

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME X, ISSUE 7

July 2008

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradocommunity.org

Eldorado 4th of July Parade

HELP US CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY, BEGINNING AT 9:30 AM ON FRIDAY, JULY 4. HERE'S THE SCHEDULE:

9:30 am.....Parade participants gather on Moya Road at Monte Alto

10:00.....Parade proceeds along Monte Alto to the Community Center

11:00-12:00 ...At the Eldorado Community Center Patio:

- ▼ Star Spangled Banner sung a capella by Meigui Wei
- ▼ Ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the new patio
- ▼ 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons awarded for best costume, best dressed animal, best decorated trike or wagon, best decorated bicycle, and youngest participant
- ▼ Free hot dogs, popcorn, lemonade and snow-cones
- ▼ Music by the Eldorado Community Band
- ▼ Raffle benefiting the El Dorado School PTA Fund. Win a basket bursting with gift certificates and great stuff donated by local merchants.
- ▼ Demonstrations by El Dorado Fire and Rescue

12:00 noon....Pool games for the kids

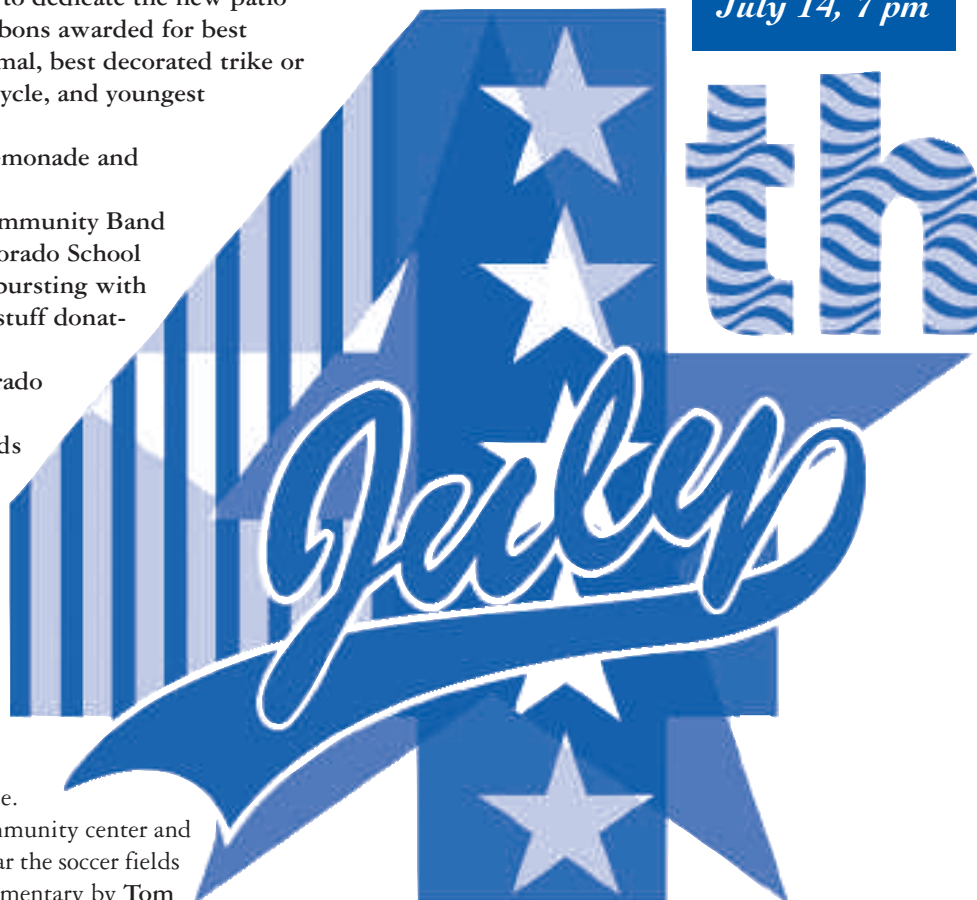
OUR COMMUNITY PARADE

is led by the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service fleet and the Scout Honor Guard, with the horses from the Eldorado Stables bringing up the rear. In between are lots of kids, cycles, wagons, dogs, convertibles, motorcycles, Santa Claus and Uncle Sam all in their red, white and blue star-spangled best. Anyone can join the parade.

Parade watchers should park at the community center and walk the short distance to the bleachers near the soccer fields for the best viewing and entertaining commentary by **Tom Miller**, the new ECIA Board President.

Bring chairs, hats, cash for raffle tickets, the whole family, friends and neighbors and join us for our community celebration of our nation's birthday.

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
July 14, 7 pm*



*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 ECIADebby@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.

Is Eldorado A Safe Community?

RECENTLY A NEW, PART-TIME resident of Eldorado named Jody sent a letter of distress to the editor of *Vistas*. Last summer Jody's family bought a second home here, hoping someday to make it their primary residence. Beginning her letter with "I wish my house had eyes," Jody describes how, shortly after her family left their new house in Eldorado to return back east, the house was broken into and a car and television set stolen. To Jody's dismay, "no one saw anything."

Feeling "shocked and frightened," she goes on to comment, "I worry that I may have put too much faith in the words 'community', 'neighborhood' and 'communal' that are often used to describe the Eldorado development."

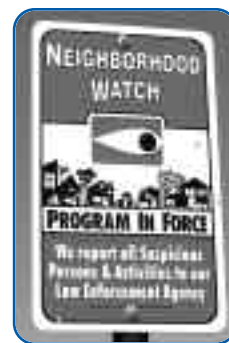
Property crime affecting one's home is always unnerving. But ECIA would like to assure Jody that there is a caring community here in Eldorado, and that there are ways our residents can protect themselves against such crimes—ways that may require some community involvement.

There are two programs that Jody (and anyone else in Eldorado) should consider. First, there's Neighborhood Watch. This program can be organized with minimal time and effort in any neighborhood. ECIA's packet for newcomers provides all the information needed to get a Neighborhood Watch program started on your block. Here's how it works. Wherever there is interest, a block captain can be

assigned to a set of 10 to 15 houses. Neighborhood Watch monitors information from the Sheriff's Department and sends out alerts to the block captains any time a crime occurs in Eldorado; the block captain then sends email notices to his or her neighbors. Also, neighbors who join a group get to know one another and can, if they choose, let the others know when they will be away, and may even ask for a little help with such things as picking up the newspaper, collecting the mail, or other small efforts that can keep an empty house from becoming an easy target. Neighborhood Watch also distributes brochures with crime-prevention tips that can help keep residents from being victimized. Even this minor level of involvement with one's neighbors can greatly increase the security of your home. If you are interested in setting up a program in your area, contact **Marilyn Walker**: 466-2553.

The second solution is Eldorado Security. For a nominal fee, any resident can request our local security patrol to keep an eye on a property—whether the owner is out of town or not. This may be just what you need to help you feel a little more safe. To learn more about this service, check out the link on www.eldoradocommunity.org; or to make arrangements, call 204-2945.

—Carol Leyba



At The Crossroads

UNNECESSARY EXPENSES: Our kids seem to be getting bored a lot earlier in the season these days. Even before school recessed for the summer, we had several instances of vandalism along our roads. Vandals damaged a number of crossing signs on the bike path along Avenida Eldorado, bent or knocked off several street signs and painted graffiti in one of the drainage culverts. These destructive acts take funds away from other, more positive expenditures (such as filling cracks in the bike paths or getting additional gravel and grading on our dirt roads). Do you know where your kids are? If they are caught, are you prepared to reimburse the expenses incurred?

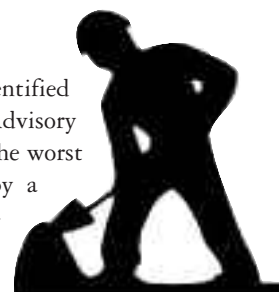
RECENTLY COMPLETED OR COMING ROAD PROJECTS: As of early July, work should be complete on (chip seal) paving of Camarada Road between Avenida Azul and Camarada Loop. This

problem area was identified by the County Road Advisory Committee as one of the worst in the County and by a petition from the residents along the road. The County has requested bids for

laying new base course on several miles of our roads and should have awarded the contract in June. Work should begin later this summer.

The Road Committee is currently deliberating future policy on paving additional roads in Eldorado. Not only is the question of "should we" under consideration; we are also exploring what criteria to use to identify candidates and how to fund the roadwork. Watch this column or our section of the ECIA website for more information.

—Nolan Zisman, Chair, ECIA Road Committee



Open Letter from New ECIA President

HELLO NEIGHBORS,

I AM HONORED to have been nominated and selected as your Eldorado Community President. Having moved here 2½ years ago and nominated to the ECIA Board in August 2007, you might say I'm on the "fast-track." I consider myself fortunate to have met so many of you—my neighbors—and I'm proud to be part of a community that gets involved, as witnessed by our wonderful committees and organizations.

A BRIEF BIO:

- ▼ Born and raised in a small town in upstate New York—I'm aware of small town values and the need for supporting local business
- ▼ Four years in the U.S. Navy, stationed in San Diego—I enjoyed the Southern California lifestyle and remained in San Diego for 23 years
- ▼ Three years as Public Relations and Event Planner for the Serra Mesa Community Council (the San Diego equivalent of the ECIA)
- ▼ My wife Noelle, daughter Faith, mother-in-law Kathy and I moved to Eldorado in April of 2006 and wish we had moved here sooner

My primary goal is better communication throughout our community. I envision an email database that would enable real-time communication to inform the community of events, meetings and emergencies (provided there is electricity). By getting the word out I would expect greater turnouts, which should lead to events that are more successful.

Time for Change

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN—time for change. In May we elected a new ECIA President, **Tom Miller**. **Sue Anne Armstrong**, formerly a Director, became Secretary. **Ed Moreno** is now Treasurer. Our new Directors are **Lisa Robles**, **Kirsten Jasna** and **Malcolm McFarlane**. The Vice-President is still **Ed Benrock**.

Now that our new Board members have had a chance to get their feet wet, committee changes are in the works. The first change is the Board Liaisons. Each Board member is assigned to a committee to represent the Board at meetings. The Architectural Committee's new liaison is **Kirsten Jasna**; the Conservation Committee's new liaison is **Lisa Robles**; the Finance Committee's new liaison is **Ed Moreno**; the Information Committee's liaison is **Tom Miller**; the Stable Committee's liaison is **Su Anne Armstrong**; the Facilities and Grounds liaison is **Malcolm McFarlane**; and Neighborhood Watch's liaison is now **Ed Benrock**. The only committee

Besides emails, the ECIA Board is committed to utilizing our website to its greatest potential. We are looking into updating the site and possibly making a few "user friendly" changes.

BETTER COMMUNICATION = A BETTER COMMUNITY!

With the new Board I'm feeling very optimistic about 2008 and beyond. Of course, this current Board stands upon the foundation of previous Boards, their dedication, hard work and community involvement.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact the ECIA office, the committee of interest, or board member via email or phone. We look forward to hearing from you.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON A DAILY BASIS:

- ▼ Say hello to your "neighbors"
- ▼ Slow down while driving through our community
- ▼ Support local businesses and organizations
- ▼ Get involved

—Tom Miller,
ECIA President

PHOTO BY TOM BRIMACOMB



Tom Miller,
New ECIA President



assignment not changed is the Roads Committee. **Ed Benrock** will continue to be the liaison for this committee.

We welcome our new *Vistas* editor, **Carol Leyba**, whose work you've had the pleasure of enjoying since June.

There is also a change in the way information is submitted for *Vistas*. Contributors should now send all documents to **Debby Padilla** at the ECIA office, at ECIADebby@aol.com, by the 3rd of each month.

The Information Committee welcomes new articles for publication. If you have a topic of concern, photos of interest, or would like to suggest ideas for stories, feel free to send them to **Debby**. Of course, there are a few guidelines: the articles cannot exceed 150 words and content cannot be inflammatory.

I look forward to hearing from you!

—Debby Padilla, Office Manager

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Director

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malcolmmcf@yahoo.com

Director

Lisa Robles
466-8975
lisarobles66@msn.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

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hope@santafe-webdesign.com
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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

ERA Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly ERA Board Meeting is being held on Monday, July 7, 7-9 pm, in the Community Center Classroom. All Eldorado residents are invited to attend.

Do you want to know more about the ERA, its history, past and current projects or volunteer opportunities on one of its committees? Then visit our website, www.eldoradoresidents.org and leave your comments.

Best wishes for a great 4th of July celebration,
—Bruce Blossman, ERA President

Adam Senior Center Programs Expand

Santa Fe County has plans to provide a program director for the Adam Senior Center who will help to develop and oversee programs for seniors living in the southeast sector of the county. The Senior Center committees are working to acquire the equipment needed to begin teaching computer classes. Art classes will also expand from clay work and tapestry weaving to include watercolor painting. With summer upon us, a new barbecue grill should add to the current lunch menu and early evening festivities. The center continues to be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 2, with lunch served from noon to 1 (cost \$1.50; call to make reservations, please).

The Senior Center is looking for volunteers to help with a weekly "game day," which would include board and card games, and they are also working to schedule instruction in line dancing. Chair yoga and Tai Chi classes are continuing at their regularly scheduled times (Yoga: Monday 10:30-11:30 am and Friday 1:30-2:30 pm; Tai Chi: Wednesday, 10:30-11:30 am). These classes are free to seniors 60 and older. For specific information about the timing of these classes and events, contact the Adam Center at 466-1039 or stop by.

Eldorado Art Association Gives Back

The Eldorado Art Association extends a heartfelt thank you to the community of Eldorado for supporting the 17th Annual Eldorado Studio Tour. With 104 artists participating this year, the committees were working doubly hard to make it easy for visitors to find the studios. Thanks go to the El Dorado Elementary School for holding a Preview Gallery in their gym for the weekend, and a huge thank you goes to the merchants and other supporters who became sponsors. We could not have had the success we did without their continued support. The artists' contribution to the community from their sales this year was the largest yet, totaling over \$4000, which will be parceled out to the El Dorado Fire and Rescue

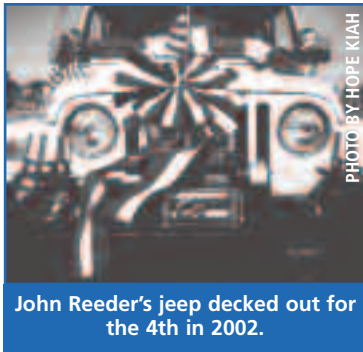


PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH

John Reeder's jeep decked out for the 4th in 2002.

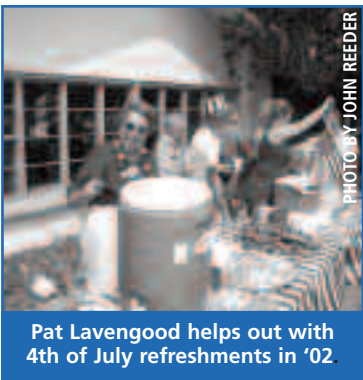


PHOTO BY JOHN REEDER

Pat Lavengood helps out with 4th of July refreshments in '02.



PHOTO BY BRAD COTTINGHAM

Josh Funfer wins bike from Roadrunners raffle



Dept., the Adam Senior Center, Vista Grande Library and the El Dorado School.

Library Events in July

On Thursdays (July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31) from 1 to 3 pm, VPGL will be holding a Summer Reading Program (registration required). On Tuesday, July 8, at 7 pm, **Desiree Mays** presents "Opera Unveiled," a look at the 2008 season of the Santa Fe Opera. On Wednesday, July 9, at 8:30 pm, VGPL holds its Night Sky Program, *Fly Me to the Moon*, with Dr. Gary Geernaert (bring lawn chairs or mats, and telescopes). Friday, July 11, is Movie Night; they will be screening *Enchanted*. And on Saturdays, July 12 and 26, at 10 am, bring your pre-schoolers to Story & Craft Hour. The Library will be closed for Independence Day on July 4 and 5.

Trail Maintenance Day

The Conservation Committee has a trail maintenance day scheduled for July 12. Please meet at the Community Center at 9 am.

Roadrunners Award Raffle Prize

The Eldorado Roadrunners Chapter of the Good Sam's RV Club would like to thank everyone who supported their effort to raise money for Dogs for the Deaf at the ERA flea market in May by donating generously or by purchasing raffle tickets for a bicycle. Congratulations to the lucky winner, Josh Funfer, who will enjoy riding his new bike to The Agora where the winning ticket was purchased. For more information on Dogs for the Deaf, please go to www.dogsforthe deaf.org.

All RV owners are invited to visit the Roadrunners' website (eldoradorvclub.com) to find out about the fun of membership in our chapter. For more information about our chapter, contact Brad and Beverly Cottingham at 466-4655.

Have You Seen This Sign?

Please be advised that there is a 2-hour parking limit in the main Agora lots. Extended parking is authorized in the East Parking Lot (closest side to 285) and is for Park and Ride only. All bus riders should have a Park and Ride plaque. For more information, please call the Agora Management at 310-2460 and log onto Eldoradocommunity.org for bus information.





ASTRONOMY Corner

OUT OF THIS WORLD

The months of May through July are a good time of year for your observing adventure. Constellations such as Sagittarius the Archer and Scorpius the Scorpion pass dramatically overhead. So does the Milky Way. The galactic bulge of this edge-on barred spiral galaxy is plainly visible on clear, dark nights.

On the recent June Solstice, the Sun reached its maximum northern declination of 23½ degrees north. This latitude is called Tropic of Cancer. The tropics of Cancer and Capricorn were named over 2,000 years ago by the ancient Greeks. Today after centuries of precession, the solstices occur in Taurus and Sagittarius.

—Juan Alvarez
Jalva88610@aol.com

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

The Pool Is Open

Pool Passes Needed

To obtain your photo ID pool pass, go to the ECIA offices Monday-Friday, 8-5. Renters need a letter from the owner of their home authorizing pool use.

Pool Season and Hours

Through Labor Day weekend.

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

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

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

July Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 8th of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. Type of Event

2. Location

3. Date & Time

4. A Resource Person

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

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.

LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Room, CR=Class Room, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen

JULY SPECIAL EVENTS

July 4 parade/pool games	Fri., July 4, 10 am	CC
Trail Maintenance Day	Sat., July 12, 9 am	CC
Agora Summer Concerts	Sat., July 26, 2 pm	Agora
Pool is open		Pool

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Committee	Tues., July 1, 7-9 pm		LR
EAWS&SD*	Tues., July 1, 7-9 pm	466-2411	CR
285 Coalition	Wed., July 2, 7-9 pm	Rosemarie Bagioni	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., July 8, 4 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305 CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., July 9, 10-noon	Dan Drobnis	466-4781 CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., July 9, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708 CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., July 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248 CFR
EAWS&SD*	Tues., July 15, 7-9 pm		466-2411 CR
ECIA Board	Thurs., July 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248 CR
Information Committee	Tues., July 22, 7-9 pm	Carol Leyba	466-1158 LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., July 23, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708 CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., July 29, 7-9 pm	Mary Ann Caldwell	466-4271 CR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

ERA Quarterly Meeting	Mon., July 7, 7-9: pm	Bruce Blossman		CR
Search & Rescue	Thurs., July 10, 6:30-9:30 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Book Club	Sat., July 12, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
La Canada Wireless	Mon., July 14 & 28, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
Roadrunners RV Club	Tues., July 15, 6 pm	Beverly Cottingham	466-4655	Fire
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kieling	466-4232	Sm Gym
MOMS Club	Last Mon. of month	Mandie Rippey	795-4086	
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	466-6398	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/RR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7:15-8:30 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Ramon Quintana	757-6424	RR
Men's Bridge	Tues., 6:30-9 pm			F
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thurs., 6:30-8:30 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	New gym
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	M, W & F, 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Figure Drawing	Mon., 10 am-noon	Virginia Westray		RR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 6 pm	Scott Gerber	466-9333	CC field
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 5:30-dusk			BB Crt

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

El Dorado K-8 Begins Its First Year

EL DORADO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL will begin its first K-8 year in August 2008. The elementary school will continue to include grades K-5, and the new middle school program will include grades 6-8.

For the 2008-2009 school year, the program will include three sixth-grade classes and two seventh-grade classes, rotating among five different teachers teaching specific subjects. Currently, the middle school teachers include **Brian Delay**, **Anita Navrot**, **Suzanne Rodriguez**, and **Scott Larson** as the new science teacher. Human Resources personnel are interviewing applicants for a fifth teacher as well.

Initial enrollment includes 46 seventh-grade students. According to Principal **Yann Lussiez**, interzone transfers from other elementary schools in the Santa Fe area may be a possibility for the seventh-grade classes if there are still open student slots later this summer.

Classes for the middle school students will be held mostly in existing space in the school. Two new portable science buildings—one classroom and one science laboratory—will be added

as well, located in the lower playground.

This summer the new field will be completed in the lower playground, for track and field events at the school. The Vista Grande Library will serve as the library for the middle school students.

Class schedules and curricula are being finalized by Vice Principal **Jennifer Sallee**. The K-5 students will continue their current schedule of Monday through Thursday 8 am to 3 pm, and Friday 8 am to 12:35 pm. The middle school schedule will be Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3 pm.

Some of the new and exciting programs being offered to the middle school students will take advantage of these extra hours on Friday afternoons. Principal Yann Lussiez is creating a leadership academy program for this time slot, with a curriculum of

new creative electives with more student community involvement. This program will include student mentorship programs involving the Vista Grande Library and possibly the Adam Senior Center as well as other community organizations. Vertical Ventures Inc. is a local program that will sponsor monthly leadership events such as camping trips, climbing wall training, climbing camps and hiking trips for the middle school students.

El Dorado middle school sports programs are not on the agenda for 2008-2009 because of lack of public school funding at this time. Students interested in participating in school sports will be allowed to try out for the Capshaw Middle School teams throughout the year.

The development of a parent-teacher committee is underway to establish a sports program at El Dorado School for the coming years after funding for coaches and equipment has been established. The K-8 architectural planning committee has developed plans for a full-sized gym which could accommodate basketball and volleyball teams, as well as a track and field for cross-country and track teams. The ECIA will be posting an activities/sports web page on its website (www.eldoradocommunity.org) for interested students, parents, and coaches in the community to help establish the sports program, generate ideas and help recruit volunteer coaches and trainers from the community.

The K-8 architectural planning committee is continuing to develop plans for new classrooms, gym space and laboratories for future El Dorado students. However, new construction will likely not begin until 2009-2010, after architectural plans and financing have been completed.

El Dorado School registration for the 2008-2009 school year will be held in the El Dorado School cafeteria on August 14 and 15 between 8 am and 3 pm for all new and returning students.

—Lisa Robles & Kirsten Jasna

Photo by Carol Leyba



New, bright red lockers await incoming seventh-graders at El Dorado School.

Stage 2 Water Alert in Effect

AS THE JULY VISTAS goes to press, Eldorado is under a Stage 2 (Severe) Water Alert, mandating water restrictions for all water users. Outdoor watering is limited to one day a week per household (even addresses on Thursday; odd addresses on Tuesday; watering only between 6 pm and 10 am). Car washing as well as filling, refilling, or adding water to spas, ponds, fountains,

or swimming pools are prohibited. Horse washing is restricted to use of a bucket. And restaurant customers must specifically ask for water to be served.

Residential users violating the restrictions will initially receive a warning. A second violation will result in water service being turned off. Construction users may receive a service shutoff with a first violation.

Pain at the Pump

TURN NORTH OUT OF ELDORADO

Ton Route 285, pass the I-25 interchange and you will shortly be transported back to an economically happier time. A sign remaining from a defunct, long-closed gas station says it all: regular gas selling at an astonishing \$1.39 a gallon, a price that will probably never be seen again near here or anywhere else in the world.

Though not gleaned from a scientific survey, Eldorado transportation habits seem obvious:

- ▼ Most residents own two or more automobiles.
- ▼ The vast majority of our daily trips are to and from the city of Santa Fe.
- ▼ Most cars on the road between Eldorado and Santa Fe proper have only one passenger (the driver)
- ▼ Few of us who live here coordinate our trips “into town” with other family members in order to reduce our gasoline expenditures.

Assuming that the developers of Eldorado had a business plan, it is a safe bet that one of its assumptions read something like: “The community we propose to build is only 12 miles from the Plaza—a short trip. Although there is no public transportation, a buyer will not be deterred from going into town to shop or to access the services available in Santa Fe.”

Given the price of gas today, what was seen as an advantage to the developers of Eldorado has turned into a distinct disadvantage. With gasoline prices now at \$4 a gallon, many of us have to reconsider the habit of making a solo trip “into town” and back, a 25- to 30-mile round-trip, not just once but twice a day.

Useful gas- and money-saving tips are available all over the Internet. One of the best sites for such information is www.gasbuddy.com. First on the list of gasbuddy's advice is this astounding bit of information, which should be noted by all of us who drive at the New Mexico speed limit of 70 to 75 mph (but who usually speed up to 80, assuming that no self-respecting state police officer would ticket us for being just 5 miles above the legal limit):

Avoid High Speeds! As your speed increases, your aerodynamic drag increases in an exponential fashion. Driving 62 mph vs. 75 mph will reduce fuel consumption by about 15%.

Gasbuddy.com also reports the lowest gasoline prices available in our area, throughout the state and everywhere else in the country. Price information for our area is now also on our community website (www.eldoradocommunity.org).

What more can we do for ourselves in this time of high-priced fuel? A suggestion from one of our

Photo by Max Underwood



residents is that every household should hold a weekend meeting to coordinate family members' trips into Santa Fe for the week ahead. Meetings, shopping trips, medical appointments, attendance at entertainment events and dining out could be grouped and consolidated, saving several trips to and from the downtown area.

With respect to our fuel-intensive shopping habits, we have two shopping centers in Eldorado, one of which includes a well-stocked supermarket. We have restaurants, a bank, postal services, an auto repair facility, medical and dental offices and a business or two dedicated to making us look fit and well-groomed. Surely those of us interested in reducing our respective carbon footprints and/or saving family income should consider making “Shop Eldorado first” a gasoline- and money-saving mantra.

The ECIA is doing its part to help its members cope with high gasoline prices. Check out www.eldoradocommunity.org for information on joining a carpool. It may take a price of \$5 or \$6 a gallon at the pump to get most of us to do it, but a system for forming carpools is there, ready to expand, for all of us who wish to make use of it.

In addition to making plans to rid ourselves of vehicles we know to be gas guzzlers, we should also urge our elected representatives to work toward providing Eldorado with more than the minimal public transportation it now has. With rail transportation coming to Santa Fe, with Santa Fe increasing its own bus services, it makes sense for Eldorado to have hourly bus service connecting with Santa Fe and the world beyond. We are too big a community to be neglected by transportation planners and providers at any level of government.

—Frank Schober



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July Agora Concert Performance Line-Up

The Agora Summer Concerts heat up on Saturday, July 26, with a full afternoon of song and dance, beginning at 2:00 with **Jackie Camborde's** students dancing to their DJ's music. Then the **Eldorado Depot Dancers**, with their caller **Mike Holly**, will perform square dancing at 4:00 pm. The group has been meeting Friday evenings at the Depot at the Community Center for some time now, and newcomers are always

welcome to join. At 6:00 pm **Sandra McKnight**, professional actress, singer and comedienne, and **Betsy Alden Robinson**, accomplished singer of songs and teller of stories, will be joined by the well-known pianist **Kelvin McNeal** on the keyboard. Join the cabaret! Bring chairs (seating is limited) and hat and sunscreen for the afternoon performances.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH DENKER

Performers Betsy Robinson and Sandra McKnight