

# ELDORADO VISTAS

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Jan. 2007

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

## Meditations for the New Year

**YES, IT HAS THE MAGIC** of a Santa Fe, New Mexico address, and no, it isn't part of Santa Fe proper. It's a community that is quite distinct—about twelve miles south and east of that storied city's Plaza. Calling Eldorado a "development" seems inappropriate. That would put it in some lesser league. Eldorado, the place we call home, is a special and uniquely beautiful community. Its residents are committed to "living lightly on the land." Their homes, like those of the ancients who once dwelt here, are built and colored to integrate seamlessly into a spectacular landscape.

Our big, wide views of the sky are the type that one never tires of seeing. Among the seven mountain chains we can see from our rooftops, the one to the west, Los Cerrillos, is our community's geologic signature. These are the same "little hills" that the conquistador Coronado saw in 1540 when he rode over what was later to be called the Pecos Trail looking for the golden walled city, "El Dorado." The inhabitants of every locality he passed on his travels assured him that it was "just over the horizon, a bit further on."

Our clear night skies, especially when the moon is not present, are a special wonder. They are filled with constellations of stars unseen by most of our fellow countrymen who are blinded by the lights of their crowded cities and suburbs.

Sunsets in Eldorado are spectacular. These colorful displays are surely one of the reasons that so many artists, working in every conceivable medium, have been drawn to live and create here. As one gazes at New Mexico's seemingly limitless horizons, its day and night vistas of light and shadow, its rugged, lonely mountains, we all become poets.

The estimated 7,000 of us who live here can call ourselves lucky that we live in one of the most beautiful, well-run and most environmentally conscious settlements in the United States. We have a first-rate volunteer fire and rescue service, a water company that belongs to us and is moving forward every day to ensure that we can count on good, clean water now and into the future, one of the best elementary schools in the state, a network of hike-bike trails, a well-stocked library and very soon, a modern senior center.

As homeowners here we belong to a unique, efficient and effective neighborhood association, the Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA). The ECIA is not "them"; it is very much "us." Volunteers keep the ECIA operating. Without the work of the small staff and volunteer Board and committees, our relatively low annual dues would be three or four times higher.

If you can't volunteer for any one of the many organizations that need your help here, resolve to stay informed on community issues; speak out and vote in all elections—especially the local ones. Your vote makes the greatest difference for our community. If you haven't been involved as yet, resolve to join, to participate and get involved in 2007.

Eldorado, the golden community of New Mexico, is not as the conquistadors mistakenly were told "further on" or "just beyond the horizon." It is right here for as long as we can keep it.

—Frank Schober

*ECIA Board  
Work Study  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Mon.,  
Jan 15, 7 pm*

*Share your  
comments  
with us!*

*For policy and  
deadline, see  
below*

### *Editorial Policy*

*Vistas* invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too. **DEADLINE:** Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto:info@eldoradocommunity.org). Please include "Attn: *Vistas*" in your message.

### *Mission Statement*

The mission of *Vistas*, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

## Proposed Alternate Language

**WE WOULD LIKE** to recommend the following alternate language in the leash policy being considered:

"On all of Eldorado's common property, including greenbelts, the Eldorado Preserve, playgrounds, etc., all dogs will be under the **complete physical control** of their owner/handler, either leashed or securely held, when approaching, or in the presence of, other people and dogs.

"It is understood that friends whose pets are known to each other may mutually agree to release their animals in each other's presence, but will secure their pets immediately upon the approach of other people and their dogs.

"Certain areas of Eldorado's common property, such as playgrounds, may be posted as leash areas only. Owner/handlers are expected to comply with this regulation and recognize that a **leashed pet still needs to be fully controlled by its handler.**"

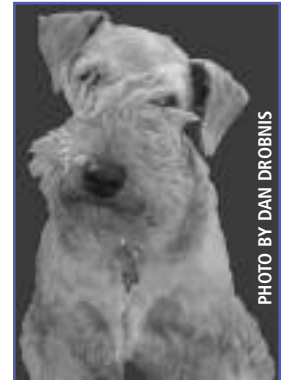


PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS

—Pam Christie and Robert McKinnie

## If Dogs Run Free

**HAVING LIVED IN ELDORADO** for over 16 years, I have truly heard it all when it comes to "dog issues." In my neighborhood alone, we've had problems with dogs running free, dogs barking all night, and dogs getting aggressive. Most notably, a young boy who lived up the street was killed by a wolf hybrid [approximately ten years ago]. In each case, the source of the problem was not the dog itself, but neglect by its owner.

Dogs have always been and will continue to be an integral part of our community. It's only natural in an environment that has large lots and abundant greenbelts. While it is clear to me that the community covenants on dogs are important, and I applaud current efforts to clarify what behaviors constitute a nuisance, I think you are going too far if you say that

dogs must always be on a leash in the greenbelts.

I know that the proposed dog park is an effort designed to provide a designated space for exercising and socializing dogs, but it is not going to be useful for many pet owners including me. It is a far distance from my house and will require a drive to get there. That is not practical on a daily basis. I may take my dogs there sometimes for socialization, but I know already that there is no way that the area will be large enough for serious exercise for them.

The covenants have long said that dogs can be free in the greenbelts as long as they are "in control"...that should be sufficient. At least 50% of the time, I never see another person in the greenbelt when I'm out with the dogs. When I do, it is most often someone else walking their dogs. So who are we bothering?

—KC

## Once Bitten

**WHILE WALKING** on our greenbelt October 15, I saw a woman with two black, middle-sized dogs on a leash. I shouted towards her, "My dog is friendly." My dog is eight years old. He has never attacked anybody, and has never behaved aggressively toward any person or other dog.

The woman answered, "Mine are not; they will fight!" Within seconds my dog was attacked and bitten by these aggressive, vicious dogs. I observed the woman actually loosen the retractable leashes and allow them to fight. I was shocked, and as I walked away with my injured dog, she said, "He is walking OK, just clean the wound."

Based on what I witnessed with her overall attitude, I felt that the situation would have worsened if I had confronted her about not having her extremely aggressive leashed dogs under control. Even if I had had my dog leashed, it was obvious that this dog owner was unable to either physically restrain or verbally command (control) her dogs. This woman typified all of the characteristics of an irresponsible and dangerous dog owner.

—F. MCK

# Proposed Dog Leash Policy

**THE ECIA BOARD** is seeking comment on the PROPOSED policy on leashing dogs. An open forum will be held during the Board's regularly scheduled meeting on January 18, 2007 at 7 pm at the Community Center. Please come to the meeting to let the Board hear your ideas. If you cannot attend the meeting, e-mail your comments to the president, **Jeanne Klein**, at [jpkeducate@aol.com](mailto:jpkeducate@aol.com).

**TITLE: Dogs On Common Properties Must Be On Leash**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article II of the Declaration of Covenants, Eldorado Community Improvement Association, Inc., and Article X, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Association, the Association has the authority to adopt and publish rules and regulations regarding the use of the Common Properties of the Association; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Association finds that requiring all Members of the Association and their guests to have all dogs on leash at all times on the Common Properties will promote the recreation, health, safety and welfare of the residents and owners of properties in Eldorado at Santa Fe and the use and enjoyment of the Common Properties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors desires to adopt a mandatory policy, rule and regulation of the Association reflecting the foregoing finding; and

## A Difficult Issue

**WITHOUT LISTING ELDORADO'S** many positive attributes, suffice it to say that each of us loves at least one of them. But no community, and certainly not one with about 7,000 residents, is without issues. The one that seems closest to the surface lately is "dogs—to leash or not to leash?"

It is a difficult question with no easy answer, and no answer that will please everyone. Of course no one wants to get bitten by a dog. Naturally dog owners want their dogs to experience the freedom of running in open spaces (which abound in Eldorado and is one of those unspecified "positive attributes" that many move here for, often with their dog's quality of life in mind). Understandably, emotions run high on both sides of the issue—safety and freedom, for ourselves and those we care about (and we certainly care about our dogs), are both basic for humans and animals.

While no decision has been reached, much effort is being made to hear everyone's opinions on the topic and address problems presented. A comprehensive plan for dealing with community dog-

**WHEREAS**, the Association's Common Properties consist of the following:

- ▼ Community Center Property
- ▼ Athletic and Sport Fields
- ▼ Stable Area
- ▼ Greenbelts
- ▼ Wilderness Preserve Area
- ▼ Compadres Park
- ▼ Bike Paths

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** it is mandatory policy, rule and regulation of the Association that all members and their guests have all dogs on leash at all times on the Association's Common Properties;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association will support an ongoing community education program to stress the importance of this policy, rule and regulation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association will actively hold members and guests accountable to honor this policy, rule and regulation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association is of the opinion that the foregoing is an important policy, rule and regulation to enforce for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Eldorado at Santa Fe.

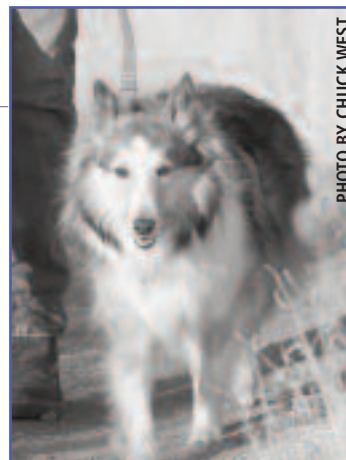


PHOTO BY CHUCK WEST

related issues has been developed by the Board and reported on in the October issue of *Vistas*, a dog park has been built, residents will have another opportunity to comment on the proposed leash policy at the January 18 Board meeting (see top article on this page), and dog/dog owner classes covering basic manners for dogs, techniques for owners, and how to avoid being bitten have been arranged for the community by the Board (see the November issue of *Vistas*). Says one of the Certified Pet Dog Trainers of the upcoming classes on dog behavior problems, "It's probably a much easier problem to solve than you think it is." Perhaps with education, perseverance and maybe even compromise, it will be the same for Eldorado's dog issues.

—Lynn McPherson

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**Conservation:** John Parker and E.J. Evangelos  
**Stable:** Dina Sassone  
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**Road:** Ed Benrock  
**Information:** Ken McPherson  
**Neighborhood Watch:** Mary Uhl and Marilyn Walker

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**COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

Vista Grande Library  
 466-READ  
**Security**  
 204-2945  
**Fire and Rescue**  
 466-1204  
**Animal Control**  
 992-1621





**!!WARNING!!**

There have been a rash of burglaries in Eldorado recently! Visit the [eldoradocommunity.org](http://eldoradocommunity.org) website and click on HOT NEWS for more information and helpful tips on avoiding burglaries.

**Basic Manners: Dog Training**

The first class of this 6-week training is January 20 at noon at the Community Center Depot.

Owners only. Registration required. Cost: \$90. For information, call 466-4248.

This small printing press from the 1940s is on display at the library.



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

**Hidden Treasure**

If anyone has any information or knows of any reports on archaeological sites in the Eldorado Wilderness Preserve, please contact the Conservation Committee in care of E.J. Evangelos, co-chair, at [eye@swcp.com](mailto:eye@swcp.com) or 466-7096.

**Time to Apply for the Studio Tour**

Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association (EACA) has set May 19 and 20 for the 2007 Studio Tour. Applications were mailed to current members in November and should be returned no later than January 15 with payment made out to the EACA treasurer. The first organizational meeting will be held January 30 at 7 pm in the El Dorado Elementary School gym.

The Studio Tour is open to artists living within the residential communities accessed by the three entrances into Eldorado west of US 285. New residents who are not members of the art association may join EACA and receive an application for the tour. For more information about the tour, call one of the co-chairs: Joretha Hall (466-6245) or Grace Burleigh (466-4534). For a membership and tour application, call Janet Amtmann (466-3256).

**Of Pressing Interest**

Vista Grande Public Library resumes its Third Thursday adult programming January 18, at 7 pm. This month's speaker is Pamela Smith, author of *Passions in Print: Private Press Artistry in New Mexico*, and former director of the Press at the Palace of the Governors.

Smith will be discussing the state's history in printing, from its beginnings with Padre Antonio Jose Martinez in 1834 through its revival in the 1970s. The program is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, in collaboration with the Palace of the Governors and the New Mexico State Library.

In conjunction with this program, Vista Grande Public Library has on display a working press from the 1940s and a small exhibit on Native American picture books.

**ERA Happenings**

The ERA's quarterly business meeting will be on January 8, at 7 pm, at the Community Center. The guest speaker will be Don McAvinchey, president of the El Dorado Elementary School PTA.

**Landscape Health**

The Quivira Coalition and Earth Works Institute present the following suggestions for winter landscape health:

**Mowing:** Mowing a portion of your land can be beneficial. For best results, mowing should be carried out no more than once a year in the early spring to maximize moisture retention and allow the spring greening, cool season grasses to go to seed. Mow high, leaving about 6 inches of stubble to catch and hold winter snow moisture, leaving the cut grass in place for reseeding and to cover bare ground.

**Pruning:** Pruning low branches from juniper and piñon trees can encourage grasses to grow under the trees. But if you are interested in quail and rabbit habitat, you may want to leave some trees unpruned or leave neat brush piles to help these critters find cover.

**Mark your Calendar!**

Earth Works Institute and The Quivira Coalition are sponsoring a workshop on "Practical Strategies for Rainwater Harvesting and Gray Water Utilization" on Saturday, March 10, from 1 pm to 3 pm at the El Dorado Elementary School. For information, call 820-2544 or go to [www.quiviracoalition.org](http://www.quiviracoalition.org).

**In the League**

In the past, the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County has had a unit in Eldorado. At the General Election Forum that the League moderated, several residents asked if meetings could again take place in Eldorado. Our Board has approved this recommendation and we are planning to hold a welcoming breakfast at the ECIA Community Center on January 27 and monthly meetings thereafter beginning in February. So please meet with us that Saturday morning and learn what the League is all about.



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## ASTRONOMY Corner

### WILL WE EVER VISIT MARS?

With current technology and proper timing that would close the distance between the Earth and Mars, a Mars trip would take at least six months. Besides distance, there are such imponderable hazards as meteorites, radiation and malfunctions that a crew could not handle, so the pursuit of a manned mission to Mars is clearly still in the drawing board stages.

### January Sky:

**Jupiter** and fainter **Mars**, on the southeast in the morning; **Saturn** and the **moon**, to the right of the sickle of Leo at 10 pm looking east. The meteor shower on January 3 will be invisible because of the full moon.

Next time: *Terraforming Mars*

—Juan Alvarez  
Jalva88610@aol.com

See the light—follow outdoor lighting rules so we can all enjoy the stars.

### EAWSD News

Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD) elections are here! The polls will be open at the main fire station on Ave. Vista Grande Tuesday, January 9, from 7 am to 7 pm. Please take the few minutes it will take to go vote for your choices for EAWSD board members. Not sure who's running? A candidate forum will be held on January 4, at 7 pm at the El Dorado Elementary School.



# January Events

*Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.*

Email [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto:info@eldoradocommunity.org) with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 8th of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



- 1. Type of Event**
- 2. Location**
- 3. Date & Time**
- 4. A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

*Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.*

**LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Room, CR=Class Room, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen**

### JANUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

New Year's Day	Mon., Jan. 1	ECIA offices closed	
ERA Quarterly Meeting	Mon., Jan. 8, 7-9 pm		LR
EAWSD Board Election	Tues., Jan. 9, 7 am-7 pm	at the main fire station	
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Mon., Jan. 15	ECIA offices closed	
ERA T.G.I.F.	Fri., Jan. 19, 5-7 pm		LR

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

285 Coalition	Wed., Jan. 3, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Neighborhood Watch	Mon., Jan. 8, 7-9			F
EAW&SD Voting	Tues., Jan. 9, 7 am-7 pm		466-2411	LR
Finance Committee	Wed., Jan. 10, 9:30-noon	Gisela Knight	466-2568	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Jan. 10, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Jan. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Jan. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Jan. 22, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
Stable Committee	Tues., Jan. 23, 7-9 pm	Dina Sassone	466-6441	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Jan. 24, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Jan. 13, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Jan. 2, 10-11 am			F
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Jan. 11, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726	C
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579	Sm Gym
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Jan. 8, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Nichole Anaya	466-2590	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Jan. 9, 2-4 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Jan. 16, 10-11 am			F
Perform. Arts Assoc.	2nd Sat., 10 am-noon	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	RR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	982-2890	
Spanish Conversation	Every other Sunday	Gail	466-3370	CFR

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm			LR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Wed., 6:30-9 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thurs., 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	Wed., 12-1 pm	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641	School

\*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

\*\*Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

## On the Job

### Calendar Photo Selection

We have been asked how we chose the photos that were used in the 2007 calendar. I received photos and posted them on a web site available for Information Committee members to view. I was the only one who knew who photographed each entry. The committee met after the deadline for turning in photos had passed. As a group we agreed on what photos to use, then decided what month each photo should represent. Not until all decisions had been made were the photographers' names exposed. We felt that this anonymity was the only fair way to make the selections.

-Editor

**I**F YOU'RE SCRATCHING your head over covenant compliance issues, Bert Lysen is the man to speak with. Our new Covenants Compliance Representative (CCR) is excited to have joined the team at the Eldorado Community Improvement Association offices.

"I couldn't have a nicer group to work with," Bert says of his co-workers.

Bert brings excitement, a love of Eldorado and lots of experience to the job. A graduate of Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington with a background in economics and labor relations, Bert has served as a union representative on the West Coast, been a water commissioner in Seattle and managed a water district in a suburb of Seattle that had a very similar story to Eldorado's—a private water system the citizens wanted to make public and did.

As a union representative he handled grievances for contract violations. "My forté there was mediating without arbitrations," he said, a strong suit for a successful CCR.

Bert has lived and worked in Washington, Oregon and California, most recently in San Francisco. His wife, Melinda Lysen, was born in New Mexico and wanted to return. She also wanted to get her master's degree in family therapy and found a school in Santa Fe, which was a happy coincidence. Bert shares her interest in psychology and is an avid reader of psychology books. Besides reading, he enjoys biking. The bike paths were one of the reasons Bert and Melinda chose to live in Eldorado. "That and the open spaces," Bert says. "I don't see a single home from my patio."

"A lot of people come to Eldorado for the open spaces and the night skies," says Bert. Consequently, he sees the two biggest issues to be dealt with in his new job as lighting and RV issues and believes that educating people who are in violation is the most important part of his job. One of his goals is to ensure that when contractors come to Eldorado to build, there's no question about what they need to build to be in compliance with the covenants. "It's not fair to new people," Bert says, "to be told after they have built that they are in violation of the covenants."

—Lynn McPherson

PHOTO BY LYNN MCPHERSON



Bert Lysen, already hard at work.

## ECIA Board Election

**T**HE ANNUAL ECIA Board Election is just around the corner and there will be two vacancies to be filled. This position provides an opportunity for interested persons to shape the community they live in. Please take the time to run for the Board.

### REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

It is important for the community and all potential candidates to understand some of the very basic requirements and deadlines as outlined in the Bylaws and Election Policies and Procedures:

To run for the Board, a candidate must file a petition that contains the candidate's name and the signatures of no less than 25 owners of property, each of whom must be a Member in Good Standing with the Association. These petitions will be available at the ECIA office on February 1, 2007, and must be filed by March 1, 2007.

Each candidate must file a résumé and position statement with the ECIA office by March 1, 2007.

The Election Committee will validate each candidate's petition by March 9, 2007.

Election packets and the notice of the Annual Meeting of the Members will be mailed to each Member in Good Standing by March 31, 2007.

The ballots have to be received at the ECIA office no later than May 1, 2007 in order to be considered valid.

The Election Committee will count ballots, and announce the results at the Annual Meeting of the Members on Monday, May 7, 2007, at 7 pm.

If you have any questions regarding the above, don't hesitate to contact the ECIA office at 466-4248.

—Debby Padilla



## Hard to Find - Easy to Identify

**I**HESITATED TO WRITE ABOUT THIS beautiful, secretive little bird that I don't see frequently. But after four sightings in one week (at the Community Center near the tennis courts and in my yard) I changed my mind. The Spotted Towhee (ST) is a year-round resident in Eldorado (although some birds migrate as far south as Guatemala, others move to lower elevations or to the Great Plains) but is difficult to spot, moving quickly and quietly through the underbrush, scratching for insects, berries and seeds. The ST wingspan is 10.5 inches, with a body length of 8.5 inches. Its head and neck are velvety black, the breast is bright robin-red with a small section of pale grey and its wings and tail are black with bright white spots on the wings. The eyes are red. Males and females look the same. Until 1995, this bird was grouped with the Eastern Rufous Towhee, which lacks the wing spots. The call is usually a few quick notes followed by a buzzy trill—*che che che zheee*. The geographic differences of voice and plumage are complex and poorly understood.

The female selects a nest site—a small depression

on the ground or low in a shrub that is lined with grasses, twigs and hair. The male courts by fluttering near the female, spreading his tail and wings. The female broods three to four eggs that hatch in 12 days. The helpless young are fed mostly by the male and fledge when 12 days old. Females occasionally feign injury to distract predators and may run through underbrush like a mouse. Some pairs produce a second brood 8 to 21 days after the first young fledge.

A strange characteristic of the ST is that its bill is shorter in winter than in summer. A reason for this difference may be that the ST eats more seeds in winter, also necessitating that they eat more grit. This winter eating pattern may grind down the bill, shortening it.

—Pam Henline



PHOTO BY WES STONE

## Here for Good

**F**OR THOSE ELDORADO RESIDENTS who came here because they like the look of their community and want to keep it that way, **Richard Anderson** is someone they would want representing them on the Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association.

"I like it just the way it is," Richard, the newest member of the Board, said of Eldorado.

Richard arrived in Eldorado from Washington, D.C., in December 2005 and rapidly sank himself into community affairs. He ran for election to the seven-member panel in March, bowing to **Su Anne Armstrong's** winning vote, but soon was appointed to the Board in June to replace **Andrea Cohen**, who had resigned.

Born in Houston, Texas, Richard, 52, lived in the Washington, D.C. area for 28 years, the last five of them with his partner, **Richard Lawn**, who retired but has a house painting business in Eldorado. They debated their future move for 18 months, checking out such places as Seattle and Portland, Oregon. They finally narrowed their search to Sedona, Arizona.

In Sedona, "on a whim," Richard said, they hopped across the desert to see what Santa Fe was like. "We fell in love with Santa Fe and started looking for a house," he said in an interview in the den

of his 15-year-old, four-bedroom, three-bath, adobe-style home on Encantado Loop.

They quickly narrowed their housing search to Eldorado, where they scoped out more than a dozen houses and made an offer on one on their third trip out. Richard was a commercial interior architect and a realtor in the Washington, D.C. area. He's an agent with Barker Realty in Santa Fe, specializing in Eldorado.

Why the infatuation with the Santa Fe area?

"It physically looks and feels so different from anyplace else—the light, the high desert, the clouds," Richard said. "I like the adobe style and the way it is consistent throughout Santa Fe."

"I am a total liberal," he said, "but on Eldorado, I'm a conservative. I want it to stay the way it is. All of the different types of homes somehow blend together, and I'd like to keep it that way—the greenbelts and the setbacks from the roads too."

—Richard C. Gross



Like many here, Richard feels like he has found a treasure in Eldorado.



*Security 204-2945  
Sheriff 428-3720*

## *A Tight Schedule for Santa*

At 2 pm the Youngstars singing group began belting out the tunes while the little ones began gathering. Families who had come to see Santa were pleased with the musical interlude, but the children became restless when Santa didn't show at his scheduled 2:30 pm arrival. Wise mothers took their kids in to look at the working model train display. Children lined up along the tracks, their eyes sparkling each time the train passed them. Others went into the living room to see the collection of Santa dolls. Finally, Santa did show. To speed up his arrival, Santa caught a ride on the back of a fire truck from El Dorado Fire & Rescue. A line quickly formed and a very jovial Santa began taking wish lists and posing for family memory photos. Sure he was late, but I imagine Santa has a lot to do this time of year.



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

Santa listens to Pearl Xing Mariano's wish list.