

ELDORADO VISTAS

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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Annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, FROM 1 TO 4:30 PM AT THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY CENTER

It has become the BIG event of the end of summer: the Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction to benefit the Vista Grande Public Library. Eldoradoans and other locals look forward to it every year. In one place, attendees can find yummy ice cream, fun family activities, and cool stuff to buy. And as the biggest fundraiser for VGPL, it supports an important resource in our community.

Regular attendees know the best part of the event is the all-you-can-eat ice cream sundaes and banana splits. Get yours however you like it, with all the toppings you want. There will also be iced coffee and root beer floats. DJ Donna Every will provide music to eat or dance by. Children will want to visit the Big Top Tent for all the fun activities, including games, face painting, and water bottle rockets.

For many, the silent auction is the most anticipated event of late summer. Shoppers can find unique artwork and jewelry by local artists, certificates for popular area restaurants and services, wine and food baskets, and so much more! Whether you are buying for yourself or for distinctive gifts, you will find something you just “gotta have.” How much better to know that you will be supporting the Library at the same time!

Wristbands for admission to the Ice Cream Social are available for purchase in the Library or at the door on August 26. Please check the Library website, www.vglibrary.org, for pricing. Wearers of the wristbands are entitled to all the ice cream they can wish for, as well as the opportunity to bid on the many items in the silent auction.

With our upcoming expansion of the building, the Library will see an expansion in its needs as well: more books, more programs, and more services to the community. That means we need more funding to make this happen. Fundraisers like the Ice Cream Social keep our doors open and our collection current. You can support the Library not only by buying tickets. All of our items for our auction as well as food



and other supplies come from generous donors, without whom we could not put on this fabulously fun event. The Library recognizes our donors by listing them on signs at the event and through our weekly emails and our website, www.vglibrary.org.

If you would like to support the Library by sponsoring the Ice Cream Social, please contact **Roberta Armstrong** at 466-3008, or **Tracey Mitchell** at 670-6508. You can also donate an item for the silent auction by contacting **Joan Lemmon** at 466-4490, or **Diane Gulseth** at 466-6509.

Save the date of August 26, 1–4:30 PM, and get ready to scream for ice cream! See you there, at the Eldorado Community Center!

–Tracey Mitchell

ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Bldg. Thurs., August 16, 7 pm.

ECIA's Newest Preserve Trail

Eldorado residents will soon have a chance to enjoy a new trail, designated Trail 105, that will bring another area of the Preserve into their reach. The new trail should appeal to those who want a flatter trail with less climbing. It will also provide winter access for horse riders. The current access trail (Trail 101) is not fully exposed to winter sunlight, which makes it relatively steep and icy. The new trail will have southern exposure and will be less likely to ice up. It has been laid out in a general way but needs further work to make it usable.

Eagle Scout candidate **Jim Rose** will lead a project to start trail building on August 25–26. Members of the Conservation Committee and **Jan-Willem Jansens** of Ecotone will help Jim plan the section of the trail that

will be worked on. Jan-Willem, formerly of Earth Works Institute, is a consultant who has worked closely with the ECIA in the past. Eldorado community members are encouraged to join in this project. Participants will learn trail-building principles while working on the trail. Please call **Mark Young** (466-4248) to sign up for one of these two days.

A second trail-building day will occur sometime in mid-September on another section of the trail. **Matt Rohr**, also an Eagle Scout candidate, will supervise the trail construction at this time. All interested Eldorado residents are encouraged to participate. You have an opportunity to make a lasting contribution to our community.

*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.

Volatile Fuels on Lots

With summer heat and drought fully upon us, this is the time of year that the ECIA receives the most calls from residents concerned about their neighbors having dead weeds and debris situated right up against the house. This is both a fire hazard and an eyesore for immediate neighbors and for the neighborhood at large.

The Conservation Committee set out some recommendations about this hazard in a June 2012 *Vistas* article. One of these was as follows: "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."

Since writing this article, the County did offer a free debris day in May for Eldorado residents, but despite this effort, there are still many lots with too much dead brush and volatile fuels on them. Due to this ongoing safety issue, the ECIA and El Dorado Fire and Rescue ask that residents inspect their lots for dead weeds or brush that might be accumulating around their homes, especially any that is close to structures. If you have such fire hazards on your lot, we ask that you remove them, to help safeguard your home from the devastating effect of a wildfire.

If you are concerned about a neighbor with a lot of volatile fuels around their home, we encourage you to speak with the homeowner directly. If you cannot communicate with this neighbor, please call the ECIA at 466-4248 or the El Dorado Fire and Rescue at 466-1204 to report a high-risk condition. For any questions, please call me at the ECIA, 466-4248.

—Mark Young, *Covenant Compliance Representative*

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on June 21 and took the following formal actions unanimously, unless otherwise noted:

- ▼ An ad-hoc Bylaws Committee was formed.
- ▼ An ad-hoc Survey Committee was formed by a 3-2 vote, with members and charter to be adopted at a subsequent meeting; Board directors **Lavengood** and **Schober** dissented. Following the vote, Director **Schober** announced his resignation, citing a lack of Board concern regarding his allegation of potential conflict of interest on the part of President **Ed Moreno**.
- ▼ A variance was granted for a ground-based solar array at 8 Fonda Court to be located between 23 and 25 feet from the house (where Guidelines require a maximum of 15 feet) to reduce the array's visibility.
- ▼ A variance was granted for a shed at 16 Antigua Road to be located more than the 15-foot distance from the house and within the required 20-foot side setback required by the Guidelines, because of written prior approval from the ECIA.
- ▼ A variance was granted for an existing and proposed fence at 16 Baya Road within the required 20-foot side setback and with a height of 7 feet, where 6 feet is the Guidelines limit, to help screen an existing solar tracking array, with conditions regarding location and construction.
- ▼ A variance was granted for a new garage at 8 Alcalde Road to intrude 8 feet into the required 20-foot side setback, to replace a former garage converted to a studio, with a condition for screening trees.

- ▼ A variance was granted for a solar tracking array at 5 Antigua Place to be located 150 feet from the house (where the Guidelines' maximum is 15 feet), to reduce visibility to neighbors.
- ▼ A permit was granted for a Home Occupation at 6 Puerto Court for a child care service (2–3 children).

The ECIA Board held a special meeting on July 5 and took the following formal actions unanimously unless otherwise noted:

- ▼ **Jeanne Calzada** was appointed to fill one of two vacant Board positions.
- ▼ Members were appointed to the previously formed ad-hoc Bylaws Committee: **Pat Lavengood, Nancy Dayton, Kathie Graham, Jan Pietrzak, and Bill Donohue**.
- ▼ An ad-hoc Covenant and Survey Drafting Committee was formed, charged with wording a covenant vote and drafting a community-wide survey (4-1, Lavengood opposed).
- ▼ Members were named to the ad-hoc Covenant/Survey Committee: **Amy Bertelli, Sandy Szabat, Richard Goldstein, Steve Van Kouteren, Robert Christy, Beth Colson, Joe Durlock, Brett Fraunglass, Stephanie Thomas, Ray Nichols, and Ellen Gregor** (3-1-1, Deligans opposed, Lavengood abstained).
- ▼ President Moreno announced the Board Attorney's opinion that New Mexico law requires member access to Association records, including the list of members; a second opinion may be sought.

Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Community Center and are open to the public. Minutes and meeting agendas are available at <http://eldoradosf.org>.

Eldorado to Vote on Hens

The ECIA Board has inadvertently contributed to fear and acrimony by not giving a clear rationale for the steps we have taken, and are taking, to resolve the issue of allowing hens in Eldorado. So we'd like to clarify the reasons behind those steps.

There are residents who strongly believe they have the right to keep a few hens as pets and others who strongly oppose the right to maintain poultry/live-stock in Eldorado. While both sides have enumerated heartfelt reasons, it seems to the Board that the principal issue concerns legality and adherence to the Covenants. The Covenants state that no animals, birds, or poultry are allowed except recognized household pets. The central legal question is whether hens can be or should be excluded from the list of recognized household pets. The Board was encouraged by counsel to gather as much information as possible; thus, we initiated a series of forums and planned a survey to help in our deliberations.

Why not just put it to a covenant vote and let Eldoradoans decide? Given the extreme difficulty in changing the Covenants, it would be very difficult to clarify the issue through this action. So, for all practical purposes, we're stuck with the relevant Covenant passage as it currently reads: no animals, birds, or poultry—only recognized household pets. We had hoped to use the proposed survey to gain a sense of the community's view on chickens as pets. While the survey would not have had the force of a covenant, we expected it might help us to better interpret the relevant covenant. Because the hens issue has become so

polarizing, the Board has decided to go ahead with a covenant vote. And we hope the results will help to guide the ECIA attorney in advising the Board.

Does that mean if the covenant vote reveals that Eldoradoans reject the idea of chickens as pets, or conversely, now envision chickens as pets, that it would guarantee a victory in any lawsuit by an aggrieved resident? Nothing is guaranteed in a court of law, but the Board feels this would be useful information to counsel and, thus, help reduce the risk.

To draft the language for the covenant vote, a committee has been formed of residents of varying convictions regarding hens, including people with professional expertise in scientific polling. Members may have varying opinions on the importance of the Covenants, but the Board is required to enforce them as best it can. And all Eldorado residents are required to observe them. Of course, the covenant vote language will be reviewed by our attorney before the Board signs off on it.

We hope this statement of the Board's rationale for the process we have initiated will help the community better understand our thinking. We had also hoped the process would effect a spirit of compromise among the various factions that would enable us to find a solution that satisfied most of the community. While we recognize that hasn't yet happened, we still hope the process will enable the Board to reach a decision that will be consistent with the Covenants.

—Bill Osher and Jan Deligans, ECIA Board Members

Amending the Covenants

The ECIA's Covenants play a major role in defining what Eldorado is now and in the future. These Covenants set up rules that protect the majority of homeowners from the whims of the few. Many of our residents purchased a home here based on the existence of these regulations. However, as with most governing documents, there is a set legal method for amending our Covenants: "The E.C.I.A., its successors and assigns, hereby reserves the right to amend these covenants and building restrictions in whole or in part, provided that the then owner or owners of a majority of the lots covered by this Restated Declaration consent to such amendments."

At first glance, this simple "majority" seems to be an easy hurdle to overcome. However, it is actually very difficult, because an amendment requires a majority of the *total number* of lot owners, not just the lot owners casting ballots—and getting a majority of lot owners

to cast ballots, much less in favor of a proposed change, could prove challenging. For example, it is possible for an amendment to receive 90% of the total *vote* but fail if that 90% does not equal 50% of *total lot owners plus one*. If there were 2,800 lot owners and only 1,000 of them voted, 90% is 900 votes, which is fewer than the 1,401 required for passage. Thus, those members who don't vote are effectively casting a "no" vote.

—Jim Daniel

Save the Date

The ECIA "End of Summer/Labor Day" Event will be held September 3 on the patio at the Community Center. The Swing Shift Big Band will play, and there will be barbecue available to purchase. Please call the ECIA office for more information: 466-4248.

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Information: Jim Daniel

Neighborhood Watch:

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

eldoradofirerescue.org

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)



Check out Sally Hayden Von Conta's new artwork at Las Chivas.



Summer performance and fall sign-ups in August



Get philosophical at the Socrates Cafe—at Mi Amor in La Tienda

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

Eldorado Arts & Crafts Assn Notes

TO PARTICIPATE IN 2013 STUDIO TOUR:

If you are thinking of joining the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association in order to participate in the 2013 Spring Studio Tour, you should consider joining sooner rather than later. The Studio Tour has really taken off in recent years, and with that its organizational needs have become more complex and time-consuming. The Association has decided to move up the mailing date and deadline for the Tour's completed applications, so it's vital to join early and get on the Association's mailing list. (The membership fee is \$15.) Other great reasons to join the Association include the educational and inspiring presentations at the monthly meetings, scheduled studio visits with fellow artists, drawing classes, and participation in the annual Fall Show.

THIS MONTH'S LINEUP AT EACA

After its announcement in the July *Vistas*, last month's EACA Shop Talk had to be changed, and the Association regrets any confusion this may have caused. This month **Darcy Gray**, who had originally been scheduled for July, will hold a studio visit at her home. On August 15, from 10 AM to noon, Darcy will discuss her art process and show us her abstract painting and collage works. Call Darcy at (505) 629-8796 for further info and directions.

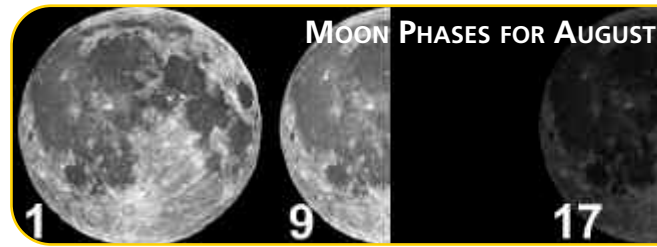
On August 30, **Rosemary Barile** will be the presenter at EACA's monthly meeting, discussing the process of submitting artwork to galleries. The meeting, held in the Eldorado Community Center's Living Room, begins at 7 PM.

Socrates Cafe: Food for the Mind

Although there are over 600 Socrates Cafe groups around the world, Eldorado's will be the first in the New Mexico—at Mi Amor Cafe in La Tienda. Socrates Cafe is not a place. It is an idea: to bring people together in groups of 15 to 20 to discuss whatever they wish in a manner that allows all sides of an argument to be examined in a supportive and friendly manner. Participants suggest and then vote on which subject to discuss. There is a moderator at each meeting; Eldorado resident **Joe Mayer** will moderate the first Socrates Cafe on Monday, July 16 at 10 AM. There is no cost. The discussions generally last 90 minutes, with a break halfway through. For questions, contact Steve at sfcomputerworks@aol.com or go to www.socratescafemn.org/.

September 15th Flea Market

On Saturday, September 15, the Fall Flea Market will be held in the parking lot of the Eldorado Community Center. Setup begins at 7 AM and the sale opens at 8 for buyers. The Flea Market wraps up at noon, and all items need to be cleared and reloaded into vehicles and removed from the ECIA parking lot by 1 PM, as there are no dumpsters



available for this event. Start now to set aside items you'd like to sell.

The fee is \$10 per space for Eldorado residents; \$15 for non-residents; \$20 for commercial sellers. The spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Sellers need to provide tables, tarps, etc. to display their wares. Vendors are asked to unload at the marked space they choose and then move their cars to the vendor parking area. Because of the limited space, no selling from trailers will be permitted. No weapons or food can be sold.

Donuts and coffee will be available. The Fall Flea is co-sponsored by the Vista Grande Library and the Adam Senior Center. For information call 466-3256 or 466-3848.

Musical Theater Summer Workshop Performance

Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players present "Broadway Moments," a culmination of the master class with David Geist on keyboards. Directed and conceived by **David Geist** and **Lisa Lincoln**, the performance will be held on Friday August 10, 5 PM, Museum Hill Café, Museum Hill. Suggested Donation: \$5.

Eldorado Children's Theater & Teen Players Fall Program Sign-up

Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players is now taking registrations for their fall program. They will be presenting "Peter Pan"; classes start August 28! Students ages 6-18 are welcome to sign up and get involved—no experience necessary! Students learn the joy of singing, acting, and movement while building confidence and putting on a top-rate musical production. Scholarships are available. The children's theater is now in its 12th season! Go to www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org for more information or contact Lisa Lincoln at lisa@rancheros.com.

La Tienda Author Series

La Tienda's local author series and Blessingway are presenting author **Nina Brown** on August 16 at 7 PM in The Performance Space at La Tienda. Nina Brown's narrative, *Return of Love to Planet Earth: Memoir of a Reluctant Visionary*, describes her voyage as she ascends to the highest frequencies of love using the secrets of S.T.A.R.: surrender, trust, allow, and receive. Her 10-year alchemical journey illustrates the simple yet challenging path to our own spiritual ascent. Suggested entrance fee \$2.



Von Conta at Las Chivas

Las Chivas Coffee is hosting “Transcendence,” a mixed-media abstract show by **Sally Hayden Von Conta**, August 5–25. Von Conta, an Eldorado resident, is a long-time member of the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association. For info: laschivascoffee.com; 466-1010.

Bees are Cool

La Tienda is searching for a person or persons interested in keeping bees on the property’s 11 acres of open space. Ideally, La Tienda would love to see a community beekeeping co-op formed where experienced keepers could train and assist new keepers and promote this earth-friendly hobby. If this is of interest to you, please email Steve at sfcomputerworks@aol.com.

Golf in Eldorado?

Summer is here and the La Tienda mini golf course is now open. The course is open to everyone and is free to use. Putters and balls are available at La Plancha, or bring your own. We are short on putters so if you have any old ones lying around in the garage, please consider dropping them off.

Small Dog Park

La Tienda recently finished construction of its Small Dog Park, adding shade to the park, which makes the space much nicer to use on these hot days. This 10,000-square foot park is reserved for dogs 25 pounds and under. It is available to everyone in the area and not limited to Eldorado residents.

WordPress Intro Evening

On August 29, 6–8 PM at Zia Financial in La Tienda, **Ritama Haaga** offers an introduction to using WordPress and the different options available for creating and managing your own website. Discover how you can get a free website and/or blog with WordPress and no hosting fees—and much more. Contact Ritama Haaga (888) 901-0196, email: ritama@ritama.com.

August Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email 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

AUGUST SPECIAL EVENTS

Library Ice Cream Social	Sun., Aug. 26, 1-4:30 pm	VGPL	466-7323	CC
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 14, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 28, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Aug. 13, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Aug. 7, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Aug. 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., Aug. 7, 6-8 pm*	Jean Crawford	466-1000	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Aug. 8, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Aug. 21, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	CFR
Road Committee	No August meeting	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., Aug. 28, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., Aug. 9, 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	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., 9 am-12:30 pm	Jim Davidson	670-6949	LR
Bridge	Every Other Fri., 9-noon	Natalie Bernet	466-6118	F
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	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

*The Facilities and Grounds Committee has moved its regular meeting on the first Tuesday of each month to 6-8 pm to facilitate participation by working members.

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Birds, Insect, Plants, . . . and SNAKES



Rattlesnake in New Mexico.
From enokidancer.files.
wordpress.com

For our new residents and, as a reminder, for our established residents, Neighborhood Watch, a volunteer program, provides a great way to ensure safety for ourselves and neighbors through vigilance and awareness. We focus on safety issues, including potential and actual criminal activity and emergency preparedness.

We are pleased to announce that Neighborhood Watch is adding a new informational and educational working group to our slate: Flora and Fauna Working Group. Eldoradoans live in a very diverse ecological area, made up of different micro-ecosystems depending on where we are located within the subdivision. We see birds, insects, plants, and other wildlife that may not be seen in other parts of Santa Fe County, and we're curious about them, as evidenced by my e-mail inbox this morning: an inquiry to the New Mexico Native Plant Society from an Eldoradoan about an abundant, small yellow flower. Members of the Flora and Fauna Working Group will post information on our community website (www.eldoradosf.org > **Board & Committees** > **Neighborhood Watch**) about seasonal flora and fauna and will try to answer and research questions from our residents.

On a related note, Neighborhood Watch and the Wildlife Center, in Española, have received calls about our perennial "guests," snakes. Either there is a snake of unknown origin in a yard or one has managed to get into a house (keep your doors closed and

check the cinder box at the bases of your fireplaces!), and the homeowner is simply frightened and doesn't know what to do. Recently 10 Eldorado residents were trained by The Wildlife Center in snake identification, behavior, and safe capture and release. The group provides education and services for the safe coexistence Eldorado residents and our local reptiles. The volunteers will record and map where snakes were captured and released and report these to the Wildlife Center. While the Snake Relocation Group is not directly affiliated with Neighborhood Watch, we work closely together to educate and create a safe environment for all of us who inhabit Eldorado.

Volunteers will accept snake relocation requests from The Wildlife Center (505-753-9505), Eldorado Neighborhood Watch (lightwalker2@comcast.net; Mon.-Fri., 8 AM-5 PM: 466-2553), ECIA (466-4248), and Santa Fe Animal Control (505-992-1626).

If you'd like to know more about our snake population, check out the August 2010 issue of *Vistas* on the ECIA website. There was an invaluable article about snakes, species, behavior, and cautions published with in-depth information. The ECIA's website also has posted an article from New Mexico Game and Fish about rattlesnakes in New Mexico.

Remember, there are beneficial snakes, such as the bull snake that lives in our back and front yards. Great mousers!

—Nina Harrison, *Neighborhood Watch*

Cedar Waxwing (CW)

Dale W. Stahlecker has reported seeing a cedar waxwing (CW) in Eldorado during the winter, but not often. They were a common winter sight when I lived in southern California. In winter, they are often found in flocks, and their characteristic "sreee" notes make them easy to locate. CW is medium-size, 7.25 inches long, with a wingspan of 12 inches. Males and females are similar, although colors might not be as strong in females. The CW's body color is a medium tan, with gray in the rump and at the end of wings, although under parts can be lemon-colored. Its striking head has a tan crest, a large black mask, and a black throat. The bill is short, sharp, and black. The bottom of the tail has a band of yellow. The ends of some wingtip feathers are red. The overall impression is of a bird with a short tail and pointed wings.

CW populations are increasing throughout their range, in part because of reversion of fields to shrub lands and forests and the use of berry trees such as mountain ash in landscaping. They breed in the northern United States and Canada. Their diet con-

sists of fruit, berries, tree sap, flowers, insects, and seeds. They occupy woodlands, field edges, and suburbs with lots of trees. Courting consists of wing flapping, food sharing, and beak rubbing. The monogamous male and female build a cup nest in trees or thick brush. Three to five eggs hatch in about 12 days, and the helpless young fledge in about 16 days.

The name "waxwing" comes from the waxy red secretions found on the tips of the secondaries of some birds. The exact function of these tips is not known, but they may help attract mates. Because they eat so much fruit, cedar waxwings occasionally become intoxicated or even die when they eat overripe berries that have begun to ferment and produce alcohol.

SNOWY OWL ALERT

Last winter, thousands of snowy owls were seen from coast to coast in more northern states, including Idaho, Montana, Missouri, and even Oklahoma. "This is the most significant wildlife event in decades," says **Denver Holt**, head of the Owl Research Institute in Montana, who has studied snowy owls in their Arctic tundra ecosystem for two decades. —Pam Henline

Read more about the snowy owl population surge on our website: www.eldoradosf.org



Cedar waxwings passing a berry back and forth.

Photo by Minette Layne from Seattle, Washington, Creative Commons license

ECIA Election Committee News

The Election Committee (**Kathie Graham, Jean Crawford, Nancy Dayton, Donna Mifflin, and Pat Lavengood**, Board Liaison) has been busy this year. In addition to running the ECIA Board elections, we have been working at improving the Nomination Petition for Board Director Candidates. We completed a new information and instruction sheet that will be attached to the petition. This should answer frequently asked questions such as “What does ‘Member in good standing’ mean?”—a term that describes one of the five criteria necessary for a petition to be accepted. The information sheet

also provides instructions and information regarding resumes, campaign signs and literature, and deadlines.

We have also been updating our Election Policy and Procedures. We have proposed that the Election Committee Chair take an active role in the final approval of submitted nomination petitions. Another change may concern whether the owner of multiple lots receives a ballot for each lot. In the past, the number of votes was noted on a single ballot. These changes will be presented to the ECIA Board for approval.

—Kathie Graham, Election Committee Chair

Senior Scene

Seniors 60 or older are eligible to become members of the Adam Senior Center. We gather Monday–Friday for congregate meals at noon. Our meals are lovingly prepared by our health-conscious chefs Cindy and Sally. We are starting to eat fresh produce from our organic garden. The cost per meal is a suggested \$1.50 donation.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Friday, August 10 at 12:45 PM: Michael Weigand asks: “Are You Living by Default or By Design?” Living by design means, among other things, being prepared, and Michael will help us put together an Emergency Resource Notebook that will include vital information such as names and numbers of people to contact, treating physicians, location of insurance information, and much more.

Tuesday, August 14, at 1 PM. Screening of the documentary film, *Walmart, The High Cost of Low Price.*

Tuesday August 21, at 1 PM. Screening of the movie *Charlie Wilson’s War*.

EXERCISE CLASSES

The Center offers classes in Chair Yoga, Chair Aerobics, Strength Training, and Tai Chi every week. Have fun while getting in shape!

We hope to start up another Bridge Club on Tuesdays, so please let us know if you are interested in participating. The Center offers many more activities, so come on by and become a member. Pick up one of our activities calendars and menu for the month. Membership is free and it only takes 10 minutes to register. Hours of operation are 10 AM–4 PM Monday–Friday. Phone: 466-1039.

Reel New Mexico

On Thursday, August 9, Reel New Mexico presents three short films—celebrating sustainable gardens, antic birds, and a stellar adventure—that the entire family can enjoy. The program starts at 7 PM at La Tienda’s Performance Space.

El Salon Mexico is a charming animated adventure set to the music of Aaron Copland. A boy, his burro, and his rooster sneak away from home to see their first fiesta, never imagining the adventures they will have. The film was made by **Paul Glickman**, an Oscar-winning animator, and **Tamarind King**, a talented young graphic artist and animator who began work on it when she was still in high school. It has won numerous festival awards, including “Best Animation” in the Rome (Georgia) International Film Festival and “Best Animation Short for kids 8-12” in the Kids First Film Festival. Santa Fe filmmaker **Michael Zeilik**, executive producer of the film, will be on hand to discuss it.

The Birds of the Bolsa Chica was made by Santa Fe filmmaker **Hal Ralston**, initially so that his wife, a teacher, might have something to show her students before a field trip to the Bolsa Chica wetlands. The State of California purchased 880 acres of the wetlands in 1997 for an ecological preserve, and restoration was completed in 2004. Ralston made the film to celebrate the birds, “the true owners of the Bolsa Chica.” Ralston will be on hand to discuss his film.

Community Garden: New Mexico/South Africa was made by local filmmaker **Debra Denker** to explore what the El Dorado School Community Garden and another community garden in the poor, rural community of Acornhook in South Africa have in common. Both are part of a worldwide community garden movement which, in addition to encouraging production of fresh, nutritious food, benefits communities and stresses the importance of water for sustainable food cultivation. Denker will be there to discuss her film.

A contribution of \$5 is suggested at the door.



Blue heron from Bolsa Chica

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School is in Session!



El Dorado Community School's new entrance (with solar panels) and playing field.

Wednesday, August 15

First day of school for students in grades 1-12

Also, Kindergarten Kick-off

Friday, August 17

First day of school for kindergarten students



Photos Jack Arnold