

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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Old Glory Celebrates Birthday on June 14



Eldorado is a flag town. In any neighborhood, someone has a flagpole where the Stars and Stripes flutter in the clean New Mexico air. Many of these are a daily patriotic pattern; others fly on special days like the Fourth of July.

This month, June 14 is Flag Day, Old Glory's birthday. The Second Continental Congress passed a resolution June 14, 1777, in the middle of the Revolutionary War: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." That single sentence created the flag that we still salute almost two-and-a-half centuries later. The deep blue union, or canton, has expanded now to 50 stars for 50 states. After adding a stripe for each new state, we quickly reverted to one for each original state.

Over the years, we developed customs and standards— inherited from earlier heraldry, or reflecting national self-respect. Raise the flag briskly at dawn, lower it slowly at sunset. Half-staff (not necessarily mid-pole) to mourn a death, with a special half-day gesture on Memorial Day in May. Subsidiary banners, like the state flag, can fly below Old Glory on a single pole, but never another sovereign nation: a second pole is required, and the U.S. flag is to the right. The host nation's flag goes up first and down last. Respecting the flag respects the nation.

—Bill Dunning

ECIA Dog Park Addition—A Place for Smaller Pooches

If you have driven or walked by the ECIA Community Center lately, you probably noticed some changes in the Dog Park. The old weathered shelters were replaced awhile back with two new sun/rain shelters. Each has a heavy-duty weather-resistant picnic bench. The shelters follow the traditional Santa Fe style with posts, corbels, and beams with decorative ends, as well as durable metal roofs.

More striking is the new Dog Park Annex at the North end of the Dog Park. The Annex was constructed to respond to the needs of more timid, smaller, or older dogs for whom the rough and tumble play that sometimes occurs in the main area is a bit too much. The entrance to the New Annex is in the same double-gate entryway as the



north entry to the main area. It has fresh wood chips, some beautiful trees and benches.

—Article and photo below by H. M. Aragon



Annex may be used by any dog that requires separation.

Board Actions and Summary May 24

The May ECIA Board of Directors meeting was held at the Community Center Classroom and via Zoom. President Sal Monaco, Vice President David Sorkin, Secretary Carol Sanguinetti, Treasurer Joe Gutierrez, Director James Caruso, Director Erika Penczer and Director Jonathan Turkle were present and a quorum was met. HOAMCO staff attending included GM Julie Navarro, Assistant GM Jessica Collins, Operations Manager Mike Rogers, Compliance Manager Mark Young and Nigel Burgess, HOAMCO NM VP.

THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS:

- To appoint the following Members in Good Standing to the By Laws Committee: Amelia Adair, *Chair*, James Caruso, Sue Daniels, Jody Price, Nolan Zisman;
- To provide preliminary approval, subject to final review in 2022 Budget Request for Capital Project Request (CPR) to add 4 culverts and other drainage upgrades to protect and reduce maintenance costs for the Stable roads. Estimated cost: \$2500;
- To provide preliminary approval, subject to final review in 2022 Budget Request for CPR to add one multi-use bank or step structure, to be constructed as part of the arroyo trails obstacles, and to act as a retaining wall. Estimated cost: \$3000;
- To approve revised 2021 Dog Park Rules;
- To approve Security Padlocks on Dog Park gates subject

to results of survey;

- To appoint Bryan Baldwin to the Architecture Committee.

THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING VARIANCES:

- To allow for a reduced size fence encroaching 9 feet into the setback on 38 Encantado Road;
- To allow for a fence and wall to exceed the maximum allowed enclosure by 504 square feet on 36 Fonda Road;
- To allow for a 70-foot privacy fence on 32 Herrada Road.

President Monaco announced that there will be a new time for future Board meetings—at 5:30 PM on the third Tuesday of the month. Assistant GM Collins outlined the guidelines for the pool opening starting Saturday, May 29th. Recreational swimming and swim lessons are planned. Operations Manager Rogers provided an update on camera installations in the amenities and the resurfacing of the Compadres Park basketball court in June. Treasurer Gutierrez provided a recap of County funds that are earmarked to Eldorado for trails on Torreon and Azul. Funds are available right now for planning these trails. VP David Sorkin reported that the website development should be ready for review in a couple of weeks.

The meeting began at 5:30 PM and ended at 6:50 PM. The Treasurer's and Committee reports, along with more detailed minutes are posted on our website. Recordings can be requested from the ECIA Office.

Welcome New Board Members

It is a pleasure to announce that for the first time in the last couple of years, we have a full 7-member ECIA Board of Directors. I want to thank all those who came forward and volunteered as Board Applicants and interviewed with us.

As a result of the interviews held May 7–12, three new Board members were appointed at a Special Board meeting on May 12: James Caruso, Joseph Gutierrez and Jonathan Turkle. Both James and Jonathan are new to Eldorado having settled in over the past year after deciding that this was where they wanted to live. James, prior to retiring, was most recently corporate counsel for Troy, New York and has skills in litigation and arbitration. He will be serving as liaison for the Architecture Committee and will represent the Board on the By Laws Committee. Jonathan, who grew up in Santa Fe,

was co-owner of a Colorado business that provided enterprise strategies for organizations. He will be serving as liaison to the Road and Election Committees. Joe, also a previous Board member and Treasurer, is a native New Mexican and has lived here for over 40 years and is retired from senior positions in State and County government. He has and will continue to represent ECIA as County Liaison, and, as he was elected Treasurer, he will serve as liaison to the Finance Committee.

YOUR NEW BOARD IS:

Sal Monaco, *President*; David Sorkin, *Vice President*; Carol Sanguinetti, *Secretary*; Joe Gutierrez, *Treasurer*; James Caruso, *Director*; Erika Penczer, *Director*; Jonathan Turkle, *Director*

—Sal Monaco, ECIA Board President

Annual Meeting Recognizes Board, Staff, Volunteers

The ECIA Annual Meeting was held on the evening of May 3, with a live audience and via Zoom. Volunteers and staff were recognized for their hard work and perseverance during the pandemic. Joseph Gutierrez was awarded Volunteer of the Year because of his extensive involvement as the County Liaison. The audience applauded the work done by the Board under the leadership of Board President Nancy Sulzberg. Nancy Sulzberg and Melicent D'Amore tendered their resignation/retirement from the Board.

The financial report indicated that the Association is in very good shape. Assessment collection is high and a new insurance policy has been put in place.

Santa Fe County District 5 Commissioner Hank Hughes spoke about the county's plans for extending water lines and for money available for roads. HOAMCO CEO Justin Scott talked about the improved working relationship and understanding that has developed since HOAMCO began management of the ECIA.

The ECIA Board Has Filled All Positions



JOSEPH GUTIERREZ
Treasurer

Joseph and his wife moved to Eldorado in 1983. They raised two daughters in this community and feel they are fortunate to have their first grandchild and be able to enjoy the amenities with her—playgrounds, pool, walking paths and stables.

Joseph worked approximately

30 years with State government and 11 years with Santa Fe County. His experience in government has given him a strong background in finance, planning and infrastructure. He also served on the Finance Committee for two years with ECIA and on the Board for two and a half years as the Board Treasurer. His previous experience has given him a strong understanding of what it takes to serve the Eldorado community as a Board member.

He plans to support decisions that keep the strong financial health of ECIA, continue to foster a positive relationship with Santa Fe County and explore opportunities to engage the youth of our community.



JAMES CARUSO
Director

James was born, raised and educated in the state of New York. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business-Economics from Utica College of Syracuse University and a Juris Doctorate from Albany Law School of Union University. He recently retired from the practice of law in New York after almost four

decades, having served in a variety of capacities, both in the public and private sector, and recently as the Corporation Counsel for the city of Troy, New York.

James and his wife visited New Mexico numerous times over the past 21 years and, in 2009, they purchased property here. However, it wasn't until the Summer of 2020 that they relocated here full-time. They have become residents of New Mexico and, after a long search, moved to Eldorado and began enjoying all that this beautiful area has to offer.



JOHNATHAN TURKLE
Director

Jonathan was born in Santa Fe and raised in New York City, went to high school, and eventually college in Maine. Oddly enough, even as a city kid, he always had a passion for the outdoors and spent several summers at an overnight wilderness camp in Vermont

and then took off across Canada at the age of 17, traveling the roads and hiking across the continental divide with a buddy.

Although he was thousands of miles away from Santa Fe, he found time to return to New Mexico for summers at the Humming Bird music camp in Jemez Springs and almost every winter holiday for the last 40 years. For most of his adult life, he lived in Colorado Springs and Boulder, CO. In those 43 years, he took advantage of every Colorado adventure he could find, including hiking, camping, downhill and backcountry skiing, white water canoeing, and most recently, horseback riding. It must be true what they say about New Mexico—it must have a magical draw for those who lived here as both his parents and sister all moved back here in their due time. Two years ago he moved back to Santa Fe and fell in love with the Eldorado community. Since then, Jonathan and his wife have continued the adventure exploring every nook and cranny of Eldorado Preserve and greenbelt areas. His passion for the outdoors and nature spurred him to become a Conservation Committee member, volunteering on some of the various trail projects. He plans to give a presentation to demonstrate the virtues and possibilities of using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as part of the conservancy. He hopes to continue to be a cheerful voice for the ECIA community.

ECIA BOARD & MANAGEMENT

Board: *President Sal Monaco, Vice President David Sorkin, Treasurer Joseph Gutierrez, Secretary Carol Sanguinetti, Director James Caruso, Director Erika Penczer, Director Johnathan Turkle.*

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 and Community Center are now open to public. For info call 505 466-4248.

A Person's Name for a Weed—Jim Hill Mustard

It's certainly easier to distinguish a plant named "Jim Hill" than "tumble" since, as we featured in last month's *Vistas* article, there are a number of weeds whose seeds are spread through "tumbling." This weed was named after James J. Hill, a railroad builder, because this species soon followed the building of the railroad. The next time you walk the Rail Trail, look for it. It is an important reminder that disturbance of the soil through human activities paves the way for non-native weed species to get a hold. If you disturb it, they will come!

Scientific Name: *Sisymbrium altissimum*

Region of Origin: Europe

Timing of Appearance: Late spring, early summer (sometimes after monsoons)

CHARACTERISTICS:



Basal rosette Jim Hill Mustard seedling with lobed leaves

- Pale yellow flowers which, like all mustards, have four petals.

WHY IT IS A THREAT:



Dried mature Jim Hill Mustard

- Annual, reproduces by seed;
- Favors disturbed ground, where there has been baring of the soil;
- Seedling is a basal rosette with deeply lobed leaves, but it grows into a stout plant up to 5 feet tall;

- Although you may hear the term "naturalized" in association with this widespread weed, it's worth the effort to rid your yard of this invader because it's easy to identify and remove in its early stages;

otherwise, it can take over your property. That sea of yellow may look pretty from a distance, but up close

you'll realize you've lost your diverse native wildflowers and grasses;

- Once mature and dried, this tall plant breaks off at the base and tumbles with the wind spreading seed...with up to 1.5 million seeds per plant;
- Its presence can add to the wildfire danger on your property.

HOW TO MANAGE IT:

- Proactively avoid and minimize any soil disturbance on your property—this is a delicate habitat, easily damaged and hard to restore;
- Pull the single taproot out by hand when the plant first germinates and is a small basal rosette, before the flowering stalk is produced. You don't want to have to fight this tall stiff plant once it has seed pods;



Flowering Jim Hill Mustard

- Tamp down the soil around where you pulled to minimize invasion by other weeds that favor disturbed soil;
- Continue to check the site throughout the growing season and every year to make sure more seeds don't germinate after favorable conditions. Native plants, being perennial or annuals via seeds in the soil, will come in over time;
- Don't use chemicals; they are unnecessary and ineffective, and will harm native plants and animals.

—Carol Beidleman, Conservation Committee

Photos: Top left, by J.A. Kropf, WSU Extension Hortsense;

Bottom left, courtesy Methow Conservancy;

Above, courtesy Southwest Colorado Wildflowers.

EACA Call to Artists

Applications for the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association's October Studio Tour on **Oct. 23 and 24**, will be available on **June 4!** Please go to the EACA website at www.eldoradoarts.org to check for specific application dates and deadlines. EACA dues must be paid before applying. The website includes a calendar, a blog, pop up shows information, artists directory and more.

We're excited to present the 2021 Studio Tour once again and look forward to the enthusiastic reception by Eldorado residents and friends.



Butter Dish by Nan Patmont

Recycle—Compostable Versus Biodegradable

According to the EPA, over 26 million tons of petroleum-based plastic ends up in U.S. landfills each year. Microplastics (small plastic pieces less than five millimeters long) can take decades to break down.

Environmentally savvy consumers attempt to counter this ill effect by purchasing “biodegradable” bags. But are they really biodegradable or is “biodegradable” just a marketing buzz word?

Some manufacturers have confused consumers by loosely misusing “compostable” and “biodegradable.” States like California have restrictions on the use of the terms, but the bottom line is, forget “biodegradable.” Instead, look for compostable bags. With caveats.

Compostable products are all biodegradable. Compostable bags are available for household and pet waste, and compostable plates and utensils offer a disposable alternative to single use plastic. But these products are not designed for home composting. A commercial composting facility can break down products quickly, usually within 90 days, and they leave behind a nutrient-rich organic material. Home composting systems don’t meet the right conditions or temperatures to break down these products, so they should go into your trash, where they will end up in our landfill. There, in an anaerobic environment lacking air and light, these bags will not biodegrade. But here’s the important consideration—

compostable bags are a far lesser evil than plastic bags, which are made from petroleum!

Not all compostable products are equal. Look for items that are made of bamboo, compostable PLA, plastic primarily made from corn or FSC certified paper. Specifically, look for a label showing the product meets Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certification. BPI is a third-party organization that reviews and certifies compostable products that meet ASTM D6400 and ASTM D6868 conditions for compostability. For more information about BPI, go to <https://bpiworld.org>.

Also, look for USDA BioPreferred Program (Biobased Labeling). USDA Biobased Product labels indicate that a product has been independently certified to meet USDA BioPreferred program standards and are composed either partly or entirely of renewable plant materials.

Some local stores carry some of these products, and they can also be found online.

Compostable products may cost a bit more than plastic alternatives, but they work just as well, and the more consumers embrace such products, the more likely prices will fall due to demand. More importantly, it’s the right thing to do for our planet.

—Andrew Rodney, *Eldorado/285 Recycles*

Fraud—Online, Social Media and Texting, Part II

ONLINE

Spam filters catch most, but not all, fraudulent emails. Look carefully at the email address for oddities in the domain name and delete immediately if you are suspicious. If you are not sure whether an email is legitimate, contact the bank or other company online through their website.

Spamsters change and evolve their methods constantly. One of the latest seems to be about an Amazon order of some rather expensive item you know you didn’t order. Until you notice the weird domain name and the misspellings in the message, you might for a moment be tempted to click on the “if you did not order this” link. Don’t click. Delete, delete.

If you have any suspicion that you have been defrauded, it’s a good idea to change 100% of your passwords.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We all know that social media is data-mining us, but there are even more sinister threats. Fake friend requests are incredibly common if you choose to have a public page. If you don’t need a public page for your business, it would be wise to tighten privacy settings.

It’s easy, and sometimes humorous, to recognize fake friend requests. They are from someone you’ve never heard of, they are new accounts, and most of them have no friends at

all. But some may have a number of friends, including some of your online friends. If you think it might be a legitimate request, for example if you seem to have a business, interest, or affinity connection in common, check with your friends to see if that person is a legitimate friend or if they just accepted the request without thinking.

If a social media “friend” becomes an online stalker or starts harassing you in a creepy way, report it to the social media company. If it continues or is actually threatening, report to law enforcement, in this case our County Sheriff.

TEXTING

“Smishing,” referring to scammers on SMS messaging services, commonly known as texting, is becoming more common. Research shows that people are more likely to click on a link in a text without thinking than a link in an email.

The same principles apply to texting as to other forms of communication. If you don’t recognize the number and the message doesn’t make sense to you or is just a link, delete immediately. Do not under any circumstances reply or engage in any way.

This entire article is available at elsoradosf.org under > “Board&Committees” > “Safety Ed Task Group”.

—Debra Denker, *Eldorado Safety Education Task Group*



Photographers Wanted!

Photos you submit may be permanently mounted at the ECIA Community Center as part of the celebration of Eldorado's Golden Anniversary. Other photos will be published along with the time line of events starting with 1969.

Photos should tell a story or illustrate life in Eldorado. Examples might be July Fourth Parade, VGPL Ice Cream Social, repairs being made to Community Center windmill, construction of school, flood crossing Avenida Azul, dog park attendees wearing masks, Community Day at Stables. Dig through your old photos—you might have a great one pasted into an album; take a photo of that picture; it might be a gem of history.

Send each photo with your name, description and date of event. Photos should be sent as a separate attachment (.jpg or other photo type) with as much resolution as possible—above 2 Mb best. Email to phenline@comcast.net.

—Pam Henline

Spring Into Chocolate

Who doesn't love chocolate? The Chocolate Daisy (*landiera daisy*) is a velvety-leaved, small but up to 1 to 2 foot perennial. Its mounded, coarse, gray-green foliage has a chocolate aroma. It is a leafy plant, often with many short branches at base and longer, leaning branches ending in leafless stalks topped by flower heads with yellow rays surrounding a maroon central disk.



Chocolate daisy blooming on May 1

The numerous, daisy-like blossoms are 2 inches across with yellow rays and a maroon center. These flowers open in the morning and droop in the heat of day. The cup-like seed heads which follow are also attractive.

The Latin name honors Jean-Louis Berlandier (1805–1851), a French-Swiss physician who collected plants in northern Mexico and Texas in the early 1800s. You may detect a chocolate fragrance from the flower head.

—Article by Judith Christini,
photo by Pam Henline

Piñon Snags Provide for Beloved Wildlife



Great Horned Owl perches in dead piñon in Eldorado

Beautiful and artistic, aged with character, dead standing piñon pine trees are very important to wildlife, especially birds which use them for perching, hunting, preening, feeding, fledging, and roosting. This Great Horned Owl (and its owlets) found safe harbor in this tree in a quiet corner of Eldorado. While the ECIA covenants do not reference dead standing trees, if they are away from the home they are not a concern and can be left for our beloved wildlife.

—Carol Beidleman,
photo by Joe Newman

Volunteer of the Year Awarded to Joseph Gutierrez

At the ECIA Annual Meeting on May 3rd, Board Vice President Melicent D'Amore presented Joseph with the Volunteer of the Year award which acknowledges those residents who have given their time and expertise to help the Eldorado community. Mr. Gutierrez coordinated positive working communications between Santa Fe County representatives and Eldorado community members. Joseph also was appointed as Board Treasurer last month.

—Photo by Dan Drobnis



June Meetings—Community Center Open*

*Meetings may be suspended, held via Zoom, and/or in-person: please check eldoradosf.org.

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	8, 22	3–5 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board Meeting	Tuesday	15	5:30 PM <i>CR & Zoom</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	1	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Paul Butt	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	Next meeting August 11		3–5 PM <i>CR & Zoom</i>	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	2	10 AM–12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	Wednesday	9	9:30 AM–Noon <i>Zoom</i>	Dan Drobnis	financechair1@gmail.com
	Information Committee	Monday	14	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Pam Henline	informationchair@gmail.com
	Road Committee	Wednesday	2	5:30–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com
	Stable Committee	Monday	21	6:30–8:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Amelia Adair	stablechair1@gmail.com
Monthly/Semi-Monthly	Band Rehearsal	Next meeting to be determined			Diana Hohn	songbirdiana2021@gmail.com
	Bridge	Next meeting to be determined			DiAna Gutierrez	505 699-3555
	EACA	Next meeting July 15		7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kim Crickard	President@eldoradoarts.org
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	16	3–5 PM <i>LR</i>	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	8	4–6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797
	El Dorado School Community Garden	Next meeting to be determined			Carol Robles	info@eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.com
	Healing Arts Practitioners	Next meeting to be determined			Laurie Sandman	lsandman9@comcast.net
	Life Drawing	Alt. Mondays	7, 21	10 AM–Noon <i>CR</i>	Joe Mullins	914 357-0784
	MELT	Next meeting To Be Determined			Maurena Bivins	info@maureenabivinsacupuncture.com
	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tuesday	1	6–7 PM <i>Conference Call</i>	Nancy Merz	nmmmerz@msn.com
	Santa Fe Model Railroad Club	Next meeting July 13		6–8 PM <i>CR</i>	Tony Balano	apbbalano@gmail.com
	Spinning Group (Fiber)	Suspended during COVID-19			Ellen Higgins	casaladerabe@gmail.com
Weekly	AA	Tuesdays		5:45–6:45 PM <i>LR</i>	505 982-8932	santafeaa.org
	AA (Women Only)	Thursdays		6–7 PM <i>LR</i>	505 982-8932	santafeaa.org
	AA	Fridays		6–7 PM <i>CR</i>	505 982-8932	santafeaa.org
	Al Anon	Saturdays		11 AM–Noon <i>CFR</i>	914 714-2014 Phebe	al-anon.org
	Bible Study & Worship Service	Saturdays		Noon–4 PM <i>CR & K</i>	Kevin Rehorn	kevinrehorn@msn.com
	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	Tuesdays		10 AM–Noon <i>LR</i>	Joyce Hanmer	505 466-3018 joycehan@msn.com
	Overeaters Anonymous	Tuesdays		10 AM <i>CC Patio</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

Calendar info collected and verified by ECIA office, GM@eldoradosf.org. Sign up for ECIA Newsbriefs, jcollins@hoamco.com to be notified of changes.

CR: Classroom; K: Kitchen; LR: Living Room; CFR: Conference Room

News Tid-Bits

ECIA POOL PASSES AVAILABLE FOR 2021 SEASON

The ECIA pool is open. You may renew your pass or get a new one at the Community Center weekdays between 8:30 AM and 12 noon, and 1 to 4:30 PM. Your 2021 assessment must be paid in full to get a pass. Watch for eblasts about pool schedule or check eldoradosf.org.

GREENBELT AND WILDERNESS PRESERVE MAPS

Are you a hiker or do you want to know what areas are available to you in the great outdoors of Eldorado? Updated maps of the Greenbelt Trails and the Wilderness Preserve are available at the Community Center.

COVID-19 VACCINES ARE AVAILABLE IN ELDORADO

Local residents can arrange to get either the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination in Eldorado at Del Norte Pharmacy, located on the east side of La Tienda, 7 Caliente Rd, Unit 2. To schedule go to vaccinenm.org.

JULY 4 CELEBRATION NEWS AND UPDATES

The exact July 4 events have not yet been determined and will depend on COVID-19 status and restrictions. To receive updates on events or to help with planning, contact the ECIA office at **505 466-4248**. You may sign up for eblast notifications to learn what is planned and about ECIA activities in general.

COMMUNITY CENTER OPEN FOR GENERAL USAGE

The Community Center (CC) opened May 17 for general usage. Groups such as the Book Club and the Knitting Group may again schedule meetings in CC rooms. Rooms and the facility are also available to rent. Fitness and other activities have been approved to resume. Please check with the office or the individual responsible for an activity for scheduling.

IN-PERSON AND HYBRID MEETINGS

Note that committees and groups are starting to gather in-person as well as hybrid meetings (in-person and Zoom.)

*Sun warm on your face,
clean air unfiltered by masks—
truth is a rare thing.*

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.

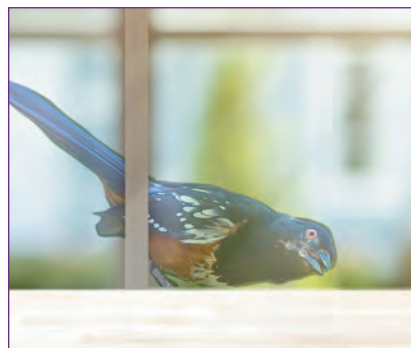
Editorial Policy *Vistas* welcomes factual and objective submissions, which will be selected and edited at the discretion of the Information Committee and Board of Directors. Community announcements and articles of interest to homeowners are welcome, along with photos. Submissions are due on the fifth of the month preceding publication. For help with any article, see the *Vistas* Style Guide posted on ECIA website, www.eldoradosf.org.

Reflections on Avian Masochism

Have you ever witnessed a bird hurling itself against a plate glass window or other similarly reflective surface? It usually happens in spring and early summer when avian hormonal activity is at its peak. Case in point, when we lived in the Eastern US, it was not uncommon to see Northern Cardinals throwing themselves repeatedly against windows, mirrors or even shiny auto hubcaps back in the day. Sometimes this activity continued even as the male cardinal became stunned and bloodied. But what may seem masochistic behavior to us actually makes sense from the bird's point of view.

When male birds encounter what they believe to be rival suitors in their breeding territories, they give chase. Unfortunately in cases of mistaken identity, the stalwart defender is unaware that what he is confronting is actually his own reflection. Unfortunately such self-destructive behavior may continue for weeks on end.

At our Eldorado home a male Spotted Towhee—a most handsome species—was recently peeking in our windows and throwing himself against our glass panes on a regular basis, often in the morning when the sun's angle was just right for him to behold his image.



A Spotted Towhee peers at his own reflection in window glass.

So what can be done to save these hormone-crazed birds from themselves, not to mention saving your windows? One tried and true method involves rubbing the edge of a bar of soap against the **outside** of the glass to create a non-reflective surface. Sounds like a Halloween prank? Well, the good thing is that it washes off easily after the nesting season concludes. Hanging curtains, paper, or other objects against the inside of the window will not remove the mirror-like quality of the glass, so your work must be done from the outside and of course may involve multiple windows. But hopefully the end result will be peace for you and your avian tormentor.

—René Laubach



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.