

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME X, ISSUE 1

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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)

## As Time Goes By

**I**F ELDORADO were to have an historic district, Dolores Brock would confine it to three streets near the Community Center from where the sprawling suburb of Santa Fe sprouted 35 years ago.

She and her husband, Bernard, 80, should know. They've been residents of Eldorado since June 1974—the 12th family to live on land that formerly was a ranch owned by Alva and Annaliese Simpson. The Simpsons sold it in 1969-70 for \$3.2 million to what became known as the American Reality and Petroleum Corp. (AMREP).

"We were living in splendid isolation because there was nobody around us," said Dolores, 77, in the kitchen of their original home on 1.3 acres off Verano Loop. "The tranquility was the best thing out here.

"There were no houses, no buildings—you couldn't see another house from here. That's one of the reasons we bought it. We knew it wouldn't last."

It didn't last, of course, and today about 2,700 homes are spread over 4,000 acres at Eldorado at Santa Fe, with another 4,100 acres east of Route 285 set aside as a nature preserve.

The Eldorado Community Improvement Association is planning to celebrate the settlement's 35th anniversary but has not decided how.

The ECIA maintains its headquarters at the Community Center, the onetime Simpson ranch home that Dolores said was known to early settlers as the clubhouse. A kidney shaped pool was out back.

"We had a lot of potluck parties at the clubhouse," she said.

The first streets were in the northeast sector of Eldorado—Verano Loop, Torneo Court and Conchas Loop, "what I call the historic district," said Dolores.

There were, to borrow from Dickens, the best of times and the worst of times in Eldorado.

The best was "when it was small, under 50 families, and we knew everyone," Dolores said.

The worst were the fights, beginning with demands from the early residents that led to creation in 1975 of the Eldorado Residents Association.

There was the bitter 3-year contest over whether Eldorado should incorporate. The vote in 1999 went 3-to-1 against incorporation.

The problem for the first 22 years: the ECIA was controlled by AMREP, which the residents believed was not acting in their interests.

"We had to almost sue AMREP to get a fire department," Bernie said. "They said we could use the Santa Fe Fire Department. But that's 15 miles away, and by the time they would have arrived, the house would have been ashes."

"That was one of the reasons we formed the Eldorado Residents Association," said Dolores, who was the group's second president in 1976-77 and an officer for 30 years. "It was the organization that went to the ECIA meetings and told AMREP what we wanted. There was a lot of solidarity."

AMREP gave up control of the ECIA in 1995.

In the early 1980s, a developer wanted to build a 10,000-seat equestrian center with parking for 6,000 cars. The ERA fought it, hiring a lawyer that cost it \$17,000. It won.

"If we hadn't fought it, it still would be laying there as a nothing," Dolores said.

But the worst fight was over incorporation, which would have given Eldorado its own police and fire departments. The opposition was fierce because of fears that incorporation would mean more taxes.

"It was the ugliest time in Eldorado," said Bill Donohue, the community's general manager who was facilities boss at the time. "It was the most unproductive period in the history of the ECIA because nothing was done but arguing."

And now?

"It was fun out here, but now it's different," Dolores said. "There isn't that much more to do. We started a pre-school, a fire department, a library and a senior center."

—Richard C. Gross

*ECIA Board  
Work Study  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Mon.,  
Jan. 14, 7 pm*



PHOTO BY RICHARD GROSS

**Long-time residents  
Dolores and Bernard  
Brock.**

**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.

## They're Friendly!

**T**HE CRY RINGS over Eldorado's splendid wilderness. Aunt Tilly, enjoying her first walk after hip surgery, hurriedly limps to the side of the trail. Here come a whole pack of dogs, led by an 80-pound Rottie, with a 20-pound Spaniel bouncing its leash across the dusty ground. Twin Chessies lope close behind. As Tilly clings to the granite, a carefree dog owner calls to the woman on her precarious perch, "They're friendly!" (In other words, what's the matter with you, sissy?)

Guess what, folks. That's no longer allowable. "They're friendly" is no substitute for having your dog on a leash when approaching other people. Sure *your* dog is an exception, everyone loves Lassie, but maybe the woman who is coaxing twin toddlers up the trail doesn't feel comfortable as your toothy hounds race toward her children. How about the person who once had a frightening encounter with a not-so-friendly dog and is genuinely afraid?

Kidding aside. In Eldorado, things have changed. It's obvious that people need to leash their dogs in high-use areas, and the new Dog Policy specifies these areas. But what about the greenbelts and the Wilderness Preserve? So many people now use the trails with their dogs that a new Responsible Dog Ownership Policy has been put in effect. *You can no longer allow your dog to approach another person without that person's permission.* You must carry a leash for each dog you are walking and use that leash in the presence of other people.

The new Dog Policy is an attempt to let everyone use the preserve and greenbelts without fear of being run over, tripped, kissed, jumped on, or possibly even bitten by someone else's animal. In Eldorado, a huge cry arose for total leashing at all times. In order to allow dogs to run free in appropriate situations, we must make a genuine effort to leash our dogs whenever other people are around. Read the new Dog Policy. Become familiar with its fair and easy requirements.

It's still the West, but it's no longer the *wild* West. Calling out "They're friendly!" doesn't cut it any more.



—Pamela Christie

## Reformed

**S**INCE READING BERT LYSEN'S article, *It's Not My Dog*, in the recent *Vistas* [Oct. 2007], I have been doing some heavy soul-searching. I have been coming to terms with the reality that my dog does bark. I am finally admitting that this barking must be bothering my neighbors.

I kept rationalizing and excusing my dog's barking. The truth is, my dog, all our barking dogs, are disturbing the peace. I many times have considered what I can do to keep my dog quiet. After so much discussion about leashing or not leashing our dogs, I think now we dog owners need to take on the daily responsibility for keeping our dogs quiet so we can live together as respectful neighbors—sharing our one big, beautiful "backyard" here in Eldorado. Let's all take the steps we can to turn this barking problem around. It's up to us.

—Harry MacKenzie

## One Correction

**D**AN DROBNIS' excellent article, "Water for 100 Years" [*Vistas* Nov. 2007] contains an error that I'd like to correct. Mr. Drobnis states that leakage in the system is less than 10 percent, "...about as good as a water utility can expect." Actually, 10 percent loss is not good at all, and water utilities can do much better. I provided engineering and management consulting for over 15 water agencies in California, and none of them lost 10 percent. The average was about 6 percent, and the best water districts lost 4 percent.

As a former water board member, I know that the existing Eldorado district pipelines were constructed without competent design or construction standards. This has led to exorbitant water loss for a new district. Water users should know that not only do you pay for the water that leaks into the ground, but that very little, if any, will be recovered. I am glad to see the existing board [EAWSD] working to deal with this issue.

—Bill Robens

## From the President's Desk

**CAN YOU BELIEVE** that a new year is upon us? I haven't gotten around to working on my 2007 resolutions. I am sure you have accomplished the promises you made to yourself this time last year and now you seek to determine what you want to accomplish in the New Year. I have a suggestion: Volunteer!

In the coming year, four seats will be vacated on the ECIA Board of Directors. Usually, there are not so many director seats up for election. But by a fluke of appointments, etc., this is the situation the Board finds itself in now.

Running for a director's seat is not difficult. There are packets at the Association office that outline the process. The one element that most find a little daunting is gathering 25 signatures of Eldorado residents in good standing with the Association (annual assessment paid). However, there are many of us who will help in gathering signatures. When the signatures are submitted, you should also include a resumé and short narrative about yourself and your interest in being a director. All of this is very doable.

The responsibilities of the Board are very straightforward and outlined in the Association by-laws: oversight for development and maintenance of amenities, fiduciary responsibilities and enforcement of the covenants are the major components of the Board's responsibilities. It is interesting work that allows you to learn about the community you live in and meet many good people.

For the Board, civility has become a cornerstone of how we go about our business. We are civil to each other and to residents who come before us. Discussion and consensus are integral to our decision-making process. The Association staff work very well with the Board and make the directors' job easier. Being a Board member can be a very rewarding experience.

If you want to make a resolution that will take you to a new level of self-realization, volunteer and run for one of the Board seats. You won't regret it.

—Jeanne Klein

*See related article on page 6.*

## The Grinch is Coming to Eldorado

**JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER** to those of us who celebrate the season with outdoor lights: Now that the holidays are over, please turn them off. This can be difficult because we want to keep the holiday spirit alive as long as possible. But when you turn your

eyes to the natural beauty of the heavens, the spirit will be there in its full glory. Our night sky is very precious to all of us. The night sky is one of the major reasons that we all moved out here. There is no other place in the Santa Fe area like Eldorado that has our amenities, and our night sky is one of them. I know we all want to maintain that beauty.

Through our Covenants, our neighbors are asking all of us to be respectful of each other, not only in the interest of the night sky but other commitments as well. However, right now I want to

focus only on exterior lighting and what our commitment is to the lighting rules. Lights need to be shielded. Fixtures must use opaque material. The light needs to be visible only at the lowest point of the fixture. Security lighting, if activated by photo sensors or motion detectors, must be adjusted to the least sensitive setting and timed to shut off in two minutes or less.

If you have any question regarding lighting or any other issue regarding the Covenants or our guidelines, please contact our office and we will be happy to answer any questions or provide you with the information you may need. We all hope you had wonderful holidays and we look forward to working with you in the coming year.

—Bert Lysen, CCR

### Home Grown

*The Board of Directors is proud to announce the promotion of Debby Padilla from administrative assistant to office manager. Next time you are in the office please say hi and congratulate her on her new position.*

#### ECIA OFFICE

#1 La Hacienda Loop  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
466-4248, 466-4249  
info@eldoradocommunity.org  
www.eldoradocommunity.org

#### General Manager

Bill Donohue  
466-4248  
ECommunity@aol.com

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### President

Jeanne Klein  
466-2466  
Jpkeducate@aol.com

##### Vice President

Ed Benrock  
466-2088  
Francesed@cybermesa.com

##### Treasurer

Sandy MacGregor  
466-0882  
s.macg@earthlink.net

##### Secretary

Philip Balcombe  
466-2982  
pgbalcombe@cybermesa.com

##### Director

Su Anne Armstrong  
466-4067  
suanneinsantafe@msn.com

##### Director

Richard Anderson  
466-4635  
richardeanderson@comcast.net

##### Director

Tom Miller  
466-6059  
tom@miller91.com

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

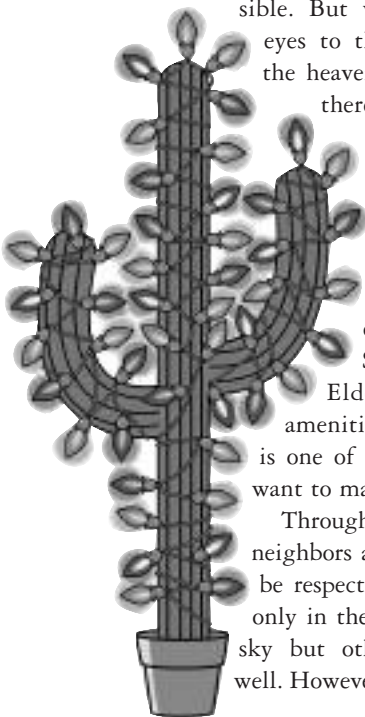
Finance: Dan Drobnis  
Architecture: Bill Schwent  
Conservation: John Parker  
and E.J. Evangelos  
Stable: Tommie Brasel  
and Mary Ann Caldwell  
Election: Pat Lavengood  
Roads: Nolan Zisman  
Information: Ken McPherson  
Neighborhood Watch:  
Mary Uhl and Marilyn Walker

#### VISTAS NEWSLETTER

Editor:  
Ken McPherson  
629-9028  
kenzwork@q.com  
Designer:  
Hope Kiah  
hope@santafe-webdesign.com  
Editorial Assistants:  
Debby Padilla  
466-4248

#### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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







Gen Kelsang Gomlam

### Karma Talk

Why do some people enjoy good health while others are constantly ill? Why are some people fortunate while others encounter problem after problem? Why are some people winners and others always lose? Is there a reason why we have to face so many difficulties? Buddha's teachings on karma provide answers to these questions and empower us to finally take control of our own life and future.

Tuesday, January 22, from 7 to 9 pm at the Eldorado Community Center, there will be a free public talk with **Gen Kelsang Gomlam**, resident teacher from the Tushita Buddhist Center. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please call 820-2226.

### Thanks

As editor, I would like to invoke Executive Privilege by taking this space to thank the members of the Information Committee for their help this past year in putting together 12 issues of Vistas and the annual Eldorado calendar. They write, proofread, take photographs and generally share the latest news about Eldorado at each meeting. They create a newsletter that I believe is both informative and entertaining. Thank you **Dan Drobnis, Frank Schober, Richard Gross, Hope Kiah, Richard Anderson and Debby Padilla**. And a special thanks to all who contribute articles.

### Senior Activities

The Adam Senior Center, located on Avenida Torreon adjacent to the Vista Grande Public Library, is now open five days a week for the use of seniors living in the southeast section of Santa Fe County. The facility, which opened in April, now serves lunch Monday, Wednesday and Friday from noon to 1 pm and will provide Meals on Wheels every weekday from its kitchen. Lunch is \$1.50 and reservations are needed, so stop by to sign up at the center or call 466-1039. Meal tickets for 10 lunches are available for \$15 at the center.

The Senior Center



PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH



### Senior Programs now in place are:

- ▼ Yoga, 10:30 to 11:30 am Mondays (\$3.00), and 1:30 to 2:30 pm, Fridays.
- ▼ Tai Chi, 10:45 to 11:30 am, Wednesdays.
- ▼ Clay Class, 1 to 3 pm, Mondays.
- ▼ Weaving, 1 to 3 pm, Thursdays.
- ▼ Bridge, Tuesday and Friday afternoons 1 to 4 pm.

More programs and activities will be added now that the center is open more hours. Stop by to check the schedule or call 466-1039.

### 2008 Studio Tour Applications Due

This year's Studio Tour will be held May 17-18 and—can you believe it?—the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association already has begun preparations. Participation in the Tour is open to resident artists living west of Route 285 off of one of the three entrances into Eldorado. All artists are expected to attend the three organizational meetings and participate on a committee. It is this concerted effort by all participants in the organization of the Tour that makes the event profitable for the artists and fun for our visitors and collectors. The applications have been mailed to current EACA members and are due back January 15.

The 2007 Studio Tour that featured 96 artists was a great success and the committee chairs are expecting another winning Tour. For further information, contact **Joretha Hall** at 466-6245, **Janet Amtmann** at 466-3256 or **Grace Burleigh** at 466-4534.

### Kiss That Tree Goodbye

Is your holiday tree shedding needles faster than a white dog on a dark carpet? Is it finally time to send your tree out to browner pastures? Let us help you. Bring your holiday tree to a specially marked area of the Community Center parking lot and recycle it. That's right, we will help you get rid of trees that have overstayed their welcome. Beginning the day after Christmas and running until January 25, we will take your tree and recycle it into aroma-chips that will be used in the dog park. Smart, no? Please remove any tinsel, nails, tree stands, presents, lights, ornaments or anything that wouldn't be nice to the wood chipper. If you have any questions, please call **Bill Donohue** at 466-4248.



## ASTRONOMY Corner

### BEYOND PLUTO

Pluto was discovered in 1930. Since that discovery, no new planets had been found until, in 2002, Quaoar appeared, and many more followed. Now our solar system has many new members from the Oort Cloud. Its elliptical orbit extends from 13 to 135 billion kilometers from the Sun.

—Juan Alvarez  
Jalva88610@aol.com

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

## The Easy Ride

Any Eldorado residents interested in establishing an All-European (including British) Motorcycle Club for the purpose of social gatherings and group rides around New Mexico? No dues, no secret handshakes, just good fun with like-minded folks. Interested? Call Chuck at 466-0844, or email chuckwest@qwest.com



# 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

ECIA offices closed	Tues., Jan. 1		
ERA Quarterly meeting	Mon., Jan. 7	Bruce Blossman	LR
ERA T.G.I.F.	Fri., Jan. 18, 4:30-7:30 pm		LR
ECIA offices closed	Mon., Jan. 21 for MLK Day		

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EAWS&SD*	Tues., Jan. 8, 6-9 pm		466-2411	CR
Finance Committee	Wed., Jan. 9, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
285 Coalition	Wed., Jan. 9, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Jan. 9, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Jan. 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Jan. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Jan. 21, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	629-9028	F
Architectural Committee	Wed., Jan. 23, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., Jan. 29, 7-9 pm	Tommie Brasel		LR

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Jan. 12, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Jan. 10, 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. 14, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Mandie Rippey	795-4086	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Jan. 15, 2-4 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	466-6398	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
League of Woman Voters	Sat., Jan. 26, 9:30-noon			LR
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7:15-8:15 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Tues., 6:30-9 pm			F
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
Eldo Business Dev Group	Thurs., 8-9:15 am	Arielle Verwey	570-0677	CFR
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**	M, W & F, 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Figure Drawing	Mon., 10 am-noon	Neil O'Brien	577-2043	RR
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)

## The Drips Add Up

PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS



If you receive water from EAWSD, your meter is usually (but not always) located near the street, marked by a small blue flag. Lift the cover, about 1-1/2 feet in diameter, and the meter is a couple of feet underground. The valve will shut off your water before it enters the meter—useless for leak detection, but good to know in an emergency.

**I**S YOUR FIRST reaction to your monthly water bill, “Oh, no! We couldn’t have used this much.”? If so, here are some things to check:

**1. Was the meter read correctly?** First, check that the reading at the beginning of the present water bill matches that at end of the previous bill. Then take your present bills, a flashlight, and a paper towel moistened with water or glass cleaner to your water meter. Check that the

meter does not show less than your most recent reading (as stated on your bill). Call the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD) office at 466-1085 if there are discrepancies.

**2. Do you have a leak between the meter and your house?** Find the main water valve entering your house and turn it off. Read your water meter and reread it in an hour. It should not have budged. If it has, you are losing water between the meter and your house. It’s your water once it leaves the meter.

**3. Do you have a leak in your house?** With the water turned on entering your house and everything that uses water supposedly off, check over another hourlong period. If you see water being metered into your house, there is a leak—perhaps more than one.

### Check for:

- ▼ Leaking faucets and plumbing joints. Check under sinks and around laundry areas.
- ▼ Leaking toilets. Use the old trick of food dye in the tank, to see any colored water seeping into the bowl.
- ▼ Leaking swamp cooler or irrigation valves (if applicable). Turn off the water lines to your cooler and irrigation and see if that stops the meter from advancing.
- ▼ Leaking underfloor radiant heating (if applicable). Turn off the valve that adds water to your heating lines, usually located near a small pressure regulator by your furnace.
- ▼ If all else fails, turn off **everything**. If your meter still indicates water flow, you could have a leak in your distribution pipes in your foundation or walls.

**4. Is your water meter faulty?** Perhaps. The bad news is that as meters age, they almost always read low, not high. And it is very unlikely they will show flow when there is none. EAWSD will replace your meter (for a stiff fee), but it is almost certain that the new meter will still measure a leak—albeit more accurately!

—Dan Drobnis

## ECIA Board Election

**T**HE ANNUAL ECIA BOARD election is just around the corner and there will be four vacancies to be filled. The position of director provides an opportunity for interested persons to shape the community in which they live.

The community and all potential Board candidates need to understand the following basic requirements and deadlines as outlined in the by-laws 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 January 2, 2008, and must be filed by March 1, 2008.

- ▼ Each candidate must file a resumé and position statement with the ECIA office by March 1, 2008.
- ▼ The Election Committee will validate each candidate’s petition by March 7, 2008.
- ▼ Election packets and the notice of the Annual Meeting of the Members will be mailed to each Member in Good Standing by March 31, 2008.
- ▼ The ballots must be received at the ECIA office no later than May 1, 2008 to be considered valid.
- ▼ The Election Committee will count ballots and announce the results at the Annual Meeting of the Members on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 7 pm.

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

—Debby Padilla



## A Foreign Invader - Eurasian Collared Dove

**I**N SEPTEMBER 2006, I wrote about our fairly common Mourning Dove (MD). Now the Eurasian Collared Dove (ECD) has expanded its range even into New Mexico. The ECD was introduced into the Bahamas in 1975. By 1982, a breeding colony was established in Dade County, Florida. In the early 1990s, the birds were present throughout Florida and some had moved into Texas. By 2002, a few birds were found in New Mexico and now large populations exist in about 30 states, including New Mexico.

The ECD is 11 to 12 inches long with a wingspan of 14 inches, a sandy gray with a black half-collar on the back of its neck. Males and females are alike. The MD is 9 to 13 inches, with a wingspan of 15 to 18 inches, a light brown body with black spots on its wings. Males are larger and more colorful, with a pink chest and bluish crown. Both species have a typical dove call, but they are somewhat different. In flight, the MD wings make a whistling noise.

By number, the MD is in the top 10 species of U.S. birds.

But remember the Passenger Pigeon (PP). PPs

once made up 25 percent to 40 percent of the total U.S. bird population of the It is estimated that there were 3 billion to 5 billion PPs at the time Europeans discovered America. The large colonies of these birds were over hunted, although no one thought so many birds could just disappear. By 1900, there were few PPs and the last, Martha, died September 1, 1914.

It is unknown if our native MD will be negatively affected by the ECD intruder. Both doves share habitats in many areas, including in New Mexico. Observations indicate that the ECD eats larger and thicker seeds than the MD. Both species build twig nests in trees and don't seem to compete for nest sites. In Eldorado, our observations can help identify how these two birds get along in the same habitat. Keep your binoculars handy and contribute to this developing story (through Project Feeder Watch, <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>).

Thanks to *Wild Bird* and several Internet sites for the up-to-date information.

—Pam Henline



## Greetings Plant Enthusiasts

**W**ELCOME 2008, where we find ourselves in midwinter with its cold weather and bare landscape. Thoughts of flowering gardens and green anything fill our minds, yet we know it will be several months before our high desert reveals any sign of growth. Do not despair and refrain from gazing longingly at the celery and parsley in the fridge: there are always house plants to fill the void.

There are literally hundreds of options for indoor plant material, known in the horticulture trade as foliage. These are usually green or variegated plants; however, many pink, yellow and even orange hues are growing into the market. We'll talk about the flowering ones, known as color, later. Foliage usually requires less maintenance. Light, water, fertilizer and insect management are all reduced within this group. The common varieties used in commercial installations, such as airports and hotels, usually can handle low light areas because in nature these varieties (dracaena, philodendron, etc.) grow in the understory, thriving in the shade of the forest floor. As a rule, plants that require less light use less water. Therefore, photosynthesis is reduced, slowing growth. Since most chewing insects relish the quick growing tips of plants, they are not as attracted to these varieties. Foliage also requires less fertilizer,

unlike their flowering cousins.

Over-watering is the most common culprit in house plant demise. Plants recover more easily when under-watered; when a plant gets too wet, fungus takes hold and more often than not, the plant is ready for the compost pile. Moisture meters really work and are inexpensive, but the weight of the plant will also tell you when it's wet. Watering rule of (green) thumb: Drench, then let go really dry. The exceptions are vines, which prefer frequent watering in low amounts. Adding half strength fertilizer regularly will keep them luxurious. Think: Weekly/Weekly.

There are many, many blooming plants available for indoor use. Most of these selections such as bougainvillea, hibiscus, geranium and citrus need lots of direct sun, water, fertilizer (with high phosphorous) and insect management. Several blooming varieties (bromeliads, impatiens and many orchids) can take less light. Their needs are very different as compared to foliage plants, but the reward of color can be impressive, especially in January.

You are always welcome to visit the tropics at Tropic of Capricorn or try your luck with orchids. My next orchid class is Saturday, January 12 at 2 pm. Call 983-2700 for details.

—Horticulturally yours, Michael Clark



*Security 204-2945  
Sheriff 428-3720  
Crime Stoppers 955-5050*

## Busing into Town

The Eldorado Express bus can be used for pleasure trips along with commuting. Join your neighbors in using this gas-saving, relaxing method of getting to Santa Fe, whether it be for work or fun. Meet your spouse for dinner and drive home together. It's only a dollar!

### Eldorado Express Bus Schedule Effective October 1, 2007

ATTENTION: THE 6:05AM SERVICE FROM ELDORADO IS NO LONGER IN SERVICE.

From Eldorado Departure Time	To Santa Fe Arrival Time				
The Agora	St.Vincent	So.Com	NMDOT	PERA	Sheridan
7:10 AM	7:30 AM	7:35 AM	7:36 AM	7:46 AM	7:56 AM
8:40 AM	9:00 AM	9:05 AM	9:06 AM	9:16 AM	9:26 AM
4:50 PM	>	>	>	>	5:14 PM
5:50 PM	6:08 PM	6:13 PM	6:14 PM	>	6:24 PM

From Santa Fe Departure Time					To Eldorado Arrival Time
Sheridan	PERA	NMDOT	So.Com	St. Vincent	The Agora
6:45 AM	>	>	>	>	7:09 AM
8:00 AM	>	8:10 AM	8:11 AM	8:16 AM	8:36 AM
4:14 PM	>	4:24 PM	4:25 PM	4:30 PM	4:50 PM
5:14: PM	5:24	5:34 PM	5:35 PM	5:40 PM	6:00 PM