

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 3

March 2012

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradosf.org

Hike/Bike Path Etiquette

Many Eldoradoans use our hike/bike paths: dog walkers, joggers, and kids of all ages and abilities on bikes, trikes, and other wheeled gizmos. That's a good thing: these are people unplugged from the television and other screens; they are moving their bodies, which improves their fitness and consequentially their spirits; and they are often doing so with a friend or family member.

With so many users of this same path, courtesy is imperative—and easy. Recently, while riding to work on the path one morning, I announced my intention to pass a gentleman walking ahead of me with his dog. I simply called out, “Bike will be passing on your left.” Announcing my approach was safer for all: he could have stepped to the left and been immediately in front of me; or his dog could have veered into my path; either scenario would have been potentially very unpleasant for all three of us. All it took to avoid that was simply to announce, with sufficient time for him to respond, that I was approaching behind him.

We can all increase our enjoyment of our hike/bike paths by extending these basic courtesies to one another. Communication of your intention is key. Here are some simple guidelines:

- ▶ Bicycles traveling faster than 10 mph should be on the road, not the path.
- ▶ Traffic flow should be modeled after road traffic; travel on the right side of the path in both directions, and pass on the left. This applies to all users of multi-use paths and trails.
- ▶ Announce your arrival and intention to pass someone with adequate time for them to process the fact that you are there and respond appropriately. This should be the case regardless of your mode of transportation: joggers are faster than walkers, cyclists are faster than everyone else. Bear in mind that many solo path users are listening to headphones, and you need to speak loudly and clearly for them to hear you.
- ▶ Always leave one ear open when using an iPod or MP3 player.

- ▶ Slow down in passing, particularly on a bike, and pass with caution, especially when small children are present. Their actions are often unpredictable.
- ▶ Dogs should be on short standard leashes. And YES, they must be on leashes. Retractable leashes are not recommended for path use, as they are often misused.
- ▶ Remember that the path is for use by all and for multiple types of activities. Enhance your own, and everyone else's experience, by sharing this lovely community resource.

Reminder for automobile drivers: You are in essence crossing *two* intersections when you turn: the path, then the road. Please check carefully for path

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Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on January 19 and took the following formal actions:

- ▶ Board Vice President **Elan Colello's** resignation as VP was accepted. He will remain as a Director.
- ▶ Director **Bill Osher** was elected by the Board as its new Vice-President.
- ▶ Election Committee Chair **Jean Crawford** reported on Election Policy change recommendations; the proposed changes were tabled.
- ▶ A variance request was approved for 19 Antigua Road to allow support stringers on the outside of an existing coyote fence to remain where Architectural Guidelines require them on the inside of a fence.

Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Community Center, and are open to the public. An open forum, community announcements, and reports from ECIA committees are regularly included. For complete minutes and meeting agendas, visit the ECIA office or website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center, Thurs.,
March 15,
7 pm.*



Responsible Dog Ownership Practices

Share your comments with us!
For policy and deadline, see below

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too. **DEADLINE:** Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or e-mailed to ECIADiAna@aol.com Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

Mission Statement

The mission of *Vistas*, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

As the temperature begins to rise this spring, many Eldorado residents will start allowing their dogs to stay outside, in fenced enclosures, for longer periods of time during the day. While this isn't necessarily problematic, without proper supervision many dogs will bark and howl for more than 15 to 20 minutes and, as such, will be in violation of both the Eldorado Covenants and Santa Fe County Animal Control Ordinance No. 1991-6:

5-5 ANIMAL DISTURBING THE PEACE

A. It is unlawful for any owner to allow any of his animals to persistently or continuously bark, howl or make noise common to their species or otherwise disturb the peace and quiet of the inhabitants of the County, or to keep or maintain on his premises any animal in such a manner as to disturb others by noxious or offensive odors, or otherwise endanger the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the County.

Out of respect for neighbors, all dog owners should keep this ordinance in mind when they let their dogs outside, and be vigilant in preventing their dogs from barking excessively at any time of day.

On another dog-related matter, the problem of dog owners not picking up their dog's solid waste is all too common in Eldorado, especially during the springtime. Such irresponsible dog ownership is a violation of both the Eldorado Responsible Dog Ownership Policy and Section 5-6 of the Santa Fe Animal Control Ordinance. This ordinance details the county's policies regarding animal nuisances on sidewalks, public parks, and other open spaces. Relevant portions of this ordinance read as follows:

It is unlawful for the owners of any animal to permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care or control, any such animal to commit

any nuisance upon a sidewalk or in a public park . . . or upon any private property other than that of the animal owner. When an animal defecates in a public place, the owner must remove the feces and dispose of it in a sanitary manner.

Eldorado residents should be considerate of others when walking their dogs, and remember to bring a plastic bag for proper pickup and disposal of animal wastes. This is especially important in public areas such as the ECIA grounds and Compadres Park, which are heavily used by dog owners and children alike. Cleaning up after your pet is part of being a good neighbor and will help to keep Eldorado a beautiful and enjoyable place to live.

For further information on responsible pet ownership, please refer to the Eldorado Responsible Dog Ownership Policy at: <http://www.eldoradosf.org/index.php/Governing-Documents/responsible-dog-ownership-policy.html>.

The ECIA thanks you for your cooperation in being a responsible pet owner!

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

Assessment Payments Due March 1

ECIA Assessments are due March 1, either the entire amount or the first semiannual payment. After that date, the semiannual payment option is no longer available, but amounts owed to the ECIA may still be paid by credit card.

Since past due amounts accumulate monthly interest, members who wish consideration of special circumstances should contact General Manager **Bill Donohue** immediately at 466-4248.

Path Etiquette, from p. 1

users, as well as for vehicular traffic. A cyclist on the path continuing straight ahead has the right-of-way. Wait for them to cross the side street before you turn onto that side street.

By using the path safely and courteously, we enhance our enjoyment of our activity and encourage others to do the same. So, next time you cross paths with a fellow Eldoradoan, greet him or her with a smile and go your way safely and happily.

—Chandler Rhinehart, Co-Owner, SpinDoc

Covenant Compliance Stats

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS

	JAN 2012	YTD	PREV. MONTH	PLANS YTD
SUBMITTED	14	PROJECTS	0	14
APPROVED	10	APPROVED	0	10
VARIANCE REQ	1	VAR. APPROVED	0	1
VARIANCES DENIED	1	VAR. DENIED	0	1

No pending variance requests

COMPLIANCE ISSUES

MTD NEW	CLOSED MTD	YTD PENDING	NEW YTD	CLOSED YTD
20	23	26	20	23

Recognized Household Pets: What Are They?

Prompted by a variance request, the ECIA is looking into the possibility of allowing residents to keep hens and/or goats in small nuisance-free numbers. In the past, variance requests to keep both hens and goats have been considered, and most of those were approved by previous Boards. This Board has spent considerable time studying the general proposition and deciding how to proceed.

As news of the proposal has spread, I and other Board members have received many calls and emails from residents. We found that many are in favor, many are opposed, and all are passionate. As a 22-year resident, I have seen Eldorado work through difficulties through dialogue. I believe we would be missing a terrific opportunity to air the issue and gather useful information if we didn't give people in the community a chance to talk about it.

The Board will convene two forums and an online survey before deciding how to proceed. We want

to hear the pros and cons and assess the options. No options are off the table, and the Board wants to keep the door open to any possible solutions that could be revealed through the public dialogue.

The first forum is set for Saturday, March 10, at 10 am in the Performance Space at La Tienda. The second forum will be at 7 pm on April 4, in the same La Tienda venue. In April or May, we will activate an online survey to further gauge community sentiments based on information that emerges in the forums. Draft ballot language will be produced after all the input is received and analyzed, sometime in June and July.

I want to assure everyone that the Board as a whole has not made up its mind on this issue, except to pursue this process. I hope that Eldoradoans will take the time to attend the forums and participate in the survey. It will help inform the best possible decision.

—Ed Moreno, ECIA President

Water, Water Not Everywhere

Eldorado residents have been hearing for years that Santa Fe County is planning to construct a water pipeline that would connect our system (The Eldorado Water and Sanitation District) with theirs, forging a very important link in case of an emergency caused by a local water shortage. Thus far, the talk has vastly exceeded any progress in constructing such a pipeline. According to Mr. **David Denig-Chakroff**, EAWSD's General Manager, having a reliable alternative source to back up our local water resources is good insurance for Eldorado customers, provided that the price, availability, and quality of water that comes to us from the proposed pipeline meets the highest standards of design and engineering. If construction plans for a connecting pipeline are finalized, the EAWSD will do all in its legal power to ensure that interests of its customers are satisfied in both the near and long term.

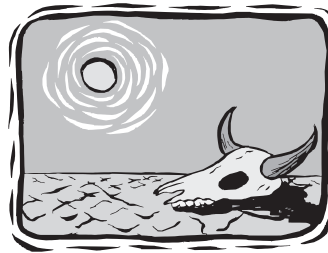
Our water district is dependent on a complex set of aquifers beneath us accessed using 18 wells, and includes an extensive underground water delivery network and several major water tanks to provide the all-important hydrant pressure needed by our Fire Department. The most critical, and recently the most problematic, source of our water supply is gifted with a name considered beautiful by some: the Galisteo Creek Alluvium. This portion of the EAWSD system is provided by two relatively shallow wells that are dependent on runoff from the high mountains that surround Santa Fe. The water produced by these wells

represents over a fifth of the district's total water pumping capacity. The top producing areas of the aquifer we depend on are the two active wells that pump from the so-called Fractured Madera Limestone and the one well (approved so far) that sucks up water from the Fractured Precambrian Granite formation. Just these three wells produce nearly two-thirds of the district's total pumping capacity.

Spring and summer will be with us before long, and if we are not careful with our precious water resource, we may be facing another water shortage emergency. Our water company, the EAWSD, is our own. Its workers keep the miracle of a clean, ready water supply going 24/7/365. We have a clean water advantage that most people on this planet do not share. Conserving our water means being and staying conscious of how limited it really is.

The EAWSD holds its board meetings on every first and third Thursday of the month in the Railroad Building of the ECIA at 7 pm. The public is invited to attend and participate. Agendas are posted well in advance of all meetings on the district's website located at www.eldoradowaterdistrict.com and at the district's bulletin board in the Agora shopping center.

—Frank Schober



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Neighborhood Watch:

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Roads: **Nolan Zisman**
Stable: **Lisa Bessone & Deena Joseph**

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ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit our website to read about ECIA's proposal to allow the keeping of hens as pets in Eldorado.

Also, go online to take the survey about ECIA's amenities.

Go to
www.eldoradosf.org



Janet Amtmann pastel

20 Artists in Metamorphosis at La Tienda

Quilts, inlay and stained glass, photography, painting, and an Eldorado Friendship Quilt will be on view at the exhibit space in La Tienda Saturday, March 17–April 14 (Wednesday–Saturday, 11 am–5 pm). Artists' reception will be on Saturday, March 17, 4–6 pm. Related presentations will take place throughout the exhibit period. Call **Jean Stokes**, 466-0065 or go to www.theexhibitspace.com for details.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Free Health Screenings/Information

In March, the Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van will be in Eldorado for free health screenings. Look for the van on Tuesday, March 6, 10 am–2 pm, at the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center; and Saturday, March 31, 10 am–2 pm, at the Agora Supermarket parking lot. For more information, please call **Angela Thorndyke**, RN/BSN at 505-231-2382.

Happy "Shoe" Year!!!

After a successful "Wild West Shoot Out" horseshoe tournament last May and the continued interest from the players, we are organizing an Eldorado horseshoe league for adults (18+ years old).

The season: Mid-April through mid-September
Day/Time: Friday evenings 5 pm to dark

Location(s): Depending on how many teams register, we will throw at the Community Center (2 regulation pits) or the La Tienda pits (4 regulation pits)

Teams: Two person teams (co-ed teams okay)
Fun team names a must!

For more information and to register your team, contact **Tom Miller** at events@miller91.com

March St. Pat's TGIF

On Friday, March 16, there will be a TGIF gathering at the Community Center from 5 to 7 pm. Please bring an appetizer to share and wear green if you feel like it in honor of St. Patrick's Day. This is the last TGIF until fall, so come to visit with your neighbors.

Janet Amtmann Showing at Las Chivas

Janet Amtmann, local pastel artist, will be showing her work at Las Chivas Gallery at the Agora Shopping Center through the month of March. A member of the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association and participant in the annual Studio Tour, Amtmann has been painting in pastels and showing nationally in pastel society shows since 2001 when she moved to Eldorado. All her work is completed outdoors and the subject matter is landscapes throughout New Mexico. She has been teaching classes at the Adam Senior Center for the last three years and heads up the art program there.

New Mexico Chess Championships

La Tienda will be hosting this year's New Mexico Chess Championships on March 17 and 18. Come watch the state's best players in action. The event is sponsored by SFR, WKCC, and NMCO. Check the La Tienda Weekly newsletter for times and location as the event draws near.

The Best Live Comedy PG-13 Tour

La Tienda and The Performance Space present "The Best Live Comedy PG-13 Tour," Saturday, March 3. Visiting from Albuquerque we have

MOON PHASES FOR MARCH



Stephen "HAHA" Hunt, Goldie Garcia, Roger C. Blair, and Keith Breckenridge.

With appearances at comedy clubs in NY, LA, and Vegas (the big one), TV, casinos, and talent shows, these performers are sure to put on a show you don't want to miss. Pre-show tickets are \$15; call 505-340-4654 or visit www.TheBestLiveComedy.com. Tickets at the door are \$20. Doors open at 6:30 pm; show-time is 7 pm.

Gardening Tour Lecture Series

The 3rd annual Eldorado Gardening Tour will be held Saturday, June 3. We are again going to host a garden lecture series leading up to the tour. **March 10:** "Why cactus?" **March 31:** "Designing your garden." **April 21:** "Xeric strategies: Plant selection, microclimates, mulching and water management." **May 12:** "Fruit trees and beekeeping." All lectures will be held at La Tienda in the Zia Financial meeting room at 10 am. For more information call 510-1231 or email Eldoradogarden@aol.com.

Time to Say Thank You

Come out to La Tienda on March 10, 12–4 pm, for a free Thank You party for our local volunteers. Several of our beloved local groups are coming together to honor their supporters and volunteers. Come enjoy music, entertainment, and food. Learn how you can help out in big and small ways to make the world a better place. Several groups will put on presentations in The Performance Space, and even more will have tables in the hallways of buildings A and B to let you know what you can do.

Santa Fe Debut of *Who Does She Think She Is?*

Destiny Allison Fine Art is sponsoring a free screening of the film documentary *Who Does She Think She Is?* on Sunday, March 25, at 2 pm at The Performance Space at La Tienda. This is a film about five fierce women who refuse to choose between mothering and working. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion. Panelists are still being finalized, but it looks like notables **Joan Logghe** and **Julia Goldberg** will be participating. In addition to the screening, **Maya Torres**, one of the artists featured in the film, will be a guest artist at Destiny Allison Fine Art. The opening reception for Maya's show will be on March 17 from 4 to 7 pm. RSVP is strongly suggested; call 428-0024.



Our Community Garden

The El Dorado School Community Garden swings into its fourth year on Saturday, March 17, with a kickoff meeting from 10 am to noon in the El Dorado School Library. If you love to garden, love organic vegetables, love meeting your neighbors and working outdoors, now is the best time to join—or re-join—this notable community project.

Membership fees for 2012 are a one-time \$35 per household or \$30 per single individual, with an additional \$30 per plot or communal garden participant. Children under 18 are free.

The Community Garden offers not only a variety of ways and spaces for members to enjoy organic gardening and a great opportunity to get to know other gardeners, but also invaluable education about sustainability and land stewardship, a chance to harvest one's own vegetables and contribute food to local food banks, and the satisfaction that comes with participating in a community endeavor.

Debra Denker's 10-minute documentary film, "Community Garden: Many Hands Make Light Work," now on YouTube, gives a wonderful introduction to the Garden. Go to YouTube and search for "El Dorado School Community Garden." For more information, contact **Marilynn Jacobs** at 466-6707 or eldogarden@comcast.net.

ECIA Candidate Forum

On April 17, residents can meet candidates for the ECIA Board at a Candidate Forum, 7 pm in the Railroad building. Candidate resumes will be published in the Annual Report which will be mailed to residents in April.

March Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradosf.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*.

Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. **Type of Event**
2. **Location**
3. **Date & Time**
4. **A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.

LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Room, CR=Class Room, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen

MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS

ECIA public forum on hens	Sat., Mar. 10, 10 am; Wed., April 4, 7 pm	466-4248	La Tienda
TGIF	Fri., Mar 16, 5-7		LR

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Mar. 13, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Mar. 27, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Mar. 12, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Mar. 6, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Mar. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., Mar.6, 4-6 pm	Jeanne Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Mar. 14, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Mar. 20, 7-9 pm			CFR
Road Committee	No Meeting	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., Mar. 27, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., Mar. 8, 7-9 pm	Dana Richards	690-5500	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

Bridge	Every Other Wed., 9-noon	Natalie Bernet	466-6118	LR
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs of month		204-7007	LR
EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR
Eldorado Camera Club	4th Wednesday, 7-9	biordi@aol.com		La Tienda
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 7 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Wed., 5:45-6:45 pm (Men Only)			CFR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			LR/CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	466-3091	LR
Bridge	Every Other Wed., 9-noon	Natalie Bernet	466-6118	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:30 & 11:00 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Richard Robinson	466-7319	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm> ***Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Horses in Eldorado

Where 285 intersects Avenida Eldorado lies a little slice of heaven for a group of your neighbors. The Stable amenity, 35 privately owned barns housing 80 or so horses, was intentionally deeded into the subdivision charter some 30 years ago to honor its original ranch tradition and the importance of the horse to settlement of the West.

Unlike all other amenities at Eldorado, horse-owners reimburse the ECIA for expenses. The community is reimbursed for electricity and manure removal. Horseowners are billed for water usage.

Additionally, we have chosen to underwrite an aggressive fly predator program to mitigate the number of flies in the summer months. Professional horsemen from around the Southwest who visit our amenity never fail to comment on the success of our (reduced) fly-zone to the benefit of the at-large Eldorado community.

We very much enjoy participating in each year's July 4th parade, and we organize an annual community outreach program. Unfortunately, this year's sponsor canceled the scheduled event, which would have supported young New Mexican riders in national competitions.



Photo: Jack Arnold

In years past, we organized local vets and trainers for a day devoted to local artists wanting to study equine anatomy and movement. We hosted pony rides and horse education programs for area youth. Eldorado gardeners greatly appreciate our Grade A manure, free of charge, to fertilize their flower and vegetable beds. The ECIA tractor is at the stable Thursday mornings and is available to help load your truck bed. Call the office to confirm a time.

Community members and their children enjoy walking through our amenity to see our beautiful horses. We have forged friendships and relationships with more than a few of our neighbors who enjoy strolling down the main road and addressing our horses by name.

The stable amenity is a community asset. It invites people to interact and, in doing so, enhances the opportunities to be a community.

On a more pragmatic level, it is safe to say that every stable owner chose to purchase a home in Eldorado because of this vibrant horse amenity. You never know, when you want to sell, where your buyer will come from. The stables are a talking point that just may tip the discussion to your favor.

—Lisa Bessone

At the Crossroads

DRUGHT OR NOT . . . Is the area around your mailbox, or even the area where your driveway meets the road, a moon landscape look-alike after it gets really wet? If so, you may wish to take a bit of pity on your mail and newspaper carriers who have to negotiate through the muck and mire to provide you an essential service. One way is to resurface the area immediately in front of the mail-

box or driveway entrance with a layer of base course and 1-inch gravel. It doesn't require all that much material because you don't want to put any in the roadway where the grader would abscond with it. To minimize your costs, you might consider going in with your neighbors to get a small load of the materials and hire a day laborer to spread the material. Your carriers, most of whom use their own vehicles to deliver the goodies, will be most appreciative of this effort. —Nolan Zisman, Chair, Road Committee

Senior Center News

The Senior Center has many new activities scheduled in March. Seniors are invited to come by and pick up an activities calendar and menu. It only takes two minutes to become a member. Different forms of exercise are taught daily as well as many other classes to enhance your life.

NEW ACTIVITIES

PAINTING: **Janet Amtmann** will once again teach her painting class beginning on March 13, meeting once weekly for eight weeks. Sign-up begins on March 6. Beginners will work in watercolor, acrylic, and pastel. Intermediate students can work in any of these media. All materials are furnished by the Adam Center Art Program, thanks to generous donations by the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association.

▶ MEMOIR WRITING: More fun than instruction; come write the stories of your life.

▶ PINOCHLE: We have a group who plays pinochle every Thursday after lunch.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Lou Bachrach recruits fantastic guest speakers who join us right after lunch:

▶ Thursday, March 1: County Commissioner **Liz Stefanics**

▶ Friday, March 9: Chief Justice of New Mexico **Patricio Serna**

▶ Thursday March 22: Attorney **David Ruyle**, Long Term Care Planning

The Center is open Monday–Friday 10 am–4 pm. Lunches are served daily at noon. Our telephone number is 466-1039.

—Carol Branch

Vigilance

In the past, *Vistas* has published articles about caring for pets in evacuation circumstance, preparedness in case of fires . . . basically, all sorts of articles about what to do in dire circumstances. I've written about how safe a community we have proven to be, largely because of Neighborhood Watch. We are still a very safe community, but, safety, and the security blanket nestled around our shoulders, does not mean we can afford to be less vigilant regarding potential crime opportunities.

Recently, one of our neighbors had a most unfortunate occurrence at the Agora: her purse was snatched as she walked to her car. The incident occurred at around 3:30 in the afternoon, when, for whatever reason, the Agora parking lot was crammed and she found herself parking in one of the far reaches of the the lot. A diminutive woman with a prominent handbag on her shoulder, she proved to be the perfect mark for a young man watching for a victim.

Four years ago, I was that same victim but in seemingly very different, but similar, circumstances. Although I was just yards from the Miracle Mile in Chicago, the area was fairly deserted and a young man came up behind me and very deftly invaded my back-

pack, taking my wallet. He had an accomplice, and I didn't realize the wallet was gone until the next morning. Generally, I am very aware of my environment. Never thinking it could happen to me, I let my guard down, taking a more deserted route back to the hotel.

The facts regarding purse snatching, and its prevention, are the following:

- ▶ Purse snatching is a crime of opportunity.
- ▶ Women are more vulnerable, especially smaller, older women.
- ▶ Be aware of what is going on around you, especially of people, especially young males, who seem to be out of place.
- ▶ Carry cash, credit cards, and IDs in an inside pocket, not in an obvious handbag, or wear your handbag inside a coat or jacket;
- ▶ Make copies of important documents, such as the above, and keep them at home in a safe place.
- ▶ Shop with a friend.
- ▶ At night, park in well-lighted areas, closer to your destination.
- ▶ Put car keys in a pocket.

For more helpful information: www.aware.org.

—Nina Harrison

Reel New Mexico Independent Film Series

Reel New Mexico, an ongoing monthly series showcasing independent films with a New Mexico connection, debuts Thursday, March 8, at 7 pm at La Tienda. The first program will feature four short films.

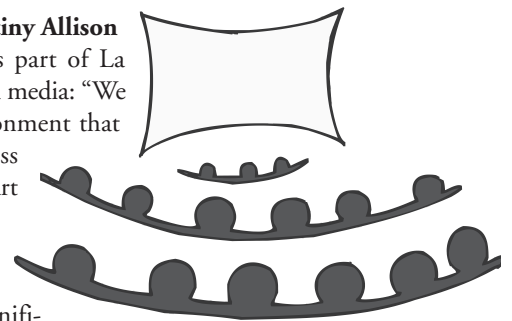
Surreal Estate, by **Lori Romero**, which won the Audience Choice award at the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival, takes a comedic and surrealistic look at one man's struggle to rent a house. **Paul Marcus's *mistersky*** is a visual homage to Detroit that showed at the 2011 "Currents" exhibition in the Santa Fe Railyard. ***Una Causa Noble***, by M/K Productions, a short feature, tells the story of a young Mexican who enlists in the U.S. Army to obtain citizenship. Praised by noted Greek filmmaker Costa-Gavras, it was a selection of the Santa Fe Film Festival. ***Take My Hand and Walk with Me***, by **Marga Matakovich**, is a Ken Burns-style documentary that interviews a 93-year-old Lakota woman who served as an Army nurse in World War II. Reel New Mexico is premiering this film. By coincidence, Romero, Marcus and Matakovich all live in Eldorado.

Filmmakers representing each film will discuss and answer questions about their work after the screenings.

Reel New Mexico has no entry fee and gives no awards. Proceeds from the \$5 suggested audience do-

nations will be split among participating filmmakers after expenses are met.

La Tienda Managing Partner **Destiny Allison** sees the Reel New Mexico series as part of La Tienda's efforts to support artists in all media: "We are committed to building an environment that stimulates dialog and creativity across all artistic media, while we promote art and artists to the community at large." **Diane Thomas**, series co-coordinator with her husband **Bill Osher**, hopes the series will be "a significant venue for filmmakers throughout the state and perhaps the region."



At the Library

New Library Director, **Caroline Dechert**, will be on board by March 1. Watch for news of a "meet and greet" for patrons to welcome her.

Family Movie Night, Friday, March 9 at 7 pm at the Library: *The Smurfs*, rated PG. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

Voter Registration, all Saturdays in March: 1–4 pm at the Library. A social security number and New Mexico address are required to register.



*Security 204-2945
Sheriff 428-3720
Crime Stoppers 955-5050*

Solar Forum and Solar Home Tour Weekend, March 24–25

Eldorado has a long history as a leading passive solar community. As we look ahead, we have many great opportunities to move from passive to active solar. The upcoming Solar Forum will help inform and equip Eldorado area residents as we take steps to become more sustainable and more energy independent and to save some greenbacks while we're at it.

The educational solar forum and home tour is being organized by SERA (Sustainable Eldorado Residence Alliance) and co-sponsored by the ECIA, the Sierra Club, and La Tienda. Workshops will be held on Saturday, March 24, from 1 to 4 pm, at the Performance Space in La Tienda. A home tour will be held on Sunday, March 25, from 10 to 3, consisting of 9 homes to give everyone an opportunity to see a wide variety of solar solutions and talk to the homeowners about their system. This promises to be a very enlightening weekend for anyone who has been considering adding solar to their homes. Come early, as we expect a capacity crowd!

There will be four workshops:

- ▶ SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS (led by **Xubi Wilson**, Renewable Energy Programs Coordinator, Santa Fe Community College; and **Tom Engle**, Positive Energy Project Manager, residential installations)
- ▶ SOLAR THERMAL (led by **Peter Page**, co-founder of AMEnergy, who conducts project consultations, system design and selection, and installation of equipment for thermal energy systems)

- ▶ SOLAR FINANCING AND COST BENEFITS (three segments, led by **Rob Lochner**, Homewise loan agent; **Craig O'Hare**, Santa Fe County Energy Programs Specialist, Public Utilities Division; and **Kathy Holian**, Santa Fe County Commissioner)
- ▶ CONSERVATION AND USAGE (led by **Jan Deligans** and **Amy Bertelli**, local energy conservation experts)

Each workshop will run for 45 minutes. After the workshops, the workshop leaders will participate on a panel where they will answer questions from the audience.

The solar home tour will give everyone a chance to see a wide variety of solar solutions and talk with the homeowners about the process of integrating solar energy into their homes. The homes have been chosen as examples of sustainable living and also feature energy savings through creative water catchment, window insulation, food gardens, passive solar use, and much more. There are 9 homes on the tour.

For more information, go to www.greeneldorado.org and click on the links for the Solar Forum. You will find full information on each of the homes. Don't miss this opportunity to explore Eldorado's renewable energy pioneers. This will be your chance to see real results in your own hometown. For more information about SERA and the Solar Forum, please contact **Marilynn Jacobs**, 466-6707, mkjsantafe@comcast.net, or **Don McAvinchey**, perfectlifecoach@gmail.com.

