

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 10

October 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 ▼ Security 204-2945

County Schedules Eldorado Projects

Santa Fe County included a number of Eldorado projects in its FY 2013–2016 Capital Improvement Plan. The projects are divided between “Quick Start” projects funded by gross receipt taxes to begin immediately and General Obligation Bond projects that are subject to voter approval in the November elections.

“QUICK START” GROSS RECEIPT TAX PROJECTS

1. \$1.5 million for construction of an addition to the Vista Grande Library
2. \$150,000 for design and construction of an addition to the Adam Senior Center, plus \$850,000 for an attached new Community Center
3. An additional joint-use parking area as a part of the above projects

The new Community Center would be for use by Eldorado residents as well as County residents living outside of Eldorado. It would also be utilized as an election voting site, County field office, and to hold county-wide meetings.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROJECTS

1. \$900,000 for Herrada Road paving
2. \$194,000 for Avenida Amistad paving
3. \$91,000 for Avenida Buena Ventura paving
4. \$2.5 million for Rancho Viejo–Eldorado water pipeline

Although not specific to Eldorado, the County Commission agreed to put three questions on the ballot of the November general election regarding county-wide general obligation bond proposals:

1. \$19 million for roads
2. \$10 million for water & wastewater projects
3. \$6 million for open space, parks, and trails

FUTURE COUNTY IMPROVEMENT PLANS

On August 29, the County Public Works Department met with county residents at the Adam Senior Center to solicit proposals for future development projects. These proposals will be included in a future County Capital Improvement Planning Project Overview for consideration by the County Commis-

sion. The state legislature may also be asked to furnish funding for certain projects.

PROPOSED COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION EXCISE TAX

The County Fire Department has proposed that unincorporated county residents be given the opportunity to vote on renewal of a Fire Protection Excise tax in the November elections. This would impose a 0.25% tax on all non-medical/non-food items (25 cents on a \$100 purchase) in unincorporated areas of the county. Funds raised through the tax would be used for the capital purchases (principally apparatus, large equipment, and facilities) of the Santa Fe County Fire Department and its 32 fire stations and would provide an estimated \$1.24 million annually. An earlier fire excise tax (which had been in effect since 1985) expired in 2008, but if renewed could become a permanent annual tax.

The primary sources of funding for the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service (EFRS)—an all-volunteer fire department whose personnel receive no salaries but contribute many thousands of hours annually to help insure the safety and well-being of the community—are the State Fire Protection Fund and impact fees. The State Fire Fund consists of monies collected by the State of New Mexico from fire insurance premiums, which are distributed as grants to fire departments throughout the state. Impact fees are one-time assessments on building construction projects within the various Santa Fe County fire districts to help offset the cost of providing emergency services in developing areas. With the slowdown in construction, these fees have been minimal the last several years and have declined by 75% since 2008.

Although the El Dorado Fire Department is better funded than most fire districts in Santa Fe County, it is very difficult to pay all of the day-to-day costs of running a fire department and to set aside funds to replace apparatus, maintain the buildings, and purchase or upgrade large equipment such as rescue tools, protective clothing, wildland firefighting

Continued on p. 3

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
October 18,
7 pm.*



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.

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on August 16, with Board members Ed Moreno (President), Pat Lavengood (Secretary), Jeanne Calzada, and Jan Deligans present, along with 11 residents. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, unless otherwise noted:

- ▼ Nolan Zisman and Paul Jacobs were appointed to fill vacancies on the Board.
▼ Alice Griffin and Karen Cameron were appointed to the Stable Committee.
▼ Joe Durlak was appointed to the Sustainability, Planning and Education Committee.
▼ Jan Pietrzak's appointment as Parliamentarian was amended to end in June 2013.
▼ A variance was approved for 3 Duende Road for a solar array 100 feet from the house, where Guidelines call for 15 feet, to reduce visibility to neighbors, with screening vegetation.
▼ A variance was approved for 12 Enebro Road, for an existing retaining wall within the required 20-foot rear setback, for erosion control.

▼ A variance was approved for 114 Verano Loop for a solar array 95 feet from the house, where Guidelines call for 15 feet, to reduce visibility to neighbors, with screening vegetation.

The meeting was adjourned to executive session to discuss legal matters.

A special Board meeting was held on August 23. All Board members were present, with one resident. The following actions were taken unanimously:

- ▼ The Board voted to set the Date of Record for the covenant vote as August 23, 2012.
▼ The last date for covenant ballots was set at October 1, 2012, with votes to be counted on that date.
▼ The ballot language was approved for a covenant vote.

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.

New Board Members

The ECIA has had the unusual task of filling three Board vacancies recently. By way of introduction, here are short biographies of each.

JEANNE CALZADA was born in Austria and traveled the world with her career military family. She served in the U.S. Air Force, became an American citizen, married her husband John, and started a family. Jeanne was employed by the Monterey, California, Recreation and Community Services Department for 26 years, serving as superintendent of the Community Center Division, managing five facilities offering programs for children, teens, adults, and seniors. She served as the City liaison to neighborhood and business associations, non-profit organizations, and government agencies, and was involved in many youth sports programs. After retirement, Jeanne and John moved to the Southwest and relocated to Eldorado three years ago. She is currently on the Board of Directors for the Desert Ice Figure Skating Club of New Mexico. She became a member of the Facilities and Grounds Committee, serving as the chair for almost two years prior to her appointment to the ECIA Board.

NOLAN ZISMAN and his wife Patricia are eight-year residents of Eldorado. After graduating with a B.S. degree from the University of Colorado, he obtained an M.B.A. from Northwestern. He

worked for Southern Pacific Railroad as a manager in San Mateo, California. His interests include music, biking, and hiking. He is the bandleader for the band Swing Shift. He has served the ECIA as chair of the Road Committee and a member of both Facilities and Grounds and Finance committees. He has been a regular contributor of articles to Vistas. He was Resident of the Year in 2008.

PAUL JACOBS and his wife, Marilynn, relocated to Eldorado from Lake Tahoe, California, in 2006. For the past six years, Paul has been a full-time mathematics teacher at Santa Fe Community College and a founding member of the Sustainable Eldorado Resident's Alliance (SERA). Upon receiving his bachelor's degree in math from Rutgers University, he taught with the Department of Defense Schools in Japan, the Philippines, and Germany, and then returned to the U.S. to earn his master's degree in Public Health Sciences at the University of Northern Colorado. He served for four years as a member of the Board of Directors for his homeowner's association in Denver, including two years as its vice-president. Paul brings finance and administrative experience to the Board through years of work as a director and budget analyst for Colorado's Departments of Social Services and Health. His interests include skiing, hiking, and biking, and he swims regularly at our community pool during the summer months.

Chicken Covenant Vote Closes Oct. 1

Every member of the ECIA has been mailed a ballot on the question of homeowners keeping hens on their properties. The voting will continue until 2 PM on Monday, October 1, when the ECIA Election Committee will commence to count the ballots.

Any homeowner or lot owner who has not received a ballot should immediately contact the ECIA office to obtain a replacement ballot.

The ballot has two choices. **Amendment A (Chickens Allowed)** would allow residents to keep a limited number of hens as pets. **Amendment B (Chickens Prohibited)** would prohibit residents from keeping any animals that cannot live inside the house, and itemizes prohibited animals. Lot owners may vote for one of the two amendments.

The ballot was developed by the Ad-Hoc Covenant and Survey Drafting Committee, and was amended and approved by the Board on August 23.

The ECIA covenants allow amendment of the covenants pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, of the Amended and Restated Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions for Eldorado at Santa Fe. The section states: "The ECIA ... reserves the right to amend these covenants ... provided that the ... owners of a majority of the lots covered (by the covenants) consent to such amendments." As of August 23, 2012, the Date of Record for establishing eligibility to vote, there were 2,777 eligible lot owners. To amend the covenant, at least 1,389 lot owners must consent to either one of the amendments. Each lot owner must cast his or her vote for only one of the amendments. Mismarked ballots will be disqualified. WE ENCOURAGE ALL ELIGIBLE LOT OWNERS TO VOTE!

The text of the proposed amendments is specified on the ballots. You can also find the exact language on our website, eldoradosf.org.

—Ed Moreno, ECIA President

Need Architectural Committee Approval?

One of the more problematic covenant violations we face at the ECIA occurs when residents undertake home repair projects without realizing that their project requires the approval of the ECIA Architectural Committee.

The most common of these infractions is re-stucco work. Residents should be aware that use of a non-compliant stucco color without ECIA approval can result in being required to go back and re-stucco the home with a compliant stucco color, at a significant cost to the homeowner.

We at the ECIA would like to remind all residents that any permanent exterior modifications or improvements will require the approval of the Architectural Committee. This includes additions such as garages, sheds, walls, fences, cisterns, solar arrays, and any other structures that are permanent in nature.

In addition, many home improvement projects that involve the exterior of the buildings on a lot may, even if minor, require architectural approval. A partial list of the many types of minor projects that require ECIA approval include:

- ▼ Replacing any exterior doors or windows
- ▼ Adding awnings or shade devices
- ▼ Adding driveway monuments
- ▼ Changing or modifying existing fencing on the lot
- ▼ Repairing an existing fence but changing the height, size, or method of construction

- ▼ Adding above-ground raised gardens or garden enclosures.

If you have a home improvement project in mind, we ask that you call me, Covenant Compliance Representative **Mark Young**, at the ECIA at 466-4248 to see if your project will require Architectural Committee review. I will work with you to ensure that you have the required forms filled out properly, to streamline the review and approval process. Residents may pick up the forms at the ECIA offices or can download the Architectural Committee Submission Form from the Eldorado website at eldoradosf.org. There are no fees for this consultation and approval process.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative
eciaccr@aol.com

County Projects

Continued from page 1

gear, and breathing rigs. A single fire apparatus will cost between \$150,000 and \$400,000, and EFRS maintains a fleet of 11 apparatuses, with an average age of 15 years.

All voters are encouraged to let their voice be heard on November 6. For more information on the fire excise tax, Fire Chief **Stephen Tapke** invites you to stop by the fire department on Vista Grande any Saturday between 8 and noon.

—Don Dayton, with contributions from Stephen Tapke

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Finance: Dan Drobnis
Information: Jim Daniel

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Vista Grande Library
466-READ

Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofirerescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)



Bring your dog and enjoy the end-of-season Paws in the Pool event, Sunday, October 7.

Paws in the Pool!

Sunday, October 7, noon–3 PM, the ECIA will hold its annual end-of-the-season Doggie Pool Party. Contact **Freddie Fullington** at 466-2005 for more information. \$5 donations per family suggested to help pay for insurance.

Web Q&A with Hope Kiah

Award-winning web marketing author and long-time Eldorado web designer **Hope Kiah** is initiating free Q&A sessions on the first Tuesday of every month at the Zia Financial Group, Suite A7 in La Tienda. Bring your website questions and/or your URL for review (first-come, first-served) at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, October 2.

TGIF, An ECIA Sponsored Social Event

October 19, 5–7 PM, Community Center Living Room. All property owners welcome. Bring an appetizer to share. Beverages provided.

Reel New Mexico for October

On Thursday, October 11, Reel New Mexico screens two films by Albuquerque filmmakers. *Missing You*, a delightful feature-length romantic comedy, is by **Phil Duran**. *Phoenix*, the haunting coming-of-age short film that opens the program, is by **Sarah Northrop**, the editor of *Missing You*. The program starts at 7 PM at La Tienda's Performance Space.

Missing You tells the charming story of Laura, who is beautiful, intelligent, fast approaching 30, and has a plan for her life. However, Laura's life plan requires that she find "the one," and when the film opens that feat is still just a dream. Meanwhile, Rick, a handsome and successful young man about Laura's age, struggles to understand women as he, too, searches for that special someone. Rick and Laura share similar interests, goals, and desires, live in the same city, frequent the same establishments, even know some of the same people. Their paths cross time and again, but they keep missing one another. Will they ever meet? And if they do, what then?

Phil Duran, writer and director of *Missing You*, retired after 20 years from a career in law enforcement and began making films. One of his earlier works, *The Righteous and the Wicked*, is currently distributed on DVD by Lionsgate.

Phoenix is a haunting short film about a boy coming of age in a post-apocalyptic world, who is torn between saving the life of his father and running away with a beautiful adventuress. It was forged during the Albuquerque 48-hour film project this July and marks the directorial debut of Sarah Northrop, who served as editor on *Missing You*. It was co-written by Northrop and **Guseppe**



Presented by Reel New Mexico, October 11, 7 PM, at La Tienda Performance Space



Quinn, photographed by **Craig Butler**, and stars Phil Duran, **Merritt Glover**, and **Dylan Montoya**.

Reel New Mexico screens films with a New Mexico connection on the second Thursday of each month, at 7 PM in The Performance Space in La Tienda. A contribution of \$5 is suggested at the door. Directions to the venue can be found at www.reelnewmexico.com.

Lucian Niemeyer at La Tienda Exhibit Space

"Africa, The Holocausts of Rwanda and Sudan," a color photographic essay and text by **Lucian Niemeyer**, will be on display at La Tienda's Exhibit Space, October 6–November 3 (opening reception on October 6, 5–7 PM). The exhibit has appeared at The Delaware Art Museum and at the Maxwell Museum at UNM, among other venues. A book by the same name was published by University of New Mexico Press in 2006 and was nominated for (but did not win) a Pulitzer Prize. Signed copies of the book will be available. For more information, go to Insart.com.

Thanks from the Library

The Board of Directors of Vista Grande Public Library thanks all who made the 13th annual Ice Cream Social/Silent Auction a success. In spite of the rain that occurred at the opening of the event, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves with "all you can eat" ice cream sundaes, banana splits, root beer floats, iced coffee, and a live band for entertainment and dancing.

After a delayed start due to the weather, the "under 12" crowd had a blast with fun activities at *Under The Big Top*. And the grownups had plenty of time to bid on a wide variety of fabulous finds, from restaurant certificates to haircuts, jewelry, fashion items, one-of-a-kind pieces by local artists, and more. It was a great opportunity to do early holiday shopping and benefit the library at the same time.

This event could not have happened without the sponsors—generous people and businesses who gave money for the event—auction donors, who contributed items and services, and 105 community volunteers, who helped make it a success. Check out the Ice Cream Social tab on the library website, vglibrary.org, to see the pictures. If you missed the event this year, plan to attend next year for a fun-filled family "end of summer" celebration!



Senior Scene

Guest speakers, art classes, and movie presentations lined up at the Adam Senior Center for October are:

GUEST SPEAKERS

Thurs., Oct. 4: **Charlotte Warren** presents "A Visit to St. Petersburg, Russia, and the Hermitage Museum."

Thurs., Oct. 25: **JC Corcoran** presents "How Healthy Can You Be?"

DOCUMENTARIES

Tues., Oct. 2: *Supersize Me*

Tues., Oct. 9: *Bowling for Columbine*

ART CLASSES: Jewelry Making with **Gina Crow**. The sign-up sheet will go up on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 10 AM. Space is limited and you must be present to sign up. Class meets on Tuesdays, Oct. 16, 23, and 30, 1:30 -3:30 PM.

Call 466-1039 for details.

October Budget Meetings

The Finance Committee is continuing its review of the 2013 ECIA Operating Budget, including its transfers to the Capital and Reserve/ Replacement funds, with the goal of a recommended budget upon which the Board can act at its November 15 regular meeting. Below is the schedule of budget meetings for October. All Association members welcome:

▼ **Wednesday, October 10, 9:30 AM:** The Finance Committee continues review of the tentative budget at its regular monthly meeting, and adopts preliminary recommended budget. Venue: Conference Room.

▼ **Monday, October 22, 7 PM** (Special Board Workshop): Joint meeting of the ECIA Board and Finance Committee. Committee chairs and Association members are invited for information or further explanation of budget requests if desired. Venue: Conference Room.

October 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

OCTOBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Paws in the Pool	Sun., Oct. 7, noon-3 pm	Freddie Fullington	466-2005	Pool
TGIF	Fri., Oct. 19, 5-7 pm		466-4248	LR

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Oct. 9, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Oct. 23, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Oct. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Oct. 2, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Oct. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., Oct. 2, 4-6 pm	Jean Crawford	466-1000	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Oct. 10, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Oct. 23, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., Oct. 1, 6-8 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., Oct. 30, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., Oct. 11, 7-9 pm			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/CR
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., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	670-6949	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
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	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	RR
Softball	Sun., 10 am	Tom Miller	466-6059	School

*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

At the Crossroads

Our roads are in as good a shape as they've been in several years. While some have the usual (for this time of year) washboarding, the rest are smooth (for dirt roads). Even though we missed the usual rainfall, what we did have was just enough to help, along with the grader, keep washboard to a minimum. We can help to keep them that way by adhering to (or driving below) the speed limit.

Please be aware that the upcoming November election will have a County bond issue on the ballot. If it passes, we can (finally) expect paving of Avenida Amistad from Avenida del Monte Alto to Avenida Buena Ventura; Avenida Buena Ventura; and Herrada Road. Your votes will help decide this important issue.

This column will be my last as chair of the Road Committee. Having recently been appointed to the ECIA Board of Directors, I must relinquish my seats on three committees. I must say that my time on the Road Committee has been particularly gratifying. Not only do we have a great group of volunteers on the committee, we also have greatly strengthened our partnership with our friends at the County—a win/win for our community. While I will miss some of the fun part of the work, especially having dialogues with and meeting so many of our great residents with road “issues,” I will continue to stay involved as Board liaison to the Road Committee. And we will continue to seek your input/feedback on the “health” of our Eldorado road network.

—Nolan Zisman, former Chair, ECIA Road Committee

Photo: Jim Daniel

New Trail 105 in Eldorado Preserve

The idea of a flat trail in the Preserve was proposed by hikers, cyclists, and horse riders. Ideally, the trail would be rapidly cleared of snow or ice by the winter sun so that it would be usable in all seasons. This idea led the members of the Conservation Committee to investigate a possible corridor for such a trail that would require a minimum of trail work. The obvious choice was the southern boundary of the Trail 100 portion of the ECIA Preserve land. The trail would begin at the Trail 100 parking lot and join Trail 101 near the 301 junction.

After several outings with the committee and some local equestrians, a path for the trail was defined. Most of the trail would be flat, but two large arroyos needed to be crossed. Eagle Scout candidates **Jim Rose** and **Matt Rohr** chose to develop the two difficult portions of the trail as their Eagle Scout projects.

In August and September, Jim and Matt (respectively) directed friends, family, fellow scouts, Conservation Committee members, and Eldorado residents in defining and clearing each portion of the trail. The trail was designed in concert with **Jan Willem Jansens** of Ecotone, the Conservation Committee, and the candidates. Issues to be considered included minimizing erosion and making the trail appealing to all. Jim Rose organized a crew of about 30 people who toiled in the hot sun to make the project a success. Matt planned a similar effort. The trail will be officially opened in October but can be hiked or ridden before that time. The Conservation Committee is working on a new updated map that will show the exact location of this trail. We hope that the new trail will increase the enjoyment of our valuable Preserve.

—Jim Daniel

Volunteers getting instructions before beginning trail work

Eldorado 1660

Inside a Herrada Road home flying international flags is one of Eldorado's best-kept, most pleasant secrets. It is an unlicensed but legal low-power radio station. The station's studio is located in the home of **Bill Dunning** and his wife, **Ann**, who have lived in Eldorado for about 12 years. Bill, who operates the station, has been a Santa Fe resident since the early 1970s.

The station can be found at 1660 on the AM dial. You can hear it throughout most of Eldorado on a car radio, if not at home. The FCC limits the broadcast power of unlicensed stations like this to 0.1 watt. Eldorado 1660 broadcasts 24/7 with a format that emphasizes calming music. The music is chosen randomly by alternating two CD changers of about

400 CDs. One changer is primarily classical, while the other is a mixture of jazz, pop, and folk music. Bill has spent 50 or more years in teaching, radio, and newspapers. He edited the arts page in *Pasatiempo* for the *Santa Fe New Mexican* in the 1970s, was program director at KSNM FM, Santa Fe's first FM station, and has taught English and speech in various grades as well as community college. He operates the station as a non-profit hobby, and the format is 98% music with an occasional public service announcement, weather bulletin, or Neighborhood Watch alert. I have been listening to his music for the last two days and have found the signal to be remarkably clear and the music to be both enjoyable and soothing. So when you have one of those stressful days and are within the Eldorado borders, try tuning in 1660 AM and relax.

—Jim Daniel

Western Meadowlark (WM)

I have to credit **Dale Stahlecker** with spotting the Western Meadowlark in Eldorado. However, they are a common sight on the Marty Sanchez Golf Course during summer. They prefer open grassland and savannah areas. The WM is a chunky bird that usually flies close to the ground and sits on low trees, fences, etc. to sing its beautiful song. The WM has a wingspan of 14 inches and is 9.5 inches long. The breeding adults are similarly marked: a spotted brown and black back, a large white eye brow stripe, a very bright yellow neck, chest and belly, and a black V-shaped mark on its throat. They reach to Central America during the winter.

The male WM usually mates with two or more females and does little of the incubating or feeding of babies. He arrives early and vigorously sets up and defends his breeding territory. Alone, the female weaves a grass nest (which may have a top) on a depression in the ground. The female lays three to seven

eggs, incubates the eggs which hatch in 13 to 15 days, and the helpless young are ready to fledge in 12 days. Food consists of insects and seeds which they may pry out of the ground by inserting their strong bills.

To confuse things, we also see Eastern Meadowlarks, mostly in eastern New Mexico. The markings are almost identical, and the best way to tell the two apart is by their song. (I think the WM has a prettier song!) Some mixing does occur between the two species, but hybrids produce few eggs that hatch. The Western Meadowlark is the state bird of Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, and Wyoming.

To hear the call of both birds, go to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website at http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/browse_tax/33/.

—Pam Henline



Photo: Kevin Cole from Pacific Coast, USA, 2008

Art among the Pumpkins

In late October, for the second year in a row, Eldorado artists will be packing up their wares and heading into Santa Fe for the 11th Annual Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association's Fall Show. Last year EACA broke with tradition and held its Fall Show at St. John's United Methodist Church in Santa Fe. Both visitors and participants were very pleased with the more spacious and inviting venue, and the Association quickly decided to schedule a repeat performance.

Once again, the show will coincide with St. John's annual Halloween pumpkin sale. The front of the church's lot is covered by thousands of these colorful round gourds at this time each year for its non-profit fundraising sale. A percentage of EACA's Fall Show proceeds benefits non-profit organizations within the Eldorado community.

The conjunction of the two events makes for a fun outing for both Santa Feans and Eldorado residents. The art community in Eldorado is huge, and many of the artists are active members in EACA. Most of us will likely recognize some of these artists as our neighbors and friends.

This year at the EACA's Fall Show, close to 60 artists will show work in a variety of media including painting, jewelry, ceramics, glass, photography, mixed media, sculpture, wearable art, textiles, folk art, recycled art, and woodworking. Many new artists will have work on hand, along with those whose work keeps evolving and surprising the serious collectors. The artists themselves will be providing complimentary snacks and refreshments for visitors.

WHERE St. John's United Methodist Church, 1200 Old Pecos Trail at Cordova in Santa Fe
SHOW TIMES Friday, October 26, 3–7 PM, Saturday, October 27, 9 AM–5 PM. Information: <http://www.eldoradoarts.org/>.

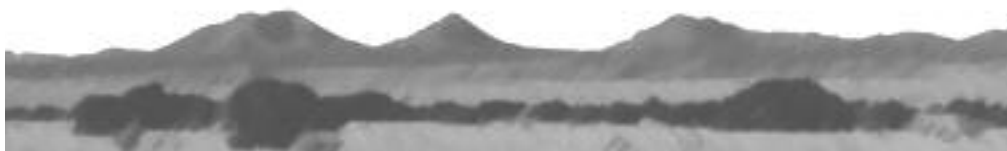
—Margaret Nelson



Stats from the Snake Relocation Group:

- 8/2 Young Prairie Rattler from 3 Estambre moved to south of Lamy
- 8/7 Bull snake from 4 Antigua moved to arroyo south of Lamy
- 8/10 Bull snake from 10 Mariano Road moved to Española Valley Animal Shelter

Clockwise from top: Jewelry by Sandra Jackson; stoneware by Joey Serim; woodworking by Kenneth Williams.



*Security 204-2945
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El Dorado Community School Expansion

The 600-plus students at El Dorado Community School are the obvious beneficiaries of the new expansion and total makeover of their kindergarten-through-8th-grade facility. A different kind of building was necessary when the 7th and 8th grade classes were added, says Principal **Anne Darnton**. In January 2011, the architectural drawings were approved, and the following May actual construction began.

Teachers and students had been relegated to small portable units until April 18 of this year, when they moved into the nearly complete “all new” learning environment. **Jim Kirtland**, Project Superintendent for McCarthy Construction and the lead on this project, says everything is new, right down to the desks and the state-of-the-art technology.

Each classroom is quite spacious and has what is called a “smart board.” Teachers have the capability (with only a laptop computer) to hook up to the super-sized computer screen on the wall and take the entire class to places all around the world without even leaving the building. Before the additions, sports teams had to practice somewhere else off campus. Now the brand-new gymnasium with shiny wood floors is the perfect environment for sports activities and physical education classes.

Only one-third of the original school remains, with the second floor for 5th through 8th grades added above it, says Kirtland. All other areas are new, including the cafeteria and kitchen. The students at the school think the most fascinating thing about their new

campus is that it has a second floor—a staircase and an elevator—probably the only elevator in Eldorado.

Children may be the big winners here, but all of Eldorado will come out on top. Many thanks to everyone who bought bonds through the 2009 sale to make this outstanding new 96,000-square-foot learning facility a reality.

—Cheryl Mente



The school's new cafeteria.