

# 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)

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## What HOAMCO Does and What it Costs

People sometimes get confused about the role our management company, HOAMCO, plays in our daily lives. This article, by the ECIA Board Treasurer, is intended to clarify that role.

**H**OAMCO provides all onsite employees and the associated overhead, such as payroll and benefit administration, and legal compliance. New employees have background checks and skills and drug testing.

HOAMCO staff includes a General Manager who oversees all workers, enforces use restrictions and covenant compliance and serves as the liaison with the Board of Directors. An Operations Manager oversees maintenance, pool operations, and contract management.

Administrative Staff support the community, organize community events, coordinate facilities and maintain all records. A Maintenance Team does daily maintenance, cleaning and repair throughout our amenities and grounds. The Compliance Coordinator works to ensure balanced and fair enforcement of architectural covenants and guidelines. A Pool Manager supervises seasonal lifeguards to ensure efficient pool operations and safety.

Financial support includes an offsite HOAMCO portfolio accountant, who attends Finance Committee meetings and prepares detailed monthly financial statements, such as bank deposits and reconciling of bank statements, assessment collection, processing and recording, and escrow service, including processing closing packages and processing title requests. HOAMCO provides technology to manage paperless document storage, ECIA records, payment and transaction

processing and reporting. HOAMCO trains local staff, provides office personnel backup and arranges education sessions for the Board. The key criterion of HOAMCO's performance is the quality of these employees.

**HOAMCO does not** create policies, rules or regulations. This is the exclusive domain of the Board. Although HOAMCO does administrative work required in preparing a draft budget, collecting payments, processing delinquencies etc., they do not have authority to make financial decisions for Eldorado or decide how to use Association funds. HOAMCO manages some operations from corporate or regional sites (such as handling Board-directed investments). But HOAMCO has no authority to make decisions for the Board of Directors unless the Board expressly delegates functions like ordering supplies, executing the approved budget, etc. Most day-to-day management is handled by staff here in Eldorado.

**HOAMCO charges** a monthly fee for this support work of \$2,600 per month, plus actual costs, such as postage, copying, mailing, preparation of forms, etc. These costs average between \$200 and \$400 a month. In addition, ECIA pays all actual payroll costs plus a 3% fee (on payroll only) to handle benefits, HR support and payroll administration. HOAMCO also provides the closing packages for real estate sales, paid for by the seller.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Stay Informed ... Stay Healthy

**As of March 16, the Community Center is closed until further notice.**

Please verify before coming to the Community Center that the meeting or event you planned to attend has not changed, been delayed or canceled. Some Board meetings and events can be viewed remotely via ZOOM. Up-to-date notifications are available via e-mail News Briefs. Call 505 466-4248 to receive News Briefs or sign up at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org).

For questions or concerns about COVID-19 in New Mexico, there is a 24/7 call center set up through the Department of Health at 1-855-600-3453. Further detailed information is available at their website: [cv.nmhealth.org](http://cv.nmhealth.org).

# Board Actions and Summary March 16

**A**s was announced, the March 16, 2020 **Board of Directors Meeting was canceled as an open meeting** due to the current group restrictions. The Board did conduct immediate business and tested the feasibility of using Zoom for Board meetings via the internet vs. in person. It was a prime opportunity to familiarize the Board with Zoom's capabilities and ensure that folks that wished to participate in future open meetings would be able to. The Board is aware that the business conducted at this meeting will need to be re-affirmed at the April meeting. There were variance requests and motions that needed to be addressed. The Board members participated in a conference call that day, along with Julie Navarro, Mike Rogers, Rachel Turnbough and Jessica Collins. President Nancy Sulzberg, Vice-President Melicent D'Amore, Secretary Carol Sanguinetti, Director David Sorkin, and Sal Monaco, Treasurer, reviewed and passed the following motions:

- To decommission the Bylaws Review Ad Hoc Committee as their task of reviewing and submitting a revision is completed;
- To decommission the Environmental Stewardship Committee as their mission to evaluate and recommend best practices regarding use of least toxic materials in community property is completed;
- To confirm the email vote to renew the Waste Management contract with ECIA which offers Eldorado residents a discounted rate for trash pickup;
- To approve the use of volunteer groups that will work toward a specific goal at the request of the Board and will be designated as a "Task Group";
- To approve the Capital Projects and Replacement Reserve Budget Preparation Procedure;
- To appoint Monty VanderMay, Amelia Adair, Ami Jaeger and Robert Christie to the HOAMCO Review Task Group;
- To approve the Summary of the Office Procedure Review for placement on the ECIA home page;
- To appoint Kathy Ritschel as Chair, Mary Ellen Donat as Vice Chair and Nolan Zisman as Secretary of the Facilities and Grounds Committee;

- To rescind the Temporary Stable Water Billing Policy;
- To approve the revised Collection Policy for Delinquent Accounts;
- To appoint Kathy Cashiola, Mary Lee Morgan and Missy Smock to the ad hoc Welcome Committee;
- To approve the application for and use of a debit card the Alliance Bank Money Market Reserve Account-979 subject to the same limitations as the current Operating Fund debit card.

## Variances were approved:

- To allow for a chicken coop to be located 21 feet from the home at 2 Cerrado Way;
- To allow for a new garage to encroach 3'6" into the 50 feet roadside setback; lighting will be downward shielded, stucco color will match home and trees will be planted to provide more screening at 57 Encantado Loop.

The Conservation Committee Report will be presented at the April Board Meeting, along with a proposal for Food Truck vending. Task Groups and Committee reports were presented; summaries can be found in the minutes that will be posted on the home page.

And of course, it would be negligent if I did not address the current state of our community, our region, and yes, even the world. COVID-19 has changed the manner in which we all conduct business and communicate with each other. I hope that residents in Eldorado are able to connect with neighbors and friends, while maintaining social distancing and that folks who are in need will reach out to those who can assist. This is a time for the true sense of the word community. Stay informed ... Stay healthy

## Next Board Meeting

**Monday, Apr. 20 at 5 PM, Railroad Building**

ECIA Board meetings are open to the public. Complete minutes and agendas are available at the ECIA office or on the website: [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org).

—Nancy Sulzberg  
ECIA Board President

## What HOAMCO Does and What it Costs *(continued from page 1)*

**What is the extra cost of having HOAMCO manage all this?** An average monthly fee of \$2,600 + \$300 in extra monthly costs = \$2,900. That's \$34,800 annually. Without HOAMCO, ECIA would still need the existing staff, so their basic payroll cost is not extra. The 3% on top of payroll, about \$19,200 annually, totals \$54,000 per year—about 3.3% of the ECIA operating budget. For that fee, HOAMCO provides the benefits/payroll function, accounting software, oversees financial transactions, prepares real estate documents, manages paperless documents, trains and coaches staff.

ECIA would be hard-pressed to provide these services for much less; as an example, for 2014, the last full year in which the ECIA was self-managed, bookkeeping services alone cost just under \$33,000.

*I would like to thank my colleague Dan Drobnis, Finance Committee Chair, who provided valuable insight and suggestions for this article.*

—Sal Monaco  
ECIA Board Treasurer

# David Sorkin: Board Candidate & Current Board Director

began volunteering at the Finance Committee in late 2017 and served as a member until I was appointed to the ECIA Board of Directors in April of 2019 and have been an



integral part of the governance of our community ever since. I've experienced turmoil and a sense of mistrust among our residents over the past year and have felt that change was necessary to instill a positive message and attitude that our community was better

served by being open and honest, not just by our words but by our actions. Our Board consists of varied skill levels and unique talents which lends itself to a more welcoming environment. I intend to take my part in providing the leadership that our members expect by following the governing covenants, bylaws, policies & procedures as written. Our communication is improving, our financial house is in order, the committees are contributing more than ever, and our management team is performing at a much higher level. Teamwork is beginning to show and I hope to continue the progress we've attained currently and in the days to come.

Sincerely,  
David

## Vote on Proposed ECIA Bylaws Changes

**A**s a Member in Good Standing, your 2020 Election Packet will include a ballot to vote to approve/disapprove the proposed Amended Bylaws. The new Bylaws must be approved by 60% of all votes cast by Members Eligible to Vote. Your vote counts.

On Feb. 13 an open forum was held where ECIA Members asked questions and gave feedback on the proposed changes. After hearing from Members, the Board approved the final version of the proposed amended Bylaws.

### Highlights of Changes

The proposed Amended Bylaws include changes that modernize the Bylaws, clarify them, and add detail to processes that were unclear in the old version. Proposed changes:

- Make the Bylaws easier to read and understand, by removing legalese wherever possible, streamlining definitions and breaking dense paragraphs into subsections

- Are consistent with recent changes to the New Mexico Home Owner Association Act and with the Nonprofit Corporation Act, as recommended by the ECIA's attorneys
- Clarify what happens in situations where the current Bylaws are unclear, such as what happens if the number of Board members drops below five, and how the election process works
- Clarify the process for petitioning to remove a Board member, to avoid problems that have arisen in the past
- Update and explain Board duties in more detail, consistent with the governing documents and State law

For more details, see the Proposed Bylaws at <https://eldoradosf.org/document/2020%20Sixth%20Amended%20and%20Restated%20Bylaws%20%28Final%29%20-%20Members%20w%20Explanation.pdf>. Or go to link on first page of website: [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org).

## Your Vote is Your Voice—Speak Out!

**E**CIA Board of Directors election Ballots and Quorum Proxy Statements must be returned by **5 PM, Thursday, April 30**, either by mail or hand delivered to the ECIA office. The Ballot includes a section to vote yes or no on the Proposed Amended Bylaws. Ballot counting begins at **9 AM on Friday, May 1**, ECIA Conference Room. Members may view the process via video feed. Results will be announced at the Annual Meeting for Members. A new venue and time for the **Annual Meeting—Monday, May 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM** at the Max Coll Community Center, next to the Senior Center on Avenida Torreon.



### ECIA BOARD & MANAGEMENT

**Board:** *President Nancy Sulzberg, Vice President Melicent D'Amore, Treasurer Sal Monaco, Secretary Carol Sanguinetti, Director David Sorkin.* There are two Board vacancies at this time.

**Management:** The ECIA is managed by HOAMCO. *General Manager Julie Navarro*, [jnavarro@hoamco.com](mailto:jnavarro@hoamco.com)  
Monthly report available at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) under Resident Resources.

## Being Good Neighbors in Challenging Times



**A**ny time is a great time to be a good neighbor—whether your neighbor lives across the street or on the other side of Eldorado.

Some neighbors may be dealing with short term health challenges like a serious flu, or long term disabilities. And let's face the possible arrival of coronavirus proactively and in community. If any of our

neighbors fall ill, they will need to stay home and may need assistance with grocery shopping, pet feeding, dog walking, etc. Those who are able and at lower risk of infection can seek out neighbors who need this kind of help and "pay it forward."

If you have a new neighbor, go over and introduce yourself. Check in on the older person down the road, or the person who lives alone. If you know one of your neighbors is ill, volunteer to pick up food, prescriptions or other items for them. And remember that some Eldoradoans might need help with everyday tasks such as moving their garbage can to/from the street.

To stay healthy, we should all take basic precautions—**primarily washing hands multiple times per day** for 20 seconds. If you think you are ill, **stay home and stay away from people with lowered immune systems**, and contact your doctor if illness persists or becomes more serious.

We can all take a few steps towards fostering community in ordinary and extraordinary times. Let's make every day another "beautiful day in the neighborhood."

—Debra Denker

*Chair, Eldorado Safety Education Task Group*

## HOAMCO Review Task Group Wants Your Opinion

**T**he HOAMCO Review Task Group, led by Monty VanderMay, a resident lawyer with many years of HOA related experience, and composed of Amelia Adair, Ami Jaeger and Robert Christie has been formed. They will collect, organize and report members' desire to keep or replace the management company. They also will complete a thorough review of the existing contract and make suggestions to improve the nature of the contractual relationship between ECIA and HOAMCO if chosen to continue.

The Task Group will gather most resident feedback via an electronic survey. To participate in the survey, your e-mail address is needed. The Task Group wants to hear from everyone but the ECIA has only 1400 e-mail addresses, clearly less than a majority. To verify that your e-mail address is in the ECIA database contact Diana Oliver at 505 466-4248 or

sign-up on the ECIA Homepage. This is not necessary if you currently receive e-blasts.

Timing is crucial. The ECIA contract expires at the end of 2020 and a sixty-day notice is required to stop automatic renewal. Significant implementation time will be needed regardless of the decision—if the final recommendation is to change management companies or if it is decided to renegotiate the contract. The Board must issue a RFP regarding any new vendors to comply with the ECIA Procurement Policy. The survey will be distributed by early May, a town hall scheduled for late June with a goal to present a report to the Board in July and a final decision made no later than at the August 2020 Board Meeting.

Questions for Monty can be sent to  
**HOAMCOreview@gmail.com**

## Maintenance Staff Working Hard

**T**he ECIA facilities staff is working hard for every resident. They have a plethora of tasks: repairing broken fencing, filling hike/bike potholes, tying down windscreens on the tennis court, and many more.

The Facilities and Grounds Committee (F&G) started formally tracking these maintenance items in 2018 and in 2019 the number of problem tickets which were closed within 30 days improved from 47 to 91 percent.

Residents may file a 'ticket' concerning any facilities concern on the ECIA web site **eldoradosf.org**. Under > Resident Resources > Forms & Applications > the Facilities Problem Report can be accessed and filled in. This new 'ticket' is created and sent to the GM and Chair, F&G to be logged and tracked.

Not all facilities issues are reported through this process. The problem ticket data indicates that 1) staff has done a much better job of addressing problems on a timely basis; 2) staff has probably found more problems on their rounds and addressed them before a resident felt compelled to create a problem ticket; 3) more problems are being reported via email than via the ticketing system.

Looking ahead, we hope that problem reporting by residents will decrease and any maintenance issues will continue to be dealt with in a timely manner.

—Nolan Zisman

*Member, Facilities & Grounds Committee*



## EAWSO Installs Pipeline

The Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSO) will be installing approximately 7,000 feet of new 10-inch pipeline to improve transmission capability between tanks. Some work will be along Ave. Vista Grande and Ave. del Monte Alto (see map). Construction is scheduled to begin on March 30 with anticipated completion by the end of September 2020. For more details visit the EAWSO website at [www.easwd.org](http://www.easwd.org) > News and Notices.



## FOURTH OF JULY NEEDS YOU

The ECIA is looking for groups and individuals interested in helping with the 4th of July parade. Please contact Diana at [doliver@hoamco.com](mailto:doliver@hoamco.com) or 505 466-4248 to get involved.



## Architecture Committee Keeps Eldorado Beautiful

What does the Architecture Committee do? In a nutshell, the Architecture Committee (AC) determines if structures proposed on properties meet the rules we've agreed to live by in Eldorado. Protective Covenants for Eldorado (Covenants) is the legal document that applies to all property in Eldorado. That document was written around 1973 and provides information on what is allowed to be built in our community, among other things. Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions for Eldorado at Santa Fe (Guidelines), provides further explanation and additional understanding of how the Covenants are interpreted.

The mission of the AC is to support the ECIA Board in implementing the Covenants and Guidelines as residents and developers submit plans for the construction, addition, or remodeling of dwellings and other structures. Other structures include portals, ramadas, fences, decks, awnings, or just about anything that is permanently installed on the lot or attached to a structure. This includes stucco, roofing materials and replacement windows or doors. If you're not sure if you need AC approval, contact Mark Young at the ECIA at 505 466-4248 or e-mail him at [myoung@hoamco.com](mailto:myoung@hoamco.com).

Projects deemed consistent with the Covenants and Guidelines are approved by the AC. For projects which vary from those rules, the AC makes a recommendation to the Board which ultimately decides if the variance to the rules is appropriate.

During twice-monthly meetings, the AC reviews applications submitted for compliance, assists people to bring proposals into compliance or refers variance requests to the Board.

**DO** call ECIA staff to ascertain if your project requires AC approval

**DO** provide scaled, legible drawings including an accurate site plan

**DO** pay attention to submittal deadlines

**DO** talk to affected neighbors about your project

**DO** come to the AC meeting to further explain what you're proposing

**DON'T** Build without approval as it could result in expensive revisions

—Katherine Mortimer  
Chair, Architecture Committee

## Want a Great Summer Job? Become a Lifeguard



Become a certified lifeguard and work at the Eldorado pool. Contact Jessica Collins, ECIA Pool Manager, to learn how to qualify. Applicants must be 15 years old by the time certification ends. Please sign-up and complete the pre-course assessment by **April 10**. The Lifeguard Course will take place online, and at the ECIA Community Center and Pool. The online portion must be completed by **April 25**; in-person sessions are 4/27 through 5/1 from 5 to 8 PM and 5/2 and 5/3 from 8 AM to 1 PM. Pre-course skills are ability to swim 300 yards without stopping (front crawl or breaststroke), timed 10-pound brick retrieval and two minutes treading, no arms. Contact Jessica at [Jcollins@HOAMCO.com](mailto:Jcollins@HOAMCO.com) or 505 466-4248.

## The Fascinating Origin of *Eldorado*

The place name El Dorado, sometimes spelled Eldorado, is found from Texas to California, in the Spanish West, and it dates back to the myth of cities of gold in the New World. “The Spanish had a fever that could only be cured with gold,” as one conquistador divulged, and it drove them to well documented extremes. The myth has a historical origin in present-day Columbia, however.



About 35 miles north of the modern city of Bogota lies a small round lake named Guatavita. It was there in ancient times that a curious ceremony attracted the attention of the gold-hungry Spanish invaders. When the native people needed a new leader, the chosen one, who was chosen not by birth but for the respect he garnered, became, as the Spanish called him, “El Hombre Dorado.” Called by the natives “Zipa,” he was not a king, but a powerful leader whose control was not rigid or strict. He held a position of honor. His first duty was an elaborate ceremony he performed to appease the gods.

The Zipa was first coated in oil from head to toe. Then gold dust was applied to his body, making it gleam in the sun. He then mounted a raft bejeweled with golden works of art and was rowed out to the middle of the lake. He solemnly offered the golden pieces to the gods by dropping them into the lake, and he culminated the ceremony by diving into the water. When he arose from the lake cleansed of the gold he began to guide his people.

The Spanish, knowing of this ritual, sought to recover the gold at the bottom of the lake. In 1545 a “bucket chain” of laborers was enlisted to empty the lake. After three months the enterprise failed. Then in 1580 a Bogota entrepreneur named Antonio de Sepulveda had a deep notch cut into the rim of Lake Guatavita in another failed attempt to drain the lake, and many laborers were killed. He did manage to recover some gold artifacts which he sent to the Spanish King, Philip II, but Sepulveda died a poor man.

In 1898 an ambitious London investors group dug a tunnel under the lake that emerged in its center. They drained the lake down to four feet of muck and slime, which set up like concrete when exposed to the sun. They did manage to salvage 500 British pounds worth of golden jewelry, art, and armor, which they auctioned at Sotheby’s in London. They then declared bankruptcy. Some of the pieces can be seen in the British Museum. After that debacle the government of Columbia made any further attempt to dislodge the Gold of the Gods illegal.

—Lee Chiacos

Photo: ©Masanalv, 2009, Laguna De Guatavita, [creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/deed.en](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/deed.en)

## Celebrate Earth Day

Celebration of Earth Day begins at **10 AM, April 18** at the ECIA Community Center, ending at 2 PM. Events, demonstrations and information include: gardening, composting, recycling; snake and coyote rescue and relocation; night sky star gazers; electric bikes and cars; Santa Fe County sustainability specialists; Positive Energy Solar; arts and crafts; face painting. After the event, there will be a blessing of the labyrinth at 2 PM followed by a drum circle on the patio. Come and celebrate the special Earth on which we live.

**CANCELED**



**WARNING**

**BEWARE  
OF DOG**

### COST-EFFECTIVE WAYS TO SECURE YOUR RESIDENCE

#### APRIL TIP: FOOL BURGLARS

You can fool burglars several different ways. Put out a few “Beware of Dog” signs around your property. Put some fake security signs in your front lawn, and stick decals on some of your windows. Even mount a dummy security camera or two. Most of the time, burglars won’t test their luck.

# April 2020 Meetings at the Community Center

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	14, 28	7-9 PM	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com	FO
	Board Meeting	Monday	20	5 PM	ECIA Board	505 466-4248	RB
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	7	7-9 PM	Paul Butt	conservationchair@gmail.com	FO
	Election Committee	Wednesday	8	2-4 PM	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com	CF
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	1	10 AM-12:30 PM	Nolan Zisman	fandgchair@gmail.com	RB
	Finance Committee	Tuesday	14	9:30 AM-12 Noon	Dan Drobnis	financechair1@gmail.com	CF
	Information Committee	Monday	13	7-9 PM	Pam Henline	informationchair@gmail.com	CF
	Road Committee	Wednesday	1	5:30-7 PM	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com	CF
Monthly/Semi-Monthly	Stable Committee	Next Meeting: May 19		7-9 PM	Amelia Adair	stablechair1@gmail.com	CR
	Bridge	1st/3rd Fridays	3, 17	1-4:30 PM	DiAna Gutierrez	505 699-3555	CR
	EACA	1st Tuesday	7	7-9 PM	Kim Crickard	VP@eldoradoarts.org	RB
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	15	3-5 PM	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net	LR
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	14	4-6 PM	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797	CF
	El Dorado School Community Garden	3rd Tuesday	21	6-7 PM	Carol Robles	info@eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.com	CF
	Healing Arts Practitioners	2nd Tuesday	14	4-5:30 PM	Laurie Sandman	lsandman9@comcast.net	LR
	Life Drawing	Alt. Mondays	6, 20	10 AM-12 Noon	Mavis Murphy	505 466-8189	RB
	MELT	Thursdays	2, 9, 23	11 AM-12 Noon	Maureena Bivins	info@maureenabivinsacupuncture.com	CR
	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tuesday	7	6-7 PM	Michael Landen	505 466-8896	CF
	Santa Fe Model Railroad Club	2nd Tuesday	14	6:30-8 PM	Bob 505 466-4970	santafemodelrailroadclub.org	RB
	Spinning Group (Fiber)	1st/3rd Thursdays	2, 16	10 AM-12 Noon	Ellen Higgins	casaladerabe@gmail.com	LR
Weekly	AA	Tuesdays		5:45-6:45 PM	505 982-8932	santafeaa.org	LR
	AA (Women Only)	Thursdays		6-7 PM	505 982-8932	santafeaa.org	CF
	AA	Fridays		6-7 PM	505 982-8932	santafeaa.org	RB
	Al Anon	Saturdays		11 AM-12 Noon	505 473-0101	nmal-anon.com	CF
	Breathing Meditation	Tuesdays		2-2:30 PM	505 466-3137	sprussel@sjc.edu	CR
	Eldorado Hikers	Tuesdays		8:30 AM-12 Noon	Terry Gibbs	505 466-6914	CC
	Group Meditation	Saturdays		1-3 PM	Ann Maes	amaesnm@gmail.com	CF
	Knitting Club	Tuesdays		10 AM-12 Noon	Joyce Hanmer	505 466-3018 joycehan@msn.com	LR
	Overeaters Anonymous	Mondays		7-8 PM	Barb	505 954-1533	LR
	Ukulele Class	Wednesdays		2-4 PM	Hazel Jordon	ukehazel@gmail.com	CR
	Yin Yoga	Mondays		5:30-6:45 PM	Julia Cairns	505 466-1935	CR
	Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Tuesdays & Fridays		9-10:15 AM	Julia Cairns	505 466-1935	CR
	Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Wednesdays & Thursdays		9-10:15 AM	Mary Horst	505 490-2790	CR

Abbreviations: CC = Community Center, CR = Classroom, CF = Conference Room, FO = Foyer, LR = Living Room, RB = Railroad Building

Send calendar event information to GM@eldoradosf.org.

Events are verified as of March 20, please sign up for ECIA Newsbriefs by emailing rturnbough@hoamco.com to be notified of changes.

## News Tid-Bits

### A SAFER HIGHWAY 285

At the beginning of March, changes were made to make the 285 Corridor a safer place. The speed limit between I-25 and Ranch Road-Camino Caballos has been lowered to 45 mph. Larger signs announcing 'Entering Residential Area' have been installed. Many warning signs have been added to the I-25 North-bound off-ramp to US 285, in an attempt to prevent wrong-way drivers on I-25 South-bound.

### TRASH AMNESTY ON APR. 18

Eldorado residents are encouraged to take advantage of the Trash Amnesty Day at the Buckman Road Recycling and Transfer Station (BuRRT) on **Saturday, Apr. 18** between 8 AM and 4:45 PM. Items accepted include trash, unwanted materials, rubbish, appliances, furniture, mattresses, building materials, carpet, tiles, concrete, bricks and metals.

### ARTS & CRAFTS ALL OVER ELDORADO MAY 15-17

The 29th Studio Tour comes to Eldorado **May 15, 16 and 17**. This is the largest (and best) Studio Tour in all of New Mexico, right in your backyard. Some studios are open on Saturday and Sunday. **CANCELED** Look for details in next month's Vistas. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors-artists.

### VOICES WERE HEARD

Several Eldorado students expressed their ideas, suggestions and enthusiasm for events centered around the Community Center and stables. New activities and events identified could include Art at The Stables; Movies at The Pool; more shade, chairs and picnic tables; food trucks/snacks at the pool; fly fishing classes at the ECIA; volley ball; baby-sitting certification; recycling bins. Some of these ideas are being considered by the ECIA Board for implementation.



HAIKU

Fresh air and sunshine:  
best doctor you'll ever have.  
A long life to you!

**Mission Statement** The mission of the monthly newsletter, *Vistas*, is to inform members of the ECIA about issues before the Board of Directors, various committees, and the office staff. Also, any events happening in Eldorado or the surrounding areas that may be of interest may be included. The publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision-making process.

**Editorial Policy** *Vistas* newsletter welcomes factual and objective submissions, which will be selected and edited at the discretion of the Information Committee and Board of Directors. Community announcements and articles of interest to homeowners are welcome, along with photos. Submissions are due on the fifth of the month preceding publication. For help with any article, see the *Vistas* Style Guide posted on ECIA website, [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org).

## Pump Up Your Garden with Manure from The Stables

**F**REE manure for compost is available to Eldorado gardeners at the Eldorado Stable Amenity. Back by popular demand for the spring gardening season, on **April 22 and 29**, the ECIA maintenance crew will be available at the Stables to load manure into your truck.

### Eldorado Residents have Three Ways to Get Manure:

1) **Self-serve:** come into the Stables any day of the week during daylight hours with your own shovel and containers, and take as much manure as you wish out of the green manure bins. Note that bins are emptied on Wednesdays. That means the best days to get manure are Saturday through Tuesday;

2) **April Tractor Loading Days:** bring your truck or trailer to the Stables on Wednesday April 22 or April 29, between 8:30 AM and 11:30 AM, and the ECIA maintenance crew will load your vehicle for free;

3) **Manure match program:** The Eldorado Stable Committee connects Eldorado gardeners with barn owners. No truck or shovel needed! Gardeners coordinate with individual barn owners to arrange to pick up their filled containers. Email [eldoradostables@gmail.com](mailto:eldoradostables@gmail.com) or call the Stable Committee hotline at 505 585-4054 for more information

**Gate Information:** The Stable gates open and close automatically during daylight hours without a code. Just pull forward onto the sensor—past the keypad—and wait.

### Composting Basics:

<https://bernalilloextension.nmsu.edu/mastercomposter/> or <http://docs.nmcomposters.org/composting-in-the-desert-2018.pdf> for information about composting in our climate. Manure is great for worm bins but cannot always be put directly on plants.



Gretel Underwood loads up a wheelbarrow at the Eldorado Stables while Simone the donkey oversees.

—Photo by Max Underwood



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