

# 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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## Clinic Teaches Dogs How to Avoid Rattlesnakes

**T**erry and Janet Chandler, owners of Rugerheim Kennels, Las Cruces, will again conduct Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinics for Dogs at the Community Center on **Saturday, Mar. 21**. Groups of about 25 handlers and dogs will have one-hour sessions, beginning at 8 AM, until noon or 1 PM, depending on the number of registrations.

This is the seventh consecutive year the Central New Mexico Brittany Club has hosted this clinic. Clinics held in Eldorado since 2015, have attracted more than 100 dogs annually. First-hand testimonies from residents whose dogs have avoided rattlers on hikes in the preserve, walks on the greenbelt, or in their yards attest to the effectiveness of this training.

"The goal is to keep your dog from wanting anything to do with a rattlesnake," said coordinator Tom Mauter. "Avoidance behaviors are individual to the dog. Some may veer away while others do a hard about-face."

"The \$65 registration fee per dog includes an additional, one-time free follow-up in a clinic conducted by Terry a year or more later. I have witnessed dogs returning from one to seven years after training and almost none wanted anything to do with the rattlesnake," Mauter said. "This training works!"



*Dr. Marcus Martin (in red jacket) and his daughter (in teal jacket) bring their dog to the Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinic for retesting. Left, the dog is on alert detecting the rattlesnake as trainer Terry Chandler's granddaughter, Aurora, watches. Right, the dog is reversing course and heading away to safety while trainer Terry Chandler (in brown jacket) oversees.*

For information, including registration, contact Tom Mauter, [tjmauter@comcast.net](mailto:tjmauter@comcast.net), 505 466-6511, or visit: [https://centralnewmexicobrittanyclub.com/CNMBC\\_Hosted\\_Rattlesnake\\_Avoidance\\_Clinics.html](https://centralnewmexicobrittanyclub.com/CNMBC_Hosted_Rattlesnake_Avoidance_Clinics.html)

## ECIA Annual Report Packet Ready for Members

**T**he Annual Report Packet for Members will be mailed by the last part of March. The ECIA Annual Report will be enclosed in your packet. If your 2020 assessment was paid in full and posted (credited) to the receiving bank by Mar. 2, you will be a Member Eligible to Vote. You will receive a Ballot for the ECIA Board of Directors election and a Quorum Proxy Statement. The Quorum Proxy Statement is necessary to determine a quorum for the Annual Meeting, to be held on May 4.

Read the instructions. Vote for the candidate(s) of your choice; Vote, Yes or No to adopt the proposed Bylaws Amendments. Place the Ballot in the enclosed postage paid security return envelope, along with your signed and dated

Quorum Proxy Statement. Mail (allow 14 days) or hand deliver the provided return envelope to the ECIA office **by 5 PM, Apr. 30**. Ballot envelopes can be placed in a secure ballot box at the office door during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 5 PM. To hand deliver your ballot outside of ECIA office hours, please contact GM Julie Navarro to set up an appointment. Evening staff will not accept your Ballot Envelope. Ballots received after Apr. 30 will not be counted. If you do not receive this packet by Apr. 5, notify the GM immediately. If you have any questions about the Ballot or need to request a Replacement Ballot notify GM Julie Navarro, [jnavarro@hoamco.com](mailto:jnavarro@hoamco.com), or call 505 466-4248.

# Board Meeting Actions and Summary Feb. 17

**A**t the Feb. 17, ECIA Board Meeting, President Nancy Sulzberg, Vice-President Melicent D'Amore, Secretary Carol Sanguinetti, and Director David Sorkin, (Sal Monaco, Treasurer, was excused) reviewed and passed the following motions unanimously:

- To approve an Ad Hoc Welcome Committee whose purpose is to help acclimate new residents in our unique community, build community and promote open communication and foster friendships;
- To appoint Tana Monaco to the Ad Hoc Welcome Committee;
- To provide the Treasurer routine authority to authorize transfers within the Balance Sheet GL accounts and to authorize the purchase and sale of securities such as CDs, with appropriate notice to the Board of Directors and Finance Committee after such actions;
- To appoint Margaret Shakelee, Michael Ault, Craig Geil and Butch Gorsuch to the Website Task Group;
- To table the procurement process for the Family Changing Room project and rescind the previously approved Casa de Sueños agreement;
- To approve the contract with Paper Tiger for \$8,759.14 to provide graphic design, printing and mailing services for the 2019 Annual Report;
- To appoint Debra Denker to the Safety Education Task Group;
- To appoint Naomi Harrison and Betsy Walker to the Policy Review Task Group;
- To approve the final version of the proposed ECIA Sixth Amended Bylaws document which will be included in the Members' Packet for the Annual Meeting;
- To accept the 2019 audit completed by ECIA's independent auditor, Thad Porch;
- To approve moving forward on Phase 2 of the parking lot lighting installation and combining this with Phase 1.

## Variances were approved:

- For the existing home's encroachment one foot into the twenty-foot side setback as this condition has existed for over 22 years at 47 Cerrado Loop;
- For the construction of a six foot high coyote fence ten feet into the twenty-foot side setback due to the location

of the home at only twenty-seven feet from the property line at 1 Jacinto Court; there is mature vegetation that will limit visibility.

## Variances were denied:

- For a large accessory structure that has (already) been placed on the lot more than twenty-five feet from the home; for the large accessory structure to be a different style than the home (pitched roof and wood construction); and for an eight foot tall fence to screen the structure, all at 5 Tarro Road.

Nigel Burgess, Executive Director for Management Services at HOAMCO attended. Presentations were made by Dan Drobnis, Chair of the Finance Committee, who explained what the committee's responsibilities are to the community, Jessica Collins, Pool Manager, introduced the Swim Lesson plan for Summer 2019 (pending insurance approval), and Debra Denker presented the role of the Safety Education Task Group. Joseph Gutierrez, ECIA County Liaison, updated the members on a meeting scheduled with Santa Fe County Public Works representatives and on the Boys and Girls Club initiative. For more information about any of these topics, please contact the presenter. It should be noted that this meeting was available to view from home through ZOOM; several members did so. Further information about how to join the meeting with ZOOM will be eblasted to members.

Twenty-one members attended and there were discussions about agenda topics throughout the meeting. Amelia Adair spoke during the Open Forum and acknowledged the Board of Directors for their commitment and hard work on behalf of ECIA. Russell Winslow also spoke during the Open Forum and suggested that project plans be available for review prior to the sealed bid process. This option will be further discussed in the Facilities and Grounds Committee meetings.

The Board of Directors extends our thanks to all those who attended the meeting in person or via ZOOM.

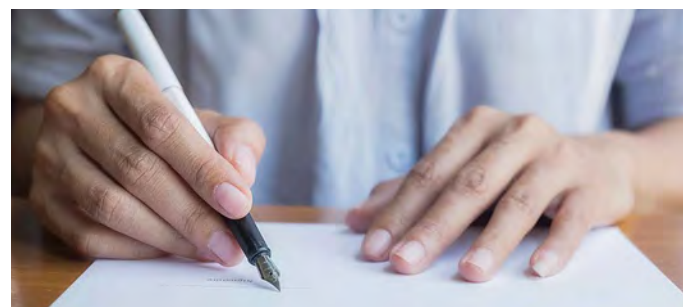
## Next Board Meeting

**Monday, Mar. 16 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).

# Petitions Due Mar. 2

**T**hree ECIA Board positions are opening up in May. To become a candidate, please submit a nomination petition, available at the ECIA office or at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) under the Resident Resources tab > Forms and Application > Board Nomination Petition. A completed and signed petition with all required materials must be submitted to the ECIA office no later than **5 PM, Mar. 2**.





## Greenbelt Ecology, Fire Risk Symposium



**T**he ECIA Board and Conservation Committee will sponsor a symposium on greenbelt ecology and fire risk on **Saturday, Mar. 14, from 10 AM to 1 PM** in the Railroad Building. Presentations will be followed by a question and answer session. Topics include ecology of piñon-juniper savanna, erosion control, wildlife and native plants, and fire risk mitigation and defensible space.

## Candidate Forum Mar. 12

**A** Candidate Forum will be held on **Thursday, Mar. 12 at 7 PM** in the ECIA Railroad Building. Candidates will present their views and ideas based on a universal question. An informal Meet and Greet immediately following will allow Members to meet with candidates and ask questions.

Candidates for election to the three open Board positions will be announced to the Members on Mar. 4. Further information is available on the website, [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) and via News Brief.



## Participate—Volunteer Right Here at Home

**V**olunteerism is the principle of donating time and energy for the benefit of other people in the community as a social responsibility rather than for any financial reward. It is a way we can give back to the community that gives us so much in return.



When my wife and I came to Eldorado a little over three years ago we were drawn by the beauty, the residents, and the open and plentiful spaces. The amenities were many and the value was more than we had hoped for in a relocation from Southern California. In a few

months Lisa, my wife of 42 years, began to volunteer at the El Dorado Community School; I joined the Finance Committee. What a rewarding experience for both of us. So much so that I decided to join the ECIA Board and was appointed April of last year. I can't tell you how much we've gained from our participation. We have met some wonderfully dedicated people from very diverse backgrounds and have gained rewarding friendships to last us a lifetime.

Volunteering is a great way to meet residents and create friendships while serving the community which does so much for us. It's important that we participate in the governance of our community. Consider becoming a member of one of the committees. This could even pique one's interest in becoming a member of the ECIA Board.

You can contact Julie Navarro, 505 466-4248, for more information and to become involved.

—David Sorkin  
ECIA Board Director

### ECIA 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.

# Say 'No' to Mud on ECIA Trails

Winter is a beautiful time to get out and enjoy the Eldorado trails—snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hiking. It is also a time when responsible trail use is essential. Every year the Eldorado Community Preserve trails are damaged due to improper trail use, especially when the trails are muddy.



Snow doesn't usually stick around for very long—but the mud does. Wet trail surfaces may lose compaction and their ability to withstand trail traffic, accelerated when people use muddy trails.

Horses have the highest impact on muddy and soft trails. Horses cause compaction to the underlying soil layers

and hoofs dig up and puncture the soil surface causing compaction of subsurface soils, leading to impermeable basins on the trail, which retain water and mud for long periods.

Mountain bikes can damage trails during muddy periods by creating a linear track, causing channeling of water that remains on the trail. Even after the tire tracks disappear, the damaged trail surface continues to erode.

When people go around muddy areas they create new trails and the widened trail will create a larger muddy area in subsequent years.

Please, say “no” to mud. Only ride on trails that are durable and drain well. The ECIA Conservation Committee suggests exploring the 100 series trails behind the gas station during wetter periods. Avoid high snow melt times. Trails are generally more solid in the early morning hours, and tend to be sloppier in the afternoon. If you must be out on a muddy trail, stay on the trail surface at all times and avoid the instinct to walk next to the trail.

Dogs should be leashed and under the owner's control at all times. Unleashed dogs invoke a “flight response” in wildlife, which severely depletes their limited reserves. Coyotes and other predatory animals can be more aggressive toward domestic dogs during winter months when food sources are low.

Our trails are a wonderful resource; let's all work together to keep them in good condition, safe and enjoyable.

—Mike Rogers  
ECIA Operations Manager

In the countryside of Greenland lived two houses near mountains and valleys. The wind was warm and swished the leaves of the trees. The Joergen family was on a hike to a nearby mountain. Sven, their puppy, had not been out in hours. Already, Courtney and Jim were chattering over something dumb. Suddenly, they heard a screech that was loud enough to make the family's ears ring. Sven fell to the ground trying to cover his ears. “That sounded like a Griffin.” They all heard what Tim said but barely thought about his idea (since he had very bad anxiety and never talked). Tim had a chubby face, with brown eyes and dark brown hair, and was very small for a kid his age. Further up the mountain, they saw an animal eating a carcass. It was purple with wings the size of two school desks combined, and the legs of a cat-like creature. This beast was shaped like a lion, but with wings of an elegant eagle. They ran as fast as they could down the mountain, but Tim devised a plan to befriend the creature.

When going on hikes, one should always check if there is a giant nest big enough to house two full-grown lionesses. The Griffin (can also be spelled Gryphon or Griffon) is a creature that is half eagle and half lion. They are beautiful creatures with a warm coat of fur and feathers, a brown tail (in this case purple) with a little pom-pom at the end, and strange, pointed ears that are very sensitive. The creature can hear a rock crumbling from a mile away....

—Excerpt from a story by Trefor Gerard, a middle schooler at El Dorado Community School





# You Can Help Protect Eldorado's Night Skies

Eldoradans enjoy dark night skies, especially to the south and east. The Milky Way is easily visible on moonless nights. On a Bortle Dark Sky Scale of 1–9 (1 being the darkest and best), Eldorado is now rated a 4—‘Rural/Suburban Transition.’

Unfortunately, light pollution is making Eldorado's night skies brighter, especially to the north, above Santa Fe, and to the southwest, above Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and Bernalillo. Eldoradans do a good job of managing lights, but also contribute to the area's light pollution.

## WHY CARE ABOUT LIGHT POLLUTION?

1. Unchecked, local light pollution will eventually overwhelm Eldorado's starry skies, eliminating a valuable community asset.
2. Those who work under bright lights at night are prone to health issues, such as sleep disorders and depression.
3. Wildlife, with whom we share the land, can become confused by lights at night, impacting an animal's ability to navigate, hunt, avoid capture, or safely cross Eldorado's roads.
4. In particular, birds migrating at night, down the Rockies or following the Rio Grande, can become disoriented by local lights and overall light pollution.

**Here are some ways that each of us can reduce local light pollution:**

1. Follow the ECIA Architectural Guidelines with respect to lighting. Here's the link to the Architectural Guidelines (exterior light guidelines are on pages 15–16):  
<https://www.eldoradosf.org/document/2017%20Guidelines%20for%20Protective%20Covenants%20Board%20Approved%20FINAL.pdf>
2. Don't turn on unnecessary exterior and interior lights.



*The light halo from the greater Albuquerque area washes out the stars above Eldorado's southwest horizon.*

3. Use motion-detecting lights that provide a measure of safety without being illuminated all night.
4. Turn off landscape lights several hours after sunset and don't turn them on if they're not needed.

By following the ECIA guidelines and not turning on unnecessary lights, Eldoradans can help limit local light pollution. Unfortunately, Eldoradans alone can't protect dark skies. Local, state, and business leaders must collaborate to address the sources of light pollution along the I-25 corridor. If lights are used responsibly, our community can expect to view dark, starry skies for years to come and our wildlife brethren can continue to thrive alongside us.

Are you interested in protecting Eldorado's dark skies? Do you keep lights on to provide a measure of safety? Do you prioritize landscape lighting ahead of seeing the stars? Can common ground be found to compromise these different interests? Please let us know where you stand by e-mailing your thoughts to: [starryskieseldorado@gmail.com](mailto:starryskieseldorado@gmail.com).

—Eric Saltmarsh  
Photo by Eric Saltmarsh

# VGPL Shows Student Art, Hosts Civil War Talk

**Events:** Most events take place in the Meeting Room and have free admission. Call 505 466-7323 or check the website for more information: [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org), especially if possible cancellations owing to weather and road conditions.

**March 2/D Exhibition:** Mar. 2 to 30. Artworks by El Dorado Community School students. Reception on Mar. 6, 4–6 PM.

**March 3/D Exhibition:** Mar. 1 to 30. Artworks by El Dorado Community School students.

**Book Donation Day:** Saturday, Mar. 7, 9–11:30 AM.

Items in good condition, and in boxes or bags you don't need to keep. Please NO text books, manuals, reference books or VHS tapes.

**Story Time for Toddlers and Preschoolers:** Fridays, 11:30 AM, in the Children's section.

**All Ages Chess Club:** Fridays, 3 PM. All ages/skill levels welcome.

**Medicare Information:** Thursday, Mar. 12, 10 to 11:30 AM.

Topic: How to understand Medicare Summary Notices (MSN) for Original Parts A and B and file an appeal or identify any claims to your account that are not yours.

**Family Movie Night:** Friday, Mar. 13, and Apr. 10, 7 PM. Call for titles and rating.

**Grownup Movie Night:** Friday, Mar. 27, 7 PM.

**VGPL Board of Directors Meeting:** Tuesday, Mar. 17, 6:30 PM. Public welcome!

**Santa Fe Stargazers:** Wednesday, Mar. 18, 7 PM.

**Genealogy:** Wednesday, Mar. 25, 6:30 PM.

**The Battle of Glorieta Pass—"Gettysburg of the West":**

Thursday, Mar. 26, 7 PM. In partnership with Pecos NH Park. Speaker: Dr. Claudia Floyd, retired Professor of History at Stevenson University, discusses this historic, 3-day battle.

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

# Remove Weeds for Compliance/Fuel Reduction

**R**ain and snow over the past winter mean strong weed growth in the coming spring and summer. Best practice is to remove invasive weeds early, before they outcompete the native wildflowers and grasses. Weed growth, coupled with any existing tall dry weeds and piled brush, creates a visual nuisance, but more importantly is a potential fire hazard for the resident and the neighborhood at large.

How to tell a weed from a native plant that sustains the wildlife we enjoy seeing in our yards? Our native forbs and grasses die back during the winter, but provide food and cover for birds and other wildlife and recycle into the soil. Weeds, such as Russian thistle, kochia, cheatgrass, and Jim Hill mustard, can flourish and result in a build-up of fuel as they dry out. Learn to identify these undesirable plants, remove them when small and don't let them go to seed.

The appearance of properties related to weeds and brush piles does fall within the Eldorado Covenants. Article II, Section 14, Nuisances-Clause: *No unsightly or offensive objects shall be...permitted to remain on any lot, nor shall any lot be permitted to appear in an unclean or untidy condition.*



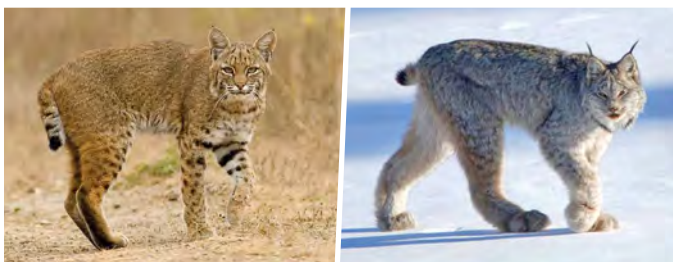
The ECIA asks that residents inspect their lots for accumulating weeds (especially over septic fields and near the house). Weeds close to homes can act as a ladder fuel, putting a home more at risk. Brush piles also

provide a home for rodents such as mice and wood rats. Please remove waste material and do not create piles of weeds or woody debris. If this work is too difficult, consider spending your landscaper budget on weed removal instead. Just make sure the landscapers know which plants are weeds, and which are native species.

ECIA thanks you for your cooperation. For any questions, please call Mark Young at the ECIA office, 505 466-4248.

## Is it a Bobcat or is it a Canada Lynx?

**L**ate last spring I noticed a pair of what I first thought were Bobcats, trying their best to mate. As I watched, I became convinced they were not Bobcats but Lynx. They stayed within my view for more than a half hour and finally moseyed off. With many years of time spent observing wildlife, I'm very aware of what a Lynx looks like and with the recent sightings in and around Eldorado I researched both species a bit more extensively to write this article.



Bobcats (*lynx rufus*), photo left, are related to the Canada Lynx (*lynx canadensis*), photo right, and are similar in appearance and size and at a glance, can be mistaken for each other. However, there are noticeable differences between the two.

Lynx have pointy ears with larger, solid black ear tufts, thicker, less mottled greyish brown fur, a fuller facial ruff around the cheeks and chin, a slightly shorter, solid black bobtail and noticeably longer hind legs, causing the body to tilt downward.

Bobcats have shorter ear tufts and legs, and mottled, reddish brown fur, spotted flanks and a striped face and

forelegs. Their striped, black tipped tail is white underneath.

Also known as the "wildcat", Bobcats can live twelve to fourteen years but average about seven, as do Lynx. Both have litters generally ranging from one to six "bobbkittens."

Both species walk with the back foot following the front and generally don't walk in a straight line. The Lynx have broader 3 ½ to 4 ½ inch wide furry foot pads while the Bobcat's are 2 ½ inches wide. Lynx tracks are not as distinct as those of the Bobcat, who have hairless pads.

Bobcats range across the entire lower 48 States and are found in every county in New Mexico; they are protected by NM State law. Canada Lynx are commonly found across Canada and Alaska, with smaller populations in Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho. After becoming extinct in Colorado in the 1970s, wild Lynx were re-introduced in 1999, thriving there today.

Lynx are known to travel long distances with sightings in Northern New Mexico, including the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountains. This has led to New Mexico declaring the Canada Lynx protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Since Bobcats and Lynx belong to the same genus, they can and sometimes do crossbreed, the hybrid looking more like a Bobcat with the pointy ears of the Lynx. Maybe the pair I saw was a Bobcat/Lynx cross referred to as a Blynx.

—Melicent D'Amore

Photo of bobcat: © "lynx rufus" by Matt Knoth is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0; Photo of lynx: Keith Williams

# March 2020 Meetings at the Community Center

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	10, 24	7-9 PM	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com	FO
	Board Meeting	Monday	16	5 PM	ECIA Board	505 466-4248	RB
	Bylaws Review	Tuesday	3	1-3 PM	Butch Gorsuch	bylawsreviewchair@gmail.com	CF
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	3	7-9 PM	Paul Butt	conservationchair@gmail.com	FO
	Election Committee	Wednesday	11	2-4 PM	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com	CF
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	4	10 AM-12:30 PM	Nolan Zisman	fandgchair@gmail.com	RB
	Finance Committee	Tuesday	10	9:30 AM-12 Noon	Dan Drobnis	financechair1@gmail.com	CF
	Information Committee	Monday	9	7-9 PM	Pam Henline	informationchair@gmail.com	CF
	Road Committee	Wednesday	4	5:30-7 PM	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com	CF
	Stable Committee	Next Meeting: May 19		7-9 PM	Amelia Adair	stablechair1@gmail.com	CR
Monthly/Semi-Monthly	Bridge	1st/3rd Fridays	6, 20	1-4:30 PM	DiAna Gutierrez	505 699-3555	CR
	EACA	4th Thursday	26	7-9 PM	Kim Crickard	VP@eldoradoarts.org	RB
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	18	3-5 PM	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net	LR
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	9	4-6 PM	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797	CF
	El Dorado School Community Garden	3rd Tuesday	17	6-7 PM	Carol Robles	info@eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.com	CF
	Healing Arts Practitioners	2nd Tuesday	10	4-5:30 PM	Laurie Sandman	lsandman9@comcast.net	LR
	Life Drawing	Alt. Mondays	9, 23	10 AM-12 Noon	Mavis Murphy	505 466-8189	RB
	MELT	Thursdays	12, 26	11 AM-12 Noon	Maureena Bivins	info@maureenabivinsacupuncture.com	CR
	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tuesday	3	6-7 PM	Michael Landen	505 466-8896	CF
	Santa Fe Model Railroad Club	2nd Tuesday	10	6:30-8 PM	Bob 505 466-4970	santafemodelrailroadclub.org	RB
	Spinning Group (Fiber)	1st/3rd Thursdays	5, 19	10 AM-12 Noon	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
	Breathing Meditation	Tuesdays		1:45-2:45 PM	505 466-3137	sprussel@sjc.edu	CR
	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](mailto:rturnbough@hoamco.com) to be notified of changes.

## News Tid-Bits

### YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE

El Dorado Fire & Rescue is sponsoring a Blood Drive on **Saturday, Mar. 7, from 9 AM to 1 PM**. The Bloodmobile will be located at the El Dorado Fire Station, on Avenida Vista Grande, next to the Community School. Call 505 470-8952 to sign up. Walk-ins are also welcome.

### COMMUNITY GARDEN PREPARES FOR SPRING

Gear up for spring planting at the El Dorado School Community Garden. Visit the information table at La Tienda's Garden Fair, **Saturday, Mar. 7, from 10 AM to 2 PM**. The Community Garden is dedicated to the creation and stewardship of organic and sustainable gardens in Eldorado, and offers members raised and inground beds, a communal "Circle Garden," a greenhouse, tools, and of course, learning beds for the school students. Learn more at the Circle Garden's annual kickoff meeting, **Saturday, Mar. 28, from 10 AM to Noon**, in the Community Room of the Max Coll Center. All interested folks are welcome. For more information, email [info@eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.org](mailto:info@eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.org).

### BREATHING MEDITATION CLASS

Breathing Meditation is a new free weekly class focusing on breathing and meditation to help quiet the mind and find the stillness at the heart of every moment. Classes are on **Tuesdays from 2 to 2:30 PM** in the Eldorado Community Center classroom. Newcomers are always welcome. The first series of classes began in January and ends Mar. 10. A second series starts Mar. 31 and runs through May 12.

### MEMBERS RESPOND TO WEB SURVEY

A total of one hundred twenty-nine people took the time to answer questions about their use of the ECIA website. This was the first online survey undertaken by the Board of Directors and thanks go to everyone who participated. A random drawing selected a long-time resident who will enjoy a dinner at local restaurant Arable.

### POOL ARTICLE CORRECTION

"The Family Changing Room" construction project has been placed on hold. Details will follow.



## HAIKU

Spring winds blow in trees,  
earth starting to wake once more:  
soon, the growth begins.

**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).

# County Road Signs Help Motorists Protect Wildlife

Eldorado is a semi-rural community with nearly 2800 homes and 6800 residents who have access to 987 acres of greenbelts, 14 miles of hiking/bike trails and over 60 miles of county roads.

We coexist with a variety of indigenous wildlife including coyotes, bobcats, pronghorn, deer, rabbits and other mammals, a wide variety of birds and reptiles, especially snakes. Bears and cougars have been observed; tarantulas are often seen on our roads during their fall migration. Within our unique greenbelts are animal habitat and passageways. Wildlife is not mindful of property boundaries or the hazards where our roads intersect with their travel routes, putting animal lives at risk, especially at night when most wildlife fatalities occur. Scavengers may also become victims.

When Johnny P. Baca, Traffic Manager, Santa Fe County Public Works Department (SFCPWD) learned of the need for these signs, he and Mathew Martinez (GIS/Engineering) dedicated time to meet with Eldorado wildlife advocates to address the concerns and to identify strategic locations for signage based on observed wildlife activities along the county roads.

Thanks to a joint venture between the Santa Fe County Public Works Department and Eldorado wildlife advocates, our community now has warning signage at 14 locations, four with double faced signs. These signs will assist the community in recognizing areas with consistent wildlife traffic, and where wildlife fatalities have occurred.



*ECIA Board Vice President Melicent D'Amore, right, holds a map showing Eldorado's 14 'Watch for Wildlife' signage locations. Special thanks to Jonathan G. Black and Edward Hopkins, pictured left, for installation of the signage.*

The county specifically considered sign locations to warn while avoiding as much visible clutter as possible, being mindful of safety for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, horses and (per Johnny Baca) "very special indigenous residents." The SFCPWD team of Jonathan Black and Edward Hopkins deserve special thanks for their efforts in locating and installing the signs.

Hopefully, we will commit to safe driving practices to preserve all life.

—Joseph Newman  
Photo by Joseph Newman



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