

ELDORADO VISTAS

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June 2006

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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

Annual Meeting of the Members

IN THE EVENING OF MAY 1, 2006, as the sun began lowering in the sky, residents steadily made their way to the meeting chamber in the El Dorado Elementary School (the gym). Subdued music played. A tall woman stood at the front of the room. We waited for her to speak. Just when we thought we could wait no longer, she raised her hand and said, "Will this meeting please come to order?"

Okay, maybe that's over-dramatizing a bit, but if you didn't show up for the ECIA's Annual Meeting of the Members, then you don't know how much of this is a dramatization. The fact is, you missed some good speakers and worthwhile information. A hearty group of 90 or so residents showed up for the meeting. With the promise of door prizes, cookies, cake and guest speakers, more had been expected; however, those who attended didn't seem to mind the extra treats that they found.

After ECIA Board President, **Jeanne Klein**, opened the proceedings and gave the agenda for the evening, she thanked those who worked to put the meeting together and announced that **Bill Donohue** (featured on page 6) had been named the new General Manager of the ECIA after an extensive country-wide search. The crowd applauded the choice enthusiastically.

Next, Jeanne introduced the Board members and presented departing Board member, **Dan Drobnis**, with a gift in recognition for his years of service on the Board.

After reviewing the Board's accomplishments in 2005, Jeanne talked about works in progress, including the pavilion, the pool's new heater, the proposed patio area improvement, the need for volunteers to help with the 4th of July parade, and the proposed dog park (more on this in the July *Vistas*).

Dan Drobnis read the Treasurer's report, followed by guest speakers, who presented pertinent information. First up was **State Representative Peter Wirth**, who talked about the governor's veto of the funding needed to finish out the interior of the Senior Center here in Eldorado. He indicated that he would

continue to push for assistance in that area.

County Commissioner Jack Sullivan followed with a discussion of accomplishments in 2005, including the railroad crossing and street paving. He went on to introduce the Deputy Public Works Director, **Robert Martinez**, who talked briefly about proposed road paving for the next three years. This stirred the audience to ask several questions that Robert and the commissioner answered with as much information as they could.

Sheriff Greg Solano spoke next. He described the coverage his team of deputies gave the entire county and how that left Eldorado covered for instances of trouble or crime. He cited arrests in two recent cases in Eldorado, the burglary of the video store and the theft of saddles.

Fire Chief Guy Monroe gave a compelling talk about fire dangers this summer. He briefly explained the wildland/urban interface fire hazard survey that the El Dorado Fire Department will perform at the request of any homeowner (see page 7 of this issue).

The final speaker was **Jan Willem Jansens** of Earth Works Institute. He spoke about the partnership between the ECIA and the Galisteo Watershed. For more information, see the announcement of the partnership in the February 2006 issue of *Vistas* (available on the community web site).

Though pressed for time, Jeanne introduced the committee chairs in attendance before she proudly announced the recipient of the award for the "person who had made a difference in Eldorado." This year's recipient was Fire Chief Guy Monroe and his crew. A hearty round of applause revealed the audience's agreement.

After the community open forum, Board Secretary, **Philip Balcombe**, announced the results of the election for a new Board member. Candidate **Su Anne Armstrong** was elected.

Admittedly, this report doesn't tell you every little thing that happened at the Annual Meeting. For coverage in that depth, you need to attend yourself. Please join us next year!

—Ken McPherson

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
June 12, 7 pm*



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

Fire Chief Guy Monroe receiving his award from Board member Johnny Martinez.



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

Board President Jeanne Klein sharing the podium with State Representative Peter Wirth.



**Share your
comments
with us!**

*For policy and
deadline, see
below*

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too. **DEADLINE:** Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to info@eldoradocommunity.org. 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.

Searching for Tranquility

MY WIFE AND I BUILT A HOME "out beyond the tracks" 22 years ago, a tranquil escape from the stresses of our workaday lives. Walking or jogging in the greenbelt on crisp fall mornings, listening to the occasional coyote howl intrude upon the night silence, seeing a deer bounding across Vista Grande – these were the blessings bestowed by life in Eldorado.

Now our neighborhood is full with the homes of others seeking that same tranquility, and changes have resulted. Vista Grande has been paved, making it easier to get to work. The Agora has brought convenient shopping. Gratifyingly, newer Eldorado residents have adapted to the local lifestyle rather than importing habits and expectations more suitable to Los Angeles or Lubbock. They typically show uncommon consideration for their neighbors and for the community.

I would note one of a few exceptions. How many minutes can you sit on your back porch in the evening without hearing one or more dogs barking? How far can you walk in the greenbelt without having to step around dog feces on the trail? Yesterday morning my wife showed me a gash in her thigh – the result of a dog bite she acquired while walking in the greenbelt. Were a few more dog owners to show consideration for their neighbors' desire for a tranquil and secure life in Eldorado, our whole community could much more closely approach that ideal.

—Richard Perkins

Water Alerts

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T READ THE MAY edition of the *Water Notes* newsletter that came with your water bill, the Eldorado Area Water & Sanitation District (EAWSD) has declared a Stage 2 water alert. This means outdoor watering is limited to one day per week, between the hours of 8 pm and 8 am. More complete information was in the newsletter, and can also be found on the EAWSD's web site at www.eldoradowaterdistrict.com—just follow the Water Alert Management Plan (WAMP) link. There are penalties for not following the restrictions noted in the WAMP. The penalties are found at the bottom of the back page of the *Water Notes* newsletter and at the bottom of the web page that shows the WAMP.

—Ken McPherson

Earth Day Clean-up

EARTH DAY, APRIL 22, was a clean-up day for Eldorado's avenidas. Over 100 eager volunteers from the Soccer Club, the Boy and Girl Scouts, the ERA, Eldorado Search and Rescue, the Community Church and concerned individuals picked up over 100 bags of roadway trash that had been lessening the beauty of our surroundings.

Surveying the success of the project, Bill Donohue, ECIA General Manager, hopes to replicate the effort with an annual fall clean-up day that receives just as much participation.

"We can see a long way in this big sky country of ours," said one volunteer, "but sometimes it is only to look at a piece of trash a half mile away."

At the end of their efforts to keep Eldorado clean and beautiful, volunteers were rewarded with a superb lunch provided by the ECIA staff.

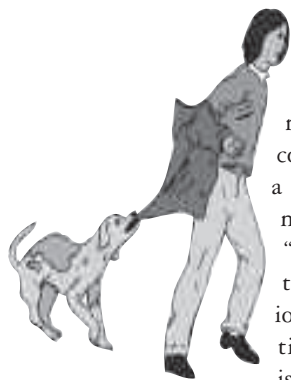
—Frank Schober

Some of the clean-up crew enjoying their free food.



PHOTO BY CHARLES SMITH

Views from the CCR



DOGS: Again!!!!

There have been two off-leash dog biting incidents reported to the CCR. Both could have been prevented by a responsible dog owner. No matter how great you "think" your dog behaves, the dog relies on your behavior. Leash your dog at all times. All dog nuisance issues (i.e., barking, biting

and off-leash) should be reported to Animal Control at 992-1621, ECIA Security 204-2945 and the ECIA CCR at 466-4248.

CISTERNS: (October 20, 2005 *Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions for Eldorado at Santa Fe*, Section 16, page 13)

Cisterns are containers (greater than 120 gallons) of any material or fabrication, shape or size installed for the purpose of catching and storing water from the roof.

Requirements for cisterns include:

- ▼ The above ground portion shall not exceed six feet in height and the color shall match the dwelling.
- ▼ The cistern shall not be located so that the cistern or the required screening (except for plantings) project into the setbacks.
- ▼ Cisterns shall be screened by stuccoed walls, wood fences or screening composed of suitable plantings. Where a wall or fence is used to screen a cistern it shall be of type 1, 2, 3, 4 or 7 as described in Section 13. Height shall be sufficient to optimally conceal the cistern. If other fences or walls exist or are proposed on the property, limitations on number of types and locations as listed in that section apply. Screening other than plantings is to be within four feet of the cistern.
- ▼ For in-ground cisterns, greater than eighteen inches above ground, the exposed portion shall color match the dwelling.
- ▼ All exterior down spouts and/or piping from the roof or canales to the cistern shall be installed within six inches from the wall of the house for the vertical run and shall be finished to match the house.

Again, I want to thank everyone for your cooperation in making Eldorado a place to enjoy all of the great New Mexico "enchanted views." Suggestion...try compliance, first!

—Charles Smith, the ECIA CCR



PHOTO BY CHARLES SMITH

An above-ground cistern.

From the President

ELECTION

The Election Committee's chairperson, **Pat Lavengood**, announced at the May 1 Annual Meeting of the Members that **Su Anne Armstrong**, a long-time resident, had been elected to the vacant Board seat. Su Anne Armstrong joined the ECIA Board at the May 15 work session. She is a knowledgeable resident and will contribute her expertise to the work of the Board.

Thank you to the other candidates who took time to participate in the election process. It is residents like these that help keep the ECIA Board viable.

BOARD DIRECTOR NEEDED

There was a recent resignation from the Board. As a result, the Board has to appoint a new member to bring the membership to seven Directors. Someone asked me why the Board did not take the second-runner-up in the election? The by-laws state in Article V, Section 2, that "In the event of death, resignation or removal of a Director, a successor shall be appointed by the remaining Directors to the vacancy." Therefore, once again, the Board asks any interested residents to submit a letter of interest and resumé to the association office by June 12. The Board will interview interested persons and make the appointment in a timely fashion.

FOURTH OF JULY

Morning on the Fourth of July is a fun and festive time in Eldorado. There is a parade with fire engines, horses, bagpipers and children. There are games for the children, and snow cones, popcorn and lemonade for everyone. The Eldorado Community Band plays patriotic music, and friends and neighbors gather. After all the fun, most retire to the swimming pool for a swim and more fun. It is an old fashioned celebration, but it takes volunteers to help plan the day. We need parade organizers and judges, and folks to scoop sticky snow cones. We need help setting up the games that the children love to play. We need your help. To be part of the fun, call the Association office (466-4248) and let us know how you can help in continuing this fun Eldorado tradition.

—Jeanne Klein

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Gisela Knight

Architecture: Bill Schwent

Conservation: Vacant

Stable: Dina Sassone

466-2516

Election: Pat Lavengood

Road: Ed Benrock

Information: Ken McPherson

Neighborhood Watch:

Mary Uhl and Marilyn Walker

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

Animal Control

992-1621

Show and Tell for June

On June 29 at 7 pm, the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association will hold its monthly meeting at the fire station near the school. This month's activity will be presented by various members of the association who are asked to bring a piece of their work to show and discuss. This is a popular evening for the artists, as many will get to see first-hand some of the work by other Eldorado artists who may be experimenting with new techniques, working on a commission or just showing a piece they are particularly proud of. These meetings are free and open to the public. For information, contact **Joretha Hall** at 466-6245.

The grille of Dan McCollum's 1942 GMC Pickup.



PHOTO BY JOHN J. FRIED

POOL OPEN!!!

Swim Times:

The pool is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend.

LAP SWIM: 8 to 9:30 am every day; 6 to 8 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

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

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

Eldorado Car Show

Owners of vintage, exotic and not-so-exotic cars are invited to bring their vehicles to the Third Annual Eldorado Car Show on Saturday, June 3. This drop-in event will take place at the Eldorado Community Center from noon to 4 pm, with registration beginning at 10 am. While admission to the event is free, there will be a \$5.00 per vehicle registration fee this year. All proceeds will benefit the Vista Grande Public Library and El Dorado Fire & Rescue Service. This event is made possible by the First National Bank of Santa Fe (Eldorado branch), the Eldorado Super Mart, QuikSend and other community sponsors.

Summer Concert Series at the Agora

June 17 will be the kickoff for a series of music and art events at the Agora Shopping Center as



part of The Agora Summer Community Concert Series to be held in the patio area. Local Eldorado musicians and artists will take part.

On Saturday, June 17, The "Youngstars" of Santa Fe, created and directed by **Lisa Carman**, will perform from 1 to 2 pm. Then in the early evening, the "Santa Fe Singers' Showcase," featuring Directors **Sandra McKnight**, and **Margo Taylor**, will perform show tunes from 5 to 7 pm.

These are events that the whole family can enjoy. Watch for postings of coming events at the Agora Shopping Center. For more information, call 466-6830 or 466-3256.

Learn the Trails

The Conservation Committee will be sponsoring an orientation hike of the four trailheads for all new residents and anyone else interested. They will meet at 9 am on Saturday, June 10 in the clubhouse parking lot. The committee has decided to keep the Preserve open during this extreme fire season but asks that there be no smoking or open fires. The next meeting of the Conservation Committee will be June 6 at the clubhouse. If you have any questions, please call the ECIA office at 466-4248.

What's It All About?

Desiree Mays will appear for the Vista Grande Public Library's Adult Program presentation Thursday, June 29, from 7 to 9 pm. The content of the program will be Desiree's presentation of her most recent version of "Opera Unveiled," an introduction to this season's Santa Fe Opera schedule.

Desiree is a resident of Eldorado, a world traveler, tour guide, and radio commentator, and she lectures on opera throughout the United States and Europe. Her *Opera Unveiled* books are an ongoing series and popular with both newcomers and dedicated opera fans.

What Women Want

Help build a house for a Santa Fe woman and her children. Join me in forming an Eldorado team of 8 to 10 women to volunteer for Santa Fe Habitat for Humanity. Volunteer one time or, if willing, each month: June 11, July 23 and August 25. The construction site is off Cerrillos on Jaguar and Paseos del Sols.



Astronomy Corner

STAR DISTANCES

To measure the huge distances in space, astronomers use a special yardstick called a light year. One light year is the distance that light travels in one year...about 6 trillion miles. From end to end the Milky Way Galaxy is 100 thousand light years long! This means that a beam of light would take over 100 thousand years to cross the entire galaxy!

Beyond the energy spectrum of visible light we can detect many exciting objects that are impossible to see otherwise. Exploding stars, powerful galaxies, and hot gas near black holes magically come into view.

The energy from some of these objects has been traveling for over 10 billion years!

June Sky:

Saturn and **Mars**, 0.5 degree apart and close to the Beehive Cluster on June 17 looking WNW; **Mercury**, low over the horizon late June one hour after sunset looking WNW; **Venus** and the **Pleiades**, find these objects in the morning sky looking ENE; **Jupiter**, bright and close to alpha Librae (the brightest star in Libra).

Next time: Planetary Nebulae

—Juan Alvarez

jalva88610@aol.com

Call Joyce at 466-4235 as soon as you can so we can get our group on the construction calendar. For more information from Habitat, go to www.santafehabitat.org and click on *women build construction calendar*. We will be trained on our construction day for the work we will be doing so don't hesitate to come learn, build, have fun and make a home for a family.

June Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email 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

JUNE SPECIAL EVENTS

Car Show	Sat., June 3, 9 am-5 pm	Community Center Parking Lot
Road Survey Forum	Mon., June 5, 7-10 pm	RR

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Road Committee	Mon., June 5, 6-7 pm	Ed Benrock	466-2088	CFR
EAWS&SD*	Tues., June 6, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., June 6, 7-9 pm			LR
285 Coalition	Wed., June 7, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., June 12, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., June 14, 10-noon	Gisela Knight	466-2568	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., June 14, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., June 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., June 19, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
EAWS&SD*	Tues., June 20, 7-9 pm		466-2411	RR
Stable Committee	Tues., June 27, 7-9 pm	Dina Sassone	466-2516	CR
Architectural Committee	Wed., June 28, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., June 10, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., June 8, 6:30-9:30 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Troop 414 Committee	1st Wed., 7:30-9 pm	Bruce Blossman	955-0880	CR
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726	C
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579	Sm Gym
La Canada Wireless	Mon., June 12, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Call for date and time	M. van Domselaar	466-3864	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., June 20	Etain O'Malley	466-4708	CFR
Perform. Arts Assoc.	2nd Sat., 10 am-noon	Etain O'Malley	466-4708	RR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	982-2890	

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Fridays, 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Wednesdays, 6:30-9 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thursdays, 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
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	Station
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1 pm	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641	School

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Trained and Ready



PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS

Bill Donohue has been on the ECIA staff since 1995, and now looks forward to increased contact with the community as the new General Manager.

BILL DONOHUE, the ECIA's new General Manager, has spent some time preparing for the job. "I'm certainly the staff member with the longest service currently, and in a year or so I will probably be the longest employee ever," he notes. Bill started with the ECIA as Facilities Manager in 1995, and succeeds **Bob Pritchard**, who served as GM for the past six years.

Bill came to New Mexico from New Jersey, where he grew up eight miles from the George Washington Bridge in a family of 10. "We kids used to ride our bikes over to the GW—not something we told our mom at the time!" Bill now has 17 nieces and nephews, and they are starting to get married and have children. "Our family is going to explode again," Bill says.

Bill first visited New Mexico in 1973, while traveling around the country with a friend. The two stopped in Santa Fe to visit Bill's brother, and Bill decided that this was a place where he wanted to return.

In the meantime, he worked as a food wholesaler in the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut area, buying produce at the giant Hunts Point market in the Bronx and distributing it to hospitals and other institutional customers. In 1989, he returned to New Mexico and stayed with his brother in Eldorado. He developed an interest in ballooning, and trained with his brother in construction and plumbing. As part of his training, Bill worked on construction of about 10 houses in Eldorado. During that time, he also found himself working as a contractor at the ECIA Recreation Center, preparing the swimming pool for its yearly spring opening. "It was always something of

a battle because of the somewhat unorthodox plumbing—and it still is," he notes.

Eventually, Bill's regular contact with the ECIA led to his hiring as Facilities Manager. Bill's brother eventually moved away from Eldorado, and Bill bought his house—where he still lives. He worked on remodeling and upgrading the Community Center and athletic fields, which he remembers as good experiences.

As part of former GM Bob Pritchard's staff cross-training, Bill learned the details of the General Manager's job. During Bob's long sabbatical leave in late 2004 to early 2005, Bill undertook many of the General Manager's responsibilities and discovered that he could do the job and that he enjoyed it. "The Facility Manager's job was more comfortable, since there was relatively little outside contact," Bill says, "but I'm looking forward to working with the community."

One potential project that Bill is enthusiastic about is working with the ECIA Board to remodel the Community Center patio area, which was converted from the old ranch house pool area without a lot of planning. He would like to see it upgraded with safer paving, better Xeric landscaping, and better provisions for the health of the large trees and shrubs.

ECIA Board President **Jeanne Klein** noted at the recent Annual Meeting that the Board's Search Committee received over 35 responses from all over the U.S. during its recent solicitation for a new General Manager, interviewed five by phone and narrowed that group to three excellent candidates. Then they interviewed Bill Donohue, and were, in Jeanne's words, "just blown away. He just crackled with enthusiasm."

Bill's preparation and training are important, but Eldorado will most benefit from his passion, concern and enthusiasm.

—Dan Drobnis

HELP WANTED

The ECIA is searching for several positions to fill its seasonal and permanent staff. The Facilities Manager position is open due to Bill Donohue's promotion, plus we have part-time positions for summer maintenance workers and life-guards. If interested, call 466-4248 or fax a resumé to 466-4249.

On the Wings of a Lark

THIS MEDIUM-SIZED SPARROW (6.5 inches long, with an 11-inch wingspan) is seen all summer around Eldorado. The first one I spotted this year was on April 29, 2006. The Lark Sparrow (LS) migrates to Mexico and as far south as Guatemala for the winter. The LS can be found foraging on the ground for seeds and insects. Its distinctive facial marks make identification easy. Males and females are similar. Light gray head feathers are marked with a black eye line and black line descending from the bill, two chestnut stripes on the top of the head and a chestnut cheek patch. A black spot sits in the middle of a gray breast; the wings and back are brown with dark streaks. Even during the breeding season, the LS is social and frequently seen in small flocks with other LSs. The song is slow and choppy with rattles and trills. To hear the song, go to http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/612/_/Lark_Sparrow_Breeding_Male.aspx and click on listen.

The male courts with fluttering wings and tail spread. Both male and female pick a nest site that may be reused in later years. Most pairs are monogamous. Nests are cup-like, made of grasses and are on the ground or in low shrubs. Only one brood is raised. Generally 4 or 5 eggs are incubated for 11 to 12 days and young fledge in 9 to 10 days. The young are altricial* at birth. They may not actually fly until 5 days after leaving the nest. They may leave the nest as early as 6 days after hatching if disturbed by a predator. Ground-nesting species have the ability to leave the nest early and still survive, aided by legs that develop faster than the wings.

Notes: I have been asked about doing an Eldorado Bird List. I am a stickler for accuracy and reliable identification, but might attempt an informal list with caveats about accuracy. If you are interested, send me birds that you are sure you have seen (phenline@mindspring.com), what season (winter, spring, summer, fall) and whether sightings are Common or Uncommon.

I missed the first bird walk on April 1, but heard everyone enjoyed it, despite less than perfect weather. For more walks, watch the *Vistas* or contact **Ron Duffy** at 982-2890 or rduffy@cnsf.com.

*Altricial (from Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia) *In bird and mammal biology, altricial species are those whose newly hatched or born young are relatively immobile, have closed eyes, lack hair or down, and must be cared for by the adults. Altricial young are born helpless and require care for a comparatively long time.*

—Pam Henline

PHOTO BY MIKE MCDOWELL



Wildland Fire Hazard

THE POTENTIAL FOR WILDLAND FIRE this year is higher than normal due to the lack of moisture since last fall and because of higher temperatures the area has experienced during winter and spring. The El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service (EFRS) will conduct a wildland/urban interface fire hazard survey of properties in the El Dorado fire district at the request of any homeowner. EFRS uses an assessment tool developed by the National Fire Protection Association that ranks properties with regard to wildland/urban interface fire hazards in four categories: low, moderate, high and extreme. There is no charge for this survey.

Most surveys are done on Saturday by members of the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service, sometimes assisted by wildland firefighters from the New Mexico State Forestry Division. It may take several weeks before a property can be visited as only a limited number of surveys may be completed in any week. Surveys are also subject to the availability of personnel, which may be impacted by training, emergency assignments or other factors. If you are interested in having your home surveyed for wildland fire hazards, please contact the fire department at eldoradofire@qwest.net or 466-1204.

*Security 204-2945
Sheriff 428-3720*

ECIA Site: New Bulletin Board, New Live Updates



Go to www.eldoradocommunity.org and you'll see some changes. There is a new system in place that allows committee chairs and association heads to update their information easily. You can access all this information directly from the home page, including the library, Fire & Rescue, the Water District, etc. Also, we have a brand spanking new bulletin board that should be easier for you to use, so check it out! Just go to the home page and click on Bulletin Board.