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# ELDORADO at SANTA FE VISTAS

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) ▼ Security 204-2945

## Eldorado's July 4th Festivities

Eldorado's biggest local event of the year is our Fourth of July parade and festivities at the Community Center. The ECIA will have plenty of fun activities planned for the whole family to celebrate our nation's Independence Day.

The day will kick off with the parade at 10 AM from its starting point at Avenida Monte Alto and Moya Road. It will proceed down Monte Alto to the Community Center. The Grand Marshall this year will be **Fred Raznick**, 2013 Resident of the Year. There will be bagpipers, lots of bicyclers, Boy Scouts, dogs in costume, fire trucks, and horses from the ECIA stables.

If you wish to participate in the parade, please call the office, 466-4248, or be at the line-up at 9:30.

During the parade, the judges will be looking for the best costume, best dressed animal, best decorated trike or wagon, and the best decorated bicycle. As in years past, the Spin Doc will have decorating supplies at their shop on Old Las Vegas Highway on Thursday,

July 3, from 3 to 5 PM, for you to decorate your bike or trike. If you have an antique car or convertible, or want to make a float for your organization for the parade, we welcome your participation!

At 11 AM, the Community Center festivities will begin with hotdogs charred by Grillmaster **Ray Nichols**, compliments of ECIA. There will also be sno-cones and popcorn. The Boy Scouts will perform the Color Guard, followed by entertainment by Eldorado talent. If you have a performance you would like to share, please call the office to get on the schedule. Volunteers are always needed to help.

Starting around noon, there will be games at the pool for all ages. There will be a penny dive, splash contest, seahorse race, relays, and more— fun things for your whole family.

Join your ECIA for a fun-filled and patriotic Fourth of July!



*ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Bldg. Thurs., July 17, 7 pm.*

## Obie's Cactus Crusade

“Obie,” as he is known in and around our Eldorado community, is a veritable Johnny Appleseed for the propagation of cactus plants and gardens in northern New Mexico. A retired US Navy veteran, he has lived here since 2002, and since that time, he has brought the beauty of cacti to our homes, parks, and gardens and knowledge to many about their special niche in our often dry environment.

Thanks to Obie (**John Oberhausen**) and his colleague **Joe Newman**, we now have cactus gardens throughout Eldorado. Some 90 species of cactus that are native to New Mexico have been planted at the Community Center, at the school, at the Senior Center, at La Tienda shopping center, in the median strip, and just below the monument signs at the entrance to Eldorado. Obie has not only been involved with cac-

tus garden design and construction, he is a regular lecturer at meetings of the Master Gardener Association and the Botanical Garden in Santa Fe. He urges us to plant more of this prince of drought-tolerant plants in our gardens. He states that they provide an excellent, affordable, and beautiful landscaping alternative, they attract bees and birds, and are ideally suited to our climate, where water conservation is paramount.

It doesn't take much time at all when talking to “Obie” about his passion for cacti to find out how little an interested questioner knows about the subject. Cacti, as we might suspect, grow well with little water, but they also die quickly if they get too much water. They are propagated most often by hummingbirds that are attracted to their spectacular flowers during their very short blooming time. Bees also propagate them; not the familiar honeybee we are used to seeing,

*Continued on page 6*

**Stable Open House**  
**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, August 2, 10 AM-1 PM; free pony rides, refreshments!



## Brush Piles and Dead Vegetation on Lots

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.

With our part of New Mexico still in a condition of drought, and with a Santa Fe County Burn Ban in effect already this year, ECIA is receiving calls from concerned residents about their neighbors having dead weeds and debris situated right up near their house.

We are also fielding calls from residents about neighbors who have collected dead and downed wood into large brush piles rather than removing these volatile fuels from the lot. Such brush piles are not only a visual nuisance, but more importantly they are a fire hazard for both the resident and the neighborhood at large.

The ECIA Conservation Committee addressed this matter within the 4/6/12 Preliminary Wildland Fire Assessment of El Dorado that was undertaken by the ECIA Conservation Committee and forwarded to the ECIA Board. The matter of dry brush piles was addressed in this assessment as follows:

The third fuel component consists of isolated brush piles generally created by homeowners during landscape activities. These are best represented by Fire Behavior Prediction System model #10 (light slash) and generally contain up to 11+ tons/acre of fuel. Once cured, these can be highly flammable with flame lengths in excess of 20 feet, very high intensities, and strong resistance to suppression. Rate of spread is very low, even in a high wind situation, but there is high potential for localized damage to soils and adjacent vegetation or structures. Fuels in this model are the most likely to actually create a spotting problem here in El Dorado.



Remove any piles like this off your lot!

While many residents have worked to clear up dead and downed volatile fuels, too many have failed to remove these piles from their lots, exposing their home, and Eldorado in general, to a heightened risk for wildfires.

Because of this ongoing safety issue, the ECIA asks that residents inspect their lots for any dead weeds and vegetation that may be accumulating around their property, especially any dry brush that is close to structures. If you do have dead vegetation on your lot, please remove it as soon as possible, so as to safeguard your home from the devastating effect of a wildfire.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter. For any questions, please call me at the ECIA at 466-4248.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

## New Directors' First Impressions of Work on the Board

This *Vistas* inquiring reporter recently asked each of the new members of the Board, Greg Colello, David Yard and Gershon Siegel, the same two questions. Their answers may be of interest to our members. The questions were:

- ▼ What impressed you most with respect to your first days as a member of the Board?
- ▼ What is the one, most important thing you hope to accomplish as a Board member?

**Gershon Siegel:** "I'm not all that surprised at the challenges ECIA faces. The subdivision has always been a diverse one with many strong opinions. . . . I am delighted at the collegiality and professionalism among my fellow Board members. . . . I'd like to see a shift in perceptions, both from the Board toward the com-

munity and vice versa. I'd like the Board to come to some reconciliation about its own limitations. And the community will be well served when more people of more diversity take ownership in its destiny. . . . I'd like to see a much broader demographic participate."  
**Greg Colello:** "I was most impressed with the fact that all members of the Board get along so well together. . . . I hope to achieve a change in the mission of the SPE Committee. I feel now that it would be of greatest value to our members as a planning committee. We need to plan formally and effectively for our future."  
**David Yard:** "I was surprised at the difficulty of dealing with the serious personnel issues that the Board has to confront and provide an answer to. I hope that the Board can improve communications between itself, its committees, and members of the Association."

## Message from the ECIA Board

The ECIA Board of Directors has launched a nationwide search for a general manager to replace **William Donohue**. Notices have been placed in local media as well as the job opportunities listings of national homeowners and municipal organizations. The Board has also designated a committee drawn from the membership that will review all applications and forward the most qualified candidates to the Board for interviews. Applications for the position are due on July 15. We are confident this process will result in a first-rate candidate with the communications and management skills to unite our community and conduct our affairs in a professional and efficient manner.

One of the most important challenges for our new general manager will be to improve the methods we have of communicating directly with members. Print newsletters such as *Vistas* can be useful as well as en-

tertaining, but in this day and age of electronic media, print options are not very timely. Consequently, the Board has been conducting a major review of our website, looking for ways to make it more informative, interactive, and user-friendly. The Board is also looking at the possibility of using members' email addresses for regular (weekly or biweekly) "flash" emails about ECIA events and issues. We definitely don't want to clog everyone's in-box with unwanted emails, but this possibility might be the most direct way to generate dialogue with the membership.

Another important task for the Board and the new GM will be to optimize security procedures for the Community Center and the community at large. A town forum to discuss this and other issues has been scheduled for September 8. Details will be announced soon. We hope to see you there.

—The ECIA Board of Directors

## Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on May 15, 2014, with all seven Board members present: **Dag Ryen** (President), **Pam Henline** (Vice President), **Greg Colello**, **Gershon Siegel** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Jeanne Calzada**, and **David Yard**. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting, unless otherwise noted:

- ▼ A variance was denied for 21 Juego Road for a fence encroaching 19 feet into the required 50-foot front setback.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 5 Ortiz Road for a small accessory structure more than 15 feet from the house.

▼ A variance was denied for a geodesic accessory structure at 5 Antigua Place more than 15 feet from the dwelling, of unapproved materials not matching the house, without integrating features, and not the color of the house. (4-0-2, Siegel and Colello abstaining).

▼ A home profession application for a dog boarding business was tabled for 1 Joya Court, because of unanswered questions (5-0-1, Yard abstaining).

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>.

## New Board/Committee Liaisons

The newly elected ECIA Board has made its assignments for liaisons to its committees. These liaisons bring information from the Board to each committee meeting, and return to the Board with information and recommendations from the committee.

Each Board member will typically serve as principal liaison to at least one committee and as alternate liaison to at least one other committee. Assignments may change as time available and interests change. Initial 2014 assignments are:

Architecture: Pam Henline; alternates Todd Handy and Jeanne Calzada  
 Conservation: David Yard; alternate Gershon Siegel  
 Elections: Jeanne Calzada; alternate Greg Colello  
 Facilities & Grounds: Jeanne Calzada; alternate Todd Handy  
 Finance: Todd Handy; alternate Dag Ryen  
 Information: Dag Ryen; alternate Gershon Siegel  
 Roads: Gershon Siegel; alternate David Yard  
 Stables: Pam Henline; alternate David Yard  
 Sustainability, Planning, Education: Greg Colello; alternate Pam Henline

### ECIA OFFICE

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 David Yard  
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### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:  
 Katherine Mortimer  
 Conservation: Jim Daniel & Cherry Payne  
 Election: Kathie Graham  
 Facilities & Grounds:  
 John Calzada  
 Finance: Dan Drobnis  
 Information: Frank Schober  
 Roads: Felicia Probert  
 Stable: Open  
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 Fire and Rescue  
 466-1204  
[eldoradofirerescue.org](http://eldoradofirerescue.org)  
 County All Purpose  
 820-CNTY (2689)



Learn about bats on July 31! Lesser Horseshoe Bat. Photo: Kleine Hufeisennase, Creative Commons license.

Architecture Committee Opening

The ECIA Architecture Committee has an opening and, currently lacking female members, is seeking to achieve some gender balance in filling this position. Any interested, qualified women should contact the ECIA at 466-4248. Of course, qualified men will also be considered!

Square Dancers 2x Month

The Depot Dancers (square dancers) have moved into their summer schedule, now the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, for July and August: 7-9 PM in the Railroad Building.

July 4th Breakfast

Bring your friends and family and enjoy a community breakfast before the parade: 8-10 AM at La Plancha Grill at La Tienda: pancakes, sausage, watermelon, coffee, tea, OJ (\$5 per person). Indoor and patio seating available. Co-hosted by La Plancha and SERA.

Gardening Lecture

The El Dorado School Community Garden Education Committee is pleased to announce lecture #2: Integrated Pest Management, by Tess Grasswitz, on July 1, 2014, at 6 PM at the garden. This will be a lecture, plus a hands-on visit with critters in our garden. Tess, a native of the UK, earned undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of London and a PhD in entomology from the University of California (Riverside). She joined New Mexico State University in October 2008 as an Urban/Small Farm Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Specialist, with particular interests in biological control and organic growing systems. She is based at the NMSU Agricultural Science Center at Los Lunas, south of Albuquerque.

Barns for Sale

Two barns are for sale at the Eldorado stables, available to ECIA members in good standing. If you are interested, swing by to take a look. Contact information is posted at barns #23 and #32.

La Tienda Flea Market

Want to hold a yard sale but don't want strangers at your house? Love hunting for rare treasures? The Flea Market at La Tienda is going to continue! Mark your calendars for the 3rd Saturday of each month (now through October). The next market is July 19 from 8 AM to 2 PM. Booth spaces are just \$15 with advance registration. Call Lucas at 225-0985 for more information.

Theater & Singing Camp

Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players is offering a fun theater and singing camp right in Eldorado July 21-25! Ages 8 and up are welcome. For further information, email lisa@rancheros.com or go to www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org and click on Summer Programs.

On July 25, at 4 PM at La Tienda's Performance Space, the workshop will culminate in a presentation for friends and family; all ages welcome!

Restoring an Old Garden!

"Let's Grow!"—a monthly education series for the home gardener—is offered by the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association. This is a free public event that requires no registration. The third of this five-

MOON PHASES FOR JULY 2014



part series takes place on Friday, July 25, from 5 to 7 PM at the garden at El Zaguán on Canyon Road. Enjoy a tour and learn the detailed plan to restore this historic and long-used garden. (This event concurs with Last Friday Art Walk on Canyon Road.) For a review of full scheduled series, please visit: sfmga.org. Next month: "Planning and Achieving a Xeric Landscape": Sat. August 9, 10 AM to noon @ SF County Fairgrounds.

The Diversity of Bats

Bats comprise about one-quarter of all mammal species and are the only group of mammals that achieve true flight. Consequently there is an incredible diversity of roosting, food habits, and other aspects of basic biology exhibited by bats. On July 31 at 7 PM at the ECIA Railroad Room, the Conservation Committee is sponsoring a lecture by Dr. Michael J. O'Farrell, who will present a short overview of this diversity for an important biological resource found in Eldorado. For those interested, participants can listen and observe through thermal imaging local bats. We may need to travel a few miles to find a suitable location.

More Pool Hours for Everyone

This year the pool schedule is revised so that families, toddlers, children, and lap swimmers all have access to the pool every evening. 8-10 AM, every day: lap swimming only 10 AM-8 PM, everyday: kiddie pool and main pool open to everyone 10 AM-8 PM, every day: two lap lanes for swimming available 6-8 PM, every day: open to all; a third lap lane added as needed

For info on pool schedules/weather, call 466-2511.

American JeM Back at La Tienda

American JeM, an acoustic American trio, will be performing on Friday, July 11, from 6 to 7:45 PM (limited seating available for dining during the show) at La Tienda's Performance Space.

American JeM's beautifully crafted three-part harmonies and high-energy performances span musical genres of country, folk, bluegrass, rock, gospel, and traditional tunes—in addition to original heartwarming tunes of their own composition. American JeM released its debut CD in 2013; singles include "La Llorona," "Something In Your Eyes," and "O Holy Night." Tickets are \$10 at the door.

# July Events

## Vistas—Save Paper/Mailing

To opt out of receiving a personal mailed copy of *Vistas*, email the ECIA office: **Marilyn@eldoradosf.org**. Following this request, you will no longer receive a printed copy of *Vistas* but instead will be sent an email once a month with a notice of availability and a link to the next issue of *Vistas* on the ECIA website, in PDF format, ready to view and/or print at home—about a week before mailings are delivered! Printed copies are always available at the ECIA office if needed.



## Changes Near You?

Have any of your neighbors submitted architectural modification plans to the ECIA for approval? What changes to the built landscape are being considered near you? Check out the Architecture Committee agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/ljdmreo> or the ECIA Board agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lkxxdmw>.

## Jack Arnold Photo Show/Las Chivas

ECIA's Webmaster, Jack Arnold, will be showing his photography at Las Chivas Coffee Shop from July 6 to August 2. Come to the opening reception on July 13 from 1 to 3 PM at Las Chivas.

## Solar Forum July 10

A roundtable discussion of solar working group members will be held from 5:30 to 7 PM. Though this format is not open to residents' questions, interested parties can submit written questions to solar working group members (for contact information, contact the ECIA). Open town halls will be held later in the year when residents will be able to ask direct questions.

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

Email [marilyn@eldoradosf.org](mailto:marilyn@eldoradosf.org) 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

July 4th Parade	Fri., July 4, 10:00 am	Marilyn Farrell	466-4248	CC
Solar Forum	Thurs., July 10, 5:30-7 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	RR
Bat Talk	Thurs., July 31, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	RR

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., July 8, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., July 22, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Thurs., July 3, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., July 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., July 1, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., July 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., July 2, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., July 9, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., July 22, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	TBA			CFR
Stable Committee	TBA			CFR
SPE Committee	TBA			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 Book Club	3rd Wed., 3:00 pm	Susan Aylward	shaylward@gmail.com	
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Karen Sweeney	466-9797	CFR
Library Book Group	2nd Sat., 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
Square Dancing	2nd & 4th Fri., 7-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	RR

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			LR/CFR
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 6:30 pm – Dusk			CC
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
Coed Adult Softball	Fri nights, 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
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
Horseshoes	Wed., 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
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	

\* 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)

## EACA'S Midsummer Happenings

Many Eldorado residents got out to enjoy the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association's 23rd Annual Studio Tour in May. Eldorado has a real concentration of artists in its population, and this signature event has gained serious notice as a northern New Mexico happening. The time seemed ripe for EACA and its members to step up their profile.

With this in mind, the Association has commissioned resident photographer and videographer Hal Ralson to document the "life" of EACA in all its aspects. He has already begun the project by documenting the tour in progress; he continues to film and interview EACA artists in their workplaces. The annual Fall Show will be yet another spot for this project. Part of the film will be put to music; other parts will include narration and interviews.

The initial idea was to create a presence on YouTube, but the project's purpose has evolved. A long version will be posted on YouTube and other social media with a link to EACA's website, while a quick version will be used as a publicity piece for promoting the Tour and Fall Show. There will be a loop version that can be shown at EACA's events such as the Fall Show and future Preview Gallery venues.

EACA's monthly meeting is being held on July 24 at the Community Center classroom. As always, non-

members are welcome to attend. **Robin Kalinich** will be giving a talk about Facebook and how to use this social media venue to build one's business, particularly the business of art. The meeting will begin at 7 PM. For those interested in joining the Association, this is a great opportunity to get acquainted before the August deadline arrives for participating in EACA's Fall show, held at St. John's Methodist Church in Santa Fe on October 24-25.

For this month's Shop Talk, on July 31 from 10 AM to noon, there will be a special guided tour held for EACA members at St. Elias Greek Orthodox Church at 46 Calle Electra. This intriguing, large white structure, built in the hills near the first entrance to Eldorado, has become a real landmark, noted for its beautiful architecture and an ongoing art project being created by noted Greek iconographers **Maria Sigala** and **Nikolaos Spanopoulos**. The artists, who paint in the classic Byzantine style, will be at work installing their newest paintings.

The church is also open to the public on Thursdays from 11 AM to 1 PM for anyone wishing to pray or view the icons. EACA members can contact **Mary Fredenburgh** at 466-1035 or [mcfphotog@q.com](mailto:mcfphotog@q.com) to sign up for the tour.

—Margaret Nelson



## At the Library

Vista Grande Public Library will be marching in the July 4th Parade. Look for the group with a Mad Scientist or two. They'll be celebrating the Summer Reading Program theme: "Fizz! Boom! Read!" Come by the library table at the festivities to say hi and see what's happening at your local library.

**EXPANSION UPDATE:** The construction work is finished except for some minor details. The permit to use the space is in hand, and the library is putting it to use: Summer Reading, Master Gardeners, etc. Next, the furniture. The meeting room is ready for use by the community; come talk to Julia to see if it will meet your group's needs.

**SAVE THE DATES:** On July 19, the Master Gardeners will be in the library from 12 noon to 3 PM to answer questions and give advice. On July 30, the Zoo-to-You Van from the Rio Grande Zoo will give presentations with live animals at 11 AM and 1 PM. These are free and open to the community. And of course, the Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction Fundraiser is coming on August 17. There will be food, fun, and neat stuff to buy, and it all goes to support the free programming and materials that VGPL provides during the year. More on this next month!



## Obie's Cactus, cont. from p. 1

but a species of wild bees that is symbiotically connected to them.

The ECIA cactus garden near the Community Center Playground is open to visitors. An identification system is being set up that will enable visitors to learn more about the varieties there by matching the numbers on small plaques to the names and habitat information on booklets that will be available at the ECIA office.

"Obie" concluded the interview that forms the basis of this article with a poem that sums up what cacti do naturally and what we have the opportunity to do:

Get plenty of sunshine.  
 Accentuate your strong points.  
 Be patient through the dry spells.  
 Conserve your resources.  
 Don't desert your friends.  
 Wait for your time to bloom.  
 Stay sharp!

—Frank Schober

See Cactus Garden photos on the back page!



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

# Wisdom from the Wildlife Center

**W**e were saddened when a neighbor said, “I don’t care if the animals were here first. This is my property and I’ll put out poisons if I want to. It’s how I lived in my last state and it’s how I’ll do it here.”

In fact, all of our personal properties are connected in the community of Eldorado, one of New Mexico’s wonderful wildlife corridors. We humans are good at building neighborhoods in such spaces, desirable areas that are valued for natural beauty and serenity. We don’t always recognize that animals need to continue moving through their natural corridors. One of our responsibilities as residents is to be aware of this and to educate ourselves on native wildlife so that we can respectfully coexist with them. Toward that end, the Eldorado Flora and Fauna team recently visited with **Katherine Eagleson**, Executive Director of The Wildlife Center.

Located in Española, The Wildlife Center (TWC) works to conserve and restore native wildlife and their habitats through education, public awareness, strategic partnerships, and responsible wildlife rehabilitation. “We believe that when people experience wildlife, they will be compelled to understand it. When they understand it, they will value it. When they value it, they will protect it.” TWC contains a wildlife hospital and rehabilitation facility, educational space, and a “Wild Walk” of over 35 animals that could not be released into the wild for reasons such as permanent injuries.

“There is no wilderness nirvana,” said Katherine. “We at TWC do our best with the injured animals that are brought to us, but often relocation is not the best solution. Neighborhoods like Eldorado are fortunate in their abundance of native wildlife. As peo-

ple infringe further and further into wildlife’s natural terrain, encounters will be more frequent. Education and respect are paramount. Learn how to live with the animals, how to avoid conflict with them.”

One of the issues relates to society’s dislike of predators. Wolves, coyotes, snakes, and other animals vilified by myth and popular culture are necessary for wildlife balance. Without top predators, communities experience an influx of rats, mice, skunks, and other less desirable animals. Animals, moreover, are attracted to humans’ yards, which have sources of water (irrigation, fountains, rain barrels) and food (bird food, gardens, compost piles).

Take, for example, the mountain lion. These animals are very rarely dangerous to humans and are typically simply passing through, generally not interested in bothering us. (See February 2014 *Vistas* for more information on mountain lions.) Educating ourselves on working with wildlife, on the importance of predators, and working with our yard designs will help us to better manage our community in a responsible and coexistent manner.

Learn more, including what to do if you find an animal that you believe needs help, at <http://www.TheWildlifeCenter.org>.

You can also directly help TWC with food donations. The animals require significant amounts of vegetables, including excess produce from trees and gardens as well as fruit tree trimmings, on a daily basis. Contact TWC for further information: 505-753-9505.

References for this article are available upon request. We love hearing from you! Contact us at [EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com](mailto:EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com).



Female Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* flying at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, NM. Photo: Linda Tanner, Wikimedia Commons.

## Eldorado/285 Recycles

**E**ldorado/285 Recycles is pleased to announce our 2014 award winners, **Matthew Narvais** and **Art Bradt**, for making extra effort to Recycle and Reuse.

### FOR INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE

Matthew Narvais, chef at the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center, stepped in for volunteer **Sally Connelly**, last year’s award winner, to keep the Senior Center recycling program afloat. He makes sure that plastics, cans, aluminum, and cardboard used in the kitchen are set aside for volunteer transport to the Eldorado Transfer Station. He also makes sure green waste, coffee, and tea bags are saved for composting.

### FOR AMAZING REUSE AND REPAIR

Art Bradt, a volunteer at Kindred Spirits Animal Sanctuary, makes weekly trips to Smith’s grocery store and the Eldorado Market to collect green waste from their fresh vegetable departments. After chopping all the material at his home, he separates the greens, which he feeds to the Sanctuary’s chickens; the rest is cooked into a stew to feed the dogs at the Sanctuary. Many of the dogs wear coats to keep them warm. Art repairs the jackets or adjusts them to fit the animals better. He also distributes the Sanctuary’s horse manure to its garden for composting. When he is not busy with these activities, Art assists Matthew at the Senior Center, making sure reusable kitchen wastes are indeed diverted to composting.

*Matthew and Art will be honored at ECIA’s annual 4th of July celebration.*

ELDORADO AT SANTA FE

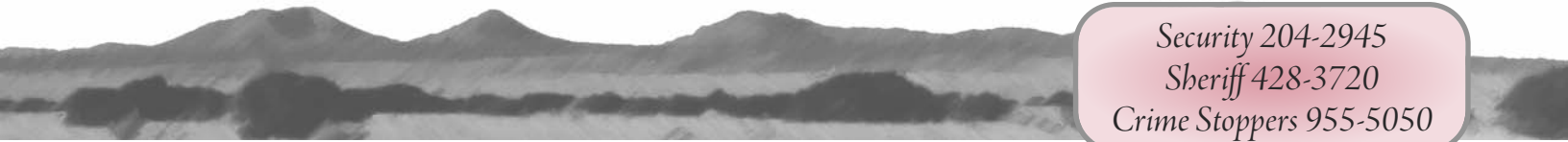
# VISTAS

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#1 La Hacienda Loop  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508  
[www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)



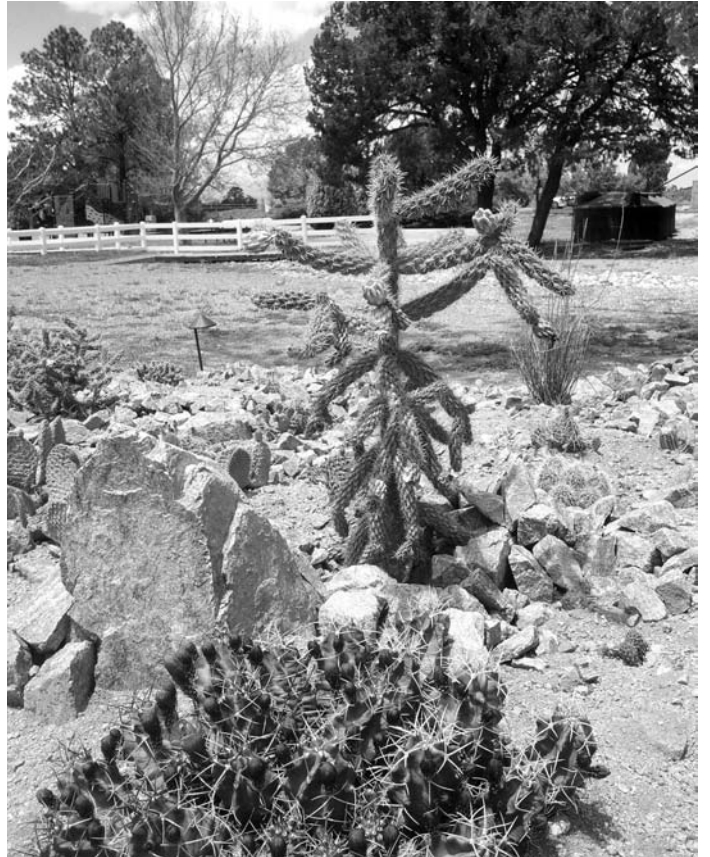
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## *Check out the Fabulous Cactus Garden at the Community Center!*



Photos: Jack Arnold