



Dedicated to a continuing rural atmosphere

**From The Chair**

By Mid Hoppenrath

The holiday season is coming, and soon we will be preparing for Thanksgiving. One of the many things we can be thankful for is our incredible community spirit.

As I look back over the last years' *From The Chair* articles, I find many instances of times when the entire community pulled together for a good cause: to hold vigil throughout the night over our community when the wildfires raged in our area; to fight to preserve our rural lifestyle and leave Escondido's sphere of influence, which had never been done before in the history of San Diego County; to bring the 4th of July picnic to Harmony Grove for the first time ever; and to compete and place well against many other similarly-sized communities nationwide in the America in Bloom Contest in which we will be competing again next year (see any of the several articles in this month's *chaparral* telling you how to become involved). I am so proud of all of us and so thankful to be a part of this community.

Be sure to attend the next Town Council meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our special guest is David Hughes, Superintendent of the Escondido Union High School District, who will discuss the proposed high school site in Harmony Grove.

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**Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:30PM**

**At The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station**

**Topic: Proposed New Escondido High School**

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## Shots Fired!

By Evelyn Alemanni

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, between 10 and 10:30 PM gun shots were fired at Kim Hunter's home and along much of Questhaven Road. Kim found 25 shell casings from several types of guns across the street from her house. Immediately call 911 if you see anything or anyone suspicious. The Sheriff's Department has assigned Detective Miller to investigate. If you observed anything that night or on other nights, please call him at 760-510-5244.

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## A Great Day For Hikers, Bicyclists, And Equestrians!

By Mid Hoppenrath

The County Planning Commission voted unanimously on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, to approve the staff recommendations for the County Master Trails Program. They added their own recommendation that the county staff add more protections to local community trail routes and linkages before the issue goes to the board of supervisors (which is likely to be December 15<sup>th</sup>.) Call Maryanne Vancio, County Trails Program Coordinator, 858-694-3969 to confirm the date.

Kathleen Humphreys of New Urban West Inc. attended and spoke in favor of the county trails program, something which caught the attention of all present (WOW - a developer supporting trails!!) As one of the commissioners said, this was a great day!

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## Holiday Potluck

By Evelyn Alemanni

Our December town council meeting will be the annual holiday dessert potluck. Bring a friend and something good to eat. The town council is inviting all of our wonderful community organizations – fire department, fire auxiliary, TECC, community foundation, landscape foundation, firewise garden – everyone who works hard to make this the wonderful community that it is – to attend the meeting. They will give a 2-3 minute overview of what their group does, and then answer your questions. You'll have a chance to sign up to help any or all of them. It's so much fun to do projects with your neighbors. You get to meet great people and make new friends.

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## Please Help Beautify Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove Roads

By Evelyn Alemanni

Rain or shine, head on down to the Elfin Valley Nursery between 9:30 and 10:30 AM on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, to pick up a map and sack of California poppy seeds. Choose a portion of Elfin Forest or Harmony Grove Road, then head out and sprinkle your seeds to help create a beautiful landscape in the spring.

The recent rains will aid in quick germination and, with the anticipated El Nino rains, we are sure to have a gorgeous springtime floral display. Instructions will be provided. As a thank you for your efforts, you'll receive a bag of seeds to spread at your house.



Casey Fontaine and Riley and Paige Stephenson get a head start on planting wildflower seeds along Elfin Forest Road

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## Calendar For November

Date	Time	Event
Weds 11/3	7:30 PM	EF/HG Town Council Mtg
Tues 11/2 11/16	7 PM	Fire Training@Firehouse
Every Thurs	6:30 PM	Yoga@Firehouse
Mon 11/8	7 PM	Fire Board@Firehouse
Weds 11/10	7 PM	Fire Auxiliary@Firehouse
Sat 11/27	8 AM	Fire Training@Firehouse

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## **New TECC Store**

**By Claudia Costanzo**

The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) has teamed up with the Santa Isabel General Store to raise money for the Conservancy. Vintage items are donated to TECC and then consigned with the General Store (across from Dudley's Bakery).

The store sells a wide range of vintage items furniture, jewelry, farm and garden tools, kitchen household items, western and Old California collectibles, books, and many other antiques and collectible objects from the early 1800's through the 1960's. The Santa Isabel General Store, open Wednesday through Sunday, is located in Santa Isabel in the original general store built in 1884.

The Escondido Creek Conservancy is eagerly accepting your generously donated items to be placed on consignment. Please contact Claudia Costanzo at 760-744-9052 to make a donation.

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## **Plant Now!**

**By Peggy Petitmermet**

Everyone is encouraged to plant seeds, perhaps wild flowers, or whatever you feel will beautify your property along our roads. Come spring Elfin Forest will look fantastic not only for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Garden Festival but also for the "America in Bloom" judging which will take place at the beginning of May.

Before we can plant, we must clean up our roadside area. The weekend of November 20th will be our first "Weed Wacker Weekend". Let's all pitch in and clean up our properties along the roads. This will make them safer from fire (which we still need to be concerned about) and prepare the areas for your plantings. We can accomplish both if we each take just an hour or so to beautify our own property. By so doing we will give our lovely rural community a bit of a face-lift and have clean areas to plant whatever we like in the late fall or early winter. Hopefully, the winter rains will take care of the rest.

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## **Just Moved Here?**

If you just moved here, contact Karen Gardner 760-744-9500 to get your free six month subscription to the newsletter and discounts on town council merchandise.

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## **Elfin Forest Garden Festival 2005**

**By Evelyn Alemanni**

Plans for our garden festival (Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005) continue to take on momentum with the commitment of New Urban West to again donate \$1000. Gardens on the tour this year have been in magazines such as Sunset, Better Homes and Gardens, San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles, and more. Order your tickets on the website now!

You can see details of the garden festival at [www.elfinforestgardens.info](http://www.elfinforestgardens.info). If you'd like to volunteer to help with the event in any way or to be a sponsor, please contact me at 760-471-7224 or [alemanni@allea.com](mailto:alemanni@allea.com).

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## **Neighborhood Watch Meeting**

**By Betty (B.J.) Williams, SD Sheriff's Dept.**

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department Unincorporated Crime Prevention Unit invites you to attend a North County meeting of Neighborhood Watch coordinators:

When: Friday, November 5th, 2004

Where: Hidden Meadows Pavilion  
28107 Glenmeade Way  
Escondido, California

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Why: Share information on Neighborhood Watch and FEMA Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

To R.S.V.P or for more information contact B.J. Williams by phone at 760-510-5254 or by email [betty.williams@sdsheeriff.org](mailto:betty.williams@sdsheeriff.org)

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## **Sheriff's Department Contacts**

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

General – 760-510-5200

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

Sgt. Dan Wilson – COPPS – 760-510-5231

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

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## What's Happening At The Fire Department: October 2004

By Captain Dawn Pettijohn

Phase 1 of the *North Zone Fire Effectiveness and Regionalization Study* is complete. This part of the study, *Emergency Services Evaluation*, will catalog, analyze, and make improvement recommendations to the fire protection systems of each participating agency. After months of preparation, Chief Twohy, Captain Dawn Pettijohn, Engineers Nona Barker and Bob Kephart spent a week with consultants evaluating the Department. In about one month, we'll receive the report and prepare for Phase 2, *Opportunities for Cooperative Effort*, identifying and evaluating the feasibility of interagency programs.

Seven members are attending an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) class being taught by Paramedic Luis Ortiz. Captain Steve Barker, FF Jeff Coppens, Engineer Bob Kephart, PFF Bryan Mortenson, PFF Mike Patton, Captain John Rayes, FF Mike Shea are approximately half way through the training and expect to receive certification by December.

We've secured funding to outfit Brush 2861 and Water Tender 2851 with Enclosed Cab Window Fire Curtains. Manufactured by Storm King Mountain Technologies and by the brother of a fallen firefighter in the South Canyon Fire on Storm King Mountain in 1994, these curtains offer the latest technology in thermal protection in the event of an engine entrapment/burnover on a wildland fire. We are thrilled to offer this protection to our firefighters.

Grant writing efforts continue with the most recent application was the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company Heritage Grant Program Part II. The Department has applied for Enclosed Cab Window Fire Curtains for Structure Protection Engine 2811 to complete our project of outfitting all apparatus that respond to wildland fires. You may remember Part I of the Fireman's Fund Heritage Grant awarded us \$18,000 for a Thermal Imaging Camera and VHF radios in April of this year.

And as if things weren't busy enough around the firehouse, we have had a call almost every day this month. Please take your time and drive defensively, and observe the "burn ban". The brush is still tinder dry and all it takes is one spark.

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## Community Guides Are Here – Special Offer

By Evelyn Alemanni



Our brand new community guide is here and will be available at all town council meetings. This is a beautiful, keepsake edition with nearly 200 color photos showing our community's past and present. They make wonderful gifts and an indispensable marketing tool for realtors. It provides resources for rural living, a history of our

community, and much, much more. The price is \$25 or five for \$100. *If you ordered your community guide already, pick it up at any town council meeting.*

**When you renew your newsletter subscription for two years, you can purchase the community guide for \$20. Renew for five years and the guide is yours for only \$15.**

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## Fire Auxiliary Meeting Minutes

By Joy Jackson

**DATE:** October 13, 2004

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:15 PM

The meeting was held at President Mary Garman's home. Minutes of last month's meeting were read by Secretary Myrna Rife and approved without correction. Treasurer Joan Hershfeld read the treasurer's report. The group's main expenses have been lunch for the fire training days each month and supplying the station with drinks and trail mix.

New Business: The group was very excited and grateful to learn that Sue and Rob Hill would be underwriting the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. The Ice Cream Social was discussed. The sundaes will be free to all Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove residents and their children.

The lunch for fire fighter training will be served by Joy Jackson and Nancy Sampson.

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## Past *chaparral* Issues On Web

Past issues of the *chaparral* are now posted at [www.efhgtc.org](http://www.efhgtc.org) in downloadable PDF format.

## Landfill Closure FAQ

### By County of San Diego

<http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/dpw/engineer/pdf/landfillfact.pdf>

**What is the project?:** This project is the final closure and post closure construction activities for the San Marcos Landfill. The County of San Diego will cover 102 acres of the San Marcos landfill with approximately 420,000 cubic yards of soil and revegetate the area with native plants.

**What is the benefit of this project?:** The closed landfill area will be revegetated with native plants that provide the community with more aesthetically pleasing views of the landfill area, including visual compatibility with the adjacent natural environment. This project will add to the regional biological value of the landfill site. With the improvement, it will become a passive open space.

**When will the project occur?:** The project began in August 2004. Trucks will deliver soil Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4PM until September of 2005. Revegetation of the area is scheduled to begin in 2005. This schedule is subject to change. Schedule changes will be posted on the County website ([www.sdcdpw.org](http://www.sdcdpw.org)) and available via the Project Hotline.

**Will any roads be closed during the project period?:** No road closures are scheduled for this project. However, road closures associated with other construction projects in the area may occur. Also, traffic delays may occur during soil deliveries.

**Will there be bicycle and pedestrian access?:** Vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian access will be preserved as much as possible.

**What will be the primary truck route for soil delivery?:** The primary truck route used to deliver soil will be from Interstate 15 to SR 78. Trucks will exit the freeway at Rancho Santa Fe Road and will proceed through the cities of San Marcos and Carlsbad until reaching the "T" intersection of Rancho Santa Fe Road and San Elijo Road and turn east into the landfill area.

**Where can I Get More Information?:** The County of San Diego Department of Public Works has provided the community with a toll free project hotline to answer any public inquires on this project. Call 800-410-2203. It is staffed by a real, live person, Christina Casanova. You can also contact her via email at [christinac@collaborativeservices.biz](mailto:christinac@collaborativeservices.biz).

## America in Bloom – Tidiness

### By Evelyn Alemanni

This is the third in a series of articles on the how and why of Elfin Forest's 2005 entry in the America in Bloom contest ([www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org)), a nationwide competition among cities for the best beautification programs. We will be judged on eight criteria: community involvement, tidiness, heritage, environmental awareness, turf and groundcover, floral displays, landscape, and urban forestry. Last year, one of the areas where we received praise from the judges and lots of points was the category of tidiness. The judges commented that Elfin Forest was one of the cleanest communities they had visited.

How was that possible? First of all, the efforts of Frank McCullough and Wirth family in adopting Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest Roads respectively made a big difference. Then Nils Lunnerdal contacted the department of corrections and they sent a crew to pick up trash along the road. San Elijo Hills also sent a person to pick up trash. Together, they made a difference.

Judges are looking at tidiness across three segments: commercial, residential, and municipal. That means, wherever they go, they're looking to see whether trash is picked up, properties are neat and clean, buildings are painted nicely, manure is stored (or removed) appropriately. When they go inside buildings, they'll be looking for tidiness inside. They're also looking for details like whether there is graffiti, whether street signs are clean and straight (rather than knocked over by careless drivers), trash cans are not visible, roads are freshly striped, and so on. You know what tidiness means and what it looks like and we hope you'll help with the effort to show the judges that Elfin Forest is the tidiest and most lovingly cared for place in America.

Linda Clerke is heading the tidiness committee for our America in Bloom entry. She needs your help. Please contact her at [clerkehome@ricochet.com](mailto:clerkehome@ricochet.com) to volunteer.

To help keep you up to date on who's on the committee and what we're doing, check the town council website, [www.efhgctc.org/aib.htm](http://www.efhgctc.org/aib.htm). If you would like to help in any way, please contact me at [alemanni@allea.com](mailto:alemanni@allea.com) or 760-471-7224. Judging will be in early May 2005, so we need to get busy now!

# Minutes Of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Meeting

By Patti Newton

**DATE:** October 6, 2004

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:30 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patti Newton, Evelyn Alemanni, Bob McGurk, Greg Parman.

**Item #1:** Board updates: **Greg Parman** stated the Board of Supervisors approved the downgrading of Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest Roads and Country Club to Elfin Forest Road effective Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Bob McGurk**, treasurer, gave the financial report: Income for the month was \$705, expenses \$242, net income approximately \$463.

**Evelyn Alemanni** updated residents on the 2005 Garden Festival – people are already sending checks for tickets (and this is before any advertising!) The date is April 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Linda Clerke** and **Eric Anderson** are on the America In Bloom committee. There was an article about the Fire Wise garden in San Diego Lifestyles magazine.

**Lynda Clerke** made some announcements for **Jim Depolo** who was unable to attend: Jim will run again for the Rancho Santa Fe School Board. There are four candidates running for three openings. As we know, the siting process for another school within district boundaries is a contentious issue. It is in our interest the school board be fair and look out for the needs of all residents. Lynda urged residents to vote for Jim because he is the only board member living outside the covenant boundaries. Two fundraising / discussion events are planned. **Lynda Clerke** will host the first at her home, 20570 Fortuna del Sur, on October 17<sup>th</sup> and **Nona Barker** will host the second on October 18<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 9 PM at 19888 Fortuna del Este. All four candidates will hold a debate at RSF School on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM.

**Item #2:** **Alex Newton**, OMWD addressed creek issues relating to the dam project. The mitigation program along the creek has been postponed for one year because of environmental issues and contractor delays. **Jim Prine**, a biologist with the EDAW Company, is a consultant for the County Water Authority. This project fulfills permit requirements of the Army Corp of Engineers, California Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife to mitigate impacts associated with the dam project. They will remove November 2004

invasive plants and revegetate within conservation easements along the creek. Not all non-native plants are a problem so they have targeted 13 species like eucalyptus, arundo donax, Cape Ivy, etc. Native seed mixes and container plants will be used for restoration.

The plan was prepared with specific requirements for fire control and access points. Biological issues are what drive the mitigation. Removal of eucalyptus reduces fire hazard, providing a community benefit. They will commence work a bit downstream of the trailer park; the end point will be determined in about a month. September 16<sup>th</sup> through January 30<sup>th</sup> is the period of time work can occur because of wildlife habitat considerations. The light made available from the eucalyptus removal will allow natives to flourish and allow for seeding and planting. The site will be maintained and monitored for five years to ensure work is done according to permit requirements.

California Conservation Corps (CCC) Supervisor **Victor Avila** plans to hire kids at minimum wage to work. They will be using white vans. Call him if there are any problems. A chipper will be running to save cost and be more efficient with disposal. Daily, three crews of 10 to 12 will be on site with a supervisor. Lead supervisor is an arborist and certified (chemical) applicator. Removal is slated to take about two seasons with a third season scheduled provisionally. Objective is to finish as soon as possible. CWA will handle long term management duties (they may contract with an organization like TECC).

**Item #3:** **Jeff O'Connor**, San Elijo Hills (SEH) update. Offsite road construction and town center issues are of foremost concern. There will be three phases of road construction early next year before power line relocation. First, the six lanes of RSF Road from Carlsbad to San Elijo Road and completion of the intersection of La Costa and Rancho Santa Fe (RSF) roads. Then on to the intersection of San Elijo and RSF roads. The bridge started six months ago over the San Marcos Creek may be open by January of next year. San Elijo Road and RSF Road have been difficult to complete and they want to complete it before bridge is completed. San Marcos is planning on opening the section through University Commons very soon.

*(Continued next page)*

*(Minutes EF/HG Town Council continued)*

Hope to start Twin Oaks Valley Road in plan check and acquiring last few properties; should be completed by January to allow construction to commence soon after. There are no detours, so it should go quickly. By the first quarter of 2007 the road should be open. Twin Oaks Valley extension will be five lanes. Approximately 1,960± building permits for SEH have been issued to date. Elfin Forest resident, **Ken Dubs** offered to explain road issues outside of meeting time with anyone interested.

**Curt Noland** spoke regarding SEH town center tenants. Three phases to the town center, i.e., concept design, design development, design drawings. They have completed the first two phases. Construction drawings are in process. They will have approximately 120,000 sq. ft. commercial space. Talked with several grocery stores, e.g., Bristol Farms, Trader Joe's, Henry's, Wild Oats. They are typically more regional in nature than village and have a need to be closer to freeways. They are currently in advanced negotiations with one of big three grocery stores. The grocery site plan usually uses a template about 40,000 sq. ft. however, they usually go with 51,000 to 55,000. SEH expects a letter of intent will be signed by end of year. Rest of retail will be neighborhood-serving like a florist, deli, wine store, etc. More village or mom and pop type stores. SEH will build town center rather than sell to commercial developer. Want to commence construction February '05. Some retail tenants will be in by end of next year. Grocery will not happen that fast because the road is critical to its success. SEH says retail is viable prior to arrival of the anchor store in mid '06.

There will be office space available for businesses like dental, loan brokerage, veterinary. Church in town center is in escrow. Want them to work within community using available structures first before building own space. There are plans for a gas station and a postal center. San Marcos Fire Dept. site planned for end of '05. **Jeff O'Connor** will talk to San Marcos city regarding placement of a "left turn OK after stop" sign and calibration of lights which favor residential traffic coming out of residential areas.

Ridgeline road issues -- city wants it wider for soft surface trails, etc. EIR required visual studies, etc. SEH disclosed that some homes would be visible but  
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it is a ten-year project so people were not always aware. They are addressing concerns but it is already approved. The re-vegetation doesn't happen overnight but it will happen

Because the person presenting the cell tower issue was unable to attend, **Evelyn Alemanni** asked anyone with concerns to send an email stating those concerns.

**ADJOURNED: 9:10 PM**

## **Ask Me Why I'm Voting For Jim Depolo**

**By Mickey Cross**

Jim Depolo and his family have been residents of Elfin Forest for almost two years. From the first day he and his family drove into their driveway, they've been active in the school and the community. Jim is currently serving as an appointed member on the Rancho Santa Fe School Board. He's also responsible for the monthly "School Yard" articles in the *chaparral* as well as the Rancho Santa Fe Review.

Jim's term is nearly up and he is running for another four-year term. There are a total of four people running for only three open seats. Jim is the only candidate who does not live in the Rancho Santa Fe Covenant boundaries.

With 18 years experience in management and business, co-founding a telecommunications business, a degree in engineering and a masters degree in business, Jim has the organizational and leadership skills necessary to successfully carry out this position. Indeed, he has shown these skills in the last 18 months on the school board. Jim brings to the board a high level of honesty and integrity.

Jim will always do the right thing for ALL of the children of this school district. He is fair and unbiased when dealing with ALL residents of the district. Jim brings balance to the board and fights hard for what is right.

There are some very critical decisions that will be made by the board in the next few years. These are: selecting a new superintendent and siting a new school and. Regardless of whether you have or do not have children in the RSF School District, you need to cast your vote for Jim Depolo. Vote for Integrity, Honesty, and Balance!

## The School Yard

By Jim Depolo

Welcome back to the School Yard!

**Vote November 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Remember to vote November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Besides all the other important positions and issues you have the opportunity to elect three members to your school board! John Stiker and Kathy Stumm have two years left in their terms and will remain on the board. Members Deb Plummer, Barbara Taylor and Jim Depolo hold positions with terms expiring at the end of this year.

**Halloween Parade Oct 29<sup>th</sup>** - We are looking forward to the Halloween Parade at 1 PM on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. As you may remember last year's parade and carnival were cancelled due to the fires. This year will be a lot of fun with many parents supporting all the fun activities for the students.

**Book Fair** - The book fair was held Oct 2-8<sup>th</sup> and was a big success. Hats off to the many parents and Darci Pfremmer, IMC Director, for their help and time in organizing this successful event!

**Meeting Oct 21<sup>st</sup>** - Besides the Candidate Forum we had a busy agenda for the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. We covered the following items:

- Announcing a decision on whether to appoint Ms. Delaney as permanent superintendent.
- Talking about the Memorandum of Understanding on the Cielo site.
- Discussion of conceptual plans for the current R. Roger Rowe school site.
- Voting on issuing the remaining \$1.2 million of the 1991 bonds.

**Learning more about COPs** - Briefly COPs or Certificates of Participation are a method for a school district with good credit to borrow money without waiting for bond approval. A subsequent bond could then be used to repay the COP. The COP will otherwise be paid out of general funds each year. Because of the current situation with no bond on this November's ballot we are looking at the COPs as a way to potentially acquire land so that the process of building a second school could keep moving. As an example if we issue a COP for \$7M we would pay about \$500K a year mostly out of developer fees, until we pass a bond.

As always we welcome your comments at our board meetings or via e-mail.

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## November in the Garden

By Evelyn Alemanni

November is an extension of our "second spring", and if temperatures stay warm, you can continue planting spring flowers. Almost anything you plant now will bless you for your kindness and be gorgeous in the spring. When planted now, plants have a chance to put down roots before the cool weather starts. When it warms up in spring, they're ready to grow - FAST!

**Quick Tips** - Spray paint the risers of your irrigation system brown. They'll blend into the landscape, and the paint actually protects the pipes. For inexpensive plant labels, buy stainless steel knives at garage sales or flea markets, and mark them with a permanent marker. Leftover knives from takeout dinners also work, but don't last as long. You can also cut up the slats from old Venetian blinds for plant labels.

**Garden Maintenance** - As the days and nights get cooler, cut back on watering. Use a trowel to dig down into the soil and see how far rain water has penetrated to help you determine how much to cut back on irrigation. Prune pines and conifers. Prune cane berry plants (boysenberry, blackberry, raspberry). Prune trees and shrubs, removing any branches susceptible to damage from high winds.

Apply 3" of mulch on all your garden beds. Composted stable shavings are ideal! Start applying snail and slug bait or hand-pick these critters for fast results. Spray nectarine and peach trees with lime-sulfur spray to prevent leaf curl next year.

**What to Plant Now** - Keep planting spring bulbs: daffodils, dutch iris, anemones, freesias, etc. Place your bulb order with the town council today. Plant fall color and spring color - pansies, Iceland poppies, stock, larkspur. Plant perennials, natives, trees, shrubs, vines.

Plant sweet peas. By the way, did you know the flowers are poisonous? Plant a cool season lawn or groundcover. Sow seeds or plant seedlings of winter vegetables. Sow wildflower seeds – get your free bag of seeds at the December town council meeting or by volunteering to spread seeds on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Water newly planted items at least weekly until rains start.

**Fertilize** - Feed spring annuals now for good bloom in the spring. Fertilize fuchsias, poinsettias, lawns.



## Road Closure And Community Relations

By Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin

Those using Canyon de Oro have noticed the road had to be closed by the fire department starting October 18th. The Elf Alert notice described the cause as “the road surface is extremely slick and dangerous causing several cars to slide off the road”.

Now some of you who’ve used the road for years without ever seeing it closed to traffic, including during severe rain seasons, might wonder why the relatively short rains we just received are now causing cars to slide off the road. The answer, I’m afraid, is to be found in the industriousness of some well-meaning residents who have taken it upon themselves to “improve” Canyon de Oro. The goal as stated in an email back in June was: *”I want to make the road passable by regular 2-wheel vehicles without tearing up the undercarriage, the shocks and wheels of everyone’s car or truck”*. This was done by adding very significant amounts of dirt to a steep road bordering a creek without the use of water to compact it down as grading is normally done.

The result is road closed to those of us with legal easement who used it daily, a looming ecological problem as the additional dirt is going right into the creek, and an endangerment to those who brave the road closure (and I have witnessed several.) I, for one, was perfectly happy using the previous “unimproved” version of the road, on which I live, and am now prevented from using it at all.

I objected to the beautification effort, pointing out that making it easier for vehicles to use the dirt roads without first gating them to restrict access can only result in increased traffic and dust for neighboring residents. I realize that getting consensus on building a gate on any road is at best a trying proposition.

We live in a rural community which includes dirt roads. Part of the price of living in a tranquil rural environment is that we can’t expect to drive on those dirt roads with regular two wheel drive vehicles. We can either use vehicles designed for off-road driving conditions or drive our “regular cars” on the paved roads. I have used Canyon de Oro almost daily for the last 13 years and, if you have the right vehicle (and tire replacement insurance), the road is fine.

It’s not right to take unilateral action affecting the quality of life of other residents. We border Canyon

de Oro and have had to put up with the clouds of dust created by new traffic tearing down the hill now that it is “passable.” Our daily commute has been increased by an hour by not being able to use a road we have a legal easement over.

Why waste money and potentially incur legal liability on a futile task that’s undone by the rains and creates an environmental hazard, not to mention a danger to motorists? Shouldn’t we use the desire to improve Canyon de Oro by gating and paving it AFTER a gate’s been funded? We’d be willing to contribute significant dollars and time to make this happen.

## Beautify With Spring Bulbs

By Evelyn Alemanni

Once again, the town council is offering spring bulbs for sale at prices much lower than retail. This year’s bulbs are of the largest and best quality I’ve ever seen. Please order from the selections below. You can view photos of the selections and print out an order form on the town council’s web site, [www.efhgtc.org/bulbs.htm](http://www.efhgtc.org/bulbs.htm).

The first shipment we received is almost sold out and we need to buy more, so please place your order before November 15<sup>th</sup> and we will contact you when your bulbs are here. Why not order a few extra and get together with people on your block to plant them around your street monument! Please email your order to [alemanni@allea.com](mailto:alemanni@allea.com). Bulbs can be picked up at my house. Make your check payable to the town council.

<b>Narcissus</b>	<b>Your Price (each)</b>
Geranium	0.50
Scarlet Gem	0.50
Falconet	0.50
Dutch Master	0.50
Saint Kerverne	0.50
Yellow Cheerfulness	0.50
Pepit	0.50
<b>Ranunculas</b>	
Mixed	0.50
<b>Freesia-Single Flower</b>	
Mixed	0.30
<b>Bearded Iris Rebloomers</b>	
Autumn Echo	3.50
City Lights	3.50
Harvest of Memories	3.50
Paprika Fono’s	3.50
Pink Reprise	3.50
<b>Amacrinum</b>	8.00

## Costly Gardening Avoiding the \$500 Vet Bill

By Evelyn Alemanni

Cocoa mulch is a fabulous product. It comes from the hulls of cocoa beans used to make chocolate. I saw it used on the rose beds in Hershey, PA and the roses LOVE it. It smells fantastic and when you spread it around, it's as though you're tossing chocolate chips into the flowers. Every time you walk on the mulch, it's like a trek through the Godiva chocolate factory. Even discarded empty mulch bags smell good.

As soon as I put down the cocoa mulch, my dogs zoomed over (pretty amazing for bassets) and started eating it. Remembering that chocolate is very bad for dogs, and the caffeine in it can actually kill them, I ran to the internet and did a quick search. The results had me scooping up the sweet-smelling mulch and relocating it to some dog-proof areas. Here's what I discovered:

Cocoa bean mulch deters slugs and snails and gives a garden an appealing chocolate smell. It contains some of the chemicals found in chocolate. These chemicals include caffeine and can make dogs sick. A research study by the ASPCA poison control center confirmed what veterinarians suspected: dogs will ingest the cocoa mulch and it can cause illness. Dogs may show vomiting, muscle tremors, elevated heart rate, hyperactivity and diarrhea.

The ASPCA advises pet owners to avoid using this mulch around unsupervised dogs and dogs with indiscriminate eating habits. Dogs can easily be poisoned by eating the mulch. Eaten by a 50-pound dog, about 2 ounces of cocoa mulch may cause gastrointestinal upset; about 4.5 ounces, increased heart rate; about 5.3 ounces, seizures; and over 9 ounces, death. (In contrast, a 50-pound dog can eat up to about 7.5 ounces of milk chocolate without gastrointestinal upset and up to about a pound of milk chocolate without increased heart rate.)

If you suspect that your dog has eaten cocoa mulch, immediately contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435). Treatment will depend on how much cocoa mulch your dog has eaten, when the mulch was eaten, and whether your dog is sick. Recommended care may include placing your dog under veterinary observation, inducing vomiting, and/or controlling a rapid heartbeat or seizures.

November 2004

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## News From Questhaven Retreat



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

20560 Questhaven Road.  
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[www.questhaven.org](http://www.questhaven.org).

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

### Weekly Meditation

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Meet at El Chapelito, Led by Jean Michalewicz.

### The Way Within Meditation Classes

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

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

### Sunday Services

November 7 *Harvesting Our Golden Moments*  
Rev. Phyllis Isaac

November 14 *Intuition—Our Bridge to Higher Realms*  
Rev. Blake Isaac

November 21 *Spiritual Community: Powerful and Purposeful* Jean Michalewicz

November 28 *Many Visions From the Single Eye—Why Clairvoyant Insights Differ*  
Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

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To renew your advertising, send a JPG format file and a check (see rates below) payable to the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council, 20652 Elfin Forest Road, Elfin Forest, CA. 92029.

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

### Community, Non-Commercial Classified Ads:

1" x 3 1/2" (approx. 4 lines): no charge to residents - must be resubmitted every 3 months. Non-residents cost is \$10/month.

## November Playgroup Schedule

By Anna Waite

Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 10AM - 12PM - Target Park (Leo Mullen Park). Also, for those interested in scrapbooking there is a scrapbooking session at Encinitas Community Center 6 - 9PM. There is a fee and includes drinks and dinner.

Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 - 9PM - Baby shower for Pam Sanford who is expecting her second child (a Boy!) in December. It will be at **Sushi On The Rock** located in the Forum Shops, El Camino Real / Calle Barcelona. They have an extensive menu with other cooked entrees. Please RSVP to Anna at 760-752-1835

Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 4PM - Thanksgiving potluck gathering at Lynn and Todd Frank's home 20445 Fortuna del Sur. Please bring a side dish to share. Please RSVP to Lynn at 760-744-4777.

Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 10AM - 12PM - Megan Fleming's Home. 2209 Sequest Trail. 760-744-3204

## Town Council Website

The town council's website is continually updated. Check it out at: [efhgtc.org](http://efhgtc.org). **Note:** the town council is not affiliated with [elfinforest.net](http://elfinforest.net) and [elfinforest.com](http://elfinforest.com).

Need a website?

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Check these samples of our recent work:

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[www.sunshinegardensinc.com](http://www.sunshinegardensinc.com)

[www.efhgtc.org](http://www.efhgtc.org) (town council website)

[www.elfinforestgardens.info](http://www.elfinforestgardens.info)

[www.coburntopiary.com](http://www.coburntopiary.com)

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

[www.newcoursejumps.com](http://www.newcoursejumps.com)

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[alemanni@allea.com](mailto:alemanni@allea.com)

[www.allea.com](http://www.allea.com)

## 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 888-336-7553.

## chaparral by Email

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

## San Elijo Hills Contact

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

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Deanna Bramble

Direct: 858-922-4716

E-mail: deannabramble@msn.com

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"References Available"

In search of the perfect horse community all her life, Deanna knows she found it here in San Diego after traveling the globe quite extensively. She trains with her Hanoverian horse under a well known Grand-Prix rider in Rancho Santa Fe, while competing in both jumpers and dressage. *"I feel that Elfin Forest is truly a wonderful horse community, and am very excited that I can be a part of it", says Deanna.*

Deanna can occasionally be found exercising race horses in her spare time. Luckily her office at the Gultinan Group is located in the middle of horse Mecca across the street from Del Mar Race Track, and down the road form Del Mar Horse Park. Along with her horse life, Deanna has a strong compassion for rescuing animals, and teaching the community preventive care for companion animals.



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**N**ew Urban West, the builder of Harmony Grove Village, is working closely with the Village Sub Committee, Traffic Committee and Sign Committee Chairs to request:

- Reclassification of Harmony Grove Road west of Wilgen Road and Elfin Forest Road from Harmony Grove Road to San Marcos City boundary from a 4 lane collector to a 2 lane collector
- Reclassification of County Club Drive between Harmony Grove Road and Kauana Loa from a 4 lane collector to a 2 lane collector



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# Here's Why We're Voting for Depolo!



## RSF SCHOOL BOARD

- "As a current School Board member and clerk of the Board Jim has the experience to do the job and is a great asset to the Board, the school and the community."  
**Deb Plummer,**  
*RSF School Board Member*
- "Jim brings valuable balance to the Board because he listens to the points-of-view and concerns of all parents and non-parents across the District."  
**Barbara Taylor,**  
*RSF School Board Member*
- "I am absolutely aligned with Jim in his commitment to having state-of-the-art programs and facilities for the entire District irrespective of school location or configuration."  
**Linda Cormier,**  
*Past President, RSF School PTO*
- "Jim has the leadership style that will help unite this community as it faces the challenge of funding and building a new school."  
**Mary McGrath, RSF Grandparent and Past PTO Board Member**
- "I am comforted knowing that Jim will take action to address the important and timely issue of child safety on campus."  
**Star Lerach, RSF Parent**
- "We believe Jim cares for all the children in our District. He's a dedicated father, husband, Cub Scout Chairman, RSF School Endowment Board member, supporter of the PTO, and youth coach."  
**Hugh and Joy Bancroft, RSF Parents**
- "Jim brings the insight and skills to effectively serve the broader community."  
**Duff Sanderson, RSF Parent**

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