

VISTAS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 • 505 466-4248 • www.eldoradosf.org

IN THIS ISSUE

December Board Actions	2
New Members / About Board	3
Committee Bylaws Review	4
Win a Dinner / VGPL Events	4
Dragon / Senior Theatre	5
Tour / Yoga / Photo Cover	5
SFSARG / Longevity / Festival	6
Meetings at the Comm. Ctr.	7
Healing Arts Group	7
Covenants for Small Sheds	7
Preserve Our Dark Skies	8

Keeping Eldorado Fiscally Sound

Your ECIA Board would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and we hope that you all had a wonderful holiday.

The most important issue for 2020 is the new budget and changes in our assessment. As we engaged in the budgeting process, we kept in mind three important principles: the upkeep of our amenities, savings in reserve for future needs and a responsible operating budget.

We budgeted just over \$300,000 for the upkeep of existing amenities, which includes continuing Phase II work on the pool and work on our courts, parking lots and community center lighting. All this work is funded from our Repair and Replacement (R&R) Reserve Fund.

Last year's pool repairs, combined with the replacement of the water distribution system for the pool and community center, and the unexpected need to replace the Stables' water distribution system, totaled over one million dollars, seriously depleting our R&R fund. We were able to use a budget surplus to add to this important fund last year with a deposit of about \$400,000. We begin 2020 with about \$700,000 in our R&R Fund, which is down from where it really needs to be. Building up over the next three years to cover the next five years of projected R&R is necessary. Having sufficient

reserves to guarantee our ability to maintain our amenities, protect Eldorado's property values, and meet unexpected future emergencies without requiring a special assessment, is important to us all.

We have focused on fiscal responsibility by keeping the operating budget for 2020 essentially the same as 2019 at \$1.27 million. In addition, our budget calls for investing \$118,000 in new capital projects. These expenses will all be balanced by a projected revenue of \$1.6 million.

The decision to increase our assessment by a modest \$25 to \$550 considered all of these factors. Please note that the increase of 4.8% from two years ago essentially covered inflation over that period.

This year will bring several changes. The Website Task Group will be working on a redesign of the ECIA website. In the Spring, ECIA will hold elections for three open Board seats. We encourage members interested in helping our community to apply. We also need volunteers to serve on our committees. **Please get involved.** Volunteering your time and skills to help our community can be very rewarding. The only way we can keep improving Eldorado is for all of us to be involved.

—Carol Sanguinetti, Secretary ECIA Board of Directors

Eldorado Radio Station Welcomes in the New Year



Again this **New Year's Day**, ELDORADIO 1660 AM, Eldorado's local, low-power radio service, invites listeners to waltz in the coming 12 months with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra's traditional holiday concert, as recorded live in the Austrian capital. The day-long special program begins at 7:35 AM following *Good Morning Eldorado* and *This I Believe*, with waltzes, polkas and galops by the Strauss family and others, until about sundown.

During January, *Saturday Matinée* at noon presents more in-performance music by artists including Pete Seeger, Johnny Gilbert of Taos, Andre Rieu and The Cleveland Orchestra. Weekday mid-morning *BreakTime* at 10:30 AM offers brief spoken programs about history, story-telling, arts, poetry and comedy; unscheduled *Performance Previews* spotlight upcoming performances in the Santa Fe area and *Retro Radio* reprises favorite shows from the "golden age" of radio each Sunday at noon.

Most of ELDORADIO's broadcast day blends classical, jazz, popular, new-age, Broadway and folk music, with no commercial interruptions. This not-for-profit hobby, on the air since August 2010, is limited by FCC rules to severely restricted power of 1/10 watt and can only be heard within Eldorado. A short program guide is available at the Community Center, Vista Grande Public Library and other locations.

Board Actions December 16

At the December 16th ECIA Board Meeting, President Nancy Sulzberg, Vice-President Melicent D'Amore, Secretary Carol Sanguinetti, Treasurer Sal Monaco, Directors David Sorkin and George Rutter reviewed and passed the following motions:

- To accept the VISTAS Style Guide which details the parameters for writing articles for the newsletter;
- To accept the resignations of Todd Handy, Bernardo Monserrat and David McDonald;
- To confirm the electronic vote to appoint Sal Monaco and George Rutter to the ECIA Board of Directors;
- To adopt the 2020 Budget as presented to the Community on 12/14/19 for total expenses and transfers to reserves of \$1,624,213 balanced by anticipated revenues of \$1,624,213 funded primarily by an annual assessment of \$550 per lot;
- To instruct ECIA's bookkeeper to use the amount transferred at the end of 2019 from the Operating Budget to the Replacement Reserve to adjust any remaining 2019 Operating Budget surplus or deficit to \$0.
- To instruct the Association's bookkeeper to transfer an amount from the Operating Budget to the Capital Reserve fund at the end of 2019 sufficient to bring the Capital Reserve Fund to year-end balance of \$118,836;
- To approve the Procedure of Environmental Management, the Requests for Materials Use Approval, Appendix A and the Pre-Approved List of Materials and Supplies documents as recommended by the EESC;
- To approve Draft 1 of the proposed ECIA Sixth Amended Bylaws for legal review by ECIA counsel;
- To approve Draft 2 of the proposed ECIA Sixth Amended Bylaws post ECIA counsel and to create and share a "redline" version of Draft 2 to share with the members of the association;
- To approve an increase to the 2019 R&R budget to an amount NTE \$1,018,266;
- To approve the removal of the elm tree immediately in front of the Pool House structure;
- To accept Bonn Macy's resignation from Information Committee;
- To accept the IntraWorks Proposal to purchase and install 12 cameras at Community Center and pool with costs NTE \$21,000;

- To approve staff paid holidays for December 24 and 31, 2019;
- To accept the amended ECIA Records Retention, Destruction and Management Policy as put forth by the *ad hoc* Bylaws Committee;
- To authorize a Website task force;
- To authorize a Public Safety task force;
- To approve the contract with Casa de Sueños (subject to review by the Finance Committee) to build a family changing room with the costs NTE \$65,000;
- To approve the contract with ExerPlay, Inc. (subject to review by the Finance Committee) in the amount of \$39,216.42 for the installation of pool shade structures;
- To approve the contract with Poolside Design and Construction (subject to review by the Finance Committee) for the mechanical room remodel in the amount of \$104,812.50;

Variances were approved for:

- A new garage at 12 Moya Loop;
- A wood post and wire fence at 4 Verano Loop;
- A garage addition at 3 Enebro Place;
- A shed at 27 Quedo Road;
- A fence at 13 Encantado Loop;

Two members spoke during the Open Forum. Jean Crawford recommended that the Budget Document be re-formatted for ease of understanding by Association members. She also shared her concerns about mowing and fire prevention strategies that might have a negative effect on our environment. Bette Knight reviewed the governing documents regarding architectural covenants.

The Board announced that the Community Open Forum Discussions have been discontinued. Special topic forums will be held as needed. The President also announced that the Boys and Girls Club is working with the Eldorado Community School to bring an 8 week summer program to Eldorado.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Board Working Session: **Monday, Jan. 20 at 5 PM** in the Railroad Building
- Board Meeting: **Thursday, Jan. 23 at 5 PM**, 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.

ECIA BOARD

President Nancy Sulzberg, Vice President Melicent D'Amore, Treasurer Sal Monaco, Secretary Carol Sanguinetti, Parliamentarian George Rutter, Director David Sorkin.

There is one Board vacancy at this time.

Elected Parliamentarian Brings HOA Experience



George Rutter moved to Eldorado in March 2018. As a board member he hopes to make Board meetings more productive and efficient. He would like to see better communication with the community as well as proper decorum and etiquette at meetings.

George served in the military for over 37 years, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He is a past president of the Arizona National Guard Officers Association and has been associated with international events, including Papal visits and with the Dalai Lama.

George has been on numerous HOA boards, serving in various positions and has a long, successful history with HOAMCO, chairing the Architecture Review Committee for a HOAMCO-managed property. He understands issues relating to having an outside management company.

He's looking forward to being on the ECIA Board and getting acquainted with Eldorado's residents.

New Board Member New Treasurer

Sal Monaco and his wife Tana have lived in Eldorado for four and a half years. Sal spends his spare time woodworking and enjoying the hiking and biking trails here in Eldorado and has been an active volunteer at our library. He has served on and chaired the ECIA Finance Committee and, in that capacity, has worked closely with the ECIA Board of Directors and Committees. He is fully aware of the time, effort and service commitment required as a Board Director. His background in business, finance and technology provides a skill set that will be an asset and blend well with the talents of the current Board.

Sal feels the most important characteristic for our Board is transparency in action, deliberations and execution of their



responsibilities. Everything, except the most private and sensitive matters, should be open and available to our Association members. He also believes that the Board has a responsibility to strive for excellence in the management and operations of our Association by ensuring they are as effective and efficient as possible.

⇒ IMPORTANT ⇐

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR ECIA ASSESSMENT BILL BY JANUARY 10, PLEASE CONTACT THE ECIA OFFICE IMMEDIATELY AT 505 466-4248

Eldorado and its Board of Directors

Eldorado is a formal subdivision named *Eldorado at Santa Fe*. The Eldorado Community Improvement Association, Inc. (ECIA) is the official name given the Association in which you are a homeowner.

Those owning property in *Eldorado at Santa Fe* have in their property deed a specific reference to this subdivision with its specific boundaries defined. Lot owners of record are Members of the ECIA. Ownership in a covenant protected community comes with responsibilities and each Lot Owner accepts these responsibilities as part of being a Member of the Association. The ECIA Board of Directors is composed of seven volunteer members. Each Director serves for a term of three years. The Director terms are staggered so that all positions will not be up for election at the same time.

The Directors are bound by the Governing Documents

and hold a fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interests of the Association and its members in managing the monies, properties and the affairs of the Association.

Board Directors are elected each year through the voting process. Candidates file a Nomination Petition with intent to run and if validated the candidate(s) will be placed on the 2020 Ballot. The Nomination Petition is available at the ECIA office and online (eldoradosf.org > Resident Resources > Forms and Applications > Board Nomination Petition). All Petitions must be submitted to the ECIA office by **5 PM on March 2**.

Challenge yourself by volunteering to serve on the ECIA Board or one of the nine committees. Commit to work to make *Eldorado at Santa Fe* the best community in New Mexico.

—ECIA Election Committee

Committee Reviewing Bylaws; Open Forum Feb. 13

ECIA is currently conducting a review of its Bylaws as required every two years. Proposed amendments will be on the ballot for lot owners to vote on as part of the Annual Meeting process in May. The object of this every other year process is to ensure the governing structure of our community is continuously improved and updated.

PROCESS

The Bylaws Review *ad hoc* Committee met twice monthly since June. The Committee started its work by receiving suggestions from lot owners on potential changes to the Bylaws by the July deadline. Based on suggestions received, the Committee made proposed changes to the Bylaws. Those suggested changes were sent to the Association's legal counsel for review. Next, the Committee provided the reviewed draft to the Board for its consideration. The Board will review the draft and finalize the version of the amended Bylaws to be submitted to the lot owners for a vote.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBER INPUT

After the Board reviews and approves a draft of the amended Bylaws, the draft will be posted on the ECIA

website and made available for everyone to read. As currently planned, the draft amended Bylaws will be posted for public review before the end of January.



An open forum on the proposed new Bylaws is planned for **Feb. 13 at 6 PM** at the Community Center. Members will be invited to discuss and give feedback on the amended Bylaws.

At a meeting following the open forum, the Committee and Board will have the opportunity to discuss and make changes to the draft based on feedback from the open forum.

VOTING TO APPROVE THE AMENDED BYLAWS

The amended Bylaws need **approval of 60% of all lot owner votes cast** as part of the annual election ballot, in order to be passed. If approved by the lot owners, the amended Bylaws will take effect after certification by the Secretary of the Board.

—ECIA Bylaws Review Ad Hoc Committee



Win a Dinner

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Please fill in an online survey by **Jan. 31** letting us know about your web browsing preference and usage regarding the ECIA website. You may win a gift card to a local restaurant of your choice. Go to the ECIA website eldoradosf.org and click on link to WEB SURVEY. The Board and Information Committee appreciate your help in making this survey effective.

—ECIA Information Committee

VGPL January Events

Winter weather may cause cancellations and closings at Vista Grande Public Library—announcements are placed on the website, vglibrary.org and on the phone message, 505 466-7323.

Events: In the Meeting Room, free admission, unless noted otherwise. More info: 505 466-7323 or vglibrary.org.

January 2/D Exhibition: Jan. 2 to 30, Karen Mosbacher, Oil Paintings "Paint:Music".

January 3/D Exhibition: Jan. 2 to 30, Linda McPherson, hand crafted knit wraps and ponchos.

Book Donation Day: Saturday, Jan. 4 and Feb. 1, 9–11:30 AM. Items in good condition in boxes or bags to leave. NO text books, manuals, reference books or VHS tapes.

Story Time for Toddlers and Preschoolers: Tuesdays, 11 AM in the Children's section.

All Ages Chess: Fridays, 3 PM. All ages/skill levels are welcomed.

Family Movie Night: Friday, Jan. 10, 7 PM. Call for title.

Medicare Information: Thursday, Jan. 16, 10–11:30 AM. If you are turning 65 in 2020, learn what you need to know to enroll in Medicare with no future penalties. Session led by a certified Medicare Benefits Counselor with the New Mexico Department of Aging.

Santa Fe Stargazers: Wednesday, Jan. 15, 7 PM

VGPL Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 21, 6:30 PM. General public are welcome.

Eldorado Genealogy: Wednesday, Jan. 22, 6:30 PM.

Vista Grande Public Library • 14 Avenida Torreon
Between El Dorado Community School and Adam Senior Center

“IF YOU WANT TO CONQUER THE WORLD, YOU BEST HAVE DRAGONS.”

—George R. R. Martin



Dragon artwork drawn with pencil, then outlined with black pen and colored with marker.

—Tina Fink

Sixth Grader, El Dorado Community School

SENIOR THEATRE GROUP LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

Interested in acting and having some fun at the same time? If you or your spouse are 60 years old or better, you can sign up to participate in acting/theatre classes to be held at the Eldorado Senior Center on Avenida

Torreón. “No experience is necessary, just a desire to join in and have fun.” says Joe Cappello, who will teach the classes.

Joe has experience performing in community theatre as well as running

numerous acting and production workshops.

Send an email to Joe at 4tc2@comcast.net indicating your interest. You will be contacted with the time and date of the first class.



Studio Tour Set for May

Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association is thrilled to announce the **29th Annual Eldorado Studio Tour**, scheduled for the weekend of **May 16–17**. The Eldorado Studio Tour leads the pack of spring studio tours with the largest number of artist and artisan participants in New Mexico. If you’re an Eldorado artist and would like to take part in this premier event, Application and Support materials are available on the EACA website at www.eldoradoarts.org/studio-tour/. The Eldorado Studio Tour Application deadline is **Jan. 15**. EACA looks forward to a creative and exciting Tour Weekend in May and hopes you’ll take part!

—Marc Caryl

Inviting a Sense of Play

As we grow older we might begin to ‘ache in the places we used to play’ (to quote Leonard Cohen). Many people accept this as normal, and brace themselves for further immobility, stiffness and rigidity. Others practice yoga where they rediscover the playground, finding renewed vigor, strength and flexibility in their bodies. By simply choosing to ‘show up’ on the mat in a yoga class once, twice or more a week they are taking responsibility for their well-being, and inviting a sense of play into their bodies. The benefits of yoga do not end at the physical, but extend into the mind and heart, bringing an inner calm and awareness. The whole practice allows one to abide in a state of peace and tranquility. So if you feel you would like to play in those places that protest, grab a mat and head out to a yoga class. You will be glad you did!

—Julia Cairns



‘A TIME GONE BY’ The photograph above, by Eldorado resident Dr. Mekah Gordon, taken in Madrid, NM, has been selected as the cover of Del Norte Credit Union’s 2020 Calendar.

Trained Rescuers Ready to Save Lives



The Santa Fe Search and Rescue Group (SFSARG) based in Eldorado provides trained teams to find lost, injured, or missing persons in Santa Fe County and throughout the state. They have an equipment shed at the Community Center and meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Vista Grande Public Library meeting room. With approximately 50 members, they are New Mexico state-certified men and women from ages 18 to over 70.

Between the more than 25 search and rescue missions that are activated each year, the group trains in team leadership, land and GPS navigation, tracking, wilderness first aid, and other skills. Recently a ground-based SFSARG team found and rescued a lost hiker on a mission near the Santa Fe Ski Basin. The hiker generously donated funds that the Group used to purchase a lightweight titanium litter (photo at left) now in use for subjects who cannot walk out on their own.

“Santa Fe Search and Rescue Group members seek constantly to improve their skills and equipment in providing a vital service to the community,” according to Tom Shreeve, president of SFSARG. If participation in search and rescue sounds interesting to you and you’re willing to commit to the training required, please consider perusing the extensive website santafesar.org and attending a monthly meeting for more information. Their motto says it all: *So others may live.*

—Lee Chiacos
Photo by Joe Kohn

HEALTHY THINKING FOR LONGEVITY

Focus on the Present

Don’t think about today, or this hour, only this exact moment. You may have been in trouble with your boss, but what *in this exact moment* is happening that’s not so bad? Forget the comment five minutes ago, forget what might be said five minutes from now. Focus on this one, individual moment. In most situations, you’ll find it’s not as bad as you imagine it to be. Most sources of negativity stem from a memory of a recent event or the exaggerated imagination of a potential future event. Stay in the present moment!

Recent research indicates the holistic benefits of healthy thinking, including (but not limited to) a longer lifespan. Positive Psychology, the empirical study of the strengths that empower individuals and communities to thrive, is a relatively new field. It was established on the understanding that people want to lead purposeful and productive lives, to foster what is best within themselves and to enrich their experience of love, work, and play.* Positive Psychology allows for the opportunity to not only heal psychological damage but also develops strengths to enable people to achieve the best things in life.

The mission of creating this series of articles is to assist the Eldorado community in enhancing their well-being and creating thought processes which may lead to a longer, happier life.

*UPenn, 2019

—Jessica Collins, M.S., Pool Manager

Fun Times at Winter Fest



Eldorado residents, including our canine friends, visited with Santa; some transformed their visages with face paint; a Model Train Village delighted all; many, of all ages, crafted ornaments.

—Photos, Diana Oliver, Community Relations Coordinator

January 2020 Meetings at the Community Center

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	14, 28	7-9 PM	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com	FO
	Board Working Session	Monday	20	5-8 PM	ECIA Board	505 466-4248	RB
	Board Meeting	Thursday	23	5-9 PM	ECIA Board	505 466-4248	RB
	Bylaws Review	Wednesday	15	1-3 PM	Butch Gorsuch	blylawsreviewchair@gmail.com	CF
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	7	7-9 PM	TBD	conservationchair@gmail.com	FO
	Election Committee	Wednesday	8	2-4 PM	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com	CF
	Environmental Stewardship	Tuesday	7	3-5 PM	Karen Murry	environmentalchair@gmail.com	CF
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	8	10 AM-12:30 PM	Nolan Zisman	fangdchair@gmail.com	RB
	Finance Committee	Tuesday	14	9:30 AM-12 Noon	TBD	financechair1@gmail.com	CF
	Information Committee	Monday	13	7-9 PM	Pam Henline	informationchair@gmail.com	CF
	Road Committee	Wednesday	8	5:30 PM-7 PM	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com	CF
	Stable Committee	Tuesday	21	7-9 PM	Amelia Adair	stablechair1@gmail.com	CR
Monthly/Semi-Monthly	Bridge	1st/3rd Fridays	3, 17	1-4:30 PM	DiAna Gutierrez	505 699-3555	LR
	EACA	4th Thursday	23	7-9 PM	Kim Crickard	VP@eldoradarts.org	CR
	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
	Healing Arts Practitioners	2nd Tuesday	14	4-5:30 PM	Laurie Sandman	lsandman9@comcast.net	LR
	Life Drawing	Alt. Mondays	13, 27	10 AM-12 Noon	Mavis Murphy	505 466-8189	RB
	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	9:30-11:30 AM	Ellen Higgins	casaladerabe@gmail.com	LR
	AA	Tuesdays		5:45-6:45 PM	505 982-8932	santafeaa.org	LR
Weekly	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
	Eldorado Hikers	Tuesdays		8:30 AM-12 Noon	Terry Gibbs	505 466-6914	CC
	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
	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 at time of publishing, please sign up for ECIA Newsbriefs by emailing rturnbough@hoamco.com to be notified of changes.

Healing Arts Group Shares Alternative Therapies

The Eldorado Healing Arts Practitioners Group is dedicated to supporting individuals in enhancing their health and well-being. Members have diverse backgrounds in practices such as meditation, Qigong, hypnotherapy, psychotherapy and Therapeutic Touch. The group is open to everyone with an interest or

experience in the healing arts. "We share our practices with each other at our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month from 4 to 5:30 PM in the ECIA living room," says Laurie Sandman, RN. For information contact lsandman9@comcast.net, adding, "We look forward to meeting you!"

Covenants Apply to Small Storage Sheds

In the 2017 revision of the *Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions for Eldorado at Santa Fe*, the ECIA added a new requirement to address the smaller sheds that residents purchase that are under 75 square feet in size. These smaller storage sheds are often made of resin but, like larger accessory structures,

must be earth toned, within 15 feet of the home and screened. These requirements (in part) are:

7.4. Small Storage Structures, less than 75 sq. ft. in size and 8 ft. in height, may be made of resin, metal or wood and shall be earth toned in color (similar to the homes stucco color) and shall be adequately screened by a fence, wall, vegetation or the home and located within 15 feet of the home

All residents should follow these requirements to avoid having small storage sheds that do not match home color and are not adequately screened, like the one pictured.

—Mark Young



HAIKU

Big smile for New Year!
problems in every lifetime;
face is positive.

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.

You Can Preserve the Dark Skies over Eldorado



The Milky Way sets in our southwest sky. Jupiter is the bright object at the upper right. Photo by Eric Saltmarsh.

Step outside your home after dark on a clear, moonless night and take in that star-filled sky, visible over Eldorado. If it's early, you'll find brilliant Venus dominating the southwestern sky. The constellation Orion is halfway up the sky in the southeast, its three belt stars pointing down at Sirius, our brightest star, excluding the Sun.

Dark Eldorado nights are a gift, earned through the limited amount of light we consume, while keeping homes safe and secure. If vigilant, Eldoradans can keep the community's sky dark and full of breathtaking stars for years to come.

The International Dark Sky Association (IDA) is an organization dedicated to protecting the night sky, while

building community awareness regarding the beauty of it and educating about light pollution and its harmful effects on humans and wildlife. Communities may elect to become members of the IDA by committing to the organization's requirements for preserving dark skies and providing community education.

In October, the *ad hoc* Dark Sky Task Force submitted a proposal to the ECIA Board, requesting permission to assess whether Eldorado should become an International Dark Sky Community of the IDA. The Board approved the proposed study, which will consider the pros and cons of participation; provide a comparison of Eldorado's light ordinances with those required by the IDA; solicit feedback from our residents; and submit a balanced evaluation and recommendation to the Board. It's anticipated that the assessment will take about six months to complete.

If Eldorado becomes an International Dark Sky Community of the IDA, it will be the first community in New Mexico to receive such a distinction (New Mexico does proclaim four International Dark Sky Parks: Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Capulin Volcano National Monument, Fort Union National Monument, and Clayton Lake State Park). As of August 2019, there are over 120 designated dark sky places across the globe.

If you want to preserve Eldorado's dark skies, let the Dark Sky Task Force know at starryskieseldorado@gmail.com.

—Eric Saltmarsh



NEWSBRIEFS: For the latest information from ECIA, please sign up for newsbriefs, (ECIA's electronic mailing system) by contacting rturnbough@hoamco.com.



RECYCLE: Help ECIA go green! Save on paper and mailing costs by opting out of receiving a mailed copy of *Vistas*. To sign up, email rturnbough@hoamco.com. You will be sent an email once a month with a link to the next issue of *Vistas* on the ECIA website, in pdf format, ready to view and print at home. Past issues are also available online. This paper is recyclable. Please recycle after use.