

ELDORADO VISTAS

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

VOLUME V, ISSUE 9

Sept. 2003

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County Water Conservation

We are all aware of our water situation in Santa Fe County, and most of us do our part for water conservation. But did you know that the county has a Conservation Ordinance in place? It is impossible to quantitatively monitor water use, so the purpose of the Ordinance is to promote and enforce behaviors that lead to water conservation. I hope this article will clear up some of the misunderstandings about the Ordinance.

First, you should know that the Conservation Ordinance applies to *all* residential and commercial water users within Santa Fe County. This means businesses, organizations using water and individuals, whether they are on a water system like El Dorado Utilities or on their own house well. Utilities may have their own restrictions, but the Ordinance still applies. The only general exemptions are for water use on land designated by the County Assessor as farmland or ranchland, and within incorporated areas (like the City of Santa Fe).

The requirements are common sense. Here are a few of them:

- ▼ Outdoor irrigation is prohibited between 11 am and 7 pm from May through September.
- ▼ Vehicle washing is allowed only with the use of a shut-off hose nozzle.
- ▼ No sod or Kentucky bluegrass.
- ▼ Pools and outdoor tubs must be covered when not in use.
- ▼ **Fix your leaks!**
- ▼ New construction and remodeling shall install water conservation plumbing fixtures. In

addition, business users must retrofit their facilities.

▼ **No Water Waste or Fugitive Water!** Fugitive water is that infamous "runoff" from the yard.

There are further requirements for commercial users, and a lot of specifics. The county has also set up a domestic well metering program for some new building permits. Those on the program have their own requirements for monitoring their water use.

Now for the part you have all been waiting for: enforcement. The County Sheriff's Department, County Fire Department, County Code Enforcement Officers (part of the Land Use Department) and the County Utilities Department (of which I am a part) have all been authorized to enforce the Conservation Ordinance. The primary enforcement will be through the County Land Use Department, which is in the process of creating a position to concentrate on water conservation. Enforcement can include citations, fines and penalties.

However, the Ordinance was set up to encourage cooperation; therefore, owners are notified of a problem and given a chance to correct it. Failing to correct the problem, and/or repeated violations will be what gets you in trouble.

To report violations, call the Land Use Department at 986-6225, or submit a notice on the county web site:

<http://www.co.santa-fe.nm.us>.

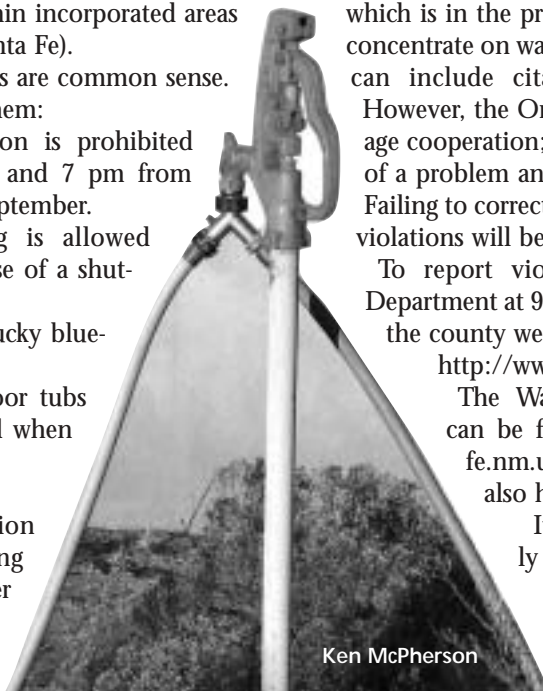
The Water Conservation Ordinance can be found at http://www.co.santa-fe.nm.us/sfc_ordin.html. The ECIA also has a copy.

It is all about using water smartly and stopping any waste.

—Stephen L. Wust, Ph.D.
Santa Fe County
Hydrologist

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Sept. 15, 7 pm*

Check all hoses and connections and repair any leaks to prevent water waste.



Ken McPherson

Share your comments with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too.

Deadline: Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to info@eldoradocommunity.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.

Tribute to Blythe Baebler

Eldorado lost a dear and valued friend with the passing of **Blythe Baebler** on July 16, 2003. Blythe was a longstanding member of the Conservation Committee, and its members wish to remember him with this small tribute.

Blythe and his wife, **Audrey**, moved here in 1981, making them Eldorado "pioneers." They were charter members of the Wilderness Association, formed to look after the 4,000 acres that Amrep deeded to the ECIA for our use as a wilderness preserve. This became Blythe's passion.

In 1983, Blythe was a force in the controversial Los Caballos equestrian center. He and others donated time and money to mount a battle against the facility. Their legal challenge and massive public campaign delayed the development to where eventually the idea and its backers suffered a slow demise. Later, Blythe defended an important land exchange before the County Commissioners to allow the original two

parcels of deeded preserve land to be joined. He protested the erection of an illegal water tank next to our boundary. He and Audrey hounded the real estate companies who misrepresented the private status of the preserve.

Blythe was unassuming and preferred to work in the background. He prepared committee budget requests, and designed the boundary sign, first trail guide, and Trailhead One map. Back in 1989 the committee named a trail for him and bestowed upon him a "doctorate" in cartography. Also very knowledgeable in astronomy, he promoted our early night sky viewing parties.

Our Preserve brochure cover shows Blythe's circular logo of a raven soaring over the Preserve. Blythe will long be remembered for his dedication to the Preserve and hard work on behalf of it. His ashes will soon soar over this little touch of wildness he so cherished.

—Ed and Cary Carlson

Thanks for the Support

The Citizens Committee for the Support of the Water District would like to thank all of you who phoned, faxed or wrote the Governor in response to the July 4th ad. We believe the numbers were significant. The cost of this ad was \$1,100. We are once again asking for your help to repay the person who fronted the committee the money. So far, we have

raised \$545. Please make checks payable to "Citizens Committee", and mail them to Dolores Brock, 36 Verano Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87508. This has been a long, hard process, but we believe there is light at the end of the tunnel. Thanks again.

—Dolores Brock, Chair

Care for Your Pets

A letter in the August *Vistas* discussed bad pet manners. Actually, what it discussed was bad pet owner manners.

Good pet neighbors should and do keep their pets confined—in the case of cats and other small animals, in the house; and dogs either in the house or in an ample fenced area outfitted with cool shelter, adequate food and plenty of water. Chaining dogs or penning them in small enclosures outside is inhumane. Allowing any pet to roam free is risking its health and life as well as causing a nuisance for neighbors. Actually, only larger dogs should be left unattended in a fenced area – there are many predators around here that are capable of maiming and killing medium to

small dogs (as well as any other stray pet.)

If you are bothered by roaming or chained barking pets, get in touch with the County Animal Control at 424-2050 between 9 and 5, and report such problems. Don't be squeamish, names of people reporting such violations are never given out. You will be doing a service for your community as well as possibly saving a pet's life. Your inconsiderate neighbor will be forced to pay a small fine, license the animal if not already licensed, or if he/she is deemed an unfit pet owner, the animal will be impounded by the County and turned over to the custody of the Animal Shelter.

—Nancy B. Lindell

From the ECIA Code Enforcement Officer

In the August *Vistas*, I updated you on what I am hearing and seeing out there...

- ▼ Dogs off leash and barking, or both
- ▼ Unapproved lattice building material
- ▼ Brush piles and dead trees
- ▼ "Unscreened" RV's (boats, canoes, sail boats, campers, motorcycles, 5th wheelers, and motor homes)
- ▼ Yard storage of "stuff" (or "the permanent rummage sale")

This month I would like to focus on our canine friends. First, let's review the covenants.

ECIA Covenants - Section 11. Household Pets (excerpt)

No animals, birds or poultry shall be kept or maintained on any lot, except recognized household pets which may be kept thereon in reasonable numbers as pets for the pleasure and use of the occupants but not for any commercial use or purpose. It is forbidden to permit dogs to run at large in Eldorado. At all times, dogs must be kept restrained and "controlled by their owners" in the manner described in the Santa Fe County Animal Control Ordinance. (SFC Animal Control phone # is 424-2050.)

What does "controlled by their owners" mean? It means when a dog is off its owner's premises, it must be under leash or under control

of the owner. "Control" includes a dog that comes to its owner on sound or hand command. The owner of a dog shall not allow it to run at large or create a nuisance on another's property, be it public or private, including entering onto lawns, driveways, walkways, places of recreation or amusement parks. The term "nuisance" shall include barking a half-hour or more, threatening behavior, digging holes, tearing up irrigation drip lines, defecation or urination, etc. If the animal is caught off your property, it may be taken to the Animal Shelter, where a fine must be paid prior to release.

Before you become a pet owner, please consider your motives. Why do you want a pet? Are you going to be responsible for their care? Are you willing to train the animal and yourself? Are you going to leave the dog alone for hours and hours? Are you willing to be considerate of your neighbors?

Please don't allow your dog to bark endlessly. They can be trained if you make the effort. There is nothing more annoying than having to listen to a dog barking constantly, day and night.

—Charles Smith, the ECIA CCR



2004 Budget Dates

The ECIA Finance Committee has begun working on the 2004 ECIA budget. ECIA members are invited and urged to participate in the budgeting process. It is **your** assessment money we are budgeting. Meetings and deadlines have been set as follows:

Friday, Sept. 5: Budget proposals/requests are due at the ECIA manager's office. Include as much documentation as possible.

Tuesday, Sept. 9: The Finance Committee begins initial review of proposals at its regular monthly meeting.

Monday, Sept. 22, 10:00 am, and Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 7:00 pm: The Finance Committee conducts hearings at which committee chairs, the General Manager, and ECIA members present and document their budget requests.

Monday, Nov. 3, at 7:00 pm: Joint working session of ECIA Board and Finance Committee. The General Manager and committee chairs/representatives are invited to further explain proposals

already submitted in September, if desired.

Wednesday, Nov. 5: The draft budget will be available at the ECIA office.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 10:00 am to noon: The ECIA Board conducts a hearing on the proposed 2004 budget to inform members and solicit comments. Copies of the budget will be available.

November Board Meeting: The ECIA Board adopts the final 2004 budget at its regular monthly meeting.

The Finance Committee welcomes your input. Call your Board members and ECIA staff at 466-4248, or the Finance Committee Chair, Gisela Knight, at 466-2568 with comments and questions.

—Gisela Knight

ECIA OFFICE

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

General Manager

Bob Pritchard
466-4248
ECommunity@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Terence Schwind
466-7320
tkschwind@attglobal.net

Vice-President

Gretel Underwood
466-7825
Wunderwood7@aol.com

Secretary

Frank Schober
310-8593
fschober@att.net

Treasurer

Dan Drobnis
466-4781
Drobnisd@sdsc.edu

Director

Raymond Singer
466-1100
raysinger@aol.com

Director

John Reeder
466-4909
zaluki@aol.com

Director

Vacancy

COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Architecture: Dan Drobnis

Conservation:

Andy Winnegar

Election: Frank Schober

Information: Frank Schober

Finance: Dan Drobnis

Recreation: John Reeder,

Gretel Underwood

Road: John Reeder

Neighborhood Watch:

Frank Schober

Stable: Gretel Underwood

VISTAS NEWSLETTER

Editor:

Ken McPherson
kenzwork@hubwest.com

Designer:

Hope O. Kiah
vistas@
webdesignbyhope.com

Editorial Assistant:

Debby Padilla
466-4248

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

Animal Control

424-2050

Volunteer for Fun!

Please come to the Santa Fe Children's Museum's Eldorado fall Volunteer Recruitment Luncheon on Tuesday, September 30, from noon to 1:30 pm, to learn about volunteer opportunities. During the complimentary luncheon at the Eldorado Community Center, the Volunteer Coordinator and Museum Educator will share the museum philosophy and specific opportunities that are available in our indoor museum exhibit area, greenhouse and garden, museum shop, and special events.

For more information or to RSVP, contact **Gail Wittenberg**, volunteer coordinator at 989-8359, Ext. 117.

Artists' Shoptalk

Wednesday, September 10, 2003, 10:00 am to noon, at the home of **Joretha Hall** (466-6245). Please call for directions. Each month we meet at a fellow artist's home to see each other's work and workspaces, and to discuss art topics. All artists are welcome.

Don't Toss or Store It—Sell It!

On September 20, the Eldorado Residents Association will host its annual fall Flea Market in the parking area of the Eldorado Community Center. The array of bargains is astounding. The Flea Market is a great way to recycle those lightly-used treasures, meet your neighbors and make new friends.

Set-up for vendors is 7:00 am to 8:00 am. We open to the public at 8:00 am and close at 12:30 pm. The only restrictions are: no sale of weapons or food by vendors. There will be coffee and donuts provided by the ERA and a light lunch by a licensed caterer. Fees are \$7.00 for Eldorado residents, \$10.00 for residents outside the community and \$15.00 for commercial vendors.

Vendors are expected to bring in and set up their own sale items and remove unsold items at the end of the market.

For information, call **Pat Kuhlhoff** at 466-4877 or **Janet Amtmann** at 466-3256.

We All Scream for Ice Cream!

The Vista Grande Public Library's 4th Annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction is Sunday, September 14. It's

a community celebration and your last chance of the summer to spend a Sunday afternoon outdoors, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, enjoying ice cream and music at the Eldorado Community Center with family and friends.

The fund-raising part of this event is the exciting Silent Auction. More than 200 items have been donated. Some featured items include signed first editions by local authors, fine art, crafts, professional services, travel opportunities and trinkets.

New this year is the "Buy it Now" feature to encourage people to purchase an item instantly at the fair market value without waiting for the bidding to be closed. Also in this year's plans is an Ice Cream Surprise. Small toy ice cream cones can be purchased at a modest cost for the chance to acquire one of many special prizes.

Music groups will play throughout the afternoon. Children will have a special activity area and, of course, ice cream for all, courtesy of Creamland Dairy.

Tickets are \$5.00, with children two and under getting in free. Tickets may be purchased now at the library and at an outdoor table at the Agora September 6, and 8-13. Day of the event tickets can be purchased at the Community Center for \$6.00.

For an afternoon of family fun while supporting our outstanding library, come to the Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction. Funds raised go to help underwrite the annual operating cost of the non-profit Vista Grande Public Library that serves the entire southeast sector of Santa Fe County. For information: Chair, **Eleonor Hellman** 955-0880 or Chair of ticket sales, **Marjolijn VanDomselaar** 466-3864.

When Seniors Can't Drive

Eldorado volunteers will begin van service to Santa Fe on September 10 for seniors in Eldorado who are unable to drive. These trips to Santa Fe are primarily for medical appointments. The schedule is to pick up seniors at their homes the first and third Tuesdays at 12:30 pm and return them at 4:30 pm. The second and

Janet Amtmann

Bruce Blossman, emcee for the 2002 and 2003 events

fourth Tuesday pick up will be at 8:30 am, returning at 12:30 pm. Riders must have a current senior registration card that can be obtained from the Santa Fe Senior Center. (Santa Fe Senior Services plans to be at the Eldorado Community Center on Wednesday, September 10th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm to register seniors living in the 285 area who do not already have a senior registration card.) To schedule van pickup, call 466-0347 no later than Monday prior to your appointment.

More volunteer drivers are needed for the program to be extended to other days of the week. Drivers need to be trained in CPR and take a driving course through the Santa Fe Senior Services. Contact **Patty Adam** at 466-1949 for details about the volunteer van program, or **Danny Allen**, Transportation Administrator, at 955-4738, to schedule a training class.

Walk or Run, But Have Fun!

The 9th Annual El Dorado 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run sponsored by the El Dorado Elementary PTA is Saturday, September 13, 2003. The run course begins and ends at the school, at 2 Avenida Torreon. The 5K run/walk begins at 7:30 am, and the 1 mile fun run begins at 8:30 am. It's perfect for children and first time runners/walkers.

Funds raised will benefit the El Dorado Elementary Physical Education Program. The registration fee is \$10 per person prior to the race day and \$15 per person on the day of the race. Forms can be picked up at the school and at numerous businesses in the Agora Shopping Center. This fee includes a T-shirt, refreshments, door prizes, first aid and ribbons. Medallions will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers in all age categories.

For more information, call **Dale Lettenberger** at 466-6168.

September Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting or 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.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Ice Cream Social/Auction	Sun., Sept. 14, 1-5 pm	Eleonor Hellman	955-0880	CC
ERA Flea Market	Sat., Sept. 20, 8-12:30	Pat Kuhlhoff	466-4877	CC

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Information Committee		ECIA	466-4248	
Neighborhood Watch		Frank Schober	310-8593	call
Recreation Committee		Vacant		
Road Committee	Mon., Sept. 1, 6-7 pm	Allen Larson	466-4792	CFR
Finance Committee	Tues., Sept. 9, 10-11 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., Sept. 9, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
EAWS&SD*	Wed., Sept. 10, 7-9 pm	Ray Nichols	466-2411	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Sept. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
285 Coalition	Wed., Sept. 17, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Sept. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Architectural Committee	Tues., Sept. 23, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Coffee Social	Tues., Sept. 2, 10 am	Jerry Bradley	466-4253	F
Arts Assoc. Shoptalk	Wed., Sept. 10, 10 am-noon	Cary Carlson	466-6073	
Vista Grande Book Club	Thurs., Sept 11, 7-9 pm	Shelly Moore	466-9636	Library
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Sept. 11, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	
Book Club	Sat., Sept. 13, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559	CFR
Book Club/Pot Luck	Sun., Sept. 14, 6-9 pm	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
Coffee Social	Tues., Sept. 16, 10 am	Jerry Bradley	466-4253	F
Cub Scouts Pack 414	Tues., Sept. 16, 7 pm	Clay Williard	466-3909	
Arts Assoc. Program	Wed., Sept. 24, 7-9 pm	Arlene Siegel	466-3274	LR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Saturdays, 10:45-11:45 am			CR
AA	Sundays, 5:15- 6:15 pm			CR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fridays, 1-4:20 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Knitting Club	2nd & 4th Wed., 1-3 pm	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	
Bridge (Beginning)	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Gen Norris	466-4120	LR
Bridge (Mens')	Thursdays, 1-4 pm	Bill Kapoun	466-8497	LR
Boy Scouts Troop 414	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	
Community Band	Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm	Peg Johnson	466-1459	School
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR
Wireless Assoc.	2nd & 4th Mondays, 7-9 pm	Scott Gerber	466-9333	CR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

A Lifetime in Eldorado



Andrew Velie (L) and
Jason Lowry (R)

Lest we forget, not everyone came to Eldorado from somewhere else. Some people are actually born and raised here. **Gretel Underwood** interviews two Eldorado residents who have lived here their entire lives, **Andrew Velie** and **Jason Lowry**.

Gretel: Where were you born and how long have you lived in Eldorado?

Andrew: I was born here, and I've lived here 17 years, my whole life.

Jason: I was born in Butte, Montana 16 years ago, and I've lived here 15 1/2 years. This is home to me.

G: How did you begin to meet other kids your age in Eldorado?

J: I primarily met kids through my pre-school.

A: I mostly made friends through sports activities and through my mom working here.

G: What was El Dorado Elementary like when you were there?

J: Each class was relatively small, so you knew everyone. The teachers were very personal.

G: As little kids, what did you like to do in Eldorado?

A: We'd all go to the clubhouse and skateboard and then go to the pool when we got hot. Halloween was really fun here because Verano Loop was considered like the best place for trick or treating.

J: When I was really little I played recreational soccer. That was really something that played a big part in my life.

G: What about the wilderness area or the bike path?

A: I never really got into that type of thing.

J: I rode my bike on the bikepath a lot.

G: Now that you're in high school, are your Eldorado friends still important?

A: They are, but not as important as they used to be.

J: I'm still good friends with a lot of my Eldorado buddies, but I have a lot of friends who live in town now.

G: Although Eldorado students are in the Capitol High district, many of them go to Santa Fe High. Why?

A: I go to St. Michael's High, but maybe it's because it's larger and kids feel freer there, more people to relate to.

J: Santa Fe High has a better education reputation. It's a more competitive school both education-wise and athletic-wise. It's also a much closer drive to Eldorado than Capitol is.

G: One of the drawbacks to living here for kids is the constant back and forth to town for activities. What is that like?

A: Well, before I drove, I didn't really notice it, except that my parents had to pick me up everywhere. But now that I have my own car, it's gotten a lot more annoying because I have to pay for my own gas.

J: I rode the bus and that was always a tedious experience. Now that I drive, the price of gas limits how much I want to do in town.

G: Are there still things out here that are fun or important to you?

A: Not really.

J: The coffee shop has grown pretty dear to my heart.

G: You are both employed out here. What do you do?

A: I work at the Country Store.

J: I work at the Eldorado Animal Clinic.

G: What are your plans for after high school?

A: I'd like to study art and design or environmental landscaping at an out-of-state college.

J: I want to go to college in the Pacific Northwest and study veterinary medicine or get a teaching degree.

G: Many adults mention that they like the quiet beauty and sunsets in Eldorado. Have those things been important to you?

A: Well, I like the open area and sense of freedom; like every house usually has a lot of property. Sunsets were never a major thing in my life.

J: I used to dislike Eldorado because it was so far away from everything. But now that I have a car, I'm actually able to stop and give recognition to these things that people have become so enchanted by; that brings all these senior citizens to Eldorado.

—Gretel Underwood

Don't Harm that Snake

Although rare, Eldorado residents do see snakes around their homes in summer and fall. Before automatically killing one, please stop and think for a minute, even if it happens to be a rattlesnake.

What is the natural role of snakes in our environment? They eat rats, mice, gophers, ground squirrels, and other rodents that are far more likely to be living around us than snakes are. Snakes help keep these pest populations from exploding. (And on a larger scale, they save much of the nation's grain crop.)

Of about 100 species in the United States, we have only one kind in our area that is potentially harmful to humans, the rattlesnake; and they do not want to harm us. They know we are far larger than they are and cannot be their prey.

The rattlesnake has a triangular, V shaped head and the telltale tail rattles. The similarly patterned Bull snake has a rounded head and a

slender tail that reaches a point at the end without rattles. However, don't be surprised if it shakes its tail to mimic a rattler. The Bull snake can grow to a great length and girth from that rodent diet. Such a beneficial reptile should never be beaten to death in haste because it is mistaken for a rattler.

There is a much better alternative to killing a rattlesnake. Simply remove yourself from its presence and dial 424-2050. The County Animal Control officer will come to your doorstep and remove the offending reptile and release it into an undeveloped habitat, even if it is not a rattlesnake. But if you are lucky enough to have a resident Bull snake, garter snake, or racer, you should be happy, not hostile. Be kind to your scaly friends.

—Cary and Ed Carlson, former US Park Rangers and long-time members of our Conservation Committee.

Stop! Look! Listen!

With the encouragement of the Eldorado Residents' Association (ERA), the State Highway and Transportation Department is examining a low-cost crossing signal for the Avenida Eldorado/Santa Fe Southern Railway crossing. At least one serious train-vehicle collision has occurred since the paving of Avenida Eldorado, and recent heavy skid marks on the road testify to continuing problems with limited sight lines and high vehicle speeds.

In its most recent session, the state legislature appropriated \$80,000 to provide a crossing signal. However, according to **Henry Gonzales**, Railroad and Utilities Agent for the state, crossing gates would cost about twice that much, and the cost of even a conventional flashing railroad crossing signal would exceed the funds available. One factor in the high cost is the relatively small production of such signals.

However, the ERA is encouraging the state to use a conventional traffic signal at the crossing. The light would remain green when no train is approaching, and turn red to stop vehicle traffic in both directions for a train. Because highway signals are produced in much larger quantities, the required signals could be obtained with the legislature's appropriated funds. Enough

money might even remain to improve signage at the crossing.

The ERA has formed an ad hoc committee to work with the state and obtain the best crossing safety equipment within the available funding. The committee consists of **Jerry Cooper, Roger Brumley, Jürgen Amtmann** and ERA President, **Jerry Bradley**.

As a further complication, there appears to be no record that the county ever obtained an easement for Avenida Eldorado to cross the railway, which of course predates the Eldorado at Santa Fe subdivision by some 50 years. Negotiations are also under way to correct this deficiency.

—Dan Drobnis

Traffic at the Avenida Eldorado railroad crossing looking east. Vehicles speed by without a good view of any approaching train, especially from the north (left).

Dan Drobnis



Security
204-2945

Run For It!

Running for fun at last year's event.

Julie Voorhees



The El Dorado Elementary School's PTA is sponsoring the 9th Annual El Dorado 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run on Saturday, September 13. This is a perfect event for children and first time runners/walkers. Read more on page 5.