

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 8
August 2006

IN THIS ISSUE

Elections & Information.....	2
Finance & Architecture.....	3
In the Community	4-5
Stables & Roads.....	6
Neighborhood Watch	7
Conservation	7
Celebrate.....	8

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

Volunteers “R” Us

ELDORADO IS A TRULY UNIQUE community. With 2,700 households and 7,000 residents, this community is the largest unincorporated entity in New Mexico. We are really a small town, with a community center, swimming pool, playgrounds, tennis courts, stables and an athletic field. We maintain our community with funds from the county (primarily for roads and law enforcement) and with the assessment collected from residents. But as Paul Harvey would say, “Let me tell you the rest of the story.”

This place functions because there are residents who freely and willingly offer their time and talent. There are currently as many as 70 ECIA volunteers who give over 160 hours each month to help make this community what it is. Their contribution is certainly matched in other non-ECIA organizations throughout Eldorado. Someone said to me several months ago that, “Eldorado is maintained by the residents, for the residents.” And that is so true.

The ECIA committees provide services and amenities to all Eldorado community members. Those committees are discussed in the following pages, but let me summarize how lucky we are. The Finance Committee oversees our finances and makes

recommendations to the Board about all expenditures. The Architectural Committee reviews all plans for new structures, additions and any other exterior remodeling residents request. The Conservation Committee is concerned with all the natural resources in our community: the Preserve, the greenbelts, and the night sky. The Information Committee keeps the community informed through *Vistas* and www.eldoradocommunity.org. The Neighborhood Watch Committee is involved in community safety and security issues. The Road Committee works with the county in maintaining our roads, road signs and street signs. The Stable Committee takes full responsibility in maintaining the stable amenity. The Election Committee conducts our annual Board elections. And, finally, there is the ECIA Board who many forget is also comprised of volunteers. We oversee it all, trying to make it work, and most of the time it does.

To all who do the work for the community, I say thank you so much. For other residents who have the time and talent, I say join the fun. Remember, volunteers “R” us!

—Jeanne Klein

ECIA Board President

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Aug 14, 7 pm*

Volunteer Opportunities

IN ADDITION TO THE ECIA COMMITTEES, there are many other opportunities to volunteer. Some opportunities require special skills, others only a willingness to contribute a few hours a month to making our community a better place, make new friends and meet “the nicest people.” Some of these opportunities are listed below.

Vista Grande Public Library. Eldorado and surrounding communities have organized a library in place of the system the county lacks. VGPL received state and county funds to erect and furnish their building on Avenida Torreon next to the school, but relies on volunteer labor and community donations to operate. Volunteers are needed to serve on the board, staff the circulation desk, catalog and

shelve books and organize programs for children and adults. Go to www.vglibrary.org/ or call 466-READ.

Eldorado Residents Association. The ERA was established to represent the views of Eldorado residents back when the subdivision developer controlled the homeowners’ association. It has since evolved to provide wider opportunities for political expression and social functions. Volunteers serve on the board, organize TGIF parties and monthly morning coffee socials, and pull together the popular twice-yearly Flea Market. Go to www.eldoradocommunity.org/artman/publish/erassoc.shtml and the *Vistas* article at www.eldoradocommunity.org/vistas/pdfs/03-06.pdf.



*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. 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 Vote for Stability

WHEN A NEW MEMBER TO THE ECIA Board sees that one of the Association's volunteer groups is the Election Committee, he or she invariably asks, "Why do we need such an organization?" The answer is a simple one. Several years ago what can accurately be described as a "huge flap" occurred when an individual elected to the Board had to be later "unelected" because the accuracy of the vote count came into question.

To forestall such problems in the future, the Election Committee was set up to count and validate the votes in all ECIA-held elections, and to certify that sufficient proxy votes have been cast to make legal the actions of the Annual Meeting. The committee also ensures that the election petitions required for all Board candidates have the required number of member signatures in accordance with the Association's bylaws.

Another useful action of the Election Committee is to conduct a Candidate's Forum in which Association members can hear those running for the Board present their ideas and plans for service to the Eldorado community.

For more information on the Election Committee, contact the ECIA office at 466-4248.

—Pat Lavengood

Volunteers FROM PAGE 1

El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service. EFRS provides fire suppression, rescue and emergency medical service to Eldorado and adjacent areas. EFRS trains volunteers as firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and administrative personnel. For more information stop by Station 1 on Avenida Vista Grande near the school on a Saturday morning, call 466-2005 or e-mail eldoradofire@quest.net.

Eldorado Senior Center, Transportation and Meals-on-Wheels. ESC has recently received additional county funds to supplement a state appropriation to allow completion of a new Senior Center near the library and school on Avenida Torreon. The center will require volunteers to organize its social and crafts programs. In addition, volunteers will continue to be needed to deliver hot lunches to shut-ins, and to provide transportation between Eldorado and Santa Fe. These programs are administered by the City of Santa Fe, under contract to the county. Call 955-4721.

Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District. Eldorado now owns its water system. The district is administered by an elected volunteer

We Want You To Know

WITH ALL THAT GOES ON IN A community this size, the Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) decided long ago that residents need to be kept informed. That is the charge of the Information Committee—to keep all residents informed of ECIA actions, proposals and decisions. We on the committee also like to throw in entertaining articles like those on local bird life, local events and interesting residents for example.

As you read through the pages of this issue, you have to be impressed at how many people do volunteer to help the community in some way. But Eldorado is large, as mentioned in Jeanne's front page article. We need all the volunteers we can get. Don't be put off by time restraints, there is always something you can do that won't put undo stress on your life.

Volunteers to the Information Committee attend monthly meetings where we decide what articles to put in the next issue of *Vistas*, what, if anything, needs to be done to improve the community's website (www.eldoradocommunity.org) and general discussions of what's going on around the community. As much as possible, we like to enlist volunteers to write articles for us. We are always looking for ideas, and may ask you to write the article you suggest. But you don't have to fly solo. Writers receive editorial assistance whenever needed. We'll be looking for you. For meeting dates, check the calendar on page 5.

—Ken McPherson

board, and uses other volunteers for special projects. Go to www.eldoradowaterdistrict.com/.

Eldorado Elementary School PTA. Eldorado and surrounding communities support their elementary school through its PTA. Go to www.sfps.k12.nm.us/education/school/school.php?sactionid=18.

Santa Fe Search and Rescue. SFSAR meets in Eldorado and trains teams to participate in wilderness searches for persons who are missing, injured or lost. Go to www.santafesar.org.

La Cañada Wireless Association. LCWA is a membership co-op providing high-speed wireless Internet access throughout much of the Eldorado area. Much of the installation and maintenance is done by member volunteers. Go to www.lcwireless.org/MainPage.html.

Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association. In addition to regular meetings of its members, volunteers organize the annual Eldorado Studio Tour. Go to www.eldoradoarts.org.

—Dan Drobnis

Finance Committee

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE of the ECIA provides the ECIA Board with financial planning and oversight. In particular, the committee develops a recommendation for each annual operating budget, evaluates financial aspects of proposed capital projects, monitors expenditures and investments, and proposes financial policies and procedures as needed.

Volunteer members will quickly become comfortable with the ECIA's project budgeting and tracking, and should be familiar with simple financial documents such as balance sheets and investment account statements. Since the committee touches upon all ECIA activities, membership is an ideal way to become acquainted with all aspects of the Association.

Proposed capital projects are evaluated at any time, at the request of the Board. The annual operating budget is drafted in the summer and fall of each year; the tentative schedule for 2007 budget development shown below is typical:

July and Aug. 2006: Proposed items for the 2007 operating budget are submitted to the ECIA staff by committee chairs, Board members, staff members, and other interested Association members by September 1.

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 9:30 am: The Finance Committee begins review of proposals at its regular monthly meeting. Residents are welcome to attend for discussion of proposals. Venue: Conference room.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7 pm: The Finance Committee continues review of proposals for evening attendees. Venue: Living room.

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 9:30 am: The Finance Committee continues review of the tentative budget at its regular monthly meeting. Any proposals resulting from the Goals Meeting set by the ECIA Board for September 30, with all committee chairs in attendance, will be considered at this time. Venue: Conference room.

Monday, Oct. 23, 7 pm (or October 16 if the Board prefers): Joint meeting of the ECIA Board and Finance Committee. Committee chairs and residents are invited to further explain their budget requests if necessary. Venue: Conference room.

Thursday, Nov. 2: Tentative 2007 budget available at ECIA office.

Saturday, Nov. 4, 10 am: The Board conducts a public hearing on the proposed 2007 budget. Copies will be available at the hearing. Venue: Railroad station.

Thursday, Nov. 16, 7 pm: The Board adopts the final 2007 operating budget at its regular meeting.

—Dan Drobnis

All Together

TREPIDATION. It's what many Eldorado residents feel when they bring their plans before the Architectural Committee. Most residents who have actually interacted with the committee no longer feel that way. But, given its notoriety, why would anyone want to volunteer for this committee?

Bill Schwent, committee chair, has volunteered in some capacity here for all but one of his more than 25 years as a member of the Association. "It's important to have someone at the decision-making level who has a sense of community history," he says. "It's important to ensure the appearance of the community. And volunteering keeps our dues down."

Ralph Heimberg, an architect who has served on the committee for all 10 years of his membership in ECIA, says: "When we do what was intended, maintain the standards, that's very rewarding. Without volunteers our community is liable to fail."

"I haven't yet met a building site I don't enjoy crawling around on," said **Babs Peck**, a teacher who has lived here for 13 years and served on the committee for five. "Volunteerism is the way things should run, ideally—we couldn't afford our society otherwise. I think our committee encourages thoughtful change." She points out that the committee could benefit by having more women as members.

Dan Drobnis, recently retired from two terms on ECIA's Board of Directors and as the Treasurer, has rejoined the committee. He points out that about 10% of our membership interacts with the committee each year and that ECIA members will find people on the committee who are "knowledgeable and sympathetic."

Bill Pulley joined the committee when he needed some hours of community service towards a continuing education requirement, then stayed on for years: "It gives you an insight into the community that is a real benefit," he said. He has had to resign recently due to other commitments in his life.

Are you a person out there waiting to replace him, waiting to transform black hats into white—especially if you are a woman?

—Philip Balcombe

If you are interested in any committee or organization mentioned in this issue, go to page 5 to see when and where the group meets (some committees meet only every other month).

ECIA OFFICE

#1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87508
466-4248, 466-4249
info@eldoradocommunity.org
www.eldoradocommunity.org

General Manager

Bill Donohue
466-4248
ECommunity@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Jeanne Klein
466-2466
Jpkeducate@aol.com

Vice President

Ed Benrock
466-2088
Francesed@msn.com

Treasurer

Sandy MacGregor
466-0882
s.macg@earthlink.net

Secretary

Philip Balcombe
466-2982
pgbalcombe@cybermesa.com

Director

Johnny Martinez
466-0696
Jmartinez54@comcast.net

Director

Su Anne Armstrong
466-4067
suanneinsantafe@msn.com

Director

Richard Anderson
466-4635
richardeanderson@comcast.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Gisela Knight
Architecture: Bill Schwent
Conservation: John Parker and E.J. Evangelos
Stable: Dina Sassone
466-2516
Election: Pat Lavengood
Road: Ed Benrock
Information: Ken McPherson
Neighborhood Watch: Mary Uhl and Marilyn Walker

VISTAS NEWSLETTER

Editor:

Ken McPherson
466-4161
kenzwork@hubwest.com
Designer:
Hope O. Kiah
hope@webdesignbyhope.com
Editorial Assistants:
Lynn McPherson
Debby Padilla
466-4248

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library
466-READ
Security
204-2945
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
Animal Control
992-1621



IN THE COMMUNITY

Photographers Needed!

This year, December's edition of *Vistas* Newsletter will be replaced by a full-color calendar of local events for 2007. We need photographs of events and amenities. If you would like to donate one or more photographs, and see your credit in the calendar, please request a list of the shots we are looking for. Call the editor Ken McPherson at 466-4161, or visit www.eldorado-community.org. The Information Committee will select the photographs to be included. No hurt feelings allowed!

Wild Side

Joyce Depow is scheduled to present a lecture at the Vista Grande Public Library on Thursday, August 17, 7-9 pm. Her talk is entitled "Exotic Eldorado: A Talk on the Wild Side," which will explore the natural landscape and plants in the area and how we can use them in cooking and healing.

Her books include: *Those Dam Weeds - Plants of the Middle Rio Grande* USACE; *How to Grow a Garden of Music*, White Cliffs Media; *Dandelions in My Wine - Unusual Uses for Common Flowers*, Badgersong Press; *Little Drop of Water*, to be republished 2006; and *Grandmother Moons Quilting Stories, Nature Myths for Children*, publishing date TBA, Badgersong Press.

Are You Single?

We are putting on informal afternoon barbecues for singles here in Eldorado. We always invite an equal number of men and women—that way there is always a balance and it creates a no-pressure environment that allows us to meet new friends. The ages we are looking for are from mid-40s to late 50s. Do you like salmon? We will have barbecued salmon, salad and bread. Everyone is welcome to bring an additional dish to join in with us.

We don't have a date picked out for August yet, but wanted to get this announcement in the August newsletter. It will be on a Saturday afternoon from 6:30 to 9:30 pm (probably the 19th). If you would like to know more, please give Bob and Deb a call at 466-3263, or email us at timelessjourneys@gmail.com. Come enjoy a summer barbecue while meeting new people.

Moon Phases for August

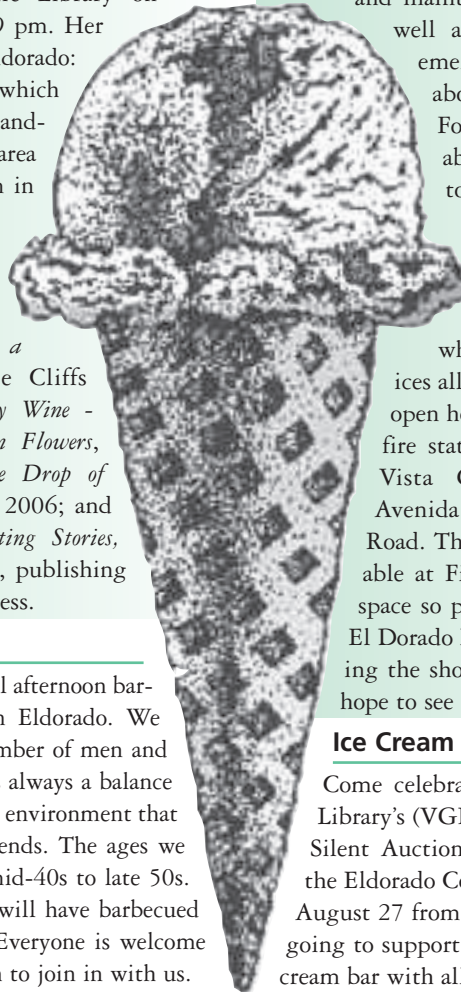


Fire Up the Grill

The El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service will host its annual barbecue and open house on Sunday, September 17, 2006 from noon until 5 pm. The event is geared toward and will have activities for everyone. Games and handouts will be available for children of all ages. Guests will have the chance to examine all of the equipment operated and maintained by El Dorado Fire as well as speak to firefighters and emergency medical technicians about the services they provide. Food and music will be available so come hungry and plan to stay awhile. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and participate in a community event with a group of volunteers who provide public safety services all year long. The barbecue and open house will be held at the main fire station located at 144 Avenida Vista Grande, halfway between Avenida Torreon and Monte Alto Road. There will be no parking available at Fire Station 1 due to limited space so please plan on parking at the El Dorado Elementary School and walking the short distance to Station 1. We hope to see everyone there.

Ice Cream on a Hot Day

Come celebrate the Vista Grande Public Library's (VGPL) 7th Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction! The event will be held at the Eldorado Community Center on Sunday, August 27 from 1 to 5 pm, with all proceeds going to support the VGPL. Enjoy a tasty ice cream bar with all the fixings, children's activities, and entertainment. The silent auction will feature hundreds of items, including gift certificates, furniture, jewelry, and art, which await your bid (and credit card). Be sure to buy a ticket (or several) for this year's raffle for your chance to win gorgeous Native American-made jewelry, roundtrip tickets on Southwest Airlines, or a getaway to the Galisteo Inn. Raffle tickets are





Astronomy Corner

ANTARES: RIVAL OF MARS

Scorpius is one constellation that really suggests the figure it is supposed to represent.

Among the Chinese it was a dragon, and in the South Pacific, a fishhook. Antares (the rival of Mars) is the heart of the Scorpion and it is a supergiant red star (700 times the size of the sun). This star is so big that the surface of Antares would be close to the orbit of Jupiter if its core were at our sun.

Antares is a variable star, changing its brightness, suggesting the beating heart of the Scorpion.

August Sky: You can find the **Moon** in Scorpius from August 1 to August 4.

Mercury and **Venus** will be visible beginning August looking east-north-east before sunrise. The **Moon**, **Mercury**, **Venus** and **Saturn** will be visible looking east-north-east on August 21 before sunrise, and **Jupiter** shines high in the southwest at sunset. The **Perseid meteor shower** will be at its peak between 11 pm on August 12 and dawn on August 13.

Next time: Sagittarius.

—Juan Alvarez
Jalva88610@aol.com

See the light—follow outdoor lighting rules so we can all enjoy the stars.

\$6 each and can also be purchased in a book of 5 for \$25. Tickets for the event are \$6 and can be purchased at the library and at the door. Support the VGPL by enjoying an afternoon of ice cream, entertainment and bidding on your favorite auction items!

August Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting/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.

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

AUGUST SPECIAL EVENTS

Ice Cream Social & Auction	Sun., Aug 27, 1-5 pm	at the Community Center		
Dog Park Forum	Mon., Aug 7, 7-9 pm	ECIA Offices	466-4248	RR

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Committee	Tues., Aug 1, 6-7 pm			CFR
285 Coalition	Wed., Aug 2, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Aug 9, 9:30-noon	Gisela Knight	466-2568	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Aug 9, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Aug 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
EAWS&SD*	Tues., Aug 15, 7-9 pm		466-2411	RR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Aug 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Aug 21, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
Stable Committee	Tues., Aug 22, 7-9 pm	Dina Sassone	466-6441	CR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Aug 23, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Aug 12, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Aug 10, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Troop 414 Committee	1st Wed., 7:30-9 pm	Bruce Blossman	955-0880	CR
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726	C
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579	Sm Gym
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Aug 14, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Call for date and time	M. van Domselaar	466-3864	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Aug 15	Etain O'Malley	466-4708	CFR
Perform. Arts Assoc.	2nd Sat., 10 am-noon	Etain O'Malley	466-4708	RR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	982-2890	

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Fridays, 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Wednesdays, 6:30-9 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			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
Community Band	Thursdays, 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
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	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641	School

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Neigh Neighbors

“LITTLE BITTY WOMEN ON great big horses,” is how **Chuck West** affectionately characterizes our neighbors at the Eldorado Stables. The truth is, the members of the stable community are men, women and children of all ages (and sizes), with a wide range of occupations, backgrounds and experience as horse owners. But

we are united in a common goal: providing a safe environment to shelter, train, and ride our horses.

That common goal and the fact that we encounter each other daily at the stable amenity create a real sense of community among us. We often spontaneously step in to help each other, without defining our actions as “volunteering.” Neighbors will help round up a loose horse who’s escaped on his walk back from the arena, or hold a horse while the owner administers medicine, or climb a fence to walk a colicky horse until the owner can be reached. **Jacqueline Garcia** will bring down her tools to fix fallen planks in the round pen that we all use. **Amanda Kimera** will care for others’ horses on a regular or as-needed basis. **Doug Armstrong** is handy with tools and heavy equipment, and is always willing to lend a hand.

Other activities require more planning, such as organizing volunteers to maintain fly control devices, or researching vendors for manure removal and organizing volunteers to help on loading days—both efforts headed by ECIA Board member **SuAnne Armstrong**. She said, “I get satisfaction knowing that I am capable of doing something that benefits others.”

Bonnie Mapp produces and distributes a quarterly newsletter to keep us informed, connected—and amused. She said, “I really enjoy putting it together. It allows me to combine a skill that doesn’t get utilized elsewhere with my love for horses.”

They, and many others in the stable community, embody the cowboy spirit of, “if it needs doing, do it.” And if you can enlist others to help, all the better! “You don’t need to be a member of the Stable Committee to volunteer,” said Chairperson **Dina Sassone**. There are plenty of opportunities to improve the amenity, or to help set policies. Concerns are discussed at the meetings, and project committees are formed. If you have a complaint or suggestion, come to a meeting and help craft a solution—and enjoy giving to the community.

—*Fabian West*

Hit the Roads With Us

ECIA’S ROAD COMMITTEE meets on the first Monday of alternate months throughout the year at the Community Center to review problems and programs that affect our 80 miles of avenidas, roads, courts, loops, ways, circles, etc.

Meetings are announced on the website (www.eldoradocommunity.org) and noted beforehand in *Vistas*. Any resident with a question, problem or suggestion with respect to road maintenance, signage, traffic safety or the county’s plans for the future in these areas is invited to attend. Those residents with a particular interest in road maintenance, planning and transportation issues are urged to volunteer to become members of the committee.

The chairman of the Road Committee, **Ed Benrock**, serves both on the Board of Directors of the ECIA and as an official member of the Santa Fe County Road Committee. He serves as the Board’s liaison to the county on all road maintenance issues.

Recently the Road Committee held a public forum to gather input from the community with respect to all issues related to the county’s maintenance of our roadways and about the county’s plans for the future, including the paving of highly-traveled routes.

Paving or not paving roadways can be a contentious issue in this part of the USA with its high emphasis on “living lightly on the land,” and for keeping things looking much as they were a century or more ago.

Ed Benrock and his hard-working committee are evaluating the response they gained as the result of their recent community meeting. By next month, a system will be set up in which volunteer Road Committee members will be responsible for reporting problems regarding specific sectors of our road network to the county. They will also assist Chairman Ed Benrock in fielding calls on road problems from residents.

—*Frank Schober*



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

PHOTO BY GRETEL UNDERWOOD



On Watch

INTEREST IN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Interest in Neighborhood Watch in Eldorado is growing rapidly as residents realize the benefits of staying connected with neighbors to make our community safer. The Neighborhood Watch Committee has been meeting monthly to coordinate the program throughout Eldorado (no small task with thousands of homes in the area). The goal of the committee is to recruit 10 new block captains by the end of 2006. Block captains bring a small group of residents in their area together to get to know one another, perhaps at an annual neighborhood potluck. Throughout the year, block captains receive information about crime and vandalism in the community from the Eldorado Neighborhood Watch Committee. This information can be passed along to neighbors so that proactive measures can be undertaken to promote safety and well-being in Eldorado.

Marilyn Walker and Mary Uhl co-chair the Eldorado Neighborhood Watch Committee. Both see the value in building community in the neighborhood as a great way to get to know neighbors and an effective deterrent to crime and vandalism. Even though the crime rate in Eldorado is very low compared to other parts of Santa Fe County, crime does exist here. The good news is that Neighborhood Watch

programs have been proven to reduce crime rates in communities.

The Neighborhood Watch Committee meetings provide a forum for the Sheriff's Department and ECIA to inform committee members and block captains about crime in the area and preventative steps that homeowners can take to safeguard their home and environment. Marilyn recently recruited two new block captains in one area of Eldorado after several properties were vandalized. The committee has a block captain kit that provides basic information about Neighborhood Watch and how to start a program in your area of Eldorado. Neighborhood Watch is a grassroots, community-building effort that can be simply implemented in all areas of Eldorado to protect our quality of life.

—Mary Uhl



Trail Heads

Eleven enthusiastic Eldorado residents met with Conservation Committee members John Parker and E.J. Evangelos at the Community Center on Saturday, June 10, at 9 am for an orientation excursion to locate the trailheads to the Eldorado Preserve. Maps of the Preserve were distributed and participants proceeded by car to Trailhead No. 1 where, after a short walk, the group arrived at the beginning of Trails 101, 102 and 103. "I've always wanted to know where this trail was!" one of the group exclaimed. As an important part of the orientation tour, the group located the trailhead on their Preserve maps as they would do after visiting each trailhead on the tour. (Trailhead maps are available at the ECIA office.)

Next stops were the trailheads for Trails 301, 201, 202 and 203. Participants were shown on the map the interconnecting trail system, which is accessible from the parking lots on County Road 51. The leaders expressed a bias for the variety of interesting scenery on Trail 201 and urged participants to return to hike this short lovely trail for themselves.

Then it was into the car again on County Road 51, across Galisteo Creek and on to Trailhead No. 4 and some of the loveliest country in the Preserve. Here

residents can spread out and hike and bike for miles on well-maintained, signed trails. Hardy walkers by this time, many of the group hiked the .6 miles up to the point where the old line camp used to be and marveled at the views seen in every direction.

Almost noon by now and back at the Community Center, many of the group were overwhelmed by what they had seen and discovered, and vowed to return to hike this beautiful 4,000-acre Preserve on their own. Residents should watch the *Vistas* for news of upcoming hikes led by members and friends of the Conservation Committee.

This is just one of the activities of the volunteers in the Conservation Committee. Among other things, we take care of the trails and the greenbelts. Join now for whatever time you can share as a volunteer.

—E.J. Evangelos



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

*Security 204-2945
Sheriff 428-3720*

Celebrate

Last month's 4th of July celebration was quite a hit with Eldorado residents. Most old-timers agreed that the turnout was larger this year than past years. The parade started the day off, followed by fun at the Community Center. There were games for the children, music for the adults (performed by the Eldorado Community Band), free snow cones and popcorn, hotdogs for sale, and games at the swimming pool.

This wouldn't have been possible without the volunteers who did all the work. Thanks to those who pitched in, especially those who answered the last-minute call for help.



Volunteers build free snow cones for Eldorado residents of all ages.