

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XV, ISSUE 8

August 2013

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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.eldoradosf.org ▼ Security 204-2945

14th Annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction

BENEFITING THE VISTA GRANDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 1 TO 4 PM AT THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY CENTER

Eldorado residents and their neighbors know THE BIG end-of-summer event is the Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction to benefit the Vista Grande Public Library. It has everything: yummy ice cream, fun family activities, and cool stuff to buy. And as the biggest fundraiser for VGPL, it supports an important resource in our community.

Of course, the best part of the event is the all-you-can-eat ice cream sundaes and banana splits. Get yours however you like it, with all the toppings. There will also be iced coffee and root beer floats. After gobbling up their fill of ice cream, the children love the Big Top Tent for all the fun activities, including games, face painting, and water bottle rockets.

Adults will want to check out the Silent Auction, which is the most anticipated event of late summer for many residents. Shoppers can find unique pieces by local artists, certificates for popular area restaurants and services, wine and food baskets, and so much more! You're sure to find a "gotta have" item, whether for yourself or for a distinctive gift. And you'll be supporting your local library at the same time—a win-win for everyone.

For access to all the ice cream you can eat, as well as the opportunity to bid on over 200 items in the Silent Auction, you'll need one of our special wristbands, available beforehand at the Library or at the event. Prices are \$8 adults, \$5 ages 6–11; children 5 and under are free.

You will have noticed the construction for the Library expansion. We are looking forward to having so much more space to serve the needs of the community. However, with expansion the Library will also have expanding financial needs. The Ice Cream Social and other fundraisers keep our doors open and our collection current. All of the items for the auction, as well as food and other supplies, come from generous donors, without whom we could not put on this fabulously fun event. The Library recognizes our donors

by listing them on signs at the event and through our weekly emails and our website, www.vglibrary.org.

If you would like to support the Library by sponsoring the Ice Cream Social or donate an item to the Silent Auction, contact the event co-chairs, **Diane Gulseth** at 466-6509 or **Joan Lemon** at 466-4490.

Save the date: August 25! And we'll have the ice cream ready.

—Tracey Mitchell



ECIA PRESIDENT RESIGNS 2 Board Positions Open

Jeanne Calzada has resigned her position as ECIA President and Director of the Board, for personal reasons. With another recent resignation, of Director **Paul Jacobs**, who will be relocating, the Board now has two vacancies.

Members in good standing who are interested in serving the community are encouraged to contact Acting ECIA President **Dag Ryen** at dag.ryen@gmail.com or Secretary **Nolan Zisman** at pnzisman@aol.com. Applicants should have the ability and skills to fulfill the fiduciary responsibilities of the position, and should be willing to commit a considerable amount of time and energy to the work of the Board. Letters of interest, detailing relevant qualifications, should be received by August 18.

New appointees would serve until April of next year, at which time all Board positions are up for community-wide election.

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
August 22,
7 pm.*



Share your comments with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include full name and contact information. The newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, biased, or inappropriate. Submissions will be selected and edited at the discretion of the editor. 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. 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.

Casita/Apartment Rentals in Eldorado

Did you know that that while it is acceptable to rent a room in your home, the renting of, or residing in, any addition, studio, or entire casita (whether attached or detached) is a violation of the Eldorado Covenants due to the fact that the house is no longer a single family dwelling? This is noted in the Eldorado Covenants, Article II, Section 1, under Residential use:

ARTICLE II - PROTECTIVE COVENANTS AND BUILDING RESTRICTIONS

Section 1. Residential Use. The lots designated in Schedule A attached hereto shall be used for no purpose other than residential use, except as otherwise provided in Article II, Section 15. No structures shall be erected, altered, placed, or permitted to remain on any residential lot other than single family dwellings, accessory buildings such as studios, garages, greenhouses, recreational facilities and storage sheds, and stables on lots on which horses are permitted to be kept. No trailer, mobile home, tent, shack, garage, barn or other outbuilding, nor any temporary structure erected on any residential lot, shall be used at any time as a residence, either temporarily or permanently.

The reasons for this single family requirement in the Eldorado Covenants include the following:

- ▼ Two families on one lot, sharing a single family septic system, puts too much waste into a system designed for one family, increasing its chances of failure.
- ▼ Two families on one lot is a burden on our limited water resources and the Eldorado water system.
- ▼ Two families on one lot can bring excessive traffic and noise and can be a nuisance to neighbors.

The ECIA uses the following parameters to help determine if a home is no longer a single family dwelling and thus in violation of the covenants:

- ▼ A residence should not have an addition, studio, or casita that has a separate entrance and could be easily rented or lived in.
- ▼ A separate studio, addition, or casita area should not have its own kitchen, bath, and living areas, as then it is a rentable and livable space.
- ▼ A residence should not have a separate entrance or driveway for a separate dwelling on a lot.

If your home meets these any of these parameters, it could be in violation of this Eldorado Covenants, and this should be corrected before the house is sold. If you have specific questions about such a structure

on your lot, contact me at the ECIA and I will work with you to determine if your home could be in violation of this covenant and what steps can be taken to correct this violation.

Residents should be aware that the Santa Fe County Land Use Code also prohibits multiple family dwellings on lots in Eldorado, and the County actively enforces this single family requirement.

Santa Fe County Ordinance 1996-11 defines a dwelling as follows: "Dwelling—(1) structure or a portion thereof used, intended to be used, or has been previously used by a person or persons for residential use, (2) a mobile home, or (3) each unit occupied by a person or persons in any structure or portion thereof used or intended to be used for residential purposes by a person or persons. Each dwelling unit must either contain kitchen, living and bathroom facilities, or be plumbed for such facilities. Recreational vehicles do not qualify as a dwelling unit."

Note the key: the presence of both a kitchen and bath. If more than one structure on a lot has both kitchen and bath, or a structure contains more than one kitchen, there is a violation of County Land Development Ordinances.

For more information about this single family requirement under the Eldorado Guidelines or County Ordinance, call Mark at 466-4248 or refer to the Eldorado Covenants at <http://eldoradosf.org/images/document/Covenants.pdf>.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on June 20, with Board members present:

Jeanne Calzada (President and Chair), **Dag Ryen** (Vice President), **Nolan Zisman** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Pam Henline**, and **Jan Pietrzak**. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting:

- ▼ A variance was approved for 1 Conchas Court for a large accessory addition to an existing shed with a roof that does not conform to that of the dwelling with conditions.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 2 Conchas Court to locate a ground-mounted 48-panel solar array 120 feet from the dwelling where the Guideline distance is 15 feet, to provide better screening.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 16 Tetilla Road for a latilla fence that exceeds the 4,000 square foot enclosure guideline to provide better security.

Continued on the facing page >>

Message from the ECIA Board

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association has adopted a formal list of goals and objectives to guide its activities until April of next year, when new Board elections will take place. The primary objectives for the current Board are to focus on serving the interests of community members, to maintain ECIA amenities, and to manage ECIA in a professional, effective, and proactive manner.

Community Involvement: The Board wishes to encourage community involvement in all ECIA activities. To that end, it is important that ECIA members be kept informed, in a timely manner, through regular articles in *Vistas*, through the ECIA website, and through other appropriate channels. The Board will seek to encourage input and increase volunteerism from the broadest possible spectrum of ECIA membership.

Civility: The Board will seek to promote courtesy, mutual respect, and tolerance throughout the community. The Board will expect directors, staff, committee chairs, and all members to comport themselves with the highest levels of civility toward one another and all parties that interact with our community.

Compliance with ECIA Governing Documents: The Board will seek to ensure compliance by all ECIA members and residents with the basic governing documents of the community. The Board will vigorously

and fairly enforce the community covenants and guidelines against violations, and will review related documents for clarity and appropriateness.

Security and Safety: It is a vital goal of the ECIA Board to promote the wellbeing and safety of our community members. To ensure community security, the Board will work closely with all local law enforcement agencies, promoting their presence in Eldorado. The Board will also work with public officials to ensure the safety of our roads and multi-use trails.

Financial Controls: It is of paramount importance that ECIA's finances are handled in a safe, secure, and transparent manner to serve the economic needs of the community. This must be accomplished through adequate funding and appropriate controls.

Assets and Resources: It is a goal of the ECIA Board to maintain and preserve the community's many amenities and assets. The Board will facilitate all necessary repairs and remodeling of buildings and facilities and will seek to ensure that the condition of all ECIA amenities reflects the standards expected by our membership.

The Board encourages the involvement of everyone in the community to help achieve these goals. The ultimate goal is, of course, to make Eldorado the best possible place to live, work, and play.

—The ECIA Board

Recent Board Actions, cont.

- ▼ A variance was approved for 28 Monte Alto Road for a shed 32 feet from the dwelling, where the Guideline distance is 15 feet, to provide better access and screening.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 12 Encantado Road to allow an existing sun shelter, Jacuzzi, and portion of a fence to remain within the required 50-foot front setback.
- ▼ The Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee was discharged with its mission completed.
- ▼ An Ad Hoc Committee to revise Stable rules was authorized, with members to be appointed later.
- ▼ President Calzada, Vice President Ryen, Treasurer Handy, and General Manager **Bill Donohue** were designated as check signers for the First National Bank account.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 24 Encantado Road for an 8-foot-high screening fence where the Guideline maximum is 6 feet, with a stipulation to lower the height upon sale of the property. (4-1, Pietrzak opposed)

▼ **Lee Onstott** was recommended to County Commissioner **Liz Stefanics** for appointment to the County Road Advisory Committee.

▼ **Thomas Brendenberg** was appointed to the Conservation Committee.

▼ A calendar for development of the 2014 Operating Budget was adopted (see pp. 4–5 of this issue).

▼ A variance was approved for 2 Conchas Place for a third shed to be placed 42 feet from the dwelling where the Guideline distance is 15 feet, conditional on an application for approval of an existing unapproved shed. (4-1, Pietrzak opposed)

▼ A variance request for 3 Encantado Road for an existing garage and fence to intrude into the required 50-foot roadside setback was tabled pending resolution of other issues. (4-1, Pietrzak opposed)

Regular Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Community Center, and are open to the public. An open forum, community announcements, and reports from ECIA committees are normally included. Complete minutes and meeting agendas are available at the ECIA office and website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.

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Director

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Architecture:

Katherine Mortimer

Conservation: John Parker

Election: Kathie Graham

Facilities & Grounds:

Jean Crawford

Finance: Dan Drobnis

Information: Frank Schober

Neighborhood Watch:

Marilyn Walker

Roads: Michael Chester

Stable: Gretel Underwood
(Interim Chair)

Sustainability, Planning, &
Education: Steve Rudnick

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

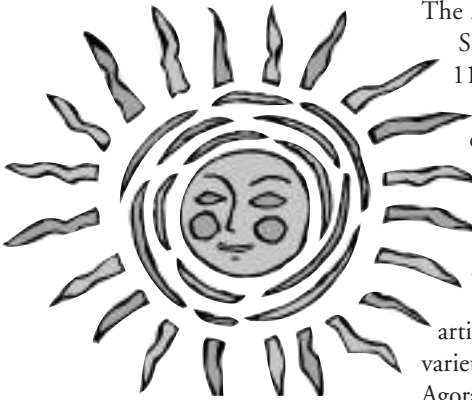
Fire and Rescue

466-1204

eldoradofirerescue.org

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)



"End of Summer" Party

Here's an early reminder to save Labor Day, Monday, September 2, for the ECIA community's third annual "End of Summer" event. There will be games (horseshoes, volleyball, basketball, tennis, and softball), swimming, complimentary cold beverages and ice cream, an optional barbeque dinner with chicken or pork and side dishes, catered by The Cowgirl BBQ (\$10/per person), and dancing or toe-tapping to the live big band music of Swing Shift. The activities begin at 2 PM, with music and dinner starting around 4:30. Please reserve and pay for your dinner by calling Marilyn at the ECIA office, 466-4248, by August 29. We hope to have a great crowd!

Super Summer Saturday at Agora

The Agora Shopping Center will hold its third Super Summer Saturday on August 10 from 11 AM to 2 PM in the beautiful outdoor courtyard. The last two have been a blast! Come enjoy live music by **Don Boaz's** Never The Same. They always get the crowd clapping and dancing with their country, soft rock tunes. Enjoy free country dance lessons – mouth-watering BBQ and pizza lunches at great prices – cool drinks and ice cream – an artists' market and vendors showcasing a wide variety of unique wonderful goods. All of the Agora businesses will be offering specials and samples for a great shopping day. For more details, visit www.theagorashoppingcenter.com. For questions, please call **Tina Carr** at 466-1270 or email tina@eldoradocountrypet.com.

Bats in Your Belfry

Bats are misunderstood and often feared. However, they are a significant component of a healthy ecosystem. **Dr. Michael J. O'Farrell** of Eldorado will present a short introduction to the natural history of bats in New Mexico on August 16 at 7 PM at the Community Center Classroom. Afterward, participants will listen to bats and identify them by their vocal signatures. Dr. O'Farrell has begun a monitoring program for bats within Eldorado, including the Wilderness Preserve.

Manure Deliveries

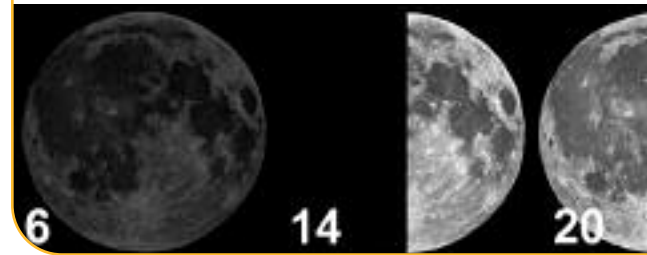
The piles are as high as a tall horse's eye! So we're having a one-time giveaway. FREE Eldorado Stables horse manure and free delivery to any residence in Eldorado during the month of August. Order now and have your compost ready for Spring 2014. For information, email eldostable@gmail.com or call Lynn at 795-4264 or Su Anne at 660-1996.

Eldo Children's Theatre & Teen Players

Fall classes begin Sept 3 at the Eldorado Community Center! Classes for ages 5 and up with age-appropriate classes. Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players will be presenting "Charlotte's Web" in January. For more information, contact **Rebecca Oden** at odentaism@yahoo.com or visit the Eldorado Children's Theatre web site at www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org



MOON PHASES FOR AUGUST



Pool Hours: 8 AM–8 PM Daily

Lap Swim: Daily 8–10 AM; Monday, Wednesday, Friday 6–8 PM

General Swim: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 10 AM–8 PM; Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 AM–6 PM

Group swimming lessons: Call the pool: 466-2511

Reel New Mexico presents "Pow Wow Highway," Thursday, Aug. 13, at 7 PM in The Performance Space at La Tienda

"Pow Wow Highway," winner of the 1989 Filmmakers Trophy (for Drama) at the Sundance Film Festival, zeros in on the Northern Cheyenne tribe of Lame Deer, Montana, for whom the American Dream has taken a grim detour. A Martinez plays Buddy Red Bow, a committed activist battling a suspicious land grab. In contrast, Philbert Bono (actor Gary Farmer) is a serene spiritual warrior guided by sacred visions. When Buddy's estranged sister is framed and jailed in New Mexico, the two men take off in Philbert's '64 Buick "war pony" on a road trip that takes some unexpected turns.

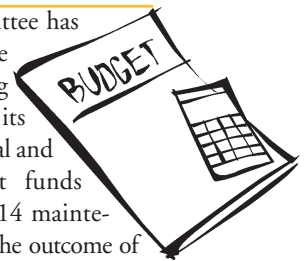
Jonathan Wacks directed this acclaimed comedy/drama about Native Americans understanding their past, fighting for their future and discovering a few truths along the "Pow Wow Highway." A contribution of \$5 is suggested.

www.reelnewmexico.com

2014 Budget Schedule

The Finance Committee has begun its review of the 2014 ECIA Operating Budget, including its transfers to the Capital and Reserve/Replacement funds and allocation of 2014 maintenance expenditures. The outcome of this process will determine, among other things, the 2014 assessment. Long-term maintenance needs, as well as slowly rising operating costs, will likely require an assessment increase in 2014.

Following is the schedule of budget meetings. All Association members are welcome. Note that for those having difficulty attending weekday meetings, an evening session and a Saturday session are included:





Tuesday, Sept. 3, 5 PM. Committee requests for 2014 Operating Funds due to General Manager. *Venue:* Office or e-mail.

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 9:30 AM
The Finance Committee begins review of committee and individual proposals at its regular monthly meeting. Committee chairs and residents are welcome to attend for discussion of requests. *Venue:* Conference Room.

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 7 PM
The Finance Committee continues review of proposals for evening attendees, including committee chairs. *Venue:* Conference Room

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 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, Oct. 14, 6:30 PM
Joint meeting of the ECIA Board and Finance Committee. Committee chairs and residents are invited for information or to further explain their budget requests if desired. *Venue:* Conference Room. **Board assumes responsibility for 2014 Budget at conclusion of meeting.**

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 9 AM
Proposed 2014 Operating Budget and Message available at ECIA office and on website.

Saturday, Nov. 9, 10 AM
The Board conducts a public hearing on the proposed 2014 Operating Budget. Copies will be available at the hearing. *Venue:* Railroad Bldg.
Thursday Dec. 19

The Board adopts the final 2014 Operating budget at its regular meeting. *Venue:* Railroad Bldg.

August Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email eciamarilyn@aol.com with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd 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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Library Ice Cream Social	Sun., Aug. 25. 1-4 pm	466-7323	CC
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 13, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 27, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Aug. 11, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Aug. 6, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Aug. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Thurs., Aug. 1, 4-6 pm	Jean Crawford	466-1000	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Aug. 7, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Aug. 20, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., Aug. 5, 6-8 pm	Michael Chester	577-2784	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., Aug. 28, 7-9 pm	Gretel Underwood	466-7825	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., Aug. 8, 7-9 pm	Steve Rudnick	466-1335	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR/CR
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs., of month	Barrie Brown	466-3035	CC
Eldorado Camera Club	4th Wednesday, 7-9	biordi@aol.com		La Tienda
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 5-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
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			LR/CFR
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 6:30 pm-Dusk			CC
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	670-6949	LR
Bridge	Every Other Fri., 9-noon	Natalie Bernet	466-6118	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
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
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-4:30	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Kate	216-5302	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

*** Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Badgers, Centipedes, and Drought

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

We've all heard of the ABC's. I've added the "D" (and omitted the "A") to organize this article.

B IS FOR BADGER. I didn't realize that we have badgers in Eldorado. In fact, I'm not even sure I had a notion as to where badgers existed, outside of Narnia. Well, we do have them and they are most interesting creatures. Reports of badgers are primarily from the western end of Eldorado, but the following may help you figure out if you have one or more in your yard.

Badgers are almost as wide as they are long, weighing 15 to 20 pounds. They have long, very sharp claws on their front paws. In the past and even now, they are hunted for their fur (primarily used for men's shaving brushes and artists' brushes). They have one white strip along their cheeks and another extending from nose to shoulder. Triangular black patches on the sides of their faces are the basis for the name badger ("badgers").

Badgers are burrowing creatures, excavating elliptical entrances (to fit their body shape), leaving a fan-shaped deposit of dirt. Typically, badgers inhabit a den for only several days as they travel widely in search for food. Members of the weasel family, they are clever hunters, often plugging some of the entrance holes of rodent dens while waiting for the rodents to exit! It is not unusual for badgers to team up with coyotes to round up prey. In the final analysis, coyotes hang around to pick off the rodents that the badger uncovers. Coyotes, in turn, have no problem having a good badger meal. A note of caution: badgers can be vicious when defending or cornered.

Another blow to males, they have no role in raising their offspring. Typically, badgers begin to disperse two to three months after birth. Because of all sorts of hazards (Golden Eagles, cougars, coyotes, traffic, and lack of food), few survive. Average life span is 14 years. And the badger is a protected furbearer in New Mexico.

C IS FOR CENTIPEDES (shudder). Members of the phylum Arthropoda, centipedes are easily recognizable by their 15 to 20 segments, with a pair of legs to go with each segment. If you are new to Eldorado and have not yet seen a centipede, just bide your time. I have hunted far and wide to find something positive to write about them and have come up empty handed.

They are light brown to dark brown in color, very fast runners, can range from a few millimeters to over 7 inches. They have poisonous jaws, used to paralyze their prey. Their bites can be painful but generally are not poisonous to people. Caution:

Check your shoes before putting your feet in and your bed before climbing in. That being said, cats love to play with centipedes. Apparently, there is a threshold of bites, when crossed, that can seriously affect cats' health. Be careful when dealing with centipedes. I suppose the only beneficial aspect of centipedes is that they feed on other arthropods.

D IS FOR DROUGHT. Much controversy abounds as to whether we are in a long period of drought or a real permanent change in our environment. In either case, the rains, as I write on July 4th, are making a valiant effort to bring relief, but it's slow. Though some may disagree with this practice, in my household we actually reuse about 50–60 gallons every week. We gather water in 5-gallon buckets by keeping one at each of our sinks, in the shower, and by the kitchen sink. The water has saved many of our plants and kept it out of our septic system. As I've noted before, because of the intense heat and wind, using screening to cover plants is helpful.

Reports from The Wildlife Center concur with what is being experienced by The Raptor Center: more birds are abandoning their clutches and fledges because of a shortage of water and food. See the bird article opposite for some advice on what you can do.

Questions, comments, topics?

—Nina Harrison, N815@aol.com

Senior News

The summer exercise program continues at the Senior Center with chair tai chi and chair aerobics; and **Lynne** and **Bob Coyle's** clay and weaving classes run through August.

On Fridays, the Mac group computer class continues, as does the PC class on Wednesday. For the PC class, sign up at the Center for a time slot.

In June, the Adam Senior Center received a generous donation from the Eldorado Arts and Craft Association's successful May Studio Tour. It is thanks to these donations that the Center is able to provide art materials for seniors in the various art classes throughout the year and to supplement other programs at the Center. Last year alone, there were 150 slots available for seniors to participate in an art class. In this way, seniors can explore various media without having to purchase art materials. Thanks, EACA!

We are in dire need of Meals on Wheels drivers, as some of our regular drivers take vacation. If you can spare an hour one or two days a month, please call **Jewel** at 992-3069 to volunteer.

For information about other activities at the Adam Senior Center, stop by between 8 and 3 or call 466-1039.

—Janet Amtmann



A badger photographed here in Eldorado.

Photo: © Ann V. Wood



A local centipede.

Photo: © Ann V. Wood

Yellow-rumped Warbler (YrW)

The Yellow-rumped Warbler is most likely to be seen in Eldorado during any season except winter. This is a small active bird, although it's one of the larger warblers, about 5 inches long, with a wingspan of 8.25 inches. The male is beautifully marked, especially in spring, with a white throat, black eye mask, streaked black and white breast, gray and white on the head, a streaked black back, two white wing bars, bright yellow under the wing, and a bright yellow rump which is prominent in flight. Females are duller and may show some brown or gray. Males also are duller during non-breeding season, their yellow not as bright. Formerly these birds were named Audubon's Warbler. Now an "Audubon's" Warbler of the mountainous West—a different bird—is recognized. This male has a yellow throat and also more white in the wing. Female Audubon's Warblers have less distinctly marked faces, lacking the dark ear patches.

YrWs may pass through in the spring or fall, heading as far north as Alaska; some may stay and breed in New Mexico. They winter anywhere from the Southeast U.S. through Central America.

In the summer, YrWs prefer to be in trees at mid-height, mostly conifers or deciduous trees and open forests and edges (don't look in your juniper trees!) They are quite active, eating all types of insects during the summer (bark beetles, gnats, grasshoppers, etc.). These they may pick from bark or foliage or capture while they flutter in the air. In winter, berries

are the largest part of the diet. They are adapted with an enzyme to digest the wax of bayberry and wax myrtle, allowing them to winter farther north than most warblers (some have been found as far north as Newfoundland). They also eat many seeds and may come to feeders for sunflower seeds.

Pairs are monogamous. Males court females by raising wings, fluffing feathers, and hopping about. Females take approximately 10 days to build a cup nest, lined with feathers or hair, on a branch 4 to 50 feet high. Females lay and incubate two to six eggs which hatch in 12 or 13 days and fledge in 12 to 14 days. The hatchlings are helpless and naked but develop quickly from their insect diet, with both parents feeding the young.

During non-breeding season, the YrW may join flocks with other warblers. For now, they are abundant and populations are stable.

OUR BIRDS NEED WATER

You can help out our birds during this terrible dry time by putting out pans of water for them. Pans should be about 1 inch deep. I buy metal pans in the dog food section of the grocery store for \$2. You can make your own from old pie plates or by cutting off the bottom of gallon water or milk jugs. Put a few rocks in them for stability and to hold them down in the wind, and fill with an inch of water. Refill every day. Many birds will discover your lifesaving water.

—Pam Henline



Yellow-rumped warbler.

Photo: Alan D. Wilson, from www.naturespicsonline.com. Creative Commons Share-Alike license.

At the Crossroads

HERRADA ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Many residents living on Herrada Road and its side roads want to know the status of the upcoming paving project along Herrada Road. The Santa Fe County New Construction Projects Manager has informed me that a civil engineering design firm has been selected and that the contract for design services will be signed in the next few weeks (as of early July). The preliminary design phase should take several months to complete. After a review process, the go-ahead for the final design will be given, and then a full construction proposal will be sent out for bid. The final design and construction documents, a request for proposal, and the selection of a construction firm are not expected to be complete until early next spring. It will then take most of the spring and summer to complete the grading, together with roadway improvements and the finished paving. The County will provide the community and area residents the opportunity to re-

view the preliminary design, ask questions, and offer comments and suggestions before the final design is approved.

In the meantime, concerned residents have asked to have the road graded due to severe washboarding. This is the very reason why the County agreed to pave Herrada Road: to benefit the residents *and* reduce the costs and time spent on maintenance. Of course, the newly paved surface is likely to tempt drivers to drive faster, so the County will look into providing additional signage. Some residents have let me know that the problem of speeding is already occurring; and perhaps with new signage and a greater awareness, we can help reduce high-speed driving and make Herrada Road both smoother and safer.

The next Road Committee meeting will be Monday, August 5, at 6 PM. Please feel free to attend and give the committee your feedback and comments on any road issue.

—Michael Chester, Chair, Roads Committee

ELDORADO VISTAS

Eldorado Community
Improvement Association
#1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
www.eldoradosf.org



This QR code will take you to a new video about Eldorado by webmaster Jack Arnold. Check it out!

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Refurbished Amenities at ECIA Now Ready for Use!

Photos: Dag Ryen

Brand new tennis courts and a resurfaced basketball court are the latest improvements to Eldorado's amenities. They are available to all Eldorado residents from sunup to sundown.

ON ANOTHER NOTE:

Our webmaster, Jack Arnold, has produced a great video about Eldorado. To access this, go to <http://eldoradosf.org/index.php/Recent-News/eldorado-video.html>, or scan the QR code (under our mailing address, above) with your smartphone to take you there.

