

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME X, ISSUE 2

Feb 2008

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

## Like Nobody's Business

**WITH FEW ROADSIDE SIGNS,** buildings that blend with the landscape and strictly subdued nighttime lighting, Eldorado hardly looks like a vibrant business community. But **Marcel Legendre**, local manager of Santa Fe's First National Bank (FNB), would argue that it is.

Bankers know what few of us may perceive—that the greater Eldorado area is not only a prime residential area, but that it harbors a large and diverse variety of commercial activities as well. These businesses, hidden behind adobe walls, are in many if not most cases computer-dependant, allowing their owners to work at providing their specific goods and services directly from their homes.

Home-based business activity in Eldorado comes in a wide variety of types. According to Legendre, there are many art and crafts sales agencies as one might suspect, but construction, home repair, real estate, decorating, holistic health and physical therapy enterprises flourish as well.

Responding to a suggestion from his supervisors that he establish better ties with home-based businesses here, Legendre scheduled a number of seminars during the past year and brought in local experts in a variety of subjects relating to small business to lead the seminars in the bank's community room.

Leading off the seminar series was **Debra Collins**, an adviser with the Santa Fe Small Business Development Center, a nonprofit organization specializing in training small business owners to succeed. She focused on the essentials of accounting, tax preparation and marketing. Importantly, she linked Eldorado businesses to the advice and information resources her organization provides free of charge.

**Russ Rountree**, owner of a successful Santa Fe small business, Impressions Advertising, provided those who attended his session with information about how to get the biggest marketing bang from a small advertising budget.

A seminar that was both entertaining and informative was conducted by **Rob Wilder**, a high

school teacher with the Santa Fe Public School System. In a departure from a business-only point of view, Wilder, who is both the parent and teacher of teenagers, discussed a subject common to teachers and business people—"how to make connections with kids and customers and keep them open to possibilities."

Wilder is the author of an informative book, *Daddy Needs a Drink*, that makes the point that "kids are open to possibilities and one must always be looking for opportunities to get through the walls and feigned lack of interest they display to capture their attention."

About 40 to 50 people have attended the seminars, which also provided valuable networking opportunities afterward for those who lingered over coffee and refreshments.

Feedback from those who have been coming to the business seminars is uniformly positive. Individual experts and business support agencies in Santa Fe have now conducted four seminars, and the bank has plans to sponsor another set of them this year. Follow-up topics will include how to obtain federally funded small business loans, tax strategies for small businesses and how to access and make best use of free advice.

Eldorado may have started out as a retirement community. Today it is much more—an artists' colony, no doubt, but also one of the most active and vital business communities in New Mexico.

—Frank Schober

*ECIA Board  
Work Study  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Mon.,  
Feb 18, 7 pm*



**Marcel Legendre (center) and others lingering after their informative session is over.**

**Share your  
comments  
with us!**

*For policy and  
deadline, see  
below*

### Editorial Policy

*Vistas* invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too. **DEADLINE:** Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto:info@eldoradocommunity.org). Please include "Attn: *Vistas*" in your message.

### Mission Statement

The mission of *Vistas*, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

## Living in Harmony

**THIS ARTICLE IS MEANT TO PROMOTE** a better understanding of the diversity among the residents of Eldorado. We look at our environment and how we can more successfully share our lives with wildlife, our pets and our neighbors. The recently adopted Responsible Dog Ownership Policy seeks to protect this "gilded place," by requiring that we keep our dogs from harassing wildlife and trespassing onto private property. The following is the reasoning behind these tenets of the policy:

The Eldorado subdivision lies within a transition zone of natural diversity between the forested Rocky Mountains to the north, plains grasslands to the southeast and warm deserts to the southwest. Without disturbance and given some time, our landscape could revert to the denser juniper-piñon woodland that it once was. But because of previous clearing for livestock grazing and harvesting wood for fuel along with the recent bark beetle attacks on our piñon trees, we can more precisely call this area juniper savanna. In general, juniper bushes are widely scattered around low grasses and wildflowers so that distant views are unobstructed.

This savanna of open rolling hills is the special place that we have chosen to make our homes. The suburban nature lovers among us find solace in enjoying seasonal changes in this environment and caring for wild plants and animals that surround us. We seek these benefits from our savanna in order to recuperate from our busy daily routines.

Eldorado was laid out in harmony with the savanna so that roads meander around the topography and our greenbelts follow arroyos. Lot sizes of at least one acre spread out the houses so that they mimic the scattered evergreens. Even our covenants are in harmony with the natural landscape.

In this open subdivision, wildlife is able to roam



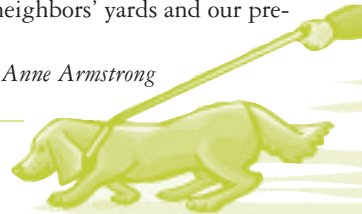
freely. The Conservation Committee's mission statement includes protecting the existing natural resources, i.e., wildlife in the preserve and our greenbelts for the enjoyment of the residents. Many of us love to watch rabbits randomly hop along as they sample each bunch of succulent grasses. We are filled with joy when quail couples march out from under the junipers with springtime chicks in single file.

Our low savanna is filled with a diversity of wildlife such as lizards, roadrunners, stink bugs and other animals that have no other choice but to live close to the ground. Finding adequate food and shelter can be difficult in this harsh environment and our pets sometimes upset this fragile balance.

When dogs are allowed to roam free, they chase wildlife, disturb nests and burrows and mark territory with droppings. The more this activity continues, the less wildlife we will have. Repeatedly harassed wildlife will be forced to live elsewhere, and the diversity of our savanna will decline.

Neighbors of dog owners may be some of those nature lovers who wish to preserve our wonderful savanna. Please don't be selfish; respect your neighbors' wishes. Please keep your dogs under control by staying on common paths, using leashes when necessary, cleaning up after your pets and keeping them away from your neighbors' yards and our precious wildlife.

—*Su Anne Armstrong*



## Different View

**I APPRECIATE PAMELA CHRISTIE'S NOTE** about the nuisance caused by "friendly" dogs (Jan. 2008). But one sentence caught me by surprise: "In Eldorado, a huge cry arose for total leashing at all times." I recall substantial resistance to the idea of "total leashing" and notably thin support at the meetings for changing the existing policy. There was talk of the volume of complaints the board had received, but precious little hard data was ever produced. I think the new policy is probably a good one, given our growing population

density. But I don't want to pretend that it was simply the desire of a grassroots majority. The only "huge cry" I heard came from various people who actually participated in the process and feel that they were used and manipulated by a small minority. In addition to leashing our dogs, we also need to preserve a democratic respect for the opinions of our neighbors—that is, if we really want to foster increased participation in the decision making process.

—*Jacques Duvoisin*

## From the President's Desk

### ELDORADO FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

— One thing is a given in Eldorado: residents use the amenities. During any week, there are 45 to 50 scheduled meetings/events at the Community Center. During soccer season over 250 children use the fields. Dog owners are using the dog park in big numbers and the swings and slides on the playgrounds are in constant use.

With usage comes wear and tear. Staff is very good at keeping up with maintenance, but the Board understands they have an enormous job. As a result, the Board has reactivated a previous committee to assist staff in identifying maintenance needs and possible replacement of overused equipment/furniture. This committee will also make recommendations on the fee structure and possible additions to our amenities. If you are interested in being part of this important committee, contact **Bill Donohue**, general manager, at 466-4248.

**Roads** — Once again the Board and Road Committee petitioned the legislature for funding to base course the dirt roads in Eldorado. The county was very kind in helping us navigate through the legislative processes. Our request this year amounted to \$1.5 million, mostly because the cost of base course has risen with the price of crude oil. At this writing, we do not know the outcome of our request, but we continue to keep up our lobbying activities.

**Oil and Gas Drilling** — The ECIA Board IS OPPOSED TO DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS IN THE GALISTEO BASIN. I put that statement in bold capital letters because I could find no other way to express how much the Board opposes the drilling. Our opposition may carry little weight, but letters have been written and we are following the development of the ordinance very closely. We want the county ordinance to consider water safety, preservation of the environment and residents' rights ahead of the needs of the corporation. The Board and staff are also investigating ownership of the mineral rights in the Preserve and greenbelts. Stay tuned.

—*Jeanne Klein*  
ECIA President

PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH



The Playground at Compadres

## Run For It!

ONCE AGAIN WE REMIND RESIDENTS that the annual ECIA Board election is just around the corner and that there will be four vacancies to be filled. The position of director provides an opportunity for interested persons to shape the community in which they live.

The community and all potential Board candidates need to understand the following basic requirements and deadlines as outlined in the By-laws and Election Policies and Procedures:

- ▼ To run for the Board, a candidate must file a petition that contains the candidate's name and the signatures of no less than 25 owners of property, each of whom must be a Member in Good Standing with the Association. These petitions will be available at the ECIA office on January 2, 2008, and must be filed by March 1, 2008.

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

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

—*Debby Padilla*

### ECIA OFFICE

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Tom Miller**  
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tom@miller91.com

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

### VISTAS NEWSLETTER

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**Debby Padilla**  
466-4248

### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

Animal Control

992-1621



### The Easy Ride 2

Did you see the announcement about the All-European Motorcycle Club for the purpose of social gatherings and group rides around New Mexico? Well, the email address was incorrect. If you have an interest, please call **Chuck West** at 466-0844, or email [chuckwest@qwest.net](mailto:chuckwest@qwest.net).

### We're All Neighbors

Happy New Year. We made it through the holidays, a little lighter in the wallet or purse but we made it. Take a moment to think about how many times you used your credit cards or debit cards and the various locations in which you used them in the past month. If you're like me, there were many transactions at many locations. That said, there is no better time to educate yourself about identity theft, and your friendly Neighborhood Watch is here to help. Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 19 at 6:30 pm in the Railroad Room at the Community Center when Consumer Advocate **Denise Herrera** will give a 30-minute presentation on identity theft, immediately followed by a Q&A session. Refreshments will be served, and we look forward to seeing you there.

### Through His Lens

**Lucian Niemeyer**, noted photographer and author, will be speaking at the Vista Grande Public Library on Thursday, February 21 at 7 pm. Lucian has studied at Indiana University, the University of Notre Dame and the Famous Photographers School in Westport, Connecticut. He had a broad range of business experience before moving in early 1987 to photography full-time. His photography has focused on diverse subjects and sites—from Old Order Amish to Desert Wetlands and New Mexico. Lucian will be discussing his most recent book, *Africa, the Holocausts of Rwanda and Sudan*, as well as his upcoming book on Darfur. *Africa* has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and is of particular relevance because of the continued violence in Africa today. He will have copies available of both *Africa, the Holocausts of Rwanda and Sudan* and a second prize-winning book, *Images of a Vanished Era 1898-1924*. Lucian lives in the Eldorado area with his wife, **Joan Niemeyer**, where they operate Niemeyer Fine Art Photography Studio.

### With a Twist

Charles Dickens' dramatic tale of an orphan who survives a childhood of poverty and crime—and of Fagin, one of musical theater's most memorable crooks—will be brought to life on a Santa Fe stage. It's also the heartbreaking story of

### Moon Phases for Feb



Nancy, the goodhearted but battered heroine who sacrifices herself for Oliver. Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players (ECT) presents the classic Broadway musical *Oliver!* on two weekends—January 25, at 7 pm, January 26 and 27 at 2 pm, and the second weekend's shows on February 1 at 7 pm, and February 2 and 3 at 2 pm. All performances will be at the James A. Little Theater at the New Mexico School for the Deaf on Cerrillos Road..

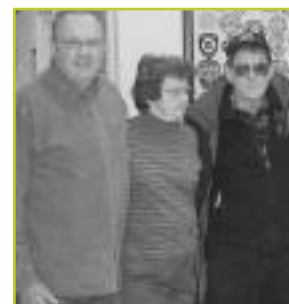
### Soirees in Eldorado

In the days before TV, video games and cheap airfares, people gathered together in small theaters and community rooms to meet, tell their stories, play music and have fun. People brought their dinner and everyone talked and laughed. They had fun, shared energy and left feeling warm inside. There was little distance between audience and performer.

Starting this February 17 at 4 pm, you will be able to experience this same kind of community event right here in Eldorado. *Teatre Petit* will be a time and place to enjoy each other's stories, rhythms, sounds and energy. You can perform or be in the audience. Each soiree is two hours long, ending with wine and cheese. Each performer has 10 to 15 minutes and will share the proceeds (\$10 adults, \$5 kids). What kind of performers? Anything that fits on a small stage—comedy, poetry, theater, music, dance, puppetry, spoken word and others. All ages welcome, both as audience and performers. The first soiree is February 17 from 4 pm to 6 pm at the old train station in Eldorado. To perform or to reserve seats, contact **Ron** or **Laia** at 505-216-0882 or at [www.PuppetsRevenge.com](http://www.PuppetsRevenge.com) for directions.

### Burning a Hole in Their Pockets

Members of the Eldorado Roadrunners RV Club met Chief **Guy Monroe** at the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Station on December 22 to deliver their final donation for 2007. This donation, along with two earlier fund raising projects, achieved their goal of a \$500 contribution for the excellent



Roadrunners RV



The invoices for 2008's Association dues were mailed in late December. If you did not receive your invoice, please contact Debby at 466-4248 so she can send you another one. We wouldn't want you to feel left out.

Be on the lookout for new pool ID cards this year. In March we will unveil the new system that will put your picture on an ID card to allow you access to the pool. More details to come in the March issue of *Vistas*.



## ASTRONOMY Corner

### CHAINED QUEEN

Cassiopeia is one of the constellations in the northern sky and is in the Milky Way. Cassiopeia represents the queen of Ethiopia, wife of Cepheus, in the Andromeda myth. The distinctive "w" shape of Cassiopeia is marked by five magnitude stars. Cassiopeia is the strongest radio source in the sky, apart from the sun.

Optically, it is seen as a faint nebula, but it is a supernova remnant from a star explosion in 1660. The brightest stars in this constellation are Shedir, Caph, and Ruchbah.

—Juan Alvarez  
Jalva88610@aol.com

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

ongoing service provided by El Dorado Fire and Rescue.

The Eldorado Roadrunners Chapter of the Good Sam's RV Club would like to invite all RV owners to visit our website ([www.eldoradorvclub.com](http://www.eldoradorvclub.com)) to learn about the fun of membership in our Chapter. For more information about our Chapter, contact Brad and Beverly Cottingham at 466-4655.



RV club with Chief Guy Monroe.

# February Events

*Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.*

Email [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto:info@eldoradocommunity.org) with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 8th of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



- 1. Type of Event**
- 2. Location**
- 3. Date & Time**
- 4. A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

*Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.*

**LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Room, CR=Class Room, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen**

### FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

ERA's T.G.I.F.	Fri., Feb. 15, 5-7 pm	Bruce Blossman
ECIA offices closed	Mon., Feb. 18, all day	for President's Day

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Road Committee	Mon., Feb. 4, 6-7 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Neighborhood Watch	Mon. Feb. 4, 7-9 pm	Marilyn Walker	466-2553	LR
EAW&SD*	Tues., Feb. 5, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CR
285 Coalition	Wed., Feb. 6, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Feb. 13, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Feb. 13, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Feb. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
EAW&SD*	Tues., Feb. 19, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Feb. 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Feb. 25, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	629-9028	F
Stable Committee	Tues., Feb. 26, 7-9 pm	Tommie Brasel		LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Feb. 27, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Feb. 9, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Feb. 14, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726	C
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579	Sm Gym
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Feb. 11, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Mandie Rippey	795-4086	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Feb. 12, 2-4 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	466-6398	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
League of Woman Voters	Sat., Feb. 23, 9:30-noon			LR
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
Roadrunners RV Club	Tues., Feb. 19, 6 pm	Brad Cottingham	466-4655	Fire

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7-8:30 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Tues., 6:30-9 pm			F
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Eldo Business Dev Group	Thurs., 8-9:15 am	Arielle Verwey	570-0677	CFR
Community Band	Thurs., 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	M, W & F, 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Figure Drawing	Mon., 10 am-noon	Neil O'Brien	577-2043	RR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641	School

\*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

\*\*Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

## An Invitation

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED** to enhance your enjoyment of living in Eldorado by lending your talents and experience to the numerous opportunities available for you, as follows:

Your Eldorado Residents' Association (ERA) has two openings on the seven-member Board of Directors. Board meetings are held quarterly, with special meetings called when needed. Serving on the board will give you the opportunity to be involved in promoting issues pertinent to the quality of life in Eldorado, representing the views of our community to appropriate governing authorities and lending support to Eldorado organizations and events. The ERA has standing committees, and ad hoc committees are formed as needs arise. Email me, **Bruce Blossman**, or call 955-0880 if you are interested in serving in any of these positions.

The Vista Grande Public Library is operated almost entirely by volunteers. The library is planning its third expansion and will soon need more help in its outreach programs. Contact **Steve Rosenthal**, Board chair, at 466-1042, for more information.

Our new Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center has hired a cook and soon will be serving lunches three days a week and providing meals on wheels to outlying areas. The center also serves as a County Service Center three times a week. To learn how you can help out with these and other senior programs, call **Don Dayton** at 466-4348.

To be better prepared for future emergencies such as last winter's 30-inch snowfall, your ERA is planning a Multi-Agency Emergency Assistance Center as an annex to the County Emergency Operation Center. The Assistance Center will be organized under the Incident Command System headed by the state-appointed Incident Commander, **Chief Guy**



Volunteers needed to help at the Senior Center.

**Monroe**. Much help will be needed. Contact **Frank Schober**, Eldorado Preparedness chair, at 466-4632, or **Chief Monroe** at 466-1204.

A community Low Power FM station is a good possibility for Eldorado. The FCC licensing process will be lengthy. Volunteers are needed for the paperwork now and eventually for station positions. For more information, contact committee chair **John Geier** at 466-6174.

El Dorado Elementary School will be expanding to a Middle School with the addition of grades seven and eight. Additional volunteers will be needed as substitute teachers, special program organizers, members of the School Advisory Council and PTA committee chairs. For more information about how you can help, call the school principal, **Yann Lussiez**, at 467-4902 or PTA president **Sandy Szabat** at 466-6702.

The Neighborhood Watch Program, a committee of the ECIA, has over 50 block captains, and their ranks are growing. We could use another 150 block captains. A new Volunteer Observation Patrol (VOP) is being formed, with training provided by the county Sheriff's Department. If you would like to help keep our community safe, contact co-chair **Marilyn Walker** at 466-2553.

If you haven't found an opportunity here that matches your talents and interests, let me know and we will create one especially for you. Also, if you know of anyone who would like to become more involved in our community, let me know who they are and I will contact them.

—Bruce Blossman  
ERA President

## At the Crossroads

**ROAD SURFACES:** Having formally received authority from the state Department of Transportation, Santa Fe County is drawing up a request for bids to have a private contractor lay new base course on about 10 miles of Eldorado roads. Funding for this work came from the 2007 legislature and governor, allocating a total of \$675,000 for resurfacing some of our roads. The ECIA Board plans to ask the 2008 legislature to request additional funding for base course. The county is also looking for funding to pave 6.4 miles of road previously identified in their long-range planning as being among the most

heavily traveled and worst dirt roads in Eldorado. Herrada Road, Avenida Amistad, Avenida Buena Ventura and Balsa Road are among these.

**Thanks, Frank:** The ECIA Road Committee is losing a long-time member. After many years, on the committee, **Frank Schober** is moving on to other volunteer activities, including serving on the board at his church and implementing the new Eldorado Community Emergency Plan. Frank has made many contributions to the Road Committee and will be missed.

—Nolan Zisman  
Chair, ECIA Road Committee



## A Delightful Song

**THE HOUSE WREN (HW)** is a small secretive bird (4.75 inches long, with a wingspan of 6 inches) that I have seen only a few times around my house—several times skulking under the chairs on my back porch in late fall/early winter and once on the shelf of a bird feeder. They prefer low shrubby habitat. New Mexico is on the border of their summer/winter ranges, so they could be around any season, but more likely in summer. They have several colorations. In Eldorado, the HW is a light reddish-gray on the back and tail, plain light gray-brown on the chest and stomach, with some dark bars on the wings and tail and a plain gray-brown head with lighter eyebrow stripe (a distinguishing mark). The head appears flattened and the bill is slender and longish. Like most wrens, the short tail is usually cocked up in the air. Males and females are similar. Their song is a delightful fast series of rolls descending into a bubbling trill. Winter migration is throughout Mexico. Various subspecies of the HW are found from Canada to Tierra del Fuego.

The male may start building a nest before courtship. He quivers his wings and raises his tail to

prospective mates. Nests are usually in a cavity or possibly an old nest of another bird. The male may put more than 400 sticks into one cavity. When a female pairs with the male she takes over nest building and adds the nest cup and lining. Six to eight eggs take 13 days to hatch and are brooded only by the female. Atrical young (helpless, eyes shut, a little down and no feathers) fledge in 12 to 18 days. Both parents continue to feed the young for about two weeks. Both male and female sometimes destroy eggs of other HWs and other species nesting nearby, although the behavior does not occur while the pair is tending their own eggs. Diet includes insects, snails, millipedes and spiders.

I found a video with song on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8wjCGQhhRI>.

An acquaintance jokingly asked me if our Road Runners “run” south in winter. RRs are non-migratory, but I have not seen them here in winter. Has anyone seen them here?

—Pam Henline



## 62 Young Actors on Stage

**CHARLES DICKENS'** uplifting tale of an orphan who survives a childhood of poverty and crime—and of Fagin, one of musical theater's most memorable characters—will be brought to life at the James A. Little Theatre at the School for the Deaf in Santa Fe with heartwarming songs, “Food Glorious Food,” “Consider Yourself,” “Where Is Love,” and “I’d Do Anything,” among others. Eldorado Children’s Theatre and Teen Players (ECT) presents the classic musical *Oliver!* on two weekends (see dates on page 4). The show features a live professional orchestra and sound system. Sixty-two Santa Fe area children and teens have been singing, dancing and rehearsing since September for this magical production.

*Oliver!* is directed and produced by long-time Eldorado resident and founder of ECT in 1999, Lisa Lincoln. The show is choreographed by Allegra Lillard, Robyn Avalon, and Campbell Martin. Costumes are designed by Jennifer Pruett, shopping by Pat Van Kampen. Set design and construction is by Tom Brimacombe and Tom Van Kampen. Jerry Millstein will be conductor and pianist, along with other Eldoradoans, Brian DeLay on Bass, Karen Conley on flute and Vic Perry on trumpet, to name a few.

The production is dedicated to long-time ECT company actor **Galen Stoller**, 16, who was killed in an accident in Rowe on December 1. Galen had played many parts in past productions and was to have shared the two leading roles of Fagin and Bill

Sykes with a fellow cast member. The group has established a scholarship fund in Galen’s name, and a percentage of every adult ticket sold at the door of the performance

on Saturday, January 26 will go into that fund.

Tickets are \$8 for children and \$10 for adults. Reserve tickets by calling 466-4656, order online at [www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org](http://www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org) or buy on the day before each performance at Outback Video for \$1 off each child’s ticket. You can also buy tickets at the door ahead of each performance.



From Left to Right, Molly Caballero, 13, as Oliver, Rachel Tynes, 14, as Artful Dodger, and Max Dickter, 16, as Fagin.



*Security 204-2945  
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## *Glorious Views*

As the Information Committee members looked over the photographs submitted for the 2008 Eldorado calendar, everyone agreed that there is a lot of talent in Eldorado. We didn't want to let all those great photos go to waste. So Hope Kiah put them on the community website for everyone's viewing pleasure. Check them out at [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org). Unfortunately, too much time was required to put names on each of the 153 photos. But thanks to all 31 of our generous photographers.

