

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 7

July 2006

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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## Protecting/Restoring Our Desert Wetlands

**I**T MAY SOUND UNLIKELY, but there are wetlands in our desert environment south of Santa Fe. "They make up less than one percent of the land area in the Galisteo watershed, but are essential in sustaining biodiversity and wildlife habitat, filtering sediment and storing water," says **Steve Vrooman**, staff biologist at the Earth Works Institute.

Vrooman just completed a yearlong study of wetlands and riparian areas in the Galisteo watershed. Moreover, he lives just next to several small springs and wetlands at the edge of the Eldorado Wilderness in Lower Canoncito. He explains, "Wetlands are areas that are permanently wet. You can see that because of standing or flowing water, soil characteristics and plants that thrive in wet conditions. Riparian areas are ecosystems next to streams or wetlands. They are only periodically flooded and hold some moisture deeper in the soil."

Vrooman has been inventorying the wetlands in the Galisteo watershed for Earth Works Institute, a local ecological engineering and land stewardship organization. The inventory documents the size and conditions of the wetlands and is used to prioritize any future rehabilitation and protection measures. Earth Works started this program in 2005 in collaboration with the State Environment Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau, with funding from the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Earth Works staff discovered that the Galisteo watershed contains many areas that used to be much wetter. Many millions of years ago the watershed area was in fact a large lake. The bowl shape of the basin can still be seen from high vantage points in the area. In its geologic history, the watershed has been filled with thick layers of sediment that have washed down from surrounding mountains. The sediments were subsequently lifted up, interrupted by volcanic eruptions, and eroded again. In some places, this jumble of geologic layers now releases water from hillside springs.

In the past 200 years, human occupation and construction combined with mining, logging and over-

grazing have led to concentrated flows of water in the creeks. The erosive force of the water has cut deeply into the sediments in the creek bottoms of the watershed. As a result, the Galisteo Creek now flows 15-20 feet below its original flood plain in many places, and numerous side gullies have formed along the creek banks. In the wake of these erosion processes many springs, wet meadows, ponds and marshes have deteriorated or dried out altogether.

Several such spring areas are located in the Eldorado Wilderness. Downstream from the springs the water saturates the soil and forms small wetlands. In the recent past, a combination of factors—such as ongoing drought conditions, accelerated runoff and erosion from upstream, heavy trampling and county road paving without proper drainage mitigation—have led to rapid erosion of the wetlands. Vrooman explains, "The eroded arroyo bottoms rapidly drain the wetlands and dry out the vegetation, further reducing its vigor and resistance to erosion."

Earth Works Institute is in the process of selecting several wetlands with a high need for rehabilitation and a high likelihood of successful recovery. In the next year, Earth Works will offer meetings, tours and workshops to discuss the pros and cons of wetland rehabilitation and what communities can do to protect their wetlands and streambottom areas. The springs and wetlands in the Eldorado Wilderness will be included in these educational activities. With the public input received, Earth Works will coordinate the rehabilitation and protection of the wetlands. By working together on wetland protection, residents and local and state institutions will have a chance to explore the exciting paradox of cultivating wet areas in a desert environment.

—*Jan-Willem Jansens*

*Jan-Willem Jansens is Executive Director of Earth Works Institute and initiator of the Galisteo Watershed Restoration Project.*

**ECIA Board  
Work Study  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Mon.,  
July 17, 7 pm**

**State Environment  
Department intern, Dave  
Petrie, looks up from the  
eroded bottom of a gully  
near one of Eldorado's  
wetlands.**



PHOTO BY STEVE VROOMAN

*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](mailto: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.

# Community Response

**ALL ELDORADO RESIDENTS** shared an experience during the first full week of June. It was frightening to some, portentous to others. However, the president of the board for the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD), **Mary Raynard**, sees a positive result in it as well.

On June 6, a leak in one of the water mains was discovered. Isolating and containing the leak was more difficult than encountered in the past in Eldorado, leading the EAWSD to contact the Drinking Water Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department. The Drinking Water Bureau issued the order for residents to boil their water before using for drinking or cooking. This was a precautionary step that was rescinded as soon as the water was tested and shown to be free of bacteria. Said Mary, "I am thankful to the state for expediting the water testing."

An estimated 200-300 households were actually without water overnight. The leak depleted three of the water tanks, causing the EAWSD to ask all Eldorado residents not to water outside, not to shower and to curtail water use in the house as much as possible. EAWSD also contracted Water Boys to park a 500-gallon water tanker at the main fire station and dispense drinking water to affected residents.

Three positive results stand out to Mary Raynard: that an emergency plan was in place to guide the response, that the water management team, OMI, worked hard to get the system repaired and that the people of Eldorado displayed such good attitudes. Mary stated that most of the people who contacted her during this emergency were positive, volunteered to help and were filled with the feeling of community.

One aspect of emergency preparedness that needs discussion by EASWD and others in the community is how to develop a more effective notification plan. During the emergency, Mary, wearing her hat as public relations officer, notified local media of the emergency and the boil water order, flyers were distributed and posted at the Agora and an automated message was posted on EASWD's phone. State Emergency Services allowed the use of their reverse 9-1-1 system that effectively notified some in Eldorado, but not all. With work, Eldorado should be able to come up with a notification plan of its own before another emergency occurs.

—Ken McPherson

# Watching Over Us

**AS THE SUMMER HEATS UP**, we are already holding our breath, hoping to make it through this drought without any significant fires. Most of us have our fingers crossed for rain every time the clouds look at all promising, but with that blessing come lightning strikes that cause a considerable number of fires each year.

A resident was recently sitting at the light on Avenida Amistad at Hwy 285 watching firefighters climbing Bishop's Peak. She said it was quite a sight, but it was also quite a haul for the firefighters who hiked up the peak in their firefighting gear to attack a lightning-caused fire at the very top of the hill.

Although the fire was officially in the Hondo Fire Department district, firefighters came from Eldorado, Galisteo, Glorieta and Hondo. **Lieutenant Steve Tapke** from El Dorado Fire and Rescue said that he and approximately 20 firefighters climbed the hill, supported by a dozen or so who manned the pump trucks and otherwise assisted



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

Bishop's Peak

below. Using water bladders, the 20 began attacking the fire but soon needed fire hoses dragged up to assist. After two-three hours, the fire had been extinguished with only about one acre of land burned. The firefighters had been finishing up fighting a fire in Santa Fe when they were called to the Bishop's Peak fire, so you can imagine their fatigue as they climbed down the hill to their trucks with heavy hoses draped over their shoulders.

We owe so much to the men and women who volunteer for this. How often do we think of their sacrifice? Knowing how many fires are started by lightning, the last thing we need are fires caused by human negligence. Hopefully all of Eldorado's residents will stay alert to their actions.

—Ken McPherson

# Proposed Eldorado Dog Park

**EARLY IN MAY, A GROUP** of Eldorado residents interested in establishing rules for a proposed dog park gathered to share their experiences at dog parks far and near and to discuss possible rules. We did not have to reinvent the wheel, as there is a plethora of dog park rules on the Internet. After sifting through many documents, it was decided that the rules described below best fit our community and our image of proper behavior for pets and owners.

To establish a new amenity requires that a public meeting be held to hear from residents so that we may adjust plans to reflect the desires of most of the residents. Therefore, a public meeting has been scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2006 in the Railroad/Depot Room at the Community Center. We will begin at 7 pm, and we hope you will come.

## Description of the Proposed Dog Park

The Eldorado dog park is a private special-use area dedicated to Eldorado residents and their canine pets. The dog park is designed to provide an excellent source for dog socialization and exercise and give something fun, safe and healthy back to the community.

The dog park is intended for Eldorado residents and their pets exclusively. This is the place that dogs can be off-leash legally and socialize in a controlled and relaxed manner.

The dog park will be located on the east athletic field on Community Center grounds at the corner of Avenida Amistad and Avenida del Monte Alto. This field is almost an acre, measuring 45,000 square feet. There will be a six-foot high horse wire fence with a rail fence on the outside.

A double entrance gate will allow an introductory space for easing the pet into the park.

Benches, a shade structure, a picnic table and two pooper-scooper stations will be provided.

Water will be available a short distance from the entrance gate. Since the dog park is private, swim passes will be programmed to allow entrance into the park. To have swim

passes programmed, residents must present to the Association office documentation that the dog is current on all shots and a photo of the dog. Residents wishing to use the dog park must also sign a liability disclaimer.

## Proposed Dog Park Rules

- 1) No animals other than dogs are permitted in the park.
- 2) Dogs under six months of age and female dogs in heat are prohibited.
- 3) Children under 12 must be closely supervised at all times by an adult. It is strongly urged that young children not be brought to the dog park for their own safety.
- 4) No food or treats (human or dog), alcoholic beverages, strollers, bicycles, or children's toys are allowed in the dog park. Smoking is not allowed in the park.
- 5) No more than three beings (dogs and/or children) per handler are allowed.
- 6) Dog waste must be cleaned up by the dog owners and placed in proper receptacles.
- 7) Dogs must be on a leash when entering and exiting the off-leash dog area.
- 8) Dog owners must be in the park and within view and voice control of their dogs at all times. Owners must have a leash in their possession at all times.
- 9) Excessive barking and aggressive behavior is prohibited. Dogs barking excessively or dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior (fighting) must be removed.
- 10) Handlers are responsible for any injuries caused by the dog(s) under their control.
- 11) Only neutered/spayed dogs will be allowed in the dog park.

Users of the facility do so at their own risk. The Eldorado Community Improvement Association shall not be liable for injuries to dogs, their owners/handlers or others who use the dog park.

—Jeanne Klein

*Public Forum*  
*There will be a public forum*  
*concerning the proposed Dog*  
*Park at 7 pm on August 7 in*  
*the Railroad Building.*

## ECIA OFFICE

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## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

Animal Control

992-1621



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON



Stable manure: take all you want; we'll make more.

### That's a Load Off

The Eldorado stables (off Avenida Eldorado just west of Highway 285) is offering free horse manure, and will even load it for you. Horse manure makes rich compost and compost makes great mulch. Saturday July 15, from 9 am to 1 pm, we will load your truck or trailer. Call **Su Anne Armstrong** at 660-1996 for more information.

### Dogs for Deaf

The Eldorado Roadrunner RV chapter of National Good Sam RV Club participated in the ERA's

Spring Flea Market on May 13. All profits from sales went to the Dogs for Deaf. For more information on the Eldorado Roadrunners or Dogs for Deaf, contact presidents **Bill and Lillian Bodle** at 466-3011.

### No-Stress Bridge

The Wednesday morning bridge group is looking for a few good members. Over the past few years we have advanced from beginning players to intermediate players. No-stress bridge is a great way to play with others and not have the responsibility of finding a replacement if you must be absent for any reason. We are a purely social group and do not play for prizes or money, just for the sheer fun of it. We don't criticize our members' playing, but if you need help with a hand, we gladly do our best to assist anyone. Our meetings take place every Wednesday from 9 am to noon in the living room of the Community Center. To become a member, you must have played bridge before and have a basic knowledge of the rules of bidding and play (Goren). Our group is intermediate, not beginning. We do not have a teacher available. We do, however, have "cheat sheets" available in case you have a hand that is a little tricky to bid. So come on over and join us for some fun, no-stress bridge and make friends. You can just drop in or give us a call. Our contact person is **Nancy Rost** at 466-2832.



### Show and Tell

At 7 pm on July 27, the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association will hold its monthly meeting at the main El Dorado Fire and Rescue station. Two local artists who participated in the 2006 Studio Tour will be the presenters. **Virginia Westray** works with vitreous enamel as a painting medium, which is then fired on copper. **Anne Farella** creates original unique overlay jewelry, incorporating bold patterns of ancient symbols in silver. The meeting is open to the public. For membership information, contact **Joretha Hall** at 466-6245 or **George Henke** at 466-4988.

### 15th Studio Tour a Grand Success

**Joretha Hall**, president of the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association (EACA), reports that there were about 1,100 visitors at this year's Preview Gallery at the elementary school—a record. Some artists reported over 300 visitors to their homes. The net result is that many artists sold their work, and had the opportunity to meet new out-of-state and local Tour visitors. EACA's donation to three community organizations reached \$4,000 for the first time. The organizations that benefit are El Dorado Fire and Rescue, the Vista Grande Public Library and the El Dorado Elementary School.



### Explore!

Thursday, July 20, 7 to 9 pm, Vista Grande Public Library presents Eldorado residents **Kathryn and Dick Huelster**, writers and publishers of *High Desert Field Guides*. Their program, "Explore Northern New Mexico," gives an inside look at their efforts to publish their essential pocket-size guides to the Southwest. They will focus on their most recent publications: *Dance Ceremonies of Northern Rio Grande Pueblos* and *Rock Art Images of Northern New Mexico*, and will be joined by writer **Dennis Slifer**, who is also a photographer and guide to the Southwest.



## Astronomy Corner

### PLANETARY NEBULAE

When a star can't support itself by fusion reaction in its core, the gravity from the outer layers forces the inner parts to shrink and heat up. The higher temperature then pushes the outer layers away, forming a "globe" of stellar "wind" lasting a few thousand years. At the end, the stellar core is uncovered and causes the distant gases to glow.

These "planetary" objects form in the late stages of the lives of some stars. The name planetary refers to their appearance in small telescopes. William Herschell coined the name "Planetary Nebula" between 1784 and 1785. Our Sun will probably be a Planetary Nebula at an age of about 10-13 billion years, but don't worry, our Sun is only 4.7 billion years old.

### July Sky:

**Mercury, Saturn, Mars** and **Regulus**, visible looking west on July 2 just after sunset; **Venus**, rises before sunrise; **Jupiter**, shines high in the southwest at sunset.

**Next : Antares—the rival of Mars.**

—Juan Alvarez  
Jalva88610@aol.com

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

### Early Childhood Education

An Early Childhood educational program for children ages 3 to 6 years and a professional development resource for Early Childhood teachers is opening August 28 at 172 Avenida Vista Grande in Eldorado. For information and enrollment applications please contact **Peggy Trumble** at 438-3705 or [ptst@aol.com](mailto:ptst@aol.com).

# July Events

## Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto: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**

### JULY SPECIAL EVENTS

4th of July Parade and Community Event begins at 10 am (see page 8)

ERA Quarterly Meeting Mon., July 10, 6:30-9 pm

CR

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

285 Coalition	Wed., July 5, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., July 12, 10-noon	Gisela Knight	466-2568	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., July 12, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., July 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
EAWS&SD*	Tues., July 18, 7-9 pm		466-2411	RR
ECIA Board	Thurs., July 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., July 24, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
Stable Committee	Tues., July 25, 7-9 pm	Dina Sassone	466-2516	CR
Architectural Committee	Wed., July 26, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., July 8, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., July 13, 6:30-9:30 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Troop 414 Committee	1st Wed., 7:30-9 pm	Bruce Blossman	955-0880	CR
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726	C
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579	Sm Gym
La Canada Wireless	Mon., July 10, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Call for date and time	M. van Domselaar	466-3864	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., July 18	Etain O'Malley	466-4708	CFR
Perform. Arts Assoc.	2nd Sat., 10 am-noon	Etain O'Malley	466-4708	RR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	982-2890	

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Fridays, 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Wednesdays, 6:30-9 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thursdays, 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1 pm	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641	School

\*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

\*\*Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

## New to the Board—Not to Eldorado



PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS

Su Anne is active at the stables and loves to ride in the 4th of July parade. She is at the forefront of this photo.

**R**ECENTLY ELECTED to the Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) Board, **Su Anne Armstrong** is a long-time resident of Eldorado. She and her husband, **Ted Hopkins**, bought their home here nearly 20 years ago in 1987 and have seen our community grow, encounter problems and steadily improve since then.

Su Anne was born in Longview, Texas in 1951 and reports that with a frequently moving family she attended five elementary schools before she reached the 5th grade—finally staying in one place, New Orleans, long enough to complete high school.

Following graduation from Northwestern Louisiana State University, our newest Board member worked in a wide and diverse variety of jobs that included employment as a social worker, waitress, furniture refinisher, shuttle driver for a whitewater

rafting company and an interesting stint as a tour guide for nearby Rancho de Las Golondrinas.

Shortly after moving to Santa Fe in 1979, she met Ted, her future husband. Following their marriage in 1982, they began putting together a retail concept and opened up a business near the Plaza called The Chile Shop, which sold tableware and southwestern-themed products. After many different jobs, this one touched her passion in a way that moved her to describe it as her true calling—being the CEO of her own business.

Whatever she may say about the joys of business, Su Anne Armstrong has many other interests that keep her and her husband busy now in what she describes as her “retirement.” They hike and backpack and recently traversed 100 miles through the Highlands of Scotland—reporting that, “I don’t sleep as well as I used to on the ground.”

Those who know Su Anne well would say that her main hobbies are her horses, her dog and her garden—all priority-one, fun tasks for her. In 1995 she began riding with a friend who had more horses than she could keep exercised and then began taking riding lessons, which she still continues. Her horse, Valentine, with whom she has explored every trail between I-25 and the village of Lamy, is now in retirement and Su Anne helps exercise the many equines in the Eldorado stables that need regular outings.

Concerning her new job as a Board Member of the ECIA, Su Anne is clear that she has no grandiose programs to suggest. She likes what the ECIA Board has done and is doing to make life better in Eldorado. She will, however, bring to the Board a key idea she employed successfully as a member of the Stable Committee. “Most people will cooperate and follow the rules,” she says. “Take time to explain the rule and the reason for the rule and 95% of them will comply.”

We wish Su Anne and our Board well dealing with all ECIA members.

—Frank Schober

### Pool Hours

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

- ▼ Lap Swim: 8 to 9:30 am every day; 6 to 8 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- ▼ General Swim: 9:30 am to 8 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday; 9:30 am to 6 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- ▼ To use the pool, your Association dues must be paid for 2006.

### Town Hall Meeting

Santa Fe County Commissioner Jack Sullivan invites you to attend an **ELDORADO TOWN HALL MEETING** Thursday, July 13, from 6 to 8 pm in the Railroad Building. County staff will be present for area updates and questions.



## Northern Mockingbird (NM)

**THIS MEDIUM-SIZE GRAY BIRD,** 10 inches long, with a 14-inch wingspan (slightly smaller and slimmer than a robin) is stylish despite its drab color. Adults have a thin black eye-line, two white wing bars and large patches of white on the top and bottom of their wings that flash conspicuously in flight. The tail is quite long. Males and females are similar. They are resident year-round, although some may migrate to Mexico.

Pairs are monogamous and build a cup-like nest in a tree. Three to five eggs hatch in 12 days and the atrical young fledge in 12 days. Males court with an elaborate bowing and wing-fluffing dance. The NM mostly feeds on the ground, running or hopping and then lunging after its insect prey. During foraging, the NM raises and flashes its wing patches, possibly to startle insects. Their diet also includes fruit.

The NM is famous for its vocal mimicry. The birds learn their song from species peers during youth and continue to acquire/learn songs and other non-avian sounds (e.g., human whistling, squeaking gates) throughout their lives. Birds have exceptional hearing, and the mimicry probably does not fool anyone (bird or human!). Some studies suggest that males with the largest repertoire may acquire mates and

intimidate rivals more easily. It is said that unmated males sing longer and louder. Sometimes males can be heard singing through the night, especially under a bright moon. A bird may have as many as 200 songs. NM song is easy to recognize—a sequence of notes is repeated twice, followed by a totally new sequence (Brrr-Brrr-Peep-Jeep, Brrr-Brrr-Peep-Jeep, Wrek-Wrek-So-So-Ja-Pup, Wrek-Wrek-So-So-Ja-Pup, etc.).

According to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, many NMs were kept in cages during the 1700s and 1800s. Near Philadelphia, St. Louis and other cities, NMs virtually became extinct. Populations are now recovered and the release of caged birds may account for NMs in Hawaii, Portland, San Francisco and some central Canadian cities.

—Pam Henline



## Building Community

**WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (NW)?** The Eldorado Neighborhood Watch is a voluntary program, organized and run by the residents of our community that works with the concept of “neighbor to neighbor” communication. It is also a committee of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association. NW aids in building a secure, informed neighborhood where residents get acquainted with one another and watch out for and assist each other. NW works toward community improvement by addressing issues related to home security, animal control, traffic safety and illegal activities. Neighbors are invited to implement crime prevention measures and report suspicious activity to the County Sheriff’s Department, State Police and/or the Eldorado Security Patrol (anonymously, if preferred). NW members are not expected to directly intervene in possible criminal activity.

**Why do we need Neighborhood Watch in Eldorado?** We are fortunate to have a low crime rate here, and yet crime does exist. At this time there may be a significant lag in response time for law enforcement should a serious problem arise. NW helps neighbors connect, create a stronger sense of community and prevent crime. Sheriff’s deputies often attend

Eldorado NW committee meetings to update the community on crime in the area and listen to the concerns of the community.

**What is a Block Captain and what do they do?** Block captains are the cornerstone of NW. They share a responsibility for looking out for the residents of a particular area by visiting with neighbors, explaining the program and gathering pertinent information from each resident. They may choose to attend monthly NW committee meetings and pass information from neighbors to the group.

**Get involved!** Current Block Captains and/or Eldorado residents interested in helping start a NW group in their neighborhood can contact us now. Starting a group involves talking to your neighbors, gathering contact information and sharing that info with neighbors. (No agency is given this info—it stays in your neighborhood.) This involves a few hours time commitment while reaping significant rewards in strengthening your neighborhood. Our experienced NW members will help you get started.

For more information, contact **Mary Uhl** at 466-6014 or **Marilyn Walker** at 466-2553, or go to <http://www.eldoradocommunity.org> and click on Committees, then Neighborhood Watch.

*Security 204-2945  
Sheriff 428-3720*

## *Join the Fun*

Well, it's coming up to July 4th, and you know what that means: it's hot, it's time to swim, it's time for hotdogs and snow cones and it's time for Eldorado's annual 4th of July parade! Maybe we fall just a little short of the Rose Bowl parade, but it is still fun for you, your kids and your neighbors. Following the parade, there is more fun. Everyone meets at the Community Center for snow cones, popcorn, lemonade, music and games for the children. Joining the Eldorado Community Band for this year's music will be the Eldorado Swing Shift. As if that isn't enough, there will be pool games beginning at 12:30 pm for the kids.

Wouldn't you like to be a part of all this? It's not too late to volunteer to help with the festivities. We need parade organizers and judges, and folks to scoop sticky snow cones. To be part of the fun, call the Association office (466-4248) and let us know how you can help in continuing this fun Eldorado tradition.

Parade participants gather at 9:30 am close to Vista Grande on Ave. del Monte Alto. The parade begins at 10 am and continues down Monte Alto to the Community Center. Join us for a great 4th!

PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS



Santa Fe Boy Scout Troop 414 provides the Color Guard for the 2005 Eldorado Fourth of July Parade. Troop 414 will continue the tradition in the 2006 parade.