

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 12  
December 2012

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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## A Significant Year

As this is the last issue of *Eldorado Vistas* of 2012, I want to reflect on some of the important activities that the ECIA undertook this past year.

At the beginning of the year, the ECIA took a significant step in financial stability by implementing the "Securing the Future" budget program. The budget was built using an estimating tool that tracks the life cycle of the Association's amenities and its capital items that are replaced from time to time.

The plan calls for increasing homeowner assessments gradually, starting in 2012 and continuing each biennium for approximately 10 years. In this way, it is estimated that by 2020 the ECIA will achieve a sustainable reserve for the indefinite future, assuming that no additional amenities are added. In 2013, the Board will again rely on our excellent Finance Committee to develop a budget that will include an assessment increase, about \$37 per year, for the 2014–2015 budget biennium.

Also in 2012, the ECIA embarked on an experiment to determine the best way to improve some of the older hike/bike trails that the community built years ago under inadequate standards. This is a work in progress, and the ECIA will be seeking community comment. These trails are among our most valued amenities, along with the *Eldorado Vistas*, the greenbelts, and the Wilderness Preserve, according to a survey that was conducted this past year.

One of the most exciting events of the year was the Fourth of July Celebration, which coincided with Eldorado's 40th Anniversary as a homeowner subdivision. The event was one of the largest ever at the Community Center.

The Conservation Committee conducted a wild-fire assessment of the community, including the Community Center property, the stables, and some greenbelt areas. Among the recommendations were that residents should cut combustible plants and material from around their homes, expand the goat grazing in more areas, clear beetle-killed trees in some

areas, and clear brush from around fire hydrants so that firefighters can locate them more easily.

The Conservation Committee and two Eagle Scout candidates from Troop 414, Jim Rose and Matt Rohr, blazed a new trail in the Eldorado Preserve. Trail 105 is a moderately level trail that skirts the Los Vaqueros neighborhood. Over the years, signage and trail repair work has been undertaken, and it is a delight to explore the Preserve on well-marked and well-maintained trails.

A review of the year past would be incomplete without noting the reconstruction of the El Dorado Community School. Kudos to the project managers and the school district for completing the work on time, and for the free entertainment we experienced as we watched the construction while driving by.

Finally, I want to thank all of the many residents who participated in the community dialogue about allowing residents to keep hens. From the beginning, I felt it was a valid question to be put to the community, and the outcome was a 55-to-45 margin against allowing chickens as pets. Although the vote did not change the covenant, we learned a lot about our community.

I wish all Eldorado residents a happy holiday season, and many blessings in the coming year.

—Ed Moreno, ECIA President

## Board Vacancy to Be Filled

The ECIA Board of Directors will be accepting applications to fill a vacancy on the Board resulting from the recent resignation of **Jan Deligans**. The Board will be scheduling interviews during December in order to fill this position. Interested residents (in good standing) should contact Ed Moreno at [edmoreno@newmexico.com](mailto:edmoreno@newmexico.com), or at 505-466-1183.

Another Board vacancy was filled during the November 12 Board meeting: **Jan Pietrzak** was tapped to replace the retiring **Pat Lavengood**.

*ECIA Board  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center  
Railroad Bldg.  
Thurs.,  
December 20,  
7 pm.*



# Website Usage Statistics

Our new website is nearly two years old, and site usage has increased steadily since it was launched in December 2010. The average number of site visits per month has increased from 1,671 in 2011 to 2,800 in 2012. The average visitor spends four minutes on the site.

Some of the most popular destinations on the site are the covenants, by-laws, architectural guidelines,

bus schedule, *Vistas* archives, calendar, Board minutes, pool and Community Center information. Most visitors live in Eldorado, but a sizable number come from outside the area, notably New Jersey, Colorado, and Minnesota (California did not make the top 25 list this year). Many visitors are accessing the site from work, especially from state offices and LANL.

*-Jack Arnold, ECIA Webmaster*

*Share your comments with us!*

*For policy and deadline, see below*

## Editorial Policy

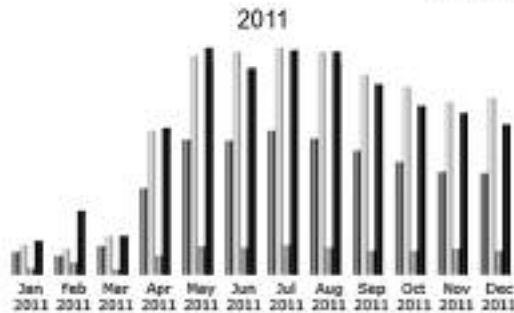
*Vistas* invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too.

**DEADLINE:** Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or e-mailed to [ECIADiAna@aol.com](mailto:ECIADiAna@aol.com). Please include "Attn: *Vistas*" in your message.

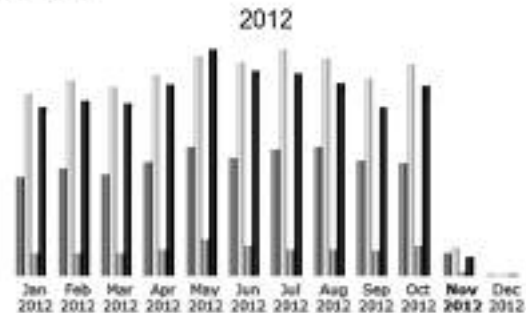
## Mission Statement

The mission of *Vistas*, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

### Site Visitor Statistics



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits
Jan 2011	234	323	4,081	22,613
Feb 2011	201	276	8,048	43,399
Mar 2011	305	409	3,240	25,830
Apr 2011	919	1,551	12,608	99,259
May 2011	1,444	2,353	18,906	153,393
Jun 2011	1,441	2,390	17,948	140,372
Jul 2011	1,546	2,428	19,728	152,141
Aug 2011	1,463	2,396	18,521	151,682
Sep 2011	1,328	2,154	15,694	128,625
Oct 2011	1,201	2,020	16,163	114,367
Nov 2011	1,096	1,861	17,330	109,420
Dec 2011	1,082	1,897	15,366	101,901
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,260</b>	<b>20,058</b>	<b>167,563</b>	<b>1,243,202</b>



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits
Jan 2012	1,379	2,550	18,095	139,776
Feb 2012	1,503	2,723	18,609	145,928
Mar 2012	1,400	2,625	18,125	142,913
Apr 2012	1,583	2,894	21,463	158,571
May 2012	1,788	3,063	20,640	187,716
Jun 2012	1,643	2,989	24,119	170,545
Jul 2012	1,757	3,147	21,024	168,876
Aug 2012	1,795	3,030	21,254	159,855
Sep 2012	1,600	2,755	20,262	140,749
Oct 2012	1,563	2,951	24,444	158,218
Nov 2012	303	399	2,134	15,488
Dec 2012	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,313</b>	<b>29,036</b>	<b>219,169</b>	<b>1,588,630</b>



Screen shot of the popular eldoradosf.org website in mid-November 2012

## Covenant Compliance Stats

### ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS

	OCTOBER 2012	YTD PREV. MONTH	PLANS	YTD
SUBMITTED	19	PROJECTS	167	186
APPROVED	12	APPROVED	126	138
VARIANCE REQ	5	VAR. APPROVED	31	36
VARIANCES DENIED	0	VAR. DENIED	4	4
No pending variance requests				

### COMPLIANCE ISSUES

MTD NEW	CLOSED MTD	YTD PENDING	NEW YTD	CLOSED YTD
27	24	34	246	228

After the holidays, recycle your Christmas trees at the Community Center parking lot

## Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on October 15, with Board members **Ed Moreno** (President), **Pat Lavengood** (Secretary), **Paul Jacobs**, **Jan Deligans**, and **Jeanne Calzada** present, along with 43 residents. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, unless otherwise noted:

- ▼ Director **Jeanne Calzada** was elected Board Vice President.
- ▼ Director **Nolan Zisman** was elected Board Secretary, replacing retiring Pat Lavengood.
- ▼ **Cheryl Ford-Mente** was appointed to the Information Committee.
- ▼ A variance was granted for 22 Caliente Road for a small accessory building to be unscreened, with conditions, because its color and texture matched the house.
- ▼ A variance was granted for 63 Camerada Loop for a greenhouse small accessory building 77 feet from the house, where Guidelines require 15 feet or less, because of site conditions.
- ▼ A variance was granted for 10 Fonda Court for a ground-based solar array 17 feet 3 inches from the house, where Guidelines require 15 feet or less,

with screening conditions, to allow proper solar exposure.

- ▼ A variance was granted for 1 Encantado Circle for a screening fence 11 feet from the property line, where a 20-foot setback is required, to provide screening for a utility trailer, with stipulations.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 69 Condesa Road for two existing driveway monuments constructed within the required 50-foot front setback.
- ▼ A Home Business was approved for 5 Demora Road for a dog care business, with stipulations.
- ▼ The motion adopted at the July 19 meeting that temporarily suspended enforcement of poultry restrictions (Article II, Section 11 of the Protective Covenants) was rescinded (3-2, Deligans and Jacobs against).

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>.

## Rooftop Equipment and Ductwork

Due in part to the failure of older Entran II heating systems in homes in Eldorado, this past year we have seen a number of residents switch over to rooftop-based heating and cooling systems. While such rooftop systems are not prohibited in the Eldorado Covenants or Guidelines, residents are required to at least paint these systems, and associated ductwork, to match the adjacent walls of the home, unless it can be proved that it would interfere with their operation. This requirement is detailed in the Eldorado Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions for Eldorado at Santa Fe under Section 6:

### LIMITATIONS ON PERMITTED DESIGN FEATURES:

While certain design features may be desirable, their incorporation into a structure may be disruptive to adjacent property owners. Accordingly:

1. Flagpoles shall be no higher than the Santa Fe County height restriction of 20 feet.

2. Unless it can be demonstrated that it will interfere with operation, visible rooftop equipment such as swamp coolers and the like shall be painted to match adjacent walls (or pitched roof if applicable). Covers shall match the adjacent walls.

In addition, should residents need to install such a rooftop heating and cooling system, we encourage them to consider the impact of the system on their neighbors' views and ask that such systems be designed to be as low profile and non-obtrusive as feasible.

Lastly, in keeping with the guidelines for these rooftop systems, any covers used on visible rooftop equipment (or swamp coolers) are required to match the color of the home stucco as closely as possible.

If you have any questions about this topic, please call me at the ECIA at 466-4248 or e-mail me at [mark@eldoradosf.org](mailto:mark@eldoradosf.org).

—Mark Young, *Covenant Compliance Representative*  
466-4282, [mark@eldoradosf.org](mailto:mark@eldoradosf.org)

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Director  
**Jan Pietrzak**  
Director  
Open

### 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](http://eldoradofirerescue.org)  
County All Purpose  
820-CNTY (2689)



**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.

**A Winter Choral Concert**

On Thursday, December 13 at 6:30 PM at the El Dorado Community School Cafeteria, El Dorado Academy presents a concert featuring the 6th-grade chorus, the 7th- and 8th-grade chorus, and combined choruses in an eclectic program of classical, folk song, spiritual, Broadway, and pop styles. Selections include “Sally Gardens,” “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho,” “All you Need is Love,” and “A Winter Medley.” Directed by **Galen Prenevost**. Admission is free; donations are appreciated.

**Adam & Kim’s Christmas Trees**

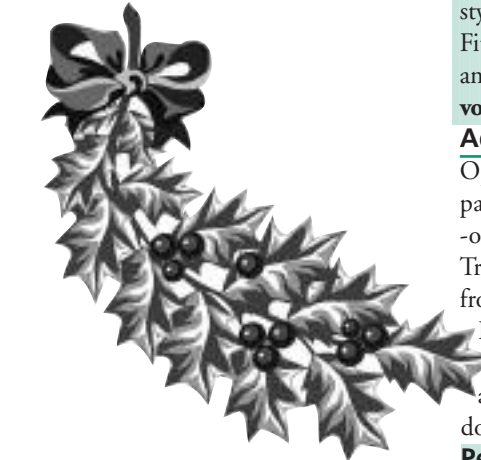
Opening Saturday, December 1, at the north parking lot of La Tienda: Eldorado-owned and -operated business Adam and Kim’s Christmas Trees will offer quality, fresh-cut Christmas trees from Oregon. Douglas Fir, Grand Fir, and Noble Fir will be available in sizes from tabletop to tall trees. Wreaths, garlands, and chili ristras will also be available. A portion of proceeds will be donated to El Dorado Fire & Rescue.

**Pet Pictures with Santa at La Tienda**

On December 2, from noon to 3 PM, have your pet’s picture taken with Santa. By donation; proceeds to benefit the Santa Fe Animal Shelter.

**Our Webmaster Wins Best of Show**

**Jack Arnold**, who manages our ECIA website, is also a professional photographer who specializes in taking pictures of the “big sky” landscape of New Mexico and the Southwest. Using a large format 4 x 5 view camera, he captured the beauty of a rugged piece of terrain in Northern New Mexico, the Black Mesa. The photo was entered at the suggestion of a friend in an exhibit called “Common Ground” sponsored the City of Santa Fe Visual Arts Commission and won first place, a prize of a thousand dollars and a place in the commission gallery.



Award-winning photo by Jack Arnold, taken on Highway 30, south of Española.



have seen it as being reminiscent of the work of Ansel Adams. *—Frank Schober*

**Is Gardening Your Thing?**

Become a Master Gardener and deepen your gardening knowledge and connect with others who share your passion through a 16-week, intensive course taught by New Mexico’s top horticultural educators, researchers, and practitioners. Students will learn current best practices for soil building and composting; pruning, pests and diseases; best fruits, vegetables and ornamentals for Santa Fe; water harvesting, xeric techniques, and much more. Evening classes start Monday, February 4, at 6 PM; morning classes start Tuesday, February 5 at 9 AM. Class size is limited. Register online today at [www.sfmga.org](http://www.sfmga.org). Registration closes December 31. Information at 471-4711. Presented by Santa Fe Master Gardener Association in cooperation with NMSU, an equal opportunity employer.

**EACA Winds Up 2012**

For the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association, 2012 has been a very upbeat year. With new board members, a new editor for the newsletter, a new look to the website, and many new members, the energy has been fresh and inspiring. The holidays are approaching, and because of all the travel and activities surrounding them, no monthly meeting will be held on the last Thursday of December. However, on December 7, a potluck dinner for members is scheduled at the Community Center.

In late October the association’s Fall Show was held at St. John’s Methodist Church on Old Pecos Trail for the second year in a row. The 58 participants had great crowds for both days, and the show was such a success that next year’s Fall Show is already scheduled to be in the same locale.

A percentage of the artists’ sales are being used to make donations to the art program at the El Dorado Community School, El Dorado Fire and Rescue, the Senior Center art classes program, the Vista Grande Public Library, and the food bank at St. John’s United Methodist Church.

In mid-November the spring Studio Tour applications went out to EACA members; the deadline for receiving the completed applications is January 6. If you are not a member yet but are thinking about joining the Association in order to participate in the Studio Tour, contact **Joretha Hall** at [clay](mailto:clay).



companions@q.com to get more information. –Margaret Nelson

**Agora Holiday Open House**

On Saturday, December 8, 11 AM–3 PM, all Agora businesses will welcome you with holiday treats and door prizes. Live music will ring out from 12 to 3 in Piccolino’s restaurant, where wine and other beverages will be served with a snack menu (music by Never the Same, a local trio specializing in Americana and upbeat gospel and some holiday tunes). The huge living pine tree in the courtyard will be festooned with lights, and you are invited to bring an ornament to represent your family and hang it on this community tree. Celebrate this loving season with your friends and neighbors, in a festive and old fashioned “village” atmosphere.

**ECIA Needs Volunteers!**

ECIA thrives on volunteers. Without them, our neighborhood association cannot operate. If you have an hour or two each month, please consider volunteering for one of the committees. That will keep you “in the know” about the happenings in our community. Be part of the solution. Join a committee today by calling the ECIA office. The committees now seeking volunteers are:

**Architectural:** Review of applications for building projects; call Mark 466-4248

**Conservation:** Stewards of over 5,000 acres of trails and Preserve; call Mark 466-4248

**Facilities and Grounds:** Oversight and improvement of facilities and amenities; call Jean 466-1000

**Information:** Help manage ECIA communications; call Jim Daniel 609-941-4527

**Stables:** For horse and stable owners; call Gretel 466-7825.

# December Events

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

Email [eciamarilyn@aol.com](mailto:eciamarilyn@aol.com) with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd of the month for publication in the following month’s *Vistas*. Please include “Attn: *Vistas*” and be sure to indicate:



1. **Type of Event**
2. **Location**
3. **Date & Time**
4. **A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

*Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.*

*LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Room, CR=Class Room, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen*

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Architectural Committee	Tues., Dec. 11, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	No 2nd meeting in Dec.	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Dec. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Dec. 4, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Dec. 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., Dec. 4, 4-6 pm	Jean Crawford	466-1000	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Dec. 12, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Dec. 18, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	CFR
Road Committee	No meeting in Dec.	Michael Chester	975-6930	CFR
Stable Committee	No meeting in Dec.			LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., Dec. 13, 7-9 pm	Steve Rudnick	466-1335	CFR

**MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS**

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, 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 Fri., 9-noon	Natalie Bernet	466-6118	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 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
Life Drawing	Mon., 10 - 12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	RR

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

\*\*\* Reservations Required

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)**

## Emergency Planning for Your Family

As I sit here writing, I am thinking about the devastation that nature brought to the east coast with Superstorm Sandy. Here in New Mexico, many people are looking out their windows at our beautiful blue skies and expressing gratitude. Although we may not be in the path of a devastating hurricane or need worry about floodwaters, we do have our own potential disasters to think about.

In the coming months we could suffer severely cold temperatures or a record-breaking snowstorm. Two winters ago some Eldorado residents experienced their water pipes freezing, causing their homes to flood from within. Four years ago we had people stranded for up to three days because of severe snow.

### ARE YOU PREPARED?

There are lots of websites and government organizations that tell us what to have ready for a disaster. They invariably include three days' worth of water and food, medications, important papers, and similar recommendations. A quick Internet search will lead you to the standard recommendations.

I would like to share some of the measures I have taken to prepare for an emergency. These may sound like simple common sense, but many people still don't take such basic precautions as these:

Get to know your neighbors. Too many Eldoradoans have no idea who their neighbors are or how to get in touch with them in an emergency. People are our biggest resource and source of support.

Have cash on hand. I keep \$300 available, because if there is no power or employees can't get to work, the cash from the bank will not be available.

Make sure you have half a tank of gas in your car. Just fill up at half a tank; don't wait until you're empty.

Keep extra clothing, a sleeping bag, food, and water in your vehicle in case you get stranded, either off the road in a storm or on the highway because of a road closure.

Have an extra cooking and heating source at home, such as a fireplace and a propane camping stove.

Make sure your vehicle's tires are good and will get you through the snow. Many people with summer tires on their cars get stuck in the winter here.

Get creative, think about the unthinkable, research emergency planning websites, talk to your neighbors, and have a plan.

It is your health and safety—you are responsible for it. No one else is. Take a few precautions and be prepared. You won't regret it. Be smart, be safe.

*Raven Hicks, ECLIA Community Services Manager*

## Senior Scene

The winter holidays are often a difficult time for those of us who don't have family members nearby. The Senior Center invites all seniors to join its family at the Adam Senior Center. It takes only 10 minutes to become a member, and it is free. Hours of operation are 10 AM–4 PM Monday–Friday. Congregate meals are served at noon. There are many other activities, including card games, exercise, art, computer, and writing classes. Come by to pick up an activities calendar and a menu, or call Carol for more information at 466-1039.

The Center's Christmas dance will be held on Thursday, December 6, 1–4 PM at the Santa Fe Fairgrounds. There will be a live band, and refreshments will be served. The cost is \$3; all seniors are welcome. Guest Speakers: All of the scheduled guest speakers share their topics at 12:30 PM, just after lunch.

December 6: The Center has its own Memoir Writing Class, now known as "Treasures," where individuals share their stories.

December 12 : **Dr. Karin Thron** will speak on the topic of "Hospice 101."

Trips: A trip is planned, 7 days, 6 nights, in San Antonio, Texas, April 7–13. The cost is \$570 per person, double occupancy. Departure will

be from the Adam Senior Center. For more information, call **Dolores Brock** 466-3848.

Meals on Wheels (meals provided by the county to homebound seniors) are delivered out of the Senior Center. Many years ago, **Pat Lavengood** and **Patty Adam** organized a group of volunteers to deliver meals to seniors in Eldorado. Please consider helping your community by volunteering to make deliveries. Your commitment might be one day per week for one hour or as a substitute driver. To join in this volunteer opportunity, telephone **Jackie Taylor** at 466-2807.

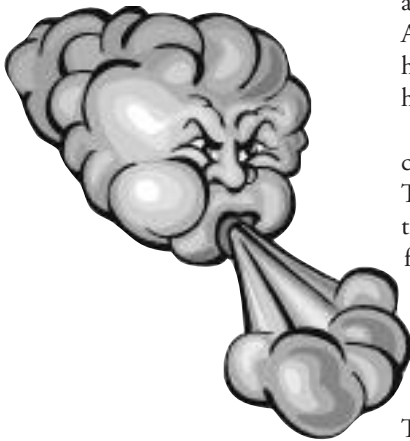
If you are homebound and interested in learning more about receiving a hot meal delivered to you by a caring Eldorado resident, please contact **Carol Branch** at 466-1039.

Experienced kitchen help is also needed at the Center. If you are interested in volunteering one morning or afternoon per week, your help will be welcome.

Mah Jongg anyone? We almost have enough players. The social bridge group is also in need of another player for Tuesday afternoons.

The Center would like to thank all of its volunteers for their service. Without them, such a successful program would not be possible. The first annual gratitude breakfast will be held on Friday, November 30, at 8:30 AM. Come and let them shower you with appreciation.

*—Carol Branch*



Seniors can join the Center's trip to San Antonio in April 2013.





NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA AND FAUNA WORKING GROUP

# Time To Talk Turkey about Birds

Although it's the holiday season and our thoughts about birds may turn to the edible kind, the topic of discussion is migratory birds, not our favorite food of the month.

It goes without saying that Eldorado is generally considered rural. While we have many resident creatures living in and around us, we also benefit and enjoy many species of migratory birds. Sadly, some number of our avian friends meet with minor and major hazards, careening into our windows, being hit by cars. Many of us, instinctually, try to nurse injured birds back to health, sometimes deciding that the birds are better off kept in captivity, as pets. Who would have guessed that the United States enacted the Migratory Bird Act in 1918, a federal law, governing the protection of migratory birds.

The statute makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, or sell birds listed as native to North America (excluding pigeons, European starlings, and English house sparrows). The statute does not discriminate between live or dead birds and also grants full protection to any bird parts, including feathers (except among registered and recognized Native Americans), eggs, and nests. Over 800 species are currently on the list. There are specific regulations pertaining to native North American raptors, and depending on the species of bird, one or more federal permits must be obtained. These include our resident red-tailed hawk, peregrine falcons, and the bald eagle.

Recently, the Santa Fe *New Mexican* published an article about the Santa Fe Raptor Care Center. The Center is located within a few minutes' drive from

Eldorado on Jacinto Road. The Center rescues, rehabilitates, and releases birds and is not exclusively limited to raptors. Injured birds are brought from as far away as Ruidoso and receive professional care. The veterinary surgeon is the best in the Southwest. Currently, they have two eagles, an eaglet, a screech owl, a kestrel, and a kite. The Center has plenty of volunteer opportunities and needs support. Founder and director **Lori Paras** has offered to bring birds to small gatherings or to make them available for photographers and artists for a contribution to the Center. I encourage all who are interested and/or curious to visit [www.santaferaptorcenter.org](http://www.santaferaptorcenter.org). Once on the site, click on Current News. The pictures and briefs will warm your feathers. There is terrific information about handling injured and baby birds. As with snakes, it's a good way to get educated about how to handle these situations.

My thanks to Eldoradoan Cliff Wood for bringing our attention to the Migratory Bird Act.

Reminder: Water your trees during the dry fall and winter seasons. For queries and suggestions, contact Nina Harrison, [n815@aol.com](mailto:n815@aol.com). —Nina Harrison

A hawk and an owl in residence at the Raptor Center.



Photos by Cliff Wood



## Chipping Sparrow (CS)

This attractive small sparrow is around Eldorado mostly during the summer and fall. I spotted two under my sunflower seed feeder on September 30, 2012. The CS is about 5.25 inches long, with a wingspan of just over 8 inches and a slender profile. The head has a bright rufous cap (less colorful in fall and winter), white on the head, and a black eye line going from bill to the back of the head and a white whisker mark and white on the throat. The bill is small and pointed; the under-belly is light gray with no marks. The back is strongly streaked brown with black, and there are two white wing bars. Songs are about 3.6 seconds long, consisting of around 55 nearly identical chip notes in a row. This little bird winters mostly in Baja California, northern Mexico, and Florida. During this time they can join small flocks of other sparrows.

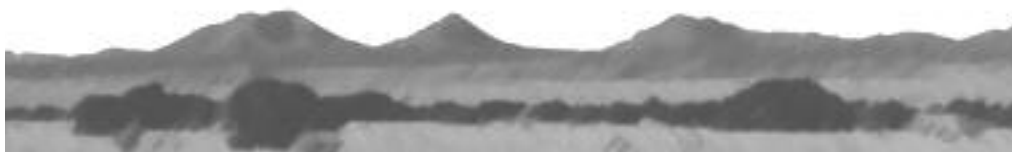
Not much is written about courting behavior, but pairs are usually monogamous. The male watches and protects(!) as the female builds a flimsy cup nest in a tree four to ten feet above the ground. Two to five eggs hatch in 11 to 14 days. By 10 days, the helpless young are developed enough to leave the nest. The female does most of the work during brooding. Males occasionally feed the female or young. Food consists of grasses, seeds, and forbs. CSs forage on the ground around feeders, open lots, and woodlands. During summer months insects are a large part of their diet. They can subsist on seeds without drinking for up to three weeks if absolutely necessary (a good adaptation for parts of New Mexico).

The oldest known CS was 11 years 10 months old. CS populations are doing well, especially as they thrive near humans in suburbs and parks.

—Pam Henline



Chipping sparrow



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

## Eldorado Children's Theatre & Teen Players Presents

**PETER PAN, WITH PROFESSIONAL FLYING SYSTEM, FLYING BY FOY, & A LIVE PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA  
NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 9, AT THE JAMES A. LITTLE THEATER**



Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players (ECT) presents John M. Barrie's enduring Broadway mega-hit *Peter Pan*, using the worldwide professional flying system, Flying by Foy, and some of Leonard Bernstein's songs from his lesser-known musical of the same name. ECT performs *Peter Pan* seven times in two weekends, Nov. 30–Dec. 9, at the James A. Little Theater. General admission is \$15, and student tickets are \$10. Tickets can be purchased by going to [www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org](http://www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org) or calling 505-466-4656.

Four young ECT performers will take to the air through the aerial wizardry of Flying by Foy, the most prolific theatrical flying service in the world. Flying by Foy's patented systems are used everywhere, from London's West End, theme parks, cruise ships, and films to small non-profit community theaters such as ECT. Director **Lisa Lincoln** said, "You can imagine how excited our young actors are to work with the industry standard in stage flying. It truly will be a Broadway moment for Santa Fe audiences and our students alike — one they'll likely never forget."

Forty-five children, aged 7 through 17, take the stage in ECT's production, featuring all the favorite Mark "Moose" Charlap songs of the original musical based on Barrie's 1904 play and his novel *Peter and Wendy*, about the boy who remains young forever—tunes such as "I Won't Grow Up," "I've Gotta Crow," and the gentle lullaby "Tender Shepherd." Jule Styne added to the score with "Ugg-a-Wugg," "Captain Hook's Waltz," and others, with Carolyn Leigh, Betty Comden and Adolph Green penning the lyrics.

Director Lincoln and co-director and choreographer **Robyn Avalon** also decided to add songs from Leonard Bernstein's little-known musical *Peter Pan*, which made its stage debut in 1950. ECT's production will include "Peter, Peter," "Never Land," and "Build My House." **Fri. Nov. 30, Fri. and Sat. Dec. 7–8 at 7:30 PM; Sat. and Sun., Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9 at 2 PM.**



From left to right, Avalon Whitten, 8, as Michael; Kaeleigh Glazner, 11, as John; Hana Oden, 12, as Wendy; and Kara McGee-Russell, 11, as Peter Pan.