

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 7

July 2010

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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

July 4 Festivities in Eldorado

THE BIGGEST LOCAL EVENT OF THE year is coming up. ECIA has a full day of fun activities planned for the whole family to celebrate our nation's Independence Day on July 4.

A parade, food, games, music, and other fun activities are in store, so please join us for the festivities.



- ▶ 10:00 am: Parade begins on Avenida Monte Alto and marches to the Clubhouse
- ▶ 10:30 Food service begins: Hot dogs, sno cones, popcorn!
- ▶ 11:00 Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem
Entertainment
Announcement
Introduction of Resident of the Year:
Marilyn Walker of Neighborhood Watch
- ▶ 12:00 Pool Games

At La Tienda, across from the Agora, there will be another set of holiday events:

- ▶ 8-10 am: Pancake breakfast, sponsored by B3 Books and La Plancha, fundraiser for Learning Minds Local Santa Fe Projects. All you can eat \$5 (adults), \$3 (kids under 10)
 - ▶ After the Parade, noon-4 pm
Balloons
Bounce room for the kids
Stagecoach rides for all ages
Frisbees from Mike's Music Exchange and a chance to win free tickets
Tarot card readings
Bicycle skills course and free flat fixes for kids under 13 years old
 - ▶ 1-3 pm: Free Concert: Felix y Los Gatos
 - ▶ 2 pm: Classic cars from a car show on the Santa Fe Plaza are expected to swing by La Tienda around 2 pm
- Food vendors will be serving, including La Plancha (the new restaurant), Gene's hot dogs stand, and Lamy Cafe.

ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center, Thurs., July 15, 7 pm. Public is invited.



Photo by Dan Drobnis



ECIA: WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU

*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 e-mailed to ECIA@DiAna@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.

The Trail to a Conservation Intern

DANIEL ESCUTIA HAS BEEN HIRED to support ECIA's Conservation Committee in the management of the community wilderness preserve. Daniel will receive direct supervision from Earthworks, a local environmental organization focusing on land management in the Galisteo Basin. Daniel and several other interns will be splitting their time working on projects for the Quivira Coalition, Common Wheel, and the ECIA.

Daniel is from the Chicago area and has a strong background in community outreach and environmental work. One of his duties will be assisting ECIA in developing greater community involvement in the many pressing projects that appropriate management

of our preserve requires. Many of our trails, established over twenty years ago, are in poor repair and were not made to the standard required to support the multiple uses that currently exist.

The Conservation Committee will be prioritizing the work that needs to be done at the preserve and coordinating with Earthworks to ensure that this work is completed. Notices will be placed on the ECIA marquees and in *Vistas* regarding opportunities for the public to get involved. Should you wish to have additional information, please contact **Mark Young** at ECIA@cc@aol.com or 466-4248.

—*Conservation Committee*

Stuccoing of Homes in Eldorado

EACH YEAR, MANY ELDORADO homeowners discover that the stucco coat on their house is cracking or faded, and they conclude that their once-beautiful and protective finish now needs repair or maybe even a complete restucco job. Since this can be a costly project, residents should make sure that the color they choose for the stucco is one of the acceptable Eldorado colors, as detailed on page 9 of the Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions for Eldorado at Santa Fe.

Approved stucco colors can be seen at the ECIA offices on a color card as well as on the ECIA website at www.eldoradocommunity.org under Governing Documents. The earth tone (neutral) color range is enforced to ensure that Eldorado houses more nearly reflect the environment and do not significantly stand out from the landscape.

A completed Architectural Plan Application form is required for any restuccoing job. Plans for approved colors will be granted immediately without a committee hearing. However, if a resident wants to use a stucco color that is not pre-approved (but is earth toned and comparable to an acceptable Eldorado color), their Architectural Plan Submission Form must be reviewed by the Architectural Committee. The form is available at the ECIA office and on the website. Completed plans should be submitted to the ECIA offices to my attention (Mark Young). I will work with residents to get their plan on the agenda for review at the next Architectural Committee meeting.

If you have any questions about stucco colors or the Architectural Review Process for stuccoing, please contact me at 466-4248 or ECIA@cc@aol.com.

—*Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative*

ECIA Ad Hoc Committee on Renewable Energy

AN AD HOC COMMITTEE WAS formed in the wake of the Architectural Committee's discussions of solar array installations and the limitations implied by the ECIA Covenants and Guidelines.

The ad hoc committee is preparing a draft resolution, for community discussion and approval, on goals for renewable energy installations. Based on the input received, the committee will recommend changes to the Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions to support those objectives. Alternative energy methods under discussion include

solar (photovoltaic), wind, and geothermal. There are several new legislative initiatives, such as the County Sustainable Land Development Plan and the New Mexico Solar Rights Act, that may affect how our guidelines apply to these new energy production methods.

Dana Richards (dana@earthworksinstitute.org) is chairing the committee, which meets on the second and fourth Fridays at 10 am at the Community Center. If you wish to work on this issue, please attend the next meeting.

—*Tom Willmott*

FROM THE (NEW) PRESIDENT'S DESK

Residents Encouraged to Participate

SINCE THE ELECTION OF NEW ECIA officers, we have all been sitting in on various committees to foster dialogue with the ECIA Board. It is really impressive to see the quality of the discussions and the lively involvement of the members. "Committee" sounds pretty dry, and in some places it is. Not so in Eldorado! There are openings on various committees, and if you have not participated before, or would like to again, we encourage you to do so.

There are nine standing committees plus an Ad Hoc Committee on Architectural Guidelines. The regular committees are: Finance, Architectural, Conservation, Information (*Vistas* and web), Facilities and Grounds, Stables, Neighborhood Watch, Roads, and Elections—something for every interest. There is also an open position on the ECIA Board. Committee members are welcoming to newcomers and are willing to take time to get folks oriented. It's nice to be a

spectator, but more fun actually playing on the field.

The Architectural Committee is rebuilding after a mass resignation in late April. In the interim, Board Liaison **Pat Lavengood** and ECIA staff **Bill Donohue** and **Mark Young** are processing all permit applications. We have candidates who are participating in the meetings, but it will take some time to get them up to speed. If you would like to assist in this area, contact Bill Donohue or any Board member. Solid interpretation of the Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions is important to all of us.

We also want to acknowledge the many contributions of the prior members of the Architectural Committee and are very concerned about the differences that resulted in their departure. Perhaps all that expertise will not be forever lost.

Here's hoping we all have a healthy and enjoyable summer.

—Tom Willmott, ECIA President

Playing It Safe: Emergency Planning

EL DORADO FIRE AND RESCUE and Santa Fe Complex recently held a special meeting to help prepare our community for an emergency situation entailing a loss of electric power for a sustained period. Representatives of local organizations and the major utilities of power, water, gas, and communications gathered to participate in what emergency services providers call a "tabletop exercise."

The results of the exercise confirmed the suspicion that while individual organizations may have a plan to deal with major emergencies, they usually lack a means of sharing information and resources when such events occur.

A long period without electricity would cause major problems in Eldorado. Without power for pumps, we would be without water after three days (if the tanks were full when the outage occurred). Communications would certainly be impacted, and Internet and cellular service might be seriously curtailed.

Fire Chief **Guy Monroe**, who would be the Incident Commander until relieved by County authorities following a disaster, will make the main fire station on Avenida Vista Grande the response center for major emergencies. Our Association, the ECIA, and all other agencies and businesses would send rep-

resentatives there for purposes of vital, face-to-face communications when—not if—we are struck by a catastrophic event such as a long-term power failure.

The major utilities (gas, power, telephone, and water) present at the tabletop exercise agreed to share maps showing the location of their underground lines, something that has not been available to our water company (the EAW&SD) before. The Santa Fe Complex demonstrated an "electronic sand table" at the exercise, a device that can display the general area of Eldorado and all utilities, facilities, and incident locations on a real-time basis for use of responders and volunteers.

Everyone at the exercise agreed on the vital importance of keeping residents informed when a major emergency occurs. Neighborhood Watch, with its person-to-person contact capability, may be the only way any of us can stay informed in the early phases of such an incident.

Responsible emergency providers are getting better prepared with such exercises as this, but residents are essential for their success. Joining Neighborhood Watch is not just a wise investment to protect your home from crime. It may also save your life in a major, catastrophic event. Call **Marilyn Walker** at 466-2553 or email her at lightwalker2@comcast.net to join now.

—Bill Schwent and Frank Schober

ECIA OFFICE

#1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87508
466-4248, 466-4249
ecommunity@aol.com
www.eldoradocommunity.org

General Manager

Bill Donohue
466-4248
gmbill1@aol.com
Covenant Compliance Rep
Mark Young
466-4248
ECIAccr@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Tom Willmott
982-1602
tom.willmott@att.net

Vice-President

Ed Moreno
466-1183
edmoreno@newmexico.com
Treasurer

Todd Handy
466-3785
Todd_Gilliss@yahoo.com

Secretary

Open Position

Director

Ed Benrock
466-2088
Francesed@cybermesa.com

Director

Elan Colello

elanishere@yahoo.com

Director

Pat Lavengood

466-9765

plavengood@q.com

COMMITTEECHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Dan Drobis

Architecture: Vacant position

Conservation: John Parker &

E.J. Evangelos

Stable: Bonita Mamp

Election: Vacant position

Roads: Nolan Zisman

Information: Frank Schober

Neighborhood Watch:

Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker

Facilities & Grounds:

Fred Raznick

VISTAS NEWSLETTER

Editor & Designer

Carol Leyba

466-1158

cbsleyba@comcast.net

Webmaster:

Jack Arnold

jwellsarnold@gmail.com

Editorial Assistant:

DiAna Gutierrez

466-4248

ECIADiAna@aol.com

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

eldoradofirerescue.org

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)

ENERGY- SAVING TIP OF THE MONTH

Just One Thing!

Do you have skylights that make your house hot in the summer when the sun is high overhead? You can cool your house considerably by covering the skylights with shade cloth secured with twine—easily removed in the fall.

— Eldorado Energy Coop



Mary-Ellen Campbell's work at the Book Arts Show at La Tienda through July 4.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Studio Tour Donates to Nonprofits

The Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association had a very successful "Open Studio Tour" in May. Over 1,000 people visited the Preview Gallery at the Community School. The individual studios had up to 350 visitors. Each year the artists contribute a portion of their sales back to the community. This year the association is giving \$5,000 to other nonprofit organizations in the community. The money will be split between El Dorado Fire & Rescue, the Senior Center, Vista Grande Public Library, and the El Dorado Community School.

Join in the Pet Parade July 2

"Fridays at the Agora" presents the 2nd Annual Patriotic Pet Parade, Friday, July 2. Line up in the Agora Courtyard at 5:15 pm. Parade starts at 5:30. Food-Music-Prizes! For more info, call 466-2894.

Book Arts Exhibit Thru July 4

A juried exhibition of book arts entitled "Pages 2010" continues in the La Tienda exhibit space until July 4 (Wed.-Sat., 12-5). Finely crafted books have been treasured through history, but now they have jumped their covers to become sculptures of all kinds, and even to hang on walls like paintings!

Who Let the Dogs Out? Fundraiser

What better way to spend a Saturday morning than by having fun with your family and favorite furry friend. Please come on Saturday, July 10, for the Who Let The Dogs Out? Walkathon and Fitness Fundraiser to benefit the Española Valley Humane Shelter. 8:30 am: Registrants' breakfast, hosted by La Plancha; 9:30-12:30 pm: Competitions; 12:30-2:00 pm: Great food, music, games and prize awards! Fun for kids of all ages! Sponsored by The Gym at Eldorado in La Tienda.

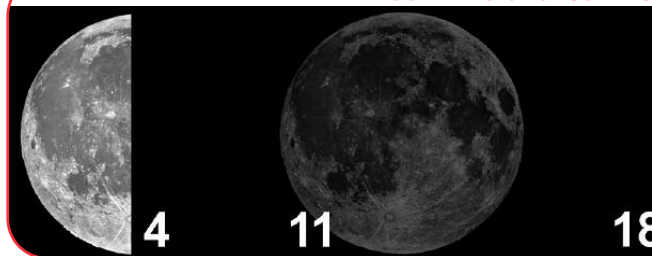
Swing Shift on Patio

The Swing Shift will be performing on the patio at the Eldorado Community Center on Sunday, July 11, at 6 pm. There'll be lots of great Big Band Era music for dancing, toe tapping, and accompanying your nice picnic supper. Great fun for the whole family. See you there!

Renewable Energy Finance Program Takes Root in Santa Fe County

County Commissioner **Kathy Holian** will provide an update on the new Renewable Energy Finance program being implemented in Santa Fe County. All residents and commercial property owners are encouraged to attend the July 14 meeting at the Adam Senior Center (16 Avenida Torreon) at 6:30 pm. This initiative paves the way for affordable investments in renewable energy systems for our homes and businesses. It will help us save money while we green our community and reduce our carbon footprint. For more information, contact El-

MOON PHASES FOR JULY 20



dorado Energy Co-op member **Dana Richards** at 690-5500 or dana@earthworksinstitute.org.

Rotary Club Cook-off

Santa Fe Del Sur Rotary Foundation is sponsoring a "Chefs Cook-off" on July 24 at the Eldorado Community Center from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm. One of the benefactors of this event is the Vista Grande Public Library. Prepare your favorite food as an amateur chef or a professional chef. A special prize will be awarded to the winning chef in each category. Besides the cook-off, there will be music and a silent raffle. Tickets \$25. Kids under 12 FREE. For tickets and information, call 466-8581 or 424-6853.

Eldorado Dog Club

If you have a dog, or are an animal lover, please consider joining the Eldorado Dog Club. We are an active group, with events and useful e-mail communications. There is no membership fee, but donations help us hold our events, print flyers, and donate to dog rescue. Our goal is to support responsible dog ownership.

Our e-mail communication list is a valuable resource. It has successfully reunited dog and owner. Our e-mails also pass on information about recalled dog food, local health threats or problems, hazardous dog equipment, potentially dangerous dog toys or products, and important veterinary information.

The club holds three major events: a Spring Dog Show with fun classes, a pool swim in the ECIA pool after the pool closes in the fall, and a Christmas Party with dog and Santa pictures. Other events include occasional speakers and presentations, monthly informal gatherings at the ECIA dog park, and monthly informal walks in the ECIA wilderness area.

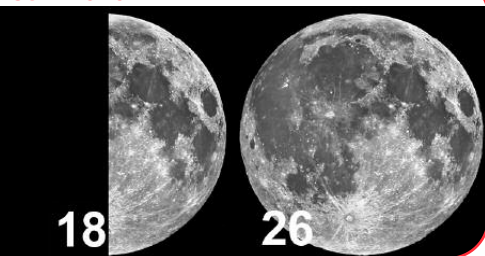
To join the Eldorado Dog Club, send an e-mail to **Freddi Fullington**, flfullington@earthlink.net.

July Events at La Tienda

Fridays through the Fall: Eldorado Farmers Market at La Tienda 4-7 pm. *July 4th:* Celebration and free outdoor concert (see p. 1 for details). *July 16:* Opening of **Dean Howell's** Lifetime Retrospective exhibition, auction and sale.

ERA News

ERA's Spring Flea Market enjoyed beautiful May weather and a bustling turnout of buyers this year. Proceeds from space fees and refreshments will go to further services for our community over the next several months, as the Eldorado Residents Association joins forces with the growing Eldorado Co-op move-



ASTRONOMY CORNER

July 2010

July 28, 29: Southern Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower. The Delta Aquarids are considered a strong meteor shower and can produce 20 meteors per hour at the peak. The shower is best seen July 28–29, but some Aquarid meteors can also be seen from July 18 to August 18. The radiant point (the central point where the meteors appear to be coming from) for this shower will be in the constellation Aquarius, near the star Delta Aquarii—hence the name. Best viewing is in the pre-dawn hours, away from the glow of city lights, such as here in Eldorado.

This meteor shower came from the break-up of objects that are now the Marsden and Kracht comets.

Protect Our Night Skies: Small lights left carelessly on may spoil the views of our night sky.

ment. This group is surging ahead in several areas that will make your life even better in Eldorado. Look for their second Town Meeting later this year. Then get ready for the Fall ERA Flea Market. We'll set the date very soon and let you know. People are buying more at flea markets these days, it seems, and you can take advantage of their sense of thrift.

Seeking Vendors of Cycle Seat and Sewing Machine

If you sold me a motorcycle seat or an old Singer sewing machine at the May 22 Eldorado Flea Market, please call me, Jill, at 466-4409 so I can pick them up.



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

Swing Shift Band	Sun., July 11, 6-9 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	Patio
Rotary Club Fundraiser	Sat., July 24, 11:30-4:30 pm	Leona Zastrow	466-8581	CC

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Facilities & Grounds	Tues., July 6, 4-6 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., July 6, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Finance Committee	Wed., July 7, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., July 12, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., July 13, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
ECIA Board	Thurs., July 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., July 20, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Stable Committee	Mon., July 26, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., July 27, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Road Committee	Mon., Aug. 2, 6-8 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Neighborhood Watch	Mon., Aug. 2, 7 pm	Marilyn Walker	466-2553	CC

MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Barbara Mandel	466-2531	RR
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		VGPL
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 7 pm	santafesar.org		CR
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Eldorado Dog Club	4th Saturday 9:30 am	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	Dog Park
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Conservation Com Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	CC Prk Lot
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Bill Bodle	466-3011	
Fire Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kieling	466-4232	Sm Gym
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
MOMS Club	Call for dates & times	Jackie Camborde	466-0094	CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Wed., 5:30-6:30 pm			Annex
AA	Wed., 5:45-6:45 pm (Men Only)			CFR
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			CFR
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 7 pm-dusk			CC Court
Al-Anon	Thurs., 6:45-7:45			CFR/LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:30 & 11 am	David McPherson	466-2495	CC
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	
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
Life Drawing (EACA)	Mondays, 10 am-noon	Sande Anderson	466-4688	RR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Richard Robinson	466-7319	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm> ***Reservations Required



Adam Senior Center News

FUN OUT-OF-TOWN DAY TRIPS

We are planning a day trip to Chimayo in mid-July (exact date not yet determined). We will visit the Weaving museum and several weavers, and then have lunch at the newly rebuilt Rancho de Chimayo restaurant. Space is limited to 12 people. Also, if there is enough demand, we may be running another trip to the Albuquerque Museum of Art to see the "Turner to Cezanne" exhibit. This same trip in June filled up quickly, so call to let us know if you are interested. Please phone the Adam Senior Center at 466-1039 for more information.



GROCERY SHOPPING TRIPS

The Senior Center is now offering transportation to local Santa Fe grocery stores. Trips will go to Trader Joe's on the second Tuesday of the month, and Sunflower Market on the third Tuesday. We will be rotating between Smith's, Albertson's, and Sam's Club on the fourth Thursday of the month. Space is limited, so visit the Center to sign up for grocery shopping trips. We are located next to the Library on Avenida Torreon.

TOWN HALL MEETING

On Wednesday, July 14 at 6:30 pm, County Commissioner **Kathy Holian** will be holding a town hall meeting at the Adam Senior Center to discuss the Renewable Energy Finance Program. See p. 4 for further details.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you know a high school or college student who is looking for a way to volunteer this summer? We have some great volunteer opportunities here at the Senior Center! We can use light kitchen help (packing Meals on Wheels delivery containers, helping with dishes, sweeping and mopping), someone to greet seniors and answer phones during lunch, and people to help our less mobile seniors by bringing their lunches to their table. Past volunteers have found the work enjoyable and the people fun and interesting. It's a great way to be part of something rewarding and have a good time too.

—Cathy Berkley

Lost/Found Pets?

SUMMERTIME MEANS OPEN DOORS, windows, and opportunities for pets to escape. What should you do if you lose a pet? What if you find a pet?

There are things you can do to make finding your pet more likely:

- ▶ Have your veterinarian put a chip in your pet. A "chip" is a permanent, rice-sized, radio-frequency identification chip implanted under the dog's or cat's skin like a shot. Both the quick and easy procedure and the chip itself are 100% safe. Most veterinarians, animal control agencies, and animal shelters check for chips with a chip scanner. Reading the chip reveals the owner's name and contact information.
- ▶ Be sure your animals wear collars with tags with their rabies information, city or county registration, and your contact information.
- ▶ Inform your neighbors, veterinarians, and animal shelters that your pet has been lost. Put up posters in your neighborhood with your pet's photo, description, and your contact information. Distribute the posters to veterinarians, places of business in your neighborhood, and to the local animal shelters.
- ▶ Check the websites of animal shelters.
- ▶ Remember, animals can travel great distances, so if your pet has been gone more than a few hours, broaden your search to a 60-mile radius.



- ▶ Don't wait to look for your pet. Cars, coyotes, and owls pose real threats.
- ▶ Don't give up. Pets have been found months after they have been lost.
What to do if you find a pet:
- ▶ If you can safely check the animal for tags, do so. Remember, never corner an animal and never approach an animal if it is not safe to do so. (Also, take care not to spook the animal into running into a busy street.) If you can get information from the tags, try to contact the owner.
- ▶ If you're unable to get any information from tags or can't contact the owner, or if the owner does not seem inclined to retrieve the animal, contact animal control. When contacting animal control, be specific in your description of the animal and the location. If you are willing and able, shelter the animal at your home until you contact the owner or until animal control can retrieve the pet.
- ▶ Contact the closest veterinarians and local animal shelters with a description and a location.
- ▶ E-mail the Eldorado Dog Club at flfullington@earthlink.net. They may already know of a missing pet and be able to match the finder with the owner.
- ▶ Store these phone numbers in your cell phone and on your refrigerator: Santa Fe County Animal Control 992-1626; Santa Fe City Animal Control 955-2700; Santa Fe Animal Shelter 983-4309; Española Valley Animal Shelter 505-753-8662.

—Lyn deMartin

Keep Local Birds Healthy

ONE OF THE SWEETEST OF OUR local birds is the little House Finch (HOFI in the ornithology world). He is the small bird with the red head and front; the female has brown/beige speckles on her front. The male perches himself atop a tree and sings to his lady love and charms us all with his beautiful repertoire.



You may have noticed that some of these little HOFIs looked sick this past summer/winter. Since 1996, a highly contagious conjunctivitis virus has been spreading across the United States killing tens of thousands, if not more, of HOFIs. Their eyes will puff up badly and you'll see them try to shake the secretions from their eyes. Eventually the secretions glue their eyes shut so they can't find food, and they starve to death or become prey. It's so hard to see them suffer. See this link for pictures: <http://my.pclink.com/~rlovgren/disease.htm>.

Bird feeding has become very popular, but we are killing our little birds with kindness. We all need to be more responsible and clean our feeders every month: wash them well with a 10% bleach solution, rinse, let dry, and then refill. Birdbaths need to be washed weekly with a 10% bleach solution and rinsed out before refilling. If we all do our part, we can do much to prevent this disease from spreading.

I would also like to plead with people not to put out millet and corn bird seeds, as these seeds attract the aggressive House Sparrows (HOSPS) that have come to Eldorado and are killing our Bluebirds and other little native cavity nesters. Please put out only black oil sunflower, safflower, and thistle seeds. Our native birds love these seeds and the HOSPS do not, so it will help to discourage them from staying around. Also, if you have a nest box and know that you don't have the time to monitor it properly to prevent HOSPS from reproducing in them (or prevent HOSPS from killing any other little native bird inside), then please take the box down. Our little native birds will be just fine.

Bluebirds don't eat seed, only berries and lots of bugs, so please, no pesticides. Bluebirds love water, so keeping a fresh, clean birdbath will keep Bluebirds coming around along with their cousins, the Robins! Let's all do what we can to ensure that our native birds will be around for our children and our children's children to enjoy.

—Claudia Daigle

At the Crossroads

PRELIMINARY ROAD SURVEY RESULTS

By the end of May, we received more than 550 survey responses, representing nearly 21% of the homes in Eldorado. About 54% of respondents favor retaining our dirt surfaces. Only one-third are willing to pay a special assessment to improve their roads sooner than the County is likely to find funds to replace existing surfaces. What remains to be determined now, and the reason for keeping the survey open until the end of June, is to identify which roads residents are willing to pay to have paved or new base course added. After closing the survey, the Road Committee will analyze the results in greater detail and make its recommendations to the ECIA Board.

DANGEROUS TREES

At some of our intersections, in bar ditches or in other county easements, there are "volunteer" trees growing that, when fully leafed, will restrict drivers from seeing oncoming traffic on intersecting roads. If you know of any such hazards, please call the ECIA office, 466-4248, or fill out a Road Problem Report on the ECIA website (www.eldoradocommunity.org).

—Nolan Zisman

July at the Library

THIS MONTH'S BIG NEWS AT VISTA

Grande Library is that **Alexandra Diaz**, author of the young-adult novel *Of All the Stupid Things*, will mentor a new writing program for teens. The group will meet at 2 pm on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month. Teens who want to participate must have their parent or guardian sign a registration form. For more information, contact VGPL at 466-7323 or online at vglibrary.org.

Family Movie Night continues on Friday, July 16, at 7 pm with *Alice in Wonderland – 2010*, Tim Burton's unique take on the classic Lewis Carroll story about a girl who falls down a rabbit hole into a fantasy realm populated by talking playing cards, a raging Red Queen and a raving Mad Hatter. Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway, and Helena Bonham Carter star.

VGPL's "Night Skies" series, presented by SFCC Planetarium Director **Juan Alvarez**, continues Saturday, June 17, at 8 pm. Juan will give a presentation, take questions, and then move outside with telescopes to view celestial objects. He will bring several telescopes for library patrons to borrow and use, through the Planetarium's "First Light" program. (The final program of this popular summer series will be August 21.)



ELDORADO
VISTAS

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

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Photo: Jack Arnold

Pool Season Is Here!

Pool season runs through Labor Day weekend, September 6.

Lap Swim: 8–10 am every day; 6–8 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

General Swim: 10 am–8 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday; 10 am–6 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.



At Left: ECIA General Manager Bill Donohue (left) with lifeguards Andre Kalles and Taos Porter.
Above: Swimmers cool off in 2009.