

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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Composters Ask: Where Are My Worms?

Composting reduces landfill waste and produces vital soil nutrients for vegetable and flower gardens. Composting in the dry Wild West is more challenging than in the humid East, but Eldorado/285 Recycles has discovered that a straw-bale vermicomposting system can produce a rich soil amendment, thanks to the tireless efforts of red wiggler worms.

One of the first questions new vermicomposters ask is: "Will my worms survive the winter?" The conventional scientific answer is "No." In theory, as temperatures plunge, the worms sense impending doom, and a protective mechanism kicks in. They mate and lay as many egg-laden cocoons as possible before they...yes, probably freeze to death, since they are composed of 90 percent water. Though many of the thin-skinned parent worms may die of cold exposure, the embryonic babies, snuggled within a protective shell, are safe. The nearly microscopic baby red wigglers are dormant, but not dead. Come spring, the freshly hatched wigglers go to work making beautiful compost.

Despite the dire scientific outlook for the worms, many seasoned Eldorado-area vermicomposters report that many of their red wigglers do not freeze over the winter. Perhaps it's because of New Mexico's arid climate. Perhaps the cold spells come and go fast enough to allow their survival. Or perhaps it's the lid of loose straw insulation that protects the worms. But it works. Unlike earthworms, red wigglers do not burrow below the frost line. They can be found down below the veggie scraps that the composter has provided, huddled together in a decomposing egg shell or deeper still in the ripening future



Worms and compost in a bed of loose straw insulation.

compost. As long as they are being fed veggie cuttings, stems, skins, and coffee grounds, they continue to produce a rich, dark compost, just at a slower rate during cold snaps.

Now that the frigid bite of winter is waning, some 200 Eldorado-area vermicomposters look forward to sifting through their straw bale bins to check on their worms' status.

If talk of worms and composting gets your spring fever rising, consider installing a straw-bale vermicomposting system. Please check out our website at eldorado285recycles.org to learn more. Our crew can help set up your system. Email Chris at clharrell505@gmail.com to get started.

—Chris Harrell, Eldorado/285 Recycles
Photo by Andrew Rodney

Grow Your Own Veggies at Community School



Community garden tomatoes

Spring is just around the corner and there are spaces in the El Dorado Community School Garden for residents who want to grow fresh vegetables and flowers during our glorious summer months.

Options include an individual bed or participating in once-a-week, two-hour gardening sessions in the "Circle Garden" while sharing the bounty. Members are to join a committee for random garden wide projects from time to time.

Registration is happening now. Download the membership packet and join the garden, now in its second decade. For more information: <https://eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.org/contact-us>.

—Article and photo by Polly Nell Jones

Board Actions and Summary February 22

The February ECIA Board of Directors Meeting was held via Zoom. President Nancy Sulzberg, Vice President Melicent D'Amore, Secretary Carol Sanguinetti, Director David Sorkin, Treasurer Sal Monaco, and Director Erika Penczer were present and a quorum was met. HOAMCO staff including General Manager Julie Navarro, Assistant General Manager Jessica Collins, Operations Manager Mike Rogers, and Compliance Officer Mark Young attended. Nigel Burgess, Vice President for HOAMCO New Mexico also attended. The Board approved the Consent Agenda.

GM Julie Navarro reported that the office receives an average of 15 on-site Assessment payments per day and the payments are cleared within 24–48 hours. Current projects include the Annual Report, Insurance Review, and the upcoming ECIA election. Operations Manager, Mike Rogers reported that he will work with the state and private owner to increase the number of access points to the western State Trust Land. Further details will follow as decisions are made. ECIA's County Liaison, Joseph Gutierrez reported that there was a successful meeting with County staff, Mike Rogers and Kathy Ritschel about money currently appropriated to ECIA. Of the 2018 \$100K currently designated to ECIA, the County will use \$10K to begin a broad-based study about the Azul hike/bike trail. In addition, the County will use \$10K from the 2019 allocated money to begin a study about the Torreon trail.

THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS:

- To affirm the electronic vote to recommend ECIA's portfolio accountant, Kristen, adjust the December and January Financials to align them with the 2020 Financial Audit from Porch and Associates;
- To affirm the electronic vote to accept the 2020 Audit Report from Porch and Associates for all purposes, including distribution to the Association's membership, and for excerpts to be included in the Association's 2020 Annual Report to Membership;
- To approve seven paid holidays for ECIA Staff to include Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the Friday after, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

- The Board approved a new block stucco wall to encroach 6 feet into the 50-foot roadside setback at 8 Dovel Place;
- The Board sent a variance request for a glass wall that exceeds the 6-foot maximum at 4 Antigua Court, back to the Architecture Committee for further review.

NEW BUSINESS TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED:

- If residents are uncomfortable with the placement of doggie stations, signs or other ECIA materials, please contact Mike Rogers to discuss the concern. Please do not attempt to remove the items;
- With drought being a reality in Eldorado, please help mitigate fires by reporting brush piles on the Greenbelts

to Mike Rogers. The Maintenance Team will do their best to collect the material from the common areas but will not remove materials from private property. The Conservation Committee will develop a protocol so that members and the Maintenance Team can better identify the types of growth that should be removed;

- The Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday, May 3 at 6:30 PM**. Election results and the Volunteer of the Year will be announced. Justin Scott, CEO of HOAMCO has been invited, as well as other members of the HOAMCO Corporate staff. Whether it will be held through Zoom or as an in-person meeting will be determined as we draw closer to the date;
- After much discussion about the nature of variance requests and the process through which members get approval, it was decided that the Board will work with the Architecture Committee to clarify roles and set up guidelines for forwarding variances requests to the Board.

ON-GOING BUSINESS TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED:

- 2022 will mark the 50th Anniversary of Eldorado. To celebrate, volunteers are needed to compose a steering committee that will plan and produce events. Without the help of community members, celebratory activities will be limited. For more information, please email Nancy Sulzberg at n.sulzberg@eldoradosf.org;
- Volunteer of the Year Nomination forms are available on the ECIA website. If you know of an ECIA resident who has made a significant contribution to Eldorado through their volunteer work, please complete the Nomination form and send it to Board Secretary, Carol Sanguinetti. The Board will review all the submissions and determine this year's recipient;
- The Insurance Selection Team has interviewed agents from Farmers', Daniels and ADV Insurance Companies. They each are making site visits and will review the properties with Jessica Collins, Nigel Burgess and Kathy Ritschel.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. The President's Report and Treasurer's Report, along with Task Group and Committee reports are on the website. Approximately 10 members of the community signed into the meeting. Recordings of the meeting can be requested by calling the ECIA office at **505 466-4248**. Complete minutes and agendas are available at the ECIA office or on the website: eldoradosf.org.

Thank you to all who participated.
We hope to see you at the next meeting on:
Monday, March 22 at 5 PM.

—Nancy Sulzberg,
ECIA Board President

Board Candidates Forum

All residents are invited to the Candidate Forum Thursday, **Mar. 18, 6:30 PM** via Zoom. Candidates will present their views and ideas based on a universal question. Plan to attend and get to know your candidates. Candidates for election to the two open Board positions will be announced to the Members on **Mar. 4**. Zoom link and candidate information will be available on the ECIA web page eldoradosf.org and via News Brief.



New HOAMCO Employee



Ciara Walsh, Office Assistant

where she developed leadership skills as the president of the Senior Mentor Program at SFHS and worked with children at Wood-Gormley Elementary. Ciara can often be found spending time with her family and friends, and playing on the backline of the volleyball court.

Ciara Walsh is the newest addition to the HOAMCO team. As a previous manager at Dazzling Displays (maker of display cases, display racks, etc.), Ciara is excited to put her experience and skills to the test while assisting the residents of Eldorado. Ciara has a background working with Santa Fe Public Schools

Annual Report Will Be Mailed in March

The Annual Report Packet for Members will be mailed by the end of March. Enclosed in your packet is the ECIA Annual Report booklet which includes the budget report, notice of annual meeting on **May 3**, candidate statements and recaps of the year 2020. If your 2021 Assessment was paid in full and received and credited to the Association's financial account by Mar. 1, you are a Member Eligible to Vote in the upcoming Director's election. The Annual Report Packet will also contain election materials, for those eligible to vote, consisting of a Ballot, Quorum Proxy Statement (QPS) and a secure postage paid return envelope. Read the instructions on the Ballot and vote for the candidate(s) of your choice. To ensure bylaws quorum requirements are met

for the Annual Meeting, Members are asked to sign, date and return the QPS along with their Ballot in the enclosed postage paid return envelope. Members can either mail (allow 14 days) or hand deliver the provided return envelope to the ECIA office no later than **Thursday, Apr. 29, 5 PM**. Ballot envelopes can be placed in a secure ballot box outside the ECIA office door during regular business hours of Monday—Friday, 8–5. If you need to deliver your ballot outside of ECIA office hours, please contact GM Julie Navarro to set up an appointment. If you do not receive this packet by Mar. 30, notify the office at **505 466-4282** immediately.

—Bette Knight,
Chair, Election Committee

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ECIA ANNUAL MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 3, 6:30 PM.

ECIA BOARD & MANAGEMENT

Board: President **Nancy Sulzberg**, Vice President **Melicent D'Amore**, Treasurer **Sal Monaco**, Secretary **Carol Sanguinetti**, Director **David Sorkin**, Director **Erika Penczer**. One Board vacancy at this time.

Management: The ECIA is managed by HOAMCO. General Manager **Julie Navarro**, jnavarro@hoamco.com
Monthly report available at www.eldoradosf.org under Resident Resources.

ECIA office open by appointment only, 505 466-4248.

Eldorado Stables Will Help Your Garden Grow

It's that time of year again, when gardeners' thoughts turn to compost. Free horse manure is available to all Eldorado residents at the Eldorado Community Stable.



Amelia Adair scoops manure at the Eldorado Stables.

There are two options for picking up manure:

SELF-SERVE: gardeners are welcome to bring their own shovel and containers and take as much manure as they wish out of the green manure bins located throughout the Stable Amenity. Bins are emptied on Tuesday mornings, so Saturday through Monday offer the easiest scooping.

MANURE MATCH: the Eldorado Stable Committee connects Eldorado gardeners seeking manure with barn owners willing to muck into containers provided by the gardener. No truck or shovel needed! Gardeners coordinate with individual barn owners to arrange to pick up their filled containers. Email eldoradostables@gmail.com or call the Stable Committee hotline at 505 585-4054 for more information.

Gardeners, and all other Eldorado residents, are welcome to visit the Stable during daylight hours. The gates open and close automatically during daylight hours without a code—pull forward past the keypad and wait. Please observe posted Stable rules, including not speeding, smoking, or feeding the equines. Dogs must be leashed.

Composting is easy. To learn more about composting in this dry climate, check out the New Mexico State University Master Composter page at <https://bernalilloextension.nmsu.edu/mastercomposter/>. Horse manure is also great food for worm bins.

—Photo by Elizabeth Mathews

Fuels for Fire—a Danger on Many Eldorado Lots

With our 'exceptional drought' designation by NOAA and the concerns of ECIA residents about the potential for a major wildland fire, the Board and HOAMCO distributed a *Ready Set Go* flyer with the 2021 Assessments. This flier lists ways that residents can practice wildland fire prevention with the goal of saving lives and property through advance planning.

The *Ready Set Go* flyer (available at the ECIA—call to have flyer placed in pick up box outside front entrance) lays out steps to create Defensible Space Zones around homes that will lessen the chances of property damage from a wildland fire. This stewardship involves creating three Defensible Space Zones which establish a buffer around your home by removing weeds, brush and vegetation. Many homes here are without a defensible space and have dead and dry brush and weeds around their homes, including volatile fuels growing right up to flammable wood fences and other structures. Spring brings winds and a continuing fire season. However, it is possible to protect your property and local wildlife by using this zoned approach.

The appearance of properties, including weeds and brush piles, does fall within the Eldorado Covenants. Article II, Section 14, Nuisances-Clause: *No lot shall be used in any way for the storage or dumping of trash or debris, nor for any purpose which may endanger the health of, or unreasonably disturb, other lot owners, or which creates or constitutes a nuisance. No unsightly or offensive objects shall be erected,*

placed, stored or permitted to remain on any lot, nor shall any lot be permitted to appear in an unclean or untidy condition.

An example of some of these very dangerous fire conditions on Eldorado lots (in early January) is shown in this photograph:



In 2021, the Covenants Compliance Office will send out courtesy notices to homeowners, asking for cooperation in the removal of volatile fuels to create Defensible Space Zones. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter. For any questions, please call ECIA Compliance Officer Mark Young at 505 466-4248.

Much of New Mexico is now in an exceptional drought which is illustrated on the New Mexico drought map: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?NM>.

Get Involved in ECIA's 2022 Budget

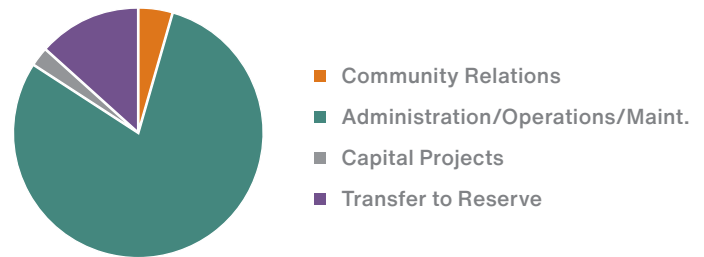
Almost all of Eldorado's income (96%) comes from our annual assessment—to fund operations and maintenance of our amenities and advantages of living in our community. As ECIA maintenance and operating costs go up, assessments must keep pace. ECIA's Covenants allow an assessment increase every two years—and 2022 is such a year. For 2022, the General Manager, Finance Committee, and Board are working to keep costs down and minimize any potential increase. They need—and welcome—your point of view in controlling the numbers. Details are available on the web, www.eldoradosf.org > “Resident Resources”.

Expenses are largely associated with regular operations and routine maintenance, but with a significant portion allotted to our Repair and Replacement Reserve—major items that eventually wear out. Replacement needs result from past decisions to install those facilities and amenities in the first place. Operating decisions each year deal with how to operate the Association's business and amenities, and perform regular maintenance. We can't alter the past—only the present and future.

Our pool is an example. Operating it requires lifeguards, chemicals, water, natural gas, electricity, and daily cleaning. These are determined in part by the length of the pool season and daily pool hours. A Replacement Reserve, on the other hand, must gather funds over many years to replace pumps,

filters, plumbing, wiring, heaters, pool shell, decking, railings, covers and locker room furnishings as they wear out or fail.

EXPENSES



Inflation is always an enemy. Our assessment in 1972 was \$100 per year. Our 2021 assessment, in 1972 dollars, has changed little. This is not an excuse—simply a reality.

The Finance Committee helps to analyze both annual Operating expenses for optimum value, and Replacement Reserve requirements out 30 or more years into the future. Association members are welcome to observe and participate as the committee develops 2022 recommendations that may affect the assessment we will pay in 2022. Finance Committee meetings, held on Zoom, are open. Dates and times are in the *Vistas* calendar and on the ECIA website and eblasts.

—Dan Drobnis,
Chair, Finance Committee

Coming Attractions: Weeds You'd Rather Not Have

All of us look forward to spring when tiny young plants emerge from the warming soil. Unfortunately, within a short time many of these adorable baby plants turn into the monsters we call weeds. In those rare years when we are blessed with moisture, we may reap an abundance of weeds. Even in dry years the weeds still show up. Some of us fight them with varying degrees of success or failure. Others seem not to notice or care, but more often than not we don't know what they are or whether they're harmful.



Russian thistle

Over the years, the ECIA Conservation Committee has heard concerns from the community about the spread of

introduced Eurasian plants such as cheatgrass, common mullein, tumble or Jim Hill mustard, kochia, and Russian thistle. They spread in the ECIA common properties, Community Preserve, greenbelts and, along the roadsides and the residential lots. These weeds can starve the diverse native vegetation of moisture, light and nutrients, and after they have successfully taken over, they die, dry out and can become a fire hazard. They degrade the habitat our local birds and other wildlife need to survive. Some weeds are also harmful to pets and livestock and are a problem for gardeners, landscapers, and people trying to sell their houses.

Starting in April, some *Vistas* issues will feature a Monster Weed article by the Conservation Committee, describing and illustrating one of our favorite nemeses as it emerges and the reasons why it should be controlled. We will also discuss the best practices for discouraging and managing weeds while at the same time supporting the regrowth of native vegetation. In the meantime, let us hope for rain, and maybe invest in some new gloves in preparation for our role as stewards of Eldorado's beautiful landscape.

—Thomas Bredenberg, Conservation Committee
Photo: “tumbleweeds/Russian Thistle” by Derell Licht is licensed with CC BY-ND 2.0.

A Bird's and a Tree's Not So Nutty Strategy for Survival

The pejorative “bird brain” is a misnomer—at least in regard to birds. Birds were once thought to be mere automatons, creatures of inherited habit, so to speak, whose actions were governed largely by instinct. But that way of thinking about our feathered friends has drastically changed. Ravens, crows, jays, magpies, and nutcrackers (the corvids) for instance, are now considered to be highly intelligent. Who knew? Corvids are very social and that calls for an elevated level of brain power.

Quintessential among the eleven species of corvids that make their home in the Land of Enchantment is the Pinyon Jay (aka *Piñonero*). These jays reside in Pinyon-Juniper woodlands—the so called “pygmy forest” of the American West. No other bird is so inextricably linked to this habitat type. That linkage between bird and tree, is quite remarkable—and essential. Pinyon Jays (in NM parlance piñon jays) are the major seed dispersers of the large, heavy pine “nuts”. Most pine species’ seeds are winged and dispersed by wind, but not so the highly edible and delectable pinyon pine nut. Pinyon Jays live permanently in large flocks that gather millions of these nuts annually, storing—caching them singly in the soil for later retrieval and consumption. Although gifted with amazing memories (jays can relocate stored nuts even after many months) a few of the caches are never recovered and grow to produce future food supplies.

Pinyon Jays are well-suited for removing pine nuts from green cones, with long, stout bills. And their throats have evolved to carry several dozen seeds at a time—a fine adaptation, especially during years of bountiful nut crops. Pinyon Jays also eat juniper berries, and as with many other avian species, nestlings are initially fed a protein-rich diet of insects.

You’ll probably hear the loud, nasal calls of these mostly blue, robin-size birds before you see them. Flocks of a few dozen to hundreds call constantly as they roam their expansive home ranges. Their flight is strong and direct, more



Pinyon Jay

like that of crows than other jay species. Sometimes foraging flocks join into truly spectacular aggregations numbering up to 1,000 individuals. My wife Christyna and I witnessed such a “mega-flock”—some 650 strong, along Eldorado’s boundary in November 2018.

Given flocks of such magnitude, one might assume Pinyon Jays are abundant and increasing. *Au contraire*, their population has declined over many decades. Habitat change—the loss of Pinyon Pines due to human activities—is largely to blame. And the direct and indirect effects of climate change have added to their plight. Trees weakened by drought are prone to bark beetle infestation and subsequent die-off. The situation is critical enough that the New Mexico Bird Conservation Plan considers Pinyon Jay a “Species of Greatest Conservation Need”. Dr. Kristine Johnson, at UNM, has studied the species extensively. As luck would have it, Dr. Johnson is scheduled to present an online Zoom program **Mar. 10** sponsored by Sangre de Christo Audubon (audubonsantafe.org) entitled “The Pinyon Jay: Biology, Threats, and Conservation”. Pre-registration is required.

—Article and photo by René Laubach

ELDORADIO 1660 AM, Eldorado’s airwave amenity, celebrates **St. Patrick’s Day** with a generous sprinkling of Irish music on **Mar. 17**, including Santa Fe’s resident leprechaun, Gerry Carthy. Leading up to the day of the green, ELDORADIO features “Irish Night at the Pops” with Arthur Fiedler on *Saturday Matinée* at noon **Mar. 13**, plus an Irish storyteller on *BreakTime* **Mar. 16**. Other live *Matinée* shows present Ronnie Scott, Wynton Marsalis and Jeffrey Kahane conducting Shostakovich.



Book Club

The book group missed three meetings in early 2020 while getting set up to use Zoom. Since last June regular meetings have been held every month, **3 PM, third Wednesday** each month. Lively discussions have been supplemented by a Wine and Cheese meeting (everyone shared their combination of items) and a Christmas cookie exchange (cookie eating and recipe sharing). If you wish to join the group, contact Pam Henline, phenline@comcast.net.



March Meetings—Community Center Closed

Meetings may be suspended or held via Zoom, please check eldoradosf.org.

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	9, 23	3–5 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board Meeting	Monday	22	5 PM <i>Zoom</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	2	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Paul Butt	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	Wednesday	10	3–5 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	3	10 AM–12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	Tuesday	9	9:30 AM–Noon <i>Zoom</i>	Dan Drobnis	financechair1@gmail.com
	Information Committee	Monday	8	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Pam Henline	informationchair@gmail.com
	Road Committee	Wednesday	3	5:30–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com
	Stable Committee	Monday	15	5:30–7:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Amelia Adair	stablechair1@gmail.com
Monthly/Semi-Monthly	Bridge	Suspended during COVID-19			DiAna Gutierrez	505 699-3555
	EACA	Suspended during COVID-19			Kim Crickard	VP@eldoradoarts.org
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	17	3–5 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	9	4–6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797
	El Dorado School Community Garden	Suspended during COVID-19			Carol Robles	info@eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.com
	Healing Arts Practitioners	Suspended during COVID-19			Laurie Sandman	lsandman9@comcast.net
	Life Drawing	Suspended during COVID-19			Mavis Murphy	505 466-8189
	MELT	Suspended during COVID-19			Maurena Bivins	info@maureenabivinsacupuncture.com
	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tuesday	2	6–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Nancy Merz	nmmerz@msn.com
	Santa Fe Model Railroad Club	Suspended during COVID-19			Bob 505 466-4970	santafemodelrailroadclub.org
	Spinning Group (Fiber)	Suspended during COVID-19			Ellen Higgins	casaladerabe@gmail.com
	AA	Tuesdays		5:45–6:45 PM <i>Zoom</i>	505 982-8932	santafeaa.org
Weekly	AA (Women Only)	Thursdays		6–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	505 982-8932	santafeaa.org
	AA	Fridays		6–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	505 982-8932	santafeaa.org
	Al Anon	Saturdays		11 AM–12 Noon <i>Zoom</i>	505 399-9328–Janet	al-anon.org
	Breathing Meditation	Mondays		10:30–11 AM <i>Zoom</i>	Penny Russell	505 466-3137 sprussel@sjc.edu
	Eldorado Hikers	Suspended during COVID-19			Terry Gibbs	505 466-6914 trgibbs@comcast.net
	Knitting Club	Suspended during COVID-19			Joyce Hanmer	505 466-3018 joycehan@msn.com
	Overeaters Anonymous	Tuesdays		10 AM <i>Zoom</i>	Barb	505 954-1533
	Ukulele Class	Suspended during COVID-19			Hazel Jordon	ukehazel@gmail.com
	Yin Yoga	Mondays		5:30–6:45 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Julia Cairns	505 466-1935
	Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Wednesdays & Fridays		9–10:15 AM <i>Zoom</i>	Julia Cairns	505 466-1935
	Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Tues., Thurs., & Sat.		9–10:15 AM <i>Zoom</i>	Mary Horst	505 490-2790

Zoom meeting information is online at www.eldoradosf.org > News & Events > Zoom Schedule

Events are verified as of February 18, please sign up for ECIA Newsbriefs by emailing jcollins@hoamco.com to be notified of changes.

Send calendar event information to GM@eldoradosf.org.

Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinic for Dogs

Terry and Janet Chandler, of Rugerheim Kennels, Las Cruces, will conduct their eighth Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinics for Dogs at the Community Center grounds on Saturday, **Mar. 27**. Groups of about 25 handlers and dogs begin at 8 AM running on the hour, until noon or 1 PM.

The registration fee is \$69 per dog, which includes an additional, one-time free follow-up in a clinic conducted by Terry a year or more later. This clinic will be comply with all COVID-19 rules and restrictions. Full details are on the Central New Mexico Brittany Club (CNMBC) clinic web page.

For information, including registration, visit the CNMBC web page: https://centralnewmexicobrittanyclub.com/CNMBC_Hosted_Rattlesnake_Avoidance_Clinics.html.



Terry Chandler, left; rattlesnake in Eldorado Preserve, middle; Janet Chandler, right.

*Celebrate the green—
spring is here, virus or no:
but still, be careful.*

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. Any interesting events happening in Eldorado or the surrounding areas may be included. The publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision-making process.

Editorial Policy *Vistas* 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.

Recycling: Myth or Fact?



MYTH: Straw-bale composting attracts animals.

FACT: Animals do not like the interior of the straw bale compost when kept moist.

MYTH: Worms in a compost bin die off in winter.

FACT: No, they keep chowing down on the kitchen waste. You DO need to feed them or they will die.



MYTH: Compostable materials can also be recycled.

FACT: Compostable and Recyclable are NOT equal. Compostable materials are meant to break down; they contaminate recyclable materials, so they should not go in the recycle bin. If you don't have a home compost pile, consider starting one.

—Eldorado/285 Recycles



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