

ELDORADO VISTAS

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August 2008

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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We All Scream...

THE VISTA GRANDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

will hold its 9th annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction at the Eldorado Community Center on Sunday, August 24, from 1 to 5 pm. Tickets are \$5 for adults and children, and will be available at the Library, at El Dorado School registration days, on weekends at a ticket table in the Agora, and at the door.

The frozen delight will be available in several forms, including some new ones this year—plain, with toppings, sundaes, floats and banana splits—all you can eat. There will also be live music from the Thistle Pipe & Drum, Eldorado Community Band, and the Trillium Marimba Band. A silent auction will feature over 250 items—some of the best values in Santa Fe. Donated items in the past have included, in addition to art of every description, books, restaurant meals, trips, vacations, and furniture. A raffle—one of the most popular events—will feature a limited edition print by **Susan Contreras**, turquoise jewelry, and a round-trip ticket on Southwest Airlines.

New this year for the young and young-at-heart will be a Big Top, and under it will be a petting zoo, jumping cage, puppet show, storytelling, face painting and games and prizes. Altogether, this is one of the highlights of the Eldorado “social season” and one of the best family events of the summer.

The Ice Cream Social is the Library’s principal community fundraiser, and typically provides well over a quarter of the library’s annual operating budget. Unlike other public libraries that operate with

local government funds (Santa Fe County has no publicly funded library system), the Vista Grande Public Library is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, with its membership consisting of all adult library-card holders. Consequently, each year the Board of Directors must raise money through fundraisers and donations to fund its annual operations. In addition, building and equipment funds have been provided

in the past by the State, and construction management and maintenance by the County. Grants and donations are regularly sought to enhance library services, programs and facilities.

The library has recently added to its set of Windows computers, with two new iMac graphic stations and five iPods. Additional iPods are planned for checkout to patrons.

The graphic stations will be fully loaded with software for video, audio, animation and photo editing.

With the opening of the new middle school this fall at El Dorado Elementary, the library will expand its operating hours to include school mornings.

Two part-time professional staff members provide direction to over 50 volunteers who support circulation, cataloging, children’s programs, administration and special events. Prospective new volunteers may call 466-3480 or email: librarydirector@vglibrary.org. The library is located on Avenida Torreon, just south of the Elementary School—but remember, the Ice Cream Social is at the Community Center off Avenida Amistad.

—Dan Drobnis

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



Share a Ride!

*List your
rideshare request on
eldoradocommunity.org*



**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 ECIADebby@aol.com. 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.

Animals in Our Midst

BEAR SIGHTINGS

On Sunday, June 1, at approximately 7 pm, Eldorado resident **Brian Martinson** was walking his dog Bebe, a New Mexico mixed breed, in the Eldorado Community Preserve on trail #201 when the dog became very agitated. Looking toward a creek bed, Brian saw a dark colored bear, estimated to be 4 feet tall at the shoulders. Brian and Bebe immediately reversed course and left the area. The bear did not pursue them or act aggressively.

Brian also reported that a friend, a non-Eldorado resident living in the El Gancho area, recently reported finding a bear in his kitchen.

—*Marshall C. Allen*

RED RACERS

In early June at about 12:00 pm I was headed up to the Agora when I sighted the largest snake I have ever seen crossing Avenida Vista Grande. I would say it was at least 6 feet long or longer, and it was off-white and reddish. What kind of a snake grows that big and with those colors? And how would it get to be that size and live that long with those colors so easily sighted?

—*Roni Robr*

Red racers are out now, and they are fast, non-venomous and beautiful! Steer clear and bless them because they control rodents. They also

climb trees and travel through branches. Just don't corner one because it will bite to defend itself. Again, not venomous. Do not harm.

—*Sara Lovett (Not a snake expert)*

TIPS FOR A TOTALLY AWESOME DOG!

Does your dog jump on people? Unless you have a tiny dog, it can be a real safety issue. Even a fairly small dog can knock a child or frail older person down. Also, it is very hard for your dog to understand that it is OK to jump on you but not on anyone else—consistency is important. So, when your dog jumps, say "OFF!" and turn your back to him/her for 2 to 3 seconds. Then turn back around, and as long as your dog has "four on the floor" (they can be sitting, standing or lying down), bend down and give lots of praise and attention. You can reward with calm petting, food or toy play. Repeat the process if the dog jumps again. You are teaching your dog that they only get attention and rewards when they are calm and well behaved.

—*Judy Anderson, Certified Pet Dog Trainer*



Gardening without Back Pain

SUMMER IS THE PERFECT TIME to work in the garden. However, many people overdo it early on and end up with back pain. Back pain and gardening do not have to go hand in hand. There are several things you can do to prevent pain, or to ease the pain you may already feel.

First, it's always a good idea to ease into a new activity. In other words, you should not start out the season by spending 4 hours outside bent over your garden. Gradually improve your endurance by spending 30 minutes a day for the first week and increase your time by 15 minutes a week, so that your body gets accommodated to the new activity. Do other activities such as walking for conditioning.

In general, bending forward for hours at a time is not good for your back. If you are gardening, take frequent breaks from the forward bent position to do

a series of backward bending. This reverses the strain on your ligaments and muscles and works the opposing muscle groups. Sit whenever possible. You can use a bucket flipped over or a stool for gardeners made expressly for this purpose.

Heavy lifting is always a problem for the back and something we often do while landscaping or gardening. If something is too heavy, don't be afraid to share the load with someone else. Remember to use the larger muscles in your legs to lift. Your smaller back muscles are meant for stability, not lifting heavy objects. Bend at the knees, keep the object you are lifting close in to your body. The farther away from your body you carry things, the more stress it puts on your muscles.

Happy summer and happy gardening to you all.

—*The Staff at Eldorado Physical Therapy*



From the Desk of the President

AS I WRITE THIS, it is July 5 and I have just reviewed all the great pictures that Hope Kiah uploaded to our website (www.eldoradocommunity.org). I am very pleased to say that by all accounts, the 2008 Fourth of July Parade had more participants and spectators than ever! The El Dorado PTA raised approximately \$1,400 from the raffle tickets sales, which will cover various expenses throughout the 2008 school year! As a community we should all be very proud of ourselves. I know I am. I would also like to personally thank all of our sponsors who contributed to such a worthwhile cause (see back page). I also ask that our residents support them as they supported us.

A very special thanks too to the 4th committee, ECIA staff, and all the great volunteers. The 2009 parade is already in the works and has the makings to be huge!

COMMUNITY POOL

I have a five-year-old daughter, so I'm at the pool quite often. And I'm always asked questions about pool operations. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions:

Q: What is the minimum lifeguard staffing during the pool day?

A: There are at least two lifeguards on duty at all times.

Q: What is the lifeguard-to-swimmer ratio?

A: With more than 20 swimmers there will be two lifeguards in the lifeguard chairs.

Q: Are there different levels of lifeguards?

A: Yes, there are two managers and two head lifeguards.

Q: What are the lifeguards' responsibilities?

A: First and foremost they are responsible for a safe pool environment. They monitor pool passes, monitor rough play in and out of the water, clean the changing rooms and the pool area in the morning, and monitor them throughout the day when time permits. The lifeguards are not a cleaning service, so please be responsible and clean your area when you leave.

On Saturday and Sunday afternoons there are four lifeguards on account of larger crowds.

If you see an unsafe pool environment, please contact the head lifeguard immediately, as the lifeguards may not be aware of the situation. To assist the pool staff, please keep track of all persons and guests in your group, and follow the rules of the pool.

THE ECIA 2009 BUDGET CALENDAR

The ECIA Finance Committee will soon begin work on the 2009 ECIA Operating Budget. ECIA committees and residents are encouraged to submit written budget requests, with documentation and

cost estimates, to the ECIA office by Tuesday, September 2. A packet containing guidelines and forms is available at the office. All meetings are open to members of the Association. Budget meetings have been set as follows:

Wednesday, July 9, 9:30 am: The Finance Committee adopts the 2009 Budget Calendar and sends it to the Board for review and approval. Venue: Conference room.

Wednesday, August 13, 9:30 am: The General Manager presents the first draft of the 2009 Operating Budget for Finance Committee comments. Venue: Conference room.

Wednesday, September 10, 9:30 am: The Finance Committee begins review of committee and individual proposals at its regular monthly meeting. Residents are welcome to attend for discussion of proposals. Venue: Conference room.

Tuesday, September 16, 7 pm: The Finance Committee continues review of proposals for evening attendees. Venue: Living room.

Wednesday, October 8, 9:30 pm: The Finance Committee continues review of the tentative budget at its regular monthly meeting and adopts preliminary recommended budget. Venue: Conference room.

Monday, October 20, 7 pm (or October 13 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.

Monday, November 3: Proposed 2009 budget will be available at ECIA office and on the website.

Saturday, November 8, 10 am: The Board conducts a public hearing on the proposed 2009 budget. Copies will be available at the hearing. Venue: Railroad station.

Thursday, November 13: The Board adopts the final 2009 budget at its regular meeting. Venue: Classroom

SCHOOL BEGINS

El Dorado School registration will be held on August 14-15. The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 27. For more information, see the El Dorado School and the Eldorado PTA web pages at www.sfps.k12.nm, or write to eldpta@aol.com or call 467-4900.

*Thank you,
Tom Miller, ECIA President*

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Stable: Mary Ann Caldwell
Election: Ken Robinson
Roads: Nolan Zisman
Information: Carol Leyba
Neighborhood Watch: Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker
Facilities & Grounds: Fred Raznick

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library
466-READ
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204-2945
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)



Last year's "Night of Broadway" by the Eldorado Teen Players. More pictures can be seen at eldoradchildrenstheatre.org



Teen Players Sing Out in August

Eldorado Teen Players present their third annual "Night of Broadway," a culmination of their week-long master class. Songs will be performed from such shows as "Little Mermaid," "Les Miserables," "Pippin," "Camelot," "Sweeney Todd," and "Cats." The show is directed by Broadway pianist and vocal coach **David Geist**, and Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players Director **Lisa Lincoln** on Friday, August 15 at 7:30 pm in the Driscoll Auditorium, Santa Fe Preparatory School, 1101 Camino de Cruz Blanca. Admission is free. Call 466-3302 for further information.

Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players is now accepting auditions and signups for their fall/winter musical theater productions and for classes for ages 7-18. Classes and rehearsals will be held in Eldorado and performances will be at the James A. Little Theater in Santa Fe. For further information or to receive a flyer, please call 466-3302 or e-mail lisa@rancheros.com.

Photos and Artwork Needed

This year we will again issue an Eldorado calendar (2009) in place of the December edition of *Vistas*. A full-color calendar of local scenes, it will include photos and, for the first time, artwork from Eldorado residents, together with notices of Eldorado events. We seek **photos of the Eldorado area** (by pros or amateurs) or **photos of artwork depicting Eldorado**. If people are pictured in your photos, releases from those people are required. If you would like to donate one or more photographs and see your credit on the calendar, please take your digitized photo(s) to the ECIA offices and give them to Debby. Digital images should be horizontal TIF files formatted as CMYK at 300 dpi (3450 x 2850 pixels). The outer 150 pixels are the bleed. The Information Committee will select the photos to be included in the calendar. Call Carol Leyba with questions at 466-1158. Submission deadline is September 30.

Advertise in the 2009 Calendar

Businesses that want to advertise in Eldorado's 2009 calendar should plan to make their early-bird reservation by September 15 in order to get discount rates. Ad rates are \$200 if reservation and payment are received before September 15, and \$250 between September 16 and September 30. Reservation forms will be available online at www.eldoradocommunity.org and at the ECIA office. For more information, contact Debby Padilla at 466-4248.



ERA News

Plans are underway for our next big Community Dance on the Patio at the Community Center, August 8. **Jackie Camborde's** students and their DJ will provide the music. Come, join in the fun. This event is jointly sponsored by Sante and your ERA.

The ERA-sponsored Candidates' Forum will be held in the El Dorado School Gym, Monday, October 14. All candidates running for state and national offices will be invited. Plan to come and hear them before the November 4 general elections.

One of our outstanding community leaders is retiring and will be moving on. **John Matis** has served as the ERA Board Secretary and on the EAWSD Board. John and Marcia will be relocating to Colorado. We wish them well and extend our appreciation for their years of contribution to the Eldorado Community.

-Bruce Blossman, ERA President

August Agora Music Program

On Saturday, August 16, the **Eldorado Depot Dancers** present square dancing entertainment at 2 pm in the Agora Shopping Center Courtyard. **Mike Holly** will provide the music and call the dance. At 4 pm **Phil Trujillo** will sing cabaret, jazz, and 60s and 70s tunes. The last concert of the summer is scheduled for September 13. Bring hats, sunscreen and a chair.

To Be or Not To Be?

You are invited to participate in the opening season of the Shakespeare Study Group, which meets on Tuesday, September 9, 6:30-8 pm in the Community Center's Conference Room. The first meeting will discuss the proposed format of future meetings, which will be structured much like a book club.

The group will choose one of Shakespeare's plays for in-depth discussion, and participants will be expected to have read the play before the meeting. Selected readings from the play, followed by open discussion facilitated by one of the group, will lead us in many interesting directions.

Please attend our first meeting and share your ideas! Contact Andy Dobek at 466-0223 or e-mail bluejsf@aol.com if you have questions.





ASTRONOMY Corner

THE SUPER GREENHOUSE

As we look inward toward the Sun, Venus is tormented by a crushing atmosphere of carbon dioxide and clouds of sulfuric acid. The planet's proximity to the Sun and its dense atmosphere, imparting a surface pressure 90 times that of Earth, have made Venus a super greenhouse, producing temperatures of 460° Celsius.

Venera 7 was the first man-made object to return data after landing on another planet. This spacecraft entered the atmosphere of Venus on December 15, 1970, and a landing capsule was jettisoned. The capsule antenna was extended, and signals were returned for 35 minutes. Another 23 minutes of very weak signals were received after the spacecraft landed on Venus.

— Juan Alvarez
jalva88610@aol.com

Protect our night skies; keep outside lights low or off when not needed.

The Pool Is Open

Pool Passes Needed

To obtain your photo ID pool pass, go to the ECIA offices Monday-Friday, 8-5. Renters need a letter from the owner of their home authorizing pool use.

Pool Season and Hours

Through Labor Day weekend.

Lap Swim, 8 to 10 am daily, and from 6 to 8 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

General Swim, from 10 am to 8 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, and 10 am to 6 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Please keep food and beverages in the snack area or patio area only.

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

Agora Summer Concerts	Sat., August 16, 2 pm	Agora
VPGL Ice Cream Social	Sun, August 24, 1-5 pm	CC
Pool is open		Pool
El Dorado School Begins	August 27	School

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Roads Committee	Mon., August 4, 6-8 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	
Conservation Committee	Tues., August 5, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
EAWS&SD*	Tues., August 5, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CR
285 Coalition	Wed., August 6, 7-9 pm	Rosemarie Bagioni		CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., August 5, 4 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., August 13, 10-noon	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., August 13, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., August 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
EAWS&SD*	Tues., August 19, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CR
ECIA Board	Thurs., August 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., August 26, 7-9 pm	Carol Leyba	466-1158	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., August 27, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., August 26, 7-9 pm	Mary Ann Caldwell	466-4271	CR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Search & Rescue	Thurs., August 14, 6:30-9:30 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
La Canada Wireless	Mon., August 11 & 25, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
Roadrunners RV Club	Tues., August 19, 6 pm	Beverly Cottingham	466-4655	Fire
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kieling	466-4232	Sm Gym
MOMS Club	Last Mon. of month	Mandie Rippey	795-4086	
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	466-6398	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
Shakespeare Club	Wed., Sept. 10, 6:30-8 pm	Andy Dobek	466-0223	CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/RR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7:15-8:30 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Ramon Quintana	757-6424	RR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	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	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thurs., 6:30-8:30 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	New gym
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	M, W & F, 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Figure Drawing	Mon., 10 am-noon	Virginia Westray		RR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 6 pm	Scott Gerber	466-9333	CC field
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 5:30-dusk			BB Crt

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Volunteers on Patrol

LIEUTENANT ERIC GARCIA of the New Mexico State Police is continuing with plans to organize a VOP (Volunteers on Patrol) program for the greater Eldorado area. VOP is a service provided to the police departments and the community through volunteers who live or work in the area. It will be similar to programs established in Farmington, NM, and elsewhere in the U.S.

The program will train volunteers to act as extra eyes for established local law enforcement, primarily the Santa Fe County Sheriff's department and the New Mexico State Police. Volunteers will patrol in pairs in their own cars, on bicycle, or on foot, and are not expected to take direct action. Instead, they will use regular emergency and non-emergency phone numbers for any activity requiring law enforcement.

Volunteers will provide their own vehicles, registration, and insurance, as well as their own cell phones or other communications equipment. They will use a log form which contains date, area, hours, time in/out, location of observation(s), and activities observed. They will also need a good flashlight, batteries, binoculars, first-aid kit, reflective vest, street maps, fire extinguisher, and road flares.

Although volunteers will receive specific training, we can all practice our observational skills on people and vehicles:

People: Height, hair color/length, facial features, color and condition of skin, shirt, coat, belt, pants, socks, shoes, scars, marks or tattoos.

Vehicles: Color, make, model, approximate year, license plate, body damage, number of occupants, distinguishing features, direction of travel.

Such information could become important if observed and recorded in what is later found to be the vicinity of a crime.

And we can all cut out and keep these important numbers on the refrigerator door:

Emergency: 911
 Drunk/erratic driver . . *DWI (*394 from cell only)
 NM State Police 827-9300
 Santa Fe County Sheriff's Dept. 428-3720
 Santa Fe County Fire Dispatch 428-3720
 Santa Fe City Police Dept. 428-3710
 Santa Fe County Animal Control 992-1626
 Santa Fe Crime Stoppers 955-5050
 Eldorado Security Patrol 204-2495

Marilyn Walker and **Larry Eccard**, co-chairs of the Neighborhood Watch Committee, have VOP applications and further information on the Neighborhood Watch program available at desertraat@comcast.net or lightwalker2@comcast.net.

—Dan Drobnis

In An Emergency...

WE WERE ALL TAUGHT in Drivers Ed that the law requires drivers to yield to emergency vehicles by safely pulling over to the right side of the road. This makes sense because the name of the game in emergency services is to arrive as quickly and safely as possible at the scene of the fire, accident or medical call. Remember, if the emergency were at your home or involved your family member, you would want emergency personnel to arrive rapidly. An average of eight El Dorado Fire and Rescue (EFRS) members respond to an emergency call, and this happens about 400 times per year.

As a driver of a motor vehicle you should:

1. Pay attention to the traffic around you at all times. Remember that emergency vehicle drivers are taught to scan two or three blocks in all directions as they drive. You should too.
2. Drive safely and within posted speed limits.

3. Yield safely to all emergency vehicles. This includes fire trucks, ambulances, and personal vehicles that are running with red lights flashing and an audible siren.

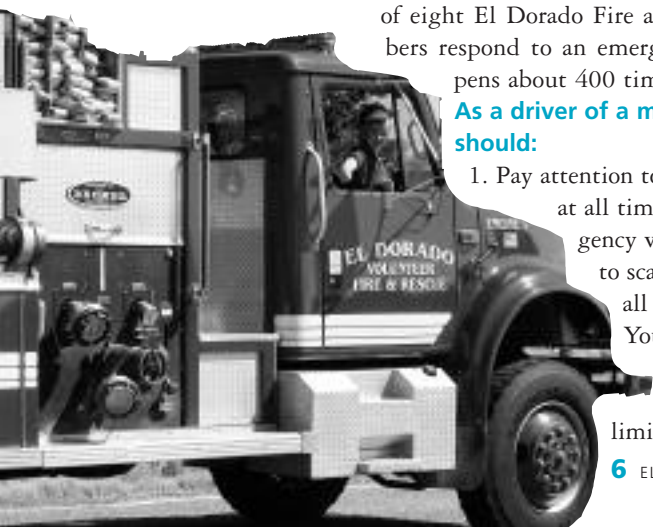
Volunteers of the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service are expected to:

1. Use lights and sirens on fire apparatus and personal vehicles as necessary when responding to a call.
2. Drive with all due courtesy and safety when responding.
3. Arrive as quickly as possible without jeopardizing the safety of the residents, the patient, or emergency personnel.
4. Adhere to the 15 MPH speed limit in school zones no matter what the emergency.

Together we can provide the best and safest services possible! Your EFRS has the highest rating possible (Public Protection Classification rating of 4) for a volunteer fire department in New Mexico. This can mean lower insurance premiums for you.

For more information, visit our informative website at www.eldoradofireandrescue.org.

—Barbara Selnick



Red-winged Blackbird (RWB)

ON A MID-MAY AFTERNOON I was surprised by the call “kek” that I heard coming from my backyard. I was pretty sure I recognized that call. I soon discovered I was right—a Red-winged Blackbird hung around all afternoon. These birds are usually found around water and cattails, and I didn’t expect to find one in Eldorado. The RWB is 8.75 inches long, with a wingspan of 13 inches. The male is a bright black with red epaulets and a thin line of yellow (red lesser coverts and yellowish median coverts). The red is prominent when the male flies or is lifting wings in a display to rivals or females. The female is an indistinct mottled brown, similar to a female sparrow except for its size. Their habitat is anywhere with wet weedy patches: hayfields, ditches, small ponds, and streams that have small pools. These birds often gather and nest in large groups. I see them regularly at the water hazards of golf courses. Their food includes seeds and insects. RWBs have muscling which allows them to pry apart thick material in order to reach food, an action called “gaping.”

The male displays his bright red patches to a female, raises his wings, spreads and flutters his tail.

A nest of grasses, sedges, and wet vegetation, lined with dry grass, is built by the female in 2 to 4 days. The male may mate with several females and spends most of his time defending his territory. Meanwhile, the wet nesting material has dried into a tight cup, where the female lays 3 or 4 eggs. Helpless young hatch in 10 to 12 days and fledge in 11 to 14 days, cared for by the female. Nests are usually located near or over water, and the chicks have the ability to swim when 4 or 5 days old!

Especially in fall, RWBs gather in large flocks with other similar birds—grackles, cowbirds and starlings. Males often form large flocks, which may forage in uplands and roost in marshes. In winter, RWBs travel as far as Costa Rica.

From the Cornell web site: “Different populations and subspecies of Red-winged Blackbirds vary markedly in size and proportions. An experiment was conducted that moved nestlings between populations and found that the chicks grew up to resemble their foster parents.”

—Pam Henline



EFRS Auxiliary Needs Volunteers

IN THE OPINION of the insurance companies who make a difference in what we pay for premiums, we have the best volunteer fire department in the State of New Mexico. As **Guy Monroe**, the Chief of “El Dorado’s Finest” often says; “The only difference between volunteers and full-time firefighters is that the latter are paid for the good they do for their communities and volunteers are not.”

Judging from the frequent sight of firefighters headed for their stations in Eldorado in response to calls from County Dispatch, one would guess that we have a large number of firefighters and emergency medical technicians on call, all the time. The truth is that only about 30 people fill the vital roles—of ensuring both that we are protected from structural and wildland fires in our community and that emergency medical service is always there for us.

At the ready to help firefighters and emergency medical volunteers is the EFRS Auxiliary. This group is likewise small: no more than 10 people at present help El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service in a wide variety of tasks. At present, Chief Guy Monroe is looking for a few good people to do either a specialty task (painting, data entry, weed control around

hydrants) or to be of general assistance to the department. A new role, just recently created, is helping staff our community’s mutual aid operations center when it is set up in a major emergency.

For information on becoming a volunteer with EFRS, contact Chief Guy Monroe at 690-9100.

—Frank Schober



*Security 204-2945
Sheriff 428-3720
Crime Stoppers 955-5050*

Holiday Thanks!

What a great 4th of July parade! It was the best yet. And our new patio is a wonderful place for Eldorado celebrations. Everyone enjoyed the music, the hot dogs (all 800 of them), the shade and the sense of community. But it could not have happened without an enormous volunteer effort. Thank you all!

Meigwey Wei for a beautiful voice
The New Mexico Army National
Guard for the shade

Beaver Toyota, Jane & John

Livingstone for Santa's sleigh

Pat Lavengood for her army of
volunteers:

Ray Nichols our man at the grill •
Nancy Stedman • Jimmie
Schlender • Sandy Lavengood •
Anne Birch • Gloria Dobek •
Yvonne Burke • Nancy Dayton •
Peter Fessenden • Evonne Salazar
• Lorita Magee • JP & Kat Ferrell
• The Blossmans • Marilyn Ferrell
Frank Schober and his Parade
Marshals:
Dan Drobnis • Ron Duffy •

Ed Moreno
Eldorado Community Band
Kazoku Karate School
Ellsworth and Pat Stewart
Bill Dunning for the flags and
helping Santa
Joe Auberg, aka Uncle Sam
Philip Balcomb
Jeanne Klein, our Grand Marshal
ECIA Staff
ECIA Board
Eldorado Fire and Rescue Service
Girl Scout Troops # 525,286 & 357
Boy Scout Troop #414
Order of the Thistle
Daughters of the American
Revolution
The Eldorado Stables
Eldorado Buckaroo 4-H
Frank Schober and Pam Christie, for
their raffle contributions

Through the generosity of the
following businesses we earned
\$1400 for the El Dorado School PTA
Fund:
Eldorado Supermart
The Eldorado Gym

The Lensic
Hutton Broadcasting
El Paso Import Company
Jewel Mark
Eldorado Cards and Flowers
Eldorado Animal Clinic
The Country Store
Eldorado Automotive
The Galisteo Inn
Eldorado Country Pet
Dinner for Two
La Fonda
Roof Top Pizzeria
Steaksmith
Outback Steakhouse
Sam's Club
Santa Fe Bar & Grill

Our sincerest apologies to
anyone not acknowledged here.

We hope you will join us next
year! In the meantime, if you'd like
to see other pictures from this
year's event, go to
eldoradocommunity.org, where
you'll find a great slide show of
images.

—Su Anne Armstrong