

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XIII, ISSUE 9
September 2011

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

Safety for Pedestrians and Cyclists

Eldorado residents are fortunate to have a network of hike/bike trails along the main arterial roads in the community. ECIA began building these paved trails in the early 1990s, and they now extend about 13 miles.

Eldorado residents appear to be very supportive of outdoor exercise, as shown by the heavy use of hike/bike trails from daylight to dark, most seasons of the year. We have walkers, joggers, runners, bicyclists, parents with baby strollers, and children walking or biking to and from school. Residents who work throughout the day may be out on the hike/bike trails before 6 am and after 8 pm, so drivers need to be watchful in the dim light.

Unfortunately, our pedestrian safety record has been less than stellar. A number of years ago, a pedestrian was killed while walking on the road shoulder of Avenida Vista Grande. She was hit in the back of the head by the rear-view mirror of a passing truck. Another pedestrian was killed by a car while trying to cross Avenida Eldorado at Avenida Torreon (a four-way stop has since been installed at that location). There have also been several near-misses of pedestrians crossing at designated crosswalks in the community. At a recent "town hall" meeting, **Frank Schober** cautioned County staff about the faded condition of some turn-lanes and crosswalk striping in Eldorado.

The four-way stop at Vista Grande and Monte Alto is probably one of the most dangerous intersec-

tions in Eldorado, since about half of the vehicle traffic there is making right or left turns across the hike/bike trail, and some drivers fail to look for pedestrians in the crosswalks. The most hazardous vehicles for local pedestrians may be out-of-area delivery trucks. Under state law, four-way vehicle stops also constitute four-way pedestrian crossings *even if painted crosswalks are not present*. Nonetheless, as an added safety precaution, pedestrian crossing signs ought to be installed at this intersection, and crosswalk stripes should be repainted. It took considerable effort to get a pedestrian crossing sign installed at the hike/bike trail crossing on Monte Alto just below the Community Center—and only *after* a family with two children almost got sideswiped by a vehicle that did not even slow down as they stepped onto the crossing.

There are a number of state laws that apply to pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. In accordance with these laws, pedestrians have great latitude in what they can do within certain restrictions.* They include:

1. Legal pedestrian crosswalks exist at every intersection where streets meet at right angles, even if not marked. Drivers must yield to pedestrians here.
2. When available, pedestrians must cross at designated crosswalks. Pedestrians have the right-of-way within a crosswalk as long as they don't suddenly leave the curb and get in front of a vehicle that does not have time to react, and only for the half of the roadway that the pedestrian is crossing.

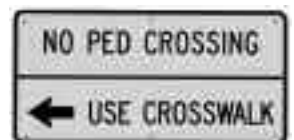
3. When sidewalks (hike/bike trails) are provided, pedestrians must use them rather than walking along the road.

If a sidewalk is not provided, pedestrians must (whenever possible) walk on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic.

4. When crossing where traffic control devices

Continued on p. 2

**ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center, Thurs.,
September 15,
7 pm.**



Community Day, September 5

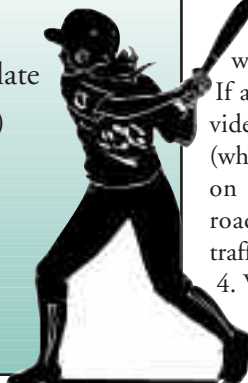
Celebrate Labor Day at ECIA!

Bring a picnic or place your order for a barbecue plate

- ▶ \$10, catered by the Cowgirl Barbecue (4:30 pm)
- ▶ Drinks and desserts provided by ECIA
- ▶ Order your meal at 466-4248

3 PM: Softball, Volleyball, Horseshoes

5 PM: Tea Dance, featuring Swing Shift Big Band;
BBQ dinner



* Information provided by NMSU Police Dept. Crime Prevention & Public Information Office and Consumer Rights Alliance of New Mexico. Also refer directly to New Mexico Code of State Laws.



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 e-mailed to ECIADiAna@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.

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board meeting was postponed from its July 21 date for lack of a quorum. Meeting on July 28, the Board took these actions:

- ▶ Approved: A variance request to allow the existing house at 45 Cuesta Road to encroach into the required 20-foot side setback.
- ▶ Approved: A variance request to allow the existing house at 1 Monte Alto Way to encroach 5 feet into the required 50-foot front setback.
- ▶ Approved: A variance request to allow a proposed solar tracking array at 57 Verano Loop to be more than 15 feet from the primary dwelling, and to be 15 feet tall where the Guideline height is 14 feet.
- ▶ Approved: A variance request to allow a proposed wood post and wire fence at 15 Estacada Road to encroach up to 10 feet into the required 20-foot side setback.

▶ Approved: A variance request to allow a proposed 8-foot RV screening fence at 20 Fonda Road where the Guideline maximum is 6 feet.

▶ Approved: A variance request to allow a relocated fence and existing spa at 24 Bonito Road to encroach into the required 50 foot setback.

▶ **Cherry Paine** was accepted as a new member of the Conservation Committee; **Laurie Grob** was accepted as a new member of the Road Committee; **Joel Hopko** was accepted as a new member of the Road Committee.

Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Community Center and are open to the public. For complete minutes and meeting agendas, visit the ECIA office or website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.

2012 Budget Schedule

The Finance Committee has begun its review of the 2012 ECIA Operating Budget, including its transfers to the Capital and Reserve/Replacement funds. Because of increasing maintenance requirements, particularly for hike/bike trails, it is likely that the Finance Committee will be recommending an increase in Assessments for 2012.

All Association members are welcome at Finance Committee meetings. For those unable to attend on weekdays, evening and Saturday sessions are scheduled.

Wednesday, September 14, 9:30 am: The committee begins review of committee and individual proposals at its regular monthly meeting. A preliminary draft budget will be available. Association members are welcome to attend for discussion of proposals. Venue: Conference Room.

Tuesday, September 20, 7 pm: The committee continues review of budget proposals for evening attendees. Venue: Living Room.

Wednesday, October 12, 9:30 am: The committee continues review of the Operating Budget at its regular monthly meeting, and adopts preliminary recommended Operating Budget. Venue: Conference Room.

Monday, October 24, 7 pm: Joint meeting of the ECIA Board and Finance Committee. Committee chairs and Association members are invited for information or to further explain their budget requests if desired. Venue: Conference Room.

Tuesday, November 1: Proposed 2012 Operating Budget available at ECIA office and on website, www.eldoradosf.org.

Saturday, November 5, 10 am: The Board conducts a public hearing on the proposed 2012 Operating Budget. Copies will be available at the hearing. Venue: Railroad Room.

Thursday, November 17, 7 pm: The Board adopts the final 2012 budget at its regular meeting. Venue: Classroom.

—Dan Drobnis

Safety for Pedestrians & Cyclists, continued from p. 1

are present, pedestrians must obey the signals.

5. If not otherwise prohibited, pedestrians may cross a street at any point, but must yield to all vehicles.
6. Pedestrians may not stand in the street to try to get rides or solicit employment or business.
7. Unless otherwise limited, bicyclists have the right to use all public roads in Eldorado but should stay near the road shoulders except to cross. They must also abide by traffic regulations applicable to motorists. Because some bikers travel fast, they are

sometimes hesitant to use hike/bike trails, particularly when pedestrian traffic is heavy.

The County specifically increased the width of the paved shoulders along Vista Grande to accommodate cyclists. The first entrance road coming into Eldorado from Highway 285 is one of the most dangerous for bikers because of the lack of shoulders and the number of blind curves.

8. Drivers are required to use turn indicators when making left or right turns on public roads.

—Don Dayton

What Do We Want?

Santa Fe County commissioned a survey last fall, asking county residents to identify their budget priorities. A summary of the main results was released recently, and included some surprises.

What was cited as the biggest issue or problem in the county? No surprise: roads and streets that are in bad shape, at 17%, followed by water shortage/water supply, with 13%, and, unexpectedly, 10% for a poor educational system.

Education came out stronger when residents were asked about their highest priorities. Road improvement was first at 27%, improving education was second with 26%, beating the third- and fourth-place selections, sheriff protection/reducing crime and public safety, which got 22% combined.

Is anyone else surprised by the strong showing for education? The county doesn't directly support the schools and has no formal library system, but it does fund some library construction and special projects. Although Vista Grande Public Library operations are supported primarily by donations, some programs for young people have received past county support.

When asked to rank Santa Fe County's programs on a priority scale of 1 to 5 (5 being highest), water conservation came out tops, with 83% ranking it 4

or 5. That was followed by programs and services for youth, with 73% giving it a 4 or 5. Next came renewable energy initiatives, seniors programs, libraries, and parks and recreation.

A few questions were broken down by region. Responses from the "east-central" region, which includes Eldorado, showed more support than the county as a whole for purchasing and maintaining open space (very high, at 51%), followed by water conservation and renewable-energy initiatives.

County-wide, the top budget-cutting target was the broadcasting of County Commission meetings. Reducing funding for county satellite offices in Eldorado, Edgewood, and Pojoaque came in second, with 71% county-wide, and 77% in the Eldorado area. The greatest disparity between county-wide concerns and our own priorities was economic development programs, where 35% of county residents favored cuts, compared with 46% in the east-central area.

A number of residents have asked when the ECIA will survey our residents to determine local priorities. Past surveys motivated the development of our hike/bike trail system and helped guide investments for other amenities. I think a survey is a good idea. Let me know if you have a favorite amenity that you would like to improve, or ideas for new amenities that don't now exist.

—Ed Moreno, ECIA President

Architectural Committee Civility Guidelines

To ensure that Architectural Committee meetings are conducted in a civil and productive manner, the Committee recently adopted a set of presentation guidelines, summarized below:

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Ours is a diverse community of individuals with wide-ranging needs and visions for how we want to live our lives. The Architectural Committee must balance those needs and visions within the context of the Covenants and Guidelines, as they pertain to any changes to, or additions of, permanent structures on your property. We encourage input from applicants and community members affected by those changes; however, it is important that it be done in a civil and respectful manner.

Civil conduct includes:

- ▶ Treating others with courtesy, respect, politeness, and consideration—even if you disagree.
- ▶ Speaking in an appropriate tone of voice.
- ▶ Managing conflict in a respectful, rather than a confrontational way.
- ▶ Addressing the merits of the project at hand rather than interpersonal issues.

Differences of opinions or concerns related to proposed projects are welcome. But behavior or speech

that disrupts the architectural review process or is clearly disrespectful will not be tolerated.

Disruptive conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- ▶ Rude or disrespectful behavior.
- ▶ Unwarranted interruptions.
- ▶ Failure to comply with the directions of the Committee Chair or members.
- ▶ Vulgar or obscene language, slurs, or other forms of intimidation.
- ▶ Physically or verbally abusive behavior, including shouting.
- ▶ Humiliating, belittling, insulting, frightening, or intimidating another person.

To allow for neighbors and third-party input relative to plans under review before the Architectural Committee, a Neighbor/Resident Comment form is posted on the Eldorado website on the Architectural Committee main page. Residents who want to participate in the review of a neighbor's architectural plans should download this form, complete it, and bring it to the appropriate Architectural Committee meeting.

If you have any questions about these new guidelines, please contact me, **Mark Young** at 466-4248 or e-mail at eciaccr@aol.com.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

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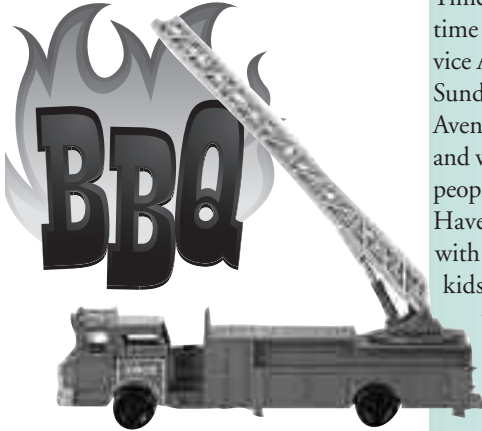
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IN THE COMMUNITY



Fire Department Annual BBQ

Time sure does fly by when you're having fun! It is time again for the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service Annual BBQ. This year's event will be held on Sunday, September 18 at the main fire station on Avenida Vista Grande. The fun kicks off at noon and will end about 4:30 pm. Come out and see the people and apparatus that stand ready to serve you. Have some BBQ and enjoy the music. Socialize with your friends and neighbors. And, bring the kids. They will enjoy climbing around on the trucks and we will also have an assortment of activities just for them. Oh yes, Smokey will be there, too. Remember that parking will be available at the school but not on the fire station grounds. Hope to see you there!

Free Health Screenings

The Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van will be in Eldorado on Thursday, Sept. 8, at the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center, 10 am–2pm; Friday, Sept. 9, Eldorado Farmers Market, La Tienda parking lot, 3 pm–7 pm; and Friday, Sept. 23, Eldorado Farmer's Market, La Tienda parking lot, 3–7 pm. For more information, please call **Angela Thorndyke**, RN/BSN, at 505-231-2382.

Flea Market September 17

The Senior Center's Big Fall Event for cleaning closets, garages and storage units is upon us: the Eldorado Annual Flea Market, September 17 from 8 am to 1 pm. The Flea is a great time to buy and sell. Located in the parking lot of the ECIA Community Center, spaces will be marked on a first-come first-served basis. Spaces are \$10 for Eldorado residents, \$15 for those outside the community, and \$20 for commercial vendors. Remember, no weapons or homemade food can be sold. There will be donuts and coffee as usual for hungry vendors and buyers. Vendors must take home all unsold items at the market's close. Market ends at 12 noon. Info 466-3256.

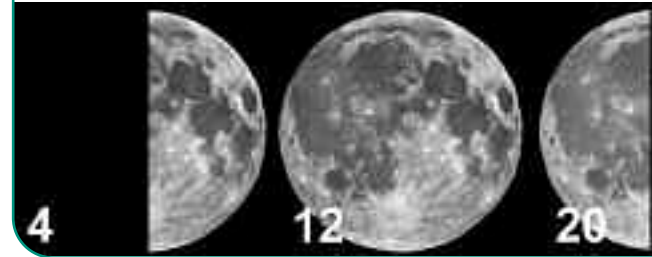
Eldorado Children's Theatre Classes

Last chance to sign up for Eldorado Children's Theatre, as fall classes are starting now! All students will perform in Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" (with some zany twists) at the James A. Little Theater. Lots of parts for all! Classes include age-appropriate theater development skills, confidence building, and lots of fun for ages 7–18. Classes meet in Eldorado. For more information or to register: www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org or e-mail lisa@rancheros.com.

County Fee Increased

Overdue Assessments are now more expensive: The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office has raised their fee for placing and removing property liens from \$9

MOON PHASES FOR SEPTEMBER



to \$25 each. Since the ECIA places a lien for the amount of any overdue assessments, interest, and lien fees, a property that accumulates all of these for a year will see, instead of an annual payment of \$300 when made on time this year, a required payment of about \$400 including annual interest at 15% and a round trip through the lien process.

For those struggling with finances, this is exactly what is not needed! Anyone who has special circumstances should contact General Manager **Bill Donohue** at 466-4248 to work them out.

Info Committee Seeks New Members

Let Your Voice Be Heard: The ECIA Information Committee wants new members interested in writing for *Vistas* and the ECIA website. The Committee meets the Tuesday after the 3rd Thursday of each month (in order to meet just after each ECIA Board meeting) at 7 pm in the Community Center Conference Room. All ECIA members are welcome to observe, comment, or join.

In addition to planning each month's *Vistas* and taking on writing assignments, the Committee monitors the ECIA website, bulletin boards, newcomer information, and entrance marquees. Anyone interested may come to the next meeting, or contact Chair **Frank Schober**: fschober@att.net.

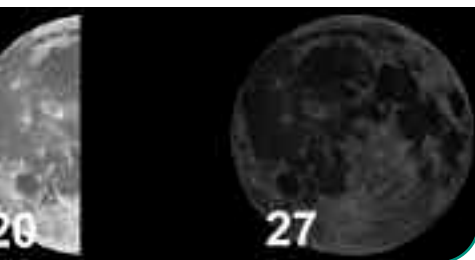
Arts and Crafts Fall Show

New Dates: October 28, 5–8 pm, and October 29, 10 am–5 pm. New Location: St. John's United Methodist Church, 1200 Old Pecos Trail at Cordova Road. www.eldoradostudiotour.org.

Ice Cream Social a Huge Success

Vista Grande Public Library's 12th Annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction, held August 28, was a huge success. It is a principal fundraiser for the Library, with all-you-can-eat ice cream and iced coffees, a "Big Tent" full of fun for the kids, and opportunities for the grown-ups to bid on exciting auction items. VGPL deeply appreciates the volunteers who worked at the event and, of course, all the business sponsors and those who donated items and services for the auction. Please visit the "Ice Cream Social" page on the VGPL website (www.vglibrary.org), look at this year's list of sponsors, and give them a hearty "thank you" on the Library's behalf the next time you see them.





September at the Library

"Alice Corbin" is Community Program Sept. 30: Actress **Patricia Jonietz** presents "Alice Corbin: Writer and Adopted Daughter of New Mexico" on Friday, September 30, at 7 pm, as part of the Community Programs series. Herself an "adopted daughter of New Mexico," Jonietz uses Corbin's words and those of other writers, as well as images from painters and photographers, to explore the impact New Mexico can have on those who move here from other places and what it means to find your own true home.

"Night Skies" for September 16: September's Night Skies program is Friday, the 16th, at 8 pm. **Juan Alvarez**, director of the Planetarium at Santa Fe Community College, leads this popular series, which includes a talk and, weather permitting, telescope viewing. VGPL will provide telescopes, but everyone is welcome to bring their own as well.

"Shrek Forever After" is Family Movie, Sept. 9: Shrek must save his world and his family from the evil Rumpelstiltskin. Showtime is at 7 pm and admission is free; however, donations are greatly appreciated.

Extended Pool Hours

September Extended Pool Hours: Every day (lap swim): 8–11 am Friday (general swim): 4–8 pm Saturday & Sunday (general swim): 11–5.

Last day pool will be open is Sept. 25.

Doggie Pool Party: Oct 1

Bring your pooch for a swim before the pool is cleaned, 1–3 pm.

September Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradosf.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*.

Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. Type of Event

2. Location

3. Date & Time

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

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

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

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Community Day	Mon., Sept. 5, 3:00 pm	Community Center
Flea Market	Sat., Sept. 17, 7-12 Noon	CC Parking Lot
Fire Department BBQ	Sun., Sept. 18, 12-4:30 pm	Fire Department
Doggie Pool Party	Sat., October 1, 1-3 pm	Freddi Fullington 466-2005 Pool

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Sept 13, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Sept 27, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Sept 12, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Sept 6, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board	Thurs., Sept 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., Sept 6, 4-6 pm	Jeanne Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Sept. 14, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Sept 20, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., Sept. 12, 6-8 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	F
Stable Committee	Wed., Sept 27, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	LR
Sustainability, Planning...	Thurs., Sept. 8, 7-9pm	Dana Richards	690-5500	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

Boy Scouts	2nd & 3rd Thurs., 6:30-7:30	Johnny Boggs	466-3680	RR
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs of month		204-7007	LR
EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR
Eldorado Dog Club	4th Saturday 9:30 am	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	Dog Park
Girl Scouts 295	Every other Fri., 5:30-7 pm	Michelle Jaschke	466-2422	CR
La Cañada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lwireless.org		
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 7 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Wed., 5:45-6:45 pm (Men Only)			CFR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			LR/CFR
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 6:00 pm			BB Court
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	466-3091	LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:30 & 11 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Girl Scouts 286	Fri., 4-6 pm	Lisa Engeldinger	466-0077	CR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Softball	Sundays 10:00 am	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Richard Robinson	466-7319	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm> ***Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Neighbors, Pat Yourself on Your Backs!

Many of our Neighborhood Watch articles, have been devoted to emergency actions, fire preventions, and precautions. It is time to take a few moments now to highlight the fruits of neighbor-to-neighbor involvement, which we all benefit from. As we read in the August *Vistas*, we are a community of approximately 6,130 people, living in over 3,000 homes.

A few facts about Neighborhood Watch here in Eldorado: It was begun with a handful of residents in the very early 1990s. At that time there were 2,260 residents in 877 households in Eldorado (1990 U.S. Census). Resident **Ray Nichols** printed up flyers, calling for a meeting. Ray and two sheriffs attended—and no one else.

Judie Mackie was the next person to make an attempt at organizing. She made cookies and coffee and was successful in attracting 50 people (what people will do for coffee and cookies!). The idea of Neighborhood Watch was slow to germinate. With careful attention it has steadily grown.

Clearly, we have increased in numbers and households. The really amazing fact is that the number of neighborhoods involved in Neighborhood Watch has almost doubled between 2009 and 2010. With a little bit of effort, we could have the entire community covered. While we are bombarded by news of crime

all around us, Eldorado is not so much unique as it is involved. Take into consideration the rate of crime in our community: about 1.3% in 2010, or 41 reported incidences; less than 1.0% in 2011, or 9 incidents year-to-date. Many of our neighborhoods, from Highway 285 to the western, northern, and southern boundaries, are involved in Neighborhood Watch, which accounts for our low crime rate. In essence, we watch out for one another, primarily within our specific neighborhoods, but also throughout our entire community. We are vigilant.

Are you involved? If not, think seriously about becoming involved. It doesn't require meetings, or paperwork, just being watchful. Neighborhood Watch asks participants to:

- ▶ Know who your neighbors are.
- ▶ Have contact information for one another (addresses, phone numbers, including cells, email addresses, if possible).
- ▶ Communicate within your neighborhood.
- ▶ Watch for anything out of the ordinary, a different car/truck/person, an open garage at an odd time.
- ▶ Report suspicious activity to law enforcement and the Eldorado Security Patrol.

Please contact **Marilyn Walker** (lightwalker@comcast.net; 455-2553) if you are interested in joining or becoming involved in Neighborhood Watch.

—Nina Harrison

CRIME REPORT

7/27/11: 1 burglary

FLEA MARKET SEPTEMBER 17

See Community
Events, pp. 4–5



Senior Center News

WINTER VEGETABLES

The Senior Center kitchen is enjoying the vegetables raised this summer in the new hoop house. We hope to extend the growing season into the cooler months with root crops, spinach, lettuce, and other leaf vegetables. Our cook began working on this project in the early spring as part of Farm to Table projects encouraged by the county. The little garden has helped to supplement the weekly fresh supplies to the Center.

ART CLASSES

Darcy Gray's collage class will begin on Tuesday, September 13 through October 4 at 1:30 pm. This class will feature designing with cut paper, music scores, texts, picture, drawings, and other paper media reconfigured into new designs. Darcy will also have stamps and blank cards for creating unique greeting cards.

Sign up now for the 8-week painting class which begins October 11 and runs through December 6. Eight beginning student spaces and 12 intermediate spaces are available for the fall course taught by **Janet Amtmann**. Students in the beginning class will ex-

plore basic color theory, simple still life, and landscape using watercolor, acrylic, and pastel. The intermediate students may choose their media and subject matter.

Seniors interested in using the Adam Center who are not already registered should stop by to fill out a short form, if they plan to take classes, go on trips, or use transportation to physicians' offices and shopping. The senior centers are funded by county, state, and federal monies and require registration for the use of the facilities. The Center is open daily from 10 am to 4 pm. Lunch is served at 12. Reservations are required at least a day before by signing up in person or calling 466-1039.

PATTY ADAM REMEMBRANCE

On Saturday, October 8, at 2 pm, the family of **Patty Adam** will host a celebration of her life at the Adam Senior Center. Ms. Adam, who passed away in June, and her husband **Ken** were the ones who recognized the need for a senior center in Eldorado. Through their wisdom, guidance, and determination, the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center became a reality where over 200 seniors are now registered. For the October 8 event, please RSVP to 466-1949 or 466-1039.

—Janet Amtmann

Trail 101 Work

The rains have come and the Preserve is now open! This past June the ECIA Conservation Committee, with contract help from the local environmental organization Earthworks, completed a rerouting of the heavily degraded section of Trail 101 behind the Conoco station across from the second entrance to Eldorado. The project scope and schedule were developed in meetings with ECIA staff and Earthworks, and community input was solicited with a notice placed at Trailhead 1 and a note included in the June *Vistas*.

The new section of trail, approximately a half-mile in length, provides a smoother, less steep climb to the overlook just east of Trailhead 1. The trail was moved to a more north-facing slope where soil development was more extensive, and it was constructed on the contour to lessen erosion. The existing heavily degraded section of trail remains for those preferring a more direct and challenging route.

The trail emanating from the east side of the parking area has been abandoned. This trail traversed private land and was never sanctioned by the ECIA. The perimeter fence was repaired, and community members using the Preserve's trails are asked to access the



trail system through trailhead at the northwest side of the parking area.

Come and give our new trail a try and let us know what you think. We hope you enjoy it.

—John Parker, ECIA Conservation Committee Chair

Mark Young and others at Trail 101.

VISTAS NEWS OVERRUN ON WEBSITE

We had too much news this month to fit into our 8 pages. Please visit our website to find:

- ▶ A handy list of emergency /important phone numbers.
- ▶ Statistics about covenant violations and approved projects, from Mark Young.
- ▶ A notice about the County Sheriff's alert system, Nixle.com.
- ▶ An article about the importance of balance from the Physical Therapy folks.
- ▶ An article on the local Life Drawing Group, inviting participants.
- ▶ A reminder to keep our neighborhoods clean.

Go to
www.eldoradosf.org

At the Crossroads

For Eldorado area lot owners who are tired of dust, washboard, slippery mud, and deep ruts, a self-help solution may be at your disposal. As a result of a June 6 County-sponsored meeting on special assessment districts and some follow-up, we now have a few answers on how lot owners can finance chip-sealing or new base course for their roads, rather than wait for the Legislature or County to find funding to do the job.

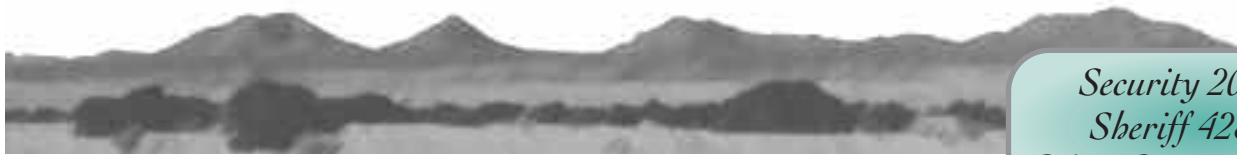
As background, the County, with input from the ECIA Board and local property owners, has identified five major dirt roads in Eldorado for some form of paving, if and when funding is made available. These roads include chip seal on Balsa and Encantado Roads, and asphalt paving of Herrada Road, Avenida Buena Ventura, and Avenida Amistad (from Avenida del Monte Alto to Avenida Buena Ventura). As the economic situation and other priorities have diminished the chances of obtaining County funding for even these roads any time soon, the likelihood of coming up with funding for *other* residential roads in Eldorado is almost nil. Therefore, lot owners wishing to pursue improvements to their road will have to provide funding themselves or continue to live with the road conditions as they are.

Self-funding takes the form of Special Assessment Districts. The simplest route to this solution is to petition the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to create a County Improvement District. Owners of at least two-thirds of the assessed valuation of property in the area proposed for a district must sign the petition. If accepted by the BOCC, a resolution is adopted to create the district.

In many such cases, the County may advance the cost of the improvements, or borrow the money through a government bond and subsequently assess the costs to the property owners over a reasonable period of time (which can be as long as a decade or more). A public hearing is required; following the hearing, an assessment is levied proportionally against the benefiting property owners according to their property's relative valuation. To provide lot owners with cost information with which to make an informed decision to sign a petition or not, the County would be asked to prepare a rough estimate of cost once a target road(s) is (are) identified.

More detailed information on assessment districts will be posted on www.eldoradosf.org, the Eldorado website. Other questions can be directed to me, **Nolan Zisman**, at pnzisman@aol.com.

—Nolan Zisman, ECIA Road Committee Chair



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



Smokey Bear greets guests at Eldorado Fire and Rescue Barbecue. This year's event is September 18, noon to 4:30 pm. Come and support our local fire department! (See p. 4 for details.)

School Days

This is an exciting time for the Eldorado Community School, its children and staff. If you haven't seen what's happening, take the time to drive by. Approximately this time next year, 2012, they will be adding the finishing touches on the school construction. All that big equipment will be gone.

This year's classes started for the 1st through 8th graders on August 15, with kindergarten starting on the 17th. This is really a treat for the kindergarten children: besides being their first year, they will have brand new classrooms, and influence from their teachers that can set up a thirst for education. *Let all of us remember our speed limits as students come and go both at school and in our neighborhoods.*

Principal **Ann Darnton** and I spoke about safety for the students and staff in the face of all the construction work that is going on. Ms. Darnton stated that McCarthy Construction of New Mexico was hired in part for their safety record. They have a site manager living in Eldorado for the duration of the project; the SFPS Construction Project Manager is living in our community too.

They accomplished a great deal during the summer. Work was completed in the new kindergarten rooms, including the bathrooms. Other internal finishing work is done. Recently the school set up four additional double-wide classrooms along with the many other portables.

Enrollment this year is expected to be approximately 650 students, according to Principal Darnton.

—Jackie Koger