

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XV, ISSUE 5

May 2013

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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## Eldorado's 2013 Wildfire Potential

As we move into the spring, an important question once again arises regarding the wildfire hazard potential for Eldorado. Last year, we were fortunate in moving through an extreme drought year without a wildfire, in spite of some devastating fires in other parts of New Mexico. According to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other climate experts, the current multi-year drought and temperature extremes are forecast to continue and may exceed those of the past two years.

Key ingredients for a wildfire include (1) low fuel moisture, (2) high wind velocities, (3) volatile fuel source, and (4) ignition source. It is likely that most of these conditions will be in place at various times throughout the fire season.

Assuming that drought conditions continue, we can expect the return of serious bark beetle infestations of our pine trees, both in Eldorado and the federal lands in the mountains north of us. There are many dead piñon trees in Eldorado now as a result of past year infestations, which only add to the volatile fuel source. Another hazardous fuel source is the dense tree accumulation surrounding some of our residences. Homes need to be "fireproofed" by thinning out such dense accumulations in close proximity to the buildings. Fuel density is quite variable in Eldorado, with tree concentrations interspersed with open shrub/grasslands.

A natural source of fire ignition is dry lightning, which occurs when very low humidity accompanies major weather fronts. Other sources can be human activity sources, including outdoor cooking grills, cigarettes thrown along roadsides, and hot vehicle mufflers igniting grass. At one time our local railroad was responsible for a few rail line fires each year. However, infrequent use of the train over the last few years has decreased this source.

Strong wind conditions are also natural, but wind direction is very important. Winds from the State Trust land to the southwest sweeping up the greenbelts could spread a wildfire rapidly throughout Eldorado. Winds from federal and state lands to the north could also threaten Eldorado.

Our trained El Dorado Fire & Rescue Department, under the direction of the County Fire Chief, is our immediate fire fighting force. They are also responsible for areas outside of Eldorado. The federal and state land management agencies around Eldorado may also be available to assist in major fires in and around Eldorado. However, the federal workforce freeze brought on by the sequester of federal funding may limit the numbers of firefighters available to battle major wildfires this year. The federal aerial tankers so important to combating major fires may also be in short supply.

The Eldorado Area Water & Sanitation District will be the prime source of water in fighting any Eldorado wildfires. However, their total water storage potential could be used up rapidly in a major wildfire. A shortage of water from the District's alluvium wells in the Lamy area this spring may also affect water replacement. The ECIA pool will be a secondary source of water. Most homes in Eldorado are stuccoed, which may serve as a temporary deterrent to the spread of fire. However, most homes are wood framed with very flammable asphalt roofs. Flaming embers can start an immediate roof fire. Home occupants should have garden hoses long enough to reach rooftops as a standby. Residents should also plan escape routes in advance of the fire season, particularly if they are in a high fireload area.

While Eldorado does not have the wildfire potential of the dense forests to our north, it can be significant if climatic conditions become severe. With all Eldorado and neighboring property owners giving their utmost attention and concern toward avoiding wildfire outbreaks, hopefully we can get through another year without a major fire.

—Don Dayton

*ECIA Board  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center  
Railroad Bldg.  
Thurs.,  
May 16,  
7 pm.*



Last year's fire in neighboring Arizona. Photo: NOAA.

**REMINDER: Annual Meeting**

**May 6th, 7 pm**

**at La Tienda**

**Eldorado Community Church**

**Share your  
comments  
with us!**

*For policy and  
deadline, see  
below*

## Editorial Policy

*Vistas* invites ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include full name and contact information. The newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, biased, or inappropriate. Submissions will be selected and edited at the discretion of the editor. 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.

# Neighboring Developments Proposed

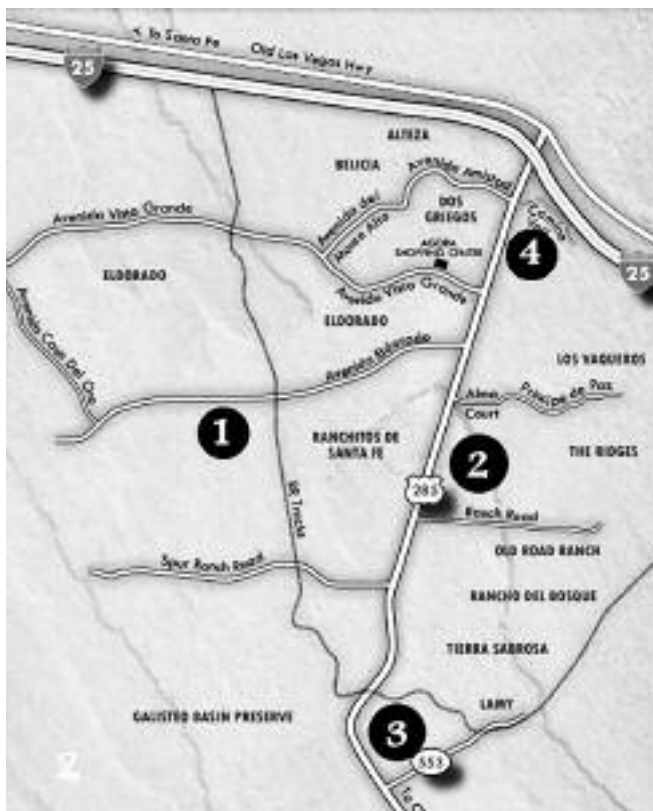
Several proposed developments near Eldorado are moving through the County's approval process, which includes review by the County Building and Development (CBD) staff, recommendation by the County Development Review Committee (CDRC), and approval by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Typically, several steps are involved: Master Plan Zoning, Preliminary Plat Plan, and Final Plat Plan. Often the Final Plat Plan will consist of several phases, which are reviewed and approved separately over a period of months or years. Frequently, Master Plan Zoning and Preliminary Plat Plan approval will be done simultaneously, and Final Plat Plan phases may then be approved by CBD staff. Developments in process (as of April 2013; see map) include:

1. Tierra Bello, a 73-unit residential subdivision on 264 acres, requesting Master Plan Zoning, and Preliminary and Final Plat and Development approval for Phase 1 of 9 lots. Applicant: Joseph Miller. Location: Northeast intersection of Avenida de Compadres and Spur Ranch Road, south of Avenida Eldorado. Status: Recommended by CDRC for BCC approval.
2. Cielo Colorado, a 67-unit residential subdivision on 257 acres, requesting Master Plan Zoning,

Applicant: Jim Siebert. Location: East side of US 285, off Camino Acote, south of Avenida Eldorado. Status: Tabled at CDRC pending resolution of CBD questions.

3. Spirit Wind West, requesting Master Plan Zoning approval for a 39-lot residential subdivision on 134 acres, and Preliminary and Final Plat and Development Plan approval for Phase 1, consisting of 16 lots. Applicant: Joseph Miller. Location: East side of US 285 off Old Lamy Trail south of Eldorado. Status: Recommended by CDRC, approved by BCC April 9.
4. Cimarron Village, 22 commercial lots, 1 community service lot, 8 multi-family lots, and 3 single-family lots, requesting Preliminary and Final Plat and Development Plan approval, on a Master Plan amendment approved in 2010. Applicant: Joseph Miller. Location: East side of US 285, between Camino Valle (across from Avenida Amistad) and the Country Store. Preliminary and Final Plat and Development Plan approval for Phase I of the Cimarron Village Development to create three residential lots and one commercial lot on 10.04 acres has been given by the BCC.

All of these developments will be provided water by the Eldorado Water and Sanitation District. Further information is available from Vicki Lucero, County Building and Development Manager, [vlopez@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:vlopez@santafecountynm.gov).



## Note from the ECIA Board on proposed By-Laws revisions, in response to inquiries

The ECIA Board has had the authority to levy fines since revisions of the Covenants were finalized in 1996. The language in our Covenants, as referenced in the proposed new By-Laws states specifically: "To ensure compliance therewith, the E.C.I.A. Board of Directors has the power to levee (sic.) fines against violators of this Restated Declaration." For consistency, the new By-Laws simply reaffirm this power. The current Board has not authorized any fines, nor is any proposal to institute fines currently under consideration.

**REMINDER: To Be Counted,  
Your Ballot for Bylaws Changes  
Must be Returned by May 2.**

## Moreno Resigns as ECIA President

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Board President Ed Moreno, effective immediately. Mr. Moreno has been actively involved in community affairs for many years. He has been an elected member of the Board for nearly five years and has served as president since May 2011. He has expressed a desire

to devote more time and attention to his personal business and family, but hopes to remain active in community and ECIA committee affairs.

The Board has asked **Pam Henline**, who impressed members during a recent round of interviews, to become a director. Pam has accepted, and her appointment was made official at the formal Board meeting on April 18.

## Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on March 21, with Board members present: **Ed Moreno** (President and Chair), **Jeanne Calzada** (Vice President), **Nolan Zisman** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Paul Jacobs**, **Jan Pietrzak**, and **Dag Ryen**. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting:

- ▼ Secretary Zisman announced that Eldorado has been allocated \$151,000 in funding from the NM Legislature that will be used for new paving and base course on needed Eldorado roads. This allocation escaped Governor Martinez's line item veto and has been signed into legislation. The funding should become available sometime in the fall.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 11 Gualdo Road to allow existing driveway monuments within the front 50-foot setback, with conditions.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 4 Verano Court to allow a wall to encroach 9 feet inside of the front 50-foot setback, with conditions.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 5 Estambre Court to allow an existing small accessory greenhouse 19 feet from the house where 15 feet is the

Guideline maximum, because of existing site characteristics.

- ▼ A variance was approved for 79 Moya Road to allow construction of a new fence and an existing fence inside of the 20-foot side setback, partly to screen a utility trailer.
- ▼ Use of a Consent Agenda at subsequent meetings was approved.
- ▼ **Joseph Loewy** was appointed to the Finance Committee.
- ▼ The report of the independent financial auditor for 2012 was accepted.
- ▼ A Firearms Resolution was approved, stating in part: "No firearms of any kind shall be permitted on ECIA common properties, unless specifically allowed by local, state or federal statute."

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, community announcements, and reports from ECIA committees are normally included. Complete minutes and meeting agendas are available at the ECIA office or website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.

## Wilderness Trail Walk

On May 25, the ECIA Conservation Committee is sponsoring a guided walk on our newest trail in the Eldorado Wilderness Preserve, Trail 105. We'll have **William Neuwirth** there to lead us in a look at the ecology of our preserve along this new trail. The interplay of local climate cycles and soil changes over time has shaped the flora and fauna for drought and wind. Bill will discuss the life strategies of plants and animals that live in the preserve, examining life from the perspectives of an ant, juniper, cactus, or Pinyon Jay. Bill's talk is suitable for hikers of all ages and will provide a hands-on look at ecological relationships in our area.

Trail 105 was completed last summer with the assistance of community volunteers and the Boy Scouts (Troop 414). It starts at Trailhead 1 (behind the gas station across from the main entrance to Eldorado) and skirts the southern side of the newly named "Vista Grande Peak." The trail is approximately a mile and a quarter long and crosses some deep arroyos. It is considered moderately strenuous.

Please plan to meet at Trailhead 1 at 9 AM and bring sun protection and plenty of water. For more information, call the ECIA Office at 466-4248.

—John Parker

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Election: Kathie Graham  
Facilities & Grounds:  
Jean Crawford  
Finance: Dan Drobnis  
Information: Frank Schober  
Neighborhood Watch:

Marilyn Walker  
Roads: Michael Chester  
Stable: Gretel Underwood  
(Interim Chair)

Sustainability, Planning, &  
Education: Steve Rudnick

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





### Eldorado Flea Market

The Sustainable Eldorado Residents Alliance (SERA) is sponsoring the annual Spring Flea Market on Saturday, May 11, at the Community Center from 8 AM to noon. The 125 vendor spaces are on a first-come, first-served basis. Setup begins at 7 AM, although some vendors arrive as early as 6:30 to make sure they get their favorite space. Fees are \$15 for Eldorado residents, \$20 for non-residents, and \$25 for commercial. So, bring all that stuff that you've stored up over the winter and reuse, recycle, and rejoice at the flea market fiesta.

### Manure Deliveries

Now scheduling Eldorado Stables horse manure deliveries. For information, email [eldostable@gmail.com](mailto:eldostable@gmail.com) or call Lynn at 795-4264 or Su Anne at 660-1996.

### New OD Office Opens

Eye Design LLC, the optometry office and optical dispensary of **Dr. Ingrid Mooney, OD**, have moved to Eldorado. The office offers: eye exams, RX's, contact lens fittings, eyeglasses and frames. New patients and most insurances are accepted. For an appointment call 466-4392. (No walk ins, please.) <http://www.ingridmooney.com/>.

### POOL OPENING

The pool opens on Saturday, May 25, on Memorial Day weekend. A 2013 Pool Pass will be required to enter the pool area. If you have a picture pool pass from a previous year, you may get it updated in the office, 9 to 5, Monday through Friday, beginning May 1.

To get a pool pass or updated sticker, one must be a Member in Good Standing, which means a member's account must be cleared of all monies owed to the Association. This includes the 2013 assessment. Immediate family members living in a household are eligible for their own pass if over the age of 12. The cost of a new picture pass is \$2.

Tenants may also be issued their own pass by presenting a copy of a valid, current lease, provided the property owner (lessor) is a Member in Good Standing.

Each pass holder may take a maximum of two guests and MUST be present with their guests at all times.

Additional hours for getting your pool pass will be the first two Saturdays in June (June 1 and 8), from 10 AM to 2 PM. For any questions regarding eligibility, please call the ECIA office, 466-4248.

### RV Club Road Clean-up

The Eldorado Roadrunners will be picking up the trash along a portion of Avenida Eldorado this month. For many years now, the local RV club has been responsible for the trash pickup from the railroad tracks to Torreon as part of their road adoption contract. Watch out for them on May 7 at 9 am. They will be out one more time this year in the fall. If you are interested in attending one of their meetings, you can contact the treasurer, Liz, at [lhamiam@gmail.com](mailto:lhamiam@gmail.com). The RV Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at a local Santa Fe restaurant.

### Dead on the Web? Free Q&A, May 7

Award-winning web marketing author and long-time Eldorado web designer **Hope Kiah** is presenting free Q&A sessions on the first Tuesday of every month at the Zia Financial Group in La Tienda (this month on May 7). Bring your website questions and/or your URL for review (first-come-first-served) at 6:30 PM. 466-4447.

### Energy Seminar, Week of May 20

Are you interested in savings in the cost of energy? Robert Cameron, Assoc. Professor Emeritus in Engineering Technology from NM State University, is offering a short seminar on energy, on four evenings for about 1.5 hours, in his home in Eldorado, during the week of May 20. Anyone interested should call 915-630-7834.

### MOON PHASES FOR MAY 2013



### Green Café on Composting

Learn about backyard composting on Saturday, May 18, 9:30 AM at La Tienda. Better yet, join us for breakfast first at La Plancha, at 8:30 AM. **Sam McCarthy**, local compost guru and manager of Payne's Organic Soil Yard, will present, along with other composters. A complete straw bale system will be awarded to a lucky participant. Sponsored by Eldorado/285 Recycles.

Thirty to forty percent of solid waste disposal can be eliminated by composting. Composted material yields important soil amendments and reduces water usage in the landscape—a big bonus for Eldorado area gardeners.

### Reel NM Presents Documentary "Buck"

Reel New Mexico, the state's only monthly screenings of independent films with a New Mexico connection, is excited to present the acclaimed documentary feature "Buck," a moving film about a horse trainer best described as a real-life horse whisperer, on Thursday, May 9, at 7 PM at The Performance Space in La Tienda.

The *New York Times* called it "mesmerizing viewing [that] holds your attention and heart." Salon termed it "impossible to resist." The *Los Angeles Times* hailed it as "an exceptional slice of Americana [that] transports us to a better world. At the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, "Buck" won the Audience Choice award.

This richly textured and visually stunning work follows master horseman **Buck Brannaman** from his abusive childhood to his phenomenally successful approach to horses. He eschews the violence of his upbringing, teaching people to communicate with their horses through leadership and sensitivity, not punishment. Filmed throughout the West, "Buck" is a truly American story of a man who dramatically transforms horses—and people—with understanding, compassion and respect. You don't need to know horses to love this beautiful, haunting tale.

**John Parks**, of Trinity Ranch just south of Eldorado, has known and worked with Buck for more than two decades and counts him as a close friend. Immediately following the screening, he will answer audience questions about Buck the man and about his amazing techniques.

Don't miss "Buck" on May 9. A contribution of \$5 is suggested at the door. Directions to the venue are at [www.reelnewmexico.com](http://www.reelnewmexico.com).

# May Events

## Senior Scene May 2013

Did you know that May is "Older American's Month"? There has never been a better time to be 60 years old plus. Come celebrate being a senior citizen at Adam Senior Center. Exercise classes are offered Monday–Thursday, including strength training, tai chi, chair aerobics, and chair yoga. Our master chef, **Matthew Narvaiz**, serves congregate meals weekdays from noon to 1 PM for a suggested donation of \$1.50. There are many other activities that happen every day and quite a few special events planned for May.

**Thursday, May 2, 12:45 PM:** Guest speaker **Frank Mulholland**, "Protecting Your Identity"; **Monday, May 6, 12:45 PM:** Book club; **Thursday, May 9, 1 PM:** Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition class, "Get Moving"; **Friday, May 10, 10 AM:** Computer class with **Clark Mann**, "How to buy a Mac or any other Apple device and make friends with it for life"; **Monday, May 13, 11:15 AM:** Memoir writing class, known as "Treasures"; **Thursday, May 16, 1 PM:** Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition class, "Plan, Shop, and Save"; **Friday, May 17, 10 AM:** Computer class with Clark Mann, "Where to Buy a Mac, practice, and intro to Mac applications"; **Thursday, May 23, 1 PM:** Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition class, "Fruits, Veggies, Half Your Plate"; **Friday, May 24, 12:45 PM:** Special dessert after lunch sponsored by Ambergcare (apple pie and ice cream); **Wednesday, May 29, 10 AM:** Field trip to the Albuquerque Museum of Art; **Thursday, May 30, 1 PM:** Ideas for Cooking & Nutrition class, "Make Half Your Grains Whole."

All are welcome to join a group of pinochle or Scrabble players on Thursdays. Members hope to get a social bridge club going; call Carol at 466-1039 if you are interested. Remember, it only takes 10 minutes to become a member and it is free. Hours of operation are Monday–Friday 8 AM–3 PM. —Carol Branch

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

Email [eciamarilyn@aol.com](mailto:eciamarilyn@aol.com) 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**

### SPECIAL MAY EVENTS

SERA Flea Market	Sat., May 11, 8-12	Sandy Szabat	466-6702	CC
Pool Opens	Sat., May 25, 8-8	ECIA	466-4248	CC
ECIA Annual Meeting	Mon., May 6, 7-9	ECIA	466-4248	La Tienda

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., May 14, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., May 28, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., May 13, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., May 7, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., May 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Thurs., May 2, 4-6 pm	Jean Crawford	466-1000	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., May 8, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., May 21, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., May 6, 6-8 pm	Michael Chester	577-2784	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., May 28, 7-9 pm	Gretel Underwood	466-7825	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., May 9, 7-9 pm	Steve Rudnick	466-1335	CFR

### MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR/CR
Eldorado Camera Club	4th Wednesday, 7-9	biordi@aol.com		La Tienda
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
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
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 5-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
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
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 6:30 pm-Dusk			CC
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	670-6949	LR
Bridge	Every Other Fri., 9-noon	Natalie Bernet	466-6118	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	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	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-4:30	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Kate	216-5302	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.–Fri., 12-1 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](http://www.eldoradosf.org)**

## Expansion of Vista Grande Public Library

Exciting things are happening at the library! The Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners (BCC) shared the vision for the library and the services it provides for southeast Santa Fe County by including the cost of the expansion in this year's budget. On March 26, the BCC awarded the contract to Anissa Construction, Inc. of Albuquerque to build the addition to the Vista Grande Public Library in the amount of \$734,000 (exclusive of gross receipts tax). For the last couple of weeks, the contractor has been moving equipment on-site to begin earth work early this month. When the project is completed in October, the size of the current library will be doubled and will include a dedicated meeting room. During the construction period, we do not anticipate interference with parking, and we expect only a minimal impact on library operations.

As the expansion project progresses, please check the library website, [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org), as there will be a special page dedicated to announcements, the expected timeline, and pictures of the progress.

The VGPL patrons, library donors, volunteers, and Board of Directors thank our Commissioner, **Liz Stefanics**, and the other commissioners for funding this project.

We also welcome our new Library Director, **Julia Kelso**! The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Julia will begin on May 1, 2013. Julia comes to us from Wyoming, but is no stranger to this area. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of New Mexico and earned her MLIS from University of Washington. Stop by the library and welcome her to VGPL!

—Larry Lemmon, President, Board of Directors

## At the Crossroads

As Chair of the Road Committee I regularly receive comments, questions, and suggestions from Eldorado residents about our roads. People want to know about washboarding, rutting, drainage problems, and how best to keep our roads in good condition. Most of these road surface concerns can be dealt with through the cooperation of the Santa Fe County Public Works Department. Their scheduled maintenance crews have been doing a good job of answering our needs. There is, however, one complaint that comes up more often than all of these surface issues: speeding.

Residents tell me that speeding throughout our roads and streets is a problem that needs to be addressed. Many of you may have seen the county's "Speed Indicator" trailer set up along Avenida Vista Grande and Avenida Eldorado. The purpose of these radar indicators is to give drivers an immediate visual display of just how fast they are driving. It's amazing to see the effect it has on drivers. Since many of us are driving a bit faster than the posted speed limits, we

slow down to reach the legal speed limit but then often resume speeding once we are past the indicator.

We all have busy schedules, places to go, and appointments to keep, but please try to observe the speed limits in Eldorado at all times. Most paved surfaces are posted at 35 or 40 MPH, and our unpaved roadways are designated as a 25 MPH zone. Anyone who has ridden a bicycle along our paved roads or has walked using the hike/bike trail will tell you there are many cars passing by that are driving way above 40 MPH. I can personally attest to many cars passing me on my bike going well over 50 MPH!

Obviously, high-speed travel can be dangerous and adds to unsafe driving conditions, but observing our community's speed limits is also important because it shows our regard and consideration for everyone who uses our roadways. This also applies to our unpaved surfaces where the speed limits are much lower. Let us all try to remember to keep our speed within the posted limits and practice courtesy toward everyone who shares the roads here in Eldorado.

—Michael Chester, Chair, Road Committee





## 2013 Eldorado Studio Tour

The 22nd Annual Studio Tour is coming to the streets of Eldorado on May 18–19, from 10 AM to 5 PM. Soon orange flags will appear in front of the homes and shared studios of 110 artists—a sure sign that spring is here.

For early viewing of the outstanding work these artists have created, visit the Preview Gallery at La Tienda's Exhibit Space. The Gallery is open May 4–17, 11 AM–4 PM, and it's open both days of the Tour from 9 AM to 5 PM. Brochures and maps to the studios will be available.

The Artists' Reception is May 17, from 5 to 7 PM at La Tienda's Exhibit Space. Light refreshments will be served and music will be provided by **David Wescott Yard** and **Doug Frantz**.

Among the artists on the Tour this year are **Vince Faust**, **Brian Commerford**, and **Jack McCarthy**.

Vincent Faust (studio 12) is a professionally trained stage designer, painter, and multidisciplinary artist. Now his focus is on welded and assembled steel artwork, sometimes from found objects or recycled steel parts, and sometimes in large-scale conceptual pieces for outdoor installations. His eclectic sculptural work can be both playful and thought-provoking and often highlights the interplay between balance and tension.

Jack McCarthy (studio 40) is a historian of the American West as well as an artist. His graduate thesis was on the Katsina dolls of the Hopi and Zuni. Recently his interests returned to children's dolls of the Western Plains Indians. These dolls were given to

the children not only as play figures but also as an instructive way to learn about their tribal expectations. Jack has put together a collection of his own, called "Dolls of the American Frontier" inspired by Native American dolls (1850–1930s).

Brian Commerford (studio 29) is an artist who captures wild and domestic animals in striking poses, focusing upon their graceful, pensive, and inquisitive nature.

"I'm a storyteller, using paint instead of words to tell my stories. The wisdom of the Native Americans has mixed with Eastern philosophy and shows itself in my animal paintings. The painting tells me its title as I work on it. I do my best work when intuition is my guiding force."

To learn more about these and other artists on the Tour, go to [www.eldoradostudiotour.org](http://www.eldoradostudiotour.org).

—Janet Amtmann



Brian Commerford's oil painting, "Secrets."



Above: Jack McCarthy's Native American-inspired dolls.



Left: Vincent Faust's steel sculpture, "Impulsion."



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## Report from the Stable

The Stable Committee's report for ECIA's 2012 Annual Report had long, colorful descriptions of their outreach and activities of the previous year. Since we had to keep committee reports brief, we thought we'd publish some of the remarks we had to leave out.

The Annual Report did mention the participation of the Stable in the 4th of July parade. But, further: Adults and children decorated themselves and their horses and added cheer and excitement to the festivities. Some bystanders told them that the horses are the best part of the parade. Many members rode their horses from the stables to the parade, and then rode home again. Not all horses are calm enough to walk quietly in an environment that is so unnatural to them. The fact that stable members attend this event is a testament to their horsemanship and to their dedication to participating in this special yearly event.

At their "wildly successful Thanksgiving Open House outreach to the Eldorado community," stable members handed out maps and directed parking as visitors arrived. The upper round pen saw two horses and four humans in seemingly constant motion giving pony rides for almost three hours. Stable members were decked out in their best hats and boots, and many of the children came dressed in fancy duds. It was impossible to tell who was more thrilled, the children riding the horses or the parents cheering from the sidelines. Stable members also opened up their corrals for tours and education in

horse husbandry. This included descriptions of horse conformation and the different kinds of hay and grain used as feed. In Barn #26, four-footed emissary Joy was decked out in holiday finery so parents could snap photos of their children. There were also refreshments homemade by stable members, and hot apple cider provided by the ECIA.

During the event that the Stable Committee hosted for the ECIA Board and their families at the stables, they began with a tour that included a look at the new water system and a description of the manure removal program. They answered questions, introduced the horses, and showed grandkids how to safely feed carrots. The tour gave participants a look at the newly resurfaced upper arena. There were horses jumping, doing dressage, western pleasure, and various diverse activities. Board members were able to see first-hand how the newly installed footing has made a tremendous improvement in performance and safety. At the end of the formal tour at the upper round pen, the grandkids and Board family members were offered pony rides.



**Elmer, photographed in motion by Max Underwood.**