



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The (Wet) Field

By Eric Anderson

I would like to outline my personal goals for this year as chair:

#1) The Town Council Board is able to continue representing you and make you proud to be part of our community. I can only do this if I know what you want. I am sure that on specific issues, solutions and approaches we may not always agree. I am, simply put, “different” in the way I perceive and solve problems but am happy to explain what I think and where the town council is going (when I know). Call me if you have any questions. Sometimes I am not prompt at returning calls, but I will get back to you. If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again (or call someone else on the board).

#2) To get more of you to come to the town council meetings, meet your neighbors, friends and little elves! ***No excuses!*** You all have the beautiful calendars Evelyn made with the dates.

#3) To continue to keep a diverse community united. The CSA 107 boundaries and the additional areas we represent must remain intact. I hope to continue to reinforce the community boundaries and strengthen the community so that we do not lose any parts of our community to the surrounding cities. As long as we remain unified we will be able to continue to “Keep it Rural”. I hope to use the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR’s) example as a way to help achieve the “Keep it Rural” goal.

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Town Council Meeting –Wednesday, May 3rd @7:30PM

At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station

Topic: Proposition H: Rancho Santa Fe School District New School Construction and Traffic Improvement Measure

From The Field (continued)

#4) To have a really fun Fourth of July Parade/Picnic. As you may have noticed with my participation with decorated trucks, I love a good parade. I especially like them when there are more kids in the parade than adults watching. Plan now to attend and be in the Parade. Start planning now and let's really show our spirit this year. The Parade will be on Sunday, July 2nd. Time and details will be in upcoming issues of the newsletter. We still need more volunteers!!!

#5) Lastly, to help Nona and the community have the best 10 year anniversary of the Harmony Grove Fire possible. I was here during the fire defending my farm. It will be great to bore everyone with the video that Oscar shot of the fire burning around my farm.

Next meeting we will have a lively debate on Proposition H which affects people living in the Rancho Santa Fe School District. Come down, meet the little elves, get the board updates and feel free to leave before the debate as it is likely to go past my bedtime.

Finally I would like to thank you for all the help and participation; it sure makes doing this more fun.

The Farming Elf, Eric Anderson.

Town Council Merchandise Purchase Policy Change

By Betsy Keithley

The Town Council Board has decided that all town council merchandise (like license plate holders, mugs, t-shirts, Voices of the Valley DVDs, and community guides) purchased by residents needs to be picked up at 7:15PM on the night of a regularly scheduled town council meeting at the fire station. Previously, this merchandise would be mailed to the purchaser.

The town council web site, www.efhgtc.org, can still be used to order merchandise and subscribe to the *chaparral*. Merchandise purchased by non-residents will still be mailed to the purchaser.

Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

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

Free Ice Cream Social May 7th

By Mary Garman

The EF/HG Fire Department Auxiliary is holding a free ice cream social on Sunday, May 7th, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. All Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove residents are welcome. Bring the kids for free sundaes and a chance to meet the firemen and have your picture taken with them on the fire truck. We wish to thank Jaisa Bright of Prudential Realty, an Elfin Forest resident, for being our sponsor for this event.

NUWI Response

By Joe Alemanni

Jason Han, New Urban West, Inc's (NUWI) VP of Land Development, responded on 3/22/06 to my email of 3/18/06 regarding NUWI's unauthorized reprint of Patti Newton's February *chaparral* article "The New Urban West Story" in their recent promotional mailer:

Dear Mr. Alemanni:

We at New Urban West apologize for not receiving permission to reprint Patti Newton's wonderful story. We should have obtained your permission.

We were thrilled to read this article, which was totally factual and well written. We wanted to inform the community on various issues, which have been distorted and we believe that her article did that. We thank Patti for this wonderful article.

We, again, apologize for our oversight.

Sincerely yours,
Jason Han

Vice President of Land Acquisition & Development
New Urban West, Inc.
120 West Grand Avenue
Escondido, CA 92025

Calendar For May

Date	Time	Event
Weds 5/3	7:30 PM	Town Council Meeting
Tues 5/2, 5/16	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Wed 5/10	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary@Mary Garman's House
Mon 5/8	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Sat 5/27	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Sat 5/6, 5/20	10 AM	Bookmobile@Firehouse

From The School Yard

By Jim Depolo and Richard Burdge

What is this about a new school and a bond vote? -

Many of you may be aware of the efforts of the last few years trying to find and build a new school for the Rancho Santa Fe School District. We are finally at the point where we have a site, a design and now a bond measure. As we approach the important date of June 6th, 2006 to vote on Proposition H (Prop H), it is helpful to review the facts about the upcoming bond. The following is based on a School Yard article written by Richard Burdge with some additions.

What will Prop H accomplish? - Prop H will provide the community a new school with permanent, modern classrooms with updated technology.

Why do we need a new school? - The current campus is built for only 600 students. The 835 students we currently have are housed among 17 portable classrooms and toilets that encroach on the children's playground area. A new school will increase the safety of our children.

How will class sizes be affected? - A new school ensures class sizes in the local school stay small. Without a new school, class sizes will only increase and negatively affect property values.

How large is the Prop H bond? - The bond is for \$44,500,000.

How much will this cost taxpayers? - Prop H is a Proposition 39 bond under California state law requiring 55% voter approval. It also sets a maximum annual tax rate of \$300 per \$1,000,000 of assessed value to the District's taxpayers. An average home in RSF with a \$2,500,000 assessed value will pay an increase of \$750 or about \$63 a month.

Where is this new school to be built? - A new K-6 elementary school is proposed to be built on a 7 acre site at the corner of Aliso Canyon road and Via del Charro. No matter how you get there it is closer to us here in Elfin Forest. The District wide 7-8 middle school will remain at Rowe for the foreseeable future.

Why are we voting on this now? - The District desperately needs a new school now. Construction costs are going up at a rate of 1% per month or 12% per year. A new school will only be more expensive in the future.

For those of you who have, had or will have students in the Rancho Santa Fe School District you know what a great school it is. For those of you who don't have children or have not been directly involved with the school you may still know what a great school it is because of the positive effect it has on your property value.

I certainly hope you will support Prop H, speak with your friends about the issues and encourage all to vote. Feel free to call or email me with questions at jdepolo@gmail.com or email the campaign at yesonproph@gmail.com with questions or to help out. Lynda Clerke is coordinating the campaign here in Elfin Forest and can be contacted directly at clerkehome@ricochet.com. We will be sending out more information, holding community meetings and will be at the May 3rd town council meeting.

DSL Is Up

By Joe Alemanni

After a long and somewhat surreal experience with the newly merged SBC/AT&T (that I'll detail in a future *chaparral* article) we finally have joined the small number of Elfin Forest residents enjoying digital subscriber line (DSL) Internet service. SBC/AT&T provides the DSL hardware and Yahoo is the Internet service provider (ISP). DSL uses the same copper wire pair that provides your telephone landline service and is limited by the distance and quality of those wires. At 11,000 feet from our connection terminus, somewhere near San Elijo Hills, we are at the extreme range of this technology.

We were told that our DSL connection was the last one available. Our neighbor, Shelley Fontaine (shelley.fontaine@hp.com), is acting as a contact to residents desiring DSL in the hope that knowledge of demand in our under served area might convince SBC/AT&T to expand their service.

Elf Alerts

Elf alerts are periodic email messages regarding important local events. They supplement the newsletter. To subscribe, contact Rachel Barnes at rbarnesCPA@aol.com. Your email info may be shared with the fire department but no one else. Have you changed your email address? Be sure to let Rachel know.

Welcome New Neighbors

Compiled By Evelyn Alemanni

A few weeks ago an elf alert went out asking: "What advice do you have for new neighbors or people building a new home in our community?" We're agreed, living in a rural community is a different experience. Many thanks to those who responded, their advice is included here. If you're a new resident, the community guide is an excellent resource for learning about living in the rural environment. You can purchase one at any town council meeting.

Volunteerism - Volunteerism is a core value of our community. This hands on, get involved ethic makes this a wonderful place to live. However, you won't experience it if you don't participate. Getting involved with community projects, events, committees, and groups is a great way to get to know your neighbors and continue the treasured tradition of volunteerism. Speaking of core values, KEEPING IT RURAL is another cherished value.

Animals - A rural environment is dangerous for domestic pets. Be sure to restrain, fence, or otherwise protect your animals. Cats and small dogs are eaten by coyotes every year. Don't think that just because you live on a private road that drivers are watching for your pets. Keep them safe, keep them fenced.

Manure - Do a good job of manure and compost management. Place piles where they will not cause odor or visual impacts.

Trailers - Trailers don't make good lawn ornaments. Park them where they aren't visible from the road.

Dark skies - It's the law. The county Dark Skies policy prohibits exterior lighting after 10 PM. Be sure it's shielded so it doesn't shine into other people's windows. Use motion sensor lighting instead.

Noise - Noise travels in unexpected ways in these hills. People may be able to hear you speak up to 1/2 mile away. Consider what that means when you play music outside. Do you have a garage band? Do your neighbors a favor and invest in headsets so the musicians, but not the neighbors, can hear the music.

Trails - If you use the trails, be courteous, stay on the trails. Help maintain them. Open space is private property - ride only with the owner's permission.

Motorized vehicles - Trails are made possible by the generosity of your neighbors. Motorized vehicles of any kind are strictly prohibited on the trails. This means you. No excuses. Not even if it's a two minute

ride, just to run over to your neighbor's house. Trails are for walking, bicycles, and horses ONLY.

Roads - Our roads are private, so expect to contribute to their maintenance. If you are building a new home, you're putting more traffic on the road than the rest of the neighbors. Construction equipment, heavy trucks and worker traffic all take their toll. Be a good neighbor and have the entire road (from the main road to your house) repaired when construction is finished. It's the right thing to do. Same thing goes for home-based businesses that generate more traffic than a single family residence. Be sure that you pay for your share of the impact to the road.

New construction - Give your neighbors warning about unusual noise, traffic, dust from grading, etc. so they can close their windows. Keep the construction site neat and tidy at all times. Start landscaping as soon as possible so when you move in plants will already be established.

Community standards - Review the community standards on the efhgc.org website to gain a good understanding of our community character and how we work together toward our common rural goal.

Where's your property line? - Make sure you know where your property lines are. Have a surveyor mark the property lines BEFORE you close escrow to avoid nasty and potentially expensive surprises later.

Safety - Home security is a good idea in this area where we have big open spaces and no street lights. The Sheriff can take 20 minutes or more to respond to a 911 landline call. Calling 911 from your cell phone, the call goes through the Highway Patrol adding additional wait. Program your cell for the San Marcos Sheriff's non-emergency number, 760-728-1113, and tell them this is a 911 call. Get a free onsite home security review by a Crime Prevention Specialist; call the San Marcos Sheriff's Station at 760-510-5254. We have a Neighborhood Watch program here in Elfin Forest. Contact the fire department to find out the name and phone number of your Block Captain to get more information on this program. Stay aware of any abandoned vehicles parked on your street. Call the non-emergency number and report it. Another really good idea is to get to know your neighbors, not only for crime prevention but for fire prevention and disaster response. One excellent way to do this is to come to Town Council meetings, first Wednesday of every month! Enjoy our beautiful valley and stay alert and safe!

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Steve Barker

Date: April 5th, 2006

Call to Order: 7:30 PM.

Members present: Eric Anderson, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, Steve Barker, Gordon Fines, Betsy Keithley, Cheri Smith, Jeff Swenerton and Bill Wilgenburg

7:35: Jim DePolo, Rancho Santa Fe School Board Representative, reported on Proposition H. Prop H is a proposed \$44.5 million school bond to be used to build a school in Rancho at the corner of Aliso canyon and Del Charro. The bond measure will be on the June 6th ballot.

7:45: Cheri Smith, vice chair, announced a community clean up event for April 29th. The annual spring event is a great opportunity for the community to clean up their properties as well as trash along our roads. Dumpsters and a Salvation Army drop off will be staged at the fire house. Please no hazardous materials, car parts, batteries or electronic/computer waste.

7:50: April Elves, the Ziegler kids, were introduced and shared their significant achievements with the attending community members.

7:55: The lovely **Nona Barker**, fire board chair, gave an update on the Harmony Fire ten year anniversary event to be held in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week October 8th to 14th. The purpose for the event is to educate, remind and remember. Committee members include Rachel Barnes, Cheri Smith, Geoffrey Smith, Patti Newton, Janet McGurk and, of course, Nona.

8:00: Jeff Swenerton, board member, announced that CARE has been meeting with San Elijo Hills developers and anticipates that San Elijo Hills will be revegetating their entrance monument with native plants.

8:10: OMWD Ranger Joey Randall reminded the members present of the Earth Day Creek clean up event to be held April 22nd at the Elfin Forest Reserve. The event is sponsored by The Escondido Creek Conservancy and OMWD.

8:20: Jacqueline Benjamin gave a road committee update. The committee met with the county recently and presented them with our community's petition to downgrade Elfin Forest and Harmony Roads.

8:25: Betsy Keithley, treasurer, gave her first financial report since assuming office. She stated that our books are in good order and complimented Bob McGurk, former treasurer, on his work. She stated our accounts balance as \$28,429. Income for the period was \$415 and expenses \$200.

8:30: Eric Anderson, chair, gave a thorough presentation on the subject of PDR's, Purchased Development Rights (see article in last month's *chaparral*). Eric also announced that the Parade and Picnic committee that he chairs had picked July 2nd as the official date for this years 4th of July celebrations.

Adjourned: 9:00 PM.

There's Gold In Those Owl Pellets By Evelyn Alemanni

If you have owls, you may also have (not to mix metaphors), a potential cash cow. Did you know that owl pellets (or as we like to say, owl gore) are worth \$\$\$? Owl pellets are the end products of an owl's digestive process discharged the same way they come in, through an owl's mouth. They contain the undigested bones, claws, scales, hair and/or feathers of the owl's prey and are used by schools for biology classes. Owl pellets are found under trees where they nest or on the ground around an owl box.

Here's info for OBDK, a company that BUYS owl pellets. OBDK pays .45 per pellet and will reimburse you the cost of shipping Priority Mail. Pellets need to be 1.5 inches and larger, whole and firm, dry, packed tightly in USPS Priority Shipping boxes (provided at your local USPS office) and shipped to: OBDK, 2601 N Baldwin Street, Portland, OR 97217.

They will process them promptly and pay you on the number of usable pellets that actually reach them. Pack them tightly, but if there are old pellets in the shipment, they sometimes disintegrate en route. For more information, contact Chris Anderson at chris@obdk.com or 503-913-2816.

Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

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

Minutes From The DPLU/DPW Road Downgrading Meeting

By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin

Date: March 10th, 2006

Attendees:

EF/HG Town Council - Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, Traffic Committee Chair, Jan Denny, Traffic Committee member.

County Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) - Dahvia Locke, Planner II.

County Department of Public Works (DPW) - Bob Goralka, Traffic Engineer, Nick Ortiz, Associate Transportation Specialist.

Notes: The meeting began at 2:30 with introductions, including roles and background. While we waited for Bob to arrive at about 2:45, Dahvia stated that SC1375 was likely to be removed because the county just purchased the Derbas property as mitigation, and that putting a road through it would defeat the purpose of their conservation effort. She also asked Nick to confirm that even the Board Alternative plan recommended deleting it, which he confirmed with the caveat that nothing is definite yet until documents are made public in April.

Jacqueline presented the Town Council's letter, survey results, and "brag book" with trail accolades. Jan went over the history and reasoning behind our requests.

Bob then went point by point through the list on the petition, starting at the bottom.

Removal of SC1375 from the County's CE -

The County is considering deleting it altogether during the GP2020 approval process. Bob mentioned possibly realigning SC1375 with Via Rancho Parkway around the Derbas property to avoid the most sensitive habitat.

Reclassification of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Roads -

The County is looking at that possibility now. There are two paths that could lead to the downgrade or reclassification of these two roads:

- The General Plan 2020 (GP2020) county-wide planning update.
- The New Urban West (NUW) general plan amendment (GPA) to the current county plan.

The NUW GPA will track through the approval process before the GP2020 plan, so the quickest way to achieve the downgrade is with the NUW GPA.

Originally Bob, Dahvia and Nick all believed that only Harmony Grove Road (and not Elfin Forest Road) was included in the NUW GPA. After we asked them to check, Nick came back and confirmed that both Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Roads were indeed included in the NUW GPA submitted with their Environmental Impact Report dated January 2006. Part of their confusion was because the traffic numbers are different on Harmony Grove Road and on Elfin Forest Road, with Elfin Forest Road carrying more traffic than Harmony Grove Road.

Both roads are currently classified as a Collector Road (the parlance of the current zoning guidelines), or a Major Road with no median (classification 4.1B in most recent Proposed CE Road Standards dated February 22nd, 2006), as follows:

- 4 lanes.
- A design speed of 55mph.
- A threshold capacity of 30,800 ADTs (Average Daily Trips).
- A minimum ROW (right of way) of 84'. ROW is defined as the total width of the county's easement, which extends beyond the paved portion of the road.

Elfin Forest Road is likely to be downgraded to a "Town Collector" (in the parlance of the current zoning guidelines), or more accurately an "Enhanced Light Collector" (in the parlance of the GP2020 zoning guidelines, also called a 2.2C), as follows:

- 2 lanes with intermittent left turn lanes only where more than 300 trips are measured onto a side road; the turn lanes will help improve the flow of traffic
- A design speed of 40mph
- A capacity of 13,500 ADTs
- A ROW between 64' to 78', which would not be sufficient for future expansion to 4 lanes.

Harmony Grove Road is likely to be downgraded to an "Enhanced Light Collector" (2 lanes with turn lane as needed) within the NUW development boundaries, then reduce to a "Rural Light Collector" (2 lanes with no turn lanes) outside the NUW development boundaries.

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(Minutes Road Downgrading Meeting - Continued)

Jan asked about the width of the ROW and how existing monuments would be affected. Bob stated that the final ROW was negotiable between the minimum / maximum widths provided by the classification. If the community wanted the county to maintain the trails, the ROW could be extended to cover the trails and any pedestrian needs. If the community didn't want the county to maintain the trails, the excess ROW can be vacated if not needed to accommodate other usage such as pedestrians.

In terms of the monuments, Bob stated that an encroachment permit would be needed to keep the monuments in the county's ROW. As long as the structures are at least 5 to 10' from the edge of pavement, and if they did not create a line-of-sight problem for drivers coming out of side roads, an encroachment permit could be obtained at the Grading and Improvement Counter. Bob said that the Assessor's parcel map would give the location of the county's ROW. Bob said that the trails should be safe if the new classifications are approved, and that the county can help identify which monuments are in the ROW.

We asked whether the GP2020 plan or the alternate board map would be more likely to approve the downgrade of these two roads. Dahvia responded that the two proposals showed no major traffic differences for Elfin Forest Road and Harmony Grove Road, so the two proposals would equally support the downgrade.

Jan asked if opposition to the downgrade could come from any other quarters that we should be prepared for. Bob stated the only potential would be the fire district if the downgrading to 2 lanes affected the Level Of Service (LOS) negatively.

Removal of Country Club from the Map of Major Circulation Elements - Country Club Drive is currently classified the same as Elfin Forest Road, i.e. a 4-lane Collector Road (or Major Road with no Median in new standards). From the modeling the county has done, even with Village Road and Citricado completed, the volume from the Harmony Grove Village would exceed standards for a residential collector. Therefore they are proposing to downgrade Country Club Drive to a Minor Collector, or 2.3C (the lowest volume circulation element in the GP2020 plan), which would result in the following changes:

- 2 lanes instead of current 4 lanes
- Design speed of 35mph instead of current 55
- A capacity of 7,000 ADTs instead of current 30,800
- A ROW of 68' instead of current 84'

Bob stated this will be a substantial reduction in capacity but that he cannot remove it altogether because of the projected volume. The modeling shows that it will still be used as a shortcut north even with Citricado.

We asked what the difference is from a practical standpoint whether a road is on the CE map, and Bob stated that there is sometimes a perception that a road "off the map" has a better chance of implementing traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps, but in his experience that is not the case. For example Willow Road near Barona has traffic calming even though it is on the CE map.

On a separate point, Jan asked about posted speed limits. Many survey responders were concerned about speeding on these two roads and the resulting dangers on sharp, blind curves. Bob stated that while the existing and proposed classifications have different design speeds (55 vs. 40 mph), actual traffic flow is what determines posted speed limits. By law, the county has to take the 85th percentile of actual traffic speed to determine the posted speed limit. Bob also noted that if the prevailing speed on a curve is 10 mph less than the rest of the road, a warning sign should be posted. He said that if we were experiencing any consistent speed violations, we should let him know and he would send the CHP to enforce.

Jan asked about San Diego Gas & Electric requiring a county permit to run power to a gate on a private road. Nick and Bob agreed that the only permit we should be required to obtain is an over-the-counter electrical permit. They referred us to Clay Wesley, Sr. Civil Engineer, at the DPLU Building and Code department.

Action Items:

- Determine whether the community wants the trails adjacent to Elfin Forest Road to be within the County's easement and maintenance, or to be on private property without a public easement. If on private property, we can request the road downgrade include setting the ROW to the minimum allowed. Bring this determination to

(Continued next page)

(Minutes Road Downgrading Meeting - Continued)

the next county Traffic Group's presentation to the San Dieguito Planning Group, planned for April 2006. Dahvia will notify us when that meeting is scheduled.

- Talk with the Landscape Foundation about their current status on trails and monuments. Provide information obtained during this meeting:
 - Determine whether they're currently in the county's ROW by looking at an assessor's parcel map
 - Determine if monuments on Elfin Forest Road will be at least 5 to 10' off the paved road with the new classification.
 - If monuments will remain in the county's ROW, apply for an encroachment permit which would allow them to stay in place.
- Decide if speed is a problem on EF or HG roads, and if so, which specific parts, and notify Bob so he can dispatch CHP.

Road Classification Summary: Note that road classifications have been renamed in GP2020.

- Collector (current terminology) or Major Road with no median (GP2020 terminology)
 - 4 lanes
 - A design speed of 55mph
 - A threshold capacity of 30,800 ADTs (Average Daily Trips)
 - A minimum ROW (right of way) of 84'
- Town Collector (current terminology) or Enhanced Light Collector (GP2020 terminology)
 - 2 lanes with intermittent left turn lanes only where more than 300 trips are measured onto a side road
 - A design speed of 40mph
 - A capacity of 13,500 ADTs
 - A ROW between 64' to 78'
- Minor Collector or Rural Light Collector
 - 2 lanes
 - Design speed of 35mph
 - A capacity of 7,000 ADTs
 - A ROW of 68'

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.

Let it Snow II

Here are few more photos of the remarkable hail storm we experienced on Saturday March 11th contributed by Lori Vitale and Sue Tolman too late to make the last issue but too good to not share.



Garden Musings for May

By Evelyn Alemanni

In spring of 2005 our community really pulled together to get ready for the America in Bloom contest. One of the projects was “weedwhacker weekends” where we all start up the weedwhackers and mowers and cut down those weeds. It’s important aesthetically, but more important, for fire safety. Last summer, as I traveled the country for America in Bloom judging in the 10-15K population category, I proudly shared stories of our Elfin Forest efforts.

In Gardendale, Alabama my story about weedwhacker weekends was met with a frown. That’s tough commentary from the friendly, hospitable Southerners. “What’s wrong with that,” I asked them. Gently, as though they were talking to someone who just rolled off the turnip truck with some minor head injuries, they explained that that have a similar program, but with 110% participation. “How in the heck do you get that?” I asked. “Easy,” they replied. “We just say ‘Gentlemen, start your engines.’ ”

So, GENTLEMEN, START YOUR ENGINES.

Spring is absolutely the most beautiful season in our valleys. It’s wonderful to see the California poppies returning; it brings memories of entire families helping to spread the seeds in the fall of 2004. The white ceanothus (California lilac) blooming in the hills looks like a dusting of snow, punctuated with the blue ceanothus. Take time to walk in the hills and see the sunshine through the flowering shrubs. Visit the two display gardens at the fire station. Elfin Forest is the only fire station in the county (maybe the state!) to have two unique display gardens, and we are so fortunate to have volunteers to care for them. Speaking of volunteers, if you want to help maintain the Fire Wise Garden contact Peggy Petitmermet.

May brings lots of garden jobs with it. Keep planting stuff. Start planting your summer flowers – cosmos, zinnias, dahlias, sunflowers, Shasta daisies. (Here’s a hint on sunflowers - buy a big bag of seed from the pet store - you’ll get thousands of seeds for the same price of a few at the nursery.) Plant your summer vegetables, too. It’s finally warm enough to start tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, corn, summer squash. You can put in another crop of lettuce, too, before it

gets too hot. Wait until June to plant cantaloupes and watermelon.

If you haven’t pruned your raspberries and blackberries, check the canes and remove the dead ones. Cut others back just to the new growth. Before the end of the month, put a three inch layer of mulch on all your planting beds. This will help retain moisture, cut down watering needs, and help prevent weeds from growing. Composted stable shavings, a FANTASTIC renewable resource in our valleys, make great mulch. Get to know a horse owner. Your garden will be grateful.

Benefit For Founders Of Sivananda Yoga, New Orleans

By Tanya Hall

The event will take place at the Elfin Forest residence of Tanya Hall and Kent Johnson, 20277 Elfin Forest Road. It’s a fundraiser for our friends, Ron and Lorraine Bocian, gentle souls who lost their home and studio to Hurricane Katrina.

Come enjoy a Sivananda Yoga class, receive an amazing Thai massage, and/or peruse the garden art tour of handcrafted jewelry and arts offered by the founders of Sivananda Yoga New Orleans. Whether a beginner or seasoned yogi or yogini, Dattatreya and Shakti will bring your practice to new exciting places. Feel your body recharge as you begin to unlock more advanced postures with comfort, lightness and ease. While you are at it, schedule a Thai Yoga Massage session and allow Dattatreya or Shakti to use ancient bodywork techniques to open your energy channels for optimum health.

Classes are open to all levels. Suggested donation is \$20 for Yoga classes. Thai Massage sessions will be by appointment. Dates and times are:

Saturday June 3, 2006 & Sunday June 4, 2006

10AM - Noon Sivananda Yoga class

Noon till 3PM Garden Art and Jewelry

4 - 6PM Sivananda Yoga class

For more information or to schedule a Thai Massage session contact Tanya at tannie2bug@yahoo.com or 760-484-0583 or check www.elfinforestarts.org.

With Om and Prem.

Coburn Topiary & Garden Art

By Charles Coburn



Here are some pictures of the Audubon's warblers that recently went to Westwind Park in Playa Vista, CA. We created four birds for this long,

rectangular park, located near a wetlands habitat. Two warblers stand beak to beak at each of the two park entrances. After passing between them, park guests can visit brightly colored bird houses built to human scale. Each warbler measures 17 feet in length and stand 14 feet in height.

Bird parts were plasma cut from sheet steel, then shaped, formed, and welded together.



Bird eyes, 8 inches in diameter, are made of fused glass with dichroic highlights. Though they are planted in olive these topiaries are intended to retain their strong patinated metal lines permanently. They are living sculptures.



Artist Jennifer Coburn crawls inside her sculpture during installation



Work in progress at the Coburn's Elfin Forest studio



Warblers installed in their new Playa Vista home



Charles and Jennifer Coburn also created and installed the new EF/HG Fire Department sign

What's Happening At The Fire Department – April 2006

By Captain Dawn Pettijohn



We are excited to announce that the instructor training for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is almost complete. Eleven members signed up for the

Train-the-Trainer course to prepare for the instruction of CERT participants. We will soon be contacting interested residents who signed up for CERT to kick off a class schedule. Anyone still interested, please contact Dawn at 760-744-2186 to sign up. As was evidenced in New Orleans, this will be one of the most important things we do for our communities. We want to prepare you to help yourselves in the event of a disaster when emergency resources can quickly become overwhelmed.

The first meeting for the planning of the Harmony Fire Remembrance, held April 1st, was well attended with many great ideas offered. The event organizers have planned a 4-day event with a theme *“To educate, remind and remember. To help people further recover. To prevent like disasters from ever happening again.”* The next meeting is April 19th at 7PM here at the fire station, and all community members are welcome to help plan this important and historic event.

A grant has been re-submitted to FEMA for a vehicle exhaust capture system. At a cost of \$66,652, it can only be purchased through grant funding. We refuse to give up on this one, as it is a serious Firefighter Health and Safety issue. Keep your fingers crossed.

The Fire Advisory Board has updated and renewed Chief Twohy's contract, so we can look forward to another year of outstanding leadership. It is a very difficult year, and the consistency and continuity provided by our fire chief is critical both in the political arenas we face and the daily administration of the Department. We really depend on you, Chief, and thanks for always being there for us.

A recent over-the-side vehicle accident on Harmony Grove Road was an extraordinary test for your Volunteers. With everything you can imagine thrown at them at once in this serious injury accident requiring an extended extrication time, they persevered. It's what the training is all about, it's why we critique almost everything we do...and we will

always try to do things better. Please, drive safely, and especially...drive defensively!

The rains should subside soon and although they leave us green and lush at first, that new crop of grass will die and become light flashy fuels that can quickly spread a fire. Start early in preparation for fire season so that you are fire safe. Visit the beautiful Fire Wise Garden, trim your weeds, and evaluate your defensible space and escape routes.



Out with the old....



...and in with the new.

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.

May 7th - *The Inner and Outer Renewal of the Earth*
Rev. Phyllis Isaac

May 14th - *Woman as a Spiritual Influence in our World*
Rev. Susan S. Cary

May 21st - *Come to God with Stillness and Poise*
Rev. Blake Isaac

May 28th - *Memorial Day—Remembering Our Immortality*
Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

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The Harmony Grove Spiritualist Church services are:
Saturday: Healing 1 PM – 2 PM
Church Service 2 PM – 3 PM
Sunday: Healing 10 AM – 11 AM
Church Service 11 AM – Noon

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



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Emily Dill - Baby Sitting/Pet Sitting, EF Resident, 15 years old. Contact at 760-736-4333.

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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