

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME X, ISSUE 9

Sept 2008

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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.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

## Holy Smokes: It's a Barbecue!

**MARK THE DATE, SEPTEMBER 21,** on your family activity calendar and plan to attend the annual barbecue sponsored by El Dorado's and the State's finest Fire and Rescue Service, the EFRS.

At the department's Main Station on Avenida Vista Grande, beginning at noon Sunday and lasting until 4:30 pm, EFRS volunteers will display their highly polished fire-suppression equipment, including the department's 75-foot-tall tower truck and a newly acquired heavy piece of equipment — a Type 3 “heavy” wildland engine used for fighting rapidly moving wildfires. Smokey the Bear will be on that truck and everywhere else during the barbecue, ready to warn and inform kids of all ages to be careful and concerned about fires in the home and on our often fire-prone terrain.

A new activity at the barbecue this year is not related to the food being provided although it is called the “Smokehouse.” Sponsored by the Santa Fe County Fire Department, it will provide a fun training experience, teaching participants things they should know about fires and fire prevention.

Another display will showcase the extent and variety of the medical equipment that our EFRS vol-

unteers carry in their private automobiles. These kits allow emergency medical technicians to bypass a trip to the firehouse and respond directly and rapidly to a medical emergency.

Traditional hamburgers and hot dogs, soft drinks and desserts will be catered by the local restaurant Real Burger, and lively music will be provided by the local group The Alex Maryol Band.

Throughout the course of the annual barbecue, EFRS member-volunteers involved in fire suppression, emergency medical service, and auxiliary functions will be distributing information on fire prevention and emergency preparedness. Department members, easily identified by their tee-shirts, will be available at the event to answer questions and interact with the people they proudly serve.

Note: Because there will be insufficient parking at the Main Fire Station, please park in the lot of the Eldorado School and walk to the event.

—Frank Schober

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

### Finance Committee's Remaining Budget Calendar dates:

- ▼ Sept 9: 9:30 am, Conference Rm
- ▼ Sept 16: 7 pm, Living Rm
- ▼ Oct 8: 9:30 am, Living Rm
- ▼ Oct 20: 7 pm, Conference Rm
- ▼ Nov 3: Draft budgets available in ECIA office
- ▼ Nov 8: 10 am, public meeting, Railroad Rm
- ▼ Nov 13: Board approves budget, 7 pm, Classroom



**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 [ECIADebby@aol.com](mailto:ECIADebby@aol.com). Please include "Attn: *Vistas*" in your message.

### Mission Statement

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

## VOLUNTEERING

### Big Brothers Big Sisters

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS** of Northern New Mexico is excited to announce their partnership with Eldorado School for the upcoming 2008-2009 school year. Volunteers in the school-based mentoring program are matched one-to-one with a child and meet on school grounds for approximately one hour a week. Matches can enjoy activities such as reading, working on homework, talking, playing games, eating lunch, going to recess and engaging in recreational activities. A volunteer does not need any special skills to be a Big Brother or Big Sister. They only need to be interested in sharing special moments with a child. Just by sharing experiences, celebrating accomplishments, and listening to a child's concerns, a Big Brother or Big Sister can make a difference to a child.

Those interested in volunteering or enrolling a child, please visit [www.bbbsnorthernnm.org](http://www.bbbsnorthernnm.org) or call 983-8360 for more information.

### ERA News

**TURN YOUR TRASH TO CASH** at the ERA Fall Flea Market to be held on Saturday, September 13, at the Community Center from 8:00 to 12:00. The 125 vendor spaces are offered on a first-come first-serve basis, and some vendors arrive as early as 6:00 am to set up for this popular event. Fees are \$15 for Eldorado residents, \$20 for non-residents and \$25 for commercial vendors. This is your ERA's major fundraiser. Your support will be appreciated.

The Santa Fe County Commissioners Board allegedly plans to withdraw support of the DOT Regional Transportation Plan, which will mean the loss of our Greater Eldorado Express bus service. The ERA and concerned residents are beginning to

### At the Crossroads

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED** why runoff rarely runs through the culverts under our driveways, but rather flows in front of and over the driveways? The bar ditch alongside the road was designed to carry runoff through the culverts under the driveways, away from the edge of the roadway. But over the years, wind and water erosion, speeding cars creating dust and removing base course from the roadway, and road grading for snow, ruts, and washboard, have caused the original bar ditches to fill in



### A Federal Crime

**RECENTLY SEVERAL MAILBOXES** were smashed and made useless in Eldorado in a late-night destructive rampage. The perpetrators, who may live here among us, may not be aware that they can be jailed for a federal offense.

The law that applies to interfering with U.S. Mail delivery states in U.S. Code 18, Section 1705: "Whoever . . . tears down or destroys any letter box or other receptacle used for the . . . delivery of mail on any mail route . . . shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years."

There is an ongoing federal investigation of this act of criminal vandalism in our community.

**Want to save on gas? Fill out our  
survey about bus transportation at  
[www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org).**



explore alternate, more cost-effective means to access Santa Fe and the Community College. If you have interest in working on a committee to research alternatives, call me at 955-0880.

ERA Board Member and Sports Committee Chairman **Eddie Marshall** is organizing the First Annual Horseshoe Tournament to inaugurate our new horseshoe pits under construction at the Community Center. All you backyard pitchers should contact Eddie at [edge66@qwest.net](mailto:edge66@qwest.net) to compete for Community honors. Let Eddie know if you have interest in any other type of organized sports as well.

—Bruce Blossman, ERA President

with dirt and become overgrown with vegetation, forcing water runoff to follow the path of least resistance—the edge of the roadway. On quite a few roads in Eldorado this has created deep ruts from heavy summer rains, especially where the driveway meets the road. The county has re-cut the bar ditch on a few of our roads so that water flows away from the road surface and through the driveway culverts. A contingent representing ECIA plans to meet with county officials soon to discuss this issue and other issues regarding Eldorado roads.

—Nolan Zisman

## Urban Myth...

**THIS PAST MAY** it came to the Board's attention that there was a rumor, or "urban myth," going around that the Eldorado Community Church and the ECIA had agreed to build a "large vinyl or aluminum-sided church/community room on top of the tennis courts." Before all you tennis players start behaving like the old John McEnroe, let me reassure you that this is pure urban myth!

### Here are the facts about how this topic arose.

- ▼ Eldorado Community Church and their pastor, **David McPherson**, have been part of the Eldorado community and have used the Community Center on Sunday mornings for many years. They have used the facility with the utmost care and have given back to the Eldorado Community Center in many ways.
- ▼ The Eldorado Community Church has grown from approximately 25 to well over 130 regular attendees as of last month.
- ▼ Eldorado Community Church now offers two services on Sunday mornings to accommodate the larger crowds, and the "Train Room" is still at capacity.
- ▼ Living in and caring deeply for the community as well as his congregation, David has to consider accommodating the growth of the church, trying to stay in or as close to Eldorado as possible and secure a larger meeting space.
- ▼ The ECIA has looked into a larger meeting space over the past few years, and recently community members have spoken up about possibly readdressing the issue.
- ▼ In April 2008, Eldorado Community Church's pastor approached the ECIA Board to explore a possible donation that would go toward the ECIA building a "Community/Meeting Room" if the ECIA had an interest.
- ▼ *This would not be a church!* The building would conform to the current Community Center standards, and it would be called a "Community Room."
- ▼ In exchange for their donation, the church asked that in return, on Sunday mornings they have access to the "Community Room" for their services, in addition to the use of the rest of the Community Center which they currently use.
- ▼ The ECIA Board asked that the Finance Committee and the Facility and Grounds Committee look into the matter and report back to the Board.
- ▼ The Facility and Grounds Committee asked for more time to create a master plan for the current 28 acres at the Community Center and to decide where to possibly locate the new "Community Room." The Finance Committee came back with possible ways to finance the project, if that is what the community wants. The ECIA Board was concerned that the "Community Room" would be built and then become quickly obsolete on account of not having adequate finances to create a meeting space that is adaptive to current and future needs (for example, modern bathrooms, kitchen, electronics, lighting, staging).
- ▼ In June 2008, the ECIA Board agreed to put the "Community Room" on hold until we were better prepared to inform the community and receive your input.
- ▼ I met with the pastor to discuss the Board's decision; the Board did not want to hold back the Eldorado Community Church in their future plans. As expected, they were disappointed in the decision, but understood completely. We discussed some other possible options and will keep in communication regarding the church's plans along with the ECIA's.

So there you have it, another urban myth dispelled. I hope this clears up any remaining concerns, and I also hope that the community in general takes a few moments to consider a "Community Room" in the future. There is a need for one; we just have to be prepared financially and logistically.

—Tom Miller, ECIA President

## Back to School Posture Tips

**IT'S BACK TO** school time! Here are some suggestions for correct backpack positioning so your kids stretch their brains—not their backs!

— Eldorado Physical Therapy



Wrong (left): Strap on only one shoulder  
Correct (right): Wide, padded straps on both shoulders  
Wrong (left): Load too heavy  
Correct (right): Load no more than 10-15% of body weight



### ECIA OFFICE

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Architecture: Bill Schwent  
Conservation: John Parker and E.J. Evangelos  
Stable: Mary Ann Caldwell  
Election: Ken Robinson  
Roads: Nolan Zisman  
Information: Carol Leyba  
Neighborhood Watch: Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker  
Facilities & Grounds: Fred Raznick

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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library  
466-READ  
Security  
204-2945  
Fire and Rescue  
466-1204  
County All Purpose  
820-CNTY (2689)



## YOUR PHOTOS & ARTWORK NEEDED



ECIA will again issue an Eldorado calendar (2009) in place of the December

Vistas. Along with

notices of local meetings and events, it will include color photos and, for the first time, artwork from Eldorado residents. We

seek photos or artwork depicting Eldorado.

Signed releases are required from any individuals pictured in submitted photos. Interested applicants should take their digitized photo(s) to the ECIA offices and give them to Debby. Images should be 300 dpi and/or a physical size of 11 x 9.5" to fit the calendar's dimensions. The Information Committee will select the images to be included.

Questions? Call Carol, 466-1158



**FINANCE MEETING  
SEPT 10, CHANGED TO  
SEPTEMBER 9 AT  
9:30AM IN  
CLASSROOM. BUDGET  
REQUESTS FROM  
RESIDENTS**



## Children's Theatre and Teen Players

Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players start fall classes for ages 7 to 18 on September 9. The Children's Theatre will produce "Schoolhouse Rock!"; the Teen Players, "Fiddler on the Roof." Both shows will be performed in January at the James A. Little Theater. For information or an application, visit [eldoradochildrenstheatre.org](http://eldoradochildrenstheatre.org) or call 466-3302.

## Help Preserve Our Preserve

The Conservation team is holding a Trail Maintenance Day on Saturday, September 27. Please join in this fun and rewarding work. Participants meet at 9 am at the Community Center parking lot.

## Freedom of Compassion

Tuesday, September 9, 7-8:30 pm, **Gen Kelsang Choma**, resident teacher at the Tushita Buddhist Center, Santa Fe, presents a free talk, "The Freedom of Compassion," at the Eldorado Community Center Classroom. Allow seeds to ripen for unbiased love and great compassion by recognizing how negative actions motivated by self-concern inhibit our natural compassion. All welcome.

## Liz Stefanics in Dialogue

Join District 5 Commissioner-elect **Liz Stefanics** at the Eldorado Community Center on Thursday, September 11, at 7:00 pm. Liz and invited guests Commissioner **Jack Sullivan** and District 4 Commissioner-elect **Kathy Holian** will dialogue with residents regarding energy issues, including the potential gas and oil drilling in Santa Fe County and developing a local sustainable energy future for this area. Hosted by the Eldorado Gas & Oil Team as part of their Resident Information Program. Space is limited, so please come early. For more information: Deborah Boldt, 466-2295.



Liz Stefanics

## Advertise in Eldorado's Calendar 2009

Businesses that want to advertise in Eldorado's 2009 calendar should make their early-bird reservation by September 15 in order to get discount rates. Ad rates are \$200 if reservation and payment are received before September 15, and \$250 during September 16-30. Reservation forms are available online at [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org) and at the ECIA office. For more information, contact Debby Padilla, 466-4248.



## Summer Agora Concerts Finale

Saturday, September 13, **Lisa Carman** and the **Youngstars!** perform at 12:00 in the Agora Shopping Center courtyard. Lisa and her band perform first, followed by her music students who write and sing their own music. **The Eldorado Depot Dancers** with caller **Mike Holly** perform square dances at 2:00. Ending the summer's lineup is the popular **Blue Heaven Jazz Band**. This concert concludes the summer season sponsored by the merchants and owners of the Agora. Bring chairs, as seating is limited.

## EACA Life Drawing

Informal life drawing workshops are open to all on Monday mornings 10-12 (except holidays) at the Eldorado Community Center Railroad Bldg, sponsored by the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association. Shared model's fee: \$6-9. For more information, go to [www.eldoradoarts.org](http://www.eldoradoarts.org) or contact Mary Fredenburgh at 466-4284

## EACA Fall Show

Applications are due September 12 for participation in the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association's 7th annual Fall Show at El Dorado School. This event features up to 55 artists in all media. Participation is limited to artists living within the area west of Highway 285 and accessed by the three entrances into Eldorado. Contact: Ann Schuknecht, phone 466-7197.

## Free as a Bird

The Santa Fe Raptor Center holds a free educational program, With Hawks, Owls and Falcon, at The

Agora on Sat., Sept. 20, 11am-2pm. Call **Robin Hilliard**, 466-1478 or **Lori Paras** 699-0455.

## Beatle Mania

Tuesday, September 23 at 7:00 pm, Vista Grande Public Library holds a special-request movie night screening of *Across the Universe*. This film is for all Beatle lovers, nostalgia buffs, fans of great music, and young-at-heart and hopeful romantics. While the film is rated PG-13, it may not be appropriate for the younger set. Get out your bellbottoms and tie-dyed t-shirts and prepare to be swept away. A



## ASTRONOMY CORNER

### SEPTEMBER 2008

In all the solar system, Mars is the one planet most like Earth. When it first formed, Mars may have had an atmosphere much thicker and denser — more like Earth's. Two-thirds of Mars is covered with a reddish, rust-brown dust, sand and rocks. Winds blowing at 125 mph cover Mars with dust, giving it the name "the red planet."

Theoretically, one way to make Mars a good place for human exploration is terraforming, which would attempt to make the Martian environment more like Earth's. From our backyards, Mars is just a bright pinpoint of light.

— Juan Alvarez  
jalva88610@aol.com

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

prize will be awarded for the most authentic look of the evening.

### Shakespeare Group Convenes

Join the opening season of the Shakespeare Study Group, Tuesday, September 9, 6:30-8 pm at the Community Center Conference Room. For details, call Andy Dobek, 466-0223, or email bluejsf@aol.com.

### Meals on Wheels Program

Meals on Wheels has openings for additional homebound Eldorado seniors in their program. If a family is away for a short time, the senior they care for can be included in the 5-day-a-week lunch program for that time; likewise, a senior recovering from surgery or illness. Cost is \$1.50 per day and open to seniors 60 and older. Call 466-9765.

# September Events

## Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto: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

|                            |                             |                |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| ERA Flea Market            | Sat. September 13, 8 am     | CC             |
| Agora Concert Finale       | Sat., September 13, 12pm    | Agora Patio    |
| Eldorado Fire & Rescue BBQ | Sun., September 21, 12 noon | Fire Station 1 |
| Trail Maintenance Day      | Sat., September 27, 9 am    | CC             |
| Stables Open House         | Sun., September 28, 1-4 pm  | Stables        |

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

|                         |                              |                   |          |     |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-----|
| Facilities & Grounds    | Tues., September 2, 4 pm     | Fred Raznick      | 466-2305 | CFR |
| Conservation Committee  | Tues., September 9, 7-9 pm   | John Parker       | 466-7513 | LR  |
| Finance Committee       | Tues., September 9, 9:30 am  | Dan Drobnis       | 466-4781 | CR  |
| Architectural Committee | Wed., September 10, 7-9 pm   | Bill Schwent      | 466-7708 | CFR |
| Board Work Study        | Mon., September 15, 7-9 pm   | ECIA              | 466-4248 | CFR |
| ECIA Board              | Thurs., September 18, 7-9 pm | ECIA              | 466-4248 | CR  |
| Information Committee   | Tues., September 23, 7-9 pm  | Carol Leyba       | 466-1158 | LR  |
| Architectural Committee | Wed., September 24, 7-9 pm   | Bill Schwent      | 466-7708 | CFR |
| Stable Committee        | Tues., September 30, 7-9 pm  | Mary Ann Caldwell | 466-4271 | CR  |

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

|                     |                                    |                    |          |         |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|---------|
| Shakespeare Group   | Tues., September 9, 6-8:30 pm      | Andy Dobek         | 466-0223 | CFR     |
| Search & Rescue     | Thurs., September 11, 6:30-9:30 pm | Dave Burdett       | 466-9765 | CR      |
| La Canada Wireless  | Mon., September 8 & 22, 7-9        | lcwireless.org     |          | Library |
| Roadrunners RV Club | Tues., September 16, 6 pm          | Beverly Cottingham | 466-4655 | Fire    |
| Library Book Group  | 3rd Mon., 7-9 pm                   | Shelley Moore      | 466-9636 | VGPL    |
| Cub Scout Pack 414  | 4th Tues., 7-9 pm                  | John Kielling      | 466-4232 | Sm Gym  |
| MOMS Club           | Last Mon. of month                 | Mandie Rippey      | 795-4086 |         |
| Bird Walk           | 1st Sat., 8:30 am                  | Ron Duffy          | 466-6398 |         |
| Conserv. Comm. Hike | 3rd Sat. of month                  | Eleanor Gossen     | 466-1949 |         |
| EACA Meeting        | Last Thurs. of month               |                    | 466-6245 | Fire    |
| EAWS&SD*            | Thurs, September 4 & 18, 7-9 pm    |                    | 466-2411 | CR      |

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

|                         |                           |                     |          |          |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| AA                      | Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm       |                     |          | LR       |
| AA                      | Wed., 10:30-11:30 am      |                     |          | CFR/RR   |
| AA                      | Fri., 6-7 pm              |                     |          | CFR      |
| AA                      | Sat., 10:45-11:45 am      |                     |          | LR       |
| AA                      | Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm        |                     |          | CFR      |
| Al-Anon                 | Thurs., 7:15-8:30 pm      |                     |          | LR       |
| Boy Scout Troop 414     | Wed., 7-9 pm              | Ramon Quintana      | 757-6424 | RR       |
| Bridge                  | 1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm  | Kate Kaulbach       | 466-1465 | 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 gym      | Thurs., 6:30-8:30 pm      | Joel Hopko          | 466-8412 | New      |
| 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**          | M, W & F, 12-1 pm         | Senior Center       | 466-1039 |          |
| Knitting Club           | Tues., 10 am-noon         | Joyce Hanmer        | 466-3018 | LR       |
| Figure Drawing          | Mon., 10 am-noon          | Virginia Westray    |          | RR       |
| Adult Volleyball        | Wed., 6 pm                | Scott Gerber        | 466-9333 | CC field |
| Adult Basketball        | Thurs., 5:30-dusk         |                     |          | BB Crt   |

\*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

\*\*Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

# Dog Park Etiquette

## MISS CANINE MANNERS

**WE ARE FORTUNATE** to have a well-designed fenced dog park, with a double-gated entry area, at the Eldorado Community Center. The ECIA has adopted rules intended to ensure the safety of both dogs and owners/handlers. But in addition to these rules (available online at [www.eldorado.org](http://www.eldorado.org)), there are some commonsense and etiquette principles that should apply.

**Food.** Two shade structures over bench tables afford dog park patrons a place to sit in the shade. But they are not intended for picnics. Both human and dog food is prohibited in the park—it may not be suitable for a particular dog's diet, and dogs may try to seize or fight over it. Leave people food and doggie snacks at home.

**Water.** Dogs can work up a thirst running around the park, so large water bowls and jugs are located near the entrance gate. There is a water spigot outside the park to the west, toward the soccer field. Sharing water-toting duties makes for happier people and healthier dogs.

**Health.** A free Dog Park tag is required; an application is available at [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org). To receive a tag, a dog must be spayed or neutered, be six months or older, with documentation of immunizations and a snapshot. Don't bring your dog if he or she is not feeling well—you could spread illness or make your dog's problem worse.

**Leashes.** Dogs are required to be off-leash when in the park, except when entering or leaving. This is because leashed dogs, with restricted freedom of movement, may feel impelled to react defensively or fearfully to other dogs.

**Entering.** The double-gated entrance allows dogs to

get a sense of the park as they enter. There is typically a greeting committee of several dogs at the inner gate to welcome a new arrival. It's better to let a newly arrived dog enter the park unmolested for at least the first few feet, by either commanding or holding your dog to give the new dog space to enter. This helps get everyone off on the right paw. It is important to ensure that both gates are securely latched upon entering or leaving.

**Aggressive Behavior.** Because the park is "neutral territory," dogs are generally friendlier than when on their home turf. However, fights can occur. If your dog becomes aggressive, leash your dog and leave.

**Overly Friendly Behavior.** Just as with people, it is not polite to let your dog run up to other people uninvited, jump up and plant slurpy kisses on them. Larger dogs can cause physical harm by jumping up uninvited and unannounced. Think of your dog's behavior as a reflection on your own good manners.

**Poop Pickup.** When nature calls, poop pickup is always the responsibility of the owner/handler. There are doggie bag dispensers both outside the entrance and in the center of the park, both near trash cans. Watch your dog at all times, and if you see him/her searching for a "spot," get a bag and be ready even before the need. Thank others if they remind you while you are distracted.

**Children.** Dog Park rules require that children under 12 be closely supervised by an adult. But as an owner/handler, watch for children, and take special care to introduce your dog(s) gently if the children want to meet them.

—By Tom Maurer; edited by Dan Drobnis



PHOTO BY FAYE CHRISTIAN

Storm, a resident of Verano Loop

## Dogged by Plague

**ONE OF OUR NEIGHBORS' DOGS** recently contracted the plague. The dog (Abby) is now OK. State health inspectors were contacted and have visited the area.

For any additional questions, please contact Elizabeth Hatton, NM Department of Health Environmental Scientist, Zoonotic Disease Unit, 476-3676.

—Pamela Nittolo

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

**PLAGUE, THE OLD-FASHIONED** Black Death, is endemic in many areas of the American Southwest, including New Mexico,

and especially within the western end of Eldorado. One can spot yellow tags on trees near live traps in our greenbelts where the NM Department of Health monitors the wildlife for carriers.

The bacteria are transmitted by fleas from hosts, such as rabbits and squirrels. Both animals and humans are at risk. Symptoms include sudden high fever, listlessness, and loss of appetite. Pets and humans exhibiting these symptoms should seek immediate medical attention. Modern antibiotics are very effective, especially if the disease is treated early

—Dan Drobnis



## Bullock's Oriole (BO)

**I SAW A BRILLIANT FLASH** of yellowish-orange, startling and unexpected. A male Bullock's Oriole disappeared in the foliage. The BO is a beautiful summer visitor to Eldorado. The male BO is a bright yellow-orange, with black chin, black eye stripe, the top of the neck black going down the back of the neck and back, and with black wings and a large white wing bar. The male doesn't have his full breeding colors until his second year. Adults are 12 inches long with a wingspan of 12 inches. Females are less spectacular: a dull yellow body and gray wings. BOs are classified as neotropical migrants and winter from northern South America to central Mexico. Both male and female sing frequently; each has a slightly different song. For a time, the BO and Baltimore Oriole were classified together as the Northern Oriole. These two species do interbreed where their range overlaps on the Great Plains. But hybridization is not increasing, and genetic studies suggest that the two species are not even each other's closest relative.

BOs are found around open lands usually with large trees (the ECIA parking lot is a good place to find BOs, especially in May and June). Their diet consists of insects, tree buds and nectar. During courtship the male bows and rises puffed out with wings spread. Pairs are seasonally monogamous.

## Stables Open House

**WELL, IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN,** buckaroos and buckaretties! Yep, pardners, the Eldorado Horse stables are hosting their Second Annual Open House on Sunday, September 28, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, and the whole dadgummed community is invited! So, break out your ten-gallon hats and cowboy boots, and come on down. If you can't find your hat and boots, come on down anyway. We'll give you a good old cowboy welcome no matter what kinda duds you might be wearin'.

There will be pony rides for the kids, a parade of all our different breeds and a demonstration of various riding disciplines, plus much more. We'll have free refreshments for all—don't forget to ask about our famous pickled muskrat. Everyone will get a chance to visit with the horses and riders, who will answer any questions you may have.

Watch for more details closer to the event. Last year was a big success, and much fun was had by cowboys and cowgirls of all ages.

Y'all come!

—Chuck West

Both male and female build a pendulous nest attached high on a tree limb. They take up to 15 days to build their nests, which are an elaborate construction of woven grasses, fiber strips, plant down and hair. Four to five eggs hatch in 14 days, and the young fledge in 14 days.

The BO has learned to sip nectar from hummingbird feeders. Now special feeders have been designed specifically for them. They also will forage on cut oranges placed on a raised flat area, as well as on grape jelly and meal worms. They also will take pieces of string and yarn to weave into their nests.

### TO READ PREVIOUS BIRD ARTICLES

**ALL PREVIOUS ARTICLES** are available online at [eldoradocommunity.org](http://eldoradocommunity.org). Click on the icon "Find Your Favorite Bird Article." Locate the article you want, and a click will take you there. These are all birds that I have seen in Eldorado.

If anyone would like only the text (no picture), contact me ([phenline@comcast.net](mailto:phenline@comcast.net)) and I can email a Word file.

—Pam Henline



PHOTO BY KEVIN COLE

Male Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*). Photo licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0.



PHOTO BY VINT MILLER

## Please Stop for Horses

**ACCORDING TO THE NM** Motor Vehicle Code, drivers are required to stop and allow people on foot, horses and bikes to cross when they are standing in a designated crosswalk. Horses are flight animals, and when frightened they flee, usually by running. With a scared, out of control horse, a terrible accident could easily occur. So please, help avoid tragedy: stop and allow horses and riders to cross the road in a calm pleasant way.

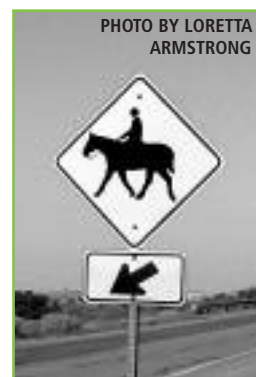


PHOTO BY LORETTA ARMSTRONG

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

## *The Antelope Play*



PHOTO BY DAN DROBNIS

Before the summer monsoon kicked in, a male/female pair of pronghorn antelope moved (presumably from the BLM land west of Eldorado) into one of the western greenbelts to chow down on some undisturbed grass. They were also seen crossing Avenida Casa del Oro—against the flow of traffic! Slow down on our semi-rural roads—you never know what you may encounter or may need to avoid. And check out those eyelashes!

—Dan Drobnis