

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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Residents Enjoy Renovated Eldorado Pool

The Eldorado pool opened at last on Saturday, August 10 at 8 AM. It is planned to have the pool open daily in September, and weekends in October, dependent on weather. Contract and bids for Phase 2 of the project, which includes a family changing room, is scheduled to start in November. Pool passes are available at the ECIA office Monday through Friday, 8 AM–5 PM; Saturday, 9 AM–5 PM; and Sunday, 10 AM–5 PM. **For pool status, call 505 466-4248.**

POOL SCHEDULE

Recreational Swim will be expanded if lifeguards are available

Mon–Thurs: Lap Swim & Kiddie Pool Only: 7:30 AM–12 Noon
Pool Closed: 12 Noon–3 PM

Lap Swim & Kiddie Pool Only: 3 PM–7 PM

Fri: Lap Swim & Kiddie Pool Only: 7:30 AM–12 Noon
Pool Closed: 12 Noon–3 PM

Lap Swim & Kiddie Pool Only: 3 PM–6 PM
Recreational Swim: 6 PM–8 PM

Sat & Sun: Lap Swim: 8 AM–10 AM
Recreational Swim: 10 AM–8 PM



Clockwise: Eldorado residents enjoy the new pool, shade umbrellas and patio furniture, photo Pam Henline; Marga Matakovich offers impromptu lessons to Louis Mujynya, age 12, photo Bill Dunning; The Kiddie Pool, photo Pam Henline; Lap lanes, photo Pam Henline

Eldorado Fall Flea Market September 21



The Eldorado Fall Flea Market at the ECIA Community Center is on Saturday, September 21. Booths open at 8 AM. A wide variety of merchandise will be for sale

by subdivision residents and commercial vendors; every year is different! This is a family friendly event with something for everyone.

Vendor set-up begins at 6:30 AM. Fees are \$10 for Eldorado residents and \$15 for non-residents. The flea market concludes at noon. Clean out your garage, rent a space, and come out to exchange your unwanted “treasures.” For more information call 505 466-4175. Proceeds benefit the Scouts.

—Scott Summerfield

Board Sets Goals for 2020

The Board met on Sunday, July 21, 2019 for an all day Planning Retreat to set out goals for the coming year. With input from various committees we prioritized the following goals:

1) Ensure that ECIA residents are well-informed regarding issues, events, policies and procedures.

- Present a lecture series for residents and staff with topics including but not limited to, Newcomer Orientation, Fire Prevention, Accessory Dwellings, Ownership Parameters and Responsibilities, etc.
- Update the ECIA website to be more user-friendly and informative.
- Produce a more user-friendly Welcome Packet.
- Keep marquees current.
- Survey residents on relevant issues.
- Support an active and skilled Information Committee.

2) Ensure that ECIA amenities are well maintained, repaired as needed and improved as appropriate.

- Ensure an adequate budget to finance repairs and/or development of new amenities.
- Complete visual surveys of amenities and record observations.
- Support an active and skilled Facilities and Grounds Committee.

3) Ensure that ECIA finances reflect best practices.

- Monitor expenses regularly and make needed adjustments.
- Create a 3–5 year reserve plan that addresses community needs.
- Conduct a review of financial procedures.
- Establish workable procedure for assessment collection.
- Support an active and skilled Finance Committee.

4) Ensure that ECIA properties and environment are safe and meet necessary codes.

- Complete an environmental audit and complete recommended actions.
- Initiate policies for using community's buildings that reflect safety best-practices.
- Support an active and skilled Environmental Committee.

5) Improve ECIA's working relationships with county officials.

- Designated representatives from ECIA will attend county meetings as needed, phone appropriate county representatives to confirm or update on policies or actions, and report results accordingly.
- ECIA will invite county officials to special events and meetings as appropriate.

6) Make an investment in ECIA youth.

- Allot money in the annual budget for activities and/or equipment that encourages youth participation.
- Establish a Young People's Forum to engage youth and to address their concerns.
- Authorize a Youth Advisory position to the Board.
- Maintain an open relationship with Eldorado school liaison to encourage feedback and recommendations.
- Explore partnership with Boys and Girls Club to provide services.

7) Ensure that ECIA has appropriate technology to support staff, volunteers and residents.

- Solicit volunteers for the Ad-hoc Technology Committee.
- Explore options for social media use, card swiping at amenities, etc.

8) Ensure that ECIA governing documents reflect best practices.

- Complete document reviews in a timely fashion.
- Solicit input for document changes, as appropriate.
- Support an active and skilled By-Laws Committee.

9) Ensure that ECIA Board of Directors positions are filled in a timely manner.

- Hold regularly scheduled elections.
- Hold Board of Directors candidate meet-and-greet.
- More actively recruit candidates for election and/or appointment.
- Support an active and skilled Elections Committee.

10) Establish a Board Working Group to develop a five-year plan.

- Solicit volunteers to be part of the Working Group.
- Research existing five-year plan and update.
- Develop ECIA goals and implementation plan for 2020–2025.

To view topics discussed during the Community Open Discussion Group meetings, visit the ECIA website at www.eldoradosf.org. Go to the "Resident Resources" pull-down menu and click on "Open Discussion Group"

COMMUNITY OPEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Join the ECIA Board and fellow residents, Thursday, September 12, at 6 PM in the ECIA classroom.

Recent Board Actions

The Board of Directors of the ECIA met on Thursday, August 22, 2019. Members present were President David McDonald, Vice-President Elizabeth Maclaren, Treasurer Joseph Gutierrez, Director Todd Handy, Director David Sorkin, and Director Nancy Sulzberg. Secretary Bernardo Monserrat, had an excused absence. The following formal actions were reviewed and passed by the Board:

- Motion to approve the Consent Agenda
- Motion to approve revised Bylaws Committee Charter
- Motion to accept Environmental and Safety Audit
- Motion to approve moving \$156,184 to R&R Reserve

- Motion to approve variance for carport at 5 Demas Rd.

Nine residents spoke at the Open Forum on a variety of topics, including dissatisfaction with the Board President, Finance Committee minutes, road maintenance, governance and the pool.

The next scheduled meeting will be a Working session on Monday September 16, 2019, at 6 PM, in the Classroom. On Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 7 PM, the Board will conduct its regular meeting in the Classroom.

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.

You Can Make a Difference—Join the Road Committee

The ECIA Road Committee (RC) is looking for people to become members, especially those with a technical or scientific background. We will be using a combination of field observations and analyses of prior RC collected data in concert with geospatial computer analyses to prioritize suggested treatment areas for potential action by the Santa Fe County Roads Department.

Anticipated upcoming committee projects include:

1. Correlation of road performance with slope of road, soil type, and local drainage features.
2. Air sampling of various roads in Eldorado to determine types and concentrations of airborne particulates and associated traffic and/or wind conditions causing dispersion.

3. Working with the ECIA Conservation and Environmental Committees, we will be exploring potential Drainage Basin Development as part of Rainwater Capture along roadside drainage ditches and selected eco-sites.
4. We will develop and conduct a series of Eldorado Community training classes for owners of individual properties about their local ground surface rainwater run-off. Topics will include: condition assessment of associated culverts and drainage ditches servicing their property; suggested maintenance & repair of those culverts.

We are anticipating our next meeting to occur in mid-September. Please send your contact information to: Julie Navarro at jnavarro@hoamco.com.

Welcome Our New Staff Members

LAWRENCE SANCHEZ *Maintenance*



Lawrence was born and raised in Santa Fe. His interests include fishing, camping, and hunting, as well as spending time with his family. Lawrence has one daughter who is the light of his life. Before working for Eldorado,

he was a Farm Manager and worked in construction. He looks forward to serving the Eldorado community.

DIANA OLIVER *Community Relations Coordinator*

Diana was born in New York where she received her AAS in Textile Design and Fashion Merchandising from the Fashion Institute of Technology, she also earned a BFA in Fiber Arts from Parsons School of Design. Her textile design career has

taken her around the world developing apparel collections for retailers such as Kohl's, Macy's and JC Penney. She spent 20 years working in Chicago for Hunter Douglas Hospitality and Crossley Axminster Carpets creating woven and print collections, as well as custom carpet designs. Diana was also



an Adjunct Professor at the International Academy of Design and Technology. She loves to paint and write and is the author of three books.

In 2017 a trip to Santa Fe to visit friends in the Eldorado Community changed the course of her family's life. "We had been looking for years for our next home and fell in love

with the energy, light and spiritual vibration that we found in Eldorado." Diana, her music producer husband, their son, and Border Collie Cleo are now proud to call Eldorado home.

Wave After Wave of Invasive Weeds

Eldorado residents felt so fortunate to have a winter with considerable moisture...but the arrival of spring and summer came with a resulting flush of weeds, wave after wave of different invasive species.

On an early morning in July, I was on a mission to find and remove some non-native weed species that had become very visible along the Eldorado roads and were starting to set seed. Roadways are a primary vector for the introduction of weeds, which, unmanaged, spread to nearby properties. [What happens in the right-of-way does not stay in the right-of-way!] While carefully clipping off and bagging the seed spikes of Common Mullein, then removing the stalks, I was asked politely and with interest about my efforts by a man walking his dog along the path. I told him about the non-native Mullein, introduced from Europe long ago but native to Asia, which has prolific seed production (imagine 200,000 seeds per plant!) and can out-compete native grasses and forbs, degrading wildlife habitat and the natural beauty of our area. He then told me, with amazement and satisfaction, that last year he had picked Russian Thistle (the infamous “tumbleweed”) every time he walked his dog along that path, and this year there were no Russian Thistle plants in that stretch! I commended him, then thought about Aldo Leopold, a conservationist who created the Gila Wilderness and introduced us to the concept of a land ethic.



Leopold, who wrote more somberly “One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds,” also said that “Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest.” I think we need to reward each landowner who sees their property as an integral part of—and cares about—the entire Eldorado area, and takes ownership of the issues that face all of our properties. Whether or not this dog-walker knew about the weed I was tackling at the moment or other weed species, he was contributing to the protection of the commons.

As we reflect on the abundance of weeds which dominated the Eldorado landscape this season—from Flixweed and Stickseed to Jim Hill Mustard, Cheatgrass, Bindweed, Sweet Clover, Common Mullein, Bull Thistle, and, yes, Russian Thistle—we can plan ahead for next year. We need to be proactive, engaged, to become educated about what is growing in our yards and neighborhoods, and to take steps early—and often—as active stewards of this special place we call home. The Conservation Committee will endeavor to assist you in that learning process—the what, why, when, where, and how of responsible and sustainable weed management—as part of our shared land ethic.

—Carol Beidleman, Conservation Committee
Photo of Common Mullein weed by Carol Beidleman

Why Zero Waste?

For the last several years, Eldorado/285 Recycles has partnered with Vista Grande Public Library and El Dorado Fire and Rescue to make their community



social events zero waste. We've also worked with La Plancha restaurant to make our annual 4th of July fund-raising pancake breakfast zero waste. These community events have spurred other organizations such as the Eldorado Area Community Arts Association to make their events zero waste.

Why do we do this? First, to reduce the amount of waste going to our local landfill; second, to raise community

awareness about this concept and third, to show how easy it is to do.

The next time you prepare for an event, consider using plates, cutlery, tablecloths, napkins and beverage containers that can be reused. Choosing recyclables is another good option when reusable is not possible.

Consider composting food scraps and turning food waste into a valuable soil amendment. Eldorado/285 Recycles can install a compost system on your property. Contact Chris Harrell at clharrell505@gmail.com.

The big plus with promoting zero waste is the reduction of single-use plastic. We all benefit—consider joining the effort.

—Karen Sweeney, eldorado285recycles.org

Bill Schwent Reflects on Four Decades in Eldorado

In his forty years in Eldorado, Bill Schwent has seen a lot of change, but one thing has been constant. Controversy has dogged residents from the beginning. American Realty and Petroleum Corporation (AMREP), the corporation that purchased the vast ranch from the Simpsons in the early 70s, had their agenda, and the residents had theirs. The pool, the stables, and architectural style have been some of the main controversies, along with management issues.

Bill was one of the first presidents of the board of directors of ECIA, representing the homeowners when there were less than 200 homes. He remembers the problems with a



poorly built pool infrastructure back in the 1980s. Many felt the pool was a money pit and wanted to fill it with sand to make it into a volleyball court. The treasurer was an AMREP employee who was against filling it. The pool and

the stables, he said, were a selling feature for the real estate developers, and their interests prevailed. All these years later, Eldorado is still struggling with pool issues.

Another bone of contention was the stables. Many residents felt the few horse owners in the community should take care of the stables themselves and not burden the rest of the homeowners. To a large extent that has happened. The community provides some care of the common property, but the buildings and care of the horses are the responsibility of the horse owners.

Bill is most proud of the accomplishment of the early architectural review committee. The '80s and '90s saw a building boom that changed Eldorado dramatically, but the architectural integrity we enjoy today was not supported by AMREP. The committee reviewed hundreds of projects and did its best to keep the low-slung earth-toned pueblo style dominant. Bill remembers a German couple who wanted to fence their whole property and the board voted to mandate a maximum of 4,000 square feet of enclosed yard per lot to avoid breaking up the land into pieces. A couple from Texas wanted to build a large house with a steep pitched roof; that too became a controversy. The couple prevailed and built a large Texas hacienda that still stands in Eldorado today.

Two Greek men from Chicago bought the property from AMREP that would become Dos Griegos ("Two Greeks" in Spanish). They named the roads after family members and built the Greek Orthodox Church. The cell tower near the water tanks provided capital for the paving of the roads making association fees unnecessary.

Whether to allow commercial development by the same developers was another contentious debate. Bill felt Eldorado should stay rural and was against the building of the Agora (the Greek name for a marketplace) but obviously the developers won and were able to get approval from the County of Santa Fe.

"I would like to see the community managed by a management company based in Santa Fe," Bill said. "We are such a large community that no management company has the experience to deal with the problems that arise, but an Arizona based company has too little connection to our New Mexico situation, in my opinion." Bill adds with a smile that he feels Eldorado "is still a wonderful community even with the challenges we face."

—Lee Chiacos

Photo of Bill Schwent by Lee Chiacos

Big Brothers Big Sisters Wants YOU

Big Brothers Big Sisters has a tremendous need for volunteers of all ages to step up and be a "Big" to a child waiting for a mentor and friend. In just four hours a month, you can enjoy activities while igniting a child's potential. Helping a young person learn about healthy indoor and outdoor activities will have an impact for a lifetime.

The new Outdoor Mentoring and Intergenerational Mentoring Initiatives make it easy to volunteer. Outdoor Mentors have the opportunity to hike, explore local parks, and participate in organized activities with a child. The

Intergenerational Mentoring program pairs volunteers 55 and older with a child. No special skills are needed to be a

Big—just the willingness to listen, offer encouragement and share what you've learned about life. Studies have shown that intergenerational matches are long-lasting and rewarding.

FIND OUT MORE

www.bbbsmountainregion.org/volunteer, email info@bbbsmountainregion.org, or call 505 983-8360.

Photo:

Big Brother Markus and Little Brother Jay



Splendor in the Grasses

Some visitors from California recently remarked, “Oh wow, all the colors and textures of your pretty neighborhood lawns and meadows look like an Andrew Wyeth painting!” They went on to tell us a lovely Native American (Ojibwe) story about how the mythological hero Nanabozho painted the grasses and flowers to provide more color, while frolicking bluebirds dipped in the paints and ended up creating the first rainbow. “Nanabozho really had fun painting Eldorado,” they said. They also pointed out that Native Americans had medicinal and dietary uses for many wild plants, including some grasses.

It’s true that Eldorado is blessed with a wide variety of wild grasses that produce a beautiful picture each season. Some of our local grasses include Six-Weeks and Sheep Fescue, Fluffgrass, Blue Grama, Indian Ricegrass, Needle-And-Thread Grass, Hairy Crabgrass, Western Wheatgrass, Buffalograss, Little Bluestem, and Purple ThreeAwn. Since Eldorado land was previously used for ranching, some of our “native” grasses weren’t here originally. But the natural combination of plants works very well in the community.

Much of the beneficial beauty of native grasses lies below ground. Native grasses tend to have very deep roots. This enables the plants to reach moisture, minerals, and nutrients far below topsoil, so that the grasses can prosper in our desert environment. As the large roots naturally decompose during their normal life cycle, soil fertility is improved. And most importantly in our windy environment, these deep roots hold down soil, preventing dust and erosion.

The grasses also provide food, habitat, and a protective environment for a number of our wildlife such as quail and small mammals. In turn, these animals attract predators such as eagles, hawks, owls, and coyote. The open ground

within the grass plants provides nesting space for migratory songbirds, whose national populations have been declining as they lose their habitats. As naturalists say, a robust diversity of plants attracts a healthy diversity of animals.

To mow or not to mow? Some property owners like the look of manicured, cultivated lawns, and they feel that mowing keeps down allergies as well as fire dangers.

Mowing, however, removes erosion and species protection. Eldorado neighbors who avoid mowing generally say they prefer our natural vistas, don’t like the noise and



odors of mowing machines, and are concerned about the dust and erosion mowed lawns can create. Additionally, since mowing eliminates the ability of grasses to create seeds, the plants eventually die off, which leaves the soil significantly unprotected.

If you have questions about managing the grasses on your property, we recommend contacting your favorite local nursery.

—Julia Kinney, Bonnie Mahlum, Joseph Newman, Ann Wood, and Cliff Wood; Photo of Blue Grama grass by Carol Beidleman

Show Your Care—Donate to the Annual Food Drive



DONATIONS ACCEPTED SEPTEMBER 13–21

The Santa Fe Area Neighborhood Association’s annual food drive for The Food Depot starts Friday, September 13, running through Saturday, September 21. If you want to help, leave non-perishable food or household hygiene items at La Tienda outside the Eldorado Hardware Store or Fitness Center, at The Agora inside the doors of either the Supermarket or Eldorado Pets, at the ECIA Office on La Hacienda Loop, or at the Vista Grande Public Library. For more information or to donate money, contact Roger Taylor at 505 466-3469 or clearskynm@gmail.com, or the ECIA Office at 505 466-4248.

September 2019 Meetings at the Community Center

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	10, 24	7–9 PM	Katherine Mortimer	GM@eldoradosf.org	FO
	Board Working Session	Monday	16	6–8 PM	ECIA Board	GM@eldoradosf.org	CR
	Board Meeting	Thursday	19	7–9 PM	ECIA Board	GM@eldoradosf.org	CR
	ByLaws Review	Tuesday	3, 17	1–3 PM	Butch Gorsuch	GM@eldoradosf.org	CF
	Community Open Discussion	Thursday	12	6–7:30 PM	ECIA Board	GM@eldoradosf.org	CR
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	3	7–9 PM	Thom Bredenber	thmsbred@aol.com	FO
	Election Committee	Wednesday	11	2–4 PM	Bette Knight	GM@eldoradosf.org	CF
	Environmental Stewardship	Tuesday	3	3–5 PM	Karen Murry	GM@eldoradosf.org	CF
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	4	10 AM–12:30 PM	Nolan Zisman	pnzisman@aol.com	RB
	Finance Committee	Tuesday	10	9:30 AM–12 Noon	Sal Monaco	GM@eldoradosf.org	CF
	Information Committee	Monday	9	7–9 PM	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net	CF
	Road Committee	No Meeting				GM@eldoradosf.org	
	Stable Committee	Tuesday	17	7–9 PM	Amelia Adair	ameliaadair@msn.com	CR
Monthly/Semi-Monthly	Bridge	1st/3rd Fridays	6, 20	1–4:30 PM	DiAna Gutierrez	505 699-3555	LR
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	18	3–5 PM	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net	LR
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	10	4–6 PM	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797	CR
	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
	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	9:30–11:30 AM	Ellen Higgins	505 466-4248	LR
Weekly	Yoga	2nd/4th Saturdays	14, 28	4:30–5:30 PM	Marga Matakovich	505 466-4248	RB
	Al Anon	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	CR
	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 Hamner	505 466-3018	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

TELL US ALL ABOUT YOU! Let *Vistas* know about your group and special activity. Articles of 300 words from the community are invited and welcome. Deadline for October *Vistas* is September 5. Email input to articles@eldoradosf.org and phenline@comcast.net.

VGPL Invites Everyone to Upcoming Events

Thank you everyone who came or donated to the VGPL's Summer Ice Cream Social. Your support keeps the doors of your local library open! Don't miss out on what is happening at your community library—get the VGPL newsletter by emailing libasst@vglibrary.org. Information and events can also be found on our website at www.vglibrary.org.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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

September Exhibitions: Georgia Roybal, yarn paintings, Reception: Sept. 7, 2 PM–4 PM; Senior Center Clay Class Assorted Clay Pieces

Family Movie Night: Friday, Sept. 13, 7 PM

Medicare Information Session: Thursday, Sept. 19, 10 AM
What you should do, before Open Enrollment Oct. 15–Dec. 7, to make the best changes to your health care coverage. Doing nothing can cost you money in 2020.

Story Time: Toddlers and preschoolers, Tuesdays, 11 AM

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

Santa Fe Stargazers: Sept. 18, 7 PM–9 PM

Find out about our National Astronomy Day Oct. 5 events online at www.vglibrary.org

Eldorado Genealogy Group: Sept. 25, 6:30 PM–8 PM

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

HAIKU

September: salute
those who run *into* the house
to save you from fire.

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.

Fire Department Community Barbecue September 15

Every day for over 40 years, Eldorado's Fire & Rescue team has been ready around the clock for emergencies at your home—or your neighbor's. The all-volunteer first responders invite you to an annual celebration on **Sunday, September 15, from noon until 4 PM** at the Community Center on La Hacienda Loop. It's also a chance for the community to say "thank you" for their vigilance and skill, and to help support their vital work.

The Fire & Rescue team will serve barbecue and picnic food and drinks, show off their vehicles, and share fire-safety information. There may even be an appearance by the iconic Smokey Bear. This is a time for community members to support the life-saving work of these volunteers.

In 1976, when our community was called "El Dorado," and there were fewer than 400 houses here, volunteers organized the first Fire Brigade. The team's first home was a barn, now gone, at the Community Center. Santa Fe County soon designated this an official fire district and named the brigade the El Dorado Fire & Rescue Service. As Eldorado grew over the years, so has our Fire & Rescue Service. It is now the highest-rated volunteer fire district in New Mexico; that has meant lower insurance rates for homeowners.

The 100% volunteer organization has come a long way since those early days through hard work and community support. Members strive to engage with the community through outreach and educational activities like this event,

and refresh their roster with continuous new member recruitment.

The department also invests heavily in time and funding for volunteer training certifications in both fire protection and medical care with the goal of enhanced safety, effectiveness and response times for emergency services in conjunction with Santa Fe County professional crews.



The traditional Annual Open House and Barbecue is a thank-you to the community as well as an educational event. The brigade's emergency vehicles will be on display for inspection, including its newest Rescue unit.

—Vincent Faust, Eldorado Fire & Rescue
Photo by Vincent Faust



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.