

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 3

Mar. 2007

IN THIS ISSUE

Roads & Transit Trial.....	2
From the ECIA	3
In the Community	4-5
A Personal Triumph.....	6
Children's Librarian	6
Downy Woodpecker	7
Moving Forward!	7

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradocommunity.org

The Dirt on Roads

WILL ELDORADO GET ROAD repair funds this year? If we don't ask, the answer will always be no.

The ECIA's leadership and members of its Road Committee have been walking the halls of the 2007 session of the New Mexico Legislature earnestly requesting funding in the amount of \$1.5 million for Eldorado's rutted, washboard roads. This amount would provide proper grading for drainage and basecourse material for 41 miles of through, unpaved county roads in the Eldorado community area.

On Thursday, February 8, ECIA president, **Jeanne Klein**, accompanied by members of the Association's Road Committee, met with **Senator John Grubestic** and the principal aide to **Representative Peter Wirth**. These legislators represent Eldorado in the state legislature.

The Eldorado delegation presented the legislators with two key letters of support—one from **Patty Adam**, leader of our local senior citizens group and the other from **Guy Monroe**, Chief of El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service.

Ms. Adam reminded the legislators that during our recent, record snowfall many seniors were trapped in their homes for four days or more. She stated that our roads have long lost their basecourse and that many of them will become impassable mud tracks as they thaw out.

Chief Monroe's letter requested that our lawmakers support legislation to "provide the needed funds

for the repair of our roads so that my department's volunteers and their emergency vehicles and equipment may continue to save lives and protect property in the Eldorado area of Santa Fe County."

At the conclusion of the meeting it appeared that the Eldorado delegation had won at least a partial victory. Representative Wirth and Senator Grubestic appear committed to support legislation that will provide \$500 thousand of the \$1.2 million required for the project.

Following their meeting with the legislators, the Eldorado delegation presented a letter to the governor's office requesting funds under his control that could be used to make up the shortfall.

"Much remains to be done," said ECIA President Jeanne Klein. "Since any funds granted to the ECIA area roads must also include county roads in the 285 Corridor, we need the full amount or more in order to get the job done for our residents." Jeanne Klein and members of the ECIA Road Committee as well as other resident-volunteers were at the Agora on Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11 obtaining signatures from residents of the area for a petition urging both legislative and executive support to help solve the problem of the long neglected roads of Eldorado.

Use your voice! Sign the petition (found on the community web site) and contact our representatives. See page 2 for more information.

—Frank Schober

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Mar 12, 7 pm*



Illustration by
Wolfe Gleitsman

**Share your
comments
with us!**

*For policy and
deadline, see
below*

Editorial Policy

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

More Dirt on the Roads

THE ECIA HAS REQUESTED of the New Mexico State Legislature \$1.5 million in funding for re-basecoursing 32 miles of our worst dirt roads. To help convince our two legislators of the need and urgency of this request, there is a petition being passed around. If you have not signed the petition at the Agora or through another "face-to-face" method, please go to the community web site, fill in your name and address, and the form letter will be e-mailed to Rep. Wirth, Speaker Lujan and Sen. Grubesis. Or you can go to the ECIA offices and fill out a hard copy to be sent to them. The more signatures they see, the better our chances for funding. **Governor Richardson** can be contacted through a link on our community web page (as accessed by the instructions below), by phone at his office at (505) 476-2200, or you can send a letter to the following address:

Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

To fill out and send the on-line form:

- ▼ Go to www.eldoradocommunity.org
- ▼ Click on the text at the top of the page that says, "Click Here to Lobby your Legislators for Road Repair!"
- ▼ Fill in your name and your address and then click the Submit button

Curious what the letter says? You can read it on-line before you send it, but, for your convenience, the entire message is repeated in the next paragraphs.

"Dear Sir:

"I am a resident of Eldorado at Santa Fe. Our 80-mile network of county-owned and main-tained roads are primarily dirt and were last surfaced with base course in the late 1970s. Due to rain, wind and traffic volume erosion, most of this material has disappeared. The result is washboarding, dust and mud. In some cases, driving can be hazardous.

"We seek state funding in the amount of \$1.5 million to re-basecourse the worst 32 miles of dirt roads. We have the support of County Commissioner Sullivan in this matter. Your support will be greatly appreciated."

*Your Association dues
should be in the Association
office by March 1.
Please get them in on time.*

Transit Trial Run

THE NORTH REGIONAL TRANSIT District (NRTD) has announced plans to provide shuttle bus service between Eldorado and Santa Fe for six months beginning in April. The trial project will bus up to 57 passengers between Eldorado and Santa Fe twice a day for \$1 each way.

According to **Jack Kolkmeier**, Director of Santa Fe County Land Use Administration, "Plans are contingent upon contractual agreements currently in negotiation." The proposed departure point will be the Agora Shopping Center. Santa Fe stops will be St. Vincent Hospital, Department of Transportation headquarters on Cerrillos Road and a downtown stop yet to be determined.

Two public meetings will be held in Eldorado in March to discuss scheduling and drop-off sites. The meetings are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday evenings, March 6 and March 20. Locations will be announced in ads in the *New Mexican's* Eldorado edition and on signs posted at the Agora Shopping Center. You can also check with the ECIA office and www.eldoradocommunity.org for details.



From the President's Desk

S**NOW. MUDDY ROADS. LEAKING** roofs. Let's forget these events that came with our winter. Let's think about spring, summer, long walks and parties on the Community Center patio.

The ECIA Board, with input from the Finance Committee and the expert work of **Bill Donohue**, is planning to redo the patio area at the Community Center. We have a design, but no solid bids at this point. The design will make the patio an attractive addition to the Community Center.

The design includes a cistern and gutters for water collection. The patio will be landscaped with shrubs and plants that need little water once established (xeriscaped). The patio area will be resurfaced with stamped concrete for a more level surface. The existing trees will remain, but their drainage will be improved. A small shade ramada will be built close to the Community Center and a larger one farther from the building, but in the vicinity. The design is available for viewing in the Association office.

This project will take time. If the work begins as hoped in mid-April, we hope for it to be completed in August, in time for the Vista Grande Public Library's Ice Cream Social.

Settling into the Job

F**IRST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK** the editor and writers of the January issue of *Vistas* for introducing me to the Eldorado community as your new Covenants' Compliance Representative.

I am still learning how to best serve you regarding the implementation of our Eldorado Covenants' policies and guidelines. The ECIA Board, Architectural Committee (AC) and staff have helped facilitate my learning process in an environment of support and warm welcomes. I am grateful to be both living here with my wife, **Melinda**, and working in our community.

The goal of the ECIA Board, committees and staff is to ensure and maintain the quality of life in our community. We are implementing this vision by applying the covenants governing our neighborhoods as fairly and equitably as possible. The Board oversees this process.

Part of our quality of life is to ensure a safe environment for our children and to maintain our open space, including the vistas, surroundings and different kinds of plant and wild life. Yes, that includes a place to walk our dogs and get some exercise, even with all the snow!

On another note, I promised myself I would not write about dogs this time, but I do need to say that residents who have taken their dogs to the dog park can only say nice things about it. As the snow melts in the dog park, of course, the park will be muddy. We are working to purchase a ground cover, and it could possibly be installed by the time you read this. If you want to use the dog park, registration information is on the community website (www.eldoradocommunity.org) or on page 4. A ribbon-cutting grand opening will be on March 17 at 11 am. Hurrah!

Finally, I want to publicly thank Bill Donohue for getting up early one snowy morning at the end of January to brush off the hike/bike paths so those of us who were beginning to experience cabin fever could get out for a walk. Thanks, Bill.

—Jeanne Klein



The snow melts; the mud takes over.

I am becoming familiar with the issues in Eldorado, and I am now as aware as you that dogs are one of our BIG issues. The Board just concluded a major meeting regarding dog handling in our community, reviewing the current policies requiring that dogs be controlled by their owners at all times. In the near future, the Board will be deciding whether to make any changes to our policies regarding dogs. There are strong opinions about this, and I am confident that both sides will be represented as we negotiate new policies and/or accommodate the current ones.

As your compliance representative, I am available to answer your questions, respect your input and facilitate policies and regulations that meet your needs within our covenant structure. This may mean explaining a current guideline to you, taking suggestions for new guidelines or resolving ongoing disputes. Please feel free to contact me at 466-4248. Again, I want to thank everyone for their support.

—Bert Lysen
CCR

ECIA OFFICE

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

General Manager
Bill Donohue
466-4248
ECCommunity@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Jeanne Klein
466-2466
Jpkeducate@aol.com
Vice President
Ed Benrock
466-2088
Francesed@msn.com

Treasurer
Sandy MacGregor
466-0882
s.macg@earthlink.net
Secretary
Philip Balcombe
466-2982
pgbalcombe@cybermesa.com

Director
Johnny Martinez
466-0696
jmartinez54@comcast.net

Director
Su Anne Armstrong
466-4067
suanneinsantafe@msn.com

Director
Richard Anderson
466-4635
richardeanderson@comcast.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: **Dan Drobni**
Architecture: **Bill Schwent**
Conservation: **John Parker**
and **E.J. Evangelos**
Stable: **Dina Sassone**
466-6441
Election: **Pat Lavengood**
Roads: **Nolan Zisman**
Information: **Ken McPherson**
Neighborhood Watch:
Mary Uhl and Marilyn Walker

VISTAS NEWSLETTER

Editor:
Ken McPherson
466-4161
kenzwork@hubwest.com
Designer:
Hope O. Kiah
hope@santafe-webdesign.com
Editorial Assistants:
Lynn McPherson
Debby Padilla
466-4248

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library
466-READ
Security
204-2945
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
Animal Control
992-1621

Did a Woman Write Shakespeare?

Come to the Vista Grande Public Library Thursday, March 15, at 7 pm to hear **Robin P. Williams** discuss her controversial book, *Sweet Swan of Avon*.

Robin is the author of dozens of best-selling and award-winning books about design, typography, the web and the Macintosh computer. In *Sweet Swan of Avon*, she turns to a project that has been on her mind for 30 years. Robin makes a case for Mary Sidney as the true author and will share her ideas with us.

An independent scholar, Robin has studied Shakespeare at St. John's College in Santa Fe and Oxford University in England. She also has been a featured speaker at the Authorship Conference at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

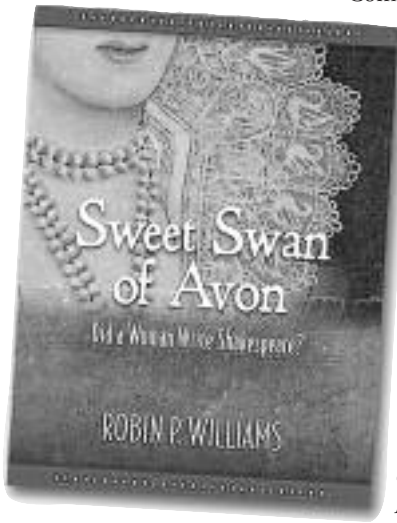
This is the first of two programs at the library on the character and identity of Shakespeare. Put the evening of Thursday, April 19, on your calendar for **Richard Whalen**, author of *Shakespeare—Who Was He? The Oxford Challenge to the Bard of Avon*.

Dog Park Opening

The long-awaited Eldorado dog park is set to open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 17 at 11am. All residents wishing to use the park should fill out a registration form at the ECIA office or on our website, www.eldoradocommunity.org. When you turn in the completed registration form to the Association office, you will be given a tag for your dog to wear during visits to the park. There will be rules and regulations posted at the park that we hope all will follow for the safety and wellbeing of the dogs and their human friends. If you have any questions, please call the ECIA office at 466-4248.

We Bid You Welcome

We invite the entire Eldorado community to attend the spring auction at El Dorado Elementary School on Saturday, March 24, from 2 to 6 pm. This fundraiser for the El Dorado PTA helps raise money to support many activities for our students, including the visiting artist program. You can bid on a range of items, from artwork to jewelry to beautiful gift baskets put together by parents and students. Delicious food and beverages will be available along with entertainment and fun activities to keep the young ones occupied while you shop. Come support the children in your community and have a great time as well! We are still accepting donations of



Was Shakespeare a woman? Listen to Robin Williams's argument.



auction items. For more information, call El Dorado Elementary School at 467-4905.

Dog Owner Workshop

On Thursday, March 22, from 7 to 8:30 pm, a session will be held for dog owners to learn techniques for containing dogs in the house and the use of fencing and kenneling. Information also will be presented on anti-barking remedies and self-protection in dealing with your dog. The cost is \$10 at the door. No registration needed. The trainers are **Ms. Gregory** and **Ms. Fuqua**.

Every Drop Counts

On Saturday, March 10, at 1 pm, the Quivira Coalition and Earth Works Institute will present "Practical Strategies for Rainwater Harvesting & Gray Water Utilization" at the El Dorado Elementary School. **Jan-Willem Jansens** (Earth Works Institute) will give an introduction on watershed-wise communities and share inspiring examples of water harvesting and re-use as well as economic incentives.

Following the introduction, water-harvesting contract specialists, **Reese Baker** of The Rain Catcher, **Craig Sponholtz** of Dryland Solutions



Rainwater can lower water usage. Hear what the experts say.



ASTRONOMY Corner

CONSTELLATIONS, FIGURES IN THE NIGHT SKY

In the sky, we have 88 imagined groupings of stars that represent religious or mythological figures, heroes, animals or just objects. The oldest references to constellations come from the Sumerians as early as 4000 BC. "An," the Sumerian god of heaven, is our Aquarius. By 450 BC, the zodiac was known by the Babylonians. Ptolemy, the Alexandrian astronomer, described 48 constellations, of which 47 are known today by the same name.

March Sky:

Mercury, Mars and the **moon**, visible at dawn by mid-month looking east-south-east; **Venus and the crescent moon**, visible after sunset looking west by the third week of March; **Spring equinox** will be on March 20 at 6:06 pm (MDT).

Next time: "Blue Moon"—it's not just a song.

—Juan Alvarez
Jalva88610@aol.com

See the light—follow outdoor lighting rules so we can all enjoy the stars.

and **Richard Jennings** from Earthwrights Designs will provide ideas for water capture and storage in containers, in the land and in vegetation. Other topics include effluent recycling, low-interest financing for water harvesting investments and what you should expect from a contractor.

A \$20 donation is suggested per person or family. For more information and to RSVP, go to www.quivira.coalition.org or call 820-2544, ext. 0#.

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 16, 5-7 pm			LR
--------------	----------------------	--	--	----

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EAW&SD*	Tues., Mar. 6, 7-9 pm		466-2411	LR
285 Coalition	Wed., Mar. 7, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Mar. 12, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Mar. 14, 9:30-noon	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Mar. 14, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Mar. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Mar. 19, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
EAW&SD*	Tues., Mar. 20, 7-9 pm		466-2411	LR
Stable Committee	Tues., Mar. 27, 7-9 pm	Dina Sassone	466-6441	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Mar. 28, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Mar. 10, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Mar. 6, 10-11 am			F
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Mar. 8, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726	C
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579	Sm Gym
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Mar. 12, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Nichole Anaya	466-2590	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Mar. 20, 2-4:30 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Mar. 20, 10-11 am			F
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	982-2890	
Spanish Conversation	Every other Sunday	Gail	466-3370	CFR
League of Women Voters	Sat., Mar. 31, 10-11 am			LR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7-8:30 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Wed., 6:30-9 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thurs., 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	Wed., 12-1 pm	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641	School

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

A Personal Triumph



Bob McCollough's hobby is a beauty—this yellow Triumph TR3.

FOR THE OWNER of a vintage British car, love has to be a many splendored thing.

Take, for example, **Bob McCollough** and his 1959 Triumph TR-3A. The Houston-bred Air Force retiree first fell in love with Triumphs when he was in college, but couldn't afford one at that time.

"I always wanted a TR-3," he said in an interview in his home in northwestern Eldorado, where he has lived with his wife, **Suzann**, since 2001.

"About 83,000 TR-2s and TR-3s were built since the TR-2 made its debut in 1952, and about 10,000 of them are left," Bob said.

He bought his ragtop in August 2002 from a guy in Santa Fe for \$3,700 and then put another \$8,300 into it. He believes it's worth maybe \$7,000, with only 53,500 miles on the odometer.

Bob is the first to admit that the sleek little canary yellow two-seater is not a sparkling show car.

A hybrid, its front end is a '59, but the rear end is part of a mystery Triumph that was welded onto the front. The seam is not noticeable. Bob painted the car himself, piece by unbolted piece.

"Whatever I do to it, I don't feel as if I'm destroying a museum piece," he said. "I just wanted to make a neat car that I could drive home."

Bob was done tinkering and painting by the end of 2003 and then his 4-cylinder, 1,986cc engine gave out. He put in a rebuilt engine in 2005. Then the crankshaft went last April after only 3,000 miles. He put it back together in July and "now it runs fine," he said, adding, "but the brake lights don't work."

"After a while," he said, "a car ceases to be a project and becomes a quest."

Frustrating, no?

"Yeah, it makes you wonder where the justice is in this world," he replied. "There's a reason they call the British a nation of tinkers. They have a high tolerance for things that make Americans mad and drive the Japanese nuts."

—Richard C. Gross

Children's Librarian Brings New Perspective

A DOCTORATE IN GERONTOLOGY may seem an unusual path to becoming the new Vista Grande Public Library Children's Librarian, but **Pamela Monaghan-Geernaert** points out that aging is something we do throughout life, beginning as children. "The library is located between the elementary school and the new Senior Center, so we have an opportunity to serve all ages."

Originally from Calgary, Alberta, Pam came to the U.S. for graduate study at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland and then to New Mexico on a Stanford fellowship. Pam joined the library in December, and emphasizes expanded services for middle- and high-school children by coordinating with Capshaw Middle School and Capitol High School curricula to have more of their reading materials available at the library.

"These kids are dropped off by their buses at the elementary school in the afternoon, so coming over to the library to do their assignments seems natural," she observes. She is also

instituting a teen movie night the first Friday of each month, at 7 pm and strengthening the tutoring program for kids 7-12 Wednesdays from 4 pm to 8:30 pm. A complete schedule of activities is available online at <http://www.vglibrary.org>.

Pam and her husband **Gerald**, who works at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), live in western Eldorado with their 4-year-old daughter. "We have no kids in our neighborhood, but our daughter has been adopted as everyone's surrogate grandchild," she smiles. They originally settled in Eldorado five years ago because it was equally inconvenient to UNM Albuquerque, where Pam worked, and LANL, where her husband worked.

Pam contacted the library when she saw a notice in the library newsletter seeking a children's librarian. She notes that "you don't get a graduate degree without LOTS of contact with libraries, and I was a former local Mom's Club President." Her daughter gets to come to work and help out, recently with Valentine decorations (at the lower levels only). Pam loves the volunteer spirit at the library—though she works only 20 hours a week she never lacks for help, and the voluntary contributions on which the library operates can be stretched to cover plenty of supplies and materials.

—Dan Drobnis

Andrew May confers with Vista Grande Public Library Children's Librarian Pamela Monaghan-Geernaert.



PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS

The Downy Woodpecker

THE TWO-FOOT SNOWFALL

Just after Christmas 2006 inspired me to get out my suet log. The Scrub Jays always seem to go after it, performing aerobatics to reach the goodies. There are many suet recipes on the web, but I keep it simple—lard and corn meal.

Much to my surprise, though, a pair of Downy Woodpeckers (DW) showed up immediately and have been visiting several times each day. I have seen both on the log at the same time. The DW is the most common and often-seen woodpecker in the U.S. This smallish woodpecker is 6.75 inches long with a 12-inch wingspan. The belly is white, the wings and tail are black with white spots/barring, and it has a white back and lovely head markings: top central black line, white line above eye, black line running through eye to back of head, more white and then a black line from the bill which goes to the cheek and then turns down the side. Males have a bright red area at the back of their head. Females are similar, with no red, and the white is more a light brown. Their bills are black, rather short, but strong. A small tuft of white feathers is at the nostrils. DWs are resident all year. Their food is comprised of 75% insects with some fruit, seeds and sap.

DWs are marked almost identically to the Hairy Woodpecker, but the Hairy is considerably larger—9.25 inches long. The DW has a distinctive flight pattern (as do other woodpeckers). After a wing beat, the wings are folded and the flight path dips in a low arc, then rises back to starting height with a wing beat.

DW courtship includes dancing, drumming and bill waving. Pairs are monogamous and take approximately 16 days to make a new nest each year (the nest site is chosen by the female). Three to six eggs are incubated, mostly by the male, for 12 days. The altricial young fledge in about 23 days and are fed by both parents.

A few special woodpecker adaptations include toes pointing forward and backward for climbing, strong bills and specially designed heads with spongy bone to withstand pecking, stiff tails to use as a support while climbing and very long, barbed, sticky tongues that contain bone to reach insects in holes.

—Pam Henline



Moving Our School Forward!

EL DORADO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is committed to creating a *Community of Excellence* with the school acting as a “lighthouse.” The school staff, PTA, volunteers and community partners are building and strengthening collaborative ties.

Our El Dorado Science Committee, which includes teachers, parents and community volunteers, is writing a PNM Classroom Innovation grant proposal that will help fund forest restoration and ecological study projects sponsored by the Quivira Coalition. Another proposal is being written for a British Petroleum energy conservation grant in hopes of providing materials and hands-on, “in-the-field” activities that would be made available for all grade levels at El Dorado Elementary.

Our Art Initiative is reaching out to local artists so that our school reflects the creative talent of the community. Over two hundred students have been working on artwork for our playground area. Based on themes of kindness, excellence, trustworthiness, peace and community, the designs will astound you! Here are some examples: “Excellence is making the shot!” “Caring is playing golf with my dad” “Give money to monkeys: Save the rainforest!” and “It’s

OK to love math!” The wall-ball boards were refurbished by the Christ Church of Santa Fe, and donations of paint and materials came from businesses and parents. Once the weather warms up, the playground will come alive with student artwork. In addition, the El Dorado Children’s Theater has donated backdrops for our library, and local artists are working on murals and stained glass designs.

Volunteers are slowly trickling in and experiencing the wonders of helping our community’s children. Based on their interest and expertise, the volunteers assist students with one-on-one reading, technology, tutoring, working with Junior Achievement or just being a mentor. We still need volunteers interested in helping with planting a garden. Please call 467-4901 and ask for **Christine** if you are interested in taking part in our wonderful school.

Hearing the voices of our students is powerful; seeing their art come to life is inspiring; working hand in hand with the community is priceless!

—Yann Lussiez
Principal



*Security 204-2945
Sheriff 428-3720*

Where Do Potholes Come From?

Potholes can be caused by several different occurrences. The following explanation is the most common for areas such as Eldorado and Santa Fe.

Water from rain or snowmelt sinks into the mixture of sand and gravel beneath the pavement. When the temperature goes below freezing at night, the frozen water expands, sometimes causing a slight bubble in the pavement. Traffic stresses the surface, causing failure. When the temperature goes up again, the pavement and the ice beneath it thaw. The pavement can then collapse into the void created by the thawed ice.

Believe it or not, some people are so interested in potholes that they write poems about them. These poems are posted at <http://potholezine.blogspot.com>.

—Ken McPherson



PHOTO BY LYNN MCPHERSON

The snow not only left us with mud, paved roads
have potholes to contend with.