

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 5

May 2010

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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)

## To Pave or Not to Pave . . .

**THAT IS THE QUESTION** we've been leading up to in the past few "At the Crossroads" columns. The ECIA Board is looking for direction in setting policy regarding the future of our roads. It's time for you to express your opinion. On the back page of this *Vistas* you'll find a survey form that you can fill in and return by mail or drop off at the Community Center, or you can take the survey on the ECIA website ([www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)). The options are as follows:

**Dirt:** Provides a more rural atmosphere but also produces a lot of dust in the summer and mud/hazardous driving conditions during monsoon and snow seasons. Base course is the surface material used; it's less expensive to put down, but more expensive to maintain and has a shorter useful life than paving—all other things equal. New base course, properly laid, provides a more solid foundation when wet (although it can get slushy during snowmelt), but still throws off dust and tends toward washboarding or rutting.

**Paving:** Eliminates dust and mud; dries faster than dirt when wet; unless icy, is not as hazardous when wet. While more expensive to put down, it lasts longer than dirt and is much less expensive to maintain. Some residents also strongly believe that paved roads add more value to residential properties than do dirt roads. For most residential roads, chip seal is used; if heavy traffic volumes are involved, asphalt is preferred. Over the course of 15 to 20 years, chip seal would probably cost less to apply and maintain than base course.

**TO PAY OR NOT TO PAY.** That is also the question. Santa Fe County owns and is responsible for maintaining the roads in Eldorado, yet:

The ECIA Board had to work hard to get almost \$800,000 from the State Legislature in 2007–08 to apply base course to about 9 miles of roads that were considered in the worst shape at that time.

In the past decade, the County has financed fewer than 10 miles of new road surfaces in Eldorado. We have 80 miles of roads; 54 miles are dirt.

The re-asphalting of Av. Vista Grande accounted for almost 5 of the 10 resurfaced miles—this when the County had five other roads (totaling 6 miles) in their

long-range plan to be paved, which were passed over. Only four other roads have been paved in the past decade—fewer than 3 miles.

From this brief recap, some conclusions can be drawn as applies to the future of our roads.

The County has done a good job of getting the graders out here to work on the roads; but moving mud around doesn't get rid of mud, nor does shaving off the top of a washboard rut get rid of the washboard.

The County, at best, can only resurface a couple of miles per year; for any greater amounts they must contract out the work to the lowest bidder(s).

It may take two or three more decades if we wait for the County to apply new base course to about 48 miles of dirt roads.

If we want paved roads, or at least new base course when the old has worn out, we must either convince the Legislature of the need (which they have not heretofore been warm to), or we must finance the paving on our own. We might be more convincing, though, if we demonstrate we are or have been willing to pay for some of the work.

With very limited funds and a large backlog of other worthy county projects (e.g., expand Vista Grande Library, extend water supplies to new residents, continue to grow the hospital and safety services, etc.), paving our roads will not be considered as favorably as getting new base course.

While some residents feel we pay enough in property taxes to justify paving the roads, this isn't the case. Less than \$20 of every \$1,000 collected in county revenues is earmarked for county roads.

Apart from direct state or county appropriations, there are other ways we could finance road improvements. (1) The county could sell bonds, with proceeds earmarked for our roads. Practically, this has not often happened in the past, and a majority of all county voters would have to approve. A three- to five-year lead time would be required, and there's a chance that such a measure would not pass. (2) A special tax district could be created. The advantages here are that only a majority of those affected by the project (i.e.,

*Continued on p. 3*

**ECIA Board  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Thurs.,  
May 20,  
7 pm. Public  
is invited.**

## MAY ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

The Annual Meeting of ECIA members will be held at the El Dorado Community School gymnasium at 7 pm, Monday, **May 3.**

All owners of property in the Eldorado at Santa Fe subdivision are invited to attend. Annual reports will be given by the President, Treasurer, and Committee Chairs. Coffee and cookies will be served.

## EAW&SD Hires New General Manager

*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 [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.

**THE NEW GENERAL MANAGER** of the Eldorado Water and Sanitation District (EAW&SD) has a wealth of experience that should serve our community well.

**David Denig-Chakroff** is a trained geologist who has managed public utilities in Alaska and the "lower forty-eight" of the United States for nearly 30 years. His assignment before coming here was that of manager of the Madison, Wisconsin, water department, a service area, he says, that has much more water in its local aquifers but, like ours, also depends upon wells for its supply.

The 17 wells that provide Eldorado homes with water are constant, major issues for our water utility. In discussing our supply, Denig-Chakroff points out that three or four of the wells in operation provide the majority of the water we use, and that the District's wells, which spread out over nearly a 100 square mile area, draw from ancient aquifers that may not have recharged in centuries as well as from others that depend very much on seasonal runoff.

Residents are not likely to forget the water emergency that occurred in our community a few short

years ago when a line break occurred, some of our water tanks were drawn down to unsafe levels, and residents were ordered to boil their water before use. Since that time, the EAWSD has replaced and repaired its main and lateral water lines, begun a program to replace aging meters, and replaced pumping equipment and low-level alarm systems on its hillside tanks.

Denig-Chakroff is particularly pleased with a program now going forward to drill an 18th well to better ensure our local water supply. In his view, this project, funded by federal and state grants, will bring our water system up to the standards the District has been striving to achieve since it took over from Eldorado Utilities Inc. and became a public utility.

Water conservation is, as one might suspect, always a major issue in the water-short, high desert area in which we live. The EAWSD website has water-saving tips ([www.eldoradowaterdistrict.com](http://www.eldoradowaterdistrict.com)), as do the informational leaflets that come with our water bills. Check out the District's website for information, general and specific, on all aspects of the water situation in our community.

—Frank Schober

## ECIA: WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU

### Projects Requiring ECIA Approval

**AS THE WEATHER WARMS UP** in May, many Eldorado residents will be thinking of starting in on home improvement projects. The ECIA would like to remind all residents that the construction of any kind of permanent structure on a lot requires the approval of the ECIA Architectural Committee. This includes room additions, garages, sheds, walls, fences, cisterns, solar arrays, and any project that is permanent in nature.

Some home improvement projects that affect only the exterior of a building may seem incidental but may also require architectural approval. These include the replacement of doors or windows, restuccoing of homes, adding awnings or shade devices, adding driveway monuments or the building of permanent above-ground raised gardens or garden enclosures. While such projects may be small in comparison to a home addition, the fact that they are permanent structures means that they will likely require this committee's approval.

If you are a homeowner with a project in mind, we ask that you call me, **Mark Young**, ECIA Covenant Compliance Representative, at 466-4248 to see if

your project will require Architectural Committee review. I will gladly work with you to ensure that you have the required forms filled out properly, so as to streamline the review and approval process. Residents can pick up the needed forms at the ECIA offices, or can download them from [eldoradocommunity.org](http://eldoradocommunity.org). The website also carries the Eldorado Covenants, and Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions, if residents have any questions.

Completed project plans are reviewed at one of the two Architectural Committee meetings each month. These meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the ECIA Community Center. New plan applications must be received at the ECIA offices no later than 5 pm on the Monday before each Wednesday meeting to ensure that our staff has the needed time to review the plans in advance of the committee meeting.

If you have any questions at all, please contact me at 466-4248 or (e-mail) at [eciaccr@aol.com](mailto:eciaccr@aol.com).

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative



## From the President's Desk

**SINCE I'VE LIVED HERE**, there have been two schools of thought about our roads: some residents love the rural feeling of dirt roads; others say they'd prefer paved roads. There are certainly pros and cons to each argument. The County would probably like to see more roads paved, as it would mean less money spent on road maintenance. This last fall and winter have been brutal for our roads, with all the moisture we have received—good for the water table but bad for the dirt roads. And from all the calls I have received about this topic, residents seem to feel that the popular song from a few years ago—"Slip, Sliding Away," aptly describes Eldorado's roads.

Our hard-working Road Committee has come up with some ideas, including a way of developing funding to improve the County's dirt roads here in Eldorado. Their idea would have to be considered and discussed throughout the community, and then and only then brought to the Board of Directors for action. The Board encourages residents to express their opinion, pro or con, via the survey or by contacting Board members. How we decide to proceed will affect you one way or another. The Board has been through some difficult times recently but has never lost sight that we represent you, the residents of Eldorado.

—Ed Benrock, ECIA President

### *To Pave or Not To Pave, continued from p. 1*

voters in Eldorado) must approve, and as a county tax, it would be deductible for income tax purposes. A similar lead time of three to five years would probably apply to getting through this process.

Here's yet another way. ECIA's covenants allow for special assessments for road improvements (only). Using a "pay in advance" approach, monies could be collected by the ECIA and put into a reserve earmarked for road improvements. When enough was collected to pay for  $x$  miles of work, the contracts would be let and the work performed. Assessments collected in this manner would receive the same tax treatment as our regular annual assessment: not deductible for income tax purposes. This concept could be used on a community-wide basis or on a road-by-road basis. The latter approach has the advantage of not waiting any longer for your own road to be improved than it takes to collect the funding. Doing this on a community-wide basis would reduce the average cost per lot owner but would mean that some roads would not receive new surfaces for several years. A prioritization "formula" would also have to be worked out and agreed to by the lot owners.

This paving alternative would require that Eldorado property owners fund the initial application of paving, and the County would thereafter be responsible for replacing the material as it wears out ("maintaining" the surface)—roughly every 12 to 20 years, depending on the volume of traffic using the road and the number of freeze/thaw cycles.

To help determine cost and timing, the following parameters (unconfirmed at this time) are offered:

- ▼ Asphalt: \$225,000 per mile. We have three roads of approximately 2.7 miles that have been identified by the County as asphalt candidates: Herrada Rd., Av. Amistad, and Av. Buena Ventura.
- ▼ Chip Seal: \$180,000 per mile.

- ▼ Base course: \$100,000 per mile.

We currently have 191 dirt roads in Eldorado comprising 54 miles. The breakdown is as follows:

- ▼ Through roads, including connectors, feeders, loops: 80 roads (40 miles)
- ▼ Dead-end or cul-de-sac roads: 111 roads (14 miles)

In the past three years, 37 roads (11 miles) of both through and cul-de-sac types have received new base course. The expected remaining life of this material is 8 to 15 years. This leaves 154 roads (43 miles) in need of new surfacing. How long it would take to replace the surface on these roads depends on how much is collected and from how many. If the whole community contributes, an estimate of duration is:

	Years to Complete <sup>1</sup>	
	40 miles base course <sup>3</sup> (\$ 4.6 million)	51 miles chip seal <sup>3</sup> (\$ 9.8 million)
Additional Annual Assessment <sup>2</sup>		
\$ 300	6–7	12–13
\$ 600	3–4	6–7
\$ 1,000	2–3	4–5
\$ 2,000	1–2	2–3

<sup>1</sup> Based on 2,769 lot owners.

<sup>2</sup> One time per year until all required funds are collected.

<sup>3</sup> Plus 2.7 miles at \$225,000/mile for asphalt on three roads.

The above estimates, of course, assume that all the miles for which funds are available in any year can be completed in that year.

While we still have a long way and time to go, not getting started is not solving our hazardous driving condition problems. Make your opinions count. Please take a few minutes to complete our survey (see back page).

—Nolan Zisman

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#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Dan Drobnis  
Architecture: Vacant position  
Conservation: John Parker & E.J. Evangelos

Stable: Bonita Mamp

Election: Vacant position

Roads: Nolan Zisman

Information: Frank Schober

Neighborhood Watch:

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#### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

eldoradofireescue.org

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)



## Artwork in Studio Tour



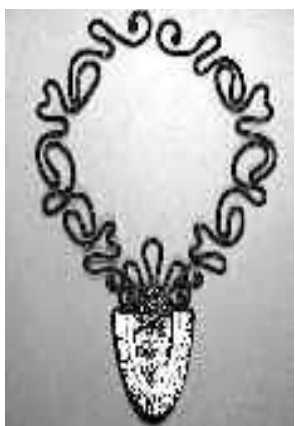
Jack Arnold, photo, 16 x 30"



Robert Barnes, digital print, 11.5 x 7.5"



Sally Hayden Von Conta, pastel, 22 x 28"



Joan Babcock, bone & fiber necklace

## Early Voting at the Senior Center

The Adam Senior Center will be a site for early voting for the June 1 primary election from May 15 to May 29. Hours for voting are Tuesday–Friday, noon–8 pm, and Saturday 10 am–6 pm (no voting on Sunday or Monday). This is a wonderful opportunity for those of you who are 60+ years old to explore what the Center has to offer you. Come on in, pick up a menu and an activity calendar, register with the Center, and vote—all in one convenient place! We look forward to seeing you! (Please note: Regular election-day voting on June 1 will NOT be held at the Center.)

## 19th Annual Eldorado Studio Tour

On May 15–16, 10 am–5 pm, the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Assn hosts its 19th Annual Eldorado Studio Tour. Visit the preview gallery at El Dorado Community School and then set out to see your choice of 117 artists in 83 open studios, showing fine art, ceramics, jewelry, photography, sculpture, metalwork, woodwork, fiber arts, and glass. For more information, contact **Cate Goe-dert**: 670-6649, catedances2@comcast.net, or visit [www.eldoradoarts.org](http://www.eldoradoarts.org).

## Eldorado Area Community Garden

It's springtime at the El Dorado School Community Garden. A class of second graders planted seedlings they started earlier in the year, and other children have edged the pathways with river stones. Garden members are tending their individual plots or working in the communal garden. Several individual beds and communal garden memberships are still available, but they are going fast, so act now if you're interested. Phone **Marilynn Jacobs** at 466-6707 or email [eldogarden@comcast.net](mailto:eldogarden@comcast.net).

## Eldorado Area Gardening Tour

Late spring brings the Eldorado Area Gardening Tour, the community's first such event in many years. Scheduled June 5 from 10 am to 4 pm, it features eight Eldorado gardens that highlight successful gardening practices in Eldorado's harsh growing environment. They include hardscape, cactus, and water-wise gardens.

Admission is free, but donations are encouraged and benefit the Outdoor Classroom of the El Dorado School Community Garden. Docents are needed for the tour. To volunteer, please phone 466-6707 or email [eldogarden@comcast.net](mailto:eldogarden@comcast.net).

## "Greening Eldorado" Town Hall Potluck

Because of the success and overwhelmingly positive response from the first "Greening Eldorado" town hall meeting on March 20, we are continuing the momentum with our first social event on Sunday, May 16, 4–6:30 pm in the outdoor patio area of the Community Center (living room in case of inclement weather). This will be a "mini" meeting

and potluck, so bring something yummy to share! We will bring you up to date on all the great stuff that is happening in our community. Please come and join us in socializing and networking with your fellow Eldorado area residents!

## Vista Grande Public Library May Events

On May 13, **Alexandra Diaz**, who grew up on a goat farm in the Eldorado area, gives an "Author Talk" at 7 pm about her debut book, *Of All the Stupid Things*, a novel for young adults.

On May 22, the library hosts the world premiere of the New Mexico Film Ranch's new film, *War, Kisses, Starfish*, at 7 pm. Twelve children ages 8 to 11 created the film with mentorship and will be present to answer questions.

*I-Cubed: Information, Internet, Identity* is a suite of programs dealing with information in the age of the Internet. All at 7 pm at the Library: Monday, May 3, "Surfing SE Santa Fe": an Internet tour of the websites for Southeastern Santa Fe County, including Eldorado; Tuesday, May 4: "Protecting yourself and your family from identity theft"; Wednesday, May 5 (6:30 pm): Technology show-and-tell: tools for accessing Internet libraries; (7:00 pm): "Free Internet resources for the library lover (ebooks, audio books, and others)"

*Family Movie Night*, May 14, 7 pm, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* (PG).

## Pool Season Is Here!

The Eldorado pool season begins this month, opening on Memorial Day and running through Labor Day weekend, May 29 to September 6. This year, we will also remain open on weekends in September from 8 am to 5 pm.

If you have a pool pass from last year, you will be asked to check in with the ECIA office and get it updated, for free, for the 2010 season. If you do not have a pass from last year, or if you lost your pass, you will need to get a new picture ID at the ECIA office, which costs \$2. The ECIA office is open 8 am–5 pm Monday–Friday; for the first few weeks of the pool season, there will also be a person available at the pool on weekends for limited hours.

*Lap Swim*: 8–10 am every day; 6–8 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

*General Swim*: 10 am–8 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday; 10 am–6 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

## Lifeguards Needed

The swimming pool opens on May 29. We are looking for lifeguards for the season. Applicants must have a current lifeguard certification and a current CPR certificate. Interested individuals should contact the ECIA offices at 466-4248.

## Support Your Local Theater

Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players present Broadway Benefit Performances at Vanessie! On Saturday May 1 and Sunday May 2,

## ASTRONOMY CORNER



May 2010

When is it best to look at the moon? The full moon is not the best time to find lunar details, because it is far too bright and lacks shadows. Use your eyes, binoculars, or telescope on a less-than-half moon. And, look along the terminator—that's the line between dark and light. Often very small details can be seen along that edge. Look into the dark side too; you'll find that once your eyes adjust, you can find lunar detail there as well, the result of "earthshine."

—David Goodrich

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



enjoy Broadway favorites by the Eldorado Children's Theatre and

Teen Players with Broadway accompanist **David Geist**. Proceeds help fund future productions, scholarships, and master classes with, among others, Tony award-winning composer Jason Robert Brown. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children. Call 466-4656 for information or reservations or visit our website at [www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org](http://www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org).

### Eldorado Teen Players

Eldorado Teen Players present the great musical—for one weekend only: "Chicago" by Kander and Ebb, featuring more talent than you'll see on any stage in Santa Fe! Shows run Thursday May 20 at 7 pm, sneak preview \$5; all other nights, \$10 general admission, including May 21 (7:30 pm); May 22 (7:30 pm); and May 23 (2 pm and 6 pm) at the James A. Little Theater. Featuring a live professional band, professional sound and lighting. Call 466-4656 for tickets or reservations. Or visit our website at [www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org](http://www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org).



# 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

EACA Studio Tour	San.-Sun May 15-16	Cate Goedart	670-6649	See p. 4
ERA Flea Market	Sat., May 22, 6-12 Noon			ECIA Parking Lot

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Facilities & Grounds	Tues., May 4, 4-6 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., May 4, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Neighborhood Watch	Mon., May 10, 7 pm	Marilyn Walker	466-2553	CR
Finance Committee	Wed., May 12, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., May 12, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., May 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., May 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., May 25, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., May 26, 7-9 pm	Bonnie Mamp	466-4271	Annex
Architectural Committee	Wed., May 26, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	Foyer

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm		231-7885	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
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Conservation Com Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Bill Bodle	466-3011	
Fire Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kielling	466-4232	Sm Gym
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
Eldorado Dog Club	Mon., May 11, 7-9	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	LR
MOMS Club	May 5, 20, & 25 at 3 pm	Jackie Camborde	466-0094	CR

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Wed., 5:30-6:30 pm			Annex
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			CFR
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 7 pm-dusk			CC Court
Al-Anon	Thurs., 6:45-7:45			CFR/LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th 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	CC
Community Band	Thurs., 6:30-8:30 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	New Gym
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
Life Drawing (EACA)	Mondays, 10 am-noon	Sande Anderson	466-4688	RR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
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.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

MAY 2010 5

## Being a Good Witness

**B** **EING A GOOD AND ACCURATE** witness is key to getting law enforcement officers the information they need to quickly address any suspicious activity in Eldorado—particularly when it comes to cars, says Sergeant Cliff Coleman of the Sheriff's office. "Please get a general description of the vehicle—like Blue Ford Taurus—and any identifiable marks or dents on the car. If the car has a plate, try to get the number; or if the car does not have a plate, note that too."

When describing people, traits like race, hair color, height, facial hair, shirt logos, and a general description of the person are helpful. "Someone called in suspicious activity and said, 'A guy is running funny, like he has an artificial leg,' and sure enough, the man we apprehended had an artificial leg," Coleman says. "Don't be PC about it; if a guy is bald, just say he's bald."

Coleman asks that we call in the information immediately. Too many Eldorado residents wait one to two weeks, which is too long, he says. This type of information is extremely valuable. "If it's enough for you to consider suspicious, then it's important enough to call it in," he says. A good description can lead law enforcement to link these individuals to other crimes.

**GRAFFITI UPDATE:** Graffiti is way down in Eldorado, and Sgt. Coleman attributes this to two factors: (1) the Graffiti Removal Coupon, available

through the County, which provides residents with a free gallon of paint from Coronado Paint & Decorating; and (2) Eldorado parents stepping up and supervising their children more closely. Sgt. Coleman says Eldorado teenagers are responsible for the graffiti in Eldorado, so both of these methods are working. "It's no fun to tag when it isn't up very long," he says.

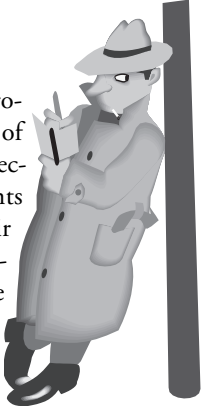
If you see suspicious activity, call the non-emergency phone number 428-3720. Please put this number in your phone for handy reference. You may remain anonymous.

**FEBRUARY CRIME STATISTICS:** 3 assaults  
(Source: [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com))

**NEXT NW MEETING:** Monday, May 10, at 7 pm at the Eldorado Community Center.

**TIP OF THE MONTH:** Yes, burglars really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And they might leave a flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it. Ask your neighbors to remove papers, mail, and any packages or flyers from your entrance while you are traveling. For information on how to join Neighborhood Watch, contact **Marilyn Walker** at [lightwalker2@comcast.net](mailto:lightwalker2@comcast.net).

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



## Prepping for Emergencies

**A** **S WE ALL KNOW**, a major emergency can strike anywhere at any time. We regularly hear the wail of sirens, in most cases sounded by the volunteer members of El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service, which also responds to emergency medical calls. The Sheriff and the New Mexico State Police are our emergency law enforcement resource, and the County of Santa Fe is the agency charged with training and planning for major, catastrophic incidents that may affect Eldorado.

**Guy Monroe**, Chief of El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service, has long been concerned by the problem that is likely to occur if the emergency resources of fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical are tied up and unable to respond here in the event of a county or statewide disaster. "The county resources we call on now could be occupied elsewhere in a catastrophic emergency and not available to back us up. We could also be on our own if there were road closures on I-25 north of us or on State Route 285 to our south. We are virtually an island in such a situation," he says.

With the above problem in mind, volunteers from several "stakeholder" agencies in Eldorado have been

meeting for over a year to coordinate planning for emergency incidents in which the community would be "on its own."

A computer program to keep track of local personnel, equipment, and supply resources has been developed by **David Collins**, a former staff writer for *The New Mexican*, with help from Neighborhood Watch chairperson, **Marilyn Walker**.

"We don't know what we should do about the resources that are available right here in the homes and businesses of greater Eldorado" says Chief Monroe. "I am the designated Incident Commander when—not if—Eldorado is hit by a major disaster. It is important for my department to know what person or what company or group to call if we need skills and materials that the County or State may not be able to provide us at least in the first, critical 72 hours after a disaster hits us."

Chief Monroe, in partnership with the Santa Fe Complex, is scheduling a training exercise to deal with the above "on our own" problem. It will be held on Saturday, May 22, from 9 am to noon at the Main Firehouse on Av. Vista Grande. The exercise, known





## Two New Board Members Appointed

**TODD HANDY AND TOM WILLMOTT** have been seated as the newest members of the ECIA Board of Directors. The two men have lived in Eldorado several years each and were appointed by the Board to complete the unexpired terms of **Kirsten Jasna** and **Sandy MacGregor**, who resigned. Their terms expire in May 2011.

Todd had been a member of the ECIA Finance Committee for several months before he was named to the Board. He is an experienced administrator with degrees in accounting and management information systems, which turned out to be very helpful when ECIA discovered that funds had been stolen by a trusted employee. Todd and members of the Finance Committee have professionalized ECIA's bookkeeping and procedures governing ECIA's financial affairs.

Todd has worked in many administrative capacities, including at La Familia Medical Center in Santa Fe and in health organizations in Denver. Todd and his wife, Susan, are seven-year Eldorado residents. Todd is also a director of the Vista Grande Public Library and is active as a volleyball club officer and official in Santa Fe and the Rocky Mountain region.

Tom joined the Board in February, filling the vacant seventh seat. Tom and his wife, Catherine, retired to Eldorado four years ago from Cleveland, Ohio. During his professional career, Tom was involved in the development and application of computer systems for industrial automation in a variety of sectors, from paper to guided vehicles, and worked in several administrative posts. With degrees in physics and engineering, his work took him to many states and to Belgium.

Since moving to Eldorado, Tom trained and earned his pilot's license and has been involved in Eldorado activities, serving on subcommittees of the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District that have selected consulting engineers as well as candidates for the general manager post. He ran for the EAWS board last year but was not elected.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK is the most important issue facing Eldorado?**

**Todd:** Overcoming community involvement stagnation, limited participation on the Board and com-

mittees. Most residents do not participate or become involved until they have a self-interest. Also, maintaining the level of safety and quality of the community, notably concerns of abandoned homes.

**Tom:** This season, roads and mud are the main issue for many residents. In the longer term, maintaining the quality of the housing inventory and infrastructure will be the important concern.

**WHAT MOTIVATED YOU to live in Eldorado?**

**Todd:** We chose Eldorado because of the promise of a quality middle school at El Dorado School. The area is a lot like my home in Tucson. The openness is attractive. In Denver, it took hours to get to work; here we live farther away from employment, but it takes only a few minutes to commute.

**Tom:** On a trip in 2005, we stayed with some friends in Eldorado and decided this is where we wanted to locate.

**ELDERADO'S COVENANTS: More conformity, or more individuality?**

**Todd:** Our recent issues with solar are impacted by new government regulations. We need to be proactive in anticipating changes in environment and community needs. We've been too far behind in keeping up with outside impacts and changes in the mode of thinking of community members.

**Tom:** I believe keeping the good quality, consistent with the spirit of the Covenants, is the key. The Architectural Committee has been doing well with this.

**WHAT KINDS OF NEW activity would you like to see at the Agora/LaTienda commercial area?**

**Todd:** I hope to see the Teen Center move forward and the empty spaces filled with destination-type vendors. The efforts of both areas, with entertainment, farmers' market, etc., are a good start. Some of the vendors in both sites are recession-sensitive, so we need to find a big dog to sustain the area. The owners' plan for community-type occupants is a good idea, but needs support.

**Tom:** It may be there is more space available than the area will support. More office usage might be appropriate. I doubt that a "big box" retailer would be good for the area.

—Ed Moreno



Todd Handy



Tom Willmott

### CORRECTION TO MARCH 2010 VISTAS

In last month's cover story, we printed an incorrect job title for ECIA Board member **Mary Ann Caldwell**. Mary Ann is Safety Plans Program Manager for the State of New Mexico Department of Transportation.

### *Prepping for Emergencies, continued*

in the civilian world as a "table top" and in the military as a "command post" exercise, will have a so-called initiating scenario describing an emergency incident that occurs in the Eldorado area. Participants will be asked to respond to particular situations affecting their operations and detailing their coordination

with other agencies in the community.

Invitations are being sent to all key elements of the business, professional, and volunteer agencies of the community, requesting that they send a "decision-maker"-level person to participate in the exercise. Future issues of *Vistas* will report on its results.

—Frank Schober



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Improvement Association  
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508  
[www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

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The road I live on is \_\_\_\_\_ (your road's name)

1. What type of surface do you prefer having on your road?

CHECK ONLY ONE

\_\_\_ Dirt     \_\_\_ Paved

2. I understand the County is responsible for my road. I'd prefer to wait until they find the funds needed to replace my road's surface, even if it takes many years.

\_\_\_ Yes     \_\_\_ No

3. I don't want to wait that long; I'm willing to incur an annual dedicated ongoing assessment of up to \$300 to get my road surface replaced as soon as possible and ensure it stays that way.

\_\_\_ Yes     \_\_\_ No

4. If it means getting a new road surface even sooner, I'd be willing to pay more than \$300 per year for the next few years.

\_\_\_ Yes     \_\_\_ No

When completed, please return this survey to the ECIA General Office.  
You can also complete this survey at [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org).