

# VISTAS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 • 505 466-4248 • [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

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**New Mexico is now open 100%. Check with individual businesses, vendors and activities to see what changes may have occurred during Covid-19.**

## Santa Fe County Plans on Expanding Water Sources

The Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD), that provides water to the greater Eldorado area, will soon be part of an interconnected water system in southern Santa Fe County. It is all part of a plan to help our neighbors in Cañoncito and to provide backup water for Eldorado.

I talked with the County Utilities Director John Dupuis to find out the latest on this project. Earlier, I also talked to Steve King at the EAWSD. The first part of the plan is to connect the Eldorado water system to the water system for Cañoncito, since their water supply is not of good quality and is not reliable. On a temporary basis, Cañoncito will be receiving water from the Eldorado system to get them through their current shortage. By the time you read this, this part of the project will be in operation.

The second part of the plan is to connect Eldorado to the County water system at the Santa Fe Community College. This pipe is already being constructed. The County gets water

from the Buckman Direct Diversion facility on the Rio Grande River. Once this is finished, the County system will pipe water through Eldorado on its way to Cañoncito. Eldorado will also have the option to purchase water from the County system as needed. This part of the project is scheduled to be done by the middle of 2022.

There are several advantages to this interconnection. Houses in Cañoncito will have a reliable source of water, and Eldorado will not be completely reliant on well water. In the long run, those planning for our water future, including John Dupuis, hope that we can rest the wells in Santa Fe County when there is ample water in the Rio Grande to use and then have the groundwater to rely on when the Rio Grande is low. With climate change leading to more droughts in our area, this flexible plan for water will help avoid the severe shortages we might otherwise have to cope with.

—Hank Hughes,

*Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 5*

## July 4th Festivities Return to the Eldorado Community



The July 4 celebration approaches quickly. The exact events may change after *Vistas* goes to print, so be sure to check your eBlasts. A parade is scheduled for 10 AM along Monte Alto Road, to include decorated cars and horses from the Eldorado Stable.

Residents are encouraged to participate by walking, riding decorated bikes, playing an instrument or just observing. Community Center activities include B & R Food truck, music, Freezie Fresh or ice cream and pool activities and games. Events at the Community Center are 10 AM–2 PM following the parade. You may sign up for eBlast notifications to quickly learn what is planned and about ECIA activities in general, call 505 466-4248.

—Photo by Dan Drobnis



*Participants prepare for the 2006 July 4th Parade.*

# Board Actions and Summary June 15

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 (via Zoom) were present and a quorum was met. HOAMCO staff attending included Julie Navarro, GM, Assistant GM Jessica Collins, Operations Manager Mike Rogers, and Jocelyn Rizzo, AA. Members attended via Zoom.

The Board approved the May minutes and a Consent Agenda which included: the General Manager's Report, the Covenant Compliance Report and a revised Environmental Impact Policy. The new policy may be viewed on the ECIA website under "Governing Documents" > "Policies and Rules".

## THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING MOTION:

- To provide preliminary approval subject to final review in the 2022 Budget for 5 Capital Project Requests (CPRs) covering Disc Golf (\$7,000), Handball Court improvements (\$1,500), Marquee (\$4,500), new bench for Compadres Park (\$1,500), and new shade structures for Compadres Park (\$3,000). The motion was made by Treasurer Gutierrez and seconded by Director Caruso and all members were in favor.

## THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING VARIANCES:

- A variance for 34 Quedo Road for a large accessory structure to be built at the same 13 foot height of the home, but two feet taller than the home due to higher elevation where the structure is planned. Director Caruso pointed out that the home was dug at a lower level and the structure is not as visible or visually intrusive. He motioned to approve the structure and the motion was seconded by Vice President Sorkin and all were in favor;
- A variance for 62 Encantado Loop to allow for the fence gate area to exceed the maximum height of 8 feet and remain at a height of 10 feet 5 inches above grade. Additionally, the applicant requested a variance to allow for a structure that was built without ECIA approval to remain in the 10 foot utility easement. Board Director Caruso motioned to approve the taller gate because it is functional, screened, and ranch-style. The motion was seconded by the Vice President Sorkin and all were in favor. Director Caruso motioned not to approve the structure in the utility easement and require the lot owner to provide an alternative plan. The motion was seconded by the Vice President Sorkin and all were in favor.

Treasurer Gutierrez indicated the May financials, to date, are 25% under budget. An early transfer of \$50K, out of a total allotment of \$200K, was transferred from Operations to the Reserve Fund. The maintenance team has been able to save the association money by utilizing their skills which would otherwise be contracted out. The association has collected between 96–97% of 2021 assessment dues. The General Manager will be preparing 2021 projections for the 2022 budget.

He also reported that ECIA staff and County staff met on May 27 to discuss the Avenida Azul Hike/Bike project. \$10K was allotted for each alignment study from Torreon Road to HWY 285 and the Avenida Azul trail. A master plan for the Hike/Bike trails should be complete before the next County session starts.

During the HOAMCO Report, Operations Manager Rogers stated the capital projects for 2021 are mostly complete. The security cameras, new landscape around the pool, gate to the basketball court, and paved path from the parking area to the courts are also complete. M&M Garage Doors & Gates have been secured as the vendor to install security card readers at the courts; the pool already has the system installed. Regarding Replacement and Reserve projects, the Compadres Park basketball resurfacing was pushed to the week of July 23. Patio and Cactus Garden lighting will begin June 21. The baby pool re-plaster is complete and the vendor will be back this week to touch up a rough spot. Compadres Park ground covering is complete. Picnic tables were refurbished instead of buying new.

The main pool is open at 75% capacity, with all activities resuming as normal, other than no guests until the pool can open at 100% capacity. A reminder was provided to parents and caretakers, asking them to keep an eye on children that are not strong swimmers and to teach them pool-safe behaviors; US Coast Guard approved lifejackets are recommended. Pool staff will continue to adjust perspective and reframe structure as needs present. The pool will occasionally be closed to all swimmers for short periods for continued in-service trainings. These times will be announced. Group swim lessons begin 6/21/21 and private lessons will be available for the duration of the pool season. The kiddie pool is scheduled for inspection and will likely be open by the end of June. With the end of Covid restrictions announced by the Governor's Office starting July 1, we expect that all pool restrictions will be lifted by that date—look for an announcement.

In the Open Forum, a resident stated there was concern that the 2019 Environmental Policy was not being followed in regard to using pesticides on the trees at the Community Center. President Monaco informed the resident that the policy was being revised and all key provisions remain and will be followed. He stated that an aerosol pesticide will not be used. The policy can be found on the ECIA website under Governing Documents.

The meeting began at 5:30 PM and ended at 7:07 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.

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The next Board Meeting will be hybrid on  
Tuesday July 20 at 5:30 PM.

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—Sal Monaco,  
ECIA Board President

## Pool Update and Swim Lessons



*The pool entrance has been landscaped with aspens, perennials, annuals and a fountain set amidst a dry river bed and rock boulders.*

**T**he ECIA pool has been open since May 29 and activities are almost back to normal. The pool is open at 75% capacity under the current Public Health Order; indoor showers and recreation swim are available. At the time of publishing this article, it is planned to open the kiddie pool by July 1, as soon as a State inspection is completed. No guests will be allowed until the pool can open at 100% capacity in order to ensure all ECIA residents are able to enjoy the pool. Private

swim lessons, facilitated by American Red Cross Water Safety Instructors, are now available. Please contact the ECIA office to obtain instructor contact information, **505 466-4248**. If you would like to sign up to receive specific pool closing/opening eBlasts, please email [cwalsh@hoamco.com](mailto:cwalsh@hoamco.com). Pool passes are still available at the Community Center office. Please provide proof of residency and sign a 2021 waiver.

—Photo by Pam Henline

## Community Hopes Re-Use Area will Soon Re-Open

**T**he Re-Use area, (a part of the Santa Fe County Convenience Center on Highway 285, where residents can drop off unwanted, usable items which other residents can pick up and use) has been closed for over a year due to the pandemic and is missed by residents of the 285 corridor. Now that Covid cases are low and we know more about how Covid is spread, Eldorado/285 Recycles circulated a petition to get the Re-Use area re-opened. It is a great resource which can help assure that the landfill is not so heavily laden with our cast offs. Eldorado285/Recycles will continue to be a presence and organize the area twice a week as we did in the past. We are grateful to the Solid Waste County workers for their care and hard work at the Convenience Center, where recyclables, glass,

cardboard, weeds, brush and trash and the Re-Use area have been managed into tidy discreet areas. The county employees have greeted the public with friendliness and professionalism, particularly during the pandemic, when the traffic at the convenience center was considerable. Three hundred signatures were delivered on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 to Commissioner Anna Hamilton; Commissioner Hank Hughes; Gary Giron, Public Works Director; Les Francisco, Solid Waste Superintendent; and Erika Moncayo, Risk Division Director with the hope they make the decision to open the Re-Use Center as soon as possible.

—Elizabeth Maclaren,  
co-chair Eldorado285/recycles

### 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](mailto:jnavarro@hoamco.com)  
Monthly report available at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) under Resident Resources.

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

# Stable Hosts *Wine and Weeds Walk* Ecosystem Event

**E**ldorado Community Stables, home to adventurous equines and their humans, sponsored our first *Wine and Weeds Walk*, on May 15 with guest speaker Susan Tweit. Participants on the *Walk* shared personal stories, played, pulled a few weeds and learned how to help our local ecosystem become more drought resilient. At the same time, several led their equines, who happily grazed on weeds around the grounds.

Susan, a barn owner and a botanist with experience in wildland restoration, urged us to support the beneficial dryland plants found at the Stable. She explained how to manage invasive weeds that don't play well with local insects, birds and other fauna and flora through hand-grazing equines on weeds, plus hand pulling when appropriate. These techniques can deplete weed seeds in the soil. Weeded areas should then be reseeded with native plants, to create a more resilient greenspace.

Through this and other recent environmental restoration efforts, the Stable greenspace is morphing. On-going efforts include reducing fuels for wildfire, improving wildlife habitat (for pollinators, reptiles and birds), providing attractive places to meet, create art, walk dogs, and ride equines.

Hand-grazing equines not only reduces weeds and the maintenance needed to mow them, but is also an enjoyable human and equine social opportunity. The Stable Committee hopes our *Walks* will encourage more people to hand-graze and pull weeds, all the while helping our local ecosystem become more resilient during extended drought.



*Eldorado residents enjoy an educational evening at the Stable with guest speaker Susan Tweit.*

Additional *Wine and Weeds Walks* will happen with an educational focus—open to all Eldorado residents. The next is scheduled for Saturday, **July 17 at 5 PM**. For more information contact [eldoradostables@gmail.com](mailto:eldoradostables@gmail.com), 505 585-4054.

—Article by Karla Lauritsen and Amelia Adair,  
Eldorado Stable Committee members;  
Photo by Amelia Adair

## Fraud—Online, Social Media and Texting, Part III

**T**he Eldorado Safety Education Task Group presents the final section of this article. If you would like to read the article in its entirety it is available at [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org) under > “Board&Committees” > “Safety Ed Task Group”.

### CREDIT

You should check your credit report at least once a year. Many companies offer paid services that check monthly and give you quarterly reports. If you have ever been part of a massive fraud of millions of people like shoppers at a certain chain or patients at certain large medical facilities, they will contact you and tell you that they are giving you free credit monitoring for a fixed period of time.

### RESOURCES

AARP (formerly American Association of Retired Persons) has a Fraud Watch Network that offers excellent resources and tips on avoiding being defrauded. Anyone over 50 is eligible to join, but you don't have to be a member to report suspicion of fraud or to sign up for their free email Fraud Watchdog Alerts. If you are active on social media and have the time and inclination, you can even become a

volunteer digital fraud fighter. For more information on the AARP Fraud Watch Network visit the following link:

<https://www.aarp.org/benefits-discounts/all/fraud-watch-network/>

The non-profit Consumer Reports has frequent articles on avoiding fraud, such as this one on avoiding credit card fraud, especially during the pandemic:

<https://www.consumerreports.org/scams-fraud/protect-yourself-from-credit-and-debit-card-fraud/>

If you suspect you have been defrauded, report it to the local sheriff's office and place a fraud alert on the Federal Trade Commission site:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0275-place-fraud-alert>

Here are tips from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau of the US government on recognizing Social Security scams:

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/five-ways-to-recognize-social-security-scam/>

—Debra Denker,  
Eldorado Safety Education Task Group

# Weed of this Month: Common Mullein

If there's anything positive about one of the most common weeds found in Eldorado, it's that it's also one of the most recognizable. Few of us are confident about weed identification, however Common Mullein is one that most people can identify accurately at any stage.



*Common Mullein rosette*

**Scientific Name:**

*Verbascum thapsus*

**Common Name(s):**

Common Mullein

**Region of Origin:**

Native of Asia, introduced from Europe

**Timing of Appearance:**

Rosettes in late spring/early summer; stout stalk(s) in summer

**CHARACTERISTICS:**

- Biennial, with basal rosette the first year and tall stem the second year;
- Leaves are famously fuzzy to the touch, hence it's often nicknamed the "toilet paper plant";
- Spikes of yellow flowers emerge at the top of the stalks, which can grow to over 6 feet tall;
- Favors disturbed ground, particularly along roads and driveways.

**MYTHS:**

Many people assume this is a native species because they have heard it was used by Native Americans; however it was brought here hundreds of years ago. It is also touted as having many medicinal purposes but, while the list of attributed remedies is long, it is best to think of this plant as an undesirable invasive that should be removed from our landscape.

**WHY IT IS A THREAT:**

- If you have ever wrestled with a mature mullein plant you

will know why it is wise to remove them when they're in the small rosette stage. Any delay allows this weed to consume space and water which your more beautiful native grasses and flowering forbs need;

- With up to 200,000 seeds per plant, each of which can survive over 80 years, you don't want a single plant to go to seed;
- Once established along roadways and driveways, this weed then will invade into properties;
- The dried stalks are an eyesore, and make a property look abandoned.

**HOW TO MANAGE IT:**

- Dig up the rosettes when they first appear, getting the taproot;



*Mature Common Mullein flowering spikes*

- If the plant has been left until it is tall with flowering spikes, carefully cut the stalk below any flowers and bag and remove the flowering portion; the rest of the plant can be pulled or cut at the base and left on the ground to desiccate. Arm yourself with a clipper, lopper, and paper weed bag for seed heads;
- Tamp down the soil around where you pulled to minimize invasion by other weeds;

- If you see dead mullein stalks from last year, or accidentally let yours come to seed this year, continue to check that site in subsequent years to remove the inevitable rosettes.

—Article and photos by Carol Beidleman, Conservation Committee

## Send Us Your Shots, Snaps & Scans!

**P**hotos 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](mailto:phenline@comcast.net).

—Pam Henline



# Giving a Hoot—The Mystical Tecolote

From the Ancient Greeks (and well before, including many Native American cultures) to the tales of Harry Potter, owls (Tecolote in Spanish) have held a special, often mystical place in the human imagination. Often associated with death and the after-life, cultures from around the world have mythologized these unique birds.



*The 8.5" long Western Screech-Owl*

Most owls make a habit of being inconspicuous—especially those that are active after the sun goes down. Their shape—mimicking portions of a tree trunk or branch, muted and camouflaged coloration and habit of perching nearly motionless for long periods add to their air of mystery and make them adept at evading detection. Often it is only their vocalizations—some eerie to our ears, that reveal their presence in the dark of night. Western Screech-Owls by the way do not “screech”. Their song consists of a series of soft, melodic whistles that increase in tempo in what has been described as the sound made by a bouncing ball.

Twelve species of these mostly nocturnal birds regularly occur in New Mexico and eight of them are pint-sized predators. One of the “largest” and most commonly encountered small owls in our state is the eight-and-one-half-inch long Western Screech-Owl. Once thought to be the same species as the Eastern Screech-Owl, ornithologists decided they were actually unique species back in 1983, based in part upon plumage characteristics and vocalizations. But common is a relative and subjective term. Spotting an owl of any kind has always been a treat for me, an event that makes an otherwise ordinary day seem special.

These little owls are year-round residents and occur in New Mexican habitats ranging from cottonwood bosques to mountain woodlands. Relying primarily on naturally occurring tree cavities and abandoned flicker nesting holes (they also accept artificial nest boxes at times), breeding pairs remain on their territories throughout the year. Nesting

usually begins in mid-March. The female lays an average of four pure white eggs which she incubates for about one month. The male supplies food for his mate and their nestling, consisting of small mammals, birds, and especially insects. When the young are older the female joins the male in hunting. By sometime in June the young have usually left the nest cavity.

Western Screech-Owls, with their feathery “ear” tufts and bright yellow eyes are fairly common in Eldorado’s piñon/juniper woodlands. My wife Christyna and I have heard their mellow songs around our home from late June to late October, although they are present in our area all year. One late June evening we were thrilled to find three fledglings perched in a shrub near one of our birdbaths. On another occasion our newspaper delivery person informed us that she had spotted one atop our mailbox during her pre-dawn deliveries.

Although still quite common, screech-owls and other owls should be left in peace wherever we are fortunate to find them. They tolerate human presence quite well, but we should be careful not to harass them by playing recordings of their songs or using flash photography or blinding spotlights to obtain better looks at these amazing creatures. By “giving a hoot” to quote “Woodsy Owl”, we can assure their continued presence in our world.

## RENÉ LAUBACH

A lifelong lover of nature, particularly birds, René Laubach, who grew up in Michigan, relocated to New Mexico with his wife Christyna, a long-time high school biology teacher in 2017 after 34 years residing in Western Massachusetts. There he was fortunate to have served as director of Massachusetts Audubon Society’s Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries for nearly 30 of those years. Together they conducted numerous public bird banding demonstrations and participated in community science projects.



—René Laubach,

*Photo left, David M. Bell, Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML292687111);*

*Photo above, Scott Lewis*

# July Meetings—Community Center Open\*

\*Meetings may be suspended, held via Zoom, and/or in-person: please check [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org).

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	13, 27	3–5 PM <i>CFR &amp; Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board Meeting	Tuesday	20	5:30 PM <i>CR &amp; Zoom</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	6	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Paul Butt	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	Next meeting August 11		3–5 PM <i>CR &amp; Zoom</i>	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	7	10 AM–12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	Wednesday	14	9:30 AM–Noon <i>Zoom</i>	Dan Drobnis	financechair1@gmail.com
	Information Committee	Monday	12	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Pam Henline	informationchair@gmail.com
	Road Committee	Wednesday	7	5:30–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com
	Stable Committee	Monday	19	6:30–8:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Amelia Adair	stablechair1@gmail.com
Monthly/Semi-Monthly	Band Rehearsal	Alt. Saturdays / Next meeting to be determined			Diana Hohn	songbirdiana2021@gmail.com
	Bridge	1st & 3rd Friday	2, 16	1–4 PM <i>LR</i>	Debbie Iverson	307 752-4868
	EACA	Thursday	15	7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kim Crickard	President@eldoradoarts.org
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	21	3–5 PM <i>LR</i>	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	13	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	5, 19	10 AM–Noon <i>CR</i>	Joe Mullins	914 357-0784
	MELT	Next meeting To Be Determined			Maureena Bivins	info@maureenabivinsacupuncture.com
	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tuesday	6	6–7 PM <i>Conference Call</i>	Nancy Merz	nmmerz@msn.com
	Santa Fe Model Railroad Club	2nd Tuesday	13	6–8 PM <i>CR</i>	Tony Balano	apbbalano@gmail.com
	Social Games Gathering	Fri. & Mon.	2, 19	11:30 AM–2:30 PM <i>CCB</i>	Carol Miseo-Hardin	caje80@comcast.net
	AA	Tuesdays		5:45–6:45 PM <i>LR</i>	505 982-8932	santafeaa.org
Weekly	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	Please contact for information			Kevin Rehorn	kevinrehorn@msn.com
	Eldorado Hikers	Tuesdays		8:30 AM <i>NE corner CC Pkg.</i>	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
	Teen Support Group	Saturdays		1–3 PM <i>LR</i>	Richard Nasef	rnasef@comcast.net

**Zoom meeting information is online at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) > News & Events > Zoom Schedule**

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

**CR: Classroom; K: Kitchen; LR: Living Room; CFR: Conference Room; CCB: Community Center Breezeway**

## News Tid-Bits

### COMMUNITY CENTER FULLY OPEN

The Community Center is open for general usage. Groups are welcome to schedule a time to meet. Social groups and rentals are available Monday to Saturday. The rental application can be found on [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org) > “Resident Resources” > “Forms and Applications” > “Community Center Rental”. For any questions please contact the office, **505 466-4248**.

### GET YOUR COVID-19 VACCINATION LOCALLY

Local residents can arrange to get either the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson corona virus vaccination right in Eldorado at the Del Norte Pharmacy, located on the east side of La Tienda, 7 Caliente Rd, Unit 2. Scheduling can be done directly at [vaccinenm.org](http://vaccinenm.org).

### CORRECTION & APOLOGIES

The Dog Park article in June *Vistas* was written by Robert Christie.

### LIBRARY OPEN FOR BROWSING

On June 1, Vista Grande Public Library opened its doors so that book lovers can come inside, peruse the titles and handle the books. Masks are required for those over the age of three. It is hoped that those who come inside do not linger. Advanced reservations are no longer needed for computers. For those not comfortable with close contact, the reservation system and curbside pickup are available. Many other activities are available including a summer reading program, kids activities grab bags, binge bags and an online book sale. For details go to [vglibrary.org](http://vglibrary.org) or call **505 466-READ**.

### OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE & HOURS OF OPERATION

The ECIA office is open on Monday, July 5. It is open to the public on weekdays 8:30 AM–4:30 PM, **505 466-4248**.

*Parade, ice cream, cake:  
it's America's birthday.  
What gift will you give?*

**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](http://www.eldoradosf.org).

## Spring Rain Boosts Blooms and Wildlife

Even the modest amount of rain we received during the spring months has revived our local plants and helped them host a myriad of wildlife.

### **COWPEN DAISY (*VERBESINA ENCELOIDES*):**

The Cowpen Daisy is also called Golden Crownbeard, and Butter Daisy.



*Cowpen Daisy*

A well-branched grayish-green plant, leaves alternate or opposite, toothed, nearly triangular. Yellow flower heads are up to 2 inches (5 cm) across and have 3-toothed rays. The silvery green leaves are triangular with toothed margins.

This plant is common on disturbed ground and sometimes colors acres or miles of roadside solid yellow.

Cowpen daisies are good for wildlife in many ways. They are an important source of pollen for many native insects, including a large number of bees, and they are a host plant for bordered patch and silvery checkerspot butterflies. The gold moth, *Basilodes pepita*, also uses it as a host plant. The seeds get eaten by birds, and is a favorite of doves and goldfinches.

### **YUCCA (*YUCCA SCHIDIGERE*):**

New Mexico designated the blossom of the desert yucca plant (pronounced "yuh-ka") as the official state flower in 1927.

The yucca flower was selected by the school children of New Mexico. Yuccas have a unique, specialized pollination system. They are pollinated by the yucca moth, which carefully and deliberately transfers the pollen from the stamens of one plant to the stigma of another, and at the same time lays an egg in the flower. The moth



*Yucca*

larvae then consumes a small amount of the developing seeds.

Many yuccas have edible parts, including fruits, seeds, flowers, stems, and sometimes the roots. Dried yucca wood has the lowest ignition temperature of any wood, which makes it desirable for starting fires.

—Judith Cristini,

*Photo left, Pam Henline; Photo above, Judith Cristini*



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