

ELDORADO at SANTA FE VISTAS

VOLUME XVII, ISSUE 4

April 2015

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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 ▼ Problem calls 204-2945

Meet Eldorado's New General Manager

The ECIA Board is pleased and excited to welcome **Denise Villanueva** into the Association's General Manager position. Villanueva was chosen after the Board's nationwide search, sifting through nearly 50 resumes and 10 personal interviews. During this process, the Board held meetings with two professional homeowners management companies, opting to contract with Home Owners' Association Management Company (HOAMCO).

Besides taking on accounting services for the ECIA, HOAMCO was also contracted to provide an onsite, full-time general manager. Both parties understood that the Board would make the final decision on hiring any candidate HOAMCO presented.

After extensive vetting, HOAMCO introduced Mrs. Villanueva, a Santa Fe native, as its first pick for GM. Following its own interview, the Board unanimously and enthusiastically agreed that Denise was well qualified to administer Eldorado's daily affairs.

AREA NATIVE

Denise, a native Santa Fean, married, and mother of two, received an associate's degree in Business Administration from Santa Fe Community College and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the College of Santa Fe. She has 20+ years of background in construction and real estate accounting.

Her two decades of working with Chapman Companies, both as its accountant and controller, gave her the skill sets needed for our GM position. As controller of a development company, Denise learned the ins and outs of residential community association start-up and management.

ONGOING MANAGEMENT TRAINING

As of this printing, Denise will have attended a three-day, community association management training in Colorado. The course is the first in a series given over a number of years by the Community Associations Institute (CAI). CAI provides information, education, and accreditation to community associations and the professionals who support them.

During her first couple of weeks in the ECIA office, Denise will be receiving plenty of help at "learn-

ing the ropes" from staff, the Board, and HOAMCO. The ECIA and HOAMCO will be announcing dates and times for residents to meet their new GM "in the flesh." In the meantime, we thought we'd ask Denise a few questions to give Association members a sense of who she is.

ELDORADO VISTAS: After all your time with Chapman Companies, why did you decide to leave?

DENISE VILLANUEVA: The company is taking a different direction and I felt this was a good time for me to move on and accept new challenges, both personally and professionally.

EV: Do you have a particular work philosophy?

DV: I maintain a positive outlook on everyday challenges. I understand the importance of outstanding customer service and believe in "going the extra mile" and "the customer always comes first" to get tasks accomplished.

EV: What skills will you bring to the GM position?

DV: I am highly organized and detail-oriented and have the ability to develop systems for efficient operations. I'm also a good listener. As ECIA's general manager, I want to hear about community concerns in the most convenient method or approach with which the members feel comfortable—whether by email, phone, or in person.

EV: Some of our residents voiced concerns about having a GM who is not a resident. Do you have thoughts about that?

DV: I think not being a resident allows me to be balanced and reasonable in my communications and position of leadership. For most people, home ownership is their greatest investment. When it comes to the covenants and their equal enforcement, not being a resident allows me more freedom to see them in an unbiased way. It is my desire to be reasonable in my approach by understanding the viewpoints of all parties.

EV: Will there be opportunities for the residents to meet you?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
April 16,
7 PM*



**ECIA's new GM,
Denise Villanueva**

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Katherine Mortimer
Conservation: Jim Daniel &
Cherry Payne

Election: Kathie Graham
Facilities & Grounds:
John Calzada

Finance: Dan Drobnis
Information: Frank Schober
Roads: Felicia Probert
Stable: Open

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Vista Grande Library

466-READ
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofirerescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on March 19, 2015. All seven Board members were present: **Dag Ryen** (president), **Pam Henline** (vice-president), **Todd Handy** (treasurer), **Gershon Siegel** (secretary), **Greg Colello**, **David Yard**, and **Jeanne Calzada**. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting, except where otherwise noted:

- ▼ A variance was granted for 1 Casa del Oro Court to allow a proposed ground-based solar array more than 15 feet from the house for improved screening.
- ▼ A variance was granted for 4 Tarro Road to allow a stucco block wall to be built 9 feet into the required 20-foot-side setback because of siting of the house.
- ▼ The owners of Barns 13, 29, and 34 were granted waivers from Stable Rules to allow them to continue to own their barns for one year without own-

ing a horse therein, to be renewable annually, but with liability insurance required. Horses are owned by Eldorado residents who are renters (5-0-1, Calzada abstained).

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 and community announcements are normally included. Complete minutes and meeting agendas are available at the ECIA office and on the website: www.eldoradosf.org.

In addition, two informal (no voting) Board working sessions are held in the Community Center Conference Room each month. The first is held at 7 PM the first Thursday of each month, and the second is held at 7 PM the Monday before the third Thursday of each month. ECIA members are welcome to attend, and may request to place, and/or speak on, particular items on the agenda by calling the ECIA office at 466-4781 three business days in advance.

Brush Piles and Dead Vegetation on Lots

With summer just around the corner, and the spring winds drying out any moisture that was left in our local grasses and vegetation, the potential for drought and wildfires should be a concern for all Eldorado residents. While Santa Fe County has not issued a burn ban as of this writing, the ECIA is already receiving calls from residents anxious about neighbors having dead weeds and debris growing close to their homes.

The ECIA also receives many calls about neighbors who have collected dead and downed wood on their lot and who, rather than removing these volatile fuels from their property, have instead left large brush piles in place. These piles are a visual nuisance as well as a fire hazard for both the resident and the neighborhood at large.

The ECIA asks that residents inspect their lots for any dead weeds (especially the tall weeds over septic fields) or other dry vegetation or wood accumulating around their homes. Dry debris close to homes can act as a ladder fuel, increasing the risk of spread-

ing fire. If you have such dead vegetation on your lot, please remove it as soon as possible to help safeguard your home from the devastating effects of a wildfire.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter. For any questions, please call me at the ECIA at 466-4248.

—Mark Young, *Covenant Compliance Rep.*
mark@eldoradosf.org



Photo by Rennett Stowe.

New ECIA GM, continued from p. 1

DV: It is my understanding that there are upcoming community events that would be an ideal opportunity to meet with me. Additionally, HOAMCO and I will be hosting a meet-and-greet “Get To Know the New GM.”

To the best of my ability, I plan to have an “open door” policy for all members of the community and

the onsite staff as well. Of course, I can always be contacted via email at gm@eldoradosf.org or by telephone. I also enjoy meeting face-to-face, and there should be ample time — I will be in the ECIA office essentially from 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

—Gershon Siegel

Community Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 4, at 10 AM, come join an Easter Egg Hunt, with prizes and the Easter Bunny, at La Tienda Shopping Center!



At the Library

You may have noticed that Vista Grande Public Library has been a busy place the last few months. Here are some of the goings-on for April:

Author Talks: Local author **Catherine**

Spude will be giving an author talk on Tuesday, April 14, from 7 to 8:30 PM. Her books include *Saloons, Prostitutes, and Temperance in Alaska Territory* and *Eldorado! The Archaeology of Gold Mining in the Far North* (Historical Archaeology of the American West). Also, **Pam**



Christie, author of *The King's Lizard*, will be presenting her new book on Friday, April 24, from 5 to 6 PM. Both presentations are open to the community and will take place in the library's Meeting Room.

Family Movie Night: Friday, April 10, at 7 PM. The film is an adaptation of a Broadway musical inspired by classic fairy tales and is rated PG.

Grownup Movie Nights: (Note: Well-mannered children interested in the subject may accompany their adults to these grown-up events.) On Friday, April 3, at 7 PM, VGPL is showing an Oscar-nominee for best picture. The film is a biopic about legendary scientist Stephen Hawking and is rated PG-13. On Friday, April 17, at 6:45 PM, **Jeff Berg** returns with his film *Made on Route 66*, using clips from movies made on one of the most famous roads in the world.

Physics for Everyone Series, Part 4: Date TBD. **Robert Henderson** will return and discuss another aspect of physics. Check for the time and date on the website, www.vglibrary.org.

Facilities cleanup: April showers bring May flowers, but they also bring weeds. We're looking for community members or a group wanting community service hours to help us with prettying up the library grounds sometime later in the month. For information about cleanup day, or any of the other events listed here, come by the library or call us at 505-466-READ (466-7323).



PROTECT OUR NIGHT SKY

Lights carelessly left on may spoil our night skies (and waste energy).

Community Center Island Landscape Project

It is spring, and we are excited about the 2015 Community Center Island landscape project. The steel edging that will define the buffalo grass lawn will be installed this month. Next month, permeable landscape cloth and gravel mulch will cover the area where trees and native shrubs will be planted. And by mid-June, the grass seed will be snuggled in and germinating.

You can help us move this project along even faster by donating to the Commemorative Tree and Bench Project. A donation of \$275 will plant a beautiful shade tree in the Island that you and your community can enjoy for decades. Check the website or stop by the office for more information. And stop by the Community Center to admire the cactus gardens and see what's happening in the Island.

Birding Fabulous Santa Fe County

Conservation Committee-sponsored Nature Talk, April 11, 2015, at 10 AM, Railroad Bldg, ECIA Community Center. **Roger Clark**, who has birded extensively in the United States and around the world, identifying over 3,000 species, presents a program on just how special birding in Santa Fe County is. He will tell you the good spots to visit and what birds can be found there, and why birding in this area is so wonderful. Roger will also talk about the great birding in Eldorado, in the neighborhoods and in the Preserve!



Celebrate Earth Day on the Trail!

A Preserve workday is planned for Saturday, April 25, starting at 8:30 AM, to do some cleanup work in the Cañoncito wetlands area of the Eldorado Preserve. Volunteers are needed! Again this year, we are fortunate to be working with our ECIA consultant, **Jan-Willem Jansens** of Ecotone, and he will be able to provide us all with his expertise on this project. Meet at the ECIA Community Center at 8:30 on Saturday, April 25, and we will carpool from there. You are welcome to come and help out for as long as you are able; you do not have to work the entire day. We will be thinning out invasive tamarisk stems and removing tires, wood, and other debris that has ended up in the wetlands, as well as doing some repair work to rock structures in the wetlands.



Spring Garden Fair

On Saturday, May 2, 9 AM–3 PM, the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association will host the 11th annual Spring Garden Fair held at the Santa Fe County Fairgrounds, 3229 Rodeo Rd. Admission is free for this fun day of exciting speakers, demos, and exhibits! There will be food vendors to enjoy, tool sharpening offered, and you will learn from the famous "Ask A Master Gardener" station. Youngsters will have a fun time at the Jr. Gardener Corner, while a Garden Shed browse might uncover a treasure. Of course, the Best Plant Sale in Santa Fe returns. For full information, please visit: sfmga.org.



24th Annual Eldorado Studio Tour

Visit the working studios of 89 professional artists on May 16–17 from 10 AM to 5PM in the 24th Annual Eldorado Studio Tour. The exhibited work includes painting, ceramics and clay sculpture, drawing, glass, jewelry, photography, and printmaking. Also included are woodworking, digital images, fiber and wearable art, mixed media, and recycled art.

Each participating artist donates a percentage of his or her sales from the tour to support selected non-profit programs in the community.

Come and meet the participating artists on Friday, May 15, from 5 to 7 PM at the Artists' Reception in the Preview Gallery, located in the Eldorado Community Center at 1 La Hacienda Loop.

The Preview Gallery will be open Saturday and Sunday, May 16–17, 9 AM–5 PM. You are invited to visit the gallery to plan your tour stops. Brochures are available at the Preview Gallery.

Eldorado History at FNB

An after- hours event is being hosted by the Eldorado Banking Office of First National Bank to introduce **Joe Durr**, their new bank manager. The event will be on Wednesday, April 8, from 5:30 to 7 PM. Refreshments will be served. Also, **Pam Henline** will be on hand to give a short presentation on the history of the Eldorado Community.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Have a concern about our community? Send letters with your opinions or questions to gm@eldoradosf.org by April 1 for inclusion in the May issue of *Vistas*. Letters should be 150 words or less, should be written in a respectful and constructive tone and should include the writer's name and address.

April Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email marilyn@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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., April 14, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., April 28, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Thurs., April 2, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., April 13, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., April 7, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., April 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., April 8, 2-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., April 1, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., April 8, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., April 20, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., April 27, 6-8 pm	Felicia Probert	466-1563	CFR
Stable Committee	Not scheduled	Alice Griffin	795-6424	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY

EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR/CR
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	April 30, 7 pm	Mary Fredenburgh	466-1035	CR
Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wed., 3:00 pm	Susan Aylward	shaylward@gmail.com	
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Karen Sweeney	466-9797	CFR
Library Book Group	2nd Sat., 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Gordon Groff	699-7680	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
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	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jackie Vaughn	466-2558	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	Tues., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Duty Sections	Sat., 8-12 noon	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
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-4:30	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Barb	954-1533	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 11:30-12:30 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