

VISTAS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 • 505 466-4248 • www.eldoradosf.org

IN THIS ISSUE

Chicken Hawk / Tid-Bits	2
Re-Use Area Now Open	3
EAWSO Work	3
Salt Cedar / VGPL	4
Staff / Pool / Flowers	5
Security Tips & Tools	6
Meetings / Obit / Flags	7
Road Parcels & Easements	8

The EACA Studio Tour is Back



Detail, "First Snow Surprise", oil on paper, Linda Armantrout

The Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association (EACA) wants you to know that you have some incredible talent living all around you and creating art in their home studios. "Here's your chance to step into their inventive worlds to see not only what they do, but how they do it," said EACA president

Kim Crickard. "Our Studio Tour, normally scheduled in May, is the weekend of **Oct. 23 and 24** this year due to the COVID virus. Since EACA was unable to have the Studio Tour last year, the artists are even more excited to have it this year. It is worth repeating that the Eldorado Studio Tour is the oldest and largest in the state of New Mexico, and we just keep growing," according to Crickard.



Linda Armantrout, left, and Debbie Parke, right, in their studios



This year there are 107 artists showing in 76 studios and 43 artists are new to the Studio Tour. This is a great opportunity to meet some new neighbors, as well as new-to-you artists. In order to help you select which of these many artists you want to visit, we will be mailing out a full-color brochure describing each artist and their work.

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The Preview Gallery at the Community Center on La Hacienda Loop will give fans a chance to see one piece of art from each of the 107 artists that will be in the tour. The gallery will open **Friday, Oct. 22** from **5:30 to 8:30 PM**. The gallery will then stay open during the actual tour hours of 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and Sunday. "Check out the brochure, make your picks, then head out to a fun, entertaining and cultural two days of art right here in Eldorado," Crickard advised.



"Indian Paintbrush", handwoven tapestry, Molly Elkind

Each year the artists are encouraged to contribute 5% of their sales to our community support efforts. This usually amounts to several thousand dollars. In the past few years those funds have supported community resources such as

the Senior Center, the Library, the art teachers at the school, the Fire Department, and 285/Recycles.

Over the years, the Eldorado community has been a great support for the Tour. Many of our best customers are our Eldorado neighbors.

The residents seem to accommodate all the signs and banners that are set up, and to be patient with cars slowly cruising the streets looking for the correct address. It is a festive event for our community.

Since COVID has launched another attack across the country, we are aware of taking reasonable precautions. All of the spaces involved in the Studio Tour will observe whatever mandates the state government has issued at that time. Additionally, many of our artists may require masks while in their studios.

—Kim Crickard, EACA president; Evie Gauthier, 2021 Tour Chair
Photos courtesy of EACA



Molly Elkind at her loom

The Chicken Hawk's Surprising Comeback



Cooper's Hawk

a long tail, enables them to dash through shrub and tree-dominated landscapes in hot pursuit of their preferred prey—doves, flickers, jays, and the like, although they will also take small mammals. Several quick wing beats, followed by a glide, is their preferred method of flight.

Once reviled and shot on sight, Cooper's Hawk—known then by the pejorative “Chicken Hawk,” survived wholesale slaughter as well as significant population declines during the previous century due to persistent pesticides like DDT. Today this crow-sized raptor is one of the most common hawks of suburban and even urban areas from southern Canada to northern Mexico, with notable population increases during the past few decades.

Cooper's Hawk was named for Dr. James Graham Cooper, a 19th-century surgeon, California naturalist and friend of Charles-Lucien Bonaparte, fellow ornithologist and nephew of none other than Napoleon Bonaparte. Then, just as now, it paid to have friends in high places.

As is true of other raptors, female Cooper's Hawks are about one-third larger than their mates. The striking difference in size may allow the sexes to exploit different size prey. While tending the eggs and young, the larger females also protect the

If you are among the more than 50 million Americans who feed birds you've probably invited visits by a swift and agile avian predator—the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). Larger than its similar-appearing cousin, the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), Cooper's Hawks are likewise bird-hunting specialists. Their basic design—relatively short, rounded wings, and

nest against nest robbers and predators while the smaller males supply nearly all the food for their mates and offspring. When the young are older, females join in the hunt.

Cooper's Hawks breed in northern New Mexico where they prefer nest sites in cottonwood bosques along streams, foot-hills and canyons, and in mountain woodlands. And like the more robust red-tailed hawk, they have adapted quite well to human-altered landscapes, being found nearly statewide year-round.

Since male Cooper's Hawks and female Sharp-shinned Hawks are quite close in size, distinguishing between the two species in the field can be challenging. In gliding flight,



Cooper's Hawk in flight

Hawk's folded tail is rounded, while that of its smaller cousin is essentially straight, subtle differences to be sure.

Beginning in late August and continuing into early November, thousands of Cooper's migrate through New Mexico. Adult birds—distinguished by their rusty barred underparts and slate blue backs—are the first to move south, followed by younger birds with brown-streaked underparts and brown backs. Volunteers at established hawk-watching sites in New Mexico's Sandia and Manzano Mountains track their movements (plus those of all diurnal raptor species) providing valuable data that shed light on the species' year to year relative population size. March through May, the migration spectacle is reversed.

—Article and photos by René Laubach

News Tid-Bits

LABOR DAY CLOSURE

The community center will be closed on Monday, **Sept. 6.**

COVID-19 AND DELTA

NM State restrictions go through Sept. 15 and may be extended: masks are required in all indoor public places including the ECIA community center buildings, even if vaccinated. Other restrictions may follow.

The Delta variant of the coronavirus, which is highly contagious, has become dominant in the U.S. and New Mexico. School has started throughout the state and younger children are not eligible yet for vaccination. Situations are changing rapidly and everyone should check ahead for rules, regulations and restrictions for all activities. State employees, Santa Fe City employees, health care workers and workers

in places such as nursing homes and prisons now must show proof of vaccination or be tested on a weekly basis. Some businesses are requiring vaccination for employees. Residents are advised to receive a vaccination. Whether vaccinated or not, everyone is urged to report any COVID-like symptoms and be tested. Testing is free. Call the following numbers if there is any COVID concern:

If you think you have COVID-19: **1-855-600-3453**

Questions and NM help: **1-833-551-0518**

GET YOUR VACCINATION LOCALLY

Local residents can arrange to get a coronavirus vaccination right in Eldorado at the Del Norte Pharmacy, on the east side of La Tienda, 7 Caliente Rd, Unit 2. Scheduling can be done directly at vaccinenm.org.

Convenience Center Re-Use Area Is Open

It took a small group of committed individuals with the support of Santa Fe County Commissioner Hank Hughes and his assistant Olivia Romo, Commissioner Anna Hamilton, Les Francisco and the County Solid Waste department and over 300 petition signatures to have the Re-Use area at the Eldorado Convenience Center re-opened on Aug. 3, 2021.

The Grand Opening ceremony was held on Aug. 25 with Keynote Speaker Sarah Pierpont, executive director of the New Mexico Recycling Coalition. The festive event included music from Chris Harrell, a committed member of Eldorado/285 Recycles, and remarks by Commissioners Hughes and Hamilton. A recycled art Re-Use sign was installed on July 31 by Larry Ward and Libby Maclaren and in the spirit of recycling was created from metal pieces collected by Marcia Spears-Cihon, Stephanie Levy, Karen Sweeney, Sue Garfitt, Larry Ward and Libby Maclaren.

The Re-Use area will be maintained three days a week by volunteers from Eldorado/285 Recycles. Signage created by the county, under the direction of Les Francisco, indicates where donated items are to be placed. But please, no electronics. Electronics can be taken to Buckman Road Recycling and Transfer Station.

Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle have become the mantra for the movement to limit the amount of waste we produce and throw away. Re-use is a very important step in reducing the flow of waste into our landfills. According to Sarah Pierpont, our keynote speaker, “Sustainable materials management is a hierarchy of best practices to accomplish this goal. Reduce and re-use are the first two priorities before recycling comes into play. If we are doing everything right, the amount

of materials is decreased as the re-use area provides an opportunity to re-use efficiently.” Plus, a re-use area provides a free avenue for some residents to dispose of items that are no longer needed as well as an opportunity for others to give these items a new life.



Re-Use Area signage clearly delineates donated items.

Eldorado is fortunate to have access to this local re-use center, one of only a handful in New Mexico. Another nearby place that makes use of the re-use concept is Resourceful Santa Fe, a local nonprofit with a mission to divert material from the waste stream by collecting and redistributing discarded items to our community for re-use and repurposing. It was founded by Sarah Pierpont in 2020. Check out their website: [**resourcefulsantafe.com**](https://resourcefulsantafe.com) to find out when and how to donate and shop as well as about their special events.

—Elizabeth Maclaren and Gary Stoller, *Eldorado/285 Recycles*
Photo by Gary Stoller

EAWSD Work—Verano Loop, Conchas Loop & Moya Road

You may have noticed that a utility location company has started marking and flagging the locations of existing utilities on Verano Loop, Conchas Loop and Moya Road. Locating existing utilities is the initial step in the design, and ultimately the installation of new water pipelines. The Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD) Water Master Plan of October 2017 reported that many of the water pipelines in this area were installed in the 1970's and are approaching the end of their expected useful life. Over the past few years, this is the area within the District's service area that has experienced the highest number of line breaks in the

individual service laterals that supply water to each household. The District signed a contract with an engineer in June of this year, to begin design of pipeline replacements in this area. The design phase of the project is scheduled to be completed by the first of next year. Construction of the project is scheduled to begin in the second quarter of 2022, and will last for four to five months. Customers will receive updates as details become known. Updates on this and other District projects will appear in our monthly Water Notes newsletter on our website and distributed along with the monthly water bills.

—Pam Henline

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.

Salt Cedar—Don't Let Good Looks Fool You



Salt cedar crowds out other plants and can increase soil salinity.

This month we look at an invasive perennial shrub or small tree, salt cedar (*Tamarix* spp.). Also called tamarisk, salt cedar is a fairly common sight in the Eldorado area. A deciduous tree, it has flat, spray-like branches and attractive pink flowers. Many prize it as a pleasant addition to their landscaping, however it is a very problematic species.

Native to drier areas of Eurasia and Africa, salt cedar was introduced to North America in the late 19th-century for erosion control and shade, particularly in the arid Southwest. That was a regrettable decision as it now occupies over a million acres, mostly along water courses, outcompeting native species such as willows. It is listed as an invasive plant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is on the Noxious and Troublesome Weeds of New Mexico list, and a commercial nursery will not sell one.

Salt cedar has a very long taproot (30 to 100 feet) that can tap into brackish water. In saline soils, it excretes salt through glands in the bark which increases surface soil salinity. It can out-reproduce its native competition from seeds, spread by wind and carried downstream, and by new growth from cut stumps. Branch cuttings can also root easily.

By the late 1990's, salt cedar along with Russian olive had spread throughout the Galisteo watershed, replacing the native willows and cottonwoods. Ecologists were concerned

about this threat, and ranchers and farmers regarded it as a pest that required intervention.

The Kewa (formerly Santo Domingo) Pueblo and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers applied the herbicide arsenal over some of their affected lands, and goats were used in part of the Galisteo Dam area. The U.S. Department of Agriculture released a tamarisk beetle that was successful in some areas. Earth Works Institute, and later Ecotone, obtained funding to remove tamarisk and Russian olive trees by root extraction and replant native trees in the Galisteo bosque. The wetland restoration project in the 200-trail system of the Eldorado Community Preserve, which took place 2005–2012, became

part of Earth Works Institute's efforts.

Today the ECIA Conservation Committee continues to control tamarisk in the Community Preserve. We uproot seedlings and cut new stump growth back several times a year. We continue to plant native trees. If cottonwoods and willows have moisture at the right time, they



Season regrowth from stump

will grow alongside tamarisks, even outcompeting them. Since the area is a wetland and a source for domestic wells, chemical herbicides are not used. A solution of vinegar and citric acid is under consideration as a limited additional control measure.

—Thomas Bredenberg, Conservation Committee

Prepared with assistance from Jan-Willem Jansens, Ecotone

Photos: Left, Carol Beidleman; Above, Thomas Bredenberg

Library Programs for September

The Vista Grande Public Library is closed Saturday, **Sept. 4** for Labor Day. Masks are required for everyone in the library building.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY PROGRAMS ARE BACK

Family Movie Night: Friday, Sept. 17, 7 PM

Family Bingo Night: Saturday, Sept. 11, 6:30 PM

All-Ages Chess: Fridays, 3-5 PM

Rock-Time Session 2: Thursday, Sept. 16, 1 PM. Monthly 90-minute geology talks.

Reading: Thursday, Sept. 9, 6 PM. Croak & Dagger, the New Mexico chapter of Sisters in Crime international mystery writers and readers organization, present: "Our Favorite

Ways to Kill." Space is limited, please contact VGPL at **505 466-7323** to reserve a seat.

Meet the Artist: Saturday, Sept. 4, 1–3 PM. Meet Joan Biordi, whose exhibit, "The Big Picture: Panoramas", 15–17 colored photographs, will be on display all month.

3D Exhibition: Throughout the month of September, John Segell exhibits "Serving Vessels", beautiful and useful ceramic serving dishes.

In-Library Book Sale: Thursday–Saturday, Sept. 30–Oct. 2 come to our sale inside the library during open hours, Thursday & Friday 11 AM–4:30 PM & Saturday 11 AM–4 PM.

Please see our website: www.vglibrary.org for more information on events at the library.

Meet ECIA Pool Supervisor Kevin Raphael



The pool staff pictured, from left to right: Nathan Steiger, Andrew Hill, Kevin Raphael, Ashley Hernandez, Zane Doerner, Tobin Novak, and Sammy Verschoor.

Kevin Raphael has been a part of the ECIA pool team since 2019 and has lived in Eldorado for 11 years. In this time, he has shown himself to be a professional and exceptionally hard-working employee. He was promoted to pool supervisor at the beginning of the 2021 pool season and has proven to be a valued leader amongst the pool team. Kevin has coordinated daily operations including scheduling staff, meeting with pool vendors, and ensuring a safe and fun pool experience for all ECIA residents. In the face of a pandemic, funky weather patterns, chipping plaster and lifeguards returning to school earlier than normal, Kevin continues to go above and beyond to maintain our beloved amenity. Outside of working at ECIA, he also works for the City pools, is a car enthusiast, enjoys going to the gym and spending time outdoors with family and friends.

—Photo by Ciara Walsh

2021 Pool Season Extends Through September

As the summer comes to a close, the ECIA pool remains open to residents and their guests. After two years of unique circumstances, the 2021 pool season has been as near-normal as possible. Many families and individuals have enjoyed the refreshing pool after over a year of being cooped-up. Special thanks are given to the ECIA pool team for creating a safe, fun, and welcoming environment.

FALL POOL HOURS THROUGH SEPTEMBER

(unless otherwise posted)

Monday through Friday: 8:30–11:30 AM Lap Swim
11:30–6:30 PM Recreation Swim
Weekends: 7:30–10 AM Lap Swim
10 AM–8 PM Recreation Swim



The kiddie pool will be open for use during all open pool hours.

Please be on the lookout for eBlasts with any changes, season closing date and doggie splash day information.

—Article and photo by Jessica Collins

A Season of Golden Blossoms

INDIAN BLANKET

The Indian blanket plant, *Gaillardia pulchella* Foug, Firewheel, has abundant yellow, red or orange sunburst flowers, with many variations. Plants sometimes can cover an entire field, and with regular rain will bloom multiple times in a season. It is found along roadsides and prairies. Plants are also cultivated and are great drought tolerant plantings. Plants will reseed and some varieties are perennial for several years. It does best in full sun with moderate water once established. The Indian blanket is native to the southwest.



Indian Blanket

GOLDEN SUNSHINE



Golden Sunshine

This hardy native perennial, *Heterotheca villosa*, gives off a spicy sage aroma. Blooming all summer long, these bright yellow flowers contrast with the silvery-green foliage. In 1811, botanist Thomas Nuttall collected the first known specimen of this flower. Nuttall, an Englishman who lived and worked in America for many years, documented many native species formerly unknown to science.

—Article by Judith Cristini
Photos by Pam Henline

Create an Uncrackable Code: Password Tips & Tools

If you're a seasoned internet surfer, chances are you have more online passwords than you can keep track of. We create accounts for business, social media, email, online banking, shopping, gaming, streaming music and so on, each requiring a password.

Are your passwords strong enough to guard from hackers?

Now more than ever, people are relying on online shopping and services to get the things they need. Don't put your identity at risk. Keep your info secure with these password tips.

ROOKIE MISTAKES

Reusing Passwords

Keeping track of every password can be difficult but avoid the temptation to assign the same password to multiple accounts. If a hacker discovers your password for one account, your other accounts become vulnerable to breaches as well. It's best to use different passwords for every account that you create to keep a leg up against those seeking to steal information.

Simple Passwords

While simple passwords may not require a lot of brain power to create and remember, avoid common combinations like "123456," "qwerty" and the often joked about "password." These are easy for hackers to guess and aren't strong enough to securely protect your information. Also avoid using personal information. Birthdays, names of family members and nicknames are usually easy to find on websites like Facebook and Twitter. Avoiding patterns and creating more

complicated passwords will help keep hackers at bay. The more complex, the better.

Saving Passwords to Computer Browsers

After logging into an account your browser may show you a pop up window asking if you would like the browser to remember your username and password every time you visit the site. While convenient, this feature also makes your information vulnerable. Anyone with remote or in-person access to your device can visit a website and access your information.

BUILDING A BETTER PASSWORD

A strong, well-crafted password is the first line of defense against cybercriminals. Cybersecurity company McAfee recommends using at least eight characters in your passwords, with a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. The more characters there are, the harder it is for hackers to guess.

Here's a good password tip: Consider playing around with different character options to create short phrases. For example, a phrase like "I love my car" can be changed into a secure password with a few changes like "i<3mYCaR!" Play around with different letters and try some nonsensical sentences for your next password. You can also use password generators like LastPass for secure randomly generated passwords or to rate the strength of your own passwords.

—Rebecca Galib

How to spot an online shopping scam

4 Signs to Make You Wary

Over the past year we've changed our habits and taken more of our shopping online, and scammers have taken notice. Scammers are creating legitimate-looking sites using stolen images and fake assurances to take advantage of people purchasing from unfamiliar sellers. Some are even preying on people looking to buy a pet or other big-ticket item, touting fake offers for "contactless delivery" that could leave customers empty-handed and out hundreds or thousands of dollars.

1 UNREAL DEALS Scammers may lure you in with a deeply discounted offer that seems too good to be true, only to tack on fees or fake COVID-related costs once you make the first payment.

2 UNKNOWN SELLERS Anyone can set up an online shop or post an ad on social media. If you can, have a video call with the seller to meet them and see what you're buying, especially if it's a big-ticket item like a used car or pet. If you are looking for a pet, please consider adopting locally to help ensure a safe experience.

3 PRESSURE TO BUY Be wary of any seller who pressures you to buy right away or asks you to pay using a digital payment service such as Zelle®, wire transfers, or even gift cards—none of which provide payment protection. Use a credit card if you can.

4 BAD REVIEWS Do an online search on the seller, product, and related scams by using terms like "review," "complaint," or "scam." No reviews can be a red flag too. Get a second opinion from a friend or family member.

Be aware: Payment apps, gift cards, and wire transfers do not have protection like a credit card or debit card, so you may not get your money back once it's been sent.

If the deal seems too good to be true, be extra careful.

—AARP

September Meetings—Community Center Open*

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

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	14, 28	3–5 PM <i>CFR & Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board Meeting	Tuesday	21	5:30 PM <i>CR & Zoom</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Bylaws Review Committee	Thursday	9	3:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Amelia Adair	bylawsreviewchair@gmail.com
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	7	7–9 PM <i>CR & Zoom</i>	Paul Butt	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	Wednesday	8	3–5 PM <i>CR & Zoom</i>	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	1	10 AM–12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	Wednesday	8	9:30 AM–Noon <i>Zoom</i>	Dan Drobnis	financechair1@gmail.com
	Information Committee	Monday	13	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Pam Henline	informationchair@gmail.com
	Road Committee	Wednesday	1	5:30–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com
	Stable Committee	Monday	20	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	3, 17	1–4 PM <i>LR</i>	Debbie Iverson	307 752-4868
	EACA	Thursday	30	6–8 PM <i>CR</i>	Kim Crickard	President@eldoradoarts.org
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	14	4–6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	15	3–5 PM <i>CC Patio & Zoom</i>	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net
	Life Drawing	Alt. Mondays	13, 27	10 AM–Noon <i>CR</i>	Joe Mullins	914 357-0784
	Music Club	2nd Saturday	11	10:45 AM–12:55 PM <i>CR</i>	Melissa Colgin-Abeln	mcolginabeln@gmail.com
	Santa Fe Model Railroad Club	2nd Tuesday	14	10 AM–1:30 PM <i>CR</i>	Tony Balano	apbbalano@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
	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		5:45–7:30 PM <i>CC Patio</i>	Marilyn Salas	luzpecorelli@hotmail.com

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; CCB: Community Center Breezeway

The community has learned of the death of Ed Morena in July. Ed was a member of the ECIA Board and Board President in 2011 to 2013. He also was our Santa Fe County District 5 Commissioner for three and a half years.



Honoring Many Global Flag Days this September

Five Central American nations—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua—commemorate their Independence Day on the same date, Sept. 15, 1821—a five-flowered bicentennial bouquet this year. Around the world, 14 other countries date their independence from colonialism during this month. Constitution Day, Sept. 17, rates flag display as the date when our country's founding document became official in 1789, Liechtenstein and Slovakia celebrate their constitutions in September as well, and there are five nations with Flag Days this month: Australia (3), Mozambique (5), Kuwait (7), Cape Verde (25), and Thailand (28).

One U.S. state, California, entered the Union this month, on Sept. 9, 1850, and Americans fly the flag on Labor Day, the first Monday in September. We also remember Sept. 11 as Patriot Day by flying the Stars and Stripes at *half-staff* in memory of the national tragedy of that terrorist attack in 2001.

Flying a flag at *half-staff* signifies mourning. Flag etiquette requires that the flag first go all the way to the top of the pole, then down at least one flag-height (halfway may drag the flag on trees or buildings). At sunset the flag goes to the top before lowering.

—Bill Dunning

*Year slowly winds down—
not an easy one this time.
You did what you could.*

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.

Road Parcels and Drainage Easements

Generous monsoon rains in Eldorado over the summer have highlighted the importance of drainage in keeping the roads in good shape. The Eldorado Road Committee recently met with the Santa Fe County Public Works (SFCPW) team and discussed options for improving drainage throughout Eldorado. SFCPW plans to clean out ditches and replace, repair or install culverts as time, staffing and funding permit. When road crews start drainage improvement work, unfortunately, they often encounter residents who mistakenly think the crew is trespassing on their lot, or cutting down vegetation without permission.

All roads in the Eldorado subdivision are owned and maintained by Santa Fe County. Every lot in Eldorado is bordered by a strip of property along the road owned by the County where driveway culverts, mailboxes, utilities and ditches are located.

Specifically, the property through which the roads run extends several feet beyond the edge of every road surface. Most road parcels in Eldorado are 50 feet wide, even though the average road surface is about 25 feet wide. Therefore, for most roads, the width of the land belonging to the County is roughly 13 feet from the edge of the pavement or driving

surface. Road parcels for major connecting roads like Avenida Vista Grande are 120 feet wide, so the County property bordering lots along those roads is even larger.

In addition, the Eldorado plat designates 10 foot drainage easements along every lot line, which the County may use to install and maintain drainage structures like culverts, ditches and swales. This means the County has the right to bring equipment into these areas along the sides and rear of any lot to maintain and control water runoff.

In the future residents will see SFCPW crews working in road parcels and drainage easements around Eldorado, as they maintain and improve drainage on the roads. Removing some vegetation in these areas in an unavoidable consequence of keeping the roads functioning properly.

The Road Committee collaborates with the Santa Fe County Public Works Department about the public roads in Eldorado. If you have questions about road issues you'd like to see in future articles, please send them to: roadchair1@gmail.com.

—Amelia Adair
Road Committee member



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.