

ELDORADO at SANTA FE VISTAS

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE 6

June 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

ECIA News.....	2-3
In the Community.....	4-5
ECIA Projects	6
Driving Cautions	6
Pronghorn Antelope	7

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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Water Conservation

Summer is fast approaching, and with it our concerns about water. This year did not begin well for New Mexico—January and February were the driest on record—but what does that mean for Eldorado residents?

According to **David Chakroff**, the general manager of Eldorado Area Water & Sanitation District, conditions in Eldorado are similar to those we experienced in the summer of 2013. Our water supply comes from two places: a central well field in the Eldorado area, and seasonal flows in the Galisteo Creek alluvium near Lamy. As was the case last year, the water levels in the two Galisteo Creek alluvium wells are unlikely to be high enough to pump this summer.

As a result, we may see “Stage 1” water restrictions again this year. These measures ban watering of lawns, new outdoor planting of trees and shrubs, and washing vehicles or outdoor hard surfaces. Residents may only water their yards on designated days: either on three weekdays (with no weekend watering) or twice per week, including one weekend day, and not between the hours of 9 AM and 6 PM.

“Barring any other unusual circumstances, we would hope that ‘Stage 1’ restrictions would again be sufficient,” wrote Chakroff, “but if there are other factors, like equipment malfunction of one of our major wells, a large water main break, or a fire, then increased restrictions could be required.”

To encourage water conservation, EAWSD has introduced a new surcharge that is in effect from May through August. Any customers who use more than 10,000 gallons in a month have to pay an extra 50% on the applicable rate tier. The average Eldorado household uses 6,000 gallons of water per month between May and August.

Irrigation and outdoor water use are mainly responsible for the surge in demand during summer.

However, there are several ways to reduce the strain on our resources.

1. Use old bathwater to water any plants that you don’t intend to eat. Just allow the water to cool first!
2. Leave a bucket in the shower while you wait for the water to warm. This clean water is suitable for use on edible plants.
3. Check the positioning of sprinklers to ensure that you aren’t wasting water on hardscape.
4. Avoid watering in windy weather.
5. If you water by hand, invest in a variable-spray nozzle, which provides greater control over the quantity of water you release.
6. Switch from a traditional sprinkler system to drip irrigation and decrease water loss through evaporation.
7. Help plants to retain water and stay cool by adding a layer of mulch to plant beds.
8. Install plants with similar watering needs close together.
9. Increase the amount of porous materials in your yard. This can mean gravel; open-cell concrete blocks filled with sand or gravel; or permeable concrete pavers, which let water trickle through to the ground. If you need to use concrete, look into EPA-approved pervious concrete, which contains tiny, connected voids.
10. Consider xeriscaping your garden.

If you’re interested in identifying wasteful water practices in your home, check

out an online water use calculator (there’s one on the EAWSD website: <http://www.eldoradowaterdistrict.com>).

FUTURE SUMMER WATER SUPPLY

The county is working on a project nicknamed TL6S (Transmission Line 6 South). Part of the plan involves linking the county’s water storage tank, which is located near Rancho Viejo, to Eldorado’s supply. This would provide EAWSD with 50 acre-feet per year of back-up supply, for use during peak demand.

“The design is about 80% complete,” wrote **Adam Leigland**, Public Works Director. “At this time, we are actively working to obtain all the necessary easements. The original completion date was December 2014, but we have modified the completion date to July 2015.”

The county and EAWSD are still in the negotiation phase. Issues to resolve include the price of county water, the quantity EAWSD would commit to purchase, and funding for the connection line.

—Juliet White

FRED RAZNICK 2013 RESIDENT OF THE YEAR

See story on page 2





*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 DiAna@eldoradosf.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.

NEW BOARD, NEW OFFICERS

Annual Meeting Results

Results of the recent election for Board of Directors were announced at the Annual Meeting of ECIA property owners on May 5. As required by recently revised Bylaws, this election reestablished staggered terms for Board members, with the longest terms going to those receiving the most votes. A total of 655 valid ballots were cast:

3-year terms: Dag Ryen (484 votes), Pam Henline (458 votes), Jeanne Calzada (455 votes)

2-year terms: Todd Handy (446 votes), David Yard (409 votes)

1-year terms: Gershon Siegel (352 votes), Greg Colello (349 votes)

Fred Raznick was honored by the outgoing Board as Eldorado Resident of the Year.

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on April 17, with six Board members present: **Dag Ryen** (President), **Jan Pietrzak** (Vice President), **Pam Henline** (Director), **Karyn Mounsey** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), and **Jeanne Calzada** (Director). **David Perlmutter** was absent/excused. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting:

- ▼ A variance was approved for 21 Domingo Road for a garage farther than 15 feet from the residence and greater in height than the house.
- ▼ An in-home profession was approved for 95 Monte Alto Road for a Personal Chef business.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 10 Torneo Road for a fence encroachment into the 20-foot side and 50-foot front setbacks.
- ▼ A variance request was tabled for 5 Antigua Place for a large accessory structure in the shape of a geodesic dome to allow for further Board review.
- ▼ An increase in the amount allocated from Replace-

ment Reserves for the play area for 6- to 12-year-olds in Compadres Park was increased from \$50,000 to \$65,000.

- ▼ Replacement Reserve funds for a well pump expense of \$4,389 were moved from 2019 to 2014.
 - ▼ Changes were approved to the Board's Election Policy to conform with present Election Committee practices.
 - ▼ A one-year waiver was approved for Barns #13, #29, and #34, to allow the owners to retain a barn without owning the horse in it.
 - ▼ A variance request was tabled for 21 Juego Road for a screening fence within the 50-foot front setback, to allow for investigation of possible further encroachment than shown on plans.
- 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 normally included. Complete minutes and meeting agendas are available at the ECIA office or website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.

Fred Raznick, 2013 Resident of the Year

In June 1977, Fred and Barbara Raznick brought their family to Santa Fe on a vacation, which they found was a very magical experience. They came back in March 1978 to see if it was still the same and moved here in June 1978. They came from Detroit where Fred was an attorney. After arriving, Fred passed the New Mexico Bar and looked to set roots for the family. They were introduced to Rational Alternatives (RA), which was just beginning to build solar homes in Eldorado. They built a home designed by Will Lumpkins, Jr., which they still live in, after two additions. It was one of the first homes west of the railroad tracks; at that time, there was no phone service and Avenida Vista Grande was a gravel road. Being intrigued with RA's building, both were hired by RA to promote and advocate for solar in 1979. Barbara was in customer relations and Fred was general manager.

Fred reminisces that those were very exciting years, as people were coming to Eldorado from all over to view what was being done by RA. French TV made a documentary, as did others. RA was building purist passive solar homes with adobe construction, paying attention to south-facing windows in relationship to masonry mass to provide solar gain, using solar hot water; they even built a photovoltaic home so as to provide its own electrical energy.

In 1979 Fred attended his first homeowners' meeting, asked a question, and soon found himself as president. He joined the fledgling Eldorado Fire Department and served 18 years as a volunteer firefighter. Subsequently, while serving on the ECIA Board, he assisted in the transition from Eldorado at Santa Fe, Inc. managing the subdivision, to ECIA, with local-

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE >>

Message from the ECIA Board

The newly elected Board of Directors held its organizational meeting early last month. New officers for the coming year are: **Dag Ryen**, President; **Pam Henline**, Vice-President; **Todd Handy**, Treasurer; and **Gershon Siegel**, Secretary. All the officers were elected by acclamation, indicative of the spirit of cooperation with which Board members face the coming year. The Board also agreed to continue its regular meeting schedule, with work sessions on the first Thursday of every month and the Monday preceding the formal Board meeting, which will take place on the third Thursday of every month. ECIA members are welcome to attend the work sessions as observers and will continue to have an opportunity to address the Board at the formal voting meetings.

Among the topics that the new Board already has discussed is the need to increase participation in ECIA

activities. It was somewhat disappointing that less than a third of eligible voters in the recent Board election actually submitted their ballots. The Board hopes to improve on this and other measures over the next year. Among the steps that will be taken is an increase in the number of town forums, to give Eldorado residents a chance to express their views and participate in the discussion of issues. As these events are scheduled, we hope that all ECIA members will take note and join in.

The Board also hopes that Eldoradoans will take full advantage of our wonderful amenities during the summer months. Our pool and other recreation facilities have been spruced up for your enjoyment. Have a safe and pleasant summer!

—The ECIA Board of Directors

Road Committee Back on the Road

The last year saw the membership of the Eldorado Road Committee decline to just a few individuals, but thanks to the efforts of **Fred Raznick**, long-time committee member and Eldorado resident, there are now four new members, a new chair, and the committee is back up and running! **Fred** and **Karen Murry** are joined on the committee by new members **Pierre Bovis**, **Paul Drumright**, **Felicia Probert**, and **John Reynolds**. At the April 21 meeting, Felicia Probert was elected as chair, and John Reynolds was elected to the secretary position.

The mission of the Road Committee is to be the “eyes and ears” of the ECIA Board regarding road conditions and signage. The committee carries out this mission by inspecting Eldorado roads at least twice a year, or as needed, and rating them in terms of ride quality, erosion, and dust; by prioritizing road maintenance and repair needs based on ratings assigned, and population and traffic densities; and by separately documenting specific problems (such as stop signs down, potholes, severe ruts) and needs as they are discovered.

The first order of business for the newly revitalized committee was to conduct an inspection of all the roads in Eldorado. During the first two weeks of April, you may have encountered a committee member driving each of the roads in your neighborhood to rate the overall quality and to note the location of any specific problems such as potholes, missing culverts causing erosion, or downed signs. The committee reviewed the results of the inspection at the April 21 meeting and compiled a prioritized list of roads for the application of base course and/or grading. This list will be passed on to the county for their consideration.

The Road Committee still has room for a few more members and would welcome volunteers. The commitment is for four to six 90-minute meetings and two 90-minute inspections per year. Please contact Felicia Probert at fjprobert@msn.com if you are interested in serving your community on the Road Committee!

—Felicia Probert

Raznick, continued from p. 2

ly elected resident directors. As president of the homeowners association, he appointed the first editor of the *Eldorado Sun*, so there would be a vehicle for residents to have the news of the community. He created the first Road Committee, appointing two gentlemen who were politically opposed in their thinking, and he had the pleasure of observing them work hand in hand placing barrels filled with sand around treacherous corners. Fred always enjoyed

bringing people together. During his tenure, Fred formed the first Finance Committee. In 2007 he was asked to form the Facilities and Grounds Committee at the direction of the Board. He has been chair and served on all three committees over the years. “My proudest moment was being presented with the deed for our Conservation Area by Eldorado at SF, Inc. at an Annual Meeting,” he noted. Fred’s two children, Jennifer and Ben, were charter students at El Dorado Elementary School, which was built as a solar school.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Katherine Mortimer
Conservation: **Jim Daniel & Cherry Payne**
Election: **Kathie Graham**
Facilities & Grounds:
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Finance: **Dan Drobni**
Information: **Frank Schober**
Roads: **Felicia Probert**
Stable: **Open**
Sustainability, Planning, &
Education: **Steve Rudnick**

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VISTAS NEWSLETTER

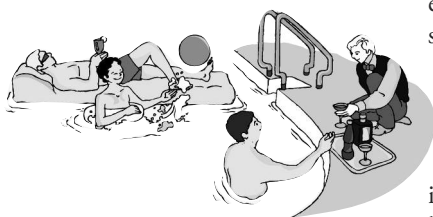
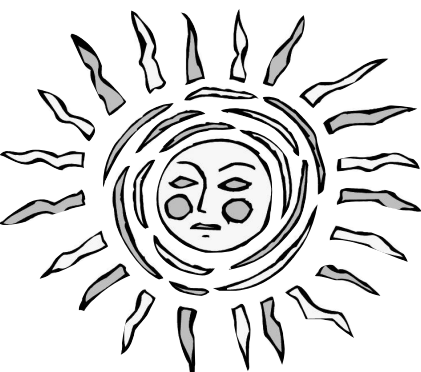
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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

Changes Near You?

What permits or architectural changes is ECIA considering near you? Check out the Architecture Committee agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/ldjmreo> or the ECIA Board agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lkxxdmw>.



Lace 'em up!

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



IN THE COMMUNITY

Education Series for Home Gardeners!

"Let's Grow!"—a monthly series for the home gardener—continues with "Summer Rose Care" on Sunday, June 29, 2–3 PM at the Harvey Cornell Rose Garden. This five-part series, offered by the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association, is a free, public event that requires no registration. In this June session, participants will enjoy a one-hour presentation on rose care by master rosarian, **Jack Ortega**. Stay afterward for a hands-on application in this beautiful public garden! For the full schedule of this series, please visit: sfmga.org. Next month: July 25, 5–7 PM: "Restoring an Old Garden"/El Zaguán.

Thrive in a More Drought-Prone Future

A Green Cafe at La Tienda's Performance Space, Saturday, June 21, 9:30–noon, will feature a panel of experts from EAWSD, Santa Fe County, and the City, who will answer your questions about what individuals, communities, and the county can do to prepare for a more drought-prone future. We've moved past the stage of debating climate change to planning for its impacts. Everyone is welcome to join in this informative discussion. Info: **Duncan Sibley**, 505-660-4745

ECIA 2014 Pool Season

Our beautiful Eldorado pool is open. Pool passes can be obtained in the ECIA office. For those who can't get to the office during the week, we will be open for three consecutive Saturdays, May 31, June 7, and June 14, from 11 AM to 3 PM. If you have a pool pass from past years, you will get a 2014 sticker.

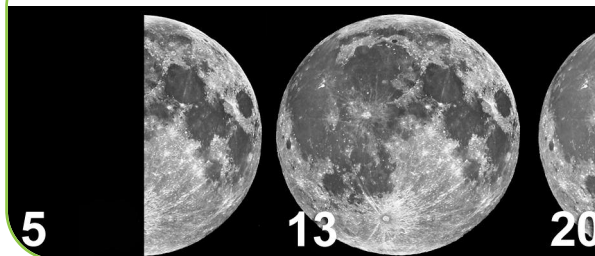
This year, everyone who gets a pool pass or sticker will be asked to read the pool rules and sign a statement agreeing to abide by the rules. To be eligible for a pool pass, a lot owner must be a "Member in Good Standing," which means all amounts owed the Association must be paid. Children 13 and over will be issued a pool pass. Each Member in Good Standing with a valid pool pass will be allowed to escort a maximum of three guests per day. The member will be asked to sign their guests in and must remain present during their visit.

As stated in the Bylaws, members may delegate their pool rights to a tenant with a valid lease. The tenant must bring a copy of the lease to the office to obtain a pool pass.

Earth Day Clean Up, April 19, 2014

The ECIA once again sponsored the annual Earth day clean-up on Saturday April 19. We are pleased to report that we had around 45 volunteers, which included residents as well as help from the following groups: Eldorado 285 Recycles • Boy Scout Troop 414 • Girl Scout Troop 10045 • El Dorado Community School • Vista Grande Library.

MOON PHASES FOR JU



Due to their hard work, we collected around 35 garbage bags of debris from around Eldorado and helped to keep our roads clean and litter free. Thank you so much for your efforts!

—ECIA Staff and ECIA Conservation Committee

At the Library

EXPANSION UPDATE: The construction work of the library expansion continues, and firm dates for completion are still pending. Once the project is finished, though, the staff has plenty of plans for programs and community events.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

With the return of the growing season, the Master Gardeners are back. They will be in the library on Saturdays to provide advice to the community. Stop by from noon to 3 PM on these dates: June 14, 21, and 28. In addition, on June 21 they are giving a Cactus Class at 11 AM.

The Summer Reading Programs are about to get underway, beginning on June 12. The theme is "Fizz! Boom! Read!" The programs are free and registration is required. A Reading Contest is being held for all children, with prizes for top readers in each grade level. Come by the front desk to register for programs or to pick up a Reading Log for the contest.

OTHER LIBRARY NEWS

The Board of Directors has open positions and is actively seeking candidates to join the board. Do you have the time to devote to a monthly meeting and some committee work? Do you have skills that would be beneficial to the library, especially in areas like advocacy, finances, or marketing? Are you a team player interested in guiding the library's future? Then please consider becoming a candidate. For more information, contact **Joan Lemmon** (Chair, Nominating Committee) at 466-4490.

The library is also looking for members of the public to serve on committees such as Development, Programming, Communications, and others if that's more your speed. Contact Julia or Tracey at the library for more information: 466-7323 or librarydirector@vglibrary.org. And of course, residents are always welcome to come in and volunteer.



SAVE THE DATES

The Summer Book Sale is coming soon; due to delays in the expansion, the event location is not yet set. Check the library website www.vglibrary.org or call for details.

The 15th Annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction will be on Sunday, August 17, from 1 to 4 PM. This is the library's biggest fundraiser of the year. Up to 60% of its budget comes from fund-raising; ticket sales and auction proceeds make it possible to provide all the free programming and materials to library patrons throughout the year. And, the Ice Cream Social is great good fun too!

Vistas—Save Paper/Mailing

To opt out of receiving a personal mailed copy of *Vistas*, email the ECIA office: Marilyn@eldoradosf.org. Following this request, you will no longer receive a printed copy of *Vistas* but instead will be sent an email once a month with a notice of availability and a link to the next issue of *Vistas* on the ECIA website, in PDF format, ready to view and/or print at home—about a week before mailings are delivered! Extra printed copies are always available at the ECIA office if needed.

OPT OUT

June Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email marilyn@eldoradosf.org 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 10, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., June 24, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Thurs., June 5, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., June 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., June 3, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., June 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., June 4, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., June 11, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., June 24, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., June 23, 6-8 pm		466-4248	CFR
Stable Committee	TBA		-	CFR
SPE Committee	TBA			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 Book Club	3rd Wed., 3:00 pm	Susan Aylward	shaylward@gmail.com	
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Karen Sweeney	466-9797	CFR
Library Book Group	2nd Sat., 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 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	Thurs., 6:30 pm – Dusk			CC
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
Coed Adult Softball	Fri nights, 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
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
Horseshoes	Wed., 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
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., 11:30-12:30 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



Springtime ECIA Projects

Now that spring has fully embraced our beautiful community, the members of the Facilities & Grounds Committee and ECIA staff are excited to inform our members of the projects on tap for 2014. Work on these projects has been ongoing, in some cases, since last year. Perhaps the most anticipated project for 2014 will be happening at Compadres Park.

The wooden play structure, now the focal point of Compadres Park, is going to be removed. In its place, a state-of-the-art play structure by Exerplay will be installed. The new play structure, designed for kids 6 to 12 years of age, will offer many unique features that should give our youngsters hours of enjoyment.

The next major project will be the construction of a concrete walkway leading from the Community Center playground to the tennis courts. The walkway will provide a level and stable surface for residents to access the tennis courts. This walkway is part of the overall landscape plan for the Community Center.

Our seven-year Landscape Recovery Plan is entering year two. We are using the horse manure gener-

ated at our stables to provide compost to the most distressed areas around the Community Center. This should add critical nutrients to our parched ground, and as a side benefit it will eliminate the goatheads. New plantings around the Community Center began at the end of April, and additional landscape lighting was installed around the Community Center in May.

In April, the Community Center parking lot got a much needed resurfacing and new striping, and portions of the hike/bike trail will receive scheduled maintenance. As a result of our new agreement with Santa Fe County, the portion of our hike/bike trail along Vista Grande, across from the El Dorado Community School, is scheduled to be completely rebuilt.

All in all, this is another very busy season for the Facilities & Grounds Committee and the ECIA staff. Please take full advantage of the wonderful amenities that are available in Eldorado and let us know how we are doing. Drop us an email or give us a call and share your thoughts regarding the amenities.

—John Calzada

Time to Slow Down

On a recent walk in northwest Eldorado, I encountered perhaps as many as 20 vehicles along my route. Of that score of cars and trucks, I estimate that only one was traveling at anywhere close to the posted speed limit of 25 MPH.

The first thing that occurred to me was that my chosen route (along the length of Avenida Azul) was not the wisest choice. The next was that people seem to be in quite a hurry. (A confession: I have frequently let my speed go well beyond 25 MPH along this very route.)

Ever since getting a speeding ticket while driving well above the posted limit along Route 41 on my way back from Moriarty last summer, I have been rethinking speed limits and my attitude toward ignoring them when I am driving the back roads of New Mexico.

The speed limits are not there as an intrusion on my personal liberty; nor are they set by a government bureaucrat who doesn't understand my need to get where I am going on time. The speed limits are set in consideration of such issues as the volume of traffic, the width of the right-of-way, the composition of the road surface, and the sight lines that are limited by the hills and curves of the terrain.

After the sheriff's deputy pulled away that day last summer, I realized that if I had crested a hill and encountered cyclists traveling at less than half my speed, I would have had precious little time to see

them, analyze the situation, and respond appropriately. What if I encountered cyclists and there was an oncoming truck?

Back in Eldorado, walking down Avenida Azul, it occurs to me that one can traverse the entire length of Avenida Azul (1.2 miles) while driving 25 MPH in 2.9 minutes. Increasing speed to 40 MPH reduces the time to 1.8 minutes, resulting in a savings of only 66 seconds. At the same time, the increase in speed reduces the time it takes to see, analyze, and avoid an obstacle in the road ahead by 40% or more, depending on the reduced sight lines that result from the hills, dips, and curves of Avenida Azul.

Think about it. What is a saving of 66 seconds really worth when compared with the risk of hitting a pedestrian, or a conscientious pet owner who is bending down to clean up after their dog? Or as I saw on my walk that day, of striking a child on a bicycle, who, in his exuberance is racing to catch up with his sister and crosses the centerline. I suspect that were you to be unfortunate enough to find yourself in any of these scenarios, you would spend the rest of your life praying for a second chance to spend those "saved" 66 seconds differently.

P.S. As a result of my observations and reflections, I have decided that Avenida Azul is not a wise choice for a walking route. Further, if/when you see me letting my speed creep above the posted limit, you have my permission to call me out.

—John F. Spain, Green Mini Cooper, Lic: 438 RLB



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Pronghorn Antelope

We in Eldorado are sometimes fortunate to see Pronghorn Antelope. Found in much of our state, Pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana*) are remarkably fast. They can maintain speeds of 30 MPH over long distances and can sprint up to 60 MPH.

The Apache, one of the few tribes that did not eat Pronghorn Antelope meat, had a legend that a beautiful young woman of the tribe became a Pronghorn. Her descendants run with the herd, so eating the meat could be the same as eating an ancestor.

The Blackfeet had a legend that the god Old Man created the Pronghorn in the Rockies, but the animal's great speed caused it to fall on the mountain surface. Old Man then moved the Pronghorn to the prairie, where it thrived along with bison.

And thrive it did. Large Pronghorn herds—an estimated 40 million—roamed the American West. Even into the late 1800s, a train passenger described a herd of antelope that covered seventy miles. These amazing animals, like the bison, were driven to the brink of extinction due to massive slaughters.

The Pronghorn is North America's only big game animal with branched horns, from which it gets its name. Their horns are not antlers but are true horns, derived from hairs. Pronghorns shed the hollow outer sheath each year in October and November and grow a new set by July.

Living an average of ten years, Pronghorns are herbivores, eating grasses, sagebrush, and other prairie plants. In some areas, Pronghorns migrate long distances between summer and winter feeding grounds, depending on food availability. They rarely jump over 3 feet, which means most fences interrupt their migrating patterns.



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It's important to remember it is never wise to feed wild animals, as it obviously draws them toward homes and can make them too comfortable around people. Many residents, for example, enjoy feeding birds, but it's good to realize that bird feed also attracts other animals as well—mice, squirrels, and rabbits—and they in turn attract predators.

Coyotes, our native “song dogs,” are one of our most common predators. If, like some residents, you don't want them nearby, the national organization called Project Coyote recommends “hazing.” Hazing is a way of scaring (not hurting) the coyote away. Find out more at ProjectCoyote.org under Resources > Coyote Hazing Field Guide.

References for this article are available upon request. We love hearing from you! Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com.



Pronghorn antelope sighted in Eldorado. Above: Along Avenida de Compadres (photo: Margo Jenkins); at left: in area greenbelt (photo: Ann Wood).

Raznick, *continued from p. 3*

There were 125 students at that time, and the principal knew every student and parent.

Barbara, after leaving RA in the 1980s, with two of her friends, operated the Eldorado Ice Cream and Supply Store, an all-purpose general store located in the Railroad Building. It was the gathering place for residents and workers during the boom years of building in Eldorado.

“It was a very relaxing, laissez faire time. As the community expanded, the ECIA developed into a well-organized association, which it had to be, with the responsibility for 2769 properties. Over the years, there have been contentious issues but I have learned that the community will always overcome them and grow for the betterment. As a realtor, in showing Eldorado properties, I am asked if there is another subdivision that can offer the amenities that Eldorado has, and my response always is, ‘When you find it, let me know.’”

For about 10 years, Fred chaired the largest social gathering in our community, sponsored by the El Dorado Fire Department in September. “We would have 700 plus in attendance, with music and barbecue at the Community Center.” Outside of Eldorado, he served five years (two years as chair) on the County Development Review Committee, has been on the Board of Temple Beth Shalom and numerous Santa Fe realtor committees.

Fred says that one of the greatest rewards he has had in living here is getting residents involved in community, several of whom have gone on to become Board directors. Fred has been an active and vital part of this community for 35 years and most deserves to be named Resident of the Year for his many contributions in the past, present, and future. Look for Fred riding in the lead convertible of the Fourth of July parade, reserved for Resident of the Year, and get him talking, with his wealth of knowledge, about our wonderful community. Thank you, Fred, for your part in making Eldorado the great place it is to live in today.

Eldorado Community
Improvement Association
#1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
www.eldoradosf.org



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Greenbelt Trail Work in Eldorado

A recent survey found over 25 kilometers (15 miles) of greenbelt trails in need of serious maintenance. The Conservation Committee, after listening to a presentation by the Rail Trail steward (one of our residents), examined and discussed pilot project options and has chosen a loop within the Upper Pueblo Canyon Park for a pilot project. The pilot project loop can be accessed from the small parking lot at Avenida Vista Grande and the Rail Trail, at the north branch of Pueblo Canyon Park greenbelt trail. The project boundary extends west approximately a kilometer to Avenida de Compadres and returns via the south branch of the Pueblo Canyon Park greenbelt trail to the Rail Trail trestle, finishing the loop back at the parking lot, approximately 4 kilometers, or 2.5 miles.

The upgrade will follow the existing greenbelt trail (carefully refraining from encroaching on property lines) and will include, where necessary, several standard erosion control features such as grade reversals, knicks, and serpentine adjustments for bicycle speed abatement, at the same time improving overall outdoor experience aesthetics. Our goal for the multi-use hike/bike trail is to bring the path up to Forest Service Class 4 design parameters: 3%–5% cross tread slope for water sheeting, 2%–8% maximum grades, and a 48-inch tread width with a 6- to 8-inch cactus-free

buffer on either side to allow safe passing of walkers and cyclists. Trail maintenance classes will be offered for volunteers to sustain our up-graded greenbelt trail system.

Our greenbelt trail upgrade began on April 23, 2014; the project area is outlined on the map below.

If you have any comments or concerns about this project, please call the ECIA offices at 466-4248.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

