

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 9

Sept 2007

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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Sustainable Soil

DURING SEPTEMBER, while we sit back and rest on our laurels and sages, soaking in the visual feast of gardens and landscapes at their peak, it's time to strategize for the next season. Now is the time to begin a new compost pile, add a layer of fresh mulch, and get our land ready for the dry, cold, windy winter. Remember that healthy soil creates a healthy root zone, which creates healthy plants, and ultimately provides for healthy mammals of all sorts. Take care of your soil, and the rest is easy.

Let's start with mulching. Our golden days of autumn are marked by sunny (drying) days and cool nights, which enhance conditions for microbial life. These beasts need protection from the sun and daily temperature fluctuations. Grasses, leaves, compost and even commercial products such as Back to Earth organic soil conditioner help to insulate and stimulate this tender carpet we live on. Apply up to two inches of organic matter around plants and on bare patches of earth. There will be much less weed activity now, so don't worry about feeding those undesirables with new life. Newspaper and even cardboard can be used to protect and enliven your little acre. With the addition of animal manures, preferably well rotted, the process of soil building can proceed even quicker. A clear, concise explanation and recipe for this "sheet mulching" can be found in Eldorado resident **Carole Tashel's** book *Gardening the Southwest*, which is available at Tropic of Capricorn. This is my favorite handbook specific to our ecosystem.

Another simple and productive way to move forward with the soil is composting. By encouraging the beasts to do their chomping and digesting thing, we can create rich, life-giving soil and give back to the ecosystem. By "encouraging" I refer back to protecting the pile from wind and sun and temperature extremes.

Find a shaded area near a wall (or create one with bales of hay) and dig 12 inches deep by 4- or 5-feet wide and long. Save excavated soil to incorporate into the pile later. Now layers, lots of them. The

bottom layer should be made up of brushy, loose material such as weed stalks to allow oxygen to dance into the pile. This helps keep the pile high in aerobic bacteria, which doesn't smell bad. Remember, it's all about keeping the beasts healthy, as the compost pile is a microcosm of the planet.

Next we add layers of soil (the same stuff we dug out to begin with), leaves, manure, weeds, kitchen waste, expired houseplants and annuals—anything that will decompose. Adding nutrients such as blood or bone meal, rock phosphate, or green sand are icing on the compost "cake" and are certainly appreciated by the microorganismic beasts. Are you getting the idea that you are feeding the little shop of horrors pile? Good!

Here's the real trick: build 90 percent of the pile in one day. A rich, active, moist life form such as a compost pile is not created by a banana peel a day. Once the bulk is created, you can slowly add your daily bread or coffee grounds or whatever kitchen waste as the season progresses. Just open the pile and drop in your scraps. It's feeding time at your little zoo.

Composting will drastically reduce your contributions to the landfill, give the beneficial reptiles in your life a place to live, add to garden health and allow you to do your part in healing that thin layer on which we thrive.

Bon appetite—let the beasts begin. Please come to my free lecture "Soil: Where it All Starts" on Saturday, September 8 at 10 am at Tropic of Capricorn (983-2700).

—*Horticulturally yours,*
Michael Clark

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Sept 17, 7 pm*



**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.

Submit Photos & Events for the Calendar!

Last year's Eldorado calendar was well received. It was mailed to all residents at the end of November and has shown up all over town.

We want to do it again, with photos of Eldorado scenes and interesting shots of community amenities. The calendar will replace the December issue of *Vistas* (we will, however, include the December Events Calendar usually found on page 5 of *Vistas*). Please read the requirements below for Photos and Calendar Dates.

PHOTOS

We are asking for local photographers (amateur and/or 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 (landscapes, snowscapes, 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 e-mail photos. **Deadline:** Oct. 10, 2007, but the sooner the better.

Disclaimer: The Information Committee will make the final decision on which photos to use for this calendar.

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 its deci-

sion in October. Photographers will be credited. Calendars will be shipped out to arrive in December, with others set aside for new residents as they arrive.

CALENDAR DATES

We also are asking local groups and committees who usually advertise their meetings in *Vistas* to provide us with as many solid event/meeting dates for 2008 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: The entries need to be brief, 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, 2007, but the sooner the better.

Disclaimer: The Information Committee will make the final decision as to whether a calendar entry is appropriate.

Questions: Direct questions to Ken McPherson at kenzwork@hubwest.com or evenings at 310-1120.



Road Kill

YOU MAY BE CONTRIBUTING to "Road Kill." Do you realize that every time you go faster than the speed limits or faster than conditions allow on our dirt roads you may be contributing to their deterioration. Speeding vehicles kick up dust that includes particles of the remaining base course that help reduce potholes and rutting. This in turn accelerates the washboarding process. Slowing down will mean longer road life and a smoother ride.

Encantado Loop residents can relax: Encantado Loop is now paved. The ride is smooth and the dust is nil. Hopefully, the residents there can relax more and dust/vacuum less.

Road signs replaced: Kudos to the county for having replaced virtually all reported downed signs. Twenty-four have been replaced since February—many during the last part of July and early August. This will be a boon to Eldorado newcomers and visitors.

County positions filled: The county advises that the vacant grader and sign department positions have been filled. Hopefully, it can start catching up on grading some of the roads that haven't seen a blade in a while and help smooth things out.

—Nolan Zisman,
Chair, ECIA Road Committee

From the President's Desk

THE ISSUE OF RESPONSIBLE DOG ownership has been a perennial problem in Eldorado. I was told that it has been an issue forever and that to tackle the problem would be a thankless task. But the Board went ahead, published a policy and then sat through a public forum that gave us an earful. The Board is brave—but not that brave—and so we stepped away from the dog leash policy we had suggested and asked a committee of residents who reflected all sides of the issue if they would sit together and design a policy for our community.

The result is a very fair, workable policy in a brochure that residents can refer to as needed. At this writing, the Board has not discussed and approved or disapproved the submitted policy, but chances are good that the policy will be approved. But the best thing that happened and is evident in the policy is that residents with divergent, strongly held viewpoints came together and arrived at a solution through dialogue. As Bohm, a quantum physicist, points out, "The whole organized the parts, rather than trying to pull the parts into the whole." If we can do this together, we can come together to solve any issue that confronts us as a community. The dog issue has not been solved totally, but we

have conquered one hurdle with a process that works.

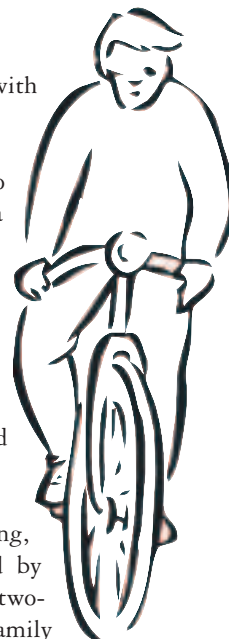
Bike Riders

If you are a bike rider who uses the hike/bike path, a walker or a walker with dogs asks that you yell a warning when you need to pass. Often bike riders zoom past, startling walkers and dogs. This can result in injuries that can be avoided with a courteous warning.

New Board Member

At the July Board meeting, **Tom Miller** was appointed by the Board of Directors to a two-year term. Tom and his family have lived in Eldorado for over a year. They believe in giving back to any community where they reside. Tom is the Community Outreach person for 1st National Bank in Santa Fe. We are happy to have his energy and enthusiasm on the Board and invite you to get to know Tom over time.

—Jeanne Klein
ECIA President



How RV Screening Works!!

THE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV) Guideline became effective on September 1, 2004. An RV is defined as any of the following: motor homes, campers, camper shells, vehicle accessories, utility trailers, horse trailers, airplanes, sail boats, motor boats, ATVs and motorcycles.

Here are the options available (abbreviated for this article) to make your RV inconspicuous. It is important to note the screening methods are lot-specific; some lots may require only one of the options listed, while others may require several methods in combination.

RV Garage or Carport: These may be constructed provided the structure is approved by the Architectural Committee (AC). A carport alone is unlikely to provide the required screening.

Trees and/or Plantings: Evergreens and other similar types of plantings are an approved screening method when sufficiently dense and/or used in conjunction with existing structures on the property so that the RV is obscured.

RV Covers: An earth tone cover (an AC guideline color) may be used to complement a visual barrier

provided the RV is located on the lot so that buildings and other visual barriers on the existing landscape are used to maximum advantage and the outline of the vehicle is least visible.

RV Screening Fences: Screening fences for RVs may be approved by the AC in accordance with existing Guidelines.

Earth berms used with other options, such as trees and/or plantings, may provide sufficient screening. If a fence is added on top of the berm, it shall not be greater than six feet above the natural grade. Note: Cutting below grade and adding an earth berm, plantings and a cover could obscure very effectively.

The compliance objective is to obscure the RV so it is more congruous with the environment. Obscure means to make inconspicuous or unnoticeable, or to conceal physically, hide or cover.

Please contact the ECIA before installing any RV screening to determine whether your plans will meet these Guidelines.

—Bert Lysen
ECIA CCR

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Conservation: John Parker
and E.J. Evangelos
Stable: Tommie Brasel and
Mary Ann Caldwell
Election: Pat Lavengood
Roads: Nolan Zisman
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



Eldorado Stables
*free manure loading
 every Thursday 9-11
 am. Just look for
 Dominic on the orange
 tractor.*

Enraptured

The Santa Fe Raptor Center will be presenting an educational program with hawks, owls and a falcon at the Agora Shopping Center from 10 am to 2 pm on September 15. Please come by and join in the educational fun.

School Open House/Community Day

El Dorado Elementary School invites you, the community, to come and enjoy live music and delicious BBQ fare Friday, September 14 from 5 to 8 pm. Help us raise dollars for PE classes by challenging yourself on the climbing wall. Admire the mural artwork and the permaculture plantings our kids have created on the playground. Hear our principals, **Yann** and **Robin**, as they present plans to move El Dorado Elementary into the future.

Come see how you can be a part of this vibrant community (parenthood is not a prerequisite!). We encourage you to bring information about your community group or business. There will be tables available for displays.

Got Beef?

Meet the ranchers and taste local meats at a "Celebration of Local Beef, Lamb, Poultry and More" on September 14 from 5 to 8 pm at Alumni Hall on the College of Santa Fe campus (1600 St Michael's Drive, SE corner of campus). Understand the meaning of organic, grassfed or natural meats and how to buy and store them at home for great dining all year. This event is co-sponsored by The Quivira Coalition, Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance, Farm to Table and Slow Food Santa Fe. The first tasting was held in Eldorado two years ago. The event is \$10 per person. RSVP at www.quiviracoalition.org or 505-820-2544.

Love, Love, Love

Everyone is welcome to a free talk on "From Loving Comes Love" with **Gen Kelsang Gomlam**, resident teacher at the Buddhist Center in Santa Fe. In this class, Gomlam will introduce the methods taught by Buddha to help us understand where real love comes from. The talk is Tuesday, September 11 from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Community Center classroom.

Music at the Agora Continues

The Agora Summer Concert series, has extended concerts into September. The schedule now includes: Saturday, September 8 from 1 to 3 pm The Eldorado Depot Dancers, performing square dancing in the courtyard. On the same day, at 4 pm, the Lisa Carman Band will take the stage followed by **Ms. Carman's** youth group The Youngstars!. Then on Saturday, September 22,



"Fam Jam" will perform beginning at 3 pm. This interactive family musical group is a treat for children and parents. They will be followed by the ever popular Blue Heaven band playing jazz favorites. Seating is limited, so bring chairs and sunscreen and hats for protection from the summer sun. All concerts are in the Agora courtyard and are free.

EACA Fall Show

Applications are due September 8 for participation in the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association's (EACA) November 10 and 11 Fall Show at the El Dorado Elementary School. Co-chairs for the event this year are **Jean Crawford** and **Caty Perez Lacey**. This event usually features 50 artists for the two-day event. Participation is limited to those artists living within the area west of 285 and accessed by the three entrances into Eldorado. For information, contact 466-1000 or 466-8428.

Stable Open House

The Eldorado Stable community will be holding an open house for all Eldorado residents on Sunday October 7, from 1 to 4 pm. This is a first-time event whose purpose is to introduce all interested residents to the Eldorado Stable amenity. We are planning to provide pony rides for the kids and demonstrations of different riding disciplines by horseowners. Please make plans to join us and meet the horses.



PHOTO BY CHUCK WEST



ASTRONOMY Corner

FREE FALL

I'm sure you have seen the sun and the moon in the sky, but why aren't they falling down to Earth?

Acceleration: a body in free fall follows a path determined only by the combination of its velocity and gravitational acceleration. Its path may be a straight line, circle, parabola or hyperbola. A free falling body experiences no sensation of weight, thus the weightlessness of astronauts, since the spacecraft is continuously free falling toward the Earth and its motion ensures that it gets no closer.

September Sky:

Mercury, barely visible in Virgo low in the west-southwest at sundown;
Jupiter, continues close to Antares (5 degrees above); **Mars**, in Taurus will reach magnitude zero (brighter) and it is time to aim your telescope for a nice view; **Saturn**, in the morning sky close to Mercury.

The Autumn equinox begins on September 23 at 3:50 am MDT.

Next Time: Layer of Light

—Juan Alvarez
Jalva88610@aol.com

Protect our night skies; keep outside lights low or off when not needed.

LEFT: Stable regulars, Jacqueline Garcia (Mom), Sierra Garcia (at front), Cheyenne Garcia (at back) and Pokey (the horse).

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 closed for Labor Day Mon., Sept. 3

Fin. Comm. Budget Hearing Tues., Sept. 18, 7-9 pm Dan Drobnis 466-4781

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

285 Coalition	Wed., Sept. 5, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Sept. 12, 9:30-noon	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Sept. 12, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Sept. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
EAWS&SD*	Tues., Sept. 18, 7-9 pm		466-2411	LR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Sept. 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Sept. 24, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	310-1120	F
Stable Committee	Tues., Sept. 25, 7-9 pm	Tommie Brasel		CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Sept. 26, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Sept. 8, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Sept. 13, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	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
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Sept. 10, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Nichole Anaya	466-2590	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Sept. 18, 2-4:30 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	982-2890	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Sept. 18, 10-11 am	Bruce Blossman		F

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7:15-8 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Tues., 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	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thurs., 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
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
Senior Lunch**	Wed., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
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

Better Law Enforcement For Eldorado

ELDORADO RESIDENTS concerned with the recent instances of felony vandalism at our school, library and Senior Center may be getting some assistance in the not-too-distant future if enough civic-minded men and women in the community volunteer for the sheriff's expanding reserve program.

The Sheriff's Reserve Program, modeled after a key support element for many police departments throughout the United States, has been strengthened in recent years and now has 12 qualified officers on duty throughout Santa Fe County. Like the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service, members of the sheriff's reserves are unpaid volunteers who give their time and talent to support the safety of the community in which they live. "My reserve deputies are trained, equipped and competent law enforcement officers," says Sheriff Greg Solano. "The only difference between our regular officers and our reservists is that the reservists are not paid." Most importantly, reserve deputies have the same powers of arrest as the department's full-time deputies and undergo the same testing and background checks, also meeting the same physical and psychological standards.

To meet the same standards as full-time deputies, reserve deputies first complete an extensive in-house training program and then work on assignments under the supervision of a Field Training Officer during evenings or weekends. This initial training, described by the sheriff as intensive, is conducted over eight weeks and is the most demanding and time-intensive portion of the one year program. The training period for former law enforcement officers entering the program is typically much shorter

On graduation, reserve deputies are issued a badge, a weapon, an identification card and a uniform in every way similar to those worn by full-time deputies. Most importantly, they have full peace officer powers when on duty and may act as peace officers during emergencies when off duty under the provisions of the sheriff's office's standard operating procedures. Reserve deputies who serve in Eldorado will be given a fully equipped department vehicle for traffic law enforcement and patrol.

Upon commissioning, reserve deputies agree to serve a minimum of 20 hours a month in support of the department's law enforcement mission. Sheriff Solano has assured the Eldorado community that following training and commissioning, deputies recruited from Eldorado will serve in the Eldorado area, providing law enforcement, deterring criminal activity and promoting traffic safety. "The only time I will call them out of the Eldorado area will be for a situation in which every available deputy will be needed in a life-threatening situation," he said.

Sheriff Solano's blog can be accessed on the Internet at <http://sheriffgregsolano.blogspot.com/2006/07/santa-fe-county-reserve-deputy-program.html>. It has additional information on the Sheriff's Reserve Program.

Somewhat in the vein of David Letterman, the sheriff's blog lists the following Top Ten List:

TOP TEN REASONS TO BECOME A RESERVE DEPUTY

10. Make your community safer.
9. Gain respect and admiration from your peers.
8. Earn respect and gratitude from your employer.
7. Meet new, interesting people and arrest them.
6. Show yourself and others you have what it takes.
5. Give back to the community.
4. Its fun.
3. Its challenging.
2. Its interesting.
1. Finally, be able to knock their socks off when someone asks, "And what did YOU do this weekend?"

Those interested in an Eldorado in which residents can feel safe in their homes, safe on their roads, protected from the ugly displays of vandalism and the threat of criminal activity are invited to become part of the solution and not just observers of the problem by becoming full-fledged sheriff's deputies. Applicants for the program must be at least 21 years old. There is no upper age limit. Those interested in the program are asked to contact **Dep. Jim Fries** at 505-250-4770 or **Lt. Carl Schade** at 505-401-3644.

—Frank Schober

The Sheriff's Reserves

Back Row: Sgt. Mark Martinez, Dep. Cal Baca, Dep. Fred Wheaton, Dep. Nigel Bridger, Robert Ryan, Dep. Ruben Martinez

Front row: Lt. A. Carl Schade, Dep. Carol Jaramillo, Dep. Lisa Dofflemyer, Dep. James Fries



On a Lark

THIS LOVELY BIRD of the grasslands, the Horned Lark (HL), can be seen in some parts of Eldorado. I have spotted them most often on the south side of Avenida Eldorado at the western end. They may be present all year, but I have seen them mostly in late summer and early fall.

The HL is 7¼ inches long with a wingspan of 14 inches (slightly larger than the house finch). Its wings are long and pointed. At first glance, you will notice a light grayish bird, usually in a group of six to 10, flying low near the top of the grass. The head and cheeks are yellow, with a black line sloping down through the eye, a black spot on top of the head, a black semicircular throat ring and whitish underneath. The back of the neck and shoulders are brownish gray. Occasionally, the short, curved black feathers that look like horns are visible.

The HL appears everywhere in the United States and has much geographical variation in coloring. The HL is the only true lark in the United States since the Sky Lark has been introduced in small numbers in the Seattle area or is categorized as a vagrant (swept in by storms from other continents). In the fall, large groups are formed and some birds migrate as far as South America.

The male courts the female with fluttering flight as high as 800 feet, circling and diving to the ground. The monogamous pair makes a small cup-

like nest on the ground. Three to four eggs are brooded by the female. Eggs hatch into helpless young in 12 days. Both male and female feed the young. Diet consists of small seeds and insects picked from grasses or the ground with their pointed, stout bill. Growth is fast and the young fledge quickly in nine to 12 days, probably because they are so vulnerable on the ground.

The HL's feet are adapted to the ground, with three toes pointed forward and a long toe pointed back. They run rather than hop.

The HL prefer grassland with lots of bare patches. They have a very wide range, but because much of its habitat is threatened, this species is expected to continue to decline significantly. There are 77 million in the United States now, down from 175 million 40 years ago.

—Pam Henline



The 2008 Budgeting Calendar

THE ECIA FINANCE Committee has begun work on the 2008 budget, with the General Manager drafting the operations part of the budget. ECIA committees and residents are encouraged to submit written budget requests with documentation and cost estimates to the ECIA office by Tuesday, September 5. A packet containing guidelines and forms is available at the office. Budget meetings have been set as follows:

Wednesday, September 12, 9:30 am

The Finance Committee begins review of committee and individual proposals at its regular monthly meeting. Residents are welcome to attend for discussion of proposals. Venue: Conference Room.

Tuesday, September 18, 7 pm

The Finance Committee continues review of proposals for evening attendees. Venue: Conference Room.

Wednesday, October 10, 9:30 am

The Finance Committee continues review of the tentative budget at its regular monthly meeting. Residents are welcome; the public forum is first on the agenda. Venue: Conference Room.

Monday, October 22, 7 pm

Joint meeting of the ECIA Board and Finance Committee. Committee chairs and residents are invited to further explain their budget requests if necessary. Venue: Conference Room.

Thursday, November 1

Tentative 2008 budget is available at ECIA office and on the Web site.

Saturday, November 3, 10 am

The Board conducts a public hearing on the proposed 2008 budget. Copies will be available at the hearing. Venue: Railroad Station.

Thursday, November 15

The Board adopts the final 2008 budget at its regular meeting. Venue: Conference Room.

*Security 204-2945
Sheriff 428-3720
Crime Stoppers 955-5050*

Hot Fun

On Sunday, September 16, the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service (EFRS) will hold its annual open house and barbecue from noon to 5 pm at the main fire station at 144 Avenida Vista Grande. Parking for the event is at the El Dorado Elementary School with a short walk to the station.

Last year, about 700 community members enjoyed the food, children's activities and observed the EFRS operation up close and personal. This year music will be provided by the Bill Hearne's Roadhouse Revue. Visitors will have the chance to see all of the EFRS equipment and interact with local firefighters and emergency medical technicians so bring the kids and cameras. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and participate in a community event, so we hope to see you there.



Photo by Dan Drobnis