

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 8

August 2010

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

**KEEP COOL, KEEP THE LIBRARY OPEN!**

## Ice Cream Social / Library Fundraiser

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 1:00 – 4:30 PM AT THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY CENTER**

There is no better way to cap the summer season than with ice cream, music, neighbors, and plenty of family fun. This year marks the 11th anniversary of the Vista Grande Public Library's Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction—the biggest and grandest fundraising event of the year!

The star of the event for all ages is the plenteous ice cream bar with sundaes, floats, splits, and an expanded selection of iced coffees. For the “under 12” crowd, Under The Big Top returns this year with tons of activities for kids, including the ever-popular Bouncy House, face painting, dog shows, games of precision and skill, and crafts.

For the adults, the Silent Auction is your chance to get competitive and bid on a wide variety of fabulous finds, from restaurant certificates, haircuts, jewelry, and fashion items to one-of-a-kind pieces by local artists, and more. Do your holiday shopping early and benefit the library at the same time.

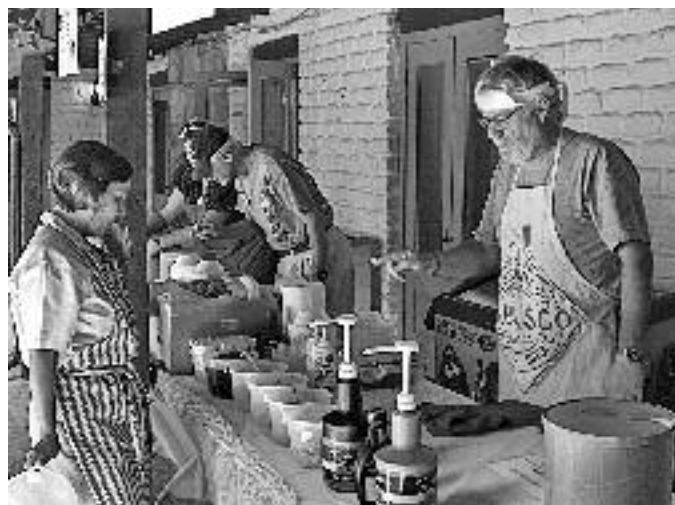
This year's raffle items include a sterling silver and semiprecious stone necklace by Navajo artist **Herman Vandever**, a plein-air painting by local artist **Janet Amtmann**, and two round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines. And, for your listening pleasure, live music by local groups will fill the entire afternoon.

Tickets for both entry and raffle may be purchased at the library and at the Agora on upcoming weekends. Admission prices are \$8 each or four tickets for \$25, with kids 5 and younger admitted free. Raffle tickets are \$6 each or five tickets for \$25.

Due to cutbacks in county funding, the library needs your support now more than ever. What a great way to have fun while helping the library at the same time!

So mark your calendars for August 29 and get ready for a rousing, fun filled afternoon!

**ECIA Board  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Thurs.,  
August 19,  
7 pm. Public  
is invited.**



Everyone had a great time at the 2009 Ice Cream Social. Come and support your library!  
Photos courtesy of Vista Grande Public Library.



*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 e-mailed to [ECIADiAna@aol.com](mailto:ECIADiAna@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.

## New Staff at ECIA

### NEW STAFF ASSISTANT

The new smiling face you will see if you are stopping by the ECIA's office is **Marilyn Farrell**, the recently hired Staff Assistant there.

Marilyn has lived in Eldorado for the past 10 years. She came here from Saratoga Springs, New York, where she ran the oldest—and, in the opinion of many of her customers, the best—Mexican restaurant north of New York City.

Marilyn's job title doesn't reveal that she would like to use her abilities gained from years as a restaurant owner to make people who come to the ECIA offices feel welcome, and to provide them with the information they might be requesting, or let them know where they can get it. As she puts it, "Restaurants that have great food and service often fail because the first employee customers encounter does not make them welcome and communicates with them poorly or not at all. I won't make that mistake in this job."

Marilyn will be on duty to provide new resident information packets, pool passes, and the forms needed to construct, paint, or remodel properties here and will link you to staff members or to county officials you may need for information or to solve a particular problem.

About living here, Marilyn says "I was born in Kansas City, worked as a businesswoman in New York State and was stationed for a time on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay; but I have known New Mexico most of my life. My father used to bring the family here regularly from the earliest times I can remember." Asked what she thinks of Eldorado, Marilyn responds definitively, "It's the best place to live in the USA, no doubt."



Raven Hicks

### NEW COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER

Born in the Province of New Brunswick, Canada, but for some years now a citizen of the USA, **Raven Hicks** has taken the new ECIA job as Community Services Manager.

In Raven's new position, he will have the main task of advancing the safety and security of Eldorado by promoting education and training. This will mean forging close links with the Neighborhood Watch program which now has 120 block captains and covers nearly a third of our homes.

An area of constant concern for ECIA's General Manager **Bill Donohue** is supervision of the work of the paid security officers who respond to residents' security calls

and who are charged with protecting the Community Center and the other amenities of the ECIA. The paid security force represents the largest single item of expense for the Association, some \$85,000. Raven Hicks will now oversee the activities under that budget item.

As reported in earlier issues of *Vistas*, the agencies, public and private, of the greater Eldorado area have been working for some time on an emergency plan that includes identifying the human and material resources that might be needed when (not if) this area is affected by a disaster. Raven made clear that he will be working with our Fire Chief **Guy Monroe**, who is designated as Incident Commander when such an event occurs. A prime finding of the "tabletop exercise" reported in the July issue of *Vistas* was that Neighborhood Watch may not only be the most important communications means in a disaster; it may be the only means.

*Vistas* will cover the work of the Community Services Manager in future editions. Raven Hicks can be reached at 466-4248.

—Frank Schober

## Fencing Guidelines in Eldorado

**W**ith summer in full swing, you may be thinking about how nice it would be to build a new fence or add to an existing fence on your lot. You need to be aware, however, that all fences in Eldorado are considered permanent structures and *do* require architectural approval before they can be installed. The styles of fencing that are usually considered compliant under the Eldorado Building Guidelines, and can be approved by the ECIA Architectural Committee, include:

- ▶ Coyote fences
- ▶ Cedar/pine slat
- ▶ Split rail fencing
- ▶ Wood post and wire fencing

Fences cannot exceed 6 feet in height and must be built within all applicable setbacks on the lot. When a fence does include a gate, the area for the jambs and head of the gate can be as high as 8 feet. In terms of the maximum fencing allowable on a lot, the Guidelines stipulate that the total square footage of all wall- and fence-enclosed spaces shall be limited to 4,000 square feet per lot.

To obtain approval for any type of fencing, residents need to complete an architectural plan submission form (located on the Eldorado website or at the

**Continued >>**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### ECIA News

**T**he Fourth of July celebration was quite successful, especially the parade, entertainment, and refreshments (650 hot dogs!). Thanks to **Bill Donohue**, ECIA staff, **Pat Lavengood**, and everyone else who contributed.

Here are some of the items that the Board will take up during August: The Finance Committee will be considering budget proposals for 2011. Also, we will be reviewing our policy for events at the Community Center, especially regarding sound levels for music and audio carrying into the neighborhood. We are looking for terms that will allow folks to have enjoyable events without too much noise for those living nearby.

Policies concerning the Community Center Pool have been (vigorously) discussed at various meetings—about what toys are permitted and about children swimming in the lap lanes. It's good that members are voicing their concerns and are willing to show up at meetings to help resolve the issues: kids and adults enjoying the pool, and maintaining safety.

Some members are behind on paying assessments this year. We are sending notices out to resolve this. If you are facing unusual circumstances, please contact the ECIA staff.

We are still looking for additional volunteers to participate on committees; the pay is good, although it's not offered in dollars.

—Tom Willmott, ECIA President

## 2011 Budget Development Calendar

**T**he ECIA Finance Committee has begun work on the 2011 ECIA Operating Budget.

The Operating Budget provides funds for daily ECIA operations and for transfers to the Capital and Reserve Replacement funds.

ECIA committees and residents are encouraged to submit written budget requests with documentation and cost estimates to the ECIA office by Friday, September 3. A packet containing guidelines and forms is available at the office.

**Note that all meetings are open to all members of the Association.**

Budget meetings have been set as follows:

Wednesday, August 11, 9:30 am: The General Manager presents the first draft of the 2011 Operating Budget for Finance Committee review and comments. Venue: Conference Room.

Wednesday, September 8, 9:30 am: The Finance Committee begins review of committee and individual proposals at its regular monthly meeting. Venue: Conference Room.

Tuesday, September 14, 7 pm: The Finance Committee continues review of proposals for evening attendees. Venue: Living Room.

Wednesday, October 13, 9:30 am: The Finance Committee continues review of the tentative budget at its regular monthly meeting, and adopts a preliminary recommended budget. Venue: Conference Room.

Monday, October 25, 7 pm: Joint meeting of the ECIA Board and Finance Committee. Committee chairs and residents are invited to further explain their budget requests if they wish. Venue: Conference Room.

Tuesday, November 2: The proposed 2011 budget will be available at ECIA office and on website.

Saturday, November 6, 10 am: The Board conducts a public hearing on the proposed 2011 budget. Copies will be available at the hearing. Venue: Railroad Building.

Thursday, November 18: The Board adopts the final 2011 budget. Classroom. —Dan Drobnis

## Fencing Guidelines, *continued from page 2*

ECIA offices) and bring it into the ECIA offices for review at the next Architectural Committee meeting.

Garden fences are treated differently from other types. While garden fences do have blanket approval under the Guidelines, all such fences must be made of wood post and wire construction and may not exceed 3 feet in height. Also, residents should be considerate of their neighbors in terms of the placement of garden fences, situating them where they will have the least impact on neighbors' vistas.



If you have questions concerning fences, please contact me at the ECIA at 466-4248 or email me at [eciaccr@aol.com](mailto:eciaccr@aol.com).

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

### ECIA OFFICE

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Director

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#### Director

Pat Lavengood  
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Director

#### Vacant position

### COMMITTEECHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Dan Drobnis

Architecture: Vacant position

Conservation: John Parker & E.J. Evangelos

Stable: Bonita Mamp

Election: Jean Crawford

Roads: Nolan Zisman

Information: Frank Schober

Neighborhood Watch:

Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker

Facilities & Grounds:

Fred Raznick

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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

[eldoradofirerescue.org](http://eldoradofirerescue.org)

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)



**ENERGY-SAVING  
TIP OF THE MONTH**

**Just One Thing!**

Rather than lose tap water while waiting for it to get hot, keep a pitcher next to the sink(s) and catch it for watering plants, filling the dog bowl, the birdbath, etc. This is an easy way to conserve a lot of water!

— Eldorado Energy Coop

**FRIDAYS  
AT THE  
AGORA  
& MUSIC!**



Pastel by Sally Hayden Von Conta

**Plein Air Pastels at Las Chivas**

**Sally Hayden Von Conta** is showing her plein-air pastels at Las Chivas Coffee House in the Agora Shopping Center, August 1–September 4. The opening reception is August 1, 1–3 pm. For more info, visit [www.laschivascoffee.com](http://www.laschivascoffee.com), or call 505-466-1010.

**Summer Music, Fun and Food**

“Fridays at the Agora, Markets & Music!” continues in August with singer/songwriter **Lisa Carman** on August 6, 4–7 pm. A very special “Woodstock Anniversary” is planned for August 27, 4–7 pm, with DJ **Donna Every** spinning all of your favorite tunes from the 60s and especially those from the Woodstock concert. Come and shop the art market, enjoy Gene’s famous hot dogs, and shindig to those groovy 60s tunes we know you love! For more info on participating in the art market or just enjoying a Friday night out listening to free music, call 466-2894.

**Good News from the Art Front**

Onward and upward seems to be the direction the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association is heading these days. Since its record-breaking spring studio tour, EACA has already welcomed several new members.

EACA, a non-profit community-based educational organization, has over 200 members and holds the largest studio tour in New Mexico. Monthly meetings, featuring various art-related presenters, are held the last Thursday of every month at the Fire House on Ave. Vista Grande. Educational shop talks for members are scheduled each month as well.

For the August 26 meeting, landscape photographer and web designer **Jack Arnold** will give a talk on how to photograph and prepare artwork for online art competitions and exhibitions.

For the August 11 Shop Talk presentation (members only, unless otherwise arranged), **Henry Fredenburgh**, a well-seasoned photographer, writer, world traveler, and storyteller, will show a range of work spanning decades and continents. Included are images from the Canyonlands, Greek Ruins, the frozen banks of the Danube, and breathtaking views of the New York City skyline. The event will be held at the home of his daughter, EACA member **Mary Fredenburgh**. For details, call Mary at 466-1035.

**The Goats Are Coming!**

SunStar’s Horned Locust Herd will be arriving in Eldorado in late July to reduce fire danger in the Northern Greenbelt area. The goats, while reducing the vegetation load (they eat 6 pounds of vegetation daily), will also be bringing the land back into the healthy balance that it had when the area

**MOON PHASES FOR AUGUST 2010**



was home to roaming herbivores. The goatherd welcomes visits and conversation with homeowners, though visiting dogs must be leashed.

**“The King And I” for Children and Teens!**

Eldorado Children’s Theatre and Teen Players is now accepting signups for the fall program for kids ages 6–18. Get in on professional-quality vocal and theater training in a nurturing environment right here in Eldorado! All students will perform in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical favorite “The King and I,” December 3–12 at the James A. Little Theater with a professional live orchestra. For information, check our website at [www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org](http://www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org) or email the director, **Lisa Lincoln** at [lisa@rancheros.com](mailto:lisa@rancheros.com). Classes begin August 31.

**Gardening Tour Meeting Scheduled**

The 2010 Eldorado Area Gardening Tour was a huge success, with over 350 people attending. The tour focused on cactus and xeric gardens, hardscape design, and water-wise techniques that emphasize the process of gardening specifically in Eldorado.

There will be a planning meeting for the 2011 Garden Tour on Wednesday, August 11 at 6:30 pm at the meeting room at La Tienda. If you are interested in helping or having a garden on next year’s tour, come to the meeting or contact **John (Obie) Oberhausen** at [JWO1959@aol.com](mailto:JWO1959@aol.com).

**Roadrunners RV Club**

The Eldorado Roadrunners Good Sam Chapter is on the move! We spruced up the neighborhood a bit on May 22 by picking up trash on our one-mile of Avenida Eldorado. On the same day, **Bill and Lillian Bodle**, **Kay Pollock** and **Liz Ballowe** sold Roadrunner members’ donated items in the Eldorado community-wide flea market, raising money for Dogs for the Deaf and the Eldorado Volunteer Fire and Rescue. We really appreciate those of you who came looking for us at the flea market just to make donations. Items that we didn’t sell at the flea market were donated to the Esperanza Shelter for Battered Families. The first three of our monthly RV camping trips have passed, and the next five look interesting. See our website [www.eldoradorvclub.com](http://www.eldoradorvclub.com) for dates and locations, give us a call, and join us.

—Pat Stewart, President

**Manure Deliveries Continue**

Now scheduling Eldorado Stable horse manure deliveries. Please email [eldostable@gmail.com](mailto:eldostable@gmail.com) or call Su Anne at 660-1996 for information.



Kathie and Mervin Graham, Bill Pollock, and Bill Ballowe of Roadrunners RV Club after their cleanup campaign.



## ASTRONOMY CORNER

### August 2010

Did you know that Vista Grande Library features two telescopes you can check out for seven days with your library card? Both are 8" (mirror diameter) Dobsonian telescopes, which are mounted Newtonian reflector telescopes. Each comes with three eyepieces (7mm, 15mm and 18mm) and a diagonal (but you don't need the diagonal unless you use a refractor telescope). An 8" reflector telescope is said to be perfect for a beginner due its portability and the many objects you can see—many more objects (and appearing brighter) than in a small 3" or 4" telescope. But be careful. Do not look even near the sun with these telescopes. And, transport them with care (generally the tube can be removed from the base for easy transport.)

Don't forget to watch the **Perseid Meteor Shower** August 11 and 12. This is one of the most trustworthy annual meteor shows. Approximately 60 meteors per hour are expected before dawn. This year the moon will set early and be out of sight, making for a perfect dark sky.

**Protect Our Night Skies:** Small lights left carelessly on may spoil the views of our night sky.

### Pool Hours

Pool season runs through Labor Day weekend, September 6.

**Lap Swim:** 8–10 am every day; 6–8 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

**General Swim:** 10 am–8 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday; 10 am–6 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

# August Events

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

Email [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto: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	Sun., Aug. 29, 1-4:30 pm	Patio
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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Neighborhood Watch	Mon., Aug. 2, 7 pm	Marilyn Walker	466-2553	CC
Road Committee	Mon., Aug. 2, 6-8 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., August 3, 4-6 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., August 3, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Architectural Committee	Tues., August 10, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-7708	Foyer
Finance Committee	Wed., August 11, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., August 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., August 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Stable Committee	Mon., August 23, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	Foyer
Information Committee	Tues., August 24, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., August 24, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	Foyer

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Barbara Mandel	466-2531	RR
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		VGPL
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 7 pm	santafesar.org		CR
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Eldorado Dog Club	4th Saturday 9:30 am	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	Dog Park
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Conservation Com Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	CC Prk Lot
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Fire Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kielling	466-4232	Sm Gym
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
MOMS Club	Call for dates & times	Jackie Camborde	466-0094	CR

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Wed., 5:30-6:30 pm			Annex
AA	Wed., 5:45-6:45 pm (Men Only)			CFR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 7 pm-dusk			CC Court
Al-Anon	Thurs., 6:45-7:45			CFR/LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	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
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	
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
Life Drawing (EACA)	Mondays, 10 am-noon	Sande Anderson	466-4688	RR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Richard Robinson	466-7319	RR

\*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District \*\*For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm> \*\*\*Reservations Required



## Snake Safety

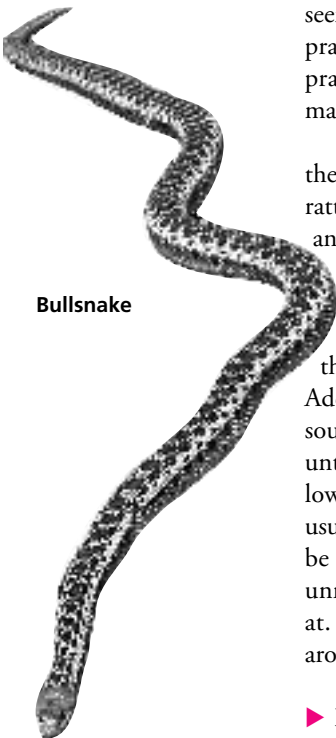
**E**ldorado is home to a variety of snakes. The only potentially dangerous ones here are rattlesnakes. There are three kinds of rattlers in Eldorado, but only two are commonly seen:



Prairie or Western Rattler



Western Diamondback Rattler



Bullsnake

**Prairie, or Western, Rattlesnake.** These are typically 3.5 feet long or less, but can be nearly 5 feet. They are very diverse in coloration, but green, tan, brown, and even pinkish are the most common. They have dark saddle shapes, rather than diamond patterns, down the back. Typically docile, they tend to alert you of their presence when in close proximity and are not often prone to strike. Most commonly they are found under shrubs or debris, and also in direct proximity to bird feeders. Birds cast off seeds, rodents come in to eat the seeds, and snakes follow the rodents in after dark. They have heavy, highlighted masking over the eyes.

**Western Diamondback Rattlesnake.** These can reach lengths up to 8 feet, but are most commonly 3–5 feet long (except for the babies). They are very aggressive and not usually shy about alerting you to their presence. Gray, silver, red, and pink are the most common colorations, but some even have a greenish cast. They have distinct, highlighted, diamond patterns down the back, and are sometimes called coon-tail rattlers because of distinct white and black bands near the rattle sections. Commonly encountered around rock outcroppings and stone walls, they can, however, be seen nearly everywhere. They are not as common as prairie rattlesnakes but are still abundant. Like the prairie rattlesnake, they have heavy, highlighted masking over the eyes.

There are several non-venomous species found in the area, but we cover only one here: **Bullsnakes** are rattlesnake “mimics,” as they are similar in appearance and can fool you into thinking they are a rattlesnake. They can flatten their jaws to give their head a spade-shaped appearance, and dark bands on the tail section can look like a set of rattles as they shake their tails vigorously when threatened. Add in an uncanny ability to hiss in a way that sounds very much like a rattlesnake’s rattles, and the untrained eye can easily be confused. Typically yellowish, with darker saddles, and a tail section that usually turns more orange with black bands, they can be highly variable in color, although the pattern is unmistakable when you know what you’re looking at. They have a thin band, or line, between and around the eyes, but no highlighting.

Here are some snake do’s and don’ts:

- ▶ Do leave a snake alone. Snakes help control rodent populations and the diseases associated with rodents. In this regard, they can be your friend.

- ▶ Do call animal control or the Wildlife Center for help in removing a snake from your property.
- ▶ Do maintain a visual on the snake, to aid in locating and removing the snake from your property.
- ▶ Don’t harass, attempt to capture, or kill any snake. Any such attempts actually put you in harm’s way. Even with a farm tool, you’re still deliberately going toward an animal that may be venomous.
- ▶ Don’t put your hands, feet, or anything else, any place you can’t see into—under boards, holes, etc.
- ▶ Don’t hesitate to assume a snake is venomous if you don’t know; better safe than sorry.

If bitten:

- ▶ Don’t apply ice or tourniquet; this will make things worse!
- ▶ Don’t attempt to cut-n-suck; this is a waste of time, and you could cut something vital.
- ▶ Do seek medical attention and have somebody else transport you. Some of the symptoms of snakebite are similar to a stroke or heart attack.

To help keep snakes from your yard:

- ▶ Remove all debris—old pallets, boards, pipes, gutters, sheet metal, spare tires, etc. Essentially, anything that could be used as a hiding place probably will be.
- ▶ Move bird feeders as far from the house as possible. In addition to drawing in rodents, and thereby snakes, having a bird feeder too close to your house is not beneficial to wildlife, as birds get distracted and fly into windows and may not have enough cover to hide from neighborhood cats. Placing feeders away from the house, and closer to trees, is better for all concerned.
- ▶ Keep your yard easily viewable. Mow your lawn, and have as few visual impediments as possible. Snakes are prey to a lot of animals and prefer to stay in hidden areas, as opposed to out in the open, to avoid dogs, cats, and birds of prey.

Source: Christopher Carman, Wildlife Center  
(505-753-9505).

Animal Control – 428-3710

### MAY AND JUNE CRIME STATISTICS

1 assault; 9 property crimes – includes burglary

Source: [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)

### NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING:

Monday, August 2 at 7 pm at the Eldorado Community Center. For information on how to join Neighborhood Watch, please email **Marilyn Walker** at [lightwalker2@comcast.net](mailto:lightwalker2@comcast.net).

–Lisa Smith, [lisasmithsantafe@gmail.com](mailto:lisasmithsantafe@gmail.com)

## Path Etiquette

I get a childlike pleasure when I see so many people using our hike/bike paths: dog walkers, joggers, kids of all ages on bikes, trikes, and other wheeled gizmos. For me it represents several things: (1) these are people unplugged from the television; (2) these are people moving their bodies, which improves their fitness and consequently their spirits; and (3) they are often choosing to do so with a friend or family member.

Frequently, though, one crucial component is lacking: basic courtesy by path users. This was recently brought to mind when, while riding to work on the path one morning, I announced my intention to pass a gentleman walking a dog ahead of me. I simply called out, "Bike will be passing on your left." He appeared so surprised, and so appreciative of this basic courtesy. How easy for me to announce my approach, and safer for all: he could have stepped to the right and been immediately in front of me; or his dog could have veered right into my path. Either scenario would have been potentially very unpleasant for all three of us. And it was so easy to avoid that by simply announcing, with sufficient time for him to respond, that I was approaching behind him.

We can all increase our enjoyment of our paths by extending basic courtesies to one another. Communication of your intention is key. Here are some simple guidelines:

- ▶ Bicycles traveling faster than 10 mph should be on the road, not the path.

- ▶ Traffic flow should follow road traffic: travel on the right side of the path in both directions, and pass on the left. This applies to all users of multi-use paths and trails.
- ▶ Announce your arrival and intention to pass, allowing enough time for the other person to process the fact that you are there and to respond appropriately. This should be the case regardless of your mode of transportation: joggers are faster than walkers, cyclists are faster than everyone else. Bear in mind that many solo path users are listening to headphones, so you need to speak loudly and clearly for them to hear you.
- ▶ Always leave one ear open when using an iPod or MP3 player.
- ▶ Slow down in passing, particularly on a bike, and pass with caution, especially when small children are present. Their actions are often unpredictable.
- ▶ Dogs should be on short standard leashes. And yes, they must be on leashes. Retractable leashes are not recommended for path use as they are often misused.

Reminder for automobile drivers: You are in essence crossing *two* intersections when you turn: the path and then the road. Please check carefully for path users, as well as for vehicular traffic.

By using the paths safely and courteously, we enhance our enjoyment and encourage others to do the same. So next time you cross paths with fellow Eldoradoans, greet them with a smile and go your way safely and happily.

—Chandler Rhinehart, Co-Owner  
*SpinDoc, Your Neighborhood Bike Shop*



## August at the Library

**PEN PALS FROM GUAM:** Vista Grande Library is excited to announce a Pen Pal program between children of the Guam Public Library System and any interested child in the area VGPL serves. Having a pen pal is not only a great way to make a new friend, it's a wonderful way to learn about distant lands and customs while finding a personal connection to the world community. Parents who want to sign up a child for a pen pal in Guam should contact Library Director **Tina Stephenson** at 466-7323.

**"NIGHT SKIES" PROGRAM:** The concluding program of VGPL's 2010 "Night Skies" series, presented by SFCC Planetarium Director **Juan Alvarez**, is set for Saturday, August 21, at 8 pm. Juan will give a presentation, take questions, and then, weather permitting, the group will move outside with telescopes to view celestial objects.

Other VGPL events for August include:

- ▶ The "Summer Reading Program" concludes with a party and presentation of reading awards on Thursday, August 5, at 1 pm.
- ▶ VGPL Book Group meets Monday, August 16, at 7 pm to discuss *Dreams of my Russian Summer* by Andrei Makine. You don't have to have read the book to attend.
- ▶ Family Movie Night: August 20 at 7 pm, *Meet the Robinsons*. An inventor has created a "memory scanner" to find his birth mother, but it is stolen and intrigue ensues.



## New Art Classes at the Senior Center

**BOB AND LYNN COYLE** are once again offering their popular clay and weaving classes, starting on Tuesday, August 10 at 1:30. Classes run for six weeks, and space is limited, although we will maintain a waiting list. Call the Center at 466-1039 to sign up!

# ELDORADO VISTAS

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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508  
[www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

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## *Beautifying the Clubhouse*

**R**ecently, watercolorist **Mavis Murphy** donated two beautiful paintings to the ECIA to adorn the walls of the Community Center.

Murphy's subject matter varies from New Mexican architecture to landscapes inspired by her travels throughout the Southwest. Her paintings are light-filled and sublimely clear. Shadows cast by vigas and trees onto adobe walls are translucent, and the walls themselves radiate a warm richness from the many transparent washes she uses to build up color. The paintings now at the Community Center depict the Gila in New Mexico and Big Bend National Park in Texas.

Murphy hails from Yorkshire, England, and came to New Mexico—Truchas village, in fact—for a three-month visit over forty years ago. After spending many years in Texas, Mavis and husband Michael moved to Santa Fe in 1991 and to Eldorado in 1993. They love the views and wildlife here.

Murphy studied art in college, from display and design in England to studio arts later. She has painted in watercolors for over thirty years and has participated in many national watercolor exhibitions.

Murphy's paintings can also be seen at Michael Wigley Galleries in Santa Fe.

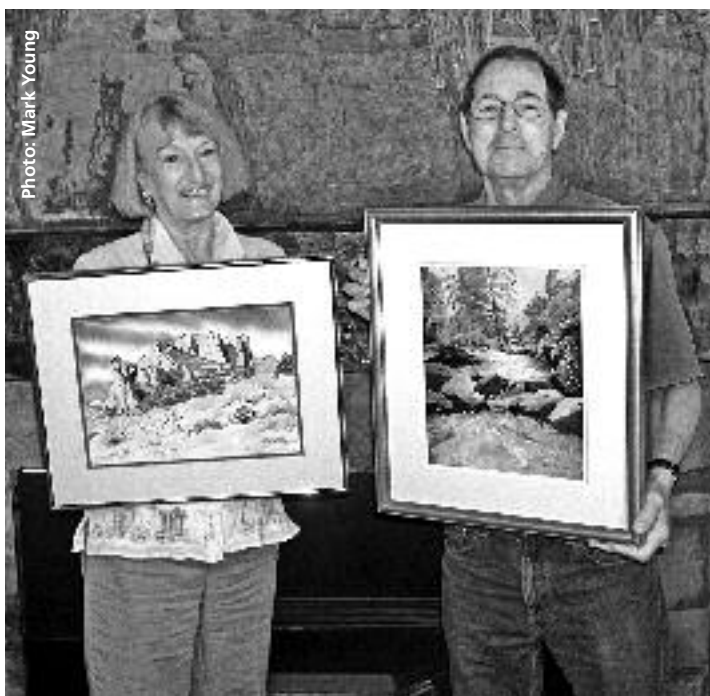


Photo: Mark Young

**Mavis Murphy has donated two paintings to the ECIA, shown here with ECIA President Tom Willmott.**