VOLUME VI. ISSUE 2 Feb. 2004

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ELDORADO

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

Sullivan Hears Traffic Complaints

ommissioner Jack Sullivan, who represents Eldorado as a member of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners, met on January 8 with the ECIA Traffic Calming Committee headed by Lyn deMartin. In what might be described as a heated meeting, committee members voiced their strong views concerning the need to control the behavior of speeding, noisy, reckless drivers on Eldorado roads.

Chief among the committee's complaints is the lack of traffic law enforcement by the sheriff's deputies. The deputies are best known for staging "wolf pack" ticketing blitzes on State Highway 285 and on Avenida Vista Grande, then disappearing for three or four months. (Residents should note that the county does not get any ticket revenues from these actions. All fines assessed go directly to the state.)

Sheriff Solano promised during his campaign for his present office, and following his election as the county's chief law-enforcement officer, to provide our 7,000 member community with regular patrols; to set-up a "quadrant system" that would assign officers who live in our area as our contacts for lawenforcement issues and to provide regular reports of "calls for service" in our area so that residents might be able to see the deputies' work and relate it to their neighborhoods. In recent months the sheriff has promised to have his deputies "knock on the doors" of local traffic scofflaws if his office receives three reports from residents who relay to his office the scofflaw's license number and a description of their unlawful behavior.

The ECIA spends nearly \$81,500 per year for a part-time security service that checks for locked doors and problems that may occur at the Community Center, our parks and in the Wilderness Area. Those officers, however, have no authority to stop or ticket traffic lawbreakers.

SEE "SULLIVAN" ON PAGE 2 Wolfe Gleitsman

ECIA Board Work Study Meeting, **Community** Center: Mon.. Feb. 12, 7 pm and Board Meeting Thurs., Feb. 19, 7 pm. Eldorado homeowners are invited to attend either session and are encouraged to bring their problems and concerns to the board's attention.

Share your **comments** with us!

For policy and deadline, see helow

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 info@eldoradocommunity.

Mission Statement

org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

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.

The Rest of the Story

any of you read an article in the Eldorado section of the New Mexican on December 17 about 2 women in East Ranch being harassed by women on horseback. I am deeply sorry if these 2 people have suffered from any harassment, but I need to assure you that no one from Eldorado Stables had anything to do with it.

Yes, Ms. Chopich confronted 3 women riders from Eldorado Stable last October. These riders were in the Eldorado Wilderness that borders Ms. Chopich's property in East Ranch. The riders turned around when they saw her "no trespassing" signs at the edge of our wilderness area. They did not trespass and they most certainly did not damage her property. Ms. Chopich chased them down in her truck as the riders were making their way home on a road in the area. She accused one of the riders of damaging her property on the previous Wednesday. She stated that she accused this particular person because she has "blonde" hair and was on a light colored horse. (Her neighbor had told Ms. Chopich that someone meeting that description did the damage.) The woman she accused, however, has gray hair, is in her sixties, is not an Eldorado resident, was riding a borrowed horse and had never been in that area before.

Sullivan continued from page 1

In addition to the continuing problems with speeding and related noise caused by speeders on Avenidas Eldorado, Vista Grande and Casa del Oro, Traffic Calming Committee members urged the county (through Mr. Sullivan) to get involved with the continuing problem of no flashing light at the drop-off and pick-up point for El Dorado Elementary students. Commissioner Sullivan was surprised to learn that the school's PTA had, some years ago, purchased the existing flashing light that is installed facing east and west on Avenida Vista Grande. Committee members informed him that the pick-up and drop-off point for students changed some years ago to Avenida Torreon, and that a second flashing light, facing north and south is much more needed on that street.

Commissioner Sullivan promptly responded to the concerns of the Traffic Calming Committee. The day following his meeting with its members he conferred with Sheriff Solano on each of the problems that had been raised. The sheriff indicated that with a continuing shortage of officers, he has not been able to implement the "quadrant system" that he had promised earlier but that he hoped to do so

Within a mile of Ms. Chopich's property, there are 3 large, commercial horse-boarding facilities. The Eldorado stables are about an hour's ride and 5 miles away via horse trails.

The women of Eldorado Stables are educated responsible citizens of this community, all with a passion for horses and respect for our neighbors. We do not appreciate being the scapegoat of a poorly researched article.

> —Su Anne Armstrong Eldorado Stable Horse Owner

Support the Directory

he proposal to produce a new name, phone and address directory for Eldorado is to be applauded and supported. The value of this little booklet is beyond measure. When I arrived in Eldorado in 1994 it was the most valuable document I received and I miss it. The directory enables us to stay in touch with our neighbors, find friends, babysitters, business colleagues, and is invaluable in an emergency. Please, please reinstitute the Eldorado Directory. There is no more risk of being contacted by undesirables in this directory than in the regular phone book. I was never hassled by unwanted calls with the earlier edition. The mere existence of such a booklet promotes community, something sadly lacking in this country. Please support and add your name to the Eldorado Directory.

—Desiree Mays

in the near future. He further indicated that he has issued a directive to his deputies that when they do not have pending calls, they are to station themselves in the Eldorado area for patrol.

During its meeting, the Traffic Calming Committee discussed several other solutions to Eldorado's lack of traffic law enforcement. One suggestion being studied is to hire off-duty sheriff's deputies to patrol our roads—especially during times of heavy traffic but also at times when they can react to acts of vandalism, illegal dumping and drag racing. The ECIA Board has asked the Traffic Calming Committee to provide a detailed report of this potential solution.

The committee, on Mr. Sullivan's recommendation, is also considering involving El Dorado Elementary School in helping to solve the longstanding problem of the need for a flashing school zone light on Avenida Torreon. Further meetings of the Traffic Calming Committee of the ECIA will be announced in Vistas.

-Frank Schober

Revised RV Guideline



n RV Screening Guideline has continued to evolve as the ECIA Board responds to input from throughout the Eldorado community. In formulating the revisions to its original draft, the board has adopted the following principles for an RV Screening Guideline (in no particular order of priority):

- ▼ Objective and enforceable
- ▼ Legally defensible
- Fair to RV owners
- Responsive to community concerns
- ▼ Based on existing covenants
- ▼ Concise and easily understood

The following draft is on the agenda for adoption at the next board meeting, Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 pm at the Recreation Center. Comments may be offered prior to the meeting by e-mailing Ecommunity@aol.com, or in writing to the ECIA office at 1 Hacienda Way, Santa Fe, NM 87508.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE SCREENING (Article II, Section 13)

To store a Recreational Vehicle (RV) on residential lots is considered an important Eldorado Community Improvement Association, Inc. (ECIA) amenity. However, it must be recognized that many RVs, by virtue of their color, size or placement on the lot, are inconsistent with the design requirements of the community that create our unique Eldorado living environment.

The ECIA Covenants address the RV screening issue by requiring that "Recreational Vehicles, such as motor homes, campers, camper shells, vehicle accessories, trailers, horse trailers, airplanes, boats and the like, when stored on a lot shall be located so as to minimize their visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood and roads and shall be obscured by screening in a reasonable manner, for example by the dwelling house and/or plantings or fencing." As used in this guideline, the term "RV" shall have the same broad meaning as listed in the covenants.

This guideline recognizes that any screening

methods are lot specific some lots may require only one of the options listed below, while others may require several in combination. The overall objective of this guideline is to obscure an RV by screening from anyone standing on the ground anywhere within Eldorado, where obscure means to make

inconspicuous or unnoticeable, or to conceal physically, hide or cover. The following options may be used to provide such screening.

HOMEOWNERS ARE URGED TO CONTACT THE ECIA BEFORE INSTALLING ANY RV SCREENING TO **DETERMINE IF THEIR PLANS MEET** THESE GUIDELINES.

Option 1: RV Garage or Carport

An RV garage or carport may be constructed, provided the structure meets ECIA Covenants and Guidelines and is approved by the Architectural Committee. Note that a carport alone is unlikely to provide the required screening.

Option 2: Trees and/or Plantings

Evergreen trees and other similar types of plantings are an approved screening method, when sufficiently dense and/or used in conjunction with existing structures on the property. Trees and/or plantings must be sufficiently dense and numerous that the RV is completely obscured.

Option 3: RV Covers

An earth tone cover (as exemplified by approved architectural guideline colors) may be used to complement a visual barrier provided that the RV is located on the lot so that buildings and other visual barriers are used to maximum advantage and the outline of the vehicle is least visible.

Option 4: RV Screening Fences

The Architectural Committee may approve screening fences for RVs in accordance with existing guidelines, although additional screening methods may be needed for large vehicles.

Option 5: Berms

Earth berms may be allowed, although berms alone will normally not be sufficient as a sole method of screening RVs. However, earth berms used with other options, such as trees and/or plantings, may provide sufficient screening. Total height of berm and fence shall not be greater than six feet above the natural grade.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES Vista Grande Library

466-READ Security 204-2945

Fire and Rescue 466-1204

Animal Control 424-2050

IN THE COMMUNITY

Mirror, Mirror

Forty-six children in the Eldorado Children's Theatre are getting into character and warming up their singing voices for the upcoming musical production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, which will be performed Friday evening, February 27 at 7:00 pm; and Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, February 29 at 2:00 pm, at the James A. Little Theater in Santa Fe. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Save \$1 on adult tickets if purchased before the day of the show at Outback Video! Tickets go on sale February 14. Call 466-3302 for reservations or more information.



Luke Kaplan as the prince, Hailey Jonoubeh as Snow White, and Kate Ayala as the evil queen in Eldorado Children's Theatre's upcoming production of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Artists' Shoptalk

The monthly Shoptalk will be Wednesday, February 11, 10 am-noon, at the home of **Toni** Beldock. Join other artists for coffee and conversation. Call 466-3917 if you need directions.

Residents Association Looking for Board Members

The Eldorado Residents Association will have three openings on its seven-member board, as terms will expire April 2004. Elections will be held at the annual meeting in April. The ERA Board is responsible for holding two flea markets each year, an annual Santa party for children, four TGIF cocktail parties, and twice monthly coffees. Quarterly meetings discuss business and reports of committees active in the community. Generally, speakers are invited to



Lisa Bessone jumps her horse, Paris, in the Eldorado horse arena.

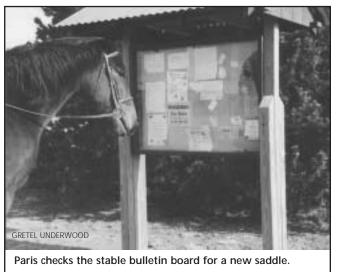
talk about topics of interest to the Eldorado community. Anyone interested in serving on the board should contact Dolores Brock at 466-3848 or Jerry Bradley at 466-4253 by March 15. 2004.

The Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, the 25th of February at the Community Center at 7:00 pm. There will be a presentation by Eldorado potters and clay sculptors. They will talk about individual techniques and show samples of their work. We will also conduct elections for board officers. We encourage members to attend. Refreshments will be served.

2004 Library Board Named

At the Vista Grande Public Library's annual meeting on January 9, 2004, outgoing President **Anne Hume** announced the incoming board: President, Tom Johnson, Vice President, Diane Gulseth, Secretary, Irene Jackson, and Treasurer, Steven Rosenthal. The remaining board members are: Todd Handy, RoseMarie



Bagioni, Marilyn Forbes, Joyce Gilbertson, Jack Abernathy, **Douglas Fairfield, Bill Mathews** and Fred Raznick.

In the 2-1/2 years since it opened, the library's collection has grown to 21,000 volumes. With the new addition, the books are now arranged on shelves with enough space for patrons to enjoy browsing. The vast majority of the collection has been donated to the library, and the library continues to accept donations.

Many children's programs were instituted in 2003. Reading programs for the young, study skills programs for teens and a burgeoning chess club are just some of the youth activities at the library. Additional programs are planned in 2004.

Adult programs can now resume their regular schedule with space available to sit comfortably and hear local authors discuss their latest publications. An active writer's group and book club also use the library for their meetings. A monthly exhibition of art is another feature that enhances the setting.

The library has become essential to the residents of southeast Santa Fe County. Without the help of volunteers, however, this non-profit library could not have achieved the status it now holds. More volunteers are always welcome. Stop by the library or call 466-READ.

Association Fees for 2004 **Due Before March 1**

Remember, in order to use any of our amenities or vote in the upcoming election, you must have vour association fees paid. Call Debby at 466-4248 with any questions.

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 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.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS				
ECIA offices closed February 16 for President's Day				
era t.g.i.f.	Fri., Feb. 13, 5-7 pm			LR
COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
Information Committee ECIA 466-4248				
Neighborhood Watch		Frank Schober	310-8593	call
Road Committee	Mon., Feb. 2, 6-7 pm	Allen Larson	466-4792	CFR
Finance Committee	Tues., Feb. 10, 10-noon	Gisela Knight		RR
Architectural Committee	Tues., Feb. 10, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
EAW&SD*	Wed., Feb. 11, 7-9 pm	Ray Nichols		CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Feb. 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
285 Coalition	Wed., Feb. 18, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Feb. 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Architectural Committee	Tues., Feb. 24, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., Feb. 24, 7-9 pm			LR
MONTHLY MEETINGS				
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Feb. 3, 10-11 am	Jerry Bradley	466-4253	F
Book Club/Pot Luck	Sun., Feb. 8, 6-9 pm	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Feb. 12, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Book Club	Sat., Feb. 14, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Feb. 17, 10-11 am	Jerry Bradley	466-4253	F
Library Book Club	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	Lib
Cub Scouts Pack 414	Call for date	Clay Williard	466-3909	
Arts Assoc. Program	Wed., Feb. 25, 7-9 pm	Arlene Siegel	466-3274	LR
WEEKLY MEETINGS				
AA	Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Saturdays, 10:45-11:45 am			CR
AA	Sundays, 5:15- 6:15 pm			CR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Bridge (Men's)	Thursdays, 1-4 pm	Bill Kapoun	466-8497	LR
Boy Scouts Troop 414	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, 12-1 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR
Wireless Assoc.	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	Scott Gerber	466-9333	CR
Knitting Club	2nd & 4th Wed., 1-3 pm	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	
*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **Reservations Required				
·				

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org



Curing the Whole Person

When this writer first visited the Eldorado Medical Care center that she established here in 1998, the scene was

> orn in Passaic, New Jersey a few short miles from the Holland and Lincoln Tunnels leading to the "Big Apple," Joanne Kargul, CNP, Eldorado's Nurse Practitioner in residence has always considered herself a New Yorker.

> Following secondary school, her interest became and has remained the practice of medicine or, as she would phrase it, "the curing of the whole person." Graduating with honors from New York's Beth Israel Hospital School of Nursing in 1975, she went on, in her white cap days, to practice her skills at Saddle Brook Hospital in Saddle Brook, New Jersey. From there she went to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City where she served as a staff nurse in both the adult and pediatric emergency rooms. Later in her career, somewhere between her work as an emergency room nurse and her employment as a biomedical supplies sales representative, she took the time to study law, pass the bar and serve as an Assistant District Attorney in New York City. "The practice of

law and working as a prosecutor—now it helps me fight with the insurance companies," she says.

not quite like the typical doctor's office that one might envision. Joanne's experience has always centered on emergency care and what goes on in her clinic reflects that interest and background. In the waiting room were two cowboys in full regalia from the San Cristobal Ranch, south on Highway 285. One of them had just been thrown by his horse. Also in the waiting room were an anxious mother with a colicky infant and a senior citizen with a complex question for the receptionist. All seemed hum and bustle, but like the emergency rooms that she had long grown used to, Joanne was controlling it all. It is obvious that her staff, which includes two nurse practitioners, a physician's assistant and two MDs, act and react like team members in the emergency room mode of "making haste slowly." Complementing her staff are two receptionists who seem to each have more than two hands as they simultaneously answer phones, greet and assure patients, run the copiers and type insurance claims.

Joanne Kargul is very proud of what she has done in establishing the first medical clinic in the Eldorado area. She points to what she considers a remarkable service she renders the community. As a matter of policy and practice, whatever the time needed, she never turns down a request from patients to be seen on the same day that they call her

Asked what she dislikes about what she now does. she answers that it is the time she feels she wastes fighting with insurance companies whose interests often do not coincide with hers when it comes to what her patients need in the way of procedures, referrals and prescriptions.

Asked what she is most thankful for. Joanne quickly answers that it is her husband **Dennis** who has been totally supportive from the beginning of her "total person," holistic medicine work for the residents of Eldorado.

Who IS that Bird in My Garage?

n Eldorado, this most likely is the Canyon Towhee, a small, brown, ground-dwelling bird that lives in Eldorado year-round. This bird spends most of its time under brush, searching for insects and seeds. It has a distinctive way of moving leaves and other debris to find food, termed "double-scratch" foraging. It is curious and bold, which accounts for its habit of turning up sometimes when you chance to leave the garage door open for a few minutes.

With new field studies and molecular genetic techniques, this towhee was recently separated from the classification Brown Towhee (which also included the California Towhee). This towhee is mostly drab gray-brown, but shows a small rufus crest and a distinctive black mark on the chest. The body is about 9 inches long, wing span 11.5 inches, and

male and female are similar. The species is found primarily in New Mexico and Mexico, with small populations in Arizona and Texas.

Towhees are usually seen alone or in pairs. They are monogamous, produce 2-4 eggs, and feed the young 4-6 weeks after fledging. I often hear the lowpitched slurred multi-note conversations between individuals on the ground. Often the birds can be identified from these sounds, even when hidden beneath dense bushes. Bird books call this vocalization "squeal-duet" and postulate this helps maintain the pair bond and lets the birds keep track of each other's location. Their main call is a short, sharp, onenote CHEEP, which sounds inquisitive and cheery. It is a pleasure to hear and see them all year long.

—Pam Henline

Eldorado's Weather Station

any newer residents are probably unaware of Eldorado's official National Weather Service Station located on Manzano Lane in the middle of Eldorado. After considerable negotiating with the National Weather Service in Albuquerque, we were successful in getting our first official weather station on March 26, 1998. The Albuquerque office installed the weather instrumentation and provided volunteers with training.

George Glotzbach was our first volunteer Weather Observer. On June 11, 2003, he moved from Eldorado and Jim Pontious graciously volunteered to assume the role as Eldorado's weatherman. Jim had previously filled in for George in his absence and so had the experience to take over the job. Jim indicated that he had been interested in weather science since his school days and is happy to fill this important role for the Eldorado community.

You might wonder what benefits this station brings to Eldorado. First of all, it is very important for us to build a long-term record of precipitation and temperature data gathering and identify trends to use in conjunction with studies to determine groundwater recharge and evaporation rates for Eldorado. The data should also help us determine the severity of the current drought. Accurate weather data should also prove valuable in helping to assess the wildfire potential in Eldorado at different times of the year by providing readings on precipitation, humidity, wind velocity and fuel moisture.

Soon after the operation of our station began, it became very apparent that our precipitation and

temperature rates in Eldorado varied considerably from those of the Santa Fe weather station at the airport. Gardeners in Eldorado can utilize this data in determining local growing seasons, precipitation patterns, and average humidity to facilitate their gardening planning.

Weather data collection is a precise science. Each morning at precisely 7:00 am weatherman Jim Pontious reads his weather equipment data for the daily readings of temperature high, temperature low, temperature at reading time, and precipitation for the last 24 hours. He then transmits the daily readings to the Albuquerque Weather Service station by Internet. At the end of each month, he also transmits the monthly summary by mail. In addition, Jim records daily humidity data from his own recording equipment. This volunteer job requires someone being available each morning for 365 days a year to maintain continuity of records. The US National Weather Service uses this data compiled by volunteer observers around the state to help predict and report the state's daily weather forecasts, which benefit the population as a whole.

The year-end rap-up report from our weatherman indicates that for 2003, Eldorado had 10.09 inches of precipitation compared to 10.99 inches for 2002. Average annual precipitation since the last drought in the 1950's for this local area probably averages close to 14 inches. It appears that we are now well into a new drought period that may last 10-20 years according to some climate specialists.





Eldorado —by Edgar Allan Poe

Security 204-2945

Gaily bedight,

A gallant knight,

In sunshine and in shadow.

Had journeyed long,

Singing a song,

In search of Eldorado

But he grew old-

This knight so bold-

And o'er his heart a shadow

Fell as he found

No spot of ground

That looked like Eldorado

And, as his strength

Failed him at length,

He met a pilgrim shadow-

"Shadow." said he.

"Where can it be-

This land of Eldorado"

"Over the Mountains

Of the Moon.

Down the Valley of the Shadow,

Ride, boldly ride,"

The shade replied-

"If you seek for Eldorado!"