

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XIII, ISSUE 7  
July 2011

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

## Save Water, Cut High Water Bills

Our water company, the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District, has worked hard and successfully in recent years to find and correct leaks occurring in their system. Leaks that occur on the customer's property are, however, the individual homeowner's responsibility.

The surprise of getting an outrageously high bill is an experience none of us cares to have. The problem is that it usually occurs after a leak has been occurring for some time, the duration of a billing cycle.

There are some simple things we can and should do to avoid such surprises. The first is to take any leak seriously, even those that might be considered small. Leaks waste tremendous amounts of water. A faucet dripping slowly at only one drop every two seconds will waste more than 1,000 gallons per year. When checking out your home for leaks, examine faucets as well as valves in showers, water heaters, bathtubs, and sinks. Toilet leaks are easy to detect. If yours has the "phantom flush" syndrome, operating without an operator, it is leaking and you probably need to replace its flapper valve and make sure it is seated securely. Place several drops of dark food color in the toilet tank; wait 10 minutes and see if the color shows up in the toilet bowl. If it does, you have a fixable leak.

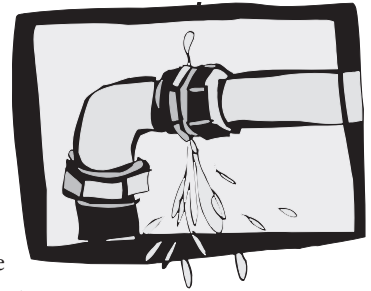
In Eldorado we have two fixtures that, according to the EAWSD, are very often the cause of water leaks. The first of these are the no-freeze hydrants that builders used when they constructed our homes and which they left on our properties when they completed their work. They are most likely to leak at their below-ground connection and not at the hydrant handle. Evaporative coolers are the other culprits. Their refill valves can fail, causing a constant stream of water to enter the reservoir and drain out the overflow line. Drip irrigation systems should also be checked out. The ones on timers might be dripping more than necessary.

Keep in mind that the boundary line for responsibility is right at your in-ground, outdoor water meter. We are responsible for leaks that occur on our side of the meter. The EAWSD has full responsibility for leaks on the other, system side. Determining

responsibility is easier than finding the exact source of the leak in many cases.

The EAWSD works constantly to ensure that it repairs leaks in its system. The industry standard is a 10% water loss, but it is striving to improve that figure. Finding whether the leak is the property owner's or theirs is something they can help with. As for locating specific leaks on our properties on our side of the meter, that is the job of the homeowner. There are a number of Internet resources that can help. One of the best of many articles on leak detection in the home can be accessed at <http://www.alderwoodwater.com/conservation/howtodetectleaks.ashx>.

—Frank Schober



## How Dry Is It?

On April 27, **Senator Jeff Bingaman** conducted a hearing in Santa Fe sponsored by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Climate Change and Water Resources. The topic: "Current Drought Conditions Affecting New Mexico." Climatologist **Dr. Jonathan Overpeck**, co-director of the Institute of Environment at the University of Arizona, testified that we had a 50% chance of El Niño returning this summer but was more pessimistic for the future, suggesting that longer-term drought conditions may intensify in the Southwest.

Official resources for dealing with wildfires cross all levels of government. The Santa Fe County Fire Department has a Wildland Division that provides training and planning for local potential wildfire conditions. **Martin Vigil**, the County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, is responsible for Wildfire Protection and Evacuation Planning. Those interested in more detailed information can contact him (505-992-3072, [mavigil@santafecounty.org](mailto:mavigil@santafecounty.org)). The New Mexico Forestry Division also responds to fires on state lands. And the U.S. Forest Service can respond to

Continued on page 7

**ECIA Board  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Thurs.,  
July 21,  
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 e-mailed to [ECIADiAna@aol.com](mailto:ECIADiAna@aol.com). Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of *Vistas*, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

## *Summertime RV Visitor Courtesy*

Every summer, with Santa Fe being a major tourist destination, Eldorado residents are frequently visited by family and friends who may arrive in their RVs and end up parking in their driveways and on their lots. When this occurs, we are likely to hear from neighbors who are concerned that their next door neighbor has purchased an RV and has not submitted a screening plan for it.

The ECIA covenants address visiting RVs on lots in Eldorado, under Article II, Section 13 of the covenants. This Section reads as follows:

Section 13. Storage and Screening of Vehicles and their Accessories. (a) Recreational vehicles, such as motor homes, RVs, campers, camper shells, vehicle accessories, trailers, horse trailers, airplanes, boats and the like, when stored on a lot shall be located so as to minimize their visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood and roads, and shall be obscured by screening in a reasonable manner, for example, by the dwelling house and/or with plantings or fencing. No more than three such vehicles shall be stored outside on any lot at any time. No more than one additional vehicle shall be parked temporarily on a lot for a pe-

riod not to exceed three weeks. This paragraph shall be applicable to recreational vehicle accessories, such as camper shells and the like.

With this being the case, we allow for visiting RVs to be on a lot, for a period not to exceed three weeks, before it is considered a violation of the covenants. Because three weeks can be a long time for a neighbor to have to look at an unscreened RV owned by a nonresident, we ask that residents notify their neighbors, as well as the ECIA, when a visiting RV is going to be on their lot. Please include the anticipated dates of arrival and departure of the RV, as well as where it will be parked on the lot. This small gesture will likely result in much happier neighbors and will help eliminate extra work for the ECIA staff, as we will then know what RVs are owned by visitors and not lot owners.

To notify the ECIA, please call us at 466-4248, or e-mail me at [eciaccr@aol.com](mailto:eciaccr@aol.com) with visiting RV information. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter this summer.

*Mark Young  
Covenant Compliance Representative*

## *Dog Cleanup—Completed and Ongoing*

Volunteers with the Eldorado Dog Club completed a major cleanup of dog waste along the hike/bike paths and in many greenbelts on May 21.

Club President **Freddi Fullington** is pleased with the help and cooperation, but points out that it is the ongoing responsibility of pet owners to clean up after their dogs. Sadly, even while performing the cleanup, Dog Club volunteers reported encountering people out with their dogs who had no bags with them for

the cleanup required by Santa Fe County and ECIA regulations!

Freddi comments, "Now we need to tackle the dog park. The problem is that people go there with their dogs to socialize and forget to play with/watch their dog."

One source (among many) for reasonably priced waste bags is [www.petwasteeliminator.com](http://www.petwasteeliminator.com).

*—Dan Drobnis*

## *At the Crossroads*

At a special County-sponsored public meeting to discuss Special Districts for Infrastructure and Enhanced Services, County Attorney **Stephen Ross** reviewed the various methods used to establish and finance such districts. Regarding improvements to existing dirt roads, a petition containing the signatures of two-thirds of the lot owners on roads within the boundaries of such districts (referred to as County Improvement Districts) would be required to initiate such projects. Lot owners within

any such district approved by the Board of County Commissioners would be levied a special assessment over a predefined period of time to pay for the project. The County will put a copy of a Q and A document regarding special districts on their website, and answers to questions not covered at the meeting will be sought in the next few weeks and will be made available on the ECIA website, [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org).

*—Nolan Zisman*

## Focus on Improvement, Communication

**T**he new Board of Directors of the ECIA has a full agenda for the coming year. By the time you read this, the Board will have had two formal sessions, which are scheduled the third Thursday of every month.

This year, we have one new member, **Bill Osher**, who comes from a background in higher education. I was honored and humbled to have been elected president for this year. Our youngest member, **Elan Colello**, was elected vice president, **Greg Bundrick** is the board secretary, and **Todd Handy** is treasurer. Rounding out the team are **Lynn Mortensen** and veteran **Pat Lavengood**.

The basic responsibilities of the Board have been described as protecting the assets of the association—its covenants, its financial health, and its common amenities. In the three years I have been on the Board we have taken steps to upgrade all of these elements: newly clarified guidelines to interpret the covenants, stronger financial controls and staffing, and substantial planning for the Community Center property and other amenities.

Of course, the Board does not do all of these things by itself. Eldorado is blessed with a large cadre of volunteers who staff the 10 ECIA committees.

In the year ahead we will be taking up these topics:

- ▶ Implementing the creation of the new Sustainability, Planning, and Education Committee. This committee was created to help ECIA respond to the growing emphasis on water, energy, and other

resource conservation issues in local, state, and federal laws and ordinances. Moreover, this committee will help ECIA strengthen Eldorado's role as a leader in sustainability, which began decades ago with the passive solar movement. Companion activities will be initiated by the Conservation Committee.

- ▶ Financially, ECIA is in good shape overall. Our systems have been improved to proper accounting standards, thanks to the diligent oversight of the Finance Committee. We will continue to develop staff capacity to improve our financial management.
- ▶ As for the community property, the grounds around the Community Center will get a face-lift this year, thanks to the careful planning of the Facilities and Grounds Committee, the greenbelts will continue getting the "goat" treatment, the hike/bike paths have been evaluated for their durability, and the greenbelts and stable area are being protected from grass fires.

The Board is committed to serving in the best interests of the community. In return, we need you to reciprocate by communicating with us with your input and ideas for doing things better. The ECIA website is much improved and getting better, and in this issue of *Vistas* provides many ways to participate in your Association.

—Ed Moreno, ECIA President

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### Director

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

#### Architecture:

**Katherine Mortimer**  
Conservation: **John Parker & E.J. Evangelos**

Election: **Jean Crawford**  
Facilities & Grounds:

**Jeanne Calzada**

Finance: **Dan Drobnis**

Information: **Frank Schober**

Neighborhood Watch:

**Marilyn Walker**

Stable: **Lisa Bessone &**

**Deena Joseph**

Roads: **Nolan Zisman**

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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

eldoradofirerescue.org

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)

## Recent Board Actions

**A**t its meeting on May 19, 2011, the ECIA Board took the following actions:

- ▶ \$2,500 was approved from Contingency Funds for wildfire fuel reduction in the greenbelts using goats.
- ▶ \$19,000 was approved from Replacement Reserves for pool plastering and new tiles.
- ▶ \$8,100 was approved from Replacement Reserves for soccer field well storage tank repairs.
- ▶ Fund balances were adjusted per the recommendation of the Treasurer and Finance Committee.
- ▶ \$2,150 was approved from Capital Funds for new steps in the adult pool.
- ▶ An Architectural Guideline Variance was approved to locate a solar tracking array more than 15 feet from the house at 4 Gavilan Place.

▶ An Architectural Guideline Variance was approved for an 8-ft. fence for RV screening at 17 Cuesta Road.

▶ An Architectural Covenant Variance was denied for a fence and spa outside the lotline setback at 24 Bonita Place.

▶ The Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee was dissolved, after it was replaced by a standing Sustainability, Planning, and Education Committee.

Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Community Center and are open to all Association members. Deadline and space constraints for the printed *Vistas* prevent publishing full Board minutes. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/5vtjy5>.

—Dan Drobnis



### Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van

Free health screenings, referrals, and information will be offered at the Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van in July: Eldorado Farmers Market, Friday, July 8, from 3 to 7 pm, at La Tienda Shopping Center. For more information, please call **Angela Thorndyke** RN, BSN, at 505-231-2382.

### July 4th at La Tienda

The Sustainable Eldorado Residents Alliance (SERA) is sponsoring a pancake breakfast on July 4, from 8 to 10 am at La Tienda to benefit SERA projects. Pancakes and all the toppings, plus a beverage and fruit, will be offered for five dollars a plate. After breakfast, enjoy the Eldorado parade and great events at the Eldorado Community Center. Then come back to La Tienda for music, fun and exotic animals.

The great local band, **The Rattlerz**, will be playing on the patio from 1 to 4 pm. Open-play horseshoes will be available on the four new pits that were just installed by **Tom Miller** of City Different Events. Local farms, ranches, and neighbors are invited to bring their interesting animals. Hopefully we will have llamas, alpacas, mini-horses, goats, and heaven knows what else. And more is still being planned.

### Free Yoga Classes All Summer

Join the Eldorado Yoga Center's teaching team for an all-levels yoga class Friday nights this summer after the Farmer's Market at La Tienda. No experience necessary, no need to bring anything—we have everything you need. For questions, please contact the studio at 505-310-8660 or email [info@eldoradoyogacenter.com](mailto:info@eldoradoyogacenter.com). Classes are first come, first served from 6 to 7 pm on these Fridays: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; August 5, 12, 19, and 26.

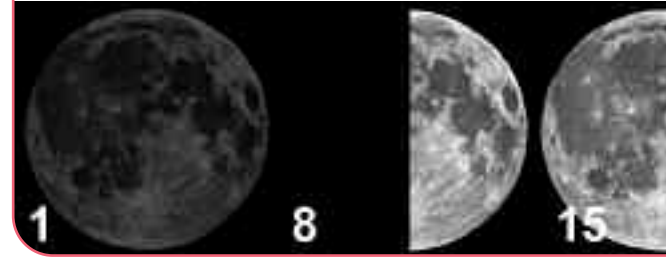
### Tracking Workshop

On Saturday, July 9, 9 am–2 pm, Earth Works Institute is holding a Tracking Workshop at the Galisteo Community Center, 35 Avenida Vieja, Galisteo. There are only 25 spaces available, so sign up soon. The hike is mostly on flat terrain, with a few steeper sections. The vegetation may be rough and spiny in some spots, so requires all-weather clothes and sturdy hiking boots. The event is child friendly, but cannot accommodate pets. You can order lunch from EWI for \$10 or bring your own for a picnic and talk with our wildlife experts. EWI will offer snacks and beverages. Participants should bring water, hat, and sunscreen. Suggested donation: \$20 to cover our costs and pay the trackers. RSVP and order lunch at <http://earthworksinstitute.org/event-registration>. For more information and directions, call our office at 505-982-9806 or email [info@earthworksinstitute.org](mailto:info@earthworksinstitute.org).

JULY  
4<sup>th</sup>



### MOON PHASES FOR JULY 2

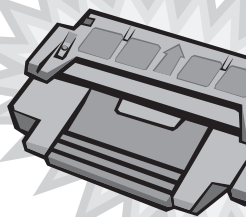


### Water Harvesting Workshop

On Monday, July 11, 6:30–9:00 pm, the ECIA and Earth Works Institute will present “Harvesting Water from the Sky!” a water-harvesting workshop at the Community Center. Guest speaker **Reese Baker** of The Raincatcher will discuss water harvesting techniques and technology; there will be a slide show presentation and a fair of water-harvesting businesses from across Santa Fe County. Suggested donation: Free of charge, but your donations are very welcome. For more information or to RSVP, email [info@earthworksinstitute.org](mailto:info@earthworksinstitute.org) or call 505-982-9806.

### Cartridges for Kids Update

In March, Eldorado Computer Works and La Tienda began the Cartridges for Kids ink and toner recycling effort. The program raises desperately needed money to supplement the school supplies at El Dorado Community School. Through the La Tienda newsletter, the *Vistas*, and flyers passed out through the school, people were asked to drop off their ink and toners for recycling. They are then turned in at Staples for credit that is used to buy school supplies. The original goal was to raise about \$1,500 per year. After collecting for only three months, enough cartridges have been deposited to raise about \$1,600! So please keep them coming. Drop off your used or unwanted ink and toner cartridges at Eldorado Computer Works or put them in drop box in front of Gene's Sandwich Shop. It will make a huge difference!

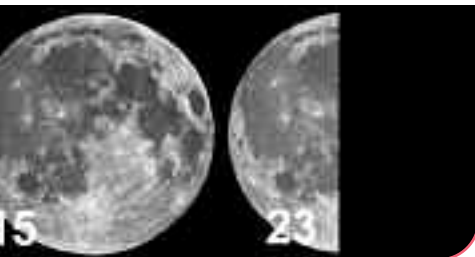


### Pool Hours

**Lap Swim:** Every day 8–10 am; Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 6–8 pm

**General Swim:** Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays 10 am–8 pm; Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10 am–6 pm





## ASTRONOMY CORNER

July 2011

**JULY 28, 29:** Southern Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower. The Delta Aquarids can produce about two meteors per hour at their peak. The shower usually peaks on July 28 & 29, but some meteors can also be seen from July 18 to August 18. The radiant point for this shower will be in the constellation Aquarius. This year the thin, crescent moon will be hanging around for the show, but it shouldn't cause too many problems. Best viewing is usually to the east after midnight from a dark location.

### Protect Our Night Skies:

Lights left carelessly on may spoil the views of our night sky.

### New Businesses in Town

La Tienda has two new businesses: **Just Cuts** and **Destiny Allison Fine Art**. Just Cuts opened across from the front door of The Gym at Eldorado and the name says it all. It's not a beauty salon, but a place to go to get a good, inexpensive haircut. Destiny Allison Fine Art features the steel works of Destiny Allison. The gallery, located directly across from the La Tienda Exhibit Space in Building A, will also host occasional guest artists and a monthly salon.

# July Events

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

Email [info@eldoradosf.org](mailto:info@eldoradosf.org) with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*.

Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



#### 1. Type of Event

#### 2. Location

#### 3. Date & Time

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

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

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

#### JULY SPECIAL EVENTS

Pancake Breakfast	Mon., July 4, 8-10 am	La Tienda
4th of July Parade	Mon., July 4, 10:00 am	CC
Water Harvesting Wkshop	Mon., July 11, 7-9 pm	RR

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Committee	Tues., July 5, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., July 5, 4-6 pm	Jeanne Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., July 11, 6-8 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., July 12, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Finance Committee	Wed., July 13, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., July 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., July 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., July 26, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., July 26, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Stable Committee	Tues., July 26, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	Foyer

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
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	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Fire Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kieling	466-4232	Sm Gym
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs of month		204-7007	LR
MOMS Club	Call for dates & times	Tracey Mitchell	670-6508	

#### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
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			LR/CFR
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 6:30-dusk			BB Court
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Boy Scouts	2nd & 3rd Thurs., 6:30-7:30	Johnny Boggs	466-3680	RR
Girl Scouts 286	Fri., 4-6 pm	Lisa Engeldinger	466-0077	CR
Girl Scouts 295	Every other Fri., 5:30-7 pm	Michelle Jaschke	466-2422	CR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	466-3091	LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:30 & 11 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Ann Sharp	466-4733	RR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Softball	Sundays 10:00 am	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
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

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

## Before You Are Burglarized...

**P**rotecting your home from burglars involves outthinking the culprits. It's sad to say, but the day Eldoradoans could leave their homes—unlocked or otherwise—confident their possessions were safe, has long vanished. There are no foolproof solutions, but here are a few tips that may put the odds a bit more on your side:

- ▶ Dogs are great deterrents to burglars. But even if you don't own one, a strategically placed Beware of Dog sign can make a burglar think twice.
- ▶ As congenial as Eldorado may be, it is unwise to disclose your vacation plans to strangers or service people.
- ▶ Most door hinges are located on the inside. Those few that are on the outside should have a non-removable center pin that can't be tampered with.
- ▶ Sliding glass doors provide easier entry than hinged wooden doors. Their locking mechanisms are feeble, at best. One way to keep them closed when you want them to stay that way is to lay a length of wooden doweling in the track so they can't slide. This works with sliding windows as well.
- ▶ Another easy security step is to drill a hole in the upper track and insert a screw that extends through the runner to prevent the door from being lifted up and out of its track.

Computers have become increasingly portable, and that means increasingly steal-able. But this sort of theft doesn't just result in property loss. Your identity can be stolen, along with

your goods. In this increasingly cyber age, it is wise to protect your identity by securing your data. Aside from the cost of replacing the equipment, data theft has a greater potential downside. To protect yourself:

- ▶ Clamp or lock PCs to desks or work stations. Security kits are available at a nominal cost.
- ▶ Laptop computers are portable and easy targets for theft. Do not leave them unsecured or unattended.
- ▶ In case of a successful theft, maintain records of serial numbers for all of your computer equipment.
- ▶ To make sure you haven't lost what has taken years to compile, back up your data and programs on a regular basis and store them offsite in a secure location.

Finally, while intrusion burglaries are less common, should someone force his way into your home while you are there, it's still best to put yourself above your property:

- ▶ Never confront a burglar or block the exit route.
- ▶ Don't stay. Always think of your safety first. Once outside and safe, you can get a description of the vehicle involved and possibly the license plate.
- ▶ Go immediately to a neighbor's home or other nearby location and phone the police.

### RECENT CRIME STATS

5/5/2011	Larceny
5/11/2011	Attempted burglary

—Raymond Bolton

## Annual Gardening Tour A Big Success

**T**he 2nd Annual Eldorado Gardening Tour attracted over 400 visitors to eight gardens in the Eldorado community on Saturday, June 4. This year participants received a packet with a full color brochure of the gardens, local area nursery and restaurant coupons, free seeds, and more. Water usage was published for each home on the tour to give visitors concrete information about what it takes to garden in Eldorado.

Garden visitors were so enthusiastic about the friendly and knowledgeable homeowners and docents on the tour, they actually returned to the Visitor Welcome Center to rave about their educational experiences. Santa Fe Master Gardeners served with homeowners as docents on the tour, showing gardens that included xeriscape, rainwater catchment systems, cac-

tus, vegetables, perennials, beekeeping, hardscapes, and many other beautiful garden concepts.

The Eldorado Gardening Tour is different from many garden tours in that all of the gardening is done by the homeowners themselves. The intent of the tour—to have visitors walk away more knowledgeable about the realities of gardening in Eldorado with concrete ideas for their own home gardens—was achieved according to tour participants.

La Tienda served as “tour central” this year with a new Visitor Welcome Center. Plenty of signage made it easier for visitors to find the homes on the tour. And \$1,500 was raised to benefit the El Dorado School Outdoor Classroom and Community Garden.

Plans are already underway for the 3rd Annual Gardening Tour next June. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in having your garden on the tour, email **John Oberhausen** at [Jwo1959@aol.com](mailto:Jwo1959@aol.com).

—Jill Charboneau





## Yoga at the Community Center

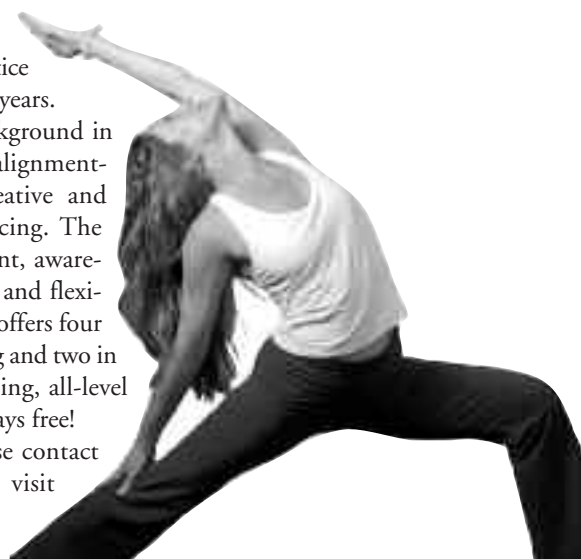
As many of you already know, there are a number of community activities and meetings happening weekly at the Eldorado Community Center. With a quick glance at the ECIA Event Calendar, one can find activities to attend that range from ECIA committee meetings to support groups, book and knitting clubs, square dancing, and more.

What you may not know is that yoga classes are also offered at the Eldorado Community Center. Classes are taught by **Deanna Evans**. Deanna has been an Eldorado resident for 11 years and has been teaching yoga and meditation classes at the Community Center for 7 years, offering ongoing classes, workshops, and retreats. She is registered with Yoga Alliance with over 1,500 hours of teaching experience and is a nationally certified and licensed massage ther-

apist with a full-time private practice in Eldorado and Santa Fe for 14 years.

Deanna draws from her background in yoga to create heart-centered, alignment-based classes incorporating creative and often spontaneous flow sequencing. The fundamentals of yoga—alignment, awareness of breath, balance, strength and flexibility—are emphasized. Deanna offers four classes a week, two in the morning and two in the evening. All classes are ongoing, all-level classes, and your first class is always free!

For more information, please contact Deanna at 466-1657 or visit [www.deannaevans.com](http://www.deannaevans.com).



## How Dry Is it? *Continued from p. 1*

significant wildfires in the Santa Fe/Eldorado area, since USFS lands are adjacent. They also have access to airborne tankers for air drops with fire retardant material. The Federal Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, can also respond to a major wildfire on or adjacent to federal lands, as they did during the disastrous Cerro Grande fire in the Los Alamos area eleven years ago. That fire alone covered 48,000 acres and destroyed 400 homes.

Recent discussions with **David Denig-Chakroff**, General Manager of EAWSD, indicated that in the event of a major wildfire, there are six water storage reservoirs in the District to serve total demands of the community. An additional new well can also be put on line for emergency use. In case of power outage, they have a mobile standby generator for water pumping. Emergency water use restrictions are also implemented when major wells are impacted by drought conditions. While all of the District water supply is from wells, our wells in the Lamy area are particularly important for the increased summer water consumption. The Galisteo Creek surface water flow (or lack of flow) heavily impacts the production from these wells.

### CRITICAL CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

As wildfires rage in Texas (over 2 million acres), Arizona (at the time of writing, 478,000 acres), and New Mexico, many residents are becoming increasingly concerned about our community. Considerable information has already been provided in *Vistas* on measures that individual residents can take to help protect their property. Obviously, Eldorado, with its mixed grassland/shrub plant community interspersed

with stands of piñon and juniper, is at significant risk, but not to the level of the Santa Fe National Forest just 3 miles northeast of us, with its heavy stands of mature trees, some of which have not burned in decades. In Eldorado, under high wind velocities, the greenbelts, with their predominant dead vegetation, could be prime vehicles for rapid spread of fire through the community.

Some key climatological elements that contribute to potential wildfire danger include high fuel density, low fuel moisture, high temperature levels, high wind velocity, and significant fuel ignition sources. Normally, the monsoon moisture season prevalent in this area, usually beginning in early July, moderates the wildfire potential in the summer. Will it arrive this year? According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts, the La Niña/El Niño phenomenon occurring in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean plays an important role in our precipitation levels in the Southwest. This last winter and spring, La Niña conditions helped keep the jet stream to the north of us, resulting in low precipitation here. NOAA forecasts are currently neutral regarding the return of El Niño conditions favorable for moisture in New Mexico this summer, but predicts an enhanced chance of below-normal precipitation and above-normal temperatures across much of the Southwest U.S.

—Don Dayton

*(Don's work included early service as a smokejumper and ranger in Glacier National Park and later duties as superintendent of Carlsbad Caverns, Guadalupe Mountains, White Sands, and the Petrified Forest National Parks.)*

*Smokers:  
Please keep your  
butts in your car.  
A casual toss of  
your lighted  
cigarette butt could  
incinerate a  
neighborhood!*

# ELDORADO VISTAS

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Improvement Association  
#1 La Hacienda Loop  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508  
[www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

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## 4th of July Parade / The Parade is ON!

The parade begins this year at 10:30 am to give everyone time to have pancakes at La Tienda before heading over to the parade. The Grand Marshall, **Jean Crawford**, will be in the lead, driven by **Claudia Freeman** in her sports convertible. Here's what will be on offer:

- ▶ **Kirk** from Spin Docs has invited kids and adults come to his shop at La Tienda on Sunday, July 3, from 10 am to 2 pm, to decorate their bikes for the parade, with materials he will have available. Take your bike and your patriotic attitude for a fun time decorating with Kirk. The spinners will be marching in the parade.
- ▶ **Carrie Tansey** will sing "The Star Spangled Banner," accompanied by her husband, jazz pianist **Chris Ishee**.
- ▶ Square dancers will march and perform.
- ▶ Karate Kazoku (from the Agora) will march and present a demonstration after the parade.
- ▶ Bagpipers will march and perform.
- ▶ There will be a Zumba demonstration.
- ▶ Also marching will be Dog Club members, horses from our Stables, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts
- ▶ Hot dogs, snow cones, and popcorn will be available after 11 am.



Photo by Dan Drobnis

### PLAY IT SAFE ON THE 4TH!

Due to our hot, dry conditions, fireworks may be banned. Check with our website, [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org), before you start celebrating!

Sara and Rachel Czymrid are among the riders on parade in Eldorado in 2009.