VOLUME XI, ISSUE 8 August 2009

IN THIS ISSUE Ice Cream Social2 Sunflowers2 President's Desk3 Covenants3 In the Community4-5 Neighbors / ERA.....6 Outdoors7

FIDORADO

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

Eldorado Safety & Security Fair

Saturday, August 8, 2009 —11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Community Center



Protect yourself from home, car and wild-land fires



Make your home burglar proof



Prepare for disasters now

Work Study Meeting, Community Center, Mon., Aug. 17, 7 pm

On the Program:

- Fingerprint identification for children
- Security, Safety and Emergency Preparedness seminars
- Vendors displaying and selling home security and safety products
- The Salvation Army (Disaster Services)
- **New Mexico State Police**
- **Santa Fe County Sheriff**
- "Eldorado's Finest" —our Volunteer Fire Department

The ECIA Board is looking at ways to save you money. The Vistas newsletter currently uses \$1/month of each homeowner's dues. How do you feel about that? Let us know through our SHORT online survey, found on eldoradocommunity.org. You will need to log in to fill out the survey. Please choose LOGIN > REQUEST LOGIN (if you haven't already). You will receive a username and password. Then you can log in and go to RESOURCES > **SURVEYS** > **VISTAS NEWSLETTER SURVEY.**

eldoradocommunity.org

OUT AND ABOUT

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

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.

10th Annual Sundae Sunday, August 30

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 10TH anniversary of Sundae Sunday, Vista Grande Public Library's biggest and grandest annual fundraising event. There is no better way to cap off the summer season than with ice cream, music, neighbors, and plenty of family fun.

Under The Big Top returns this year with tons of activities for kids, including the ever-popular Bouncy House, face painting with the Ladies LaFlamme, games of precision and skill, crafts for all ages, storybook characters, and Fam Jam.

The Silent Auction is your chance to get competitive and bid on a wide variety of fabulous findsfrom restaurant certificates, to haircuts, jewelry, and more. Do your holiday shopping early and benefit the library at the same time. This year's raffle items include a Native-made silver necklace with pendant and matching earrings, a plein-air painting by local artist Sally Hayden von Conta, and two round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines.

Of course, available to all ages is the ice cream bar with sundaes, floats, splits, and an expanded selection of iced coffees. And, for your listening pleasure,

live music will fill the entire afternoon.

Tickets for both entry and raffle may be purchased at the library, the ECIA office, and at the Agora on upcoming weekends. Admission prices are \$8 each or 4 tickets for \$25, with kids 5 and younger admitted free. Raffle tickets are \$6 each or 5 tickets for \$25. Mark your calendars and get ready for a rousing afternoon on Sunday, August 30, from 1 to 5 pm at the Eldorado Community Center.



Ice Cream Social

Sunflowers in Eldorado

THE NEW MEXICO SUNFLOWER is one of my favorite flowers. Every year from late June to October, they bloom magnificently as solitary plants or in large patches along the roads of Eldorado. The sunflowers do a pretty good job of seeding themselves from year to year. But I have taken up the practice of harvesting the seed pods after they've bloomed and spreading the seeds up and down the street so as to increase the population. Some people may argue that this is tampering with nature, and I hope they will forgive me. But I think that a modest increase in the sunflower population does no harm and adds beauty to our neighborhood.

Here's what I've learned about gathering and spreading sunflower seeds. First you must harvest the seed pods after the petals have fallen off but before the pods begin to dry. If you wait too long, the seed pod dries and releases the seeds. And collecting brittle dry seedpods, as I did the first year I tried this, is tantamount to collecting no seeds at all. There are several potential methods for spreading the seed pods. The first is to scatter the pods themselves and let them release their seeds naturally. A second approach is to let them dry completely and pound them with a hammer to release the seeds. This produces a mixture of seeds and chaff that can be used more in the style of sowing wheat. In both cases, the wind and rain then take over and determine where the seeds end up and whether they germinate or not. I have found that sunflower seeds seem to like best



those places where water runs slowly during rain storms, and don't seem to take so well where the incline is steeper. The third method, which many no doubt already use, is to plant the seeds in your garden or elsewhere as you would any other plant.

If this strikes you as something worthwhile to do, I encourage you to consider taking up the practice. The best thing about scattering sunflower seeds in public places is that everybody gets to enjoy them. If this practice were to become "widespread," Eldorado might become known for its sunflower displays, adding one more benefit to a long list of reasons for living here.

-Mark Friedman

From the ECIA President's Desk

HE FINAL TALLY is in on the votes for the proposed Covenant change that would allow the Board to recoup its legal costs for a long and costly covenant arbitration process.

The vote count was 350 yes votes and 199 no votes. We won, right? No, we didn't. We lost! The simple fact is that to make a Covenant change, the majority of homeowners must vote to approve the change. Since we have 2,770 homeowners, a majority would be 1,386 votes for the Covenant change a far cry from the 350 homeowners that voted yes. Unfortunately, many residents thought we only needed a simple majority of those who voted. This is not the case. According to our bylaws, to make a Covenant change, we must get HALF plus ONE of the homeowners in Eldorado to vote yes to make the change—which leads us back to the 1,386 votes necessary for approval. I hope this explanation answers what happened in our Covenant change election.

The swimming pool is open, and many of our residents are taking advantage of the pool. Stop by the Community Center to pick up your pool pass and enjoy one of the many amenities that is offered to you.

Following up on my article in July's Vistas, I would like remind everyone that our Security Fair will be held at the Community Center on August 8. I have a draft outline of the Fair in front of me, and I am getting excited looking at the different vendors, speakers, and law enforcement officers who will be there to answer questions and give demonstrations not only on security but also on home safety. It will be well worth your time to stop by to get all the information that you may need to protect your family and home. We are living in a changing world, and we'd like to make Eldorado an undesirable place for the person who's in interested in stealing your personal possessions.

Have a great summer!

-Ed Benrock, ECIA President

Help Keep our Greenbelts Green!

ITH THE ONSET of summer's warmer weather, many Eldorado residents are getting out and enjoying our greenbelts for a variety of activities. This wonderful resource, which comprises 987 acres, is one of Eldorado's finest assets. While the greenbelts were originally required to be set aside as floodplains and drainage easements, they have proven to be one of our community's most unique features and contribute daily to our feelings of wide open space and overall closeness to nature.

All ECIA members own the greenbelts proportionately, and they are managed by the ECIA in cooperation with the Eldorado Conservation Com-

mittee. The range of allowable activities in the greenbelts includes walking, biking, and horseback riding. Dogs are allowed in the greenbelts but must be on leash or otherwise under the control of the owners, as per Santa Fe County ordinances.

With summer's increased use of the greenbelts, however, we see residents using them for many activities that are not allowed. For example, so far this summer we have encountered golfing, ATV riding, the erecting of kids' playhouses and forts, illegal dumping of refuse, and illegal access to the greenbelts. Such usages are not only illegal, but often pose a health or safety threat to other residents who are using the greenbelts. For everyone's safety, as well as for the protection of the landscape, we'd like to remind all Eldorado residents to use the greenbelts lawfully and to help preserve them for future generations.

If you see any illegal activities on the greenbelts, please report them to the ECIA office at 466-4248, or e-mail me at ECIACCR@aol.com. We will follow up on any such reports and will work to ensure that the greenbelts are protected and kept safe for all residents.

So get out there and enjoy summer and the greenbelts and help do your part to protect them and keep them safe for all Eldorado residents to use.

-Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative



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

Bill Donohue 466-4248 ECommunity@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ed Benrock 466-2088 Francesed@cybermesa.com

Mary Ann Caldwell 466-4271 macbj3@yahoo.com

Ed Moreno

edmoreno@newmexico.com

Lisa Robles 466-8975 lisarobles66@msn.com Pat Lavengood 466-9765 plavengood@q.com

Kirsten Jasna 466-3712 kjasna@yahoo.com

Sandy MacGregor sandy.macgregor1@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Dan Drobnis Architecture: Bill Schwent Conservation: John Parker and E.J. Evangelos Stable: Bonita Mamp Election: Ken Robinson Roads: Nolan Zisman Information: Frank Schober Neighborhood Watch

Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker Fred Raznick

Carol Leyba 466-1158 cbsleyba@comcast.net Hone Kiah hope@santafe-webdesign.com **Debby Padilla** 466-4248

Vista Grande Library 466-READ 204-2945

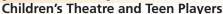
820-CNTY (2689)

IN THE COMMUNITY



Soul Encounter: Bee & Flower Council

This new group will evoke soul encounters through nature-based soulcraftTM practices, including dream-work, counsel, soul poetry, conversations with the wild, courting the muse, self-designed ceremony and deep imagery. Encounter your own wild soul to discover the unique gifts you were born to bring to the world. Soul encounter reveals the path to one's greatest personal fulfillment as well as the essence of one's true service to society. What nectar is yours to offer? What honey does your soul make for your people? All are welcome to attend one or more sessions: Wednesdays, August 5, 12, & 19, 6:30–9:00 pm, Eldorado Community Center. \$5 donation suggested. For further information contact Sage Magdalene, 505-699-0527, gatebetweenworlds@gmail.com.



Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players is currently accepting students for the fall/winter program. This year they will be presenting "Chicago" for 13- to 18-year-olds and "Cinderella's Glass Slipper" for 6- to 13-year-olds. The programs for all students begin in early September, and the shows will be presented to the public in January 2010. Classes involve age-appropriate training in acting, singing, and dancing, culminating in large, full-scale musicals at the James A. Little Theater. For information or an application, go to the Eldorado Children's Theatre website at www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org or call 466-4656 for further information. Don't delay! These classes fill fast.

El Dorado School Community Garden

The El Dorado School Community Garden is blossoming and blooming! We have had such wonderful support from our community that we are sold out for 2009! Please remember us next year if you have wanted to start your own edible garden and would like to participate in our sustainable and productive garden cooperative. For more information, contact Marilynn Jacobs, eldogarden@comcast.net, 466-6707; or Eleni Cahn, elenicahn@msn.com, 466-1558.

The Eldorado Spiritual Coop

Eldorado Spiritual Cooperative is a non-hierarchical, meditative sharing that helps fuel the rest of the coops. Come join us on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5:45–7:15 pm, in the school library. Be part of wave of change here in Eldorado, in a spirit-filled way! Call **Don McAvinchey** at 955-1847 to RSVP.



The Eldorado Food Coop

The Eldorado Food Cooperative meets once a month and/or as needed. Our food interests include better access to locally produced food; ways to gain more knowledge, information, and skills about food production, preparation, and preserving; community interaction; foods that are any or all of the following: local, organic, minimally processed, home produced, cost effective, cruelty free.

We are currently arranging educational opportunities in the form of presentations on food processing (canning, drying, pickling, etc.), field trips to local farms and coops, and local wild foods/medicinal herb identification walks. If you have knowledge you have been waiting to share regarding the above, this is your opportunity! If you have wanted to learn these things, consider joining us! Contact **Fox** at foxwoman22@hotmail.com, 231-0892 or **Carole Tashel** at 466-6153, Ctashel@cybermesa.com.

Eldorado Energy Coop (EEC)

This fall EEC is presenting Climate Masters, a national program offering a free series of classes providing key information on climate change and what you can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in your daily life. Currently being offered at Santa Fe Community College, this course will be for residents of Eldorado and the surrounding area.

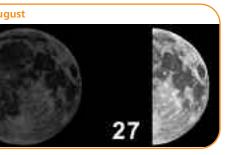
SAVE THE DATE! On Saturday, October 3, EEC is launching Carbon Busters!, a community outreach program with the mission of making every home in Eldorado energy efficient. The event will feature a hands-on demonstration site at the Agora with local vendors and energy system professionals on hand to demonstrate weatherization materials and techniques, water saving methods, and more. Contact **Amy Bertelli**,

466-1624, Amysue@cybermesa.com, or **Deborah Boldt**, 466-2295, dboldt23@gmail.com

for more information about these events and EEC. Stay tuned for details!







Fridays at the Agora

The merchants of the Agora welcome the entire community of Eldorado to "Fridays at the Agora," a community event being held throughout the summer (through September) every Friday afternoon from 4 to 7 pm at the Agora. Local farmers and local artists will be on hand, displaying and selling their products and creations. Entertainment is provided in the courtyard by local musicians from 5 to 7 pm. Come have fun, enjoy some delicious food, listen to some terrific music, and support our local farmers and artists. Details are at TheAgoraShoppingCenter.com.

2010 Budget Calendar Online

The 2010 budget calendar is available online at the Eldorado community website; eldoradocommunity.org. Click on General Info > Committees & Other Organizations > Finance Committee, to access it. If you have any questions regarding the website or the budget, you are encouraged to call the ECIA office at 466-4248.

POOL through Labor Day

Lap Swim: 8–10 am daily; 6–8 pm Monday, Wednesday, & Friday. General Swim: 10 am-8 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, & Sunday; 10 am-6 pm Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES IN SNACK AREA OR PATIO AREA ONLY!

-Debby Padilla



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				
				CC
Security Fair	Sat., August 8, 11 am-4 pm		466 7222	CC
Ice Cream Social	Sun., August 30, 1-5 pm		466-7323	CC
COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
Finance Committee	Mon., August 3, 4-6 pm	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Neighborhood Watch	Mon., August 3, 7 pm	Marilyn Walker	466-2553	CR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., August 4, 4 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., August 4, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., August 12, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., August 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., August 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., August 25, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., August 26, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., August 25 7-9 pm	Bonnie Mamp	466-4271	LR
MONTHLY MEETINGS				
Search & Rescue	Thurs., August 13, 6:30-9:30	pm Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
La Cañada Wireless	Mon., August 10 & 24, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
Eld Dog Club	Tues., August 11, 7 pm	Freddi Hetler	466-2005	LR
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
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	,
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues of month	Bill Bodle	466-3011	
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
EAW&SD*	Thurs, August 6 & 20, 7-9 pn	n	466-2411	CR
Book Group	2nd Saturday, 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
ERA Board	Mon., August 10, 7 pm			CR
WEEKLY MEETINGS				
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
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 Church	Sun., 9:30 & 11 am	David McPherson	466-2495	CC
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	I D
Knitting Club Softball Practice	Tues., 10 am-noon Sundays 10 am	Joyce Hanmer Tom Miller	466-3018 553-5888	LR CC
Adult Basketball	Thursdays, 6:30-dusk	Totti iviiller	JJJ-3000	CC court
		##D	a Damidai d	cc court
*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **Reservations Required				

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

SPECIAL INTERESTS

STUP TO

Identifying & Reporting Impaired Drivers

N ELDORADO SECURITY OFFICER recently answered questions for *Vistas* about identifying and reporting an impaired driver. Here is what he shared.

An impaired driver may be identified as one who is crossing lanes, weaving, driving up on a curb, and driving excessively fast or slow. This driver is likely to slow long before a turn and then turn widely and slowly. Other erratic behavior is stopping, slowing, and accelerating for no apparent reason. An impaired driver may fail to honor signals and signs.

To report a suspected impaired driver, dial *DWI (*394). Your call will go to central dispatch. Dispatch will ask for specifics such as location (cross streets, exit numbers, mile markers, and direction of travel). Give the dispatcher as much information as you can about the problem vehicle. Try to provide the make, model, year, color, license plate number, and type of vehicle (pick-up, SUV, 2 or 4 door sedan, convertible). Decals or bumper stickers, luggage, bike or other attachments, vehicle damage, tinted windows, and any customization such as wheel covers or specialized tires will also be helpful. Let the dispatcher know if you are able to safely follow the vehicle. Also, to help the officer find you and the suspect, provide information about your vehicle, including whether or not your 4way flashers will be on.

Notice, too, any visible characteristics of the driver and passengers, if possible. How many passengers are there? Are any of them children? What is their gender, age, clothing (including hat), hair length and color? Can you see tattoos, scars, facial hair, or glasses? The dispatcher will send an officer appropriate to the location of the car.

For your own safety, maintain a safe distance from the vehicle and do not approach the car or driver. Do not use excessive speed to follow the vehicle.

Statistics show that people talking or texting on cell phones will frequently drive as if impaired.

The Eldorado officer I interviewed told me that two days earlier there had been an accident in Eldorado caused by an impaired driver. The car was easy to follow because it left a trail of fluid behind. In another incident involving an impaired driver in Eldorado, the arresting officer reported that there was a child in the car, and a gun.

Contact me at lyndemartin@hotmail.com or **Marilyn Walker** at lightwalker2@comcast.net.

-Lyn deMartin

NEXT NW MEETING:

August 3 at 7 pm, Community Center Classroom

ELDORADO CRIME STATS FOR 2009:

- ▼ January: Vandalism 8; burglary 1
- ▼ February: Burglaries 8
- ▼ March: Burglaries 3
- ▼ April: Burglaries 6; suspicious vehicle/behavior 6
- ▼ May: Burglaries 3
- ▼ June: Burglaries 5; suspicious vehicle/behavior 8

Looking to volunteer?

The right-hand column of our community website has links to a myriad of volunteer opportunities for you. There is also a Volunteer Opportunities section to the site which was viewed 564 times from mid-June to mid-July.



ECIA Governing Bosrd
Anchitectural Committee
Conservation Committee
Encillies & Grounds
Finance Committee
Information Committee
Neighborhood Watch
Road Committee

eldoradocommunity.org

Water District Reports to Eldorado Residents

shape, and the utility is prepared for moderate future growth. That's the assessment given to the Eldorado Residents Association quarterly meeting July 6 by **Dr. Stephen Wust** of the Eldorado Area Water & Sanitation District Board. ERA members quizzed him on a number of water issues, including rate hikes, audits, state regulatory oversight, and "transparency" policies of the EAW&SD.

In response to suggestions that the EAW&SD Board should have given more publicity to its tacit (but not financial) support of a state law passed earlier this year that removes Eldorado's water system from rate oversight by the state's Public Regulatory Commission, Wust agreed that better-publicized public meetings would be a good idea in the future—to avoid what ERA Vice-President Mary Anne Kenny called "a perception of secrecy." "I am a great fan of transparency in government," Wust told the ERA group.

Wust also said that an overdue financial audit of the water district is being held up by a review in the office of the State Auditor. He expects that by September the district will have settled its differences with the PRC over rate increases.

Wust, who holds a Ph.D. in geology and is acknowledged as an expert in public water systems, said the district is looking ahead to a time when deeper, and more costly, wells will be needed.

"People in Eldorado conserve well," he remarked, noting that means less income from water service. A tiered rate, he said, is a possibility: higher, rather than lower, rates for larger users, to encourage conservation.

The ERA Board meets on Monday, August 10, at 7 pm in the Community Center Classroom. The Board will set a date for September's Fall Flea Market.

- Bill Dunning, President, ERA



Cats and Birds: A Lethal Combination

RECENT ARTICLE in The New Mexican, written by Anne Schmauss, co-owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, made note of the above title's fact. You may not be aware of how significantly cats affect the bird population. If you love our local birds and have a cat (or if your neighbors have wandering cats), this article may provide some useful information.

There are more than 90 million cats in the U.S., 65% of which spend at least some time outdoors and free. According to the American Bird Conservancy, scientists estimate that each year nationwide, cats kill hundreds of millions of birds, and more than a billion small mammals, such as rabbits, squirrels, and chipmunks.

Loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat due to human development is the leading cause of declining bird populations. However, scientists now list invasive species, including cats, as the second most serious threat to bird populations worldwide.

Of the wildlife that cats kill, roughly 60%-70% are small mammals; 20%-30% are birds; and up to 10% are amphibians, reptiles, and insects. One wellfed cat that roamed a wildlife experiment station was recorded to have killed more than 1,600 animals (mostly small mammals) over 18 months. Surprisingly, cats with bells kill as many birds as non-bell wearers; well-fed cats kill many birds too, as do declawed cats.

So, if you own a cat, keep it indoors. If you want your cat to go outdoors, use a leash (not very useful for most cats!) or build an outdoor playground where the cat is confined. This protects the cats too; a significant number of cats here disappear (especially if outside overnight) most likely due to covote predation.



State law requires all cats to have rabies shots. In Santa Fe County (and thus Eldorado), cats must be restrained to their own yards. I understand that an invisible fence is now made for cats (but I am not a fan of these for dogs or cats).

A few things can be done to make the birds in your yard safer in case a cat comes prowling. Locate feeders high enough that a cat cannot jump to feeding birds—5 feet or higher. Keep the immediate area around your feeder clear of vegetation, wood piles, and other things that can hide a stalking cat. Provide cover for birds 10 or 15 feet away from feeding areas. Try to provide a high platform where normally ground-feeding birds (towhees, doves, quail, finches) are safe. Don't let seed, or water, accumulate on the ground below feeders. Your lovely pedestal bird bath may not be bird-friendly if cats are around. My dogs do an excellent job of keeping cats out of the fenced portion of my yard. You can try repellents, but this can get expensive and usually doesn't work.

Thanks to American Bird Conservancy, "Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats," for much of this information.

-Pam Henline

Bicycling in Elдогадо

UMMER IS THE SEASON of the Tour de France and bicycling in Eldorado. Bicycling is a great way to see the countryside and get exercise at the same time. Here are few tips for riding mountain bikes on our trails.

For all bikers, if you haven't been out for a while, it helps to build up your distance slowly. Helmets, water, and sunscreen are a must, and other gear such as gloves, sunglasses, and protective shoes are recommended.

Mountain bikes, with their large, knobby tires and springs at the front wheel or in the center, are a common sight in Eldorado on and off our paved and dirt trails. Bikers should take caution to avoid pedestrians, cars from driveways and side streets, and other bikes. Many dirt trails are available throughout the area, some of which change with each rain or snow, and require special care when navigating.

Given that mountain bikes and others share the

same trails, a simple bell on the bike can add a measure of safety by warning those up ahead that the bike will soon pass. A rear-view mirror attached to bike or helmet can also increase safety, as can wearing bright and reflective colors.

Bicycling in Eldorado can be safe, fun, and healthy as long as bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists observe simple safety rules as they share our roads and trails.

-David Goodrich





Eldorado Community Improvement Association #1 La Hacienda Loop Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508

www.eldoradocommunity.org

PRESRT STD U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 569 Santa Fe, NM

