ELDORADO

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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

Keep on Hikin'

Ground Broken for Hike/Bike Path Additions

major addition to Eldorado's system of hike/bike paths is underway. Ground has been broken for two components, one along the west side of Avenida Torreon between Avenida Vista Grande and Avenida Eldorado, which will serve the elementary school and library. The second will follow the north side of Avenida Eldorado, between Avenida Torreon and Avenida de Compadres, then along the east side of Compadres to meet the existing path that extends to Vista Grande.

Total cost of both components is expected to be about \$140,000 including engineering and survey costs, which comes from an important community/county/state collaboration. The state has appropriated \$35,000 toward the cost of the Torreon portion, with the help of Max **Coll**, Eldorado's District 47 State Representative and Chair of the NM House Appropriations and Finance Committee. The State Legislature is particularly interested in improving the safety of children walking to the school and the library.

The second portion underway, along Avenidas Eldorado and Compadres, will complete two full hike/bike loops, including the county's rail trail and the existing path along Avenida Vista Grande. There will be a short gap along Avenida Eldorado at the railroad pending negotiations with the Santa Fe Southern Railroad for a crossing right-of-way. EMCO Construction is building the path, after winning a competitive bidding process.

The state's contribution will be administered by Santa Fe County, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between the county and the ECIA, and the whole path is being built on county road right-of-way, in accordance with another ECIA/county agreement. This will make the path eligible for inclusion in the county's trail system. Completion is expected in time

for the reopening of school in the fall.

The ECIA Board is also considering further extension of the paved trail system to form another loop by continuing west from Compadres along the north side of Avenida Eldorado, and then north along the east side of Avenida Casa del Oro to link with the existing paved path at the west end of Avenida Vista Grande. An engineering study and survey are presently underway. A preliminary estimate for the construction cost is an additional \$140,000. The study will provide additional cost information.

Eldorado's paved path extensions will not only improve recreational opportunities, but also enhance safety by separating vehicle and pedestrian/bicycle traffic along Eldorado's most heavily traveled, paved roads. The most recent Eldorado survey, conducted in 1993, indicated that the hike/bike path system is the most-used formal amenity, considerably more so than even the swimming pool, and has the advantage of being available and used all year.

-Dan Drobnis



State Representative Max Coll (far left), who provided major help in securing partial State Legislature funding for the new Torreon section of hike/bike path, assists (from left) ECIA Manager, Bob Pritchard, former ECIA Board Member, Andy Winnegar, and ECIA Treasurer, Dan Drobnis in breaking ground for construction. The hike bike trail along Avenida Torreon will provide a safe pathway for students walking to and from the school with completion expected by the time school begins in the fall.

ECIA Board Work Study Meeting, **Community** Center, Mon., Aug 18, 7 pm

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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,

Deadline: Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to info@eldoradocommuni ty.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.

Canine Vandals

ast month's letter titled "Questionnaire for Owners of Loose Dogs" left out one key point, property damage. We live in the Ladera section of El Dorado and have two black neighborhood dogs that have on two occasions ripped out the French drain that is buried on our property and torn it to pieces. They were probably chasing a young rabbit that took refuge in the pipe. On a third occasion, these same dogs took an extra piece of pipe from behind our house and tore it apart. It takes money and labor to repair the damage. The

loose dogs are not appreciated.

We also have neighbors on Isidro whose dogs are left penned outside their garage when they are not home. One of those dogs barks after dark until the owners return. On July 4 and 5, the dog barked virtually all night long, keeping us and other neighbors who live down the arroyo from the dog pen up all night two nights in a row.

We have nothing against dogs; we have one, too. It is irresponsible dog owners that are the problem.

-Gary and Debbie Parke

Trails —For Walking

bthat dog feces may foul Eldorado's water supply. A study cited by hydrologists in Albuquerque, for example, shows that dog feces are one of the primary contributors to fecal coliform bacteria trickling into the Rio Grande. Although some Santa Feans debate whether dog feces are fouling Eldorado's water supply, there is no doubt that they foul the beauty of our greenbelts.

Several readers recently complained that inconsiderate drivers mar the experience of driv-

ing along Eldorado's roads. Similarly, many residents inconsiderately mar the experience of living in Eldorado by allowing their dogs to defecate on or near our trails.

ECIA should embark on a campaign to curb dog feces along greenbelt trails, in the same way that it discourages littering and speeding. These are health, safety and quality of life issues that impact all Eldoradans. ECIA may promote this campaign by dispensing plastic "mutt mitts" at trailheads, as occurs in many communities. At a minimum, dog owners should have the courtesy to keep our trails clean and free of their pets' feces.

-Jonathan Sperber

FIRE—Can it Happen to My Home?

Although we have had some moisture in this area, wildland and structural fires are still a very real possibility in Eldorado. To ensure that you do not suffer from a fire—either in your home or in the area around it—follow these simple rules:

Develop a no-fuel-for-fires zone around your home—no brush, no dead limbs. A lot of us like the rustic, country look with brush right up against the house. But count on it, the brush could take your house if it burns.

Be especially careful of ashes and flammable residue from barbecues. Charcoal burns slowly and may be actively incinerating three days after you have grilled a steak using it as fuel. Putting hot ashes from your charcoal fire into your waste wheeler may set your garage and your house on fire.

Most house fires are due to poor housekeeping practices. Don't permit oily rags, grass, weeds or rubbish to accumulate in your garage or anywhere.

Be especially careful of gasoline used for

mowers or weed eaters. Fumes from gasoline travel low to the ground and in closed spaces are dangerous. If you must store gasoline, keep it in a safe, approved container away from your house.

Electrical fires are common sources of loss to homeowners. Extension cords are notorious villains. A home is safer without them.

Fire is a major threat, but only one of a number of potential hazards that may affect us in Eldorado. Recently, a team from the Eldorado Fire Department, the President and General Manager of the ECIA, a local amateur radio operator, a Sheriff's Deputy and two teachers from the Santa Fe Public Schools attended a course at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. As a result of that training, an all-hazard emergency contingency plan under the leadership of our Fire Chief, **Guy Monroe** is being developed for Eldorado. As the plan is developed, *Vistas* will keep the community informed.

-Frank Schober

Views from the Eldorado CCR...

rello from **Charles**, your ECIA Covenant Compliance Representative! ■ In my daily travels around Eldorado, here is what I am hearing and seeing out there...

- ▼ Lights There are a lot of unshielded lights that are left on to pollute our night sky. With a properly shielded light fixture you will not be able to see the (75 watt or less) bulb, and, when it is on, the light will be cast downward.
- ▼ Dogs A dog barking constantly, day or night, is a nuisance to your neighbors. Not just your next door neighbor, but your neighbor across the greenbelt as well. The dog is barking for a reason, so please consider the health and welfare of the animal and your neighbors' quality of life.
- **▼** Lattice There are a large number of unapproved structures that are built using "lattice." This is not an approved building material and does not conform to the building guidelines and the "Architectural Styles of Santa Fe."
- ▼ Brush Piles, Diseased and Dead Trees These provide homes for pests, particularly insects, rats, squirrels and rabbits. These animals carry fleas that may be infected with Plague or Hantavirus. The brush piles are also potential fire hazards. Please clean up your brush, yard waste, and diseased and dead trees. In addi-

tion, all firewood and building materials should be stacked off of the ground.

- ▼ "Un-screened" RV's Boats, canoes, sail boats, campers, motorcycles, 5th wheelers, and motor homes "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."
- ▼ Yard Storage of "stuff" Building and landscaping materials, old vehicles, old trampolines, garbage bags, propane canisters, tools, construction equipment, trailers, tires, car parts, old toys, and on and on...

I know how much everyone loves rummage sales here in Eldorado, but that doesn't mean our properties have to look like we are having a permanent yard sale. Here is the "litmus test:" if your unscreened storage of stuff is placed where everyone has to look at it, you are probably in violation of the spirit of the covenants.

Remember, the covenants were developed for the express purpose of protecting the natural beauty and environment of the community, to provide an attractive rural setting for the residents, and to preserve property values.

-Charles Smith. the ECIA CCR

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Gretel Underwood Road: John Reeder Neighborhood Watch:

Frank Schober Stable: Gretel Underwood

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466-1204

Debby Padilla

Vista Grande Library 466-READ Security 204-2945

Animal Control 424-2050

For Those Who Dream of Grass

here is a new natural grass (Discover, July 2003) hitting the southwestern market that uses little water and not much fertilizer. Oddly, it requires a little salt sprinkled on it once in a while. Seashore Paspalum is native to tropical and subtropical regions of North and South America, yet is an excellent drought tolerant grass that uses 50% of the normal amount of water, and according to the Griffin College of Agriculture, "It is the most environmentally friendly warm-season turf grass in the 21st century. It can tolerate a wide range of water resources, including potable water. The grass requires only minimal pesticides and judicious applications of fertilizers."

Seashore Paspalum is drought and wear tolerant, and the sod can be installed practically anywhere, even where seeding is normally impossible or too costly to establish due to water and maintenance costs. Richard L. Duble, Extension Turfgrass Specialist at Texas Agricultural Extension Service, described Seashore Paspalum as able to root and grow in pure sand or heavy clay.

A drawback of Paspalum is the low mowing height tolerance (0.50 inch). Although the species is used by many sport facilities, it may be a problem for the Santa Fe area as pointed out by **Bill Belzner**, Santa Fe Public School Facility Operations Director, as the grass is appropriate only for zones 7-10. "We're probably too cold for its survival," Belzner said. Although first and last frost is the same for zone 5 (Santa Fe) and zone 7, the coldest days in winter are about 10 degrees less in zone 5. As it adds up, this might be best suited for our common recreational fields or the El Dorado Elementary School.

For more information, visit the USDA (www.nrcs.usda.gov/partners/for_homeowners.html). These grasses are grown and distributed by a number of companies, including West Coast Turf (www.westcoastturf.com/info.htm).

-Andy Winnegar

IN THE COMMUNITY

Oh-So-Cool Ice Cream Social

The Vista Grande Public Library's Ice Cream Social/Auction Committee has moved into high gear to be ready for the event on September 14th at the Community Center from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Bruce Blossman has lined up several musical groups this year who will play in two locations: the patio and in the Blue Room. Scheduled so far are the Eldorado Community Band, the Ande Youth Marimba Band, Blue Heaven Band and Mariachi Azteca on the patio, with David Yard classical guitarist and Phillip **Trujillo** pop guitarist and singer in the Blue Room. The Auction Committee is gathering many interesting items that should appeal to all ages and pocketbooks.

Volunteers to help serve ice cream and work during the auction are still needed. Call Chairwoman, Eleonor Hellman at 955-0880 for auction donations and volunteering.

Artists' Shoptalk

Wednesday, August 13, 10:00 am-noon, at the home of **Barbara Easley** (466-7474). Please call for directions. Join fellow artists at each other's homes for coffee and networking. Newcomers welcome.

Art Program

Wednesday, August 27, 7:00 pm, at the Community Center. There will be a demonstration by Sonny Cooper, Coordinator of

the Plein Air art group, along with other group members. The group meets weekly at different outdoor locations to paint in various mediums, including acrylics, pastels, and watercolors. Coffee and refreshwill be ments served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Band on a Roll

The Eldorado Community Band, fresh from its 4th of July performance, continues to perform free concerts this summer. The concert dates are August 3 and August 31 at the Community Center beginning at 6:00 pm, and September 14 at the Ice Cream Social. The band also has

The Eldorado Community Band at a performance in Santa Fe last September.





open rehearsal every third Thursday at the Agora (Aug. 21 and Sept. 18). Come listen or join in. For more information, call **Peg Johnson** at 466-1459.

Who Would Believe It?

Sally Hayden von Conta and Janet Shaw Amtmann have renewed a friendship as pastel artists after 46 years. Both women graduated from Sarasota High School in 1956, and it wasn't until October, 2001, that the pair discovered that they lived 2 miles apart here in Eldorado. This began a renewed friendship and many painting outings into the New Mexican Landscape. They will be having an exhibition of their current pastel work at the Abiquiu Inn's Galleria Arriba in Abiquiu beginning August 1st and running through September 1st. Joining them is Lura Brookins, another pastel artist who completes this trio of artists in the show: "Capturing the Moment X 3". For information and directions, call 466-3256.

Sally Hayden von Conta (L) and Janet Shaw Amtmann (R) in front of their paintings during the 2003 Eldorado Studio Art Tour.



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 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.

AUGUST SPECIAL E	AUGUST SPECIAL EVENTS							
El Dorado Elementary School begins August 18th								
COMMITTEE MEETINGS								
Information Committee		ECIA	466-4248					
Neighborhood Watch		Frank Schober	310-8593	call				
Recreation Committee		Vacant						
Road Committee	Mon., Aug. 4, 6-7 pm	Allen Larson	466-4792	CFR				
Finance Committee	Tues., Aug.12, 10-11 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR				
Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 12, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR				
EAW&SD*	Wed., Aug 13, 7-9 pm	Don Dayton	466-2411	CFR				
Board Work Study	Mon., Aug. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR				
285 Coalition	Wed., Aug. 20, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CR				
ECIA Board	Thurs., Aug.21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR				
Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 26, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR				
MONTHLY MEETINGS								
Book Club	Sat., Aug. 9, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559					
Book Club	Sun., Aug. 10, 7-9 pm	Ken Fischer	466-2537					
Vista Grande Book Club	Thurs., Aug.14, 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636					
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Aug 14 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765					
Cub Scouts Pack 414	Tues., Aug. 19, 7 pm	Clay Williard						
Arts Assoc. Shoptalk	Wed., Aug. 20, 10 am-noon	Cary Carlson	466-6073					
Arts Assoc. Program	Wed., Aug 27, 7-9 pm	Arlene Siegel	466-3274	LR				
WEEKLY MEETINGS								
AA	Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR				
AA	Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR				
AA	Saturdays, 10:45-11:45 am			CR				
AA	Sundays, 5:15- 6:15 pm			CR				
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon., 1-4:30 pm			LR				
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR, LR				
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fridays, 1-4:20 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR				
Bridge (Beginning)	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Gen Norris	466-4120	LR				
Bridge (Mens')	Thursdays, 1-4 pm	Bill Kapoun	466-8497	LR				
Boy Scouts Troop 414	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, 12-1 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR				
*Eldorado Area Water an	*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **Reservations Required							

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

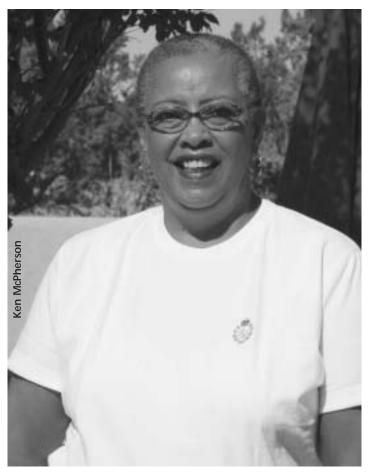


New, But Ready to Give

Teanne Klein is the newest member of the ECIA Board of Directors. We asked her to tell us something about herself. She was interviewed for Vistas by **Gretel Underwood**.

Gretel: Congratulations on your appointment to the ECIA Board. Tell me, Jeanne, where did you grow up, where did you go to school? Jeanne: I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. I went to Catholic high schools. I then went to Bowling Green and did my graduate work at Kent State. I did post graduate work at St. Thomas in Minnesota.

- G: You made a career in education. Why did you choose that field?
- J: Well, when I walked into a school building as a five year old, the smell, the look...I knew it was the place for me; I knew I wanted to be a teacher.
- G: Where did your career take you?
- J: To Europe. A way for me to make a living was in the Department of Defense Overseas Schools. I ended up in Ankara, Turkey and



Jeanne Klein

that was wonderful. I was there a year and then I moved to Saarland, Germany. There I met my husband, got married, and honeymooned in Paris. Our first son was born in Germany. We eventually returned to the United States and lived in Cleveland, Kansas City, and Minnesota. I taught fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades, my specialty being fifth grade. In Kansas City I became a principal at this little African American Catholic school. That's where I learned about community and about your gifts exploding when you're in a community. It was wonderful.

- G: You have served on several boards. Tell me about your experience.
- J: I was a member and president on the Board of Directors for Catholic Charities. We did wonderful work. We did adoptions—everything. There is a cornerstone on a building for elderly people with my name on it. Another, purely professional board that I served on was the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development. We looked at trends and research and tried to keep the national education community up to date. I do understand the work of boards.
- G: What are some of your interests outside of your work?
- J: I'm a big reader. I like murder mysteries. And now, at age 62, I've gotten into hiking and walking. We've done all of the Preserve (a couple of times I didn't think I'd make it back). We also go four-wheeling in my husband's Jeep. Plus, we love art. That's one of the reasons we came here.
- G: How did you come to retire in Santa Fe?
- J: We came to Santa Fe 27 years ago and said, "Oh, this is so neat!" Then we came back recently for an afternoon visit, and we pulled off the highway and we said, "Okay. This is where we want to be."
- G: You moved to Eldorado this last October. What has your experience here been like so far?
- J: We've had a really good experience. After we got settled, got the house together, it was time to look around and say, "Now how do we pay back?" We're living in this beautiful place...I do believe in giving back...If you have something and it's great, then you give back to it through your talent.

-Gretel Underwood

Simply Organized —Room by Room

No Basement, No Attic, Must Be in the Garage Somewhere

The most common style house in this area clearly evolved from a semi-nomadic culture that did not accumulate stuff. Storage space is at a premium. Although not considered living space, the garage is an integral part of the house footprint. It is the car room, as well as a catchall.

Start by identifying uses for this space: park cars; store tools, sports equipment, bulk household supplies, memorabilia or items for next flea market; gather household trash for recycling or pickup.

If possible, empty the garage or at least clear space with reasonable access for 2 cars. Then park the cars outside and use this space to sort items by the groupings noted above. Remember to discard broken, outdated, or not used items. Assess wall space and categorize items to determine what type of storage accessories are needed.

Floor to ceiling metal utility shelves are a worthwhile investment along one wall. Large plastic bins can be readily accessible and easily labeled: camping gear, holiday items, small tools, or memorabilia. A pegboard, wall hooks or racks along another wall are useful for hanging garden tools, bicycles, a ladder, brooms or such. Some floor space will be needed for recycling and trash receptacles. Utilize space under or above a workbench with cabinets, shelves or pegboard.

Safety first. Be careful about storing flammable or hazardous materials. Maintain clear access to the electrical panel and mechanical room. Don't block vents or windows.

Laundry room greetings

If this is the room that connects the garage to the rest of the house, it may be logical to have a place to set the car keys, a purse or backpack, a basket for outgoing mail or books to return to the library. The washer and dryer dominate this room, but there may be counter space or an area for a small corner table. There is always room for shelves or a cabinet above non-stacked appliances.

Treat these areas like any other room in your home. Add a personal touch that makes you smile as you open the door.

-RoseMarie Bagion

Gray Water Can Help Conserve Our Precious Water

ffective July 1, 2003, gray water, as described in the New Mexico Water Quality Act, can be used for residential landscapes. Gray water refers to untreated household wastewater that has not come in contact with toilet waste, which includes wastewater from bathtubs, showers, washbasins, clothes washing machines and laundry tubs. It does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers or laundry water from the washing of material soiled with human excreta, such as diapers.

Rather than place the washer on the back porch, how can you use your washer as a watering source for outdoor plants?

First you need to establish how long of a hose you will need to reach from the washer to the outside. Next head to Home Depot with the measurement of the diameter of the hose that is attached to the back of your washer and ask for an adaptor to attach a larger width hose to your washer hose. The larger width hose is needed so that the washer's pump won't be damaged straining from the extra distance pumping water after each washer cycle. Don't worry; as long as the hose is larger than your existing hose it can easily pump the water out of the house without damaging your

machine. The current s-shaped hose from the washer goes directly into a drainpipe. This drainpipe always has water in it that keeps the septic smell from heading back into the house. Be sure to stuff the pipe with a rag. You will need this pipe again next winter, so no overstuffing.

Once the water is out of the house you will need a large tub or covered tank to hold the water. The system at this point can use gravity to move the gray water from the tank to the garden using a garden hose or you can buy a submergible pump to push the water uphill or wherever you want it. If you want to use an in-house, holding tank, beware of potential overflow problems.

Also when using gravity, siphoning may be needed. Remember, a mouthful of washer water can be unpleasant. Finally, don't forget to use only Non-P h o s p h a t e Detergents.

-Andy Winnegar

ign up today to become a block captain for you and follow the link to Neighborhood Watch eighborhood. Please visit eldoradocommunity

A large tub holds the gray water from the washing machine until it is transferred out through a hose to the garden.





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