

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME V, ISSUE 3
MAR 2003

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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Greater Eldorado Area Leaders Meet New Sheriff



John Reeder

Sheriff Greg Solano at an ECIA Sheriff's open forum on Jan. 24.

Leaders from many of the neighborhood associations of the greater Eldorado area held an important "get acquainted" meeting with **Sheriff Greg Solano** at the ECIA Community Center on Friday, January 24.

The 24th was a special day for both Sheriff Solano and his wife, **Antoinette**. Although not required to do so, he had, for the second time, successfully completed the state's standard qualification course for all new law-enforcement officers. The course included required classroom hours and field work exercises that tested physical endurance, marksmanship and arrest and detention procedures.

At the meeting, the Sheriff unveiled a unique plan for a community policing system. Surprisingly the Sheriff suggested residents flag down his officers when they see them simply to greet and get to know them. With fewer officers than recommended for a jurisdiction of over 2,000 square miles, Sheriff Solano has divided his patrol area into four zones, or quadrants. At the time of his briefing, he was in the process

of assigning his officers based on their residence in each of the patrol areas. "The idea of community policing," he stated, "is to get the officers to know the people and the problems of their patrol areas and to get the people of those areas to know their assigned officers."

Neighborhood Watch is of particular importance to Sheriff Solano. The ECIA website, www.eldoradocommunity.org, is already set up to register Neighborhood Watch groups. Sheriff Solano urged all at the meeting to support the Neighborhood Watch program by formally and actively cooperating with their neighbors to safeguard homes and property.

Sheriff Solano inherited a website similar to a site once operated by the ECIA, speculated by some to be the least visited site in North America. He has resolved to change the site and the laissez-faire attitude it represents. He intends to fully integrate his site with the ECIA website and other community websites in the county. He plans to put crime-fighting information on the site and to add a new feature – a "Sheriff's Most Wanted" section.

The sheriff pledged crime and call-for-service statistics would be made available to Greater Eldorado residents in the future. As part of his Community Policing program, he plans to publish such data according to each of the operational quadrants.

Greater Eldorado Community residents who wish to support the Sheriff and the new Community Policing program are asked to access www.eldoradocommunity.org for information on Neighborhood Watch and a link to the Santa Fe County Sheriff's website. The latter is "under construction" at this time, but will shortly provide key information to assist the security and safety of our community.

**ECIA Work
Study Meeting,
Community
Center,
Mon., Mar. 17,
7-9 pm**

**Share your
comments
with us!**

*For policy and
deadline, see
below*

Editorial Policy

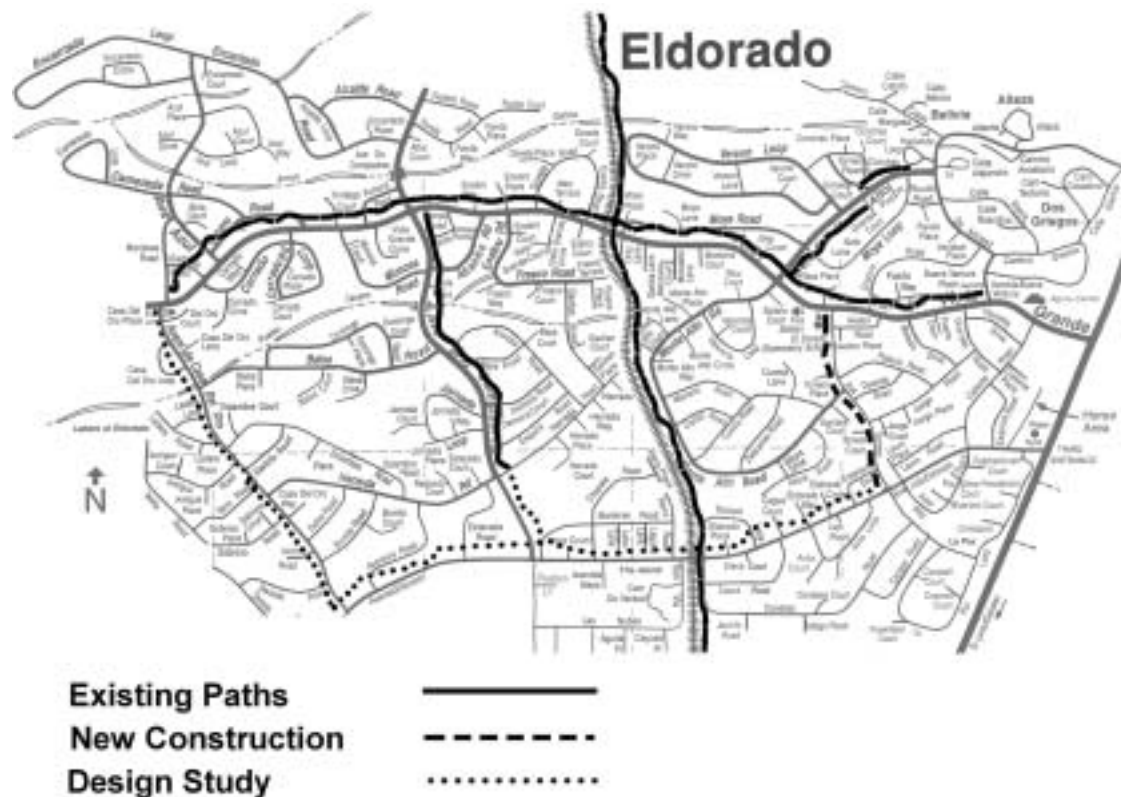
Vistas invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too.

Deadline: Newsletter deadline is the 8th day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to info@eldoradocommunity.org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

Mission Statement

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

Take a Hike! *Board OKs Torreon Path and Expanded Design*



The ECIA Board, at its January meeting, approved \$30,000 for construction of a Hike/Bike trail on the west side of Avenida Torreon, along the 0.9 mile length connecting Avenida Vista Grande and Avenida Eldorado. In addition, the Board approved \$30,000 for an engineering design and construction drawings for approximately 4.9 additional miles of paved paths along major roads in Eldorado. Once completed, the full project would substantially reduce hazards to pedestrian and bicycle travel along most paved auto roads, and link existing hike/bike trails into two major recreational loops—three when the county trail along the Santa Fe Southern Railroad is included. Trails would be built on existing county road right-of-ways.

A 1994 community survey identified formal hike/bike trails and informal greenbelt trails as the most used community amenity. Since then, increasing population and higher auto speeds on recently

paved roads have made formal trails an important enhancement for both safety and recreation.

In terms of safety, Avenida Torreon has long been at the head of the list because of children walking to the El Dorado Elementary School, and more recently, to the new Vista Grande Library. An engineering design for the Torreon path was completed last year, and resulting construction bids came in lower than anticipated. A properly designed paved path proved to be substantially cheaper because of reduced requirements for bearing weight. The lower prices allow for Torreon construction to be undertaken immediately, and provide reason to believe that all contemplated path construction may be within existing ECIA capital funds.

Board President John Reeder, following the vote to approve Torreon paving and further engineering design, stated, "This is the most exciting thing the Board has done in the last year."

Dan Drobnis

BOARD NOTES

This has been one of those months. The board has been busy on many fronts. I think the most exciting activity is going forward with the hike/bike trails. The board approved the Torreon trail and is now soliciting engineering drawings for paths along Casa Del Oro, Avenida Eldorado, and the unfinished section on the south end of Compadres. **Dan Drobnis** has been a real champion for the trails. Once completed, the hike/bike trail system will provide several "loops" for our pleasure.

Two events held at the community center may be of some interest to all residents. We recently had a community meeting to discuss the RV screening issue. We also invited our new Santa Fe County Sheriff, **Greg Solano**, his family, and representatives from local subdivisions to an open house at the Community Center. Both events were well-attended. You will find more details in this issue of Vistas.

The board approved the road plan submitted at the January meeting. The county has the lead and

we are planning to support the issue at the state legislature committee level.

The board reviewed the year-end budget results. The operating budget was under-spent by \$54,765. Following the auditor's review, monies will be transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund for use in building major projects (like hike/bike trails) in the community.

If you have been at the community center lately, you will have noticed the "straw" on the front grass. This is a hydro-seeding test project. The product is new and supposed to be very effective in our area. If successful, we are considering the process for the recreation fields.

I want to thank the Eldorado Residents Association (ERA) for their successful TGIFs at the Community Center. As I attend these social occasions, I meet many new and always interesting residents in our community. Please stayed tuned to the ERA notices and attend when possible.

*John Reeder
ECIA President*

RV Screening — A Community Challenge

On January 22nd, approximately 25 residents wrestled with the issue of the screening of RVs in Eldorado. Both RV owners and non-owners attended; the majority owned RVs. The covenants, bylaws and current policies were presented, discussed, and possible solutions proposed.

In June 1997, **Steve Wust**, then ECIA Board President, described the Board's policy regarding RV Screening. He made two insightful comments: "This policy is not perfect" and "Defining 'screened' and 'reasonable manner' is a task that is not easy."

Following a two-hour discussion, we agreed the challenges Steve stated remain. **Ed Carlson** proposed

a residents' peer-review committee who would develop examples and guidelines of acceptable RV screening and consult with residents when, in the view of the committee, screening is inadequate and does not support the intent of the screening covenant. It will be an attempt for the community to self-govern this subjective covenant requirement. If the committee is unable to solicit the cooperation of the RV owner, the ECIA will initiate covenant enforcement action as appropriate.

I will keep you informed as the committee becomes organized and we better understand their role and responsibilities.

John Reeder

VIEWPOINTS

This provides information on the Highway 285 Corridor Plan now under consideration and its impact on Eldorado.

This plan proposes to change the character of our community from semi-rural to urban/suburban. It proposes between 1.1 and 1.9 million square feet of commercial and industrial development along 285, mostly between the freeway and the Avenida Vista Grande area. For comparison purposes, the commercial space in the Villa Linda Mall, the DeVargas Mall and in the Cerrillos-Rodeo Drive-Zafarano area totals about 1.3 million square feet.

Furthermore, the plan violates fundamental planning principles by not analyzing the visual impact of the proposed development, nor the impact on water, traffic or crime.

If the plan is approved in its current form, it will become the statement of Eldorado residents that major commercial and industrial development is desired at the entrance to our community. Expect project approvals to follow.

Bill Robens, Estambre Road

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Sell your stuff or your services online FOR FREE

Beginning March, an online 'bulletin board' on our community's website will provide you with an easy way to find or get rid of stuff, trade for something else, barter with your neighbors, or offer your services. The opportunities are endless! Meet your neighbors while reaping the benefits of our online board. Check it out at www.eldoradocommunity.org. (The Bulletin Board is available for use by all '466 area' residents. No spamming or inappropriate material allowed. The board will be monitored.)

► Call For Band Musicians

The Eldorado Community Band is looking for musicians. You are eligible if you are 18 or older and have had previous musical experience. Long layoffs are no excuse for missing this opportunity. We have special needs right now – clarinets, trumpets, french horns, trombones, oboe, and others. Dust off that old horn and we'll whip you into playing shape. We practice on Thursday evenings at 7 pm at the school band room. Call **Peg Johnson** at 466-1459 for more info. Be there or be square!!

► Eldorado Arts Association

Artists' Shoptalk: Wednesday, March 12, 10 am-noon, at the home of **Sonni Cooper**, 3 Floresta Rd., 466-6661. Area artists are invited to gather for coffee and conversation and to see each others' studios. If you are new to the area, we encourage you to come meet us.

Arts Association Meeting: Wednesday, March 26, 7 pm at the Community Center. **Karen Harms** will present a lively demonstration using acrylic techniques to produce stunning textural effects in painting. She employs the palette knife as well as brushes to build up layers of gel glazes and paint in her spontaneous style of painting landscapes. (She also might incorporate strips of metal, cloth or plant.) She may have up to 20 pieces in progress at once due to these ongoing layers. She's an energetic artist!

Karen is represented by Expressions in Fine Art Gallery on Canyon Road. She had a solo show there which epitomized her use of layers in the dramatic theme of whitewater and river walls on large canvases. She has developed her methods over more than 20 years as a professional artist, yet she loves to share her "secrets." She believes other artists would incorporate these methods differently than she does.

Karen is also a sculptor and a teacher, and is eager to offer classes in her home. She continues to explore all possibilities when it comes to art and not to rest on past successes. Her enthusiasm, energy, and innovation will get those creative juices flowing – no matter your medium of choice.

Refreshments will be served. All residents who have an interest in the program topic are invited to attend.

► El Dorado School News

The Second Annual Auction de El Dorado, an event to raise money for art and physical education teachers for our children at El Dorado Elementary, will be held Saturday, March 8, 2-6

pm at the school. There will be incredible items up for auction including pottery by **Nancy Youngblood**. Fast Mona's Bistro will feature soups, sandwiches and chili from Rio Chama, Pranzos, and Posa's respectively. Entertainment will include **Clan Tynker, Celtic de Santa Fe, La Vida Hip Hop Dancers, Desert Chorale, El Dorado's Beginning and Advanced Bands** and much more. There will be crafts for the children. Please come and support this great event!

► So You Want a Vegetable Garden

Come join Eldorado gardener **Meredith Lowry** for a discussion on successful vegetable and fruit gardening for our area. Meredith has maintained a vegetable garden for over 12 years while providing the majority of the fruits and vegetables her family of 5 consumes.

Topics will include: starting plants from seeds; how to collect your own seeds; season extender techniques; and the ever-popular topic of reducing water needs. Additionally, Meredith will share her list of plant varieties suitable for this area based on her extensive, ongoing experimentation.

All area gardeners are invited to attend this Santa Fe Master Gardeners Association sponsored presentation. The program will be held Monday, March 3rd from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Eldorado Community Center's Railroad Depot.

For additional information, please contact **Beverly Hafner** at 466-0261.

► Using Every Drop Wisely

The Santa Fe Master Gardener Association is sponsoring a Water Use Workshop on Saturday, March 15, 9 am - 12 pm at the Bank of America building located at 1234 St. Michael's Drive. The three-part workshop will be in the Community Meeting Room, near the rear entrance of the bank.

Part One, "Let's Put Together a Drip System," will be a hands-on experience with all relevant hardware parts supplied by the presenter, **Kelly Nace** of The Firebird. Part Two will be "Getting the Most Out of Gray Water: A Dialog" between **Craig Runyan**, NMSU Water Quality Coordinator, and **Courte Voorhees**, NM State Environment Office Field Officer. This presentation will discuss using gray water at home while staying within the law and will include suggestions for building a sand and gravel filtration and collection system. Part Three, "Multi-Flo: One Example of a Professionally-Installed System for Recovery of all Household Effluent" will be presented by **John Van Damme, Sr.** of JC Multi-Flo Co.

There is a \$10 registration fee payable at the door. While there is no limit to registration, you must call the County Extension Office, 471-4711, to indicate your plans to attend the March 15th Water Workshop so we can prepare an adequate number of print materials.

► Library Expansion Begins

On January 24th additional construction began to double the public space at Vista Grande Library. Once completed, the library will have space, not only for more books and shelves, but also a separate children's room.

The majority of the funds for the expansion project have come from state coffers. In addition, two couples – **Bev and Dudley Hafner** and **Babs and Jim Peck** – added their contributions totaling \$30,000 to ensure the children's wing would be completed. The room will be named after Jim Peck's mother, **Irene S. Peck**, the first state librarian.

Susan Sheldon and the board are now searching for a part-time librarian to help with youth services and volunteers at the library. Ideally, this person would be in place when the doors open to the new wing. Some library programs will be suspended until summer (e.g. the Authors series and the art shows). Other programs – such as the Young Readers activities – will continue.

Wisper, the broadband radio internet provider operating out of the Agora, has donated a high-speed internet connection and installation with necessary equipment. This generous offer allows library patrons to have rapid access to the internet.

Contact the library for more information at 466-READ.

► Calling All Quilters!

Plans are underway for the 2003 Eldorado Quilt Show, May 17-19. Quilters from the Eldorado/Highway 285 area are invited to show their work. Contact **Jean Stokes** at 466-0065 by March 15th.

March Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

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



1. **Type of Event**
2. **Location**
3. **Date & Time**
4. **A Resource Person** (one that 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.

MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS

Auction de El Dorado	Sat., Mar 8, 2-6 pm	Elementary School	
ERA TGIF Party	Fri., Mar. 14, 5 pm	Pat Kuhlhoff	466-4877
Water Use Workshop	Sat., Mar. 15, 9 am - 12 pm	Bank of America	471-4711

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Information Committee		ECIA	466-4248
Neighborhood Watch		Frank Schober	310-8593 call
Recreation Committee		Elaine Napp	466-2023
Road Committee	Mon., Mar. 3, 6 pm	Allen Larson	466-4792
Finance Committee	Tues., Mar. 11, 10-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781
Architectural Committee	Tues., Mar. 11, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708
EAWS&SD*	Wed., Mar. 12, 7-9 pm	Don Dayton	466-2411
Board Work Study	Mon., Mar. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248
285 Coalition	Wed., Mar. 19, 7-9 pm	RoseMarie Bagioni	466-0755
ECIA Board	Thurs., Mar. 20, 7-10 pm	ECIA	466-4248
Architectural Committee	Tues., Mar. 25, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Master Gardeners	Mon., Mar. 3, 6:30 pm	Beverly Hafner	466-0261
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Mar. 4, 10 am	Pat Kuhlhoff	466-4877
Book Club	Sat., Mar. 8, 7-9 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559
Book Club	Sun., Mar. 9, 7-9 pm	Ken Fischer	466- 2537
Arts Assoc. Shoptalk	Wed., Mar. 12, 10 am	Cary Carlson	466-6073
Vista Grande Book Club	Thurs., Mar. 13, 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636 Library
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Mar. 13, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Mar. 18, 10 am	Pat Kuhlhoff	466-4877
Cub Scouts Trp. 414	Tues., Mar. 18, 7 pm	Morey Walker	466-0459
Arts Assoc. Program	Wed., Mar. 26, 7-9 pm	Arlene Siegel	466-3274

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:45 pm		
AI-Anon (open to all)	Fridays, 9-10 am		
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765
Bridge (Beginning)	Wednesdays, 9-12am		
Bridge (Mens')	Thursdays, 1-4 pm	Bill Kapoun	466-8497
Boy Scouts	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815
Community Band	Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm	Peg Johnson	466-1459 School
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204 Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204 Station
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Sarah Lovett

Living as a Writer is no Mystery!



Sarah Lovett

When Sarah Lovett was a senior in high school, she ran away from a Verde Valley, AZ boarding school and ended up in Contreras, NM. Now a relative ghost town outside Socorro, Sarah spent the last part of 1971 living with a family that included an “ex-roller derby queen computer geek” and an artist. The couple had six kids; drifters often stayed at the house as well. Her most striking memory of her stay there was when Easter rolled around and the little church in town came alive. “People came in from the surrounding areas and the priest led a procession around the church,” she recalls.

So moved by the experience, Sarah later wrote a play about it entitled Contreras. In 1980, Sarah founded Theater-in-the-Red here in Santa Fe. Contreras was performed in the space that has since become the Georgia O’Keefe museum. Theater-in-the-Red also produced plays at the CCA and the Randall Davey house. Despite her love for theater, however, Sarah made a choice in 1985 to close Theater-in-the-Red. “I was weary of the demands of being a theater director and grant writer.”

She began writing for John Muir Press in Santa Fe. “I wrote all the text for the Extremely Weird series,” she says. Each book in the series explores a particular species of animal in depth,

combining fascinating facts with photos and illustrations. Sarah had fun researching the books. “It was the first time I made a living principally as a writer.”

In the early 1990s, Sarah, who has a degree in Criminal Justice, went to work at the State Penitentiary as a paralegal. Her experience there inspired her to begin writing crime novels. “I found that it was a good way to work out aggression,” she says. She worked full-time while writing her first book. All that changed when “I got one of those ‘are you sitting down’ kind of calls from my agent.” She accepted a three-book contract at Random House for her Dr. Sylvia Strange series. After they were published, she went on to sell two more in the series to Simon and Schuster. The 5th book, Dark Alchemy, will be released in March.

Sarah has taught workshops at the Southwest Writer’s Workshop and also has her sights set on the Santa Fe Community College. “The teaching application has been sitting on my desk for about a year now,” she laughs.

Sarah’s husband, Michael, works for the Department of the Environment. Sarah also shares her life with Bella and Danni—two very talkative dogs. Although Eldorado was originally her last choice when looking to buy a house 15 years ago, she now says that “nothing beats Eldorado for great neighbors, open spaces, and incredible views.”

To learn more about Sarah and her Dr. Sylvia Strange series, visit her website: sarahlovett.com.

Ana June

ECIA Appoints New CCR



Charles Smith

Mr. Charles Smith, an Eldorado resident for the last five years, has been appointed Covenant Compliance Rep (CCR). Characterized as “both mild-mannered and extremely competent,” he takes on a key post many residents would agree requires a great deal of diplomacy.

Mr. Smith is a native of Wisconsin and has worked for the past 25 years in product design, reliability testing and quality control in the medical products industry. His training has prepared him well for his new role in maintaining our community’s standards for construction,

remodeling and landscaping.

Most residents will agree that technical skills are not the only skills required of a compliance officer. Charles Smith is both trained and experienced in the areas of facilitation, conflict resolution, standards enforcement, and quality control. One ECIA Board member recently commented, “We are counting heavily on Smith to not only make the property construction and appearance rules known, but to see that they are enforced. I’m happy to hear he has both the skills and the temperament required for the job.”

Spring Maintenance — *The Time Has Come*

To paraphrase Mark Twain, “Everybody knows their houses don’t maintain themselves, but nobody does anything about it.”

In New Mexico, the second law of Thermodynamics can’t be denied. “Everything is falling apart.” Sun is the most damaging factor. At our altitude, there is much ultraviolet ray activity persistently damaging the building materials we use.

I hate to preach, but I see too many homes in Eldorado that aren’t maintained. Pity the poor home seller who will have a list of costly repairs once the unsmiling home inspector begins to poke, prod, lift and identify all kinds of deferred maintenance.

To avoid expensive bills at the time you sell your home, I recommend all Eldorado residents develop a seasonal maintenance checklist.

Spring will be here soon. Walk into every room inside your home. You should inspect all around the outside of your home, too.

▼ Inspect and test your fire alarms. Replace batteries.

▼ Check out your roof surface for any signs of boils, cracks or separations, particularly at the parapets. Check the canales. Make sure they are unobstructed and waterproof.

▼ Check under your kitchen sink where inspectors most often find leaks. Your house might not be floating away, but you may have enough moisture under the sink to promote mold – a big problem if left unchecked.

▼ Check all around the outside of your house for cracks and holes in the stucco. Plaster them up. Remember this: holes let in water (and rodents) and seldom get smaller.

▼ Check your exterior vigas where they enter the house. If there are holes of any size where they meet stucco, you may be asking for a rodent infestation. And if the critters somehow die in your walls, your house may smell. As most real estate agents will tell you, “If you can smell it, you won’t sell it.”

Simply Organized

It’s tax season. Do you know where your paperwork is? Are tax documents residing in a pile of junk mail? Disorganization and clutter can be an energy drain and stressful.

“Disorganized” is not being able to readily access something. “Clutter” refers to the accumulated stuff that arrives uninvited, invades your space or sense of esthetics and serves no useful purpose.

An average disorganized or cluttered household may contain more than 3,000 documents, leading to 40% more housework, and a cost of 15-20% in late fees. It’s not only tax-related papers that are lurking around.

Vital records are accessed infrequently and should be stored in a fireproof locked box or bank safe deposit box. These may include: birth, death, or marriage certificates; passports; current will or trust; deeds or titles; adoption papers; divorce decrees; an inventory of assets with values documented; and insurance policies.

Important documents are those you need to access more frequently and may include current year insurance policies, employment records, resume, financial records (bank and investment statements kept until year-end summaries arrive), and the 3 most recent years of tax returns. All of these can be stored in a home filing cabinet and updated yearly.

Other papers serve a useful temporary role. Monthly bills can be discarded when a payment has cleared the bank unless related to a tax deduction, i.e. home office. Toss credit card statements quarterly and receipts as soon as they appear on a statement unless the receipt is for an asset or tax deduction. Deposit or withdrawal slips serve no purpose once they appear on a bank statement. Save pay stubs, pension, or mortgage statements until year-end W-2, 1099, or other tax forms arrive. Retain cancelled checks or acknowledgements for tax-deductible contributions.

Associated clutter that can be discarded immediately includes envelopes and promotional fliers. File your records in appropriately labeled letter-size manila folders. Be sure to maintain a list of account or policy numbers and where vital records are located.

Future articles will provide guidance on organizing your space and dealing with clutter room by room, as well as accessing important documents in an emergency or crisis.

RoseMarie Bagioni





Many Thanks ERA for TGIF!



Frequently our very own Eldorado Residents Association (ERA) sponsors a Friday evening get together to celebrate our community. These gatherings are known as TGIF (Thank Goodness It's Friday) parties. The parties begin at 5 pm in the Living Room at the Community Center. The above photo shows you just how lively the parties can be! The ECIA Board is grateful to the ERA for all their work sponsoring these events. Come enjoy a social evening with your neighbors. Contact Pat Kuhlhoff at 466-4877 with any questions.