

IN THIS ISSUE

Letters	2
ECIA Notes	3
In the Community	4-5
We Don't Give it Away	6
Mourning Dove	7
Weeds & Native Grasses ..	7
Fun Run	8

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

A Call for Photos and Event Listings!

MOST OF US LOVE living surrounded by high desert beauty. Whether hiking in the Preserve or just walking down our street, the views are spiritual to some, just plain gorgeous to others.

The Information Committee (spurred on by **Frank Schober**, and funded by the ECIA) is excited to provide to Eldorado residents a full-color calendar for 2007, with photos of Eldorado amenities and local vistas, and important date reminders.

The calendar will replace the December issue of *Vistas*; however, we will include the December Events Calendar usually found on page 5 of *Vistas*.

Please read the requirements below for Photos and Calendar Dates.

PHOTOS

This is going to be a collaborative effort, and we are asking for local photographers (amateur and professional) to submit at least one of their favorite photographs of our amenities (stable, Community Center, swimming pool, etc.) or the beauty of our day-to-day Eldorado surroundings (landscape, snowscape, birds, etc.).

Details: Your digital file must be in TIF file format at 300 dpi. It must be 11.5" wide by 9" high which includes a .25" bleed all around (obviously we need landscape—i.e., horizontal—format), preferably CMYK color.

Deliver your digital TIF file on a CD (or, if necessary, we will consider hard-copy prints that can be scanned) to **Debby** at the ECIA office during regular business hours. Do not email photos.

Deadline: Oct. 10, 2006, but the sooner the better.

Disclaimer: The Information Committee will make the final decision as to which photos are used for this calendar.

Questions: Direct questions to **Ken McPherson** at kenzwork@hubwest.com or evenings at 466-4161.

CALENDAR DATES

We are also asking local groups and committees who usually advertise their meetings in *Vistas* to provide us with as many solid dates for 2007 as you may

have. For instance, if you have an annual meeting or an annual event, let us know when that will be. For those events that cannot be planned that far in advance, you will still have, as usual, the monthly *Vistas* Event Calendar to publicize your meeting and event information during the year.

Details: Obviously the entries need to be short, and the Information Committee may need to edit your entry to make it fit.

Deliver your calendar entries to Debby at the ECIA offices in person or email them to Ken at kenzwork@hubwest.com.

Deadline: Oct. 15, 2006, but the sooner the better.

Disclaimer: The Information Committee will make the final decision as to whether or not a calendar entry is appropriate.

Questions: Direct questions to Ken McPherson at kenzwork@hubwest.com or evenings at 466-4161.

For more information, see the community website at eldoradocommunity.org.

Photos must be of good quality and must fit the categories mentioned above (amenities or surroundings). If you submit a photo that includes people whose faces can be seen, you must also submit a release form that documents each individual's agreement (or parent's agreement in the case of minors) to the specific use of the photo in the Eldorado calendar. The Information Committee will gather to look at the photos and make our final decision in October. Photographers will be credited.

Calendars will be shipped out to arrive in December, with a good amount set aside for new residents as they arrive. If the interest is as great as we hope, we could have a calendar every year, possibly using different themes.

—Ken McPherson

*ECLA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Sept 18, 7 pm*

Amenity photo, but you can do better than this.



**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.



PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH

In My View

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, my then 15-year-old son developed a fondness for climbing onto the roof of our one-story pueblo home to enjoy the views and the privacy. One evening, after such an excursion, he commented to me that, although there were lots of houses in Eldorado, you didn't really notice them nor did they interfere with the views of the surrounding mountains. Although he did not realize it, he put in a nutshell the real value of our Covenants and Guidelines. Some call it "living lightly on the land".

One of the goals of the Architectural Committee is to preserve that spirit. Granted, with 2,700 homes scattered over 5,500 acres, achieving the preservation of views and the openness and tranquility of the Simpson Ranch is not always possible. But, by always adhering to the Covenants and the Guidelines, each of us has the ability to minimize the impact of our improvements on the look of our neighborhoods and the views of our neighbors.

The members of the Architectural Committee, individually and collectively, try to apply that goal to all of the plans we review. That sometimes has the effect of limiting individual lot owners' options, but it is with the community's interest in mind. Consequently, when you want a storage shed, we ask you to submit a screening and landscaping plan with the goal of minimizing the impact of your improvement on your neighbors and the roadways. The committee will often conduct a "site inspection" to gain an on-site perspective of that particular site and the effectiveness of the screening. The committee will also propose alternatives if the site and screening are not sufficient. The result is usually a better plan than the one initially submitted.

Before you plan that next project (e.g., re-stucco, fencing and walls, ramada, addition, etc.), check the Guidelines and the Covenants, call the Covenants Compliance Representative or attend an Architectural Committee meeting for guidance. You could also ask your neighbors for their thoughts. Maybe even go up on your roof for a neighborhood perspective.

—Bill Schwent

Thanks, Dog Owners!

THIS IS JUST A QUICK NOTE from a dogless resident who regularly hikes and bikes the Eldorado trail system. Lately I have seen some dog walkers carrying evidence of their responsibility in cleaning up after their dogs. Oh how grateful I am! My husband and I may get a dog one day, and if we do, you will be our role models. May all your dog-owning peers see you in the same light. Thank you so much.

—Hope Kiah

No Leash, No Control

AS I WAS SITTING UNDER my portal reading the paper, my dog was laying quietly at my feet until she saw two dogs being walked by their owner. Usually, my baby just whines, and I say "Stay," and she does, but this time, unfortunately, she bolted before I could react. Yelling for my dog to come back is on par with me trying to climb Mt. Everest—it just ain't gonna happen.

The woman walking her two dogs, and I, were rather distressed. I ran as quickly as possible up the driveway to assist in controlling the situation. Nevertheless, in trying to assist my neighbor in holding back her dogs, and trying to keep my dog from exploring any romantic possibilities, I fell to the road. I got up, no worse for wear, still gripping the 2 extended leashes, desperately trying (along with her) to hold back her very large, and powerful dogs. The end result was no first blood, but a slightly sore buttocks.

The Moral, & Suggestions, for this story:

1. Keep my baby on a long leash when we sit outside.
2. Neighbors who possess very large canines and don't have the physical strength to hold them back might consider walking them one at a time.
3. Consider keeping larger, stronger dogs on fixed, shorter leashes, as opposed to those that "extend," and have a tendency to tangle, making it extremely difficult to stabilize a situation.

—Mekah Gordon

The Rail Runner

MANY RESIDENTS of Eldorado have been interested in the route the commuter rail service will take from Albuquerque to Santa Fe and whether or not it will come through Eldorado. At a recent Town Hall meeting, Commissioner Jack Sullivan told the residents in attendance that the commuter service will not go through Eldorado. The New Mexico Department of Transportation, in consultation with other organizations and after much analysis, have decided the preferred alignment for the area between La Bajada Hill to Santa Fe will be through the Santa Fe Community College area and then into downtown Santa Fe. The analysis of impact included land use and development, community characteristics, noise/vibrations, safety and traffic and community benefits. The environmental factors studied in the new alignment included scenic and visual resources, biological resources and historic and archaeological resources.

For some residents this is good news: for others it is bad news. I heard from many residents who were enthusiastic about the commuter service, which they said they would use daily. Of course, others were worried about noise, vibrations, natural resources and the trail alongside the train rails that is used for biking and walking.

For those who desired a commuter service into Santa Fe there is still hope. Commissioner Sullivan also informed us that commuter bus service will be provided on a trial basis beginning in late fall. He has provided some funds to help make this a reality. The group working on this project is looking for parking spaces near the Vista Grande entrance where the bus will ingress and egress Eldorado. Once all of the preparations are made, residents in the area will be notified.

The rail line through Eldorado will continue to be a slow tourist train. We can continue to stop what we are doing to wave to the passengers as they look out over our wonderful vistas.

For more information about the New Mexico Rail Runner, go to the project website at www.nmrailrunner.com.

—Jeanne Klein

Architecture

ARCHITECTURAL APPLICATIONS SUMMARY

Through July 31, 2006

Total number of projects submitted:

- ▼ Projects submitted153
- ▼ Projects approved135
- ▼ Board reviewed12

Types of projects submitted:

- ▼ Additions / portals55
- ▼ Fences49
- ▼ Walls21
- ▼ Large accessory19
- ▼ Small accessory15
- ▼ New homes12

All applications (2 copies required) are reviewed each month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7 pm at the Architectural Committee meetings (dates listed on page 5 of *Vistas*). Plans must be delivered to the ECIA office by the Tuesday before the meeting. All submissions must be clear, concise and legible and include a site plan with setbacks, elevation views, materials and dimensions. Incomplete or illegible applications will not be submitted to the committee.

COVENANT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Through July 31, 2006

Summary of covenant compliance violations:

- ▼ Violations new69
- ▼ Violations corrected60
- ▼ Violations outstanding41
- ▼ Violations requiring legal action ...12

Summary of common covenant violations:

- ▼ RV screening40
- ▼ No permit for construction11
- ▼ Dog related – nuisance6
- ▼ Exterior lighting (not shielded)5

I want to thank everyone for your support and efforts in making Eldorado a place to enjoy all of the great New Mexico “enchanted views.” Suggestion...try compliance, first!

—Charles Smith
ECIA CCR

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and E.J. Evangelos

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466-2516

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Road: Ed Benrock

Information: Ken McPherson

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

Animal Control

992-1621



Collectible Art Forms

At the next Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association meeting, Thursday, September 28, at 7 pm in the Vista Grande fire station, members and guests will be treated to presentations by three artists. **Jay Cudd**, a woodworker who recently moved from Louisiana to Eldorado, will talk about his line of unique kitchen spoons and ladles. He formed "The Spoon Company" to market to kitchen specialty stores. Secondly, **Jean and Ernie Peterson**, will tell about how they came to begin producing one-of-a-kind, collectible birdhouses. The Peterson's company is called "Thrasher

House Designs." They will also be showing their birdhouses at the 5th Annual EACA Fall Show, the weekend of November 11 and 12 at the Eldorado Elementary School. Members and other residents are welcome to attend. For information, call 466-6245.



Openings in Meals on Wheels

The Eldorado Meals on Wheels program, which is well into its second year, has space for more home-bound seniors to sign up for the five-day, weekly program. The program serves one hot meal a day, Monday through Friday, and is delivered at mid-day to the individual's home. Eldorado volunteer drivers serve about 1,500 meals a year. The program provides peace of mind to each senior's family because a volunteer comes each day to check on the senior's well-being. To sign up for the meal program or to become a volunteer driver, call **Patty Adam** at 466-1949.

Candidates' Forum

The Eldorado Residents Association and the Santa Fe Chapter of the League of Women Voters will sponsor a Candidates' Forum to be held at the Community Center Depot Tuesday, October 10, from 7 to 9 pm. The attending state and local candidates for this fall's elections will be announced in the October *Vistas*. Please plan to attend this important event. For additional information, contact **Bruce Blossman** at blossman@santafe-newmexico.com.



Share the Road

Concerned about global warming? Can you create a web site? Help two residents create an on-line clearing site to facilitate carpooling between the Eldorado/285 area and Santa Fe destinations (e.g. Santa Fe Community College, the plaza, or wherever you work/study). Please contact **Lyn deMartin** at 466-1237 or ldemartin@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Is Two:: Becomes One

Thursday, September 21, from 7 to 9 pm, at the Vista Grande Public Library, **Thomas and Karen Fitzsimmons** will present *Is Two:: Becomes One*, a poetry reading from their book. The poetry is by Thomas, with illustrations by Karen.

Celebrate Peace

The 100-year anniversary of Mohandas K. Ghandi's first pledge to use non-violence and civil disobedience as a tool for justice is September 11, 2006. In honor of this anniversary, New Yorkers for a Department of Peace and M.K. Ghandi Institute for Nonviolence have launched a "100 Years of Non-Violence: Prepare to Be Inspired" campaign.

On this date, from 6 to 10 pm, the Living Room at the Community Center has been reserved for a viewing of the movie, *Ghandi*, and all are invited to attend. A short film featuring **Arun Ghandi**, grandson of Mohandas K. Ghandi, will be shown before the feature presentation. This is a free event, but voluntary donations for The Peace Alliance will be accepted. This event is also in honor of the memory of those killed on September 11, 2001 and all who have suffered as a result of these events. Please come out and join us, whether for part of or the entire presentation.

Welcome Back

The 4th Annual Dads Club Welcome Back to School Barbecue will be held Friday, September 1, from 5:30 to 8 pm on the school grounds. There will be bluegrass and marimba music, games for the kids and lots of great food. Tickets are \$6 and proceeds go to fund Dads Club activities and school landscaping.



Astronomy Corner

SAGITTARIUS

Known as the "Archer" or the "teapot," Sagittarius is a large southern zodiacal constellation. It lies between Ophiuchus and Capricornus. Sagittarius A is the complex center of the Milky Way and the most intense source of radio emission.

September Sky: Autumnal Equinox, begins on September 23; **Jupiter**, low in the western evening sky; **Saturn**, emerges into the eastern morning sky; **Mars**, unobservable; **Venus**, becomes engulfed in dawn twilight at the start of the month and is lost from view.

Next time: Planet X.

—Juan Alvarez
Jalva88610@aol.com

See the light—follow outdoor lighting rules so we can all enjoy the stars.

Flea

It's time to start setting things aside from your garage and closets for the ERA Fall Flea Market. Vendors are to set up from 7 to 8 am on September 16. Sales will begin at 8 am and end at noon. The vendors will be limited to space available—first come, first served—no reserved spaces. Each vendor space will cost \$10 for Eldorado residents, \$15 for vendors from other communities, and \$20 for commercial vendors. No food or weapons may be sold. Vendors are expected to bring what they need to set up and display their goods, and take any unsold items with them at the end of the market.

Volunteers are always needed to help with parking and at the donut table. To volunteer, call Pat Kuhlhoff at 466-4877, or Pat Lavengood at 466-9765.

September Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 8th of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. **Type of Event**
2. **Location**
3. **Date & Time**
4. **A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.

LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Room, CR=Class Room, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

ECIA offices closed	Mon., Sept 4	for Labor Day
ERA Flea Market	Sat., Sept 16, 8-noon in the Community Center parking lot	
Budget Hearing	Tues., Sept 19, 7-9 pm	Gisela Knight 466-2568 LR

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Committee	Tues., Sept 5, 7-9 pm			LR
285 Coalition	Wed., Sept 6, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Sept 13, 9:30 am	Gisela Knight	466-2568	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Sept 13, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Sept 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
EAW&SD*	Tues., Sept 19, 7-9 pm		466-2411	RR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Sept 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Sept 25, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
Stable Committee	Tues., Sept 26, 7-9 pm	Dina Sassone	466-6441	CR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Sept 27, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Sept 9, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Sept 5, 10-11 am			F
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Sept 14, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Troop 414 Committee	1st Wed., 7:30-9 pm	Bruce Blossman	955-0880	CR
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726	C
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579	Sm Gym
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Sept 19, 10-11 am			F
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Sept 11, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Nichole Anaya	466-2590	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Sept. 19	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR
Perform. Arts Assoc.	2nd Sat., 10 am-noon	Etain O'Malley	466-4708	RR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	982-2890	

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Fridays, 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Wednesdays, 6:30-9 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thursdays, 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
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	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641	School

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

We Don't Give Away Our Water!

A **CONCERN THE ELDORADO AREA** And Water Sanitation District hears frequently, when there are discussions about the inevitable residential and commercial development in the 285 area, is that by providing water to developments, we will be giving away our water. There are many questions about how the District decides whether or not to provide water service and we would like to take this opportunity to clear up misconceptions and to explain our Water Service Policy.



Developers of new subdivisions must bring water to Eldorado

“New” service means service to any customer who requires placement of a new water meter. This applies to new subdivisions, existing infill residential lots, commercial lots and any properties changing from their own existing well to District service. Legally, any owner of property may apply to join the District, but for practical purposes, we consider only those within the District or within a reasonable distance from an existing District line. When an application is submitted, we are obligated to consider and respond to it. The response is guided by adopted policy

and is fair and even-handed.

There are three primary conditions that apply to developments:

- 1) Applicants are required to supply actual water rights or to pay a fee to be used to buy water rights.
- 2) Developers must provide water in excess of that they will use.
- 3) They must pay a system service fee (\$1,856 per lot at present) to join the system, as they are connecting to an existing system that has been paid for by other customers through their monthly fees and home purchases.

Developers of new subdivisions must bring water to us—we are not “giving” water to them. They must provide water, essentially in perpetuity, that is at least 30% in excess of what is needed to serve their property. That generally means drilling a well (or wells), equipping it to our specifications, construct-

ing water lines and any improvement needed to hook up to our system. This results in a net water “bonus” for the District and prohibits developers from drilling many individual wells.

For projects such as the Commonweal Conservancy near Lamy, which has had so much publicity lately, careful hydrology and engineering studies are made. Each project is considered individually and once again, must result in a plus for the District. The well must be proven, fees paid and infrastructure provided. We always ask “what’s in this for us?” (meaning our rate payers). When, and only when every condition is met, a development agreement is signed. Not everyone can join the club.

—Mary Ann Hale
Board Secretary

Editor's Note: The August water bill contained the new Water Alert Management Plan (WAMP). The information includes recommendations for ways to limit water use—a very useful tool. Don't be complacent because of recent rains. Be prepared by developing good habits now.

Help Wanted

Part-time office help needed for our homeowner's association.

Applicant must be friendly, familiar with MS-Word and Excel and have great phone and people skills.

Flexible hours may be required.

Applicant will assist the full-time staff with daily operations, and must be a team player, able to follow instructions and provide direction, and must possess a State of New Mexico Drivers License.

Detail-oriented is a plus.

Fax your résumé to

*466-4249, or contact **Charles** at*

466-4248, ext. 15.

The Mourning Dove

WE ARE ALL PROBABLY familiar with the Mourning Dove (MD), which is found throughout continental U.S. and is resident year-round here in Eldorado. The MD is a medium-size bird (12 inches long, with a wingspan of 18 inches), easily identified by gray wings with distinctive black spots, a brownish-gray breast and underbelly, a dark eye and black bill, with a slender body and long pointed tail. In flight, the tail tapers and white spots around the outside are clearly visible. The wings make a whistling sound on takeoff and sometimes during flight. Male and female markings are similar. Many non-birders mistake the MD call for an owl—it goes ooAAH cooo coo coo and is repeated many times.

MDs feed from the ground on berries, seeds and some insects. With our dry climate and many dry seeds, MDs consume large amounts of water, as much as 10 to 15 percent of their body weight daily. They are usually observed in groups of two to four but may congregate in larger groups during nonbreeding season. Males court by puffing out feathers, bowing their heads, strutting and cooing-cooing-cooing. Monogamous pairs are formed and may have four broods during one season. Loose nests of grasses and branches are made in trees. Two or three eggs hatch in

12 to 14 days. Helpless chicks are fed by both adults and fledge in 11 days. Fledglings may be fed for as long as 30 days.

Chicks are exclusively fed crop milk the first few days of their lives and with other food for 10 to 12 days. Males and females produce a secretion by a sloughing of fluid-filled cells from the lining of the crop. This milk is very nutritious, containing more protein and fat than cow or human milk.

MDs are very successful, with Christmas bird counts numbering them in the hundreds of millions. Most states have a dove hunting season. But we best remember that the Passenger Pigeon, at one time numbering as many as 2 billion birds, became extinct in 1914. One of the less liked relatives of the MD is the Rock Dove (pigeon), which was introduced from Europe and Africa in the seventeenth century.

Recently, another relative, the White Winged Dove has been seen around the ECIA buildings. This species seems to be expanding into our area, so keep your birding-eyes alert!

—Pam Henline



COURTESY OF TOM GREY

Greetings Plant People

Ah, September! We enter our golden season with moist soils from summer rains. Our gardens are at their peak—flushed with color and growth. However, not all is well in River City...

The same conditions that make our landscapes glorious have also given quite a boost to the weeds. Leach fields, driveways, and yes, our planting areas are full of undesirables. Now is the time to go on the offensive and remove these pests with their seed heads full of next season's headaches. Remember, also, that in six weeks or so, the first frost will kill these plants (larger by then), and their dead foliage will be sitting there as fuel for the next fire.

The best strategy in the long run is to establish native grasses and wildflowers. The idea is to out-compete the weeds with aggressive, natural and desirable plants. This would be the normal time of year for these rangeland plants to reproduce; in fact you can harvest your own seed. Grasses such as blue gramma and side oats gramma, and flowering plants such as Mexican hat and gaillardia are good examples. Watering needs of these native plants are minimal, but of course supplemental water makes everything look better.

Native species work well with xeriscape principles or low water gardening techniques. The idea is to plant higher water use plants close to the patio or home, where water is more available. As we move away from the main outdoor living area, the landscape water needs should become less, eventually blending into natural New Mexico flora—which is hard to improve upon anyway. This concept of varying water use in different areas of the landscape is called zoning.

I will give a lecture on xeriscaping on Saturday, September 2 at 10 am at Tropic of Capricorn. Free and fun!

—Horticulturally yours,
Michael Clark



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

The aggressive but desirable blue grama.

*Security 204-2945
Sheriff 428-3720*

Running for Fun — and a Cause



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

The 12th Annual Eldorado 5K Run and 1-mile Fun Run will be held October 7, starting at 8 am in the school parking lot. There are runs for kids and adults. Register online at www.active.com, under Eldorado Fun Run. This is a fun community event for everyone who likes to run, but it also raises funds for El Dorado Elementary School.