

Vistas

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

ECIA, 1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradosf.org

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 1

January 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

2019 Elections	2
Ask Eldo	3
ECIA, Events	4,5
Volunteers	6
Pullout Calendar	7

Winterfest Spectacular

Much to the delight of kids of all ages, the holiday season was ushered in with Santa Claus arriving at the ECIA on an Eldorado Fire & Rescue fire engine. Winterfest, a collaborative effort between ECIA/HOAMCO and the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association, saw a two-day attendance with over 1,200 residents. Everyone got into the season's spirit through photos with Santa, a holiday train set, Santa's workshop, interaction with local artists, a kids' holiday crafts room, and seasonal refreshments.



A sincere thank you to Santa Claus for all his efforts. His train set and Santa's workshop display is unrivaled in the Santa Fe area. Kids young and old are fortunate to avail themselves to this special treat. The displays remained up at the ECIA throughout December.

The 2018 Winterfest marked the first year for ECIA/HOAMCO and the Eldorado Arts & Crafts organizing a holiday art show to promote local artists and their art. The event was held in two locations; at the ECIA Railroad Building and three empty storefronts at the Agora shopping center. The showings offered holiday shoppers the opportunity to support local artists. Many of your friends and neighbors thank you for your support of their creative endeavors.

Thanks go out to all the Winterfest volunteers who worked hard to offer another opportunity to build a better Eldorado. A special



thank you to Karen Murry, Judy Kramer, John Segell, Uriah Urioste, Katrina Pederson, and Courteney Handy.

A reminder to all: the next big event at the ECIA is the Spring Garden Fair, scheduled for **Saturday, March 2**. For more information please email Eldoradocandl@gmail.com. This event will offer you the opportunity to interact with gardening experts from Eldorado and the larger Santa Fe area. There will be gardening lectures and booths to ask your gardening questions.

[Pictured top to bottom: Uriah Urioste, Santa's local elf, and Katherine Mortimer, first prize winner with her gingerbread model of the cathedral in Santa Fe]

~Julie Navarro, General Manager



Open Discussion Group:

Due to the Facilities & Grounds Town Hall meeting, the Open Discussion Group meeting will be postponed to **Thursday, February 14** at 6 pm in the ECIA Classroom.

ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Room, Thursday, January 24, 7 PM

**Share your
comments
with us!**

*For policy and
deadline, see
below*

Editorial Policy

The Vistas newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, opinionated, biased, or inappropriate. Factual and objective submissions will be selected and edited at the discretion of the editor. Community announcements are welcome as well, along with accompanying photos.

DEADLINE: Newsletter deadline is the **2nd Tuesday** of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the editor, Courteney Handy at her office at ECIA or emailed to chandy@hoamco.com. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message. Publication dates and times may change depending on the ECIA Board meeting times.

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.

Calling all Professional Webdesigners :

ECIA is looking to update its website and pages. It's been years since modernization has taken place. The website needs to be more accesible and meet the needs of the ECIA community. We are looking for someone with webdesign experience to provide assistance and guidance in moving forward with this project. If interested, please provide a resume and contact *Courteney* at chandy@hoamco.com.

We would like to start this project as soon as possible.

~ECIA

2019 Board of Director Election



The ECIA Board of Directors consists of 7 volunteer lot owners. Petitioners must be a lot owner of record and a Member in Good Standing (2019 Assessment has been paid in full and posted to ECIA's receiving bank by **March 1**), whose rights and privileges are not suspended and who resides full -time in Eldorado.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the affairs of the Association, including finances and all amenities, along with enforcing the governing documents. The Board also oversees the work of the standing committees: Architectural, Conservation, Election, Facilities and Grounds, Finance, Information, Road, and Stables and any Ad Hoc Committees.

The direct work of the Board includes attending two monthly board meetings, attending meetings of one or more committees as a liaison and participating in other functions that are supported by the Association.

Board members are elected through the voting process. Candidates file a Nomination Petition with intent to run and if verified the candidate(s) will be placed on the ballot. The Nomination Petition is available at the ECIA office and online (eldoradosf.org > Resident Resources > Forms and Applications > Board Nomination Petition).

Your 2019 Assessment payment must be paid in full and posted to the receiving bank by **March 1**, for you to be a Member Eligible to Vote. Ballot materials are included in the Annual Report for members eligible to vote. The Annual Report is mailed by the end of March. Ballots can be returned by mail or delivered to the ECIA office by 5:00 pm, **May 2**. Ballots are counted and certified on **May 3** by the Election Committee and the results are announced at the annual meeting, Monday, **May 6**.

~Election Committee

ECIA News

► **General Manager's Monthly Report:** General Manager *Julie Navarro* has begun posting her monthly report on the Eldorado website. So far, September thru December reports are available. These reports will help you understand what is done every day around the Community Center. The first page of eldoradosf.org has a link or use the following for December's report: <https://bit.ly/2EplSj7>.

► **Swimming Pool:** The pool study by Pool Pro has been completed. Some work has begun to renovate the bathhouse. Interior walls have been removed. Plumbing and electrical will be replaced to meet building code. Some mold was found and removed. Interior surfaces are being treated with bleach. Specifics of remodeling are under discussion.

► **Open Budget Meeting:** An open community forum on the 2019 budget was held on December 12. Attendees included board members, Finance Committee members, and about a dozen residents. There is no change in assessments for 2019 — discussion centered on pool rehabilitation and construction, maintenance of the Community Center buildings and on improved communication.

► **Board of Director Appointment to the Open Position:** The appointment of the new director will be announced at the regular Board meeting, **January 24**.

~Pam Henline



Recent Board Actions

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association met on Thursday, **December 20, 2018**. Members present were President *David McDonald*, Vice-President *Elizabeth Maclaren*, Treasurer *Joseph Gutierrez*, and Secretary *Bernardo Monserrat*. Director *Jody Price* had an excused absence. The following formal actions were reviewed and passed by the Board:

- Motion to adopt the 2019 Budget.
- Motion to appoint *Bob Christe*, *Guy Monroe*, *Kanah Waltman*, *Marie Aragon*, *Martha Deutch*, *Mary Ellen Donat*, *Taylor Ward*, and *Ted Freedman* to the Facilities and Grounds Committee.
- Motion to appoint *Karen Murry* to the Road Committee.

One resident and a committee chair spoke at the open forum on the Committee Roles and Responsibilities policy. The motion to approve Committee Roles and Responsibilities was tabled pending discussion with committee chairs.

The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors will be a working session on Monday, **January 21**, at 6 pm, in the Community Center Railroad building. On Thursday, **January 24**, at 7 pm, the Board will conduct its regular meeting in the 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.

Ask Eldo

Ask Eldo is a monthly question and answer column where residents can send questions for publication to the ECIA. Each month questions submitted by the community will be answered by an ECIA Board member or ECIA Staff member and posted here. We encourage Eldorado residents to continue to submit questions for consideration for future issues. Please submit questions via email to askeldo@eldoradosf.org. We look forward to hearing from you! This month's question is, **"I'm installing a new mini split heating system onto my home. Is there anything in the covenants I need to be aware of before installing my new system?"**

Mark Young, ECIA's Architecture and Covenant Compliance Coordinator has the answer. Many residents in Eldorado are now installing what is known as "Mini Split systems" in their homes. These systems are an acceptable style of home heating and cooling equipment for use in Eldorado. The central units for these systems can be mounted both on the roof or on the ground. Due to this, we have many residents contacting the ECIA concerning our regulations concerning their installations. The Guidelines for Eldorado Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions addresses such systems under section 4.9.1.2 as follows:

4.9.1.2. *Unless it can be demonstrated that it will interfere with their operation, rooftop and ground-based heating, ventilation, and cooling units (exclusive of solar systems) and their associated ductwork, as well as other visible equipment and associated covers, should be earth-toned in color, similar to the approved stucco colors of Eldorado.*

Therefore the ECIA asks residents installing such mini-split systems to locate them in the least conspicuous location possible, and one which will not impact the performance of the unit. Also, the conduit and ductwork associated with such units are required to be painted to match the color of the home as stated in section 4.9.1.2 of the guidelines.

Today, many residents have installed such systems but have not painted the associated conduit and ductwork related to such units. To date, the ECIA has been optimistic that residents will take it upon themselves to paint such ductwork, but if after **June 1**, homes with unpainted ductwork and conduits, will be asked to bring them into compliance.

Should residents have any questions about this information, please call Mark at the ECIA or e-mail him at myoung@hoamco.com. Note: The new Compliance number is 469-1302.

~Eldo



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

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Director

Barrett "Jody" Price
J.Price@eldoradosf.org

Director

Vacant

Director

Vacant

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:

Katherine Mortimer
Conservation: Tom Brendenberg

Election: Bette Knight

Facilities & Grounds:

Nolan Zisman

Finance: Sal Monaco

Information: Karen Logan

Roads: Russell Winslow

Stable: Amelia Adair

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

14 Avenida Torreon; 466-READ

Fire and Rescue

466-1204
eldoradofirerescue.org

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)

Neighborhood Watch

Joe Loewy, 231-6462

Meet and Greet

Please welcome *Mike Bullock*, ECIA's new Project Manager. Mike was born in Denver and raised in Littleton, Colorado. He has lived in Santa Fe for five years and enjoys it very much. He is a U.S Navy veteran. He has extensive experience in construction, project management, and maintenance and has worked at properties like the Four Seasons, Bishops Lodge and World College. He is a pet lover who owns two dogs, *Roscoe* and *Zoey*.



Meet *Geran Landen*, our new Facility Attendant. Geran grew up in Santa Fe, attending Eldorado Elementary School before going to Capshaw and then Santa Fe High School. He has a degree in Creative Writing from Seattle University and lived in Seattle, North Carolina, and Boston before coming back home to Santa Fe. His interests include sports, and all things music and biology.

~Julie Navarro, General Manager



Message From the Board - A Look back at 2018

Throughout 2018 our community has completed many projects that improve and promote recreation, safety and welfare to the members of the ECIA. Some of the major projects for 2018 were:

1. Improving the Community Center irrigation system.
2. Painting the exterior of the Railroad Building and breezeway.
3. Refinishing the Railroad Building floor.
4. Installing new air conditioning and heating units in the Community Center.
5. Upgrading the Community Center and Compadres Park playground equipment.
6. Repairing the Maintenance barn fence.
7. Installing an upgraded phone system.
8. Purchasing a new ID card printer.
9. Creating a master plan for the pool.
10. Purchasing back-up pumps for the pool to reduce maintenance closures.
11. Commissioning a pool backwash study to determine it's effectiveness.
12. Implementing a well study to decrease reliance on EAWSD water.
13. Identifying a water line/well line issue that existed for 20 plus years.
14. Repairing and upgrading the cistern system after storm damage.
15. Implementing a Pickle Ball court pilot project.
16. Completing the annual Hike & Bike Trail maintenance.
17. Installing new security gates at the stables.
18. Spreading new mulch at the dog park.
19. Building two new, more effective, shade structures at the dog park.

In the spring we discovered fraudulent behavior by an employee, for which HOAMCO took full responsibility and reimbursed ECIA for all of our losses. HOAMCO also funded a forensic audit to verify that all the fraud was discovered and then put new procedures in place to prevent future problems. We continued to forge a better working relationship with HOAMCO and received critical support from the top levels of management, including Chief Operating Officer *Stacy Maule*, to evaluate and improve our operating procedures. We hired a new General Manager, *Julie Navarro*, who has fostered a more welcoming and responsive atmosphere at

the Community Center. We created the position of Project Manager and filled it with an eminently qualified Eldorado resident, *Mike Bullock*, who has already taken charge of the ongoing maintenance and significant projects and moved the pool renovation forward to ensure that it will be ready for opening day. We sought improved communications between the Board and the ECIA community members through a series of Town Hall/Open Forums and the creation of the monthly Community Open Discussion Group that provides a more informal venue for conversation.

In addition to ongoing classes and groups on a variety of subjects meeting at the Community Center, we had many very successful ECIA sponsored events in 2018, including:

- ▶ Annual Fourth of July Parade and Celebration.
- ▶ Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department Barbecue.
- ▶ Vista Grande Library Ice Cream Social.
- ▶ Two Food Drives.
- ▶ Eldorado Classes & Lectures Volunteer Fair.
- ▶ Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association Winterfest.

It has been our pleasure to serve you, the ECIA Community, this year and we hope 2019 will be one of continuing the forward momentum. Please join us at the Community Center for an event or two in the upcoming year, and consider joining a committee or running for an open Board position.

~The ECIA Board of Directors



January 2019 Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS						
Architecture Committee	Tuesday	Jan. 8,22	7-9 pm	Katherine Mortimer		F
Board Meeting	Thursday	Jan. 24	7-9 pm	ECIA Board		RR
Board Working Session	Monday	Jan. 21	6-8 pm	ECIA Board		RR
Community Open Disc.	Thursday	Feb.14	6-7:30 pm	ECIA Board		CR
Conservation Committee	Tuesday	Jan. 8	7-9 pm	Tom Bredenberg		F
Election Committee	Wednesday	Jan. 9	2-4 pm	Bette Knight		CFR
Environ. Ad Hoc	Tuesday	Jan. 7	3-5 pm	Karen Murry		CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	Jan. 9	3-5 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-0540	CR
Finance Committee	Tuesday	Jan. 15	9:30 am-noon	Sal Monaco	690-5125	CFR
Information Committee	Tuesday	Jan. 22	7-9 pm	Karen Logan		CR
Road Committee	Wednesday	TBA	6-8 pm	Russel Winslow		CR
Stable Committee	Tuesday	Jan. 15	7-9 pm	Amelia Adair	720-563-1018	CR
Town Hall Meeting	Thursday	Jan. 10	7:30-9 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-0540	RR
MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY						
Community Garden	3rd Tuesday	Jan. 17	6-7 pm			
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thursday	Jan. 31	7-9 pm	Mary Fredenburgh	466-1035	CR
Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	Jan. 16	3-5 pm	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net	LR
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	Jan. 9	4-6 pm	Sue Daniel	(856) 220-7087	CFR
Healing Arts Practitioner	2nd Tuesday	Jan. 9	4-5:30 pm	Laurie Sandman	(212) 691-2047	LR
Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tuesday	Jan. 8	6-7 pm	Michael Landen	466-8896	CFR
WEEKLY MEETINGS						
Al Anonymous	Saturday		11am-noon			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wednesday		7-9 pm	Karl Cordova	karl_cordova747@msn.com	CR,LR,RR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fridays	Jan. 4,18	1-4:30 pm	Shirley Davis	982-6179	LR
Eldorado Hikers	Tuesday		8:30 am-noon	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Knitting Club	Tuesday		10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Alt. Mondays	Jan. 14,28	10 am-noon	Mavis Murphy	466-8189	RR
Overeaters Anonymous	Monday		7-8 pm	Barb	954-1533	LR
Spinning Group (Fiber)	1st & 3rd Thursday-	Jan. 3,17	9:30-11:30 am			LR
Yin Yoga	Monday		5:30-6:45 pm	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Tue., & Fri.,		9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Wed., & Thursdays		9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
AA Tues., 5:45-6:45 LR						
AA Thurs., 6-7 pm (Women Only)	Friday 6-7 pm					

** Check the ECIA website for the updated dates/times *** Abbreviations: CC=Community Center, CR=Classroom, CFR=Conference Room, F=Foyer, LR=Liv-
ing Room, RR=Railroad Room

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

ELDORADIO



ELDORADIO's 24-hour broadcast day is a wide-ranging mix of classical, jazz, popular, new-age, Broadway and folk music, designed for easy listening relaxation without commercial interruptions. On the air as a hobby since 2010, ELDORADIO 1660 is limited by FCC rules to severely restricted power of 1/10 watt and can only be heard on home and car receivers within Eldorado.

ELDORADIO 1660 AM, is giving Studs Terkel some time off. Beginning in January, the late Chicago-based interviewer's weekly *Visit with Studs Terkel* feature on ELDORADIO's *BreakTime* will take a break, to return to the Eldorado airwaves at a later date.

Stepping in for Studs' is a new series with various personalities is a new series, *Speaking of the Arts*. It brings Eldorado listeners musical, literary, theatrical and other artists, talking about their craft and their creative processes. *BreakTime*, as the name implies, is a chance for folks at home to sit down and hear interesting conversations for about 15 minutes during the week. Every Monday, archived recordings bring history to life. Tuesday is story time: *Tell Me a Story* presents familiar and often new stories for adults and children. On Thursdays, recorded poetry readings explore the world of verse and word imagery. Friday is time to laugh: stand-

up comedy, skits and classic routines help Eldoradoans relax for the weekend.

Extended weekend noon programs, spotlight other features on ELDORADIO. *Saturday Matinee* recreates live performances of jazz, folk or classical concerts and other special events. Included are previews of the Santa Fe Opera, and other local musical and theatrical events. Sundays at noon we have rebroadcasts from 1930 to 1960 "the golden age of radio," when radio was a true theater of the imagination. The station helps residents of the "golden village" wake up each morning at 7 am to weather and a preview of events in Eldorado and Santa Fe. Occasionally, the *Performance Preview* highlights forthcoming musical events in the area.

~Bill Dunning

A live tree can be recycled for mulch at ECIA from December 31 thru January 15. The drop off location will be where the old rental house used to be. The area will be marked. Please remember to remove all ornaments, tinsel, and lights.

Legislative Town Hall

How will a newly-elected Democratic Governor, a more diverse Democratic House majority, and a budget surplus impact the 2019 Legislative Session? Join Senate Majority Leader *Peter Wirth* and Representative *Mathew McQueen* as they discuss critical issues facing Santa Fe and New Mexico like edu-



cation, tax reform, climate change, and criminal justice. The Legislative Town Hall will take place **January 8** from 6-7:30 pm at the Performance Space, on 7 Caliente Road.

~Chris Nordstrum, Communications Director

Los Voluntarios - Fred Raznick

In this column, we will spotlight volunteers who have contributed to the “Eldorado,” as it’s now known, that we know and love. We invite you to nominate individuals, especially those who have given long service, for inclusion so that their stories can be told to newer residents in the hope that we will continue this proud tradition. Please submit your suggestions to the Information Committee at chandy@hoamco.com.



Fred Raznick came to Eldorado in 1978. He got involved in the construction of his passive solar adobe home when AMREP still maintained tight control over the new community's development. "Out of the 2760 lots platted, about 100 had been developed, mostly around Verano Loop. Only the entrance road, Avenida Amistad, which led to the Community Center, was paved. There was a short dirt landing strip for ranch owner Alva Simpson's private plane and lots of space."

When AMREP allowed two residents to sit on the Board of Directors, Fred was one of them. He has maintained a presence on

various committees ever since. “I had black hair down to my shoulders in those days,” Fred remembers. He also had a law degree from the Detroit College of Law, which gave him credibility with AMREP. He helped convince them it would be advantageous to pave Avenida Vista Grande to attract more buyers to the growing passive solar community. At the time, their project was drawing national attention during the 1970s’ and ‘80s’ energy crisis.

Over the years, Fred has been on numerous Eldorado committees from the Road Committee to neighborhood litter pickup. He has also served on the Finance Committee of his Santa Fe synagogue and has been a member of the Santa Fe County Development Review Committee.

Also, Fred has been an active realtor since the late 1970s, stating, "I still enjoy bringing nice people to the community."

Giving back to his friends and neighbors in Santa Fe County is his way of showing gratitude for his good fortune. Fred has an easy smile and a patient, caring approach to community development issues. When asked what he would like to see next in Eldorado, his response was quick and easy, "Tranquility."

~Lee Chiacos

Library News

The library staff follows the Santa Fe Public Schools on deciding when closing is prudent for the safety of patrons and volunteers. If closing or cancellation becomes necessary, announcements are placed on the website (www.vglibrary.org) and the phone message (505-466-7323).



Events: (Note: Most events take place in the Meeting Room and have free admission, unless noted otherwise.)

- ▶ **Book Donation Day:** Saturday, January 5 and February 2, from 9 to 11:30 am only. Donors are kindly asked to: only bring items in good condition; use boxes or bags you don't need to keep; bring large donations earlier in the morning; and to not donate text books, manuals, dictionaries, encyclopedias, or VHS tapes.
- ▶ **Story Time for Toddlers and Preschoolers:** Tuesday mornings at 11 am in the Children's section. Drop-ins always welcome. Note: *No Story Time on January 1.*
- ▶ **All Ages Chess:** meets Friday afternoons, 3 pm. All ages and skill levels are welcomed.

- ▶ **Author Talk:** Friday, January 4, 6:30 pm. Local author *Debra Denker* will present on her book *Weather Menders* and the subject of climate fiction.
- ▶ **Medicare Information Session:** January 10, 10 – 11:30 am. A certified Medicare Benefits Counselor volunteer will discuss, “What you should know before you go to the hospital if you have Medicare.”
- ▶ **Family Movie Night:** January 11 and February 8, 7 pm. Call for titles and rating.
- ▶ **Bird Talk:** Saturday, January 12, 1 pm. *Amy Gross* will talk on Winter Birds and how to feed them.
- ▶ **Travel Presentation:** Saturday, January 19, 1 pm. *Anne Backus* will be at VGPL to talk about the mysteries and legends of the Amazon as someone who’s seen them firsthand.

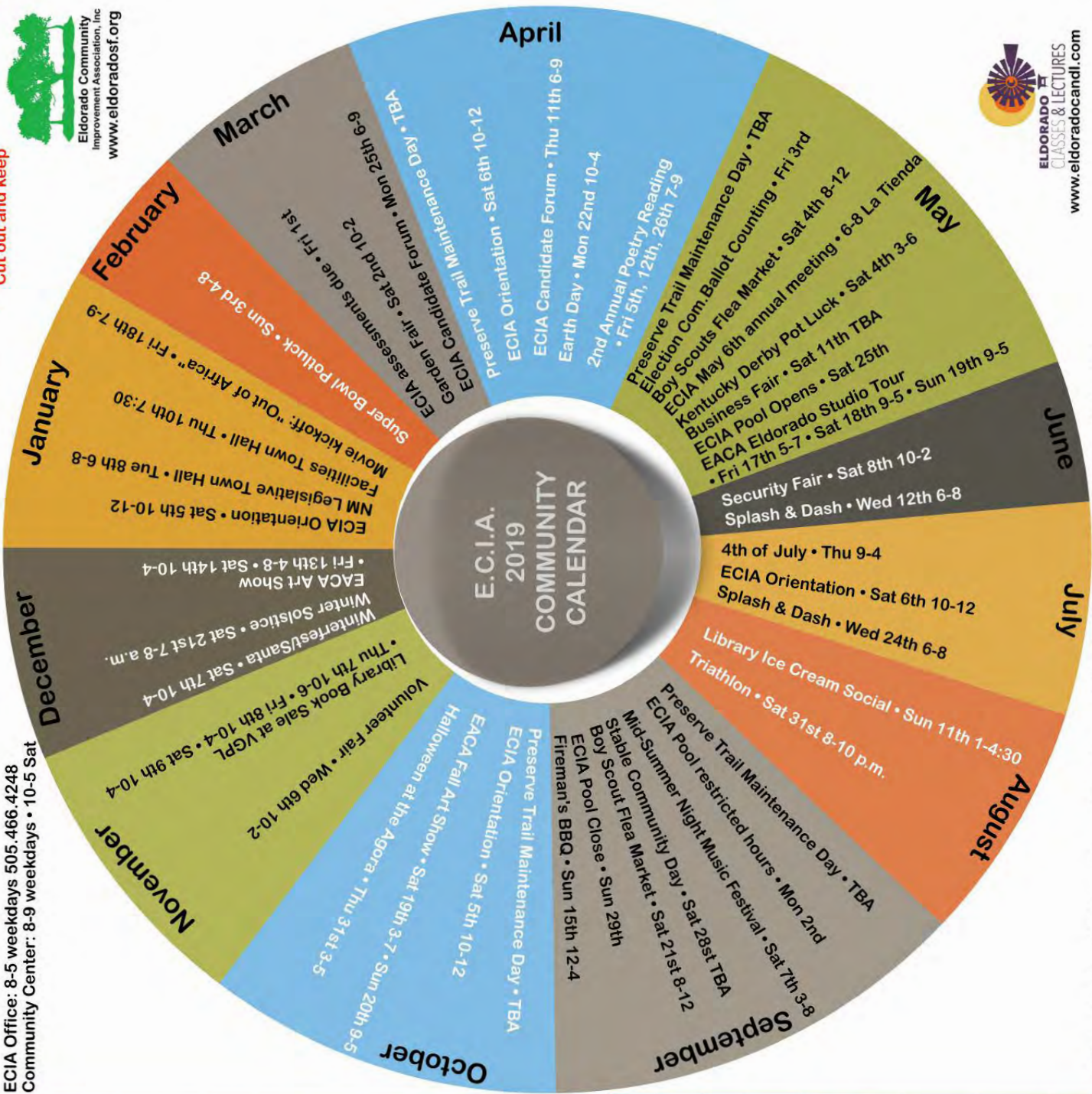
Located at 14 Avenida Torreon, between El Dorado Community School and the Adam Senior Center.

~Tracey Mitchell, Vista Grande Public Library

Cut out and keep



ECIA Office: 8-5 weekdays 505.466.4248
Community Center: 8-9 weekdays • 10-5 Sat



*All events subject to change - for updates please call the Community Center or visit the ECIA website.

Board Working Session	3rd Mon	6-9 p.m.
Board Meeting	3rd or 4th Thu	7-9 p.m.
Community Forum	2nd Thu	6-8 p.m.
Architecture	1st Tue	7-9 p.m.
Conservation	1st Tue	7-9 p.m.
Election	2nd Wed	2-4 p.m.
Environmental Ad Hoc	1st Tue	3-5 p.m.
Finance	Tue before BWS	9:30-12 p.m.
Facilities & Grounds	1st Wed	3-5 p.m.
Information	Tue after BWS	7-9 p.m.
Road	Quarterly	TBA
Stables	1/15 3/19 5/21 7/16 9/17 11/19	7-9 p.m.

Movie Night	2nd & 4th Fri	7-9 p.m.
Movies at the pool	Sat 7-9 p.m. (summer)	
Kids Explora	1st & 3rd Sat	10-12 p.m.
Senior Guitar Group	Wed	10:30-11:30 a.m.
Photography	even month: 1st Mon 10:30 a.m. odd month: 1st Thu 6:30 p.m.	
Bird Watching	odd month: 1st Mon 10:30 a.m.	
Astronomy	even month: 1st Thu 6:30 p.m.	
Food/clothing drives	Sept TBA • Dec TBA	

Wildfires and Resources

The mega wildfires in California have created a need for education on fire safety here in our Eldorado community. How are we prepared and what are the significant risk factors for us?

Some members of the community attended the showing of a film about mega wildfires in the Northwest at the *Jean Cocteau*. There are many resources available, and there are groups in the Santa Fe County who are working to educate communities about wildfire and preparedness: The Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition, Santa Fe County Fire Department, New Mexico State Forestry, Forest Stewards Guild & NFPA Firewise.

The website, *Smart 911*, helps first responders, the Police and Fire department help in an emergency. The website also helps users stay informed of weather, traffic, other emergencies in your community, and alerts emergency managers that you need special



assistance when a disaster strikes.

To create awareness and to think about our fire risk profile, there will be a series of talks, a possible film screening and a fire preparedness day.

On **January 17**, *Martin Vigil*, Emergency Manager for the County of Santa Fe, will provide a talk about fire awareness at the ECIA Community Center. More information will be announced in the future.

~*Martin Vigil*, Emergency Manager for the County of Santa Fe and *Zander Evans*, Forest Guild

Barn Owl

The Barn Owl (BO) is not frequently seen here because their nocturnal lifestyle makes them seem more elusive. The BO is a medium-sized raptor, 13-16 inches long, with wingspan 39-49 inches. They are the size of a small cat but only weigh about a pound. Their heart-shaped face has a white color in a shape of a smile. Upper back and upper wings are a barred brown, the underside of their wings are white. Males and females are about the same size. They are found on all continents except Antarctica and are residents in most states. The heart shaped face helps the BO to locate prey by sound even in darkness, and they also have excellent eyesight.

You may hear a male BO rather than catching a glimpse. The male makes a harsh scream lasting about 2 seconds, which sounds quite wicked, rather than the typical owl hoot. BOs also hiss when disturbed at the nest.

The BO likes open habitat including grasslands,



deserts, and brushy fields – mainly areas where they catch prey. They eat mice, rats, moles and other small mammals. They nest in holes, crevices, nest boxes and in barns too! The female uses regurgitated pellets for a single nest (they swallow prey whole and about twice a day cough up this material rather than digesting it). Males court by hovering near the female, then call, and fly around potential nest sites. Once a pair, the male brings food to the female. Most couples are monogamous. The female generally lays 4 to 6 eggs. The helpless downy covered chicks hatch in 29-34 days and fledge after 50 to 55 days. Fledglings may use the nest for several weeks. A second clutch may be raised during the year.

The flight of BOs is silent because of the fringe-edged wing feathers. Females are more heavily spotted on the breast. Around the world, BOs are of varying sizes with color variations. The American BO is the largest, weighing 2X the Galapagos variety. The oldest known North American BO was found in Ohio and was at least 15 years, 5 months old.

~*Summarized by Pam Henline*