



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

**From The Chair**  
By Evelyn Alemanni

Congratulations to Kim Hunter for contributing the most (so far) EIRs to our new EIR library. This wonderful resource, created by Janet McGurk in the fire station, provides a place where we can collect all those important documents that contain the promises of developers.

Speaking of developers' promises, Brookfield Homes (University Commons) has submitted a notice of preparation for another 308 homes. In December, 2002, San Marcos approved an additional 100 homes for that project without ever notifying us. It's business as usual – developers come in telling us one thing, and as soon as their plan is approved, they start the amendment process.

At the February town council meeting, you'll have a chance to vote for town council board members, fire board, and community foundation board members. Ballots for the fire board were mailed separately; two other ballots are included elsewhere in this newsletter. Please bring your ballots with you to the meeting on Feb. 5. Take the time to vote and attend the meeting so you can stay current on what's happening in our valley.

Speaking of elections, there is an opening on the Rancho Santa Fe school board, and it's about time that Elfin Forest was represented on that board. Anyone interested?

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***Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm.***  
**At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station**

Topics: Fire Board meeting and elections, town council elections, Elfin Forest Community Foundation Elections, update on the dam by CWA.

## Elections For Town Council Board

Election of the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove town council board will take place at the town council meeting on February 5, 2003. The town council board consists of nine members who work on a variety of community projects.

Please complete the ballot below and bring it to the meeting on February 5.

### Town Council Board Ballot

#### Vote for Four

\_\_\_\_\_ Nancy Reed  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mid Hoppenrath  
\_\_\_\_\_ Arie Franken  
\_\_\_\_\_ Patti Newton  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

## Fire Advisory Board of Directors Elections

By Nona Barker

An Advisory Board of seven locally elected officials and one paid Chief oversee the operations of the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department. This election for the Fire Advisory Board of Directors has three positions up for election. Ballots were mailed to each home – please bring yours to the meeting.

## Elfin Forest Community Foundation Elections in February

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 and, to date, the most visible projects include the fencing along trails throughout the community, trees along Elfin Forest and other roads in the community and renovation of the Community Room at the Fire Station. The Board of Directors decides Foundation policy and what projects will be funded. They are also financially responsible for the funds in the Foundation. The

bylaws require annual elections. The election will occur in February 2003 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 three open seats and Steve Barker, Trey Fairman, Joe Alemanni, Dave Kaplan and Sue Hill are running for those seats.

Steve Barker (Incumbent Chair) - Steve has been on the Foundation Board since the mid-1990's and has helped shape the organization to assure that it supports the activities of the community. He is a great asset and leader.

Trey Fairman (Incumbent Director) - As a board member for the past two years, I have participated in furthering the rural atmosphere in our valley. A resident of Elfin Forest since the fall of 1997 with two small boys, I am dedicated to providing a home in which my children can enjoy the beauty and wonders of our region. My service on the Foundation has also helped to enhance the community's enjoyment of this beautiful valley.

I am a supporter of the recent board decision to promote the plantings of native vegetation whenever and wherever possible. If re-elected, I will continue to provide my time to follow the lead of those before me to enhance the native beauty found in our valley.

Joe Alemanni - As editor of the *chaparral* and frequent volunteer for projects such as the trail landscaping and 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic, I'm an advocate for any resident interested in preserving or improving our community.

Please mark your ballot and make sure it is at the fire station on Wednesday, February 5 where the ballots will be collected and counted at the Town Council/Fire Board meeting.

### Elfin Forest Community Foundation

#### Vote for three:

Steve Barker \_\_\_\_\_  
Trey Fairman \_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Alemanni \_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Kaplan \_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Hill \_\_\_\_\_

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## Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Patti Newton

**DATE:** January 8, 2003

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Telesco, Evelyn Alemanni, Patti Newton, Nancy Reed, Mid Hoppenrath, Eric Anderson.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:35 p.m.

**UPDATES:** Bill Telesco announced there is an Olivenhain Dam open house January 9<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm until 7 pm. He also reminded residents that town council and fire board elections will be held at next month's town council meeting.

Evelyn Alemanni announced that the EIR library is now officially opened; she encouraged residents to bring in their old EIRs and appropriate items they would like to include in the archives. A Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a Supplemental EIR (SEIR) regarding the University Commons project has been circulated. They want to eliminate a 5-acre park and add 300 homes (what a surprise!).

Nancy Reed suggested the community give serious thought to the topic of safeguarding equestrians and others who use the trails from speeding traffic.

Mid Hoppenrath announced New Urban West has acquired two egg ranches and the dairy in Harmony Grove and that escrow on the properties might have closed. (editor's note: at the time of this newsletter representatives of New Urban West indicated that the property was under option.)

Petitions are still circulating among Eden Valley residents regarding their desire to have the EF/HC TC formally represent the interests of their community (now that they have no real representation through a planning or citizens group). Most people seem receptive to the idea.

**ITEM #1: Dahvia Locke**, from the County Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) addressed the Village Concept proposed for Harmony Grove, specifically, the land acquired by New Urban West (approx. 850 acres). She started with a brief overview of the GP 2020 plan objectives as a blueprint for countywide development. Many issues are inherent in the plan; among them, animal keeping, density, regulatory issues, patterns of

development/density, conservation, open space, etc. HG lies within the County Water Authority (CWA) boundaries and is close to existing infrastructure. Despite this, it retains a distinct rural character, one that the DPLU sees as worthy of careful planning to avoid urban sprawl. The concept of a village emerged from a collaborative effort between the community and the county. The existing GP allows for 300 homes for the area; the village allows for less density while supporting community amenities like a fire dept., schools, trails, etc. Planners envision an open town center for civic and commercial purposes, grid pattern streets to minimize traffic impacts, and home designs reflective of HG's rural character.

Ms. Locke looks to communities like Julian and Rancho Santa Fe as models for HG. She strongly encouraged residents to attend a January 31<sup>st</sup> County Planning Commission meeting on this topic. Some residents fear the loss of rural character in spite of these efforts. Other problems are associated with the potential for increasing/decreasing allowable density from the existing designations. A relatively new concept in S.D. County, the Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) is under consideration to help ensure an equitable result as the community develops.

County planners have taken a strong interest in this community – they understand that developers will take the path of least resistance through the regulatory process. To counter any negative consequences, planners intend to state their goals for the area and write policies that address issues of concern to area residents. These will encourage the developer to comply in order for things to go smoothly as they wend their way through the bureaucracy.

Because economic realities tend to drive how a given project evolves, the county assured us that design standards would be legal and enforceable. The developer must comply in order to continue to move forward. Ms. Locke fielded a variety of questions from property owners concerned about their ability to develop their properties in view of this plan.

**ADJOURNED:** 9:00 p.m.

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## Escondido Creek Wetland Enhancement Project

By Alex Newton

The San Diego County Water Authority has scheduled a mitigation project to enhance wetland and riparian habitat along Escondido Creek during the spring of this year. The project, referred to as the "Escondido Creek Wetland Enhancement Project," will take place within existing conservation easements along an approximate 2 mile stretch of the creek. The corridor will extend from the existing Olivenhain Municipal Water District enhancement site, just west of the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, to the Elfin Forest Dry Lake and possibly beyond.

The project, which provides the required offsite wetland mitigation for the non-Olivenhain portion of the Emergency Storage Project, will involve the removal of non-native plant species that have displaced native plants, resulting in degradation to the basic wildlife habitat values in Escondido Creek. Once the non-native plants are removed there will be native plant revegetation - from natural recruitment and planting and seeding.

Approximately 30 non-native plant species are targeted for removal. The most common are eucalyptus, giant reed and cape ivy. In addition to the biological benefits from this work, the removal of eucalyptus will help to reduce fire hazard risk to the area. Native plant replacement will include shrubs and herbaceous or leaf-like species and trees such as coast live oak, western sycamore and arroyo willow.

Most of this project work will be performed with hand tools, such as chainsaws. Small trucks and loaders will also be used to carry the cut eucalyptus and other plants from the site. Existing trails and disturbed areas will be used for temporary access and the project does not involve any grading or road building. Biological monitors will help oversee the work to ensure existing native plants and wildlife species are protected. To the extent feasible, cut and chipped eucalyptus will be made available to the public.

Work is scheduled to begin in May 2003; removal of the non-native vegetation will take approximately one year. The project will be maintained and monitored for 5 years to ensure the non-native species are eliminated and native habitat revegetation goals are successfully met.

The Elfin Forest Town Council was briefed on this project during their Nov. 6, 2002 meeting.

## Elfin Forest Garden Festival

By Evelyn Alemanni

Mark your calendar for **May 3, 2003** – that's the date



of the first ever Elfin Forest Garden Festival. In July 2001, when "Good Morning America" named my garden one of the five best in America, the phone started

ringing with people asking for a tour. It hardly seemed fair, since my garden is the result of the inspiration and gifts of plants from many of our neighbors' beautiful and imaginative landscapes. In the spring of 2002, members of 13 garden clubs from around the county had toured my garden and I felt sorry that they were missing out on other exquisite gardens in our valley... so the garden festival was born.

At first, it was planned to be a tour of eight of Elfin Forest's gardens to benefit the Elfin Forest Landscape Foundation. Then, people wanted to sell things, have lunch, and so on. Soon it evolved into a full-fledged garden festival with its own web site, [www.elfinforestgardens.info](http://www.elfinforestgardens.info).

Besides eight open gardens, there will be a garden marketplace at the fire station, a gourmet lunch, raffle prizes, and a silent auction. Elfin Valley Nursery will be open that day and will donate 10% of their sales proceeds to the Elfin Forest Landscape Foundation.

We have already arranged a LOT of media coverage and received great garden items that you can win as raffle prizes.

So, mark your calendar and tell your friends. Tickets are limited, so order yours today. See the website for details. Then, call me (760-471-7224) or email ([alemanni@allea.com](mailto:alemanni@allea.com)) and tell me that you want to help in some way by volunteering a few hours.

## Slater Votes to Expand Protected Land Along Lake Hodges

### John Weil

Third District Supervisor Pam Slater voted to give the County of San Diego the authority to begin the process of obtaining over 110 acres near Lake Hodges. Del Dios Estates is an area of pristine mountains and canyons that is home to sensitive plant species and endangered wildlife. The property is adjacent to 92 acres that Supervisor Slater helped the county to obtain earlier this year known as the Derbas Property.

"The county must pursue every opportunity to expand its system of natural preserves," said Supervisor Slater. "Acquisition of this land will help to preserve habitat in North County and protect the corridors and linkages that allow that habitat to flourish."

The Del Dios Estates property is within the County of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MCSP) and connects with other wildlife movement corridors. Several sensitive plant species have been spotted in the area, including the Encinitas baccharis, the wart stemmed lilac, and summer holly. Sensitive animal species include the rufous crowned sparrow, the Cooper's hawk, and the Turkey vulture. The California gnatcatcher, a federally listed endangered species, has also been observed in the area.

"Lake Hodges and its environs is one of our county's recreational and natural treasures. This acquisition will ensure that future generations of San Diegans can enjoy the beauty of this special place."

The acquisition of the Derbas property created the possibility that riding and hiking trails could be built to connect the area to the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve or a larger Coast-to-Crest Trail being proposed by the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park. The county has the option of purchasing an additional 253 acres of the property in the future.

The Del Dios Estates property was brought to the attention of San Diego County's Parks and Recreation Department by Supervisor Slater, who learned of its availability during a site visit to the Derbas property.

## Showcase your writing and photography in the New Community Guide

A brand new edition of the community guide is being prepared. The community guide reflects all of us. One of the themes to emphasize in the next edition is helping new neighbors understand things that they might not know about if they've never lived in a rural community.

Another objective is to include information about the history of Harmony Grove – it's unique heritage and its settlers.

If there's something you'd like to see in the community guide or there's an article you want to write or update or you have photos (historical or recent) to share, please contact Evelyn Alemanni ([alemanni@allea.com](mailto:alemanni@allea.com) or 760-471-7224).

## Elfin Forest Book Group By Karen Gardner

Our February book selection is "The Name of the Rose" by Umberto Eco. Please join our lively discussion on February 13th at 7:30 pm. We will be meeting at Rachel Barnes' house on Elfin Forest Road. For further information call Rachel at 471-4300.

## University Commons Contact

If you need to report any problems with the University Commons project that is currently in progress along San Elijo and Rancho Santa Fe Roads, please call David Poole at 858-481-8500.

## GP2020 Planning Commission Hearings

The County Planning Commission will hold public hearings on GP2020 residential density changes for our area on Feb. 7. Location: 5201 Ruffin Rd, Suite B. San Diego, CA 92123. Schedule updates are available at [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu) or from the hotline, 619-615-8289. Map reviews begin at 9 a.m., public testimony begins at 2 p.m. If you are concerned about density changes, this is a meeting you want to attend and speak up.

## Calendar for February 2003

Date	Time	Event
Weds 2/5	7: 30 pm	Fire Board Meeting, EF/HG Town Council Meeting
Tues 2/4, Tues 2/18	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Bookmobile@Firehouse
Tues 2/4, Tues 2/18	7 pm	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Fri	10 am – noon	Playgroup
Every Thurs	6:30 pm	Yoga
Mon 2/10	7 pm	Fire Board@Firehouse
Weds 2/12	7 pm	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Sat 2/22	8 am	Fire Training@Firehouse

## San Elijo Update

By Curt Noland

The East, West, North, South designations have been removed from the road signs in response to Elfin Forest requests. We're planning to pave the permanent Questhaven Road through the newest phase by the end of the month and open it early in February. We are getting close to the end of the detours.

## EIR Library Needs Your Old EIRs

Janet McGurk has established a library in the fire station for old town council records and environmental impact reports. If you have any EIRs or items that belong in the town council archives, please bring them to the town council meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> and give them to Janet or contact her at 760-471-8937 or [mcgurk@bytebloc.com](mailto:mcgurk@bytebloc.com).

## San Elijo Hills Contact

If you need to report any problems with the grading, traffic, etc. regarding the San Elijo Hills (SEH) project, please contact Phil Stillman who is SEH liaison with the community. He can be reached at [philstillman@fstlaw.com](mailto:philstillman@fstlaw.com). If you feel the problem was still not resolved, call San Elijo at 760-918-8200.

## Olivenhain Dam Update

By Alex Newton

### Olivenhain Dam Field Representative

We saw several new faces and missed some of the regulars, at the January 9<sup>th</sup> open house at the Olivenhain Dam. However, it was an enjoyable meeting for all those who attended. For those who did not come, I want to let you know about some of the key activities we can look forward to during the next few months at the dam site.

First, the traffic signal at the intersection of Harmony Grove and Via Ambiente has been something all of you (or at least most of you) want to see removed ...the sooner the better. The schedule for removal was always based on the completion of the dam, anticipated for mid to late April 2003.

Because we lost a few weeks due to mechanical failure of the conveyor and a few days to rain and weather, we are now looking at the second week of May. The contractor is scheduled to begin dismantling the traffic signal the first week of May and the work will take about 10 days, or so (including putting the widened road back to its original state, re-vegetation, etc.).

Second, the project engineers are exploring an excellent opportunity to possibly purchase four diesel generators from Kiewit, our primary contractor at the dam, for emergency power backup. The generators would only be used during a power outage and would be tucked behind the OMWD Water Treatment Plant and pump station, close to the base of the dam.

Third, the color of the dam. From the beginning, and I believe this idea originated at community meetings during the environmental process, we planned to stain the dam to blend in with the local terrain. After some research it was determined that a stain called "desert varnish" would be the best match to do the job. The contractor is currently prepping the downstream face of the dam and should start the staining in the next month or so.

## Questions About Landscaping?

People who have questions about landscaping issues (trails, signs, etc.) please contact Frank Oddo at [frankoddoarts@aol.com](mailto:frankoddoarts@aol.com) or 760-744-6393.

## February Playgroup Schedule

By Mary Moore

Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am - Ceramic hand/foot prints at Mary Moore's. This is an opportunity to get your child's hand and footprints embedded in ceramic by "Patti Cake Prints." These make great gifts for Father's and Mother's day or Christmas, as well as your own keepsakes. Please RSVP to this event so we know how much ceramic material to set up. Mary's phone number is 760-591-3080 and address is 19919 Fortuna del Este,

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> around 3pm - Wiro Park in Olivenhain. This park is off of Rancho Santa Fe Road on the west side of El Camino del Norte. Call Mary for more detailed directions.

Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am - Scott's Valley Park in Encinitas.

Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am - Nicole Macaluso's home. Nicole lives at 6311 El Montevideo in Rancho Santa Fe. Her phone number is 858-756-0765.

## Elf Alerts

Elf Alerts are email notices about issues that need your immediate attention. They supplement the newsletter.

If you are not receiving your Elf Alerts, please send your email address to [alemanni@allea.com](mailto: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 don't share the list with ANYONE.

## Brushing, Grading, Clearing Questions?

If you have questions about guidelines, policies and standards for brushing, grading, and clearing, or if you need to report a violation, call the County Department of Planning and Land Use 760-940-2893

## Town Council Website

The Elfin Forest Website is up and running, and being improved every week. Check it out at:

[www.efhgtc.org](http://www.efhgtc.org).

You can list your business in the Links section for only \$10 per year!

## On The Wing - The Mating Game

By Scott Todd, Wild Bird Center

Spring looms not too far in the distance and as the warm weather of early January brings an abundance of sunshine to San Diego County, avian courtships have begun once again in our backyards. Many bird species establish breeding territories and pair off as early as January and February. Now is the time to dust off those binoculars and allocate some of your quality time for observing the Mating Game.

Courtship behaviors are some of the most interesting aspects of bird watching. For those of us who feed and watch birds in our backyards, be sure to check for some of these avian rituals and displays that ensure the circle of life.

The most common ritual is singing to find a mate or defend an established territory. However, visual displays also show information to another bird about how desirable one male is from another suitor.

House finches, goldfinches, western blue birds and cedar waxwings display mate-feeding rituals. The female bird flutters her wings and begs to be fed. The male takes a seed, berry or worm (depending on species) and places it into the female's open beak. This symbolic gift of food apparently indicates the male's ability to be both a good provider and a sexually strong mate.

Hummingbirds use aerial dancing techniques for courtship. The male will do steep climbs and sharp diving loops over and over again to show off to his potential mate. Listen for whistling noises of his wings at the bottom of the swoops. His chatter and flashing of bright colors in the afternoon sun are hard to forget.

Other male birds like to strut and show off patches of color on their bodies. American robins and hooded orioles can be seen using this type of display. Some males even vibrate their wings, fluff body feathers and raise their bills to the sky while running forward.

It is almost show time and the price of admission is just a few pounds of birdseed, fresh sugar nectar or mealworms. Take a seat!

## Harmony Grove—A Call to Action!

We have been hoping for it, talking about it, thinking about it, and NOW is the time to act! Escondido will be holding public hearings to consider whether or not to remove the Harmony Grove area from their sphere of influence (SOI). **The Planning Commission public hearing will be Tuesday, 7:30 pm on January 28th** at City Hall; the city council will consider the SOI issue on February 26th.

If you wish to push back the threat of annexation by Escondido and develop as an independent rural community within the county, please make your voice heard in Escondido! Write a letter or send an email to the city council members. Let them know how you feel. Don't think that someone else will do it...they could be thinking the same thing! The Mayor's phone number at city hall is 760-839-4610, council members can be reached at 760-839-4638. Their email addresses are as follows:

Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler	lpfeiler@ci.escondido.ca.us
Marie Waldron	mwaldron@ci.escondido.ca.us
Ed Gallo	egallo@ci.escondido.ca.us
Tom D'Agosta	tdagosta@ci.escondido.ca.us
Ron Newman	rnewman@ci.escondido.ca.us

If you support the rural village concept with trails and horsekeeping for the area, please let the county planning commissioners know! They will hold public hearings on the GP 2020 plan beginning in late January. Although the tentative date for public input on the Harmony Grove Village concept is February 7th at 2:00 pm, please call our county planner, Dahvia Locke (858-495-5873) to confirm, or check the county Web site ([www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu)). Meanwhile, write or email the commissioners to let them know you support the village concept for Harmony Grove! Please address all correspondence to the San Diego County Planning Commissioners, Attn: Cheryl Jones, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego, CA 92123; or e-mail [cheryl.jones@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:cheryl.jones@sdcounty.ca.gov), (858) 694-3816 (telephone); (858) 694-3373 (FAX).

Contact any of the Village Committee if you need more information or to arrange a ride to the meetings (Mid Hoppenrath 747-1145; Kathy DaSilva 432-6061, Carolyn Floyd 741-6449, Bill Telesco 746-4692).

**SAVE THIS NOTICE AS A REMINDER!**

Remember, it takes a village . . .



## RANCHO SANTA FE SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATION

By Mickey Cross

On Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, the Rancho Santa Fe School Board held a special meeting at the Rancho Santa Fe Inn. It was a “workshop” for the School Board Trustees, but was open to the public. Items covered were: Public input regarding the demographics (someone was questioning the validity of the numbers by Davis Demographics), discussion of the “900” issue (average daily attendance of school children), budget review and update, how to manage increased student population at the current school until a new one is built, and the open seat on the school board left by Michael Kreiss, who recently sold his home and moved out of the district, which required him to resign his board seat.

The demographic input appeared to be nit-picky. The numbers of Davis Demographics did not appear to be that far off actual numbers in the past. I question the motivation of the person, John Ingalls, who questioned the demographic numbers. I believe he has his own agenda, and is aligned probably with those who would like to have a “covenant” school and an incorporated City of Rancho Santa Fe.

The discussion of the 900 ADA (average daily attendance of students) revolved around what the board could do when this number was exceeded to make sure our district was not forced to take in areas outside the school district. The discussion revolved around where appeals went and how the County Board and State Board of Education usually dealt with these things. The attorney for the district also gave the board additional options for action. The board is still concerned that we can't yet handle the projected maximum build out student population here because we only have one school and are currently overcrowded, let alone trying to deal with the onslaught of those who may want in to our district.

I did not stay to hear the discussion regarding budget and labor contracts due to conflicts with pick-up times for children at school.

The board addressed the overcrowding issue and there were various ideas put forth by the consultant to relieve overcrowding. Some of these were: adding more portable classrooms and putting them in the current front parking lot, eliminating the Kindergarten playground and putting portable classrooms there and down the side of the west side pick up driveway/parking area. The board did not make any decisions. It will be a crowded school, though, with all of the portable classrooms.

The last item was a discussion regarding how to go about filling the vacant seat left by Michael Kreiss. Although I also did not stay for that, I was told they would be putting out an application and will be interviewing possible candidates I believe by the next board meeting. Because an election to fill the seat will be too costly (about \$30,000), the board will appoint a person to fill the at least 1 - 1 ½ year remaining term. They may be required to have an election for this seat around Feb/Mar of 2004, when there will be a regular election (along with probably the next attempt at securing school bond for the new school site, etc). This will mean that whoever is elected to this seat at that time, will serve about 6 months before having to run for re-election (in Nov. of 2004). Anyone who lives within the Rancho Santa Fe School district boundaries and who is 18 years of age, may apply for this school board position.

There was one topic not discussed due to lack of time. It was on the agenda under “Long Range Planning”. It read like this: “Does the District purchase an Elfin Forest site.” When I asked Dr. Vinson, our Superintendent, he said it meant should we purchase a site now, later or....”. I'm sure it will be on a future agenda and I will let you know what happens.

### ***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](mailto:alemanni@allea.com) to be added to the list. Cost for the PDF version is free to regular “hardcopy” subscribers and only \$10.00/year to receive the PDF version only.



## Garden Greetings – Ron on Roses

By Nancy Reed

Ron Martin of Sunshine Gardens in Encinitas and Elfin Valley Nursery loves roses. He can wax poetic on them. I stopped him today and asked for a list of his favorites and words of wisdom--rose wisdom.

Ron had a difficult time coming up with a single favorite rose because over the last few years so many new varieties and several new categories have been introduced. Categories include hybrid tea (most popular), floribunda (produce clusters of flowers), grandiflora (large bushes), climbers, miniature, heirloom (sometimes called cabbage or English) and tree. New categories include shrub (full bush with flowers), groundcover, and David Austin (a combo of the good characteristics of the heirloom shrubs and teas).

Ron's favorites by category: heirloom, Yves Piaget (fragrant, deep pink flowers shaped like peonies); shrub, Meidiland series by Jackson and Perkins; climber, 4<sup>th</sup> of July (red and white bicolor), Lady Banks, Cecil Brunner and Sally Holmes (these get big if not pruned, up to 30 feet!), St. Joseph's Coat (an old favorite) and Dortmund (large, red single-petal blooms with an apple scent). The best performers for our area are Double Delight (fragrant, bicolor red and cream tea), Mr. Lincoln (deep red tea), Iceberg (white floribunda) and Brandy (apricot tea). The best seller is Gruss an Aachen, a lavender heirloom. And when pressed, Ron admitted Gertrude Jekyll was his all time favorite (a pink, very fragrant heirloom).

According to Ron, roses like heat, good air circulation, food on a regular basis, full sun and water. When planting, create a basin that will hold water and mulch. Composted manure makes an excellent mulch and can be obtained for free from your horse-owning neighbors. Water regularly, never allowing the plant to completely dry out. Fertilize on a regular basis. Choices abound when it come to rose fertilizers. Organic gardeners can "cook up" rose fertilizers from several books by locals Pat Welsh and Loren Nancarrow.

If off-the-shelf fertilizer is more your style, both organic and non-organic are available. EB Stone is one organic brand available and Bayer makes a non-organic with a systemic pesticide in it. A systemic pesticide is watered into the root zone and is then carried up the plant where only the bugs that chew on the plant are killed. **DO NOT USE A SYSTEMIC ON FOOD CROPS.** My personal experience is using Bayer every 4 weeks and I've never had to spray for bugs. Ron tells me the rose growers today rarely spray chemicals; instead they wash the plants with water early in the morning. Keeping the plant clean keeps the bugs away. Cleanliness is next to bugless, or something like that.

Ron wanted to stress that you can make a rose garden fun by picking a theme. A patriotic theme is easy using roses such as Mr. Lincoln, JFK and Peace. A Hollywood theme could be a winner with names such as Marilyn Monroe, Bing Crosby and Bob Hope. Because of the hundreds of varieties and fanciful names your choices and combos are endless. Ron carries over 400 varieties of roses, so go get dirty and have some fun!

**Addendum from Evelyn:** Bayer fertilizer also keeps thrips out of gladiolas and other plants. Ron has 27,000 roses in stock, covering 490 varieties. Check the rose list and place your order at [www.sunshinegardensinc.com](http://www.sunshinegardensinc.com).

Need a website?  
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[www.elfinforestgardens.info](http://www.elfinforestgardens.info)  
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**ALL.EA**

Evelyn Alemanni 760-591-0417  
[alemanni@allea.com](mailto:alemanni@allea.com)

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## News From Questhaven Retreat



**Sunday worship is at 10:45 a.m.**  
**All are welcome.**

20560 Questhaven Road.  
760-744-1500.

[www.questhaven.org](http://www.questhaven.org).

**Study groups** meet on weeknights. Please call the office for times and locations.

### **Weekly - Meditation**

*Wednesday at 7:15 p.m.*

*Meet at El Chapelito, Led by Jean Michalewicz.*

### **The Way Within Meditation Classes**

*1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 12:00 Noon*

*Meet in the Academy, Led by Rev. Phyllis Isaac.*

### **Exploration in Prayer Classes**

*2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 12:00 Noon*

*Meet in the Academy, Led by Rev. Elizabeth Wood.*

### **February 2—Opening the Gates of Awareness**

Rev. Phyllis Isaac

### **February 9—Love is a Bridge to Heaven**

Rev. Myna Triggs

### **February 16—The Tithe of Exampleship**

Evelyn Alemanni

### **February 23—Love: The Thorned Flower**

Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

### **March 2—Carving Your Path Through Christian**

**Mysticism** Rev. Blake Isaac

### **March 9—Embrace the Challenge of Lent and**

**Climb Christward** Jean Michalewicz

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## Sheriff's Department Contacts

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

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

Robert Jennings – Deputy 760-510-5223

Norma Nares – Sargeant 760-510-5217

Tim Mahoney – Deputy 760-510-5224

Betty (B.J.) Williams – Crime Prevention

Specialist/Neighborhood Watch 760-510-5254

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## Elfin Forest Ladies Bunco Night

**By Lori Clark**

The next Potluck-Bunco Party is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-10pm at Joy Jackson's home, 7060 Los Vientos Serenos. RSVP 760-752-8682. Whether you're new to Elfin Forest, a long-time resident or somewhere in between, you're invited to socialize with neighbors and play Bunco for fun and prizes. Please plan to bring a \$5 bill, a dish to share, and beverage to share. Ladies Bunco Night happens on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month (provided we have a volunteer to host). To volunteer to host a future Bunco event, please contact Lori Clark at 760-510-2001 or by e-mail at [clark-17@ix.netcom.com](mailto:clark-17@ix.netcom.com).

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## Dogism's



If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."

- Will Rogers

"Dogs love their friends and bite their enemies, quite unlike people, who are incapable of pure love

and always have to mix love and hate."

- Sigmund Freud

"The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue."

- Anonymous

"Dogs need to sniff the ground; it's how they keep abreast of current events. The ground is a giant dog newspaper, containing all kinds of late-breaking dog news items, which, if they are especially urgent, are often continued in the next yard."

- Dave Barry

"No animal should ever jump up on the dining-room furniture unless absolutely certain that he can hold his own in the conversation."

- Fran Lebowitz

"My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to \$3.00 a can. That's almost \$21.00 in dog money."

- Joe Weinstein

"Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful."

- Ann Landers

"Outside of a dog, a book is probably man's best friend; inside of a dog it's too dark to read."

- Groucho Marx

"Ever consider what they must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul -- chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!"

-Anne Tyler

## chaparral Advertising

Do you advertise in the *chaparral*? **We love our advertisers!** Along with subscription fees, they help make this newsletter possible and they let the community know of the many wonderful businesses and services available.

To renew your advertising, send a JPG format file and a check for the advertising. See rates below. Send your check, payable to the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council, 20223 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest, CA. 92029.

### chaparral Advertising Rates:

	One-time rates:	Yearly rates:
1" x 3.5"	\$5.00	\$36.00/year
2" x 3.5"	\$7.50	\$55.00/year
5" x 3.5"	\$12.00	\$115.00/year
1/2 page	\$20.00	\$165.00/year

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1" x 3 1/2" (approx. 4 lines): no charge - must be resubmitted every 3 months.



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619.368.5650 cell

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## Classified

### Local Baby, Animal and House Sitters

Brooke York - EF Resident, LCC School 9th grader, Baby Sitting. Tel: 760-752-7784

Jared York - EF Resident, RSF School 7th grader, Baby sit or feed animals. Tel: 760-752-7784

**For Sale:** Beautiful full size antique bed. Includes headboard, footboard, box spring, and mattress. \$700.00. Call Rachel 760-471-4952

**Rental Wanted:** Well-behaved woman and cat looking to rent a small place in EF, HG, or EV. Local references (EF resident last 3 1/2 years). Call Nancy 760-471-4613 or 760-489-2250.

**Wanted:** Family wants to rent Elfin Forest home, 3+ bedrooms. Call 760-727-2719.

**Free:** Sofa beds to good homes. One is in fair condition the other in good condition. Blue/Beige or Yellow/Orange/White color combinations. All we ask is that you pick them up at our home. Available now. Call 760-752-1014.

**Wanted:** Housecleaning person for 4 hours each week. Various jobs. Please call Leslie for details. 760-752-1014.

**Custom Home Site:** 9.25 acres in Harmony Grove. Panoramic Views! Ready to build. \$225,000. For sale by owner. Details online at [www.lot4sale.info](http://www.lot4sale.info). 760-471-7224.



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Articles of up to 500 words should be sent to Joe Alemanni by email to [alemanni@vicrp.com](mailto:alemanni@vicrp.com) in plain text format by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next issue. Anonymous articles will not be published. Space limitations may cause articles to be held over to the next issue or edited for brevity. Articles considered unsuitable for publication will not be published.

The Board gratefully acknowledges the efforts of Joe and Evelyn Alemanni for editing, producing and distributing this newsletter.