

ELDORADO at SANTA FE VISTAS

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE 9
September 2014

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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 ▼ Security 204-2945

Preventing Wildfires

Although there is no standard agreed upon definition of the wildland-urban interface (or WUI, as fire agencies call it), it is loosely defined as “homes or structures built near or among lands prone to wildland fire.” Under that most basic definition, all of us served by the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service (EFRS) live in the WUI. Some portions of the El Dorado Fire District are officially designated as wildland-urban interface areas by Santa Fe County Ordinance. This reality, coupled with numerous years of drought in the Southwestern United States, means that we are at risk for wildland fire. What has EFRS done to prepare for this possibility, and what can you do?

Over the past five years, EFRS has made a significant financial and preparedness commitment to plan for a wildland fire event, including:

- ▼ In 2009, we purchased the first Type 3, “heavy” wildland engine in the Santa Fe area. A heavy engine is larger, carries more water, and has more crew capacity.
- ▼ In 2013, we purchased a second heavy wildland engine. This apparatus is also a class A pumper that can be used for structural firefighting. This dual-purpose apparatus is also the first of its kind in the Santa Fe area.
- ▼ In 2014, we purchased a “tactical water tender” which can be used to both haul and apply water in wildland fire scenarios.
- ▼ In 2014, we purchased a replacement Type 6, wildland fire engine. This apparatus can be used for quick attack and to get in areas where larger vehicles cannot operate.

▼ For the last several years, we have encouraged our members to train for wildland fire events and acquire national certifications in wildland firefighting.

▼ Finally, we strengthened our working relationships with neighboring fire departments in responding to and fighting wildland fires anywhere in the area.

The El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service now maintains the largest fleet of wildland firefighting equipment in Santa Fe County. We can deliver more than 4,000 gallons of water and a crew of 13 firefighters to any wildland incident in the district.

Most wildland fire events are caused by humans or lightning. Be careful not to spark a wildland fire by careless use of smoking materials or outdoor fires. If you see smoke, call 9-1-1 immediately and don't assume someone else has done so. Catching a wildland fire early is the best way to keep it small. Store firewood and other combustible materials a safe distance from your home. Maintain a defensible space around your home. Defensible space is defined as 30 to 100 feet of soil free from vegetation. Trim trees and other vegetation 10 to 15 feet away from your home. Remove branches from the lower portion of trees so that a wildland fire traveling along the ground will not ignite the larger vegetation.

Even small steps can help protect you and your home. If you would like EFRS to conduct a wildland survey of your property, call 466-1204 for an appointment. Call that same number if you would like to join our wildland firefighting team or assist in providing other emergency services to the Eldorado community.



*ECIA Board Meeting,
Community Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
September 18,
7 pm.*

Community Town Forum

ECIA is holding a town forum on September 8, at 7 PM, to discuss two main issues: security, and our greenbelt pilot project. An update on the search for a new ECIA general manager will also be presented. Join us at La Tienda's Performance Space for this town hall meeting.

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Help Support EFRS

SUMMER BARBECUE

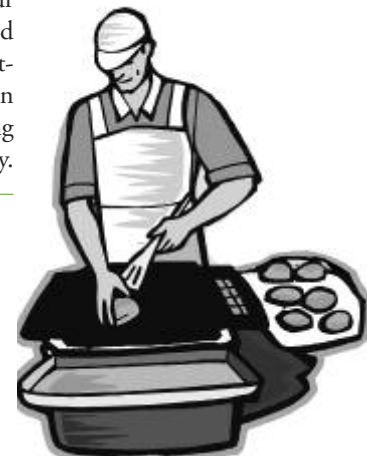
Sunday, Sept. 21, at the Community Center

Noon to about 4 PM

Music, food, kiddie activities

Fire equipment on display

Smokey Bear . . . and more surprises!





Share your comments with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include full name and contact information. The newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, biased, or inappropriate. Submissions will be selected and edited at the discretion of the editor. 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 DiAna@eldoradosf.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.

The Secure Facts

At a recent ECIA Board meeting, a number of residents voiced concern over the potential loss of "Eldorado Security." One resident asked the important question, "What is Eldorado Security and what does it do?" Yet another and equally important question is "How much does Eldorado Security cost?"

Currently, the community's security consists of a contract with ASI Security, the activities of our Community Services Manager, and IHS Alarm Services. The purpose of all three is to ensure security of the "common properties" that are owned by all lot owners: the Community Center complex, Compadres Park, the Stables, and the parking lot trailheads.

Neither ASI Security nor the Community Services Manager is invested with Peace Officer powers. They may not trespass onto private property, do not work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or on holidays. The Community Services Manager also performs other tasks that are not related to security.

ECIA's annual cost for Eldorado security is approximately \$115,000. This figure excludes IHS alarm monitoring and miscellaneous costs associated with our Community Services Manager. Recently ASI Security has projected increases in their fees.

Following a break-in at the Community Center this past Thanksgiving holiday, the Board developed a working group to look into improving the overall physical security of our common properties. A plan was agreed upon that would use technology to provide for 24/7 security coverage. The one-time cost for these technology upgrades was approximately \$20,000.

The ECIA Board has not yet settled on a complete, final plan regarding Eldorado's security. There are many factors to consider, not the least of which is a possible savings to the lot owners of approximately \$500,000 over a five-year period.

The Board is aware that there are some misconceptions about ECIA's security efforts. To dispel these and to replace a possibly false sense of security with the ac-

tual facts concerning our security measures, please consider the following:

- ▼ First and foremost, neither the ECIA nor ASI provides security for residents and their property. The sole purpose of our paid security operations is to ensure the security of the common properties.
- ▼ Scheduled house checks by request of homeowners have not been provided in Eldorado for several years. This practice ceased after both ASI and ECIA attorneys advised against this practice due to potentially extensive liabilities. (At a recent annual ECIA Board of Directors Ethics and Finance Training, the Board was again reminded that providing security for residents is an ill-advised policy that is considered to be one of the top ten poor business practices that should be avoided by all HOAs.)
- ▼ A strong Neighborhood Watch Program, coupled with a clear understanding of personal safety habits and home alarm services, are among the most vital factors in assuring personal resident safety. Should you find yourself in need of police, fire, or other emergency assistance, the only number you need to know is 911! Seeking assistance elsewhere by any other means will only put unnecessary time and distance between you and responsible, professional help.

The extensive savings incurred by recommended changes to how security is addressed in Eldorado, in concert with greater awareness of the facts regarding security, will give us both a safer community overall and a healthier financial bottom line. The ECIA Board will host a town hall meeting on Monday, September 8, from 7 to 9 PM at La Tienda, at which residents are encouraged to voice any questions and concerns they may have regarding this important quality of life and safety issue in our community.

—John Calzada, Chair, Facilities & Grounds Committee

Greenbelt Trail Work

In 2014, the ECIA Board asked the Conservation Committee to consider improvements to the greenbelt trails. Many residents had stopped using these trails because they were practically unwalkable, having become V-shaped from use and erosion.

The committee embarked on a pilot project to assess how a well-constructed greenbelt trail will perform. We expect it will take several years for us to determine how sustainable an improved trail will be. Currently we have constructed 1.7 miles of 2.3 miles planned in Pueblo Canyon between the train tracks

and Avenida de Compadres. The work is ongoing along the whole trail. We are building unobtrusive erosion mitigation structures and seeding the embankments with grass to reduce the current width to the desired 4 feet. (For further details, see eldoradosf.org.)

The ECIA Board is holding a town forum on Monday September 8, from 7 to 9 PM, where residents can express constructive views. The Committee plans an open house in October to explain the purpose and methods used to construct the improved trail.

Jim Daniel, Conservation Committee Co-Chair

Message from the ECIA Board: Reminders

The ECIA is working to bring more of its activities and information online and to make better use of modern technology. As part of this effort, many members have provided the office with email addresses so that they can read our *Vistas* newsletter online instead of receiving a printed copy through the mail. We appreciate your cooperation. However, we also want to remind members that it is their responsibility to keep up with matters of importance to the Association. Our newsletter and our website are the primary vehicles for conveying such information to the membership. We trust that, even if you no longer receive *Vistas* in your U.S. mailbox, you will regularly visit the website to stay abreast of Association activities and announcements.

On a separate matter, it has come to the Board's attention that certain individuals, including Eldorado

residents, have been trespassing on private property to gain access to our trails in the Eldorado Preserve. There has been considerable unauthorized activity—for instance, at the far end of Camino Valle, which parallels the interstate across from Avenida Amistad. Members are reminded that they should only use the four designated trailheads to gain access to our preserve trails.

Finally, the Board would like to remind everyone to take extra care when traveling around the community this fall as the daylight hours shrink. Joggers, bikers, and children on their way to school are often difficult to see in the morning and evening light. Let's make this a safe season in Eldorado.

—The ECIA Board of Directors

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on July 17, 2014, with all seven Board members present: **Dag Ryen** (President), **Pam Henline** (Vice President), **Greg Colello**, **Gershon Siegel** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Jeanne Calzada**, and **David Yard**. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting, unless otherwise noted:

- ▼ President Ryen apologized for two pool closures this season and noted that they may have been due to power surges; also that staff was doing all they could to keep the pool open and that the pool season may be extended due to these recent closures.
- ▼ President Ryen noted that the search for a new general manager is moving forward.
- ▼ In response to a question regarding poultry litigation, it was noted that poultry owners have filed an appeal to the judge's decision that ECIA Covenants prohibit poultry; the ECIA has requested an appeal bond.
- ▼ A home business application was denied for 1 Joya Court for an animal boarding facility.
- ▼ A motion to approve a new Road Committee charter was withdrawn.
- ▼ A motion to withdraw the ECIA-owned 2 La Hacienda Loop house from rental use was approved.
- ▼ **Tara Debevec** was appointed to the Stable Committee.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 31 Moya Loop for an 8-foot-high fence, where the Guideline height is 6 feet, for RV screening, with conditions.

- ▼ A variance was tabled for 2 Moya Place for T-111 siding on the back of a carport, pending a Board site visit.
- ▼ The ECIA Employee Manual was amended to make Holiday Pay conform to the minimum required by state law. (5-1, Calzada opposed)
- ▼ The use of employee compensating time was curtailed, and existing balances are to be used by the end of 2014.
- ▼ Revised instructions were accepted for Nominating Petitions for Director positions expiring May 7, 2018, as recommended by the Elections Committee.

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on August 21, 2014, with six Board members present: Director Colello was absent. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting, unless otherwise noted:

- ▼ A variance was approved for 5 Sandia Lane for a metal roof element 2% above allowed coverage.
- ▼ A Home Occupation was approved for 18 Abanico Road for private yoga lessons.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 4 Rico Court for an 8 foot high RV screening fence.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 21 Juego Road for a fence encroaching 19 feet into the 50-foot front setback, encroachment to be removed when house is sold (4-0-1)
- ▼ A variance was denied for 1 Altura Road for driveway access off Monte Alto Road.

Continued on page 5

ECIA OFFICE

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:
Katherine Mortimer
Conservation: **Jim Daniel & Cherry Payne**
Election: **Kathie Graham**
Facilities & Grounds:
John Calzada
Finance: **Dan Drobnis**
Information: **Frank Schober**
Roads: **Felicia Probert**
Stable: **Open**

ECIA STAFF

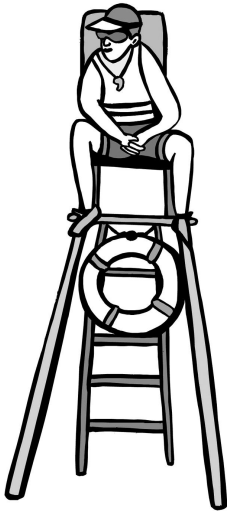
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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library
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Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofireandrescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)



Thanks to Lifeguards!

ECIA wants to thank Pool Manager, **Julie White**, and all the lifeguards for another great summer. We wish you all the best if you are returning to school or continuing to work elsewhere. We hope to see you again next year.

For anyone interested in working at the ECIA pool, the winter is a great time to take classes and get yourself certified for next summer. Lifeguards are always needed at our pool.

Trail Work Volunteers

Come learn how the ECIA controls erosion in the Preserve. The next Preserve workday to finish the work on Trail 201 begun last fall is September 20. Participants should meet at the Community Center at 8:30 AM.

Changes Near You?

Have any of your neighbors submitted architectural modification plans to the ECIA for approval? What changes to the built landscape are being considered near you? Check out the Architecture Committee agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/ldjmreo> or the ECIA Board agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lkxxdmw>.

Easy Listening

Want to hear some easy listening music on local radio? Try ELDORADIO: 1660 AM.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Pool Hours through Labor Day, Sept. 1

7:30–10 AM, every day: lap swimming only

10 AM–8 PM, every day: kiddie pool and main pool open to everyone

10 AM–8 PM, every day: two lap lanes for swimming

6–8 PM, every day: open to all; a third lap lane added as needed

Pool Season Extended: Sept. 2–Oct. 4

Mon.–Thurs.: 7:30–11:00 AM: laps only

Fri., 7:30 AM–7 PM: kiddie pool and main pool open to everyone

Sat.–Sun. 8–10 AM: lap swimming

10 AM–7 PM: kiddie pool and main pool open to everyone

La Tienda Flea Market

Want to hold a yard sale but don't want strangers at your house? Love hunting for rare treasures? The Flea Market at La Tienda is going to continue! Mark your calendars for the 3rd Saturday of each month (now through October). The next market is September 20 from 8 AM to 2 PM. Booth spaces are just \$15 with advance registration. Call Lucas at 225-0985 for more information.

Workshop: Make Every Drop Count, Learn Gray Water Basics!

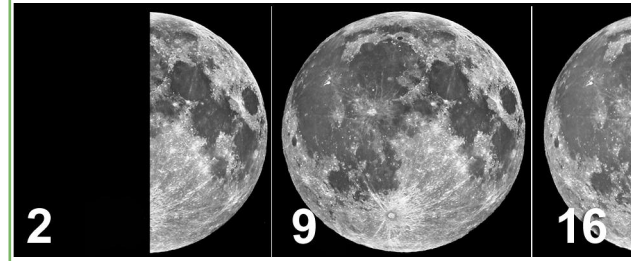
A Green Café Workshop, sponsored by SERA and HarvestH2o and taught by **Doug Pushard**, founder of HarvestH2o, is being held on Saturday, September 13 at The Performance Space at La Tienda, from 9 AM to 12 noon (2 and ½ hours plus time for questions after the workshop). Participation is limited to 15, so be sure to register by calling 512-698-8763 or emailing diane@harvesth2o.com.

Learn what gray water is and why you should care about it; what the difference is between gray water and black water; what the existing regulations are concerning gray water use in the home; the advantages and drawbacks for using gray water for irrigation, even for homegrown fruits and vegetables; and how to collect and recycle gray water in your home. The workshop is free. Donations to SERA are welcome

Menla Center Opening in September

A new yoga studio/healing arts center is opening at the Agora!. Classes offer professional instruction from experienced local teachers in multiple yoga styles from gentle to challenging; beginning to advanced instruction; morning, midday, and evening schedules; Tai Chi, Qigong, and other disciplines. The grand opening celebration is on Sunday, September 21, from 10 AM to 4 PM; there will be demonstrations, short classes, mandala art activities & refreshments. All ages welcome. Phone 505-629-7405, www.menlacenter.org.

MOON PHASES FOR SEPTEMBER



Harvesting and Propagating Herbs!

"Let's Grow!"—a monthly education series for the home gardener—is offered by the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association and is a free and public event that requires no registration. This final session of the five-part series is being held on Saturday, September 20, 9–11 AM at the SF County Fairgrounds Herb Garden. Following a brief presentation on herb propagation, participants may plant herb seeds, divisions, and cuttings in take-home pots. For further information, please visit: sfmga.org.

Theater Classes & Performances

Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players hold fall classes in Acting, Movement, and Voice for kids 7–13, on Thursdays, September 4–November 13 at Eldorado Community Center. The final performance will be held at La Tienda's Performance Space.

Stage Production Classes for kids 10–18 will stage *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Auditions are scheduled for October 28; rehearsals will be at the Eldorado Community Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, November 4, 2014–March 22, 2015. This production, adapted by **Laura Easman** and directed by **Rebecca Oden**, is not a musical version, though it will feature original music and dance. Performances will travel to small communities and schools throughout New Mexico; Santa Fe performance dates TBA. For more information: www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org.

Community Garden Open House

The Eldorado Community Garden is holding an open house on Saturday, September 13, from 9 AM to noon. Light refreshments will be served; and garden guides and answers to questions about gardening in our community will be at the ready. The garden is located behind the El Dorado Community School; the entrance is off Avenida Vista Grande.

Eldorado Flea Market October 4

The annual Eldorado fall flea market is scheduled for Saturday, October 4 at the Eldorado Community Center parking lot from 8 AM to noon. Sponsored by Eldorado Boy Scout Troop 414, this popular Eldorado event is open to the public and has a



variety of vendors with interesting and novel items. This is a great outing for the whole family.

Board Actions,

continued from p. 3

- ▼ A variance was approved for 36 Altura Road for a 32-inch garage corner encroachment into the 20-foot side setback (5-0) and for 90 feet of metal fascia (4-0-1).
- ▼ A variance was approved for 4 Verano Way for an metal outside spiral staircase screened by a coyote fence, with additional conditions.
- ▼ **Stephen Rudnick's** resignation as chair of the SPE Committee was accepted, and the committee dissolved with thanks for their service.
- ▼ A revised Election Committee charter was accepted.
- ▼ New signatories for the Edward Jones investment account were approved.
- ▼ The schedule for development of the 2015 budget was approved.

Regular Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Community Center and are open to the public. An open forum, community announcements, and reports from ECIA committees are normally included. Complete minutes and meeting agendas are available at the ECIA office or website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.

September Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email marilyn@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**

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

End of Summer Event	Mon., Sept. 1, 3 pm–dusk	CC
Town hall forum	Mon., Sept. 8, 7-9 pm	La Tienda
Fire Dept. BBQ	Sun., Sept. 21, noon–4 pm	CC
Flea Market	Sat., Oct. 4, 7 am–1 pm	CC
Paws in the Pool	Sun., Oct. 5, 2–3 pm	Poo;

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., Sept. 9, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., Sept. 23, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Thurs., Sept. 4, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Sept. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Sept. 2, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Sept. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	TBA	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Sept. 3, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Sept. 10, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Sept. 23, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., Sept. 22, 6-8 pm	Felicia Probert	466-1563	CFR
Stable Committee	TBA	Alice Griffin	795-6424	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR/CR
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs., of month	Barrie Brown	466-3035	CC
Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wed., 3:00 pm	Susan Aylward	shaylward@gmail.com	
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Karen Sweeney	466-9797	CFR
Library Book Group	2nd Sat., 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
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., 6:30 pm – Dusk			CC
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	670-6949	LR
Coed Adult Softball	Fri nights, 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 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
Horseshoes	Wed., 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-4:30	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Kate	216-5302	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.–Fri., 11:30-12:30 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	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

Arts Update



The Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association would like to remind folks of things coming up and to suggest ways that the public can access the artwork of EACA's members during times between their annual Spring Tour and Fall Show.

Several members exhibit and sell work regularly at the Santa Fe Artists' Market in Railyard Park on Saturdays from 8 AM to 1 PM, coinciding with Santa Fe's large Farmer's Market.

Individual member participation in events such as festivals and gallery openings, as well as award receptions, are posted regularly on the Association's Facebook presence; folks supportive of the organization and its members are encouraged to "like" them at www.facebook.com/eldoradoarts.

Eldorado resident videographer **Hal Ralston** has been producing a video about the EACA, and the bulk of filming is drawing to a close, heading into the editing and finishing stages. Release dates will be announced on EACA's Facebook page and website, www.eldoradoarts.com.

The annual Fall Show is happening next month; it will be at St. John's United Methodist Church in Santa Fe; hours are 3 to 7 PM on Friday, October 24, and 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, October 25.

EACA will soon be posting details about the pending November/December timeframe to register for the Spring 2015 Studio Tour. Any non-members interested in participating must first join the Association within that timeframe; the annual membership fee is \$15. Spring Tour dates are May 16 and 17.

—Margaret Nelson

Library News



Last month's Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction Fundraiser was a great success and a lot of fun for everyone. VGPL thanks all the Eldorado residents who volunteered to help out, who bought tickets, and bid on or provided items in the silent auction. VGPL always appreciates the wonderful support from Eldorado.

The Community Meeting Room is available for use, and many local organizations are taking advantage of this new amenity. Anyone interested in using this space should talk with Library Director **Julia Kelso**. Three tutoring cubicles for individual or small group studying, working, or tutoring are also available. These can be used during normal library hours on a first-come, first-served basis.

Now that school is back in session, it's time for the fall session of After School Reading and Story Time.

Students in grades K to 4 can register now for the Thursday After School Reading Club, which meets from 3 to 4:30 PM beginning September 11. Younger children will enjoy Story Time, which meets on Friday mornings at 11 AM. Drop-ins are welcome at Story Time, which begins on September 12. And the READ to a Dog program is expanding to accommodate more interested children. For additional information about any of these programs, come by or check the library's website at www.vglibrary.org.

Finally, a new catalog and circulation system is in place. The new system, called Apollo Biblionex, was designed for public libraries like VGPL, and offers many new features for patrons. As with any major change, there might be a few hiccups early in the process. Once everyone is over the learning curve, this will allow better service for patrons.

—Tracey Mitchell

Election Committee Seeks Alternate Member

The Election Committee will soon lose long-time and valued member, **Jean Crawford**. Therefore, we are looking for someone interested in being a part of the Election Committee, which is responsible for conducting all elections and associated functions for the ECIA Community.

Our Charter states the following:

The Election Committee shall consist of no more than five (5) or fewer than three (3) Members and one (1) Alternate. The Alternate will be a non-voting member unless requested by the Chairperson or his/her delegate to be a voting member to complete a quorum. Three members in attendance at any meeting shall constitute a quorum.

To be a member, one must:

1. Be in good standing with the Association, which means the Member's assessment(s) are current;
2. Be recommended by the Election Committee and appointed by the Board of Directors;
3. Be available to count ballots in elections set by the Board of Directors;
4. The Alternate may assist with counting of ballots and is to be knowledgeable of Committee actions;
5. Be able to uphold the high standards required by the Election Committee in regard to impartiality and confidentiality of the election results and reliability in regard to participation in the annual Board election count.

If you have questions, contact **Kathie Graham** at 466-2133.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

The Hole Truth

A friend was anxious to eliminate gophers from her property. She positioned a hose into a hole and blasted it with water. Unfortunately, it turned out that the gopher was long gone but a family of rabbits had moved into the abandoned burrow. The woman felt terrible that she had drowned the baby rabbits.

Sometimes it seems like our properties are full of holes—small holes, big holes, holes with mounds, holes under trees. Although we know it's best to leave most of the holes alone (as the majority of the critters who dig holes won't do us or our property any harm), we can't always identify which animals created which holes. So we decided to dig (pun intended!) into the truth of the matter by conducting some basic research.

We found some surprising information. Most holes do not indicate gophers. Many of the animals who build the holes are beneficial to the ecology. And you can't always assume the animal who built the hole is the one actually living in it!

Animals typically dig holes to hide their young and/or to take shelter from predators and bad weather. In general, holes 3 inches or smaller were made by chipmunks, ground squirrels, or rats, those larger than 3 inches by badgers, coyotes, fox, or prairie dogs.

Chipmunk holes are clean and neat, silver-dollar sized. Spotted Squirrel holes, which do not include a mound, are typically 2 inches in diameter, located under rocks or shrubs. Rats (kangaroo rat, aka pack rat or wood rat) build complex dens with several chambers.

Badger holes (unusual in Eldorado but we do have them) are about a foot wide, with a mound of dirt in

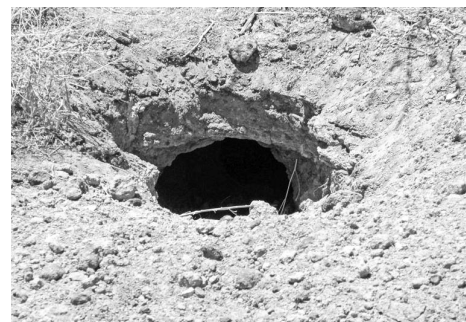
front. The holes are shallow, although when a female is preparing to give birth, the hole will be deeper. Coyotes typically do not use dens except on occasion. Foxes will often use another animal's hole but can dig their own when needed. Prairie dogs live in large colonies with multiple holes; the dirt around the hole is higher than the entrance.

Gophers are skillful diggers. It's important to note that gophers generally do not leave visible holes! They create extensive underground tunnels, often making large mounds. When finished digging for food, gophers usually plug up their hole with dirt or vegetation.

Most North American rabbits don't make holes. Instead, they dig a shallow hollow in the ground near plants such as low junipers or sagebrush. In winter, the rabbits might use tunnels in the snow as a place to rest.

It's important for us to remember that other animals might use existing holes. Some birds, rabbits, and snakes use vacated holes, for protection from predators or bad weather or to shelter from the sun. Tarantulas, spotted ground squirrels, burrowing owls, and rabbits—as the neighbor in the account above found out—can be found in burrows made by other creatures. Sadly, many residents inadvertently kill the wrong animals by targeting a particular type of hole.

References for this article are available on request. Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com. We love hearing from you!



Top to bottom: Badger hole, from front; gopher mound; rock squirrels peeking out from burrow. Photos by Ann V. Wood

Senior Center News

On August 29, Santa Fe County held a groundbreaking at the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center to mark the start of construction for the addition that will double the dining room space and for the new Santa Fe County Community Center. The project will provide increased space for the senior center during weekdays and allow citizens from the southeast sector of Santa Fe County to have a community center for activities on weekends and evenings. The contract is for \$1,275,000. The design links the Vista Grande Public Library through common space to create a campus setting for seniors, library users, and the public of Santa Fe County. Completion is scheduled for May 2015.

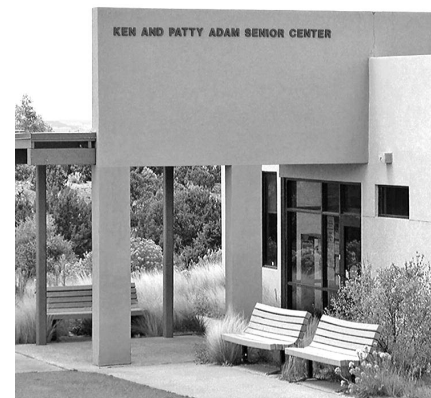
The Adam Center currently has over 300 members who attend lunch and/or classes in art and exercise,

and monthly trips to museums, ball games, and various other locales.

The Friends of the Adam Center are planning a spring trip to San Antonio, Texas, with Diamond Tours. The trip will be in mid-March 2015 for 7 days and 6 nights at a cost of \$569 per person. Participation is not limited to seniors. Anyone interested in finding out more about the March trip should contact **Dolores Brock** 466-3848.

Lunch is served daily Monday thru Friday from 11 to 12:30. Reservations are required the day before. Call 466-1039 or stop by to pick up the month's menu and activity list.

Meals on Wheels continue to be available for homebound seniors in Eldorado and the surrounding area. To sign up, contact **Kathleen Roybal** 466-1039.



VISTAS

Eldorado Community
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Events to Mark Summer's End

FUN RUN FOR EL DORADO COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27, 8 AM



Residents of the 285 corridor are invited to participate in the 20th El Dorado Fun Run Saturday, September 27 at 8 AM. This celebration of fun, family, fitness, and community features a new 5K running course that includes a 1-mile segment of trail running, a 3.5K community walk that has the same amazing views as does the 5K, and a kid's off-road fun run. All races will start and finish at the school's

field. The top finishers will receive awards, participants will be eligible for raffle prizes, and breakfast burritos and other refreshments will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the event will fund PTA-sponsored physical education programs for El Dorado Community School students. Come on out and support our school and community! Register today at www.newmexicosportsonline.com/Running/El-Dorado-Fun-Run--2014/700. For more about the PTA: <http://eldoradopta.org/>.



ELDORADO COMMUNITY LABOR DAY PICNIC CELEBRATION

MONDAY, SEPT. 1, FROM 3 PM TO DUSK



Live music from Swing Shift, The Girls Garage Band, and The Steve Rose Band! Fun for all ages! Pool is open. Treasure hunt for kids. Bring your picnic basket, your cooler, your umbrella, and your dog! At the Community Center 1 La Hacienda Loop 466-4248

EXTENDED POOL SEASON

(SEE PAGE 4)



**PAWS IN THE
POOL, SUNDAY,
OCT. 5
12-3 PM**

