

# 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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With New Mexico bidding farewell to all coronavirus restrictions on July 1st, everyone was free to enjoy the July 4th parade, partake of food and participate in games at the pool.

*Photos by Dan Drobnis*





# Board Actions and Summary July 20

The ECIA Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM, held via Zoom and in person, and recorded. President Sal Monaco, Vice President David Sorkin, Secretary Carol Sanguinetti, Treasurer Joseph Gutierrez, and Directors Erika Penczer, James Caruso, and Jonathan Turkle were present and quorum was met. HOAMCO staff included General Manager Julie Navarro, Assistant General Manager Jessica Collins and Operations Manager Mike Rogers.

The June Board of Directors Meeting Minutes and Consent Agenda items were approved. The General Manager's Report and Committee and Task Group Reports can be found under "ECIA Governing Board" on the ECIA website.

Treasurer Gutierrez reported as of June 30, 2021, ECIA has expended only 40% of the Operating Budget and projects a surplus for the year. There is approximately \$16K in outstanding 2021 assessments (1% uncollected) and expressed appreciation to the General Manager and staff for success in collecting assessments.

ECIA's Strategic Financial Plan goal is to ensure ECIA is strong financially by ensuring the Reserve Fund is on target to meet 5-years of projections, limit annual operating costs to a 2-3% increase, and to keep any assessment increase modest. ECIA is on target to meet these metrics and we expect the 2022 budget to be flat relative to 2021. ECIA is also maintaining strong working relationships with the County and State.

Treasurer Gutierrez also stated that \$100K to update and maintain the Hike/Bike trails is still in the County procurement process and will go out to bid in August with work likely beginning in late September. There will be two trail alignment studies, costing \$15K, one on HWY 285 into Eldorado and the other on Azul Road and an additional \$130K has been requested for Azul trail construction. An ICIP (Integrated Capital Improvement Plan) request for trail work and a traffic crossing estimated at \$300-500K and will be requested in the 2022 legislative session.

General Manager Navarro reported the 4th of July parade and picnic was a success and without incident. Much positive feedback was received and many thanks to the volunteers. The GM reported the first draft of the budget has been sent to the Finance Committee with hopes it will be approved in November.

Operations Manager Rogers reported the maintenance work has slowed down, as most of the 2021 projects have been completed. The resurfacing of the Compadres Park basketball court has begun. Washout and flooding at the Community Center courts required the maintenance team to create channels to divert water flow. A contractor, AFJ, assessed Hike/Bike trail yearly maintenance and submitted a proposal to patch fill and seal coat sections of Avenida Eldorado and Vista Grande.

Assistant General Manager Collins reported the pool is operating well and residents seem pleased with the process.

There have been approximately 50 swim lesson students. We expect to keep the pool open through September. The main pool will be re-plastered; the preparation will occur in the fall and finished in the spring of 2022; bids have been requested from vendors.

Board President Monaco asked that Committee Chairs forward motions and action requests to the General Manager in the next month for virtual consent as there will be no Board of Directors meeting in August.

## ROCK CLIMBING IN THE PRESERVE POLICY PUBLIC COMMENTS (during Open Forum):

Residents from 24 Quedo Road stated they are in agreement with retaining the policy prohibiting rock climbing on the preserve. They stated they believe there are too many liabilities and no way to control misuse. Residents from 53 Cerrado Loop stated they have concerns about rock climbing in the preserve as well and are in favor of maintaining the policy to prohibit climbing in the preserve.

A resident from 14 Tarro Road presented questions regarding covenants. The resident was directed to speak with Mark Young.

## THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS:

- Secretary Sanguinetti moved to reaffirm the 2020 Policy Prohibiting Rock Climbing in the Preserve which can be found on the ECIA website under "Governing Documents" > "Policies & Rules". The motion was seconded by the Vice President Sorkin and all were in favor. It was noted the temporary wording will be changed and affirmed at the next Board of Directors meeting. Additionally, it was stated the financial risk to ECIA would be prohibitive and ECIA would most likely lose insurance coverage if the Preserve is opened to climbing;
- Treasurer Gutierrez motioned to provide preliminary approval for the 2022 Capital Budget for a tractor attachment for Stables and other maintenance tasks in the amount of \$6000. The motion was seconded by the Secretary Sanguinetti and all were in favor.

## THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING VARIANCES:

- A variance for 3 Estambre Place to allow for replacing an old wooden fence with a stucco block wall which will encroach into the 20 foot side setback by 2 feet 5 inches;
- A variance for 48 Alondra Road to allow for a wall to encroach 16 feet into the 50 foot roadside setback;
- A variance for 7 Monte Alto Court to allow for the fenced enclosure area to exceed the maximum allowed enclosure space on a lot by approximately 102 sq. ft.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

The next Board Meeting will be held hybrid on Tuesday, September 21st at 5:30 PM.

—Sal Monaco,  
ECIA Board President

# ECIA Bylaws Review Begins—Member Input Welcome

It's that time again: every two years, all ECIA members in good standing have the opportunity to suggest changes they'd like to see to the community's Bylaws. The Board welcomes member input in this important process and encourages members to read the Bylaws and submit suggestions for changes. The goal of the process is to ensure the governing structure of our community will be continuously improved and updated. They were last amended in 2020 by a vote of the members.

Bylaws can be found at [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org) > "Governing Documents" > "2020 Bylaws".

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BYLAWS REVIEW PROCESS:

- **August 20 at 5 PM** is the deadline for members to send in comments or suggestions for amendments to the Bylaws. Comments should be sent to [BylawsReviewChair@gmail.com](mailto:BylawsReviewChair@gmail.com), or delivered to the ECIA office. **The member**

**name and lot address must be included on your email**, to confirm that you are a member in good standing.

- **Review of suggestions.** The Bylaws Review committee will review all suggestions received and recommend possible amendments to the Board.
- **Other opportunities for member input.** After Board review, a draft of the new amendments will be available for everyone to read. Next, a town hall will be held (most likely in January 2022), so members can discuss and give feedback on the draft amendments.
- **Membership vote.** Finally, members must vote on final proposed amendments as part of the annual election of the Board in April 2022.
- If approved by the members, the amended Bylaws will take effect after certification by the Secretary of the Board.

—Bylaws Review Committee

# These Plants Grow Even in Our Dry Times



*Rocky Mountain penstemon*

## Rocky Mountain Penstemon

The Rocky Mountain penstemon, *Penstemon strictus*, is a native perennial flower. It has an upright form and broad, dark green leaves that lie very close to the ground.

The sturdy funnel-shaped royal blue-purple flowers grow on one side of a spike. The flowers may last up to a month.

One of the easiest

wildflowers to grow, this native plant is a good addition to low-water gardens. It tolerates many different types of soil and is a vigorous, easy-care plant.

## Western Yellow Salsify

Western yellow salsify, *Tragopogon dubious*, or goat's beard, is a smooth, hairless annual or biennial plant with one or several fleshy stalks. Flowerheads are surrounded

by narrow green bracts, which are longer than the yellow ray florets. The stems are considerably thickened just below flowerheads, which are large and showy but close by noon on sunny days.



*Western yellow salsify*

It blooms from May through July. Leaves are narrowly linear, both basal and along the stem, the latter clasping and alternate. The seedheads are handsome and large, much like those of dandelion.

Unlike some species of salsify such as the oyster plant *Tragopogon porrifolius*, western salsify is not generally regarded as edible, though you can eat the root (raw or cooked) and the young stems.

—Article by Judith Cristini  
Photos by Dan Drobnis

## 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.**



# Weed Potpourri

**A**s the growing season comes to a close, there are a few remaining weedy forbs we want you to be aware of. All of these will crowd out your native grasses and flowers.



**Field Bindweed**

**Field Bindweed** (*Convolvulus arvensis*): This white to pinkish funnel-shaped flower growing along our roads or on your septic field should not be a welcome sight. Bindweed is a very aggressive perennial from Europe, hard to eradicate given its extensive root system. About all you can do, but you should do it, is to tear it out carefully (it will be wrapped around other plants) as soon as it comes up, and keep after it through the growing season. Over time it will lose some vigor. As you tackle its tangle, you will understand how it got its name!

**Scotch Thistle** (*Onopordum acanthium*) and **Musk Thistle** (*Carduus nutans*): There are some beautiful native thistles in New Mexico, but mostly what we see are those



**Scotch Thistle is distinguished by spiny wings on the stem**

from Eurasia. Scotch Thistle is a Class A species on the New Mexico Noxious Weed List, for which preventing new and eradicating existing infestations is the highest priority, and Musk Thistle, less common in Eldorado, is a Class C species. Identification of these similar purple-flowered

species can be made by looking for the spiny wings on the stems of Scotch Thistle and the nodding flower heads of Musk Thistle. Their spines and prickly bracts make them nasty to handle, but since both are biennials they can be easily dug



**Musk Thistle displays its nodding flower head**

up and removed at their first-year rosette stage. If you find a mature plant with blooms (they can grow to 6-8 feet tall), cut off the flower heads and buds and bag them for disposal, then cut the stalk if it's too robust to pull out.

**Dalmation Toadflax** (*Linaria dalmatica*): This native of Europe and its relative the Yellow Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*) were often planted as ornamentals because of their yellow snapdragon-like flowers. Both are Class A species on the New Mexico Noxious Weed List. They are easy to identify and pull.



**Dalmation Toadflax**

**Sweet Clover** (*Melilotus officinalis*; yellow, white): You may have heard farmers sing the praises of sweet clover, as a cover crop good for soil-building and fixing nitrogen, or



**Sweet Clover**

as a green manure option. However, this Eurasian species is aggressive, consumes space and water, and can take over properties. They often come up along roadsides, then spread inward from there. This is a difficult species to pull, so get them out while they are small. Their leaves, which are

divided into three leaflets, are diagnostic.

We will close out our 2021 weed series in September and October, with some notorious invasive and water-consuming shrubs and trees.

—Carol Beidleman,  
Conservation Committee

Photos: left, Carol Beidleman; Right, education.mdc.mo.gov; idahoweeawareness.org; Carol Beidleman

## “My Friend Flicker”

**A**s the largest woodpecker (Carpintero in Spanish) in New Mexico, the Northern Flicker is a key member of the avian community. It provides housing not only for itself, but for many other cavity nesting birds. Of ten regularly occurring woodpeckers in our state, flickers (mostly year-round residents), are considered a “keystone” species since their excavations are so vital to the reproductive success of other cavity nesters, including small owls.

Though mostly brown above, they come in two underwing and under tail colors—red and yellow. The wings and tail undersides of the eastern subspecies, sometimes referred to as “yellow hammer” are—you guessed it—yellow, while its western counterpart has red-orange (salmon) wing and tail linings (both are actually named for the color of their feather shafts). Appropriately perhaps, males and females can easily be distinguished by the presence or absence of a “mustache”. It’s black in male eastern birds and red in those of our red-shafted variety. Eastern birds of both sexes have a red swatch on the back of the head, a mark that is missing in our subspecies. Yet they are one species—Northern Flicker, proven by the fact that they interbreed and produce fertile offspring where the two subspecies overlap on the Great Plains. Here in northern New Mexico we also occasionally see hybrids—individuals that display characteristics of both subspecies—both a red mustache and a red nape patch in males. In flight, all flickers flash a large, bright white rump patch. Like other woodpeckers, flickers drum rather than sing, but some of their calls can be interpreted as “flicka, flicka, flicka”, an auditory clue to their common name.

From head to toe (and tail) flickers are well-adapted to their life style. Like the rest of the woodpecker clan, flickers are equipped with an extraordinarily long tongue that wraps back over the top of the bird’s skull and attaches by small bones at the nostrils. Fully extended, its bristly surface is sticky and adept at snaring ants—its favorite prey, as well as other insects. In winter when bugs are scarce, berries and



*Male Red-shafted Flicker, Galisteo, New Mexico, March, 2021*

other fruits constitute a major part of their diet. Their bills are long and strong, and a thick skull containing air pockets cushion their brains against concussion, somewhat like a football helmet. Their feet have two toes pointing forward and two pointing back, providing a tight grip on tree bark, while stiff tail feathers add a handy backstop.

In contrast to most of their relatives, flickers are edge species not so dependent upon dense woodland. Females usually lay between six and eight white eggs in dead tree cavities—aspens are preferred (eggs laid in cavities are much better protected from predators and do not need to be decorated with camouflaging pigments). Both parents share incubation duties. Although still seemingly common, flickers have undergone a population decline that may be explained in part by the presence of introduced European Starlings that aggressively appropriate nesting cavities from the larger flickers. If this decline continues, it could also spell trouble for some of our other native cavity nesters.

—Article and photo by René Laubach

## Vista Grande Public Library Now Fully Open

**V**ista Grande Library is fully open to the public from 11 AM to 4:30 PM, Tuesday through Friday, and 11 AM to 4 PM on Saturday. All services are available, including public computers and printing. Masks are not required for vaccinated patrons. Unvaccinated patrons over the age of 3 are asked to continue to wear a mask inside the library.

Donated books, DVDs and CD audiobooks that are in good condition, in bags or boxes, can be left on the table outside the meeting room door at any time. Please do not leave items in front of the main door or next to the Little Free Library. No items that are damaged or dirty; thesauruses or dictionaries (other than paperback Spanish to English); text books, law

books, manuals, magazines or tapes of any kind. Do us a favor and recycle these items on your own.

**Friday Chess** is back from 3 to 5 PM in the Meeting Room. Anyone interested in chess is welcome. Children under 12 must sign up and have parental permission, but are most definitely encouraged to participate.

**Meet the August Artist:** 2-D Artist Lia Bellow will host an in-library reception at VGPL on **August 7** from 3:30–5 PM.

The library will be offering a series of afternoon geology programs including a joint geology/anthropology talk on Saturday, **August 28** at 1 PM. The website [vglibrary.org](http://vglibrary.org) has details and a full list of the services and upcoming programming.



# El Dorado School Community Garden is Back in Bloom



*El Dorado Community Garden's flourishing bed of beets.*

**E**ldorado's Community Garden, co-located at the El Dorado Community School, is back in full swing after the curtailed Covid 2020 season. With 63 members, 22 of which are new, there are plenty of hands to share the work of cultivating soil, planting seeds and sets, staking, shading, weeding, watering and thinning. In just two and a half months, the beds have gone from dormant to flourishing, with bushy lettuce, spinach and arugula vying for space, the spikes of garlic, onion and leek climbing skyward, and recently, soft green pepper and tomato plants beginning their bloom.

The Garden was founded in 2009, synchronous with Michelle Obama's White House vegetable garden opening in March that same year. At the forefront of what would become the School Garden movement, the Garden holds education



*The Outdoor Classroom in the garden.*

intrinsic to its mission. Stephanie Morris, art educator at the School (K-8), says "our emphasis is to develop the garden as an outdoor classroom, with teachers integrating it in different ways." While 5th graders tend the school's garden plots, kindergarteners learn the parts of a plant, and Stephanie's students experience the garden as art. Meanwhile, long-time Garden member and professional educator, Jack McCoy was instrumental in sowing the seeds of adult education with the Garden Talks series, featuring members of the greater

Santa Fe community on topics germane to the Garden. And invaluable hands-on mentoring takes place between seasoned gardeners and newbies.

Since its inception, the Community Garden has thrived on an ethos of environmental sustainability and organic cultivation principles, according to master gardener and Garden Steering Committee member, Christine Salem. Of particular import in these drought-laden times is the careful use of water. Garden members invested from the outset in



*Mulch in the Circle Garden conserves water.*

an extensive drip system to mitigate evaporation while channeling precious water to thirsty roots. A layer of mulch holds water close to the soil, which is amended with the Garden's own compost

material. No pesticides are used and organic fertilizer such as fish emulsion or Yum-Yum mix feeds the plants.

In addition, there are bluebird boxes brightly painted by school students hung all around the Garden to attract pollinators, and the Perennial Garden supports bees that pollinate the vegetables and flowers. Members also practice companion planting, pairing marigolds and calendula with vegetables to further support pollination and discourage undesirable insects. And more recently, Christine, who is a passionate founder of Santa Fe's Seed Library, is exploring seed saving education for Garden members. "The result would be a cache of self-generating seeds adapted to local conditions, increasing our genetic diversity and supporting plant strength that helps with Climate Change effects," Christine explains.

Community Garden members have a choice of participation: join the Circle Garden, sharing the work and the harvest, or have a plot to tend and grow on one's own. There are also a variety of amenities, including a calming labyrinth, cactus garden, greenhouse, shed and tools, and of course, the simple pleasure of working beside a neighbor to support nature's creation of great bounty.

For more information or to join us, please visit us: [eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.org](http://eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.org). For information on Santa Fe's Seed Library, go to: [santafelibrary.org/santa-fe-seed-library/](http://santafelibrary.org/santa-fe-seed-library/).

—Article and photos by Rebecca Reynolds,  
Circle Garden member and consultant on Natural Resource  
Management through her firm, Rebecca Reynolds Consulting Inc.

# August 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	10, 24	3–5 PM <i>CFR &amp; Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board Meeting	Next meeting Tuesday, September 21 <i>CR &amp; Zoom</i>			ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Bylaws Review Committee	Thursday	12	3:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Amelia Adair	bylawsreviewchair@gmail.com
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	3	7–9 PM <i>CR &amp; Zoom</i>	Paul Butt	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	Wednesday	11	3–5 PM <i>CR &amp; Zoom</i>	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	4	10 AM–12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	Wednesday	11	9:30 AM–Noon <i>CR &amp; Zoom</i>	Dan Drobnis	financechair1@gmail.com
	Information Committee	Monday	9	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Pam Henline	informationchair@gmail.com
	Road Committee	Wednesday	4	5:30–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com
	Stable Committee	Next meeting Monday, September 20 <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	6, 20	1–4 PM <i>LR</i>	Debbie Iverson	307 752-4868
	EACA	Wednesday	25	6–8 PM <i>CR</i>	Kim Crickard	President@eldoradoarts.org
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	18	3–5 PM <i>LR</i>	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	10	4–6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797
	Life Drawing	Alt. Mondays	2, 16	10 AM–Noon <i>CR</i>	Joe Mullins	914 357-0784
	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tuesday	3	6–7 PM <i>CFR</i>	Nancy Merz	nmmerz@msn.com
	Santa Fe Model Railroad Club	2nd Tuesday	10	6:30 PM <i>CR</i>	Tony Balano	apbbalano@gmail.com
	Social Games Gathering	Wednesday	11, 25	10 AM–1:30 PM <i>CCB</i>	Carol Miseo-Hardin	caje80@comcast.net
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	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
	Eldorado Teens	Saturdays		1–3 PM <i>LR</i>	Richard Nasef	rnasef@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
	Zumba	Wednesdays		5:30-7:30 PM <i>CR</i>	Marilyn Salas	luzpecorelli@hotmail.com

**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. Sign up for ECIA Newsbriefs, 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

### NEW BIRDS RECORDED

The following birds were added to the Eldorado bird list: Long-eared Owl, Lazuli Bunting, Zone-tailed Hawk, Brown Creeper, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Brown Thrasher, Plumbeous Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, Scott's Oriole, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Hepatic Tanager, Pygmy Nuthatch, Canyon Wren and Purple Martin. Many thanks to René Laubach for most of these sightings. The list is located at [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org) > "Resident Resources" > "Birds of Eldorado" > "All Birds of Eldorado" (first link in list).

### GUSTATORY OPTIONS EXPAND IN AUGUST

Two new eateries plan to open this month. **Native Wings Coffeehouse**, in the Agora, will be open for breakfast and

lunch. In this community-oriented business, artists can display their works for free. When the coffee shop is closed, its space will be available for community groups such as Book Clubs and Bible Studies. A percentage of profits will go to local charities. Alain Jorand, French-born chef, and his fiancée Suzanne Eichler are reconstructing the former La Plancha space at La Tienda for an authentic Gallic dining experience, **Le Pommier**. La Tienda is also home for Kathleen King and Mark Hawrylak's **Eldorado Coffee Corral** and Eldorado native Ashley Scott's **El Sabor Gourmet Cheese**.

### SCHOOL OPENS THIS MONTH

In-school learning resumes this fall. Classes begin on **August 6** at the El Dorado Community School. Drivers need to be on the lookout for students and additional traffic around the school.



*Enjoy the summer—  
soak up the warmth and the love:  
snow comes soon enough.*

**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).

## Eldorado/285 Recycles Works to Keep Roads Clean



**A day's work for Eldorado/285 Recycles.**  
Back row, from left: Sue Daniel, Karen Sweeney, Nancy Ostiguy, Gary Stoller;  
Front row from left: Betsy Foree, Joe Durlak

**E**ldorado is your home, and you're happier in a clean home than a messy one. Joe Durlak and a team of your neighbors periodically patrol our roads to keep your home town looking nice. It's a project of Eldorado/285 Recycles, a group of residents

who are doing something to keep the community clean.

"Every time we go out," Joe reports, "we find too much litter on our road." Joe and his crew have adopted Avenida Vista Grande, between US 285 and Avenida Torreón, as their clean-up target. "Most of the material we pick [up] is recyclable material — cardboard, paper, plastic bottles and aluminum and tin cans," he explains. "Much of the rest is ... some kind of plastic, which

when it breaks apart, is so-called microplastic, and then it becomes a danger to the environment." These tiny shreds of plastic last virtually forever and get into food, water and even the air animals and people breathe.

"There are still some paved roads in Eldorado that you and your neighbors can adopt," Joe adds, explaining that Santa Fe County supplies volunteers with safety vests, gloves and trash bags, then collects them when you fill them up. "Call the County at 505 992-3025 and ask them what roads are available for adoption, and you can be part of the solution to our litter problem. Or join us when we do our litter pick-up during the year.

"There is no reason for our highways to be scattered with litter of all kinds. If you want to clean up your local unpaved road, Steve Ewers at Eldorado Hardware, the Ace Hardware store in La Tienda, will give you free bags to use." The County only covers pick-up work on paved streets and roads.

Roadside clean-up is one of several Eldorado/285 Recycles projects. They also coordinate recycling bins in La Tienda and other ways to keep Eldorado looking good. Residents who want to help can visit the website, [Eldorado285recycles.org](http://Eldorado285recycles.org) or drop in at the Zoom meeting (listed each month in *Vistas*).

—Joe Durlak, Eldorado/285 Recycles  
Photo by Andrew Rodney



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