



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The (Weedy) Field

By Eric Anderson

The October town council meeting is going to be action packed with elves, issues, food, door prizes and special guests! **You** absolutely, positively, must be there or your hard working board members will get demoralized. We can't have that can we? The Board has been working hard and now has the framework for a strategic plan. I am so impressed with our board members. I can't tell you how very lucky we are to have them working on behalf of our community.

In between we have been active responding to the New Urban West EIR and the Bridges 6 & 7 project. Jacqueline along with The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) and Endangered Habitat League has done a miraculous job slowing down the Bridges, which had been considered a "slam dunk" project. Now it is a long way from being done, but the developer's forward progress has come to a halt. The developer is meeting with us to discuss possible sale of Bridges 7 for open space as it is an important core gnatcatcher area. The town council is cooperating with TECC in hiring Everett Delano, an excellent CEQA attorney, to represent us on the Bridges project.

The NUW EIR was a very complete and extensive document. Besides the large EIR there were thousands of pages of technical appendices that covered everything from agriculture to traffic impacts of the project. The Village Subcommittee did an excellent job of addressing concerns in the

(Continued next page)

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Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, October 4th @7:30PM

At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station

Topics: CERT, Nextel/Sprint Cell Tower, Harmony Grove Meadows, Lots of Local Issues and Special Guests.

From The Field (continued)

document. It was great to have so many people tackle the task of responding to the EIR. This will be, if everything goes according to plan, the largest project in our community and it will have many lasting impacts.

I hope you have all received you notice of the activities the Fire Department is organizing for the 10 year anniversary of the Harmony Grove Fire. Mark your calendars and plan on attending.

Now I need to get out and catch up on my weeding, those late rains were good for my seed crops and for the weeds. See you at the town council meeting.

Hazardous Waste Drop Off

By Chief Frank Twohy

The hazardous waste drop off day at the EF/HG Fire Department originally scheduled for September 9, 2006 was rescheduled. The new date is October 21 same time and place. Please don't drop material off at the station until October 21.

EFCF Grant Deadline

By Betsy Keithley, Secretary, EFCF

The Elfin Forest Community Foundation was established in 1995 with the mission to enhance the quality of rural life in the community of Elfin Forest. The Foundation provides funds for project supplies or community events. The next grant deadline is October 15, 2006. Please look at our website for information about submitting an application, www.elfinforestcommunityfoundation.org.

Elfin Forest Hometown Halloween

By Lori Vitale

Last year the Elfin Forest Hometown Halloween was a huge success. Several truckloads of local kids ran up and down driveways to trick-or-treat in their own neighborhood. Everyone had a great time. If you would like to welcome trick-or-treaters at your home (between 5:00-8:00 PM) on Halloween, please contact Lori Vitale by October 29 with your name and address at lori@ricochet.com or 760-752-7868. If you would like to obtain a list of neighbors welcoming trick-or-treaters, there will be a map at the fire house on Halloween after 3:00 PM.

Meet The Candidates

By Jane Kugelman

Special guests at the October town council meeting include Roxana Folescu, democratic candidate for the 74th assembly district. She is a professor of political science at Mira Costa College and came as an immigrant from Romania. Francine Busby, Democratic candidate for the 50th congressional district will attend. This is a great chance for you to meet these candidates and ask them questions on their positions. Jane Kugelman is the precinct leader for this area. If you have questions or need literature call her at 760-510-9998.

chaparral Editor (Still) Wanted

By Joe Alemanni

You still have a chance! Last April I gave our town council notice that my term as editor of the *chaparral* will end with the April 2007 issue at an even five years. If someone is immediately interested in assuming the job, I'll step aside sooner.

Editing and producing the *chaparral* entails the monthly collection of content (articles and ads) from the community and editing this content into the familiar 10-18 page format. We've (Evelyn and myself) maintained the subscription list, produced the mailer cover sheets, printed, assembled and folded the newsletters, and (with Eric Anderson's help) taken them to the post office for bulk mailing. We produce 200 copies per issue and 400+ copies twice a year for issues containing subjects of particular interest (elections, etc.) to all residents in the community. We also create and distribute by email the paperless (PDF) version.

Calendar For October

Date	Time	Event
Wed 10/4	7:30 PM	Town Council Meeting@Firehouse
Tue 10/3, 10/17	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Wed 10/11	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary@Mary Garman's House
Mon 10/9	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Sat 10/28	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Sat 10/7, 10/21	10 AM	Bookmobile@Firehouse

Update On Bridges Unit 6 And 7: Major Victory

By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin

Thanks in part to all of you who made your voices heard by contacting the San Diego Planning Commission, the project has now hit a *major* snag. After years of supporting the project, the San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use recommended denial to the San Diego Planning Commission. As a result the Bridges asked for a 120 day continuance until December 15, 2006. This is a major setback for the developer and while it is far from being over yet, we believe the grass-roots organizing of the community played no small role in this outcome.

Since our last update in these pages, we published the press release found elsewhere in this newsletter, which gives details on reason for denial. As a result we had three reporters at the hearing, from the Union Tribune, the Rancho Santa Fe Review and the Rancho Santa Fe News.

An August 30 San Diego Union Tribune article (www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20060830/news_1mc30elfin.html) resulted in additional coverage on KPBS radio morning news, Fox TV evening news, and a full interview on Channel 10 News on August 31, with a crew sent to Elfin Forest to produce a piece on the controversy. Finally the Rancho Santa Fe News had a front page article on September 1, titled "Bridges progress stalled for bird's sake".

As a result of all this pressure, Lennar has agreed to sit down with representatives of your Town Council Board, The Escondido Creek Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy, to start negotiations on purchasing the 82 acres of pristine coastal sage scrub which would have been Unit 7. Stay tuned...

chaparral By Email

If you're not already receiving a full color, PDF format copy of the *chaparral* by email send an email to alemanni@allea.com to be added to the list. The PDF version is free to regular "hardcopy" subscribers and only \$10.00/year for the PDF version only.

(Great) DSL News

By Shelley Fontaine

Great news! AT&T thinks they will be able to get all of us in the Elfin Forest area high speed Internet (either DSL or FTTN – fiber to the neighborhood) very soon. They are in the process of finalizing easement rights to a small piece of property along Elfin Forest Road where they will need to put their equipment to upgrade service in our area. Once this is completed, they will notify us on the progress.

They said it would not happen in the next couple of weeks, more like within the next few months - since there is still quite a bit of work to do. We now have over 80 families on the "DSL wish list". I'll keep you posted on progress and hopefully will soon be able to provide you with a contact name and phone number once they are ready to install.

Emergency Preparedness Fair

By Mickey Cross

Is your family ready for an emergency? Get the latest information from a variety of displays, community agencies and experts staffing an Emergency Preparedness Fair on Saturday, October 14 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Cardiff Meeting House of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1444 Lake Drive, Cardiff 92007 (between Santa Fe Drive and Birmingham Avenue).

Attending the Fair will be representatives from the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services, San Diego County Animal Control, Olivenhain Water District, Encinitas CERT and Fire Department, Mercury Amateur Radio Association, Master Gardeners, the Red Cross Bloodmobile, the Consumer Education & Outreach Bureau of the California Department of Insurance and more. If you have any questions, call Mickey Cross at 760-744-2034.

Elf Alerts

Elf alerts are periodic email messages regarding important local events and 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? Tell Rachel.

2005 Survey Results (Finally)

By Karen Gardner

A long time in coming, the 2005 EF/HG survey results are complete. A comprehensive report and tabulation will be available on the Elfin Forest Town Council web-site soon. An Elf Alert will be sent out notifying the community when the new results are posted and a link to the results will be provided.

In the mean time ... just a few interesting statistics.

- Ninety-two percent of residents feel that the rural atmosphere is important in their decision to live in the valley (extremely important or very important).
- A quarter of the community residents have been here for five years or less and a quarter of the community has been here for over 20 years.
- Fifty-two percent of residents stated that the ability to keep horses and large animals is extremely important or somewhat important in their decision to live in the community.
- Traffic was the most frequently cited ad-hoc response given when residents were queried as to what the most pressing issues were facing the community.
- Approximately eighty percent of residents do not want to see Harmony Grove Road or Elfin Forest Road widened.
- The majority of community residents (59%) do not support the development of a community park and playground in the community.
- An even larger proportion of residents (81%) do not support the development of a sports park in the community.
- Sixty-eight percent of the community state that they read the Chaparral every month.
- According to residents, over eighty percent feel that residential zoning should remain at 1 dwelling unit per 2 acres or more (1du/2ac).
- Seventy-four percent of community residents want to preserve the agricultural areas and ninety percent feel that commercial development should be restricted.

Your Artwork On A Shirt

By Evelyn Alemanni

One of the many delights of our garden festivals has been the unique t-shirts designed for each one. I'm proud to own one from each of the three previous festivals. As we did in 2005, we're soliciting your design concepts. The art submitted will be displayed for the community to vote on at the December holiday party.

Guidelines are simple: your design should include the words "Elfin Forest Garden Festival" and, optionally, a graphic element to support the theme, "Hidden Treasures in the Valley of the Elves". All the printing will be in one color of ink - it can be any color - on any color t-shirt.

Submit your designs as a .jpg file and email it to me at alemanni@allea.com or bring a drawing to the December town council meeting (holiday party) for consideration. You can submit as many designs as you want. The designer of the winning motif gets a free t-shirt!

What A Loss!

By Evelyn Alemanni

Losing agricultural resources is one way that we lose our rural environment. The following excerpt is from section 4 of the Harmony Grove Village EIR. You can access the entire EIR online at: www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/docs/PR/9-18-06/0408011.html.

The proposed project would result in the loss of approximately 80 acres of avocados and 9 acres of citrus orchards. Closure of the two on-site egg ranch facilities would result in a combined annual production loss of approximately 9.5 million dozen eggs; nearly 10% of total County production in 2002.

Closure of the on-site dairy facility would result in an annual milk production loss of approximately 94,170 hundredweight, a 7.8% decline in county-wide milk production for 2002.

There is also a loss of up to 1.05 acres of oat hay production.

The following farmland will be lost forever:

Unique Farmland	82.92 acres
Farmland of Local Importance	31.41 acres

Get Ready For The 2007 Elfin Forest Garden Festival

By Karen Gardner

Your town council has started in earnest organizing the 2007 Elfin Forest Garden Festival which will be held on Saturday April 21, 2007, a day before Earth Day. This event, started in 2003 by Evelyn Alemanni, is our community's largest fundraiser and has positioned Elfin Forest as a community with exceptional landscapes. In the past, the festival has drawn visitors from five states and three countries, and nearly every town in the county.

As development seems to be encroaching on all sides of our beautiful valley, it has been necessary to hire outside experts to thwart the advance of the tract-mansion. As an example, just recently, the town council, in conjunction with The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC), staved off imminent expansion of the Bridges (and sewer!) into the Elfin Forest valley. The success of this endeavor was due, in part, to funds provided by the town council to hire experts and an attorney. (Thank you Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin!!!!) It is necessary now more than ever for our community to band together and make this fundraising event successful. In addition to supporting the town council, proceeds from the event will go to TECC, the Firewise demonstration garden, fire department, and other Elfin Forest organizations designated by the garden hosts.

If you'd like to be a sponsor, we'd love your support. Sponsors have their names listed in the program that each garden guest receives and are also listed on the Garden Festival website (www.elfinforestgardens.info) with a link to their business web sites.

We are currently in need of the following "big job" volunteers:

- Fundraiser Coordinator (solicit potential donors and sponsors).
- Volunteer Coordinator (recruit about 20 or so volunteers for various tasks on the day (i.e., ticket sales, trash, signage, traffic directing, etc.).
- Lunch Coordinator (coordinate getting box lunches for garden hosts and ticket holders).
- Merchandise Sales (set-up, display and sale of community related merchandise).

- Signage (responsible for installing signs at appropriate locations).
- Spring Fling potluck dinner and garden/beautification awards coordinator.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or volunteer on the day of the event, but don't have time to commit to an organizational position, please contact:

Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin –

760-891-9061 simshona@aol.com

Karen Gardner –

760-744-9500 karen@vintagematerialism.com

Make Money – Support Your Community

By Karen Gardner

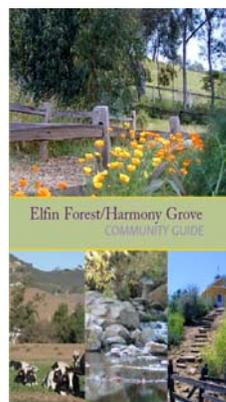
Planning for the 2007 Elfin Forest Garden Festival is underway. One of the popular venues at the festival is the Marketplace at Elfin Valley Nursery. We would love for you to join us as a vendor if you make or sell:

*Garden or Home Décor,
Garden Art,
Jewelry,
Antiques,
Garden related Cooking Supplies,
Fertilizer,
Garden related service,
Pool or Landscaping service,
Food or Beverages,
or ... any other thing garden.*

For more information please contact Karen Gardner at 760-744-9500 or karen@vintagematerialism.com.

Get Your Community Guide

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 \$20.

California Invasives

By Evelyn Alemanni

Keeping our native areas native is increasingly challenging as seeds from “exotics” (non-natives) encroach our undisturbed areas. You can help preserve our native habitat by not planting invasives. The California Invasive Plant Council (www.cal-ipc.org) has prepared a complete list of invasives, along with photos for easy reference. The problem plants listed on their site can escape from gardens in the Southern California region and invade wildlands. Because of their aggressive growth, these plants degrade native habitat and some increase flood and fire risk.

The web site (www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping/dpp/invphotos.php?groupID=60®ion=state&type=trees) lists desirable landscaping plants that serve as good alternatives to the invasive plants. There are some surprises on the site. For example, the California Invasive Plant Council considers the California pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) invasive.



Schinus molle

Photo Credit: (c) 1999 J. Randall PhD

October Garden Projects

By Evelyn Alemanni

As the ten year anniversary of the Harmony Grove Fire approaches, our gardening priorities increasingly relate to fire safety. Of course, you should have been taking care of this all summer, but if not, what are you waiting for? I recall ten years ago, sounds of fire engines and flames crackling with overtones of weedwackers and chainsaws as people made a last effort to clear flammable brush to protect their homes from the rapidly advancing fire.

A firestorm doesn't give you much time to clear the garden, let alone evacuate with your most precious possessions, so don't wait, do it now. Check your community guide for a complete listing of fire prevention and preparedness tips. If you don't have a community guide, stop by any town council meeting and purchase one. They're only \$20.

Easier garden projects for October include planting our fall vegetables – lettuce, broccoli, cabbages, brussel sprouts, winter squash and onions. Try planting some of the new “cool season” tomatoes that have been recently introduced. These heirloom tomatoes come from places like Siberia, the Czech Republic and Poland where they have been grown with very limited heat. Plant them now! Imagine no more wooden tomato look-alikes from the grocery store for Thanksgiving dinner!



In the flower garden, October is the time to plant ranunculus, anemones and all the lovely spring annuals – stock, larkspur, snapdragons, calendula, forget-me-nots are just some. Plants that are

started in October have a good 4 to 6 weeks of warm weather to get established and by spring will reward you with lots of flowers. As soon as we get the first fall rain, you can start sowing wildflower seeds.

If you grow roses, there are two schools of thought regarding their fall care: one is that fertilizer should be stopped now so that the plants can go gradually dormant. The other is that roses can be lightly pruned in October, fertilized and watered well, so that roses will bloom for Christmas. Take your pick, there's no wrong answer.

Those Popular Dark Skies

By Evelyn Alemanni

Every two months or so, one elf or another calls me about a neighbor who leaves bright lights on at night. Reluctant to report their offending neighbor to the authorities, they then ask if we would put an article in the newsletter about the dark sky ordinance. We have run the article many times, and the issue is discussed in depth in the community guide. (Don't have one? Get one! Ask any town council member.)

Briefly, the dark sky ordinance is intended to prevent light pollution from interfering with the work done at local observatories. The county has a dark sky ordinance that says: **“All outside illumination of any building and/or surrounding landscape, public or private, for esthetic or decorative purposes is prohibited between 11:00pm and sunrise.”**

You can read the ordinance in its entirety at: www.darksky.org/resources/information-sheets/pdf/is056.pdf.

We all want to enjoy the starry nights, and the astronomers want to do their work, so please be a good neighbor and turn off your outdoor lights. It is my opinion that people new to the community are unaware of this ordinance and probably don't subscribe to this newsletter, so you might just want to give them a gift subscription to the newsletter (and maybe even a community guide!) so they'll get up to speed on this and many other issues related to living in a rural community.

Howloween Is Coming!



October 2006

A Message To Our School Board

By Scot Cheatham

This week when I read the Rancho Santa Fe Review article about the covenant non-covenant divide, I started thinking about how the school district and specifically the School Board can help unify our the district community again.

Strangely, my thought fell to the word Substance. I think that when we first think about substance, we think about the things we have...the house, the cars, the bank account, our businesses....and maybe even our school. If you look up the dictionary definition of substance, these things qualify.

However, I think that it is time that we take a broader look at what is really substantial in our lives. And more importantly, which meaning of substance are we teaching to our children? One other definition of substance found in the dictionary is “the essential part of a thing...or its essence.”

I can assure you that if our children grow up with the idea that real substance is a house or a car, they will end up being disappointed. However, if we can teach them that intangible things are really substantial...like friendships, the joy of learning, the respect for other viewpoints, the work toward a common goal....only then will we be proud of the legacy that we are creating.

Let's teach them directly, and by our example, what is really substantial in this district community. It is my sincere belief that when we work together to reunify this community, we will create something of real substance. Our School Board must take the initiative to make this happen. Only then will we have something more enduring than just a great school district.

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 or elfinforest.com.

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 – October 2006

By Battalion Chief Dawn Pettijohn



This month we continue our training in Wildland Fire Behavior with Deputy Chief Heiser. Great training and good timing with this weather.

Congratulations to Firefighter Ryan Parker as he departs to Paramedic School in El Centro. Ryan has been with us since October 2001 and has worked as a California Department of Forestry (CDF) seasonal for the last two years. Paramedic school is the big step in his career and will consume him for the next seven or eight months. We are hopeful he will return to us after graduation.

Welcome aboard to new Probationary Firefighters Tony Proiette and Diklah Orevi. Having successfully passed the Chiefs interview, they are beginning their orientation. Both are EMT's with ambulance experience and that's a great help to us.

“Hats off” to Firefighter Matthew Terwilliger, our Army National Guard soldier activated and deployed to Lindberg Field during the recent terrorist threat. We are proud to know this young man so devoted to county and keeping us all safe. We look forward to his return. Thanks, Matt...and stay safe!

As we are getting more and more requests, we would like to ask those organizations who use the meeting room at the Fire Station to be sure to schedule all meetings. Too often we have folks showing up for unscheduled meetings. We have tried to be as flexible as possible, but lately unscheduled meetings have interfered with scheduled meetings, facilities maintenance, and cleaning. Please, if you plan on coming, call Dawn at the Fire Station to ensure that the room is available and that your request is put on the schedule posted outside the meeting room door.

This year extreme and radical fire behavior is being noted all over the country often resulting in burnovers, fire shelter deployments and injuries. Not a lot of common denominators are noted, and it is happening in all types of fuel to some highly experienced firefighters. Please, stay alert, and if asked to evacuate...do so immediately. Report any suspicious activity right away. Better safe than sorry.

And please join us for the Harmony Fire/Del Dios Fire Commemoration October 7, 10, 12, and 14. Now, ten years later, we will join together “*To Remind, Educate and Remember*” these tragic events. For those of you who were here in 1996, come help us to share our experiences.

For the some 50% of our communities who have never experienced wildfire in a rural wildland interface environment, come and hear first hand the horror of a firestorm in your own community. Come and educate yourself on how to help prevent it, how to help ensure the safety of your loved ones, and how to give your home a fighting chance of survival.

Help An Elf Help Others

By Danielle Gradisher

Hey! My name is Danielle and I'm Nancy Reed's daughter. I've lived in Elfin Forest for six and a half years. Last year, with my middle school choir, we performed the National Anthem at the Charity Event for the San Pasqual Academy. Stepping onto the sands of the *big* Del Mar Arena at the Fairgrounds was amazing. There were so many people. After the singing was over, a horse event called Team Penning started. That was the first time I ever witnessed this particular horse and cow sport live and let me tell you, it was amazing. In Team Penning, three horse and rider pairs are assigned three specific cows to “cut” out of a herd of twenty-seven and move into a separate pen.

This year on October 7, instead of singing before the event, I will actually be participating in the Team Penning! Unfortunately, participating requires three hundred dollars. In order to raise sponsors in a small amount of time, our neighbor, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin, suggested that I reach out to my community and trust that they will support the San Pasqual Academy and me. The Academy is one of the only high schools in San Diego County geared to the needs of foster children.

Please help a fellow Elf and a worthy cause by contributing a tax refundable donation payable to the Friends of San Pasqual Academy and mailed to 19902 Elfin Forest Lane Escondido CA, 92029. For information on the San Pasqual Academy go to www.sanpasqualacademy.org. I can be reached at 760-471-7933. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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.

- Oct. 8 *Living a Compassionate Life*
Rev. Myrna Triggs
- Oct. 15 *Make Each Moment Count*
Rev. Blake Isaac
- Oct. 22 *Intentionality and Spirituality*
Dr. Richard & Lucy Wold
- Oct. 29 *Know Thy Ego, Be Thy Self—The Key to Wholeness*
Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

HG Spiritualist Church Services

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

chaparral By Email

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- exp 12/06



In today's uncertain times...

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If you are like many investors, you may be reacting to daily market ups and downs—buying or selling without a clear investment strategy. In today's complex marketplace, this could be costing you money or exposing you to undue risk.

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todd.vitale@ubs.com

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Mr. Vitale is celebrating 18 years of service with the Firm.

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Exp 4/07



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Exp. 9/06

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www.decorsandiego.com

www.sdhortsoc.org

www.andersonslacostanursery.com

www.efhgtc.org (town council website)

www.elfinforestgardens.info

www.coburntopiary.com

www.elfinforestcommunityfoundation.org

www.newcoursejumps.com

www.buenacreekgardens.com

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Exp. 4/07



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Be Fire Wise And Fire Safe

Did you know that a shorted out electric blanket can start a fire? NEVER leave your blanket turned on when you aren't home. Don't fasten it with pins, which can short out the wires. Stay warm, stay safe.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELFIN FOREST, August 21, 2006

County Staff recommends rejecting Bridges application

After conducting an in-depth scientific study and consulting an expert ornithologist, the County Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) is recommending denial of the pending Bridges at Rancho Santa Fe application to expand across the Escondido Creek, and to build on a previously set aside biological open space easement. "This reflects the extraordinary adverse impacts of this project," stated Everett Delano, an Escondido attorney retained by the Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council and The Escondido Creek Conservancy to address the Project's impacts. "County staff correctly recognizes the special value of this sensitive habitat," Delano explained.

The staff report, just released on the DPLU website, recommends denying all aspects of the application (two Specific Plan Amendments, two Tentative Maps, two Major Use Permits, and one Administrative Permit). The key reason for the change in recommendation is that the Bridges at Rancho Santa Fe would be sprawling into pristine coastal sage scrub habitat which is critical to the long term survival of the California gnatcatcher, an endangered species, and to the success of the entire North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan, or MSCP-N. Future development and public projects, such as road improvements, depend upon MSCP-N for permitting. The DPLU report states "...the Department believes that development of either Alternative for Unit 7 may lead to the extinction of the CG [California gnatcatcher] Core Area population".

This is just the latest set back for The Bridges at Rancho Santa Fe, a luxury golf community built by Lennar and situated on the south side of the Escondido Creek, which has met with escalating community opposition to the project. Conservation groups involved in the MSCP-N earlier determined that trying to minimize the project footprint would not work, and suggested that Lennar consider selling the 87 acres to a land conservancy.

The matter will be in front of the San Diego Planning Commission on August 25th at 9am, where community representatives are expected, and from there will be decided by the Board of Supervisors.

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Endangered Habitats League
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Harmony Fire **October 21, 1996** **Del Dios Fire** **September 24, 1997**



Please join us to  commemorate these historic events

To Remind, Educate and Remember **October 7 – 14, 2006**

October 7: To Remind: Movie and Story Night.

Movie of the fires. Filmed by media and local residents. The sharing of memories, the sharing of our stories, where we were and what happened to us.

October 10: To Educate: Wildland Urban Interface by Chief Denny Neville.

Learn about the Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Problems, Fire Environment, Wildfire behavior and how to live safely in the Wildland/Urban Interface environment.

October 12: To Educate: Chaparral, Fire, and People: By Richard Halsey

A wonderful description of the chaparral including our Mediterranean climate, chaparral types, native plants and animals, the dynamic nature of fire in the chaparral, how it affects our lives, and how best to deal with it.

October 14: To Remember

Community wide celebration of our endurance and compassion. An evening event for all to learn, share and remember those who lost their homes and David Hammond who lost his life.

Comfort Food – Give Aways – T-shirts - Award for Best Fire Safe Home in CSA 107

Fire station is open to the public. Come and view the historical pictures, news articles and stories of the Fire Storms Visit the Fire Safe Garden and the Native Garden

***Events will be at the Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department
Beginning @ 6:30 p.m.***

20223 Elfin Forest Road Elfin Forest CA 92029 760. 744.2186

The Fires Commemoration Committee
Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department
20223 Elfin Forest Rd
Elfin Forest, CA 92029



September 11, 2006

Re: "The Firestorms of '96 and 97: To Educate, Remind, and Remember..."
October 7, 10, 12, and 14, 2006

Ladies and Gentlemen:

None of us will ever forget the raging firestorms with 100' walls of flames that swept through Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest in October 1996 and again in September 1997. Our communities and lives remain forever altered by these catastrophic events. Some of us lost our homes, pets, and possessions; and saddest of all, one resident, David Hammond, a husband and father of two, lost his life. By commemorating this defining moment a decade later we hope to Educate those who lived here then and those who've moved here since, to Remind ourselves this could happen again and that we need to protect ourselves and our communities, and to Remember the devastation, the camaraderie, the very personal stories of survival and endurance. Come celebrate our special community character on Oct. 7th, 10th, 12th, and 14th as we honor the strengths of our rural legacy and lifestyle. If you lived here then, please share your stories; 50% of you are new to the valley since 1997, come to learn more about what makes us unique.

On these dates, we plan to honor those among us who risked their lives to fight this fire, and those who suffered its devastation. We wish to publicly acknowledge the healing and restoration that has already, and continues to take place. In addition, of course we will take the opportunity to talk about what you can do to protect yourselves against this kind of catastrophic loss. We have assembled displays of newspaper articles, photos, and children's drawings depicting the events as they perceived them. We've scheduled educational talks on fire prevention and habitat restoration. A video compilation of the fire as seen through the lenses of residents and local news channels will serve to remind us of the enormity of the disaster.

One very special evening has been reserved for residents to share their memories, their thoughts, and stories. We understand it can be a painful experience for some but we encourage you to share your stories so others may learn and the healing can continue as we move forward. We believe a greater understanding will allow us to grow stronger and more vital as a loving, caring and firesafe community. Everyone who wishes to speak will be afforded the opportunity. A moderator will help facilitate this process on Oct. 7th following the fire movie and on Oct. 14th. We anticipate allowing up to 20 minutes per speaker.

Finally, on Oct. 14th there will be a wonderful community-wide party to celebrate our communities' endurance and compassion.

Thank you for getting back to us with your willingness to participate in the sharing of memories part of our program. In order to properly plan for this event, please reply by Sept. 15th by calling Nona or Dawn at (760) 744-2186 (fire station 9 – 5).

We cordially invite you, your family and friends, to attend all the events planned. A detailed schedule for the four nights is included. Thank you for helping make this event a praiseworthy success.

With sincere gratitude,

Nona Barker	Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department
Alice Corteau	Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department Fire Auxiliary
Dawn Pettijohn	Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department
Janet McGurk	Questhaven Retreat
Patti Newton	Community Emergency Response Team
Cheri Smith	Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Town Council
Geoffrey Smith	The Escondido Creek Conservancy