

# ELDORADO VISTAS

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

## Eldorado's 40th Anniversary!

**E**ldorado at Santa Fe is celebrating its 40th anniversary in July 2012! Our subdivision as we know it today once belonged to historic land known as the Lamy Ranch, on which sheep and cattle had been raised since Spanish times going back to the early 18th century.

In August 1969, AMREP, a New York-based subsidiary of Rio Rancho Estates, purchased part of the old ranch from **Alva Simpson** with the intention of developing a large residential community. Their original development plan was to create a high-density community similar to Rio Rancho near Albuquerque. The initial stumbling block was water: AMREP proposed to develop more water than the State Engineer or Santa Fe County believed to be reasonable in relation to limited water availability in the basin. On December 20, 1972, the State Engineer filed suit to prevent AMREP's proposed water development. The controversy was resolved in District Court when AMREP's ambitious water plans were severely restricted, with proposed wells reduced from 84 to 32 and limits placed on pumping capacities. One result was that AMREP later donated unusable excess land for the Eldorado Community Preserve.

The first Eldorado residential development plat was approved by Santa Fe County on July 11, 1972. This marked the official creation of the Eldorado at Santa Fe community. **Julia and Jordan Weills** are considered to have been Eldorado's first permanent residents; their home, where Julia still lives, was completed by AMREP in March 1973. (Jordan died a number of years ago.) The second residents were **Dorothy and Robert Shubart**, who moved away from the community a while back. Some of the early residents were lured to Eldorado by AMREP's extensive advertising in the *New York Times*.

Many people think of "Eldorado" as comprising the entire historic Lamy Ranch on both sides of Highway 285. Actually, the Eldorado at Santa Fe subdivision is much more limited; it is surrounded by about 19 other independent subdivisions, each of which has its own name (Dos Griegos, La Paz, etc.).

In the early years, residential lots in the new Eldorado subdivision were selling very slowly, until the mid-1980s when the community finally took off. Initially, most roads were gravel. Even Avenida Vista Grande remained unpaved until the late 1980s.

The national energy shortage of the 1980s brought about new level of energy awareness and, with it, a new architectural style. Eldorado became one of the largest solar communities in the United States. Passive solar for interior heating and solar hot water heaters on the roofs were incorporated into building designs. Some individual platted areas even required solar as a part of residential construction. Today, Eldorado at Santa Fe is fully "sold." The few empty lots are largely owned by real estate companies or absentee lot owners.

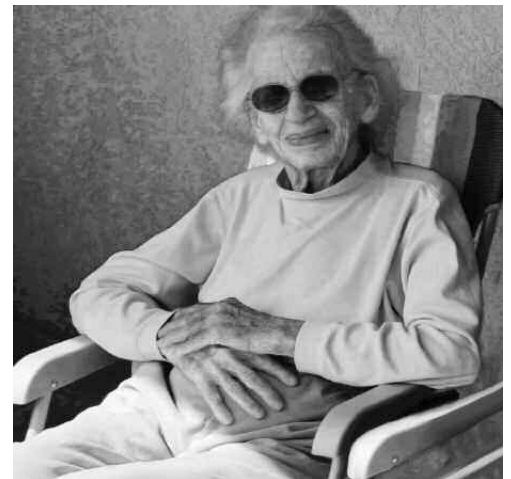
Eldorado today is a very interesting mixed community. Many of the early arrivals to Eldorado in the 1970s and 1980s are now retired, and the "Boomer" generation is looking forward to retirement in the near future. That said, a large number of young families have discovered Eldorado as being a great place to raise children. The current expansion of the local school attests to this. Quite a number of residents have small in-home occupations; some connect with an office or clients out of state with whom they communicate over the Internet. Most of these are well integrated into the residential community to the extent that neighbors are rarely aware of their existence. Eldorado is also home to commuters who work "in town"—in Santa Fe—and still get to live in an environmentally friendly, semi-rural area.

We have the best of all living conditions.

—Don Dayton

NOTE: Additional information on the history of Eldorado may be obtained in the book *Windmills & Dreams* available at the ECIA Office.

**ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center, Thurs., July 19, 7 pm.**



**Eldorado's first homeowner, Julia Weills still lives here almost 40 years after moving in.**



*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](mailto: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.

## *Projects Requiring Architectural Committee OK*

**A**re you thinking of beginning a home improvement project now that the weather has warmed up? If so, the ECIA would like to remind you that under Article II, Section 5, of the Covenants, the *building or alteration of any kind of permanent structure on a lot* requires the approval of the ECIA Architectural Committee. This includes, among other projects, room additions, garages, sheds, studios, walls, fences, cisterns, solar arrays—that is, any structure that is permanent in nature.

Additional home improvement projects that may require architectural approval are those affecting the exterior of buildings or the lot itself, such as the replacement of doors or windows, exterior restuccoing, adding awnings or shade devices, adding driveway monuments, or building permanent above-ground raised gardens or garden enclosures. While such projects may be small in comparison to a home addition, if they involve permanent structures, they will likely require the Architectural Committee's approval.

If you are a homeowner and have a project in mind, please call me, Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative, at the ECIA (466-4248) to see if your project will require Architectural Committee review.



If it does, I will gladly work with you to ensure that you have the required forms filled out properly, so as to streamline the review and approval process. Residents may pick up the needed forms at the ECIA offices or download the required Architectural Committee Submission Form from the Eldorado website at [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org) (under Resident Resources/Forms and Applications). Likewise, residents can review the Eldorado Covenants and Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions on the website, if they have any questions.

Completed project plans are reviewed at one of the two Architectural Committee meetings each month. These meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, at 7 PM, in the Foyer of the ECIA Community Center. We ask that applications be received at the ECIA offices no later than noon on the Friday before the meeting, to ensure that our staff has time to review the plans before the committee meets.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me at the ECIA at 466-4248 or e-mail me at [eciaccr@aol.com](mailto:eciaccr@aol.com).

*—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative*

## *July 4 Festivities*

**T**he annual ECIA Independence Day Parade and Patio Party will take place on Wednesday, July 4. The parade will step off from Avenida Monte Alto and Moya Road at 10 AM and proceed down Monte Alto to the Community Center, where picnic food and games will be available. This year's Grand Marshall will be Eldorado Citizen of the Year **John Parker**. Prizes will be awarded to parade participants in various categories. It's free, and all are invited.

If you're interested in joining the parade, call the office at 466-4248, or just come to the line-up at 9:30 AM at Monte Alto and Moya Road. **Frank Schober, Jan Pietrzak, and Dan Drobni**s will be there to line everyone up and get things moving.

Post-parade festivities will begin around 11 AM. There will be square dancers, bagpipes, face painting, and a bounce house. Hot dogs cooked by grill master **Ray Nichols** will be provided free by the ECIA. Snowcones will be available to slake your thirst.

And, of course, there will be contests for Best Costume, Best-Dressed Animal, Best Decorated Trike or Wagon, Best Decorated Bicycle, and Oldest Participant. In other words, plenty of fun for everyone!

## *2nd Payments Due*

**F**or ECIA members who chose a split payment for their 2012 assessment, the second payment is due in the ECIA office by the close of business on Wednesday, August 1. A payment of \$175 may be made by check, or \$180 by credit card. As explained in the assessment invoices last January, interest on the second half of the split payment from March 1 (at an annual rate of 15%) will be forgiven *only if* the second payment is received by August 1. No separate bill will be sent.

# Happy 40th Anniversary, Eldorado

This year, Eldorado is celebrating its 40th anniversary as an incorporated homeowners association. We will be marking this event in conjunction with the Independence Day community celebration on July 4.

There are a number of important dates in 1972, beginning in July, when the developer AMREP, which had purchased the Simpson Ranch in 1969, began selling lots. The earliest I've seen is the set of documents entitled "Declaration of Covenants and Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Eldorado Community Improvement Association Inc. and Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions of Eldorado at Santa Fe." The document was signed and notarized in New York City on July 7, 1972, original plat maps were filed with Santa Fe County later that month, and the rest is history.

I know that many of you share my pride in what the community has become: a high-quality, progressive, and interesting village, with a handsome collection of public and private amenities that we all enjoy.

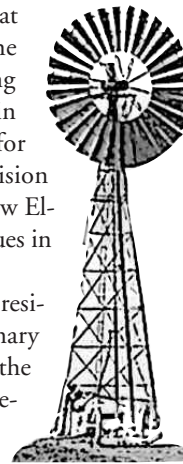
The chicken survey is in the works. The ad-hoc survey committee began meeting in late May, and by the time you read this it should have the survey prepared. Watch the website for a launch date.

What I am happy about is that we are holding very close to the timetable of the decision-making process that the Board adopted in January. Thanks to everyone for hanging in there. A good decision takes time, and this will guide how Eldorado deals with governance issues in the future.

Congratulations to Eldorado resident **Stephen Easley** on his primary victory last month in the race for the newly redistricted House of Representatives District 50. Stephen has a lot of support here, and he would be the first Eldorado resident to become a member of the legislature, should he be elected in November.

Finally, if you have outdoor parties this summer, remember to be respectful of your neighbors who aren't in attendance. For those in "old town" near the Community Center, check the calendar of events at <http://eldoradosf.org> to see if there are amplified parties scheduled.

—Ed Moreno, ECIA President



## Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on May 17 and took the following formal actions unanimously:

- ▶ President **Ed Moreno** announced the resignation of Board Member **Elan Colello**. His vacancy will be filled by appointment by the Board in accordance with the bylaws. Applications are solicited from interested Association members.
- ▶ An ad hoc Bylaws Revision Committee has been formed, with members **Pat Lavengood, Nancy Dayton, Kathie Graham, Jan Pietrzak, and Bill Donohue**.
- ▶ **Jim Daniel** was appointed to the Information Committee.
- ▶ **John Canella** was appointed to the Conservation Committee.
- ▶ A variance was approved for a ground-based solar array at 14 Demora Road, at 17 Antigua Road, and at 5 Cerrado Drive.
- ▶ A variance was approved for a ground-based solar array at 15 Palacio Road, with a condition that a tree be planted behind the array on the northeast corner.

- ▶ A variance was approved for a ground-based solar array at 8 Fonda Court, with the condition that the location be staked to verify distance from the property line.
- ▶ A variance was approved for a ground-based solar array at 1 Lobo Lane, with the condition for xeric plants to soften the view from neighbors to the north.
- ▶ A variance was approved for a fence at 2 Antigua Road to enclose 4,560 square feet where 4,000 is the Guideline limit, with a condition that the fence be painted to match the house.
- ▶ A request for a raptor pole at 11 Recado Road was tabled to allow the owner to submit plans for a safer pole and gather neighbor support.
- ▶ A Home Occupation permit was granted for a Homeopathic Office at 333 Avenida Vista Grande.

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. Complete minutes and meeting agendas are available at the ECIA office or website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.

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Election: Kathie Graham  
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Finance: Dan Drobnis  
Information: Jim Daniel  
Neighborhood Watch:  
Marilyn Walker

Roads: Nolan Zisman  
Stable: Lisa Bessone &  
Deena Joseph

Sustainability, Planning,  
Education: Dana Richards

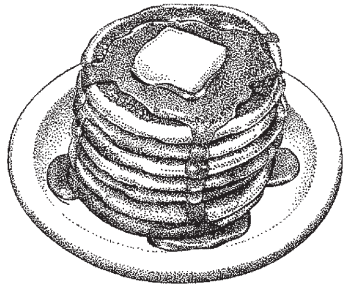
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Get your pancake breakfast before heading off to the July 4 parade!

### July 4th Pancake Breakfast at La Tienda

You can almost smell the pancakes, syrup, and coffee already! This year, SERA is pleased to partner with La Plancha Grill to host the July 4th Pancake Breakfast. Come out and enjoy a festive, delicious, community breakfast at La Plancha before the parade on July 4th. Last year we served over 200 folks and got them out in time to enjoy the parade which starts at 10-ish! Come in your pj's or your Americana colors, bring the kids and your spirit of Independence Day!

8–10 AM, La Plancha Patio at La Tienda

Cost: \$5 per person (pancakes, fruit, juice, coffee)

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please call Sandy at 466-6702.

### EACA's Lineup For July

The Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association holds a monthly Shop Talk, often at a member's home studio. On July 18, 10 AM to noon, **Darcy Gray** will discuss her art process and show us her abstract painting and collage works. "It is a passion of mine to help people understand and be more confident and open minded when they look at abstract art." For questions and directions, contact Darcy at [darcygraysf@gmail.com](mailto:darcygraysf@gmail.com) or phone 629-8796.

**Erik Whittemore**, from the Bullseye Glass Resource Center, is giving a kiln-formed glass demonstration for EACA's July 26 meeting at Zia Financial Group's conference room at La Tienda at 7 PM. For more information, contact the program coordinator **Gina Crow** at [ginacrow5@gmail.com](mailto:ginacrow5@gmail.com). As always, non-members are welcome to attend the EACA's Shop Talks and monthly meetings.

### Gardening Tour Success!

The third annual Eldorado Gardening Tour was a great success, with approximately 350 attendees for the one-day event. The weather was perfect, and tour planners and host gardeners received wonderful feedback on the gardens and all the learning opportunities presented by the tour. The event raised \$1,402, which will go to the El Dorado Fire and Rescue. Thanks to the tour goers, home gardeners, Master Gardener docents, and all the many volunteers and businesses that supported this great community event. Since it is never too early to start planning, anyone interested in having their garden on next year's tour, contact Obie at 690-7462.

### Musical Theater Summer Workshop

**David Geist**, master pianist and vocal coach with 20 years of Broadway experience ("Wicked," "Lion King," and more), and **Lisa Lincoln**, director of Eldorado Children's Theatre, drama and voice teacher, with 28 years of musical theater experience, present a Musical Theater Summer Workshop, August 6–10, 2012 (10 AM–2 PM, Monday–Thursday, 11 AM–6 PM Friday). The workshop will culminate



in a performance on Friday evening at 5 PM, Museum Hill Cafe. Students ages 11 and up are eligible to participate. To register or for more information, contact Lisa: [lisa@rancheros.com](mailto:lisa@rancheros.com). Space is limited!

### Reel New Mexico Shows Rumi Film

On Thursday, July 12, REEL NEW MEXICO, a monthly series showcasing independent films with a New Mexico connection, presents "RUMI RETURNING: The Triumph of Divine Passion" at 7 PM at The Performance Space in La Tienda. Producer-director **Kell Kearns** and producer **Cynthia Lukas** will be present to discuss their film.

The acclaimed documentary tells the life story of the well-known 13th-century Persian poet and Sufi sage. The film has drawn overflow crowds at the Santa Fe and Sun Valley film festivals and elsewhere and has been shown on many PBS stations.

Shot in Turkey in locations that were part of the poet's everyday life, the film features commentators **Coleman Barks**, whose translations of Rumi's poetry are largely responsible for the poet's popularity in the West, as well as **Akbar Ahmed**, Professor of Islamic Studies at American University, and Rumi expert and mystical scholar **Andrew Harvey**.

Proceeds from the \$5 suggested at the door go to meet expenses and to participating filmmakers for ongoing projects.

### Trailbuilding Workshop

The ECIA Conservation Committee is sponsoring a trail building and maintenance workshop in July. The workshop will provide a hands-on opportunity to create a section of trail in the Eldorado Wilderness Preserve. A new, relatively flat trail on the southern edge of the preserve is being constructed to provide better access for Eldorado's equestrians. Please look to the ECIA website ([www.eldoradsf.org](http://www.eldoradsf.org)) and marquee for location, date, and time.

### Pool 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

Group swimming lessons will be held mornings in the week of July 9–13. To register, contact **Julee**, 505-690-6887 or [juleepatchoulee@yahoo.com](mailto:juleepatchoulee@yahoo.com)



A great time was had by all at the 2012 gardening tour!



Check out the Rumi film on July 12



**Senior Scene in July**

**ART CLASSES:** The Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center has gifted artists who generously donate their time and talent to senior citizens in Eldorado. Since spaces are limited, the sign-up sheets for art classes go up one week before classes begin and you must be a member.

- ▶ **Darcy Gray** will teach collage on Tuesdays, 1:30–3:30 PM, beginning July 10, for four weeks.
- ▶ **Lynn Coyle** will teach weaving on Thursdays, 1:30–3:30 PM, beginning July 12, for eight weeks.
- ▶ **Bob Coyle** will teach building of clay on Thursdays, 1:30–3:30, starting July 12, for eight weeks.

**DOCUMENTARY:** The documentary *Forks Over Knives* examines the possibility of controlling and even reversing degenerative diseases and achieving lifelong weight-loss by making healthy plant-based food choices. A Q & A session will follow with nationally known weight loss and nutrition presenter **Jim Corcoran**. This will be held on Friday, July 20, at 12:45 PM.

**MOBILE HEALTH VAN:** The Mobile Health Van will be in the Center’s parking lot on Monday, July 9, from 9 AM to noon. The Health van provides free health screenings for Santa Fe County residents. They provide health education and also assist in finding a medical home for residents who are in need, regardless of income and overall coverage.

**COMPUTER CLASSES:** **Clark Man** teaches one-on-one computer classes on Mac, iPhone, and iPad.

Hours of operation are Monday–Friday, 10 AM–4 PM. All activities are free to members 60+ years of age. Call 466-1039 or come by to become a member and pick up a menu and July activities calendar.

–Carol Branch

# July 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**

**JULY SPECIAL EVENTS**

4th of July Celebration	Wed., July 4, 10-1 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CC
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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Architectural Committee	Tues., July 10, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., July 24, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., July 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., July 3, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., July 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., July 10, 4-6 pm	Jeanne Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., July 11, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., July 24, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., July 9, 6-8 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., July 31, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., July 12, 7-9 pm	Dana Richards	690-5500	CFR

**MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs of month	Barrie Brown	466-3035	LR
EAWS&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 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 Fri., 9:30-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
Horseshoes	Every Wed., 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.–Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Softball	Every Sun., 10 am	Tom Miller	466-6059	School
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)**



## Recycling the Odd Items

**R**ecycling opportunities for diverse materials abound in Eldorado. In addition to the regulars—cans, paper, glass, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, and corrugated cardboard—which you can recycle from home or at the transfer station on Highway 285—there are outlets for several other kinds of household items. For instance:

- ▶ **Pens** Just drop off your used writing instruments—pens, mechanical pencils, dry erase markers, markers, highlighters—at La Tienda, Building B hallway; CH2M Hill, the engineering firm that contracts with the Eldorado water district, will take it from there. They participate in a national program to “upcycle” writing instruments into new products. For each item recycled, CH2M Hill receives two cents, which they donate to Engineers Without Borders-USA ([www.ewb-usa.org](http://www.ewb-usa.org)).
- ▶ **#5 plastic cups** You can drop them off, clean, at La Tienda, Building B hallway, or bring them directly to Whole Foods. Recycled, they become various plastic products. They may become your toothbrush of the future (now on sale at Trader Joe’s).
- ▶ **Batteries** Drop off any used dry batteries at La Tienda, Building B hallway. CH2M Hill has

shipped 55 lbs. from Eldorado users for recycling. Many batteries are 100% recyclable back into plastics and various metals. Read more about it at [www.batteryrecycling.com](http://www.batteryrecycling.com).

▶ **Athletic shoes** Drop them off in front of the Eldorado Gym hallway entrance in La Tienda, Building B, and a volunteer will bring them to the NIKE outlet in Santa Fe. NIKE shreds the material for athletic facility surfacing, including playgrounds. Some goes back into new NIKE products. Their website [www.nikereuseashoe.com](http://www.nikereuseashoe.com) explains it fully.

Both the Agora and La Tienda have convenient recycling dropoff sites: cans and #1 and #2 plastic bottles may be deposited at locations in the Agora courtyard and in the hallways of Buildings A and B at La Tienda.

SERA Recycles! keeps a growing list of easy-to-recycle items in Eldorado (<http://greeneldorado.org/sera-recycles>). If you come upon a new material that can be recycled, send the information to [joseigner@gmail.com](mailto:joseigner@gmail.com).

Remember, when you consider whether to “throw it away,” there is no “away”!

—Karen Sweeney



Did you know you can recycle these items here in Eldorado?

## Safer Pest Control

**H**ow safe is your home? For people? For pets? For birds and other wildlife? We found out recently just how dangerous our safe-looking Eldorado can be. Jean’s dog Flurry, the adorable poodle that became the house pet of La Tienda during the April quilt show, almost died on May 18. Thanks to the quick attention of the Eldorado Animal Clinic, a lethal dose of rat poison—that turquoise stuff that looks like a candy bar—was expunged, and a week later Flurry was barking and as lovable as ever. He’s still on Vitamin K to counteract the warfarin-like poison that makes rats (and could have made Flurry) die by bleeding to death.

Several people were as horrified as we were to learn how easy it is for a pet to get sick from a pesticide. Sadly, there are lots of safe-looking, safe-“talking” products out there. Many are very toxic in spite of slick marketing. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Pesticides can cause harm to humans, animals or the environment

because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms.”

Pets, children, pregnant women, and people with chemical sensitivities are especially susceptible to the harmful effects of pesticides. Common symptoms of pesticide exposure include nausea and vomiting, headache, shakiness, and skin rash.

Pesticides do not stay where you put them. Weedkillers or insecticides sprayed outdoors can drift into your neighbors’ yards and be tracked into your home.

Pesticides can also harm the environment by killing beneficial insects (including pollinators like bees and butterflies) and contaminating water. The popular weedkiller Roundup (active ingredient glyphosate) is banned in Denmark because of widespread water contamination. Some studies have also linked Roundup with increased rates of cancer, birth defects, and hormone disruption.

With our “untamed” environment, Eldorado can be a challenging place to live. Mice, rats, insects, and weeds abound. So let’s come up with safer solutions. Non-chemical prevention is the first step: try block-

Continued on facing page



Make sure your pets are safe from pesticide poisoning.

## More Emergency Preparedness

In my last Neighborhood Watch article, I wrote about the virtues of owning an emergency radio in the event of a power outage. Shortly after that article appeared, the Midwest was hit by fierce, monster tornadoes. Because of the suddenness of the tornadoes, power was knocked out in wide areas, rendering the Emergency Warning System useless. But those folks with emergency radios could follow the alerts and take shelter.

There is so much information on the Web about the 100 or more items one could include in an Emergency Preparedness Kit that rather than detail these, I'll direct you to one of the most comprehensive sites I found: [www.beprepared.com](http://www.beprepared.com). The site contains information on food and storage, emergency kits and components, and camping preparedness.

Another part of the site offers great information on drought, earthquakes (and, yes, we in New Mex-

ico are sitting on or near sizable faults), extreme cold and heat, flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes (get that emergency radio!), severe thunderstorms, winter storms, and general emergency preparedness.

As a final note, last summer's Las Conchas fire and this year's huge wildfire in the Gila Wilderness should heighten our awareness of the need to be prepared. Many of us have pets and are often away from our homes during prolonged times during the day or night. If this describes you, consider how you might handle being away from home when a fire breaks out. We would all do well to make arrangements with neighbors to make sure our pets are safe in an emergency if we're not around. The arrangement should be reciprocal and in the spirit of Neighborhood Watch.

—Nina Harrison, *Neighborhood Watch*

### Late News

A new Emergency Alert System is now in place for Santa Fe County. To register to receive alerts about emergencies in your area, go to [www.santafecounty.org](http://www.santafecounty.org) and, on the front page under HOT TOPICS, click on "Register for Emergency Communication Notifications." The information you enter here will be used for alerts of fires, evacuations, chemical spills, and other such emergencies. It is different from Nixle or any other similar systems and will be used for serious situations within the county.

You can specify if you'd like to receive notifications via land line, cell phone, texting, and/or email.

More on this next month!

—Raven Hicks

## At the Crossroads

**IT'S WASHBOARD TIME AGAIN . . .** Ah, summer. Warm weather, dips in the pool, dust flying from speeding cars, and the jostle of washboard from our dirt roads. One of our residents correctly observed that there must be something wrong when only three weeks after grading, his road had become "Washboard Central" once again.

There is a good reason for this. Ideally, roads should be bladed when there is moisture on the road. Without moisture during grading, base course does not compact properly, and the road has a greater tendency to unravel and washboard sooner. Unfortu-

nately, the County lacks the resources to wet down the roads during grading operations. And of course, speeding and winds also cause much of the base course materials to accumulate in the bar ditches or on the road edges. The grader operators try to pull the base course back out of the bar ditches when there is moisture so it can be compacted back into the driving surface of the roads.

Keep your driving speed under 25 MPH on our dirt roads—that will help.

—Nolan Zisman, *Chair, Roads Committee*

## Safer Pest Control, continued

ing holes and cracks that allow pests to enter your home and keeping outdoor plants healthy so they are more naturally resist pests. Insects found indoors can be vacuumed up or escorted outside using a cup and piece of cardboard. Weeds can be pulled or mowed.

Luckily, there are many resources that provide helpful readable suggestions for less-toxic pest control. Here are just a few.

- ▶ Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP): Pesticide fact sheets (e.g., glyphosate/Roundup) and suggestions for less-toxic pest control: [pesticide.org](http://pesticide.org)
- ▶ Sierra Club, Safe Indoor Pest Control: [sierraclub-greenhome.com/go-green/pest-control-indoors/safe-indoor-pest-control](http://sierraclub-greenhome.com/go-green/pest-control-indoors/safe-indoor-pest-control)

- ▶ OurWaterOurWorld: Finding a Company that can Prevent Pest Problems (note that companies using a less-toxic approach never spray pesticides every month to "prevent" pests): [recyclenow.org/pdf/pest\\_control\\_company\\_ipm\\_09.pdf](http://recyclenow.org/pdf/pest_control_company_ipm_09.pdf)
- ▶ Pest Control Project: Pets and Pesticides, [sppcweb.org/factsheets/PetsFactsheet1.pdf](http://sppcweb.org/factsheets/PetsFactsheet1.pdf)
- ▶ Richard Fagerlund, [askthebugman.wordpress.com](http://askthebugman.wordpress.com)

Let's work together to create a safe and healthy Eldorado environment. If you do decide to use a conventional pesticide in your yard, please let your neighbors know in advance so they can shut their windows and take in the dog bowl if they wish.

—Ann McCampbell, M.D., and Jean Stokes, Ph.D.  
*Eldorado Environmental Health Advisory Group*

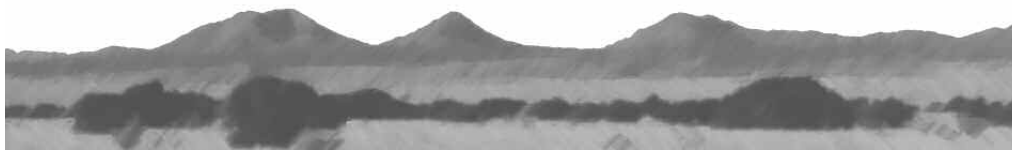




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Photos Jack Arnold; Collage Carol Leyba