ELDORADO

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradocommunity.org

The Wilderness in Your Backyard

E IN ELDORADO have some spectacular open space right under our noses contained in our greenbelt areas. In contrast to the more spacious but less easily accessed Community Preserve (see Vistas, May, 2004), many Eldorado residents need do nothing more than step out of their backyards to reach the greenbelt. For most others, a hike of a few hundred yards along a paved trail or residential road will allow access to almost a thousand acres of dedicated open space and tens of miles of informal trails spread across our community.

The greenbelts were part of the design when Eldorado was laid out as a planned unit development, and were acquired by the ECIA from the developers AMREP and Rational Alternatives during the 80s and 90s. Every ECIA member shares in greenbelt ownership, but it is not taxed separately. Just as with the Community Preserve, Santa Fe County considers the value of this and other Eldorado amenities in assessing the value of our individual properties.

Easy terrain makes for pleasant hiking. For the most part, houses and back yards are near, but the rolling terrain of Eldorado presents some unexpected vistas, and vegetation can close in for moments of apparent seclusion, particularly in the wider belts.

In general, most greenbelts consist of natural drainage arroyos, running east/west. Easy access and passage from one greenbelt to another is available from north/south roads, hike/bike paths, and the county Rail Trail along the Santa Fe Southern Railroad. The bridal path easement along the western boundary fence also provides north/south access. A detailed brochure and map has been developed by the ECIA Conservation Committee, and is available at the ECIA office.

Keep in mind that access should be limited to one's own property, and to the public roads and paths that cross the greenbelts. Cutting across someone else's property, even a vacant lot, is inconsiderate and illegal. And although the powerline right-of-way cutting north/south through western Eldorado is open, it is also private property (although with an easement for greenbelts and roads to cross it).

For variety, try driving to an access point or stopping on your way in or out of Eldorado. Some good access points with parking include the Rail Trail at Avenida Eldorado, and the ECIA Community Center. Especially in summer, consider long pants and shirtsleeves and insect repellent. Fleas, ticks, and other insects like the vegetation, and consider passing mammals to be their own amenity! Particularly in western Eldorado, animals and fleas have been found carrying bubonic plague and call for sensible precautions.

Walking, horses, and bicycles are allowed, as well as dogs on leashes (per county ordinance). But motorized vehicles of any kind are specifically excluded. Our greenbelts should be treated with the same respect as any wild area; the native plants and wildlife habitat are an important community resource.

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June 2004 IN THIS ISSUE

> ECIA Board Work Study Meeting, Community Center, Mon., June 14, 7 pm

An old fence alongside an informal path in the west end serves as a reminder of Eldorado's days as a —Dan Drobnis working ranch.



LETTERS

Share your **comments** with us!

For policy and deadline, see helow

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

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.

Your Vote Counts

OME PEOPLE I KNOW are tired of hearing, "Are you registered to vote?" as they pass by volunteers with clipboards. But many others take seriously the effort to improve the appalling statistics on how few of our citizens choose to make their voices heard. In the 2000 presidential election, only 37% of eligible voters cast a ballot. Considering the closeness of that election, it means that some 18% or 19% of eligible voters were able to choose the administration that runs our country. Does that bother anyone else? Yes, the Electoral College actually chooses the president, but I won't attempt to explain that process here. I am more concerned about more people making their choices known.

What could keep voters from the polls? A government-backed survey of the 2000 election showed that approximately 21% of registered voters who didn't vote said that they were "too busy, couldn't find the time." Some companies offer time off for employees to vote. If you aren't fortunate enough to have that option, try to make it early in the morning or after work. Polls are usually open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Recognizing the importance of our votes may be the incentive needed to "find the time."

Many people who don't vote feel their vote doesn't matter. However, in 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German. In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union. In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the United States, and in 2000. Gore won over Bush in New Mexico by under 400 votes. Your vote

Another 20% of surveyed eligible voters who didn't vote "weren't happy with the choices, or considered the choices to be too similar." Maybe you've had that feeling yourself. But if you look at more than just the personality or beliefs of each candidate, you will see that the party each candidate represents has certain values and platforms or agendas which are not that similar. Choose the whole package that comes closest to matching your beliefs and dreams for our country.

Another statistic—in the 18- to 24-year-old registered voter category only 11% voted in 2000. Among these registered voters, the opinion is that "old people" vote. What can we do about that? There are many efforts around the country to engage our young people. One such effort at Santa Fe Community College, headed by Gail Terzuola, registered 1,600 voters during the fall and spring semesters. 2003-2004. We also need to do whatever



we can to encourage those who have registered to actually vote on election day, regardless of age.

New Mexico has a state and presidential primary this June 1, along with many local offices up for election. Hopefully New Mexico will be able to boast its largest growth in voter turnout for the June primary and the November 2 election. To do so, please take a moment to register if you haven't already. No matter what your party affiliation, everyone must take responsibility for the nation we live in, and the first step is to vote.

—Ken McPherson

Farewell to John John DiJanni (1909-2004)

OHN AND HIS WIFE HELEN arrived in Eldorado in December 1975. That was the beginning of our almost 30-year friendship. John was a man of joy with a passion for life.

A past president of the ERA, he remained committed to his community. John never refused a call for help, such as pitching in for a recital at St. John's to raise funds for our Children's Center. He organized musicals at the clubhouse. When he rehearsed children to carol at Christmas, he decided he wanted a few adult voices. (That's when he finally believed my protests that I couldn't sing.) John played Santa for several years, and he had a wonderful rapport with the young children.

John gave me a deeper understanding of music and enriched my knowledge of opera, although he tried to get me to appreciate Bach without success. I would tell him, "It's plinky-plinky music." He would just shake his head and smile.

Model trains were another passion for John, often calling my husband, Bernie, to help with some problem. One day Bernie said, "John, as a modeler you are a great musician," to which John responded with roaring laughter.

He loved parties, and evening at our home would always end up with the four of us having a nightcap. We had our last drink together April 8th.

"Addio, John, Addio."

—Dolores (& Bernie) Broch

No Hour is Bark Free

arking dogs, trespassing dogs and dogs not leashed to their owners are eroding the pastoral character of Eldorado. No hour is bark-free, no space is safe from canine invasion, wild life is harassed and kids are at risk." (Letter in Eldorado Sun - November 1994)

"I, too, bought a house in Eldorado to get away from the noise, traffic and general congestion of Santa Fe. Unfortunately, on any given night I can step outside and hear dogs continually barking from at least one house, usually more." (Letter in Eldorado Sun – November 1994)

"Several of your neighbors have complained about your dogs crossing their invisible fence and threatening neighbors and passersby. One neighbor has complained about being bitten..." (ECIA violation letter – September 2000)

"...a resident who was walking her mid-size dog in the green belt in the Monte Alto Road area states that her dog was attacked by two Rottweilers, off leash, and severely injured." (ECIA Newsletter – June

"It appears that you are discarding refuse from your dogs to the rear of your property and a portion of it appears to be finding its way on to the property of your neighbor..." (ECIA violation letter - July 2002)

"We have received several complaints about your dogs barking for extended periods of time. The dogs are very often in the front courtyard and this creates an 'amplification affect' or 'echo chamber,' making the barking even louder to your neighbors." (ECIA violation letter – October 2003)

THE COVENANTS ARE CLEAR:

- ▼ The owner of a dog shall not allow it to run at large or create a "nuisance" on public or private property. This includes the owner's property, neighbor's property, or ECIA property such as parks, greenbelts and recreational trails.
- ▼ The term "nuisance" shall include threatening behavior, barking, defecation or urination.
- A dog that barks continuously is "disturbing the peace".

It is now June 2004... the covenants haven't changed.... apparently many dog owners haven't either!!!!

—Charles Smith. the ECIA CCR

County Fire Department Upgrade

OMMISSIONER JACK SULLIVAN announced today, major upgrades to FIRE-EMS capabilities in District 5 of Santa Fe County. The district, which includes the communities and fire districts of Eldorado, Hondo, Glorieta, and Lamy will soon benefit from the acquisition of a new "Quint" fire truck and two fire stations: an Eastern Region Headquarters at the intersection of the Old Las Vegas Highway and 285 and a second fire station in Lamy.

The new ladder fire truck will improve the fire and rescue capabilities in the area and will serve to improve Insurance Service Organization (ISO) ratings. Typically, this means

lower insurance premiums for homeowners within this area. The new fire truck will also improve the fire department's ability to rescue trapped victims in emergency situations. The truck is still being built but is expected to be in operation within the next few months.

Of the two new fire stations, the Eastern Regional Headquarters will operate 24/7 with a fully trained team of paramedics and firefighters. This

facility will support local volunteer firefighters and EMT staff within Santa Fe County. This site will also serve as the regional training facility for local area firefighters and EMTs. Construction of this facility will begin in summer of 2004. The other project includes the construction of a substation in Lamy. This station will serve to provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to the community of Lamy. This station is expected to be completed in the summer of 2004.

> "These projects are a major benefit to and accomplishment for Santa Fe County. It is imperative that our communities and emergency personnel be equipped with up-to-

date equipment and facilities. I am happy to be part of these projects and look forward to further improving our emergency capabilities in other parts of District 5, including the Community College District," said Commissioner Jack Sullivan. Anyone seeking information about these projects is encouraged to contact the Santa Fe County Fire Department at 505-992-3070.

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VISTAS NEWSLETTER

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES Vista Grande Library

466-READ 204-2945 466-1204 **Animal Control** 424-2050



The experienced shopper shows up early for the Eldorado Flea Market.



Annual ERA Flea Market

This spring's Eldorado Residents Association Flea Market was the most successful ever. Good weather, no wind, and moderate temperatures also helped the buyers, sellers and volunteers this year. A record number of vendors totaling 159 showed up in the early morning to display their wares. The buying began almost as soon as the sun came up over the mountains. Ninety percent of the vendors were from Eldorado.

The residents' association board and their spouses, along with volunteers from the adult volleyball group, members of the senior lunch group, the Vista Grande Library Director and friends all turned out to help direct traffic, supervise the allocation of spaces, and sell coffee, sodas and donuts.

A good day was had by all! Excellent sales were reported by many of the vendors, and buyers seemed quite happy with their newly acquired treasures. After expenses are accounted for, the ERA board will allocate funds to the volunteer groups who helped out. The remaining funds go toward underwriting the nine months of monthly coffees, the four TGIF socials and the public forum that occur during the year. Our thanks to everyone for their participation.

Preview of Opera Season

Desirée Mays, international speaker on opera and the storyteller for The Santa Fe Opera, will present Opera Unveiled 2004 at the Vista Grande Public Library (VGPL) on Thursday, June 17, at 7:00 pm. This is the sixth book in the Opera Unveiled series; each one discusses the five operas of the Santa Fe season. If you are wondering what to see this summer, come and hear Ms. Mays tell the stories and provide background on each opera and on the music and lives of the composers. She will also play brief musical excerpts as she reads from her book. Learn of the passion, drama and comedy that make up opera with its larger-thanlife characters and plots.

Ms. Mays is appearing at VGPL as part of the library's Local Authors series. For further details and information, call 466-READ (7323) or email at READ@VGLibrary.org.

Artists' Shoptalk:

Wednesday, June 16, 10:00 am to noon, at the home of Janet Amtmann, pastel artist, 466-3256. Join fellow artists for coffee and art talk. Call for directions.

Pool Is Open!

If you didn't already know, the pool opened May 29th! If you want to get in, use your white plastic pool passes. New pool cards are available for \$5.00 and replacement cards are \$10.00. The pool phone number is 466-2511.

General Swim Hours:

- ▼ Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 am-6:00 pm
- ▼ Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 10:00 am-8:00 pm

Lap Swim Hours

- ▼ Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 am - 10:00 am, and again from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday 8:00 am - 10:00 am

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

Lifeguards: If any certified lifeguards are interested in working at the Eldorado pool this summer, contact Bill Donohue at 466-4248.

Association Fees: Don't forget, your association fees must be current to have access to all amenities.

Save the Date

The Vista Grande Public Library's annual Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Sunday, September 12th from 1:00 - 5:00 pm at the Eldorado community center. **Verona Thompson** is chairing the event this year along with a group of other committee chairs. This fun, family "end of summer" event relies upon the generous donations of community volunteers' time and the gathering of silent auction items to raise funds for the operating expenses for the Vista Grande Library.

Now in its fifth year, the Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction has become a gathering place for family and friends to get together to support our wonderful non-profit community library while enjoying live music, ice cream, and friendly, competitive bidding for auction items. To volunteer for the day of the event, call Jane Otten at 466-6665 and to help with one of the many committees call Verona Thompson at 466-2114.

City Offers Wheelchair Van

During a meeting in May between Commissioner County Sullivan, representatives from the county, the Santa Fe Senior Center, and volunteer senior van drivers. Patty Adam told of the need for occasional van service for wheelchair users in Eldorado. Though the city has provided a regular van for volunteer drivers to take seniors into town, the van is not equipped with a lift for those who use wheelchairs. On several occasions there were residents who needed this special service. It was determined at this meeting that individuals who require wheelchair-accessible van transport to a doctor's appointment, could call the main Senior Center at 955-4722 and ask for Danny Allen.

Remember to set up these requests enough in advance to be sure Mr. Allen has a van available. For general senior transport to town, call 466-1397 or 466-0347 to schedule a ride.

The Write Stuff

The ECIA Information Committee decides what articles are going into the Vistas issue each month. It definitely isn't a bureaucratic process. We just toss ideas around and then make a final decision. We rely on articles written by volunteers, so please join us. The monthly meetings are announced on the Events Calendar of *Vistas* each month. Share your interests. Contribute once or several times. We ask only that articles be focused on Eldorado.

June Eyents

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting or 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.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
Road Committee	Mon., June 7, 6-7 pm	Allen Larson	466-4792	CFR
Neighborhood Watch		Frank Schober	310-8593	call
Finance Committee	Tues., June 8, 10-noon	Gisela Knight		CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., June 8, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
EAW&SD*	Wed., June 9, 7-9 pm	Ray Nichols		CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., June 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
285 Coalition	Wed., June 16, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CR
ECIA Board	Thurs., June 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., June 21, 7-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	F
Architectural Committee	Tues., June 22, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., June 22, 7-9 pm			CFR
MONTHLY MEETINGS				
Book Club/Pot Luck	Sun., June 6, 6-9 pm	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
Book Club	Sat., June 12, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559	
Library Book Club	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	Lib
Search & Rescue	Thurs., June 10, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Cub Scouts Pack 414	Call for date	Clay Williard	466-3909	
Arts Assoc. Program	Wed., June 30, 7-9 pm	Arlene Siegel	466-3274	LR
WEEKLY MEETINGS				
AA	Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Saturdays, 10:45-11:45 am			CR
AA	Sundays, 5:15- 6:15 pm			CR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Bridge (Men's)	Thursdays, 1-4 pm	Bill Kapoun	466-8497	LR
Boy Scouts Troop 414	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	
Community Band	Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm	Peg Johnson	466-1459	School
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR
Wireless Assoc.	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	Scott Gerber	466-9333	CR
Knitting Club	2nd & 4th Wed., 1-3 pm	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	
*Eldorado Area Water and	**Reservation	s Required		



A Long Way from England



Sue loves the many vistas of Eldorado.

> **UE GARFITT. A RESIDENT** of Eldorado since 1987, proves that quite often a convert is just as strong of faith as a native believer. The feelings she expresses about Santa Fe and Eldorado are both aesthetic and spiritual. "I love it here because the place speaks to one's innermost being. Santa Fe changes you emotionally. It changes you in every way. This part of New Mexico appeals to both one's senses and one's soul," says Sue.

> Sue was born in England, near London, and when very young moved with her family to the northernmost part of the country, Westmoreland, near the border with Scotland. As long as she can remember she has always felt she was an athlete, and before she became so tied down with her job as a real estate agent in Santa Fe and Eldorado, she pursued a keen interest in rock climbing in the western United States.

> Sue's parents enjoyed walking off the beaten path in the hills of England and Wales, including the region of Snowdonia in Wales, and they acquired a

small cottage on an estuary close to the national park there.

Following her attendance at university. Sue became a teacher but not before she had fulfilled an ambition her father had set for her of traversing the entire length of Hadrian's Wall, a challenging hike of nearly 75 miles. Located at the neck of England between Newcastle and Carlisle, much of the wall, a fortification built by the Romans in the first century, A.D., still stands.

With secondary level teaching experience in Britain behind her, Sue applied for work as an exchange teacher in the field of geography. Her first assignment was in Denver, Colorado in 1975. After only one visit south to Santa Fe during that early period, she decided that she wanted to move-for goodto "The City Different". New Mexico and Santa Fe are very different from England, especially in the most common

architecture, stick-built houses. Not that what she was used to in Britain did not appeal to her, but the pueblo architecture, she feels, is a style that is always different and always new.

Asked why she chose to move to Eldorado in 1987, Sue recounted her problem of finding an affordable house in the city of Santa Fe. It was too expensive she felt and the real estate agent she was working with then said, "Well, we could look at Eldorado, even though it is quite a distance away." The 12 miles to the Plaza didn't faze Sue Garfitt as it doesn't faze most of us. She is still here and commutes every day to her offices at Santa Fe Properties.

"Eldorado appeals in so many ways," she says. "The sunsets are world-class. The night skies, the surrounding mountain ranges and the long, long vistas surpass the ambience of many other places on this planet." She particularly values the Eldorado watchwords copied from those of the Native Americans who lived here long before us...."Let us live lightly on the land."

-Frank Schober

From the Eldorado House Doctor

Y COLUMN THIS MONTH was supposed to focus on things that all of us should be doing during this beautiful spring weather to keep our Eldorado homes ready to sell (if we ever want to sell them).

I changed my plans for this month's article because something dangerous happened to me in our shopping center's parking lot. Without ever seeing me, the driver of a very large SUV nearly backed into me in my little pickup. Then the driver moved smartly out of the parking lot without ever noticing me.

One thing about the incident stood out to me: the driver was so busy on his cell phone, paying so much attention to a conversation that he forgot his primary duty, which was to drive safely.

I have to be honest. I have made calls when I have been driving... but no longer. The little book that came with my cellular service gives some advice that I plan to heed and that I gladly share with you—fellow cell phone users.

- 1. Use a hands-free device. Get one before you ever make or receive a call while driving.
- 2. Position your cell phone within easy reach in your vehicle. Be able to access it without taking your eyes off the road.
- 3. Stop and pull over if you have to take notes, or flip through a list of telephone numbers

- even if you are using a hands-free device with your cell phone.
- 4. Your phone has a lot of "single touch" features, find out how to use them and **use them.** Some of the new phones even have "Voice Dial" that enables a caller to simply say a word to have a number dialed.
- 5. Let the person who calls you know **you are driving.** He/she may wish to call you back when you are stationary.
- 6. There are very few calls that can't wait a bit. Let your voice mail answer for you when you are driving and answer your calls when you reach your parking space or your place of work.

Driving is a multi-tasking operation. We need all of our senses working for us with a minimum of distractions. All of us have had the experience of a close call when we have been driving. During such times, would we have made that lucky escape, or survived, if we had been talking, holding a cell phone to our ears? All of us decry drivers "under the influence." Do all of us know that recent studies have conclusively proven that driving and conversing while holding a cell phone to our ears is more dangerous than driving with the blood-alcohol level of a certifiable drunk?

—The House Doctor

New EDU Well

AYMOND DENNIS, General Manager of El Dorado Utilities (EDU) has approached the ECIA with plans for EDU's first new well in several years. It would be located in the greenbelt west of Avenida Torreon, in the area near the northern terminus of Eldorado Circle (see map). According to Dennis, this area has been identified by EDU's hydrologist as being the most promising.

EDU has a utility easement within all of Eldorado's greenbelts, but a 1998 Memorandum of Understanding with the ECIA requires EDU to provide advance notification of work, and to do restoration after disturbance. EDU, representatives of the ECIA, and several of the homeowners who adjoin that area of the greenbelt have met to review plans and to reduce disturbance to the greenbelt and neighbors during drilling operations.

A computer model and report on the ground water supply in the Eldorado Area was commissioned by the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD), and completed by John Shomaker and Associates in 2001. This report makes the point that with existing EDU wells diminishing, the utility needs to acquire water rights and drill new wells to meet future Eldorado area

water needs. EAWSD is currently litigation acquire the assets of EDU by condemnation, as approved by district residents in 2002. The status of the proposed new well. or other drilling activities, if condemnation takes place is not known.

EAWSD's web site at www.eldoradowaterdistrict.com further provides information on area water issues.

Location of proposed new Eldorado Utilities well.





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