

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

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Eldorado's Finest *Our Fire and Rescue Service*

The assertion that we've got a great fire department in Eldorado is true for a number of reasons. It is not just local pride that supports such a statement.

The factors that make for greatness in any organization can easily be found when talking to our fire department's very talented chief, **Guy Monroe**, or any of its hard-working, well-trained volunteers. At present, the Eldorado Fire and Rescue Service (EFRS) has 38 members ranging in age from an eager 16 to a very fit 78. Each member is required to reach the same training level and capability of a fulltime paid firefighter. When asked if more professional volunteers are needed, he said, "Of course, I always need more volunteers. I urge people to call 466-1204 for information on our requirements for membership."

Chief Monroe stresses both individual and cross training in the department's weekly training sessions. Individual training on such subjects as size-up, entry and incident command are regularly presented. Cross training gets special and continuing emphasis. Every person in the department has to be able to do his or her job and all other jobs.

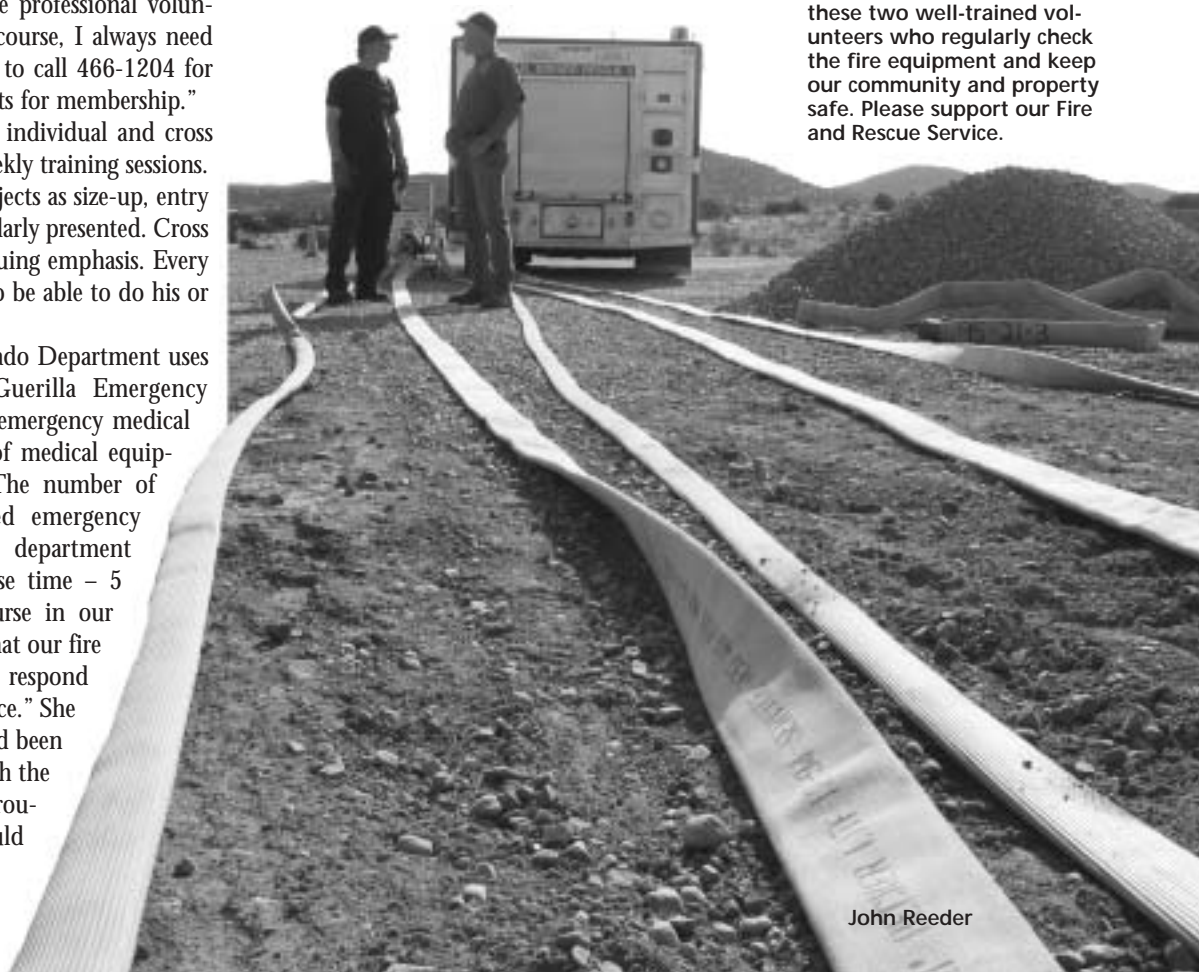
For medical calls, the Eldorado Department uses what Chief Monroe calls "Guerilla Emergency Medical Services." Each of 18 emergency medical volunteers on call has \$1000 of medical equipment in his or her vehicle. The number of equipped vehicles and trained emergency medical personnel assure the department maintains a very rapid response time – 5 minutes or less. A visiting nurse in our community attests to the fact that our fire department "is the fastest to respond with life-saving medical assistance." She speculates "if Princess Diana had been able to call on a department with the response time that Eldorado routinely demonstrates, she would still be alive today."

Fire prevention is always a concern in a very dry area. Our greenbelts could become avenues for spreading wildfires throughout our community. Clearing brush and flammables around our homes is particularly important. In a near-desert community, wildfires can travel quickly whenever components of fire danger are present – high temperature, high winds, low humidity and "fuel," including dry weeds, brush and any other flammables around our homes. Chief Monroe advises "Clear, clear, clear and provide your home with 'defensible space.'"

SEE "ELDORADO'S FINEST" ON PAGE 2

**ECIA Work
Study Meeting,
Community
Center,
Mon., Feb. 17,
7-9 pm**

Eldorado's finest includes these two well-trained volunteers who regularly check the fire equipment and keep our community and property safe. Please support our Fire and Rescue Service.



**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 8th day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to 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.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

The holidays are a quiet time for the board and staff. As our members focus on the holiday season, it gives us time to consider our own performance for the year and what's ahead for the association.

The annual ECIA meeting in May creates a point of focus for the board. We know a change of board directors is ahead as two director positions become open for annual elections. It becomes appropriate for major decisions impacting the community to wait until new directors are elected and up-to-speed.

New thoughts and energy are an important factor in capturing the strength and diversity of our community. An excellent example is one of our newest board directors, **Dr. Ray Singer**. His expertise in environmental issues consistently challenges and assists the board's thinking about many decisions that impact our community's environment.

The developers of Eldorado had a vision: to create a place where the community's natural beauty and environment is protected, to preserve the attractive rural setting where homes and families exist, and to preserve property values for all residents. This vision is the foundation of our covenants.

As true with any vision, it is constantly challenged and requires energy to successfully implement. By virtue of buying property in Eldorado, it becomes our individual and collective responsibility to preserve the unique qualities of our community for both ourselves and future residents. Please consider the value of our covenants, their vision and your individual stewardship and responsibility for their success.

With hopes for your successful new year;

*John Reeder
ECIA President*

Eldorado's Finest

FROM PAGE 1

Our Eldorado firefighters routinely respond to fire calls and potential fire problems such as automobile accidents and truck roll-overs on our nearby highways. The department has a variety of equipment positioned at each of its three stations. Fire trucks that carry their own water are backed up by tanker trucks. There are also fuel re-supply trucks and trucks with specialized rescue and extrication equipment such as the "jaws of life." The response to fires is as rapid as that for medical calls. The first volunteer to arrive at the station moves the equipment immediately to the emergency location as fellow firefighters respond quickly to the scene.

Since an adequate water supply accounts for 50% of the score for the rating of any fire department, it is no wonder that water resources get a lot of attention by EFRS. There are 580 hydrants in the Eldorado area. They are color-coded and graded by gallon-per-

minute flow rates. All of Eldorado's hydrants meet the requirements for flow rates in residential areas. The department regularly tests and rates its hydrants, keeping them at the ready at all times.

One new piece of equipment that is both a life-saving and property saving tool is an infra-red imaging system. In most cases, 90% of fire damage can be attributed to the water used to put the fire out. With the imaging system, water damage is made much less of a problem. The equipment enables a firefighter to direct forces to the exact location of the fire, and can be used to see through the smoke to find a person who may be unconscious or trapped by the blaze.

We should be proud of the fully equipped department and first-rate professionals that comprise our Eldorado Fire and Rescue Service. Its truly professional volunteers and their chief, Guy Monroe, deserve our support.

VIEWPOINTS

This letter comes to you with great disappointment and regret, but I felt you should know what my reaction is when I hear people say Eldorado is special.

Our first house was in Santa Fe in a development called Las Acequias. Our house was the first one on the block, but we were lucky to get wonderful neighbors. Before we had our son, we had started dreaming of moving to Eldorado. We knew it would be affordable and the school's reputation was what we wanted. We believed we would live in a community with people that have the same values – safety, community, friends, neighbors, environment, children.

In the time we have lived here (>3 years), we have experienced about 5 road rages by neighbors (most with children in their cars), unfriendly neighbors, and speeding beyond belief. The most recent situation included a mother who, after picking up her two children from Eldorado Elementary, followed my mother-in-law to Santa Fe, right to her driveway. The level of stupidity in a community of well-educated people is quite incredible. We love our home, but it will never include the neighborly feelings I remember in our prior neighborhood.

Mroybal@aol.com

The Roads of Eldorado – An Update

Since our last discussion regarding roads, Allen Larson and I met with James Lujan, Director of Santa Fe County Public Works, and Robert Martinez, Deputy Director, to discuss the Eldorado Community Road Survey results and options for implementing our road plan as discussed in the January issue of *Vistas*. The meeting was productive insofar as the issues, responsibilities and future actions identified.

MONTE ALTO ROAD

Paving Monte Alto is the plan. It is a high priority on the county's list of projects. The intent is to solicit state funding in the upcoming legislative session. Recognizing the political arena these capital improvement projects exist within, it is imperative that we as individuals and the community lobby Max Coll and Roman Maes for funding this project. I am consulting with our community's experienced lobbyist to identify methods to best convey the importance of this project to our legislative representatives. If you have opportunities to communicate with Max or Roman, please do.

CALIENTE ROAD

The county indicated the most expeditious means of paving Caliente Road was entering into a joint agreement, similar to other paving projects. They supply the equipment and labor and Eldorado pays for the materials. The ECIA is now trying to determine the money remaining in the road fund, following payment of the Avenida de Compadres paving project. Funding will determine our ability to go forward with this project.

HERRADA, ENEBRO AND Balsa Roads

The traffic count per day does not qualify these roads for paving. The intent is to place these roads on the county's list for chip sealing. This can be a long and laborious process, but we have to be firm in our commitment for implementation.

ROUTINE ROAD MAINTENANCE

Resources and priorities are always a constraint with the county road crews. We recognize that issue and expressed our desire to improve our ability to communicate specific priorities and needs. It was agreed that Allen Larson will be the point of contact between the county and Eldorado for routine maintenance needs. Allen is our area's representative to the Santa Fe County Road Advisory Committee. As such, Allen is in frequent contact with Robert Martinez. Allen's phone number is 466-4792. If you wish to speak directly with the Public Works department, call 992-3010.

Regarding snow removal, the county has taken action to improve this service.

They recognize this as a problem, not only for Eldorado, but for the area in general. Historically, the materials for snow and ice control were located in town. Recently the county has partnered with the state to store material in the state road maintenance yard located at the junction of Highways 285 and 25. This should reduce their response time. If you have problems or needs, again call Allen.

John Reeder
ECIA President

Your association fees for 2003 are due March 1st. Remember, in order to use any of our amenities or vote in the upcoming election, you must have your association fees paid. Call Debby Padilla at 466-4248 with any questions.

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Eldorado Area Gardening Presentation

All area gardeners are invited to attend a Santa Fe Master Gardeners Association sponsored presentation. The program will be held Monday, February 3rd, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Eldorado Community Center's Railroad Depot.

Jeff Welch, Eldorado resident and Master Gardener, will be the speaker. Jeff's presentation will be "Cisterns and Water Catchment Systems." He will cover the various types, as well as the basic design of a system. The last half-hour of the session will be devoted to questions and answers.

For additional information, please contact Beverly Hafner at 466-0261.

Tennis Anyone?

I am looking for tennis partners and am willing to compile a list of tennis players in Eldorado. If you want to be included in the list of tennis players, please send me your name, phone number or e-mail address (or both), and your level of play – beginner, intermediate, or advanced – by February 15, 2003. If you want to receive a copy of this list, please send me either a stamped, self-addressed envelope OR an e-mail address. Send your information to: **Pat Schubauer**, 32 Cerrado Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87508 or email me at pschubauer@juno.com. You can also call 466-8888 for further information.

If you think it would be beneficial to have everyone get together at some point and begin an Eldorado Tennis Club, please let me know. I will arrange a meeting.

Cub Scout Community Project

Cub Scout Pack 414 is participating in a community service project for the Food Depot. The pack will be collecting non-perishable food and personal care items (toothpaste, soap or diapers) at El Dorado Elementary School from now until the end of April. The bin is located near the main entrance to the school, next to the PTA table.

Donations received by the Food Depot are distributed around northern New Mexico to 80 agencies serving seven counties.

Drivers Needed

Do you want to serve your community? Would you like to help senior citizens in our area? Would you be willing to take training to drive a van? Eldorado and the surrounding areas have the prospective use of a van to take senior residents to medical appointments and other errands during the week. We need volunteer and qualified drivers. Training will be provided when needed. For information, please call 466-3018, 466-1949, or 466-3958.

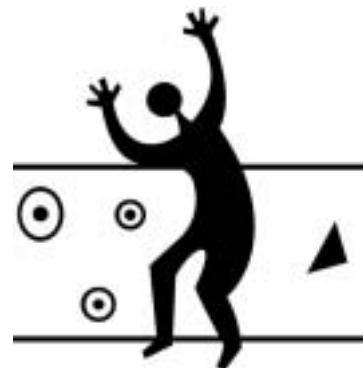
Dreaming of Gardens? Let's Design

In January, the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association announced a 3-hour workshop in garden plot design using drought tolerant plants native to our area. The seminar will be held Saturday, February 22, 9 am - noon. Conducting the workshop will be noted author and garden designer, **Sally Wasowski**.

Registration is limited to 15 certified Master Gardeners (\$10 fee) and 15 non-Master Gardeners (\$25 fee). Early registration is advised. There will be no registration at the door. Registrations will be accepted only when accompanied by a check for the appropriate amount. To register, call the Santa Fe County Extension office (471-4711) to request a registration packet.

Eldorado Arts Association

Artists' Shoptalk: Wednesday, February 12, 10 am-Noon, at the home of **Ramona Perkins**, 8 Antigua Road, 466-1970. Area artists



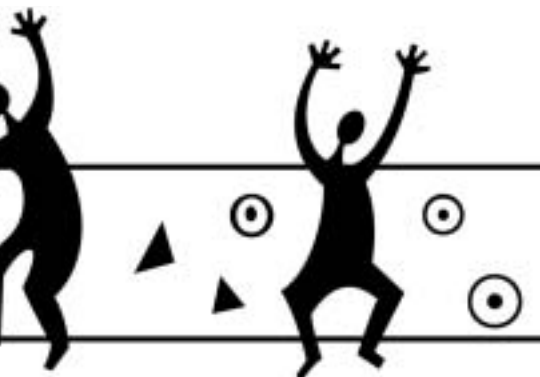


are invited to gather at each others homes for coffee and art chat.

Arts Association Meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 7 pm at the Community Center. **Michael McGuire**, Santa Fe painter and teacher, will lead the group in a discussion of Ethics in the Art World, covering points of views of both artists and galleries. For example, with the advent of computer-generated prints, have the rules changed for selling? Come join in this lively debate.

School News

Auction de El Dorado will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2003 from 2-6 pm at the school. There will be incredible auction items to bid on, scrumptious food, awesome entertainment and fun activities for the kids, including a moon walk and karaoke DJ. For general information, please call **Theresa Turnbough** at 466-3271. To donate items for the auction, please call **Claudia Freeman** at 466-2852.



February Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting or 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 that 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.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

ERA TGIF Party	Fri., Feb. 14, 5 pm	Pat Kuhlhoff	466-4877
President's Day	Mon., Feb 17	ECIA Offices Closed	466-4248
President's Day	Mon., Feb. 17	El Dorado Elementary School Closed	
Gardener Workshop	Sat., Feb. 22, 9 am-Noon	Extension Office	471-4711
Inservice Day	Mon., Feb. 24	El Dorado Elementary School Closed	

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Information Committee		ECIA	466-4248
Neighborhood Watch		Frank Schober	310-8593 call
Road Committee	Mon., Feb. 3, 6 pm	Allen Larson	466-4792
Finance Committee	Tues., Feb. 11, 10-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781
Architectural Committee	Tues., Feb. 11, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708
EAW&SD*	Wed., Feb. 12, 7-9 pm	Don Dayton	466-2411
Board Work Study	Mon., Feb. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248
285 Coalition	Wed., Feb. 19, 7-9 pm	RoseMarie Bagioni	466-0755
ECIA Board	Thurs., Feb. 20, 7-10 pm	ECIA	466-4248
Architectural Committee	Tues., Feb. 25, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Master Gardeners	Mon., Feb. 3, 6:30 pm	Beverly Hafner	466-0261
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Feb. 4, 10 am	Pat Kuhlhoff	466-4877
Book Club	Sat., Feb. 8, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559
Book Club	Sun., Feb. 9, 7-9 pm	Ken Fischer	466- 2537
Arts Assoc. Shoptalk	Wed., Feb. 12, 10 am	Cary Carlson	466-6073
Vista Grande Book Club	Thurs., Feb. 13, 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636 Library
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Feb. 13, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Feb. 18, 10 am	Pat Kuhlhoff	466-4877
Cub Scouts Trp. 414	Tues., Feb. 18, 7 pm	Morey Walker	466-0459
Arts Assoc. Program	Wed., Feb. 26, 7-9 pm	Arlene Siegel	466-3274

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:45 pm		
AI-Anon (open to all)	Fridays, 9-10 am		
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765
Bridge (Beginning)	Wednesdays, 9-12am		
Bridge (Mens')	Thursdays, 1-4 pm	Bill Kapoun	466-8497
Boy Scouts	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815
Community Band	Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm	Peg Johnson	466-1459 School
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204 Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204 Station
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

A Neighbor's Odyssey



Gene and Paul Williams enjoyed their farewell party just before leaving Saudi Arabia to return to the United States.

To attempt to write a short article on one of the most interesting couples one has ever met, and to capture all that is interesting and fascinating about them is truly a "mission impossible" task.

Gene and Paul Williams, who have lived in the Eldorado community for the better part of a decade, pose such a problem. Paul, a not-so-retired geologist, grew up both in Washington, DC and Washington state. He received his Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Washington, and then served over 30 years as a research geologist for the US Coast and Geodetic Survey. Like many scientists, he simultaneously pursued an interest in music, mastering not only barbershop harmony, but also playing the banjo so well he spent his off-hours as a member of the entertainment industry.

Gene, who has been interested in both art and history since grammar school, was born in Denver. She met Paul, not when he was doing

geological work, but when he was playing the banjo in a club in Denver.

After they married, the US government had much in store for the Williams. He was sent on several tours to McMurdo Sound and other vacation spots in Antarctica. When he served there, communications were not what they are today. It took several days for a Ham Radio Operator in Denver to get a message to him that their latest child had arrived.

Their last assignment was in Saudi Arabia. There Paul conducted more geological surveys, not for oil, but for other minerals and substances including water. During that time, Gene ran something that was to prove vital to the morale of diplomats isolated in the not-so-swinging city of Jeddah – a huge athletic club appropriately named "The Dunes."

These days, the Williams are happily retired in Eldorado. Gene works for several museums as a senior docent—The Palace of the Governors, The Indian Arts Museum and the Spanish Colonial Arts Society. Paul still does studies now and then for his old organization, the US Coast and Geodetic Survey. Why did they settle in Eldorado and why do they stay here? "Just living here," says Gene, "is like being part of a beautiful painting with a great sunset."

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

If you have not paid your annual association fees by March 10, 2003, you will not be eligible to vote!

Election Notice

The annual ECIA Board election is just around the corner. This year there will be two vacancies which need to be filled. These positions are coveted, and provide an opportunity for interested persons to shape the community where they live.

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

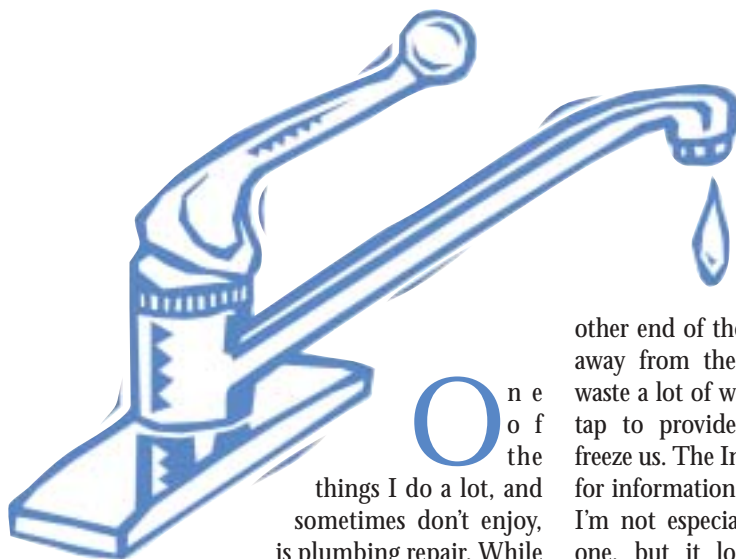
- ▼ A candidate must file a petition containing the candidate's name and the signature of no less than twenty-five owners of property, each of whom is a Member in Good Standing with the Association. These petitions will be available at the ECIA office on February 3, 2003 and must be filed by March 10, 2003.
- ▼ Each candidate must file a resume and position statement with the ECIA office by March

10, 2003. This information will be included in the ballot package sent to all Members in Good Standing.

- ▼ The Election Committee will validate each candidate's petition by March 13, 2003.
- ▼ Election packets and the notice of the Annual Meeting of the Members will be mailed to each Member in Good Standing by March 31, 2003.
- ▼ The ballots have to be received at the ECIA office no later than May 2, 2003 in order to be considered as valid.
- ▼ The Election Committee will count the ballots. The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Members held on Monday, May 5, 2003 at 7 pm at the Community Center.

Robert Pritchard
ECIA, General Manager

Water-Saving Devices



One of the things I do a lot, and sometimes don't enjoy, is plumbing repair. While I was installing a bathroom fixture one day, a customer informed me that the flush toilet was invented by a person knighted by Queen Victoria for his efforts – a Sir Thomas Crapper.

I wasn't sure if I was being put on, so I searched for the distinguished gentleman's name on the Internet. Mr. Crapper, the owner of a number of patents for bathroom water features early in the last century, was never knighted and is erroneously known for having invented the Rube Goldberg device we are all familiar with – the flush toilet.

I learned something much more important this week – nearly a third of our water use in the average home is used for toilet flushing. If not "Sir" Thomas, then someone in the Mother Country willed us a device that wastes a lot of water.

Santa Fe city, as we know, has recently replaced many high-volume, water-wasting flush toilets with newer, water saving models. The cost, assumed by homebuilders, ranges from \$80 to \$100 per unit. There are cheaper and effective devices around. Check the Internet for water saving toilets. There are kits for changing your present toilet in a water saving way. With one such kit, an "up-flush" for fluids will use only enough water to tidy up your toilet bowl with clean, clear water. A "down-flush" for solids will use just enough water to do the same thing. For starters, check out www.dulley.com/docs/1546.htm. You will see some amazing new products that perform water-saving wonders.

In all of the talk on the subject of water saving, I never see any mention of a real water waster – water-using appliances a great distance from the device used to heat the water to a proper temperature.

A lot of us have the "split-bedroom" style of home. We have a master bedroom at one end and one or more bedrooms at the

other end of the house, usually far away from the water heater. We waste a lot of water waiting for the tap to provide water that won't freeze us. The Internet is my source for information on another device. I'm not especially promoting this one, but it looks like the best, cheapest and easiest to install of those found in my research. It isn't made in New Mexico, but it is called the *Chili Pepper*. Check it out at www.chilipepperapp.com. I urge you to check out any other devices that promise to do the same thing.

Things do slow down over the holidays and I did some research on how we Americans use water. In my former home state, with lots of green grass everywhere, over half of the water used during three seasons of the year is thrown up in the air and onto lawns – and half of that water is wasted.

We are fortunate here in Eldorado. We have water saving plantings and few, if any, typical lawns. The other stats we share with the rest of the country are surprising. On average, we use 80 to 100 gallons of water per person, per day. (Thank "Sir" Thomas for part of that.) We have sent people to the moon, regularly have others orbiting the planet, and make great technological strides in electronics, medicine etc. Perhaps the Nobel Prize committee should give a prize annually to the person who makes the biggest difference with respect to water conservation in this water-short world.

How much water are YOU flushing away?

An average person flushes his/her toilet 5 times each day. If you calculate the water used based on your toilet's tank size, you may be surprised by the number of gallons flushed away each year. Multiply the number of gallons by the number of people in your household to truly represent the gallons used in your home.

5-gallon tank: 9,125 gallons/year

3.5-gallon tank: 6,387 gallons/year

1.6-gallon tank: 2,920 gallons/year

Things to think about:

The more flushes, the more water you use. (Think about flushing solids each time while flushing liquids after two or more uses.)

Toilets use 30% or more of total household water use.

Displacement devices (e.g. tank dams) are cheap and limit water waste – especially for 3.5 gallon and larger tanks.

Excerpted from Water Economics, Santa Fe City-County Water Conservation Committee



Protect Our Night Sky

*Night sky
bedazzled,

yet blurred by
neighboring light,

—oh, if they
could see!*

—Haiku by Hope Ostheimer

