10:45 a.m.-Christ's Victory: The Model of Our Becoming Rev. Wiltshire

April 22-A Blessed Greeting Evelyn Alemanni

April 29-Animal Communication: Open our Hearts and Beyond Followed by an Animal Blessing in the Memorial Courtyard Alexandra Alba

Sunday Services

Sunday worship is at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome. Tape recordings of all Sunday services are available for rental or purchase.

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760-744-1500. Visit us on the Internet at

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Brittany York - EF Resident, RSF School 8th grader, 1Yr experience. Tel: 760-752-7784

Aubrey Brennecke - EF Resident, High School Student - 9th Grade. Tel: 752-9988.

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E.F. Calendar - April 2001

Date	Time	Event
Tuesdays (3 rd & 17 th)	1:30pm to 3:30pm	Bookmobile @ Firehouse
1st Tue, (3 rd)	7:30pm	Fire Training @ Firehouse
1 st Wed (4 th .)	7:00pm	E.F.T.C Forum @ Firehouse
Every Friday	10:00am -Noon	Playgroup.
2nd Mon (9 th)	7:30pm	Fire Board @ Firehouse
2nd Wed, (11 th)	7:00pm	Fire Auxiliary @ Firehouse (check).
3rd Tue, (24 th)	7:30pm	Fire Training @ Firehouse
Last Sat (28 th)	9:00am	Fire Training @ Firehouse TECC Spring Flowers Hike @ EF Reserve

Elfin Forest Town Council Board

Board members: Evelyn Alemanni 471-7224, Doug Dill 736-4333, Linda Hamilton 744-7952, Pam Perry, Nancy Reed 471-7933, Patti Newton 471-8937, Steve Witte 858-748-5577, Elizabeth Wood 744-2594

The Elfin Forest chaparral is published monthly by the Elfin Forest & Harmony Grove Town Council Board and 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 efchaparral@yahoo.com or call David Cronshaw @ 736-9257.

Articles for publication should be sent to David Cronshaw by email to efchaparral@yahoo.com or fax (call first) to 736-4524 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 help from Susan Cronshaw towards production and distribution of this newsletter.