

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME IV, ISSUE 8
AUGUST 2002

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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

ON THE AGENDA

Keeping Eldorado Special *No Small Task*

Eldorado is more than just another development. It is a special way of life increasingly dependent on its residents for the thought and work it needs to survive as a unique place to live.

Many communities in America today lack a sense of roots and cohesiveness. Some are no more than bedroom communities where residents have little feeling of belonging or involvement. By volunteering and getting involved, the residents of Eldorado have countered this trend. Eldorado is a unique place. It has a rich treasure of diversity and a high average educational level. Our residents represent a wide variety of professional skills. We rightly boast of having a larger artist colony than many communities with that designation.

The phrase Vista Grande, the name of Eldorado's key avenue, was not the product of a zealous real estate developer. Our home was known as an area of spectacular views long before the developers saw potential profit here in the late 1960s. Eldorado sits in the middle of one of the most interesting and geologically diverse areas of the planet. The prominent hills that straddle both sides of Route 285 mark the southern end of the Rocky Mountains. Looking south you see the combined crags of the San Pedro and Ortiz mountain ranges. To the southwest is Sandia Crest, the mountain that flanks Albuquerque. The small array of hills in the foreground is Los Cerrillos – 'The Little Hills' – a perfect little mountain range that gives us such pleasure. On a clear day, in the far distance, we can see Mount Taylor near Grants. On our western horizon sits the huge bulk of the Jemez Mountains. A million and a half years ago – just yesterday in geologic time – one of the volcanoes that formed the Jemez erupted. The explosion spewed forth a volume of ash estimated to be 150 times greater than that ejected by Mt. St. Helens during its most recent eruption. There has

been speculation that if no development had occurred here, our area may have become a national monument or national park.

The planners who shaped Eldorado had to have been more than just real estate developers. They sold the original buyers "a residential community...where the natural environment, open spaces and vistas would be preserved...where coherent architectural designs of the homes built would blend into the beautiful landscape, where there would be a unique and sustainable quality of life."*

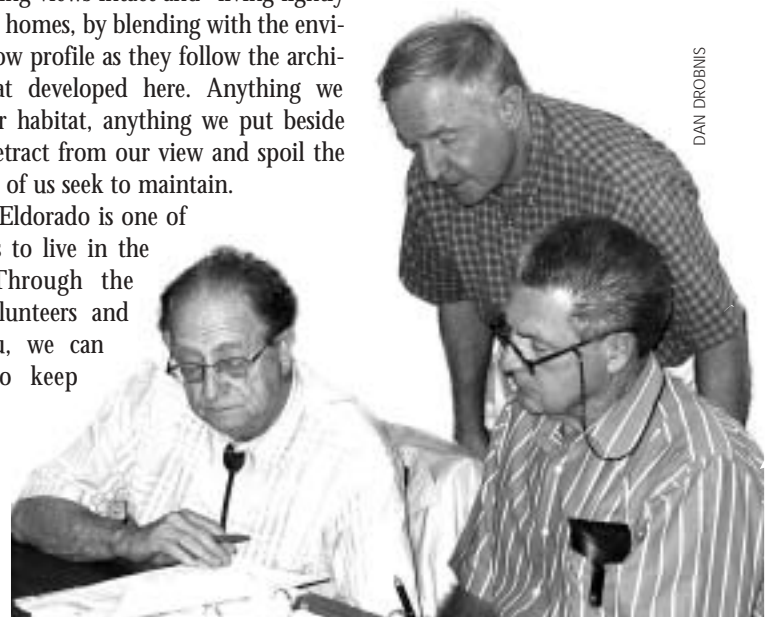
All of the above is why the ECIA exists and why its Architectural Review Committee works hard to ensure our homes are, in the language of the original residents, 'Nava Ade' – belonging to the land. It is why the ECIA enforcement officer works hard to ensure we can enjoy the brilliance of the starry sky by keeping the night sky free of light pollution. In order to keep our incredible views, the ECIA will soon publish clear guidelines on Recreational Vehicles (RVs), trailers of all types, boats and sheds. It's all about keeping our stunning views intact and "living lightly on the land." Our homes, by blending with the environment, keep a low profile as they follow the architectural styles that developed here. Anything we introduce into our habitat, anything we put beside our homes, can detract from our view and spoil the effect the majority of us seek to maintain.

Many believe Eldorado is one of the greatest places to live in the United States. Through the hard work of volunteers and residents like you, we can work together to keep Eldorado special.

*Eldorado
Community Master
Plan, May 1998

**ECIA Work
Study Meeting
Community
Center,
Monday,
Aug 12, 7 pm**

From left: Ralph Heimberg, Bill Schwent, and Bill Pulley consult the ECIA Architectural Guidelines—something all residents or builders should do before submitting projects.



DAN DROBNIS

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 8th day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to info@eldoradocommunity.org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

Mission Statement

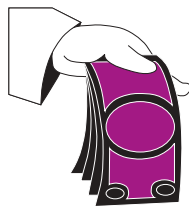
The mission of *Vistas*, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

EDU Sale

THE ARGUMENT THAT BIG BUSINESS assuming ownership of our water utility will be detrimental does not make sense. The assumption that a company will cause loss of service is not true. What about other utilities such as PNM? We do not own them yet they provide a service based on market conditions. The same will be true if the "Dutch" company assumes ownership. Water and other utilities are heavily regulated. They can't raise rates or change other conditions without first going through the PRC. What has AMREP (American Real Estate and Petroleum Inc.) done for us other than provide a service? The same will hold true for any other entity that assumes ownership. Self ownership will result in tax increases that most will not be willing to bear.

When I turn the tap on, I expect water. I see no reason this will not happen with outside ownership.

Mark Liming
15 Encantado Loop



WHAT TO DO ABOUT OUR WATER UTILITY? Should we sit back and allow the for-profit, shareholder corporation—Utilities Inc./Nuon (UI/N)—run it or control it ourselves?

It seems clear UI/N must first satisfy its shareholders. Logically that means an increase in water rates and number of new customers hooked up to the system, placing an increasing strain on our fragile water supply. It is unlikely we could save enough to allow for UI/N's future expansion.

If we acquire the utility, we (the voters) control what happens. We elect the water board from community members whose primary motivation is the economic health of our community. Initially we will see a small increase in property taxes; the money will go to acquiring and improving the utility.

The decision seems clear. We should control our own destiny! I will vote yes in the General Obligation Bond Election and urge my neighbors to do the same.

Raymond M. Burkard
12 Condesa Road

Loose Dogs

AS A CONCERNED CITIZEN AND PET OWNER, I urge residents to do something about loose dogs. I have called Animal Control 4 times in less than 5 months. We need a system in Eldorado to deal with loose and nuisance (barking) dogs.

Animal Control will be visiting this area much more often. For irresponsible dog owners who continue to allow their dogs out without the owners and can't be bothered to ensure their fences are escape proof, Animal Control will be issuing citations. People who continue to walk their dogs without a leash will also be reported immediately to animal control.

I am not the only angry resident in my area. I have spoken to several neighbors who feel the same way. It is the law in this county to leash and control dogs. We are getting tired of 'no action being taken.' We have had far too many serious incidents with dogs here.

Jo Woods
Verano Drive

I WOULD LIKE TO WEIGH IN on the acquisition of the water utility. In my consulting experience (management consulting for water districts), I have found there is no connection between the desires of the communities and those of the private water companies. In addition, private firms did not maintain their infrastructure.

In order to both provide water service that reflected the public's desires and maintain the infrastructure, most communities took over the systems. Just like Eldorado is proposing.

In the area of my practice, every well managed water district was a public district. The service was much better and more responsive than private purveyors, and almost always at measurably less cost over the long run.

I will cast my vote for condemnation. I believe we can have control over the system, better service, and significantly lower costs. The people of Eldorado are perfectly competent to elect a board dedicated to servicing the community.

Bill Robens
40 Estambre Road

ECIA Amenities

UNLIKE MANY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS, the ECIA efficiently maintains a significant number of amenities for members. **Fred Raznick**, a local realtor and former ECIA President, in response to the question "Do you have another community with the amenities Eldorado has?" always replies, "When you find one, let me know!" In addition to a Community Center area of over 29 acres, the other ECIA facilities for members include:

- ▼ Handball Court
- ▼ Horseshoe Pit
- ▼ Volleyball Court
- ▼ Outdoor Shuffle Board
- ▼ Two Soccer Fields
- ▼ Picnic Areas
- ▼ Main Swimming Pool (130,000 gal.)
- ▼ Children's Swimming Pool (10,000 gal.)
- ▼ Two Tennis courts
- ▼ Basketball Court
- ▼ Badminton Court
- ▼ Children's Play Area
- ▼ Baseball Diamond
- ▼ 4 meeting rooms

All members are welcome to use Compadres Park. The park has over 4 acres and contains a volleyball court, a basketball court, a picnic area and a large swing and play set for the kids.

The stable area is comprised of 38 privately owned corrals and two arenas just off Highway 285 and Avenida Eldorado. **Terrence Schwind** is the Chair of the Stable Committee and can be reached at 466-4348 for information.

Our Conservation Committee is actively

Admission card needed for pool access. Renters, check with your landlord.

involved in the stewardship of several Eldorado amenities including: nearly 1000 acres of greenbelt; hike/bike trails; 4,100 acres set aside as a Community Preserve; more than 20 community-owned trails, trail segments, and corridors.

You can reach **Ed Carlson**, the Conservation Committee Chair, at 466-6073.

For information on using the Community's meeting rooms and recreational amenities, contact the ECIA Office at 466-4248. Maps of the Eldorado Community Preserve and associated Greenbelt maps are also available at the ECIA office.



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

June Report

THIS SUMMER CONTINUES TO BE A BUSY TIME for your ECIA Board, Committees and staff. Activities this month include:

▼ The Board is seeking volunteers to serve on the Board. If you are interested, please contact **John Reeder** (466-4909) or **Bob Pritchard** (466-4248).

▼ The annual joint Board and Committee Chairpersons' Retreat is scheduled for August 31st. The retreat evaluates our performance during the past year and develops future goals. If you have any input, please contact your ECIA board, committee or Staff members.

▼ The new Neighborhood Watch Committee held its first meeting on June 28th under the leadership of Chairperson **Lyn deMartin**. The committee

will address emergency communications and homeland security issues in the community.

▼ This month the Board and Conservation Committee evaluated the pros and cons of closing access to the nature preserve due to the fire hazards. The decision was to keep it open to allow Eldorado hikers to monitor the area.

▼ The Board is considering changing its monthly meeting date to improve the timeliness of articles in *Vistas*.

▼ The annual budget cycle is about to start. The Finance Committee, under the leadership of **Gisela Knight**, will evaluate our budget requests and submit recommendations to the Board. Once again if you have items for the committee, please contact

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Conservation:

Andy Winnegar

Election: Frank Schober

Information: Frank Schober

Finance: Dan Drobnis

Recreation: John Reeder,

Gretel Underwood

Road: John Reeder

Neighborhood Watch:

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Stable: Gretel Underwood

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

SEE "JUNE REPORT" ON PAGE 4

LATE ASSOCIATION FEES

Your association fees for 2002 were due March 1st. There is now a late fee due so call for your balance before you write that check! Remember, in order to use any of our amenities, you must have your association fees paid. Call Debby Padilla at 466-4248 with any questions.

MANY THANKS

The 4th of July came and went by safely in Eldorado. We'd like to give you all a big 'Thank You' for complying with the fireworks ban. We had no incidents to report. It appears we all celebrated our country and our freedom while respecting the safety of ourselves, our neighbors and our environment. Thank you.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

For the latest news regarding ECIA or Eldorado, please check out HOT NEWS on our website,

www.eldoradocommunity.org. Past issues of Vistas will be archived online. If you have any suggestions or requests for information, please contact ECIA at 466-4248 or email info@eldoradocommunity.org

Community College Survey Results

THE RESULTS ARE IN from the recent Santa Fe Community College survey regarding classes in Eldorado. Only 18 people responded to the survey. The majority of the respondents would prefer to take non-credit classes. Schedule preferences are evenly split between weekdays vs. weekend classes with a lesser preference for weekend classes. The requested class subjects include computer courses, Spanish, writing, and pho-

tography/digital imaging/media arts.

According to **Frank Vivello**, President of Santa Fe Community College, no particular subjects are in especially high demand. A course in Eldorado for six people would be expensive. He has passed the survey information on to the continuing education staff in order to arrange a follow-up meeting with residents.

The ECIA thanks Mr. Vivello for his cooperation and interest in our community.

Eldorado Arts Association

ARTISTS' SHOPTALK, Wednesday, August 14, 10 am-noon, home of **Joretha Hall**, 4 Camino Teofanio, 466-6245. Join us to network and socialize with fellow artists at each others' homes.

▼ The monthly Eldorado Arts Association Program will be Wednesday, August 28, 7 pm at the Community Center. Eldorado area artists

share their current projects in a supportive environment. This month **Lee Rommell**, a teacher, artist and gallery owner, will give a painting demonstration. All artists (beginning and experienced) are welcome to join us for refreshments and program. Call **Arlene Siegel** at 466-3274 for more information.

EAW&SD Debt Election

THE ELDORADO AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT announces the General Obligation Debt Election is scheduled for August 20th, 7 am-7 pm, at the El Dorado Elementary School. A public meeting to discuss the election will be scheduled the second week of August. Check out HOT NEWS on www.eldoradocommunity.org for up-to-date information.

Voters must be registered to vote and be a resident of the District. The county voter's registration for those not currently registered closed July 23rd. Absentee voting began July 11th at the ECIA office.

A map of the District is on display at the Eldorado Community Center. For more information, call **Ray Nichols** at 466-0347 or **Don Dayton** at 466-4348.

June Report

FROM PAGE 2

Gisela (466-2568) or **Bob Pritchard** (466-4248).

▼ The Board and Architectural Committee continue to develop a more definitive guideline regarding screening of recreational vehicles. The Board is committed to listening to the debate regarding the pros and cons of this issue.

If you ever have questions or issues regarding the ECIA, please contact us using the names and numbers listed on page 3 in each issue of the *Vistas*.

John Reeder, President, ECIA



MONTE ALTO RD UPDATE

This heavily used, lengthy and washboard-riddled road is being studied by the Santa Fe County Road Department. New road treatments will provide a smoother and safer ride for the many residents who use it.



SIMPSON RANCH PLANNING ZONE REVISION

The ECIA Board has communicated its wish to Santa Fe County planners that its Community Preserve be excluded from the planning zone being devised by the Simpson Ranch Committee. The Eldorado Community Preserve is not common property and is only accessible to ECIA members and their guests.

GO WITH THE FLOW

As part of the improvements to the *Vistas*, the editorial staff (aka the Information Committee) has altered the due dates for article submissions. Please keep these in mind as you contribute articles and information for publication.

▼ 5th of the month –articles (more than 150 words) and pictures.

▼ 8th of the month –news items, letters to the editor/viewpoints, articles (150 words or less)

We welcome feedback from all Eldorado residents. Please let us know what you think of the new *Vistas* and the improved website, www.eldoradocommunity.org. Email info@eldoradocommunity.org or call the ECIA: 466-4248.

ROSE CULTIVATION

Santa Fe Area Master Gardener's second Monday gardening seminar will feature **Caroline Driscoll**. Her presentation will be on the cultivation of roses and will be held in the Eldorado Railroad Depot, August 12, 7-9 pm.



August Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting or 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 that 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.

AUGUST SPECIAL EVENTS

EAW&SD Debt Election	Tues., Aug 20, 7am -7 pm	El Dorado Elementary School
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Recreation Committee	Tues., Aug 6, 7-9 pm	Elaine Napp	466-2023
Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug 13, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708
	Tues., Aug 27, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708
EAW&SD	Wed., Aug 14, 7-9 pm	Don Dayton	466-2411
Board Work Study	Mon., Aug 12, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248
Finance Committee	Tues., Aug 13, 10-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781
285 Coalition	Wed., Aug 21, 7-9 pm	RoseMarie Bagioni	466-0755
ECIA Board	Thurs., Aug 15, 7-10 pm	ECIA	466-4248

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Aug 10, 1:30 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559
Book Club	Sun., Aug 11, 7-9 pm	Ken Fischer	466- 2537 call
Master Gardeners	Mon., Aug 12, 7-9 pm	Beverly Hafner	466-0261
Vista Grande Book Club	Thurs., Aug 8, 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636 Library
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Aug 8, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765 call
Arts Assoc. Shoptalk	Wed., Aug 14, 10-12 am	Cary Carlson	466-6073 call
Arts Assoc. Program	Wed., Aug 28, 7-9 pm	Arlene Siegel	466-3274

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Al-Annon (<i>open to all</i>)	Tuesdays, 4:30 pm & Fridays, 9-10 am		
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mondays, 1-4:30 pm		
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765
Bridge (Beginning)	Wednesdays, 9-12am		
Bridge (Mens')	Thursdays, 1-4 pm		
Boy Scouts	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815
Community Band	Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm	Peg Johnson	466-1459 School
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204 Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204 Station
Senior Lunch*	Wednesdays, 12-1pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958

*Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Eldorado by Design

Architectural Committee's Bill Schwent

THERE IS A RUMOR that **Bill Schwent**, Chair of the ECIA Architectural Committee, knows every one of Eldorado's over 2500 houses personally and can recite each one's builder and details from memory. "Not really true," laughs Bill. "But over the years I've probably been in 60% or 70% of the houses in Eldorado—both in my business as a realtor and with the Architectural Committee."

Bill has gone from flying a helicopter gunship during the Vietnam Tet Offensive to piloting the ECIA Architectural Committee. He has been active on the Committee since the early 80s when architectural control passed from AMREP (American Real Estate and Petroleum Inc.), developer of Eldorado, to the community. Bill has served as Chair twice during the last decade. "It's always been easy to get volunteers for the Committee. People like to see the results of their work, and those who serve on the Architectural Committee can see our results all around us."

The Architectural Committee deals not merely with plans for complete new houses, but requests for fences, walls, sheds, and additions of all sorts - 30 or more projects per month. ECIA Covenants call for a decision on a proposed project within 30 days. In order to meet this requirement, the Architectural Committee meets twice a month - currently on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings. Committee members include architects, developers, and contractors, as well as knowledgeable and interested lay people. When necessary, the eight members will schedule additional meetings for site reviews, special project reviews, and planning.

Bill grew up south of St. Louis, Missouri, and majored in Business

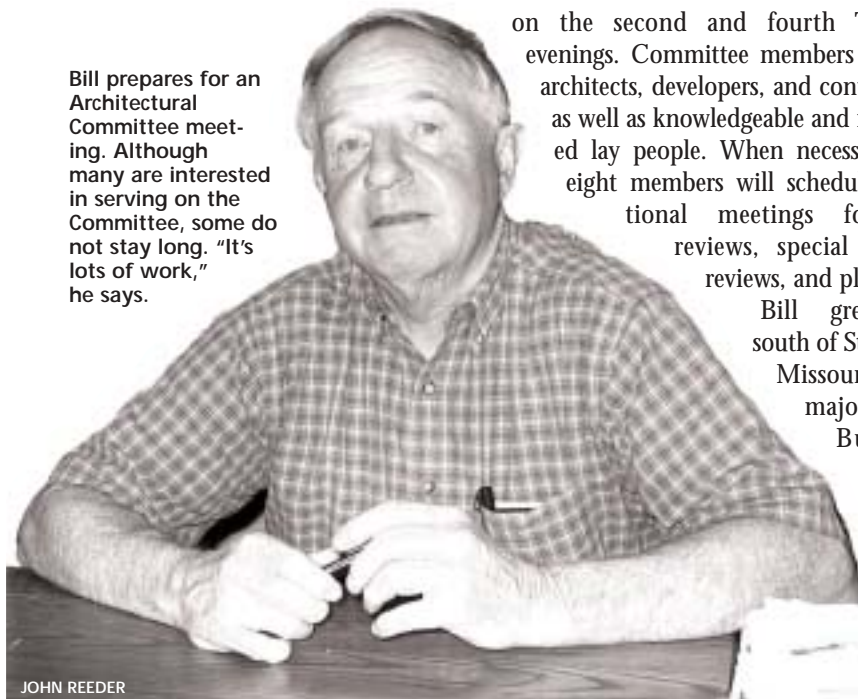
Administration at the University of Missouri. In 1979, after Army service in Vietnam and Germany, he came to Santa Fe to visit his college roommate. "My roommate was from Santa Fe" Bill says, "and his love of the area motivated my visit. We went into business together, and I've never left."

Bill worked for a time with Rational Alternatives, a builder emphasizing solar homes, which ultimately developed several hundred lots in Eldorado. Bill liked what he saw and moved to Eldorado in the early 80s. "Most of the solar homes were standard designs," he remembers. "Once the builder started accepting custom orders, it became more difficult to match good solar practices with the changes that prospective owners wanted."

Bill became active with the ECIA soon after moving to Eldorado and served five years on the Board. "The Santa Fe area is a great place for volunteerism," he comments. "Not everyone is interested in community affairs, but those who serve community organizations free up others to work on schools, churches, charities, and youth activities."

Bill takes a relaxed attitude toward all the meetings he attends. "If someone comes with an attitude or a gripe, meetings can be a real drag for them. But if you come looking for great cheap entertainment, then you will find it. And you always learn something—always!"

Bill prepares for an Architectural Committee meeting. Although many are interested in serving on the Committee, some do not stay long. "It's lots of work," he says.



JOHN REEDER

Water Restrictions

The Water Conservation Recommendations below are a definition of the "Guarded Conditions" and "Stage One" signs you have seen posted around Eldorado. Please contact El Dorado Utility for more information: 505-896-3930.

1. Adhere to the even/odd day watering policy and water only as needed.
 - a. Even numbered street addresses: water on Wednesday, Friday, Sunday
 - b. Odd numbered street addresses: water on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
 - c. No watering on Monday for system rest, replenishment and conservation
2. Water only before 8 am or after 6 pm.
3. Postpone new outdoor planting.
4. Turn off all decorative water devices, such as fountains and waterfalls.
5. Do not add water from your home to swimming pools, spas, ponds, etc.

Cerrillos Hills Our 'Vista Grande'

ELDORADO HAS ONE OF THE BEST views there is of the Cerrillos Hills. Look to the southwest. See the half-dozen conical peaks about eight miles away? There may be more history per square inch in those little hills than anywhere else in New Mexico.

For more than a thousand years the hills have been important to our area. First the hills yielded turquoise for New Mexicans and all of the Southwest. Later the lead used to glaze Indian pottery was found there. Still later Spanish silver was mined in the hills. 1879 saw a boom—miners swarmed the hills while building rough-and-tumble camps named Hungry Gulch, Poverty Hollow, and Carbonateville. A few years later the boom was bust and the settlements were ruins—all except for Cerrillos Station, the camp along the newly arrived railroad.

Two years ago, with the encouragement of the volunteers of the Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition, the Santa Fe County Open Space Initiative set aside 1100 acres of these hills as the Cerrillos Hills



DAN DROBNIS

Historic Park. The park is still under development. An archaeological survey has been completed, trails are under construction, and the park awaits the safety treatments for the nearly 100 hazardous old mineshafts (including some with grates for bats). By this time next year you'll be able to see for yourself. The Cerrillos Hills Historic Park is expected to open to the public in the spring of 2003.

Get more information at www.CerrillosHills.org, or write CHPC, PO Box 191, Cerrillos, NM 87010.

Homeland Security Neighborhood Watch Committee Forming

ACROSS THE NATION, including northern New Mexico, Neighborhood Watch is becoming a vital part of formal disaster plans and informal networks for less serious situations. Eldorado is the largest unincorporated area in New Mexico. Because we do not have public safety officials dedicated to Eldorado, we must be somewhat self-sufficient as the Santa Fe County Sheriff's office is seriously short-staffed. In some areas of Eldorado, neighbors have informal arrangements to watch vacant homes, care for pets and plants, and bring in mail when others are gone. Eldorado's new Neighborhood Watch Committee wants to increase the level of involvement.

During the afternoon and early morning hours of May 7 and 8, Eldorado had no working communication systems outside of our community. We had no outside phone service, 911, internet or cell phone access. This issue and other factors, such as our location along the WIPP route, prompted ECIA staff to consider the need for better communication and

organization between neighbors. The result is the new Neighborhood Watch Committee.

With guidance from Santa Fe County Emergency Management and National Neighborhood Watch, the committee is taking steps to bring Eldorado closer together. Neighborhood Watch will continue to serve as a deterrent to crime—such as burglary and vandalism—but will expand its mission. Amateur radio operators in Eldorado have agreed to contribute to communications should we experience outages or other disruptions. Members will attend training at the FEMA Academy and bring information back to our community. The key to success for Eldorado is for all streets, blocks or other groupings to become part of Neighborhood Watch. If you are interested in organizing your area, please call 466-1237. It is easy and it is important.

*Lyn deMartin
Chair, Neighborhood Watch*

ELDORADO
VISTAS

Eldorado Community
Improvement Association
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.eldoradocommunity.org



The Pool *One Cool Amenity*

The community pool is just one of many amenities we share as residents of Eldorado. Check out a full listing of amenities on page three. You may be surprised and delighted at what is available to you.

POOL HOURS

466-2511

General Swim

Mon., Wed., Fri.

10 am–6 pm

Tues., Thurs., Sat., Sun.

10 am–8 pm

Lap Swim

Mon., Wed., Fri.

8–10 am, 6–8 pm

Tues., Thurs., Sat., Sun.

8–10 am



JOHN REEDER