

VISTAS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

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Students Run for Fun



El Dorado Community School students hold their annual Fun Run **Oct. 4** at the elementary school on Avenida Torreon, with parents and friends invited to cheer them on. A PTA spokesperson says lower grades will begin in the morning, jogging round the school and the community garden. Middle-schoolers take over after lunch, running on some of the public roads near the area; motorists need to watch for the young runners.

Free Outdoor Concert

Join Eldorado's own Grammy nominated artist Maurice Oliver and his band Chill Factor-5 on Friday, **Oct. 4** from 6–8 PM on the ECIA patio. Oliver's music incorporates elements of electronica, downtempo, house, techno, jazz, funk, soul, and world beat. Food trucks will be on site so come have some dinner and listen to music.



Maurice Oliver with some of his drums and instruments from around the world. Photo courtesy Maurice Oliver

Ride a Pony, Pet a Donkey, October 5



Come to Eldorado's Stables Community Day and Open House, from 10 AM to 1 PM, Saturday, **Oct. 5**. Eldorado Stables are on Avenida Eldorado at Hwy 285. The Listening Horse Therapeutic Riding charity returns to provide free pony rides for enthusiastic Eldorado children. Everyone in the community is invited to tour this unique Eldorado amenity, meet some of the equines in residence and learn more about horses and horse-keeping. There will be horsey activities for children and refreshments will be available.

Apply for Open Board Positions by October 11

There are two open Board positions due to resignations. If you are interested in applying to be appointed to the Board of Directors, please submit a candidate statement, short bio, resume and photo to the ECIA General Manager Julie Navarro at JNavarro@hoamco.com or drop them off at the ECIA Offices by **Oct. 11, 2019**.

Message from the Board President

As many of you know, the Finance Committee took a “Vote of No Confidence” in the Board President in Executive Session after their Tuesday, August 13, 2019 meeting, “Because of continuing problems with communications, irregularities in procurements, irregularities in appointment of Board members, and concerns about management of HOAMCO.”

On Thursday, August 15, the Board Treasurer and the Board Liaison to the Committee met with the Committee Chair and Secretary to review the specific issues and work towards solutions. The Committee Chair then met with the Board President and Treasurer to develop ways to resolve the issues. While there were still some disagreements, they came to agreement on ways to improve communication and resolve the issues.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS

The Board President apologized for not submitting the Board’s revision of the scope of work for the Financial Procedures Review in a more timely manner. The original scope of the review was formulated prior to the employment of HOAMCO and included items such as Homeowner Relations and Staff Management which were not in the purview of the Finance Committee. The Review will be rescheduled for a later date to allow time for the Board and the Committee Chair to discuss the revised scope. The issues not included in the Financial Procedures Review will be addressed through a Board Working Group.

IRREGULARITIES IN PROCUREMENT

The Board and the ECIA General Manager make every effort to comply with the Procurement Policies, which require three bids for projects over \$25,000 and review of such contracts by the Finance Committee. Sometimes bids are solicited and fewer than three vendors respond, and sometimes there was only one vendor capable of doing the work in the state. This was the case with some of the pool contractors, however due diligence was exercised to ensure that we had qualified vendors to do the work. The pool proposals were reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2019 and recommendations were sent to the Board. The Board followed the Committee’s recommendations and sent the proposals to the Attorney to be put into a legal contract form. The Board received the contracts back from the Attorney and approved them by unanimous email vote on March 7 and signed on March 8. At that point, the work on the pool had already been delayed by 3 weeks and we were starting to lose contractors who had made commitments to us but were forced to take other work by the delays. The contracts were sent to the Finance Committee on March 11 for their meeting the next day. The Board and the General

Manager are working together to improve compliance with the Procurement Policy.

IRREGULARITIES IN APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS

In Sept. 2018, three Board positions were open due to resignations. The Board interviewed five candidates and chose the three whom we felt were most qualified. The terms for the three appointees were assigned by “luck-of-the-draw” for 7 months, 19 months and 31 months, and they were appointed at the Sept. 27 Board Meeting. At the October 24 Board Meeting, one of the newly appointed directors got into a verbal argument with a resident and resigned from the Board the next day. Both of the other appointees expressed interest in filling the longer terms. The Chair of the Election Committee was consulted and gave the Board her opinion. Since the terms had been arbitrarily assigned and the appointees had not been elected to a specific term, having them resign their current positions and be immediately reappointed to the longer terms would be permissible under the Bylaws. The Bylaws Review Committee is evaluating the procedure for Board appointments and will be making recommendations for revisions.

CONCERNS ABOUT MANAGEMENT OF HOAMCO

The Board received a list of Financial Management Questions from the Finance Committee in May 2018. Starting in October with the addition of an Assistant General Manager with extensive financial background, and her subsequent promotion to General Manager, HOAMCO began to implement procedures to address the issues of concern. They also conducted a Forensic Audit to determine causes and solutions for the May 2018 embezzlement, and repaid all of ECIA’s losses. Throughout the year the General Manager and HOAMCO Senior Staff have addressed the Finance Committee’s issues with varying degrees of success, partly due to staff turnover in HOAMCO’s New Mexico office in Albuquerque. Steps continue to be taken, including the Financial Procedures Review, to address the issues.

Due to the concerns of some residents about the “Vote of No Confidence” at the August 22, Meeting, the Board called a Town Hall Meeting on August 29, to answer questions. It was attended by approximately 50 residents, some who were dissatisfied with the Board’s performance, some who called for the resignation of the Board President and other Board members, and some who supported the Board and the hard work we do. Questions that came up during and after the Town Hall Meeting with answers from the Board will be posted on the website at eldoradosf.org.

—ECIA Board President David McDonald

Note from Editor: Board Treasurer, Joseph Gutierrez; Board Liaison to Finance Committee, David Sorkin; Finance Committee Chair, Sal Monaco; Finance Committee Secretary, Dan Drobnis; Board President, David McDonald; General Manager, Julie Navarro; Chair of Election Committee, Bette Knight. Note: article submitted on Sept. 5 as shown, more information from the Board may be available by time of publication of Vistas

ECIA Board Announces Two Resignations/Vacancies

Director Elizabeth Maclaren had been on the Board for just over a year and served as Vice President. She resigned at the Town Hall Meeting when the legitimacy of her position on the Board was strongly challenged by a few vocal residents. She will go back to her life as an artist and will continue to volunteer to develop a Youth Forum program for the Board.

Director Joseph Gutierrez had been on the Board for two and a half years and was serving as Treasurer when his term expired in May 2019. After going through the appointment process, he was appointed with the agreement that he would

serve for a short period of time until the pool project and associated work was completed. Mr. Gutierrez will continue to volunteer to facilitate a joint project with the Boys and Girls Club.

The Board is looking for someone with financial skills and background for the Treasurer position. If you are interested in applying to be appointed to the Board of Directors for either position, please submit a candidate statement, short bio, resume and photo to the ECIA General Manager Julie Navarro at JNavarro@hoamco.com or drop them off at the ECIA Offices by **Oct. 11, 2019**.

Our New Office Assistant

RACHEL TURNBOUGH *Office Assistant*



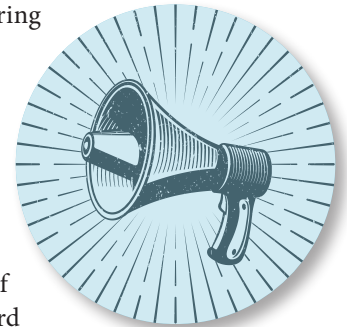
Rachel Turnbough is a New Mexico native. She studied at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque and New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. After briefly working in Austin and Phoenix she is happy to

call Santa Fe home again. Her work history includes property management, title and escrow, banking and as a licensed makeup artist.

August Townhall Meeting

On August 29 the ECIA Board held a Townhall meeting lasting two and a half hours. Approximately 45 to 50 residents attended.

Many questions were asked during a dialog with Board members. At the Sept. 16 Board working session meeting it was decided that a professional would be hired to make a transcription of an audio tape from the meeting. This will be published in a special edition of *Vistas* along with separate Board comments, possibly before Oct. 28.



ECIA Invites Budget Discussion for 2020

The Finance Committee (FC) and Board are preparing the ECIA budget for 2020. The year 2019 included large expenditures which required a substantial draw from the Replacement Reserve Fund. The FC has indicated an assessment increase is needed. More information is available at the following meetings. Dates may change so please watch for E-blast notifications. **All meetings are open to residents.**

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 9:30 AM FC meeting: GM submits second draft budget.

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 9:30 AM FC meeting: FC adopts a final recommended Budget and Budget Message.

Monday, Nov. 18, 5 PM prior to Board working meeting: Joint meeting of the ECIA Board and FC.

Friday, Dec. 6, 9 AM: Proposed 2020 Operating Budget and Message available at ECIA office and on website.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 AM: Forum for residents on the proposed 2020 Operating Budget.

Thursday Dec. 19, 7 PM Board meeting: Board adopts the final 2020 budget at its regular meeting.

Friday Dec. 20, 5 PM: Adopted Budget and Budget Message posted to website, and available at office, with HOAMCO-provided information by GM for inclusion with 2020 invoices.

Recent Board Actions

Because the Board would not have a quorum due to travel and medical emergency, the Board canceled their Board meeting on Thursday, Sept. 19 and rescheduled it for Thursday, Sept. 26. Recent Board Actions from that meeting will appear in the November issue of *Vistas*.

Open Discussion Group

Join the ECIA Board and fellow residents on Thursday, **Oct. 10** at 6 PM in the ECIA classroom for the monthly Community Open Discussion Group. We invite you to bring your questions and topics for discussion. Past meetings' minutes are available on our website at eldoradosf.org.

New ECIA Committee on Environmental Stewardship

The Eldorado Environmental Stewardship Committee (EESC) was established by the ECIA Board on April 18, 2019. The mission of the EESC is to develop, for the ECIA, ecologically sound and sustainable environmental practices that promote a healthy and safe community. Prior to the creation of the EESC, the ad hoc Environmental Advisory Group drafted, for ECIA Board Approval, a Pesticide Application Procedure to provide guidance to the Board and staff on Integrated Pest Management, an Environmental Impact Management Policy and a list of minimal risk (least toxic) pesticides.

The EESC has completed a baseline environmental audit of the ECIA buildings (Community Center and Barn) and sent 20 recommendations for immediate action by the ECIA Board. Using the baseline environmental audit, the EESC will be evaluating possible ways to reduce the environmental impact of ECIA activities. An annual audit will be conducted by the EESC to measure our progress.

Future work of the EESC includes 1) creating an evaluation process for materials used in construction, maintenance and other activities of the ECIA and resource use (e.g. recycling and composting) in conjunction with the Conservation, Facilities and Grounds, Roads, and Stable Committees or any other appropriate groups or individuals; 2) establishing a program of community outreach regarding environmentally sustainable and cost-effective practices; and 3) improving the ability of ECIA members to be informed on issues of Integrated Pest Management and Environmental Stewardship by establishing an environmental library that is both physical and online.

—Nancy Ostiguy

The EESC meets the first Tuesday of the month in the Community Center Conference Room. Please join us on October 8, 2–4 PM.

Conservation Committee Erosion Control Workshop



The Conservation Committee is sponsoring a workshop on erosion controls in which participants will be provided an overview of concepts and best practices as well as an opportunity to perform hands-on work in the preserve to create erosion control structures, intended to protect a

grassy meadow. The workshop will be held on **Oct. 19**. Participants should meet at the Community Center at 9 AM. Bring gloves, water and a snack.



Information Junkie?

Let *Vistas* know about your group and special activity. Consider joining the Information Committee—we know what is going on in Eldorado! Or if you prefer, just become a newscaster/journalist who reports on Eldorado



events or write an article about Eldorado. Submissions of 300 words from the community are invited and welcome. Deadline for the November *Vistas* is **Oct. 5**. Email input to articles@eldoradosf.org and phenline@comcast.net.

Finance Committee Votes 'No Confidence' in Board President

At the regular meeting of the Finance Committee on Aug. 13, committee members unanimously passed a Vote of No Confidence in Board President David McDonald. The committee minutes and resolution are posted on the ECIA website at <https://eldoradosf.org/Board-Committees/Minutes-Finance-Committee/Page-2.html>.

Residents are welcome to attend ECIA committee meetings as a guest. If you are interested in joining a committee, contact the committee chair listed in the October Meetings calendar on page 7 of Vistas.

Lots Going On at Vista Grande Public Library



Book Donation Day: Saturday, Oct. 5 and Saturday, Nov. 2, 9 AM to 11:30 AM. No textbooks, manuals, dictionaries, encyclopedias, VHS or cassette tapes.

Oct. 2D Exhibition: Georgia Roybal, Yarn Paintings—“Symbols of Spirituality”

Oct. 3D Exhibition Case: Monika Heikkero, Ceramics—“Lizards and Snakes, unlikely but inseparable friends”.

National Astronomy Day: Saturday, Oct. 5.

In conjunction with the Santa Fe Stargazers, VGPL will present a day-long, all-ages program:

- 1–2:30 PM: Presentations/hands-on activities for our younger patrons.
- 2:30–3:30 PM: Safe Solar viewing of our nearest neighbor (VGPL parking lot)
- 8–9:30 PM: Star Gaze (telescope and binocular observing, VGPL parking lot)

Family Movie Night: Friday, Oct. 11 and Friday, Nov. 1, 7 PM. Free admission and popcorn.

Medicare Information Sessions: Thursday, Oct. 17, 10 AM to 11:30 AM; and Tuesday, Oct. 22, 6 PM to 7:30 PM. Open Enrollment for 2020 is now available. Learn everything you need to consider for the coming year before Dec. 7.

The Haunted Library Halloween Party: Saturday, Oct. 26, 4 PM to 7 PM. Free food, activities and family fun. Costume contest at 6 PM.

Story Time for toddlers and preschoolers: 11 AM Tuesdays.

All Ages Chess: 3 PM Fridays. All ages and skill levels.

Santa Fe Stargazers: Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7 PM to 9 PM.

Eldorado Genealogy Group: Wednesday, Oct. 30, 6:30 PM to 8 PM, library meeting room.

Save the Date! Fall Book Sale November 7, 8, and 9.

Email libasst@vglibrary.org to receive our library newsletter.

Vista Grande Public Library • 14 Avenida Torreon in Eldorado • Tues–Fri 10 AM–6 PM, Sat 10–4 PM • 505 466-7323 • vglibrary.org

Ravens and Crows: An Essay

In the high desert canyons and pointy little hills near my home I can see four separate and distinct mountain ranges. This is something to behold. I will never tire of the awe I feel when I look on that view. It shall be indelibly imprinted on my soul.

Coinciding with my continuing love affair with the clouds, I have smiled as I enjoyed the crows and ravens play on air and wind currents of my little canyon. It is a joy to watch the play of the singles and pairs as they grab an uplifting air current which they ride to the top of an arch. When they get to the top of their ride they sometimes partially retract their wings and dive at their playmates. They seem to relish the speed in their dives. I’m sure they do because I like to see them doing it. I wish my vision was good enough to see the expressions on their little faces. The exuberance of their antics reminds me of when I could make those big speedy sweeping turns as I sailed down the slopes of Taos Ski Valley. Speed is spiritual. Take some time and watch the crows and ravens cavorting in your view of the sky. It will make you smile.

I’m pretty sure that there is a difference between crows and ravens. It was explained to me that it has something to do with the shape of their tail. But that explanation came from a California tree hugger so I’m not taking it as gospel.

—Leonard Denison



STEM Program Prepares Students for 21st Century



In 2001 the National Science Foundation implemented a program for kindergarten to 12th grade students with the acronym STEM which stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. El Dorado Community School, with guidance from Los Alamos National Laboratories participates in STEM programs designed to prepare students for 21st century careers. Knowledge and skills in computer science, robotics, and artificial intelligence in technology are increasingly important in employment

opportunities and our students must be ready to enter this job market.

Science classroom teacher Hope Cahill follows Next Generation Science Standards which adhere to the standards of STEM. Students learn collaboration, questioning, problem solving and critical thinking which are essential to scientists and technicians. El Dorado Community School has embraced Next Generation Science Standards since 2012.

Eldorado 6th grade science students recently participated in a program about natural resources to teach them these skills by designing an invention to reduce greenhouse gases. Each student offered a plan and after collaboration one invention was chosen. One student made a model of a solar powered wind turbine that pulled in greenhouse gases, filtered them out and stored them in an aluminum container. The model was the State Merit Winner of the 3M Science competition and used all the elements of STEM.

Included in the El Dorado PTA After-School Enrichment Program is Beginner Coding to start students on the path to computer programming. Art, music, and creative movement, as well as a myriad of other classes are offered too. In a fast-changing world El Dorado Community School is making strides to keep up with the pace.

—Lee Chiacos

Mark Your Calendars for Our Festive Fall Events

SANTA FE ANIMAL SHELTER BRINGS PETS FOR ADOPTION TO ELDORADO OCTOBER 12

You can meet a new family member Saturday, **Oct. 12**, when the Santa Fe Animal Shelter visits the Community Center from 10 AM to 1 PM. Large and small dogs, young and old, want to meet your family. If you fall in love, they can go home with you. Shelter staff will help you fill out paperwork for adoption and County licensing for your new best friend. They'll also have information about the Barkin' Ball fundraiser the following day at the city Farmer's Market Pavilion.

HALLOWEEN PET PARADE NOVEMBER 2

Halloween for pets comes on Saturday, **Nov. 2** from 11 AM to 1 PM with Eldorado's first Pet Parade at the Community Center. Pet owners can dress their four-footed family friends and take a picture at the photo booth. Eldorado Country Pet & Wild Bird in the Agora sponsors the event and will award prizes for Owner-Pet Best Look-Alike, Silliest Costume, and Spookiest Costume. There will be a Grand Prize and a Runner-Up. There is no fee or registration charge. The parade and judging will start at Noon.

Please be sure all pets are under strict control and no loose pets are allowed. Dogs, cats, pigs or whatever must all be on a leash!



FABULOUS ART AT EACA SHOW NOVEMBER 1 AND 2

It's time for the Eldorado Fall Arts and Crafts Show (EACA) held annually at St. Johns Methodist Church, 1200 Old Pecos Trail. The show this year will be on November 1-2. Friday hours: 1 PM to 7 PM, Saturday: 9 AM to 4 PM. It's a great time to pick up holiday gifts for friends, relatives and yourself! There will be a great variety of arts and crafts from ceramics, fiber arts, woodworking, painting and jewelry artists. Eight new artists are joining the show this year. Hope to see you there!

Photo above, Southwest Horses with hand appliqué and hand sashiko native themes by Karen Murry

October 2019 Meetings at the Community Center

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|-------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----|
| ECIA Committee | Architecture Committee | Tuesday | 8, 22 | 7-9 PM | Katherine Mortimer | 505 466-4248 | FO |
| | Board Working Session | Monday | 21 | 6-8 PM | ECIA Board | 505 466-4248 | CR |
| | Board Meeting | Thursday | 24 | 7-9 PM | ECIA Board | 505 466-4248 | CR |
| | Bylaws Review | Tuesday | 1, 15 | 1-3 PM | Butch Gorsuch | 505 466-4248 | CF |
| | Community Open Discussion | Thursday | 10 | 6-8 PM | ECIA Board | 505 466-4248 | CR |
| | Conservation Committee | Tuesday | 1 | 7-9 PM | Thom Bredenber | thmsbred@aol.com | FO |
| | Election Committee | Wednesday | 9 | 2-4 PM | Bette Knight | knightbdk@gmail.com | CF |
| | Environmental Stewardship | Tuesday | 8 | 2-4 PM | Karen Murry | 505 466-4248 | CF |
| | Facilities & Grounds | Wednesday | 9 | 10 AM-12:30 PM | Nolan Zisman | pznzisman@aol.com | RB |
| | Finance Committee | Tuesday | 8 | 9:30 AM-12 Noon | Sal Monaco | 505 466-4248 | CF |
| | Information Committee | Monday | 14 | 7-9 PM | Pam Henline | phenline@comcast.net | CF |
| | Road Committee | Wednesday | 2 | 5:30 PM-7 PM | James Mason | 505 466-4248 | CF |
| | Stable Committee | No Meeting | | Next: Nov. 12 | Amelia Adair | 720 563-1018 | CR |
| Monthly/Semi-Monthly | Bridge | 1st/3rd Fridays | 4, 18 | 1-4:30 PM | DiAna Gutierrez | 505 699-3555 | LR |
| | Eldorado Book Club | 3rd Wednesday | 16 | 3-5 PM | Pam Henline | phenline@comcast.net | LR |
| | Eldorado/285 Recycles | 2nd Tuesday | 8 | 4-6 PM | Karen Sweeney | 505 466-9797 | CR |
| | Healing Arts Practitioners | 2nd Tuesday | 8 | 4-5:30 PM | Laurie Sandman | lsandman9@comcast.net | LR |
| | Life Drawing | Alt. Mondays | 7, 21 | 10 AM-12 Noon | Mavis Murphy | 505 466-8189 | RB |
| | Neighbors Helping Neighbors | 1st Tuesday | 1 | 6-7 PM | Michael Landen | 505 466-8896 | CF |
| | Santa Fe Model Railroad Club | 2nd Tuesday | 8 | 6:30-8 PM | Bob 505 466-4970 | santafemodelrailroadclub.org | RB |
| | Spinning Group (Fiber) | 1st/3rd Thursdays | 3, 17 | 9:30-11:30 AM | Ellen Higgins | casaladerabe@gmail.com | LR |
| Weekly | Yoga | Check with ECIA Office for Dates and Times | | | Marga Matakovich | 505 466-4248 | RB |
| | 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 |
| | Adult Basketball | Thursdays | | 5:30-Dusk | 505 466-4248 | | BB |
| | Al Anon | Saturdays | | 11 AM-12 Noon | 505 473-0101 | nmal-anon.com | CF |
| | Boy Scout Troop 414 | Wednesdays | | 7-9 PM | Karl Cordova | karl_cordova747@msn.com | RB |
| | 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 |
| | Meditation | Mondays | | 6-7:30 PM | | 505 466-4248 | RB |
| | 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, BB = Basketball Court
Send calendar event information to GM@eldoradosf.org

Pool Popular During Hot September Weather

The new entrance gate for the pool and the new bath house railing were installed on Sept. 5. Good news—two people were certified as lifeguards in early September. The pool schedule is subject to change, especially

for October, so pool users are urged to check the E-blasts and the Eldorado website for the correct information. And remember, the pool is closed when lightning has been observed within five miles.

—Mike Rogers

Photos: left, Anna Hansen; right, Mike Rogers



HAIKU

Autumn: just slow down;
enjoy the last of summer
share a smile with friends.

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 The *Vistas* newsletter will not publish any material deemed inflammatory, opinionated, biased, or inappropriate. Factual and objective submissions 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 accompanying photos. Submissions are due on the fifth of the month preceding publication.

Eldorado Genealogy Group Digs up the Past

*If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton,
you may as well make it dance.*

George Bernard Shaw

*The best part about genealogy is searching
for ancestors and finding friends.*

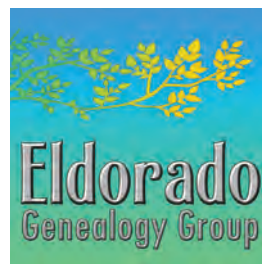
Lawrence Dillard

Are you a closet genealogist? Do you have a family tree on Ancestry.com but you don't know what to do with it? Have mystery cousins shown up in your DNA test results? If so, the Eldorado Genealogy Group might be a perfect fit for your passion of digging up the past and resurrecting dead ancestors. Established three years ago, this is a local social organization for genealogy geeks!

The Eldorado Genealogy Group meets on the last Wednesday of each month (unless there is a conflict with a holiday). Meetings take place at the Vista Grande Public Library Meeting Room, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. There are no dues and the group is open to anyone with an interest in genealogy, family history or DNA testing (genetic genealogy).

At each meeting a group member or guest speaker shares a presentation based on a topic of their expertise. Past topics have included: genealogy resources, how to research family history, creating online family trees, understanding DNA test results, how to date old photos, and the history of orphan trains. Group discussion is encouraged and often a lively discourse is part of every meeting with members sharing personal family stories and experiences.

Regular email messages keep members up-to-date on current news in the world of genealogy, helpful resource links and meeting updates. The organization can also be found on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/EldoradoGenealogyGroup/>



From newbies to advanced researchers, the Eldorado Genealogy Group welcomes all levels of family genealogists. Come socialize and meet new friends who

share your love of dead relatives! Upcoming meetings are Oct. 30, Nov. 20, no meeting in Dec.

(Special Note: Since most presentations involve online research, basic computer and internet skills are recommended for participation.)

—Louise Roach



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