

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XIII, ISSUE 2  
February 2011

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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.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

## The End of (an) ERA

**T**he Board of Directors of the Eldorado Residents Association (ERA) has decided to close operations, after over three decades of representing, informing, and building community with all of the residents of Eldorado. The ERA was originally formed as the residents' voice at a time when the ECIA (Eldorado Community Improvement Association) was entirely controlled by representatives of the local land developer. Now ERA has decided to turn over its remaining functions to others and to distribute its left-over funds to other community organizations.

When the present homeowners' association, the ECIA, was formed in the early 1970s, the developer of Eldorado at Santa Fe was the American Realty and Petroleum Corporation, or AMREP. AMREP had purchased land from the owners of Simpson's Ranch, and in the 1970s owned all of Eldorado's 2,769 lots. As AMREP sold off lots, by the early 1990s their ownership dropped below 50%. Until that time, the ERA had served as the organized representative for residents with both the ECIA and local government. After AMREP became a minority lot owner, the ECIA was reorganized with new bylaws and architectural covenants to better represent the interests of individual lot owners.

The ERA continued to serve Eldorado residents by hosting candidate forums for county, state, and ECIA elections, running the twice-annual Eldorado Flea Market, hosting TGIF parties and new resident coffees, and taking on political projects on behalf of Eldorado. Among the most successful of the latter was the campaign to convince the county and state governments and the Santa Fe Southern Railway to install signals and gates for the railroad crossings at Avenidas Vista Grande and Eldorado.

In recent years, vendor fees at the Eldorado Flea Markets have provided most of the ERA's funds. These allowed the ERA to sponsor free TGIF parties, bringing Eldorado residents together informally to share views and make new friends. In addition, quarterly information meetings would bring together local officials and residents to talk and exchange ideas.

Any discussion of the ERA requires remembering its Presidents through much of the past decade, **Pat Kuhloff** and the late **Bruce Blossman**. They found ways to keep the ERA relevant and vital to a changing Eldorado community, including promoting elements in the recent Community Center patio renovation to make it more friendly for music and social events.

Some ERA traditions will be carried forward by others. Future flea markets will be organized by the Sustainable Eldorado Residents Alliance (SERA) in the spring, and by the Senior Center in the fall. Occasional TGIF parties will continue, hosted by long-time ERA member **Dolores Brock** and others.

To support these and other community activities, the ERA Board will disburse its remaining funds to seed the continuing TGIFs, and to the Senior Center, the Library, the school PTA, and a small memorial to Bruce Blossman.

—Dan Drobnis

## Remembering the ERA

**I**n many ways, the community of Eldorado today is the result of 35 years of involvement by the Eldorado Residents Association (ERA). On December 7, 2010, the ERA was dissolved.

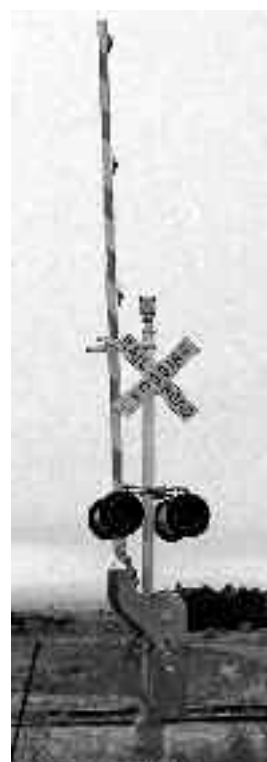
The ERA was started in 1975 by the 15 or so families who saw the need to speak to the community's developer, AMREP, with one voice. The homeowner's association at that time was controlled by AMREP.

ERA's first agenda item was fire protection. After months of meetings, AMREP agreed to buy an engine (our little white engine—wish we still had it). The Eldorado Fire Brigade was born. Its first professional, Chief **Connie Tidwell**, was the retired Captain of Los Angeles Fire Department.

With that, ERA was off and running—we got a swimming pool and then the *Eldorado Sun* (edited, typed, pasted-up, and delivered to the printer by **Reg Dunstan**, collated by volunteers and delivered in the beginning by ECIA). That early news journal was sold to **Ruth Jacobs** for \$1. Then we moved on to the

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*ECIA Board  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Thurs.,  
February 17,  
7 pm. Public  
is invited.*



The signals and gates at the Santa Fe Southern Railway crossings with Avenidas Eldorado and Vista Grande were brought about through the work of the ERA and former State Representative Max Coll.



## 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 e-mailed to [ECIADiAna@aol.com](mailto: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.

## Dog Violation Reporting

Whenever an Eldorado resident is bothered by a dog that is either roaming or barking, there are certain guidelines to follow to properly report the incident. These guidelines are meant to help residents provide timely, accurate data to the proper authorities so that such violations can be resolved in a timely manner.

Note that it is a violation of the current Santa Fe Animal Control Ordinances, as well as the Eldorado Covenants, to have dogs off leash on public roads, along bike paths, or in public areas. Under the current Animal Control Ordinances, however, dogs may be off leash in the Eldorado greenbelts or Preserve, as long as the dog(s) are under voice control of the owner.

### FOR ROAMING DOGS:

- 1 Upon witnessing a roaming dog in Eldorado, note the exact time, location, and description of the offending dog(s).
- 2 Next, call Santa Fe Animal Control as soon as possible (428-3720) to inform them of the location of the roaming dog(s). Animal Control will come out to see if they can locate and possibly impound the dog. (This must be done within 24 hours from the time of incident.)
- 3 After calling Animal Control, call me, the ECIA Covenant Compliance Representative (466-4248), within 24 hours of the incident. The ECIA will take the needed enforcement actions against the dog's owner.

### FOR BARKING DOGS:

- 1 If you hear a dog barking incessantly, find out exactly what house the barking is coming from. Also take note of when the barking started and the how long the dog has been barking.

- 2 With this information, call Santa Fe Animal Control at 428-3720 (even at night or on weekends) to report the location of the barking dog(s). Animal Control will come out to see if they can locate the barking dog and address this matter with the dog's owners. (This must be done within 24 hours from the time of incident.)
- 3 After calling Animal Control, contact me at the ECIA (466-4248) to report the barking incident. The ECIA will take the needed enforcement actions against the dog's owner.

### FOR AGGRESSIVE DOGS:

- 1 First, protect yourself and your own pets from any aggressive dogs. Get into a safe area, if you can.
  - 2 Next, call Santa Fe Animal Control as soon as possible (428-3720) to report the aggressive dog(s). Animal Control or the Sheriff will come out to see if they can locate and impound the dog.
  - 3 During evenings or weekends, also call Eldorado Security at 204-2945 to report the aggressive dogs.
- If readers have questions concerning the Eldorado Responsible Dog Ownership Policy, please call me, **Mark Young**, Covenant Compliance Representative, at the ECIA at 466-4248. To obtain a copy of the Responsible Dog Ownership Policy, or a copy of the Covenants or Guidelines, contact the ECIA and/or governing documents under the residents resource page on our website at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

—Mark Young

Covenant Compliance Representative

## Remembering the ERA,

Children's Center Preschool, which was held in the little white cottage. We held candidate's forums, and formed the Stable Committee, Architectural Committee, and Recreational Committee. We sponsored Eldorado Day, Christmas parties, caroling, home decorating contests, Santa Claus, afternoon classical musicals with **John DiJanni**, barbecues, flea markets, arts and craft shows, and the TGIFs. We worked hard and liked to party.

ERA's biggest challenge came in 1983 when the proposed building of a 6,000- to 10,000-seat horse arena was to be built. We raised \$17,000 to fight it, lost all the battles but won the war. It was never built.

There were always issues: ECIA election reform, townhomes proposed where Dos Griegos is today, a

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microwave tower in the wilderness, moving the stables, and commercial development.

We had contacted the state to get a historical plaque for the Railroad Station (ca.1905), but the effort failed because the ECIA removed the original windows from the structure. We supported the formation of the water district and buying the utility. We were in favor of the incorporation, but that failed.

Over the years of endless ECIA and County Commission meetings, along with organizing petitions, dedicated people worked to "Get It Done." To all of you who remain in Eldorado—a job well done.

—Dolores Brock

*"We lost all  
the battles  
but won the  
war."*

## ECIA Board Notes for February

**E**lections for ECIA Directors are coming up in April, and we are expecting a lively slate of candidates. We hope you will learn about the candidates and vote. It's an important time to have your say about the Association! If you would like to join the Board, the election application is a simple process, requiring 25 signatures. The filing deadline is March 11. (See more on this in the article below.)

The long-awaited update to the Guidelines for the Covenants is close to completion. We plan to hold a public meeting on Wednesday, March 9. The proposed revisions will be posted on our website ([www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)) early in February. The major change concerns solar collector installations, but there are many other changes to clarify definitions or rec-

tify previous omissions. Kudos to the Architectural Advisory Committee (present / past) and the Ad Hoc Committee on Guidelines for all their work and cooperation on this difficult and, occasionally, controversial task.

We recently attended a candidates forum for the Water District (EAWSD), where one of the speakers reminded us that a good water system is essential to maintaining property values. Surely a valid point; we are grateful for the work they do, and for the fact that when we turn our spigots, clean, clear water flows. Applause! That said, water conservation in all forms is still a key part of sustainability.

Hope you are enjoying the sunny days.

—Tom Willmott, ECIA President

## ECIA Board Elections

**E**ldorado has always been a special place, from its ranch roots of 40 years ago, to becoming a bedroom community and eventually one of New Mexico's distinctive modern villages: scenically beautiful, inspired, and forward-thinking.

If you love Eldorado as I do, and want to help Eldorado be the best community it can be, please consider becoming a member of the ECIA Board of Directors. From now through March 11, you can begin your campaign for the Board by picking up nomination petitions at the Community Center. Three seats are open this year.

Serving on the Board is challenging, but working for the betterment of your community is an enriching and rewarding experience.

Volunteers are important, and Eldorado has been blessed with people willing to serve on the Board and ECIA's nine standing committees. The Board oversees the work of the committees and the paid staff, and makes final decisions on various proposals and questions, including the amount of assessments, the ECIA budget, and variances from architectural guidelines.

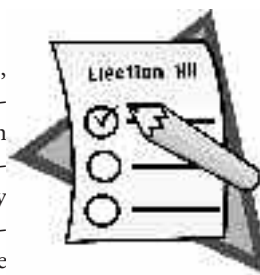
In the early years of Eldorado, when homes were being built rapidly, the Board was very busy with building styles, colors, home placement, and the development of the community-owned amenities. The community is built out to nearly 2,800 homes, and the growing pains have receded, but many of the big issues remain: loose dogs, more pool days, unscreened recreational vehicles, stable repairs, setback violations, road maintenance. The rules in place up to now have been adequate to the task, but in recent years, new kinds of issues have begun to arise.

Today, there are active, organized groups working and collaborating on activities aimed at personal and community sustainability, raising issues that challenge the scope of our covenants and guidelines. For instance, our current guidelines do not adequately address such things as home-scale solar electric generation, water harvesting, or backyard gardens for food quality and security. Can ECIA accommodate new uses within our existing guidelines, or are new guidelines needed? Robust neighborhood consultation is more important than ever when new activities are proposed.

Moreover, the ECIA is now facing new external forces that are somewhat beyond our control but require a response nonetheless: How to deal with the controversial proposed development south of Avenida de los Compadres? How will Eldorado be affected by the Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, or the proposed Homeowners' Association Act that is being introduced in the state legislature this year? When will the county base-course or pave our key collector roads? Without law enforcement authority, how do we provide better security for homeowners?

As the saying goes, challenges are just opportunities in disguise. I encourage all residents to challenge yourselves and work to make Eldorado the best community it can be. Go to the Community Center, pick up a petition, get at least 25 of your neighbors to sign it on your behalf, and start your campaign.

—Ed Moreno, ECIA Vice-President



### ECIA OFFICE

#1 La Hacienda Loop  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
466-4248, 466-4249  
[ecommunity@aol.com](mailto:ecommunity@aol.com)  
[www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

### General Manager

Bill Donohue  
466-4248, [gmbill1@aol.com](mailto:gmbill1@aol.com)  
Covenant Compliance Rep  
Mark Young  
466-4248, [ECIAccr@aol.com](mailto:ECIAccr@aol.com)  
Community Services Mgr  
Raven Hicks, 204-2945

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS President

Tom Willmott  
982-1602  
[tom.willmott@att.net](mailto:tom.willmott@att.net)  
Vice-President

Ed Moreno  
466-1183  
[edmoreno@newmexico.com](mailto:edmoreno@newmexico.com)

### Treasurer

Todd Handy  
466-3785  
[Todd\\_Gilliss@yahoo.com](mailto:Todd_Gilliss@yahoo.com)

### Secretary

Gregory Bundrick  
[gjugiu@msn.com](mailto:gjugiu@msn.com)  
Director

Elan Colello  
[elanishere@gmail.com](mailto:elanishere@gmail.com)  
Director

Pat Lavengood  
466-9765  
[plavengood@q.com](mailto:plavengood@q.com)  
Director

Lynn Mortensen  
202-591-5659  
[lyn.sfe@gmail.com](mailto:lyn.sfe@gmail.com)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Dan Drobnis

Architecture:

Katherine Mortimer  
Conservation: John Parker &  
E.J. Evangelos

Stable: Lisa Bessone &  
Deena Joseph

Election: Jean Crawford

Roads: Nolan Zisman

Information: Frank Schober

Neighborhood Watch:

Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker

Facilities & Grounds:

Jeanne Calzada

### VISTAS NEWSLETTER

Editor & Designer

Carol Leyba  
466-1158.  
[cbsleyba@comcast.net](mailto:cbsleyba@comcast.net)

Webmaster:

Jack Arnold  
[jwellsarnold@gmail.com](mailto:jwellsarnold@gmail.com)  
Editorial Assistant:

DiAna Gutierrez  
466-4248  
[ECIADiAna@aol.com](mailto:ECIADiAna@aol.com)

### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

[eldoradofireescue.org](http://eldoradofireescue.org)

County All Purpose  
820-CNTY (2689)



## ENERGY-SAVING TIP OF THE MONTH

### Just One Thing!

#### FIREPLACES—SERIOUS HEAT LOSS!

Like south-facing windows, our fireplaces provide wonderful heat and winter delight when in use. When not in use, they cause major heat loss. You can block that heat loss by cutting a precisely fitting piece of dense, equipment-shipping foam and press it into place so it's held by pressure in the opening. The dark charcoal gray foam will have minimal visibility. You can also back the foam with a matching piece of plywood, offering added insulation and a surface on which to paint your own faux fire (or springtime scene!).

Stay warm and save \$ and energy this winter!

— Eldorado Energy Coop



Visit rural China to work with indigenous peoples



## Interested in Sustainability in Eldorado?

Find out what's going on from your good neighbors who have formed the Sustainable Eldorado Residents Alliance (SERA), formerly The Greening Eldorado group. Come to the next SERA town hall meeting, Saturday, March 19, 10 am-1 pm, at Santa Fe Performance Exchange (formerly Mike's Music Exchange) in the La Tienda Center. Coffee, pastries, and neighborly socializing will be available for the early birds at 9:30! The agenda will include stories of progress in moving Eldorado toward being a resilient and sustainable community; updates from our Energy and Food Coops; a look at some key challenging pieces of climate change that are/will be impacting New Mexico; input on how to proceed on alternative energy systems for our homes and our community; announcement of the 2011 Energy Educational Film Series, and much much more! If you would like to stay informed about developing sustainability activities and issues in Eldorado, contact **Marilynn Jacobs** at 466-6707.

## Inspire Change—in China

Want to go to China this summer on a wonderful volunteer, educational trip into Southwest China working with indigenous peoples? An informational meeting will be held February 15, at 6 pm at La Tienda, to discuss this amazing opportunity to live in rural villages, to learn about the 26 indigenous cultures in Yunnan Province, and travel to meet people of the Yi, Bai, Naxi, and Tibetan cultures. Experience the heart opening and connection that can come from making a difference for people whose basic human needs you can help to meet. For more information, call 466-8385.

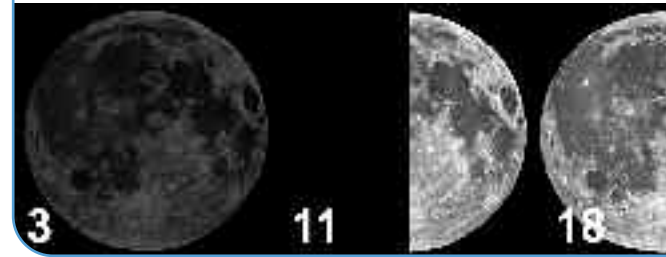
## Eldorado Yoga Center

A new facility called the Eldorado Yoga Center has recently opened at La Tienda in Eldorado. Owners **Jacci Reynolds**, an Eldorado resident; **Kristine Kuebli**, who lives along the 285 corridor; and **Luna Jordan**, a yoga therapist from Santa Fe, together have over 35 years experience in the yoga, wellness, and fitness industries. The studio offers a wide variety of yoga classes for individuals of all ages, including kids and seniors, and in the future hopes to expand into other shoeless movement practices as well as various workshops and trainings. For more information, call 310-8660 or go to [www.eldoradoyogacenter.com](http://www.eldoradoyogacenter.com).

## Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van

On two dates in February, the Mobile Health Van will be offering free total cholesterol and blood pressure screening for adults 18 years of age and over. You do not have to be fasting for the total cholesterol screening. Look for the van on Mon-

## MOON PHASES FOR FEBRUARY



day, February 14, at the Agora Shopping Center, near the Eldorado Supermarket, 10 am-3 pm, and on Wednesday, February 23, at the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center, 14 Avenida Torreon, 10 am-2 pm. For more information, call **Angela Thorn-dyke**, RN, BSN, at 505-231-2382.

## Mike's Music Reopens as Santa Fe Performance Exchange

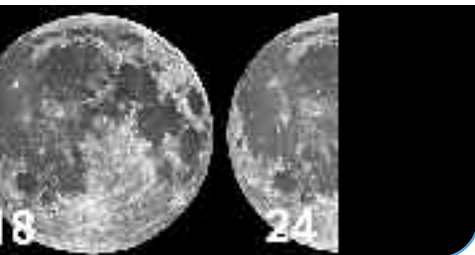
You may have noticed that Mike's Music Exchange, in La Tienda, recently closed. But a core group of mostly Eldorado folks have been busy recreating this space into a non-profit. The newly named Santa Fe Performance Exchange is now a community-based organization dedicated to providing a premier venue for live music, performing arts, and educational programs that support and promote the arts as well as the artists. These great performances will continue with the help of volunteers. Lots of them! Interested in helping? There are lots of ways to get involved. Contact **Tom Mauter** at 466-6511 or [tjmauter@comcast.net](mailto:tjmauter@comcast.net). A February reopening is being planned. Look for announcements of upcoming events later this month at <http://www.santafepformanceexchange.org/>.

## February's Library Program

Vista Grande Public Library is excited to announce that **Tony Mark**, executive producer of "The Hurt Locker," will speak at the Library on Thursday, February 10, at 7 pm, as part of the new monthly "Community Programs" series. Mark will discuss his career as a film producer, including his work on "The Hurt Locker," which won six Oscars, including Best Picture, Director, and Screenplay for 2009. The Santa Fe resident has produced nearly 20 films, ranging from art house to commercial studio fare and including the TV film "Georgia O'Keeffe," which received nine Emmy nominations and is much loved by Santa Feans. In addition to his film career, Mark co-founded and serves as Board Chairman for Assistance Dogs of the West, which trains and provides service dogs to the disabled.

## Other Library Events

"Toy Story 3" is the Family Night Movie for Friday, February 11, at 7 pm. Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Michael Keaton and others voice the characters in



## ASTRONOMY CORNER

February 2011

**FEB. 3** begins the Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival, the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. A period of celebrations, starting on New Year's Day, is celebrated on the first day of the first month of the Chinese calendar, i.e. ., the day of the second new moon after the day on which the winter solstice occurs (though there are exceptions to this). The Chinese New Year period ends with the Lantern Festival, the 15th day of the month. This is the Year of the Rabbit.

**Protect Our Night Skies:** Small lights left carelessly on may spoil the views of our night sky.

this Disney/Pixar animated feature.

The VGPL Book Group meets Monday, February 21, at 7 pm, to discuss *Madrid*, by C. J. Sanson; you need not have read it to attend.

Shop Amazon and support VGPL. Just go to the Library website, [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org), scroll down and click the "Amazon" button on the right. This guarantees a percentage of your Amazon purchase price will go to Vista Grande Library.

### TGIF Potluck at the Community Center

Come to the TGIF potluck at the Community Center Living Room, Friday, February 18, 5–7 pm. Everyone is invited (not just seniors). Please bring finger food to share.

# February Events

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

Email [info@eldoradosf.org](mailto:info@eldoradosf.org) with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd 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

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

TGIF	Fri., February 18, 5-7 pm	LR
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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Road Committee	Mon., No February Mtg	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., February 1, 4-6 pm	Jeanne Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., February 1, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
Neighborhood Watch	Mon., February 7, 7 pm	Marilyn Walker	466-2553	CR
Architectural Committee	Tues., February 8, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Finance Committee	Wed., February 9, 9-11am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., February 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., February 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., February 22, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., February 22, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Stable Committee	Mon., February 28, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	Foyer

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 7 pm	santafesar.org		CR
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Eldorado Dog Club	4th Saturday 9:30 am	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	Dog Park
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Conservation Com Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	CC Prk Lot
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Fire Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kieling	466-4232	Sm Gym
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs of month		204-7007	LR

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Wed., 5:45-6:45 pm (Men Only)			CFR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			LR/CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Boy Scout Pack 414	2nd & 3rd Thurs., 6:30-7:30	Johnny Boggs	466-3680	RR
Girl Scouts 286	Fri., 4-6 pm	Lisa Engeldinger	466-0077	CR
Girl Scouts 295	Every other Fri., 5:30-7 pm	Michelle Jaschke	466-2422	CR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	Every 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	La Tienda
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
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.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)**



## Why Do Birds Migrate?

I have been asked to write briefly (it's a huge subject) on bird migration. As I look out my window, two birds attract my attention. The Juncos (see earlier articles on most of these birds) are here in force. These birds arrive in number each winter in Eldorado. The other bird is the American Robin. If you are not from New Mexico, you probably think of the Robin's arrival as a sign of spring. Here in northern New Mexico, we have many more Robins during the winter, and I appreciate their splash of color against the drab landscape. Some Robins do stay here during the summer months and can be found usually around parks and golf courses. However, most head back north in the spring.

Migration is all about food—food for an individual bird to survive, and food sufficient to feed parents and quickly growing chicks.

Around the world, bird migration is generally along a north-south orientation, in keeping with the differing seasons in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. This is true for the routes from Europe to Africa and Asia/south islands/Australia as well as between North and South America. Here in New Mexico, many birds find the Rio Grande a convenient flyway. Thousands of Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes crowd the ponds at Bosque del Apache, near Socorro, from November to March.

Of course, there are always exceptions. The Northern Wheatear spends summer in Alaska and north-

western Canada, then crosses the Bering Strait and makes a long westward flight across Asia, going to wintering grounds mostly in Africa.

The Arctic Tern is the winner for distance, traveling from the Arctic to Antarctic (over several known routes) and back, covering as much as 20,000 miles a year. They enjoy summer year round and live almost exclusively in daylight.

Out the window, I see my favorites who stay here all year, with perhaps just small movements depending on food availability. The Canyon Towhee pecks on my porch close to the door during inclement weather, and the Spotted Towhee in his dapper markings tries to be inconspicuous. A Curved-bill Thrasher pecks at the hard ground and also uses my suet feeder. A few doves hang around. Two favorite winter birds (with some staying all year) are the Western Bluebird and the Mountain Bluebird. Other winter birds here include House Finches, Scrub Jays, and Ladder Back Woodpeckers.

The "why" of migration is fairly simple, but the how is complicated and not fully understood. While there's no room in this text for a discussion of that, here's a brain teaser for thought. In the U.S., birds we know migrate here for breeding and chick-raising, and travel back to Central and South America for food to sustain them until they again head north. Is there an analogous phenomenon where birds that stay in the U.S. during the summer for food, go to Southern Hemisphere countries for breeding?

—Pam Henline

## Girl Scouts in Eldorado

On March 12, 1912, Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for the first meeting of the Girl Scouts of America. Ms. Low was known as "Daisy" to her family and close associates, and that name was given to the very youngest of the kindergarten-age girls in the program, the "Daisies."

Ms. Low's friendship with Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, strengthened her belief that all girls should be given the opportunity to get out of their then isolated home environments and camp out, hike, play sports, and, as importantly, provide service to their communities.

Nearly 100 years after that first meeting, "Daisy" Low's dream has been realized throughout the world, in the U.S., and in our community. **Carrie Ishee**, one of several Eldorado Girl Scout leaders, is helped by a very active contingent of parent-volunteers in conducting the organization's weekly meetings. These meetings promote skill acquisition in such subjects as camping, cooking, babysitting, theater arts, and

photography. In their group activity, Eldorado Girl Scouts perform such services as making blankets for children in our wider community who may be in need of them. This year, Eldorado Girl Scouts will participate in a worldwide program, "World Thinking Day," in which they are encouraged to "Think globally and act locally" in activities that emphasize the positive connections between Girl Scouts in the United States and their sisters throughout the world.

Eldorado Girl Scout meetings take place at the Community Center each week. They begin with the recitation of the Girl Scout Law, which must be memorized by every member of the organization. The Law is an impressive document to read. Among other things, it encourages every member to "be honest and fair, . . . use resources wisely, make the world a better place and be a sister to every Girl Scout."

Girls interested in learning to be their best, making lifetime friends, serving our community, and having fun are encouraged to call The Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails at 983-6339 for contact information on troops they can join in the Eldorado area.

—Frank Schober



Snow Geese at Bosque del Apache, 2011  
Photo: Carol Leyba



The cookies are great, but there's so much more. . . .



## On the Lookout

One of the most effective ways to prevent burglaries is to be aware of who is in your neighborhood and why. Almost all burglars check to see if anyone is home before they break in. Burglars are trying to steal things that can be sold fast.

They are not looking for a confrontation with a homeowner or resident. They will knock on doors to see if anyone answers. If someone answers, they will ask if the person has seen their lost pet or if they can be hired for odd jobs or landscaping. Sometimes they will pose as magazine salespersons or maybe offer carpet cleaning or roof repair service.

They have even been known to have a pickup truck parked at the curb with landscaping tools poking out of the truck's bed to make their offer seem legitimate.

The vast majority of burglars in the city are using these methods prior to entering a home. Help keep your neighborhood safe by reporting these types of solicitations to 428-3720. Officers will respond, check out the people who were reported, and if they are legitimate, will allow them to go on their way.

(Source: <http://local.nixle.com/city/nm/santa-fe/>)

To make a report, call the Sheriff at 428-3720 and Eldorado Security Patrol at 204-2945.

### DECEMBER CRIME STATISTICS

1 Theft (Source: [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com))

### NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING:

February 7, at the Community Center. For information on how to join Neighborhood Watch, please email **Marilyn Walker** at [lightwalker2@comcast.net](mailto:lightwalker2@comcast.net).

—Lisa Smith, [lisasmithsantafe@gmail.com](mailto:lisasmithsantafe@gmail.com)

## At the Crossroads

**SO FAR SO GOOD.** La Niña has thus far provided a relative respite from the deep gouging many of our roads experienced last winter from the unprecedented number of snowfalls. Since there is no capital money for replacing base course, let's hope this winter continues to be mild.

In any event, we have asked the County to do what it can to ensure enough gravel to overlay whatever bad spots we do encounter this year. (They did a bang-up job in getting to a lot of problem areas during the 2010 winter season.)

The County also did a great job of patching the many potholes that developed along Avenida Eldo-

rado last winter. Kudos for that effort! Some residents have made inquiries as to why the County does not blade snow or put down sand on our residential (dirt) roads. The reason is rather obvious. We are a rural area, and the County (especially now) has limited resources (both labor and materials). Priority is given where roads become impassible (due to deep snow or major mudding, not when slippery). If you believe your road is impassible, go to the Eldorado website ([www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)) and fill out a **Road Problem Report**, which we will forward to the County.

—Nolan Zisman, *Road Committee Chairman*

## Senior Center News

### VICTOR BORGE

Thanks to our friend **Charlotte Warren**, right after lunch on Thursday, February 3, at 12:45, we will be showing a delightful video of **Victor Borge**. So join us for lunch and then enjoy the piano-playing, wry grammatical comments, and clever humor of a truly talented master.

### SENIOR DAY AT THE ROUNDHOUSE

Every year the legislature sets aside a day for seniors to come to the capitol to discuss their concerns, hear presentations by officials such as the Cabinet Secretary for Aging and Long-Term Services, meet with representatives of groups offering special services for seniors, and mingle and learn from one another. This year's Senior Day at the Roundhouse will be on February 14. If there is enough interest, we will be happy to provide group transportation to and from the capitol. Call the Center at 466-1039 to let us know.

### MOVIES

In February we will begin showing movies on Thursdays after lunch every other week (hence the Victor Borge video on February 3). Other movies are

still being decided, and we would like your input. Please let us know (466-1039) what movies you would like us to show. Popcorn will be provided!

### TRIPS

At the time of the *Vistas* deadline, we have not finished arrangements for our February excursions. Please check with the Center to see where we will be going. As always, seats are limited and sign-ups are required. Call the Center at 466-1039 for more information.

—Cathy Berkley



Senior Day at the Roundhouse is February 14.



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

## *Dolores Brock: Profile of a Community Leader*

**D**OLORES AND BERNIE BROCK, along with their son **Erich**, came to New Mexico in 1974 and moved into their newly built home in Eldorado. What a culture shock for New Yorkers arriving at “the ranch.” They were the twelfth family to become residents in the “historical district”—Verano Loop, Conchas and Torneo. In 1975 Dolores organized the early residents into the Eldorado Residents Association (ERA) (see p. 1). She became the president of the ERA and over 30 years held all board positions, chaired committees, and organized petition drives.

The efforts of Dolores and these early residents laid the foundation for the community we are so blessed and proud to be part of today. Dolores was the driving force to encourage AMREP to keep the promises made that they had not yet fulfilled. This included getting the first fire truck, which came to be housed in the barn at the Community Center. All residents were on the fire brigade. At the training sessions held in Santa Fe, Dolores was knocked over while learning to hold the fire hose—which ended that career! But Dolores was always there when an issue arose that required getting petitions signed. Neighbors seeing her coming up their drives would say, “What do you want me to sign now?”

The ERA was not all hard work. They also loved to party and eventually morphed into the once-a-month TGIF get-togethers. Dolores also organized afternoon classical musicals with her friend and fellow music aficionado, **John DiJanni**.

Dolores and a group of 20 other ladies formed another fun group called “Stitch and Bitch” that met in the Classroom to do just that. Once the ECIA asked the group to leave because they were too raucous! Three remaining members, Dolores, **Arlene Mayer**, and **Irene Voekler**, still gather at the Steaksmit

h to continue that tradition. Since leaving the ERA, Dolores hasn’t slowed down. She simply redirected her leadership qualities to the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center. There she is a Director on the Board of the Center and now arranges day trips.

Dolores is clear to point out it took a dedicated team of residents to bring about the variety of changes they accomplished. Through all of the 30-some years of Dolores’s community involvement, there were many difficult battles between the ERA and ECIA, but what she remembers most are the wonderful, enduring friendships she made. Over the years, Bernie would just shake his head and roll his eyes—“What are you involved with now, Dolores?” Recently Bernie gave a wonderful surprise 80th birthday party for Dolores, attended by her many friends and family.

—Marilyn Farrell

