

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 11
November 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

Hen Vote Exceeds Expectations

Eldorado lot owners turned out in unprecedented numbers to vote on whether to allow hens, in the voting that culminated a month ago. A total of 1,804 lot owners—a surprising and gratifying 65 percent turnout—voted on two ballot questions that were mailed out in mid-September. This is a larger turnout than any previous ECIA-only vote since the time when AMREP, the developer of Eldorado, held the balance of power in the number of lots owned.

While the total number of votes is impressive—about 400 votes more than would have been needed to change the covenants—neither of the ballot questions individually received the required 1,389 votes that would have changed the language in the covenants. The covenants require that half of all of the lot owners—not just those who vote—had to consent to a change in the covenant language.

Nevertheless, the actual results are important, in that it has given the community and the Board some useful information from which to proceed. The essential details are these:

- ▼ A total of 1,804 ballots were returned and counted.
- ▼ Amendment A: Chickens Allowed – 805 votes
- ▼ Amendment B: Chickens Prohibited – 999 votes
- ▼ Ballots not returned: 973

The results show that, of those who voted, a clear majority voted for prohibiting chickens. The difference came from a margin of about 200 lot owners, or about 10 percent of the total number of votes cast. Put another way, the vote was 55 percent to prohibit hens, and 45 percent to allow them.

Like the aftermath of any election, there are many questions: What do the results mean? Were you surprised? Are you glad that it's over? Is it over?

Naturally, people will interpret the results in different ways, but the majority vote will set the overall tone for the future direction on this issue. It is also

reasonable to ask: What degree of mandate is a 10 percent margin? What should be done to address the interests of the substantial minority? How should the 973 non-votes be considered, if at all?

As of this writing (early October), there is activity on both sides to move the ball one way or the other, which may be announced before this issue of *Vistas* goes to press. It is clear that the election leaves some ends untied, and it will be our task as a community to continue the dialogue in a respectful and civil way.

Also as of this writing, the ECIA Election Committee had not completed an audit of the votes, which will include spoiled ballots or ballots whose numerical identifiers were not present, so there may be some minor revisions of the final count.

This covenant vote was a learning experience for the ECIA staff and the Election Committee. During the course of the voting and counting, unanticipated questions presented themselves. Key among them was the fact that approximately 57 lot owners did not receive ballots because their mail was either not forwarded or was held at the post office pursuant to their directions. Moreover, as of 10 days after the deadline, ballots are still being delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. So far, 47 late ballots have been received.

Interestingly, some couples were unable to vote after discovering that they and their beloveds held opposing views on the chicken question. More than one husband or wife called to inquire whether they could have two ballots for their household because HE wanted chickens, but SHE didn't. Sorry, one lot, one vote (and, in any case, their votes would have canceled themselves out).

Finally, on behalf of the Board, staff, and the community, I want to thank and compliment **Kathie Graham**, chairperson, and Board liaison **Pat Lavengood** and the rest of the committee for conducting the vote-counting in a professional manner.

—Ed Moreno,
ECIA President

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
November 15,
7 pm.*

October *Vistas* Correction

The October 2012 *Vistas* article "County Schedules Eldorado Projects" under "2. Gross Receipt Tax Projects" is corrected to read:

\$150,000 for architectural design of an addition to the existing Adam Senior Center plus an attached new Community Center. \$850,000 for construction of the total project.



Eldorado Holiday Lighting Tips

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.

As the holiday season approaches, many Eldorado residents will be decorating their homes as part of their family celebrations. This may well include exterior holiday lighting. We want to remind all residents that Eldorado does have guidelines for exterior lighting as part of the Protective Covenants and Building restrictions—specifically, Article II, Section 10, Exterior Lighting. These guidelines, which help to prevent excessive glare and light pollution and keep our night skies dark, should be followed as closely as possible:

Some key points that residents should remember when planning their exterior holiday lights include:

- ▼ Avoid using any bright-colored spotlights or unshielded bulbs over 75 watts.
- ▼ Larger lights (such as colored spotlights) should be downward-shielded and not just shining out toward your neighbors.
- ▼ If you are illuminating outdoor features, your lighting should not be shining upward, but rather more toward the base, as all lighting should be directed downward.
- ▼ Consider putting a timer on exterior lights that will turn your lights off at a reasonable hour, so as to save energy and not bother your neighbors in the late evening hours.
- ▼ Consider using energy-efficient LED holiday lights, wherever possible. Some of the benefits of using LED holiday lights are:
 - **EFFICIENCY:** LEDs save up to 98% of the electricity needed to power conventional painted or ceramic coated bulbs.
 - **ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY:** The low electricity use of LEDs means less carbon emissions, and manufacturing LEDs is more environmentally friendly as well. They require no glass or tungsten, since LEDs do not have a filament like incandescent bulbs; electron movement in semiconductor chips is what causes illumination.
 - **DURABILITY:** LEDs are encased in hard-to-break plastic versus the more fragile glass of incandescent lights. Because the LED is electronic, its lifetime is up to 10 years.
 - **PRACTICALITY:** LEDs come in standard packaging of 25- to 100-bulb strands that can be connected together to provide a seamless string. The long life of LEDs means that replacing bulbs will be rare, reducing maintenance.
 - **SAFETY:** LEDs generate much less heat when they operate so they are cool to the touch, and are less likely to overload a circuit.
 - **ATTRACTIVE FEATURES AND COLORS:** LEDs come in traditional shapes, sizes, and colors.

- Further information on energy-saving lighting can be found on these websites:

<http://www.energyideas.org/documents/factsheets/HolidayLighting.pdf>

http://mydocs.epri.com/docs/CorporateDocuments/EnergyEfficiency/Holiday_Lights_112007.pdf

Please take down holiday lights no later than the end of January. If you have any questions regarding exterior or holiday lighting, feel free to call me.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable holiday season!
–Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative
466-4282, mark@eldoradosf.org

Donation Theft

Recently, my family gathered and neatly stacked next to our mailbox good used clothing, furniture, and other items for the BIG BROTHERS and SISTERS pickup on Monday, September 17, in Eldorado. Their bright green BB & S tag taped to one of the boxes stating the donation was intended solely for them.

Sadly, some person or persons decided that they needed a nice old cabinet, tennis rackets, camping gear and other miscellaneous items more than the BIG BROTHERS and SISTERS. This was outright theft.

One man had knocked on my door and asked about some items waiting for the pickup. I told him I was sorry, but they were donations for those in need,

and I thanked him for asking. That is what I would expect from anyone, anywhere.

Had the posting of "FREE" been placed on these items, fine take 'em away. But that wasn't the case. These donations had the Big Brothers tag on them. These items were meant for others needing our help. But they were taken, with no thought given to charity.

There will be no opportunity given for future donation thefts. Now my family and I will hand-deliver any donations to assure that those in need ARE the ones who receive.

–The Marcus Family / Brian Marcus
hipmermaidproductions.com

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on September 20, with Board members **Ed Moreno** (President), **Pat Lavengood** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Paul Jacobs**, **Nolan Zisman**, and **Jan Deligans** present, along with 10 residents. It was announced that **Michael Chester** would be the new Roads Committee Chair. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, unless otherwise noted:

- ▼ **Casey Cronin** was appointed to the Architectural Committee.
- ▼ **Gail Oppenheim** was appointed to the Finance Committee.
- ▼ A motion to appoint **Claudia Daigle** to the Facilities and Grounds Committee failed 2-3 (Handy and Zisman in favor).

- ▼ **Steve Rudnick** was appointed to the Sustainability, Planning and Education Committee.
- ▼ A variance was denied at 12 Encantado Loop for a fence built without approval with some non-compliant stringers on the outside, since reasonable compliant alternatives exist.
- ▼ A variance was approved at 10 Cerrado Road to allow the height of a large accessory building to exceed that of the primary residence by 3 feet because of terrain considerations, with conditions.

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

2012 U.S. Election Voting Hours

Voters in the Eldorado area may vote early in person at the Eldorado Senior Center at 16 Avenida Torreon, near the Library and School. Early Voting runs from Saturday, October 20, through Saturday, November 3. Hours are noon through 8 PM Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10 AM through 6 PM on Saturdays. On Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, the polling place for Precincts 65, 69, and 71, all of which are totally or partially in Eldorado, will be at the El Dorado Community School.

Dog Complaints

To Eldorado Residents:

If you are encountering a problem with a barking or roaming dog, at night or during the weekend, please call Santa Fe Animal Control at 428-3720 to report the problem. Please follow that up with a call to the ECIA offices at 466-4248. If you leave a message for me (Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative), or the ECIA staff, please be sure to include your name and telephone number with the message. When we receive incomplete messages left by Eldorado residents who fail to leave their name and telephone number, it is very hard, if not impossible, to initiate covenant enforcement actions. Keep in mind that all complainants' names are kept confidential during the covenant enforcement process.

—Mark Young

2013 Budget Approval in November

The final steps for approval of the 2013 Operating and Replacement Reserve Expenditure budgets are scheduled for approval in November. All ECIA members are welcome to participate:

Tuesday, November 6, 9 AM: Proposed 2013 Budget and Message are available at the ECIA office and on the website, www.eldoradosf.org.

Saturday, November 10, 10 AM: The Board conducts a public hearing on the proposed 2013 Budget in the Railroad Room. Copies will be available at the hearing.

Thursday, November 15, 7 PM: The Board adopts the final 2013 budget at its regular meeting in the Classroom.

—Dan Drobnis, Finance Committee

Maintenance Request Form Now on Web

A web-based Facilities Maintenance Request is available on the ECIA website (www.eldoradosf.org) under the Resident Resources tab/Forms and Applications/Facilities Problem Report. Any resident noticing a problem with any ECIA facility or amenity may use this form, which will go directly to the General Manager for action. Alternatively, call the office at 466-4248.

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Director

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pnzisman@aol.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:

Katherine Mortimer

Conservation: John Parker

Election: Kathie Graham

Facilities & Grounds:

Jean Crawford

Finance: Dan Drobnis

Information: Jim Daniel

Neighborhood Watch:

Marilyn Walker

Roads: Michael Chester

Stable: Gretel Underwood

(Interim Chair)

Sustainability, Planning,

Education: Steve Rudnick

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

eldoradofirerescue.org

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)



IN THE COMMUNITY

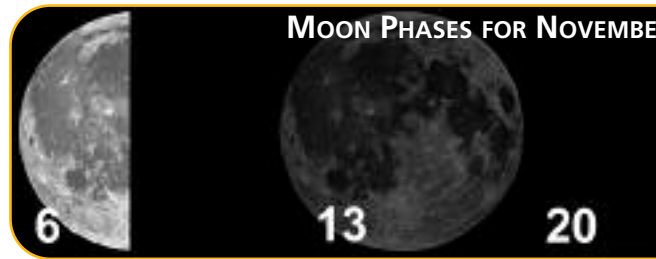
EHPOA

The Eldorado Home and Property Owners Association, Inc. is a new non-profit established by several Eldorado lot owners to inform and represent members' interests and concerns to the ECIA Board and committees as well as to inform members of county proposals that might affect the community. This organization is not a committee of the ECIA. The group hopes to create a "relaxed format where members can share ideas and concerns with other Eldorado lot owners regarding our community to form a consensus that can be presented to our Board and Committees." The first meeting will be Thursday, November 29, 7-9 PM in the Classroom at the Community Center. Contact **Claudia Daigle**, 670-8354, for more information.

Light, Wood, Wax, Fire

Nine Santa Fe artists (**Ann Bitter, Joan Biordi, Joan Krall, Leslie Rich, Lynne Roberts, Lyn Parker, Nan MacCurdy, Sandy Seehaver, and Shelly Moore**) use elemental materials and methods to create with light, wood, wax, and fire. This art show at the La Tienda Exhibit Space is an elegy to the organic. Life sways inside every piece: a dramatic cloud formation pinned against the sky; a flower portrait at once sculptural and ethereal; a table that evokes the spirit of the wood from which it emerged; the shimmering functionality of a micaceous clay pot; the luster and patina in the marriage of wax and rust; the lush geometry of light portrayed in a shower of sunlight; the wild stillness of birds on a branch; the contained fire radiating from a ceramic sculpture; the watchfulness embedded in a closely observed landscape. Each in their own different ways, these artists live inside light, wood, wax, and fire. The exhibition runs from November 10 through December 8, 2012. Gallery Opening Event: November 9, 5-7 PM. Gallery hours: 11 AM to 5 PM, Wednesday through Saturday. For more information, contact Ann Bitter (505.231.4270; annbitter3@gmail.com) or Joan Biordi (466.3919; biordi@aol.com).

Top to bottom, left to right: Artworks on view by Joan Krall, Leslie Rich, Lynne Roberts, Ann Bitter, Sandy Seehaver, Joan Biordi, Lyn Parker, Shelly Moore, and Nan MacCurdy, at La Tienda.



Special Events at La Tienda Exhibits

On Saturday, November 10, at 1 PM, the La Tienda Exhibit Space will feature a Poetry Reading by **Barbara Rockman** and **Lauren Camp**. Rockman is the author of *Sting and Nest*, winner of the 2012 National Federation of Press Women Poetry Book Prize. Recipient of two Pushcart Prize nominations, she has been recognized with the New Mexico Discovery Award, Southwest Writers Prize, The MacGuffin Poets Hunt Award, and the Baskerville Publisher's Prize. Rockman's poems explore the domestic themes of motherhood, marriage and family. Lauren Camp is the host of KSFR 101.1 FM's "Audio Saucepan" show on Sunday evenings and an acclaimed fiber artist. The author of the poetry collection *This Business of Wisdom*, she has also guest-edited special sections for *World Literature Today* on jazz poetry and for *Malpais Review* on the poetry of Iraq. She will be part of the upcoming "Earth Chronicles" documentary and exhibit, spotlighting creative thinkers in New Mexico. Lauren writes frequently for "Which Silk Shirt," a blog about poetry and other fine writing.

On Saturday, November 17, at 1 PM, **Ann Schmauss** will give a talk on "How to Attract More Birds to Your Back Yard This Winter." Schmauss is the co-owner of the retail store Wild Birds Unlimited in Santa Fe. She writes the backyard birding column for the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. She and her sisters wrote *For the Birds: A Month by Month Guide to Attracting Birds to your Backyard*, and she has also written for *Birds and Blooms* magazine.

On Saturday, December 1, at 1 PM, **Dr. Sylvia Rodriguez**, Professor Emerita, Anthropology, University of New Mexico, will give a talk on "Art, Tourism, and Identity in New Mexico." She is the author of numerous publications and books, including *Acequia: Water-sharing, Sanctity, and Place* and *The Matachines Dance*.



Architectural Committee in December

The Architectural Committee will meet only once in December: Tuesday, December 11, 7 PM. Plans to be considered for this meeting are due on December 7 at noon.

Kitchen Angels Seeks Helpers

Do you love to cook? Do you love to spend time with new and interesting people? One of Santa Fe's oldest and best-loved volunteer organizations, Kitchen Angels, is looking for volunteer cooks and drivers. Shifts are as short as two hours a week.

This non-profit has prepared and delivered nearly 750,000 meals to over 3,600 home-bound people, some in Eldorado. As their client numbers grow, more meals must be prepared and delivered.

Kitchen Angels delivers free, nutritious, and delicious meals each day to home-bound people living with chronic and terminal illnesses. Their clients must meet three basic criteria: they must be under age 60 (Meals-on-Wheels helps people over 60); they must be home-bound due to a life-challenging situation; and they must be unable to provide food for themselves on a regular basis. To enroll for service, prospective clients go through a 15- to 20-minute survey and, if they appear to meet the criteria, a home visit. Applicants must also provide a medical provider's certification. All clients are re-certified every two years.

About 129 clients a day receive fresh meals of an entrée, fresh fruit, soup or salad, and a dessert, Monday – Friday. For weekends, frozen meals are supplied. If you want to help your home-bound neighbors, visit www.kitchenangels.org or phone 471-7780 to learn more.

November 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

NOVEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Stable Open House	Sat., Nov. 24, 10 am–1 pm	Alice Griffin	466-4864	Stable
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Nov. 13, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Nov. 27, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Nov. 12, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Nov. 6, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Nov. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., Nov. 6, 4-6 pm	Jean Crawford	466-1000	CFR
Finance Committee	Sat., Nov. 10, 10 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	RR
Information Committee	Tues., Nov. 20, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., Nov. 5, 6-8 pm	Michael Chester	975-6930	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., Nov. 27, 7-9 pm	Gretel Underwood	466-7825	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., Nov. 8, 7-9 pm	Steve Rudnick	466-1335	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/CR
Eldorado Camera Club	4th Wednesday, 7-9	biordi@aol.com		La Tienda
EHPOA**	Thurs, Nov. 29, 7-9	Claudia Daigle	670-8354	CR
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, 5-9 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
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
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Senior Lunch****	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District ** Eldorado Home and Property Owners Assn, Inc.

***For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

***** Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Eldorado Leader, Pat Lavengood, Moves On



Pat Lavengood, well known for her many volunteer contributions to the advancement of the community, is leaving Eldorado to be closer to her family in Maryland. Pat and husband **Dave Burdett** became Eldorado residents in 1989. Shortly thereafter, they both joined the Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department. Pat served as treasurer of the department for several years and became certified as an emergency medical technician. Both Pat and Dave responded to many fire and medical calls in the community as well as surrounding areas.

In 1994, Dave and Pat initiated the creation of the Santa Fe Search & Rescue Team. In their earlier years, they had been active in similar activities in the High Sierras of California. In New Mexico, they responded

to many emergency calls around Eldorado as well as the surrounding mountains above Santa Fe, going out at all times of the day and night. This organization is still quite active and has many Eldorado members.

Unfortunately, Dave passed away several years ago. However, not content to rest on her laurels, Pat kept up her many volunteer activities. These included two terms on the ECIA Board of Directors and serving on all the ECIA committees. Other activities included delivering Meals on Wheels for the Adam Senior Center and acting as coordinator for this program.

We salute Pat and wish her all the best at her new home.

—Don Dayton

Senior Scene



Happy Thanksgiving! There has never been a better time to become a member of Adam Senior Center. You must be 60 years old, and the only cost is 10 minutes of your time. Hours of operation are 10 AM–4 PM Monday–Friday. Ask for Carol (phone 466-1039).

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Dinner will be served on Thursday, Nov. 15 at 11:30 AM.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

The Christmas Craft Fair will be on Saturday, Nov. 10, 9 AM–2 PM. The cost is \$10. If you are interested in renting a table, contact Dolores at 466-3848.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Thursday, Nov. 1: **Jack Loeffler**, “Thinking Like a Watershed.”

Friday, Nov. 9: **Douglas Howe**, “What You Need to Know about New Mexico’s Public Regulation.”

Thursday, Nov. 15: **Len Alaimo**, “Seldom Told of the Manhattan Project.”

Friday, Nov. 20: **Don Dayton**, “North to Alaska.”

Thursday, Nov. 29: **Nina Alexander**, “Authenticity in Buying of Native American Arts & Crafts.”

EXERCISE CLASSES

Chair Yoga: Mondays at 10:30 AM

Chair Aerobics & Stretching: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 AM

Tai Chi: Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

Strength Training: 1:30 PM

Congregate meals are served Monday–Friday at noon.

Call us at 466-1039 to make a reservation 24 hours in advance. We have menus for the month available, and the cost for the meal is \$1.50.

ART CLASSES

Darcy Gray will show participants how to make beautiful holiday cards on Tuesdays in November.

Rosemary Sparno will teach participants how to paint gourds on Thursday afternoons. You must sign up for the classes, as spaces are limited. Times and days are still pending, so come by to pick up a calendar of events.

COMPUTER TRAINING

Margaret O’Brien has graciously offered to teach one-on-one training on PC computers. She will help with e-mail, attachments, the Internet, digital cameras for photography and video, editing photos and video, wi-fi home networks, Skype, Google hangout for video conferencing, connecting to networks, etc. She will be available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10 AM. Please call the Center on Fridays to sign up for the following week.

Clark Man is still offering one-on-one computer training on Mac computers and devices. You must call to set up an appointment.

CARD GAMES

Pinochle-Players meet on Thursdays at 12:45 PM.

They are always looking for new players. Social Bridge: The Center is still trying to get a social bridge game going on Tuesday afternoons.

MEMOIR WRITING

Writers and aspiring writers are welcome to join the group on Wednesday, Nov. 7 and Nov. 28 at 2:45 PM as they meet to write the memories of their lives.

FIELD TRIPS

A trip to San Antonio is scheduled for April 7–13. The cost is \$570. Call Dolores at 466-3848 for details.

—Carol Branch

Flora and Fauna Working Group NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Over the next several months, we are going to offer a series of articles about the habitats in Eldorado. As many of us have experienced, our backyards can be very different from our front yards. What accounts for this and how do we assure our wildlife that we have friendly environments?

We have birds, rodents (some not so destructive), small mammals, snakes, lizards, and other creatures.

Scant permanent water sources in our piñon-juniper grassland limit the variety of amphibians and reptiles found here, as compared with habitats in the nearby mountains and valleys. That's because our higher number of people and vehicles are resulting in fewer numbers of species found in our area.

While some of us, who live toward the western border of Eldorado, are watching the migration of tarantulas, many of us closer to 285 have rarely seen this large and hairy arachnid.

We look forward to providing information on the various "zones" in Eldorado and the creatures that inhabit each zone. For openers, here is a sampling to some of our fellow non-*Homo sapiens* residents:

Tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*)
 Red-spotted toad (*Bufo punctatus*)
 Woodhouse toad (*Bufo woodhousii*)
 Collared lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris*)
 Many-lined skink (*Eumeces multivirgatus*)
 Great Plains skink (*Eumeces obsoletus*)
 Lesser earless lizard (*Holbrookia maculata*)
 Short-horned lizard (*Phrynosoma hernandesi*)
 Round-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma modestum*)
 Plateau fence lizard (*Sceloporus tristichus*)
 Plains spadefoot and New Mexico spadefoot (*Spea bombifrons*, *Spea multiplicata*)
 Western box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*)
 Little striped whiptail (*Aspidoscelis inornata*)
 Plateau striped whiptail (*Aspidoscelis velox*)
 (See snake species at right >>)

If you are interested in finding out more about the land we inhabit, stay tuned. And, if you have an observation or question, please email me at n815@aol.com.

—Nina Harrison



Whiptail lizard

OUR SNAKE SPECIES:

Great Plains rat snake (*Elaphe emoryi*)
 Glossy snake (*Arizona elegans*)
 Western hog-nosed snake (*Heterodon nasicus*)
 Night snake (*Hypsiglena torquata*)
 Milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*)
 Coach whip (*Masticophis flagellum*)
 Striped whipsnake (*Masticophis taeniatus*)
 Bullsnake (*Pituophis catenifer*)
 Mountain patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora grahamiae*)
 Wandering garter snake (*Thamnophis elegans*)
 Prairie rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*) – Venomous!
 Western diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*) – Venomous!

Preparing for Winter

Measures taken now to winterize your home and prepare for unpredictable weather extremes can help head off problems later on. Consider these efforts now to prepare for winter:

1. Winterize outside water faucets. Disconnect water hoses so that freezing water does not back up and crack your interior water pipe connections. Foam bibs are also available at home supply stores to cover the outside faucets in the winter.
2. If you have an interior fireplace or wood stove, remove the soot and creosote that accumulated in the chimney last winter. Failure to do so may result in a chimney fire. Commercial chimney sweeps are available, or a stovepipe cleaning brush can be purchased from a building supply store.
3. With cold weather, mice and other rodents seek interior shelter. Examine the exterior of your home and storage shed for small holes that may provide access. They can be plugged up with thin aluminum strips cut to fit and nailed over the hole.
4. Buy snow melting material from your building supply store to sprinkle over walkways after snow and ice storms. Get a good snow shovel if you don't have one.
5. Roof canals can be a major cause of roof leaks in the winter. These roof drains can freeze up with ice during a winter night and act as a dam backing up water flow onto the roof. Any minor crack

- in the roofing will then cause a water leak. Check them in the early morning before snow melt. If an ice dam has formed in your canals, sprinkle a little sand or snow melting material over the ice dam.
6. Inspect your operable house windows for poor seals. Obtain sealing strips from the supply store if cold air comes in around poor fitting windows, or consider storm window coverings.
 7. Winterize your vehicles. Battery terminals, in particular, should be inspected for corrosion. Winter vehicle starts sometimes put an extra load on the battery. Check your tires. Snow tires are recommended if you do a lot of highway driving in the winter. At the least, check the tire tread on existing vehicles. Chains may need to be considered if you have much travel on dirt back roads in the winter.
 8. Winterize your garden. Prepare your plant beds for the next season. Landscape plants should be trimmed back and cultivated. If adequate winter moisture is lacking, water your plants and young trees at least monthly during the winter.
 9. In case of heavy winter snows, it may be advisable to line up a local snow plow early in the season to plow out your driveway when necessary. There is often a big demand for their services right after a large snowfall.

For those residents unable to perform these winterizing programs themselves, it may be advisable to arrange for a local handyman to do them for you.

—Don Dayton





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

Eldorado Stables Open House

Saturday, November 24, 10 am to 1 pm

In September, the Eldorado Stable Committee hosted the ECIA Board members and their families for a tour of the Eldorado stables. Coffee and pony rides were served, and fun was had by all. So much fun, in fact, that we would like to do it again. This time, we invite the entire Eldorado community to a stable open house on Saturday, November 24, from 10 AM to 1 PM. Come join in the pony rides, photo ops (the grandkids on a pony for your holiday cards perhaps?), and apple cider provided by the ECIA. This is a great opportunity to bring the whole family for an outing over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. For those who plan to ride, please wear closed-toed shoes and long pants. In the event of rain, the open house will be postponed until the following Saturday, December 1, from 10 AM to 1 PM.

For more information, contact **Pat Donahue** (phone) 310-9757; email: donahuemail@gmail.com; or **Alice Griffin** (phone) 466-4864; email: griffin100@gmail.com.

In September ECIA Board members and their families toured the Eldorado stables and enjoyed pony rides. Pictured is Price Sledge, age 8, riding Mo, led by Emma Cameron.

