

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME VI, ISSUE 8

August 2004

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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## Traffic Calming

**F**OCUSING ON THE LACK OF LAW enforcement, the Traffic Calming Subcommittee of our Eldorado Neighborhood Watch organization has asked the ECIA Board to consider using a portion of the funds designated for contract security to hire overtime sheriff's deputies to patrol our streets and avenidas.

Contract security services, the biggest single item in the ECIA budget, can be halved, committee members suggested, if those services focus on opening and locking doors and keeping order at the Community Center. "This would allow the ECIA Board to equally apportion funds between our current security service contract and a contract with the County Sheriff's Department hiring fully empowered, fully equipped sheriff's deputies. Our community's recent vehicular death is evidence that we need law enforcement in addition to services rendered by the contracted security company," said **Sandra Vreeland**, the Neighborhood Watch Committee Chairperson.

Speeders and tailgaters are a common traffic problem here. There are few in the community who have not witnessed speeding, tailgating and double-line crossing during their time here. While the hike-bike trails offer the perception of additional safety to pedestrian and cycling traffic, crossing roads to get to some portion of the 21-mile system may pose an additional risk.

The Neighborhood Watch Committee's report to the ECIA Board noted that Eldorado has changed dramatically since security patrols were established in 1972. Its population has grown to approximately 7,900 and, as is normal for a community of this size, security service is no longer sufficient for the needs of its residents. Fully empowered law enforcement is needed.

Earlier meetings of the committee with the County Sheriff and Commissioners have given little hope that regular, visible, patrols can be provided within current or foreseeable budgets. Vice-Chairperson of the Neighborhood Watch Committee, **Kevin Walsh** said, "Although the new

Quadrant System is an earnest effort on part of the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department, the patrol coverage will remain insufficient to address the needs of what is the Eldorado of 2004 and beyond. Eldorado cannot continue to compete with other areas of the county for attention; attention which will only be received after our problems become more difficult to solve."

Garret Vreeland, a Neighborhood Watch Committee member, added, "Security can't even issue a slap on the wrist. We need sheriff's deputies patrolling Eldorado, empowered to ticket and arrest. Nothing else will suffice. I'm particularly concerned about children and the elderly using our hike-bike paths and playgrounds, as well as the pick-up and drop-off times at the elementary school. Speeding past these areas is no joke. You take your life in your hands crossing the street to reach the path or playground. In addition, the noise generated by speeding traffic is making our normally enjoyable outdoor areas unpleasant. Rush hours sound like the Indy 500 because of the excess speed. Illegal and dangerous high-speed passing maneuvers are the norm, rather than the exception. We also need to get construction and delivery trucks to throttle back a bit. They're no less responsible than our residents for diminishing our peace and safety. Public education and awareness of these issues is essential."

*(As this edition of the Vistas goes to press, the ECIA Board had not yet decided on the Neighborhood Watch Committee's proposals. Soon you will be able to check for information on the committee's website: [www.responsible-driving.org](http://www.responsible-driving.org))*

—Frank Schober

**ECIA Board  
Work Study  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Mon.,  
July 16, 7 pm**

New stop signs at Vista Grande and Monte Alto create a 4-way stop at the intersection.

KEN MCPHERSON



**Share your  
comments  
with us!**

**For policy and  
deadline, see  
below**

### **Editorial Policy**

*Vistas* invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too. **Deadline:** Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto:info@eldoradocommunity.org). Please include "Attn: *Vistas*" in your message.

### **Mission Statement**

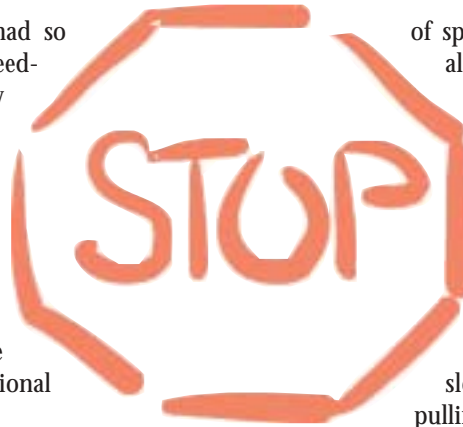
The mission of *Vistas*, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

## A Halting Proposal

**T**HE PAST YEAR we have had so much discussion regarding speeding and tailgating, and the only solution being additional police presence. Yet the two tragic fatalities we have suffered as a community were both at intersections that I would suspect might need four-way stop signs for "traffic calming" (both to reduce speeding and improve pedestrian safety). This would also probably achieve more than we would gain with additional policing at a fraction of the cost.

I wish to propose to the community that we seriously consider four-way stop signs at both Avenida Torreon and Avenida De Compadres on Avenida Eldorado, and both Avenida Del Monte Alto and Avenida De Compadres on Avenida Vista Grande.

Not only would this greatly reduce the problem



of speeding, but it would also provide for safe crosswalks for pedestrians so they can freely access the wonderful circuit of sidewalks and trails we now have, and help to circumvent the problem of having slow moving vehicles pulling out from the main side roads into the path of

faster moving traffic.

So unless we are experiencing a dramatic rise in crime in addition to the traffic issues to justify such a costly measure as hiring additional police, my personal vote is for additional stop signs to compel everyone to slow down and provide for more safety at major intersections, regardless of whether anyone is observing them or not.

—John McPhee

*(Editor's note: The stop signs at Vista Grande and Monte Alto were placed after this letter was received.)*

## Limits in Question

**A**FTER THE RECENT UNFORTUNATE fatality on Vista Grande, the alarmists will usually scream for lower speed limits. Before we end up with those miserable speed bumps all over the Avenidas, let's stop and discuss rationally the speed situation in Eldorado.

There will always be in any city or community a small percentage of speeders. Most drivers however will drive what is a reasonable and proper speed for conditions. What is the reasonable and proper speed limits for the Avenidas? I maintain all the posted limits are too low. These are what I feel the reasonable limits should be for the Avenidas:

Vista Grande – posted at 40. This is about right for 285 to Monte Alto. From there to Casa del Oro, increase it to 45. Also put a four-way stop at Monte Alto.

Torreón – posted at 35. Increase to 40, with a 25 limit from the library to Vista Grande.

Casa Del Oro – posted at 35. Unreasonably low. Increase to 40 or even 45.

Avenida Eldorado – posted at 40. This entire stretch should be and could be posted at 50. Anyone running at the posted 40 will have a half a dozen cars behind them by the time they get to 285. That should tell you something.

With the new, more reasonable limits, the police can then get aggressive and issue tough tickets for any speed 5 mph over the new posted limits.

—John Mifflin

## Thumbs Up & Down

**J**UST WANTED TO GIVE YOU a "thumbs up" on the recent issue of *Vistas*. I know putting out a newsletter that is interesting and on time is quite a feat, and to do it with a volunteer staff is just short of amazing!

There was one sentence that I took umbrage with, simply because of the inflammatory tone in which it was written. "Everyone likes to have their windows open, and not everyone can afford air conditioning because you can't control your dogs (sic) obnoxious barking." This sentence is in a mean spirited tone and makes several very broad based assumptions: only the well-to-do can afford air conditioning and "you" (who?) force the rest of the community to suffer in the heat (in Santa Fe? At night?) because your dog is obnoxious.

My point? Not all people with air conditioning are rich. Not all people without air conditioning cannot afford it. Not all people find temperatures in the 70s (average for Santa Fe summers) suffocating. Not all dog owners are irresponsible. Not all dogs are obnoxious.

Kudos on everything else.

—Bonnie Coleman-Iapoce

## RV Screening Coming Up

**T**HE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV) Guideline was adopted by the ECIA Board on February 19, 2004 and becomes effective on September 1, 2004. An RV is any of the following: motor homes, campers, camper shells, vehicle accessories, utility trailers, horse trailers, airplanes, sail boats, motor boats, ATV's and motorcycles.

Here are the options available (abbreviated for this article) to make your RV inconspicuous. It is important to note the screening methods are lot specific. Some lots may require only one of the options listed, while others may require several in combination.

- ▼ RV Garage or Carport... may be constructed, provided the structure is approved by the Architectural Committee (AC)... a carport alone is unlikely to provide the required screening.
- ▼ Trees and/or Plantings... evergreens and other similar types of plantings are an approved screening method, when sufficiently dense and/or used in conjunction with existing structures on the property so the RV is obscured.
- ▼ RV Covers... an earth tone cover (AC guideline colors) may be used to complement a visual barrier provided that the RV is located on the lot so that buildings and other visual barriers on

the existing landscape are used to maximum advantage and the outline of the vehicle is least visible.

- ▼ RV Screening Fences... screening fences for RVs may be approved by the AC in accordance with existing Guidelines.
- ▼ Earth berms used with other options, such as trees and/or plantings, may provide sufficient screening. If a fence is added on top of the berm it shall not be greater than six feet above the natural grade. (Note: Cutting below grade, adding an earth berm, plantings and a cover could obscure very effectively.)

The compliance objective is to obscure the RV so it is more congruous with the environment. *Obscure means to make inconspicuous or unnoticeable, or to conceal physically, hide or cover.*

Please consider your screening options and contact the ECIA before installing any RV screening to determine if your plans will meet these guidelines.

Try compliance... and please don't speed or tailgate in the Land of Enchantment!

—Charles Smith, the ECIA CCR



## Attracting Eldorado's Birds Without Spending Lots of Money

**T**HE NUMBER ONE WAY to attract birds is water—all year long! I buy a 12-inch diameter metal pan in the Wal-Mart dog department for less than \$3.00. Birds like the safety of height, so if you have a birdbath stand, just put the pan on it. In the winter it's handy to have two pans. The western blue birds are guaranteed to appear as soon as there is unfrozen water (lukewarm, never hot), especially first thing on cold mornings. In the summer fill the pan daily. If the pan needs to go on the ground, place it where the birds can have some cover.

For hummingbirds, buy a feeder. Two are even better. Feeders should be easy to use and clean. My favorite has a 1-cup capacity and is available at Wild Birds – “Best-1, Poteet, TX 78066.” Make nectar with a quarter cup sugar and enough hot water to total one cup. Do not put coloring in the water. Don't put the feeder out while water is hot. Be sure to clean every other day. (Sometimes the nectar won't even last one day!)

Many birds will come for seed. Most like black oil

sunflower seed. This is available at The Country Store, feed stores, and usually Wal-Mart. Use a simple plastic feeder with 4 to six seed holes and a top that comes off easily for cleaning and refilling. There is the additional danger of birds killing themselves by flying into nearby windows, so locate feeders away from them. You will get seed below the feeder, which will attract different birds such as doves, quail and lark sparrows. If you like the ground birds, sprinkle some seed on the ground when you fill the feeder or along the top of a stucco wall. (My dogs also like eating seed from the ground.)

For different birds (such as pine siskins), get thistle seed and a heavy-duty plastic thistle feeder. A pole with 2 or more feeders is fun to watch.

There are many other foods – fruit, peanuts, peanut butter, mealworms, suet etc. - but I stick to the simple stuff and get a good collection of birds. One of the secrets is putting the feeder and water where you see it frequently.

—Pam Henline

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Road: Ed Benrock  
Information: Vacant  
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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library  
466-READ  
Security  
204-2945  
Fire and Rescue  
466-1204  
Animal Control  
424-2050



RV Club and Scouts keeping our roadways clean.

### Meals on Wheels Needs Volunteers

The Meals on Wheels program needs volunteer drivers who would be willing to deliver meals to homebound seniors in the 285 and Eldorado area during lunchtime. The program, which currently operates in Santa Fe, is being extended to help seniors in our area who are unable to prepare nutritious meals on their own. It is also an opportunity to bring shut-ins a friendly visitor each day.

In an effort to provide meals for at least five days a week, the current number of volunteer drivers needs to be augmented. To learn more about becoming a volunteer driver or to sign up for the meal program call **Patty Adam** at 466-1949 or **Pat Lavengood** at 466-9765.

### Can You Dish it Out?

Help Wanted: Smiling, happy volunteers for the 5th Annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction who would enjoy serving ice cream or toppings to a large hungry crowd of neighbors on September 12th from 1 to 5 pm at the Community Center.

The Vista Grande Library's 5th Annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction is in need of volunteers. This fun family event has become a great way to begin the school year and end the summer with great music, tasty ice cream, fantastic

auction items, kids' activities and a chance to meet one's neighbors. Community businesses like Creamland Dairy and the Eldorado Supermarket pitch in to provide the food and fixings, but it is up to the various committees and their volunteers to make the fund raising event a success. To become a volunteer, call **Jane Otten** at 466-6665; to help sell tickets, call **Jack Abernathy** at 466-4072; and to offer items for the silent auction, call **Diane Gulseth** at 466-6509.

### Exhibition and Lecture

Thursday, August 19, 7-9 pm, photographer **George Henke** will present a lecture in conjunction with his show "WATER, COOL CLEAR WATER" scheduled for display July 21 - August 21. Presented as a photographic celebration to the beauty of water, George's color photographs depict gardens and landscapes from around the world.

Originally from New York and retired from IBM, Mr. Henke is a practicing photographer living in Eldorado. He has conducted photographic workshops and has traveled to such far-away locales as Australia and New Zealand. Selected pieces will be for sale.

### Cleaning Up

As we have reported before, the Roadrunners RV Club has been involved in cleaning up Eldorado's roadsides with some regular help from the local Cub Scout troop. Now our Boy Scout troop (414) has adopted a major portion of Vista Grande for regular cleanup and they even have had a sign erected by the county to mark the area.

## Astronomy Corner

### The Great Wheel in the Sky

Living in Eldorado means a free show almost every night. On August evenings, the great wheel of the Milky Way glows soft as a band running up in the sky. Just look south to Sagittarius; that's the direction to the wheel's hub, 26,000 light-years away.

Our Moon is full on August 29th, last quarter on the 7th, new on the 15th and first quarter on 23rd.

Thirty minutes after sunset look west where Jupiter, Mercury and Mars shine in Leo the lion. Late on the night of August 11-12, the Perseid meteor shower is due to peak in the north-north-east. Choose an observing site free of glaring lights nearby (hopefully your yard), lie back in a lounge chair and wait for the occasional shooting star. If you are still awake early in the morning, look east, where Gemini, Venus, Saturn and the Moon will be wishing you a great day!

—Juan Alvarez

## Sign Up

For those who missed the deadline for having your name added to the Eldorado Community Directory, we are extending the deadline. You can now submit your name, address and telephone number until the end of August 2004. Just go to the ECIA office at #1 Hacienda Loop (Community Center) to pick up and fill out a form.

## Fill Up

Organic horse manure from Eldorado Stables makes glorious rich compost, and now is a great time to start a compost pile. Saturday, August 14, from 9 am until noon we will load your pickup for free!

Composting is easy. Make a big pile (3' by 3' is a good size), then thoroughly moisten and cover (plastic tarp works well) to hold in the moisture and heat. Turn the pile occasionally and keep it moist. In a couple of months when it no longer looks like manure, it is compost ready to add to your gardens. Manure compost adds vital nutrients, improves soil texture and holds in precious moisture.

So come on down anytime to help yourself to a load of manure. But if you come on August 14th, we will load it for you! The Eldorado Stables are near the corner of Avenida Eldorado and Highway 285 and you have two manure piles to choose from.

## School Days

El Dorado Elementary School begins classes on August 19 and will include full-day kindergarten this year. All students must register August 10, 11 and 12 from 8 am to 3 pm in the north gym. Please bring names and numbers of emergency contacts. If your student is new to Santa Fe Public Schools, you must bring a birth certificate, immunization record and two proofs of current physical address. If you have a return student, you will need to bring one proof of current physical address.

# August Events

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

Email [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto: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 EVENTS

El Dorado Elementary begins Thursday, Aug. 19

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Neighborhood Watch		Sandra Vreeland	466-6079	call
Road Committee	Mon., Aug. 2, 6-7 pm	Ed Benrock		CFR
Finance Committee	Tues., Aug. 10, 10-noon	Gisela Knight		CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 10, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
EAWS&SD*	Wed., Aug. 11, 7-9 pm	Ray Nichols		CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Aug. 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
285 Coalition	Wed., Aug. 18, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Aug. 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Aug. 23, 7-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	F
Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 24, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., Aug. 24, 7-9 pm			CFR

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Search & Rescue	Thurs., Aug. 12, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Book Club	Sat., Aug. 14, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559	
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
Library Book Club	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	Lib
Cub Scouts Pack 414	Call for date	Clay Williard	466-3909	
Arts Assoc. Program	Wed., Aug. 25, 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 Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Bridge (Men's)	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
Wireless Assoc.	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	Scott Gerber	466-9333	CR
Knitting Club	2nd & 4th Wed., 1-3 pm	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	

\*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

\*\*Reservations Required

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

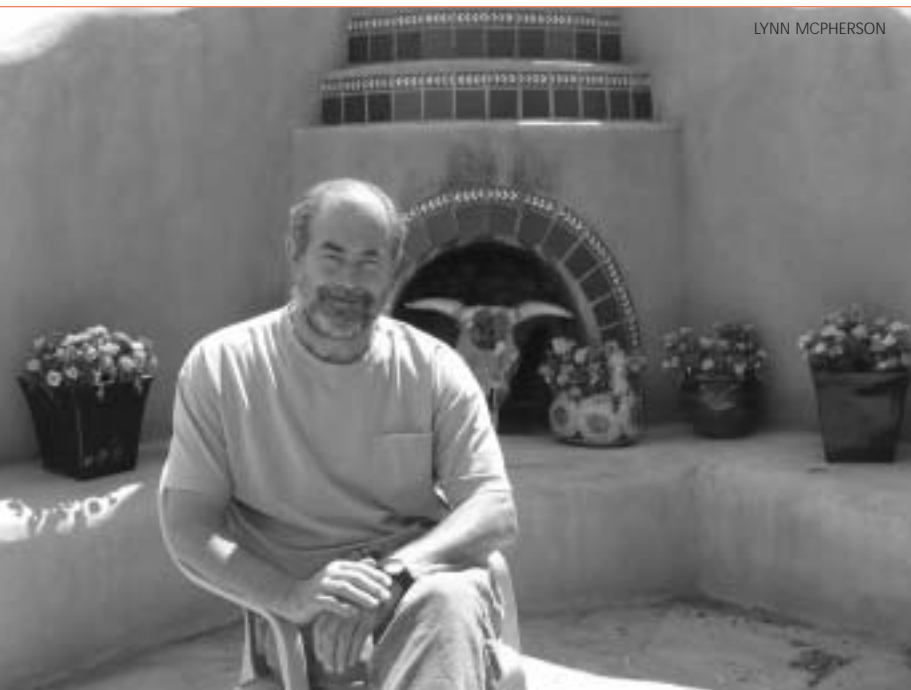
## A World's Eye View

*This month's personality is photographer Danny Lehman. Eldorado writer Ana Consuelo Matiella interviewed him.*

**E**DORADO RESIDENT DANNY LEHMAN is a man of the world. He and his camera have been photographing the globe for over twenty-five years. Danny has traveled the world and has seen some of the most beautiful places on earth, yet he and his wife **Laurie** chose to live in our own Eldorado. One of the first questions this interviewer asked him was "Why Eldorado?" Danny, in his personable and charming style, explained that after eighteen years of travel and photographically exploring the world, he and his wife decided to settle down and start a family. They were looking for the perfect spot and it needed to be beautiful, have good climate and be close to an airport. The Lehman's considered about six places including the San Juan Islands, St. George, Utah, Bend, Oregon and the Prescott/Sedona area in Arizona. They made the right choice in choosing the Santa Fe area. "We came here 14 years ago and we love it. Eldorado was our pick because it was quiet and beautiful, but then we discovered that it is a gold mine when it comes to doing creative work. There's a wealth of creative people here and I managed to get connected to people who were on the cutting edge of the digital revolution, which has contributed greatly to my work." Danny gives partial credit for his tuning in to the digital revolution to La Cañada Wireless Association. Through his affiliation with this organization, Danny is able to send photographs all over the world in a matter of minutes. Danny is generous in expressing his excitement for Santa Fe and Eldorado. "There is

Danny Lehman enjoying his home in Eldorado.

LYNN MCPHERSON



such a nice marriage here between art and technology that I feel very fortunate to have chosen such a beautiful and convenient place to live."

Talking with Danny Lehman one gets the sense of a person who is not just making a living in an interesting manner, but also one who is responding to a calling. Danny exudes self-satisfaction and enthusiasm for his life's work. His love and interest in photography was first awakened when he was a boy growing up in Southern New Mexico. He and his best friend hiked in the Guadalupe Mountains and explored the caves. He started taking photographs of the places they explored and from there developed quite an interest in photography. His first assignment came when he took the job of yearbook photographer for Carlsbad Senior High, where he attended school. From the looks of his extensive and beautiful work, there was no stopping him after that. One of his most gratifying experiences as a young man was to attend World Campus Afloat. This was where he first started merging his love of the world with his love of photography. After his first experience with World Campus Afloat, he had a series of fascinating international experiences including backpacking in Mexico, working on a ship in Africa, and even living for 6 months in the highlands of New Guinea. All of these experiences have formed Danny's work and life. For a special treat and a peek into his remarkable body of work, log on to Danny's website at [www.DannyLehman.com](http://www.DannyLehman.com). There you will see a representation of the work that he has done for National Geographic, Princess Cruises, ERA Aviation, GEO Magazine, Holland America Line and Crystal Cruises, among others.

In addition to Danny Lehman's professional accomplishments and gifts, Danny is a devoted family man. He has been married to his wife Laurie for 32 years and has two children. They all share their love of the world and of our own little corner, Eldorado.

In recognizing Danny's love and appreciation for the community of Eldorado, I asked him if he had any special wishes for our community. This was his response. "The first is to keep the aesthetics up. We live in such a beautiful place. Let's keep it that way. The second is to keep it dark so we can continue to enjoy the beauty of our night skies. The third is that we keep the traffic slow. We have children and we want them to be safe."

*Ana Consuelo Matiella is a social marketing consultant, newspaper columnist and a writer of fiction. Her latest work is The Truth About Alicia and Other Stories, published by the University of Arizona Press. She is currently at work on a novel or two.*

## A Trip to Cerrillos Hills Historic Park

**ELDORADO IS FORTUNATE** in its relationship to downtown Santa Fe—close, but not too close. But after you have taken your visitors (and your family and kids) to the plaza and visited your favorite shops, galleries and museums, what next?

The newest answer is to visit the county's Cerrillos Hills Historic Park. The hills themselves are a familiar sight on the western horizon, and memorialized in countless Eldorado sunset pictures (including the *Vistas* logo). The park itself, however, was established in just 2003, to preserve the rich history within the hills.

The park is reached through the village of Cerrillos, from CR 59. The easiest route from Eldorado is south from I-25 on State 14 (Turquoise Trail), the southward extension of Cerrillos Road. Watch for the turnoff to the west, just south of the BNSF Railroad crossing, and follow signs to the park. A parking area is provided, with a pit toilet and map of the hiking trails.

In summer, visits are best scheduled for early morning or late afternoon to avoid the mid-day sun and heat. No water is available; hikers should carry their own. The ecology is pinon-juniper forest. There are several major arroyos and three principal peaks, formed through volcanic activity that ended about 30 million years ago. Wildlife includes four species of bats, which use abandoned mines as their caves.

The Cerrillos Hills were the source of turquoise,

and lead—used for pottery glaze by Native Americans. The hills were documented in accounts of explorers and settlers, beginning with Coronado in 1540. Spanish settlers worked the area mines beginning in the 17th century, making this mining area one of the oldest in North America. Pueblo inhabitants continued to mine turquoise into the 20th century.

With the coming of the Santa Fe railroad in 1880, the hills were opened to frantic mining activity in minerals, including silver, manganese, and lead. Territorial Governor Lew Wallace, one-time mine owner, is said to have worked on proofs of his novel *Ben Hur* while resident at the Carbonateville Hotel, in one of the area's boom-and-bust towns. As the mines played out, however, the hills were largely abandoned, leaving the area little disturbed since the Depression era.

An active group of volunteers was instrumental in establishment of the park and facilities. They also maintain an attractive web site at [www.cerrilloshills.org](http://www.cerrilloshills.org).

—Dan Drobnis



The neatly maintained parking area has interpretive material, a trail map, and brochures.

## Time to Enjoy

**THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR** when we gardeners are enjoying the fruits of our early summer and spring labors. Planting and cultivating gardens and fixing the irrigation systems are in the past, and now we have the visual and gastronomical feasts of flowers and edibles. Unfortunately, now is also the time when pests kick in and the beginning of fall chores start.

With nights getting cooler, powdery mildew may start to appear on flowers like cosmos and roses, as well as assorted vegetables and herbs. It is best to water plants early in the day so that the sun can dry up any water on the leaves before sunset. Moisture and cool temperatures stimulate fungi, so water low (at ground level) and slow (with minimal spray).

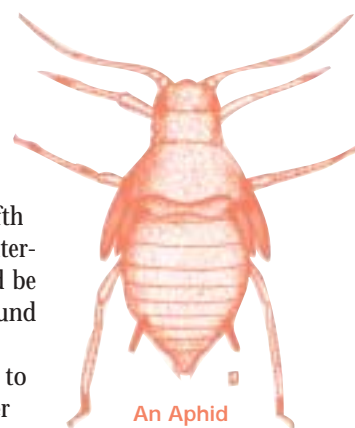
Aphids are also coming back to the healthy, growing tips of plants. These creatures have a five-day life cycle. The trick to getting rid of aphids (which the ants herd like cattle) is to wash them off with soapy water or a natural spray like the product

called Concern. Once they're knocked off the plant, aphids cannot survive. Some new eggs hatch every day (and aphids are born pregnant), so your cleansing routine must happen daily for five days in a row, then every fifth day over the next two weeks. This technique interrupts the aphid lifecycle, and your plants should be free of them until frost, which hits us around October 15.

As for fall chores, late summer is the best time to divide and transplant iris, yarrow and other herbaceous perennials. August is also the time for another (and possibly the last one, depending on the weather) application of supplemental fertilizer, especially phosphorous to stimulate fall and winter root growth. Rock phosphate is the best source of phosphorous—and it's cheap, too!

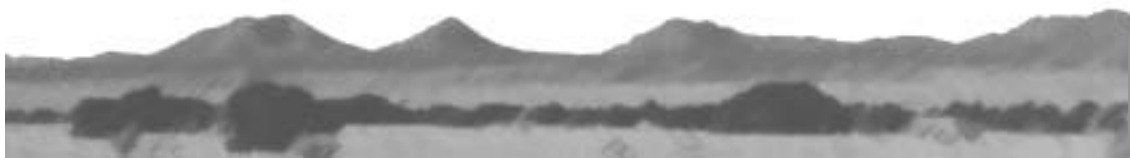
Enjoy this glorious season in the garden—it's payback time, you deserve it.

—Michael Clark, *Tropic of Capricorn*



An Aphid

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## *Mailbox of the Month*

Eldorado is a community of artists, and this may be observed by passing along its streets and roads. The plain “Property of the U.S. Post Office” may serve for some, but others aspire to more individual expression.

If you see a box that rises above the Postal Ordinary, drop a note to *Vistas* at #1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87508, or e-mail to [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto:info@eldoradocommunity.org).