

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 6

June 2007

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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

A Train Runs Through It

ONE OF ELDORADO'S most visible links to the past is the Santa Fe Southern Railway. We hear the whistle blow its cautionary tune at the approach before the Avenida Vista Grande and Avenida Eldorado crossings. Hikers and bikers along the Rail Trail will usually wave to riders traveling from the Santa Fe depot to Lamy.

The Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe (AT&SF) had lofty goals in the last half of the 19th century, pushing toward Santa Fe and beyond. On February 9, 1880, the first AT&SF train cars steamed into the Territorial Capitol (a "territory" until 1912 when New Mexico became the 47th state), but not the way AT&SF had envisioned. Primarily because of the steep grades and highly mountainous terrain, the main line could not be brought into the town of Santa Fe.

Fearful of their commercial center being bypassed, the citizens of Santa Fe, including Bishop Lamy and Jewish merchants, spearheaded the building of an 18-mile spur from Galisteo Junction (later renamed Lamy) north to Santa Fe. Passengers rode the short line until 1949 when automobiles increased enough in popularity that they took over as the preferred method of transportation. AT&SF freight service continued until 1992. As freight declined, the historic spur faced an uncertain future.

Ideas to remove track when developing the historic Railyard seemed likely to win out, until a group of private investors stepped in and formed Santa Fe Southern Railway in 1992. SFSR's initial goal was to continue the spur's freight service. As support for the new railroad grew, SFSR began offering "hobo" rides on the caboose, and passenger service soon outpaced freight revenue to become a permanent fixture.

Over the years, SFSR assembled vintage coach cars, circa 1920s, and the "Plaza Lamy," a silver lounge/dome pleasure car built by Pullman in 1950.

The Plaza Lamy had run on the Super Chief from Chicago to Los Angeles carrying many of the rich and famous, including Elizabeth Taylor and Eddie Fisher who spent their honeymoon aboard the Plaza Lamy.

The Lamy depot was built in 1880 and was remodeled in the California mission style during the boom days of 1909, matching the Santa Fe depot. The now-defunct restaurant across from the depot originally was built in 1881 as a saloon and brothel;



it then was a general store for 27 years. A saloon again in the 1950s (the Pink Garter), it became a successful restaurant known as the Legal Tender in 1969. Today, it is a museum and, apparently, home to a few active ghosts.

The SFSR's engine started running on bio-diesel in 2005 and uses solar panels above the cars for heat, lights and sound—a perfect blend with our environmentally friendly community. The average speed through Eldorado is about 17 mph.

—Ellen Gregor

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
June 18, 7 pm*

**Read more about
the Santa Fe
Southern Railway
and its Special
Events train at
[www.TheTRAINin
SantaFe.com](http://www.TheTRAINinSantaFe.com)**

*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.

The Scoop on Animal Restraint



Dogs who enjoy the dog park.

A **N AD HOC COMMITTEE** now deals with serious dog issues in Eldorado. Its mission is to ensure the health and safety of all Eldorado residents. While its members take time to work through the difficult task of achieving a compromise among the varying voices in Eldorado, we want to remind dog owners to abide by the current Santa Fe County Animal Control Ordinance.

Our problems would be far fewer if all dog owners were to comply with the existing ordinance. Here are three sections from that ordinance, which cover some of our most pressing dog issues.

4-4 RESTRAINT OF ANIMALS

- A. All persons owning or having charge, custody, or control of any animal shall keep such animal restrained to prevent damage or harm to people and property. Violation of this section will subject said owner or keeper to a fine as set forth in Appendix A.
- B. When a dog is off its owner's premises, it must be under leash or under control of the owner. "Control" refers to a dog who responds to sound commands or comes to its owner on command. The owner of a dog shall not allow it to run at large or create a nuisance on another's property, be it public or private, including entering onto lawns, driveways, walk-ways, places of recreation, or amusement parks. The term "nuisance" shall include defecation or urination. Violation of this section will subject said owner or keeper to a fine as set forth in Appendix A.
- C. Any animal trespassing upon private or public property shall be deemed *prima facie* not to be under the immediate control of the owner or his designee and the owner shall be

in violation of Sections 4-4A and 4-4B and subject to penalties, pursuant to Appendix A.

5-1 DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE

It is unlawful for any owner to allow or permit any dog to run at large. Any dog permitted to run at large in violation of this Section is declared to be a nuisance, a menace to the public health and safety, and may be taken up and impounded as provided in Section 3-1, *et seq.* In addition its owner shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Appendix A.

5-5 ANIMAL DISTURBING THE PEACE

- A. It is unlawful for any owner to allow any of his animals to persistently or continuously bark, howl or make noise common to their species or otherwise disturb the peace and quiet of the inhabitants of the County, or to keep or maintain on his premises any animal in such a manner as to disturb others by noxious or offensive odors, or otherwise endanger the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the County.
- B. Violations of this Section shall constitute a nuisance and shall subject the owner to the penalties set forth in Appendix A.

The complete Santa Fe County Animal Control Ordinance can be found at www.apnm.org. Type Santa Fe County in the search window then click on county ordinances.

Your cooperation will make Eldorado a safer and more pleasant place for people, dogs and wildlife.

—*Su Anne Armstrong and Richard Anderson*
ECIA Board Liaisons

The Pool is Now Open!!!

The pool is open 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.

Get Paid!!

Part-time summer maintenance workers and pool lifeguards are needed. Call 466-4248 or fax resumé to 466-4249.

It's Your Night Sky

NOW THAT SPRING IS HERE people will be out in the evenings looking at the stars. It's one of the main reasons many of us moved out of the big city. Not only did we want to be able to see the night sky and spend evenings looking at the different constellations, we also wanted to avoid glaring lights that intruded on our separate spaces.

If you are considering landscaping that may include lighting, here are some ideas:

- ▼ A fully shielded light fixture must use opaque material.
- ▼ The light shall not be visible through any openings in the fixture other than the lowest point of the fixture.
- ▼ There shall be no upward component of any exterior lighting.
- ▼ Landscape lighting shall illuminate only the ground below (adjacent to) the fixture.



- ▼ Landscape, walkway, monument or driveway lighting shall not be mounted higher than 24 inches above the ground or exceed 20 watts per light.
- ▼ The minimum spacing of lighting fixtures for driveways and walkways visible from neighboring property shall be 20 feet for driveways less than 120 feet long and 30 feet for driveways longer than 120 feet.

We receive calls both from residents who are concerned about their neighbors' lights and others wanting to know the installation requirements.

Let's keep our precious night sky visible by staying compliant with these guidelines.

—Bert Lysen
CCR

At the Crossroads

SPRING ROAD INSPECTION COMPLETED

The ECIA Road Committee has just completed its inspection of our roads. Many roads that were in reasonably good shape before our big snows are no longer in that condition. Priorities are being established with ECIA Board approval, and this information will be given to the county for its consideration. Once the list has been finalized, we will post it on our website.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF ROAD REPAIRS

We requested \$1.5 million in state funds to replace the base course on some of our worst roads. To date, we believe we will receive a little less than half of that, with efforts being made to allocate additional county funds from earlier bond issues. We hope to know the final figures by the next issue of *Vistas*. We will put this information on our website when we have a better idea what the final figures will be.

SLOW DOWN FOR OUR CHILDREN

There have been reports from residents about people speeding on our 25 mph roads in areas where children are playing or where speeding creates clouds of dust when the roads are dried out. Both these situations are unpleasant and can be dangerous to safety and health. Please respect your neighbors and respect our speed limits.

ROAD PROBLEM REPORT FORM

We have heard from residents about various road problems since the inauguration of our Road Problem reporting capabilities on our website. We appreciate the involvement of our residents in helping monitor road conditions in Eldorado because our volunteer committee members have limited time available to address these. Hopefully, this information will generate the appropriate responses from the county.

Keep the dust down.

—Nolan Zisman
Road Committee Chair



Some people are reportedly speeding through the 25 mph zones, endangering children.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

Animal Control

992-1621

Galisteo Basin History

Lucy Lippard—author, activist, art critic, and champion of the Galisteo Basin—will be the speaker at the Vista Grande Public Library's June program at 7 pm on Thursday, June 28.

When living in New York, Lucy was the curator of more than 50 exhibitions, wrote regular columns for *The Village Voice* and *Z Magazine*, and was awarded numerous awards and accolades from literary critics and art associations. She has now published over 20 books on feminism, art, politics and place.

Lucy now focuses on being "local in Galisteo," where she has lived for 14 years and delved into the art, cultural history, and environment of the area. Her life here has inspired new books, including *The Lure of the Local: Sense of Place in a Multicentered Society* (1997) and *On the Beaten Track: Tourism, Art and Place* (1999). She is working on another book on our area, tentatively entitled *Scratching the Surface*.

Lucy is a strong advocate for the Galisteo Basin, serves on the Galisteo Community Plan Steering Committee, and works with Earth Works Institute on the Galisteo watershed restoration. She writes *La Puente de Galisteo*, the local village newsletter, and is an invited speaker to groups on topics ranging from archeology to art to history to environmental conservation.

This June program has been rescheduled from its regular time to the fourth Thursday of the month.

Represent Eldorado

An *ad hoc*, non-partisan committee is looking for a few good people from Eldorado to consider running for County Commissioner. A citizens committee chaired by **Pat Lavengood** has been meeting and will interview and encourage Eldorado residents to run for the key position of County Commissioner. The primary election for the position will be held in June 2008, with the general election to be held in November 2008. For information, call Pat Lavengood at 466-9765.

Celebrate the 4th

"Our 4th of July celebration this year promises to be bigger and better than ever," says **Ed Benrock**, ECIA's Vice President who will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the annual Eldorado gathering.

Eldorado's Boy Scout Troop 414 color guard will lead the annual parade followed by the stirring pipes and drums of the Order of the Thistle. Heading for our Community Center in patriotic garb will be youngsters and their parents,



decorated trikes and bikes, family pets, horses and "Eldorado's Finest," the Fire and Rescue Service.

The Eldorado Band will provide music for the event. In addition to the usual sno-cones, popcorn and lemonade, there will be free hot-dogs this year. The parade begins promptly at 10 am. All parade entrants are requested to be at the Moya Road staging area by 9:30 am.

Earth Day Clean-up

Earth Day, April 21, was a clean-up day for Eldorado. Over 100 volunteers from the Soccer Club, the Girl Scouts, the ERA, El Dorado Search and Rescue, and concerned individuals picked up over 100 bags of roadway trash that had been marring the beauty of our surroundings. The volunteers' efforts to keep Eldorado clean and beautiful were rewarded with lunch provided by the ECIA staff.

We would like to thank not only those who help keep Eldorado clean and beautiful by participating in the yearly clean-up day but also those residents who pick up trash regularly, without recognition. It's truly amazing how many people say they pick up trash regularly near the area where they live, and who care about this community.

TGIF Social Hour

A new event, TGIF Social Hours, recently was created by an Eldorado singles group on Friday afternoons from 5:30 to 6:30 to downshift from the week. During the social hour there are announcements of fun things to do over the weekend to see "who wants to do what." All singles are invited, members or not. It has become a great way for singles all over the Santa Fe area to meet. TGIFs are held at the Eldorado Community Center the first and third Fridays of the month. They are held the second and fourth Fridays at Joe's Diner, where they take over the bar and have dinner afterwards.

If you are single and would like to come to a TGIF or are interested in knowing more, you can contact **Bob** or **Deb** at 466-3263 or bobcpi@comcast.net. Events are ongoing as a way to create informal, no-pressure ways of meeting other singles. The next TGIF Social Hour is June 1 at the Community Center. (Not affiliated with the ERA's TGIF.)



The Order of the Thistle Pipes and Drums usually marches in the 4th of July parade.



ASTRONOMY Corner

ARE FOUR EYES BETTER THAN TWO?

When you mount two, usually small telescopes side by side so that both eyes can be used simultaneously, you are building a pair of binoculars. True binocular vision, where both eyes are used to form a stereoscopic view and gauge the distance to an object, is not effective when observing celestial objects. However, apparent brightness and resolution are each improved when both eyes are used. Binoculars are described by two numbers. The first one is the amplification, and the second is the aperture in millimeters.

June Sky:

Mercury and **Venus**, in Gemini looking west-northwest at dusk by June 1, but by mid-June the moon, **Saturn** and **Venus** will be visible looking west at dusk.

Summer begins on June 21 at 18:05 Universal Time.

Next : *Phases of the Moon*

—Juan Alvarez
Jalva88610@aol.com

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



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

Pool is open

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Road Committee	Mon., Jun. 4, 6-7 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
EAW&SD*	Tues., Jun. 5, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Jun. 5, 7-9 pm			LR
285 Coalition	Wed., Jun. 6, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Jun. 13, 9:30-noon	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Jun. 13, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Jun. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
EAW&SD*	Tues., Jun. 19, 7-9 pm		466-2411	LR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Jun. 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Jun. 25, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
Stable Committee	Tues., Jun. 26, 7-9 pm	Tommie Brasel		CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Jun. 27, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Jun. 9, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Jun. 14, 6:30-9:30 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726	C
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579	Sm Gym
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Jun. 11, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Nichole Anaya	466-2590	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Jun. 19, 2-4:30 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	982-2890	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
Spanish Conversation	Every other Sunday	Gail	466-3370	CFR
League of Women Voters	Sat., Jun. 23, 10-11 am			LR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7:15-8:15 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Wed., 6:30-9 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thurs., 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	Wed., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
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

Burning Rubber



David Rhodes races his yellow 1989 Honda CRX in North Carolina in 2002.

DAVID RHODES WAS ONLY 11 when he smelled the burning rubber. He'd already been in love with cars for a year, but that acrid odor woke him up to racing cars.

Now 57, he has worked on them, sold them and raced them. He plans to start racing his yellow 1989 Honda CRX this summer, in time to start qualifying for the National Auto Sport Association championship race in Ohio in September. The black number 50 is emblazoned on the sides of the CRX to symbolize his birth in 1950.

He brought the CRX in March from his native North Carolina to his home in Eldorado, where he has lived for about three years, after a two-year lull in his racing hobby—a hobby, not a career. (“Careers

pay money, hobbies spend money,” he said.)

“It needs to get the steering fixed, and then she’ll be ready to go,” David said of the CRX, which was in his garage, up on blocks, minus its front wheels.

The zippy little Honda has a 1.6 liter 4-cylinder engine that puts out 145 horsepower and a top speed of 135 mph.

“I have been a car nut since I was 10,” David said. “I was a spectator at a car race at 11, smelled burning rubber and something snapped.”

He started working on cars in 1978. From 1982 until 1998, he owned a used import car dealership in Chapel Hill, N.C., home to the University of North Carolina and a place “a lot like Santa Fe” that was a good market for used cars because it was and still is a college town.

Why racing?

“That’s when I am most calm and most centered,” he replied.

His view of competing has changed.

“For me, it used to be win at any cost,” David said. “But now it’s just for fun. I had a big shift. You can drive without being overly aggressive and still win. And you can race without winning and still have fun.”

—Richard C. Gross

Did You See the Show?

AH, SPRING IS IN THE AIR and that means one thing: the pool is open. OK, it means more than one thing. The thing I was referring to is the Annual Meeting of the Members, the ECIA’s power meeting. Everyone who is a member of the ECIA was invited to the show May 7.

Ringmaster **Jeanne Klein** (a.k.a. ECIA President), took the reins early on and kept the meeting only 10 minutes past its scheduled 9 pm finale. She began by introducing the evening’s featured attractions, school Principal **Yann Lussiez**, State Rep. **Peter Wirth**, County Sheriff **Greg Solano**, County Director of Community Services **Joseph Gutierrez**, and any new Eldorado residents who were present.

In the opening moments, Jeanne complimented the Board and several residents. After approving last year’s minutes, she gave her report on several accomplishments by the ECIA during 2006 and what it hopes will be accomplished in 2007.

Mr. Gutierrez attended as a representative from the county. He described the county’s new structure and how it hopes to be able to accomplish more in future

years. He spoke about roads, letting all know that the money appropriated for the roads in Eldorado will allow about 12 miles to be basecoursed.

Mr. Wirth also spoke about roads and Eldorado’s needs. He then took questions.

Sheriff Solano addressed crime in the county. He said the reason there were a high number of burglaries and vandalism was because of two or three nights of multiple incidents. His message was that the county has less crime than Santa Fe, and that instances of crime have been exaggerated.

After Board Treasurer **Sandy MacGregor** read the 2006 Financial Report’s highlights, we heard short reports from each committee.

The Resident of the Year award was given to **Dan Drobnis** for his long and continuing service to the community. Dan received a plaque and a gift certificate.

Finally, for the grand finale, Board Secretary, **Philip Balcombe**, announced that Board member **Ed Benrock** was re-elected.

Ringmaster Jeanne put away the zebras and sparklers, and everyone went home feeling good about his or her participation in local government.

Pine Siskin (PS)

THIS PERKY LITTLE BIRD (five inches long with a nine-inch wingspan—smaller than a house finch) can be seen in New Mexico all year, but I usually see them during the winter, especially at my thistle feeder. Both sexes have a thin, pointed bill, a short, slightly forked tail, and a streaked brown breast and belly. Males have a distinctive yellow wing bar and show a yellow wing stripe in flight. Females have a pale wing bar showing very little yellow. A Southwest variety shows much more yellow, but is rare. Their song is not impressive, but they may incorporate the song of other birds in their repertoire. The PS is a member of the finch family.

Courtship begins before winter flocks break up. The male spreads its tail, rapidly flaps its wings and circles the female. The female picks the nest site, usually on a horizontal limb placed away from the trunk. The nest consists of grasses, moss, fur, rootlets, and similar material. The male feeds the female during incubation and a few days after the eggs hatch. The monogamous pair may have two broods. Three or four eggs are incubated for 13 days. The atrical young fledge in 14 or 15 days. Besides

thistle, the PS' diet consists of grass, floral buds, tree nectar and seeds. They are acrobats, often hanging upside down, plucking seeds from hanging seedpods and cones.

PS usually lives in small social groups, even placing nests a few feet apart. During non-breeding season, they may be part of mixed flocks of up to 200 birds. Some pairs go as far north as Alaska to breed. Winter migration goes into northern Mexico. The PS winter visits to the United States occur mainly in years when the seed crop has failed in the boreal forests. In some years, large flocks may appear as far south as Florida.

A side note: I thought I heard a hummingbird, put a feeder out on April 15, and have seen a bird at the feeder just about every day. These early birds are mostly males going north to claim breeding territory.

—Pam Henline



Land of Solar Enhancement

IN NEW MEXICO, THE SUN SHINES an average of 330 days a year. This makes our area a natural for capturing solar energy and converting it to electricity. New Mexico and the federal government combine to make this economically attractive in several ways:

- ▼ New Mexico requires what is known as “net metering” for electric utilities. This means they must buy electricity from you at the same price they sell it to you, with certain limitations.
- ▼ In the case of PNM, our electric utility, they are required to pay 13 cents per kilowatt hour (until they have signed up 1200 KWh) through 2018 for solar power, versus their present selling price in Eldorado of a little under 8 cents per KWh.
- ▼ There is a one-time federal tax credit of \$2,000 for installing a qualifying solar system. Beginning July 1, New Mexico will not charge Gross Receipts Tax on solar systems.

For most folks, a “grid-intertied” system, or “on-grid” system is the most practical. This means that the solar system generates electric power during sunny days and sells it to PNM and buys power from PNM at other times. When the sun shines, the electric meter actually can run backwards.

A typical on-grid system consists of three elements:

- ▼ Solar electric panels. These convert sunshine into electricity.
- ▼ Mounting racks. These hold the solar panels, tilted at the proper angle, and in Eldorado are ideally located on our flat roofs.
- ▼ Inverter and control system to convert the DC current from the solar panels into AC current for home and utility use, and provide a safe interconnection to PNM.

The savings do not come cheap. A practical size for an Eldorado home (3 KW of generating capacity) is estimated by BP Solar, a national supplier of solar panels, to cost about \$25,000 after federal tax credit, and would save about \$640 on the annual electric bill, assuming you sign up in time for the first 1200 KWh. It is also estimated to save nearly three tons a year of carbon dioxide emissions.

Local contacts include Positive Energy Inc. in Santa Fe. For a primer on solar power, go to http://www.positiveenergysolar.com/pdf/dankoff_batnobat.pdf. And remember that, as for all exterior structures or modifications, an ECIA permit will be required.

—Dan Drobnis

*Security 204-2945
Sheriff 428-3720*

Senior Center Open Wednesdays



Patty Adam cuts the ribbon at the Senior Center's Grand Opening

The Adam Senior Center is now open, but only on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm with the help of senior volunteers. Lunch is served from noon to 1 pm and is prepared in Santa Fe at the Gonzales Senior Center and transported to the Adam Center. For lunch reservations, please call the center at 466-1039 and leave your name and number of lunches needed no later than 5 pm the Monday before a Wednesday lunch. The meal is as advertised in the Neighbors section of *The Santa Fe New Mexican* Sunday edition. Salads also are available.

Activities include pool, exercising with the gym equipment, chair yoga, and an art class. Seniors 60 and older are welcome to stop by or call for more information at 466-3256.

The Adam Senior Center Committee is working with Santa Fe County, the Santa Fe Senior Services and the Agency on Aging to provide staff funding so that the center can be open more than one day a week after July 1. When that occurs, the program of activities will be expanded and listed in *Vistas*.

—Janet Amtmann