

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 2

February 2010

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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)

## Report from the President

**A** S I REFLECTED ON WHAT YOUR Board has been doing for the last several weeks, trying to get a clear picture of how a trusted employee was able to deceive us and embezzle funds from our accounts, a phrase kept coming to mind. It's a phrase all of us have heard since our earliest years: "Don't lock the barn door after the horse has been stolen." The phrase doesn't fit our situation as well as I first thought. When one horse has been stolen but you have many more, you've still got an immediate problem: not only do you have to install adequate locks, but you have to review the security system you had in place before you lost the first horse. Be assured, we want to do what is right in the situation we are confronted with. We will keep our members fully informed of what happened, of what we are doing now, and what we plan to do in the future to ensure that the Association's funds are safe and secure.

The following is a combined summary of the police report, the conclusions of our internal investigation, and those of the forensic auditor we immediately hired when the incident came to light.

Checks with forged Board member signatures were drawn upon the primary ECIA operating account at the First National Bank of Santa Fe. The "falsely uttered" checks were made payable to unauthorized individuals. Our auditor has reported that our total loss was \$64,901.75. With the exception of a single check in July 2009, all of the unauthorized checks appear to have been processed between September 17, 2009, and November 18, 2009. The Association's anti-theft insurance policy will cover \$49,000 of the loss, and the contingency fund in our 2009 ECIA budget will cover the remaining difference of \$15,901.75.

Our former bookkeeper has been arrested and charged. She has reportedly confessed and implicated other individuals outside the ECIA who conspired in the alleged crime.

The forensic audit report concluded what 20/20 hindsight also made quite clear to me: that our trust in a single individual led to insufficient oversight by other staff, our Treasurer at the time of the incident, and other members of the Board.

From our own investigation and that of our contract auditor, it was found that many of our Association's financial records throughout 2009 were garbled, mishandled, altered, lost or destroyed. We have hired an outside bookkeeping consultant who is helping us recover from this situation. Over the next few weeks, we expect these problems to be fully resolved.

Our Finance Committee has reviewed both the report from the special committee I appointed as Board President to investigate this incident as well as the report of the forensic auditor. Following their review, the committee made a number of recommendations for tightened procedures and strengthened oversight on the part of the Board regarding financial matters. Many of these, already in effect, will be strengthened as they are re-emphasized.

We have a very talented group of volunteers that compose our Finance Committee. I have nothing but praise for their devotion to duty. They followed the terms of their mission and charter to the letter before, during, and after this surprising and sad incident. What is clear to me is that they also followed a guiding phrase that is the essence of prudence when money matters are concerned: "Trust but verify." All of us, your Board members and the ECIA staff, are resolved to keep that phrase in mind in the future.

As soon as the Finance Committee's report is approved, the ECIA Office will have a copy of the committee's detailed recommendations put together for review by members. Check our website for information on when this document will be available for review: [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org).

—Ed Benrock, ECIA President

*ECIA Board  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Thurs.,  
Feb. 18, 7 pm.  
Public is  
invited.*

# Winter Weather Driving Tips

*Share your comments with us!*

*For policy and deadline, see below*

## Editorial Policy

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

## Mission Statement

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

**SHERIFF GREG SOLANO SUGGESTS** the following driving tips to ensure safe winter travel:

▼ **REDUCE YOUR SPEED:** The best accident prevention on snow and ice is to slow down and leave plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front of you for emergencies.

▼ **PRACTICE GOOD WINTER DRIVING TECHNIQUES:** Keep your gas tank full, turn on your headlights, keep your windshield washer fluid full with antifreeze, keep winter driving chains in your vehicle, have a winter survival kit that includes flashlight, hand-warmer packets, first-aid supplies, and high-energy snacks, and read your owner's manual for special instructions on driving four-wheel-drive vehicles and vehicles with anti-lock brakes on snow and ice.

▼ **AVOID DRIVING INTO A SNOW CLOUD:** Large vehicles, such as semi-trailer trucks and snow plows, may produce dense clouds of blowing snow that make it difficult for drivers to see. When drivers encounter snow clouds, they should stay back to avoid the cloud.

▼ **PLAN AHEAD AND BE PATIENT:** Delays are common during bad weather. Leave a little early and be patient with delays.

▼ **CHECK BEFORE YOU PASS:** Before attempting to pass a slow-moving vehicle, make sure it is safe. When passing a snow plow, know where the blade is before you make your move; on multi-lane highways, the plow can be in your blind spot.

▼ **PAY ATTENTION TO WEATHER FORECASTS —TRUST THEM:** Winter storms in New Mexico can become severe quickly, so stay tuned to weather forecasts when planning your trip. Dial 511 from any telephone for the New Mexico Road Advisory Hotline.

▼ **DON'T USE CRUISE CONTROL:** Never use cruise control when the roads are slippery. Using

your cruise control can reduce your control of the vehicle if your tires begin to skid or slip.

▼ **KNOW YOUR CURRENT ROAD CONDITIONS:** Weather-related road advisories can be viewed on the web at [www.nmroads.com](http://www.nmroads.com).

▼ **WEAR YOUR SEATBELT!**



If you would like more information on local crime activity, traffic conditions, or any advisories, you can become a member of [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) for free to be alerted via email by the police department and community agencies.

## DECEMBER CRIME STATISTICS

- Vehicle burglary: 1
- Attempted child abduction (unsuccessful): 1
- Custody dispute: 3 children abducted (returned safely), in one case
- Residential burglaries: 3
- Suspicious activity reported: 2
- Attempted burglary: 1

## NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING:

Monday, February 1, at 7 pm at the Eldorado Community Center. Next meeting will be Monday, May 10, at 7 pm at the Eldorado Community Center.

**TIP OF THE MONTH:** Get to know your adjacent neighbors. The Sheriff's office says neighborhood communication is the best way to deter crime. Let them know when you will be out of town and what cars will be in your driveway. For information on how to join Neighborhood Watch, email **Marilyn Walker** at [lightwalker2@comcast.net](mailto:lightwalker2@comcast.net).

—Lisa Smith, Neighborhood Watch

## New ECIA Director

**FILLING A VACANT POSITION ON** the ECIA Board of Directors is **Todd Handy**, an Eldorado resident for the past seven years. Mr. Handy's background and training are in Finance and Accounting, skills and knowledge that will be put to good use on behalf of our homeowner's association.

## The Eldorado Community Preserve

**E**LDORADO IS VERY FORTUNATE TO have a community preserve that encompasses 4,094 acres. The land was donated, in perpetuity, to the Eldorado Community Improvement Association, with the stipulation that the land is to be used only as a permanent nature preserve. Within this preserve there are many miles of maintained trails; most are reserved for hiking and trail running, and a few allow mountain bikers and horseback riding.

The entire trail system is located on the east side of US 285, and has four trailheads, from which hikers can access the trail system. The trails vary in length and difficulty and are available to all Eldorado residents.

The Conservation Committee of the ECIA is responsible for the management of this area and meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Community Center. If you'd like to get involved with helping to maintain the trail system, we would encourage you to attend one of the Conservation Committee meetings or watch for trail work dates in the *Vistas* newsletter or on our website.

Maps of the preserve are available to Eldorado residents at the ECIA offices. If anyone has questions about the Preserve, please call the ECIA at 466-4248.

Happy Hiking!

—Mark Young, *Covenant Compliance Representative*

## Solar Tracking Arrays in Eldorado

**A**S RESIDENTS DRIVE AROUND Eldorado, they may spot a newer type of solar electrical system, known as a *solar tracking array*. This latest type of photovoltaic system is mounted on the ground, away from the house, and actually rotates so the panels can track the sun throughout the day. By following the sun's rays, the array is able to provide a much higher-efficiency solar gain. And because of the increased solar gain efficiencies, fewer panels are needed to generate the same amount of electricity as provided by conventional, stationary roof-mounted solar panels.

To date, we have one such system already installed in Eldorado and another is under construction. It should be noted that these newer photovoltaic systems, like rooftop or ground-mounted solar panels, are permanent structures and still require review by the Eldorado Architectural Committee, just like a shed or accessory building. The goal of the committee in reviewing these newer tracking arrays is to work with residents to achieve the best possible solar gain while also providing the screening needed to obscure the arrays from the neighbors' view. This can be done via logical placement of the array on the lot and using

the house itself for as much screening as possible. Depending on the site, the Architectural Committee may, as well, request residents to help screen the array by planting evergreen trees, or possibly by installing a fence.

Residents interested in further details on the approval process for solar tracking arrays in Eldorado should contact **Mark Young**, Covenant Compliance Representative, at 466-4248 or [eciaccr@aol.com](mailto:eciaccr@aol.com).

—Mark Young



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

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





**Studio Tour Date Set**

The organizers of the Annual Eldorado Studio Tour have set the weekend of May 15–16 for this year’s event. Always heralded by an artist’s reception on Friday evening, the Preview Gallery opens at the El Dorado Community School at 10 am on Saturday and closes at 5 pm on both days. The artists’ home studios are open the same hours on Saturday and Sunday. Mark your calendars for the largest studio tour in New Mexico. Information: 466-3256 or 466-6245.

**Toddler Montessori Program Available for Eldorado Families**

Children’s Garden Montessori, nearby Eldorado on Old Las Vegas Highway, is expanding its services to include a Montessori toddler class for children ages 18 months to 3 years old. Please come to our Open House in the spring to see our new setup! Call **Joan** at 466-1251 or check out our website, [childrensgardensantafe.com](http://childrensgardensantafe.com) for details. We are now enrolling for the summer of 2010 and the 2010–2011 school year.



**MOMS Club of Southeast Santa Fe**

MOMS Club of Southeast Santa Fe (Eldorado and surrounding areas) invites Moms and children to a Valentine Making Open House. Come make valentines with your children on Friday, February 12, in the ECIA Classroom from 3 to 5 pm. MOMS Club welcomes all moms and their children age 0 and up. M.O.M.S. (Mothers Offering Mothers Support) organizes activities, play dates, field trips, community service, and a monthly Mom’s Night Out. Stop by the ECIA on February 12 or contact **Carolyn Kingston**, 466-6083, [kingstonbell@hotmail.com](mailto:kingstonbell@hotmail.com).



**Eldorado School Community Garden**

The Eldorado School Community Garden had a fantastic beginning in 2009! We have created a beautiful infrastructure to build upon and are very excited to continue to expand upon our creation in the coming months. We want to thank everyone who participated in the genesis of this inspiring and fruitful adventure and hope to see you all in the garden in 2010! Spaces are filling fast so if you would like to join or would like more information about our community garden, please contact **Marilynn Jacobs**, [eldogarden@comcast.net](mailto:eldogarden@comcast.net) or call 466-6707.



**Eldorado Garden Tour 2010**

We are organizing a tour of Eldorado Gardens on June 5 and 6. Our purpose is to share the beauty of individuals’ gardens and educate people on the various garden environments in Eldorado. People interested in volunteering or possibly showing their gardens should come to the meeting on February 10 at 6:30 pm at the ECIA Community Center and/or contact **John Oberhausen** (Obie), at 690-7462 or email to [jwo1959@aol.com](mailto:jwo1959@aol.com).

**February Events at La Tienda**

Every month there are a lot of things happening at La Tienda on Vista Grande. February’s *EVENTS FOR CHILDREN*: Art workshop with **Roni Rohr**; Singing Bowl Children’s Group with **Sui Ki Li**; and Early Childhood class with **Claudia**. *EVENTS FOR TEENS*: The Diana Seven Writing and Communications class for girls ages 13–17 with **Jane Celia Hatch**; Astrology class with **Sui Ki Li**; Teen “rap” sessions on dating and safe relationships, sponsored by Esperanza Shelter; Teen Night every Friday night—movies, poker, and other cool stuff from 7–10 pm. *EVENTS FOR ADULTS*: Cat adoptions, Saturdays 11–3, sponsored by Felines and Friends; Knitting classes and knitting circle; Yoga with **Jacci**; Shamanic drumming class; Political film series sponsored by Learning Mind; Open Mike Night at Mike’s Music Exchange Tuesdays at 7 pm; Belly dancing classes; Computer basics class; Photoshop and Photo Essentials workshop; Financial planning seminar; Art exhibition featuring **Armand Saiia**, **William Gorgenes**, **Gary Drzmala**, and others. Go to [www.LaTiendaEldorado.com](http://www.LaTiendaEldorado.com) for schedule details.

**ENERGY-SAVING TIP OF THE MONTH**

**Just One Thing!**

Clean the coils under or behind your refrigerator using a vacuum cleaner and attachments and/or a long narrow brush available at hardware stores. Using the two together, especially if you rarely or never connect with your coils, is very effective.

By causing your refrigerator to operate more efficiently, this action will not only save you money, it will extend the life of your fridge.



## ASTRONOMY CORNER

February 2010

From our vantage point on Earth, there are five bright planets that can easily be seen without a telescope: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. These planets are visible for much of the year (though not all at one time), except for short periods when they are too close to the Sun to be seen.

Unlike the stars, the planets move slightly in the sky from one night to the next, and their brightness varies in a regular cycle over a period of time. The five brightest planets are also closer to the Earth than the stars, which means they shine with a steadier light and don't twinkle as much as the stars. Saturn and Mars are the only two planets ever likely to be mistaken for ordinary stars, but only during their dimmer, more distant periods.

In February 2010, weather permitting, Mars will be visible all night, dawn to dusk. To the naked eye, Mars appears orange-yellow to orange-red in color. Jupiter, brighter than the brightest star but dimmer than Venus, will be visible at dusk (in the western sky, for an hour or so after sunset), although on February 14 it will be behind the Sun (and therefore not visible). Saturn, which appears yellow to the naked eye, will be visible in the morning sky (after midnight but before dawn).

-From M.J. Powell

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/mjpowell>

# 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

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Facilities & Grounds	Tues., February 2, 4-6 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CF
Conservation Committee	Tues., February 2, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Road Committee	Mon., February 15, 6 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., February 3, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., February 10, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., February 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., February 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., February 23, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., February 23, 7-9 pm	Bonnie Mamp	466-4271	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., February 24, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	Foyer

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm		231-7885	RR
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Search and Rescue	2nd Thursdays, 7 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Eldorado Dog Club	Tues., February 9, 7 pm	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	LR
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Conservation Com Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Bill Bodle	466-3011	Fire
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kieling	466-4232	Sm Gym
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
MOMS Club	Thurs., February 18, 3 pm	Jackie Camborde	466-0094	CR

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 6:45-7:45			CFR/LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR,CR,LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:30 & 11 am	David McPherson	466-2495	CC
Community Band	Thurs., 6:30-8:30 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	New gym
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Life Drawing (EACA)	Mondays, 10 am-noon	Sande Anderson	466-4688	RR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Richard Robinson	466-7319	RR

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

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

## Adam Senior Center News

**SENIOR DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE:** This year, the New Mexico Legislature's 30-day session, which began in January, runs through February 18. Tuesday, February 2, is Senior Day at the Legislature. All seniors and interested members of the public are invited to come to the Roundhouse for activities supporting awareness of senior needs and options. This is an opportunity to speak with our elected representatives, as well as to visit the information tables covering a wide range of topics on senior issues that will be set up in the hallways around the Rotunda. There will also be speeches, presentations, and performances on senior issues throughout the morning.

We will be offering transportation to the Roundhouse from the Senior Center to interested seniors. The van will leave around 9 am to go into Santa Fe and will return around 1 pm after the events. Please

call 466-1039 by Friday, January 29, to sign up for a ride on February 2.

**MUSIC LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION:** We are privileged to announce that **Charlotte Warren**, an acclaimed pianist and member of the Adam Senior Center, has offered to present a talk on "From Bach to Bartok and Beyond" to interested seniors on the afternoon of Thursday, February 11. Charlotte will be performing representative works on the piano as well. This lecture-demonstration will take place at Charlotte's home in Eldorado. Transportation will be provided to Charlotte's home, where 25–30 people can be accommodated. Please call the Senior Center at 466-1039 to reserve your space, both in the van and at the talk.

—Cathy Berkley

## *Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge*

**EVERY BIRD I HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT** so far I have seen myself in Eldorado. This month I am going to highlight a world-renowned birding area not so far from Eldorado.

arrive in November and depart in late February for Gray's Lake, Idaho, where they breed.

Development of the Bosque del Apache began in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It includes impoundments, crop areas, and intensive water management. During winter at dusk, the cranes and geese return to the shallow water areas where they can stay for the night, safe from predators. At dusk, they fly out to local areas for feeding. These fly-in and fly-out times are spectacular. Observers are surrounded by great numbers of flapping wings and loud honking calls.

Year round, many wild animals can be observed on the loop drive and foot trails, including many seasonal birds, songbirds, a small herd of mule deer, coyotes, turkey, pheasant, ducks, and hawks. At the Visitor Center, you can check out an audiotape that explains all the secret corners along the 15-mile Loop Tour, as well as the work done each season to keep the Refuge in shape for the birds. The next annual Festival of the Cranes is November 16–21, 2010, and features lectures, workshops, tours, hikes, and hands-on activities.

A trip to the Bosque any time of year is always a pleasure. A winter visit there to see the dusk fly-in, an overnight stay in Socorro, and a dawn visit for the fly-out the next morning is a delight for any birder. For more information, see these websites:

[www.FriendsoftheBosque.org](http://www.FriendsoftheBosque.org)

[www.FestivaloftheCranes.com](http://www.FestivaloftheCranes.com).

—Pam Henline



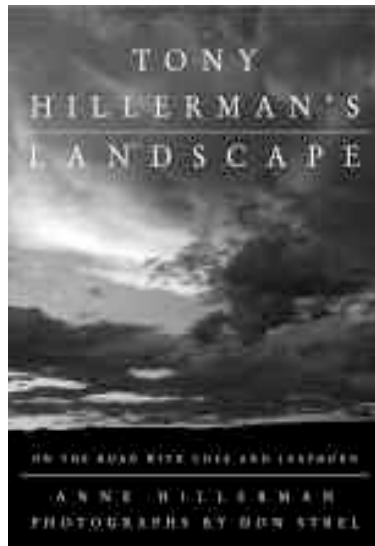
Snow geese, Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge  
PHOTO: © SANDY SETH

The US Fish & Wildlife Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is near the small town of San Antonio, NM, 9 miles south of Socorro. The 90-square-mile park has been developed and is intensively farmed to provide a winter home to as many as 30,000 ducks and geese and 4,000 to 8,000 Sandhill Cranes, plus other migrating and resident birds. It is a place to reliably find Bald Eagles. The Rio Grande River is a natural flyway for birds. Sandhill Cranes ar-

## Local Library Events for February

**WRITER** Anne Hillerman and her husband, photographer Don Strel, will discuss their book, *Tony Hillerman's Landscape: On the Road with Chee and Leap-horn*, Thursday, February 4, at 7 pm at Vista Grande Public Library.

The widely praised book is a tribute to Hillerman's late father, author **Tony Hillerman**. It contains, in addition to Strel's photographs and Anne Hillerman's stories, a number of earlier pictures that inspired Tony Hillerman in creating his famous detective novels. Admission is free.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT VGPL

The library is looking for an experienced muralist to decorate its children's reading room. VGPL contributes the supplies. The artist contributes his/her creativity.

VGPL is also looking for five or six teenagers to volunteer for a "Youth Advisory Committee" to help the library create young adult programs and address young adult issues.

Volunteers are also needed to staff the circulation desk for two or three hours each week.

## Two Hearts: Eldorado's Author Couples

**MY HUSBAND AND I** deliberately chose to live in Eldorado because we knew that it was an exceptional place. One of our first stops was for coffee at Las Chivas. While eavesdropping, gazing, and appreciating our surroundings, we surmised that this community was filled with inordinately creative individuals. Living here only strengthens our initial observation: Eldorado is a Mecca for imaginative and inspirational folks.

February is a month that inspires us to be romantic and loving. Who doesn't want to fall in love? How can an everlasting and loving partnership be described? Perhaps John Keats' quote says it best: "Two souls with but a single thought, two hearts that beat as one." Here in Eldorado, we are fortunate to have neighbors who epitomize Keats' quote while living in the creative spirit. I'm referring to two different husband-wife teams who work together in publishing ventures, **Thomas Fitzsimmons** and **Karen Hargreaves-Fitzsimmons**, and **Richard (Dick) and Kathryn Huelster**.

The Fitzsimmonses, Thomas and Karen, have a particularly romantic collaboration. Every month for ten years, Thomas, the poet, wrote a poem to Karen, his artist wife. She replied with a painting for each poem. Poignant words and watercolor paintings waltzing with each other became the norm for their collaborative work.

Like the Fitzsimmonses, Dick and Kathryn Huelster collaborate to produce books—in their case, books of cultural and geological interest. The Huel-

sters are publishers who find experts to help write about their visits to interesting locations and historical places in New Mexico and the Southwest.

Some published works by the loving couples are featured on their websites:

- ▼ Thomas Fitzsimmons and Karen Hargreaves-Fitzsimmons: <http://www.katydidbooks.com>.
- ▼ Dick and Kathryn Huelster: <http://highdesertfieldguides.com>

To find out more about the works of Eldorado's authors, visit the Vista Grande Public Library, 14 Avenida Torreon.

Many thanks to **Mary Arnold** and **Diane Thomas** for their enthusiastic assistance in learning more about our "Neighbors in Print."

—Teri Gallegos-Reynolds



Husband-Wife author team Richard and Kathryn Huelster.



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*Bosque del Apache is a Great  
Place to Bird-Watch in Winter*



Sandhill Cranes, Bosque del Apache (see page 6 for Pam Henline's article on the Bosque).

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