

ELDORADO at SANTA FE VISTAS

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE 8

August 2014

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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

We All Scream for Ice Cream ... & Books!

**15TH ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL
AND SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER
TO BENEFIT VISTA GRANDE PUBLIC LIBRARY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2014, 1 TO 4 PM
ECIA COMMUNITY CENTER**

All-you-can-eat ice cream; chatting with neighbors; beautiful baskets and desirable gift certificates to bid on; a big-top tent with free activities for kids; music to dance to—yup, it must be the Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction. Vista Grande Public Library (VGPL) invites you to join them on August 17 at the ECIA Community Center from 1 to 4 PM.

Did you know that VGPL is an independent, non-profit organization? This means that while the library gets some funding from Santa Fe County and has use of a county building, as much as 60% of the budget comes from direct community support. Fundraisers like the Ice Cream Social and Spring Appeal keep the lights on, the Internet service running, and programs operating, as well as put new books and DVDs on the shelves. The recent expansion of the library means that space is no longer a limiting factor in providing and increasing community services; however, it also entails more expenses. When you come to the Ice Cream Social, you are supporting an important resource of free entertainment, technology, and education, right here in your community.

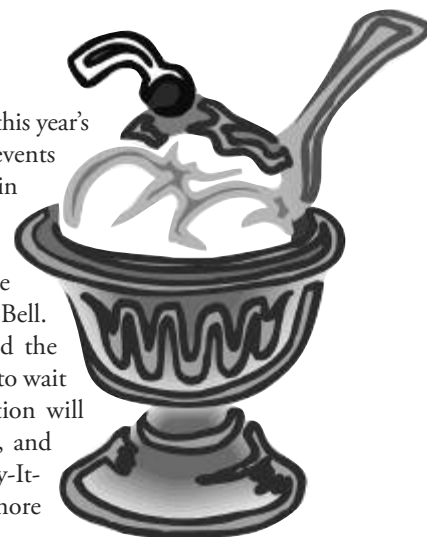
Based on feedback from the community, this year's organizers have made some changes to the events that should please attendees. The activities in the children's Big Top are free for wristband wearers (no additional tickets to buy), and there will be more activities for all ages. The yummy ice cream will be provided by Blue Bell. For the silent auction, they have shortened the hours from 1 to 3:30 PM so folks won't have to wait as long to see if their bids won. The auction will mostly include gift certificates, gift baskets, and books as auction items. And the updated, Buy-It-Now pricing policy should make the bids more competitive.

But the best parts of the event—ice cream with your favorite toppings, or in a float, and community friends new and old to eat it with—won't change. With an admission wristband, you get all the ice cream you want and the chance to bid on items in the silent auction. The price for adult admission is \$8, and for children ages 6 to 11, \$5. Children 5 and under are free. Wristbands are on sale at the library and will be sold at the event.

If you would like to contribute financially or with an auction item, please contact the Silent Auction Co-Chairs: Diane Gulseth, gulseth18@q.com, or Joan Lemmon, secretary@vglibrary.org. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Tracey Mitchell, libasst@vglibrary.org.

Thank you, Eldorado, for all your support in making VGPL your community library!

—Tracey Mitchell & Donna Mazzola, ICS Co-chairs



**ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
August 21,
7 pm.**

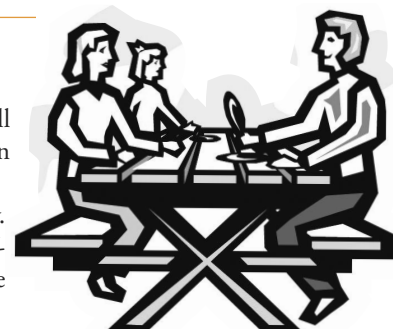
End of Summer / Labor Day Event September 1

The Fourth Annual "End of Summer/Labor Day" event will be held on Monday, September 1, at 4:30, on the patio at the Community Center.

Once again, we will have the big band sound of Nolan Zisman's group, **Swing Shift**, for your dancing or listening pleasure. At the Community Center, we

have tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball court, shuffleboard, swimming, or card play on the patio.

Bring your picnic dinner and enjoy the day. Watch the website, eldoradosf.org, or call the office at 466-4248 for more information as the date nears.





*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 DiAna@eldoradosf.org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

Mission Statement

The mission of Vistas, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

Visiting RV Courtesy

As Santa Fe is a major summer tourist destination, Eldorado residents are frequently visited by family and friends who arrive in their RVs and end up parking in Eldorado driveways and on our residential lots. When this happens, we often hear from neighbors who are concerned that their next-door neighbor has purchased an RV and has not submitted a screening plan for it.

The ECIA Covenants in Article II, Section 13, address the issue of visiting RVs as follows:

Section 13. Storage and Screening of Vehicles and their Accessories. (a) Recreational vehicles, such as motor homes, RVs, campers, camper shells, vehicle accessories, trailers, horse trailers, airplanes, boats and the like, when stored on a lot shall be located so as to minimize their visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood and roads, and shall be obscured by screening in a reasonable manner, for example by the dwelling house and/or with plantings or fencing. No more than three such vehicles shall be stored outside on any lot at any time. No more than one additional vehicle shall be parked tem-

porarily on a lot for a period not to exceed three weeks. This paragraph shall be applicable to recreational vehicle accessories, such as camper shells and the like.

In other words, we allow for visiting RVs to be on a lot for a period not to exceed three weeks, after which time it could be considered a violation of the covenants. Because three weeks can be a long time for a neighbor to have to look at an unscreened RV owned by a non-resident, we ask that residents notify their neighbors, as well as the ECIA, when a visiting RV is going to be on their lot. This notification should include the anticipated dates of arrival and departure of the RV, as well as where it will be parked on the lot. This small gesture is likely to result in much happier neighbors and will help eliminate extra work for the ECIA staff, as we will know what RVs are owned by visitors. To notify the ECIA, please call us at 466-4248, or e-mail me at mark@eldoradosf.org with visiting RV information. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter this summer.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative
466-4248, mark@eldoradosf.org

Reporting a Road Problem or Concern

If rain, wind, or other weather events create a problem on the road you live on, or if you notice a pothole has popped up or a stop sign is down or missing, you can report it directly to the County's Public Works Division. Here's how.

Because of the safety hazard that is created when a stop sign is down or missing, the County asks that you report the problem by calling the County Public Works Department at 992-3010. For any other problem with the road system, including road maintenance requests, you can use the online reporting system, "Report a Road Concern," available on the Santa Fe County website at http://www.santafecountynm.gov/publicworks/road_concern.

Residents can type in the name of the county road or use the interactive map to select the area where the problem exists. The system requires a login consisting of an e-mail address and a password. Once you have submitted a request, you can view the status of your request, see if anyone else has submitted a similar request, or see if there are any other requests in your area. Your ECIA Road Committee members can also track all reported problems in Eldorado.

If you aren't a computer user and would like the problem entered and tracked on your behalf, please

send your concerns in an email to the Road Committee Chair at fjprobert@msn.com or call 466-1563.

If you have any questions about reporting a road concern, please contact any member of the ECIA Road Committee. Thanks for helping to take care of our roads in Eldorado!

—Felicia Probert, Chair, Road Committee

Trail Project

ECIA undertook a trail restoration project in conjunction with Eagle Scout candidate **Jaret Saums** which rerouted about a 1-mile section of Eldorado Preserve Trail 101 in April. There were many volunteers, whose work allowed for the restoration of a portion of trail significantly eroded by heavy rains. This part of Trail 101 is now restored and improved to better withstand future impacts by seasonal thunderstorms. ECIA is grateful for all the volunteer time committed to this project.

Another trail work day is scheduled for September 20 in the Preserve, and additional trail volunteers will be needed for this event. If you're interested in joining this work, contact **Mark Young** at 466-4248.

Youth working on a rolling dip >>

Message from the ECIA Board

The Board of Directors has moved a step closer to filling the vacant position of general manager for the Association. As of the application deadline on July 23, around 20 individuals and a management company had expressed interest in the position. A committee of six ECIA members has reviewed all the applications and has forwarded a list of finalists to the Board. We are currently in the process of contacting these applicants and setting up interviews.

While it would be impractical for us to arrange meetings between the successful candidates and the ECIA membership at large, we do encourage members to contact us with specific issues we might address during the interviews. You can e-mail your suggestions

to the office at marilyn@eldoradosf.org or stop by with a written note. We will keep the community informed about the hiring process with updates on our website.

The Board has also scheduled a Town Forum for Monday, September 8, from 7 to 9 PM. Topics for this event will be security patrols and greenbelt trail improvement. At that time, we also hope to be able to provide additional details about the hiring process for the general manager.

Finally, the new school year is right around the corner. Please drive carefully and watch for children at bus stops and crossroads as another year of learning begins.

—The ECIA Board of Directors

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on June 19, 2014, with all seven Board members present: **Dag Ryen** (President), **Pam Henline** (Vice President), **Greg Colello**, **Gershon Siegel** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Jeanne Calzada**, and **David Yard**. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting:

- ▼ President Ryen announced that the ECIA is conducting an active search for a new general manager, with applications due by July 23.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 2 Demora Court to build an addition inside the required 50-foot road-side setback.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 9 Torenno Court to allow an existing large accessory structure to remain more than 15 feet from the house.

- ▼ A variance was approved for 12 Balde Road for an 8-foot-tall fence to screen an RV where 6 feet is the Guideline height.
- ▼ Security cameras and alarms were approved for the Community Center.
- ▼ **Juliet White** was appointed to the Information Committee.
- ▼ **Betty White** and **Carol Lachman** were appointed as members, and **Jeanne Crawford** as alternate, to the Election Committee.
- ▼ Dag Ryen, Pam Henline, and Todd Handy were authorized as check signers for the primary checking account and for the principal brokerage account.
- ▼ The Association's debit card was changed to a credit card.
- ▼ An ad hoc working committee on Information Technology was established.
- ▼ The ECIA Employee Manual and Confidentiality Statement were approved for posting, with a signed copy of the Confidentiality Statement to be placed in each employee's file.
- ▼ Funds not to exceed \$4000 were moved from the Replacement Reserve to the 2014 maintenance budget to replace the heater for the Kiddy Pool.
- ▼ Director Colello proposed that the County's ballot scanning equipment be borrowed for use in future ECIA elections.

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 or website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.



Photo Jan-Williem Janssens

ECIA OFFICE

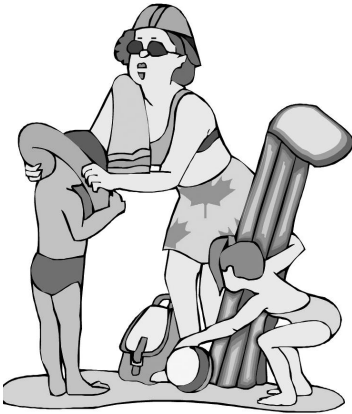
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Architecture:
Katherine Mortimer
Conservation: Jim Daniel & Cherry Payne
Election: Kathie Graham
Facilities & Grounds:
John Calzada
Finance: Dan Drobnis
Information: Frank Schober
Roads: Felicia Probert
Stable: Open
Sustainability, Planning, & Education: Steve Rudnick

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Vista Grande Library
466-READ
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofirerescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)



Archaeological artifacts on hand
at VGPL on August 9



Doesy Doe!
Depot Dancers mixing it up



Learn about xeric landscaping
with SF Master Gardeners,
August 9

More Pool Hours for Everyone

This year the pool schedule is revised so that families, toddlers, children, and lap swimmers all have access to the pool every evening.

8–10 AM, every day: lap swimming only

10 AM–8 PM, everyday: kiddie pool and main pool open to everyone

10 AM–8 PM, every day: two lap lanes for swimming available

6–8 PM, every day: open to all; a third lap lane added as needed

For info on pool schedules/weather, call 466-2511.

Archaeology in Your Backyard

On Saturday, August 9, from 10 am to 3:30 pm, Eldorado residents **Chuck Hannaford** and **Eric Blinman**, both from the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies, will be at the Vista Grande Public Library with a hands-on display and presentation of artifacts for the public. This is a chance to handle objects and ask questions about our past. All ages are invited to drop by for this free educational program.

Depot Dancers (Square Dancing)

The Eldorado Depot dancers invite you to their annual Open House(s) September 19 and 26 in the Railroad Room, ECIA Community Center, from 6:30 to 9 PM. Come and experience the joy of modern square dancing, eat great snacks, and make new friends. The Eldorado Depot Dancers are the only Square Dance Club in Santa Fe. Beginners and/or singles welcome. Questions? Contact **David Lovro** 466-0540 or **Bill and Marci Alexander** wrrbuff@comcast.com.

La Tienda Flea Market

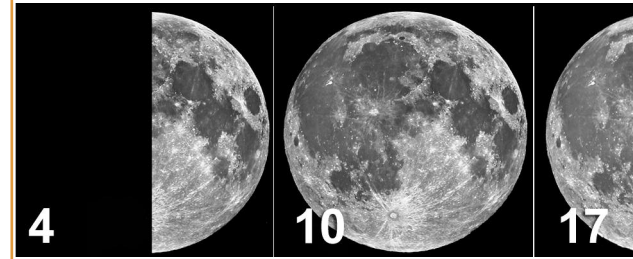
Want to hold a yard sale but don't want strangers at your house? Love hunting for rare treasures? The Flea Market at La Tienda is going to continue! Mark your calendars for the 3rd Saturday of each month (now through October). The next market is August 17 from 8 AM to 2 PM. Booth spaces are just \$15 with advance registration. Call Lucas at 225-0985 for more information.

Breaking Bread (A Community Potluck for Charity) at La Tienda

On Sunday, August 16, from 4:30 to 7 PM, in celebration of our community and the organizations that work so hard to improve it, bring a dish to share, show off your favorite recipes and sample others, talk, laugh, and get to know your neighbors, and enjoy live music. Here's how it works:

Bring your dish to La Tienda and put it on the table with all the others. \$5 buys your utensils and plate. Eat and enjoy while knowing you made a real difference in someone's life. If you don't bring a

MOON PHASES FOR AUGUST



dish, \$10/plate (\$5/children and seniors) feeds your belly and your soul. This is a monthly event. Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$1,000 and give it to a different non-profit each month while empowering members of our community to be proactive in addressing the needs that impact us all.

Non-profit organizations may apply to be a recipient by emailing destinyallison@aol.com. Restaurants who wish to donate a dish can call Steve at (505) 310-3828.

Monthly Gardening Series: Planning and Achieving a Xeric Landscape

"Let's Grow!"—a monthly education series for the home gardener—is offered by the SF Master Gardener Association. This is a free and public event requiring no registration. On Saturday, August 9, 10 AM–12 noon at the SF County Fairgrounds, learn to make a wish list, a site inventory, and a how-to plan to install and maintain a xeric garden . . . with take-home resources! This fourth of a five part series concurs with the SF County Fair. For full schedule review, please visit sfmga.org. Next month: Harvesting and Propagating Herbs: SF County Fairgrounds Herb Garden, Saturday, September 20, 9–11 AM.

Eldorado Children Theatre & Teen Players

Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players is now accepting sign-ups for their fall classes and show. They will be doing the show, "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," including different level classes for ages 6–18. For info, call or email **Rebecca Oden** at (435) 640-4444 or odentism@yahoo.com or go to www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org.



Easy Listening

Want to hear some easy listening music on local radio? Try ELDORADIO: 1660 AM.



PROTECT OUR NIGHT SKY

Lights carelessly left on may spoil our night skies (and waste energy).

Vistas—Save Paper/Mailing

To opt out of receiving a personal mailed copy of *Vistas*, email the ECIA office: **Marilyn@eldoradosf.org**. Following this request, you will no longer receive a printed copy of *Vistas* but instead will be sent an email once a month with a notice of availability and a link to the next issue of *Vistas* on the ECIA website, in PDF format, ready to view and/or print at home—about a week before mailings are delivered! Printed copies are always available at the ECIA office if needed.

OPT OUT

Changes Near You?

Have any of your neighbors submitted architectural modification plans to the ECIA for approval? What changes to the built landscape are being considered near you? Check out the Architecture Committee agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/ldjmreo> or the ECIA Board agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lkxxdmw>.

August Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email **marilyn@eldoradosf.org** 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

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

4. A Resource Person (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Stable Open House	Sat., Aug. 2, 10 am-1 pm	Stable
VGPL Ice Cream Social	Sun., Aug. 17, 1-4 pm	CC

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 12, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 26, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Thurs., Aug. 7, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Aug. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Aug. 5, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Aug. 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Aug. 6, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Aug. 13, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Aug. 26, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	TBA			CFR
Stable Committee	TBA	Alice Griffin	795-6424	CFR
SPE Committee	TBA			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 Book Club	3rd Wed., 3:00 pm	Susan Aylward	shaylward@gmail.com	
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Karen Sweeney	466-9797	CFR
Library Book Group	2nd Sat., 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR
Square Dancing	2nd & 4th Fri., 7-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	RR

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
Coed Adult Softball	Fri nights, 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
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
Horseshoes	Wed., 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
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., 11:30-12:30 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	

* 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



Taking Care of (EACA) Business

The Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association (EACA) came into being over 20 years ago when a scattering of Eldorado artists who wanted a venue for selling and publicizing their art banded together to organize Eldorado's first Spring Studio Tour.

Since then, the Association has come a long way, both in membership (over 200 at this point) as well as in its expanded purpose. Upcoming monthly meetings will focus on how to move the EACA forward on a variety of fronts.

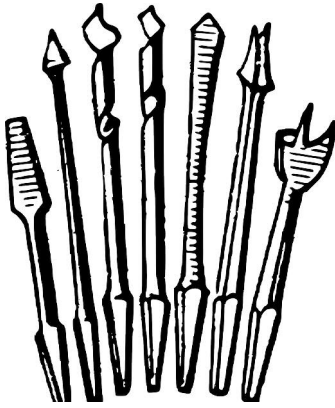
The August 28 meeting is titled "Suggestion Box," and presenters will be reporting on topics covered at the August Board Meeting regarding the evolution of the tour as well as the implementation of developing opportunities.

Members will be invited to participate in an open forum, to express what they would like to see happening with EACA from social as well as business-building aspects. The intent of this upcoming series of meeting presentations is to develop avenues for members and EACA itself to grow professionally as well as creatively.

Every year EACA donates funds raised from the Studio Tour to various Eldorado-based non-profit organizations. Funds from the 2014 tour were given to El Dorado Fire & Rescue, the El Dorado Community School's Art & Music programs, the Adam Senior Center, the Vista Grande Public Library, and La Tienda's Exhibit Space.

The August 28 meeting will be held at the Community Center at 7 PM. Folks interested in EACA are encouraged to like the Association on Facebook. For further information about EACA, please visit www.eldoradoarts.org.

EACA's other monthly event, Shop Talk, takes place on August 20 at the studio of **Taz Bramlette**, 8 Camino de Verdad, 10 AM–12 noon. Taz, a retired aerospace engineer who turned to woodworking, will be demonstrating the intricate steps he takes to transform a weathered burl of wood into a smooth hand-turned vessel. Shop Talk is for EACA members; for further questions about his craft and to visit his studio, Taz can be reached at 670-7416 —Margaret Nelson



EACA members can enjoy a woodworking Shop Talk, August 20

Eldorado/285 Recycles

Big improvements are underway at the recycling area of the Eldorado Transfer Station. The area is being reconfigured to eliminate steps and make depositing materials much easier.

While the work is being done, the recycling bins will be moved just east of the main building where trash is deposited, near the metals recycling area. When entering the facility, drivers will make the complete loop. The project will be finished in about two months.

Eldorado/285 Recycles has been encouraging many of these changes and is delighted that the County is moving forward with them.

COMPOSTING MADE SIMPLE

Want to reduce your trash output and put your kitchen waste to good use as compost material for your garden? Since fall 2013, when Eldorado/285 Recycles offered to install straw bale composting systems, 28 residents have taken advantage of the offer.

To eliminate the trip to town to purchase straw bales, E/285 recently took delivery of a quantity of bales, which will be available at cost for those who want to compost at home. The installation offer includes setting up the bales, written and verbal instructions, worms, and a container for food scraps. If you are interested or want to arrange to see a system that is "at work," contact **Joe Eigner**, 570-0583. If you already have a system and would like a free consultation, call Joe.



Tennis Court Etiquette

The new tennis courts at the ECIA Community Center have seen an increase in players and playing time this summer. It is a very positive development that more ECIA members are coming out to enjoy this amenity, but the increased traffic has resulted in longer wait times, particularly on weekends and holidays. Here are some reminders about basic court etiquette that will help ensure that everyone gets a chance to enjoy the courts.

1. Be respectful of all players. Do not disturb those on the court with loud conversation or erratic movement outside the fence.
2. If you are playing singles and there are players waiting, you should relinquish the court after an hour of play.
3. If you are playing doubles and there are players waiting, you should relinquish the court after an hour and a half of play.
4. When you are finished playing, gather your belongings quickly and let any waiting players take the court.
5. Do not litter the court surface. Pick up any trash, ball can lids, bottle caps, or even snapped screen ties that are lying around. If you are supervising children, do not let them throw rocks or gravel onto the courts.

Other rules for the safe enjoyment of the courts are posted on the fence. Following these simple guidelines will help provide the maximum benefit to all tennis players in the Eldorado community. —Dag Ryen



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Sphinx Moths and Lizards

SPHINX MOTH

The first time I saw a Sphinx Moth, taking nectar by hovering from flower to flower in the early evening, I thought it was a beautiful but strange hummingbird. In fact, the Sphinx Moth is also called “hummingbird moth.”

There are more than 100 species of Sphinx Moths in North America; we in Eldorado are likely to see the White-Lined Sphinx, *Hyles lineata*. Colorfully patterned in brown, tan, pink, white, and black, their wings (2.5 to 3.5 inch wingspan!) beat rapidly. Their amazing proboscis is rolled up when flying, and bent (into a right angle!) when obtaining nectar. In some species, the developing moth's proboscis is so long that the pupa has a sheath curving from the head away from the body and back; in Canada and Europe, members of this family are known as “hawk moths.” The moths lack hearing organs, however, so they will not be able to hear your sounds of admiration at their beauty.

There are two or more generations of these moths each year. The Sphinx Moth caterpillar is bright green, with two lengthwise wide rows of pale spots bordered by black lines, three yellow lines, an orange or yellow rear horn, and a yellow head.

LIZARDS

While admiring the moths, I noticed lizards doing what looked like push-ups on the garden wall. What is with these little athletes?

New Mexico has several lizard species; the three most likely to be seen in Eldorado are the Sagebrush Lizard; the Desert Whiptail Lizard/New Mexico Whiptail, and the Horned Toad (actually a lizard in the Iguana family).

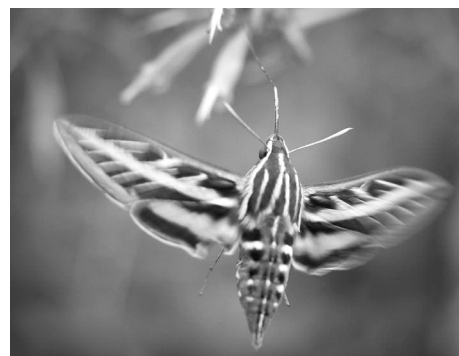
It turns out that what I saw were male Sagebrush Lizards. They are territorial and will attempt to scare off other males by using intimidating techniques such as head bobbing and their daunting push-up display. Sagebrush Lizards are striped brown and gray. Males (those doing the push-ups) have blue bellies and blue on their throats. These lizards eat insects, including the Sphinx Moth.

The desert Whiptail Lizard, New Mexico's State Lizard, utilizes reproductive parthenogenesis (in which eggs develop without being fertilized). This allows the resulting female-only population to reproduce; yet, the females continue to engage in mating behavior with other females of its own species. Whiptails have long thin tails—hence their name.

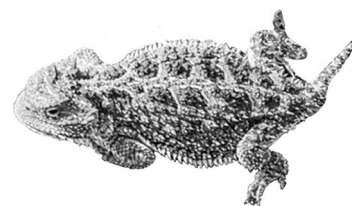
Our Horned Toads dig into sand late in the day and then crawl out in the morning to soak up the sun. Although they are well camouflaged, hawks—one of their primary predators—can spot them from high up. People like to capture Horned Toads and keep them as pets, but please don't do so; it reduces our native population and the animals die in captivity.

SUMMER REMINDER! Hailstorms can strike at any time of year, of course, but can be especially damaging to summer growth. If possible, move your plants to safety or cover them when the sky is darkening to the point that you think it might hail.

References for this article are available on request. Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com. We love hearing from you!



Sphinx Moth.
Photo: Ann V. Wood

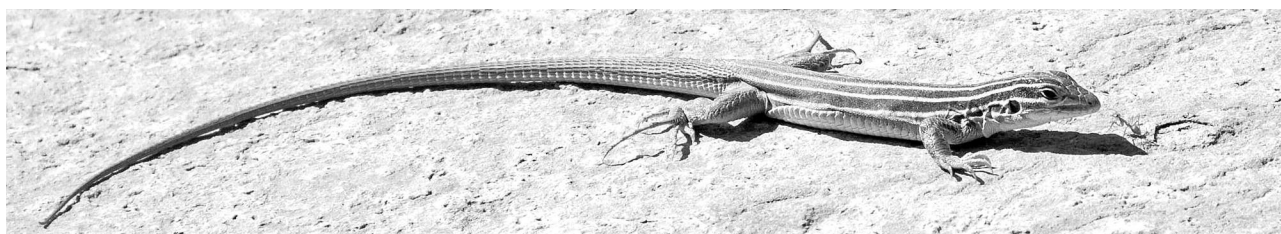


Above: Horned Toad.

Photo: Cliff Wood

Below: Desert Whiptail lizard.

Photo: Ann V. Wood



Note from the Conservation Committee: Mosquitos

If you're wondering why you've got a mosquito problem here in the middle of the high desert, it's a good idea to look around your property for places where water can pool. Mosquitos need water to breed. Likely places are leaky rooftop swamp coolers, unscreened water barrels, unmaintained fishponds, or other water features, as well as unused equipment of various sorts being stored on your property. With

monsoon season finally here, rainwater can accumulate and provide mosquitos and other bugs a place to breed. Mosquitos can carry serious disease such as West Nile Virus, in addition to ruining your well-planned garden party. Do what you can to minimize this pest.

John Parker, Conservation Committee

ELDORADO AT SANTA FE

VISTAS

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

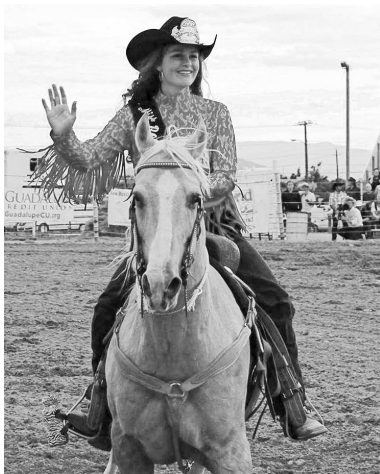


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The Stables Congratulates Our Very Own Santa Fe Rodeo Royalty



Above: Emma Cameron
Right: Ariana Debevec

Emma Cameron and Ariana Debevec, both 14, rode in the Grand Entry in the Court at the 2014 Santa Fe Rodeo, Emma as Junior Princess and Ariana as member of the Court. Emma was a 2010 and 2011 Junior Rodeo Princess. Ariana, an English rider, was second runner-up in her first effort in the Rodeo and Court competition. "Emma was my inspiration; we've been best friends since 3rd grade at El Dorado Community School!"

Both young women ride from Eldorado Stables. Emma, who is based at Barn 2, was among the top 4 out of 12 barrel riders in her division at the Rodeo. She also serves as a County Fair Princess with 4-H (on August 6-9), showing pigs, chickens, her dairy cow Bailey, and kids Dude and Daisy. Through 4-H, Emma also shows horses and judges equine on the national level. All this and she holds a 4.0 grade average, maintains her National Honor Society membership, and currently is attending the charter school MASTERS at Santa Fe Community College where she will be taking several dual high school/college credits courses this fall, with an interest in engineering.

You can find Ariana at Barn 29 in the Eldorado Stable Community, where she rides Peanut and her mom Tara's horse, Calypso. Also a 4.0 student, Ariana has been riding since age 4 and she loves horses. Her trainer is Cat Parks at Trinity Ranch. When not on horseback, Ariana is working hard at Santa Fe Prep where she focuses on math and science courses. "I want to attend medical school and be a surgeon."

The Rodeo Court proved to be a very intensive program for both riders, with riding, interviewing, speeches, and Q&A with judges. They are to be congratulated and celebrated as Eldorado's own and an inspiration to us all! Be sure and come meet them at the Stable Community Open House on August 2 from 10 AM to 1 PM.



Stable Open House
August 2
10 am to 1 pm
Free Pony Rides,
Photo Ops,
Refreshments!