

ELDORADO VISTAS

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March 2009

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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

Watch Over Us

WHEN THE NAME NICK FROST was suggested to me as a Neighborhood Watch (NW) block captain to interview for *Vista's* March issue, I did not expect to speak to someone so convinced of the importance of community communication. He is a licensed amateur "ham" radio operator and member of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) group that provides radio communications during both actual emergencies and preparedness exercises for the county and state. He feels that communicating information to his neighbors about threats to the safety and security of Eldorado naturally follows the radio amateur's expected community service role. "We have a duty and obligation to our community since we benefit from the recreational use of radio frequencies which are also used for emergency communications. The federal rules which govern our licensure as radio operators stipulate community service," he says. In his capacity as NW block captain, he forwards Santa Fe County Sheriff's Hot Sheet emails to the neighbors on his block. When there is an incident close to his block, he calls or speaks to his neighbors to alert them.

Nick organized his block and has served as block captain for two years after meeting NW organizer Marilyn Walker, who suggested he participate. He was prompted by his interest in the safety and welfare of the people and property in Eldorado and the 285 Corridor. When asked about the immediate benefits NW has had on his block, he explained that neighbors who know each other can watch out for each other. "We stand a better chance of dealing with the incidents of harassment, burglaries and vandalisms that have occurred if we improve our ability to communicate with each other and increase

our capacity for appropriate observation within the community while respecting people's privacy and cooperating with local law enforcement agencies," he says. Our troubled economy could increase these incidents, so now is a good time to consider collaborating with neighbors to improve communication.

Organizing a block for NW participation requires contacting your neighbors to explain how NW works and why it is important. After collecting neighbors' contact information and compiling it, it should be distributed to the neighbors, preferably at a gathering. After that, it is a matter of forwarding emailed Hot Sheets to the neighbors to keep them informed of the types and locations of Eldorado crime and reports of suspicious activity.

Maintaining communication with neighbors during the year can happen through periodic meetings, informing close neighbors when one is going out of town, or merely being aware of the activity and vehicles that normally belong on your block.

It takes little time either to be a block captain organizing for NW or to just be a NW member, and it could prevent theft, vandalism, or even violence. We want Eldorado to have a reputation for being a place that does not tolerate crime.

You are invited to attend a NW watch meeting to learn more or to get started organizing your block. (We meet the first Monday of February, May, August and November.) If you would prefer, contact Marilyn Walker at 466-2553 (Lightwalker@comcast.net) or Imelda Garcia at 466-1577 (Nbrhwtch78@yahoo.com). If you would like to make a comment, contribute an article about NM, or request a NW topic, please contact Lyn deMartin at lyndemartin@hotmail.com or 466-1237.

—Lyn deMartin

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Mar. 16, 7 pm*

Finance Committee Changes Meetings

The ECIA Finance Committee has changed its regular meeting schedule to 4 pm on the first Monday of each month. The public comment section will be moved to the last item on the agenda, to facilitate input from Association members who work during the day. Thus the next two meetings of the Finance Committee will be at 4 pm on Monday, March 2, and on Monday, April 6, in the Board Room.

PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH



**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 ECIADebby@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.

Pedestrian Safety for Eldorado

NEW MEXICO has one of the highest per capita pedestrian death rates in the nation. Unfortunately, Eldorado, with its two pedestrian deaths in the last few years, does not help these statistics.

To its credit, Eldorado has an athletic population. People here love to utilize the hike-bike trails, which are a tremendous asset to the community. However, with this comes the increasing danger of death or injury if safety practices are not followed. Interestingly, children are often more careful than adults.

New Mexico actually has strict laws regulating pedestrian practices on roadways:

1. When available, pedestrians must generally cross at crosswalks.
2. Pedestrians must obey traffic signals at intersections where traffic control devices are present.
3. Pedestrians have the right of way when crossing at a crosswalk: (a) as long as the pedestrian does not suddenly leave the curb and get in the path of a vehicle that does not have time to stop; (b) only for half of the roadway if the pedestrian is crossing at any point other than an intersection or crosswalk.
4. Vehicles have the right of way if the pedestrian is crossing at any point other than an intersection or crosswalk.
5. When sidewalks are provided, pedestrians must use them when walking along a road or street. (Be safe. Use our hike-bike trails.)
6. Pedestrians are prohibited from standing in streets for the purpose of hitchhiking, soliciting or conducting business of any type.
7. Drivers must use reasonable care and are required to use their horn and take other precautions particularly if children or incapacitated adults are observed.

While Eldorado has a number of designated crosswalks, many are not well maintained. The crosswalk at Vista Grande and Monte Alto has faded completely, and the one at the school is in desperate need of repainting. I have seen two adults with two small kids in a crosswalk almost get clobbered by a speeding vehicle that did not even slow down (on Monte Alto south of the Community Center).

Generally, Eldorado resident drivers are pretty observant and careful of pedestrians. Still, a mother

with two kids in the back seat was seen speeding through the school zone during school hours.

Many bicyclers don't ride on the hike-bike trails but prefer the roadways, which is their right. However, it imposes additional hazards, and the first entrance road is very dangerous for bikers, particularly during commuter hours because of the lack of road shoulders and the many blind curves. Legally, they may be in the right but possibly "dead right." Be careful.

The biggest hazard to pedestrians along Eldorado's roads where no hike-bike trails are present is posed by commercial delivery trucks and out-of-area vehicles. Out-of-area teenagers sometimes cruise the streets and may be particularly guilty of ignoring stop signs. Rarely do we have sheriff deputies patrolling our roads; some drivers know it and drive recklessly, figuring they won't be apprehended.

We have many walkers, joggers, runners, and bicyclers throughout the community from 6 am to 8 pm. They are particularly hard to see before daylight and after dark and should wear light-colored clothing.

Let's everyone, pedestrians and drivers alike, try to improve our dismal record in Eldorado with no more deaths or injuries.

—Don Dayton

(Don and wife Nancy are ardent joggers and bicyclers in the Eldorado area almost daily, year-round)

More on Pedestrians

REGARDING THE RECENT LETTER from Berverly Nelson (*Vistas*, February 2009), I must comment:

I walk Avenida Azul several times a week on my way to the arroyos and paths. Most cars are traveling faster than 25 mph. Virtually all the cars move over for pedestrians and "share the road." The exceptions are those who refuse to clean the ice and snow from their windshield. Even the chronic cell phone users move over.

Of much greater danger are those who walk on the right, not on the left facing traffic, either alone, or with dogs, baby carriages etc. They are putting themselves and their family at risk! Pedestrians should properly "share the road" as well!

—Noel Camborde

From the ECIA President's Desk

WHEN IS A VOTE IMPORTANT?

Well, every vote is important especially when it affects you personally. The upcoming vote for an amendment to our Covenants is just such a case.

As noted in last month's *Vistas*, the Association was recently engaged in a long and costly Covenant arbitration process. Even though the Association prevailed, Association members lost financially because our Covenants did not allow us, the prevailing party, to recoup our legal costs for this Covenant enforcement action.

It is because we know this could happen again that we are asking you to vote YES on changes in the Covenants that would allow us to recoup the Association's legal expenses. Really, the changes represent a win-win proposition—for you, the homeowner, and for the Association. We cannot avoid

using attorneys in these enforcement cases because we must be represented by legal counsel in order that the arbitration be considered legally binding. But with the Covenant changes we are seeking, we would save *the cost* of a long, drawn-out arbitration hearing when we are the prevailing party. Times are tough right now, and your Board would like to avoid another costly action like the one we recently experienced. That is why your Association needs you to vote FOR this important money saving-change in our Covenants.

The text with the proposed changes is presented below. A response card will be included with the March Annual Report and Board election mailing. Article IV, Section 1 of the Covenants requires that a majority of all lot owners approve any amendment.

—Ed Benrock, ECIA President

Proposed Covenant Amendment

ARTICLE III, SECTIONS 2 & 3

Re-write of Sections 2(b), 2(c), and 3

- 2b. In the event any claims, disputes and other matters in question arising out of, or related to, this Restated Declaration cannot be resolved by direct discussions between the Association and a Lot Owner(s), they shall be settled and finally determined by arbitration conducted in Santa Fe County by an arbitrator selected by mutual agreement of the parties and in accordance with the New Mexico Uniform Arbitration Act, as then in effect. The award rendered by the arbitrator shall be final, and the judgment may be entered upon it in accordance with applicable law in any court having jurisdiction thereof.
- 2c. The foregoing arbitration provision does not apply to any action for injunctive relief by the Association to prevent or to remedy any breach of this Restated Declaration, in the event of an actual or potential threat to the health, safety and/or welfare of Association and/or its members and homeowners, which action may be

immediately brought in any Court having proper jurisdiction and venue.

- 2d. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties to a dispute may voluntarily agree to mediate a dispute before initiating an arbitration or lawsuit, but such mediation shall not be required before doing so.

Section 3. Recovery of Costs and Fees. In the event that arbitration or judicial action is taken by the Board to enforce this Restated Declaration against a Lot Owner or other person(s) violating this Restated Declaration (including any legal action to compel arbitration), the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the non-prevailing party its reasonable attorneys' fees, any gross receipts tax thereon, and legal costs and expenses incurred in connection with therewith, including the fees of the arbitrator and those incurred in any collection action or on appeal (all as determined by the Court or by the arbitrator).

ECIA Board Nominations & Election

Applications and nominating petitions to run for the ECIA Board are due at the ECIA office by March 2. Any ECIA member in good standing wishing to run for the Board may submit a petition with the signatures of 25 lot-owners, along with requested biographical information.

Ballots for the Board election will be included with the election mailing for the Covenant amendment at the end of March. Ballots must be returned to ECIA by April 30, and election results will be announced at the ECIA's annual meeting on May 4.

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Conservation: John Parker
and E.J. Evangelos
Stable: Bonita Mamp
Election: Ken Robinson
Roads: Nolan Zisman
Information: Frank Schober
Neighborhood Watch:
Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker
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Fred Raznick

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

Financial Advice for Youngsters



PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH

For attending this talk (see right) your child will receive a "Money Savvy Piggy Bank" like this one with separate slots for saving, investing, donating and spending.

Fred W. Richardson, local financial advisor for the Edward Jones Company at the Agora, will host an educational seminar entitled "How to Raise a Money-Smart Child" at the Community Center on March 14, from 11 am to 1:30 pm. Children from 5 years of age are invited to attend. Each child will receive a "Money Savvy Piggy Bank" with four chambers, one each for saving, investing, donating to good causes and personal spending. The seminar has been nationally recognized as a superb way to teach children the basics of handling money, an essential lifeline skill. To sign up your youngster for this seminar, call 466-4058.

Free Yoga Classes

Every Saturday at 9:15 in the Railroad Room of the Community Center, **Elizabeth A. Ebner**, Registered Yoga Teacher, holds free yoga classes. Taking from the philosophy of Viniyoga, the techniques of Gary Kraftsow, and in the spirit of therapeutic principles of yoga, this class combines asana practice (poses), pranayama practice (breathing), relaxation and meditation training, and the model of the 8 limbs of yoga, to bring to the student the full experience of yoga practice. Bring your own yoga mat, two blocks, a strap and a blanket. For more information, call 505-603-4110 or email eaebner@comcast.net.

Eldorado Garden Coop

The new Eldorado Garden Coop is alive and kicking! We are interfacing with the Eldorado Community School in their new outdoor learning program and will be planting this spring! If you have wanted to start your own edible garden and would like to participate with other wonderful people from Eldorado in creating a functioning and productive garden cooperative, please join us at our next meeting. For details, please contact **Marilynn Jacobs** (mkjsantafe@comcast.net or 466-6707) or **Eleni Cahn** (elenicahn@msn.com or 466-1558).

Eldorado People's Cooperatives

Come join a growing number of your neighbors in this visionary, community-building effort. Momentum continues to grow as Eldoradans are collaborating on various projects such as: **Food Co-op**: What might a buying club look like? How can we tie into existing resources such as the Grass-Fed Beef Cooperative and the Farmers



Market? Energy Sustainability Team: What are short- and long-term energy conservation steps we can take as a community, and how might they be funded? Explore how to save money and end waste by super-insulating our homes, perhaps taking advantage of bulk purchases. **Spiritual Cooperative:** How can we foster a non-hierarchical spiritual culture here? Join with others to help shape this unique venue for practice and rich sharing. **Community Garden:** Shared gardens contribute to local food safety and security, and build community. Give us your ideas about how to make this wonderful idea a reality.

How about a Babysitting Co-op? An Arts Co-op? An Educational Co-op? What's your dream? The possibilities are endless. But this network of cooperatives isn't all work and no play—it's also about thought-provoking presentations, celebrations, potlucks, opportunities to forge new relationships, and having fun! Log onto our new Wiki site, eldoradopeoplescooperative.wikispaces.com, where you can find dates for upcoming activities. It's easy to join this site and put in your two cents! Or contact **Don McAvinchey** at donmcavinchey@comcast.net, 955.1847. Please join us!

Eldorado Residents Association News

The ever-popular TGIF receptions continue on March 20. Hosted by ERA Board members from 5 to 7 pm at the Community Center, these receptions give residents an opportunity to discuss their concerns or suggestions for making life even better in Eldorado in an informal and relaxed setting.

ERA's quarterly meeting in January welcomed two special guests who spearhead projects that show potential for making the world a little better. These include **Don McAvinchey**, who represents the new Eldorado People's Cooperative for initiatives in local energy, food and gardens; and **Joe Auberg**, former ERA board member, who is now a committee of one to collect, repair and deliver used bicycles to St. Elizabeth's Shelter. Homeless people use them to get to work and support themselves and, often, their families. Eldorado residents have donated six bikes for this cause so far, and ERA is proud to have helped arrange those donations. If you have a repairable bike to donate (you'll receive a tax credit), call Joe at 466-1484.

ECIA FEES DUE
MARCH 1

The 2009 ECIA fee is due no later than March 6. If not received, members of that household will not be permitted to vote in the upcoming ECIA election (for one Board position and for the Covenant amendment; see p. 2). Contact **Debby Padilla** at 466-4248 if you have questions or concerns.



ASTRONOMY CORNER MARCH 2009

Cepheids

Cepheids are yellow giant or supergiant pulsating variable stars (stars whose apparent brightness varies over time, with regular periods of pulsations). They are called cepheids because the first of the type to be discovered was named Delta Cephei. During the pulsating period of their lives, these stars may change in size as much as 30 percent. Their extremely regular light variations make cepheids valuable star candles.

A typical cepheid has a surface temperature varying between 6000 and 7500 kelvins and an absolute luminosity ten thousand times that of the sun.

—Juan Alvarez
jalva88610@aol.com

New Moon, darkest night
reborn from spiral star womb
Milky Way Mother

— Jamie Bair

The ERA annual meeting and Board elections will be held Monday, April 6, at 7 pm in the Community Center classroom. **Pat Bell**, Nominating Committee Chairman, will prepare a slate of candidates. If you are interested in becoming a member of the ERA board or would like more information, please contact Pat at 466-3768. I hope to see each one of you, fellow residents of Eldorado, at the annual meeting.

—Bruce Blossman

Earth Day Energy Forum

The Conservation Committee is planning a big event for Earth Day: a community energy forum. So save the date, May 1, and watch for details in the April *Vistas*.

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Finance Committee	Mon., March 2, 4 pm	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., March 2, 6 pm			CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., March 3, 4 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., March 3, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., March 11, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., March 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., March 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., March 24, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., March 25, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., March 31, 7-9 pm	Bonnie Mamp	466-4271	LR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Search & Rescue	Thurs., March 12, 6:30-9:30 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
La Canada Wireless	Mon., March 9 & 23, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
Eldorado Dog Club	Tues., March 10, 7 pm	Freddi Hetler	466-2005	LR
Roadrunners RV Club	Tues., March 17, 6 pm	Beverly Cottingham	466-4655	Fire
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kielling	466-4232	Sm Gym
MOMS Club	Mon., March 24, 3:30-5:30	Mandie Rippey	795-4086	
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	466-6398	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
EAWS&SD*	Thurs, March 5 & 19, 7-9 pm	466-2411		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/RR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Ramon Quintana	757-6424	RR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	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 Church	Sun., 9:30 & 11 am	David McPherson	466-2495	CC
Community Band	Thurs., 6:30-8:30 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	New gym
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**	M, W & F, 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Figure Drawing	Mon., 12:30-2:30 pm	Sande Anderson	466-4688	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

At the Crossroads

SPEEDING KILLS (OUR ROADS)

THE 22 ROADS that recently received new base course are among those that were in the worst washboard condition when dry or the worst rutting when wet. Now that our newest base course project has been completed, I have noticed that many cars traversing these roads are driving a lot faster than the speed limit (25 mph). Most of these drivers either live along, or are regular users of, these roads. What they don't seem to realize is that the dust clouds they kick up are

made of the new base course material just laid down. Because of



the wind in Eldorado, the material in those dust clouds will never get back onto the road surface. You can be assured that if the speeding continues, these roads will quickly become washboarded and rutted again, and those residents will not see another round of base course for at least another 10 years.

—Nolan Zisman
Chair, ECIA Road Committee



Native Plants

IF YOU ARE PLANNING your spring garden, consider using New Mexico native plants for sustainability. Native plants increase the likelihood of planting success, are low in maintenance needs, and require less water. Native plants also require very little in the way of soil amendments and very little future fertilization. Native plants adapt well to the strong winds, cold evenings, and intense Eldorado heat.

Using native plants doesn't mean sacrificing an attractive natural garden. Native plants still provide color, texture and style. You can create native wildflower and drought-resistant grass meadows for all four seasons.

Here are some of the native plants that adapt well in Eldorado: chamisa or rabbitbrush (deciduous shrub, 3–4 feet tall); apache plume (evergreen shrub, up to 6 feet tall); autumn sage (shrub, 2–3 feet tall); coneflower (perennial, 3–4 feet tall); penstemon (2–3 feet tall); sumac (perennial, mature height 12 feet); gayfeather (perennial, 1–3 feet tall); blue grama (grass); globemallow (perennial, 20–40 inches tall)

—John Salvatierra, Salvatierra Landscapes LLC

Brown-headed Cowbird

THE BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (BhC) is medium sized (7.5 inches long, with a 12-inch wingspan). The male has a medium brown head, stout bill, and a black body with hints of iridescent green. The female is plain brown, her back slightly darker than her underside. The voice is a low gurgle with slurred whistles. BhCs are found along the edges of woods and in open fields. They feed on insects, spiders, seeds and grass. These birds developed in South America and later were associated with buffalo herds on the Great Plains, but their range now extends to the east and west coasts. Some birds winter as far away as southern Mexico. BhCs are social and are often found in flocks of 50 to 100 birds, especially outside of breeding season. They are grouped with Blackbirds and Orioles.

The male courts the female with elaborate bows, wing flutters and spread wings, arched neck and spread tail. The BhC is a brood parasite, meaning the female lays eggs in the nests of other birds, mostly warblers, finches, flycatchers and vireos. BhCs do not

make a nest or care for their young. They may be monogamous, polygamous or promiscuous, depending on the number of host nests and the sex ratio in the area. Eggs hatch in 10 to 13 days, and the young leave the nest in 10 to 11 days.

The lifestyle of the BhC has been much studied, as their parasitic eggs endanger other species. Many birds recognize BhC eggs and either destroy the them, build a nest over the bad egg, or leave to start a new nest. Still, chicks have successfully been raised by 144 of the 220 species whose nests were used for BhC eggs. Only 3% of BhC eggs live to become breeding adults. BhCs survive because the female can lay eggs almost continuously: up to 40 eggs over two months. Kirtland's Warbler and Least Bell's Vireo are endangered partly because of the BhC. The BhC lays just one egg per nest, but sometimes another BhC also deposits an egg. The BhC eggs hatch one day before the host's eggs, and the nestlings develop rapidly, resulting in death of the host's young.

—Pam Henline



PHOTO BY CRAIG JOHNSON

Library Growing Pains

W E AT VISTA GRANDE PUBLIC Library are thrilled to report growing numbers of new patrons, capacity attendance at public programs, and increases in the materials we are circulating within the community. Yet with these successes also comes a strain on our facility and resources.

Most worrisome is the rising number of unaccompanied young children we are seeing in the library, some for hours at a time. We are working to strike a delicate balance between building a welcoming environment and positive experience for children, while respecting the needs of all other patrons.

THE VISTA GRANDE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

**Saturday, March 7, 9am–noon:
Donation Day at the Library**

**Friday, March, 13, 7 pm:
Family Movie Night "Wall-e"**

**Saturday, March 14, 10 am:
"Luck o' the Irish Pancake Breakfast"**

**Thursday, March 19, 7 pm:
"Family Legacy," a workshop on
writing your personal stories**

**Saturday, March 28, 10 am:
Story & Craft Hour**

Toward that end, we are reiterating the guidelines that govern children's behavior in the library, and we are asking for your help.

Children under the age of 12 should be accompanied by an adult or older sibling while in the library, unless registered in a library-sponsored program such as After School Reading, Chess Team, Homework Help, Junior Book Club, or tutoring. We have designated the open area of the library and the children's room specifically for kids' use and activities so that volunteers and staff can monitor and assist students as needed. All other parts of the library can then be enjoyed by our adult patrons.

Computer use has grown exponentially, and we are trying to ensure accessibility for everyone. Check the new signage on the computers the next time you are in the library. Our goal is to give kids some free time for computer games, while also providing a place that is a quieter and more contemplative space.

Thank you for your continued support of Vista Grande Public Library. With your help and cooperation, we can continue to provide the programs, materials, and resources for people of all ages that you have come to expect.

—Barbara Hagood, Library Director



Local Lions Club Excels in Community Service

NEXT TIME YOU VISIT THE AGORA, stop by the bank there. You will notice bags of groceries near the entrance. During the early part of the 2008 holiday season, our local Lions Club (officially the Eldorado Basin Lions Club) asked local residents to help those in need by dropping off nonperishable groceries at the bank. According to Marcel Legendre, the club's Chief Lion who doubles as 1st National's manager here, the plan was to close down the grocery program for needy families when the holiday season ended. He and Lions Club members were surprised when people continued to bring food donations to the bank well after the holidays. They have decided to continue the program in which our community, with the help of Lions Club volunteers, provides groceries to the Santa Fe Food Depot which, in turn, provides them to needy families everywhere in the county.

With only 20 members and less than a year of operation here, the Eldorado Lions are already

working on a number of significant community programs. In addition to an eye-disease screening program for Santa Fe public and private schools, an activity the club promotes along with 1.3 million of its members in 205 countries, local Lions will lead a project on Earth Day this year to improve the emergency exit pathway from Eldorado School to the El Dorado Main Fire Station. The hope is that the community, which will benefit from the program, will contribute materials, time and talent to make it a reality.

The Lions Club is looking for a few good members: men and women who are willing to do their share to help our community continue to be one of the greatest places to live on the planet. For answers to questions you may have on the club and its programs, call Marcel Legendre at 795-9374.

—Frank Schober





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

Chess Team Works at Play



PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS

Eugene Lesser works on a chess problem with Vista Grande Public Library chess team members **Gabriel Matsinger, Josh Topp, and Jackson Cary**. The club meets every Friday, when El Dorado School is in session at the library, and plays chess from 12:30 until 2:00 pm.

The team is open to all children through grade 6 (public, private, and home schoolers are welcomed). Past teams have competed successfully in tournaments with other clubs. There is no fee.

—Dan Drobniś