

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME X, ISSUE 6

June 2008

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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

Eldorado Stables Get a Facelift

WHEN DRIVING BY THE Eldorado Stables, you might notice that something is different. In place of the sagging and broken white board fencing stands a handsome and sturdy round pen and arena fenced with brown pipe panel. The Stables community turned out in force to demolish the old enclosures and erect the new addition, accomplishing in just two days what we all expected would take at least four.

Our new pipe panel fencing has a number of useful features: it has a minimum usable life of 20 years, is high enough to keep the tall jumpers from going over the top and low enough to keep the little ponies from scooting underneath, and blends in well with the landscape. Materials from the old fence were recycled, the bulk of it being donated to the Habitat for Humanity Restore.

Many thanks to the ECIA crew for their help and the use of their tractor for both post pulling and posthole digging, to **Doug Armstrong** for organizing and overseeing the project, to the Stables community for their overwhelming turnout to “get ‘er done,” and finally to the ECIA for their support in maintaining the stables as a safe and beautiful addition to our community. Job well done!

On your next stroll through the stables, you’ll also notice another improvement. The main road has been graded and base-coursed, the drainage ditches have been recut and all the culverts have been cleaned. No longer will our vehicles get bogged down in axle-deep mud when the snows melt and the rains come!

Last October’s Community Day at the stables was such a huge success that we have begun planning the next one for the last Sunday in September. Mark your calendar. This is a great Eldorado event! And there will be free pony rides and demonstrations.

If you have been dreaming of horses (and thinking of joining the Stables community), there are currently two barns for sale. Contact the individual owners for more information: Barn #1, **Clif Horace**, 320-6211; and Barn #32, **Mary-Ann**, 466-1910. Buyers must be ECIA members in good standing.

Our stables are a unique ECIA amenity in many ways, including the fact that the barns themselves are individually owned and maintained. Although ECIA owns the actual property and maintains the common areas such as the roads, arenas and round pens, it’s the barn owners who are completely responsible for the care and maintenance of their horses, barns, corrals and fencing. Barn owners also pay expenses for water, manure removal and fly control and are expected to contribute volunteer time to the administration and operation of the stables, as we have a largely self-run facility, with ECIA in the background for its support and oversight.

One cannot end an article about the Eldorado Stables without talking about what our horses do, rain or shine—namely, munching hay and producing manure. Consider Eldorado Stables as your community resource for manure to compost. You may help yourself to the manure piles (at either end of the main road) anytime the main stable gates are open. On Thursday mornings around 9 am, look for **Domenic** on the orange tractor, and he will load your truck for you. Otherwise, watch for notices on the marquees or in *Vistas* about home deliveries, or call **Chuck West** at 466-0844, the current volunteer manure coordinator.

—Mary Arnold & Barbara Hagood

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
June 16, 7 pm*

Gretel Underwood’s horses enjoy the renovated riding arena. Juanito is in the foreground. Nicky is in the background with Gretel.

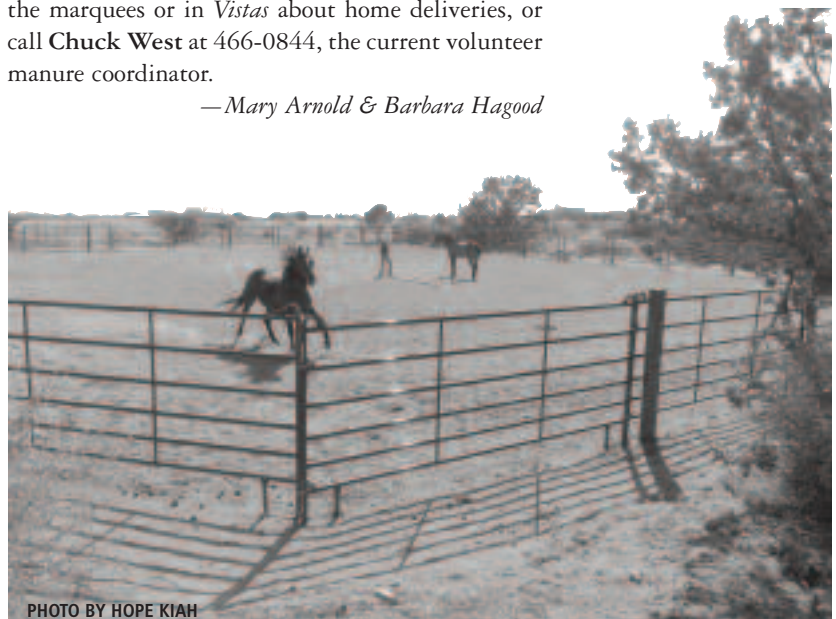


PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH

Compact Fluorescents in the Limelight

*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.

ALTHOUGH THE PUSH FOR CFLS goes along with the "go green" push, take note! These are not just ordinary light bulbs. All CFLs have small amounts of mercury in them, and as such, if dropped, there is a potential hazardous materials situation. These bulbs should not be used in households with small children if there is the danger of breakage. Further, all bulbs must be recycled appropriately and cannot just be thrown out with the trash.

Look carefully at the packaging on the bulbs for recycling information (and you will also see a notation that the bulb contains mercury).

—*Robyn Du Boff*

MANY THANKS TO ROBYN DU BOFF, whose timely letter (above) was sent in response to our article "CFLs Save — At a Discount" in the April 2008 issue of *Vistas*. She raises an excellent point: Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) do indeed contain mercury, which has been identified as a neurotoxin and can also damage the kidneys and liver. However alarming this sounds, the fact is that the coal that we burn in this part of the country to generate our electricity also contains trace amounts of mercury!

So the question is this: Does the coal saved by the more efficient CFL prevent the release of more mercury than is used in the CFL? Noah Horowitz, senior scientist with the National Resources Defense Council, has been quoted as saying, "In fact, the energy savings delivered through the use of CFLs will actually reduce more mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants than is added through manufacture of the bulbs. People concerned about the environment and their health can buy these CFLs with a clear conscience." Further, several CFL manufacturers, including GE, Royal Philips, Osram Sylvania and Lights of America, are committed to further reducing the amount of mercury in each bulb—which is already only about 1/100 of the amount found in the old-tech mercury thermometer. In addition, where practicable, choosing clean-electricity solutions in our homes, businesses and the products we purchase will help reduce the overall acid and greenhouse effects.

Here are some tips on how to handle CFLs.

If a CFL accidentally breaks, your greatest risk is actually being cut by broken glass. In addition, you should also:

- ▼ Have pets and children leave the room.
- ▼ Ventilate the room for 15 minutes.
- ▼ On a hard surface, scoop up the glass fragments



and powder using stiff paper or cardboard, and then place them in a glass jar with a metal lid or in a sealed plastic bag.

- ▼ Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up the dust residue. Then wipe the area with a damp paper towel. Remember to dispose of the tape and towel in a sealable glass jar or plastic bag.
- ▼ On carpet or furniture, vacuum as necessary. Then remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister), and put the bag or vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag.
- ▼ Discard any clothing or bedding that has come in direct contact with debris. Remember to wash the clothing you've worn while cleaning.
- ▼ Wipe the shoes you've worn while cleaning with a damp paper towel.
- ▼ Remember to place all cleanup towels or wipes in a sealed container or plastic bag.

For burned-out intact fluorescent lamps (all types) and waste cleanup, Santa Fe County holds an annual spring household hazardous waste dropoff event, usually in April. Contact the County Solid Waste Division for more information at 992-3010. In addition, a prepaid FedEx return disposal kit, capable of holding 6 large or 12 small CFLs, is available at www.goodmart.com/products/1021165.htm.

—*Dan Drobnis*

ECIA Honors Its Own and Looks Ahead

RETIRING ECIA PRESIDENT JEANNE Klein presided over her last annual meeting of the ECIA on May 5. She was honored by the Board with a special award—a plaque incorporating a clock, commemorating her skills at keeping things on schedule. Lucien Niemeyer, award-winning Eldorado photographer and author, also presented her with a personal copy of his latest book.

Also honored was Frank Schober, Eldorado Resident of the Year for 2007. During his service on the ECIA Board, Frank emphasized community communications and was instrumental in redesigning *Vistas* and the ECIA website and adding the announcement marquees at the second and third entrances. Since retiring from the Board, he has served on the Information Committee and contributed numerous articles to *Vistas*, helped to establish emergency communications sites at the Community Center and Fire Station, worked with the County and El Dorado Fire and Rescue to develop an emergency response plan for the area, and is working to set up a local radio station for area emergency, information and entertainment services. As Ed Benrock, ECIA Vice President, commented in making the award, “Wherever we turned in looking for an outstanding Eldorado resident, we kept encountering Frank Schober.”

Election Committee Chair Ken Robinson announced four newly elected Board members: Ed Moreno (Treasurer), Kirsten Jasna, Malcolm

McFarlane, and Lisa Robles (Directors). They will replace retiring Board members Richard Anderson, Philip Balcolme, Jeanne Klein and Sandy MacGregor. Continuing on the Board are SuAnne Armstrong, Ed Benrock and Tom Miller.

A new committee was announced, Facilities and Grounds, headed by long-term resident and former Board member Fred Raznick. The committee will advise on the upkeep and improvement of the Community Center buildings and their surrounding 28 acres.

Neighborhood Watch Co-Chair Marilyn Walker also announced a new co-chair, Larry Eccard, and plans by State Police Lieutenant Eric Garcia to form a local Volunteer Observation Patrol. A special meeting will be held when plans are complete. There are currently 65 Neighborhood Watch block captains, each overseeing 8 to 15 homes, but many more are needed. If you have not been contacted by your block captain, then your neighborhood needs one!

— Dan Drobnis



The new board: Tom Miller, Ed Benrock, Kirsten Jasna, Lisa Robles, Malcolm McFarlane, Ed Moreno, and SuAnne Armstrong in front.

Money in Your Pocket

WE ALL KNOW THE VALUE OF a library: On April 15, when you are desperately trying to find a 1040. Or, when your seventh-grade son’s report on Buffalo Soldiers is due next week. Or, when your computer is on the blink and you want to email your family in Kansas.

Your local library can certainly fill the bill in these instances and in many more. Your library has its obvious value. But did you know that your library also has value as an active economic development agent?

According to “Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development,” a study commissioned by the Urban Libraries Council and funded by the Gates Foundation, public libraries contribute to community economic development:

- ▼ By expanding beyond traditional services and embracing new technologies and strategies that

contribute to an educated workforce and ensure local competitiveness in the knowledge economy.

- ▼ By serving as a first point of entry for new technology users.
- ▼ By providing business development resources, which reduces market-entry costs for small businesses and helps to create new jobs.
- ▼ By contributing to the stability, safety and quality of life in a community, providing long-term tenancy, and complementing neighboring retail and cultural destinations.

In a wavering economy, library usage increases because of the obvious value it can provide. Think of Vista Grande Public Library as your local source for new ideas: to save energy, to raise organic vegetables, and enjoy free family entertainment.

A gallon of gas: \$3.69 . . . A bag of salad greens: \$4.39 . . . A movie at the multiplex: \$9.50 . . . Vista Grande Public Library: Priceless.

— Barbara Hagood, Library Director

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Dan Drobnis
Architecture: Bill Schwent
Conservation: John Parker and E.J. Evangelos
Stable: Mary Ann Caldwell
Election: Ken Robinson
Roads: Nolan Zisman
Information: Carol Leyba
Neighborhood Watch: Mary Uhl and Marilyn Walker
Facilities & Grounds: Fred Raznick

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Vista Grande Library
466-READ
Security
204-2945
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)

ERA Thanks Flea Market Volunteers

A big thank you to the volunteers who helped to make the ERA Spring Flea Market such a grand success. This and our Fall Flea Market are the only ERA fundraising events we have to help us cover our costs.

— Bruce Blossman, ERA President

Weaving and Claywork at Adam Senior Center

On Tuesday, June 24 (1-3 pm), Lynne and Bob Coyle begin holding classes on claywork and tapestry weaving. This is the second time they have taught these classes, which met with great success earlier in the year. In the weaving class, Lynne will teach the principles of tapestry weaving on table looms, and students will make a sampler. Bob will teach hand building and slab work in clay. The students' pieces will be fired and glazed. Space is limited because of room size and availability of materials. Seniors 60 and older are welcome to come to the Adam Center and sign up, or call 466-1039. There is no charge for either class.

More Happy Trails

The ECIA Conservation Committee is hosting a tour of the Eldorado Preserve Trailheads on Saturday, June 7. Tour participants should meet at the Clubhouse parking lot at 9 am.

Freebies for Artists!

The June meeting of the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association (EACA) will host a presentation by Artisan Santa Fe, in which they will show us their new art supplies, discuss their uses, and offer samples! The meeting will be held at the Firehouse on June 26 at 7:00 pm. Non-members are welcome. For further information, please call Virginia Westray at 466-9133.

Library Events in June

VGPL is holding its semi-annual book sale on June 7, noon to 5 pm. Great bargains are to be had on a huge number of books. On June 14 and 28, at 10 am, take your children ages 2-12 to Story and Craft Hour. Stories are read aloud, followed by an arts and crafts project. Friday, June 13, is Movie Night at VGPL. And on Wednesday, June 18, at 8:30 pm, VGPL holds its Night Sky Program, Fly Me to the Moon.

Summer Concerts

Afternoon performances of The Agora Summer Concert Series will be held June through September in the Agora Shopping Center's patio (see back page). These free performances will feature bands, singers, dancers and other local talent. Are you in a group that would like to be included in the program? If so, contact Bruce Blossman at 955-0880.



People Get Ready

Eldorado Area Emergency Preparedness meetings are continuing monthly (see article on p. 6). Plans are underway for Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training sessions. If you are interested in helping our community get ready for a major emergency, contact Frank Schober at 310-8593.

Eldorado 4th of July Celebrations

This year's festivities will be bigger and better than ever, with lots of free food (hot dogs, sodas, popcorn and snow cones); pool games for the kids; music by the Eldorado Community Band and plenty of shade to keep things comfortable—all held in the beautiful new patio area west of the Community Center. There will also be a raffle with the proceeds going to the El Dorado Elementary School PTA Fund. Eldorado 4th of July Celebrations begin at 10 am with our annual parade along Monte Alto to the Community Center.

Plan now to join the festivities and celebrate our country's Independence Day. We invite all Eldorado residents and organizations to join the parade. Build a float or just dress up and march along with the kids, dogs, horses led by the El Dorado Volunteer Fire and Rescue and an Honor Guard of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The parade is great fun, with more people "marching" than watching, and all having a great time. Watch for more details in next month's *Vistas* or call the ECIA office at 466-4248.

Are You a Sharp-Eyed Reader?

The new *Vistas* editor could use a volunteer proof-reader. If you are good at finding mistakes in type and are interested in this kind of work, please contact Carol Leyba at 466-1158 or email cbsleyba@comcast.net.



PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH





ASTRONOMY Corner

SEASONS

The sun appears to move through the sky following a circle in the sky called the ecliptic, or the zodiac. The ecliptic is tilted by exactly the same angle as Earth's tilt on its axis: 23.5 degrees. When the sun crosses from south of the equator to north of the equator, it's called the vernal equinox (the first day of spring). When the sun reaches the farthest point north of the ecliptic, we have the summer solstice. When the sun crosses the equator going back south, we have the autumnal equinox; and when the sun gets as far south as possible on the ecliptic, it's the winter solstice.

—Juan Alvarez
Jalva88610@aol.com

Protect our night skies; keep outside lights low or off when not needed.

The Pool Is Open

Get Your Photo ID

We are using a photo ID pool pass this year. You can obtain yours at the ECIA offices Monday-Friday, 8-5. There is a nominal fee of \$2 per photo ID.

Attention Renters

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

Pool Season and Hours

Through Labor Day weekend.

Lap Swim, 8 to 10:00 am daily, and from 6 to 8 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

General Swim, from 10:00 am to 8 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, and 10:00 am to 6 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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

Debby Padilla, 466-4248

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

Library Book Sale	Sat., June 7, noon-5 pm	Library
Tour/Eldorado Trailheads	Sat., June 7, 9 am	CC
Agora Summer Concert	Sat., June 21, 4 pm	Agora
Pool is open		Pool

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Road Committee	Mon., June 2, 6-8 pm	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., June 3, 7-9 pm	LR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., June 3, 4 pm	Fred Raznick 466-2305 CFR
EAW&SD*	Tues., June 3, 7-9 pm	466-2411 CR
285 Coalition	Wed., June 4, 7-9 pm	Rosemarie Bagioni CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., June 11, 10-noon	Dan Drobnis 466-4781 CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., June 11, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent 466-7708 CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., June 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA 466-4248 CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., June 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA 466-4248 CR
EAW&SD*	Tues., June 17, 7-9 pm	466-2411 RR
Information Committee	Tues., June 24, 7-9 pm	F
Stable Committee	Tues., June 24, 7-9 pm	Mary Ann Caldwell 466-4271 LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., June 25, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent 466-7708 CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Shakespeare Group	Tues., June 10, 2-4:30 pm	Mary Denison 466-6657 CFR
Search & Rescue	Thurs., June 12, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett 466-9765 LR
Book Club	Sat., June 14, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque 466-6000
La Canada Wireless	Mon., June 9 & 23, 7-9	Icwireless.org Library
Roadrunners RV Club	Tues., June 17, 6 pm	Beverly Cottingham 466-4655 Fire
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore 466-9636 VGPL
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kieling 466-4232 Sm Gym
MOMS Club	Last Mon. of month	Mandie Rippey 795-4086
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy 466-6398
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen 466-1949
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month	466-6245 Fire

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm	LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am	CFR/RR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm	CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm	CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am	LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm	CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7:15-8:30 pm	LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Ramon Quintana 757-6424 RR
Men's Bridge	Tues., 6:30-9 pm	F
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach 466-1465 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., 6:30-8:30 pm	Joel Hopko 466-8412 New gym
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**	M, W & F, 12-1 pm	Senior Center 466-1039
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer 466-3018 LR
Figure Drawing	Mon., 10 am-noon	Virginia Westray RR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 6 pm	Scott Gerber 466-9333 CC field
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 5:30-dusk	BB Crt

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Emergency Preparedness at Its Vital Best

NO GEOGRAPHIC REGION IS free from the possibility of catastrophic emergencies. During the last several years Eldorado residents have experienced an extended power outage, were issued a boil order regarding their water supply, and suffered a communications failure that put telephone, cellular and Internet services out of action for an extended period. Few who lived through it will soon forget the hardship caused here by the New Year's Eve blizzard of 2006-2007.

As a result, a team of volunteers from educational, governmental, business and community organizations of the greater Eldorado area has been organized to work on community emergency preparedness. Meeting monthly at the Main Fire Station, the team's goal is to devise a system for identifying the area's human and material resources and for efficiently accessing them when a major emergency occurs.

"If every organization does not get involved; if our people don't get ready for emergencies in a cooperative way; if we don't know and can't access the human and material resources that are right here in this community, then any local disaster will be much

worse than it has to be," says Fire Chief Guy Monroe.

The group is working to develop a computer-based system for keeping track of human and material resources throughout the Greater Eldorado area, tabulating which agencies have what equipment, and pre-identifying individuals with critical skills that may be needed in an emergency situation. David Collins, a reporter for the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, has written the software for a unique system that will keep all community groups and agencies aware of resources that can be made available and provides a means for keeping such a resource list updated at all times.

The emergency preparedness group is also drafting plans for mobilizing representatives of the organizations, agencies and institutions of the Greater Eldorado area in the event of an emergency. These representatives will work for the Logistics Section of the Fire Department's Incident Command Staff which will be set up at Fire Station One when a major emergency strikes our area.

—Frank Schober

Helping Kids Envision Their Future

MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF New Mexico's kids are dropping out of school, nearly one in five students in the Santa Fe public high schools attempted suicide in 2005 (NM DOH), and there is a significant rise in risky behavior.

Patty O'Sullivan, Ph.D., and Sam Sanders, two Eldorado seniors, decided to find out what they could do to help the kids. So, they went to 500 kids in northern New Mexico to find out. The survey showed that the students in middle school had dreams of success, while many of the high school students had lost their motivation. They discovered that this technologically savvy generation wanted to find their own answers. Patty and Sam developed Envision Your Future, a positive youth development program, to guide them in getting in touch with their passion and purpose, their assets and practical ways to accomplish their goals.

Envision Your Future is a strength-based, non-clinical program that is Socratic in nature and is designed to help kids find a positive direction, short-term, medium-term and long-term. Kids find out what it will take and the choices (in friends and behavior) they must make to actualize their dreams. They realize that education is a key to successfully achieving their goals. Kids are intrinsically motivated to take responsibility and ownership for what they want.

To quote Frank Magourilos, Senior Certified Prevention Specialist, Santa Fe County, "There are many programs that provide good information to our kids, but they do not change behavior. Envision Your Future gets kids to make positive choices. I am recommending Envision Your Future to our State Prevention Specialists, youth at-risk programs, schools and to the juvenile justice system.

Envision Your Future is growing rapidly. Volunteers are needed to reach more of our kids. If you have skills in administration, accounting, marketing, PR, writing, developing manuals, fundraising, grant writing or strategic planning, you can reach Sam at 466-2933 or sam@eyf4u.org. The website (www.envisionyourfuture.org) provides great information. Here is an opportunity for you to bring the best of who you are and invest it in the future.

—Patty O'Sullivan, Ph.D.



Cassin's Finch

CASSIN'S FINCH (CF) is a small finch with many similarities to our year-round resident the house finch (HF). Like the HF, the Cassin's finch can be seen year round in this area, though not as frequently. Most Eldorado residents have seen the CF in the spring.

Physically, the two birds look very similar and are difficult to distinguish one from the other. But as you can see by a close study of Sibley's *Field Guide to Birds*, the CF male does not have streaked flanks; rather, the bright purplish red fades to a light color and then a pale white-gray on the underbelly. Both males have the reddish head, throat and upper chest, with indistinct brownish streaks on their back and wings. Especially when in breeding plumage, the CF has a bright red crown which sticks up on top of its head, like a punk rocker. The CF is 6.25 inches long and has a wingspan of 11.5 inches. Females (both CF & HF) are brownish with streaks on their belly and a brownish-gray back. I don't think I could tell the females apart, except by the company they keep! CFs are often seen in pairs, searching for food on the ground. Usually HFs are also around, but the two species move and hop differently on the ground. The call of the two birds is also quite different. Go to <http://www.naturesongs.com/pass.html> and choose Fringillidea (True Finches), which will take you to

the calls. Female calls are not as loud as the male's and are often called "whisper songs." "Call matching" has been observed, where a pair duplicates each other's flight calls precisely.

CFs prefer to nest in semiarid open conifers at higher elevations. The monogamous pair builds a cup nest in a tree and lays four to five eggs. Their diet consists of the buds, berries and seeds of conifers. The pair picks nests in different areas each year. Pair bonds may last more than a year, and the male feeds the female during incubation and brooding. Eggs hatch in 12 to 14 days, and the helpless young are developed enough to fledge at 14 days. Parents and young stay together for a few weeks but leave the nest area immediately. CFs have a tendency to roam, varying their movements and locations widely throughout their lives. Some birds winter in the highlands of central Mexico. Adult birds molt in late summer and replace all of their feathers.

The Cassin's Finch was named for Philadelphia ornithologist John Cassin. Cassin (1813–1869) was made honorary curator of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences in 1842. There are five species of western bird that bear his name.

—Pam Henline



At the Crossroads

JUNE 3 IS AN IMPORTANT ELECTION day. That's when we have the opportunity to vote for the person we feel is the best candidate to represent our community on the Santa Fe County Commission. We hope you will become well informed about each candidate's qualifications and then cast your ballot in the June 3 elections.

SLOW DOWN FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR LUNGS!

Did you know that, according to a 1993 U.S. Transportation Department study, for every vehicle traveling one mile on unpaved roadway once a day for a year, one ton of dust is raised and deposited along a corridor extending 500 feet out on either side of the roadway's median? As particles of the roadway are continually ground smaller, they reach a micro-size where they can more easily penetrate deep into the lungs and cause irritation and even illness. Our dirt roads have a speed limit of 25 miles per hour. On some warm days, clouds of dust can be generated even at that relatively slow speed. So take a look out your rear-view mirror as you drive down a dirt road. If you're generating dust, please slow



There was a full house at the Vista Grande Library on May 3rd, for the County Commissioner candidates forum. Remember to vote on June 3!

down in consideration of your own lungs as well as of your neighbors living along the road.

—Nolan Zisman, Chair
ECIA Road Committee



*Security 204-2945
Sheriff 428-3720
Crime Stoppers 955-5050*

Agora Summer Concerts Begin

The Agora Summer Concert Series is set to begin its third year on **June 21** at 4:00 pm with the talented **Susan Abod**, whose voice and songwriting have been described as “fresh and innovative.” Listen at www.susanabod.com.

The summer schedule continues on **July 26** with **Jackie Camborde’s** students and DJ at 12:00 noon. On **August 16** at 2:00, the **Eldorado Depot Dancers** perform square dancing with caller **Mike Holly**. Following the dancers, **Phil Trujillo** will perform his mellow repertoire of café songs at 4:00. Finally, **September 13** features **Lisa J. Carman** with her trio, the **Youngstars**, her youth group of singers and performers, at noon. The **Eldorado Depot Dancers** perform at 2:00.

Final confirmations are being arranged for entertainers, so watch the *Vistas* for additions to the summer program. Be sure to bring sunscreen, a hat and folding chair as seating is limited, and enjoy this family musical tradition.



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Singer Susan Abod