

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 5

May 2012

IN THIS ISSUE

ECIA News.....	2-3
Neighborhood Watch	3
In the Community.....	4-5
Changing Weather	6
Share the Road	6
Senior Center.....	7
Studio Tour	7
SERA Awards	7

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

Wildfire Prevention in 2012

El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service (EFRS) has some tips for Eldorado homeowners to make their homes and property better prepared for wildfire, both during fire season and year-round. These are provided in three general areas of wildfire protection and preparation. Following these commonsense tips will help protect your home, property, and community in the event of a wildfire in Eldorado.

GET INVOLVED

- ▶ Volunteer with the EFRS! This is the best way to prepare for a wildfire. Actively participate in the organization that is dedicated to protecting Eldorado.
- ▶ Act! Prepare your home using the tips provided.
- ▶ Seek out additional information. Visit the fire station next to the El Dorado School on a Saturday morning or Wednesday evening; we are always looking to help.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

- ▶ Display your house number so that it is easily visible both day and night.
- ▶ Make sure your driveway is at least 12 feet wide. This is especially important for fire truck access if you use large rocks or logs to frame the driveway.
- ▶ Create “fuel breaks” around your home, such as driveways, gravel walkways, and areas free of trees and shrubs.
- ▶ Clean areas around your home where leaves, tumbleweeds, and dead vegetation collect. These areas are where firebrands or cinders are likely to collect in a wildfire.

LANDSCAPING

- ▶ Trim trees several feet off the ground so that burning weeds will be less likely to ignite larger vegetation such as trees.
- ▶ Remove dead vegetation from under decks, other void spaces, and within 10 feet of your home.
- ▶ Create and maintain a 30-foot defensible space where there are no trees or shrubs. This space should go all the way around your home to provide firefighters easy access and area to work.
- ▶ Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home.

The El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service will conduct a wildland / urban interface assessment of your residence on request. Assessments are conducted on Saturday mornings by appointment only, and the homeowner must be present during the survey. For an appointment or additional information, call the fire department at 466-1204

—El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service

More Fire Safety Tips

New Mexico is having another dry year. Fire danger is very high. Please use extreme caution when working around your home with any tools or equipment that may cause sparks, high temperatures, or anything else that could ignite a fire. Be extra careful if you smoke, and make sure you dispose of your butts safely. With the dry conditions and high winds, a fire can get out of control very quickly.

On the planning side, make sure you have a fire evacuation plan in place for your home and that all family members are familiar with it. Have evacuation routes and meeting places designated. Have an emergency kit available—with clothing, medications, three gallons of water per person, food, and any other valuables you will need—prepared and easy to grab and go. A good place to keep the kit is in the garage near the car or by an exit. Have extra copies of all important documents and store them away from your home and work place, perhaps at a relative’s or friend’s home in a different community. Small fireproof safes may seem like a good idea, but do not rely on them for saving your valuable papers in a major fire.

Here are some other tips for emergency situations:

- ▶ Always keep some cash on hand. ATM machines will not work if there’s no electricity.
- ▶ Always keep your vehicle at least half full of gas. You may not have time to gas up in an evacuation.
- ▶ Practice and discuss everything with your family to make sure everyone knows your plans.

For more ideas on getting yourself prepared, visit the ECIA’s website www.eldoradosf.org.

—Raven Hicks, ECIA Community Services Manager

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center, Thurs.,
May 17,
7 pm.*





Debris on Lots is a Growing Problem

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.

Over the past year, the ECIA has noted an increase in the number of covenant violations related to residents allowing debris, of various types and amounts, to accumulate on their lots for extended periods of time. The types of debris we have cited in violations over the past year range from unused building materials all the way to actual home garbage left on lots for weeks at a time.

Under Article II, Section 14, of the Eldorado Covenants, the Nuisances Clause clearly prohibits offensive debris on a lot. Specifically, this covenant states: "No lot shall be used in any way for the storage or dumping of trash or debris, nor for any purpose which may endanger the health of, or unreasonably disturb, other lot owners, or which creates or constitutes a nuisance. No unsightly or offensive objects shall be erected, placed, stored or permitted to remain on any lot, nor shall any lot be permitted to appear in an unclean or untidy condition." In addition, Section 19 of the Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions for Eldorado further clarifies the types of conditions that can be considered a nuisance and in violation of the covenants.

While there may be some validity to the saying that "One man's trash is another man's treasure," in an ongoing effort to protect the covenants and preserve the

beauty of Eldorado, we urge all residents to consider their neighbors and work to prevent the accumulation of all types of debris on their lot, at all times. This includes unused building materials, garbage, old cars, bikes, and anything else that could be considered offensive to your neighbors' view.

From a public health perspective, too, it is a health hazard to leave bags of garbage, building debris, or other possibly toxic substances on one's lot and not in an appropriate storage container. From a fire prevention perspective, piles of brush and debris left lying on a lot are a fire hazard and will greatly increase the chance of fire damage to a home, especially if left close to a home, fence, or outbuilding.

Please put debris in the appropriate kind of trash receptacle, or store it in a safe location. Items that are not actual debris but could cause a lot to look untidy should be stored out of sight of neighbors and roadways, via an approved screening method such as a fence or wall or plantings.

Your cooperation in keeping your lot neat will be appreciated by your neighbors and will help to keep Eldorado beautiful. If anyone has any questions or a debris problem they want to report, please call or e-mail me (466-4248 or eciaccr@aol.com).

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

Recent Board Actions

Because of the abbreviated April Vistas, two months of Board actions are reported here. The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on February 16 and took the following formal actions, unanimously unless otherwise noted:

- ▶ **Robert Christy** was appointed to the Sustainability, Planning and Education Committee (SPEC).
 - ▶ An amount not to exceed \$3,229.39 was approved from Operating Contingency to provide pressure regulators on the Stable's water system.
- At its March 15 meeting, the Board took the following formal actions unanimously:
- ▶ **Jan Deligans, Allayne Scott, and Bonnie Mahlum** were appointed to SPEC.
 - ▶ A variance request was approved on 13 Mimosa Road for a studio (large accessory building) more than 15 feet from the principal dwelling, taking advantage of natural vegetation, with conditions.
 - ▶ A variance request for 9 Abanico Road was disapproved for use of lattice, a noncompliant material, but an arbor with compliant material was approved.
 - ▶ A variance request was approved on 6 Luna Drive for an 8-foot-high coyote fence to be used for RV screening.

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 Election

The ECIA Board has eight candidates for two vacant Director positions. For your vote to count, the ballot mailed to each lot owner as part of the Annual Meeting packet must be returned to the ECIA office by Monday, May 4. The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on May 7. Full information on each candidate is available as part of the Annual Report and on the ECIA website. The candidates are **Gregory Bundrick, Claudia Daigle, Jan Deligans, Pam Henline, Barbara Mandel, Dieter Rall, Anne Salzmann, and Frank Schober.**

Amenities Survey Validates Community Values

Our first online survey has been completed, and it verifies what most residents understand about living in a community with a homeowners association. The results show that the amenities provided to homeowners in the community are valued by those who use them. More importantly, many of the amenities are highly valued by homeowners even when they're not used frequently, or at all.

The principle is simple, as longtime volunteer **Dan Drobnis** wrote recently:

"I tend to believe that even amenities that I do not use support the value of my property. Sooner or later, next year, 10 years from now, decades from now, I or my heirs will want to dispose of my property. The more interested buyers, the greater its likely value.

Since I cannot predict exactly when that time may come, it makes economic sense for me to maintain my property—including the jacuzzi tub I never use ... similarly, the desirability to maintain the hike/bike paths I use every day, or the tennis courts that I have never used and never plan to."

On the question of assessments to support the amenities, an almost equal number want the ECIA to try to hold the line on assessment increases or not increase them at all, and half that number would support higher assessments or had no opinion.

The most used amenities, according to the survey, are the *Vistas* newsletter, the hike/bike trails, the greenbelts, and the Wilderness Preserve. Not surprisingly, those who place importance on those amenities, regardless of usage, ranked those same amenities the highest. The second tier of amenities included the Community Center, social events, and the swimming pool. The lowest ranked were the basketball court, beach volleyball, horseshoe pits and shuffleboard. Interestingly, more people gave those amenities more importance than their actual usage might suggest.

The rest of the list includes Compadres Park, the dog park, tennis courts, horse stables, kiddie pool, and playing/baseball field. You can see the full survey results on our website, eldoradosf.org.

Admittedly, the survey sample was small—only 307 people participated. But it gives us guidance to continue focusing on the high-priority items. ECIA committee chairs have been given this survey to see how they can incorporate the findings in their deliberations.

We'll consider this a trial run for the next online survey, which will ask residents to weigh in on the issue of allowing residents to keep hens on their properties. By the time you read this, that survey may already be online.

Do you want to write for *Eldorado Vistas*? Contact **Frank Schober** at fschober@att.net.

—Ed Moreno, ECIA President

Preparedness: Emergency Radios

As I began to think about this topic and do a bit of research, I was thrown back to the horrors of Hurricane Katrina. At the time I was the executive director of a large nonprofit in Atlanta, which took care of thousands of people fleeing New Orleans with nothing but the clothes on their backs and the terrifying tales of not being able to get any information out or into New Orleans.

There is an old adage that "time heals all wounds," but time also has a way of inducing a lull and, sometimes, situational amnesia. Because we have smartphones, iPads, and all manner of high-tech devices, our sense of vulnerability is often dulled.

Like many of us, my husband and I had not thought of emergency radios until I began writing this article. Emergency radios are varied and affordable, ranging from \$20 to over \$100 per unit. One can find a good selection through Amazon, REI, Eton (a manufacturer), and other online sites.

When considering the purchase of an emergency radio, there are some basic critical features to look for: Does it have an independent power source (such as

solar)? How long does it take to charge the internal battery? How long does the battery last on one charge? And what amenities (flashlight, mobile-device charging element or USB port, clock, siren, or the ability to pick up the NOAA weather stations) does it come with? Durability is another consideration—that is, where it can be used, does it have protection against water and/or a protective casing?

And, yes, in a situation where we have to use an emergency radio, we may have to fall back on the oldest technology of all: elbow grease. In order to get the radio to work, we may have to crank the device for a period of time in order to power up the radio.

In closing, the Red Cross website is a terrific resource for ready-to-use Emergency Preparedness packs. Check it out: www.redcrossstore.org/shopper/prodlist.

—Nina Harrison, Neighborhood Watch



ECIA OFFICE
#1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87508
466-4248, 466-4249
ecommunity@aol.com
www.eldoradosf.org

General Manager
Bill Donohue
466-4248, gmbill1@aol.com
Covenant Compliance Rep
Mark Young
466-4248, ECIAccr@aol.com
Community Services Mgr
Raven Hicks
204-2945, eciasm@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President
Ed Moreno
466-1183
edmoreno@newmexico.com
Vice-President

Bill Osher
466-1265
bill.osher@vpss.gatech.edu
Treasurer
Todd Handy
466-3785
Todd_Gilliss@yahoo.com

Secretary
Gregory Bundrick
gjugju@msn.com

Director
Pat Lavengood
466-9765
plavengood@q.com
Director

Lynn Mortensen
202-591-5659
lynn.sfe@gmail.com
Director

Elan Colello
elanishere@gmail.com
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:
Katherine Mortimer
Conservation: **John Parker**
Election: **Jean Crawford**
Facilities & Grounds:
Jeanne Calzada
Finance: **Dan Drobnis**
Information: **Open**
Neighborhood Watch:
Marilyn Walker
Roads: **Nolan Zisman**
Stable: **Lisa Bessone & Deena Joseph**

Sustainability, Planning,
Education: **Dana Richards**
VISTAS NEWSLETTER
Editor & Designer
Carol Leyba
466-1158
chsleyba@comcast.net

Webmaster:
Jack Arnold
jwellsarnold@gmail.com
Editorial Assistant:
DiAna Gutierrez
466-4248
ECIADiAna@aol.com

COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Vista Grande Library
466-READ
Security
204-2945
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofirerescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)

ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit our website to read about the candidates for the ECIA Board.

Go to
www.eldoradosf.org

Pool Opens May 26, 8 AM–8 PM!

Regular Hours:

Lap Swim: Every day 8–10 am; Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 6–8 pm

General Swim: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays 10 am–8 pm; Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10 am–6 pm

For information on group swimming lessons, contact **Julee**, 505-690-6887 or juleepatchoulee@yahoo.com.

ELDORADO AREA GARDENING TOUR 2012

SATURDAY JUNE 2, 2012
10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Admission: FREE



IN THE COMMUNITY

Eldorado Flea Market

The Sustainable Eldorado Residents Alliance (SERA) is sponsoring the annual Spring Flea Market on Saturday, May 19, at the Community Center from 8:00 AM–noon. The 125 vendor spaces are on a first-come, first-served basis. Setup begins at 7 AM, although some vendors arrive as early as 6:30 to make sure they get their favorite space. Fees are \$15 for Eldorado residents, \$20 for non-residents, and \$25 for commercial. So, bring all that stuff that you've stored up over the winter and reuse, recycle, and rejoice at the flea market fiesta.

Water Conservation in Eldorado

Join other concerned residents to discuss and learn about issues and management of water, our most precious resource. This event, sponsored by the SERA Eldorado Waterwrights, is free and open to the public, held at The Performance Space in La Tienda. Join us ahead of time for breakfast and informal networking at LaPlancha's fabulous Sunday Brunch buffet, 11 AM–1:00 PM (\$8.95 per person). The workshop begins at 1:00 PM and will include a discussion of EAWSD's Water Conservation Plan and historic water use trends, practical water conservation measures suitable for the semi-arid environment of Santa Fe County, and the long-term performance of an actual rainwater harvesting system installed in Eldorado.

Gardening Tour Lecture

"Fruit trees and bees," by **Ken Bower**, the fourth in the 2012 Eldorado Gardening Tour's Garden Lecture Series, is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, at 10 AM in the Zia Financial meeting room at La Tienda in Eldorado. In his presentation, Bower tells how we can create an earth-friendly lifestyle by growing our own fruit and eating honey from our own bees. He explains how to grow and care for fruit trees in our high-desert area, as well as how to raise our own hives of honeybees to pollinate the trees and give us honey and wax. As with all the Garden lectures, this one is free and open to the public. The Garden Lecture Series leads up to the 3rd Annual Eldorado Gardening Tour, to be held Saturday, June 2, 2012. For more information on the lecture series or on the upcoming Eldorado Gardening Tour, email eldoradogarden@aol.com or phone 510-1231.

3rd Annual Eldorado Gardening Tour

The 3rd Annual Eldorado Area Gardening Tour is set for Saturday, June 2, from 10 AM to 4 PM. This year's self-guided tour includes six private residential gardens and the El Dorado School Community Garden and Outdoor Classroom. The tour explores hardscapes, xeriscapes, cactus, native grasses, perennials,

MOON PHASES FOR MAY 2012



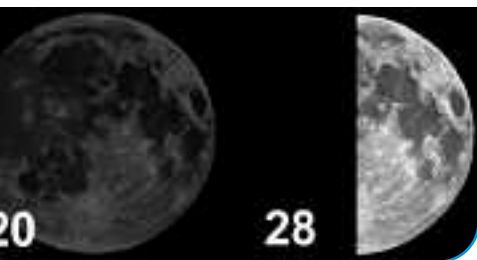
nials, water management, planting strategies, plants, shrubs, beekeeping, fruit trees, vegetables and herbs. Each garden will feature gardeners, Master Gardeners, and homeowners as docents to answer all your questions. A plant list will be available at each location. The tour starts at La Tienda, just off 285 on Avenida Vista Grande. There you can pick up a free tour map. For a minimal donation, you will also receive a goody bag full of coupons, seeds, fact sheets, and a color brochure. The brochure details water use per square foot for each garden, as well as other insights into the gardens' creation and maintenance. Proceeds from this year's donations benefit El Dorado Fire and Rescue.

El Dorado School Community Garden

It's not too late for gardeners to claim an individual bed or a share in the communal portion of this year's El Dorado School Community Garden. If you love to garden, love organic vegetables, love meeting your neighbors and working outdoors, you can still join (or rejoin) this notable community project. The Garden is an organic growing environment and outdoor classroom learning environment on a 1.5-acre parcel of land in a collaboration between Eldorado residents and the El Dorado Community School. It already has inspired similar garden projects in Pennsylvania, Arizona, Taos and elsewhere. Its verdant site includes individual sunken and raised beds, a quarter-acre communal garden, cactus and perennial gardens, a drip irrigation system, greenhouse, tool shed, stone labyrinth with flower boxes, benches, picnic area, gazebo and more. Membership fees for 2012 are a onetime \$35 fee per household or \$30 per individual, and an additional \$30 per plot or communal garden participant. Children under 18 are free. For more information or to join, contact **Marilynn Jacobs** at eldogarden@comcast.net or phone 780-8450.

Free Health Screenings/Information

Free Blood Pressure and Blood Glucose Screenings at the Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van: Tuesday, May 8, at the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center, 9 AM–noon; and Tuesday, May 8, at the Agora Supermarket Parking Lot, 1–4 PM. For more information, please call **Angela Thorndyke**, RN/BSN at 505-231-2382.



Lifeguards Needed!

ECIA is looking for certified lifeguards for summer pool duty. Applicants need to show their Social Security card, driver's license and Red Cross certification. To apply, go to the ECIA Office to pick up an application, or call 466-4248.

REEL NEW MEXICO Films

On Thursday, May 10, Reel New Mexico, a monthly series showcasing independent films with a New Mexico connection, presents the gritty and lyrical documentary feature *Mercurial Son*, a portrait of Chicago blues guitarist Lurrie Bell, directed by **Paul Marcus**. Shown with the film will be an award-winning animated short, *The Astronomer's Sun*, directed, written and produced by **Peter M. Kershaw**, adjunct professor for directors and producers at Santa Fe Community College. The program is at 7 PM at La Tienda Center in Eldorado. The filmmakers will be present to discuss their works. Reel New Mexico has no entry fee and gives no awards. Proceeds from the \$5 suggested at the door go to meet expenses and to participating filmmakers for ongoing projects.

Six Artists in "Dimensions" at La Tienda

Six artists—**Ursula Freer, Paul Biagi, Carol Skye, Bob Everett, Susan Latham, and Carol Leyba**—show a diverse range of artwork, from abstract sculpture and landscape painting to imaginative digital collage, at The Exhibit Space in La Tienda, May 26–June 23 (Wednesday–Saturday, 11 AM–5 PM). Artists' reception is Saturday, May 26, 4–6 pm. For details, call Ursula Freer, 466-1819, or go to www.theexhibitspace.com.

May 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

MAY SPECIAL EVENTS

ECIA Annual Meeting	Mon., May 7, 7-9 pm	Bill Donohue	466-4248	La Tienda
Flea Market	Sat., May 19, 8 am-noon	Don MacAvinchey	577-0280	ECIA
Pool Opens	Sat., May 26, 8 am-8 pm	Bill Donohue	466-4248	ECIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., May 8, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., May 22, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., May 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., May 1, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., May 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., May 1, 4-6 pm	Jeanne Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., May 9, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., May 22, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., May , 6-8 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., May 29, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., May 10, 7-9 pm	Dana Richards	690-5500	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs of month	Barrie Brown	466-3035	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	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
Adult Basketball	Thursdays 6:30 pm - Dusk			BB Court
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	David Lovro	466-0540	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

Our Strange Weather Patterns

With damaging winds, snow in the mountains, early season high temperatures, and continued drought at low elevations, many of us remain mystified about where our climate is heading. The good news is that the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) now expects current “La Niña” weather conditions to neutralize soon. The bad news is that they still predict higher than normal temperatures and drier than normal conditions at least for the near future.

We are fortunate to have an outstanding climatologist located in the Santa Fe area. **William DeBuys**, an author, former Board of Directors Chair of the Valles Caldera National Preserve, and a Guggenheim Fellow, has been giving presentations in Santa Fe recently on future climate change. He has just published a very revealing book, *A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest*.

DeBuys’s main premise is that global carbon dioxide (CO₂) has been increasing in the atmosphere for many decades and will continue to do so. Essentially, it acts as an insulating blanket around the globe, keeping part of the sun’s heat from escaping from the atmosphere, resulting in increased temperatures.

Equally interesting is that some carbon dioxide is essential in the atmosphere. Otherwise, the earth would experience extreme cooling and soon turn into a frozen mass. Maintaining proper balance is critical.

The American Southwest has been particularly hard hit weatherwise. Last year, Texas, Arizona, and parts of New Mexico were classified as having “extreme drought” conditions. We do not yet know what the upcoming season will bring, but residents should begin now to prepare for the possibility of another bad fire year. DeBuys’s forecast is for continued hot, dry weather, with desert conditions spreading over much of the Southwest. He expects that 2–10% of the trees in Texas will disappear in the near future, and that 20–50% of plant species in the Southwest may disappear by the end of the century. He also forecasts big changes in agriculture due to long-term drought and high temperature conditions, with more and more water shortages occurring around the earth.

For those wishing to know more about his forecasts, I suggest you read his book, which can be found in Santa Fe libraries and bookstores.

—Don Dayton

Sharing the Road

The March *Vistas* featured an article on hike/bike path etiquette in Eldorado. So, considering that these paths are available, why do so many people ride their bicycle in the road rather than on the paths? This was partially addressed by one statement in the previous article: “Bicycles traveling faster than 10 MPH should be on the road, not the path.” Why do bicycle riders go that fast? Many riders want to maximize their exercise in a set amount of time.

They use timers, speedometers, or a bicycle-specialized GPS to evaluate their progress and as an incentive to improve fitness. They may also enjoy this faster style of riding. Most of these riders have road bikes which have narrow tires. Except perhaps on hills, these bicycles are generally traveling at speeds greater than 10 MPH. They may average 15 to 20 miles an hour and hit speeds above 30 MPH downhill.

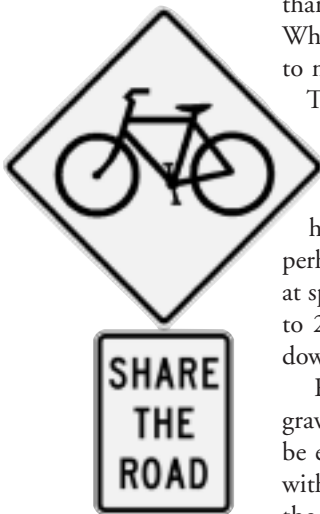
Road bikes are not as forgiving of bumps, mud, gravel, and holes in the pavement, all of which may be encountered on the paths or at the intersection with dirt roads. Hitting a hole or having to veer off the pavement to avoid pedestrians and/or their leashed pets can cause serious injury to the bike rider. If the rider cannot avoid a pedestrian, serious injury

to both may ensue, as happened in Philadelphia recently when two separate collisions resulted in pedestrian death. In addition, many road bikers and some mountain bikers have their feet attached to the pedals to enhance the ride. This makes unanticipated stops especially perilous. Just imagine that you are riding with feet tied to pedals and a pedestrian in front of you suddenly moves from one side of the path to the other. You simply do not have the time to unhook your feet.

On the road, cyclists must be considerate of cars and trucks. Bicycle riders should obey all traffic laws and should stay as far right as possible to give maximum leeway to drivers. In turn, automobile drivers are usually more considerate of bicyclists when the rider minimizes the driver’s inconvenience. Riding with traffic is preferable because it causes less confusion at intersections where both bicycles and cars should signal their intention to turn. They should move over to the far left of the lane when turning left. The cyclist should also be alert to pedestrians who might be crossing at intersections and follow the same rules as cars, erring on the side of pedestrian safety.

The use of simple common sense and courtesy on the part of all users of Eldorado trails and roads is extremely important. The good news is that people in our community are generally thoughtful of others.

—Jim Daniel





Arts Studio Tour May 19–20

This year's Eldorado Studio Tour, featuring 106 artists in 69 open studios, takes place May 19–20 from 10 AM to 5 PM. For those who would like an early preview, the artists' work will be on display in the Exhibit Space at La Tienda a month prior to the tour. The gallery will be open Wednesday–Saturday, 11 AM–5 PM from April 25 to May 18.

Among the artists participating in the tour this year are **Robert Santacroce**, **Jack Arnold**, and **Paul Drumright**. Santacroce is known for his sculptural woven glass pieces. Inspired by 38 years as a Eurythmy dance teacher at the Waldorf Schools, he seeks to combine his love of movement and glass into pieces he describes as “a lullaby in motion, a choreography of glass.” Santacroce and his wife, **Victoria Silks**, a silk fiber artist, will be at Studio 11.

Photographer Jack Arnold has been creating his signature black-and-white photographs since he received his first Brownie camera when he was three years old. Inspired by the natural world, he says his best work is captured “in the middle of nowhere, soaked in solitude.” Predominantly a landscape photographer, his current project in the White Sands area is allowing him to explore abstract images

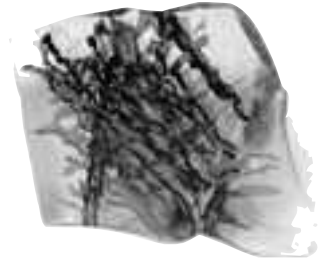
that focus on his interest in pure form. Arnold will be showing his work in Studio 30.

When weaver Paul Drumright visited New Mexico as a young boy, he saw Native Americans selling souvenirs along Route 66. He says, “these images formed the beginnings of my fascination with the first American cultures.” Working on a traditional Navajo loom, he incorporates churro wool and natural dyes into his reproduction textiles. A Master Gardener, he uses the native plants he raises to produce his own dyes. Drumright and his wife, Christine, aka **bb.goochi**, will be at Studio 59.

The Opening Night Party will be held May 18, 5–7 PM, in the Preview Gallery in the Exhibit Space at La Tienda. There will be refreshments, and live music performed by **David Wescott Yard** and **Doug Franz**. The Preview Gallery will be open in the Exhibit Space at La Tienda, May 19–20, 9 AM–5 PM. Tour brochures and maps to the studios will be available.

See www.eldoradostudiotour.org for further information.

(Top): Photograph by Jack Arnold. (Middle): Weaver Paul Drumright at work. (Bottom): A piece of woven glass by Robert Santacroce. All can be seen on the 2012 Studio Tour.



Senior Scene

Spring is around the corner and it's a perfect time to become a member at Adam Senior Center. Come and take advantage of a variety of exercise classes taught daily at 10:30 AM. Stay for our delicious lunches prepared by our health-conscious chefs **Cindy Barreras** and **Sally Connelly**. They take pride in every meal they prepare, using the freshest ingredients possible. Organic vegetables are being planted for the season in our garden, which will be served all summer and through the fall.

It takes only two minutes to become a member, so come on by and pick up a menu and activities calendar. Our hours are Monday–Friday 10 AM–4 PM. If you have any questions please call us at 466-1039.

–Carol Branch

SERA Awards

SERA Recycles!, our Eldorado recycling team, presented its 2012 recycling awards in the following seven categories:

- For Individual Initiative, to **Pamela Mee** for originating and operating recycling programs in 3 local office buildings.
- For an Eldorado Institution, to **Eldorado Community Improvement Association**, for recycling at its community facilities and by converting Christmas trees into mulch.
- For an Eldorado Area Business, to **Eldorado Computer Works** for recycling e-waste and collecting Cartridges for Kids.
- For a Food Service Business, to **Real Food Nation** for recycling, composting, and organic gardening.
- For Composting, to **Elan Colello** for composting food scraps and yard trimmings.
- For an Eldorado Community School Student, to **Sage Channing** for collecting recyclable materials from classrooms throughout the school.
- For Resource Conservation, to **Theo Goujon** for campaigning to replace single-use beverage containers with reusable ones.





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

Largest Ever School Food Drive for The Food Depot

“**W**e are very grateful to have the incredible help of the El Dorado Community School! Their gift of 9,145 cans of food will help The Food Depot provide nearly 9,000 meals for hungry New Mexicans,” said Sherry Hooper, executive director of The Food Depot. “This food drive is the largest single school food drive in the history of the food bank!”

“Food from the Heart,” the eight-day food drive, was held at the school from February 29 to March 9, 2012. On Thursday, April 5, the students, faculty and staff at the El Dorado Community School presented their donation of 9,145 cans of food to **Sherry Hooper**, Executive Director of The Food Depot, at an all-school assembly in the new school gymnasium. **Guy Waldorf**, store manager at the Eldorado Supermart, presented an additional 360 cans of food to The Food Depot.

As part of the Heart Hats Community Service Program, McCarthy New Mexico, the general contractor for the school’s renovation, recognized the top three homeroom food collections. A full day skate and swim class field trip to the Genoveva Chavez Community Center was given to Mrs. Ferjanic’s 7th grade homeroom; a movie and pizza class party to Mrs. Schelton’s 4th grade homeroom, and an ice cream sundae party to Miss Tomanek’s 5th grade home room. Receiving baskets filled with gifts provided by local Eldorado businesses were given to the seven homeroom teachers whose students collected 500 or more cans of food. They were: Mrs. Rodriguez’s 6th grade homeroom; Mrs. Hatch’s 6th

grade homeroom; Mrs. Cullen’s 8th grade homeroom; Mr. Pena’s 8th grade homeroom; Miss Tomanek’s 5th grade homeroom; Mrs. Schelton’s 4th grade homeroom; and Mrs. Ferjanic’s 7th grade homeroom.

McCarthy New Mexico team members also presented the student from each grade who collected the most cans and the student who truly demonstrated giving from the heart with gifts of appreciation.

—Susan Kirtland



Left to right: Justin Peters, Warehouse Manager for The Food Depot; Sherry Hooper, Executive Director for The Food Depot; Anne Darnton, El Dorado School Principal; Kate Diaz, Assistant Principal; and Kim Leake, Assistant Project Manager for McCarthy New Mexico.