

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 1

Jan. 2009

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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

New, Experienced ECIA Board Members

TWO NEW MEMBERS, Mary Ann Caldwell and Pat Lavengood, have been appointed to the ECIA Board, for terms running to May 2010. They replace former members Malcolm McFarlane and Tom Miller, who recently resigned.

Both Mary Ann and Pat are experienced community and ECIA members. Mary Ann is a long-time member of the Stable Committee, including a period as Chair. And Pat is a former ECIA Board member and served as the Association's Vice President before completing her earlier term.

Because the Stable Committee has considerable responsibility for formulating and enforcing the rules for the Stable amenity, Mary Ann jokes that after dealing with the Stable challenges, she felt more than ready to move on to the Board. She came to Eldorado 12 years ago, from a career as an auto industry attorney in Michigan. Once she arrived in Eldorado, she felt motivated to reinvent herself in government management, first at the Santa Fe Municipal Court and more recently at the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

She notes that her four-day, ten-hour work schedule is ideal for allowing time for community activities, and comments that it is important for the ECIA Board to represent active workers as well as retirees. She would like to see Eldorado more involved with the larger community of its South 285 neighbors, and hopes to use her contacts at the NMDOT to encourage greater Eldorado and 285-corridor public transportation options in the coming RailRunner era.

After Pat's initial three-year term on the ECIA Board ended, she did not sit idly by. She volunteered with El Rancho de Las Golondrinas Museum and is presently Meals-on-Wheels coordinator for the Eldorado area, which is looking to expand into Lamy/Glorieta (prospective drivers should contact Pat).

Pat grew up in Lansing, Michigan, and attended her hometown Michigan State College (later University). "That was a while ago," she remembers, "but we still play pretty good football and basket-

ball." She worked as a buyer of military hardware for various defense contractors in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles, including Litton Data Systems. "Eventually the crowds became too much," she recalls, and so New Mexico beckoned.

Pat remembers, "Dave and I picked Santa Fe on a map because we loved hiking in the mountains, visited the area and bought a home immediately. But it took a couple of years to get our retirements arranged, and by the time we were ready, our original house was rented long-term, so we bought another and came ahead." Pat immediately put her purchasing agent experience to work at El Dorado Fire and Rescue, and later became an emergency medical technician. Her hiking experience was useful a few years later when she became a charter member of Santa Fe Search and Rescue.

Pat began her ECIA career on the Finance and (former) Maintenance Committees, later serving as Maintenance Chair. She helped refurbish the Community Center living room, discovering in the process the beautiful hardwood floor that had been covered with a badly worn carpet.

—Dan Drobnis

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Jan. 12, 7 pm*

PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS



Pat Lavengood rejoins the ECIA Board after a six-year sabbatical.

Mary Ann Caldwell, after chairing the ECIA Stable Committee, feels she is now ready for the Board.



PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS

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 ECIADebby@aol.com. 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.

Vistas Expense

I HAVE REVIEWED the ECIA budget and noticed an increase for the *Vistas* newsletter. I have often wondered what made *Vistas* so expensive. This is close to 6% of total expenses, probably in the range of \$25 per household per year, about the price of *New Mexico* magazine. Maybe this is appropriate, but details on costs would be appreciated.

—Guy Lussiez

Dan Drobnis, Finance Committee Chair and Information Committee member, responds:

Mr. Lussiez raises a very appropriate question. The ECIA Board has long considered communications with the community to be among its highest priorities, and allocates substantial resources for this. For 2009, the annual Community Relations line in the ECIA budget includes:

Bulk Mail \$400: Includes mailings to lot-owners—mostly annual assessments and Board election materials.

Vistas Newsletter \$43,000: Includes about \$7,000 for the Eldorado Calendar, now in its third year, expenses for which are partially offset by ad revenues. The calendar is popular with residents, local business owners, contributors, and realtors (as community promotional material, enhancing the value of all our properties!). The remainder, about \$36,000, is divided into three roughly equal parts: Although written by volunteers, *Vistas* uses professional editing and layout, printing, and computerized labeling/USPS bulk mail. With a press run and mailing of about 3,000, its cost comes to about \$12 per "mail subscriber" per year.

Website \$4,600: For 2009, covers transitioning to a new web host specializing in homeowners associations, which will add significant ECIA web-

site functionality (more about this in a later issue). This, with professional web design/maintenance expenses, will increase the website costs to \$4,600 per year. There will also be a one-time cost in 2009 of \$2,500, mostly for the startup and extra attention from our professional web manager.

Annual Meeting \$7,000: Includes rental of the El Dorado School gym, the only community venue large enough for the annual meeting, and the production and mailing of the annual report.

Board Minutes \$500: Pays for professional recording of its meeting minutes, to assure consistency and ease of retrieval.

Welcome Packet \$1,500: Pays for Welcome Packets containing Association documents and other community material sent to all new residents. This helps to assure compliance with community covenants and standards. This comes to about \$5 per new resident.

Neighborhood Watch \$1,000: Pays for promotional and educational materials and Neighborhood Watch warning signs.

ECIA-Sponsored Events \$5,000: Covers the July 4 parade and party, and the Holiday Appreciation Party for all members of ECIA committees and their spouses.

ECIA Bulletin Boards: A nominal ongoing cost, this pays to maintain the marquees at Eldorado's entrances and the ECIA Bulletin Board in the Agora.

For maximum input into both the budgeting process and the *Vistas* content, please consider joining the Finance Committee and/or the Information Committee.

—Dan Drobnis

Water Board (EAWSD) Election

THE ELDORADO AREA Water & Sanitation District will hold its regular election Tuesday, January 13. Voters will elect four members to the five-member District Board of Directors: two for two years and two for four years. All qualified electors are urged to vote at the Adam Senior Center, 14 Avenida Torreon, from 7 am to 7 pm. Absentee ballots are available from the District office at 1 Caliente Road.

A qualified elector is anyone registered to vote in any precinct in New Mexico, who either (1) resides in the district; (2) pays or is liable to pay any rates, tolls, or charges set by the district; or (3) has paid or

incurred a tax liability on property within the district during the past 12 months.

The EASWD Board has broad authority over the administrative management of Eldorado's water supply, fiscal management and rate setting of the monthly water charges, and annual property tax assessments on members of the district. Before voting, eligible voters should inform themselves about the candidates for election. Have the members standing for re-election met your expectations over the past several years? Do the new candidates have the needed qualifications and abilities?

—Dan Drobnis and Don Dayton

From the ECIA President's Desk

THE PAST YEAR has been a time of change and improvements in the Community Center and facilities. Water conservation is a major concern for Eldorado, and with the installation of a cistern system that collects over 12,000 gallons of water, we took a big step in the right direction. In 2008 we also renovated our patio and basketball courts; we put in new flooring in the Railroad Room, improved the fencing for the soccer field and baseball diamond, and added horseshoe pits at the Community Center. Road improvements were made in the stable area; the stable also enjoys a rebuilt harrow (thanks to volunteers). And to improve communication, we put up a new bulletin board at the Agora.

In this time of financial crisis, we are all concerned about the status of our investments. I asked the chair of our Finance Committee, **Dan Drobnis**, to update us. His response:

The ECIA Bylaws require that all ECIA funds be kept in federally insured accounts and instruments. In practice, this means that checking and savings accounts are kept at three separate FDIC-insured banks and kept below \$100,000 each. Investments are in Certificates of Deposit from different FDIC-insured banks in amounts less

than \$100,000 including any interest that may accumulate. This sometimes requires a bit of maneuvering, but it has kept the Association's funds entirely intact throughout the recent financial turmoil. *Not a penny has been lost.*

Dan's committee has done an outstanding job in keeping ECIA's funds secure. We are fortunate to have this committee with their financial expertise serving our community.

Along those same lines, I cannot say enough about the ECIA's nine committees. Without their dedication and hard work almost on a daily basis and over many years, the Board could not function effectively. The residents who volunteer their time and expertise in serving our community help us all maintain the lifestyle that we enjoy here in Eldorado.

When I say that we are here to serve you, it reflects the feeling of the Board, staff and the committees. I look forward to serving you in 2009.

—Ed Benrock, ECIA President



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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Conservation: John Parker and E.J. Evangelos
Stable: Bonita Mamp
Election: Ken Robinson
Roads: Nolan Zisman
Information: Frank Schober
Neighborhood Watch: Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker
Facilities & Grounds: Fred Raznick

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Vista Grande Library
466-READ
Security
204-2945
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)

Lions Club Ready to Serve in Eldorado

IF YOU VISIT FIRST NATIONAL BANK of Santa Fe in the Agora, you will see a basket placed near the entrance to receive donations of groceries for families expecting a sparse holiday season this year. This charitable program is one of many community activities of the newly established Eldorado Basin Lions Club. "Think globally, act locally" is not an official motto of the club, but practically speaking, that is what its members do.

Lions Club International claims to be the largest service club in the world. Open to men and women who wish to serve their local communities, it counts 1.4 million members in 205 countries. Lions Club members exemplify their motto, "We Serve." They support programs for sight, hearing and speech conservation, diabetes awareness, youth outreach, and a multitude of other efforts that improve the quality of life in their local communities.

In October 2008, Lions Club members provided eye screenings for 1,800 students of the Santa Fe Public Schools. The percentage of students testing positive for eye conditions needing attention was

more than twice the number expected. The club's interest in assisting the sight-impaired dates from its founding in 1917 and the lifelong friendship between Helen Keller and Lions Club founder Melvin Jones. Jones, a Chicago businessman, coined a phrase that remains a guideline for Lion's Club members today: "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else."

Local Lions Club members will soon be working to improve the trail between El Dorado School and the parking lot of the nearby El Dorado Fire and Rescue station on Avenida Vista Grande. The trail is used for emergency evacuations and for fire and other drills.

Local Lions welcome any individual, regardless of age, gender, political or religious affiliation, or background who wants to make a difference, grow personally and professionally, and have a positive impact on our community and the world.

For information, call **Marcel Legendre**, head of Eldorado's local pride, at 992-2205.

—Frank Schober

PHOTO BY MAX UNDERWOOD



Stable Day festivities on September 28, 2008.



Gen Kelsang Chöma will speak at the Railroad Room at 7pm on Tuesday January 13th.

*Do you like
your new 2009
Eldorado Calendar?*

We were able to
use only 15
of the many gorgeous
photos submitted.
See them all on your
community website:
eldoradocommunity.org

IN THE COMMUNITY

ERA News

The ERA had a successful 2008. Events during the year included the February Sweetheart Dance, the Mid-Summer's Dance, the Agora Summer Concert Series, the Spring and Fall Flea Markets, and the ever-popular TGIF Receptions. The Eldorado Dog Club was formed after the Doggie Pool Party. The end-of-year Santa event was held during December.

ERA events and meetings for 2009 include the Quarterly Meetings (the first on January 5), and our Annual Meeting and Board Elections on April 6. All ERA meetings begin at 7 pm at the Community Center. The first TGIF Reception of the year will be held Friday, January 16, at 5 pm in the Community Center living room. The Spring Flea Market will be on Saturday, May 9. Watch for new calendar postings on www.eldoradoresidents.org.

There will be many new volunteer opportunities in 2009. So, resolve this year to become more involved in your community, just for the fun of it.

—Bruce Blossman, President ERA Board of Directors

Healing Meditations with Gen Chöma

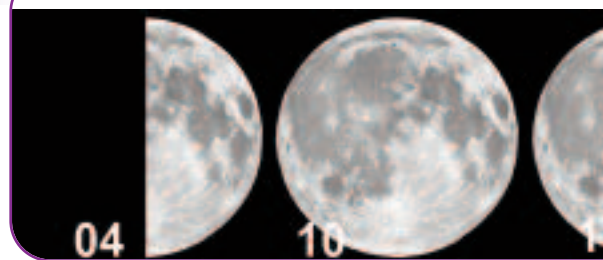
Meditation can give rise to an experience of inner peace and well being. Through training in these simple meditation techniques, we can improve ourselves mentally and physically. Gen Chöma, resident teacher at the Tushita Buddhist Center, will give the first teachings in this new series on Tuesday, January 13, in the Railroad Room at the Eldorado Community Center, 7-8:30 pm. Free; all are welcome.

Teens Fiddle and Kids Rock

Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players are staging two professional-quality productions this month. Eldorado Teen Players present "Fiddler on the Roof" at the James A. Little Theater, with 32 talented teen performers ages 12-18. The show features a 13-piece orchestra, including professional musicians and students from Santa Fe Youth Symphony. Come see these wonderful actors, singers, and dancers portray rich characters and perform popular tunes like "If I Were a Rich Man," "Sunrise, Sunset," and "Matchmaker." The show opens on January 23 at 7:30 pm. (See back page for full schedule and ticket info.)

Eldorado Children's Theatre presents the Emmy Award-winning cartoon "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" live on stage, featuring 38 talented students ages 6-12 and a professional band. The upbeat, high-energy show has lots of fun songs and dances like "I'm Just a Bill," "Conjunction Junction," and "Interjections." The two public

Moon Phases for Jan



performances are at the James A. Little Theater on January 29 at 7 pm and January 31 at 2 pm. There are also school performances during the day for classes to attend. Tickets for public performances for this show are \$5. Order tickets online at www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org or call the box office at 466-4656.

Healthy Food, Healthy Country

Did you know that after cars, the food system uses more fossil fuel than any other sector of the economy? Did you know that our food industry produces a lot of food, but much of it is intended to "feed" the fast-food industry and the processed food industry? This means that the variety of crops is limited, that federal subsidies support what industry wants grown—which is not necessarily what you want to eat or what is best for you. We can change the system a lot by growing our own food.

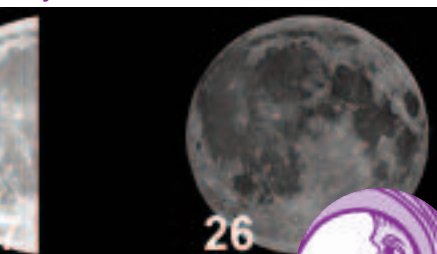
If you wish to explore the concept and benefits of starting an Eldorado Community Garden, please come to our first meeting, Saturday, January 10, at 1 pm in the classroom at the Community Center. In the meantime, you can brush up on community gardens on Google and read a landmark piece on our food industry. Go to www.nytimes.com and search for "Farmer in Chief" by Michael Pollan (New York Times Magazine, October 12, 2008). To discuss this prior to the meeting, call George Henke at 466-4988 or e-mail Images_Garden@yahoo.com.

Dog Lovers Unite

The Eldorado Dog Club holds its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 13, at 7 pm at the Community Center. New membership is greatly encouraged. The EDC would like to thank our wonderful community of generous business owners and individuals who donated gifts, services, and time to help make our fundraiser for the Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society a wonderful event. We look forward to continuing our work with the community. Thank you all once again, and Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year, from The Eldorado Dog Club!

Hope Kiah Wins Book Award

Vistas designer and ECIA webmaster Hope Kiah has won the 2008 New Mexico Book Award for Best Business Book for *The Keyword Tutorial*



ASTRONOMY Corner

BEYOND PLUTO

Pluto was discovered back in 1930. Since then, many new objects have been found. In 2002, Quaoar appeared, a trans-Neptunian object and potential dwarf planet orbiting the sun in the Kuiper belt. Later, a group of astronomers discovered the two largest objects beyond Pluto. Among them, Sedna provides evidence for a hypothesized distant icy body called the Oort Cloud. Its elliptical orbit extends from 13 to 135 billion kilometers from the sun.

— Juan Alvarez

jalva88610@aol.com

Protect our night skies; keep outside lights low or off when not needed.

Ebook (Feathered Soul Press), a short ebook that helps freelancers, creatives and small business owners prepare web content so that searchers can find their site. Congratulations, Hope! Visit www.keyword-coach.com for more information.

ECIA Invoices

The 2009 invoices went out just after Christmas. They are not past-due until March 1, but, if you did not get an invoice, please call me at 466-4248, and I will send out a replacement! Thanks, Debby Padilla

Eldorado Storage

Long-term residents Russ and Amy McMillan are owners of Eldorado Storage, a facility that provides secure spaces for recreational vehicles (RVs) and excess household items that may be cluttering our homes or garages. By early March, they will have added 8,000 square feet and several additional RV spaces at their facility located at the intersection of Avenidas Vista Grande and Compadres. For information, call 466-1810.

January Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email 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

EAWS&D Election	Tues., January 13, 7am-7 pm	Senior Center
ECIA Offices Closed	Mon., January 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day	

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Facilities & Grounds	Tues., January 6, 4 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., January 6, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Finance Committee	Wed., January 14, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., January 14, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., January 12, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., January 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., January 20, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., January 28, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., January 27, 7-9 pm	Bonnie Mamp	466-4271	LR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Shakespeare Group	CANCELED			
Search & Rescue	Thurs., January 8, 6:30-9:30 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
La Canada Wireless	Mon., January 12 & 26, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
Eldorado Dog Club	Tues., January 13, 7 pm	Freddi Hetler	466-2005	LR
Roadrunners RV Club	Tues., January 20, 6 pm	Beverly Cottingham	466-4655	Fire
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kielling	466-4232	Sm Gym
MOMS Club	Mon., January 26, 3:30-5:30	Mandie Rippey	795-4086	
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	466-6398	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
EAWS&D*	Thurs, January 15, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/RR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7:15-8:30 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Ramon Quintana	757-6424	RR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	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., 6:30-8:30 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	New gym
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., 12:30-2:30 pm	Sande Anderson	466-4688	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Birdman of Eldorado, Ron Duffy

RON DUFFY has been leading bird walks in Eldorado for the last 2-1/2 years. The walks start at the Community Center on the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 am, and last about an hour. Usually there is a small group (especially in the winter) of 3-4 or 7-9 people, although his mailing list has grown to 40 interested persons. Ron's walks are primarily around the Community Center itself, around the buildings and trees and the basketball court. He says the tall trees there make this area conducive to seeing many different kinds of birds.

Ron started leading bird-watching trips in Los Alamos with the Sierra Club, and then later with the Santa Fe chapter. Now he volunteers with the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe.

There are many types of birds around Eldorado, especially from season to season, so it's hard to say which are the most prevalent. Local species include the raven, junco, Eurasian collared dove, goldfinches, hummingbirds, tanagers, scaled quail and Gambel's quail. If you are looking for a guidebook to birds, Ron recommends the *National Geographic Bird Guide*.

Birds eat about equal amounts of insects and seeds. If you like to feed birds, you should opt for the higher-priced seeds such as sunflower and niger seed,

instead of the locally available seed which often contains filler. The kind of seed you put out should be based on the kind of birds you want to attract. Wild Birds Unlimited is a good place to go for bird seed. Ron generally encourages people to put out hummingbird feeders, as these beautiful birds will stop to feed on their long-range migrations, and need energy.

Given the large windows many homes in Eldorado have, Ron gets a lot of questions about birds hitting house windows and getting stunned. Ron suggests applying a large silhouette of a bird to the window. Birds will see this and veer away. He also suggests that if you find a stunned bird on the ground, you can help it by putting it into a paper bag (or a box if the bird is large), leaving room for air, and bringing it inside your house. Generally the bird will start to thrash around inside the bag (this may take up to an hour). Then take it outside and release it.

Just as *Vistas* is going to press, we've learned that Ron will be moving from New Mexico in the coming months, so he will be leading just a few more monthly bird walks. For more information, contact Ron at 466-6398.

—David Goodrich

ECIA BOARD NOMINATIONS

Applications and nominating petitions to run for the ECIA Board are now available at the ECIA office. Any ECIA member in good standing wishing to run for the Board should submit a petition with the signatures of 25 lot-owners, along with requested biographical information, and return to the ECIA office by March 2.

Bushtit (Bt)

THIS VERY SMALL, undistinguished-looking bird resides year round in Eldorado. The Bt is 4.5 inches long, with a 6-inch wingspan. The male is light gray on his under parts and slightly darker gray above. The beak is very small and pointed, and the relatively long, thin tail seems to drag in flight. The male has a dark eye. The female is duller and has a yellow eye ringed with a thin black line. Except during breeding season, the Bt is usually seen in small flocks, moving animatedly through branches or flitting by ones, twos or threes between nearby trees. They prefer chaparral and open, low woods.

Pairs are seasonally monogamous. Both male and female build a pendulous, gourd-shaped nest, taking 13 to 51 days to complete. Nest material includes lichens, moss, leaves, spiderwebs, hair and feathers. They usually have two broods per year. Five to seven eggs hatch in 12 days, and the altricial young fledge in 14 or 15 days. Both parents brood and feed the young. Their diet is insects, spiders, seeds and fruit.

Bts seem to be increasing their range and numbers, as they do well in suburban neighborhoods. During cold winter nights, Bts huddle closely packed together in dense shrubs.

Here are some more interesting facts, from Cornell University, about Bts:

The Bushtit is the only member of its family in the Americas; seven other species are found in Eurasia. All have similar complex hanging nests. The Bushtit often has helpers at the nest, birds other than the parental pair that feed nestlings. All family members sleep together in the complex nest during breeding, but they leave it after the young fledge, and sleep on branches.

—Pam Henline



Becoming a Block Captain for Neighborhood Watch

I'VE LIVED IN ELDORADO for about 17 years, know some of my neighbors, and decided I would like someone to watch my house if I were away. A few years back there was an attempted burglary while I was at home, and I know it can take a while for law enforcement to respond out here, so I think it's critical for neighbors to be watchful and involved in our neighborhoods.

My experience in organizing our block was very positive, and my neighbors were excited that I had taken the initiative to contact them and get our group started. Getting the group together encouraged me to contact the neighbors I didn't already know. Everyone responded positively. One offered their home for a yearly gathering, while others asked what they could do to support our group. I've made some wonderful contacts with neighbors I didn't know, learned what talent we have in our neighborhood, and received a lovely thank you note. Some neighbors are already looking out for one another—taking in mail, the newspaper, and keeping an eye on one another's homes if away. Although we have

not yet had our yearly gathering, one neighbor invited a new neighbor for dinner for the first time. We have gathered neighbor contact information and have begun to forward the email alerts we receive from Neighborhood Watch (NW) to our neighbors.

In the role of block captain, it's important to recognize and share the importance of Neighborhood Watch, to keep an open mind, be receptive, and be unafraid to contact neighbors you don't yet know. I now feel I could contact any of them and get help if necessary.

If you are considering becoming a block captain, you should know it doesn't take very much time to start a group. There is a greater benefit to being part of NW than I realized. Don't be afraid to try it—it's fun! I'm so glad I did it.

To start a group, contact Marilyn Walker, Co-chair, Eldorado Neighborhood Watch, 466-2553, Lightwalker@comcast.net; or Imelda Garcia, 466-1577, Nbrbdwtch78@yahoo.com.

—Imelda Garcia

"If you are considering becoming a block captain, you should know it doesn't take very much time to start a group."

Chip Seal, A Primer (Part 1)

I**N PREVIOUS ISSUES** of *Vistas* we've talked about the problems of washboarding and rutting on our roads. While new base course helps address these problems and is the appropriate surface for most of our dirt roads, there are some problems that even new base course may not totally solve. Is there a better way to keep our roads from getting washboarded and rutted? And how we can prevent some of the hazards of runoff and impassable mud during rainy periods? One answer is to "pave" our roads. There are two types of paving: asphalt, used for heavily trafficked roads; and chip seal, a less expensive method used for lighter traffic where dirt roads are a maintenance issue. While Eldorado has some high-volume roads that are still dirt, these are already slated for paving in county plans. Examples include Herrada, Balsa and Encantado Roads as well as Av. Buena Ventura and the dirt portion of Av. Amistad. Other roads may benefit from chip seal.

WHAT IS CHIP SEAL? Chip seal consists of a binder in the form of an emulsion or hot spray, mixed with a layer of fine aggregate. The aggregate becomes the top surface of road. Chip seal has been used around the world for decades. It is one of the oldest methods of road surfacing and can last upward of seven to ten years. This durable

form of paving is suitable for most of our remaining dirt roads.

PLUSES AND MINUSES: On the plus side, chip seal provides a durable surface that is easy to drive on, especially during the wet months, and eliminates dust clouds. It is also longer lasting than a dirt surface and does not need constant attention from the county. On the down side, it costs much more to apply than new base course. Also, driveway culverts are essential to keep runoff away from the roadway, which prevents erosion of the underlying materials.

Stay tuned for Part 2 of this primer in another issue of *Vistas*.

—Nolan Zisman,
Road Committee Chair;
Sherman Frankston,
Road Committee Member





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

"Fiddler" Opens in January



PHOTO BY TOM BRIMACOMBE.

Eldorado Teen Players will perform "Fiddler on the Roof" beginning on January 23 at 7:30 pm at the James A. Little Theater. Other performances are on January 24 (7:30 pm), January 25 (2 pm), January 30 (7:30 pm), January 31 (7:30 pm), and February 1 (2 pm). Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. Call 466-4656 or order online at eldoradochildrenstheatre.org. Shown here are characters Teyve (played by Max Dickter, age 17) and Golde (played by Hailey Jonoubek, age 16).