

Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

From The Chair

By Mid Hoppenrath

It was nice to see so many folks from Eden Valley at our last town council meeting, and great to have so many participate in community dialogue. Those living here have a unique opportunity to build upon the individual strengths of residents in three communities, Elfin Forest, Harmony Grove, and Eden Valley, all united by the common goal of wanting to preserve our rural lifestyle. We are fortunate to have an organization that can accommodate the diverse philosophies and differences in opinion that enrich our valley.

A great opportunity to meet more neighbors at a fun social event is our annual 4th of July picnic and parade, to be held this year on Sunday, June 29th. This is a great family-oriented event so bring the kids and share in the activities, which have an old time county fair theme.

We also had a large turnout for the recent Garden Festival, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. All these events are fundraisers for not-for-profit community organizations like the Landscape Foundation and the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department and the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council; you can rest assured your contributions are greatly appreciated and will be eventually returned to the community. So keep up the good work and keep attending the town council meetings, your participation is welcomed!

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Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 4th @ 7:30 p.m.

At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station

Topics: Best Street in Elfin Forest Awards

Guest Speaker: “The Raptor Lady”

Reminder – The continuation of public hearings on the County General Plan 2020 is scheduled for June 11, 2003 at the County Administration Building – 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego

Elfin Forest Garden Festival

By Evelyn Alemanni



You heard about it on the radio, Loren Nancarrow gave a preview on TV, the San Diego Union and North County Times ran big stories. San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles, Garden Compass, and Garden How-To magazines all featured the first-ever Elfin Forest Garden Festival (a fund

raiser for the EF Landscape Foundation.) Better Homes and Gardens "Garden Ideas and Outdoor Living" featured an Elfin Forest garden on the cover. www.elfinforestgardens.info had nearly 1000 hits in the days before the garden festival. And then, with anticipation at its peak, on Saturday May 3rd, 2003 – it poured. Despite the rain, 400 intrepid garden guests visited eight of Elfin Forest's best gardens; each one uniquely exquisite.

People came from as far away as Northern California, Pasadena, and Long Beach to the north and Bonita to the south. Of those 400, only 36 came from Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove! The Swenerton family carried the day, bringing 14 people.

One comment that we heard over and over was that it was the best garden tour people had experienced and they LOVED Elfin Forest.

Many thanks to the garden hosts and the many volunteers who took on many different tasks on the day of the tour. More than 20 sponsors contributed garden-related products for sale and for the raffle and silent auction.

Thanks, also, to the fire department for allowing the vendors to setup inside the station to escape the downpour. Our firefighters certainly know how to save the day.

The ladies of the fire auxiliary served a fabulous and elegant lunch under the direction of Bobbi MacFarlane who chaired the luncheon committee.

Even several weeks afterward, we are still hearing people talk about the great time they had, the beauty of Elfin Forest, and the camaraderie they experienced here.

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 moms. 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.

More information in the next *chaparral*. Any questions or suggestions please call Tom and Lisa Stephenson at 760-744-7744.

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.

From The EFHGTC Board

Lois Jones, secretary of the San Dieguito Planning Group prefaced the minutes from their recent April 17th meeting with this eloquent explanation of the need for both respect for civil servants and the protection of the public right. We have reprinted it here with her permission:

I was at the Rancho Santa Fe Association Board meeting this morning and discussion ensued regarding the City of San Diego. Rules of order for their town council meetings state that complaints made toward individual town council members are not allowed to be voiced at their meetings. All complaints are required to be put in writing and the allegations are investigated and responded to, quietly, respectfully, judiciously. It was suggested by an Association member that this same practice should be pursued at Association meetings. As I've given thought today of the pro's and con's of this suggestion, I've come to some interesting conclusions.

I suspect the type of allegations that caused the City of San Diego to implement this policy are usually fueled by emotions and become outbursts rather than statements of fact, supported by documentation or other acceptable forms of substantiation, and are based usually upon the accuser's perception of the accused person's actions or words. When these allegations get put on the public table, to respond to them by the accused only lays groundwork for a push and shove match and usually have no resolution for understanding nor compromise. This is because whatever the accused may have done cannot be adequately addressed since the allegations are usually presented with a surprise tactic. It creates an air of mistrust, of both the accused and the accuser by observers, it causes people to say regretful things, and unfortunately in today's world, can also become very dangerous.

Being civil servants is not an easy task. To meet the needs of constituents is not always the same for all and there will be conflicts, without a doubt. To make personal attacks on persons serving their community because an individual need is not met to their best interest does not accomplish what they think it should accomplish. The accuser becomes the buffoon that civilized persons shake their head at regardless of whether the allegations are true or false, the issue at stake is lost because the methodology becomes the

focus, and the community loses because trust becomes eroded.

Implementing this policy for all public boards should be allowed conditioned by having a surefire method of making those "allegations", if investigations prove them to be true, be made public knowledge so the good citizens are not duped.

More importantly, civil treatment of our neighbors and public servants is the least we would do in this world filled with violence and mistrust. If we must be combative, let's save it for the real bad guys.

The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council agrees with this sage advice, and has decided to implement a formal complaint policy. You can view it at the Town Council Web site www.efhgtc.org.

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

Congratulations To Community Foundation Grant Recipients

By Betsy Keithley, Secretary, EFCF

The Elfin Forest Community Foundation Board of Directors met at the fire station on April 16, 2003 to review eight proposals that were submitted by the deadline, April 15, 2003. It was a difficult meeting because, for the first time in recent history, we had requests for more money than we had money to give away. After much discussion the following projects were funded at the levels given below:

- 1) Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department - Installation of a heater and ventilation system for the Community Room at the Fire Station. The Fire Department will provide matching funds for this project – \$6000.00.
- 2) Elfin Forest Landscape Foundation - Moving and elaborating Elfin Forest entry sign - \$2,190.
- 3) Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council 4th of July picnic - \$1,500.
- 4) Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council - Community Guide - \$1,500.
- 5) The Escondido Creek Conservancy - Signs for properties owned by the Conservancy - \$583.

Congratulations to all the recipients. The community thanks you for your involvement and commitment to helping maintain the rural environment of Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove.

Zoning Code Enforcement

By Joe Alemanni

The San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use office in San Marcos is responsible for the enforcement of zoning laws in EF/HG. County employee Carrie Hall handles zoning enforcement and can be contacted at 760-940-2984 and carrie.hall@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Carrie is currently handling reports about illegal off-road motorcycle/ATV activity and the operation of public stable/horse boarding facilities without the required major-use permit. It's unfortunate to have to involve the county to get property owners to obey zoning regulations and not treat our community as a service area to be exploited for their personal gain. More detail and corroboration from those affected by these violators helps the county bring them into compliance.

Harmony Grove Update

By Mid Hoppenrath

New Urban West introduced its preliminary plans for the Village at Harmony Grove at our last town council meeting. Those of you who missed this, and others with questions or comments, will have a convenient place to follow the progress of this development when New Urban West opens a local information office, tentatively planned for the old quarry area. Until then, you can contact them at their Escondido office on 120 W. Grand (760-741-6211).

The LAFCO meeting to decide whether Harmony Grove remains or is removed from Escondido's sphere of influence (SOI) is coming soon, maybe as early as June. Many in the community have worked very hard for several years now to convince LAFCO to remove us from Escondido's SOI. Others have worked equally hard to have LAFCO maintain the status quo—to leave us in Escondido's sphere. At times this difference of position has threatened to drive a wedge in what is otherwise a remarkably tight-knit community with common goals. It is proper and appropriate that proponents of each strategy will continue to campaign within the community and to LAFCO.

I think that for this community, the SOI issue is not so much a 'position' one takes, but rather a 'strategy' to minimize the risk of industrialization. I hope that throughout this democratic process our common conviction to prevent the wholesale industrialization of Harmony Grove and Eden Valley—a threat that most have lived through at least once, and some, several times over the years, will continue to unite us.

Calendar For June 2003

Date	Time	Event
Weds 6/4	7: 30 pm	EF/HG Town Council Meeting
Tues 6/3, Tues 6/17	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Bookmobile@Firehouse
Tues 6/3, Tues 6/17	7 pm	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Fri	10 am – noon	Playgroup
Every Thurs	6:30 pm	Yoga
Mon 6/9	7 pm	Fire Board@Firehouse
Weds 6/11	7 pm	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Sat 6/28	8 am	Fire Training@Firehouse

Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Karen Gardner

Date: May 7, 2003

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

Call to Order: 7:30 pm

Updates:

Mid Hoppenrath welcomed the large group and had no updates as the majority of the meeting was devoted to Harmony Grove issues.

Evelyn Alemanni spoke about the overwhelming success of the garden festival (albeit the rain).

Nancy Reed provided a brief update on the Rancho Santa Fe school site selection and gave much-deserved accolades to Evelyn with regard to the garden festival.

Karen Gardner read the new EF/HG town council policy regarding complaints. This policy became effective at this meeting. A copy of this new policy is provided on the EF/HG town council web site.

Eric Anderson provided an update on the America In Bloom Competition.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to a discussion on the new Harmony Grove Village concept. New Urban West spokesperson **Tom Zanic** provided an overview on how the village concept has commenced and stressed the involvement of Harmony Grove citizens in the development of the village concept. He explained how New Urban West met with over 100 Harmony Grove residents one-on-one and conducted two focus groups in order to better plan for density and aesthetic development.

Dick Law, a partner of SWA Land Planners discussed how the Harmony Grove Village will have a rural, equestrian, and community feel. He explained that the New Urban West development plan called for fewer homes than the county plan.

Bob White of Shire Architects is the initial home and building designer for the Harmony Grove development. His main emphasis in design is to integrate the land and architecture (sort of like Frank Lloyd Wright). He explained how there would be no

attached housing (apartments, town homes, etc). The densest home type would be a detached garden court arrangement where homes would share a garden court. He proceeded to explain and show concept drawings of the different home types planned for the New Urban West development.

Citizens asked questions about density and traffic issues.

San Diego County planner **Dahvia Locke** addressed both traffic and density issues. She noted that the county is still looking into road ingress/egress issues but has no plans to widen County Club Drive or Harmony Grove Road. She mentioned that projected traffic counts for Country Club Drive and Harmony Grove Road do not register as being problematic bottlenecks.

Escondido City planner **Jay Petrick** answered questions on fees associated with annexation to Escondido and also spoke briefly about road and traffic issues.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:40 pm

Minutes Of The Fire Auxiliary

By Mary Garman

Date: May 14, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm and the minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved.

There was a discussion of the May 3, 2003 Garden Tour and lunch. The Fire Auxiliary prepared and served lunch and the entire affair was a big success.

An election of officers was held and all officers will remain in place for the next 12 months. The officers are: Mary Garman, President; Terry Rife, Vice President; Myrna Rife, Secretary; and Claudia Constanzo, Treasurer.

July 19, 2003 is the date set for the Produce/Craft Fair/Community Garage Sale. Anyone wishing to donate items specifically to help the Fire Department should call Mary Garman at 760-591-4284. This will be a tax-deductible donation and will be greatly appreciated by our fire department.

October 18, 2003 is the date for our annual Chili Cook-Off.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The Harmony Grove Village Plan Smart Growth Or Phase One?

By Kevin Bernard

The Board of Supervisors hearings continue on the County General Plan Update GP2020. Controversy surrounds the GP2020 "village plan" for Harmony Grove. A few claim that the communities of Harmony Grove and Eden Valley embrace the plan, while others clearly oppose it. What's interesting is how the few who really think this plan is the answer to our future have skewed information as to make it nearly impossible to make an informed decision unless you've been following it very closely. Several of us have and draw a different conclusion.

It wasn't long ago we battled with county GP2020 staff for months when they designated a density for Harmony Grove of over seven dwelling units per acre. That isn't mentioned in the recent *chaparral* articles about the village plan. Ask yourself what's the difference between Escondido's past industrial park plans for Harmony Grove and density of seven houses per acre throughout the valley? Is the County really our savior or is it more realistic to consider there are elements in both camps that don't have our best interests at heart and proceed from there in a unemotional and analytical fashion?

Has *special interest* flu hit Harmony Grove? Trails were always a part of any proposed plan. It's just that they were an important component and not the main attraction. Has a horse trail become a reason to employ eminent domain proceedings? Maybe even down zoning your neighbor's property is justified to devalue it and make it feasible to declare it a park and plow a trail through. Really...this isn't an attractive way to build a community.

And what about down zoned parcels that adjoin San Marcos and Escondido? Will owners sit idly by and not seek annexation to either of those cities to gain back their density and land value? What stops them from doing that? They fit the criteria. Under the village plan we might be battling our neighbors for years to come to maintain the fragile open space created by down zoning. What the village plan lacks is any mechanism to create real open space. Down zoning is a temporary solution made even more so by the proximity of San Marcos and Escondido. What this plan has is the promise of 700-800 new homes in the valley core just to start. That's 300 more homes

than anyone imagined ever be built in the whole valley. An engineer was hired by affected landowners to compare this plan to current County zoning and the Escondido general plan designation (that can't change without a Prop S vote). Taking slope into account the engineer came up with the GP2020 plan handing us 1100 new homes at build out (assuming no one is successful in annexing and getting more density or, can you imagine this, talking the Board of Supervisors into a general plan amendment later on). Current county zoning would yield about 200 new homes and the current Escondido general plan would yield 300 to 400 new homes, total!

For many of us there is little distinction between the County and Escondido. Both have risks and possible solutions we could live with. Escondido has an excellent growth control measure (Prop S) that's so good even developers with a reputation for working with the community shy away from it. Escondido also has council members who, in spite of all the studies that say it's not workable, would still like to see industry in Harmony Grove. But Escondido's planning department position is that industry is no longer an option for Harmony Grove. Do we swallow that hook line and sinker? No. There's always the threat that something like this could raise its nasty little self again. But, after watching Prop S perform a couple of go-rounds, many of us don't believe there's a politician in Escondido dynamic enough to overcome the public's dread of more development, sprawl, and traffic. Is it possible that Prop S could be overcome and industry be built in Harmony Grove? Anything is possible, but this scenario is not likely.

So we need to make it clear to the County, Escondido, LAFCO, and anyone who'll listen that we are reasonable people with a record of seeking consensus and would even support some increase in density over the current county zoning or the Escondido General Plan. But we're not interested in being phase one of what could be the next San Elijo Hills and we're not interested in harming our neighbor's property values in the form of down zones. There's a solution out there; maybe it's the one we worked out as the Harmony Grove Eden Valley Citizens Group.

What do you think? Is this village plan smart growth or just phase one of more urban sprawl? We would like to hear your answer and so would the Board of Supervisors, LAFCO, and Escondido.

The School Yard

By Jim Depolo

My how time flies! As I write this it's been exactly two months since I was sworn in to fill the vacancy on the school board. Since then many things have happened. For one, I thought that it was time to give John a break and pick up the column this week. I also want to say thanks for all the support and comments from the community. Keep up the communication. All the board members' emails are on the school board website - more about that next.

Communication - In the first School Yard article at the end of January John Stiker said that the board would be working hard to improve communication with the community. This ongoing School Yard column is one such effort and I hope that you've found it helpful. Additionally, we now have a new school board website which includes board member emails, meeting calendar and agendas, information on the new school, the latest demographics report, a school district map, past School Yard articles and more. We will be adding information as it becomes available. When you get a chance -- check it out at: www.rsfc.k12.ca.us under the last flag on the left "Board of Trustees". Send me an email and let me know what you think.

We've also spent the last two months presenting our "current thinking" on the Calzada school site with various community organizations, from Rotary to school, community and homeowners groups. These have been very informative and interactive. "Current thinking" is, as usual, a moving target. We will however, do our best to keep you advised of our progress. If you would like one or two of us to come present at your meeting, please let us know. Our goal is to keep everyone informed!

The New School Site - We are working through the process of community input, technical information gathering, and preliminary negotiations evaluating our possibilities to come to the best possible solution. There is no easy answer; however, we hope to "home in" on a final solution soon, while keeping the educational needs of our children as the first priority. (The fact is, we have not yet voted on anything other than to retain consultants for an EIR and traffic study.) Our primary option at this time remains the Calzada site for a new school. Originally the board was thinking a K-8 for the entire district on the 28 acre site. The community raised concerns about

traffic and the closing of the current Rowe site. Also, at our May 7th meeting the Calzada owners made a presentation to configure the entire district K-8 on the approximately 14 non-covenant acres leaving the remainder for their development. While placing a district wide K-8 on 14 acres is not a likely scenario, we appreciate the creative thinking in the design. However, all this does present various options as to what form a Calzada school might take.

This leads us back to communication. Everyone in the school district received a letter inviting them to a very important board meeting on May 21st. The letter framed several options, between Calzada and Rowe. By the time you read this that meeting will have taken place and hopefully provided an abundance of community input and discussion for the board to consider as we move forward with the site process. We are also continuing to work with Cielo and others on an eventual site for a northern area elementary school. We will have more about the May 21st meeting and all the alternatives in the next School Yard.

The Layoffs and the Budget - Great news! On May 14th Governor Davis submitted his revised budget and removed the hit to "excess property taxes" for basic aid school districts. We will, as we lobbied for, still share in the cuts to all schools of about 4.5%. Depending on the final budget this will mean about \$200-300K less in revenue for our school district.

Not great, but much better than the 1.2M we were potentially going to bear. Before we knew this good news and with a lot of thought, concern and hope that the budget cuts would indeed get scaled back, the board did not issue final layoff notices to the first and second year probationary teachers. We will keep our eye on the budget as it still needs to be approved, but the feeling amongst the experts is the property tax issue will not come back. In order to balance the budget we are still cutting back on some assistants and temporary staff and making cuts in other areas.

Most importantly on this issue we must say thanks to the entire community for their tremendous letter writing campaign. Throughout the state the basic aid districts organized in an effort quoted by one of the lobbyists as "the most expansive and effective grass roots lobbying campaign in the history of California politics". Great job! One more request is that we finish with the same style that we started and that is to send a thank you letter to the Governor and others
(continued next page)

(The School Yard – continued)

who supported us. Not only to be polite, but it lets them know we are still watching! You can find example letters on the school website.

Upcoming Meeting Topics - Our next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 11th (not our usual 3rd Wednesday of the month). Check out the website for updated information or to email anyone on the board. We truly look forward to hearing from you!

Elfin Forest School Site

By John Stiker

As you all know, we have numerous sites under evaluation in Elfin Forest for the Northeast K-5. But we now think we may have found another option.

The possible site that we are considering consists of 17 lots in the Cielo development that are in the district. We believe this site is situated in such a way to provide access from the Aliso Canyon area, while still preserving Cielo as a gated community. This is a different site from the one originally proposed to us in public session by the Cielo developers two months ago (which was behind gates, outside the district, and offered with the requirement of annexing in 500 additional homes).

We have begun discussions with the developer, and this is *very* preliminary – there is *much* that remains to be done from an engineering, design, and costing standpoint to see if this site could work -- but we are cautiously optimistic. We will also present more information on this site at our May 21st meeting and in a future article for the *chaparral*.

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 – it's unique heritage and its 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.

Photography Contest

Have you ever thought your photographs were good enough to be in a contest? Well, here's your chance. For this year's 4th of July Picnic we are sponsoring a Photography Contest. We want to see how beautiful rural life can be. What appeals to you most about our rural communities? Show us in pictures!

Theme: *Capture Our Rural Splendor*

Deadline: June 20, 2003. (To be stored at the EIR Library on the 2nd floor of the Firehouse) The when/how of accepting the entry photos is TBD.

Entry Fee: \$5.00 (per photo)

Limit: Three (3) entries per person.

Winners: To be announced June 29, 2003 @ 4th of July Picnic

How to Enter: Mail in entry form (found on mailer cover of this newsletter) with fee.

Here are the rules, so you can get your cameras clicking:

All photos must be 8"x10" (matting is optional and must be 11"x14" if used). All photos must be framed and hang-able for display with a wire hanger on back.

Judging will be based on points. One hundred points is perfect in every way. The points will be divided into categories as follows:

50 points for composition and technical perfection

25 points for creativity

25 points for adhering to the Rural Splendor theme.

Participants will be divided into three divisions. Each division will have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner, and one entry will be selected as best of show. The three divisions are: Elementary/Junior High, High School, and Open Class.

All photos must have the following identification clearly written on back: Name, Division, Phone number, Address. Digital images are acceptable. If it is apparent that an image was created digitally, that image will lose technical merit points.

Our judge will be professional photographer Paul Rose, owner of Wild Rose Photography a portrait studio and art gallery located at 231 East Grand Avenue in Escondido. If you have questions about the rules, call Paul at his studio, 760-480-8571. To check out what appeals to the judge visit his web site, www.wildrosephotography.com.

America In Bloom Competition

By Evelyn Alemanni



Elfin Forest may have a potentially winning entry in this year's America in Bloom competition, but winning requires everyone's effort. Judges will be here June 17 – 19, with the actual judging on June 18.

A special “pre-judging” will be held on June 3. Will yours be the best street in Elfin Forest? Get together with your neighbors and make your street will look as beautiful as possible. If you need some new plants, check at the Elfin Valley Nursery. Awards will be given at the town council meeting on June 4.

“America in Bloom” is people working together to beautify their community, promote environmental awareness, and build civic pride. It is modeled after Canada's highly successful “Communities in Bloom,” in which citizens across the country pull together in a nationwide competition.

Judging categories include community involvement, environmental awareness, floral displays, turf and ground cover, urban forestry, tidiness, landscaped areas, and heritage preservation. You can learn more at www.americainbloom.org.

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

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.

Be Prepared For '03 Wildfire

Season: A New Book

By Nona Barker

Living with Wildfires: Preparation, Prevention & Recovery

“A must read for those considering or currently living in the urban-wildland interface or rural areas. The occurrence of wildfire cannot be avoided. The current high fuel loads in our forests, the increased number of people living in and visiting our forests, weather patterns, and the time needed for the public to regain understanding and accept their responsibility for prevention and mitigation makes a major wildfire likely. Given this likelihood, I encourage you to obtain the knowledge and information provided by this publication to help you, your family, pets, and community survive the next event.”

Page Whitesides, Fire Marshal, North Fork Fire Protection District

In some states the wildfire season has had an early start, and others are expecting another devastating year of wildfires. This comprehensive and straight forward book covers everything from defensible space, fire prevention measures for your home and property, evacuation planning, recovery steps and understanding property insurance. Invaluable checklists and an extensive list of resources for homeowners are included in the book.

Written by Janet Arrowood, a Coloradoan who has personally experienced the threat of wildfires, this book contains important information for all homeowners who want to take the proper measures to protect their property and families.

ISBN: 1-833726-89-1 PRICE: \$19.95

Format: 6 x 9 Soft Cover-250 pages

Available: May 14, 2003

Use the link below to place orders:

<http://wildfires.bradfordpublishing.com/>

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.

Keeping Birds Healthy

By Scott Todd – Wild Bird Center

It's spring and you have your feeding station set up in the backyard. Things are going great, your birds are chirping and fighting for every tasty seed and summer is on the way. Your avian hobby has captured your attention and is a source of pride and learning. But problems can occur with this hobby. Here are some tips on making that station a better place for your birds.

Clean all seed feeders on a regular basis, at least every two months, depending on usage. A simple solution of one-part bleach to nine-parts water will sterilize your seed and suet feeders. In contrast, use a 50/50 solution of white vinegar and hot water for your hummingbird feeders every two weeks. Simply soak the entire feeder for 20-30 minutes in a tall pail or bucket and rinse thoroughly with a garden hose, let it drip dry on a warm sunny patio and it will be ready to fill with seed in no time.

Birdbaths should be rinsed out daily and filled with clean fresh water. Once a month you may want to treat the bath to a bleach solution for an hour (cover to prevent birds from using it while treating). Rinse and refill for your avian friends and their new babies.

Clean up old shells and unused seeds from below your feeders. Rotting seed is not healthy for any bird and it can attract varmints. Re-evaluate your birdseed and avoid bargain mixes that contain filler seeds such as canary seed and milo. Look for black oil sunflower as the primary ingredient of any seed mix that you buy. Sunflower chips (hulled sunflower) will greatly reduce the amount of leftovers at the feeder. No-waste birdseed used in conjunction with non-spill ports or trays is an excellent way to stay off the rodent radar screen.

Do your best to discourage cats from your backyard feeders and baths. Please keep your cats indoors for their safety (Coyote Cuisine) and the birds. A great website to visit is www.abcbirds.org to learn more about the "Cats Indoors" program.

Finally, place your feeders so birds will avoid colliding with your reflective windows. If a feeder has to be near a window, place it within three feet or less of the glass, preventing them from striking the window at full force. Hawk decals and other shapes attached to windows will help the birds to veer away from the potentially deadly surface area without severe injury.

Let's Talk Horses

By Nancy Reed

Most of us have heard of the West Nile Virus (WNV) from news reports, friends or your vet. With the large horse population here in Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove this is a very serious issue for ALL of us. In humans the WNV mortality rate is 5%. However in the equine the mortality rate is between 30 to 40%!!!

A horse is infected with WNV when it's bitten by an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes are infected by biting infected birds. Currently only birds and mosquitoes are felt to harbor the disease. WNV causes inflammation or swelling of the brain and spinal cord of the horse. It takes between 5 to 15 days for signs of WNV to appear.

Signs of infection include stumbling or tripping, muscle weakness or twitching, partial paralysis, loss of appetite, depression or lethargy, head pressing or tilt, impaired vision, wandering or circling, inability to swallow, inability to stand up, convulsions, coma and death. To avoid WNV, the state of California has set up a three-pronged program. First reduce your horses' exposure to mosquitoes. Second vaccinate your horse and third report any dead birds.

To reduce mosquito exposure remove any standing water on your property. Turn unused buckets upside down. Send old tires to the recycle yard. Keep watering troughs and birdbaths clean. For your horse use fans, barrier cloth, fly sheets and repellents. If you have a pond or other body of water use mosquito eating fish and keep the water circulating.

The FDA has licensed a WNV vaccination available from Fort Dodge. It is a two-dose series two weeks apart followed by boosters every six months. Contact your equine vet today if you have not vaccinated your horse. The state has set up a toll free dead bird hot line. Call 1-877-WNV-BIRD to report any dead birds you see. This is very important as such sightings will help to track the WNV in our county.

I cannot stress the importance of each of us doing our part to protect ourselves and our equine companions against this deadly disease. With tens of thousands of horses here in San Diego county, WNV has the potential to touch each of us, horse owners or not. Please vaccinate your horses and walk your property. If a neighbor is unable to clear their property of standing water help them out. For more information go to www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/wnv.

Garden Greetings

By Nancy Reed

Tropicals and subtropicals are ubiquitous in southern California and give a lush look. They provide some of our most distinctive fruit, considered as exotic in other parts of the world. These include avocado, banana, cherimoya, guava and sapote. My husband, an Ohio native, first ate an avocado when he was 16. He was eating a salad and thought it was a rotten piece of cucumber!

An avocado is a beautiful tree with a large canopy. They can grow to 30 to 40 feet tall with an even larger spread. When mature, at about seven years of age, they provide dense shade. Their cool green color is one of the most soothing visuals on a hot summer's day. Avos come in many varieties: Hass, Pinkerton, Fuerte, and Reed are good varieties for Elfin Forest.

Avos need specific care and feeding to avoid root problems and bear fruit. Good drainage, rich soil and a thick bed of mulch are the three requirements. Drainage can be a challenge here and planting on a slope can address this. Avos provide their own mulch. Do not remove the leaves; rake them under the drip line. Rich soil can take time to build but, by using compost, manure and keeping the mulch thick, the soil will become rich within a short time.

Avos need moist, not wet soil. Too much water will cause root rot. Use frequent sprinkler watering with a layer of mulch. Avos need to be fed a fair amount of nitrogen based on the size of the trunk. Measure two feet from the ground and feed 1/2 to 1 pound of nitrogen per one inch of trunk. Feed this amount in divided doses spring and summer.

Pollination can be a problem. There are type A and B flowers defined by the time of day flowers open and when pollen is released. If no other avos are in your area, plant both A and B type plants to insure good fruit production. See The Sunset Garden Book for a listing of varieties and flower types.

The Hass avocado was hybridized in the LA area in the 20's by Mr. Hass. My best friend's grandfather was one of Mr. Hass' foremen. She gave me an old antique ladder that was used to harvest some of the first Hass avocados. It sits at the bottom of my drive draped in a beautiful purple clematis vine. I often look at this old ladder wish it could tell all the stories it was a part of.

Bookmobile Dates

By Mickey Cross

Please remember the North County Bookmobile is still coming to the fire station twice a month from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm on Tuesdays. June, July and August dates are as follows:

June 10, 24 / July 8, 22 / August 12, 26.

They can order books for you if you call 760-643-5125 (recording). They are a great resource. Bring your family. Questions: Contact Mickey Cross (mickeykc@juno.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. If you feel the problem was still not resolved, call San Elijo at 760-918-8200.

Who ya gonna call?

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New Urban West, a prestigious community builder since 1955, is pleased to be purchasing over 400 acres in Harmony Grove. We have spoken with over 100 people who live in Harmony Grove, have held focus groups on the Village and Equestrian concepts and look forward to opening an office in Harmony Grove on Country Club Drive in the very near future. Look for our trailer and plan to stop in to discuss the latest on the village, equestrian trails and homes planned for the community of Harmony Grove.

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News From Questhaven Retreat



Sunday worship is at 10:45 a.m.
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www.questhaven.org.

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

Weekly - Meditation

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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 8—The Joys and Challenges of Karma

Rev. Elizabeth Wood

June 15—This is My Father's World

Evelyn Alemanni

June 22—The Arts: Divine Fire for the Human Journey

Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

June 29—Mysticism, Energy Fields and the Biosphere

Gwen Hulbert

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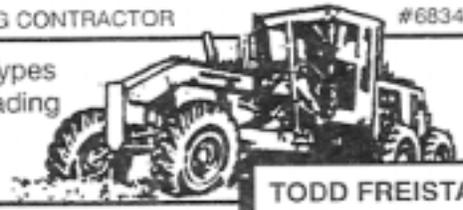
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June Playgroup Schedule

By Mary Moore

Wednesday, June 4th, 10:00 am until noon at Anna Waite's home. The address is 1465 Paint Mountain Road and phone number is 760-752-1835.

Saturday, June 14th at 3:00pm. Let's honor our Dads! It's a Father's Day pool party and barbecue at the Moore's. Please bring your suits, towels, own drinks and potluck side dish to share. We'll supply the hamburgers, hotdogs and swimming pool. The address is 19919 Fortuna del Este. Please RSVP to Mary at 760-591-3080.

Saturday, June 21st at 2:00pm. Celebrate Arielle's 1st birthday! Please RSVP to Pam at 760-591-7909. The Sanford's address is 3862 Seaview Way.

Saturday, June 28th at 12:30pm. Celebrate Nick's 2nd birthday! Please RSVP to Nicole at 858-756-0765. The Macaluso's address is 6311 El Montevideo in Rancho Santa Fe.

Happy Birthday to Gillian Chaffer who turns 4 on June 8th, Arielle Sanford who turns 1 on June 21st, Amanda Kindel who turns 4 on June 26th, Nick Macaluso who turns 2 on June 26th, and Ivey Fairman who turns 5 on June 30th!

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Elfin Forest Ladies Bunco Night

By Lori Clark

The next Potluck-Bunco Party is scheduled for Friday, June 27th from 7-10 pm at Lisa Stephenson's home at 20722 Elfin Forest Road. RSVP 760-744-7744.

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.

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.

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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Home Wanted: Family looking to buy or rent home in Elfin Forest in the RSF school district. Would also be interested in property. Call 760-944-3954 or e-mail at tltvitale@aol.com.

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