



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Mid Hoppenrath

We have a lot of communicating to do! The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) public hearing period on keeping Harmony Grove in the Escondido sphere of influence is open until July 18th. Be sure to let LAFCO know what you think of their report. The County is also accepting comments on their master trails plan (see separate articles this issue).

The July 2nd town council meeting will feature guests from Olivenhain Municipal Water District and the County Water Authority with updates on the dam and related issues. We'll also have a speaker on the proposed Wal-Mart and schools.

More good news, we are growing even more rural! A recently updated but informal survey has shown even more livestock are being kept on residential properties in our valley (more on this in the August issue.)

Volunteer residents have gotten together in both Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove to weed whack and clean up yards and trails and we can all be proud of the results. (Keep your fingers crossed for the America in Bloom contest judging!) Please continue to use your town council as a community resource and let us know your thoughts on all that is going on in our ever more beautiful valley!

The August town council meeting is devoted to trails issues so mark your calendars now for August 6th.

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Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, July 2th @ 7:30 p.m.

At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station

Topics: Updates on Dam, Wal-Mart, and Schools

Guest Speakers: Alex Newton and others from the County Water Authority and Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Parade Update

by Tom & Lisa Stephenson

Our 26th Annual Parade will be here quicker than the time it takes for San Elijo Hills to bulldoze another ridge top! This year all participants will receive a 4th of July stars & stripes visor and a custom red, white or blue parade bib number.

Remember, parade check in starts at 1:15 in the afternoon. The parade will start at 2:00, or whenever we can get everybody lined up. There will be shade for all little elves and their parents (over-the-hill elves can stand in the shade too.) Cold drinks will be sold in our lovely dirt and rock covered parade staging area.

All category winners will receive a newly designed Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove 1st place medal. Just think how cool you'll look cruising around the picnic with your winner's medal draped around your neck!

JUDGES CAN BE BRIBED! If you really want one of our new, really cool medals, **BRIBE** the judges! The more creative, the better chance you have to walk away with a medal! The judges will be observing from the back of a really dusty and dirt covered brown F150 crew cab pickup. The judges will be the ones eating and drinking all of your bribes!!!!

If you have questions or know who has kidnapped the perpetual parade float trophy, give us a call @ 760-744-7744.

A Promise Kept

By Joe Alemanni

Those of us driving along Harmony Grove Road may find it hard to believe, but yes, the stop light erected for the construction of the OMWD dam has been removed as promised. We should not forget to thank the management of OMWD and our neighbor and OMWD Board of Directors member, Sue Varty, for making sure that the installation of the stop light was truly temporary. The communication and cooperation between OMWD and the community on the dam construction should be a model for all such projects in the future.

4th Of July Parade Details

Take a day off from weed wacking and come on down and be part of our 26th annual 4th of July parade and picnic. This year's event will be held on June 29th. The parade theme is "Keep'n It Country". To celebrate our great rural lifestyle we are adding a couple of new categories to our parade line up.

* **Best wheelbarrow or horse manure mucking cart:** A lot of us are quite proficient at using both! Note: Remember to wash out that horse manure before decorating!!!!

* **Best baby buggy:** We have a lot of new families in our community and we know you moms can't wait to push your decorated stroller down Elfin Forest Road.

* **Best rust bucket:** One of the great things about rural living is watching your neighbor's old cars and trucks rust away in their yards! Help your neighbors put some tires back on those old heaps, decorate them and drive, tow, push or drag them in the parade.

The rest of the categories are:

* **Boy's bicycle.**

* **Girl's bicycle.**

* **Man's best friend:** (dog, cat, cow, goat, pig, chicken, goldfish, etc...) Note: squirrels and jack-rabbits not welcome.

* **Horses:** what's a country fair without horses?

* **Parade theme float:** " Keep'n It Country"

* **Music man, woman or animal.**

* **Tractors, ATVs, golf carts, etc.**

* **Vehicles without rust.**

This year's parade will kick off around 2:00 pm. Parade check in and line up will start at 1:15 pm. There will be shade for the little kids and parents. Cheap ice cold drinks will be available at the Parade check in. You may also pre-buy your picnic food tickets at the sign up area.

Quail Ridge Hearing Rescheduled

The hearing before the Board of Supervisors for the Quail Ridge (Hover) project (proposed 69 homes north of Elfin Forest Road near Fortuna Del Norte) has been again rescheduled for Wednesday July 30th at the County Administration building.

Contact Patti Newton @760-471-8937 or jump@newcoursejumps.com for information or updates. This is the third rescheduling of this hearing.

Picnic News

By Janet McGurk

4th of July Country Fair - Sunday, June 29, 2003

Here's a short update on the upcoming picnic and a call for volunteers. The dunk tank is back! It's an inflatable plastic tank (no rusty metal or hard sides to get hurt on). Like to be one of the people in the tank? You must be 10 years of age or older please. Let us know (phone numbers below) and remember to bring a change of clothes or your swimsuit.

The Red Lane Band is playing for us this year so we'll have great music. Photo contest rules and entry form are found elsewhere in this newsletter. Send in your entry forms so we have an idea of the number of entries and can plan space for displaying the pictures. Volunteers are still needed for:

- Set up on Saturday June 28th and Sunday the 29th.
- Clean up after the picnic.
- Horseshoe Tournament.
- Coordinate and oversee ping-pong tournament.
- Coordinate and oversee kite-making activity.
- Coordinate and oversee animals at the "zoo".
- Coordinate and oversee donation of items that can be used in the raffle and silent action.
- Manning the various booths.

We'll drop any activity that doesn't get a sufficient number of volunteers. Note: the pony rides and line dancing went the way of all budget cuts. Your picnic coordinators are Janet McGurk, 760-471-0831, and Rachael Barnes, 760-471-4300.

Calendar For July 2003

Date	Time	Event
Weds 7/2	7: 30 pm	EF/HG Town Council Meeting
Tues 7/1, Tues 7/15	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Bookmobile@Firehouse
Tues 7/1, Tues 7/15	7 pm	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Fri	10 am – noon	Playgroup
Every Thurs	6:30 pm	Yoga
Mon 7/14	7 pm	Fire Board@Firehouse
Weds 7/9	7 pm	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Sat 7/26	8 am	Fire Training@Firehouse

CARE Grants Awarded

By Phil Stillman

As many of you may remember, after winning a key battle in its lawsuit against the San Elijo Hills development five years ago, Citizens Against Rural Exploitation ("CARE") entered into a settlement agreement with San Elijo to provide certain financial benefits to the Elfin Forest community to help attempt to mitigate impacts that the San Elijo development has on the community.

Obviously, many things are difficult to change, such as increased traffic. But, thanks to San Elijo's financial commitments as part of the settlement of that litigation, CARE has been able, over the last four years, to donate funds for good causes in the Elfin Forest community. This included providing needed funds to support the Elfin Forest Fire Department, funding trash pickup along the roads, enabling The Escondido Creek Conservancy to purchase valuable open space to help preserve the rural atmosphere of the community, and helping to fund the Elfin Forest Landscape Foundation's wonderful work in beautifying Elfin Forest Road.

Thus, it is with pleasure that CARE once again will donate money this year to these worthy causes in excess of \$100,000. CARE director Jeff Swenerton plans to present the checks to the recipients at the Fourth of July picnic. And just a reminder: part of CARE's work for the community is to help solve problems that you may be experiencing with the San Elijo developers. If you have problems on which you would like CARE's assistance as ombudsman, please send an email detailing the problem to

philstillman@fstlaw.com.

The New Community Guide

A brand new edition of the community guide is being prepared for publication this fall. One of the themes is helping new neighbors understand things they might not know about living in a rural community. Another objective is to include information about the history of Harmony Grove – its unique heritage and settlers.

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

New Elfin Forest Sign

By Evelyn Alemanni

Congratulations to the Elfin Forest Landscape Foundation (EFLF) for completing the entry sign to Elfin Forest. It was a big project that included constructing a stone wall and support pillars, installing fencing, improving drainage, creating the decorative elements for the sign, and landscaping. The original wooden Elfin Forest sign was refurbished, strengthened, and resealed by Richard Newton. Jennifer and Charles Coburn fabricated and installed the decorative sculptural elements, and Ron Martin of Elfin Valley Nursery donated plants. Many thanks to Matthew and Maryann Holden for allowing the sign to be built on their property.

The goal was to complete the sign in time for the visit by the national judges for the America in Bloom competition and Frank Oddo and Lynda Clerke of the EFLF made it happen. Amazingly, within nine hours of the sign's completion, a vehicle ran into it causing significant damage to the stonework. One account of the accident is that on May 31st a person driving a stolen car crashed into the sign at about 1 a.m. There were no injuries and the person made a hasty escape (leaving the wrecked car and assorted loose parts.)



Photo: Evelyn Alemanni

Fortunately, the sign was repaired and looked perfect when the judges arrived on June 17. (Please see related America in Bloom story.)

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Photo: Evelyn Alemanni

America In Bloom Competition

By Evelyn Alemanni



Two weedwacker weekends and the commitment of lots of elves made Elfin Forest shine as national judges Leslie Croyle and Jeff McMann toured our community on June 17 – 19. Under the guidance of Eric

Anderson who chaired our America in Bloom effort, the judges were escorted to the firesafe garden for a meeting with reporters from the North County Times and San Diego Union. From there, they went to the Elfin Forest Reserve for a morning of hiking, wildflower viewing, and learning about the importance of chaparral as habitat. Their afternoon was spent touring some remarkable local gardens, including those of Charles and Jennifer Coburn, Martha Blane and Leonard Wittwer, and Phil Favell. The day ended with a dinner in Joe and Evelyn Alemanni's garden.

America in Bloom is a nationwide competition, and Elfin Forest is the smallest community to enter. We will find out the results in September. You can learn more at www.americainbloom.org.



Town council members, Landscape foundation, and others enjoyed dinner with national America in Bloom judges. Photo: Patti Newton

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Karen Gardner

Date: June 7, 2003

Members Present: Evelyn Alemanni, Eric Anderson, Rachel Barnes, Arie Franken, Karen Gardner, Janet McGurk, Mid Hoppenrath, Patti Newton, and Nancy Reed.

Call to Order: 7:30 pm

Mid Hoppenrath announced that New Urban West is encouraging community input regarding the Harmony Grove development plan. Mid suggested all those with interest and concerns contact NUWI via phone, e-mail, or use the town council as a vehicle to express your concerns. She stressed the importance of this input as a way to ensure the community is heard.

The August town council meeting will address the issue of trails. This is an opportunity to clarify details.

There is no date set yet for the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to deal with the Sphere of Influence (SOI) issues.

The July town council meeting will allow OMWD to update the community on the dam project.

June 11th, the County Board of Supervisors' agenda will address GP2020 issues. Speakers' slips must be turned in by 9 a.m.

On June 5th, at 6:30 p.m., a meeting regarding non-covenant school sites will take place.

Nancy Reed warned of taggers hitting the Via Ambiente bridge. Anyone finding such activity should call the sheriff.

Ari Franken advised that mail theft has reared its ugly head again and suggested residents consider the "armadillo" style boxes available from Enclosures in Escondido.

Janet McGurk reminded residents the annual Fourth of July celebration will be held June 29th. Activities will include a photo contest and a dunk tank.

Eric Anderson notified residents that the America in Bloom contest judges will be touring the 'hood on June 16th, 17th, and 18th.

Natalie Chaffer broadcast the results of the "Most Beautiful Street in Elfin Forest" contest. Local judges determined it was Fortuna del Sur with its well kept properties and displays of pride of ownership that should win!

Steve Barker inquired about the Treasurer's Report (which was unavailable, as town council Treasurer, Rachel Barnes was not in attendance.)

Nancy Conney, Skyhunters Raptor Rehabilitation and Education Center, brought several raptors with her. Among them, an american kestrel, screech owl, red-tailed hawk, and a barn owl. Nancy has become a regular and treasured guest whose colorful and insightful "hawk talks" are educational and entertaining.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 pm

Minutes Of The Fire Auxiliary

By Mary Garman

Date: June 11, 2003

Meeting called to order at 7:15

Minutes read and approved.

The Fire Auxiliary voted to not do the garden tour lunch for 2004. The auxiliary has too few members to put on a lunch with a large attendance.

4th of July Picnic on June 29th - Auxiliary members will assist in cutting up tomatoes and onions for the hamburgers. We will have our annual bake sale to benefit the fire dept. We also will be selling entertainment books.

July 19th is the garage/produce/plants/craft sale at the fire department. Hours are 8 am to noon. Advertising will be done with signs on Rancho Santa Fe Road. Call Mary Garman, 760-591-4284, for information on this event.

Save October 18th for our annual chili cook-off contest. We will also have a pumpkin carving and largest pumpkin contest and we will play bingo!

Auxiliary members signed up to provide lunch for the volunteer fire department on the training day that is the 4th Saturday of the month.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Are New Rural Residential Subdivisions In Harmony Grove Dead?

By Doug Dill

How's that headline grab you? Pretty strong words, but I want to make a point about the reality of what may be in the future for the Harmony Grove egg ranches and dairies. We've all been reading about and maybe even participating in the discussion about the Village at Harmony Grove concept that the County GP2020 plan introduced and the developers, New Urban West, have proposed. It is very disappointing, to say the least, that the obvious re-development of the egg ranches and dairies as lovely rural residential estates with a restored Escondido Creek and its tributaries with a wonderful interconnected trail system is not on the table. If this was the case, we could all relax and worry about other things. But economic interests rule with the development of large blocks of private land and to understand where we are today we need to review some history to get the perspective.

First, the proposed Village development footprint is the current egg ranches, dairy farms, and abandoned quarries in Harmony Grove. The families that own the ranches and dairies have been looking for an "exit strategy" for the last 20 years. Escondido has been looking for more industrial park land for the last 20 years and Harmony Grove has been a prime target. For the past twenty years, every time Escondido started the annexation wheels in motion for Harmony Grove, it was with the intention as industrial park use, NOT FOR RURAL RESIDENTIAL HOMES. Industrial park developers were prepared to option the ranches and dairies if Escondido could successfully annex Harmony Grove.

Second, five years ago the County started its General Plan 2020 initiative and identified Harmony Grove as a potential village core area to absorb a portion of the additional county population expected over the next 20 years. From this came New Urban West's proposal. The owners of the ranches and dairies now have an economically viable alternative to Escondido's industrial park.

Third, Escondido and supporters of annexation have lost their corporate memory about the industrial park intentions for Harmony Grove ever since New Urban West's proposal. Ideally what the community wants is the egg ranches and dairy farms to be developed into multi-acre rural residential estate homes. That would

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be perfectly acceptable to everyone. But there are no developers pounding a path to the doors of the egg ranch and dairy farm owners with offers to buy their property to build such a project.

Remember the saying "Actions speak louder than words". Unfortunately, this leaves the community to decide between the lesser of two evils, Escondido's historic action to industrialize Harmony Grove or a high-end developer's village concept working hand-in-hand with the county's initiative and the community's desire for a rural style village that is integral with Harmony Grove.

This process has a long way to go. It is far from over. The final dwelling unit number for New Urban West's proposal is still up for discussion. Definitive density numbers are still being worked out. The Town Council still needs to negotiate with New Urban West on dwelling unit numbers and density compatible with the community. It's important for the Harmony Grove Community to understand the FACTS about the County Village concept and weigh that with what Escondido MIGHT offer.

Editor's Note: Doug Dill is a resident of Elfin Forest, former member/chair of the EF/HG Town Council and currently Vice-Chair of the San Dieguito Planning Group.

That's The Law, Again

By Elton (Joe) Rife

I would strongly recommend that you contact Carrie Hall at carrie.hall@sdcounty.ca.gov to report suspected major use permit violations. If everyone reports suspected violations of the zoning laws then Carrie Hall could do her job more effectively.

Believe ME, we as a community must stick together! If we don't, the violations will become more and more flagrant until your rights are infringed upon. The laws against public stable/horse boarding facilities without a major use permit were designed to protect you and the value of your property.

As an example, consider the possibility that someone who has so little respect for the law and their neighbors that they place a chemical toilet on their property line adjacent to your patio and bedroom so that their "clients" can relieve themselves, thus requiring you to smell the chemicals and human waste and hear the door banging. This would certainly be the time to do something! Doesn't matter though, that the law!

County Draft Trail Map Available

By Mid Hoppenrath

You can view the county draft trails map at <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/parks/home.html>.

You need to look under the San Dieguito Planning area to find the Harmony Grove and Eden Valley trails, and look at the extreme northeast portion, marked North County Metro. You will also need to zoom the image a lot to recognize the trails!

The public review period for the draft CTMP will end August 1, 2003. If you would like to submit comments, please forward them on or before August 1st to:

County of San Diego
Department of Parks and Recreation
Attention: CTMP Public Comment
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite P
San Diego, CA 92123-1699

If you have general questions or need additional information, you may contact Maryanne Vancio, Trails Program Coordinator, at 858-694-3969 or fax your comments to 858-495-5841.

Please note that our proposed trails all link to areas beyond EF, HG and EV, like Lake Hodges, the Elfin Forest Preserve, Jake's Pond, and the Escondido Research and Technology Center. These proposed trails are for public access, and designed for use by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Jogging and dog walking are encouraged! Please remember that some portions are on private property, and therefore are subject to the owner's approval, even if county approval is granted.

Our streets are getting more and more crowded, and it is getting harder and harder to safely get around our community on foot. Please take the time to let the county know how you feel about this proposed trail system. A lot of work went into getting the trails system this far. Now it is time to do your part and let the county know if you support this trail system.

We have invited Maryanne Vancio to our August Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council meeting (Wednesday, August 6th, 7:30 pm), but this is after the public review period, which ends August 1st.

LAFCO Report Out for Public

Comment

By Mid Hoppenrath

The LAFCO staff report on recommendations to keep Harmony Grove in the Escondido sphere of influence (SOI) or allow it to leave the SOI is available on their Web site for public review and comment. To view the reports, go to www.sdlafco.org, and click on the left hand side of their home page to view the North County Inland Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update Study.

The staff recommendation is to retain all areas in Escondido's SOI. If you have strong feelings on this issue, please take the time to read the LAFCO report (at least read the parts about Harmony Grove), and let the executive officer, Mike Ott, know what you think about the report and the issues (619-531-5400).

We're Taking Over

By I.C. Trouble (tongue in cheek, Kathy DaSilva)

I'm starting a new group called "Citizens for Control of the Valley", or CFCOTV. The object of this group is to circulate both information and petitions as none of us have enough to do now. I feel strongly that if our petitions have just one more signature than someone else's, we'll get our way. Putting our own spin on things and manipulating numbers can get a whole bunch of folks to sign our petitions and if we use a good mix of old and new numbers, we can get folks all in a dither about density.

The basic premise here is don't trust the county or the city, make the egg ranchers sell eggs forever (thereby maintaining open space) and be sure we have absolute control by forming this group unless of course, someone forms another group.

Who wants to join?

Free 2003 Entertainment Book!

Order and pay for the 2004 Entertainment Book (arriving in late August) and receive a 2003 book absolutely **FREE**. The EF/HG Fire Department sponsors this "two for the price of one" deal. Call Claudia at 760-744-9052.

The School Yard

By John Stiker

Welcome back to the School Yard! First important note...by the time you read this, we've already finished our June 18th meeting to approve next year's budget so our next meeting to talk sites is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9th at 7pm in the LGI.

School Site Principles - At our June 11th meeting, we heard terrific input from residents on the difficult choices we face – generally very positive and focused on the kids – and for that, we thank you and hope for more! We covered a lot of ground at that meeting, and as we approached our action items we agreed on some guiding principles that led us to our decisions:

1. Keep the R. Roger Rowe School in the heart of the Village and keep elementary school kids there:

Done. Agreed. It's possible that we could *also* have a district-wide middle school at Rowe (see the next principle) but in all future planning that you see from the Board, we'll assume that Rowe is part of those plans and that at minimum it will include an elementary school (i.e. it won't be a middle-school only site). We will not pursue moving the entire school down to Calzada any further.

2. Make sure that this bond creates a great-quality middle school for our kids:

We heard this feedback from a lot of residents and from our administrative team from the educational side. Translation: keep our middle schoolers together at a District-wide level, and give them better facilities than we have today – playing fields, labs, arts, and technology. This improves the quality of their education, athletics, and overall preparation for high school. We're investigating whether we could do this at Rowe, assuming we could add more acreage and re-design the layout somewhat...or it could be at Cielo, Calzada or another central site. But in all future planning from the Board, we'll keep our middle schoolers together and with improved facilities.

3. If Rowe can support a bigger middle school, great...but don't leave Rowe as the only campus in the District!:

This one almost goes without saying...but just to be clear, even if we determine that we can find room to improve our middle school facilities on Rowe to keep the district wide middle school there, the bond will also ask for funds to build another elementary school to service northeast residents, most likely in the Cielo location. And to manage the traffic and student count that would

remain at Rowe, we'd need to look at some road and traffic improvements around Rowe (working closely with the Association) as well as expanded acreage.

4. The other option to investigate would be to make Rowe a district-wide elementary school and build a district-wide middle school next:

This district-wide middle school could be at Cielo, Calzada, or another central site depending on what we learn about those sites and be the school we build next with funds from the upcoming bond. We have heard loud and clear the desire to have that middle school be "to the east"...but for now we are leaving Calzada in the mix as Cielo is by no means a "done deal" and other sites have issues as well.

So Where Do We Go Next? - At our July meeting, we're going to review two options: 1) a southwest elementary and district-wide middle school on Rowe together with a northeast elementary at Cielo, and 2) having a district-wide elementary at Rowe and a district-wide middle school at Cielo (which as mentioned could end up being Calzada or elsewhere, but to keep it simple we'll look at Cielo – and hopefully by then we'll have an update on how those negotiations are progressing.) The key things we'll be looking for are:

Can you really fit a high-quality district-wide middle school on Rowe together with a southwest elementary school? What do you need for additional acreage and traffic considerations? What are the tradeoffs in physical facilities in doing that, vs. doing a dedicated middle-school only site? What are the relative cost comparisons of those two scenarios? Recognize that we won't disclose land acquisition costs for the Cielo site (or any other site to be purchased) as those are in negotiations...but we'll share what we can on construction at least to enable comparisons. What do the traffic considerations look like for each of those scenarios? And lastly, how do these fit with the eventual need someday for a possible third site?

Upcoming Meeting Topics - To summarize, we've a lot to cover on July 9th as we continue to press towards presenting bond language in October. But we've made a lot of progress in narrowing down our options, and we believe that with your help we're getting closer. Please keep up the input, both at meetings and via phone or email, as we make the hard decisions to get this job done. We hope to see you on the 9th!

Fortuna Del Sur Voted Most Beautiful Street In Elfin Forest

By Evelyn Alemanni

Which street is the best looking and best maintained in Elfin Forest? As Natalie Chaffer, one of the judges put it, "There were a lot of nice streets, many with potential and quite a few that were work in progress. We also observed a lot of community pride and effort."

Using many of the same guidelines that the national America in Bloom judges use, the judging team composed of Natalie Chaffer, Lisa Stephenson, and Janet Gothard carefully evaluated every street before deciding that Fortuna del Sur was the clear winner.

Congratulations and thank you, to the judges, and to everyone on Fortuna del Sur for all your efforts.



Photo: Evelyn Alemanni

Need a website?

Call for a free consultation.

Check these samples of our recent work:

www.sunshinegardensinc.com

www.efhgtc.org (town council website)

www.elfinfoestgardens.info

www.coburntopiary.com

www.allea.com

www.sdhortsoc.org

www.buenacreekgardens.com

www.sdvdesigns.com

www.debraleebaldwin.com

ALL.EA

Evelyn Alemanni 760-591-0417

alemanni@allea.com

Heritage Trees

By Evelyn Alemanni

The town council has adopted a new program called "Heritage Trees". The purpose is to:

- to support and enhance our rural environment;
- to emphasize the importance of trees in the community;
- to designate trees of historic or biological significance;
- to honor the citizen(s) of the year.

Heritage trees are trees of significance to the community. It's not necessary they are of a certain species or age. Heritage trees are designated by the town council based on community input. Details about the trees and their locations will be maintained on the town council's web site.

Beginning in 2003, the town council will each year dedicate one of the trees along the trail on Elfin Forest Road for each "citizen of the year". Plaques will be created for past and future citizens of the year. Once all the trees along the road have been dedicated, the town council will fund the purchase and planting of an additional tree each year to honor the citizen(s) of the year. Fran Lambert, a certified arborist, will be the board liaison for the heritage trees program.

Don't Cut down that Tree

From the California Oak Report

www.californiaoaks.org

Oaks Crime Deserves Time - A man who bulldozed over 300 oak trees on his property in Ojai has been convicted on 11 criminal counts related to the tree clearing. William Kaddis, 58, of Los Angeles could face up to 3 1/2 years in jail and fines of nearly \$100,000 for stripping his 44-acre parcel bare. "This was the largest rape of land in the history of Ventura County, and if they think we wouldn't prosecute anyone who destroyed our environment, they're wrong," said Deputy District Attorney Karen Wold.

Oak Legislation Moves Forward - The Senate has passed Senate Bill 711 (Kuehl). SB 711 requires on or before January 1, 2005, that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) adopt regulations to implement mitigation provisions for oak losses. It further requires CDF to issue a permit for the conversion of oak woodlands.

Rattlesnake Warning!

By Fran Lambert

This is a reminder to use extra caution now that the weather is warming up. The other evening we found a big rattlesnake in our garage near the refrigerator. We and our dogs had walked past his location several times before he "rattled" so we are very grateful no one was bitten. Apparently, he entered the night before when my husband was cleaning his truck with the garage doors open. The snake then cooled himself during the day under the spare refrigerator we have there.

All the grading to the west has no doubt displaced many creatures, so we may expect more of them than usual now that the rains are over. Plus rabbits and other food sources will be moving closer to our homes giving them more reasons to visit us.

This might be a good time to check the seals under your doors as well as keeping them closed during "hunting" hours in the evening and making sure your snake hook is handy. Also, keep your pets close by to prevent snake bites. Keep the sides of your garage clear so you can see and get to snakes if needed. We keep our refrigerator a couple of feet in front of the wall to help keep rodents under control.

We hope everyone will have a safe summer. Just a few extra measures are a small effort to enjoy our rural environment.

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

Gary Floyd – COPPS - 760-510-5231
gary.floyd@sdsheriff.org.

Tim Mahoney – Deputy 760-510-5224

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

Community Guide Advertising

If you are interested in advertising in the next edition of the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Community Guide (which is published only every few years), please contact Karen Gardner at 760-744-9500 or email her at karen@vintagematerialism.com.

July 2003

Love Roses, Hate Paying The Water Bill?

By Evelyn Alemanni

Here's a list of DROUGHT-RESISTANT ROSES observed growing in northern California with little or no irrigation. The list comes from Mendocino Heirloom Roses (P.O. Box 670, Mendocino, CA 95460.)

'Albertine'
'American Pillar'
'Belle of Portugal'
'Climbing Cécile Brunner'
'Complicata'
'Dorothy Perkins'
'Double Plum'
'Dr. W. Van Fleet'
'François Juranville'
'Gardenia'
'Homestead Hybrid China'
'Mme. Gabriel Luizet'
'Mme. Plantier'
'Navaroo Ridge Noisette'
'New Dawn'
'Paul Ricault'
'Paul's Double Musk'
'Rambling Rector'
Rosa banksiae 'Lutea'
R. harisonii
R. rubiginosa
R. rugosa
'Russelliana'
'Silver Moon'
'Veilchenblau'

Elf Alerts

Elf Alerts are email notices about issues that need your immediate attention. They don't replace the newsletter, but supplement it.

If you are not receiving your Elf Alerts, please send your email address to alemanni@allea.com and ask to be added to the list. Don't worry, the emails are sent as blind CCs, so your address is not made public, and we don't share the list with ANYONE. *If you have recently changed your email address, please let us know.*

Let's Talk Horses

By Nancy Reed

Summer is here and it's time for a vacation. Why not vacation with your horse? With a little planning and an adventurous spirit you can see our beautiful nation from the back of your best equine friend. I just returned from Rancho Cuyamaca State Park for my second trip of the season. Here are a few things I've learned:

More is better:

- Take more horse food than you think is necessary. Your horse will be working harder than at home due to altitude, more trail miles, stress from travel and being in a new place. Lyric, my 5-year-old Arab mare turned into a chowhound this last trip and ate almost constantly. I had to come home early due to lack of food. And a hungry horse is not a fun mount!
- Take extra tack. You will not be able to ride if your only bridle breaks.
- Take a horse blanket. My friend's Arab/quarter horse cross became ill after several chilly nights on a trip, costing several hundred dollars in vet bills.
- Take a horse first aid kit. Include liniment, bute (phenylbutazone), leg wraps, etc. If your horse has a known condition that can flare up, take that treatment with you. On my first trip our quarter horse, Sierra, injured her hoof. We had to come home early, as I did not have the medicine on hand to treat it.

New is not good:

- Never try new equipment or food while on a trip. Always test-drive new tack on familiar soil first.
- Never feed new types of food, you are only inviting trouble, such as colic.

Train first, then travel:

- Train your horse on local trails, then try a day trip before you go overnight. No one wants to get hurt or have to deal with an unruly horse on a trip. We are blessed with some of the best trails in the nation here in Elfin Forest. If your horse can travel these home trails safely, you will be in good shape to go just about anyplace in the US and Canada.
- **Ride right:**
- Ride according to your and your horse's ability. Start on the easier flatter trails, and then advance to the more difficult trails. If you overwork yourself or your horse on the first day, the entire trip will be ruined.

- Avoid riding in the heat of the day. I like to ride early in the morning and late in the afternoon/early evening. I found that when the first mosquito bites, it's time to mount up. We got fewer bites and had more cooperative mounts by riding in the cooler hours. We also got to see more wild life such as deer, wild turkey and bobcats.

- Always ride with someone else. Take water, a cell phone, wear sunscreen and be alert. I was dumped on the last ride of the trip when a doe jumped out of the shadows of an oak tree just 10 feet from my horse. Had I been paying attention I could have stayed in the saddle.

- Discipline yourself and your horse. No one likes noisy/rowdy campers - human or equine. Be courteous to all in camp and on the trails. As special trail users, it only takes one bad incident to lose permission to ride the trails. We are there as a guest, not by right. Be nice to all and practice the Golden Rule at all times.

Our local camps are fabulous with overnight and day use areas. Just 45 minutes north is Casper's Park in south Orange County. Take I-5 north to Ortega Highway. Go east approximately 15 minutes. Casper's is much like Elfin Forest with oak and sycamore groves, grass meadows and a seasonal creek. Cuyamaca is about two hours east. I like to take I-15 to I-8 east and exit at Descanso onto highway 79. Cuyamaca is located in pine and oak woodlands with more trails to ride than you can do in a week. For more information go to www.cuyamaca.statepark.org or www.ocparks.com/caspers

chaparral by email

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

EIR Library Needs Your Old EIRs

The fire station now has a library for town council records and environmental impact reports. If you have EIRs or items that belong in the town council archives bring them to the next town council meeting and give them to Janet McGurk or contact her at 760-471-8937 or mcurk@bytebloc.com.

Coastal Horned Lizard

By Paul Curtis

Recently our pup Mara brought her prize to me. Luckily it was unharmed. I had never seen a lizard like this and was intrigued. The poor fellow was covered in mud so I brought him in and cleaned him off. I broke out the Audubon guide and there it was; the coastal horned lizard. It was the most interesting lizard I had seen around here and was the type I always liked as a kid from looking at pictures.

I had no idea they were so endangered. It is no wonder with all of the habitat destruction from apparent uncontrolled development. After waiting to see if he was injured I released him. Once the sun came up and he warmed up, he got quite active and I thought he could fend for himself. We took him close to where we found him outside the yard in a quiet area. He stared at us for a few minutes for pictures and then scampered off. We wished him luck and hoped he had a mate nearby to make more.

It does a heart good to see wildlife like this but it hurts when driving by the massive developments going up in San Marcos and Carlsbad, and think of how many horned lizards and other creatures have perished. It is no wonder there are so many endemic animals on endangered or protected lists. It is for these reasons that we must try to stop the sprawl, preserving what little we have left. I want my children to have the opportunity to see a horned lizard in the wild, not some nearly extinct specimen in a zoo.



Photo: Paul A. Curtis, M.Sc.

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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. If you feel the problem was still not resolved, call San Elijo at 760-918-8200.

Who ya gonna call?

To report **illegal dumping**: 858-495-5143
To report **excessive noise**: 858-694-3741
To report **zoning violations**: 760-940-2893
To report **excessive noise**: 858-694-3741

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.

News From Questhaven Retreat



Sunday worship is at 10:45 a.m.
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 7:15 p.m.

Meet at El Chapelito, Led by Jean Michalewicz.

The Way Within Meditation Classes

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 12:00 Noon

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

Exploration in Prayer Classes

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 12:00 Noon

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

June 29 — Mysticism, Energy Fields and the Biosphere Gwen Hulbert

July 6 — God Is Rev. Susan S. Cary

July 13 — The Spiritual Value of Friendship
Rev. Elizabeth Wood

July 20 — Untangle the Weight of Rumor and Gossip in Our Life Rev. Blake Isaac

July 27 — What Trees Dream About
Evelyn Alemanni

August 3 — Stories to Grow By: Understanding the Power of Myth Rev. Elizabeth Wood

The Raptor Lady

Nancy Conney, director of Sky Hunters brought owls and hawks to the June town council meeting. Learn more about her important work with raptors at www.skyhunters.org.



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1/2 page	\$20.00	\$165.00/year

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July Playgroup Schedule

By Mary Moore

Week of July 4th, no playgroup in observation of Independence Day

Thursday, July 10th, 3:30 pm at Sun Vista Park in Encinitas.

Friday, July 18th, a day at the beach! Let's meet about 9:30 am at Moonlight Beach in Encinitas. You can pack your own lunch or we can order pizza from Leucadia Pizzeria. Call Mary at 760-591-3080 to RSVP and for directions.

Friday, July 25th. We'll have our annual Coaster train ride. The train leaves promptly from the Encinitas station south at 11:17 am. This year, let's take the train to the San Diego station and from there take a taxi ride over to Balboa Park. There, we can visit the model train museum, the aerospace museum, organ pavilion, or whatever interests the group. The coaster train leaves San Diego north at 2:15 pm, 3:40 pm, 4:22pm, and 4:52 pm. Umbrella or lightweight strollers are recommended, good walking shoes, and snacks or lunch. Please call Mary at 760-591-3080 if you have any questions.

Wednesday, July 30th. This is a Mom's night out at Mary Moore's. A representative from Discovery Toys will demonstrate new toy products, which you can purchase. Wine and appetizers will be served. We'll meet at 6:00 pm. My address is 19919 Fortuna Del Este. Please RSVP at 760-591-3080.

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Town Council Website

The town council's website is continually updated. Check it out at: efhgtc.org.

Note: the town council is not affiliated with elfinforest.net and elfinforest.com.

Elfin Forest Ladies Bunco Night

By Lori Clark

The Potluck-Bunco Party scheduled for July has been cancelled. Please check the next *chaparral* for the schedule of future events.

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 a beverage to share. Ladies Bunco Night happens on the 4th 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.

Past Chaparral Issues On Web

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

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e-mail KathleenH@nuwi.com

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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

Trailer Wanted: Movable house trailer in liveable condition. Large enough for two people. Call 510-9998 or fax info to 510-9994.

Home Wanted: Family wants to buy Elfin Forest home. Call John Paul Starting 858-720-0585.

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