

ELDORADO VISTAS

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April 2007

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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

Greetings Winter Weary Gardeners

MY TWO FAVORITE MANTRAS
When discussing gardening in northern New Mexico are “winter water” and “mulch.” On December 28, we got both! The snowfall, while inconvenient for most of us, was a real blessing for our thirsty land. The incredible depth of our “white mulch” blanketed our soils, sparing it from the drying wind and baking sun. The melting process took a good six weeks, slowly delivering much-needed moisture deep into the earth. Deep-rooted plants, such as our piñon and juniper, and most trees and large shrubs greatly benefited from this soak.

The next few months in the southern Rockies should be green and glorious. An added benefit of the snow was the toppling of many dead piñons, accelerating their decomposition into water-holding topsoil. Our ecosystem not only is on the mend, but on the upswing. More topsoil translates into more grasses, wildflowers, birds, and ultimately, mammals, too! But, we are still recovering from an extended drought, so be mindful of water conservation; it is in our best interest.

Now what to do with snow-damaged tree branches and shrubs? First, remember that splintered ends of branches are perfect hiding and resting places for harmful insects and fungi. These branches should be cut off the tree, flush to the trunk or closest main branch. The branch cuttings can be used as mulch under other trees or piled on your property in the form of a brush pile for wildlife habitat. No need to haul them to the landfill. Shrubs that have been split open should be tied back together or pruned below the split. Fall pruning of these plants would have prevented splitting because the snow wouldn't have had as much surface area on which to collect.

I'm sure you've noticed how the snow at the south side of your home melted more quickly than at the north side. Plants that are shallow-rooted such as aspen, all vines, most perennials, and many shrubs won't benefit in the long term from the snow. Regular watering, weekly in April, is necessary unless we get lots more moisture, whether rain or

snow, especially on the south and west sides of your home. Deep-rooted and well-established trees and shrubs can be watered less often: twice a month for introduced species such as lilac and fruit trees and once a month for natives such as chamisa and piñon.

The combination of warm weather and moisture also will bring on the weeds in April. Get after them now before they get big and unmanageable. These early soft greens are perfect for composting. Now is the time to start this water-holding and nutrient-rich soil amendment. Select a spot away from sun and wind, and begin your pile. For more specific suggestions on composting, I will speak on the subject at Tropic of Capricorn on April 29. Composting helps us build soil while keeping “green waste” out of the landfill, taking recycling a step further. Healthy soil grows healthy plants—a win-win situation.

April is the time for pruning roses; any sooner and we risk new growth being nipped by the frost. Again, these shallow rooted “vines” need regular watering. They don't like their feet wet, so no need to water too deeply. All vines fall into this category, including clematis, trumpet vine, honeysuckle, even geraniums. Once leaves appear, weak solutions of fertilizer are called for. I recommend natural ones such as seaweed and fish. Your yard might smell like Cape Cod for a short time, but your landscape will resemble the Garden of Eden. Natural fertilizers supply the plant with microelements in addition to the usual NPK (Nitrogen-Phosphorous-Potassium), which are the only three elements in chemical fertilizers.

Be careful not to freeze tender plants such as annuals, geraniums, and houseplants. Our last frost date isn't until May 20 and can suddenly catch us by surprise. Believe it or not, warm weather is just around the corner. Need more direction? Visit TropicofCapricornSantaFe.com.

*As itchy as you are for spring to come,
Michael Clark*

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



PHOTO BY LYNN MCPHERSON

Remember that splintered ends of branches are perfect hiding and resting places for harmful insects and fungi.

*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.

Share the Road

AS THE WEATHER GETS WARMER, more and more road bikes will be out on our roads. Please share the road. As the name implies, road bicycles are bikes that ride on paved roads while mountain bikes have the option of being ridden on paved or dirt roads. Eldorado is a wonderful area for road bikes. There is not a lot of traffic which is a good thing. When we ride our road bikes on the road, we try to ride on the shoulders. The problem is, there are very few shoulders to ride on in Santa Fe County. Some of the shoulders are so narrow that they don't offer safety. A very popular ride is out to Galisteo. There is no shoulder when you turn from Highway 285 onto Highway 41, while the shoulder along 285 is full of so much glass and other hazardous debris that at times it is impossible to ride that shoulder safely. The few other available shoulders are also full of debris—rocks, glass, shredded tires, wood, metal, you name it—and it is mostly tossed out of car windows. These shoulders hardly are ever swept of this debris, so biking on the shoulders can be dangerous and at the least, a very challenging obstacle course. That's why many times road bikers ride on the road and not the shoulder.

The bottom line is that a car weighs more than a ton while a bike weighs in at about 20 pounds. Any contact is a disaster for the bike riders. So please be a little more patient, considerate and respectful of



bicycle riders. Many are your neighbors; all are your fellow citizens. Some of us are using bikes for transportation, some for recreation and some for training. On two lane roads, when cars are coming at each other and there is a bike on the road, consider slowing down for a few seconds to let the other car pass so that the bicycle rider is not forced off the road. It's frightening when a car passes a bike rider with only inches to spare. And potholes are a problem for bikes as well as cars.

A little patience will go a long way. The few seconds you may lose to slow down for a bike will be most appreciated by all of us riders. Thank you for your consideration. Consider going for a ride!

—Ted Freedman

Get On Board

THE GREATER ELDORADO EXPRESS bus service begins April 2 for a six-month trial. Expansion of the project depends on feedback from potential riders so that the service truly meets the needs of the community. The schedule is available at www.eldoradocommunity.org, along with a brief survey about your preferred times of departure, arrival, and drop-off sites. The schedule may be adjusted and another bus may be added if needed. You may also call All Aboard America at 424-0887 with comments.

Initially, the bus will leave from the Agora's northeast parking lot at 6:05 am and 7:10 am, returning at 4:14 pm and 5:14 pm, plus one-way trips into town at 4:50 pm and 5:50 pm. The earliest departure will connect Los Alamos National Laboratory employees to the Los Alamos Blue Route at NMDOT. The fare is \$1 each way, and parking is free. The four downtown drop-off points are St. Vincent hospital, South Complex (100 Alta Vista,



west of St. Francis Drive), NMDOT (Penn Road, south of Cordova), and Sheridan Street at Marcy. The bus seats 57 people, with room for five additional standing and two bicycles.

If you've been inspired lately to help the environment, here's your opportunity. Avoiding just 30 miles of driving every week (a typical roundtrip from Eldorado to downtown Santa Fe) would eliminate about 1,500 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions a year.*

*Source: www.aninconvenienttruth.co.uk

—Fabian West

From the President's Desk

I USUALLY RECEIVE LOTS OF electronic mail from residents. I received an e-mail from a resident stating that she felt as though she was a second-class resident. Her reason was the action taken by the Board to step away from the dog leash policy at this time. I really felt her frustration, and if I were the mighty wizard of Eldorado, I would have waved my wand to remedy all the issues surrounding dogs in our community. But I am not a mighty wizard, and neither are the other Board members, so we keep working at the issue in a manner that we hope is respectful to all residents on both sides of the issue. This is what we have planned:

- ▼ All residents who either wrote an e-mail concerning the leash policy or who spoke at the public forum received an e-mail or letter inviting them to a meeting to discuss and plan for a series of public announcements, strategies and any other devices that they can think of that will take the community beyond the point where we are now.

- ▼ If funds are required to make a success out of whatever is decided, then the funds will be allocated, pending Finance Committee approval.
- ▼ That the strategies recommended to the Board be sustainable and take the community toward developing a culture of responsible dog ownership for the health and safety of all residents.

We will know we are successful when there is no more discussion of dogs in *Vistas*.

By the time you read this, the new committee (as yet unnamed) will have met once. If you wish to join it, e-mail either **Su Anne Armstrong** or **Richard Anderson** for future meeting dates (addresses are on the right side of this page).

—*Jeanne Klein*

*If there is no struggle,
There is no progress.*

—*Frederick Douglas
American Writer and
Abolitionist*

Spring and Stars

AS WE ALL KNOW, we have had the most snowfall that anyone can remember, and now it's melted and we can see our yards again. This puts us all in a frame of mind to do spring projects. As a friendly reminder, if you plan on doing any building (from additions to portals), you need to present your plans to the Architectural Committee. This is an all-volunteer committee made up of residents such as you. They are very dedicated to ensuring that the quality of life in Eldorado is maintained for all, which means they try hard to accommodate folks with plan acceptance while honoring our covenants, for everyone's benefit.

These dedicated members attend two meetings a month (second and fourth Wednesdays at 7 pm at the Community Center), making themselves available to review your plans. Part of the review process is to ensure that your project goes smoothly. Access our web page at www.eldoradocommunity.org for information and forms to be well on your way to creating your presentation for the committee. If you have any questions about your presentation or the committee process, please feel free to call the office and talk to your Community Code Representative.



On another note, April 17-24 is National Dark-Sky Week (NDSW). This event usually occurs in April, when people in the United States are encouraged to turn out their unnecessary outdoor lights, holiday lights, etc. New Mexico passed the "Night Sky Protection Act" in 1999. We in Eldorado are very fortunate to have

addressed this concern in our covenants and we appreciate everyone's cooperation to make night sky viewing a priority by creating a darkened environment. For more information, you may want to visit www.darksky.org.

—*Bert Lysen
CCR*

Avoid a Dog Bite

Come to the Depot Room on Thursday, April 12 at 7 pm for a workshop on how to avoid being bitten by a dog. You will learn to read dog body language and act appropriately. The cost is only \$10.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

The Search is On

The ECIA is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on the Community Center grounds Saturday, April 7 at 11 am. Bring your kids or come just to watch the fun. For more information, call **Debby** at 466-4248.

Attention RV Folks

The Eldorado Roadrunners invite you to visit our website (www.eldoradorvclub.com) to learn about our fun group and our scheduled campouts and activities. For more information, call **Brad** and **Beverly Cottingham** at 466-4655.

The Mystery of Shakespeare

Richard Whalen, author of *Shakespeare: Who Was He? The Oxford Challenge to the Bard of Avon*, will be speaking at the Vista Grande Public Library on Thursday, April 19 at 7 pm. This is the second in a series of talks about the nature and identity of Shakespeare following **Robin Williams'** discussion in March of the evidence that a woman may have been the author of Shakespeare's work.

A graduate of Fordham College and Yale Graduate School, Richard has published many articles on the authorship controversy, including one in *Harper's* magazine.

Richard and his wife, **Carol**, live in the town of Truro on Cape Cod, but have a second home in Eldorado. Richard reminds us that we will be celebrating the supposed birthday of Shakespeare just four days after our library program.

Pick Up! Eldorado

On April 21, the Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) is celebrating Earth Day in the community by asking residents to participate in the annual Eldorado Cleanup Day. We are asking that residents join together and help clean trash from along our roadways. Residents can come by the clubhouse at 9:30 am to pick up bags, gloves and orange vests and then join others to help clean our roadways. If you do not want to meet with us at the clubhouse and would still like to help, just let us know where you would like to pick up trash and we will add your road of choice to our list of covered roads. Staff will help by picking up the bags you leave along our main roads. Last year, with your help, we picked up close to 100 bags of trash. We hope to do even more this year. After we finish at about noon, we will serve hot dogs and soda at the Community Center for all the volunteers. Please come and meet your neighbors while doing your community a service. For information, call the ECIA office at 466-4248.



It's Really Opening

On Saturday, April 21 at 11 am, the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center will have a grand opening celebration to show off the facility to the public. Many legislators and county commissioners have helped along the way to make the idea of the Senior Center come to fruition, along with local Senior Center Committee members. Though it took many years to finalize the project, everyone involved agrees it is a wonderful addition to the community of southeast Santa Fe County. The Adam Center will draw seniors from Galisteo, Lamy, Glorieta, Cañoncito, Arroyo Hondo, and residential communities along the 285 corridor.

Located adjacent to the Vista Grande Public Library and the El Dorado Elementary School on Avenida Torreon, the Senior Center will provide services to seniors (60 and older) to meet for meals, activities and events. Though the money for full operation of five days a week will not be available until the 2007 fiscal year begins July 1, there will be at least one day a week that the facility will be open with volunteers hosting activities. The day and hours are yet to be determined. Contact numbers: 466-1949, 466-4348, 466-3256.

97 Artists Will Participate

The Eldorado Studio Tour participants have met and they total 97 artists for the 16th Annual Studio Tour, which is scheduled for the weekend of May 19-20, from 10 am to 5 pm both days. Again the popular Preview Gallery will be located at the El Dorado Elementary School. This year the Friday Night Artists reception will be back on the agenda.

A small group of artists has been participating since the first Tour was conceived 16 years ago, and once again the range of artwork spans all media. The Tour's success would not have been as great as it has been without the generous support of local businesses and the Eldorado community. The artists and co-chairs want to thank everyone in advance. For more information, contact **Joretha Hall** at 466-6245, **Grace Burleigh** at 466-4534 or **Janet Amtmann** at 466-3256.



This painting is by Eldorado artist Barbara Carter.



ASTRONOMY Corner

“BLUE MOON”

—IT’S NOT JUST A SONG

Once in a while our natural satellite, the moon, shows a blue color because of effects in the Earth’s atmosphere. It can be caused by dust particles high in the upper atmosphere from volcanoes or forest fires that scatter light, making it appear blue.

The expression “blue moon” is used in everyday speech to denote a rare event and also refers to the occurrence of a second full moon in a calendar month, something which occurs about seven times every 19 years.

April Sky:

Venus and the **moon**, closer to the Hyades and the Pleiades on April 19 at dusk; **Saturn**, close to the moon on the night of April 24-25 (if you have a telescope, don’t miss it!); **Mars** and **Uranus**, less than one degree apart on April 29 and low in the east-southeast.

Next time: The days in our lives.

—Juan Alvarez
Jalva88610@aol.com

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

*The ECIA’s
Annual Meeting of the
Members will take
place on Monday,
May 7 at 7 pm in the
elementary school
auditorium.*

April 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

APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt	Sat., Apr. 7, 11 am	@ the Community Center grounds
ERA Quarterly Meeting	Mon., Apr. 9, 7-9 pm	LR
Eldorado Cleanup Day	Sat., Apr. 21, 9 am	466-4248

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Road Committee	Mon., Apr. 2, 6-7 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
EAW&SD*	Tues., Apr. 3, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Apr. 3, 7-9 pm			LR
285 Coalition	Wed., Apr. 4, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Apr. 11, 9:30-noon	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Apr. 11, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Apr. 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
EAW&SD*	Tues., Apr. 17, 7-9 pm		466-2411	LR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Apr. 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Apr. 23, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
Stable Committee	Tues., Apr. 24, 7-9 pm	Tommie Brasel		CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Apr. 25, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Apr. 14, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Apr. 3, 10-11 am			F
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Apr. 12, 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., Apr. 9, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Nichole Anaya	466-2590	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Apr. 17, 2-4:30 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Apr. 17, 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., Apr. 28, 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 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	2vd & 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

New Water Board Member Enthusiastic



PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS

New Water Board Member John Matis is enthused about Eldorado and the water future.

JOHN MATIS—newest elected member of the Eldorado Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD) Board—is high on Eldorado, and feels he has expertise to offer as a career-long professional hydrologist. After more than 30 years in Colorado, John and wife, Marcia, moved to Eldorado in 2002, drawn by its open space, natural vegetation, covenant controls, architectural style, and peacefulness. “At night the stars

and the sky are so close you can almost feel them press down.”

He started his community service at the Eldorado Residents’ Association (ERA), where he is presently vice president. Someone there suggested his experience and skills were a good match for the Water Board’s needs. “Properties with a combined value of over a billion dollars depend on the district for service,” he said. “We need a long-term, sustainable, fail-safe water system.”

John studied geology at the University of Colorado and received a master’s degree in geology, with a hydrology specialty, from the University of Arizona.

This led to a 40-year career in hydrology, pollution control, energy development, environmental analysis, program development in K-12 science education, and personnel recruiting. “Like the Indian Way,” he comments, “everything has been connected.”

John works for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), including acting as liaison to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, to foster cooperation between federal and state inspection and enforcement employees. He would like to develop a similar consensus with the county on water issues, noting that it seems to feel an increasingly common interest with EAWSD. “Everyone else wants something from the county on water. We, on the other hand, have resources and expertise to pool with them. I think we should take them at their word when the county talks about partnership.”

Another recent project for John is helping the Santa Fe postmaster. “I complained so much about mail delivery in Eldorado that I got invited to join his Consumer Advisory Council,” he laughed. And it appears something good may come of it; Eldorado is near the top of the list to receive a new carrier annex to better support delivery service.

—Dan Drobniš

At the Crossroads

BE NICE TO YOUR CARRIERS: As a result of the snowmelt from this winter’s storms, there aren’t very many homes in Eldorado that don’t have deep ruts and swirls in front of their mailboxes and newspaper receptacles. Consider that your carriers drive their own vehicles. They would greatly appreciate it if you could smooth out the area in front of these boxes as well as where your driveway meets your road. Using a sturdy rake can do a good job if the soil is still loose. Otherwise, a hoe and rake will do the job. If you really want to be nice to your carriers, other delivery people and yourselves (and your vehicles), consider chipping in with your closest neighbors to get a load of gravel (medium works better than pea) and spreading it around the affected areas. With these improvements, you might even find your newspaper in the box, not on the ground.

Problem Reporting: If you’ve been on the ECIA website, you’ll have seen a link for reporting a road problem to the Road

Committee. If you submit a problem report, a Road Committee member will be dispatched to inspect the area, add to the report if necessary and submit it to the county. You can expect some sort of feedback from a committee member once this has been accomplished.

Spring Inspection Completed: By the time you read this, the Road Committee will have completed its first inspection of our roads this year. At our April meeting we will be compiling a priority list of the worst roads. This will be used to inform the county about where the grader is most needed, and to help identify roads, in order of priority, that need new basecourse, or better. The results will be posted on our website as soon as the list has been completed.

In Case You Forgot: Our speed limit on residential roads, even where paved, is 25 mph, unless otherwise posted. Just remember that enough complaints may result in another Sheriff’s Department crackdown. Save yourself a speeding ticket and a potential injury. And please follow our posted limits, even when higher than 25 mph. The total time saved by speeding from Avenida Casa del Oro to Highway 285 is less than three minutes.

—Nolan Zisman,
Chair, Road Committee

Ruts at our mailboxes make the going tougher for mail carriers.



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

Mountain Chickadee

IN THE DEAD OF WINTER, this little bird always seems so happy as it goes about its business (specialized leg muscles allow it to feed acrobatically!). The mountain chickadee (MC) is a yearlong resident in Eldorado. It is 5.25 inches long with a wingspan of 8.5 inches. Its diet consists of berries, seeds and insects, including spiders and their eggs. Some food may be cached. The MC is often seen searching for food between bits of bark. During very cold winter days with diminished daylight, MCs may lower their body temperature from 107.6° F in the daytime to 86° F at night to conserve energy.

Field marks are medium gray wings and back, a light gray belly, a white head with a black stripe running from the beak through the eye and a black bib. The distinguishing mark of the MC is a white line interrupting the black cap just slightly above the eye starting from the bill. In the course of a year, the MC may be designated a “worn adult” (April-August) or “fresh adult” (September to March). Fresh adults are bright and clearly marked. The white line may be almost invisible in worn adults. Males and females are similar.

MCs are usually found in montane coniferous

forests (I have seen fewer with the die-off of our piñon trees). During winter months, MCs seek a lower elevation, which brings the little bird to our backyard bird feeders. Pairs are monogamous and lay five to nine eggs in a cavity (an old woodpecker hole or other natural space). They may use nest boxes. The female chooses the nest and then does most of the incubation. She is difficult to scare off the nest, even producing a hissing sound when disturbed. The atrical young hatch in 14 days and fledge in 21. For the first four days, chicks are fed by regurgitation. Males deliver most of the food and the female stays at the nest. After fledging, the family will stay together for several weeks, sometimes months.

MCs make several single-note calls, but we are probably most familiar with chickadee-dee-dee.

—Pam Henline



With the Help of Volunteers

EL DORADO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is blessed to have a parent and volunteer community that actively works toward building relationships and supporting our students. Volunteers help tutor students, work on classroom needs such as laminating or bulletin boards, or help with specific programs. Recently, our Junior Achievement Elementary School Program enlisted three community volunteers to teach economics and business curriculum for students in kindergarten through grade six. Volunteers also have helped during our state standardized testing and our fundraisers.

Some exciting events are taking place, too. Our partnership with the Christ Church of Santa Fe is continuing with our staff bathrooms getting a complete make-over using hand-painted tiles created by students. The church volunteers previously rebuilt our wallball boards on the playground. Now that the weather is warming up, we'll be painting those boards with incredible student artwork focusing on our Community of Excellence. The paint and materials have been donated by local businesses and parents. Working with local artists, we plan to create a school that reflects our dedication to creativity, rela-

tionships and excellence. We plan to have more murals and stained glass artwork, and to collect permanent art pieces and renovate areas throughout the building.

Please call 467-4901 if you are interested in volunteering on a permanent or part-time basis for our many initiatives: science, gardening, Junior Achievement, art, tutoring or just helping out.

Note: El Dorado Elementary will be holding pre-registration for the 2007-2008 school year for incoming kindergarten and new students on Monday, April 23, 2007 from 8 am to 3 pm. Please bring your student's birth certificate, up-to-date immunization record, and two proofs of your current physical address. For further information, please call the school at 467-4900.

—Yann Lussiez

NOTICE:

The outside patio at the Community Center is closed due to construction this summer. We hope to reopen the patio in time for the Ice Cream Social in August. We're sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.

—The Management- ECIA



*Security 204-2945
Sheriff 428-3720*

Practical Strategies for Rainwater Harvesting

Craig Sponholts of Dryland Solutions was one of the speakers at the Rainwater Harvesting event at the El Dorado Elementary School on Saturday, March 10.

Craig explained how a “media luna” such as the one in the photo to the right can prevent runoff from eroding a steep slope. In addition to erosion control, this single layer of stones laid on the ground is an effective passive water harvesting structure.

Visit this demo project located at Plants of the SW to see how the extra moisture stored by the media luna has greatly enhanced the vigor of established and newly recruited plants. It’s so grown-in now that you may have trouble seeing the stones!



PHOTO FROM DRYLANDSOLUTIONS.COM