

ELDORADO VISTAS

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 1

January 2010

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ECIA Road Committee

Looking Around, Looking Ahead to Improve Eldorado's Roads

MOST OF US WOULD NOT describe road maintenance oversight as a particularly exciting activity, but members of ECIA's Road Committee apparently do. They meet regularly at the Community Center to review how the responsible governmental agency, Santa Fe County, is maintaining and improving the roads in our area and how the ECIA can best assist in that process.

Eldorado has 81 miles of roads, 55 of them unimproved, with varying degrees of grading for safety and drainage. In recent years, the Road Committee, working with the Santa Fe County government, persuaded the state legislature to budget funds that have provided a limited amount of paving and base-coursing (compacted gravel surfacing) for the roads most in need of improvement.

Under its chairman, **Nolan Zisman**, the Road Committee has become much more than a simple, informational link with the County Public Works Department. The present committee has divided up the ECIA area into zones and assigned its members the task of regularly inspecting roadways for erosion, washboarding, drainage, and sign maintenance problems. In addition, the committee is developing a community preference survey, which it will conduct by means of our web page (www.eldoradocommunity.org) and *Vistas*. The survey will determine what the majority of ECIA members want the County to do in the long run—pave our roads, base-course them, or keep them unimproved—except for some basic grading for safety and proper drainage. Dirt roads, many of us know, have special problems. In windy weather, they create a great deal of dust that settles on our furniture and in our lungs. Paved roads have their own problems, too; speeding cars that create a constituency for speed bumps is one of them.

Planning for Eldorado's road future is difficult in an age of budget shortfalls but one that the Road Committee does not flinch at. When Eldorado was being laid out by its original development company,

AMREP, the roads may have been base-coursed, but years of deferred maintenance since that time, combined with a lack of long-term planning or budget expenditures to support it, have resulted in a situation in which the ECIA Road Committee can only work to recommend improvements of the worst roads, hoping for the best.

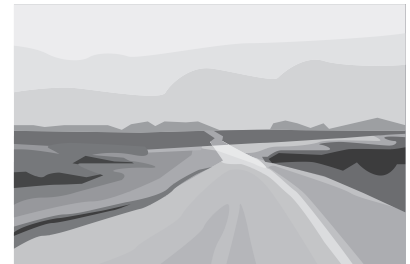
In past years, ECIA members voted to impose a temporary increase in their dues for several years in order to build up a road fund and assist the County road improvement effort. Avenidas Eldorado, Monte Alto and Caliente Road are successful examples of fiscal cooperation between the ECIA and Santa Fe County. With the last expenditure of such funds, however, such co-funding of road improvement projects has ended.

It is probably good to remind ourselves that, by our own choice, we are not living in a heavily infra-structured urban area where municipal services are plentiful and at the ready. Our lots are large and our neighbors a wholesome distance away. In our earlier lives, many of us traveled on roads that were paved and manicured, in comparison with those we ride on here. Plowing us out following a blizzard was a matter of hours, not days. But here, our homes "live lightly on the land," and the land—and many of our roads—can be well described as "untamed." Our Road Committee and its hard-working volunteers, Chairman Nolan Zisman and members **Fred Raznick, Paul Wilkens, Bob Burdette, John Mifflin, Sherman Frankston, Lea Williams, and Dale Knapp**, are doing their best for us and our roads. If you see any of them, thank them for their work. It's called "volunteer pay."

For road problems, including roadway conditions, signs down or defaced, or drainage problems, call 992-3010, Santa Fe County Public Works Department.

—Frank Schober

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center, Thurs.,
Jan. 21, 7 pm.
Public is
invited.*



*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 ECIADiAna@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.

New Retail Businesses Spruce Up Eldorado

LAST MONTH, **LA TIENDA** Eldorado, the newly purchased and renamed retail mall across Vista Grande from the Agora, held its grand opening. New owners **Steve Ewers, Destiny Allison**, and **Josh Rigsby** have a vision for their enterprise: providing Eldorado and the 285 corridor with connection, convenience and enrichment. Partnering with local community non-profits and businesses, they hope to enrich the community at large. Along with the day-to-day commerce of their stores, restaurants, and other businesses, the mall will feature music, art, and technology classes, and community-focused events to create a center that is an intrinsic part of community life. In fact, all tenant businesses are required to provide some form of community service.

La Tienda owners also plan to offer business support, including targeted advertising and promotional events, entrepreneurial consultations, and start-up rents designed to help businesses succeed.

To date, La Tienda Eldorado has signed leases with:

- ▼ Beyond Borders Books
- ▼ Art Garden and Creative Greenhouse Center
- ▼ Eldorado Computer Works
- ▼ Four Sisters / Interiors & Consignments
- ▼ Gene's Sandwich Shop
- ▼ Gym at Eldorado
- ▼ Home Planet Café / Comfort Food with a Global Spin
- ▼ La Plancha de Eldorado / Latin Grill with Memorable Flavors
- ▼ Mike's Music Exchange / Connecting Local Artists with the Community
- ▼ Santa Fe Brewing Company Tap House
- ▼ Spin Doc / Keeping Your Body, Mind, and Bike Healthy
- ▼ Suite 101 / Affordable Community Space

The mall is fully wired for Wi-Fi. Hours are Monday–Saturday 10 am–9 pm, Sunday 12 noon–6 pm. To learn more about La Tienda and its tenants, go to www.LaTiendaEldorado.com.

Neighborhood Watch Is Also . . .

HELPING NEIGHBORS IN EMERGENCIES

IT'S OUR WAY, from colonial days to the present. When there is a situation to be dealt with in a community, a need unresolved, or a clear and present danger—such as crime affecting an area—Americans give their time and effort to resolve it . . . together.

The County Sheriff and our local State Police Captain would agree. Eldorado's Neighborhood Watch, with nearly a thousand members, is an ongoing success. While crime is up everywhere else in Santa Fe County and the State of New Mexico, it's relatively down in Eldorado.

All who join Neighborhood Watch get "hot-sheet" alerts from law enforcement but also get email notices from their fellow members regarding suspicious people, vehicles and activities in and around their immediate neighborhoods.

Marilyn Walker, chair of the Eldorado Neighborhood Watch Committee, says that more can be done to tap into the volunteer power inherent in our community, however. Having lived in California where earthquakes and other natural disasters are more frequent and widespread than in New Mexico, she would like to see our Neighborhood Watch groups also improve our readiness for major natural and man-made emergencies.

Linking Neighborhood Watch with emergency preparedness is happening in many parts of the country. The Neighborhood Watch in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, has received positive recognition for getting its members to take simple, inexpensive steps that will protect lives and property when the 911 system is out of action, or when fire, police and emergency medical services cannot receive calls or have all of their assets occupied elsewhere.

Eldorado residents may well remember the major snowstorm we had three holiday periods ago, which blocked driveways, shut down roads and left shopping center shelves bare. Our Fire Chief, **Guy Monroe**, recounts many stories of his firefighters braving slick, snow-blocked roads to bring prescription medications to residents who had run out of the drugs they needed to survive.

Marilyn Walker says it well. "Getting ready for emergencies that affect us all is something best done by neighbors helping neighbors—not only during, but *before* an emergency occurs. Neighborhood Watch is about more than watching; it's about getting involved and doing something—together."

Check www.eldoradocommunity.org to join Neighborhood Watch and for essential things to do for emergency preparedness.

—Frank Schober

From the President's Desk

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE this time will be brief. I will give a complete report on 2009's activities in our Annual Meeting report. Listening to the many concerns of residents over the last year has been a real eye-opener. The issues have ranged from the condition of our roads to the assessment increase and have reflected the highs and lows for your Association.

The recent suspected embezzlement of Association money has been disheartening to the Board, staff, and community of Eldorado. However, the Association has additional insurance to protect against such a loss. And the Association is here not only to protect our

funds, but also to protect our property values through our covenants.

Eldorado is in many ways like a small city, with the population we have living here, a full-time staff, a Board of Directors, and many different committees to run the Association. Yes, we have a working infrastructure of dedicated volunteers, without whom the Association could not function effectively; together we endeavor to keep up the quality of our shared environment, which in many cases is the reason you bought your home here in the first place. I wish you and yours a Prosperous and Healthy Year in 2010.

—Ed Benrock, ECIA President

New Year Lighting (or Not!)

AS THE DAYS BEGIN TO GET longer, and with the holiday season now behind us, January is the time for starting the new year off right. One way to get a great start in 2010, while also being a good neighbor and a steward of our precious dark night skies, is to take down your exterior holiday lights. For many holiday enthusiasts, these lights will have been up since late November, and it is only right that they now be put away so as to con-

serve energy and protect our dark skies. Your friends and neighbors, who may be amateur astronomers or just lovers of our night skies, will be most appreciative! Thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

Questions regarding the Eldorado Exterior Lighting Guidelines should be directed to **Mark Young**, ECIA Covenant Compliance Representative, at 466-4248 or eciaccr@aol.com.

—Mark Young

Updates Needed from Owners/Renters

ECIA NEEDS ACCURATE contact information for all lot-owners, homeowners and renters. This allows the Association to offer services to the proper people, and to reach someone in the event of a problem reported at a property. It is especially important for owners who are not full-time residents.

Renters are entitled to the use of all Association amenities, including the swimming pool, *provided*

they are properly registered by the owner and a letter of permission is on file with the office. Some owners neglect to do this, unwittingly depriving their tenants of a valuable benefit of the Eldorado community. Owners and renters should check with the ECIA office (466-4248) to be sure their file is up to date.

—Dan Drobnis

Agora Shopping Center

ALL eighteen businesses in the Agora wish the community of Eldorado a Happy New Year. During an eventful and successful 2009, three businesses, all owned by local Eldorado citizens, opened their doors at the Agora. **Tina Carr** tripled the size of her pet food and supply store, Eldorado Country Pet, **Dawn Murray** relocated her thriving skin care business, Love your Lashes, from Santa Fe to the Agora, and **Nathan Aufrichtig** replaced Home Run Pizza with a wonderful New York-style pizzeria called Pizza Centro.

Anchored by Eldorado Supermart, with more than 10,000 shoppers passing through its doors every week, the Agora has always been a focal point for El-

dorado. However, last spring we introduced a unique community event called "Fridays at the Agora" which further solidified the Agora as Eldorado's town center. What began as an idea to celebrate and support local farmers, artists, and musicians quickly became a favorite weekly gathering of Eldorado families and individuals, young and old. From late May to early October on Fridays, upward of 40 farmer and artist vendors displayed and sold their home-grown and home-made products and creations to hundreds of Eldorado residents, as musicians filled the courtyard with music. On behalf of all who participated in these events, we, the owners of the Agora, would like to thank the residents of Eldorado for embracing "Fridays at the Agora," and we look forward to continuing this tradition in 2010.

—Steve Allison

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Vacant Position

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Dan Drobnis
Architecture: Bill Schwent
Conservation: John Parker & E.J. Evangelos
Stable: Bonita Mamp
Election: Open position
Roads: Nolan Zisman
Information: Frank Schober
Neighborhood Watch: Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker
Facilities & Grounds: Fred Raznick

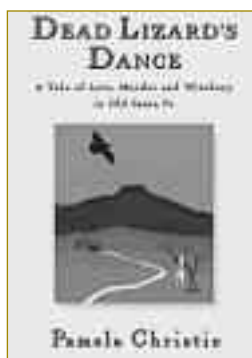
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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

Author Pamela Christie and one of her novels, *Dead Lizard's Dance*.



Writer Pamela Christie at VGPL

Santa Fe writer **Pamela Christie** will discuss her historical mystery, *Dead Lizard's Dance*, January 14 at 7 pm at Vista Grande Public Library. Her award-winning debut novel, *The King's Lizard*, introduced Santa Fe's inadvertent 18th-century sleuth, Nando, who returns in *Dead Lizard's Dance* to investigate a series of deaths so horrible they seem the work of witches. The book has earned high praise from both **Anne Hillerman** and **David Grant Noble**.

Library Names New Director

Vista Grande Public Library welcomes **Christina (Tina) Stephenson** as its new director. She holds a Master's in Information Resources and Library Science from the University of Arizona and a Bachelor's in Business Management from the University of New Mexico, has worked at the New Mexico State Library and the Fogelson Library at the College of Santa Fe, has run her own business and managed a nonprofit bookstore. "She clearly loves libraries and books and working with people, and we are very pleased to have her," said Library president **Ann Jenkins**.

MOMS

The MOMS Club is holding its general meeting in the ECIA Classroom on Thursday, January 28, at 3:15 pm (right after school, for MOMS with school-aged children). The group is open to any mom and her children. We are a chapter of the international M.O.M.S. Club, which stands for Mothers Offering Mothers Support. We organize monthly activity calendars which include play days, park meet-ups, field trips, a monthly kids' craft day, a book group and a monthly Moms' Night Out. We offer support to new moms, but our members can have children of any age. Our group also does several service projects each year to help moms in need. For more information, call or email our Membership VP **Jackie Camborde** at jackiecamborde@yahoo.com or 466-0094.

Community Services Position at ECIA

The ECIA is looking to hire a full-time Community Services Manager. This position will support the present Security Company, helping to secure the safety of the community through education and training. This person will act as a deterrent to any criminally minded people by performing routine patrols of the community. Interested in this position? Send a resume to the ECIA office or contact **Bill Donohue**, General Manager, 466-4248.

Moon Phases for January 2010



Astronomy Haiku

Orion's belt
after holiday feasting
a bit too tight

—Kathleen Kolte

Recycling Passes Available for \$15

A couple of issues back, *Vistas* mentioned the services offered by the County Satellite Office at the Senior Center. We neglected to note that they also have recycling passes for the transfer station on Hwy 285, available for \$15/year, good from July 1 to June 30. The transfer station has separate bins for glass, cardboard, paper, and mixed recyclables. The transfer facility is open Tuesday–Sunday until 2 pm.

Staff Assistant Needed at ECIA

The ECIA is looking to hire a part-time staff assistant, 25 hours per week, to help with the day-to-day operations of the Association. Anyone interested should contact the ECIA offices at 466-4248.

Community Garden

The El Dorado School Community Garden had a fantastic beginning in 2009! We created a beautiful infrastructure to build upon and are very excited to continue to expand upon our creation in the coming months. We thank everyone who participated in the genesis of this inspiring and fruitful adventure and hope to see you all in the garden in 2010!

We will be holding our 2010 kickoff meeting on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 1 pm in the El Dorado School library. This will be an important meeting and we hope everyone who has an interest in participating in the garden this year can attend. If you have questions or would like more information about our community garden, please contact **Marilynn Jacobs** at eldogarden@comcast.net or 466-6707.

Senior Center's Trip to San Antonio

The Adam Senior Center is sponsoring a trip to San Antonio, March 21–27, 2010. Reservations and payment in full are due by January 20. If you're interested in going, please call **Dolores Brock** at 466-3848.



ASTRONOMY CORNER

January 2010



What Is the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)?

Some have feared the LHC is a doomsday machine that will create black holes and cause the earth to disappear into one. But mainstream scientists are convinced the collider is safe. Basically the collider is a large donut-shaped machine, 17 miles around, about 500 feet underground near Geneva, Switzerland, in which beams of protons, suspended within giant magnets, are accelerated in two directions at nearly the speed of light to cause extremely small collisions which expel even smaller particles, leading to a better understanding of the physics and nature of the universe. After an initial glitch in September 2008, which shut down the collider for almost a year, the unit has recently been setting new records for particle collision energy. One of the many objectives of LHC is to create mini-black holes so they can be studied here on earth, as opposed to the large ones which are many light-years away. Instead of swallowing the earth whole, these microscopic black holes are expected to dissipate within milliseconds. When the real science begins in 2010, the collider should yield critical new insights into the origin of the universe, which may require scientists to rewrite the physics textbooks.

—David Goodrich



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

ECIA Offices Closed Fri., January 1

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Facilities & Grounds	Tues., January 5, 4-6 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., January 5, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Road Committee	Mon., January 4, 6 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., January 6, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., January 13, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., January 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., January 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., January 26, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., January 26, 7-9 pm	Bonnie Mamp	466-4271	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., January 27, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	Foyer

MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm		231-7885	RR
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Eldorado Dog Club	Tues., January 12, 7 pm	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	LR
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Conserv. Committee Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Bill Bodle	466-3011	
Fire Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kielsing	466-4232	Sm Gym
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
MOMS Club	Thurs., January 28, 3 pm	Jackie Camborde	466-0094	CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			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., 6:45-7:45			CFR/LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR,CR,LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:30 & 11 am	David McPherson	466-2495	CC
Community Band	Thurs., 6:30-8:30 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	New gym
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	
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
Life Drawing (EACA)	Mondays, 10 am-noon	Sande Anderson	466-4688	RR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Richard Robinson	466-7319	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm> ***Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Adam Senior Center News

SENIORS' TRIP: SAN ANTONIO MARCH 21-27

Make your
reservation now!
See p. 4 for details.

NEW CLASSES

A new round of clay and weaving classes will start on Tuesday, January 19, and run for eight weeks. The classes will be taught by **Bob** (clay) and **Lynn** (weaving) **Coyle**, who have taught these classes in the past. Each class can accommodate eight students. In the past, these classes have filled up quickly, and have always had waiting lists. So please call the Center at 466-1039 to sign up. These classes are free for the seniors registered at the Center.

NEW DAY FOR LUNCH

Starting on January 5, we will begin serving lunch on Tuesdays! This means we will be serving five days a week for the first time. As with the other days, the suggested donation for lunch is \$1.50 for seniors; the

price for guests is \$8.15 to cover the food costs. Just call the Center at 466-1039 the day before to make a reservation for lunch on any day. We look forward to seeing you!

NEW PLAQUE

At the request of **Patty Adam**, for whom the Center is named, we will be installing a bronze plaque thanking the elected officials who worked to make the Senior Center a reality. Please join us for an unveiling ceremony of the plaque on Friday, January 15, at 10 am. We hope that the honorees, former County Commissioner **Jack Sullivan**, former State Senator **Roman Maes**, and former State Representative **Max Coll**, will be able to attend as well. Call the Center at 466-1039 for more information.

—Cathy Berkley

White-winged Dove (WwD)

I HAVE ONLY ONCE SPOTTED the white winged dove (WwD) at my house in the far western section of Eldorado, but this lovely bird can be easily found in spring and summer around the ECIA buildings and grounds. At first glance, the



Photo: D. Gordon E. Robertson.
Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike.

WwD is very similar to our Mourning Dove. Its body is 11.5 inches long and its wing span is 19 inches. The color is a dull brownish gray, changing to light gray on the belly and under tail covers.

Most notable are large white areas on the upper side of the wing contrasting with very dark outer wings. When perched, the outer edge of the wing appears to be lined with white. The WwD's wings produce a slight whistle on takeoff and while flying, but the noise is much less pronounced than the Mourning Dove's distinctive whistling wings. The WwD has a very small range in the United States, and birds migrate to Central America as far south as Costa Rica.

WwDs are found in thickets in arid areas. They perch high in trees but are found feeding on the ground, consuming grain, cactus fruit, berries and acorns. Food is stored in a "crop" and is later ground up with grit in the gizzard to a digestible size. The male courts by bending low, spreading his tail and wings

to show off the white area. Pairs are monogamous during the breeding season. Females select the nest site and construct a flimsy nest of materials brought by the male. Nests are usually off the ground 5 to 20 feet. The female usually lays two eggs and may have multiple broods. The male incubates the eggs during the day, and the female incubates during late afternoon and night. Eggs hatch into helpless chicks in 13 to 14 days, and babies fledge in 13 to 16 days. Both parents feed the young. Young get crop milk followed by seeds as they grow in the nest. Outside of breeding season, WwDs are social and may be found in medium-size colonies. A breeding colony was found in Texas with 200 to 400 nests per acre!

INTERESTING FACTS

- ▼ Many perching birds immerse their bills in water and then lift their heads to let the water slide down their throat. WwDs just put their beaks in the water and suck the liquid into their throat.
- ▼ The WwD is related to the extinct flightless Dodo. The common pigeon is also related and technically called a Rock Dove.

ALL PREVIOUS BIRD ARTICLES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

From the Eldorado website www.eldoradocommunity.org, point to "General Info" and pull down to "Bird Articles." This will take you to an index of articles. Clicking on the date column will take you to a copy of the *Vistas* which contains the article.

—Pam Henline



From Passive to Active: Renewing the Eldorado Solar Community Celebration

WHEN WE MOVED TO Eldorado we were proud to be joining the largest solar housing community in the nation. And on sunny winter days, we appreciate the warmth afforded by our homes' passive solar features.

There are so many wonderful things about our community: solar architecture, a powerful sense of belonging, a great school, a 4,000-acre community preserve, a community center, an active community garden, burgeoning local businesses and services, all those friendly and familiar faces at Las Chivas, amazing views, vivid sunsets and the brilliant night sky.

In an era of concern about climate change, though, there are serious issues we need to consider . . . and wonderful opportunities to pursue in the process. How can we do our part to reduce our community's carbon footprint? How can we take the vision of a solar community to new heights? How can we do all this in a way that brings us closer, strengthens our local economy and improves our quality of life?

These are the kinds of questions driving the green and cooperative movement in Eldorado. Those of us who've joined in are having a great time dreaming and working together toward creative changes for our shared future. We know you have something valuable to add to the conversation and the action plan. Here are some services, activities and events for you to consider taking part in:

THE ECIA CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Come join with other members of your community who share a love of the natural world and want to steward our common spaces. If group hikes, community workdays, energy fairs and trail maintenance appeal to you, contact **John Parker** at 466-7513 for more information. Or come to one of our meetings at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month in the Living Room at the ECIA Community Center.

ELDORADO CARBON BUSTERS

Years ago, a movie came out called *Pay It Forward*. The concept was simple enough: for every good deed you receive, you give something of similar value to someone else, rather than paying it back to the person you received it from. Like a ripple in a pond, we set a small wave in motion by our initiative and spirit of generosity. Life feels better that way. That's the idea behind the Eldorado *Carbon Busters*. Receive training in energy conservation, weatherize your own

home, and pay it forward by joining other volunteers in providing free assessments or join a work crew to help with low-tech retrofits. For more information, contact **Amy Bertelli** at Amysue@cybermesa.com.

ELDORADO TOWN HALL MEETING

On March 20 (save the date!) there will be an Eldorado town hall meeting to discuss our hopes, dreams, questions and solutions for the future of our community. How can we shift to renewable energy sources? How can we strengthen our local economy? How can we increase our local food production? How can we help one another reduce the stresses of post-modern life? These are some of the questions we'll begin to explore together in an open and stimulating forum. Stay tuned to future issues of *Vistas* for the time and location of this event.

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Year one was an amazing success in the El Dorado School and Community Garden. Sixty members strong, we look forward to another year of fruitful gardening, powerful community, and great connections to the youth and staff of the school. Now's the time to join this vibrant community enterprise, and there are lots of reasons to do so: the satisfaction of growing your own healthy food, getting to know your neighbors, celebrating and sharing traditions with them and with the youth in our community. To get more information, or to join, contact **Marilynn Jacobs** at 466-6707 or eldogarden@comcast.net.

THE ELDORADO FOOD COOP

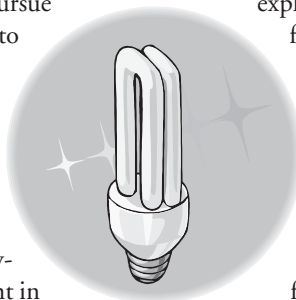
Want to buy healthy food in bulk with other folks from Eldorado? Want to share dynamite recipes, food processing techniques and good times as you gather with your neighbors and friends? Want to join a CSA (community supported agriculture) to support local producers and get economical access to fresh, local, healthy food? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, the Eldorado Food Coop is a network you'll enjoy being part of. For more information, contact **Fox** at foxwoman22@hotmail.com, 231-0892, or **Carole Tashel** at Ctashel@cybermesa.com, 466-6153.

—Dana Richards and Deborah Boldt
on behalf of the Eldorado Peoples Cooperatives
and the Earth Works Institute



ENERGY-SAVING TIP OF THE MONTH Just One Thing!

Set your refrigerator and freezer thermostats at the lowest possible settings. Most likely you will still have the degree of coldness you require; if not, adjust upward as needed.





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

Eldorado Children's Theatre & Teen Players



Above Left: Greg Garcia as Chip Tolentino, Tom Silver as William Barfee, Hailey Jonoubek as Olive Ostrovsky, and Izzie Zuniga as Logainne Schwartzgrubnier, in "Putnam County Spelling Bee." The hilarious musical comedy fresh from Broadway runs Jan. 22, 23, 29, 30 at 7:30 pm and Jan. 24 at 2:00 pm at the James A. Little Theatre. The band will feature David Geist, Eliot Fisher, Peter Williams, and Andy Primm.



PHOTOS: LAUREL WILSON

Above Right: Elise Breeden as Tin Man, Olivia Ficke-Anderson as Lion, Karen Girdner as Scarecrow, and Mariah Brown as Dorothy in "Wizard of Oz." The show runs Jan. 30 at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm and Jan. 31 at 2:00 pm at the James A. Little Theatre. Call 466-4656 or visit www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org.