

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 2

Feb. 2009

IN THIS ISSUE

Letters / ERA.....	2
President's Desk	3
Covenants	3
In the Community	4-5
Birds / Roads.....	6
Winter Tips / Web.....	7
Soirees.....	8

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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2009, Year of Astronomy

IN 1609, GALILEO GALILEI first turned what was then a new invention—what he called the Dutch Glass and what we know as the telescope—to the night sky and made startling discoveries that changed mankind's conception of the universe forever: He discovered mountains and craters on our moon and other moons orbiting Jupiter, as well as a multitude of stars invisible to the naked eye.

The International Year of Astronomy, 2009, is a year-long celebration of astronomy, coinciding with the 400th anniversary of the first recorded astronomical observations. One of the aims of the celebration is to raise awareness of light pollution, and how the beauty of the night sky is progressively being drowned out, particularly over urban areas.

Because we can see the Big Dipper and the fabulous expanse of the Milky Way—and when we look carefully, even the dim glow of our nearby sister galaxy Andromeda—we know we have a precious resource here in Eldorado that our city cousins lack. One of the objectives of the International Year of Astronomy is to make us all aware of what the bright lights of “civilization” have lost for most of the world, and to encourage us to do something about it locally.

Having won a coveted award from the Night Sky Association in 2005 for protecting its night skies, Eldorado residents cannot afford to be complacent.

In the opinion of those who have lived a decade or more in Eldorado, the night skies here are not what they used to be. Albuquerque to our south and Santa Fe to the north cast unwanted glows on our horizons. The state prison and the county corrections facility to our south are nothing less than light bombs.

There are some things we can do as a community to encourage modern, low-level lighting at the facilities that presently harm our views of the universe. We can encourage state and local officials to take a look at using new security lighting which is being implemented around prisons elsewhere in the United States. This lighting casts less glare but is much more effective for maintaining secure facilities than traditional methods of illumination.

We can do some things here to make it easier on our local amateur astronomers and those of us who simply enjoy the beauty of a starry sky. For example, keep outdoor lights off when they're not needed. Get rid of unshielded, outdoor light bulbs (which are prohibited by our covenants), and make sure that security lights with movement detectors are on timers that turn them off after a short period.

In this Year of Astronomy 2009, let's work to deserve our award for preserving the coveted beauty that is ours in Eldorado—our fabulous, dark and star-filled night skies.

—Frank Schober

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Feb. 16, 7 pm*

**READ
ABOUT OUR
NEW WEBSITE
ON PAGE 7!**



*Share your
comments
with us!*

*For policy and
deadline, see
below*

Editorial Policy

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

Mission Statement

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

Big Buddy Program

THE BIG BUDDY PROGRAM is in need of volunteer Buddies. I spend an hour a week with a seven-year old at the El Dorado School from 10 to 11 am on Fridays. I suspect this is the best time, since the youngster has only a half-day at school and then leaves me for lunch and then home. We play cards, games, and one he particularly likes, throwing a nerf ball at a basketball net. We're pretty even at that, although he has bested me at cards so far. Legos are big, as are Tinkertoys.



With this program you may not leave the school campus, although I did get my Buddy to the library for a library card and four books. I was "escorted" by

Teresa Barickman, a school counselor, who is my contact there for the program. She has been very supportive and has asked me if I would like to have another Buddy. I really can't, only because of constraints on my own time.

So, I'd like to encourage readers of *Vistas* to volunteer for this worthwhile program. Contact Ms. Barickman at 467-4906.

—Norman Airey

Share the Road

EXCITED TO MOVE into this beautiful community of Eldorado 10 months ago, I was looking forward to running and walking with my baby along the peaceful roads and paths.

But to my sad surprise I have found that Avenida Azul, my only access route to the hike-bike trails, was extremely dangerous for walking. Six or seven times already my baby and I have almost been hit by cars

speeding down this road that is posted for 25 mph.

As you can imagine, this experience has been terrifying. I do not understand why people drive so fast on Ave. Azul with its many blind spots.

Please, let's all be more careful on Ave. Azul, and watch out for folks of all ages walking, or bike riding. As the sign says: "Share the road."

—Beverly Nelson

The Eldorado Residents Association (ERA)

SOME RESIDENTS MAY NOT BE aware that Eldorado has two community associations, the Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) and the ERA. The two associations are very different, though both contribute to the good of our community. As president of the ERA, I'd like to describe our organization.

The ERA is registered with the State of New Mexico Public Regulation Commission as a Community Service Organization. A nonpartisan organization, ERA serves as an Eldorado residents' advocate before the ECIA and County and State authorities. We also host town-hall meetings to discuss issues pertinent to community life and promote events and organizations that contribute to the joy of living here in Eldorado.

The ERA is administered by a seven-member Board of Directors. It has four standing committees: Publicity, Public Affairs, Sports, and Social Events (and we create ad hoc committees if we need them). All ERA positions are voluntary; nobody gets paid for helping ERA, except in the satisfaction of helping make Eldorado a better place to live.

ERA's annual revenue from fundraisers and donations is about \$5,000. All Eldorado residents, owners or renters, can be members of the ERA and can vote at the annual ERA meeting in April. No fees or memberships dues are required to be an ERA member. The ERA Board meets quarterly, with special meetings called as needed.

In the past, the ERA has distributed year-end surplus funds to other Eldorado non-profit organizations. Current ERA policy is to finance especially worthy projects and offer seed money to start-up organizations if the Board approves. The ERA is free to support, promote and cooperate with any Eldorado nonprofit organization for the good of the community. We also work cooperatively with commercial businesses on a pro-bono or public-interest basis.

The ERA depends on volunteers to serve their purposes. I hope that, with a better understanding of what our organization contributes to our community, you may decide to contribute your talents, skills and enthusiasm to our community.

—Bruce Blossman, ERA President

From the ECIA President's Desk

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED what ECIA does for you, the Eldorado homeowner? You may not realize it, but your Association plays a major role in safeguarding the value of your home and the quality of your neighborhood.

The ECIA Board does many different things. It sets and collects the assessment fees needed to operate and maintain the community's amenities. It oversees the nine working committees of dedicated volunteers and, of course, the community's information newsletter (*Vistas*) and website, keeping you informed of what's happening in Eldorado.

However, one of the most important functions of the ECIA Board is overseeing the Association's Covenants. Covenants are legally binding rules that set standards for building, maintenance and usage in your neighborhood. Covenants prescribe how homes can look and what can be done on the property.

As you reflect back on why you bought your home, you may recall that you liked the appearance or floor plan of the house. You probably also consid-

ered the homes next door and down the street. In all likelihood, you found the neighborhood and lifestyle appealing and assumed that your neighborhood would remain the same.

What could happen if the Covenants weren't enforced? Plenty! How about your neighbors painting their house orange and black—or how about red? Or what about a neighbor who repairs cars and leaves non-running vehicles parked all over his property, or one who leaves high-intensity security lights directed at your windows? Without the enforcement of the Covenants, there's a strong chance that your neighborhood would come to look drastically different from when you bought your home.

The ECIA, through its Board of Directors and Architectural Committee, can control the appearance of your neighborhood and safeguard your investment in your home. Enforcing the covenant restrictions can be trying, but they are absolutely necessary for the protection of the property values and lifestyle of the community of Eldorado.

Ed Benrock, ECIA President

New Compliance Rep on Staff

A NEW COVENANTS COMPLIANCE Representative (CCR) has joined the ECIA staff in 2009. **Mark Young** has recently moved to Eldorado from Shaftsbury, Vermont, and will handle building permit applications and records as well as covenants compliance enforcement, and will act as staff liaison to the Architectural Committee. He replaces **Marshall Allen**, who has changed jobs to work in town.

Mark is not new to community involvement. He served on the Shaftsbury Planning Commission and on the boards of local chapters of the Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity, and also as a Boy Scout troop

leader. He worked for fly-fishing equipment retailer Orvis, where he won a company award for Significant Contributions to Preserving the Environment.

Mark has contracted for the construction of his new house in Eldorado and has been fastidious about complying with ECIA covenants. According to ECIA General Manager **Bill Donohue**, Mark was the stand-out choice among a record number of applicants for the CCR position.

—Dan Drobnis



PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS

Proposed Covenant Amendment

THE ECIA BOARD has decided to ask Association members for a change to the Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions for Eldorado, to allow easier recovery of costs and fees associated with a successful legal action of Covenant enforcement. Costs for a formal enforcement action can run to several thousand dollars.

At present, Article III Section 3 allows for recovery of costs and fees only for a "judicial action," while Article III Section 2 paragraph c requires arbitration or mediation. The Board will be proposing

an amendment to the Covenants to resolve this apparent discrepancy. The exact wording proposed will appear in the March *Vistas*, and a response card will be included with the March Annual Report and Board election mailing. Article IV, Section 1 of the Covenants requires that a majority of all lot owners approve any amendment.

The present text of the Covenants may be found on our newly designed website at www.eldoradocommunity.org.

—ECIA Board

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Stable: Bonita Mamp
Election: Ken Robinson
Roads: Nolan Zisman
Information: Frank Schober
Neighborhood Watch: Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker
Facilities & Grounds: Fred Raznick

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204-2945
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)



ECIA BOARD NOMINATIONS

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

Neighborhood Watch Meeting

Is your address protected by membership in Eldorado Neighborhood Watch? Come to our next meeting, Monday, February 2, 7 pm in the Classroom, or contact **Marilyn Walker**, lightwalker2@comcast.net.

New Manager at Adam Senior Center

Cathy Berkley has been hired to head up the day-to-day operations at the Adam Senior Center on Ave. Torreon. After a year and a half of management by volunteers, the Center now has a capable manager to see to its daily affairs and develop senior programs. The Adam Center is open five days a week from 10 am to 4 pm, and serves lunch ONLY on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12 to 1. Reservations for lunch are required a day before you'd like to attend. Call 466-1039 and leave your name and phone number. The Adam Senior Center is open to those 60 and older.

Cathy and the Senior Center Committee are working to develop more programs for the new year. Ongoing at the Center are the Monday and Friday chair yoga classes and Wednesday Tai Chi, all at no cost to seniors. In the future there will be more arts and crafts classes, exercise programs, computer tutoring, a book club, trips to visit museums, etc. Check with the Center for an updated activity list and monthly menu of meals.

The Center has a wish list that includes donations of a couple of sewing machines in good working order, a boom box that would take input from an iPod or MP3 player, and an exercise bike. Call 466-1039 before delivering items, please.

The Meals on Wheels (MOW) program now extends to Galisteo. There is capacity to serve more Eldorado senior residents five meals a week on the MOW program. Families of home-bound seniors should contact 466-9765. Also, the MOW service is available on a short-term basis to those recovering from medical procedures or illness.

Eldorado Dog Group's First Event

Words and weather, both, may have deterred others but not the six core women who were intent on making the Eldorado Dog Club's first event—a December 14 fundraiser—a huge success.

With a little over a month to prepare, three words, "not enough time," did not resonate. On November 11 the idea was raised at the group's monthly meeting, and the following day the members simply hit the ground running. The club received generous donations for their raffle from



Eldorado community merchants as well as several businesses in Santa Fe; all proceeds from the raffle went directly to the Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society. As the morning of the event arrived, the women feared the worst. But even the sudden winter storm would not dampen the spirit, as hearty animal lovers, dogs in tow, arrived for a free photo with Santa. From 2 pm on, Santa **Selnick** had nary a moment to notice if his allergies to dogs kicked in, as good-hearted professional photographers, **Burt and Cindy Plotkin**, clicked away to the delight of all attendees. Shelter volunteer **Tom Alexander** was on hand to educate, answer questions and provide photos of animals available for adoption through the shelter. Guests munched on refreshments donated by the **Eldorado Supermarket** as they good-naturedly purchased a bounty of raffle tickets, keeping the holiday spirit aglow. On December 14, the weather may have turned cold, but inside the little Train Depot building in Eldorado, the sheer generosity and love, all for the animals, could have melted the heart of even the grumpiest Scrooge.

—*Randi Gerzofsky-Bildner, Publicity Chair,
Eldorado Dog Club*

Series of Soirees Begins Feb. 15

In the old times, before TV, video games and cheap airfares, people gathered together in small theaters and community rooms to meet each other, tell their stories, play music, and have fun. The Series of Soirees re-creates that atmosphere at the Railroad Bldg at the Community Center, beginning February 15. See back page for details.

Depot Dancing

The Square Dancers are still meeting every Friday at 7 pm in the Railroad Depot. Come dance with us! Call **Leny or Dori**, 466-1809, for more information.

Pool Manager Needed

Now Hiring: The ECIA is looking for a Pool Manager, to work from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 40 hours per week. Contact **Bill Donohue** at 466-4248.

2009 ECIA Invoices

If you have not received your 2009 Association Fee invoice, we can send you a replacement. Call **Debby Padilla**, 466-4248. Reminder: The Association fees are due March 1, 2009.



ASTRONOMY CORNER CHAINED QUEEN

Cassiopeia is one of the constellations in the northern sky. It lies in the Milky Way and represents the queen of Ethiopia, wife of Cepheus, known for her vanity in the Andromeda myth. Its distinctive "W" shape is marked out by five magnitude stars. The brightest stars in Cassiopeia are Shedir, Caph, and Ruchah. Cassiopeia "A," within the constellation, is the strongest radio source in the sky, apart from the sun. Optically only a faint nebula, it is a supernova remnant from a star explosion in 1660.

—Juan Alvarez
jalva88610@aol.com

Darkness in the night
Porchlight goes out
Stars return—delight.

—Frank Schober

Night Sky Haikus

In honor of the International Year of Astronomy, *Vistas* is soliciting submissions of haiku poetry pertaining to the beauty of the night sky. A haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry that has been adopted by poets around the world. While the original poetic form has many strict literary characteristics, our informal definition here is a short poem (about 14 to 17 syllables, written in 3 lines) that focuses on nature, is illuminating and maybe even inspiring. Feeling poetic? Don't worry about the formalities. Send in your contribution to cbsleyba@comcast.net. If we like it, we'll use it to grace our Astronomy Corner.

February 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

FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

ECIA Offices Closed Mon., February 16 President's Day

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Facilities & Grounds	Tues., February 3, 4 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., February 3, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Finance Committee	Wed., February 11, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., February 11, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., February 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., February 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., February 24, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., February 25, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., February 24, 7-9 pm	Bonnie Mamp	466-4271	LR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Sat Morning Book Club	Sat., February 14, 9-10:30	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	CFR
Search & Rescue	Thurs., February 12, 6:30-9:30 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
La Canada Wireless	Mon., February 9 & 23, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
Eld Dog Club	Tues., February 10, 7 pm	Freddi Hetler	466-200	LR
Roadrunners RV Club	Tues., February 17, 6 pm	Beverly Cottingham	466-4655	Fire
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kielling	466-4232	Sm Gym
MOMS Club	Mon., February 24, 3:30-5:30	Mandie Rippey	795-4086	
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	466-6398	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
EAWS&SD*	Thurs, February 5 & 19, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/RR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7:15-8:30 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Ramon Quintana	757-6424	RR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community 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
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	M, W & F, 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Figure Drawing	Mon., 12:30-2:30 pm	Sande Anderson	466-4688	RR
Square Dancing	Fridays 7 pm	Leny or Dori	466-1809	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Ladder-backed Woodpecker (LbW)

THE LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER is a striking bird that resides year-round in Eldorado. The back is covered by distinctive black and white stripes from the base of the tail to the neck. The breast is light tan with indistinct spotting. The head is white or light gray, with a strong black crown streak, a black eye stripe and a black stripe from a sharp chisel-shaped, longish bill. The eye and beak stripe join and turn down the neck. The male has a bright red crown which extends to the eye. Strangely, juveniles of both sexes have a small amount of red on the crown.

The LbW is 7.25 inches long, with a wingspan of 13 inches. Its habitat is usually desert, arid scrub, piñon-juniper woodlands and sometimes towns. The size and general coloration are similar to the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. However, these two both show large white areas on their backs. The LbW has a relatively small U.S. range, covering western Texas, southern New Mexico and Arizona and a small area in southwest California. They also live throughout Central America.

The male courts with bobbing and turning, raising the red crest, and spreading wings. Pairs are monogamous (probably over several years). Nest holes are lined with chips in dead or decaying trees, posts and cactus (live trees are not suitable because of

sap filling the hole). Two to six eggs are brooded by male and female and hatch in 13 days and fledge in 20 to 25 days. Their diet is insects and fruit, including cactus. A loud one-note sharp call is often heard from woodpeckers. Both males and females commu-

nicate over long distances by drumming to attract a mate or mark territory.

As mentioned in other woodpecker articles, these birds have special adaptations which allow them to function: special head bones, very long barbed tongues, feet with two toes forward and two back, and stiff tails. Woodpeckers also lay white eggs (probably because camouflage is not needed in cavities). Tail feathers are stiff and can be manipulated by large muscles. The two central feathers are pointed with ridges and have barbs

curving inward toward a tree. Because these two feathers are so important, the molt pattern is different from most birds. After all other tail feathers have grown in, these two are replaced.

My local pair shows up within a half-hour on the first day I start putting suet out during winter months!

Note on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker: 2009 will be the third and probably last year to search for this bird in Arkansas. The lack of conclusive sightings so far may indicate that the species is extinct.

—Pam Henline



New Base Course for Eldorado Roads

WORK IS WELL ALONG on reengineering and applying new base course to roughly 7.5 miles of our dirt roads. This work, which began in November 2008, will go on through the next few months and will result in better and safer driving surfaces for at least 22 affected roads. Some questions have arisen since the project started:

- Q. Why isn't my road, which is in bad shape much of the time, receiving new base course?
- A. There were over 40 roads initially identified as candidates for new base course. Due to contracted costs being substantially higher than anticipated, only 22 roads are being upgraded during this round of funding. These were selected as being consistently in bad condition over the course of five Road Committee inspections during the past

two and one-half years. In fact, there are over 80 roads that were rated in "poor" condition in at least one of these inspections. The plan is to continue to find funding until all these roads can be addressed and placed on a more manageable depreciation schedule.

- Q. What about Herrada, Balsa and Encantado Roads: weren't they supposed to be paved?
- A. The County has had these roads, along with Av. Buena Ventura and the dirt part of Av. Amistad, on their "long-range plan" for the past few years to receive either asphalt paving or chip seal. Adequate funding has never been received for these roads, due to other County priorities, so they remain on the plan until their upgrade can be funded.

—Nolan Zisman, Chair, ECIA Road Committee



February Is Time to Dream and Design

YES, PLANTS GO DORMANT IN wintertime, but this is a great time for planning and designing your landscape. February is a good time to dream up design ideas that will add value to your home and enhance Eldorado's vistas. If you're having trouble developing a landscape design, talk to a professional. Most landscapers will discuss ideas during a consultation and most offer landscape design services.

To get started, first compile a collection of Southwest landscaping pictures and create a folder of photos that appeal to you. This will reveal your style. As you develop ideas, keep the following landscape basics in mind: color, texture, scale and dimension. For example, most evergreen shrubs will provide color in winter. A well-thought-out design will provide efficiency, functionality and style.

If weather permits, winter is also a great time to install a hardscape, such as stone walls and brick patios. Hardscapes can enhance and balance your evergreen shrubs, perennials and grasses. They also provide depth and dimension to a landscape. Keep in mind that off-season discount prices are often available for buying stone and paying hardscape installation fees.

Winter months also lend themselves to pruning deciduous, non-fruiting tree branches and shrubs. (Fruit trees should be pruned in the fall or after the first freeze.) Pruning is especially necessary if winter damage has occurred. Most perennials and grasses should also be cut back in the winter months, and it is possible to seed if conditions allow. For example, some seeds need the winter cold in order to germinate during spring.

—John Salvatierra, *Salvatierra Landscapes*

The Hazards of Winter

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. Cold snowy days, driveways to shovel, and ice and snow on the walkways. Although we all love the moisture, and the mountains look beautiful with all that snow, it is prudent to think about injury prevention. There are two key factors that contribute to injury in the winter. First, by its nature, ice can be treacherous. Sidewalks and driveways are often much more slick than they look. Take extra care and extra time to get where you need to go. Wear appropriate footwear. If you must dress up for work, wear boots and change into your dress shoes when you get to work. Around your home, use salt to melt ice and keep walkways safe. Watch the areas underneath canals, as ice often accumulates there. Falls can eas-

ily lead to broken bones or other orthopedic injuries.

Second, take care when shoveling snow. Don't wait until the snow is thick and heavy to do your shoveling. A few inches of new, light snow are easier to deal with than snow that has had time to settle. Use a good shovel and watch your body mechanics. Try to bend your knees and use your larger quadriceps muscles to do the work. Avoid excessive twisting in your back when you've got a shovelful of heavy snow. That can lead to back injury. If you already have a back or shoulder injury, consider hiring someone to do your shoveling. Doing it yourself may save you a few bucks, but you will pay for it later.

—Eldorado Physical Therapy

We Have a New Website!

BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE this edition of *Vistas*, the new website for Eldorado should be up and running. Specifically designed for homeowner associations, the new site is still at the old address (eldoradocommunity.org), but the functions are increased and/or enhanced. Some new functions are for residents only. To access these functions, you will need a login. Go to the home page and click on the link to request a login by filling out the form. After your login is approved, you should receive an email within a couple business days with a temporary username and password which you should change in your profile once you log in. There is one login available per household. If more than one person in your home wants to use the site, you can check to see if they are listed in your profile and add them if they're not listed. Upon logging in, you then select the name of the person who will be using the site.

Any postings made in the classifieds, for instance, will be attached to their name. The old bulletin board has been replaced by "classifieds" and other categories on the menu. Postings on the previous site should be visible now on the new site. If you are a board member, or listed as a committee chair or head of an association on the previous site, you should have received a second login for updating your pages. This works best on Internet Explorer, but we are working to make it easy on all browsers. The new system is a huge improvement over the last site, but it will take some time to get it just right. Be patient, and remember that even though we have just purchased a significantly better system, your dues have not been raised.

—Hope Kiab, *Webmaster*
hope@santafe-webdesign.com



PHOTO BY DANNY LEHMAN

This kind of landscaping only happens in winter! Snowmen go dormant in spring.

Here is the login request form you can fill out to receive a username and password which will let you make postings on the new site as well as access the residents-only section.

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

Soirees Return to Eldorado on February 15

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA CANNON-DANS



Lady Blue in Eldorado, by Puppet's Revenge, a project of Dreams, Drama Drums, a 501C3 non-profit arts and education organization (www.PuppetsRevenge.com)

Come celebrate our new world of hope and new energy. The Series of Soirees (SOS) returns, offering a time and place to enjoy one another's stories, rhythms, sounds and energy. Each Soiree is two hours long, ending with wine and cheese. Each performer has 10 to 15 minutes and shares the proceeds (\$10 adults, \$5 kids). Performers at our first Soiree will be **Ferdi Serim** and friends (jazz), **Charles de Muth** (dramatic readings), **Kerri Lay** (solo violin), **Lori Romero** (surprise), and **Puppet's Revenge** (with a scene from their new play, *Lady Blue*). All ages welcome. Join us on February 15, from 4:00-6:30 pm at the Railroad Bldg, Eldorado. If you'd like to perform at a soiree, call 505-216-0882.