

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XV, ISSUE 3

March 2013

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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Water Line Maintenance by Homeowners

Last year was one of our driest years on record, yielding less than half of our average annual moisture. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), we are experiencing critical drought conditions that are not expected to improve in the near future. It is important for all households to conserve water and provide for proper maintenance of their waterlines. Homeowners own the water service line on their property between the EAWSD water meter and the residence, a line that can be as long as 400 feet. As such, they are responsible for the location and repair of any leaks on this line as well as for interior leaks.

Most homes have copper pipes inside the residence and plastic lines about three feet underground extending from the water meter to the residence. One pinhole leak can lose 2 gallons/hour, which equates to 1,500 gallons/month or 18,000 gallons/year. Larger leaks can lose much more. With our local soil conditions, even large leaks may not surface but may seep undetected into the ground.

To help locate, identify, and prevent water losses:

- 1 Inspect your monthly water bills. Compare your current use with monthly water use for the last 12 months. Any large unexplained increase in water usage may call for a closer inspection of the system.
- 2 Check all toilets and interior and exterior water outlets for signs of leakage. During spring and summer, heavy consumption may be due to watering of outdoor landscaping and gardens. Leaks in a drip irrigation system or faulty timing devices may also be contributing factors.
- 3 If the extra water consumption is still not identified, it may be necessary to search for an interior or exterior water line leak. This may require the help of a plumber or a leak location specialist.

Inspections for outside leaks should be undertaken before the ground freezes for the winter. Check the water meter reading when all water outlets are off. Water meters can only be accessed by EAWSD personnel, so an appointment must be made in advance. Unauthorized access into water meters is subject to a fine. EAWSD will provide property owners one "Water Profile Reading" per year from the new electronic me-

ters if a leak is suspected. This records hourly water consumption, 24 hours/day. If this "profile" shows water consumption during night hours when no water is being used, a leak may be indicated in the system.

Locating a water leak can be challenging. Most homeowners do not have a record of their waterline location unless provided by the builder. Very few plumbers have equipment to locate water leaks. One Albuquerque leak location company looks for line leaks by injecting nitrogen or helium gas into the water system and tracking it with a surface detector. Some local plumbers use sonic detectors. However, the service costs \$300 to \$500. If an outside leak still cannot be located, it may be necessary to install a new underground water line. This is very expensive, as much as \$8,000, depending on line length for trenching, installation of plastic line, and hookup to the home.

If frequent access to the water meter shutoff valve becomes necessary, EAWSD recommends that homeowners have a plumber install a shutoff valve on the customer's service line outside the meter box. This will also be useful for residents who want to shut off their water during extended absences. For those with the new electronic water meters, EAWSD will soon sell home monitors that will pick up the local electronic signal, enabling residents to read their hourly or daily water consumption anytime. This alone could provide significant savings in water conservation.

— Don Dayton, with technical advice by
EAWSD Manager David Chakroff

Assessments Past Due

All lot owners' payments of ECIA assessments are due March 1, 2013. March 15 has been set as the date of record for a lot owner to be current on all amounts owed the Association in order to be eligible to receive a ballot for the May 6 Annual Meeting. Although no Director terms are expiring, an important revision to the ECIA's bylaws will be presented for ratification on this ballot.

In addition, interest on past-due assessments will begin accruing. For consideration of special circumstances, contact General Manager **Bill Donohue** immediately at 466-4248.

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
March 21,
7 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 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or e-mailed to diana@eldoradosf.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.

Responsible Dog Ownership

In August 2007, the ECIA Board of Directors adopted the Responsible Dog Ownership Policy in response to concerns of Eldorado residents who felt that the community needed better animal control. Eldorado's Dog Policy was developed to follow the existing Santa Fe County's Animal Control Ordinance as well as to provide guidelines for dog owners throughout Eldorado's varied property settings. The policies are available at eldoradosf.org and at the ECIA office.

However, despite our detailed Dog Ownership Policy, violations of the Eldorado Covenants concerning dogs continue to occur with great regularity. Dog violations increased in 2012 over the previous year, by 19 violations. Of the 50 violations last year, 26 were due to excessive barking, and the rest were occasioned by loose and roaming dogs. We know that many more dog violations go unreported or cannot be addressed because we're unable to positively identify the location of the problem dog(s). We suspect that if all dog barking and roaming violations were reported and positively identified, the actual number of violations would be much higher.

One trend we have identified over the past three years is renters failing to comply with the dog policies. Apparently many homeowners either fail to inform renters (and house-sitters) of our Eldorado Dog Ownership policy or they fail to stress the importance of respecting the covenants, especially relative to dogs. Another alarming trend is for homeowners to leave their dogs outside and unsupervised while they are at work or out of the house. In one serious case in 2012, the owners went away for the weekend and left their dogs alone and outside for the duration, and had a pet sitter stop by to feed them once a day. Needless to say, the dogs barked much of the weekend, day and night, greatly upsetting their adjoining neighbors.

Irresponsible dog ownership is not only a nuisance for neighbors, in some cases it can be considered cruelty to animals. Residents can make a big difference in this area by observing the Dog Ownership Policy and simply remembering some good-neighbor dog ownership practices, such as:

- ▼ Bring in your dog if he/she is barking and bothering your neighbors.
- ▼ Do not leave your dogs outside the house unattended when you are away, as they may bark excessively with no one to bring them into the house.
- ▼ Never allow your dog to trespass on private property, or run at-large off your property.
- ▼ Always restrain pets from harassing wildlife.
- ▼ Always leash your dog in high-use areas such as the hike/bike path, roads, athletic fields and parks, and anywhere a leash sign is posted.
- ▼ Pick up after your dogs and properly dispose of pet waste.

If you encounter a roaming or barking dog, please notify the owner and explain the Eldorado Dog Policy to them. If the dog owner will not comply, note when and where the violation occurred and call the Santa Fe County Animal Control Division at 428-3720 weekdays from 9 AM to 5 PM. On weekends and after hours, call the sheriff at 428-3720. In addition, please report all infractions to the ECIA at 466-4248 with your name and return number so that we can follow up with you. I will work with the dog owners to enforce the covenants and hopefully prevent future violations by the offending dog(s).

If you have any questions at all about the Dog Ownership Policy or enforcement process, please feel free to call me at the ECIA at 466-4248.

—Mark Young, *Covenant Compliance Representative*

Your Opinion Counts, Part 2

Last month, I began an explanation of the various ways that ECIA members can make their voices heard on issues of local governance. Everyone engaging in those processes has an obligation to educate him- or herself about the issues in our community. *Vistas* is a good source, although, being a monthly publication, it may lack real-time information. Another great source of information is the committee meeting and Board meeting minutes, which are posted on the ECIA website. These describe what projects are being worked on and where things stand. As the adage states, an informed citizen is an effective citizen.

To recap, community input for all of our operations and projects are sought in several ways: (1) public forums at relevant committee or Board meetings; (2) annual public forums to provide input to our annual budget planning process; and (3) community participation in periodic surveys on matters of interest to our community. As to the latter, the most recent surveys were in 2010 (regarding paving more of our roads) and in 2012 (a survey of use and importance of our amenities). Public input is always welcomed and encouraged. Speaking up before, not after, a decision is made is the most effective way of keeping things on a steady course.

—Nolan Zisman

Changing the Bylaws

The ECIA annual meeting is coming up—on May 6—and the ECIA staff, committees, and Board are all busy compiling materials to get the membership packet to you within a few days.

Newcomers may not notice, but long-time members will take note of something missing from the annual meeting packet, and will also find a document that shows up only every decade or so. What is missing from the packet is the ballot for the election of officers, because no directors are coming to the end of their terms. This is the result of a series of resignations and appointments in the past two years, and a provision in the bylaws that requires appointees to serve more than one year but no more than two years. Elected terms are for three years.

This year, **Todd Handy** and I are completing the second years of our elected terms, and the rest of the Board members, all appointees, are within the “more than one and less than two”-year periods of their appointments. That means that all seven members of the Board will continue until 2014, when all seven members would be up for election.

The Board has proposed a way to promote stability on the Board, by reestablishing a firm 2-3-2 system, under which no more than three Board members would be elected in any given year, and appointees to future vacancies would serve out the remaining term for that position.

Each of the seven positions would be numbered. Positions 1 and 2 represent myself and Director Handy, whose terms expire in 2014. Positions 3, 4, and 5 are held by **Jeanne Calzada**, **Paul Jacobs**, and **Nolan Zisman**, respectively; their terms expire in 2015. Finally, positions 6 and 7 are held by **Jan Pietrzak** and **Dag Ryen**, respectively.

The approximately once-a-decade item that will be in the packet is a proposed revision of the ECIA bylaws, along with a ballot question on whether to adopt the new bylaws. The last revision occurred in 2000.

The bylaws, of course, are the day-to-day operating rules that govern the duties of Board members, committees, and staff, the conduct of meetings, and the responsibilities of members of the Association.

The ECIA is required to review the bylaws every two years but is not required to revise them unless circumstances require changes. Currently, as a result of the embezzlement a few years ago, we seek to change the bylaws to build in greater accountability and redundancy in the financial systems. Another change being sought is the provision that will allow the ECIA to establish stability and continuity on the Board when vacancies are filled, as described above.

Ed Moreno, ECIA President

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on January 17, with all Board members: **Ed Moreno** (President and Chair), **Jeanne Calzada** (Vice-President), **Nolan Zisman** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Paul Jacobs**, **Dag Ryen**, and **Jan Pietrzak**. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting, unless otherwise noted:

- ▼ The Election Committee reported that while there are no Board openings for 2013, revisions to the bylaws will be presented and a public forum held prior to the May 6 Annual Meeting of lot owners.
- ▼ The Board moved to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to instruct the 2012 auditors to move any funds in excess of \$150,000 from the Unallocated Reserve fund to the Replacement Reserve fund, rescinding a resolution from December 20, 2012, with different instructions (5-0-1, Handy abstaining).
- ▼ The Board requested the Election Committee to complete the matching of ballots with eligible lots

for the 2012 household pets Covenants vote and formally report results for Board certification.

- ▼ An ad-hoc Government and Community Liaison Committee was created, with a term ending at the Board Meeting on May 13, 2013, to investigate cooperation with the County on potential capital projects in Eldorado.
- ▼ An in-home business permit was approved for 23 Descanso Road for a Holistic Healthworks Therapy office, with off-street parking and only one client at a time.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 3 Sandia Lane for a ground-based solar array 70 feet from the house, where 15 feet is the Guideline maximum, because of natural characteristics of the site.

Regular Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Community Center and are open to the public. An open forum, community announcements, and reports from ECIA committees are normally included. Complete minutes and meeting agendas are available at the ECIA office or website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.

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Director

Jan Pietrzak
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Director

Dag Ryen
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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:

Katherine Mortimer
Conservation: **John Parker**

Election: **Kathie Graham**
Facilities & Grounds:

Jean Crawford

Finance: **Dan Drobnis**

Information: **Frank Schober**

Neighborhood Watch:

Marilyn Walker

Roads: **Michael Chester**

Stable: **Gretel Underwood**
(Interim Chair)

Sustainability, Planning, &
Education: **Steve Rudnick**

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

eldoradofirerescue.org

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)

NOTE TO RESIDENTS:
To obtain a Pool Pass, ECIA Assessments must be paid in full. The pool will open Memorial Day Weekend, and pool passes will be available starting in May.



Save the Date!
2013 Solar Fiesta April 27 & 28 at Santa Fe Community College.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Gardening 101

The Santa Fe Master Gardener Association again offers its popular Gardening 101: The Basics of Gardening in Santa Fe, a full-day course in gardening essentials, on Saturday, March 16 from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. The course is designed to give new or new-to-Santa Fe gardeners a primer on everything from soil building, composting, pests and diseases, and garden planning to plant selection and how to create a bountiful fruit and vegetable garden—all aimed at helping to achieve gardening success in this challenging climate. Teaching the class are long-time local gardening experts **Tracy Neal** and **Jannine Cabossel**. The class will be held at the Santa Fe Center for Spiritual Living, 505 Camino de Los Marquez in Santa Fe. The fee is \$45. For more information or to register, contact www.sfmga.org, or call 471-6251.

Poetry Readings with SF Poet Laureate Jon Davis

On Sunday, March 24, from 3 to 4:30 PM, Eldorado resident and Santa Fe Poet Laureate Jon Davis will host "Santa Fe Poets 1," the first of six readings that will take place over the next 15 months at various venues in and around Santa Fe. Each reading will feature a different group of five poets reading with the poet laureate.

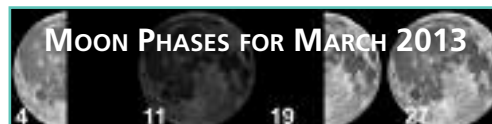
At this first reading, Davis will read from a new manuscript and from his most recent book, *Preliminary Report*, published by Copper Canyon Press in 2010. In addition to being Santa Fe's fourth poet laureate, Davis is director of the new Low Residency MFA Program at the Institute of American Indian Arts, where he has taught for 22 years.

The other readers will be **Dana Levin**, who teaches at Santa Fe University of Art & Design and is the author of three books, including *Sky Burial* (Copper Canyon Press, 2011); **Gabe Gomez**, author of *Seed Bank* (Mouthfeel Books, 2012); **Ungelbah Daniel Davila**, author of the chapbook *Outlaw Neon*, which is forthcoming in *Effigies II* from Salt Press; and **Deborah Casillas**, whose poems have appeared in *Ontario Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *North American Review*.

A donation of \$2 is suggested. For more information, call Jon Davis at 424-2365 or e-mail him at jdavissimo52@gmail.com.

Dead on the Web? Free Q&A

Award-winning web marketing author and long-time Eldorado web designer **Hope Kiah** is presenting free Q&A sessions on the first Tuesday of every month at the Zia Financial Group in La Tienda. Bring your website questions and/or your URL for review (first-come-first-served) on Tuesday, March 5, at 6:30 PM.



Greenbelt Clean-up Day: March 2

Our greenbelt's getting a little pooppy! Users of the greenbelt bordered by Verano Loop, Conchas Loop, and Camino Cabo are invited to help scoop poop on Saturday, March 2. We'll meet at the greenbelt entrance on Conchas Loop at Torneo Road at 8:30, have light snacks and coffee, then fan out and hit the trails beginning at 9 AM. The work should take an hour. Mutt mitts will be provided, but gloves are recommended, and if you've got better poop-collection paraphernalia, please bring it. Experienced off-leash dogs are welcome! For more info or to sign up, contact **Amy Gross** at (512) 577-0632 or amiebojamie@yahoo.com.

Live Salsa and Dance with Nos Otros

March 2, at La Tienda Performance Space. 8 PM: Salsa lessons; 9 PM: Dancing and listening. \$10 fee.

Gallina Park Greenbelt Access

Residents can no longer access the Gallina Park Greenbelt on the eastern end from the trail access point near the Tennis Courts on ECIA property. The land that residents have used in the past is private land, and this access has been closed by the landowner. Residents interested in using the eastern end of the Gallina Park Greenbelt should use the formal access point along Conchas Loop. If you need help in locating this access, please call the ECIA at 466-4248 or stop by the ECIA office.

Senior Scene

The Adam Senior Center would like to invite any seniors 60 years old + to come join our family. It takes only 10 minutes to become a member and it is free. Besides our many exercise classes and other activities, the Center has many trips planned for the spring and summer to fun and exciting places. Flamenco dance and dinner at El Farol is on the list for July. Ojo Caliente Mineral Bath and Springs and a backstage tour of the Santa Fe Opera are also scheduled, just to mention a few of the places the Center will visit as a group.

New Class: Wendy Singer will lead Chair Tai Chi & Yoga on Mondays at 10:30 AM. This entails gentle rhythmic movements coordinated with breath, emphasizing strength and flexibility of the spine, strength of abdominal muscles, and range of motion of the joints. • **Friday, March 1, 12:45 PM:** Guest Speaker **David Money**, a Doctor of Oriental Medicine, owner of Catalina Acupuncture, will teach us about this needling therapy used to stimulate the natural defenses of the body which creates a healing reaction in the body. • **Friday, March 7, 12:45 PM:** David Money will provide complimentary group treatment sessions for 12 lucky participants. • **Friday, March 15, 12:45 PM:** Guest

Speaker **Claudia Phillips** will discuss "The Importance of Having a Health Care Plan." • **Tuesday, March 19, 1:30–3:00 PM:** **Janet Amtmann** will teach painting for beginners and advanced students for 8 weeks.

The Center's hours of operation are 10 AM to 4 PM Monday–Friday. Congregate meals are served from noon to 1 PM Monday–Friday. **Matthew Narvaiz**, the Center's gifted chef, provides delicious and nutritious meals with a smile. Volunteers are needed for answering the phone and greeting guests. If you are interested in working a morning or afternoon shift, please contact Carol 466-1039. Come by the Center to pick up a menu and activities calendar for the month. —*Carol Branch*

Arts & Crafts Assn News

On March 13, from 10 AM to noon, EACA's Shop Talk is being held at Oleaceae, a downtown Santa Fe shop that offers fragrant olive oils, vinegars, and salts from around the world. There will be a guided tour where guests are invited to taste the wares. Parking can be a challenge, and carpooling is encouraged. Call **Mary Fredenburgh** at 466-1035 for more information.

The EACA monthly meeting, always scheduled the last Thursday of each month, will be held on March 28 at 7 PM at the Eldorado Community Center's living room. The talk and slide show, "Social Media For Artists," will be presented by **Robin Kalinich**, who will discuss how social media can enrich an artist's creative life. She will offer tips on how to build a platform to get one's work out into the world. Robin facilitates "Ink & Alchemy," a creative community formed to encourage, inspire, and transform via networking and social media. As always, non-members are welcome.

At the EACA's first meeting of the year on January 31, the annual election of the Association's Board officers was held. **Tom Maguire** remains President and **Kris Palek** remains Treasurer. **Jack McCarthy** is the new Vice-President, and **Karen Nein** is the new Secretary.

—*Margaret Nelson*

March Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email eciamarilyn@aol.com with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. **Type of Event**
2. **Location**
3. **Date & Time**

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

SPECIAL MARCH EVENTS

TGIF	Fri., Mar. 15, 5-7 pm	LR
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Mar. 12, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Mar. 26, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Mar. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Mar. 5, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Mar. 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., Mar. 5, 4-6 pm	Jean Crawford	466-1000	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Mar. 13, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Mar. 26, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., May 6, 6-8 pm	Michael Chester	975-6930	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., Mar. 26, 7-9 pm	Gretel Underwood	466-7825	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., Mar. 14, 7-9 pm	Steve Rudnick	466-1335	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR/CR
Eldorado Camera Club	4th Wednesday, 7-9	biordi@aol.com		La Tienda
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 5-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			LR/CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	670-6949	LR
Bridge	Every Other Fri., 9-noon	Natalie Bernet	466-6118	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Kate	216-5302	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.–Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

*** Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Community Garden Begins 5th Season

It all began in January 2009, when a small group of gardeners and would-be-gardeners trudged through the snow on raw land behind the school to stake out what would ultimately evolve into a magnificent community garden. Our partnership with the El Dorado Community School enabled us to transform this 1.5 acres owned by the school district.

To build the garden infrastructure, we had many workdays where 30 to 40 members labored hard and joyfully witnessed real community in action. After each workday, we satisfied our hunger with delicious food that people brought to share, and marveled at the continuing transformation of our garden. We built twenty-four 4 x 8 foot raised beds and filled them with organic compost and native soil. We laid the beds carefully so as not to disturb the indigenous vegetation, and gopher-proofed everything. Eventually we also dug sixteen sunken beds, a 2,500 square foot circular communal garden, and a labyrinth. The kindergarten classes painted the rocks surrounding the labyrinth and two beautiful murals. With help from Earth Works Institute, a ramada, benches, and a beautiful garden en-

trance were also constructed. For an inviting outdoor learning environment, garden members built eight 4 x 8 foot raised beds and a mini communal area to be used by the teachers and their students.

Ultimately, the garden evolved to include a drip system, a cactus garden, a perennial garden, tool shed, 12 x 24 foot greenhouse, compost area, and a koi pond.

Except for annual cleanups, the hard work is now done. Members just need to plant and enjoy the healthy benefits of delicious vegetables in an organic and pesticide-free environment. The camaraderie abounds, and everyone learns a lot about gardening in our climate.

It is with great pride that we begin our 5th season. We heartily invite Eldorado area residents to join us in this most magical endeavor. To learn more, please come to our 2013 kickoff meeting on Saturday, March 9 at 10 AM to noon in the Classroom of the ECIA Community Center. For more information, please contact **Marilynn Jacobs**, Membership Chair, at 780-8450 or eldogarden@comcast.net.

—Marilynn Jacobs

El Dorado Community School

**30 YEARS OLD BUT NOW
VERY NEW**

After two years of rebuilding and remodeling, El Dorado Community School is now big and sprawling. Serving all of southeastern Santa Fe County, it teaches the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic but now also provides culturally enriching programs not found a generation ago.

True to its name, the school supports the greater Eldorado community and has invited the general public to such programs as “Ancient Egyptian Wax Museum,” where students demonstrated their knowledge of key people in history, and “Frontier Day,” during which fourth-grade students learned how Americans settled the early West. A program called “Rock the Arts” scheduled for April 22 at the school will showcase student achievements in art and music.

School Principal **Anne Darnton** and Assistant Principal **Kate Diaz** are not passive, desk-bound types. Armed with walkie-talkies, they seem to be everywhere at once, fully engaged in the complex effort to make their school run efficiently and safely. They are obviously a team and a good one. To anyone interviewing them, they appear to be not so much senior administrators but rather orchestra conductors who have put down their batons for a few minutes to talk about their players and how they make music.

Unseen from the outside of its fortress-like facade, El Dorado Community School is really two schools in one: K-4 on its lower floor, and grades 5-8 on the upper. The combination of an elementary with a mid-

dle school has been a benefit to all grades. It has made possible an academic mentoring program for kindergarten through fifth-grade students by middle school students. With the flourishing middle school athletic program, all grades share in cheering El Dorado teams at the school's sports facilities.

The term “elective” does not come to mind when thinking of elementary school, at least not to those of us over 30. Students today at El Dorado Community School are presented with the opportunity to become involved in a journalism club, Student Wellness Action Team, as well as beginning and advanced choir, orchestra, and band. Within the art and P.E. departments, there are a wide variety of choices and specialized offerings. Students publish their own newspaper, *The Golden Gazette*, a well-written and very informative paper with such articles as “Teacher Feature” and a “horoscope” section with valuable advice seldom seen in local periodicals. For instance: “This month you will meet someone extraordinary and they will change your life. Beware, they may not change it in a good way.”

Like all else in our America, volunteerism is the key to organizational success, and El Dorado Community School depends on its PTA and its academic subject volunteers to make its curriculum, enrichment programs, and after-school services to its students and their parents work. If you would like to help a successful organization continue to succeed, call or contact **Helen S. Pacheco**, SFPS >>>

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA AND FAUNA WORKING GROUP

Flora and Fauna: Sex in Eldorado

Got your attention, eh? Back in Atlanta there lives a gentleman, George Sanko, an esteemed native plant botanist, who would give an annual public lecture entitled “Sex in the Garden.” Every year the crowd was standing-room-only! As we glide into spring, there is much activity among our native animal friends and the plants that surround us. In the following, I cover junipers and piñon pines, which are all over Eldorado and northern New Mexico.

Juniperus monosperma, or one-seed juniper, is a native, long-lived evergreen tree with often shrubby form, 10 to 40 feet high, with several curved limbs arising near the base. Look at the lovely couple in our picture (bottom right), heavy with cones and pollen, the male of which is the culprit that causes allergic reactions in the spring, from mild to severe.

One-seed juniper produces small, berry-like, bluish green to green cones; male trees have cones with stamens and no pistils, females have oval cones with pistils. Mature cones are dark blue to purple or brownish, and succulent, or at least somewhat fleshy. Seeds are generally one per fruit, more rarely two, reddish brown, and oval to a more round form. Juniper seeds are described as having a semipermeable, thick seed coat with a dormant embryo. The cones are often referred to as “berries.” Junipers don’t begin to reproduce until a much older age, around 60 to 75 years.

Mature one-seed junipers have both tap and lateral root systems. In one study the taproots ranged from 18 inches to more than 12 feet in length. Lateral roots were widespread, commonly being 2.5 to 3 times as long as the tree was tall. Most lateral roots were in the top 3 feet of the soil, most of them concentrated 6 inches below the surface. The deep root system of mature one-seed junipers is adapted for growth on dry sites. Reported rooting depths range from 16 to 197 feet, which make them impossible to relocate.

One-seed juniper is a slow-growing species, increasing in height a scant 6.3 inches per decade, with a corresponding increase in stem diameter of 0.5 inch. Growth rate tends to vary according to site characteristics, however.

One-seed juniper has the ability to stop active growth when moisture is limited but can resume growing when moisture availability improves. This pattern may represent an important adaptation that

allows junipers to survive on harsh, arid sites. Although small trees may be killed by drought, mature one-seed junipers are resistant to drought, especially in comparison with our piñons.

Our local piñon is the *Pinus edulis*, or one-needle piñon. It originated and is happiest in the foothills and has basically invaded the drier climates. Not surprisingly, it is drought intolerant.

The Piñon Pine is a small to medium-size tree, reaching 33 to 66 feet tall and with a trunk diameter of up to 31 inches, rarely more. The bark is irregularly furrowed and scaly. The needles come in pairs, are moderately stout, 1.2 to 2.2 inches long, and green, with stomata, or pores, on both inner and outer surfaces, but distinctly more on the inner surface, forming a whitish band.

The cones are roundish, 1.2 to 2.0 inches long and broad when closed; they are green at first and ripen into yellow-buff at 18 to 20 months, with only a small number of thick scales (typically 5–10 fertile scales). The cones open to 1.6 to 2.4 inches when mature, holding the seeds on the scales after opening. The seeds are 0.30 to 0.55 inch long, with a thin shell, a white covering (endosperm), and a small vestigial wing; they are dispersed by the Piñon Jay, which plucks the seeds out of the open cones. The jay, which uses the seeds as a food resource, stores many of the seeds for later use, and some of these stored seeds are not used and are able to

grow into new trees. Although there are male and female trees, both are not necessary for reproduction, which doesn’t occur until trees are around 75 years old. Because of drought intolerance, it is not uncommon for seeds to remain dormant and under the soil surface for many years before conditions are right for germination.

The edible seeds, or pine nuts, are extensively collected throughout its range; in many areas, the seed harvest rights are owned by Native American tribes, for whom the species is of immense cultural and economic importance. One early legend claims that the “tree of life” is a piñon pine, rooted in ancient cultural sites found within areas of Piñon Canyon, Colorado, and that the piñon wood is the ancient fuel source of the eternal flame. The sap from the piñon is widely used among Native American cultures for its medicinal value, from soothing rashes to curing skin cancers. The Piñon Pine (*Pinus edulis*) is the State Tree of New Mexico.

—Nina Harrison, N815@aol.com



Top to bottom: *Juniperus monosperma* branches; *Pinus edulis*; male and female juniper trees. Photos © Ann V. Wood.

School, continued

Volunteer Coordinator at 505-467-2050 or hpacheco@sfps.info. If you would like to make a donation for a silent art auction for Rock the Arts, please contact Kate Diaz at kdiaz@sfps.info. —Frank Schober

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El Dorado School & Community Garden



The Community Garden begins its fifth year, having come a long and lovely way since its inception.