



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Mid Hoppenrath

Another year begins in this lovely valley. If you have checked your new beautiful community calendars, you know that this is an election month for the Town Council Board of Directors, Elfin Forest Community Foundation and EF/HG Fire Department Board. Be sure to mail in your vote for your new town council board members or bring your ballot with you to the next Town Council meeting on February 1st. We are also looking for volunteers to join our other standing committees, the Traffic Committee, the Heritage Committee, and the Trail Committee, as well as our temporary committees formed to manage special events or work with developers.

We are so fortunate to have so many individuals who generously give of their time to help preserve our rural environment. I often reflect on my lifestyle now, compared to the suburban lifestyle I used to know. My neighbors have cows, goats, llamas, pigs, and horses. How different is the view over my back fence than the view from my suburban backyard! It is truly important to protect this endangered human habitat; the small rural community. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to help plan the development that is coming in all around us so that we do not lose our rural lifestyle and large animals. I am glad we have a chance to turn “not in my backyard,” into “let’s plan together what goes in my backyard.”

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Town Council Meeting –Wednesday, February 1st @7:30PM

At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station

Topics: Town Council and Elfin Forest Community Foundation Elections.

(Note: Election Ballot Is On The Back Of Mailer Cover Sheet)

Town Council Board Elections

By Evelyn Alemanni

This month, you can elect four new people to serve on the town council board. Patti Newton, Evelyn Alemanni, Bob McGurk, and Jan Denny are not running for re-election. Your town council ballot is located on the back of the cover sheet of this month's *chaparral*. Make additional copies as required and mail or drop them off at the fire station in an envelope that contains a visible return address.

All ballots must be received by February 1st. Ballots will also be available and can be submitted at the February 1st town council meeting. Candidates are: John Philips, Steve Barker, Jeff Swenerton, Betsy Keithley, and Jacqueline Benjamin. See statements from most of the candidates on the following page.

EF Community Foundation News

By Betsy Keithley, EFCF Secretary

The board of directors of the Elfin Forest Community Foundation (EFCF) met on November 16th, 2005 to evaluate the grant proposals that were submitted by the extended October, 2005 deadline. We had only two applications requesting about \$7,000. The funded projects are (in no particular order):

- 1) Evelyn Alemanni, Town Council, to create a 2006 calendar with photos of Elfin Forest and reminders of event and meeting dates. Requested \$3000 and approved for that amount.
- 2) EF/HG Fire Department to purchase containers for medical aid equipment used on calls. These bags will be used to improve the organization of numerous medical devices. Requested \$2840 and approved for that amount.

The EFCF election will occur in February 1st, 2006 at the time of the Town Council and Fire Board elections. The term is three years with a minimum of two face-to-face meetings per year to review grant applications that are due in April and October.

The Board has four open seats and incumbents Steve Barker, Trey Fairman, and Sue Hill along with Lori Vitale are running for election. Mark the ballot printed on the mailing cover of this issue of the *chaparral*. Ballots will be collected and counted at the Town Council/Fire Board meeting on February 1st.

Community Service Awards

By Natalie Chaffer

The 4th Annual Community Service Awards were presented at the January 2006 Town Council Meeting. There were thirteen recipients for the coveted award. Please take a moment to read about the people behind the scenes that make our community what it is:

Fire Chief Frank Twohy for having the vision to create the native garden at the fire station.

Sue Tolman and Teri Brand for co-chairing the 2005 garden festival and doing such a great job of organization.

Frank and Pat McCulloch for their tireless and cheerful hard work in maintaining the Escondido Creek and Harmony Grove Road.

Bill Telesco, Kathy DaSilva and Carolyn Floyd for their more than three years of service attending countless meetings and working with developers to ensure that this community gets the rural Village we so carefully planned with the county.

Lisa & Tom Stephenson received an award for coordinating the 4th of July Parade and participating in the AIB committee for the last few years.

Rachel Barnes and Janet McGurk received a long overdue award for a fabulous job on organizing the 4th of July picnic and carnival for the last few years.

Lynda Clerke for being instrumental in coordinating the response to the RSF (Quail Ridge offer) school site and all her work on the AIB committee.

These awards were well deserved. Thank you for all your hard work.

Calendar For February

Date	Time	Event
Weds 2/4	7:30 PM	Town Council Meeting
Tues 2/7, 2/21	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Weds 2/8	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary @MaryGarman's House
Mon 2/13	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Sat 2/25	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Sat 2/4, 2/18	10 AM	Bookmobile@Firehouse
Every Thurs	6:30 PM	Yoga@Firehouse

Candidate Statements for Town Council Election

Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin

My husband and I bought our lot on Paint Mountain Road in 1989 and moved into our new home in 1991. I moved to Elfin Forest because after having grown up on a farm in France, I really value peace and quiet, open spaces and seclusion; we also wanted to raise our kids-to-be at the time in the California equivalent of “the country”.

At the time I worked for Hewlett-Packard in Product Management (after a degree in Political Science and Economics and an MBA in International Business) and later started my own company in a related high tech field, which I sold in 2000.

Now that I have more time on my hands, it is time to give back to the community whose quality of life has been safeguarded all these years by the efforts of others. To that end I am currently spearheading the effort to gate Canyon de Oro and Suerte Del Este, as president of the Paint Mountain Association, with the goal of protecting our mountain from the fire risk from bonfires, and from traffic and dumping.

I believe our community should stay rural, with large lot sizes and custom homes, and that planned developments should be kept out of our valley. I plan to stay in Elfin Forest to retire, so I have a vested interest in the long term well-being of the community.

Steve Barker

My wife Nona and I have lived in Elfin Forest since 1983. We've raised three great kids plus numerous llamas, dogs, tortoises, lizards and chickens. I've been a member of the EF/HG Fire Department for twenty plus years. I served on the TC board previously for several years. I'm a founding board member of The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) and currently on the Elfin Forest Community Foundation (EFCF) board.

I'm employed as CEO of a travel gear company, Eagle Creek, that Nona and I founded and I have served on several industry association boards.

Jeff Swenerton

I am pleased to be a candidate for the town council. My wife, Carolyn, and I have been Elfin Forest residents since 1978 and had the pleasure of raising our daughters Jaime and Tracy here. As an active member of the community, I served on the town council soon after its creation and was a Captain in the EF/HG Fire Department. In recent years I was a board member of Citizens Against Rural Exploitation (CARE), an organization that has supported a number of organizations in the Elfin Forest community including the Fire Department, Landscape Foundation, and The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) with funds resulting from a legal settlement with the San Elijo Hills developers. Several months ago I was honored to join the board of TECC.

Professionally, I worked as an educator for over thirty years, including fifteen years as an elementary school teacher and eighteen years as an elementary school principal in the Del Mar Union School District retiring in June of 2004. I enjoy camping, skiing, fly fishing, gardening, and in particular, family hiking on trails in the Elfin Forest area. As a town council member I would have the opportunity to continue serving a community that I have cared about for many years.

Betsy Keithley

I moved here from urban life on the east coast in January 1985 and had to learn to drive a car. I've now gotten used to the absence of rain and learned to love the openness and the chaparral that almost surrounds us. Former resident Abby Barker assured me that Cielo would not be built for twenty years and that was very reassuring. What I didn't know was how fast twenty years goes by.

Soon after arriving I was recruited to join the Fire Department and served as a firefighter for about five years. I have served two different times on the town council and am currently the secretary of the Elfin Forest Community Foundation. I feel very strongly about preserving as much open space as possible over the next twenty years and about open communication concerning the activities of the various organizations and the residents.

The New Urban West Story

By Patti Newton

In spite of the Town Council Board's best efforts to convey information, a number of misperceptions about the proposed New Urban West, Inc. (NUWI) project in Harmony Grove persist. Some members of the town council sub-committee have been targets of unwarranted, ill-informed, and highly personal criticism. Minutes of each meeting with NUWI detail discussions and circulate among participants and town council members. Further, all meetings (especially with developers) can only be attended if two or more sub-committee members are present or must be rescheduled to accommodate this policy. I am continually impressed by the careful attention to protocol and the professionalism of members while conducting business in an above-board manner beyond reproach; as it should be.

Clearly, those who disparage have little or no knowledge of the sub-committee's business, the evolution of the NUWI site and/or they repeat what they've heard without questioning its veracity. A little background information will go a long way toward a better understanding and, perhaps, even foster appreciation for the hard work involved in collaborating to protect our rural character while working with NUWI.

Historically, and in spite of our best efforts over the years, our dealings with developers have often been characterized by acrimony, distrust, lawsuits, and more rarely, cordial and productive relationships. We've seen the pattern again and again; the developer waltzes in and promises to be a "good neighbor", eagerly seeks input and ultimately, support from residents. Many meetings include discussions regarding density, traffic, dark skies, environmental concerns, mitigation, etc. Developers liberally pepper discussions with buzzwords like "equestrian center", "trail network", and "wildlife corridor". They display pretty watercolors that make their homes look like Hallmark cards! Of course, such tactics aim to keep the natives from becoming too restless. Almost invariably, all hell breaks loose as the project mutates beyond recognition. Relations over six years with Hover Development (Quail Ridge) illustrate this scenario.

But it isn't always this way. One notable example is the 70-acre Santa Fe Ridge, Max Altmann's project. The town council sub-committee worked hard to

permanently preserve approximately thirty acres and keep them in the unincorporated area to prevent another avenue for annexation into San Marcos. Confined to twenty five acres adjacent San Elijo Hills, housing occupies the northwest quadrant. Inevitably, compromises were made since the owner has a right to develop the parcel. Though not a perfect solution, under the circumstances most consider this a win-win for our communities and the developer.

The evolution of the Harmony Grove property now owned by NUWI merits attention and consideration to understand local residents' views. You may recall the city of Escondido was studying the site for annexation and development to accommodate heavy industrial uses. Because several large property owners planned to retire or relocate, fears the city may succeed in decimating the rural character and beauty of the area abounded. A vigorous campaign generated by residents requesting the removal of Harmony Grove from the city's sphere of influence (SOI) ensued in hopes of defeating industrialization. Against all odds, the county Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) agreed and the area remains in the unincorporated county and out of Escondido's SOI.

Next, the county's General Plan 2020 (GP 2020) designated the density for the whole of Harmony Grove as seven dwelling units/acre (7 du/ac). Appalled, residents worked with the county Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) to reduce the density with an eye toward preserving its rural nature while still allowing development. The result, a nearly universally accepted Village Development Pattern (VDP) concentrates higher densities in the core, along with light commercial uses and a town center park. As the development moves outward concentrically, it becomes less dense, ultimately blending with existing homes. A critical feature is the ability to keep large animals on all the perimeter lots, protecting the rural character. When NUWI purchased the property for the innermost portion, the VDP had already won widespread endorsement among residents and county planners.

The sub-committee worked with NUWI from the outset to make its views known and insisted the VDP be adopted. To date, NUWI has made a number of concessions, including moving the town center from

(Continued next page)

(The New Urban West Story continued)

its original placement at our request, an idea they've since agreed has served the plan well. At the subcommittee's request, they have added shopkeeper units; having shop owners living in the commercial center will help to prevent vandalism and tagging on weekends and evenings when stores would be closed. At the subcommittee's request, they have purchased the old quarries and asked the county to permanently remove the extractive use permits, saving us from the noise, dust, and truck traffic associated with years of blasting and rock-crushing. They have, at the subcommittee's request, saved the historic Johnston-Ward farmhouse and donated it to the community. At the subcommittee's request, they have dedicated their multiuse trail system to the county to preserve it forever for public use.

More recently, NUWI has abandoned any attempt to hook up to Escondido's sewer system and will size its solid waste management system to serve only its project, allaying fears of growth inducement. NUWI views Escondido Creek as an asset worthy of enhancement, as opposed to one slated for containment and under-grounding. NUWI actively supports the down-zoning of Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest Roads, the elimination of SC 1375 from the county circulation element and has designed Village Drive to dissuade traffic from those roads. These represent just a fraction of the issues being hammered out through countless meetings and thoughtful, exhaustive involvement.

Highly disturbed (dairy cattle, egg ranches), this parcel offers little opportunity for significant habitat mitigation. However, NUWI has worked in good faith to satisfy The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) in spite of its opposition to the project, and at great length with local residents to ensure their concerns continue to be addressed.

Consider evidence of Harmony Grove's commitment to making this project fit into the landscape. Think about it; when the county deemed 7 du/ac throughout the area, residents could have sold out and made many times the value of their existing properties with that designation. But they didn't do that. Why? They didn't because they value the things that drew them to the valley in the first place. They treasure its rural lifestyle, unique beauty, and find its intrinsic value pays larger dividends. NUWI's proposal isn't ideal and, truth be told, we'd all like to see fewer homes.

But that isn't realistic, so we play the cards we've been dealt, trust there's no sleight of hand and that our skills will keep us at the table!

The town council has maintained very good working relations with NUWI and has found them accommodating and ethical in their dealings with us. I am not saying there won't be problems when push comes to shove, however, because the stakes remain so high for all involved, I believe continued open communication and mutual respect will serve to achieve another win-win for our beautiful valley.

The Play's The Thing

By Alan Laslover

I am proud to announce my appearance in a local community theatre production of "Chicken Every Sunday," to be performed in Escondido on each Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon between January 27th and February 19th. The play is a comedy and suitable for people of all ages--truly a family show!



People arriving to purchase tickets in advance

If you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to enjoy one of these performances. Details of the play can be found by linking to Patio Playhouse at:

<http://www.patioplayhouse.com/Shows/Chicken%20Every%20Sunday/index.htm>

You can either purchase seats online or, in the alternative, call the playhouse and reserve seats paying at the door. In the latter instance, I can provide you with two-for-one tickets with sufficient advance notice. The last three weekends of performance are expected to be sellouts, so please make your plans ASAP.

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Patti Newton

Date: January 4th, 2006

Call to Order: 7:35 PM.

Members present: Cheri Smith, Gordon Fines, Patti Newton, Bob McGurk, Bill Wilgenburg, Jan Denny, Evelyn Alemanni, Eric Anderson.

Board updates: Mid Hoppenrath: The developer SunCal wants sewer to service its proposed project in Harmony Grove. SunCal is considering clustered homes, large animal keeping, large oaks, a view area and gazebo, etc. SunCal asserts it does not want to annex to City of Escondido and does not favor SC 1375. It wants to apply for a General Plan Amendment (GPA). We suggest they redesign their project to protect the rural lifestyle. SunCal agreed to present plans at a future town council meeting.

Evelyn Alemanni: Community calendars have been well received. She thanked the EF Community Foundation and advertisers for their financial support. A limited supply is still available for a sale price of \$8.50 (cost).

Jan Denny: A community survey was included with the calendars which were mailed to all residents of CSA 107. To date, ninety nine have been returned (about 25%). Surveys and petitions must be mailed by 1/15/06. County planner Dahvia Locke informed the TC about the county's position on downgrade of EF and HG Roads. She looked at traffic numbers and said at build out most of HG should be able to sustain traffic levels at two lanes but EF Road at the west end cannot. The problem is not coming from proposed developments in Harmony Grove but rather from west of Elfin Forest, toward San Elijo Hills. The Twin Oaks Valley Road connection to 78 is accounted for in these numbers. We would like to work with these numbers to make sure they are correct and see if we can avoid a four-lane. Dahvia said EF Road may need to become a three-lane. We will stay on top of this and report back to the community.

Bob McGurk, Treasurer's Report: \$3,385 income (sales of Community Guide, Calendars, Voices of the Valley DVD, advertising, and donations). Expenditures were \$257 for community survey expenses.

Cheri Smith, Heritage Committee: The committee received two vintage books, published in the 1920's, referencing Elfin Forest. Cheri is in the process of applying for different types of grants to aid the Heritage Committee in the protection and enhancement of our rural character. In order to accomplish this, the committee must work to build up a funding source.

Item #1: Nominations for TC board of directors: John Phillips was nominated by Evelyn Alemanni. Nona Barker nominated Jacqueline Benjamin who nominated Steve Barker, who nominated Jeff Swenerton. Steve Barker also nominated Betsy Keithley. All nominees have accepted nominations.

Item #2: Natalie Chaffer presented the community service awards: There were several nominations this year. Frank Twohy was recognized for his efforts to install the native garden landscaping at the fire department. Sue Tomlin and Teri Brand were recognized for their successful chairmanship of the 2005 Garden Festival. Frank and Pat McCulloch made the list again for their tireless maintenance of Escondido Creek and Harmony Grove Road. Bill Telesco, Carolyn Flood, Kathy DaSilva, for their efforts working on the proposed NUW development. Also receiving awards were Lisa and Tom Stephenson for volunteering efforts on the July 4th Parade/Picnic and Garden Festival, Linda Clerke for work on the RSF/QR school site, AIB committee, and trails and Rachel Barnes and Janet McGurk for hard work during July 4th Parade/Picnic.

Item #3: Shannon Reed and Fred Fontaine, County Water Authority (CWA): Paint Mountain south area will be affected by the pipeline relining project. The section to Del Dios may move forward in the fall of 2006; the CWA will let us know as soon as the decision is final. This is a critical maintenance project. These steel liners will provide a 75-year lifespan. Portal site impacts will be mitigated accordingly.

Q & A followed: What circumstances led to the overflow on Paint Mountain? The four Twin Oaks diversion structure valves shut down. As CWA brought them back up the electric failed causing a gate to slam closed (as it is "somewhat" designed to do if power is shut off). The water then went into pipeline four which was overwhelmed by the volume and it came out the top at the vent.

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(Minutes EF/HG Town Council continued)

This took out the side of the hill requiring repairs to the road that have been conducted. The roads opened up last week. Environmental mitigation is ongoing. The investigation continues and more will be known by the end of this month. Approximately six acre-feet of water (almost two million gallons) were spilled.

Item #4: Bruce Thompson, candidate for the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, 5th District, against Bill Horn. Thompson was in the California State Assembly, representing the 66th district, from 1998 to 2000. He lives in an unincorporated area of county (Fallbrook). He thinks development is out of control. Bruce states the county deficit is a problem; the bill is coming due in about 20 years. Developer contributions make up 90% of campaign contributions. Bruce promises to make himself available to constituents and stresses a non-partisan approach to problem solving. His commitment: planning groups are the decision makers – they will be heard. They are vitally important to the county. County BOS creates a one-person government – this isn't right for one person to make decisions for tens of thousands of people. Twelve years is his maximum for his terms on BOS – if he cannot get it done then he doesn't belong there.

To date, his top three contributors: self \$6K, family, friends, neighbors; grassroots campaign. His campaign finance report will come out in February. A \$200K war chest is his goal – Horn already has \$150K. He is opposed to GP2020 plan. Doesn't think it's fair to change the rules – doesn't like to downzone property owners. He supports county fire department. All BOS members have endorsed Horn. Thompson has a lot of local political and grassroots support. His family is heavily involved in his campaign. He opposes annexation of unincorporated areas like ours, especially if it is against the wishes of the community. He has refused money from gambling, alcohol, tobacco, etc. interests. He says he runs a clean campaign.

Open Forum: Ranger Joey Randall (OMWD): A planting day at the reserve is scheduled for January 28th, 8:30 AM. Pardee Nursery made a donation to TECC which passed it to the water district who purchased one-hundred and fifty 24" boxed coast live oaks. REI is sponsoring this as an "Urban Service Project" and promoting it as a family day of work/fun. Jeff Swenerton and his daughter, Tracy, set this up.

Geoff Smith, Executive Director The Escondido Creek Conservancy, leads "Wednesdays In the Watershed" informational/recreational hikes to learn more about the watershed. Meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, 8 – 11AM, these hikes are educational, fun, and good exercise! Please contact him at information@escondidocreek.org or 760-471-9354 to learn more about each destination and to signup. Geoffrey is working on arranging hikes one weekend per month (Saturday mornings).

Adjourned: 8:45 PM

New Webmaster

By Evelyn Alemanni

In 2000, I developed the town council's first website and have been maintaining it ever since. It has been done on a volunteer basis for the community's benefit and contains more than fifty pages of information valuable to the community, including dates and topics of town council meetings, bylaws, community standards, and much more. Recently I added on-line purchasing capability so you can order community guides, DVDs, and even subscribe this newsletter from the convenience of your keyboard.

The website is our "face" to the world and has received many thousands of hits since its inception. In the last thirty days, we had 282 hits from 168 unique visitors.

The great news is that we now have a new webmaster, Joe Benson. He is a former town council board member who lives in Harmony Grove. If you have material for the website, please send it to any board member for review before it goes to Joe for inclusion.

Joe – thank you for taking this on!

Town Council Merchandise Available Online

By Evelyn Alemanni

Click on over to www.efhgctc.org. On the home page, you'll see links that let you purchase the community guide, Voices of the Valley DVD, and even subscribe to the newsletter online! There's also a link so you can order other town council merchandise like license plate holders, mugs, and t-shirts by mail or email.

Remembering Jerry Gradisher

By Nancy Reed

My beloved Jerry, husband and partner of fifteen years, was killed in a motorcycle accident January 13th, 2006 in Rancho Santa Fe. I was about thirty seconds behind him in my car. He was hit by a car that crossed a double yellow line. I gave CPR until the medics arrived. He was sent by helicopter to Scripps La Jolla and given the best medical care available. He died doing what he loved and lived his life to the fullest. He loved me and supported me and my horses without complaint and even helped clean stalls with me. Jerry was the best father a daughter could ever have and Danielle is just heart broken. We were able to donate his kidneys and liver. At least some good will come from this tragedy. I am not sure what will become of the Lazy J Ranch, time will sort it all out.

Jerome Frank Gradisher, Jr. was born on April 3, 1961 in Akron, Ohio, graduated from La Jolla High and attended UCSD. He worked at La Mesa RV and as a real estate broker and mortgage broker. Jerry was a delightful man who loved life and lived life on his own terms. He was an avid scuba diver, mountain biker, bike polo player, dual sport motorcycle rider, skier and geocacher. Jerry was an eternal optimist and took great joy in fatherhood.

His love of nature led him to one of his greatest achievements: shepherding the purchase of the Derbas property by The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) and the County of San Diego saving hundreds of acres of pristine open space in Elfin Forest. Jerry also represented TECC in the 76-acre Coler and 11-acre Quarry purchases.



Jerry Gradisher

Community Service Award Photos

By Ken Hoppenrath



Tom Stephenson accepts his award from Natalie Chaffer at the January Town Council meeting.



Teri Brand received an award for co-chairing the 2005 Elfin Forest Garden Festival.

Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

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

What's Happening At The Fire Department – January 2006

By Captain Dawn Pettijohn



If you come by the station, you'll notice excavation has begun for the new sleeping quarters. We need to remove some of the material where the building will go and are contacting the San Diego County

Water Authority to take it. So if you need any rocks, now would be the time.

Two probationary department members, Henry Vanzzini and Scott Schieber, are attending a volunteer firefighter academy to gain California State Fire Marshall Volunteer Firefighter certification. This 250-hour course covers topics such as structure and wildland fires, new vehicle anatomy, vehicle extrication, rescue systems, medical, hazardous materials, and the incident command system. All sections include both classroom and manipulative training concluding with real-life scenarios.

We've finally gotten the final grant figures for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and are ready to begin the instructor training in February and March. We should be contacting the residents who previously signed up soon to work out a training schedule. If you're interested in participation, please contact me at the station 760-744-2186 for more information. This program will be a great addition to a community that knows the benefits of being able to take care of themselves in a disaster.

Training this month will focus on structure and wildland refresher skills in preparation for a multi-company scenario at the Questhaven Retreat. We have been invited and are looking forward to a great day of training. It will be an excellent opportunity for all of us to familiarize ourselves and prepare for a structure or wildland fire in the area.

The unseasonable weather upon us can certainly pose issues. Low humidity and winds are always a danger during this time of year. But remember, it can change to heavy rains in a heartbeat. Stay vigilant and safe.

Our hearts go out to Nancy Reed and daughter Danielle with the tragic death of husband and father Jerry Gradisher. Realizing that one split second can change lives so dramatically, we offer our condolences, and sincerely hope that both are ok.

Bylaw Revisions

By Jan Denny

Town council bylaws can be reviewed online at www.efhgtc.org. We are proposing the following changes. You can vote on these changes at the February or March town council meeting or mail in your vote. Bylaw revision votes will not be tallied until March due to the requirement to publish changes thirty days prior to the vote.

Article VI

Section 7: Add: Minutes shall include all items presented to the board members for vote, as well as the resulting vote tally.

Sections 9-11: Change to read as follows:

Section 9. Town Council members who have run for election but are not elected, or have been appointed with the approval of a majority of the Board, may attend board meetings in an "at large" capacity. At-large board members shall have the option to attend all general and special board meetings, and participate in all board discussions, whether in person or online, but may not vote on board business. The term of an at-large board member is only one year.

Section 10. If an office becomes vacant for any reason, the Board of Directors can fill the vacancy by selecting one of the Town Council at-large members. The selected at-large member must be confirmed by a majority of the Board. The Board vacancy will be occupied by the appointed at-large board member until the end of the vacated term.

Up to three vacancies may be filled by at-large members before the next election. If more than three vacancies exist at once, a special election must be held.

Section 11. Community Liaison. One private citizen representing any community within or adjoining the Town Council may petition the board to attend general and special board meetings as a Liaison for that community. The Liaison's petition should include recommendations from three other constituents from the Liaison's community. The Liaison may be included in private board correspondence at the discretion of the board members. The Liaison may not represent a for-profit business, may not vote on board business, and will not sit at the board table during a public Town Council meeting. The term of a Liaison is only one year.

(Continued next page)

(Bylaw Revisions continued)

Article VII

Section 1. Add: Creation of the committee will be announced at the next Town Council meeting and published in the next *chaparral* newsletter.

Section 3. Add: may be appointed by the committee chair.

Section 6. Delete: Conflict of interest shall be defined as competing professional or personal obligations or personal or financial interest that would make it difficult to fairly fulfill the duties of a town council board member or subcommittee member. (Conflict of interest development info remains in this section.)

Section 8. Add: The input can be shared anonymously outside the board, either personally, publicly, or with the media, but cannot be attributed to the community member without the express written permission of the community member. If the community member declines, that board member must explain that their input cannot be officially considered by the board until it is formally submitted and attributed.

Community Guides Are Here

By Evelyn Alemanni

Our 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.

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 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.

Feb. 5 *Understanding Different Paths to the Eternal*

Rev. Susan S. Cary

Feb. 12 *Love—The Life-Giver Guiding Our Evolution*

Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

Feb. 19 *Mysticism in the Land of Christians*

Rev. Blake Isaac

Feb. 26 *Finding Balance Through the Seven Rays of Unfoldment*

Rev. E. Wood

Sheriff's Department Contacts

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

General - 760-510-5200

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

Betty (B.J.) Williams – Crime Prevention
Specialist/Neighborhood Watch 760-510-5254

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.

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Jessica MacKinnon - Babysitting/Feed Animals, EF Resident, 14 years old, SFC High School - 9th grade, took babysitting course through Red Cross. Contact at 760-744-8955.

Brooke York - EF Resident, LCC School 12th grader, Baby Sitting. Tel: 760-752-7784.

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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.

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