

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE 1
January 2014

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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

2014 Assessment Increase

The ECIA Board of Directors has adopted the 2014 Operating and Maintenance Budgets as proposed by the Finance Committee. This includes an assessment increase for 2014 to \$400 per year. Invoices to all lot owners incorporating this assessment should be received by early January, with payments due by March 1. Payments may be by cash or check, or by credit card (with a small convenience fee).

As the ECIA Bylaws permit an increase only every two years, this assessment will hold for 2015 as well.

The most rapidly rising component of the Association's expenses is maintenance of amenities, both ongoing yearly upkeep and contributions to a reserve for future replacements. These amenities include a network of hike/bike paths; swimming pool; tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts; child play areas; Wilderness Preserve; and the Community Center building, patio, and grounds.

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

A Good Place to Live

You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give. – Winston Churchill

Eldorado is a good place to live. It is kept that way by a small number of dedicated volunteers who live the quotation above.

We are a community many have called unusual. We call ourselves residents of Eldorado, but to attain our coveted Santa Fe postal address we are known in official documents as "Eldorado at Santa Fe."

If Eldorado's 7000 residents were incorporated as a municipality, it would be the 8th largest in New Mexico. Taos, to our north, has a population nearly the same as Eldorado's and has been incorporated since 1934. The town levies direct taxes of \$7.8M to support a paid administration providing a full range of municipal services, including financial management, planning, public information, recreation, conservation, and facility maintenance—and, in addition, receives another \$4.8M in state shared taxes!

While this comparison is complicated by Taos's collection of Gross Receipts Tax from tourists (and the need for services to same), many of the same functions are provided here in Eldorado for an assessment of \$1.12M, one-tenth the Taos amount. Our advantage? Our dedicated volunteers whose chief compensation is the opportunity to serve their neighbors.

The work of our volunteers is vital to our life and safety and no less to the maintenance of our property values. In addition to the 60 dedicated volunteers

who serve as members of the ECIA's Board and on its eight working committees, there are other very important volunteers who sustain our community. The Eldorado Fire and Rescue Service has been recognized as one of the best volunteer departments in the state. Volunteers often outnumber teachers at our first-rate Community School. Our Vista Grande Library and our Senior Center are heavily dependent on volunteer support for their funding and operation. Not only are our assessments lower than those in other homeowner associations that offer fewer services and amenities, but our members pay those assessments on time at a rate far above the national average.

Several reasons account for our low rate of assessments relative to amenities and services provided. We have an efficient financial system. The County of Santa Fe maintains our roads, and perhaps most importantly, our entire Association's tasks are heavily supported by the work of volunteers. An example of the latter may make this clear. If our 60 volunteers were paid New Mexico's minimum wage of \$7.50 per hour for 10 hours a week over 52 weeks a year, the cost to the ECIA would be \$234,000. At that cost, our assessments would rise or the amenities we pride ourselves on would disappear.

Our residents know that our community is not just another real estate development. It is an idea, kept alive by Eldorado in the American tradition of volunteerism—personal, donated service to others and to the community. If you have been considering volunteer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Share your comments with us!

For policy and deadline, see below

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include full name and contact information. The newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, biased, or inappropriate. Submissions will be selected and edited at the discretion of the editor. 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 DiAna@eldoradosf.org. 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 November 21, with Board members present: **Dag Ryen** (President and Chair), **Jan Pietrzak** (Vice President), **Karyn Mounsey** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Pam Henline**, and **Dave Perlmutter**. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting:

- ▼ **Jeanne Calzada** was appointed to the Board to fill a vacancy, for a term ending May 2014. She was present and participated in further voting.
- ▼ The proposed 2014 budget and Finance Committee message were approved only for posting on the website.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 1 Lauro Road for a 4-foot-high fence within the 20-foot setback.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 15 Gaviota Road for an 8-foot-tall fence where the Guideline height is 6 feet, and for the fence to encroach 6 feet into the 20-foot side setback, with conditions.
- ▼ A manure composting capital project was approved NTE \$7,000, to provide compost for Community Center landscaping and otherwise dispose of waste manure.
- ▼ A capital project for replacing and upgrading Community Center landscaping was approved NTE \$55,000 over seven years.

- ▼ A request for a time extension was approved for 18 Ladera Road for a stucco wall.
- ▼ An Engagement Letter for independent auditors Swain and Grieco was approved for the 2013 audit.
- ▼ **Mary Cassidy** was appointed to the Election Committee.
- ▼ The method for establishing staggered terms for Board members according to number of votes received was approved.
- ▼ An In-Home Occupation permit was approved for 74 Verano Loop for a gun-repair business contingent upon any required county, state, and federal approvals.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 20 Estacada Road for a ground-mounted solar array over 15 feet from the house.
- ▼ A project permit extension was denied for 24 Esquila Road for a garage/studio that had not been completed within a year, with conditions for a full resubmittal.

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>.

Architectural Committee Seeks Volunteers

The Architectural Committee is currently seeking interested and qualified candidates to fill two vacancies on the committee. In terms of the time commitment, the Architectural Committee meets twice a month and requires members to make frequent site visits outside of the regular monthly meetings. All candidates should have some kind of building as well as planning/zoning experience and

the ability to read and interpret site plans and blueprints. Interested candidates are welcome to attend a committee meeting to observe the committee in progress and meet with members. And anyone interested can call me, Mark Young, at the ECIA for further information at 466-4248.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

A Good Place, Cont'd from p. 1

work, check out the ECIA website at EldoradoSF.org. Being too busy is not a worthy excuse. Studies show that America's volunteer rate is well above that of any other country in the world. Amazingly, 24% of Americans volunteer their time, talent, and resources to support causes they believe worthy. Startlingly, busy people volunteer more readily and steadily than those who have the time. As the saying goes, "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it."

Thanks to having been organized and well structured financially and because of its well-functioning Finance Committee, the ECIA receives top grades for maintaining our amenities and keeping our accounts in the black. Unlike most American cities, it maintains a healthy emergency reserve fund and amortizes every major and minor capital outlay in its budget.

We have a good thing going here in Eldorado. Having more than 1% of our membership supporting it would also be a very good thing.

—Frank Schober

Message from the ECIA Board

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association wishes everyone in Eldorado a happy and prosperous New Year!

This will be an important year for the community in several ways. The budget that has been adopted for the coming year features an increase of \$60 in the annual assessment. The Board of Directors appreciates that any increase can be a burden to Association members in these difficult economic times. Nonetheless, it is important that ECIA amenities be maintained to a standard that allows for full enjoyment by members. Attractive and well-kept amenities also help bolster property values for every lot owner. The adoption of this budget puts the Association on a sound financial footing for the immediate future.

Another significant event will be this year's Board elections. For the first time since the inception of the ECIA, all seven Board directors will be up for election and, in accordance with by-law changes that were enacted last year, special procedures have been adopted that will reinstitute staggered terms for Board members. The top three vote-getters in the April election will serve three-year terms, the next two highest vote-getters will serve two-year terms, and the final two successful candidates will each serve a one-year term. In the future, anyone appointed to fill a vacancy on the

Board will only serve out the applicable term, even if that entails only a few months or even weeks.

The Board is pleased to announce the return of **Jeanne Calzada** as a Board director after a short absence for personal reasons. Jeanne has been active in the community in several different capacities over the past few years.

While service on the ECIA Board can be both time-consuming and at times challenging, it can also be a very rewarding experience. It provides an opportunity for direct contact with the many talented and interesting members in our community, including those dedicated individuals who volunteer on various committees and projects. It can also provide a deeper understanding of the many different constituencies that exist within the community. Balancing the needs and wishes of these groups in a fair and efficient manner is the ECIA Board's primary goal.

If you are genuinely interested in serving the interests of the broader Eldorado community, there is no better way than to run for election to the Board of Directors. Nominating petitions are available at the ECIA office and must be filed by March 1. If you have any additional questions about the election process, please contact the ECIA office or any individual Board member.

—The ECIA Board of Directors

Spring Construction

Several significant construction projects are in the works for the Eldorado area once the weather breaks in the spring. Among these is the surfacing of Herrada Road. Officials from Santa Fe County's Public Works Division have been holding a series of meetings to inform area residents and other interested parties about the project. The design phase is expected to be complete by March and construction can begin soon thereafter.

Santa Fe County will also be rebuilding some of our most heavily worn multi-use trails later in the year as part of a new agreement between the county and the ECIA. Segments of our hike/bike trails that link the Community Center, El Dorado School, and the Agora are slated for rehabilitation.

Expansion of Vista Grande Public Library will enter its final phases this spring, with a target finish date in March. Crews will be working through the winter to finish the roofing and install all doors and windows so that the final interior work can be done. According to the library director, **Julia Kelso**, area residents will be invited to a grand opening once the project is

complete. The expanded library will have a new large meeting room and several tutoring cubicles to enable it to serve the Eldorado public better.

—Dag Ryen



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 Katherine Mortimer
 Conservation: Jim Daniel & Cherry Payne
 Election: Kathie Graham
Facilities & Grounds:
 John Calzada
Finance: Dan Drobnis
 Information: Frank Schober
Neighborhood Watch:
 Marilyn Walker
Roads: Open
Stable: Gretel Underwood (Interim Chair)
Sustainability, Planning, & Education: Steve Rudnick
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 820-CNTY (2689)

ECIA COMMITTEES NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Your homeowner association operates through the efforts of its volunteers, providing expertise and many services that benefit all of Eldorado. You may be surprised how good it feels to contribute to your community! Consider joining a committee that suits your abilities. Committees in serious need of new members include:

- ▼ **Road Committee:** Helps monitor road conditions.
- ▼ **Architectural Committee:** Reviews lot owners' applications for architectural modifications.
- ▼ **Info Committee:** Produces *Vistas* and ECIA website.



Call 466-4248 for more information.



The Eldorado Children's Theatre production of this literary classic is happening January 24–26 (see right column, this page, for details).

What's Happening?

What construction plans, variances, and permits are being submitted for ECIA approval in your neighborhood? To find out, check out the this web address:

www.eldoradosf.org/index.php/Agenda-Architectural-Committee

Stable Liaison's horse playing in the November snow.

Lost Pet Website

A service has been established by the Neighborhood Watch Committee to help reunite lost pets with their families.

▼ Anyone who has lost or found pets may contact FLFullington@centurylink.net or call 466-2005 to post a notice.

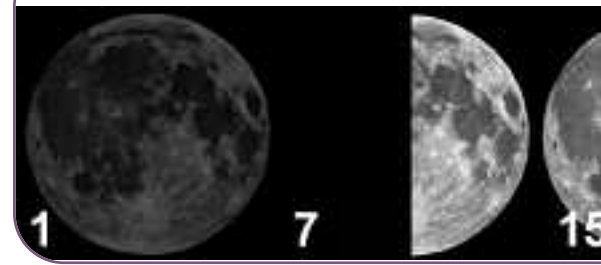
▼ Anyone who finds a pet that cannot be identified can check the link on the ECIA website, www.eldoradosf.org, or go directly to www.Eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com to see if a notice of the lost pet has been posted.

Stable Open House Rescheduled

Everyone at the Eldorado Stable is sorry that it was necessary to cancel the open house, including pony rides, planned for November 30, 2013. The concern was safety for all involved. The snow the previous week was the culprit. Horses were not exercised much during the previous week and were still skittish by November 30. And underfoot, the ground went from icy and slick to mud on top of ice, making it even slicker. The open house, with pony rides, will be rescheduled for next spring.



MOON PHASES FOR JANUARY



Eldorado Children's Theatre

Eldorado Children's Theatre presents *Charlotte's Web*, directed by Rebecca Oden, on January 24 at 7 PM, and January 25–26 at 2 PM, at the Scottish Rite Center in Santa Fe. In Joseph Robinette's stage adaptation of E. B. White's literary classic, audience members will find themselves on the Zuckerman farm with Wilbur and his barnyard friends. As a piglet, Wilbur was a runt and had to be rescued from an uncertain future by his first true friend, Fern. Now he is enjoying life on the farm with a family of geese and sheep, a mischievous rat, and a loyal spider named Charlotte who turns out to be "a fine writer and a true friend." As Wilbur grows, and it becomes a matter of life or death, Charlotte devises a plan to keep her friend alive. She creates a series of "miracles." By spinning words in her web, Charlotte weaves a solution that not only makes Wilbur a prize pig at the county fair, but ensures his place on the farm forever.

Enjoy live professional music with **Greg Glassman** and **Jordan Wax** and the antics of our youthful ensemble cast in this beloved story about bravery, selfless love, and the true meaning of friendship. Tickets \$12 (adults) and \$8 (students). To reserve tickets or for more information go to <http://www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org>.

Adopt-A-Road in Eldorado

Recently, two groups, Eldorado/285 Recycles and Condesa Neighbors, joined the Santa Fe County's Adopt-A-Road Program by selecting a section of one of the paved roads in Eldorado and agreeing to clean the roadway of litter periodically. The task is simple: Get some folks together at least twice a year, walk along the roadway, and bag any trash you find (cans, bottles, plastic bags, and packaging of all sorts).

These are a few other groups who have adopted sections of our Eldorado roads, but a lot more roadway is available for adoption. To sign up or for more information, contact **Mia Barela**, administrator of the Adopt-A-Road Program for Santa Fe County (505-992-3025). The county will provide groups with bags, gloves, and safety vests, and collect the material you pick up when you leave it by the roadside after cleaning.



One more thing: Please don't litter. Recently, Eldorado/285 Recycles collected seven bags of litter and two bags of recyclable products in its first road cleanup. There is no excuse for littering in our community. Thank you.

- Joe Durlak

Climate Change and Water

On Saturday, January 25, Professor David Gutzler of UNM presents a talk on "Climate Change and Water Resources in New Mexico," at La Tienda's Performance Space, 9-10:30 AM. He will examine current and projected future climate change across the Southwest, with an emphasis on streamflows and water resources. Observations show that temperatures have risen significantly over the past half-century. During this time, precipitation and streamflow have been variable, but rising temperatures have resulted in earlier snowmelt runoff, drier land surface conditions, and diminished river flows relative to the amount of winter precipitation falling in the headwaters of major river basins in the Southwest. These observed trends are expected to continue in the future as climate continues to warm, leading to expectations of decreasing streamflow regardless of the variability of precipitation. Of special concern is the prospect of drought episodes in a significantly warmer climate, which are projected to be much worse than historical droughts in terms of temperature and diminished water resources.

To learn more, join Prof. Gutzler on January 25.

January 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

SPECIAL EVENTS

TGIF	Fri., Jan. 17, 5-7 pm	CC
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Jan. 7, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Jan. 28, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Thurs., Jan. 2, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Jan. 13, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Jan. 7, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Jan. 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Jan. 8, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Jan. 8, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Jan 28, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	No meeting		466-4248	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., Jan. 22, 7-9 pm	Gretel Underwood	466-7825	CFR
SPE Committee	Thurs., Jan. 9, 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 Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs., of month	Barrie Brown	466-3035	CC
Eldorado Camera Club	4th Wednesday, 7-9	biordi@aol.com		La Tienda
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 7-9 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
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
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-4:30	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Kate	216-5302	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 11:30-12:30 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

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Winter Musings

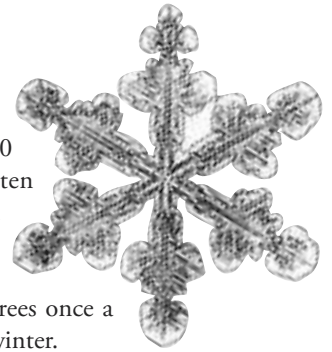
Wilson Bentley, known as the Snowflake Man, photographed hundreds of snowflakes in the 1800s. The illustration at right is based on one of them.

The tea I'm drinking has an interesting flavor. Made from the *Ephedra* plant, which is a native species here in Eldorado, it's been called Mormon Tea, Desert Tea, Brigham Tea, and Teamster Tea. I like it with sugar, but some friends prefer lemon or even strawberry jam. Native Americans drank Ephedra tea to help with health problems such as asthma and allergies. They also used dried, powdered Ephedra stems as a healing agent on wounds, they chewed the stems to relieve thirst, and they ground the roasted seeds for flour.

The tea is helping to keep me warm on this beautiful winter day—the tea, and my cozy fire. I've learned so much about using my fireplace, such as the rule of thumb to have the chimney cleaned each year. I've learned to limit creosote buildup by using seasoned wood that has dried for about six months, and I've learned that hardwoods (oak, ash, hickory, juniper) burn cleaner than softwoods (pine, cedar, fir). I've gained experience in building fires; opening the damper completely, using softwood kindling stacked in a pyramid or crossed pattern, topping that with small, split logs stacked loosely, lighting the kindling and, after the fire is going well, carefully adding more wood. I always use my fireplace screen, never leave my fire unattended, and one of the things I'm especially careful about is disposing of the ashes. After making sure the ashes are thoroughly cool, I place them in a metal container, douse them with water, and put the tightly covered container outside, at least 10 feet away from my home and other buildings.

As I look out at the snow, I'm reminded of something I learned long ago in school: the water molecules (two hydrogen and one oxygen atoms) that make up each snowflake are incredibly small. How small? It takes 10^{18} water molecules to make one average-sized

snowflake. That's 10 with 18 zeros, or ten quintillion! And thinking of water reminds me that I need to water my trees once a month during the winter.



I've got my tea and fire and a warm house to help me through the winter. It's interesting to think about how animals, who don't have any of the benefits that I enjoy, survive during the cold months. Vegetation that many animals rely on for cover (trees) or food (berries, nuts, grasses) is not available during cold months. Likewise, many of the food sources predators rely on are absent: an owl, coyote, or bobcat that would normally hunt lizards or ground squirrels has to compete harder for food during the winter, and it has to use precious energy keeping warm while hunting.

A number of animals grow denser fur coats to keep warm, or change colors slightly to help with camouflage. Some animals hibernate, including bears in our area. But what about insects, which make up three-quarters of the earth's species?

Some insects seek special shelter, some have evolved physiological mechanisms that lower the freezing point in their tissues, a few migrate, and some die in the fall after ensuring the next generation will survive in the form of larvae.

I will drink some tea to that!

References for this article are available upon request.

SPECIAL ALERT: Rabies has reared its ugly head in New Mexico. In mid-November, a rabid dog was located in Valencia County (south of Albuquerque). Please remember to keep your pets' rabies shots up-to-date, don't let your pet run loose, and call your vet for further advice.

We love hearing from you! EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com.

*Winter Preparedness Tips*

Winter preparedness tips from ECIA Community Services Representative Raven Hicks are reprinted on the website (<http://www.eldoradosf.org/index.php/Recent-News/winter-preparedness.html>). While these have appeared in *Vistas* before, we can all benefit from a reminder for a winter that has already been severe.



Sandhill Crane (SC)

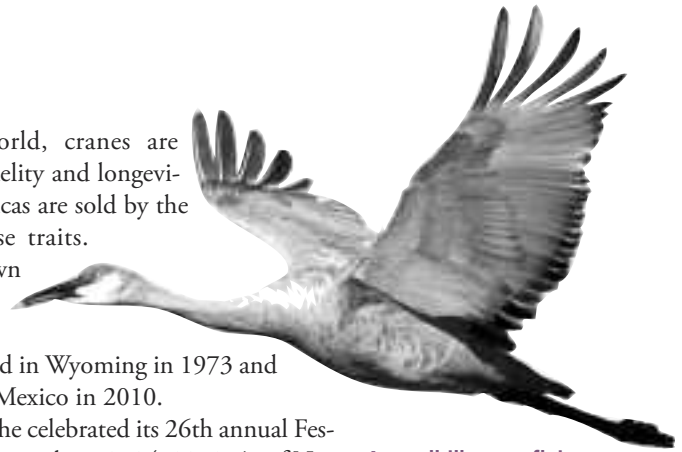
You probably haven't seen this bird in Eldorado, but you may have heard the loud distinct cry overhead. Especially in the fall, SCs can be seen and heard over the Rio Grande, a major flyway, as they migrate south, often no farther than Bosque del Apache near Socorro. You will remember this tall distinct bird if you have seen one. The SC stands about 4 feet tall, has a long neck and bulky body with a short drooping tail. Body length is about 48 inches, wingspan 78 inches (6 feet 4 inches!), and they may weigh up to 11 pounds. The body is slate gray, cheeks are pale gray, and the head has a bright red crown. The long legs are black and the lower feathers may be rusty brown from iron-rich mud. Its bill is darkish and eyes are yellow. Some SCs migrate to Central America. Summertime and breeding ranges include some places in the northern states but are primarily in Canada and Alaska.

SCs are monogamous and pairs may stay together for 20 years. Breeding displays by both male and female include rattling calls, jumps, and dances. Both build a nest on the ground of sticks, grasses, and moss. Usually two eggs are laid, which hatch in 30 or so days. Both male and female tend the nest and the hatchlings. The babies are precocial and can get around immediately. They take a long time to fledge, 65 days, and young may stay with parents for 10 months. SCs breed and nest in open country, wetlands, and grasslands, with a preference to be near water. In winter they frequently roost in shallow water, where they are somewhat safe from predators. Food is gleaned from the ground and includes seeds, grains, plants, and sometimes small vertebrates and invertebrates.

Around the world, cranes are revered for their fidelity and longevity. Statues and replicas are sold by the pair to honor these traits. The oldest SC known was at least 36 years 7 months old. The bird was banded in Wyoming in 1973 and was found in New Mexico in 2010.

Bosque del Apache celebrated its 26th annual Festival of the Crane November 19–24, 2013. As of November 22, 2013, there were 8,640 SCs and 42,760 light geese (mainly snow geese) at the Bosque. This facility is managed to provide abundant water and food for the many migrating birds that winter-over.

—Pam Henline



A sandhill crane flying at Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, Dayton, California. Photo: Steve Emmons, Pacific Southwest Region U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, via Wikimedia Commons.



Sandhill cranes gather at the water's edge at Bosque del Apache near Socorro, New Mexico. Photo: Carol Leyba

Election Committee Updates

The Election Committee (Kathie Graham, Chairwoman, Jean Crawford, Elizabeth Ebner, Secretary, Joe Loewy, and Mary Cassidy) has completed the documents required by state law of committees in a homeowners association. The committee now has a new charter and updated Policies and Procedures, which are posted on the Eldorado website (eldoradosf.org) under "Election Committee." We also completed the updated Nomination Petition and its accompanying Information and Instruction Sheet.

At the Election forum in October 2013 regarding the options to reestablish the sequence of Board Director elections (see "Message from the Board" on p.

3), we realized that the wording about candidate political signs was confusing. To clarify: Each candidate may place one political sign on his/her private property and one sign per lot on any private property with permission from the owner. Also, the signs may be posted no earlier than April 1, which will be about the time Members in Good Standing will receive their ballots and candidate information. The Nomination Petition and its accompanying Information and Instruction Sheet will be available on the ECIA website in early January and may be downloaded and printed, or a copy may be obtained at the Community Center office.

—Election Committee

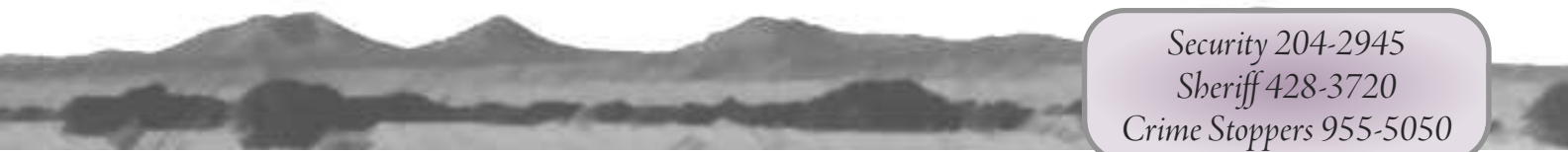
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Winter Wonderland in Eldorado



Photo: Carol Leyba



Photo: Jack Arnold