

# ELDORADO VISTAS

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

## A Gathering of Artists and Craftspeople

**A**PPARENTLY NOT ONLY MISERY loves company. Judging from the number of members in the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association – 170 – so do many of the artists and crafts people in this dusty, peaceful, mostly sunny and friendly community.

“It started as a social venue for artists, then crafts people,” **Arlene Siegel**, an artist and gallery owner who lives in La Paz, said of the EACA. She moved here from Chicago and planted the seed in 1991 that blossomed into the EACA. She was its president for 13 years.

The goal in creating the EACA was to organize artists and crafts people so they could stage shows and learn from each other with workshops and lectures. The EACA since has evolved into a 501(c)4 not-for-profit that, among other benefits, exempts the group from taxation and gives it a break on newspaper ad rates.

The EACA is “very helpful, especially if you’re a new person in town,” said **George Henke**, a Bronx-born photographer and the group’s treasurer.

“The larger Santa Fe art community respects Eldorado artists and their association,” said Ms. Siegel, whose gallery in her name is a block from the Plaza. Gallery owners have come to the Eldorado art scene to scout for new talent.

EACA members meet formally at the main firehouse the last Thursday of each month and get together weekly for life figure modeling and *plein air* landscape outings. They gather monthly at coffee socials at which an artist will open his or her studio for informal chats.

“Up to 30 people at a time have shown up for the chat sessions over the past 10 years,” said **Janet Amtmann**, a pastel landscape artist from San Diego, California, who is past president and now secretary of the EACA.

“There’s a very, very rich art community here,” she said.

“I made some wonderful friends,” Ms. Amtmann said. “I enjoy the meetings – mostly learning about other artists’ techniques. Anyone can join.” Dues are \$15 a year.

“It’s like a cooperative in which everyone helps each other,” said **Jean Peterson**, the group’s vice president.



“The average age of the members is 55 – there are many retired people in the association – but they have been working as artists for years,” said **Joretha Hall**, the EACA’s current president. Here from Huntington Beach, California, she works in clay figure modeling.

“Having a variety of artists is the best way to broaden your horizons and learn what somebody else does,” she said.

The EACA’s biggest event of the year comes in May, when members open their studios to the public for the Eldorado Open Studio Tour. The tour drew 98 artists and crafts people last year and, Mr. Henke said, sold about \$100,000 worth of arts and crafts for each of the past two years. “It is the biggest studio tour in New Mexico,” Ms. Hall said.

Artists pay \$75 to participate in the show and must contribute 5 percent of their sales, up to \$1,500, for such causes in Eldorado as art education at the elementary school, El Dorado Fire and Rescue and the library. Mr. Henke said \$3,500 in contributions was generated last year and over \$1,300 in the smaller show in November.

“We’re a very important part of the community,” Ms. Hall said. “It just gets better and better.”

This year’s Studio Tour will run on May 19 and 20.

—Richard C. Gross

**ECIA Board  
Work Study  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Mon.,  
May 14, 7 pm**

**Jackie Gerstein, center**



**Barbara Carter**



**Odus Lynd**

*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](mailto: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.

## Music or Nuisance

**CHIMES ARE MUSIC** to some people's ears. Others prefer jazz, rock, classical or maybe music of meditation or of ancient tribal rituals. I have yet to meet anyone who enjoys listening to someone else's choice of music 24/7.

So why is it that so many hang chimes outside their houses? Do you want me to play my music into your bedroom all night long, into your house all day long? Please, especially with warmer weather here, put your chimes to good use inside your house. Feng Shui books have good recommendations on the valuable use of chimes inside the home; it is where I keep mine. I can hear them when I want to without subjecting my neighbors to what can be heard as insatiable racket, especially when the Eldorado winds blow. While I have a low tolerance for barking dogs, I never have heard one go on with the constancy of my neighbor's chimes.

Most of us come to live in Eldorado for the sense of space, peace and quiet that is wonderfully still part of a community that is convenient to Santa Fe and Albuquerque. We appreciate the brilliance of the night sky and the natural sounds and sights of the high mountain desert. It is a very unique environment that we have joined out here; let us respect where we have chosen to live.

*With grateful ears,  
—Julie Chambers*

*The May 10 session of Techniques  
for Dog Owners has been cancelled  
because of a lack of interest.*

*The approved patio and shade  
ramada plans are available to view  
in the General Manager's office.  
Please call 466-4248 for an  
appointment.*

*The ECIA is looking for  
lifeguards for the season. You must  
have current lifeguard certification and  
a current CPR certificate. Anyone  
interested please contact **Bill Donohue**  
in the ECIA offices at 466-4248.*

## Now Dogs Can Park It

**ELDORADO'S NEW DOG PARK** officially opened on March 17. Many residents came to the park and brought their dogs. That's not to say that cats aren't just as loved in Eldorado. We'll let you know if anyone tries to get a cat park opened.

## On Patrol

**PERIODICALLY, I RECEIVE** phone calls asking me about the security company contracted to patrol Eldorado and its responsibility within the community.

Associated Security Industries (ASI) is a private company run by **Mark Archuleta** and **Micah Johnson**. Eldorado uses guards from ASI who have been level 4 trained with batons, mace, handcuffs and firearms as well as basic unarmed defense tactics such as verbal judo.

The type of Eldorado calls that ASI receives are anything from barking dogs, loose dogs, ATVs in unauthorized areas, and suspicious people. They will stop and talk to suspicious people and determine whether or not they need to call in law enforcement.

Besides being a visual deterrent, security has had success catching vandals and helping with motor vehicle accidents. They even have helped with traffic control for Eldorado's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

They continuously check the Community Center and grounds and Compadres Park and other public areas for graffiti and vandalism to community property. They report all incidents to the Eldorado Community Improvement Association offices. They are the eyes and ears of the community, even calling Santa Fe County Public Works if they see a street sign down or damaged.

Recently, one of our weekend security guards, **Sgt. Charles Chipman**, was alerted to the El Dorado Elementary School by silent alarms going off in many different areas of the building. Sergeant Chipman notified the County Sheriff's Department, the state police and even the Mounted Patrol, and then went to the school to begin searching the building and surrounding areas for intruders. Sheriff's deputies and the state police relieved him from his search and he was able to get back to his regular patrols.

Sergeant Chipman is just one of the guards who is out there patrolling, checking and working with the local law enforcement authorities so that our families can rest easy.

*—Debby Padilla*

## From the President's Desk

**MAY! GLORIOUS MAY!** Spring is especially welcomed this year after our cold, wet winter. I like May for another reason: the Association's Annual Meeting of the Members must be held on the first Monday of May. This year, it will be May 7.

It is a formal business meeting that may have some meeting-phobic residents holding their noses. But it is also the time we come together as a community to celebrate our successes and discuss our future. It is also a good time to meet neighbors and even possibly make new friends. Now who would want to miss an opportunity like this? Please mark your calendars and join your neighbors at 7 pm on May 7 at El Dorado Elementary School for our glorious Annual Meeting of the Members.

### BOARD MEMBER NEEDED

Recently, a valued member of the ECIA Board of Directors, **Johnny Martinez**, resigned. His resignation came too late to find a resident who could gather signatures and run for the position in the April voting. Therefore, the Board must appoint a new member.

Being a Board member is very rewarding and is

## Project Planning

**A FRIENDLY REMINDER** from your Eldorado Community Improvement Association Compliance Representative regarding any projects you are planning. Please contact us. We are here to assist you in any way we can to make sure that your project, addition, RV screening, etc., goes smoothly and efficiently. We want to ensure that we answer any and all questions you may have. We want to review with you the intent of our community's covenants and together work to ensure your project meets all the necessary requirements of the covenants **before you begin**.

Also, before you start your project, you may want to review our *Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions for Eldorado*. If you have misplaced your copy, you can either get it online at our website ([www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)) or call and we will send one to you. Here is one policy that you may want to familiarize yourself with:

**Placement of accessory buildings, i.e., large buildings greater than 120 sq. ft. or 800 sq. ft. or less.**

- ▼ They must be no farther than 15 ft. from existing dwelling.
- ▼ They must be the same or similar design that currently exists for the dwelling.
- ▼ They shall be linked to the dwelling—see Policies.

PHOTO BY LYNN MCPHERSON



Eldorado residents are still welcome.

not time consuming. I calculate the time commitment to be about six hours a month. If you are interested in maintaining the financial viability of the Association, preserving and developing our amenities and upholding the covenants, then send a letter of interest with a resumé to **Bill Donohue** at the Eldorado Community Improvement Association offices. Join us. We are a congenial group that has civility as one of our enduring principles.

### LA PAZ

If you regularly travel Avenida Eldorado, you may have noticed the "No Trespassing" signs posted on the entry points to La Paz at Eldorado. I have spoken to **Jack Boylan**, president of their home association, and he has assured me that Eldorado residents have permission to walk/bike on the roads and walkers are welcomed in the arroyos. Their association covenants state that dogs must be leashed and picked up after. They assess a \$50 fine when dogs are unleashed. If you walk or bike in La Paz, be a good neighbor and abide by its rules.

—Jeanne Klein  
ECIA President

- ▼ They must be the same color as the dwelling.
- ▼ They must be in compliance with setbacks.
- ▼ They must not exceed 800 sq. ft.

If your project is less than 120 sq. ft., it is considered a small building, such as storage sheds and greenhouses. These need to be located to minimize their visual impact and, in some cases, may need screening (e.g., next to the dwelling, fencing and/or plantings).

Don't forget to submit your application (available online or at the office) by the Tuesday before the Wednesday meeting. The Architectural Committee meeting is at 7 pm on the second and fourth Wednesday at the Community Center. We look forward to working with you. Have a great summer!

### ECIA OFFICE

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Finance: Dan Drobnis  
Architecture: Bill Schwent  
Conservation: John Parker and E.J. Evangelos  
Stable: Tommie Brasel and Mary Ann Caldwell  
Election: Pat Lavengood  
Roads: Nolan Zisman  
Information: Ken McPherson  
Neighborhood Watch: Mary Uhl and Marilyn Walker

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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

### ERA Fleamarket

Saturday, May 12, is the Eldorado Residents Association's Spring Flea Market in the Community Center's parking lot. Setup begins at 7 am. Buyers are welcome at 8 am and closing time is at noon. No space reservations are necessary. Space is on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost per space is \$10 for Eldorado residents, \$15 for sellers from outside the community and \$20 for commercial sellers. Bring what you'll need for your setup and, please, no food or weapons may be sold. Sellers need to clean their area, take out their own trash and unsold items and leave by 1 pm. Donuts, coffee and refreshments will be sold. For information, call **Pat** at 466-9765.

### Road Trips

The Eldorado Roadrunners would like to invite all RV owners to visit our website at [www.eldoradorvclub.com](http://www.eldoradorvclub.com). The calendar link provides our scheduled activities and camping trips for the year. In June, we will be traveling to Canyon, Texas (south of Amarillo), to attend the famous play, *TEXAS*, in Palo Duro Canyon, and to visit the many other attractions in the area. Our fund-raising activities generate donations to the Eldorado Fire and Rescue Station and Dogs for the Deaf. For more information regarding membership in the Eldorado Roadrunners, contact **Brad** and **Beverly Cottingham** at 466-4655.

### Pool Opens May 26

We will again be using the white plastic pool passes. Everyone over the age of eight must present a pass to enter the pool. If you misplaced your pass, there is a \$10.00 replacement fee.

Attention renters! Before you are allowed pool access, the owner of the home you are renting must submit a letter to the ECIA authorizing you to use the pool.

### Swim Times

**Lap Swim:** 8 to 9:30 am every day; 6 to 8 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**General Swim:** 9:30 am to 8 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 am to 6 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Please keep food and beverages in the snack area or patio area only.

### Open Hearts

At 7 pm on Thursday, May 17, at the Vista Grande Public Library, Eldorado resident **Maggie Lichtenberg** will discuss her recent book *The Open Heart Companion: Preparation and Guidance for Open-Heart Surgery Recovery*, plus her experi-



ences during her own pre- and post-surgery experiences. Ms. Lichtenberg, Eldorado's very own "open-heart coach," will be available to answer questions following the presentation. She also offers a free newsletter and phone support for recovering heart patients. Visit the library's website at [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org).

### Big Art Tour Weekend

Among the Eldorado Tour artists this year are some outstanding new artists who have distinct approaches to their media.

**Sukey Hughes'** pieces are accomplished in mixed media. She says these represent "memories of our ancientness." **Deborah Odom-Hutchinson** is an expressionistic watercolorist of landscapes. Photographer **Kiernan Holiday** photographs people on the streets using film and non-digital technology. **Sasha** and **Chris Scully** work in two different media. Chris is a photographer and Sasha produces vividly colorful oil paintings.

These and other new artists join a cadre of Eldorado Tour participants to make this year's event the largest studio tour in New Mexico. Most importantly, however, is the quality of the work produced here in Eldorado. No one needs to travel miles out of state to visit "artist colonies" when we are all living within such a creative community.

The website, [www.eldoradoarts.org](http://www.eldoradoarts.org), is a good place to begin to view the participants in the 16th Annual Studio Tour. Then on the weekend of May 19-20, stop by the Preview Gallery at the El Dorado Elementary School where each artist will display a piece of artwork. There will be extra brochures with a map to all the studios available at the school. See you at the Tour. For information, call 466-6245, 466-3256 or 466-4534.

### Godspell

Eldorado Children's Theatre-Teen Players presents "Godspell," directed by **Lisa Lincoln** at 8 pm at the James A. Little Theater May 18 and 19, and 2 pm May 19 and 20. Tickets are \$10 for students and seniors and \$12 for adults, or you can buy them for \$2 off the ticket price at Outback Video before the day of the show.

You can also call 466-4656 for reservations or online at [www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org](http://www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org).



Women from the Roadrunners RV club take advantage of a donation program at Chico's on Guadalupe. A percentage of their organization's purchases were donated to El Dorado Fire and Rescue.



## ASTRONOMY Corner

### THE DAYS IN OUR LIVES

The ancient Egyptians were the first to use a calendar based on a solar year. The Babylonians used a lunar year of 12 months, adding extra months when it became necessary to keep the calendar in step with the seasons.

Our present calendar is based on that of the Romans, which originally had only 10 months. Pope Gregory XIII removed 10 days from the calendar so that, in 1582, October 15 followed October 4. He then started the use of a new system known as the Gregorian calendar.

### May Sky:

**Venus** and the **moon** are in Gemini with the dimmer **Mercury** low at dusk on May 17; **Jupiter** is in Scorpius by May 5 and **Saturn** continues in Leo.

*Next : Are four eyes better than two?*

—Juan Alvarez  
Jalva88610@aol.com

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

## If You Play

Did you know that many good amateur and professional musicians live in Eldorado? Three newer groups that have been playing for the fun of it and also performing are the Camerada Consort, a quintet of piano and strings that meets at the piano studio of **Melissa Toedtman**; the Eldorado String Quartet, organized by violist and composer **Art Hopkins**; and a flute and string trio, currently working on the early Beethoven trios. This group includes **Peg Johnson**, co-founder of the Eldorado Community Band and **Janice Abrams**, cellist.

There is space for new players, intermediate to advanced, with group experience. If interested, please call Art Hopkins at 466-2849.

# May Events

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

Email [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto: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

### MAY SPECIAL EVENTS

Car Show	Sat., May 5, 12-4 pm	Community Center parking lot
ECIA Annual Meeting	Mon., May 7, 7-9 pm	Elementary School Gym
ERA Flea Market	Sat., May 12, 8-noon	Community Center parking lot
Pool Opens	Sat., May 26, 8 am	
Memorial Day	Mon., May 28	ECIA offices closed

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EAWS&D*	Tues., May 1, 7-9 pm	466-2411	CFR
285 Coalition	Wed., May 2, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598 CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., May 9, 9:30-noon	Dan Drobnis	466-4781 CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., May 9, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708 CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., May 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248 CFR
EAWS&D*	Tues., May 15, 7-9 pm	466-2411	LR
ECIA Board	Thurs., May 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248 CR
Information Committee	Mon., May 21, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161 F
Stable Committee	Tues., May 22, 7-9 pm	Mary Anne Caldwell	466-4271 LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., May 23, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708 CFR

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., May 12, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., May 10, 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., May 14, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Nichole Anaya	466-2590	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., May 15, 2-4:30 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	982-2890	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
Spanish Conversation	Every other Sunday	Gail	466-3370	CFR
League of Women Voters	Sat., May 26, 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	2nd & 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
Figure Drawing Group	Mon., 10 am-noon	Virginia	466-9133	RR

\*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

\*\*Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

## Improvements, Not Just Conservation

**S**EEING THE ECIA Conservation Committee in action is an exciting experience these days. The volunteers who help protect our 4,000 acre Wilderness Preserve and the greenbelts that wind through the terrain we live on are supporting a series of cooperative projects that will not only conserve but improve the Eldorado environment.

PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH



One of the lovely north-facing views from Trail 102

The meeting on April 3 was, in the opinion of many of those in attendance, one of the most fact- and opportunity-filled in the committee's recent history. **Bill Donohue**, General Manager of the ECIA, reported that the Association was improving the patio behind the Community Center and would be installing extensive recycling and water-harvesting devices that will save thousands of gallons of water.

**Steve Vrooman** of Restoration Ecology, a Santa Fe ecological restoration firm, briefed the committee on his grant-supported project that will improve and restore a wetland of the Galisteo River watershed, a major portion of which lies within the Eldorado Wilderness Preserve. Taking care to use the "greenest" means possible, Mr. Vrooman's company will install rock dams and stabilizing structures called *gabions* in the watershed to reintroduce lost sediment and moisture. The retained moisture will permit the reintroduction of native plant and animal species that disappeared when the wetland was damaged by what environmentalists refer to as "hardscape"—roads, bridges and highways that negatively affect the natural balance of the area over the years.

Salt Cedar, a tree introduced into the United States in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, will be removed

from the watershed. It is now designated a noxious weed because of its tendencies to crowd out native plants and take up so much water that it inhibits or destroys stream flow. Mr. Vrooman said the offending species would be prevented from coming back with applications of environmentally safe substances such as vinegar. He asked for community volunteers to participate in a native plant reintroduction effort that will begin when the rock dams have had their desired effect.

**Dana Richards** of the Earth Works Institute of Santa Fe described the work of his company with El Dorado Elementary School. Working together with administrators and teachers, the institute is fostering environmental awareness among students at the school. It will develop school-wide water harvesting, recycling projects and install electric power saving devices using photo-voltaic cells. Mr. Richards is also a member of the school's PTA and has that organization's full support for the project.

Working together with the ECIA's Conservation Committee and such firms as Restoration Ecology and Earth Works Institute, the school will be encouraged to sponsor field trips in which students will assist in replanting native plant species in the Wilderness Preserve.

The preserve is a blessing, with a major string attached. It was deeded to the ECIA by AMREP, the developer of Eldorado, with the condition that "as long as the property remains in its undeveloped state and only for as long as the property is used for recreational purposes for the members of the ECIA." Legal opinion sought by the ECIA over the years repeatedly makes it clear that if non-recreational activities are allowed or non-Eldorado residents are admitted, the property could revert to AMREP.

"The Wilderness Preserve belongs to all of us and is a unique and valuable resource," Conservation Committee Co-Chair **John Parker** told the meeting. "It is very important for all of us who live here to both make use of it and help protect it."

The Conservation Committee meets the first Tuesday of every other month in the Community Center's living room. Its co-chairs, John Parker and **E.J. Evangelos** urge residents interested in improving the beauty and utility of the Eldorado environment to attend a meeting and consider becoming members.

—Frank Schober

## The GMC Pickup

**ALL IT TAKES IS 4,000 HOURS,** skills that appear from nowhere, space to work and some extra spending money.

Dan McCullom had all of that and used it to restore a 1942 GMC pickup with lots of dents to better-than-pristine condition, converting a clunker into a sleek, souped-up, sparkling white freeway machine with a small block Chevy 305 cubic inch engine, power steering and front power disc brakes.

His is one of five still in running condition nationwide “that I know of,” Dan said from his dining room table in the Eldorado home where he’s lived for about three years with his wife, Judy, a Santa Fe native.

Dan plans to show his gleaming white truck at the Eldorado Car Show May 5.

The General Motors Truck Co. built an estimated 830 of the pickups in 1942 before production stopped because steel was redirected to the effort to fight World War II. The GMC badge first appeared at the New York Auto Show in 1912 and production started at a Pontiac plant in 1913, said the April 2000 edition of *Cars & Parts* magazine.

Dan bought the vehicle in 1998 for \$3,500 in Seattle, where he lived for 40 years. He also lived for a while in Santa Fe, where his dad owned an interior design company, McCollum Custom Interiors. One client was the Simpsons, owner of the ranch that is today’s Eldorado. Dan went more than once to the ranch house that is now the ECIA Community Center.

After retirement, it took Dan 4,000 hours over three years and \$22,000 to complete the frame-up restoration. But a vehicle whose original speedometer topped out at “60” now can get up to 90 mph on 22 to 24 miles per gallon, Dan said.

“He always wanted to build a car,” Judy said. “He had a ‘39 Chevy that he had fixed up as a kid, and he always wanted to do it again.”

Why the GMC pickup?

“It was a rare vehicle, and I knew it,” Dan replied. “It had possibilities.”

He admits he babies the vehicle, which has wracked up a mere 3,000 miles since it’s been restored – “it is a baby” – and seems proud that the truck is not a garage queen.

“If it were perfect, you couldn’t drive it,” Dan said. “I want to be able to drive it.”

—Richard C. Gross



The grille of Dan McCollum's 1942 GMC Pickup

## Settled In

**IT HAS NOW BEEN A YEAR** that I have been your General Manager and I must say it has been a wonderful and gratifying experience. I have had the good fortune of working with a great staff and a Board of Directors that is truly committed to Eldorado. I have had the pleasure of meeting with many of you and hope to meet many more of you as time goes on. Our door is always open to residents who have concerns or ideas for the future of Eldorado or would just like to say hello. We would like to encourage resident participation in all that we do at the Eldorado Community Improvement Association.

Eldorado is a community like no other. Our residents are informed, concerned and willing to help when needed. We have one of the best organized group of volunteers to help with the many current and future projects of the Association. I want to thank all of the volunteers and wish you all the best. It is our residents that make Eldorado a special place to live.

This year is going to be an exciting one, with the new dog park and the new patio at the Community Center. We have planned these amenities so that residents have a safe and enjoyable place to meet with friends and enjoy their community. The new patio will be a water-wise area that will use all of the natural beauty of the grounds and make use of all possible rainwater with *xeriscaping*. We are planning to have the patio finished in time for the library’s Ice Cream Social in August. The dog park already has become a very popular place where you can have fun with your dog and meet new friends. When you get a chance, come by and see these wonderful new additions to your community. Let us know what you think.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, staff, and the residents of the community for your support and good wishes.

—Bill Donobue  
General Manager





*Security 204-2945  
Sheriff 428-3720*

## *Snow Bunnies*

Despite the snow, a fun time was had by both parents and children alike at the ECIA's Easter Egg hunt on April 7. We are eagerly anticipating next year's fun! -Debby Padilla



Photo by Hope Kiah

Skylar Richardson, left, and Jack Boggs, right



Photo by Hope Kiah

Ashley Chavez