ELDORADO

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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

Come Rain or Shine

ASTE MANAGEMENT, INC. serves the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County residents, and does so with few if any failures. They come once a week on the day appointed for your block, rain or shine, in snow and sometimes during high winds-holiday or no holiday. You can put out an extra bag (be sure to doublebag to deter local predators) for \$1.53, and you can rent a rollaway trash bin if you are generating a lot of construction debris. New residents just moving into the area are allowed 10 extra bags free of charge for each of the first four weeks following their move-in.

Since, according to the latest EPA statistics, each of us generates 4.2 pounds of garbage per day, 365 days a year, your local sanitation engineer (in non-PC language, your garbage man) is busy and underappreciated.

A problem everyone in windy Eldorado is aware of is trash blowing about. One local WM driver sees that the way people treat their trash boils down to a matter of respect "You see how people live by their garbage," he says. "If I go down the street and see lids hanging open and garbage not in bags but just thrown in loose for the wind to blow away, I can see that the people in that house have no respect for us, putting it out like that."

Robert Peragine, the local manager of Waste Management, approaches the problem from a different direction. "The Waste Wheeler should be placed at least four feet away from any structure such as a mailbox and have the end that opens facing toward the street. If you face it the other way, the mechanical arms are likely to miss all of the garbage in the can or spill it out into the street and into the wind. If the container is not closed, the ravens and sometimes canines, even coyotes will toss your garbage to the winds and as everyone knows, the winds can blow long and hard around here."

The company that hires and directs the people that collect Eldorado's garbage, Waste Management, Inc., is one of the most advanced users of operational

research of any business in the country. The local company feeds customer data into a program called WasteRoute that accounts for factors such as school opening and closing times, highway construction and holiday trash buildup in order to deliver as costefficient a system as possible.

We have a very efficient and responsive garbage service in Eldorado. If we do our part and add to it a couple of other things, we will have, in many respects, an ideal community. First, keep Eldorado clean and beautiful by never littering and picking up litter that shames us and harms our environment. Second, next time you see your garbage man on your street, wave at him and say thank you. He may not hear you, but with a compliment like that, he'll be able to read your lips.

ECIA Board Work Study Meeting, Community Center, Mon., Mar. 14, 7 pm

For questions regarding any aspect of their service, call Waste Management at 473-7552.



Share your comments with us!

For policy and deadline, see below

Editorial Policy

art from the community at large. Please include checking purposes. The newsletter will not inflammatory. Material will be printed at the welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too. **DEADLINE:** Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of mailed to the ECIA office or

Mission Statement

org. Please include "Attn:

Vistas" in your message.

The mission of Vistas, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the membership at large. By in the decision making

Visitors Allowed

ORSES ARE BEAUTIFUL. Horses are special. Just ask any of the horse owners at the Eldorado Stables. And we like to share our love of horses with others. Eldorado Stables is open for any ECIA member to visit, with provisions. There are certain risks involved with being around horses, so here's a quick lesson in understanding horses and how to conduct yourself around them.

The horse, being a prey animal, is always judiciously cautious for its survival. It is impossible to predict exactly how a horse will behave if it is frightened, excited, angry, in pain, or under stress. In these situations, the horse may act or react according to its natural instincts, which might include running away at a trot or gallop, kicking with the hind legs, striking sideways or forward with legs; bucking, rearing, biting and throwing the head upwards or sideways. These last two (biting and head tossing) are probably the reactions you will encounter most often if you upset them. Know that horses are 5 to 15 times larger, 20 to 40 times more powerful, and 3 to 4 times faster than a human being. In short, horses are unpredictable, sensitive, and defensive (unless you're a horse whisperer).

As our new sign states, "Enter and use the facilities at your own risk." Do not enter any barn/corral or feed the horses, keep children and pets quiet and in control (fast movement and loud noises frighten horses), and PLEASE abide by the 15 mph maximum speed limit (we'd love it if you went 5 or 10 mph, especially when the stable is full of activity).

A few more guidelines.

- ▼ Parents are responsible for all children. Please keep children under constant supervision.
- Please, no smoking.
- ▼ No yelling, running wild, or loud noises around the horses.
- ▼ Horses don't know the difference between fingers and carrots until either is in their mouth.
- ▼ Do not feed anything to a horse unless you have the owner's permission.
- ▼ Smile a lot and have fun, despite all these rules.

The horse owners want you to have a safe and pleasant visit at the stables. If any of us are around when you visit, introduce yourself, ask questions, and enjoy looking at our horses!

-Bonnie Mamp

ASSOCIATION FEES

ARE CONSIDERED DELINQUENT **MARCH 1, SO WRITE THAT CHECK**



CANDIDATES FOR THE ECIA BOARD

UST FILE A PETITION BEFORE MARCH 1 2005. PETITIONS WERE AVAILABLE **BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1** THE ELECTION PACKAGE WILL ARRIVE IN THE MAIL, AND THE BOARD ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN APRIL.

Dear Neighbors,

UR THANKS TO ECIA for finishing 10 miles of bike paths and to Bill Donahue for maintaining and mowing those paths. Two problems: 1) litter, and 2) dog droppings.

On December 23, my son, Hans Cole and son-inlaw, Mark Knell and I, picked up seven 39 gal. bags of trash on Ave. Casa del Oro, from Ave. Vista Grande to Ave. Eldorado.

Out of consideration for walkers, joggers and bikers, pet owners need to pick up their dogs' droppings. Property owners might even consider picking up trash along their property's frontage. It would also be a lesson for Scouts in taking care of our local environment, to pick up trash as a project. Walkers might carry a plastic bag on their walks, and do a pick-up.

All in all, it would make our development a more pleasant place to live and enjoy.

Thank you, Pat Cole

March Views

HIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR when many ECIA residents start planning for new homes, additions, fences, walls and accessory buildings. All ECIA homeowners should have on file, for their reference, the two key guiding documents for all property owners in the ECIA—the "Covenants" and the "Guidelines." The goals and objectives are stated in the opening paragraphs of each of these ECIA documents as follows: **COVENANTS**

This Amended and Restated Declaration, is made by the Eldorado Community Improvement Association, Inc., a New Mexico non-profit corporation, for the express purposes of protecting the natural beauty and environment of the community of Eldorado at Santa Fe, providing an attractive rural setting for residential neighborhoods and home sites and preserving property values. This Restated Declaration seeks to maintain the unique natural character of the community for all who acquire property therein, while encouraging individual expression consistent with the historical traditions of the region. This Restated Declaration assumes that, by virtue of their purchase of property in the Eldorado community, all such property owners are

motivated by these unique qualities of its natural environment and agree, for and among themselves, that these qualities must be preserved for all present and future residents.

GUIDELINES

These guidelines are intended to provide further explanation and understanding of the Protective Covenants for Eldorado. Further, they are intended to contribute to the reduction of misunderstanding and conflict, which may evolve in a community like ours with a plethora of diverse perspectives. Some of the underlying assumptions which were followed in the development of these guidelines include: maintaining a consistent application of the Covenants, treating all residents with a strong sense of fairness in decisions arising from the Covenants, aggressively pursuing the enforcement of the Covenants in order to maintain a community of quality which stresses an attractive rural setting with natural beauty, respect for our neighbors, and the preservation of property values.

Please know these documents, submit your application (2 copies) and get Architectural Committee approval before you build...compliance, first!

-Charles Smith, the ECIA CCR

Election 'HH

Your Community, Your Board

AST MONTH I ASKED YOU to consider giving your gift of time to one of the ECIA committees. This month I am writing to inform you that the term of office for five Directors of the ECIA Board has expired. Therefore, the community must elect five new members. In my two years on the board, members have been appointed in an effort to maintain a full board. Some residents have expressed displeasure with the fact that the board took that action, but if no one comes forward to be part of the election process, then appointments are necessary. Now there is an opportunity for interested residents to become candidates.

The work of the board consists of three responsibilities: maintenance of the amenities, financial oversight and planning, and covenant compliance. The board oversees all the amenities offered to the community—repairs, upkeep and development of new amenities. With the help of the staff and the Finance Committee, the budget is developed, capital improvements are determined with input from the community and oversight of revenues and expenditures are constant. Covenant compliance is achieved with the help of the Architectural Committee and staff. The board's responsibility is to review all

variances for construction of buildings, additions, fences or other improvements to property.

The time commitment to complete this work is not great. Preparation,

the work session and the board meeting take approximately four hours a month. A two-hour monthly commitment as a liaison to one of the ECIA committees is also required. As a board member, six hours a month of your time benefits so many.

Candidate materials are available at the ECIA office. You can become a candidate for the board by filing a petition with the Secretary of the Association, signed by not less than twenty-five lot owners who are in good standing with the association (meaning, all assessments are paid). The final date for filing is March 1. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to call me at 466-2466 or e-mail me at ipkeducate@aol.com. Now is the time for Eldorado residents to have a full slate of candidates willing to step forward to do the work for this community.

- Jeanne Klein, ECIA President

ECIA OFFICE #1 La Hacienda Loop Santa Fe, NM 87508 466-4248, 466-4249 info@eldoradocommunity.org www.eldoradocommunity.org

General Manager **Bob Pritchard** 466-4248 ECommunity@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS President Jeanne Klein 466-2466 Jpkeducate@aol.com

Vice-President Gretel Underwood

Wunderwood7@aol.com Secretary Frank Schober

310-8593 fschober@att.net

Treasurei

466-4781 Director Chuck Montano

466-3417 pumbanm@cybermesa.com

Director Sandy MacGregor

s.macg@earthlink.net Director

Michael Mariano 466-0118

mariano55@fastmail.fm

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Gisela Knight Architecture: Bill Schwent **Conservation: Steve Wust** Stable: Dina Sassone **Election: Nancy Dayton** Road: Ed Benrock Information: Vacant Neighborhood Watch:

VISTAS NEWSLETTER Editor:

Ken McPherson kenzwork@hubwest.com Designer:

Hope O. Kiah hope@webdesignbyhope.com **Editorial Assistants:**

Lynn McPherson Debby Padilla 466-4248 Photographer:

whitewolfvision.com 466-2273

424-2050

COMMUNITY RESOURCES Vista Grande Library 466-READ Security 204-294 Fire and Rescue **Animal Control**



Resident Wins NMLA Award

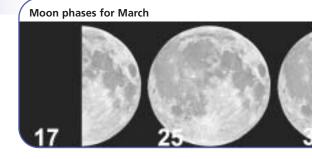
Eldorado resident Verona Thompson has just won the New Mexico Library Association Amigo Award, an award made to an individual "whose work on behalf of a local library has resulted in significant progress and/or achievement for that library, or in recognition of work in the promotion of library service within the state." Thompson was honored for her contributions to the Vista Grande Public Library, a nonprofit 501(C)3 facility located in Eldorado.

Diane Gulseth, current president of the Vista Grande Public Library's Board of Directors, who submitted Thompson's name to the award nominating committee, had this to say about her candidate: "As a former board member and Board President and present Development Committee member, Verona Thompson has made the Vista Grande Public Library (VGPL) her primary community support activity."

The Vista Grande Public Library, a non-profit corporation, was opened in April 2001 for the residents of the southeastern area of Santa Fe County, on whom it depends for financial survival. Virtually 100 percent of VGPL's annual operating budget is funded by donations, not government funds or tax dollars. Without the help of residents of area communities, this public library would not exist. For membership or other information, please call the library at 466-READ (7323).

Seize the Date

Please join us for Auction De El Dorado, fundraising fun sponsored by the El Dorado PTA to be held at the school on Saturday, March 12 from 2 to 6 pm. It's an action- and, of course, auction-packed day for the whole family that includes engaging arts and crafts



food, and fabulous silent and (new this year) LIVE auction items for purchase. In addition to being a blast, the auction raises money that helps the PTA fund the school's physical education teacher's salary and the Visiting Artist Program.

Here's just a sample of the extraordinary items you'll be able to bid on: pottery by Nancy Youngblood, two Nigerian draw goats, one round of golf for four at Las Campanas, Ski Santa Fe lift ticket sampler, Santa Fe Opera family package, and a one-night-stay at the Inn on the Alameda, including afternoon wine and cheese reception and breakfast.

Shop Talk

The March Shop Talk will take place Wednesday, March 16, 10 am-noon, at the home of George Henke, photographer. Local artists gather at each other's homes for coffee and conversation. Call 466-4988 for directions.

New Library Board Members

At the Annual Meeting of the Vista Grande Public Library January 18, three new board members were introduced and subsequently voted on to the Board of Directors for 2005. They are Michael Odza and Lynne Moore, both of Eldorado, and Amber Haskell, who resides in Galisteo. At the same time, former Board President Tom Johnson relinquished his position to new president, Diane





Astronomy Corner

Claudius Ptolemaeus, or Ptolemy as he is better known, was an astronomer in Alexandria about 100 to 150 A.D. Approximately 140 A.D. Ptolemy published the Almagest, a set of 13 books summarizing the geocentric theory and astronomical knowledge of the time. The Almagest became the astronomical authority for over 1400 years.

In addition to the Almagest, Ptolemy published the tables of motions and predicted eclipses, occultations and transits in a separated work entitled Handy Tables.

The Almagest is considered the epitome of Greek thought in astronomy and was the basis of astronomical research and teaching in the Western Hemisphere until well into the 1500s.

The planets in March: March 3, The Moon occults Antares; March 12, Mercury at its best evening view; March 20, Spring Equinox 05:33 am MT; Venus, not easily observed; Mars, very low in the Southeast at dawn; Jupiter, in the East at dusk and in the Southwest at dawn; Saturn, high in the South after dark.

—Juan Alvarez Jalva88610@aol.com

REMEMBER:

WE CAN'T ENJOY ANY OF THESE CELESTIAL SIGHTS UNLESS YOU FOLLOW THE OUTDOOR LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS IN THE COVENANTS.

March Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

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

1. Type of Event 2. Location

3. Date & Time

4. A Resource Person (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

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

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

MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS						
ERA T.G.I.F.	Fri., Mar. 18 5-7 pm			LR		
COMMITTEE MEETINGS						
Conservation Committee	Tues., Mar. 1, 7-9 pm	Stephen Wust		CFR		
285 Coalition	Wed., Mar. 2, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR		
Architectural Committee	Tues., Mar. 8, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR		
Finance Committee	Wed., Mar. 9, 10-noon	Gisela Knight	466-2568	CFR		
EAW&SD*	Wed., Mar. 9, 7-9 pm	Ray Nichols		CFR		
Board Work Study	Mon., Mar. 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR		
ECIA Board	Thurs., Mar. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR		
Information Committee	Mon., Mar. 21, 7 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F		
Architectural Committee	Tues., Mar. 22, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR		
Stable Committee	Tues., Mar. 22, 7-9 pm			CR		
MONTHLY MEETINGS						
Book Club	Sat., Mar. 12, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559			
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537			
Library Book Group	4th Thurs., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	Lib		
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Mar. 10, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR		
Cub Scouts Pack 414	Call for date	Clay Williard	466-3909			
Boy Scouts Troop 414	Wed., Mar. 2, 7:30-9 pm	Bruce Blossman	955-0880	CR		
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Mar. 14, 7-9			LR		
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Mar. 1, 10-11 am	Jerry Bradley	466-4253	F		
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Mar. 15, 10-11 am	Jerry Bradley	466-4253	F-K		
MOMS Club	Call for date and time	Shannon Ratcliff	986-9050			
WEEKLY MEETINGS						
AA	Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR		
AA	Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR		
AA	Thursdays, 6-7 pm			CR		
AA	Sundays, 5:15- 6:15 pm			CR		
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon., 1-4 pm			LR		
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR, LR		
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR		
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR		
Community Band	Thursdays, 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412			
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, 12-1 pm	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR		
Knitting Club	2nd & 4th Tues., 10 am-12 pm	n Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	F		
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641	School		
*Eldorado Area Water and	d Sanitation District	**Reservation	s Required			

Architectural Guidelines to Live By

MONG THE MOST STRIKING features of Eldorado are its open vistas and minimally obtrusive development. These features impress visitors, entice prospective buyers, and serve to maintain and enhance the value of all of our property.

The appearance of Eldorado is not an accident, but rather the result of years of effort in developing, maintaining, and yes, even enforcing some standards. We all signed up for these rules when we bought here—it's even there on our property deeds!

These standards are contained in two documents. The first is our Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions (Covenants), last revised in 1995 by vote of the association's members. Along with setting out our basic rules, the Covenants authorize the board to adopt guidelines for the interpretation, implementation and enforcement of the Covenants, which the board has done from time to time—most recently in February 2004.

These guidelines serve at least two purposes:

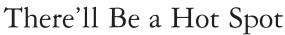
- Provide details and objective rules that developers and homeowners can easily understand and apply.
- ▼ Provide for consistent interpretation and enforcement over time from one owner to another, and from one board and staff member to another.

The ECIA Board, Architectural Committee, and staff are currently reformatting and revising the guidelines to provide greater specificity and clarity. The draft revision will be available soon for public comment and discussion before board action on adoption.

Every structure or modification on Eldorado residential property requires an ECIA permit. This includes houses, walls, fences, tool sheds, and driveway liners—any structure over 4 inches high! Completion and approval of a permit application assures a homeowner that a proposed project complies with our Covenants and guidelines before spending time and/or money on a project. Obtaining a permit and building in compliance with it places a permanent record in a homeowner's file to assure that problems will not arise during the ownership of a property, or at the time of sale.

Permit applications (and advice) are available at the ECIA office, or on the ECIA website at http://www.eldoradocommunity.org/, along with much other useful information—such as copies of the latest association documents, including Covenants and guidelines.





installation of a high-speed wireless Internet connection at the Eldorado Recreation Center. La Cañada Wireless Association (LCWA), a non-profit cooperative association, will use wireless connection technology to provide an internal Local Area Network for Internet access for staff computers. LCWA will also provide a public access point (Hot Spot) for people with wireless-equipped laptop computers visiting the Rec Center for meetings or recreation by the pool or play equipment—similar to what one might find at a Starbucks or Internet Café.

LCWA is staffed by member/volunteers who provide high-speed wireless radio Internet connection for Eldorado and South 285 communities, East Santa Fe, Cerrillos, Lamy, Galisteo, Cañoncito, La Cienega, South SH14, and nearby surrounding areas. LCWA currently provides free high-speed Internet access for the public computers at Eldorado's Vista Grande Public Library, next to the elementary school.

LCWA is open to membership for everyone in its service areas who wants high-speed Internet access—

dependent upon their line-ofsight to a LWCA access point. Since LCWA is a cooperative, a technical committee made up of members provides support, and

members themselves determine future policy.

LCWA will check for radio signal, advise on the required purchase and installation of radio equipment and antenna for initial installation at a home or small business, and provide ongoing monthly service. LCWA estimates that typical equipment costs to a new member will be in the \$250-350 range, with an initial membership charge of \$55. Monthly service has recently been reduced from \$55 per month to \$40, and may go lower in the future.

Nominal bit rate is about 1.5 million bits per second (bps). This is slightly above the nominal data rate for cable Internet service, and is almost 30 times the rate of dial-up access.

More information is available at the LCWA web site at http://www.lcwireless.net

—Dan Drobnis



THE BULLETIN BOARD IS AGAIN ACTIVE ON OUR COMMUNITY WEBSITE. YOU CAN PLACE ITEMS TO SELL OR GET INFO ABOUT ITEMS FOR SALE, POST MESSAGES, ETC. GO TO ELDORADOCOMMUNITY.ORG.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Is It Spring Yet?

N THE NATURAL WORLD, SPRING is in full swing and has been since the winter solstice on December 21. Plants and animals are reacting to the longer days unlike we who, more often than not, react to temperature. Buds are swelling, roots are spreading, and the birds are returning-get out the sunscreen!

We are also heading into our potentially driest time of year. For a lush summer of shade and blooming, be diligent about deep, weekly watering. Remember that healthy, strong root systems come in handy in time of drought. Another thing to keep in mind is that one gallon of water equals ten gallons of snow; in other words, the snow doesn't count for much moisture.

Early to mid-March is ideal for tree pruning, especially fruit trees. Remove all dead or diseased branches first. Follow this by opening the center of the tree, taking down the height and eliminate suckers coming out of the roots. Rarely do we cut a branch in the middle; instead, prune close to the trunk—don't leave "coat hangers"! Visualize the tree bare in winter with a graceful shape—leaves only cover mistakes in summer. Hold off on rose pruning until late April.

As ever, mulch is important year round, but especially now during our windy early spring and into summer. Protect the soil and roots and your plants



Don't prune your roses until late April.

will thrive. Do not fertilize yet-cold and nitrogen will kill roots. Wait until mid-April.

> Horticulturaly yours, -Michael Clark, Tropic of Capricorn

Western Bluebirds

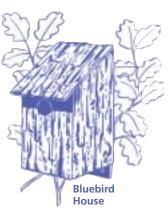
(Part 2 of last month's Ravens & Crows article will be printed in the April edition.)

VERYONE LOVES BLUE BIRDS and we have many types here in Eldorado. Our ✓ Western Bluebirds (WB) are resident all year long although some birds may move to lower elevations for winter months. This smallish bird (7 inches long, 13.5 inches wingspan) has a bright blue back and head, orangey-chestnut on sides and shoulders, and a dark eye and bill. Females are similar but less bright. Juveniles are brownish with hints of blue, and spots on their breast indicative of the Thrush group heritage. Four to six eggs are laid which hatch into helpless young in 13 or 14 days. The female does the incubation and both parents feed the babies, which fledge in 19 to 22 days. Young may stay with the male for 2 to 3 weeks before becoming independent. WB eat mostly insects and some berries. They usually perch high and dip down to catch insects in the air. They make an attractive jewf or pew pew call while flying.

WB readily use nest boxes and now is the time to get them in place. Boxes can be purchased at Wild Birds and sometimes at Wal-Mart or feed stores. They must be a special size and shape to attract WB. Directions for building your own box are at www.laspilitas.com/bluebird.htm. I have four boxes—all have been used, although sometimes by Juniper Titmice or House Finches. Mount boxes looking to the southeast, 5 feet high, facing an open area. Wood columns on your porch will work - one of my boxes is 10 feet from a door my dogs use all day long! DO NOT mount on a pole in the middle of an open area - young can die from sun and heat. Instead place post/box close to trees (but facing

open area) where the box will be shaded in late morning and afternoon. Place some material in the box to get the birds started. I use straw and hair from my dogs. You can use hair from your own brush or even get some from the pet groomer at the Agora. Do not use dryer lint. I clean all my boxes in the fall, refilling with fresh bedding. Then the boxes are ready for occasional use by WB for shelter on cold nights and the next season of babies.







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Security 204-2945

Never Enough

I had one - but it wasn't enough, so I got two – one old, one new. I just wanted the third – No that wasn't absurd, And when I had four – I still needed more. My friend got five – so, so did I, And then I got six - just for kicks....and thought if I Only had seven - that would be heaven, But it wasn't that great - so I got eight...and thought if I Only had nine - They'd all be mine! MINE ALL MINE - ALL NINE!!!!!!! It was disappointing though, once again. Maybe if I just had ten.....

—Lynn McPherson