

ELDORADO at SANTA FE VISTAS

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

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July 2015

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Join the Celebration, July 4!

The Fourth of July is the perfect time to celebrate both our nation and our community. Once again, the ECIA will be observing the holiday with our special kind of bash at the Community Center. There will be food, music, and plenty of activities to keep the whole family entertained.

Highlights of the program are the annual parade down Avenida del Monte Alto, followed by music at the Community Center pavilion. The parade will kick off at 10 AM and will feature fire trucks, Boy Scouts, bicyclers, floats, dogs in costume, and other eager participants. What our little parade lacks in grandeur it more than makes up for by enthusiasm.

If you want to participate in the parade, notify the ECIA office at 466-4248 or simply show up at the staging area at the corner of Monte Alto and Moya Road on Saturday, July 4, at 9:30 AM. We welcome antique cars, convertibles, and floats of all kinds.

During the parade, roving judges will look for the best costume, best dressed animal, best decorated tricycle or wagon, and best decorated bicycle. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded as part of the pavilion program, which will also include a treasure hunt for the younger set and annual awards sponsored by 285 Recycles. (Eldorado/285 Recycles will also sponsor a pancake breakfast at La Plancha Restaurant at La Tienda starting at 8 AM.)

Kids and adults who want to ride bicycles in the parade are encouraged to visit our local bicycle shop, Spin Doc, from 3 to 5 PM on Friday to get help with decorating those two-wheelers.

When the parade has concluded, the fun will move on to the Community Center, where, at 11 AM, our seasoned grill crew under the leadership of grillmeister Ray Nichols will be handing out hot dogs to one and all. There will also be popcorn and sno-cones available for kids of all ages.

The place will start jumping with music at noon. Local songstress Julie Brisendine will offer a moving rendition of the national anthem, and then her band, the Blue Mangos, will take the stage and get toes tapping with upbeat covers of our favorite songs from the

1960s and 1970s. Later in the afternoon, we will be treated to the rich sounds of American Jem, a regionally acclaimed acoustic trio.

Our fabulous Eldorado pool will be open all day, and starting at 11:30 AM, our crackerjack team of guards, with pool manager Julie White at the helm, will offer games and fun activities for the whole family, including penny dives, relay races, and more.

A great time is guaranteed for all! Come join us!

*ECIA Board Meeting,
Community Center
Railroad Bldg. Thurs.,
July 16,
7 PM*

4TH OF JULY EVENTS

- 9:30 AM Parade setup
- 10 AM Parade begins
- 11 AM General event announcements
- Lunch: hot dogs, chips, lemonade, veggies
- 11:30 AM Star Spangled Banner
- Pool games begin
- 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Blue Mangos Band
- 1:30 PM Eldorado/285 Recycles awards
- 2-4 PM American Jem Band
- Ongoing:
 - 3-legged race, Sack race
 - Watermelon seed spitting
 - Face painting/balloons
 - Sno-cones, popcorn



July 4 parade festivities from years past.



Photos: Dan Drobnis



*Share your
comments
with us!*

*For policy and
deadline, see
below*

Editorial Policy

Vistas welcomes your letters on ECIA issues and activities, as well as your ideas, stories, photos, and art. Please include full name and contact information. The newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, biased, or inappropriate. Submissions will be selected and edited at the discretion of the editor. Community announcements are welcome as well, along with accompanying photos.

DEADLINE: Newsletter deadline is the 5th day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or e-mailed to diana@eldoradosf.org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

Mission Statement

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

Visible Ductwork and Conduits on Exterior Walls

Over the past two years, the ECIA has noted an increase in the number of Eldorado homes that are installing the newer heating and air conditioning units that involve running exterior ducting from the roof, as well as along exterior walls. This ducting is usually white and is often quite visible to neighbors (see photo). Under the Eldorado Guidelines, Section 6, page 7, all rooftop equipment should be painted to match the stucco color of the home:

6. Limitations on Permitted Design Features

While certain design features may be desirable, their incorporation into a structure may be disruptive to adjacent property owners. Accordingly:



...

2. Unless it can be demonstrated that it will interfere with operation, visible roof top equipment such as swamp coolers and the like shall be painted to match adjacent walls (or pitched roof if applicable). Covers shall match the adjacent walls.

While the Guidelines currently specify only rooftop equipment as needing to be painted to match the stucco color, the ECIA Architecture Committee will be presenting plans for guideline revisions (hopefully later this year), and one of these changes will be to address such equipment not on the roof but on walls and still visible to neighbors. These changes will be made to the Guidelines under the section "Limitations on Permitted Design Features."

In the interim, and until the Guidelines are updated, we would appreciate if residents would act in the spirit of keeping Eldorado a beautiful place to live, by considering their neighbors and painting any such newly installed ducts in a color that matches their home's stucco, assuming that this will not interfere with the operation of the equipment.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

—Mark Young, *Covenant Compliance Representative*
466-4248, mark@eldoradosf.org

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular monthly meeting on June 18, 2015. Five Board members were present: **Dag Ryen** (President), **Pam Henline** (Vice President), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer, arrived late), **Greg Colello** (Secretary), and **Jeanne Calzada**. **David Yard** was absent, excused. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting, unless otherwise noted:

- ▼ The Board voted to reaffirm its commitment to accept all commercial properties within the historic boundaries of Eldorado at Santa Fe when/if they are converted to residential use and accept ECIA architectural covenants. The owner of a vacant 8-acre parcel at the northwest corner of Avenida Eldorado and Avenida Casa del Oro is considering such a transition. (4-0-0, Handy not arrived)
- ▼ A variance was approved for 14 Chusco Road for a ground-based solar array located farther than the Guideline maximum of 15 feet from the house, because of better screening and an improved screening plan. (4-0-1, Handy abstain)

- ▼ A variance was approved for 5 Cagua Road to allow an existing fence to remain with a portion of one corner six feet into the required 20-foot setback.

Regular Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Community Center and are open to the public. An open forum and community announcements are normally included. Complete minutes and meeting agendas are available at the ECIA office or website: www.eldoradosf.org.

PLEASE NOTE: The Board has **rescheduled** its informal (no votes) Board working session to a single monthly meeting in the Community Center Conference Room on the second Thursday of each month—one week prior to each regular Board meeting. ECIA members are welcome to attend, and may request to place, and/or speak on, particular items on the agenda by calling the ECIA office at 466-4781 three business days in advance.





Message from the ECIA Board

Truth be told, your ECIA Board is feeling a bit lonely these days. Attendance at our monthly Board meetings has been sparse in the past few months, and we miss the interaction with our membership. At each formal Board meeting, at 7 PM on the third Thursday of the month, we set aside time for an open forum. At this time, any member of the Association can address the Board with concerns, ideas for improvement, or thanks for positive changes in the community. This is one of several important ways in which the Board stays in touch with the needs of the membership. So please come to our meetings and let us hear what is on your mind.

As this issue of *Vistas* goes to press, the Board will be conducting interviews to fill a vacant director position. Our by-laws require that we have an uneven number of directors in order to facilitate decision-making. The appointment will be posted on our website as soon as a new director has been chosen.

Summer is, of course, construction time in northern New Mexico, and a handful of projects will be un-

derway in our community. Later this month, the county will replace the deteriorated hike-bike, or multi-use, trail along Avenida del Monte Alto with a new 8-foot-wide paved path. This will provide a safer route for kids and adults alike to make their way to the pool and other Eldorado amenities.

A couple of other projects may have an impact on travel throughout the community. Work continues on the expansion of the Senior Center on Torreon. That project should be completed by early this fall. And PNM intends to lay new cables along Avenida Vista Grande, a continuation of work done last year that will have a significant impact on neighboring properties, and may force some detours or closing of the multi-use trail along that thoroughfare. Finally, Santa Fe County is wrapping up work on the Rail Trail segment between Nine-Mile Road and Avenida Vista Grande. The new trail should be opened to hikers and bicyclists by the end of this month.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

—ECIA Board of Directors

ECIA Staffer Retires

Marilyn Farrell has done it! She's found her oceanfront property in Arizona and is leaving Eldorado for saguaros and warmer winters. Many of you know Marilyn from our downstairs office at ECIA, where she has been working for the last five years. She's the first friendly face you encounter when you enter the Community Center. Whether handling pool passes, room rentals, welcome packets, marquee announcements, building guidelines, dog park tags, committee meetings, or organizing ECIA events like the flea market or the 4th of July festivities, Marilyn has always served with grace, kindness, and a smile. No task has been too hard for her.

Originally from Kansas City, Marilyn lived in Saratoga Springs, New York, where she owned and operated The Mexican Connection, a restaurant specializing in Mexican food (not New Mexican), and was known there as Mama Tequila. Never a dull moment with Marilyn! After 30 years, she sold her restaurant and moved west to New Mexico and settled in Eldorado, where she has lived for 14 years.

Needless to say, Marilyn will be greatly missed by all in the ECIA office and in the community. We wish her a fond *adios* and the best of luck in her new home, where she plans to raise chickens and goats and live in a teepee.

—DiAna Gutierrez

Letter to the Editor

MORE ON SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

In the previous two "Letters to the Editor" columns, letters with misrepresentations and/or questionable conclusions have been published. As an appointed member to the community's Solar Working Group, I submitted a detailed, 21-page report to the ECIA Board promoting the benefits to the community of Low-Profile (10 degree, ballasted) Roof-Mounted solar installations. Benefits would include less visual impact and ease of screening. Readers should know that in the first year, my Low-Profile system produced 7% more kilowatt hours than con-

tractually guaranteed, and more than enough to overcome any "losses" for being rooftop mounted at 10 degrees. I have paid no electrical bills to PNM over the past year. No washing, dusting or snow removal was necessary. My system cannot be seen from the street or by my neighbors. Go to www.actioneldorado.com for reliable information on solar.

—Brian Cassidy

Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in the letters are not necessarily those of the editors or the ECIA Board.



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"A NEW GENERATION CAN DISCOVER
THIS BEAUTIFUL PICTURE."
— Martin Scorsese



The Hired Hand, Peter Fonda's directorial debut, screens on July 9 at La Tienda's Performance Space.

Eldoradoans Invited to Share Views

Vistas welcomes homeowners' Letters to the Editor, comments, and opinions, to be published in a new section allotted for this purpose. Our new section in *Vistas* will have its counterpart on our website. Articles are also welcome. *Vistas* encourages factual information related to our community's past, present, or future. For more publishing rules, please refer to the sidebar on page 2 of this issue.

July 4th Pancake Breakfast @ La Tienda

Can you smell the pancakes, syrup, and coffee? Come on out and enjoy a festive delicious, community breakfast on La Plancha's patio at La Tienda before our big Fourth of July parade! You don't have to trek to the Santa Fe Plaza to enjoy this Santa Fe tradition.

This year's event will be hosted by **Juan Carlos** and **Lydia**, our good neighbors at La Plancha Grill, and by our local recycling group, Eldorado/285 Recycles. Everyone will be served in time to get to the parade.

Come in your PJs or in red, white & blue, bring the kids, and help celebrate Independence Day!

8–10 AM, East Patio of La Tienda. Cost: \$5 per person (includes, pancakes, fruit, juice, coffee). Cash only. Kids 6 and under free.

If you can volunteer for this event, please contact Joe (570-0583 or joseigner@gmail.com).

"Let's Grow!" – Historic Garden Restoration

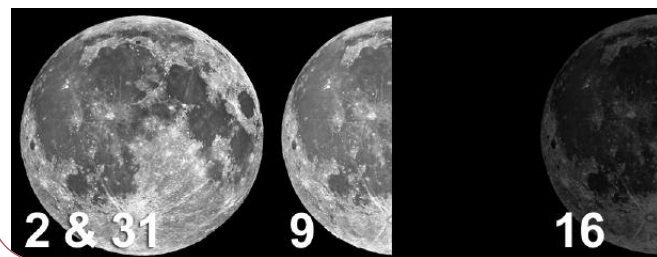
Let's Grow!, a monthly education series for home gardeners offered by the SF Master Gardener Association, is a free, public event requiring no registration. The fifth of this eight-part series takes place on Friday, July 24, from 5 to 7 PM in the garden at El Zaguán, 545 Canyon Rd. Tour the site and hear the restoration plan for this historic garden! (Concurs with Fourth Friday Art Walk on Canyon Rd.) For more information: sfmga.org.

Parade in the Statue of Liberty Float!

Please join the 4th of July Statue of Liberty Float. Just wear your red, white, and blue and walk along with us.

New Yorkers are especially invited to wear outfits reflecting their occupations. Or here are some other ideas for you creative sorts: a fan of a New York team sport, or a popcorn seller at the stadium; a pretzel seller or newsboy for *The New York Times*; tap dancers or theater buffs of Broadway, 42nd Street, or Times Square; consumers who shop at Saks and Tiffany's. We need one Wall Street Bull and one Statue of Liberty to ride on the float. Just use your imagination and join the fun! For more information, contact Raye at 466-1860.

MOON PHASES FOR JULY



REEL NEW MEXICO! July 9, 2015

Screening at La Tienda on Thursday, July 9, at 7 PM, is *The Hired Hand* (1971, 90 minutes, made in New Mexico). This movie was produced during a heady time in the 1970s when some filmmakers began to promote story and realism over stars and big budgets.

The Hired Hand, a New Mexican western—one unlike any other western ever released—was directed by Peter Fonda who co-starred with a popular character actor of the times, Warren Oates. With serene pacing, a simple but good story, and a minimalist soundtrack by African American folk musician, Bruce Langhorne, the film was beautifully photographed, using the best of New Mexico from White Sands to Chama.

Harry Collings (Fonda) and Arch Harris (Oates) are two drifters who happen to wander back into the territory where Collings had abandoned his wife and daughter some years earlier. Wanting to make amends, Collings decides to "go home." On the way back, however, the two men and their traveling companion, Dan, run afoul of some brigands who want Dan's horse. Violence ensues, after which Collings and Harris continue their journey.

When they arrive "home," they find that Collings's wife, Hannah, played by Verna Bloom, has made her own way after Collings disappeared and wants no part of him. Yet the heart proves stronger than the brain, and soon she agrees to take on both men as hired hands. Bloom's performance gives the film a sturdy and, for the times, a feminist look. Indeed, some film historians consider it an early "feminist" western.

In any case, it doesn't take long for Harris to decide to continue his travels on his own, leading to an unexpected and strong ending to the film.

Erroneously promoted as a kind of *Easy Rider* on horseback, *The Hired Hand* failed at the box office. However, thanks to legendary director Martin Scorsese, it was rediscovered 30 years later and was rereleased in 2001 to great accolades.

There is a suggested donation of \$5, and you can also bring food and drink into the theater from La Plancha Restaurant. For more information, contact Jeff Berg at nedludd76@hotmail.com or 466.1634.



Pool hours:

Lap Swim:

M–F 7:30–10 AM;

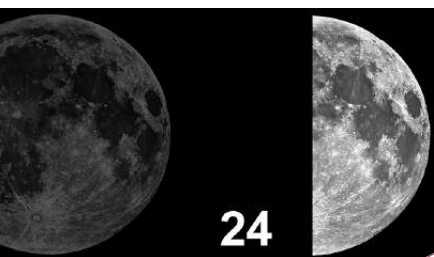
Sat.–Sun. 8–10 AM

Kiddie Pool & Big

Pool: Daily

10 AM–8 PM





ASTRONOMY CORNER

July 2015

July 28, 29: Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower. The Delta Aquarids can produce up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. The shower runs annually from July 12 to August 23. It peaks this year on the night of July 28 and morning of July 29. The nearly full moon will block out all but the brightest meteors this year. But if you are patient, you should still be able to catch a quite few good ones. Best viewing will be after midnight.

—From *seasky.org*

Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players Musical Theater Workshop

Last call for singers, actors and performers! Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players is offering a musical theater and cabaret summer camp July 13–17 for kids ages 9–18. All experience levels welcome! For more information, go to www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org. Performance at 4 PM on Friday, July 17, at La Tienda's Performance Space.

Changes Near You?

Have any of your neighbors submitted architectural modification plans to the ECIA for approval? What changes to the built landscape are being considered near you? Check out the Architecture Committee agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/ldjmreo> or the ECIA Board agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lkxxdmw>.

July Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email marilyn@eldoradosf.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd of the month for publication in the following month's Vistas. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. **Type of Event**
2. **Location**
3. **Date & Time**

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

ECIA Offices closed	July 3, 2015
July 4th Parade	July 4, 2015

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., July 14, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., July 28, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Thurs., July 9, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., July 7, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., July 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., July 15, 2-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., July 1, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., July 8, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., July 20, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	Not Scheduled	Felicia Probert	466-1563	CFR
Stable Committee	Not Scheduled	Alice Griffin	795-6424	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY

EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR/CR
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs., 7 pm	Mary Fredenburgh	466-1035	CR
Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wed., 3:00 pm	Susan Aylward	shaylward@gmail.com	
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Karen Sweeney	466-9797	CFR
Library Book Group	2nd Sat., 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Gordon Groff	699-7680	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 7-8 pm			CFR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 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			Courts
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jackie Vaughn	466-2558	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Fire & Rescue Training	Tues., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Duty Sections	Sat., 8-12 noon	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-4:30	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Barb	954-1533	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 11:30-12:30 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Spinning Group (fiber)	1st & 3rd Thurs., 9:30-11:30	Ellen Higgins	970-201-4776	LR
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	RR

* Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

*** Reservations required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org



At the Library

When you're attending the Eldorado 4th of July parade, look for VGPL. Library patrons are invited to walk dressed as their favorite heroes, in celebration of the Summer Reading Theme: "Every Hero Has a Story."

Kids Programs: *Summer Reading Programs* have started. On Wednesdays from 1 to 3 PM, kids entering kindergarten to 4th grade can join the Summer Reading Club. Participants hear stories, meet special guests, play games, and make crafts that celebrate different kinds of heroes. They also learn how they can be a hero for their community. This program is free but registration is required. On Friday mornings at 11 AM, children 5 and under have a special time to hear stories and participate in activities that are suited for them. Caregivers and older siblings are encouraged to join in.

All ages are eligible to take part in the Summer Reading Contest. Prizes are given to the top readers in each grade. Kids can pick up a Summer Reading Kit at the library and turn it in by July 28 to take part.

Wags and Words (read to a dog) will continue through the summer months. The dogs come to the library on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and on

Saturday mornings. Parents of children who would like to read to Timber, Cheyenne, or Koda can sign up at the library or call for available appointments. Since this is a one-on-one program and each child gets at least 15 minutes, there are limited spaces.

Movie Night: This month's *Family Movie Night* will be on Friday, July 10, and will be a Disney classic. The show starts at 7 PM in the library meeting room and is free to the community. Free popcorn and juice are included!

There will be a *Grownup Movie Night* on Friday, July 24, at 7 PM. The film will be an Oscar nominee directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Bradley Cooper. Admission is free.

Summer Fling & Ice Cream Social: Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 9, 1–4 PM, for this year's event. There will be entertainment, activities for children, the popular silent auction, a special raffle for all attendees, and food. Watch for details; there will be some surprises!

New events are frequently added, so be sure to check the website calendar at www.vglibrary.org to see what else is happening at your local library!

—Tracey Mitchell



Father and son reading;
Photo Kelly Sikkema, Creative Commons license.

FLORA & FAUNA WORKING GROUP

Snakes in Eldorado

Many people dislike snakes. Contrary to myths and superstitions, however, snakes are "good guys" in our environment. They eat the rodents that carry disease. And unlike warm-blooded rodents, cold-blooded snakes do not pass on the diseases—nature's ecological immunity system!

We have a variety of snakes in Eldorado. Only two of them (prairie and western diamondback rattlesnakes) are venomous. Our most common non-venomous snakes include the western coach whip (often called red racer), bull snake, hog-nosed snake, and garter snake. In New Mexico, generally a snake with a very pointed tail and a round (not triangular) head is non-venomous. But without training, do not assume you know the difference, as some non-venomous snakes when under duress can mimic the appearance of venomous snakes. And sometimes rattlers lose their rattles.

As much as possible, it's best to simply leave snakes alone. They will strike only when they feel threatened, and they already face many hazards from humans—including rodent poisons, chicken wire and netting, glue traps, road hazards, and hunting. Add to that the dangers they face from natural predators such as owls, roadrunners, coyotes, and other snakes. Our amazing and helpful snakes need all the assistance they can get.

As with other wild animals, common sense will help to keep encounters with snakes benign. Always keep pets on a leash and in your sight when walking

or hiking. If you don't want snakes on your property, the best prevention is to discourage their food source: rodents. Remove the temptations for rodents—bird seed, dog food, water features in your yard, and a habitat such as wood piles, tall grass, or stacks of rocks. Without a food source, the snakes will move on.

If you want a snake removed from your property, we encourage you not to call a commercial "pest control" company, as it is probably deadly for the animal and can be expensive for you. Instead, contact the Eldorado volunteer program; it's free, fast, and humane. Organized by Eldorado resident **Lyn deMartin**, the Eldorado Snake Relocation Volunteers work with the New Mexico Wildlife Center, a nonprofit facility that rehabilitates injured wildlife of all types. The Eldorado members are experienced in snake identification, behavior, and safe capture and relocation.

For help with an injured snake or for snake removal, do not try to capture or agitate the animal. Instead, keep it in your sight and call:

- ▼ Eldorado Snake Relocation Volunteers (Lyn deMartin) 505-603-0250 (cell)
- ▼ The New Mexico Wildlife Center. 505-753-9505 9 AM–4 PM, Monday–Friday
- ▼ Eldorado Neighborhood Watch (Marilyn Walker), 466-2553, every day 5–7 pm
- ▼ Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) 466-4248, Monday–Friday, 8 AM–5 PM
- ▼ Santa Fe County Animal Control 992-1626 or 428-3720

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE >>



Prairie rattlesnake.
From
<http://nmpoisoncenter.unm.edu>



Bald Eagle (BE)

Everyone is familiar with the Bald Eagle, even if they have never seen one. I have it on good authority that **Dag Ryen** has seen one this year (2015) soaring overhead in Eldorado. With a good view, the BE is easy to identify. It's a large bird, approximately 30 to 35 inches long, with a wing span 80 inches. The head seems to be a gleaming white and the body is blackish brown; its legs and beak are bright yellow. The female is slightly larger than the male. But wait—the BE has this appearance starting in its fifth year. Juveniles are black-brown all over, with a mostly dark beak (making them somewhat similar to the golden eagle). You can reliably see BEs nearby in winter at Bosque del Apache or the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge. They are usually soaring overhead or perched on a tree that offers a view of the landscape. A major portion of their diet is fish, so they are usually found around water. They also eat mammals, gulls, and waterfowl.

BEs breed in Canada, Alaska, Florida, and the northern U.S. They spend their winter in many places in the U.S. and along the Pacific coast in Alaska, migrating to open water and areas of available food. They have occasionally been observed hunting cooperatively.

According to Cornell Lab of Ornithology: "In one of several spectacular courtship displays, a male and female fly high into the sky, lock talons, and cartwheel downward together, breaking off at the last instant to avoid crashing to earth." Monogamous pairs build or reuse large stick nests, up to 6 feet wide and 4 feet tall. Nests are placed on tree branches and in some areas may be on the ground. It can take up to three months to build or refurbish a nest. Both male and female

weave the sticks together and line the nest with softer material such as feathers or lichen. One to three eggs are laid and hatch in about 35 days. Usually, not all chicks survive, depending on availability of food. The helpless young grow rapidly and eventually stand on the nest's edge, flapping wings to gain strength. Young (eaglets) usually fledge when 9 or 10 weeks old, although they may just make short forays away from the nest. They stay close to the parents for 17 to 23 weeks. During this time, the adults may feed the chicks or the chicks may try to steal food from the parents. Sometimes chicks feed on carrion.

BEs became rare in the 1950s or so, from trapping, shooting, and use of DDT. In 1978, the BE was put on the endangered species list. With protection and the banning of DDT, the species has made a dramatic recovery. About 250,000 pairs breed internationally, with 88% spending some time in the U.S.

From the National Wildlife Federation: "The bald eagle is the symbol of the United States and a source of pride for much of the nation. However, one of the most famous founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, hated the idea of the bald eagle as the national symbol. Benjamin Franklin said, 'I wish the eagle had not been chosen as the representative of this country. He is a bird of bad moral character; he does not get his living honestly'" (probably because the BE steals prey from other birds or eats carrion). Benjamin Franklin's choice for a national symbol was the turkey! The turkey is "a much more respectable bird and a true native of the country."

The oldest recorded wild BE was 28 years and 36 living in captivity.

—Pam Henline



Bald eagle in flight.
Photo: NASA/Gary Rothstein

Water Matters

In August issue, *Vistas* will publish the first of a series of articles on the precious resource beneath our feet—water.

We live over an aquifer and will do our best to inform our readers what that geological feature looks like and what it takes to provide clean, fresh water for us, our families, and our businesses.

We have a water company, the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District, which we voted to purchase several years ago. It is ours and we elect its governing board; as owners and users of its product, we should maintain a close watch on what it does and how it does it. We all need to know of any plans to link up with the County water system, as a backup to our own, and what that will mean for us in the future.

Curiously, we are in the midst of much recent precipitation while also in a Stage 1 Water Alert. We should all know why and understand the terms for lifting the emergency.

We have a lot of information to provide you, readers of *Vistas*, and you, the viewers of our website. Stay tuned.

—Frank Schober

Snakes, *continued from p. 6*

And about those rattlesnakes: Because they sense movement and body heat, if you see or hear a rattlesnake, stop and stand still. Slowly back away. If you are bitten, stay calm. Because the bitten limb will swell, remove rings, watches, tight clothing, and anything that could bind. If your dog is bit, keep the dog tethered to you while you remove or loosen any collar or harness, as swelling will occur. Walk to get help (e.g., call 911 and get to a trail head) or get to the hospital, preferably with someone else driving. Most vets keep anti-venom in stock, but it's best to call ahead.

References for this article are available on request. Contact us: EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com.

**"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."
—Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790), Poor Richard's Almanac, 1746**

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Sheriff 428-3720
Crime Stoppers 955-5050
Neighborhood Watch: <http://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>

Recycling Awards

The Eldorado/285 Recycles group has narrowed the 2015 Recycling awards to six individuals who support or model the principle to reduce the amount of material they send to landfills. The group looked for residents and businesses that have committed to the 5 Rs: Refuse to buy unneeded items; Reduce unnecessary packaging; Repairing rather than repurchasing; Reusing the unwanted items of others; and Recycling (including composting) of whatever cannot be repaired or reused.

La Tienda owners, **Destiny Allison** and **Steve Ewers**, are committed to green business practices. They provide space to accommodate the collection of items not accepted at the Eldorado Convenience Center, they recycle computers, computer parts, and used ink cartridges, and offer a Give a Book, Take a Book program. Customers can also feel good because La Tienda supports recycling education by allowing Eldorado/285 Recycles to copy informational documents. Plus, they have provided a dumpster for Eldorado residents and businesses to recycle flattened cardboard.

Two recycle artists stand out for their blacksmithing, metalwork, and welding with metal trash. **Gilbert Candelario**, owner of Junkalicious Art, promotes the whimsical and inspirational side of the recycled arts. He creates colorfully painted designs from mundane/junk steel objects inspired by our natural surroundings.

Cris Nein, owner of Diva Metal Art, searches junkyards and roadsides for rusty items having a story to tell. She breathes new life into them by making one-of-a-kind creations. Her work with rescued

items gives people the chance to feel good and their yards to look great with her beautiful designs. The self-taught artist wants people to give recycling a try. She guarantees that it feels great!

Patrician Creations owner, **Patricia “Tricia” Faberelo**, has recycling in her DNA. In a photo from 1940, she is modeling a coat and hat her mother created from a discarded overcoat. Today, Tricia collects old buttons and other bits from the past and creates new lives for them, to show reverence for treasures saved over several lifetimes. She especially enjoys making things for others using materials they supply that have personal connections, so the new creations can retain a loving memory. For Tricia, it’s about life cycles and recycling.

An internationally recognized green spa is being acknowledged for using earth-friendly solutions in every aspect of the business. Eldorado Skin Care, owned by **Dawn Carter**, meets all Green Factor criteria for both business practices and organic farming of products, ingredients, packaging, and transportation and distribution. In addition, Green Factor companies participate in Forests for the Future. Eldorado Skin Care has contributed to the planting of 846 trees in developing countries as of mid-May. Dawn offers Éminence Organics for a variety of facials, including clinical oncology and other protocols.

Congratulations to these individuals and businesses who act as role models for what can be done to address climate change!

Eldorado/285 Recycles is available to advise home and business owners in the development of green practices, including the reduction of landfill waste. The group welcomes hearing from other green businesses. Visit www.eldorado285recycles.org. —Lyn deMartin