

# ELDORADO VISTAS

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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](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

## Preliminary Wildland Fire Assessment of Eldorado

Wildfire season in the Southwest started a month or two early this year, in part due to an unusually warm, dry winter. In response to concerns raised by the ECIA Board of Directors, **Cliff Chetwin** of the Conservation Committee completed an assessment of our community's vulnerability to wildfire. This article summarizes the most salient points of that document.

Fires that have occurred in Eldorado have been human-caused, wind driven, and of low intensity. They have been controlled by existing fire suppression resources with minimal environmental damage. However, fire suppression and lack of grazing have contributed to proliferation of woody vegetation in some areas of our greenbelts. In addition, some residents have made their homes more vulnerable by accumulating flammable debris and planting woody vegetation next to their homes. The Community Center complex, with its wooden roof and outbuildings, is also vulnerable. The risk of structural loss from a wildfire cannot be completely eliminated, but actions such as mowing, trimming, or removing shrubs and trees, and moving high-energy fuels such as woodpiles within a 30-foot radius of most structures, will significantly reduce this risk.

### SUGGESTED COURSES OF ACTION

1. The Board, in concert with El Dorado Fire and Rescue and the Conservation Committee, should implement an aggressive homeowner education program based on the widely accepted "Firewise" program principles.
2. A covenant restriction should be considered that would allow pile burning only with advance consultation with our fire department to help mitigate what appears to be our number one risk of ignitions.
3. Residents mowing around their homes to a radius of 20–30 feet and selectively thinning or removing fuels adjacent to the structures are the most effective actions that can be taken in Eldorado. This can be encouraged by working with the county to allow residents to remove vegetation debris to the

transfer station at designated intervals without needing a punch card.

4. Continue, and possibly expand, the goat grazing project (or initiate similar projects) to include more acreage and to begin earlier in the fire season.
5. The Community Center complex is the highest risk facility in Eldorado, and several treatments have been identified, including removing overhanging branches, trimming ground vegetation, and sealing all window frame openings.
6. The stables area has some risk. The arroyo immediately west of the stables should be thinned to provide a fuel break.
7. In localized neighborhoods where there are fallen, beetle-killed piñon trees, there may be value in removing these trees.
8. Fire hydrants should be cleared of brush and appropriately marked so that responding engines can find them quickly.

Additional information on how residents can make their property more "firewise" can be found at <http://www.nfpa.org/> or <http://www.firewise.org/Communities.aspx>.

—ECIA Conservation Committee

## New ECIA Board

The ECIA announced its 2012–2013 Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting on May 7. Two new Directors were elected: **Jan Deligans** and **Frank Schober**, whose terms expire in 2015. Continuing Board members, with term expirations, are **Elan Colello** (2013), **Todd Handy** (2014), **Pat Lavengood** (2013), **Ed Moreno** (2014), and **Bill Osher** (2014). All terms expire in May of the given year.

An unprecedented eight candidates ran for two vacant positions.

**LATE NEWS:** Elan Colello resigned from his position on the Board as of May 14. Anyone interested in filling this now-open position should contact ECIA President Ed Moreno, or leave a letter of interest at the ECIA Office.

*ECIA Board  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Thurs.,  
June 21,  
7 pm.*



Vegetation like this too close to a residential structure may be a fire hazard!



## John Parker 2011 Eldorado Resident of Year

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 ECIA@AAna@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.

The ECIA is proud to announce that **John Parker** has been chosen as the 2011 Eldorado Resident of the Year. John has been an active member of the Eldorado community for the past six years, and his contributions are numerous and lasting. John serves actively on two ECIA committees—as Chair of the Conservation Committee and as a regular member of the Architectural Committee.

In his role as Conservation Committee Chair for the past four years, John has helped to direct the committee toward achieving its critical goals of oversight and management of the Eldorado Community Preserve and greenbelts. This is no small task, as these preserve areas account for over 5,000 acres of Eldorado's common lands, and John has always been a guiding force in maintaining the trails and managing these lands. Among the committee's notable recent achievements was the 2011 rerouting of Trail 101, resulting in an improved, scenic, and well-built new trail. Many residents who regularly walk this trail can thank John for its ecologically sustainable design, moderate grades, and natural beauty. Under John's direction, the committee has also replaced the signage on all Eldorado Preserve trails and arranged to bring back goats for weed and wildfire fuel reduction in the greenbelts.

Over the past two years, John has also been an active member of the ECIA Architectural Committee. His knowledge of the covenants and guidelines, as well as his practical building experience, have greatly aided the committee in their often challenging work of reviewing all the projects that come before it.

The community is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented resident as John, so willing and able to give of his time and talent and make a difference for the community. If you see John, please be sure to congratulate him on this award and thank him for his dedication to the community.

—Mark Young

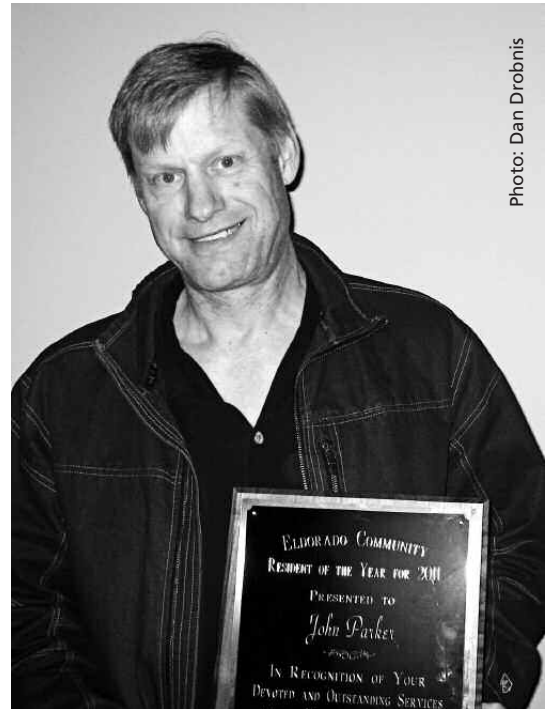


Photo: Dan Drobnis

John Parker, Resident of the Year

## Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on April 19 and took the following formal actions, unanimously unless noted:

- ▶ **Jim Daniel** and **Mary Clark** were appointed to the Conservation Committee.
- ▶ A variance was granted for 6 Estacada Court to allow stringers to remain on the outside of a fence constructed without approval, based upon financial hardship and previous precedent, by a vote of 3-1.
- ▶ A variance was granted for 28 Moya Loop for a ground-based solar array located more than 15 feet from the house, based upon reduced neighbor visibility and conditioned upon a screening plan.
- ▶ A variance was granted for 333 Avenida Vista Grande for a drive monument location, with conditions, as not contrary to covenant intent.

- ▶ Fund transfers were approved for \$119,418 from the Operations Fund Balance (savings) and \$12,090 from the Contingency Fund to the Replacement Reserve Fund, as recommended by the Finance Committee.
- ▶ An amount not to exceed \$1,800 for a kid-sized basketball hoop for Compadres Park was approved from the Capital Fund.
- ▶ The 2011 independent Financial Audit was approved.

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 Reboots

A month ago when I wrote this article, the community had just elected **Jan Deligans** and **Frank Schober** as the ECIA's newest directors. Congratulations to Jan, a first-time director, and to Frank, who previously served on the Board.

I will miss **Greg Bundrick**, our kind-hearted secretary who had a knack for awakening compassion when difficult deliberations were necessary.

The annual ritual of electing directors is the Association's way of rebooting the hard drive and installing the latest upgrades. With two new members, we are assured that we will have new voices, new energy, fresh ideas, and up-to-date emphasis on issues important to the community.

At our organizational meeting on May 14, we elected the officers for the coming year, and assigned the liaison relationships with the ECIA's 10 standing committees. The new officers are listed below.

The election and campaign were unusual. There were eight candidates for just two positions. No one

can recall an ECIA election that had as many candidates relative to the open seats and as much public dialogue. Obviously, much of the interest was about the chickens.

Ultimately, my presidency may be known only for the challenging debate about whether to allow residents to keep chickens. As for me, I am grateful that all of the members of the Board gave their consensus to the plan that we created, and have executed, focused on dialogue, education, and deliberation.

As a public involvement practitioner, I still see this issue as a conflict of values, in which there is the potential for mutual understanding through dialogue, ultimately leading to agreements. As a director and president of the ECIA, I am obligated to uphold the covenants, even though they are impervious to negotiation or amendment, by design. I am hopeful that the annual reboot will open new possibilities for understanding.

—Ed Moreno, ECIA President

### NEW ECIA OFFICERS

President: Ed Moreno  
 Vice President: Bill Osher  
 Secretary: Pat Lavengood  
 Treasurer: Todd Handy

New Board members Jan Deligans and Frank Schober following announcement of their election at the May 7 Annual Meeting.



Photo: Dan Drobnis

## Pool Open, Passes Available

The pool opened on Memorial Day weekend, May 26. In order to use the pool, one must be an ECIA member in good standing and have a picture pass with a 2012 sticker. Stickers for picture passes from previous years are free of charge and may be obtained at the ECIA office during regular hours, weekdays 8–5. The office will also be open 10–2 on three Saturdays: May 26, June 2, and June 9. For those without a picture pass, new passes are available at a cost of \$2.

To be a member in good standing, a member's account must be cleared of all money owed to the As-

sociation. This includes the 2012 assessment, or the first 2012 split payment recorded by March 1. Immediate family members living in a household are also eligible for their own pass if over the age of 12.

Renters may also be issued their own pass by presenting a copy of a current lease, provided the property owner (lessor) is a member in good standing with his/her name on the property title.

Each pass holder may bring a maximum of two guests, but must be present with the guests. For any questions regarding eligibility, please call the ECIA office at 466-4248.

### ECIA OFFICE

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President  
**Ed Moreno**  
 466-1183  
 edmoreno@newmexico.com

Vice-President  
**Bill Osher**  
 466-1265  
 bill.osher@vpss.gatech.edu

Secretary  
**Pat Lavengood**  
 466-9765  
 plavengood@q.com

Treasurer  
**Todd Handy**  
 466-3785  
 Todd\_Gilliss@yahoo.com

Director  
**Jan Deligans**  
 466-2356  
 jandeligans@aol.com

Director  
**Frank Schober**  
 fschober@att.net

### 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**

### ECIA STAFF

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

### VISTAS NEWSLETTER

Editor & Designer  
**Carol Leyba**  
 466-1158  
 cbsleyba@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)

## PRIMARY ELECTIONS

### EARLY VOTING (UNTIL JUNE 2):

Adam Senior Center in Eldorado Tues.-Fri. noon until 8 PM, Sat. June 2, 10 AM – 6 PM

### ON ELECTION DAY, JUNE 5:

Because the school will be closed, there are multiple voting sites. Check the voter card sent by mail for your location.



Susan Latham sculpture, in "Dimensions" at La Tienda, thru June 23



Visit beautiful gardens on tour June 3!

### Pool is Open!

**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

Group swimming lessons will be held mornings on the following weeks: June 11–15, and July 9–13. To register, contact **Julee**, 505-690-6887 or [juleepatchoulee@yahoo.com](mailto:juleepatchoulee@yahoo.com)

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Six Artists in "Dimensions" at La Tienda

Six artists—**Ursula Freer, Paul Biagi, Carol Sky, 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–6 PM). Artists' reception is Saturday, May 26, 4–6 PM. For details, call Ursula Freer, 466-1819, or go to [www.theexhibitspace.com](http://www.theexhibitspace.com).

### 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. Topics explored on the tour include hardscapes, xeriscapes, cactus, native grasses, perennials, water management, planting strategies, plants, shrubs, bee keeping, 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.

### Free Health Screenings/Information

In June, the Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van will be in Eldorado for free health screenings. Look for the van on Friday, June 15, 12 noon–3 PM, at the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center; Friday, June 15, 4–7 PM, Eldorado Farmer's Market (at La Tienda); Friday, June 29, 12 noon–3 PM, at Agora Supermarket; and Friday, June 29, 4–7 PM, Eldorado Farmer's Market (at La Tienda). For more information, please call **Angela Thorndyke**, RN/BSN at 505-231-2382.

### George Henke Photos at Las Chivas

Beginning June 2, a photographic exhibit, "Southwest on my Mind—Images and Icons" by George Henke, will be on display at Las Chivas Coffee in the Agora Shopping Center. Artist's reception will be held on June 10, 1–3 PM. All are welcome.

### Volunteer Business Experts Sought

Are you an experienced business person? Would you like to help local Santa Fe businesses succeed? SCORE Santa Fe consists of volunteers, both active and retired business leaders, who provide personalized, free, and confidential help to local businesses of ALL types and sizes. Additional SCORE volunteers are needed—people who want



to share their experience and expertise with others who could benefit from it, as a way to give back to the community. To learn more, call 505-988-6302 or go to [www.santafescore.org](http://www.santafescore.org).

### Happenings at the Library

**Bucks for Books Bash:** June 2, 6–9 PM. Ladies & Gents! Grab your western duds and mosey on down to the Legal Tender in Lamy for a fun-filled evening to benefit the Vista Grande Public Library. There will be food, fun, dancing and silent & live auctions of great items donated by local artists and businesses. Tickets: \$35 per person (includes one drink-remainder cash bar). Available for sale at the library beginning May 1. Seating is limited, so buy now!

**VGPL Book Sale:** June 22 (4–6 PM) and June 23 (9 AM–3 PM). Vista Grande Public Library will host its Summer Book Sale on June 22–23 at the ECIA Community Center in the Classroom & Vestibule. On sale will be a large variety of quality titles in fiction, nonfiction, and children's books, as well as VHS, DVDs, audio books, music CDs and more. Price list: Hardcover books: \$3; trade (large) paperbacks: \$2; mass market (small) paperbacks: \$.50 or 3/\$1; audio books (CD): \$3; audio books (tape): \$1; DVDs: \$2; music CDs: \$1 per CD; VHS tapes: \$.25; children's paperbacks: \$.50 or 3/\$1; children's hardcover books: \$1; puzzles: \$.50. Please support the library and pick up your summer reading material. We also welcome volunteers during setup before and cleanup after the sale. Please contact the library (466-7323) for more information or to help.

### Father's Day at La Tienda

June 17, 12 noon–5 PM. Judged Pre-1983 Road and Dirt Bike Motorcycles. Free attendance, exhibitor fee \$5 per bike, sponsor fee \$100. Net proceeds benefit the Santa Fe Animal Shelter. Food by La Plancha; live music, after-event party sponsored by Santa Fe Brewing Co. Tap Room. The Animal Shelter will hold pet adoptions by the small dog park. Info/registration forms at [www.motorado.org](http://www.motorado.org). Call Chuck at 466-0844 or Erich at 466-2723 for info, or email [info@motorado.org](mailto:info@motorado.org).

### July Fourth Events – Save the Date!

The Parade begins at 10 AM at the corner of Avenida Vista Grande and Avenida del Monte Alto with the Grand Marshal and 2011 Resident of the Year, **John Parker**, in the lead. The parade ends at the Community Center, where there will be entertainment festivities at 11 AM and hot dogs for all. Enjoy contests and awards for the Best Costume,



Best Dressed Animal, Best Decorated Trike or Wagon, Best Decorated Bicycle, and Youngest Participant. See July *Vistas* for more.

**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.

**Senior Scene**

The Adam Senior Center is a wonderful place for residents 60 and older to meet friends, exercise, take classes and eat lunch. They serve delicious congregate meals Monday–Friday at 12 noon, for a suggested \$1.50 donation.

**EXERCISE:** Exercise classes are held daily, including yoga, tai chi, and chair aerobics Monday–Thursday at 10:30 AM. Strength training is held on Wednesdays at 1:30 PM.

**CARD GAMES:** On Thursdays at 1:00 PM, a group plays pinochle—all pinochle players are welcome. Would you like to start up a bridge club or one for any other card game?

**ARTS & CRAFTS:** Local artists give of their precious time and resources to teach classes. Sign-up sheets are posted one week before classes begin, so come by and pick up the activities calendar.

**COMPUTER CLASSES:** Clark Man, an Eldorado resident, teaches one-on-one computer classes on Mac, iPhone, and iPad at the Center.

**MOVIES:** The movie series “The Tudors,” as seen on Showtime, will be shown on the big screen Friday afternoons at 12:50 after lunch.

All activities at Adam Center are free. Hours are 10–4 Monday–Friday. Call 466-1039 or come by the center to become a member and pick up a menu and activities calendar for June.

–Carol Branch

# June Events

*Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.*

Email [eciamarilyn@aol.com](mailto:eciamarilyn@aol.com) 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*

**JUNE SPECIAL EVENTS**

Library Book Sale (2 days)	Fri., June 22, 4-6 pm	VGPL	466-7323	CR
	Sat., June 23, 9-3 pm	VGPL	466-7323	CR

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Architectural Committee	Tues., June 12, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., June 26, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., June 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., June 5, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., June 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., June 5, 4-6 pm	Jeanne Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., June 13, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., June 26, 7-9 pm			CFR
Road Committee	Mon., June 11, 3:30 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., June 26, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., June 14, 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	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
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 6:30			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
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](http://www.eldoradosf.org)**

## A Bird Walk in Eldorado

For over three years, from April 2006 to the Fourth of July weekend in 2009, I led bird walks in Eldorado. Rain, shine, or snow and in every month of the year I was there, sometimes by myself, but most often with a fair size group of birders. I first started leading bird walks ten years earlier in Los Alamos—I had a house there that was very bird friendly—but I found a treasure of bird watching when I moved to Eldorado. Every house seemed to have a bird feeder or a bird house. The greenbelts were great bird refuges. And the Agora Super Mart said their biggest seller was birdfeed.

While all of Eldorado is a birder's paradise, the best area is around the Community Center. The variety of trees, shrubs, and ground covers makes for a wide variety of birds. The piñon trees attract piñon jays. And there are juniper trees, tall cottonwoods, along with Siberian and Chinese elms, and Russian olives. The shrubbery include *Pyracantha* and Russian sage. Lucky birds. Also, the ground is relatively flat and solid, making it easy for everyone to walk upon.

The large tree in front of the Railroad Building, between the two parking areas, is a favorite. All kinds of different birds frequent that tree and the ground beneath it. In the summer of 2007, we saw a large blue heron underneath that tree. What a surprise, especially when it flew right over our heads. I think the bird was just as surprised as we were.

One night I received a telephone call from a woman who wanted to bring her husband on my next bird walk. She said her husband was in a wheelchair and she needed to know about pushing his wheelchair on the ground that we'd be walking. I said yes, she could push the wheelchair fairly easily—and if there was any difficulty, I and others on the walk could help out.

When they arrived, I found that her husband suffered from severe dementia and would probably sleep for the entire walk. As it happened, the only other person on the walk was an energetic, young woman

who immediately helped with pushing the wheelchair. She was one of those people who just jumps in. Since I never learned her name, I'll call her Jane. And for the first half of the walk, about 45 minutes, the elderly man did sleep the entire time while being pushed around the grounds.

We were looking at a group of American goldfinches and pine siskins in that tree to the east of the Railroad Building, and I was discussing their differences and similarities. From time to time, I would look at the husband sitting in his wheelchair. And, as usual, the man was asleep in the chair. He looked like he was totally unaware. Then all of a sudden he tried to stand up.

And he did. I alerted the two ladies, and they ran over and each stood on either side of him. They tried to help him back in the chair, but he would have nothing of it. In a very determined voice, he said (and I am trying to remember his exact words), "I am here to look at birds. And if I am going to look at birds, I have to stand up to look at them."

And, again, he did. His wife and Jane stood next to him for support, but he never needed it. He walked for another 45 minutes or more. He held onto fences or whatever he could find for some support, but that was all. And he enjoyed himself. He seemed interested in what I was saying. He never uttered any words, but I could tell by his eyes that he was watching and listening.

But then he decided he was tired and needed to sit down again. It was his decision. Seeing the enjoyment in his eyes and the independence of his gait made me feel good about the bird walk. His wife said that her husband lived in a rest home, and she tried to take him outside whenever she could. And she had never seen him so happy, excited, and aware as he was that day.

—Ron Duffy



American goldfinches

## At the Crossroads

**G**OT ROAD PROBLEMS? Report them sooner and more directly to the County Road Maintenance people on their new web application. This new online service to "Report a Road Concern" is now available on the Santa Fe County website [www.santafecounty.org/public\\_works/road\\_concern](http://www.santafecounty.org/public_works/road_concern).

Residents can type in the name of the county road or use the interactive map to select the area where

they would like to report their concern. The system requires a login, consisting of an e-mail address and password. Once you've set that up, you can report a problem and track it as well. Your ECIA Road Committee members can also track all reported problems in the Eldorado subdivision. If you are not a computer user, or you'd rather have the Road Committee enter and track problems on your behalf, continue to send us your concerns in e-mails to the Chair at [pznisman@aol.com](mailto:pznisman@aol.com).

—Nolan Zisman, Chair, ECIA Road Committee

## Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association News

If you're a newer member of the Eldorado community and are an artist and/or art appreciator, you probably were able to take in some of the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association's Spring Studio Tour in May. It might be useful for you to know that non-members are always welcome to attend EACA events year-round. Every month, the EACA schedules a Shop Talk, an art-related outing for interested participants. These outings might entail a visit to a public art venue, or could be a tour/demonstration held in a local artist's home studio. This month the Shop Talk is being held in the studio of an artist whose work will be of interest to musicians as well as visual artists.

**David Perlmutter** has been building various musical instruments—guitars, harps, and even a lute—for over 30 years, as time permitted. In recent years, he's had more opportunity to hone the skills and craftsmanship necessary to produce better instruments, specifically classical and steel-string guitars. "It still seems a bit magical to me to take pieces of wood and make something that can sing."

On June 13, you can visit David at his studio at #1 Quedo Road in Eldorado, from 10 AM until noon. His instruments are beautiful to behold and beautiful to hear. For more information, call David at 466-3441 or email [dbperlmutter@gmail.com](mailto:dbperlmutter@gmail.com).

The Association's monthly meetings are held the last Thursday of almost every month, usually at the Eldorado Community Center. But when there is a Powerpoint presentation or need of overhead projection and/or Internet access, the Zia Financial Group in the La Tienda business complex offers its facilities, which is the case for EACA's June meeting.

On June 28 at 7 PM, **Hope Kiah** will give a presentation at Zia Financial, "Dead on the Web?™ Ignite Your Art Site!" An award-winning web marketing author and long-time Santa Fe web designer, Hope will demonstrate and discuss how to achieve a search-friendly, social-friendly website. For further information, visit Hope's website at [www.santafewebdesign.net](http://www.santafewebdesign.net) or phone 466-4447.

To learn more about EACA, visit the website at [www.eldoradoarts.org](http://www.eldoradoarts.org).

—Margaret Nelson

## Reel New Mexico Premieres Two Films June 14

On Thursday, June 14, Reel New Mexico, a monthly series showcasing independent films with a New Mexico connection, presents three short films by filmmakers who will be present at the screening to discuss their works. Two of the films, *Eighty Years through the Lens* and *The Road to Tantura*, are premieres. The third, *A Piece of Pie*, has won multiple festival awards. The program is at 7 PM at La Tienda Center in Eldorado.

*The Road to Tantura* is by **Hala Gabriel**, a Los Angeles resident currently working in Santa Fe. Tantura was her parents' small village in Palestine. In 1948, when the State of Israel was created, they and their fellow villagers were forced to leave. Through interviews with the now scattered villagers and the Israeli soldiers whose orders were to wipe Tantura off the map, Gabriel seeks to reconstruct what happened, "so forgotten voices can be heard and all of us can heal and move forward." She submitted *The Road to Tantura* as an unfinished film for audience feedback.

*Eighty Years through the Lens* is the work of Santa Fean **Kevin J. Kelly** who, after a career as a clinical psychologist, began making films four years ago. This film explores the life and work of 89-year-old George T. Henry, who has been the official photographer at a small Midwestern college for the past 68 years.

Henry's other accomplishments include flying B-24 bombers in World War II, serving as a white-water river guide for 45 years and, recently, photographing wild black bears in northern Minnesota. Kelly will be present to discuss the film.

*A Piece of Pie* was directed by Santa Fe's **Janet Davidson**, who will discuss the work. It is a short narrative comedy about a contest for a piece of pie that escalates into a gunfight. Inspired by early Clint Eastwood westerns, it pits the old, wild West against the new, citified West. After its debut at the Santa Fe Film Festival, where its script won the prestigious Governor's Cup, it went on to take numerous other awards and honors, including Best Short Comedy at the International Family Film Festival in Los Angeles, the Audience Award at the New Mexico Filmmakers Festival, and a regional win for International Women's Day.

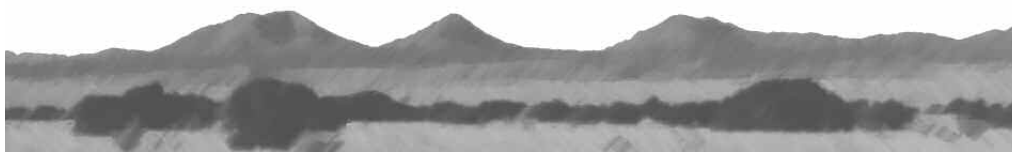
The Reel New Mexico program for Thursday, June 14, begins at 7 PM. Suggested admission is \$5 at the door. Directions to La Tienda are at [www.reelnewmexico.com](http://www.reelnewmexico.com).



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*Coming Soon!*

Watch for the appearance of weed-eating  
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