

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XIII, ISSUE 4  
April 2011

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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.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

## Vista Grande Public Library Celebrates 10 Years

Vista Grande Public Library opened its doors in April 2001, with a mission to “stimulate a life-long love of learning in an environment that fosters community interaction.” On Sunday, April 10, 2011, VGPL will celebrate its 10th anniversary at the Library from 2 to 4 pm, with an Open House, refreshments, and a special presentation. Everyone’s invited!

The presentation, set for 2:30 to 3 pm, will focus on the Library’s history and its vision for the future and recognizing area businesses, individuals and volunteers who have supported the library. A nonprofit corporation, VGPL serves Southeastern Santa Fe County. All you need to borrow books, DVDs, and other materials—even telescopes—is a library card. And the card is free. Because VGPL is a nonprofit corporation, its operating budget must be raised annually through donations, fundraising events such as the annual Ice Cream Social and book sales, and the pursuit of grant monies. (You can send VGPL a Happy 10th Anniversary Wish with a \$50 donation. Just click the DONATE button on the Library website, [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org).)

Has Vista Grande Public Library played a special role in your life? A dedicated email address has been set up, [VGLibrary87508@yahoo.com](mailto:VGLibrary87508@yahoo.com), for anyone who has memories, photos, or stories about VGPL they would like to share.

So share your memories. And come to the Open House April 10 to celebrate ten years of Vista Grande Public Library.

### OCEANS IS FAMILY MOVIE, APRIL 8

Walt Disney Studios’ *Oceans*, part thriller, part meditation on the vanishing wonders of subaquatic worlds, is the family movie night on Friday, April 8, at 7 pm at the Library. Admission is free.

### REMEMBER: SHOP AMAZON AND SUPPORT VGPL

You can shop on Amazon and benefit VGPL at no extra cost to you. Just go to the Library website, [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org), scroll down and click the “Amazon” button on the right, then shop as usual. A per-

centage of your purchase price will then go to Vista Grande Library.

### OTHER VGPL DATES TO REMEMBER

After School Reading, Thursdays, 3 to 4:30 pm at VGPL. Ages K–5.

Book Donation Day, Saturday, April 2, 9–11:30 am.

Bring your gently used CDs, DVDs, children’s materials, and books published from 2004 or later. Creative Writing Group for Teens, 2nd and 4th Saturdays (April 9 and 23) at 10 am at the Library.

VGPL Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 19, 7 pm at VGPL. Open to the public.

Golden Rose Storyteller Project, Saturday, April 16, 10:30 am at VGPL.

VGPL Book Group, Monday, April 18, at 7 pm. This month’s book is *The Lost City of Z*, by David Gann. You need not have read it to attend.

Free-Form Book Group, Thursday, April 12, at 7 pm. General discussion of recent books read.

*ECIA Board  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Thurs.,  
April 21,  
7 pm. Public  
is invited.*

## Wildcats in Eldorado

This is bobcat breeding season, and these big cats, as well as mountain lions, have been spotted in Eldorado. Bobcats are about two to three times the size of the average house cat. Named bobcats for their short bobbed tail, they are tan or grayish with black spots or streaks on legs and around the head. The short tail has a dark tip. By contrast, the mountain lion (also called cougar or panther) is large, averaging 130–160 pounds and is tan and has a very long tail. Mountain lions are more rare in our area (see photos on back page).

Bobcats are mainly nocturnal, but will hunt during the day. They are very efficient predators of small mammals, snakes, birds, and even deer. They will take cats and small dogs, so small pets need to be protected. Bobcats are able to jump 12 feet. They tend to lay in wait under bushes and then pounce on their prey.

*Continued on the back page*



One of two bobcats seen in Eldorado in March.

## 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 [ECIADiAna@aol.com](mailto:ECIADiAna@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.

## Spring Ahead with Responsible Dog Ownership

Along with the melting of winter snows, Eldorado residents will begin to start seeing nasty little reminders, along the roadways and the bike paths of Eldorado, that not all dog owners are as responsible as they should be, often failing to clean up after their dogs. This problem of dog owners not picking up their dogs' solid waste is all too common in Eldorado and especially noticeable in the springtime. Such irresponsible dog ownership is a violation of both the Eldorado Responsible Dog Ownership Policy, as well as Section 5-6 of the Santa Fe Animal Control Ordinance. This Ordinance details the county's policies regarding animal nuisances on sidewalks, public parks, and other open spaces.

Relevant portions of this ordinance are detailed as follows:

"It is unlawful for the owners of any animal to permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care or control, any such animal to commit any nuisance upon a sidewalk or in a public park or upon

any private property other than that of the animal owner. When an animal defecates in a public place, the owner must remove the feces and dispose of it in a sanitary manner."

Eldorado residents should always think of others when walking their dogs, and remember to bring a plastic bag for proper pickup and disposal of animal wastes. This is especially important in public areas, such as the ECIA grounds and at Compadres Park, which are heavily used by dog owners and children alike. Remember that cleaning up after your pet is part of being a good neighbor and will help to keep Eldorado a beautiful and enjoyable place to live.

If you know of a resident who is not being a responsible pet owner, you are urged to contact me, Mark Young, at 466-4248 with this information. The ECIA thanks you for your cooperation in being a responsible pet owner!

—Mark Young  
Covenant Compliance Representative

## Open Forum Draws Overflow Crowd

Over 50 Eldorado homeowners overflowed the Community Center Railroad Room Wednesday evening, March 9, to comment on the proposed update to the ECIA Architectural Guidelines. ECIA President **Tom Willmott** chaired the meeting, and Architectural Committee Chair **Katherine Mortimer** presented each major revision topic. She was assisted by General Manager **Bill Donohue**, Community Compliance Representative **Mark Young**, and fellow Committee member **Jan Pietrzak**.

Topics included new or revised rules for security gates; exterior colors; small accessory building size increase; video antennas; RV screening; security screen doors; solar collectors, including ground-mounted tracking arrays; and wind turbines. Among the more popular subjects for comments were RVs, solar, and wind. A spirited discussion on general Covenant enforcement followed the specific Guidelines topics.

President Willmott stated that comments will be considered by the ECIA Board of Directors, further



ECIA Covenant Compliance Representative Mark Young and President Tom Willmott field questions at an Open Forum meeting March 9 to discuss proposed Architectural Guidelines revisions.

Guidelines revisions will be posted on the ECIA website (<http://www.eldoradosf.org>), and the Board will likely vote on the finalized Guidelines at their regular meeting on April 21 at 7 pm at the Community Center Classroom. Anyone who wishes to be notified by e-mail when Guidelines revisions are posted to the website should contact Mark Young at [eciaccr@aol.com](mailto:eciaccr@aol.com).

—Dan Drobnis

## 2011 Assessments Now Overdue

As of March 1, any unpaid ECIA assessments are overdue. The owner of each Eldorado lot should have received an invoice in early January showing the amount due for 2011, and including any additional unpaid balance, interest or late penalties for previous years. Anyone who did not receive an invoice, or who has any questions about their account balance, should contact the ECIA office immediately at 505-466-4781.

The unpaid balance on an account is charged interest at an annual rate of 15%, in addition to a late

fee and collection expenses. Lots with an unpaid balance will have a lien placed upon them for the amount owed. In addition, New Mexico law allows a homeowners association to foreclose on a property for unpaid assessments.

Any lot owner who desires consideration of unusual circumstances should contact the ECIA office and speak with the General Manager, **Bill Donohue**. This could help to reduce unpleasant future consequences.

—Dan Drobnis

## Emergency Planning is Your Responsibility

It is up to every person to be prepared in case of an emergency such as wildland fire, floods, snow storms, power outages or loss of natural gas. As we saw recently, these things can and do happen in New Mexico. I recently spoke with the Office of Emergency Management Director for Santa Fe County about the recent loss of natural gas to customers. He stated that this was a perfect example of how important it is to plan ahead and be prepared. The people who had emergency plans and supplies in place were much more comfortable than those who did not. The ones with alternate heat sources, the ability to cook on camp stoves, or use fireplaces could remain in their homes instead of having to go to shelters. The ones who did not have any preparations in place were the ones who were cold, tired and hungry. A gas or power shortage in Eldorado would affect all of us. Being prepared can reduce the negative effects

it would have on you and your family. Go to [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) and click on the link for "How to Prepare for an Emergency" for great information on emergency planning and preparation.

Another concern this year is the lack of rain and snowfall. Fire season started early, with four active fires around the state as of February 28. Unless we get spring rains, we are going to be in a dangerous situation, with very dry conditions that increase the potential for wildland fires. Help make your home and your community safer by taking precautions and being prepared. Go to [www.eldoradofirerescue.org](http://www.eldoradofirerescue.org) for further information.

Remember, emergency planning and preparation are your responsibility. Don't wait until it is too late. Take action now so you will be prepared later. Watch for future articles on Emergency Preparedness.

—Raven Hicks, ECIA Community Services Manager

## ECIA Notes

**ANNUAL PACKET:** In April, residents will be receiving the ECIA's Annual Packet, which contains the 2010 Annual Report to the membership, a ballot of candidates running for positions on the Board of Directors, and statements from each candidate. If you have not paid for your assessment by March 11, you will not receive a ballot.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The Annual Meeting will be held Monday, May 2, at 7 pm at the Eldorado Community Church at La Tienda (rather than at the school). The newly elected Board of Directors will be introduced, along with representatives from the Committees. Refreshments will be served. An open forum will end the meeting.

### ECIA NEEDS PHONE NUMBERS TO CONTACT RESIDENTS IN EMERGENCIES

The ECIA is still compiling its database of residents' phone numbers—land lines as well as cell phones—to be used only in the case of emergencies. For your own benefit, and that of your neighbors, please contact the ECIA and provide us with your phone numbers. Call 466-4248.

—Bill Donohue, ECIA General Manager

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

**CHANGE:** Due to the wildfire talk (see p. 4) conflicting with the regular Conservation Committee meeting, the April meeting is being rescheduled to Monday, April 4, at 7 pm at the Community Center.

### ECIA OFFICE

#1 La Hacienda Loop  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
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ecommunity@aol.com  
[www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

### General Manager

**Bill Donohue**  
466-4248, [gmbill1@aol.com](mailto:gmbill1@aol.com)  
Covenant Compliance Rep  
**Mark Young**  
466-4248, [ECIAccr@aol.com](mailto:ECIAccr@aol.com)  
Community Services Mgr  
**Raven Hicks**, 204-2945

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### President

**Tom Willmott**  
982-1602  
[tom.willmott@att.net](mailto:tom.willmott@att.net)

#### Vice-President

**Ed Moreno**  
466-1183  
[edmoreno@newmexico.com](mailto:edmoreno@newmexico.com)

#### Treasurer

**Todd Handy**  
466-3785  
[Todd\\_Gilliss@yahoo.com](mailto:Todd_Gilliss@yahoo.com)

#### Secretary

**Gregory Bundrick**  
[gjugiu@msn.com](mailto:gjugiu@msn.com)

#### Director

**Elan Colello**  
[elanishere@gmail.com](mailto:elanishere@gmail.com)

#### Director

**Pat Lavengood**  
466-9765  
[plavengood@q.com](mailto:plavengood@q.com)

#### Director

**Lynn Mortensen**  
202-591-5659  
[lyn.sfe@gmail.com](mailto:lyn.sfe@gmail.com)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: **Dan Drobnis**

#### Architecture:

**Katherine Mortimer**  
Conservation: **John Parker & E.J. Evangelos**

Stable: **Lisa Bessone & Deena Joseph**

Election: **Jean Crawford**

Roads: **Nolan Zisman**

Information: **Frank Schober**

Neighborhood Watch:

**Marilyn Walker**

Facilities & Grounds:

**Jeanne Calzada**

### VISTAS NEWSLETTER

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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

[eldoradofirerescue.org](http://eldoradofirerescue.org)

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)





Master Gardeners hold Garden Fair  
April 30.



#### ENERGY-SAVING TIP OF THE MONTH

**Just One Thing!**

**XXXX**

— Eldorado Energy Coop

#### **“Wildfire Strikes Eldorado Homes!”**

This could easily be a headline here in Eldorado as a drier than normal winter, combined with the usual spring windy conditions, can create elevated fire danger in Eldorado. Although we live in a wild-fire-prone area, Eldorado and the surrounding communities have been unusually lucky to have avoided a significant wildfire for almost two decades. No one can predict how much longer our luck will hold, but a short walk through almost any of our neighborhoods shows significant fuel loads and numerous homes at unnecessary risk from a wildfire. There are a number of simple steps that homeowners can take to reduce their home’s vulnerability to wildfire and which dramatically increase the risk of catastrophic loss if ignored. The El Dorado Fire Department, in conjunction with the Conservation Committee, is hosting an informative “FIREWISE” meeting at the Community Center, April 5, at 6:30–8:30 pm. Basic prevention strategies and techniques will be presented as well as “how to” materials to take home.

#### **Summer Jobs**

The ECIA needs part-time summer maintenance help. Apply at the ECIA office. Also, certified life guards may apply for pool jobs at the ECIA office.

#### **Cartridges for Kids**

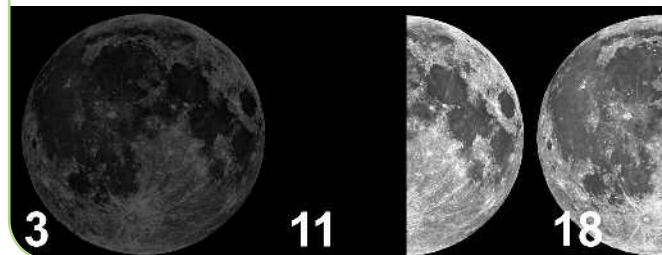
La Tienda and Eldorado Computer Works are teaming up with the local community to get needed school supplies into the classrooms at El Dorado School. With school budgets being cut and some supplies already running out, we must do everything we can to help. As it is, teachers have to spend their own money to get supplies they need to teach our kids. This is good of them, but it is wrong that they are put in the position of having to pay these costs.

Help out, it is easy! Drop your empty ink and toner cartridges in the recycle box in front of Gene’s Sandwich Shop in La Tienda for recycling. Each one is worth \$2–\$3 in credit for school supplies. Unused excess cartridges can also be recycled. Please bring them from home and work to help out our local school. For more information call **Steve Ewers** 466-1262

#### **Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van**

Free health screenings, referrals, and information will be offered at the Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van on two days in April: Saturday, April 16, at the Agora Supermarket, 10 am–3 pm; and Tuesday, April 19, at Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center, 10 am–2 pm. For more information, please call **Angela Thorndyke**, RN, BSN, at 505-231-2382.

#### MOON PHASES FOR APRIL 2012



#### **Fiber Arts at La Tienda Art Gallery**

The Weavers and Fibre Artists of Northern New Mexico present an exhibit of fiber work, including wall hangings, tapestries, clothing, table linens, pillows, hand-painted silks, handspun, hand-dyed yarns, and felting. The show opened on March 23 and runs through April 26, Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 am–5 pm at the La Tienda art gallery. A reception will be held on Saturday, April 2, 4–7 pm, where there will be demonstrations of spinning alpaca, dog hair, silk, wool, and buffalo hair. You can also try your hand at spinning lint from your dryer and cotton from your pill bottles. Also, there will be a display of antique (200+ years old) and modern spinning wheels, spindles and other fiber craft tools. Weather permitting, we will have some special guests: alpacas, a miniature horse, a golden retriever, and an angora bunny. All of them will be having their fur/wool spun.

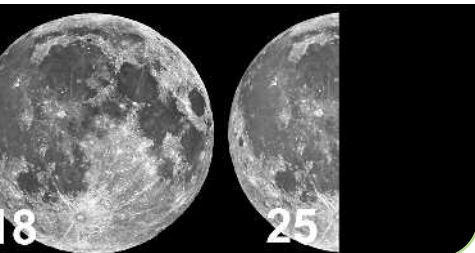
#### **Garden Fair**

The Santa Fe Master Gardener Association (SFMGA) is holding its annual Garden Fair on Saturday, April 30, from 10 am to 4 pm at the county fairgrounds, 3229 Rodeo Road. The Fair includes speakers, exhibits, demonstrations, and a xeric and native plant sale. Admission is free and it is a lot of fun, as well as educational and inspiring.

SFMGs are involved in several public projects, including the Eldorado Demonstration and Teaching Garden (behind the El Dorado Community School), Ask a Master Gardener information booths at many local nurseries, the Ask a Master Gardener Hotline, the Herb Garden and Xeric Garden at the county fairgrounds, the Cornell Rose Garden, and partnering with Habitat for Humanity to landscape new homes and educate the owners about plant care. More information is available at the SFMGA website, [www.SFMGA.org](http://www.SFMGA.org).

#### **20th Anniversary Studio Tour**

The 20th Anniversary Studio Tour is set for May 14–15, with 112 artists showing in 74 studios this year. Thanks to La Tienda, the Preview Gallery will be located at the shopping center rather than the school this year. A gala celebration is planned for Friday, May 14, from 5 to 7:30 pm. Artists, spon-



## ASTRONOMY CORNER

April 2011



**APRIL 21-22 : Lyrids Meteor Shower.** The Lyrids produce about 20 meteors per hour at their peak. These meteors can produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. The shower usually peaks on April 21 & 22, although some meteors can be visible from April 16 to 25. Look for meteors radiating from the constellation of Lyra after midnight, and be sure to find a dark viewing location.

**Protect Our Night Skies:** Lights left carelessly on may spoil the views of our night sky.

sors, and the public are invited to come enjoy the art of artists represented in the Tour. For information: 466-6245

The Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association is now meeting in the ECIA's Community living room for its monthly meetings, which occur on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome. For membership information, email **George Henke** at [images\\_garden@yahoo.com](mailto:images_garden@yahoo.com) or call **Cynde Christie** 204-7007.

### Pool Passes

Beginning April 1, members in good standing (2011 HOA assessments paid) may come to the office to get a 2011 sticker for your existing pool pass. Beginning May 1, we will begin taking pictures for new pool passes for those who need them (\$2). Renters will need proof of residence from the homeowner to use any amenities.

# April Events

*Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.*

Email [info@eldoradosf.org](mailto:info@eldoradosf.org) 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**

### APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

ECIA Candidate Forum	Mon., April 11, 7-9	RR
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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Committee	Mon., April 4, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., April 5, 4-6 pm	Jeanne Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., April 13, 9-11am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., April 12, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., April 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., April 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., April 25, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., April 27, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., April 26, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Road Committee	Mon., June 6, 6-8 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 7 pm	santafesar.org		CR
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Eldorado Dog Club	4th Saturday 9:30 am	Freddie Fullington	466-2005	Dog Park
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Conservation Com Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	CC Prk Lot
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Fire Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kieling	466-4232	Sm Gym
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs of month		204-7007	LR
MOMS Club	Call for dates & times	Tracey Mitchell	670-6508	

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Wed., 5:45-6:45 pm (Men Only)			CFR
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
Boy Scout Pack 414	2nd & 3rd Thurs., 6:30-7:30	Johnny Boggs	466-3680	RR
Girl Scouts 286	Fri., 4-6 pm	Lisa Engeldinger	466-0077	CR
Girl Scouts 295	Every other Fri., 5:30-7 pm	Michelle Jaschke	466-2422	CR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:30 & 11 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	
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	Ann Sharp	466-4733	RR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Richard Robinson	466-7319	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](http://www.eldoradosf.org)**

## Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

**F**rank Abagnale, one-time master forger (the movie *Catch Me If You Can* was based on his life) and current FBI security consultant, offers these tips:

- ▶ Shred everything. Even the mailing label on a store catalog can be used to steal your identity. There are three types of shredders; use the ones marked "Security Micro Cut Shredder." This one turns paper into actual confetti and is widely available.
- ▶ Sign up for a credit monitoring service. Before you decide which company to use, ask two simple questions: First, does the service monitor all three credit bureaus 24 hours a day, seven days a week? Second, will it notify you in real time? If they say they will mail you a letter every 90 days to let you know if there's been any suspicious activity that is not good enough. The service should cost less than \$10 a month.
- ▶ Put away your debit card. It is safer to use a credit card whenever you can. By federal statute,

you essentially have no liability coverage if someone makes illegal charges on it.

- ▶ Have two passwords. For online transactions, use one password for shopping and a different one for banking. And make sure to change both passwords once a year.

**AWARE:** Alert - Witness - Act - Report - Evolve / Call SFPD if you see any suspicious persons or vehicles: 428-3710

To make a report, call the Sheriff's Department at 428-3720.

### FEBRUARY CRIME STATISTICS

No crimes reported.

Source: [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)

### NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING:

May 9, 2011, at the ECIA. For information on how to join Neighborhood Watch, please email **Marilyn Walker** at [lightwalker2@comcast.net](mailto:lightwalker2@comcast.net).

—Lisa Smith, [lisasmithsantafe@gmail.com](mailto:lisasmithsantafe@gmail.com)

## At the Crossroads

**A**H, SPRING . . . that special time of the year when the dust and pollen fly, melt/runoff from spring snows rut the roads, and the buds on the trees match the color of our runny eyes. We don't have much control over most of those factors—except for some of the dust flying. It's that time

again when adhering to our dirt road speed limits (25 mph) or slower will give ourselves and our neighbors a break in holding down the frequency of dust clouds.

Your Road Committee will be preparing for some discussions with County officials about the roads in Eldorado. Specifically, we will be gathering information on how we can selectively form special assess-

ment districts to chip-seal those roads whose residents are in favor, and what the County's plans are for the next few years in regard to maintenance issues and replacing worn out surfaces. If you have any particular issues or questions we can take forward at that meeting, please e-mail them to me at [pnzisman@aol.com](mailto:pnzisman@aol.com), or leave a hard copy at the ECIA offices no later than April 8.

—Nolan Zisman, Chair  
ECIA Road Committee



## Senior Center News

### SIGN UP FOR STRENGTH CLASS

If you are a frequent reader of this section, you may remember that we offer a Strength class on Wednesday afternoons, taught by Neela, a physical therapist from Eldorado Physical Therapy. The good news is that this is a very popular class. The bad news is that it has grown too large for safety. Therefore, we are limiting the class size to 16, and sign-ups will now be necessary. Please call the Senior Center at 466-1039 to reserve a place.

### PHONE NUMBER

And speaking of calling the Center, I would like to correct the phone number that was listed in the article about Meals on Wheels in the March *Vistas*. The correct phone number for the Center is 466-1039. The number given, 466-4029, is for the County Satellite Office which is also located at the Center (this is where you get the solid waste permits). The Satellite Office is only open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12 to 4 pm, and that is the only time that you can count on someone answering that line. So always use 466-1039 for Senior Center business.

—Cathy Berkley





## Return of the Gophers

My neighbor up the street has given up. “The gophers have won,” she says. After several years of trying to beautify the land around her home with new trees and a nicely sited vegetable garden, she feels that defending against them is a lost cause.

Some of us are still trying—checking the Internet or asking our neighbors for advice on the latest means and methods that will protect our plantings of trees, flowers, and vegetables from gopher predation.

For many of us in Eldorado still battling to save our gardens, there are no clear victories—just a large

menu of “weapons” choices, ranging from cat sand (used), in-ground electronic noise makers, windmills, gas bombs, rodenticides, and repellents that depend on smells that gophers seem not to like.

It’s time, some might agree, for Eldorado gardeners to unite, pool their knowledge related to gopher defense, and start winning the battle heretofore lost. Send your most successful remedy to the rest of us beleaguered gardeners via our website at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org).

—Frank Schober



## Say’s Phoebe (SP)

The Say’s Phoebe is a perky bird found around Eldorado in the summer months. It prefers our relative open spaces. SP is a smallish bird, 7.5 inches long, with a wingspan of 13 inches. The upper parts are a pale brownish gray, and the undertail and belly are a pretty cinnamon color. The beak is small and pointed. Males and females are similar. The young bird is duller and more brownish. The SP can often be seen wagging its tail. It is a typical flycatcher, sitting on a perch that has some visibility and flying out and returning to eat a bug caught on the wing. The SP may hover while hunting! Its song is distinctive and might lead you to the bird’s location. The SP winters in Mexico to southern Mexico.

A cuplike nest of grasses is often built around buildings. Not much seems to be written about courtship behavior. The female sits on the three to six

eggs which hatch in 12 to 14 days. The monogamous pair tends the young, which fledge in 14 to 16 days. Young are fed almost exclusively on insects. More than one brood may be produced. The SP ejects indigestible portions of food in the form of pellets (presumably the hard exoskeleton of insects).

A platform can be built to encourage SPs to nest around your house. See [www.50birds.com/MPPhoebPlatform.htm](http://www.50birds.com/MPPhoebPlatform.htm).

The Say’s Phoebe breeds farther north than any other flycatcher, seemingly limited only by the lack of nest sites. It breeds north past the tree line, and may be following the Alaska pipeline even farther north, nesting on the pipeline itself (source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology). This bird was named for Thomas Say, the American naturalist.

—Pam Henline



Say's Phoebe /  
*Sayornis saya*.  
Photo: Wolfgang Wander

## Community Garden A Hotbed of Activity!

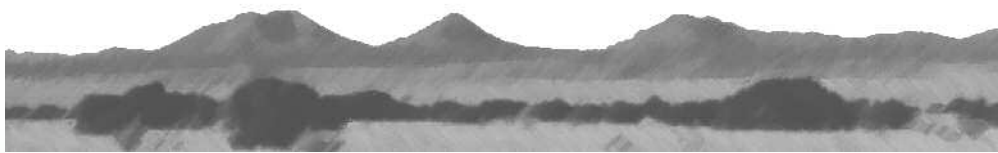
April is popping out all over in the El Dorado School Community Garden, and it’s not too late to join in. Individual beds and communal garden memberships are still available. All-gardener workdays, a great way to meet neighbors and make friends, are scheduled on April 9 and 16 from 9 am until noon. Free Garden Workshops will be given at La Tienda at 10 am on Saturday, April 2 (“Perennials and Xeric Plants in Eldorado”) and Saturday, April 23 (“Composting”). The annual Garden Blessing is set for April 23 at 11:30, with a potluck lunch to follow.

Garden tee shirts and mugs are also available by emailing [eldogarden@comcast.net](mailto:eldogarden@comcast.net) or phoning 466-6707. This year’s official El Dorado School Community Garden tee shirt is black, which really shows off

the spring-colors logo, and the mugs are available in four colorful Garden images. You can check out the Garden in a great video on YouTube by Garden member **Debra Denker** simply by searching on YouTube for “El Dorado School Community Garden.”

The Garden was begun two years ago as a collaboration between Eldorado residents and the El Dorado School. Key projects this year include a greenhouse and completion of a drip irrigation system. The one-time new-member fee is \$30 per person, with an additional \$35 per individual bed rental or communal garden participation. Children under 18 are free. Call Marilyn Jacobs at 466-6707 or e-mail [eldogarden@comcast.net](mailto:eldogarden@comcast.net).

—Diane Thomas



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

## *Wildcats in Eldorado*

Continued from page 1



Two bobcats were spotted in an Eldorado driveway in early March.

Remember that wild bird food attracts small mammals and birds, which then attract bobcats and coyotes. Water and shelter will also attract them. So, feed your pets inside or remove uneaten pet food, and don't leave pets' water out at night if your pet is inside. To scare bobcats away if they are in your yard, make a lot of noise (bang on a pan) or spray with a hose. Never corner one, as they will fight. Back away and give them a chance to retreat. If necessary, open a gate to encourage them to leave. The objective is not to hurt them but to scare them off by making your yard undesirable.

Bobcats are beautiful wild creatures and we can co-exist with them. They are normally reclusive, so if you see one, treasure the moment. Like most wild animals, they can be dangerous, so treat them with respect. To learn more about wild animals in New Mexico, go to New Mexico Game and Fish, [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us), or call 1-800-476-8000.



A mountain lion (*Lynx rufus*) is considerably larger than a bobcat and more rarely seen in Eldorado.