

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XV, ISSUE 6

June 2013

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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.eldoradosf.org ▼ Security 204-2945

ECIA Annual Meeting on May 6

JEANNE CALZADA OUTLINES BOARD PROGRAM AND HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

In her opening speech to the membership at the Annual Meeting of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA), then Acting Board President **Jeanne Calzada** outlined a vision for our community's future in bold detail.

Beginning with an assurance that the Board will "do its very best . . . to ensure that Eldorado at Santa Fe continues to be a vibrant, welcoming community to all of its residents," she reported that Board members have already participated in two full-day retreats designed to improve their understanding of their legal and organizational responsibilities.

In the past, the ECIA Board met once a month for a work/study meeting to prepare for a regularly scheduled official meeting on the third Thursday of every month. Under its new schedule, the Board will convene for two work/study meetings every month. The first of these, according to Calzada, will begin a series in which the Board will meet, confer, and be briefed by each chartered committee of the Association. "Committees are our boots on the ground," she noted. The Eldorado community's high level of volunteerism, coupled with the diverse skill sets and broad experience brought to the table by committee and Board members, is something she said is virtually unprecedented in her long experience in city government.

Calzada's keynote speech at this year's Annual Meeting was thought by many in attendance to have been unprecedented in terms of stating new programs, clarifying policies, and setting out clear objectives for the Board and the community.

Following is a summary of what she said.

A. MEETINGS OF THE ECIA BOARD:

- ▼ Schedule several town hall forums to encourage greater member understanding and involvement in the activities and programs of the Association.
- ▼ Improve the structure of the public forum phase of all Board meetings to make them more effective

links with the views and opinions of the ECIA membership.

B. PROGRAMS:

- ▼ Improve the ECIA Finance Program. Safeguard our funding. Protect the fiscal integrity of the Association.
- ▼ Sponsor new events centering on the children and families of our members, such as a Youth Tennis Camp.
- ▼ Conduct a comprehensive administrative review of the operations of the ECIA that will promote a "best practices" culture that will improve service to members and ensure that all activities involved in construction, repair, and upgrade of facilities and amenities are accomplished with an eye to longevity and fiscal prudence.
- ▼ Establish a "Working Group" that will, with guidance from the Board, communicate and keep abreast of the policies and programs of agencies such as the Board of County Commissioners, the Sheriff's Office, the State Police, County and State planning agencies.

C. RESIDENT SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- ▼ Stress responsible dog ownership.
- ▼ Promote pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile traffic safety on our roadways.

At the conclusion of her speech, Calzada emphasized that she and her colleagues on the Board fully understand that their primary duty is to uphold the Governing Documents of the Association and to enforce them in a fair and equitable manner.

As a preface to introducing the ECIA's committee chairs for their individual reports to the membership, she stressed again that the Board's guiding, overall policy will be to put the highest priority on things that are of a positive nature and make for a successful community.

—Frank Schober

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
June 20,
7 pm.*



Jeanne Calzada was elected ECIA Board President at the Board's Working Meeting on May 13, 2013.

At this same meeting, Dag Ryen was elected ECIA Vice-President. Nolan Zisman and Todd Handy were re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.



Share your comments with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below

Editorial Policy

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

DEADLINE: Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or e-mailed to eciadiana@aol.com. 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.

Update on the Chickens-as-Pets Lawsuit

The New Mexico Supreme Court has appointed the Honorable Mark A. Macaron, a retired District Court Judge from the Second Judicial District in Albuquerque, to preside over the lawsuit filed by the Eldorado Community Improvement Association to enforce existing protective covenants prohibiting poultry from being maintained on several properties in the Eldorado at Santa Fe subdivision. All of the judges in Santa Fe's First Judicial District had excused themselves from hearing the case because of a potential conflict of interest. Judge Macaron held a scheduling conference on May 8 to set a trial date in the dispute.

Stephen Royce, Esq. of Arland & Associates has also been engaged on behalf of the ECIA as co-counsel, to defend a counterclaim brought by the defen-

dant homeowners against the ECIA for damages. The defendants have claimed that the Association has not acted in good faith in bringing the covenant enforcement action. The Association's position is that it has a duty to enforce the covenants, which prohibit poultry and only allow "recognized household pets." The Association is seeking a declaration from the Court that poultry such as chickens are not recognized household pets under the covenants, and to enforce the covenants against the homeowners who harbor chickens on their properties in the subdivision.

Please direct all questions or inquiries to the ECIA's attorneys, John P. Hays, Cassutt, Hays & Friedman, P.A., (505) 989-1434. No other person is authorized to speak on behalf of the ECIA on this pending lawsuit.

New Eldorado Dog Policy and Guidelines

Effective April 18, 2013, the ECIA Board approved and implemented a revised Dog Policy and Guidelines. This policy supersedes ECIA Board Policy 07-08-43, Eldorado Responsible Dog Ownership Policy, dated September 2007. The primary change, which **requires dogs to be on leash and/or under control at all times on ECIA common properties (except the Dog Park and in the Preserve)**, was adopted because of the numerous past instances of dog bites by, and fights between, dogs under voice control but not on leash, or dogs being involved in "near collisions" with vehicles.

We ask that all Eldorado dog owners comply with this revised policy by keeping their dogs on leash on all ECIA common properties, including the following areas:

1. Community Center, including surrounding grounds, fields, courts, play areas, but excluding the ECIA Dog Park (which has its own set of rules)
2. Compadres Park, including playground, entrance road, and surrounding grounds
3. Recreational trails (bike paths)
4. Stable roads, footpaths, arenas
5. Greenbelts

Additionally, we ask all residents to also adhere to sections 2 and 3 of the Guidelines, which are as follows:

2. When a dog defecates in a public place, the owner or handler must remove the feces and dispose of it in a sanitary manner.
3. When encountering other people, including pedestrians, bicyclists, joggers, and equestrians, the owner or handler must yield the right-of-way by



standing aside and holding dogs under control. If the encountered party or parties also have dogs, the parties shall hold their dogs under control until agreement is reached as to whom will have the right-of-way.

The new policy can be found in full on the Eldorado website under Governing Documents or via the following link: <http://www.eldoradosf.org/index.php/Governing-Documents/responsible-dog-ownership-policy.html>.

We appreciate your cooperation in following this revised policy and guidelines. Should any resident encounter other residents who are not following these revised Guidelines, please politely inform them of the new policy. If they are not cooperative, please feel free to contact **Mark Young** or **Raven Hicks** at the ECIA at 466-4248.

—Mark Young
Covenants Compliance Representative

Message from the ECIA Board

It's been a busy spring for all volunteers and staff of the ECIA. The pool is now open after a thorough facelift. Our contractor is hard at work on a complete refurbishing of the tennis courts. The ping of aluminum bats can be heard at our realigned and regraded ball field. Some clean-up and new plantings have added both color and charm to areas around the Community Center. Later this year, work will begin on paving some of our multi-use trails, thanks to funding provided via our County Commissioner **Liz Stefanics**. And, due to the efforts of our legislative representatives, **Sen. Peter Wirth** and **Rep. Stephen Easley**, an appropriation of \$151,000 has been secured for road improvements that will take place next year.

Despite these successes, the ECIA Board is keenly aware that much more remains to be done, not only in maintaining our amenities but, more importantly, in maintaining good communications with lot owners and residents in Eldorado. Some members of the Board of Directors have only served for a few months and still have some of the learning curve to negotiate. But all directors understand the need to resolve the controversial issues that seem to have plagued the community over the past several months. To that end,

the Board invites all interested residents to share their concerns through email or letters, and to attend our monthly Board meetings, or a meeting of one of our committees. We also thank the many of you who have already done so.

At the ECIA Annual Meeting on May 6, it was announced that the revised Bylaws had been approved by a vote of 524 to 216. As the Board has expressed earlier, these revisions will not result in any significant changes in the way ECIA business is conducted. They will, however, provide an opportunity to reestablish staggered terms for Board members. The Election Committee will consider various proposals and make a recommendation to the Board. Information about this process will be made available on our website as soon as it is available.

As the summer months progress, we hope everyone in Eldorado will take advantage of the many quality amenities the community has to offer and will attend some of the fun events that are part of our identity. We particularly look forward to the upcoming Fourth of July festivities where we can celebrate the achievements that have been made and dedicate ourselves to surmounting the challenges ahead.

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on April 18, with Board members present: **Jeanne Calzada** (Acting President), **Nolan Zisman** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Paul Jacobs**, **Jan Pietrzak**, and **Dag Ryen**.

- ▼ Acting President Calzada cited the need for all attendees to be civil and stated that if this or any other ECIA meeting got out of hand, the meeting would be stopped.
- ▼ Secretary Zisman reminded the attendees that the ECIA would be sponsoring an April 20 Earth Day Clean Up effort in Eldorado and encouraged all present to help out with this effort.
- ▼ A Consent Agenda was approved unanimously by the Board. The following items were included:
 - The acceptance of **Ed Moreno's** resignation as Board President and Member.
 - The approval of the minutes from the 3/21/13 meeting.
 - The acceptance of the Finance Report and Staff Report.
 - The appointment of **Michael O' Farrell** to the Conservation Committee and **Lee Onstott** to the Facilities and Grounds Committee.

- A variance was approved for 11 Melado Drive to allow a small accessory building 3 feet into the 20 foot side setback on the property.
- A variance was approved for 26 Tetilla Road to allow placement of a raised garden/greenhouse structure 34 feet from the primary dwelling.

- ▼ The Board unanimously passed a motion to appoint **Pam Henline** to the ECIA Board of Directors.
- ▼ The Board unanimously approved the new Procurement Policy.
- ▼ The Board unanimously approved a Revised Dog Policy and Guidelines.

Regular Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Community Center and are open to the public. An open forum, community announcements, and reports from ECIA committees are part of the monthly Board meeting. The completed minutes include descriptions of the issues raised in the open forum as well as the full committee reports. The minutes and meeting agendas are available at the ECIA office or website: eldoradosf.org.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:
Katherine Mortimer
Conservation: **John Parker**
Election: **Kathie Graham**

Facilities & Grounds:
Jean Crawford
Finance: **Dan Drobnis**
Information: **Frank Schober**
Neighborhood Watch:

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

Sustainability, Planning, &
Education: **Steve Rudnick**

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

IN THE COMMUNITY

SAVE THE DATE:
JULY 4 PARADE & CELEBRATION
ECIA COMMUNITY CENTER



New Tennis Courts

Construction is well underway on rehabilitation of the tennis courts at the ECIA Community Center. The courts are being resurfaced by Renner Sports Surfaces from Denver with a state-of-the-art post-tensioned concrete slab poured on top of our existing slab. The new concrete surface must cure for a period of 28 days before the finishing acrylic surfaces and line painting can take place. Barring weather delays, the courts should be ready for play again in early July.

Lace 'em up!

The Eldorado Adult Basketball season is here. Lace 'em up, players, and c'mon out to the Community Center basketball court for fun and friendly pick-up hoops Thursdays 6:30 PM – dusk.

I'll Have What She's Having!

The premier of "I'll Have What She's Having!" is set to launch in June. Created by four women who love to perform, be creative, and have fun, this is a show designed from their imagination and a desire to stretch outside of their comfort zone. A combination of skits, music, singing, and improv is the format. Be inspired, laugh, and enjoy this (PG-13) show starring **Gayle Dillon**, **Akaria Parris** (Eldorado resident), **Carol Rose** (who performed her one-woman show at the Performance Space last year), and **Patty Walters** (who will also produce the show, her third at the Performance Space). Tickets are now available (\$15 general admission) for June 21 from 7 to 8:30 PM at The Performance Space at La Tienda. For tickets or general information, contact Patty Walters at 713-582-9551 or YesToImprov@gmail.com.

Summer Saturday at the Agora

The Agora Shopping Center will hold its first Summer Saturday on June 8 from 11 AM to 2 PM in the courtyard. Come enjoy: live music by the always popular Buffalo Nickel Band; free country line dance lesson; delicious Italian food from Piccolino's; El Dorado Fire Department's truck on site and fire safety tips. The Agora businesses will be offering specials, samples, and coupons for a great shopping day. There will also be a solar technology display, an interesting "Civil War in New Mexico" presentation, and additional vendors and artists presenting gourmet chocolates, whimsical bird houses, colorful flowers and landscaping tips, Grow Your Own planters, and more. For more details, stop by any Agora business or visit www.theagorashoppingcenter.com.

MOON PHASES FOR JUNE 2017



County Emergency Preparedness Mtgs

Santa Fe County Commissioner **Liz Stefanics** would like to notify District 5 residents that she will be hosting two joint meetings with Commissioner **Kathy Holian**, District 4, and Commissioner **Robert Anaya**, District 3, to discuss Emergency Preparedness. Assistant Fire Chief **Martin Vigil** will discuss how residents can prepare for an emergency.

Wednesday, May 29 – The meeting for the Hwy. 285 Corridor/Eldorado area will be held at the Hondo Fire Station 2 at 6 PM with Commissioner Kathy Holian, District 4.

Saturday, June 1 – The meeting for the Hwy. 14 area will be held at the Turquoise Trail Fire Station at 10 AM with Commissioner Robert Anaya, District 3.

For more information, contact Julia Valdez, javaldez@santafecountynm.gov or 986-6202.

A Cactus Garden in Our Midst

Eldorado's resident cactus expert, **Obie Oberhausen**, and his assistants, John and Nancy, all of the Cactus Rescue Project, have been hard at work making a new cactus garden at the Community Center. It is located on the mound between the main building and the Railroad Building. The garden is a work in progress, but Obie wanted residents to know that in early June there will be several varieties in bloom, including the Claret Cups and many various colored prickly pears. When finished, the garden will have over 300 cactus plants and a walking path that will take you through it. Please feel free to stroll through but stay on the path. Also, notice the many new plants under the breezeway. Beautification abounds!

Manure Deliveries

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





ASTRONOMY CORNER

June 2013

JUNE 21: SUMMER SOLSTICE

The Summer Solstice occurs in the northern hemisphere at 05:04 UT. The Sun is at its highest point in the sky and it will be the longest day of the year. This is also the first day of summer.

JUNE 23: BIGGEST FULL MOON OF 2013

On June 23, the moon turns full at 4:32 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time and just 32 minutes earlier it will arrive at its closest point to the Earth in 2013 at a distance of 221,824 miles (356,991 km), making it a so-called supermoon.

During these events, the moon can appear up to 30 percent brighter and 14 percent bigger to skywatchers on Earth.

Due to a little-understood optical effect called the "moon illusion," the full moon can seem huge when rising behind distant objects on the horizon. A supermoon can appear especially impressive.

**PROTECT OUR NIGHT
SKIES:** Lights left carelessly on may spoil the views of our night sky.

Pool Hours: 8 AM–8 PM Daily

Lap Swim: Daily 8–10 AM; Monday, Wednesday, Friday 6–8 PM

General Swim: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 10 AM–8 PM; Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 AM–6 PM

Group swimming lessons: TBA

June Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email eciamarilyn@aol.com with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. Type of Event

2. Location

3. Date & Time

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

4. A Resource Person (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., June 11, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., June 25, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., June 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., June 4, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., June 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Thurs., June 6, 4-6 pm	Jean Crawford	466-1000	RR
Finance Committee	Wed., June 12, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., June 25, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., Aug. 5, 6-8 pm	Michael Chester	577-2784	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., June 25, 7-9 pm	Gretel Underwood	466-7825	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., June 13, 7-9 pm	Steve Rudnick	466-1335	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR/CR
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs., of month	Barrie Brown	466-3035	CC
Eldorado Camera Club	4th Wednesday, 7-9	biordi@aol.com		La Tienda
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 5-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			LR/CFR
Adult Basketball	Thursdays, 6:30 pm-dusk			BB Court
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	670-6949	LR
Bridge	Every Other Fri., 9-noon	Natalie Bernet	466-6118	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-4:30	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Kate	216-5302	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

*** Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Cats & Coyotes & Snakes, Oh My!

We are solidly into the spring season which brings new challenges as well as a chance for renewal (hopefully, garden growth and not withered shreds of gardens past). Many of the following topics have been covered before, but, for our new residents and those of us who have, shall we say, lapses in memory, I'll touch on them again. There are some new seasonal items, so keep reading.

Bobcats and coyotes. So let's look at what threats bobcats and coyotes, in particular, pose to us and what can be done. Check out www.projectcoyote.org, the coexistence section. There are smart and easy suggestions for what to do when confronting a coyote and myth-versus-truth about coyote behavior. Much of it has been written before, but it bears revisiting.

As for bobcats, this animal is generally no threat to humans, unless one encounters a female trying to defend and protect her kittens. Give them a wide berth. They are, however, opportunistic, and will take small, unprotected domestic animals. One's back or front walled areas are not a safe place to let our pets roam freely. Please be thoughtful and vigilant.

The following are additional resources for help with our wildlife:

▼ Game & Fish (505-455-9121), Megan Morales, megan.morales@state.nm.us, handles inquiries and problems with bobcats, bears, mountain lions, antelope, deer, and raccoons

▼ Animal Control (505-992-1626), SF County Office, (505-428-3720), 24/7 phone: Officers work 8 AM–6 PM but may be dispatched after hours, if required; they handle problems with domestic dogs and cats but will try to respond to calls regarding wildlife inside people's homes.

(Regarding coyotes: Neither Game & Fish nor Animal Control handles issues with coyotes. Animal Control will remove a dead coyote from private property. Please check out Project Coyote.)

▼ The Wildlife Center (505-753-9505), Española, www.thewildlifecenter.org, handles injured animals, birds, and snakes.

▼ The Raptor Center (505-699-0455) www.santaferaptorcenter.org, handles injured and orphaned birds from all over the state. It is a great resource and is within a five-minute drive from Eldorado.

If you want to discourage "nuisance" wildlife from coming into your yard, here are some tips. They amount to "you can't have your cake and eat it too."

- ▼ Birdseed and water attract animals, indiscriminately, into yards. Bears can smell birdseed and hummingbird feeders from a few miles away;
- ▼ Garbage and compost, feeding pets outside, fruit trees and fallen fruit (and if you have fruit trees, you have fallen fruit), all attract animals;
- ▼ Putting food out for coyotes and other wildlife is discouraged. It increases their comfort around humans and makes the animal an easy target for those who hold a more hostile view of our wildlife.
- ▼ A gentle reminder: please protect yourself with proper clothing when working in your yards. No-see-ums are vicious and can cause serious reactions.

A couple of helpful hints from past experience: (1) store your gardening gloves in a zip-lock baggy. Critters looking for a dark place love to creep into the fingers of gloves. Take it from me, it is no fun to slide your hand into a glove only to be met with a squish. With brown recluses and black widows, the outcome could be worse. (2) When thinking of buying new patio furniture, try to avoid buying items that are low to the ground and obstructing vision. All sorts of snakes like to take refuge under chaises and chairs.

Wind scorpions are on the move. Known also as sun spiders or camel spiders, they are between a true spider and a scorpion. The most distinctive feature of the wind scorpion is its "jaws" and size, often reaching 6 inches in length. The jaws are, indeed, powerful, capable of cutting through skin and thin bones. Although not poisonous, their bites can be very painful. They are fast moving, up to 10 MPH. In other words, give them a wide berth. Personally, I haven't seen one in our area of Eldorado, but others toward the western end have.

Our serpentine friends are emerging. The Eldorado Snake Relocation Volunteers (volunteers for The Wildlife Center) are back to serve you this season! If you would like a snake relocated from your yard, please contact one of these organizations if you have the snake(s) in sight.

- ▼ The Wildlife Center 505-753-9505, 8 AM–3 PM, Monday–Friday
- ▼ Neighborhood Watch 466-2553, 8 AM–5 PM, 7 days/week
- ▼ ECIA 466-4248, 8 AM–5 PM, Monday–Friday

Nina Harrison, n815@aol.com
Neighborhood Watch

Working Group on Flora and Fauna



Wind scorpion.
Photo by Dolor Ipsum:
www.flickr.com/photos/dolor_ipsum/



Coyote.
Photo by K Schneider:
www.flickr.com/photos/zonotrichia/3960976405/

Residential Septic Tank Maintenance

How long has it been since your septic tank was inspected and/or pumped? Do you know where your septic tank is? Not surprisingly, these are questions that many Eldorado residents have.

To protect your sewage system and prevent expensive repair costs, it is very important that your septic tank be inspected every three years and, if necessary, pumped out by a licensed hauler. Depending on terrain, your septic tank may be about 15–20 feet from your house. There is a large manhole cover on one end and a small inspection cover on the far end where it feeds into the leach lines. The septic tank is a two-part sewage treatment and disposal system. Sludge collects on the bottom of the tank, and a fatty scum deposit floats on the top. The rest is largely liquid that drains from the top of the tank into the leach lines. In a well-functioning tank, bacterial action in the tank as well as in the leach lines digests most of the effluent contents, delivering decontaminated liquid into the surrounding soil. However, if you have a private well near your septic tank, you should still have regular water tests performed. Aggressive roots from trees near septic tanks are also frequent sources of line blockage. They can enter the main pipelines at the joints and plug up the sewage line or leach lines.

It is imperative that the sludge in the bottom of the tank not be allowed to build up to the point that it overflows into the leach lines. When that happens, it can become the consistency of concrete in your leach lines and require new leach line installation. This can cost you over a thousand dollars in replacement costs. Early signs of system failure include sewage backing up, sewage odor, slow-running drains and toilets, and sewage on the ground above the leach lines.

People moving to Eldorado from municipalities often question why a community the size of Eldorado does not have a central sewage system. This alternative was explored shortly after the creation of the Eldorado Area Water & Sanitation District. Molzen-Corbit Engineering from Albuquerque was contracted to do a feasibility study. They indicated that due to variable terrain elevations, distance between homes, the miles of sewage lines required, and the large number of lift pump stations that would have to be constructed throughout the community, such a facility would be extremely expensive. A major treatment plant would also have to be constructed somewhere at the lower far end of the community. Individual homeowners can install their own tertiary sewage treatment system. But this option is also expensive.

—Don Dayton

Reel New Mexico

JUNE 13, 7 PM AT LA TIENDA, THE AWARD-WINNING FEATURE FILM, "BECOMING EDUARDO"

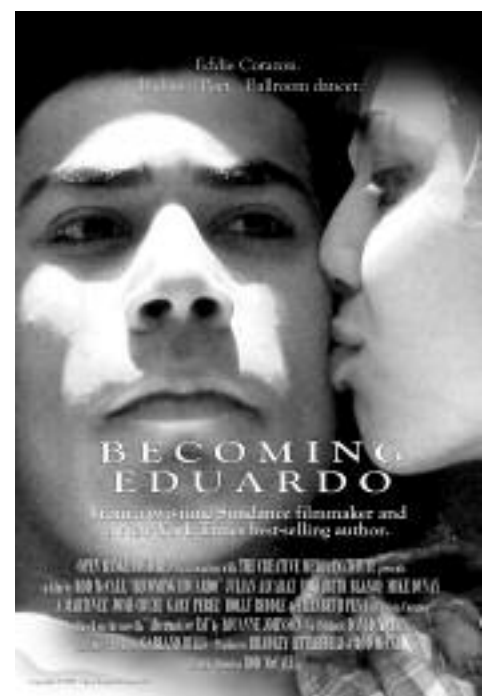
On Thursday, June 13, Reel New Mexico is excited to present "Becoming Eduardo," an award-winning feature film directed by **Rod McCall** of Las Cruces. McCall will discuss the film and take questions from the audience after the screening. The program starts at 7 PM at the Performance Space in La Tienda.

Based on the novel *Alternative Ed*, by **LouAnne Johnson**, "Becoming Eduardo" tells the story of Eddie Corazon. At sixteen, the former straight-A student has become a juvenile delinquent attending an alternative high school in Rosablanca, New Mexico. There he falls in love with a college-bound girl and discovers he has a knack for poetry. But a few bad choices result in Eddie's being sent to live with his bachelor uncle Tio in Truth or Consequences. There he takes to calling himself Eduardo, as his exposure to Tio's way of life shatters his masculine stereotypes and inspires him to view himself — and the world — in a new light.

Director Rod McCall, who will discuss the film, teaches Storyboarding and Directing at New Mexico

State University. **Julian Alcaraz**, the actor who plays Eddie, has gone on to become a regular in the new cable version of "90210" and is one of the leads in the big studio remake of "Red Dawn." "Becoming Eduardo" has been shown at 17 film festivals throughout the world and won three awards at the Santa Fe Film Festival in 2009.

Reel New Mexico presents films with a New Mexico connection on the second Thursday of each month, at 7 pm in The Performance Space in La Tienda. A contribution of \$5 is suggested at the door. Directions to the venue are at www.reelnewmexico.com.





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Resident of the Year, 2012

Long-time resident of Eldorado **Pat Lavengood** was honored at the ECIA's Annual Meeting on May 6 as our community's "Resident of the Year for 2012." Born in Michigan, she moved to the city of Tarzana, California, in the 1980s after working for several corporations in the U.S. in her chosen field of industrial and commercial procurement operations.

Pat came to Eldorado and purchased a home here in 1989 along with the love of her life, U.S. Navy veteran **Dave Burdette**. Pat and Dave quickly became well known as outstanding community volunteers, first with our Fire Department, the EFRS, and later with Eldorado's Search and Rescue organization.

Dave served in the area of public safety for many years, responding at all hours to emergencies as a volunteer fireman and later as chairman of what was then the ECIA Safety Committee. Following her experience in responding to fires and other emergencies, Pat moved on to serve on a variety of committees that make Eldorado an unusually good place to live. By her estimate, over the years she served as member or chair of every ECIA chartered committee as well as on the ECIA Board of Directors for many years.

Recognizing Pat for the "Resident of the Year" award, even though she has recently moved out of Eldorado, was no problem for the Board. Her service to us was in the best traditions of our

country, which began its life as a nation because volunteers "sacrificed their lives, reputations and sacred honor" on its behalf.

Pat will be back in Eldorado to accept our applause and her well-deserved plaque when she travels here to be with us at our annual 4th of July Celebration at the Community Center.

—Frank Schober



Pat Lavengood, ECIA Resident of the Year 2012