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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 ▼ Security 204-2945

Property Taxes Rise

Many Eldorado residents recently received their 2014 property tax bills and discovered that they owed more this year than they did in 2013. So what's the reason for the increase?

Eldorado is a special assessment district. This means that Santa Fe County is able to set aside funds generated from property taxes in order to cover the cost of certain services, such as Eldorado water and sewer operations. It also covers district department services, which are things like road maintenance, senior and community centers, mobile medical services, and the purchase of emergency vehicles to serve Santa Fe County.

However, taxes have also increased because the Santa Fe Board of Education approved a \$55 million technology bond issue. According to a Santa Fe Public Schools document entitled "Santa Fe Schools Digital Learning Plan," our schools are "technologically far behind other schools in our state and nation, including the 18 New Mexico school districts that have passed an Educational Technology Note (ETN). There are disparities among our schools in terms of access to technology as a tool for the transformation of instruction." The planned technology upgrades will occur over several years, and the bond will eventually benefit our local El Dorado Community School.

The public usually has an opportunity to vote on bonds but, according to an amendment passed by voters in 1996, school districts are permitted to create technology-related debt without consulting voters. The Digital Learning Plan raises Eldorado property taxes for five years.

Of course, residents always have the option to dispute their assessed property valuation. The county assessor's office sends out a notice of value in April of each year, and homeowners have 30 days from the time of mailing in which to file a protest. Forms are available at the county assessor's office, and additional information about the protest process can be found on Santa Fe County's website.

However, recent adjustments may reflect a more accurate valuation than in previous years. According to an article in the *Santa Fe New Mexican* of April 14, 2014,

Domingo P. Martinez, the county assessor, has overseen a massive residential reappraisal. "More homes than ever before are valued at 90% of market, the level sought by the state Department of Taxation and Revenue. The result has been more accurate information about what homes are worth," writes Bruce Krasnow for the *New Mexican*.

Some homeowners are distressed to see assessed values lowered, mistakenly believing that the value determined for tax purposes is the same as a home's market value. When houses are listed for sale, the price is likely to be different, because it reflects the state of the current market and comparable homes for sale in the surrounding area.

—Juliet White



Keeping Informed

"It can well be said that the institutions that we depend on to keep us informed are those of a democratic society in which every citizen has his or her say—with the unspoken requirement that the citizen know what he or she is talking about."

Hilaire Belloc

The Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) is not your grandfather's homeowners association. It is unique in that it depends so heavily on a small group of qualified, dedicated, and experienced volunteers . . . and would expire as the cost-efficient organization it is without them. With everything else its Board, staff, and volunteer committees do to keep it running, they work exceptionally hard to keep all members informed regarding their activities.

Keeping members informed in any organization—be it political, fraternal, or, like ECIA, semi-governmental—seems more rather than less difficult in our digital age. We are besieged by so much information from so many sources that the essential is not easily distinguishable from the trivial. ECIA's Board, staff, and committee volunteers are working to overcome

ECIA Open Forum on HOAMCO

December 6, 2-5 PM

Representatives of HOAMCO, the company being considered to manage some of the functions of ECIA, will be on hand at La Tien-da's Performance Space on December 6 to answer residents' questions about their company.

ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Bldg. Thurs., December 18, 7 PM.

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Share your
comments
with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites letters, 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 5th 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

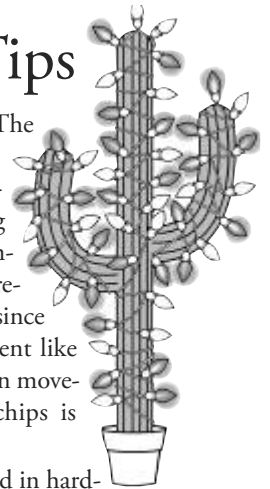
The mission of *Vistas*, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

Holiday Lighting and Decorating Tips

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

- ▼ Avoid using any bright-colored spot lights or unshielded bulbs over 75 watts.
- ▼ Be sure that any larger lights (such as colored spot lights) are shielded downward and are not just a bare bulb shining out toward your neighbors.
- ▼ If you are illuminating any outdoor features, be sure that your lighting is not shining upward in the air, but rather more toward the base, keeping all lighting directed downward.
- ▼ Consider putting a timer on exterior lights that will turn off your lights at a reasonable hour, to save energy and not bother your neighbors in the late evening hours.
- ▼ Consider creative and reflective decorating. Not everything is about strands of lights. Reflective ornaments and tinsel are just as bright at night, so get creative with your lighting display and multiply your resources for shine. Don't forget the ribbons, wreaths, garlands, and reflective menorahs—free age-old traditions still bring holiday cheer.
- ▼ Consider using energy efficient LED holiday lights wherever possible. Some of the benefits of using LED holiday lights are as follows:
 - ▷ *Efficient* – LEDs save up to 98% of the electricity needed to power conventional painted or ceramic coated bulbs.

- ▷ *Environmentally friendly* – The low electricity use of LEDs means less carbon emissions, and manufacturing LEDs is more environmentally friendly as well. They require no glass or tungsten, since LEDs do not have a filament like incandescent bulbs; electron movement in semiconductor chips is what causes illumination.
- ▷ *Durable* – LEDs are encased in hard-to-break plastic versus the more fragile glass of incandescent lights. Because the LED is electronic, its lifetime is up to 10 years.
- ▷ *Practical* – LEDs come in standard packaging of 25- to 100-bulb strands that can be connected together to provide a seamless string. The long life of LEDs means that replacing bulbs will be rare, reducing maintenance.
- ▷ *Safe* – LEDs generate much less heat when they operate, so they are cool to the touch and are less likely to overload a circuit.
- ▷ *Attractive features and colors* – LEDs come in traditional shapes, sizes, and colors.



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

- ▼ <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-efficient-holiday-decorating-tips>
- ▼ http://mydocs.epri.com/docs/CorporateDocuments/EnergyEfficiency/Holiday_Lights_112007.pdf.

Finally, please remember to take down holiday lights no later than the end of January. If you have any questions regarding exterior or holiday lighting, contact me at mark@eldoradosf.org or at 466-4248.

Wishing you and your entire family a most enjoyable holiday season!
—Mark Young

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on December 20, 2014, with six Board members present: **Dag Ryen** (President, presiding), **Pam Henline** (Vice President), **Greg Colello**, **Gershon Siegel** (Secretary), **Jeanne Calzada**, and **David Yard**. Treasurer **Todd Handy** is on a leave of absence. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting:

A second Community Forum to discuss a potential contract with HOAMCO management company to pro-

vide a general manager and bookkeeping services was announced for Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 PM at La Tienda.

- ▼ Variances were approved for 5 Ortiz Lane for a ground-mounted solar array 90 feet from the house where 15 feet is the Guideline maximum, to improve screening; and an additional screening fence to extend into the required setback.
- ▼ Rules for the use of PODS, or similar temporary rental storage containers, were approved for incorporation into the Architectural Guidelines.

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Message from the ECIA Board

Talks are continuing between the ECIA Board of Directors and HOAMCO about having that company provide management services for the organization. A well-attended open forum was held on November 11 at which principals from the company fielded diverse questions from the audience about their operations and business philosophy. A similar event will be held on December 6 at 2 PM at the Performance Space at La Tienda.

The most significant issue about such an arrangement would, of course, be its impact on the ECIA budget. Extensive discussions between HOAMCO, the Board, and the ECIA Finance Committee have shown that hiring the company would not entail additional expenses for the organization. What ECIA would pay in monthly management fees would equal the costs that the Association has historically paid for a general manager's salary and bookkeeping services, functions that HOAMCO would take over. Moreover, it is expected that HOAMCO would encourage more community participation by easing the

burden on volunteers, provide better direct service to members, and administer the day-to-day governance of the community more fairly and efficiently.

The Finance Committee has presented the Board with a draft of how the budget would look if HOAMCO were retained. This budget, which will be presented to Association members at a separate meeting in the Railroad Building at 10 AM on December 6, shows that the day-to-day operations of the Association would continue unchanged and that there will be no raise in assessments in 2015.

The Board also wishes to remind members that the editors of *Vistas* will publish appropriate letters to the editor in the coming year. All letters accepted for publication must be written in a civil and non-inflammatory tone, should not exceed 150 words, and may be edited for length and clarity (see below for complete editorial policy).

The ECIA Board of Directors wishes everyone in Eldorado at Santa Fe a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

—The ECIA Board of Directors

General Policy for Letters to the Editor

Publication of a maximum of two letters per regular issue will be reviewed and approved by an editorial committee consisting of the ECIA Board President, the Chairman of the Information Committee, and a member in good standing designated by the Board of Directors.

Vistas will publish letters that, in the judgment of the editorial committee, serve the best interests of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association and its membership.

Submissions should not exceed 150 words.

Submissions should address local issues of direct interest to the ECIA membership.

Submissions may be edited for space, clarity, civility, and accuracy.

Letters must be written in a constructive, non-adversarial tone. No letter that includes or implies direct criticism of a specific ECIA staff member or volunteer will be published.

Letters including commercial appeals or religious content will not be published.

Letters may be submitted by email to Vistaletters@eldoradosf.org or by mail to Vistas Editors, 1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87508.

2015 Final Budget Meetings

The Finance Committee and Board are completing work on the 2015 Operating and Maintenance budgets. All meetings are open to Eldorado homeowners and lot owners.

Saturday, December 6, 10 AM: The Board conducts a

public hearing on the proposed 2015 Operating Budget. Copies will be available on the web and at the ECIA office Tuesday, December 2 and at the hearing, Railroad Building.

Thursday December 18, 7 PM: The Board adopts the final 2015 budget at its regular Board meeting, Railroad Building.

Board Actions, cont. from p. 2

▼ A motion to deny a variance for an existing wall built partially into the required 20-foot side setback was tabled to allow the applicant to investigate a lot line adjustment or other alternatives.

▼ A revised Election Committee charter was approved to include responsibility for initiating a review of Association Bylaws every two years.

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. In addition, two informal (no votes) Board working sessions are held in the Community Center Conference Room each month: on the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM, and on the Monday before the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM. ECIA members are welcome to attend, and may request to place, and speak on, particular items on the agenda by calling the ECIA office 72 hours in advance at 466-4781.

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Information: Frank Schober
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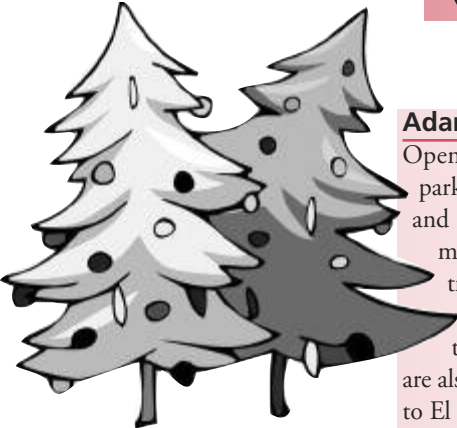
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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

IN THE COMMUNITY



Adam & Kim's Christmas Trees

Opening Saturday, November 29, at the north parking lot of La Tienda. The Eldorado-owned and -operated business, Adam and Kim's Christmas Trees, offers quality, fresh-cut Christmas trees from Oregon. Douglas fir, Grand Fir, and Noble Fir are available in sizes from tabletop to tall trees. Wreaths, garlands, and chili ristras are also available. A portion of proceeds is donated to El Dorado Volunteer Fire & Rescue. Facebook: AdamKimsChristmasTrees for more info.

Support Groups for Caregivers

The Gloaming at Santa Fe, LLC, is a new business in Suite 6 of the business condominiums on 3 Caliente Road that provides mental health counseling and life coaching services. As a service to the community, the Gloaming offers free support groups in response to a need for caregiver support. Meetings are held at The Gloaming at Santa Fe.

- Support Group for Caregivers with a Family Member Who Lives with Alzheimer's or Dementia: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 9:30 to 11 AM.
- General Caregivers' Support Group, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, from 5:30 to 7 PM. Email drkittyfallon@thegloamingatsantafe.com for more information.

Master Gardener Certification Training

Want to be in the company of those who share gardening interests, increasing our knowledge and sharing those skills with the Santa Fe community? In this 16-week course, taught by New Mexico's top horticultural educators, researchers, and practitioners, interns will learn best methods for composting, soil building, xeric techniques, water harvesting, growing fruits, herbs and veggies, dealing with pests and diseases, and more! Classes begin soon: evenings on February 2 at 6 pm; and mornings on February 3 at 9 am. Registration is open through December 31. Class size is limited. Please visit: sfmga.org, or call SF County Extension: 471-4711. Offered by Santa Fe Master Gardener Association in cooperation with NMSU.

Shakespeare in Eldorado

When the Farkas family moved from Wisconsin to Eldorado in August, they got busy settling in: phone line, gas, electric, satellite service, starting a Shakespearean theater program for the young. . . . Their first production, a workshop of eight scenes from *Twelfth Night* attracted three young actors who have been rehearsing every Saturday afternoon at the Community Center. They will present an hour-long program with music, quick changes, and a comedic sword fight at The Performance Space at



La Tienda on December 19 at 7 PM and at Warehouse 21 on the December 20 at 7 PM.

Anna Farkas has been performing Shakespeare for over ten years. She has directed and performed in productions with Chrysostomos at St. John's College here in Santa Fe, performed with the Madison Shakespeare Company, and directed for The Young Shakespeare Players, The Lupercalians, Fourth Wall Players, and Upstart Crow Productions in Madison, Wisconsin. Caryl Farkas helped produce Shakespeare and Gilbert and Sullivan outreach programs for schools, community centers, libraries, and festivals for over a decade. Joy Farkas, at 14 and a veteran of 12 Shakespeare productions, is excited to be part of the forming of a new troupe.

The fledgling company, Upstart Crows of Santa Fe, is unusual for youth theater. The group does not hold auditions. Any young person from 11 to 18 who wants to participate is welcome. As Hamlet put it, "the readiness is all." Shakespeare's language and stories are accessible to anyone willing to engage with them—they resonate with what it means to be human. Thinking through the texts, working out the author's intentions, creating the blocking and stage business for themselves, these young actors offer a fresh perspective on timeless classics. Their willingness to be open and take chances makes them enthusiastic interpreters of Shakespeare's plays. Come support them at The Performance Space on December 19 and be amazed.

REEL NEW MEXICO!

On Thursday, December 11, at 6:30 PM (please note early start time) at the Performance Space at La Tienda, REEL NEW MEXICO is presenting the only Christmas-themed feature film ever shot in New Mexico, along with a special surprise holiday treat, a screening (at least in part) of an Emmy-nominated but slightly cheesy holiday television special shot in Santa Fe and Lamy in the late 1970s, featuring some very well-known singers and performers of the time. It is great fun and we'll not tell you who the guests performers are!



Screening at La Tienda Performance Space Dec. 11.

Architecture Committee Holiday Schedule

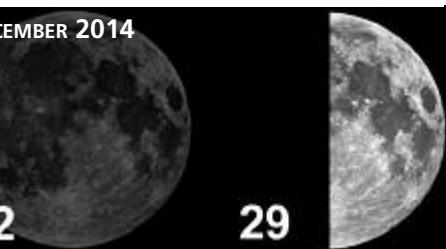
The Architecture Committee will hold only one meeting this month, on December 9. The regular meeting for December 23 is canceled for the holiday. To avoid scheduling problems for plans requiring a decision within 30 days, the January meeting has been moved up from January 13 to Wednesday, January 7. As usual, the meetings are at 7 PM in the foyer of the Community Center .

Legislative Town Hall Mtg

The long tradition of Eldorado legislative town halls continues on Tuesday, December 9 from 6:30 to 8 PM at the Performance Space in La Tienda. On hand will be newly elected State Representative Matthew McQueen to discuss 2015 legislative priorities.

HOLIDAY

DECEMBER 2014



Miracle in the Wilderness (1992, 88 minutes, filmed in northern New Mexico, in the Santa Fe National Forest and on Johnson Mesa) is a Christmas drama based on the novella by Paul Gallico, in which a frontier woman tells her story of Christmas to the leader of the Blackfoot people who have kidnapped her family. As she speaks, he envisions the story as it would occur in American Indian tradition. The film takes a very unique and interesting look at a traditional Christmas story and allows viewers to see how other people may view one's personal beliefs. The film stars Kris Kristofferson and Kim Cattrall.

Filmgoers are now able to order and bring food and drink from La Plancha and enjoy it in the Performance Space, offering a casual dinner-and-a-movie type of event. The \$5 suggested donation/admission at the door will go for expenses and to bring in filmmakers for other screenings.

Screening on Thursday, January 8, 2015: *Mother O'Keeffe*, narrated by former New Mexico resident **Marsha Mason** and produced and directed by fellow Eldorado resident, **Richard Startzman**. This hour-long film released in 2007 offers a very different look at artist Georgia O'Keeffe. For more information, contact **Jeff Berg** at 466-1634 or nedludd76@hotmail.com.

Information Committee

Moves its meetings to Mondays beginning in December.

December Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email 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

Open Forum with HOAMCO	Sat, Dec. 6, 2-5 pm	Dag Ryen	466-4248	La Tienda
Legislative Town Hall	Tues., Dec. 9, 6:30-8 pm			La Tienda
ECIA Offices closed	Thurs., Dec. 25			

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., Dec. 9, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	No 2nd December meeting	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Thurs., Dec. 4, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Dec. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	No December meeting	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Dec. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Dec. 3, 2-4	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	No December meeting	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Dec. 10, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., Dec. 15, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	TBA	Felicia Probert	466-1563	CFR
Stable Committee	TBA	Alice Griffin	795-6424	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

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
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	Jackie Vaughn	466-2558	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	Barb	954-1533	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



At the Library

“B aby, it’s cold outside,” as the song goes, and that makes it the perfect time to curl up with a good book or with a great movie in the DVD player. Vista Grande Public Library has lots of new materials coming in to fill up the expanded shelves, as well as plenty of old favorites. Come in and browse for books, audiobooks, and DVDs for the long winter evenings. And you can also find cookbooks and other titles to help you with holiday entertaining and gift making. All for free, at your local neighborhood library. Also, the Fall Appeal for do-

nations is going on now; VGPL relies on the support of the community to keep the doors open and the shelves stocked with the items you desire.

The library will host Family Movie Night on Friday, December 12, at 7 PM. The film will be the animated tale of firefighting aircraft and vehicles and is rated PG. Kids and parents can come in their PJs and enjoy the movie along with popcorn and juice. There is no charge for admission.

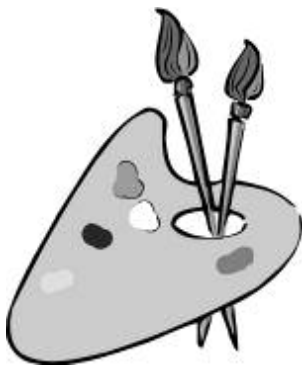
VGPL will be closed on December 24 and 25, and on December 31 and January 1. Happy holidays to all VGPL patrons!
—Tracey Mitchell

Streamlining the EACA

The Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association is winding up an eventful year with their holiday gathering on December 13 at La Tienda’s Performance Space, 5–7 PM, where the association’s new video, “We Are Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association,” will be premiered. The video was produced by Eldorado resident **Hal Ralston**. Although this party is a members-only event, the video can be accessed through other venues, including YouTube as well as the association’s website and Facebook pages. One of EACA’s missions this past year has been to enhance its presence in social media, as evidenced by the new

video and the work done to make its social pages more informative and interactive.

The first meeting of the new year on January 29 will be a business meeting and will include board elections. Any Eldorado residents interested in joining EACA should note that in order to receive an application to join the Spring Studio Tour, you must join the association this month. Tour applications will be sent out electronically in late December or early January. Although there is no monthly meeting in December, membership applications can be downloaded from the website at www.eldoradoarts.org. The annual membership fee is \$15.



Keeping Informed, cont. from p. 1

that difficulty. *Vistas*, the Association’s monthly newsletter, and its companion, the Eldorado website (eldoradosf.org) are at the forefront of this effort to keep members informed. *Vistas* is constrained by the fact that it is a monthly publication (and thus is not suited for breaking news) and has only eight pages in which to present what is often key information. This problem is mitigated in some measure by the Association’s website, which posts current information that the Board deems important as soon as it is available. *Vistas* articles that are lengthy but nevertheless convey essential elements of information may be continued on our website. And a new feature recently inaugurated on eldoradosf.org is the posting of audio recordings of Board meetings and town forums, which is proving to be a popular feature.

In addition to our two primary channels of communication, we make use of a few other traditional means. These include:

- a. The ECIA’s official bulletin boards at the Community Center and at the courtyard entrance to the Agora shopping center.
- b. The marquee signs at the east entrance of the Agora shopping center, at the Community Center,

and soon, thanks to next year’s budget, near the intersection of Route 285 and Avenida Eldorado. These large signs may, depending on the nature of the incident, be the sole means of informing our residents of essential safety and security requirements in an emergency.

- c. Regular and issue-driven community forums and the annual meeting of the Association, to which all members are invited to attend.
- d. The Annual Report of the ECIA, mailed to all ECIA members, with information on the Association, the state of its budget, its amenities, and the work of its volunteer committees.
- e. The Homeowner’s packet given to each new resident, which contains a variety of information of value to newcomers to Eldorado.
- f. Open attendance at the work-study and regular meetings of the Board and any of our Association’s volunteer committees.

To foster greater transparency and to encourage volunteer participation in the work of the ECIA, the Board encourages ECIA members to make use of any and all of these channels.

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE >>



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Oh Deer

“This is cool,” a teenager said while researching animals in the area. “Did you know that deer have a smaller first stomach, or rumen, for the size of their body than cattle and elk? This means the deer have to eat more nutritious food instead of large amounts of low-quality food. I guess that’s true for Rudolph, too.” I put down my bag of Fritos and asked to hear more.

Many Eldoradoans have seen antelope and coyote but few have seen deer. If we are lucky enough to spot wild deer in our area, it is most likely a mule deer (*Odocoileus herionus*).

Mule deer, so-called due to their large ears, are found in much of New Mexico. Although white-tailed deer are also found in New Mexico, they are primarily located in the southeastern part of the state. The most noticeable differences between mule deer and white-tailed deer are the size of their ears, the color of their tails (mule deer tails are tipped black), and the configuration of their antlers (mule deer antlers fork as they grow). Mule deer are larger than whitetail; bucks average 200 pounds, and does average 150 pounds.

Deer have keen senses. Their sense of smell is a thousand times better than that of humans (their most common predator). In fact, deer can smell water two feet underground. Due to their eye position, deer also possess 310-degree vision. When startled, especially by natural predators including coyotes, gray

wolves, and mountain lions, mule deer will typically leap in a manner called “stotting” or “pronking,” where all four feet hit the ground together. Other animals such as bear, wolverine, and even bobcat will go after young or infirm deer, or eat off dead deer.

Mule deer live 9 to 11 years. Breeding season (“rut”) takes place in the fall, with fawns born in the spring. The buck’s antlers fall off in the winter, and the discarded antlers provide chewing for rodents. The size of the antlers is determined by the age of the buck, with the new antlers becoming larger each year.

With appropriate permits and licenses, hunting is allowed within season in some local areas, including the open State Trust Land next to the west side of Eldorado. But even with a recreational permit, public access and use of the land is not encouraged. Please be alert, especially in the fall. To get accurate information of dates and restrictions, contact New Mexico Department of Game & Fish www.wildlife.state.NM.US/publications or 505-476-8000.

DID YOU KNOW? The pronghorn antelope is neither a true antelope nor a deer but is more closely related to goats and sheep. Sometimes referred to as a pronghorn goat or pronghorn sheep, it is the sole surviving member of the family Antilocapridae and the only animal with branched horns (not antlers), part of which are shed each year.

References for this article are available upon request. Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com. We love hearing from you!



Mule deer. Photos Ann V. Wood.

Recycling News

RECYCLE THOSE UNWANTED HOLIDAY STRING LIGHTS!

Eldorado/285Recycles is sponsoring a short-term project from December 1 through February 1 to recycle your unwanted holiday string lights. What happens to them? They are recycled to make wires, power cords, and smart phones. Just put them in the dedicated container in La Tienda Building B across from the Eldorado Gym. And while you are there, check out our other recycling projects!

For a good read check out “Junkyard Planet” by Adam Minter, now available at Vista Grande Library.

WORMS IN WINTER?

During 2014, Eldorado/285 Recycles installed worm composting systems in 40 area backyards. What happens to those worms in winter? Often, especially in the winter, your wet food scraps will provide enough moisture for the worms. Even if the top of the pile freezes, the worms are busy working below and generate enough heat to keep the pile at 40 to 60 degrees. With a frozen top layer, simply break it up, set aside the frozen pieces, dig down to the happy worm depth, dump your scraps, and cover them up with the frozen pieces and a thick layer of loose dry straw for insulation.

—Sue Daniel, Eldorado/285 Recycles



Keeping Informed, cont. from p. 6

As noted in the Message from the Board (see p. 3), the Information Committee has been asked to do more to encourage letters to the editor of *Vistas*. The Committee will, of course, comply with that request fully. This writer hopes that the letters we receive will be examples not of conflict but of cooperation and

will demonstrate the increasingly rare practices of courtesy and civility.

A copy of the Board’s policy regarding Letters to the Editor of *Vistas* is printed on page 3 of this issue.

—Frank Schober, Chair, Information Committee

VISTAS

Eldorado Community Improvement Association
#1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
www.eldoradosf.org

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www.santafecountynm.gov/publicworks/road_concern.

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Sheriff 428-3720 • Crime Stoppers 955-5050
Neighborhood Watch: <http://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>

Youth Music and Theater in Eldorado

El Dorado School Makes Music in Winter Concerts

El Dorado Community School invites the community to its upcoming winter concerts, performed by the music faculty and student musicians in four different musical events in December. Orchestra director **Don Higgins**'s middle school students will perform on December 4 at 6:30 PM. Band director **April Pickrell**'s middle school students will perform on December 9 at 6:30 PM. Elementary music leader **Janine Sammeth**'s students will perform on December 10 at 6:30 PM; their performance is called

"Five Golden Rings." Under the direction of **Galen Prenevost**, our middle school choir will perform on December 18 at 6:30 PM.



These free performances are either in the school gym or school cafeteria. Questions? Please call the school at 467-4900.

Enjoy Shakespeare, Too!

A fledgling youth theater group is staging scenes from *Twelfth Night* on December 19 at 7 PM at La Tienda's Performance Space. See page 4 for full details.

Children's Theatre Workshop

Pictured at right is the cast of Eldorado Children's Theatre workshop production of *How To Eat Like A Child* performed by actors Loulee Wilson, Emma Abby, Tyra La Forge, Emma and Charlotte Carter, Claire and Hannah Dukeminier, Taylor Brady, Lucie Messerer, Faye Seirah, and Eleanor Whalen. The presentation celebrates the end of fall 2014 theater classes, and marks the beginning of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* for actors age 10-18 years which will be produced in March 2015. For information, call **Rebecca Oden** at (435) 640-4444 or see www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org.

