

# ELDORADO AT SANTA FE VISTAS

VOLUME XIX, ISSUE 9  
September 2017

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

ECIA, 1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

## Fire Department Annual Open House & Barbeque

**E**l Dorado Fire & Rescue Service is holding its Annual Open House and Barbeque on Sunday, September 17, from noon until 4 PM. The event will be held at the ECIA Community Center. All members of the Eldorado area community are invited to attend.

The El Dorado Fire Brigade was started in 1976, when there were fewer than 400 houses in the area. Its first home was in a barn near the Eldorado Clubhouse. El Dorado was soon designated an official fire district of Santa Fe County, and subsequently became known as El Dorado Fire & Rescue Service. As the Eldorado area community has grown over the years, so has El Dorado Fire & Rescue Service (EFRS).

The 100% volunteer organization has come a long way since those early days by virtue of the hard work of many and strong community support. EFRS strives to engage with the community through outreach and educational activities, and refresh their roster with continuous new member recruitment. The department also invests heavily in time and funding for training certifications in both fire protection and medical care, with the goal of enhanced safety, effectiveness, and response times for emergency services. All community residents are encouraged to join the group.



The Annual Open House and Barbeque is a thank-you to the community as well as an educational event.

All of the Service's emergency vehicles will be on display for inspection, and department members will be on hand to meet and talk with attendees throughout the event. Smokey will be there too. There will be demonstrations, activities for the kids, and live music through the afternoon. And, of course, there will be plenty of great food!

The El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service looks forward to seeing all of you at this traditional community gathering!

—Vincent Faust, EFRS

**ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Bldg. Monday, September 25, 7 PM**



Grab a sandwich at the BBQ!

Stats for EFRS, 2017 (thru 8/10), Eastern District, including Eldorado

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	59	7.97%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	539	72.84%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	4	0.54%
Service Call	23	3.11%
Good Intent Call	55	7.43%
False Alarm & False Call	60	8.11%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

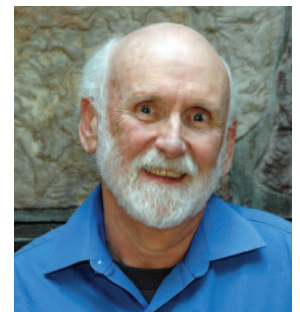
## David McDonald, New Board Director

**O**ne of our newly elected 2017 ECIA Board members is **David McDonald**, a 15-year resident of Eldorado. Originally from Southern California, he and his wife, **Anne Salzmann**, moved here from Sedona. David's background is serving in the Air Force, working as a graphic artist, professional potter, high school teacher, and spending many years in nonprofits. Since moving to Santa Fe,

David has worked as a home inspector, and owned a yoga studio in the Agora. His real passion is music, writing and playing guitar, bass, and recently the marimba.

David has served on the ECIA Architecture Committee for seven years and was part of the Solar Energy Task Force. He is now Board Liaison to the Architecture Committee.

—Marilyn Farrell





Share your  
comments  
with us!

For policy and  
deadline, see  
below

### Editorial Policy

Vistas welcomes your ideas, stories, photos, and art. 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 as well, along with accompanying photos.

**DEADLINE:** Newsletter deadline is the 5th day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or e-mailed to gloria@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.

## White Roofing Requires ECIA Approval

If you've read the Eldorado Covenants, you know that Article II, Section 5 of the Eldorado Covenants prohibits roofs with "highly reflective or glare producing materials." However, because there are new energy-efficient, but reflective white roof coatings on the market, the ECIA Board approved an update to the newly revised Eldorado Guidelines that addresses the use of such materials. Section 6.2.4.1 is detailed as follows:

6.2.4.1. White roofing products shall require completion and submission of the Architecture Plan form to the ECIA for review. The ECIA will then schedule a time to come meet with the homeowner on their lot to determine if the horizontal surfaces of the roof will be visible to any neighbors. If there is no visibility, the application will be approved with the stipulation that on any vertical surfaces of the roof such as the

inside of the parapets and the canales the tan version of the product or paint that matches the home's stucco color shall be used. When using any bright white roofing product for a roof repair it shall only be used where it is not visible to your neighbors. The tan color of the product shall be used on any vertical surfaces, parapets or canales.

Should you want to apply a white silicone or other reflective roofing project, the Guidelines require that you come to the ECIA, complete the necessary paperwork, and receive the ECIA's approval before any roof work is done. If you have questions, please call me at the ECIA at 466-4248 or e-mail me at [myoung@hoamco.com](mailto:myoung@hoamco.com). Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

—Mark Young, Compliance Representative

## Stable Amenity is Open to the Community

Barn owners would like to remind everyone that the stable, although the only user-fee amenity in Eldorado, is open to residents. Eldoradoans are welcome to walk around and see the equines, which range from a donkey to a draft horse. Horse owners love to talk about their animals, so feel free to ask questions. If you want compost for your garden, drive in and take manure. And don't forget our annual Community Day, which features free pony rides. This year it will be held on October 22.

Over 60 of your neighbors use the stable on a daily basis at least twice a day. Unlike the seasonal amenities, we are open 24/7, 365 days a year. After purchasing a barn—and there are currently four barns for sale—barn owners pay the annual fees for water use, manure removal, fly predators, property taxes, liability and barn insurance, and maintaining barns to ECIA standards. Any Eldorado resident can buy a barn or find a space to share and enjoy owning a horse.

Like all amenities, the stable adds to the property value of our homes. Eldorado is a popular place to live because we welcome the diverse interests of the community, from horses to tennis to swimming.

Please know that your dues support the common areas of the stable, such as the arena and road maintenance. In 2016, the office reports that \$28,540 went to support the stable amenity from dues. There are 2,776 lots in Eldorado. That is only \$10.28 a year per lot. Compare that to the pool, which is not only seasonal but limited to just over a 100-person capacity when it is open. Your annual cost to maintain it is \$115,345, and that does not include replacing failed equipment. The hike/bike trails cost around \$50,000 per year to cover the maintenance costs of one-third of the amenity.

We hope you visit soon and enjoy an amenity that celebrates the horse, the spirit of the West.

—Eldorado Stable Committee

## Meet Your Maintenance Crew!

It is thanks to our maintenance crew's hard work and dedication that ECIA's amenities are well taken care of and available for use by residents. Mike Armijo started working for the ECIA in August of 2015. Mike has been married to his wife, Victoria, for 29 years and together they have three sons. Mike grew up and lives in Pecos, NM, where he enjoys weekends fishing, camping, and enjoying the wilderness. Jason McAlister is ECIA's maintenance crewmember. Jason is originally from Amarillo, Texas,

and has lived in Santa Fe for a year and a half. Jason is an avid sports lover and enjoys spending time outside. Next time you drive by your maintenance crew, give them a wave or swing by the office to say hi!

—Isabel Ugarte

**SEE PHOTO ON FACING PAGE>>>**

Maintenance staff.

Left: Mike Armijo.

Right: Jason McAlister

## Message from the Board Treasurer

**A**s a new Board member and newly elected treasurer, I want to give you all a little of my background. My wife, **DiAna**, and I have lived in this community for over 35 years. We have raised two daughters here, both of whom attended El Dorado Elementary School. When we moved here, there were about 250 homes and the only paved road was the first entrance into Eldorado.

I have retired after 40 years in government service, over 30 years with the State of New Mexico and 10 years with Santa Fe County. All of my work experience has been involved with finance, general administration, and project development.

As the new treasurer, I'd like to offer a brief idea of the community's finances. Our annual budget usually ranges in between 1.2 and 1.3 million dollars a year. Included in those numbers are funds to maintain community amenities and sustain the annual general operation of ECIA. Among the major items included in the current budget year 2017 are (1) the hike/bike trail repair and maintenance; (2) new decking for the pool; and (3) repair and fencing at the dog park.

Preparation of the 2018 annual budget has officially started, beginning with the general manager receiving input from ECIA staff and committees. When this information is in hand, the GM works with the treasurer on a first draft of the budget. The Finance Committee then reviews the draft budget and then holds a public review of the draft budget. After this, the budget goes to the Board for a final review. One last public hearing on the budget is held in early December; and the final budget is adopted in late December.

There is one more area of the budget that I want to highlight: the Replacement and Reserve process. ECIA has a schedule of all items that need to be replaced over the next 30 years. During the budget process, we try to include all the funds needed for the scheduled replacements of that budget year. ECIA also tries to keep a reserve in place to fund the next five years' worth of replacements. This is a very sound financial practice that ECIA executes annually.

Overall I look forward to working with the Board and the community on all the planned and unplanned financial challenges that will arise during my term on the Board.  
—*Joseph Gutierrez, ECIA Treasurer*

## Recent Board Actions

**T**he ECIA Board of Directors met on August 21, 2017. Members present were President **John Henriksen**, Vice-President **Antone Forneris**, Treasurer **Joseph Gutierrez**, Secretary **Michael McDowell**, and Directors **Pam Henline**, **David McDonald**, and **Jody Price**. The following formal actions passed unanimously unless stated otherwise:

Motion passed to reconfirm Board approval of AFJ Custom Paving Contract # 8369, with ECIA addendum, for a total of \$99,410 plus tax for repairs and maintenance of hike/bike trails along Avenida Vista Grande and Avenida Eldorado.

Motion passed to approve the format of the ECIA 2018 Assessment Letter.

Motion passed to approve and appoint Dog Park Ad-Hoc Committee and members **H. Marie Aragon**, **Bob Christie**, and **Bob Johnson**.



Motion passed to approve and appoint Pool Ad-Hoc Committee and members **Dave Borton**, **Jean Crawford**, **Mary Ellen Donat**, **Joe Oser**, and **Mike Schneider**.

Motions passed to appoint **Nolan Zisman** as a new member of the Facilities and Grounds Committee and to appoint **Dag Ryen** as a new member of the Information Committee.

Motion passed to approve Stable User Fee Collection Policy; Director Henline voted no.

Motion passed to approve six-month Equine Burial Moratorium within the Eldorado Stable Amenity and on Eldorado common properties. See the October *Vistas* and [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org) for more on this.

Motion passed to approve the Environmental Engineer Service Agreement with Souder, Miller & Associates for \$5,415.62 to conduct site visits and preliminary screening to determine a process for collecting and disposing of horse stable waste to minimize or eliminate contact with water for the purpose of protecting surface and groundwater.

The next meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors will be a Working session on September 20, at 6 PM, in the Community Center Classroom. On September 25, at 7 PM, the Board will hold its regular meeting in the Railroad Room at the Community Center.

Regular Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at the Community Center and are open to the public.

### ECIA OFFICE

#1 La Hacienda Loop  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
466-4248, 466-4249  
[www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President**  
**John Henriksen**  
[J.Henriksen@eldoradosf.org](mailto:J.Henriksen@eldoradosf.org)  
**Vice-President**  
**Antone Forneris**  
[A.Forneris@eldoradosf.org](mailto:A.Forneris@eldoradosf.org)  
**Secretary**  
**Michael McDowell**  
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**Treasurer**  
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**Director**  
**Pam Henline**  
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**Director**  
**David McDonald**  
[D.McDonald@eldoradosf.org](mailto:D.McDonald@eldoradosf.org)  
**Director**  
**Barrett "Jody" Price**  
[J.Price@eldoradosf.org](mailto:J.Price@eldoradosf.org)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**Architecture:**  
**Katherine Mortimer**  
**Conservation:** **Jim Daniel**  
**Election:** **Bette Knight**  
**Facilities & Grounds:**  
**Lee Onstott (acting chair)**  
**Finance:** **Sal Monaco**  
**Information:** **Open**  
**Roads:** **Felicia Probert**  
**Stable:** **Open**

### ECIA STAFF

**General Manager**  
**Isabel Ugarte**  
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**Editor & Designer**  
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**Webmaster:**  
**Jack Arnold**  
[webmaster@eldoradosf.org](mailto:webmaster@eldoradosf.org)

### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Vista Grande Library**  
**466-READ**  
**Fire and Rescue**  
**466-1204**  
[eldoradofirerescue.org](http://eldoradofirerescue.org)  
**County All Purpose**  
**820-CNTY (2689)**





### Volunteers Sought for Finance Committee:

The ECIA Finance Committee is actively seeking new members. This committee provides advice to the ECIA Board concerning financial operations and budget administration; they develop annual budgets, review capital expenditures, make forecasts, review expenditures and investments, and assist in developing financial policies and procedures. More information about the committee can be found at <http://eldoradosf.org/Committees/finance-committee.html>. Contact Sal Monaco at [salmonaco@yahoo.com](mailto:salmonaco@yahoo.com) or 505-690-5125.



Learn to harvest herbs  
Sept. 9



Donate to the Neighbor-  
to-Neighbor Food Drive

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Lace 'em up!

The Eldorado Adult basketball season is still going, our 10th summer! Lace 'em, players, and c'mon out to the Community Center basketball court for fun and friendly pick-up hoops, Thursdays, 6:00–dusk.



### Household Fire Extinguisher Collection

El Dorado Fire and Rescue will be collecting old, unwanted fire extinguishers at their annual barbeque at ECIA on September. 17. Fire extinguishers should not be put in the regular trash or taken to the Eldorado Convenience Center, as they are considered hazardous waste. They will be hauled to Buckman Road Recycling and Transfer Station (BuRRT) at the end of the day as a service to residents.

### Northern NM Grass ID

On Saturday, September 2, from 9 to 11 AM (or longer), at the Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve (27283 West Frontage Road), the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association and the Santa Fe Botanical Garden are offering an introduction to grass species identification, with emphasis on northern New Mexican species. Bring a hand lens or magnifying glass, if you have one.

### Herb Harvesting and Propagation

On Saturday, September 9, from 9 to 11 AM, learn about herbs at the Master Gardener Herb Gardens at the County Fairgrounds (3229 Rodeo Road). Bring your shovels and gloves for a morning of hands-on herb harvesting. Learn to propagate by division, digging out parts of established plants and replanting in pots that you can take home and enjoy!

### September Compost Clinic

On Saturday, September 23, from 9 to 11 AM, come to Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at the County Fairgrounds (3229 Rodeo Road) for a hands-on clinic that will teach proper techniques for building a thermal pile, turning, finishing, and screening compost, in addition to straw bale worm composting (vermicomposting). Bring hats, gloves, sturdy shoes, water and a pitchfork if you have one.

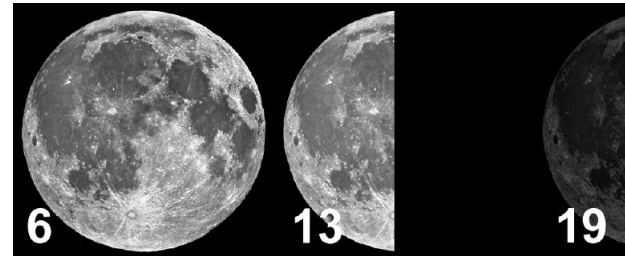
### Stable Community Day

The 2017 ECIA Stables Community Day will be on Sunday, October 22, from 10 AM to 1 PM. There will be pony rides for children, snacks, interesting information about equines, and some horse visiting/petting.

### Position Open in Architecture Committee

Applicants should have some familiarity with home design, architecture, and will be working with the committee in reviewing projects for the construction, addition, or remodeling of dwellings and other structures covered under the covenants and guidelines. Usually there are two meetings per month, plus occasional site visits. For further information call Mark at the ECIA at 466-4248.

## MOON PHASES FOR SEPTEMBER



### Swing Your Partner!

**What:** Contemporary Modern Square Dance Classes (totally different from your junior high experience)!

**When:** Open House and First Lesson  
Friday, Sept. 8, and Friday, Sept. 22

**Time:** 7–8 PM

**Where:** Max Coll Community Room (between the Senior Center and Vista Grande Library)

**Who:** All Ages, Singles and Couples welcome! No Experience Necessary! Beginners Welcome!



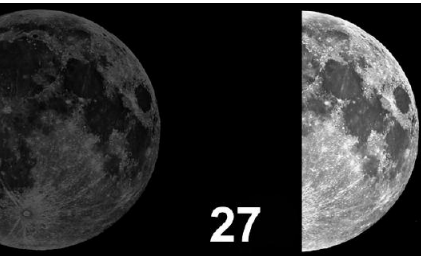
### Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Drive!

September is Hunger Action Month, and ECIA is once again participating in The Food Depot's annual Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive! Last year, a combined total of over 48 tons of food was donated to the Food Depot. This year, we hope to double ECIA's donations. Donating is easy; simply drop off your non-perishable food items at the ECIA office, Vista Grande Public Library, Eldorado Country Pet, or Agora Supermarket. You can even make monetary donations by mailing a check to the Food Depot, 1222A Siler Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507 (don't forget to write "ECIA" in the memo line). Early drop-off dates: September 11–13; regular drop-off dates: September 14–16. The cutoff is 4 PM on Saturday, Sept. 16. Check out [thefooddepot.org](http://thefooddepot.org), the Food Depot's website, for a list of the most needed items. Hunger does not discriminate. Donate and help out your neighbor!

### Eldorado Yoga: Calm, Close, and Community-based

Are you aware that yoga classes are being offered five days a week in the ECIA classroom? The three adjectives of calm, close, and community-based aptly describe the atmosphere and types of classes being offered for Eldorado residents Monday through Friday.

**Calm** – Yoga is a practice used to calm the nervous system, to reduce one's overall stress levels, and to invite in both greater physical mobility and flexibility in the body. During these classes, the ECIA classroom is quickly transformed into a quiet, safe,



### SAVE PAPER/MAILING \$\$

To opt out of receiving a personal mailed copy of *Vistas*, email [gloria@eldoradosf.org](mailto:gloria@eldoradosf.org). You will be sent an email once a month with a link to the next issue of *Vistas* on the ECIA website, in PDF format, ready to view and/or print at home.



and peaceful environment for students to practice without distraction.

**Close** – For most residents, access to these classes is 5–10 minutes away from one's home. You can hop into comfortable clothes, bring your own yoga mat, and drop into a class to practice with other neighbors.

**Community-based** – Whether you are a long-time resident of Eldorado or new to this community, attending a weekly yoga class or classes offers you the opportunity to get to know a group of like-minded Eldorado dwellers dedicated to improving their health and wellbeing.

These classes are designed for a variety of ability levels. For class times, costs, and pass information, description of classes, and an introduction to the instructors, visit [eldoradoyogaforeverybody.com](http://eldoradoyogaforeverybody.com). –Mary Garvey Horst

# September Events

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

Email [gloria@eldoradosf.org](mailto:gloria@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.

CC=Community Center, LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Rm, CR=Classroom, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive</b>	<b>Mon., Sept 11–Sat., Sept 16</b>	<b>ECIA</b>
<b>Eldorado Fire Open House &amp; BBQ</b>	<b>Sun., Sept. 17, 12-4</b>	<b>ECIA</b>
<b>Boy Scout Troop 414 Fall Flea Market</b>	<b>Sat., Sept. 23, 7am-noon</b>	<b>CC Parking Lot</b>

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS\*\*\*\*

Architecture Committee	Tues., Sept. 12, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., Sept. 26, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Wed., Sept. 20, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Sept. 5, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Mon., Sept. 25, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Sept. 13, 2-4 pm	Bette Knight	466-4248	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Sept. 6, 3-5 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., Sept. 18, 9:30-11:30 am	Sal Monaco	858-886-6656	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., Sept. 26, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	FR
Road Committee	TBA	Felicia Probert	466-1563	RR
Stable Committee	TBA	Bonnie Mamp	eldoradostables@gmail.com	F

### MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY

Cub Scout Troop 414	1st & 2nd Wed 6-7 pm	Will Scoberg	karlwscoberg@aol.com	CR
EAWS&SD	1st & 3rd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	EAWS&SD
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs., 7 pm	Mary Fredenburgh	466-1035	CR
Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wed., 3:00 pm	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net	LR
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Sue Daniel	856-220-7087	CFR
Healing Arts Practitioners	2nd Tues., 4-5:30 pm	Terry Terry	303-475-0922	LR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Brad Cottingham	466-4655	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm		santafesar.org	VGPL

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 7-8 pm			CFR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 11-12 pm			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			La Tienda
Adult Basketball	Thursdays, 6:15-dusk			BB Court
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Karl Cordova	karl_cordova747@msn.com	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Shirley Davis	982-6179	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Creative Movement for Kids	Tues., 3:30-4:30 pm	Teresa Schwarz	428.0832	CR
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Fire & Rescue Training	Tues., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Duty Sections	Sat., 8-12 noon	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Interval Training	Wed., 9 am	Susan Kayar	204-8290	Max Coll CC
Interval Training	Fri., 8:30 am	Susan Kayar	204-8290	Max Coll CC
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Mavis Murphy	466-8189	RR
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-5 pm	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Barb	954-1533	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 11:30-12:30 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Spinning Group (Fiber)	1st & 3rd Thurs., 9:30-11:30 am	Ellen Higgins	970-201-4776	LR
Square Dancing	Fri., 6:30-9 pm	Connie Walters	466-4226	Max Coll CC
Yin Yoga	Mon., 5:30-6:45 pm	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Tues., 9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Wed., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/ Gentle Stretch	Thurs., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Fri., 9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Zumba	Tues. & Thurs., 9-10 am	Tana Monaco	690-4332	Max Coll CC

\* Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

\*\*For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

\*\*\* Reservations required \*\*\*\* Check the ECIA website for the most accurate dates/times

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



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

## You Found What Where?

Photo above right:  
This boom snake was  
mistaken for a huge  
reptile!



Part of the beauty of Eldorado is our abundant wildlife. Coexisting with wildlife—while using common sense, nontoxic precautions to minimize property damage—can be an ongoing challenge. Many people have interesting stories about finding critters in various places. Here's ours.

Due to our allergies, our sweet dog, Tanner, sleeps in the laundry room next to the master bedroom, with a baby gate separating the rooms. Recently, Tanner became quite upset—as he is with thunderstorms—when he entered the laundry room at bedtime. Concerned, we consulted a behaviorist, but that didn't work. We couldn't figure it out.

Then we heard an unusual noise in the clothes dryer. We turned on the dryer and watched the outside dryer vent and . . . a mouse ran out! The vent and chimney cleaning service we hired found nesting material and big holes in the inside ducts. After making repairs, the technician advised that we likely had a dead mouse inside the dryer, so we called an appliance service. Yes, there was a dead mouse inside the machine's parts. There was also a live bull snake inside!

We released the snake into the yard (happy to have it going after rodents, but outside, please). The technician said that just the week before, he removed a rattlesnake from another dryer.

We installed a new, more secure, vent cover, then found that further repairs were needed for the inside duct work. Altogether, we spent \$500 repairing faulty materials uncovered (and partially damaged) by mice—discovered thanks to our dog!

We are not alone in finding wildlife in odd places. Where mice go, snakes tend to follow. Consider:

▼ **Barbecues.** Mice can nest there, especially during winter. Keep the barbecue lid open when not in use.

▼ **Exhaust fans.** Mice sometimes nest in kitchen and bathroom exhaust vents and fans. Make sure your outside vents are securely covered with appropriate screening.

▼ **Swamp coolers.** Mice can make homes in unused units. Check your cooler units periodically.

▼ **Under car hoods.** Mice love to nest under the car hood. Dave at Eldorado Automotive reports mice and woodrat damage can be significant. Keep your hood open if you park outside. We have also heard of snakes—and rabbits!—getting under car hoods.

▼ **Bird feeders and wood piles** attract mice, so be sure to keep them a good distance from structures.

Our favorite story occurred with visitors from the East Coast. They said they'd seen a "huge 30-foot-long black snake" along the roadside. Skeptical, we asked them to take photos . . . and had a great laugh when we realized it was a construction erosion control "boom snake." Our friends were not entirely convinced. They haven't been back for another visit.

Eldorado Relocation Snake Volunteers recently relocated Western diamondback rattlesnakes from residences in the Art Barns community, Las Campanas, and Lamy. The snakes are likely traveling up the Rio Grande drainages seeking cooler temperatures, due to climate change. It's reasonable to assume that Eldorado may be visited by Western diamondbacks, a new experience for our area. No reason for panic, though, as even encounters with prairie rattlesnakes are rare.

Some people love snakes. Some find them deeply frightening. We say, let us be grateful for the snakes, bobcats, coyotes, and raptors who do their best to keep our rodent population in check.

Archived articles can be found at <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com/flora-fauna-group/>.

### ELDORADO 285/RECYCLES

## Recycling Know-How: Light Bulbs

There are many kinds of light bulbs these days, and it's not always clear how to dispose of them. Here are some recycling tips.

**Reduce:** Buy only low-wattage LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs. Light bulbs last for many years, prices are coming down, so lifetime energy and cost savings are enormous!

**Recycle:** Fluorescent tubes and CFLs (compact fluorescent lights) contain toxic mercury and should be dropped off at the ECC or BuRRT. CFLs, but not fluorescent tubes, are also accepted at Lowe's and Home Depot. There are no programs available to recycle in-

candescent light bulbs, so you will need to put them in the trash. You might consider wrapping the light bulb in something so any broken glass cannot rip through the bag and injure sanitation workers. As tempting as it may seem, do not place incandescent, halogen or LED light bulbs in your glass-recycling bin. The glass in the bulb has a different melting temperature than the glass in jars or bottles. A single light bulb can ruin a whole batch of perfectly recyclable glass.

—Adapted from Reduce, Reuse, Recycle  
by N. Scott/SFSWMA/Eldorado 285 Recycles



## Update: EAWSD's Well 19 Project

Since acquiring the water utility in 2004, each successive Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD) board has addressed a list of continuous upgrades and improvements. These projects are undertaken in order to maintain a safe and reliable service to its customers. Except for rare wet years when the Lamy well recharges, the water supplied by EAWSD comes from groundwater wells.

As these wells are pumped over the years, they begin to “play out” and new wells must be added to the system. The latest of these is Well 19, planned to be dug at the south end of Torreon where it intersects Carissa inside La Paz. The need for this well was first identified in EAWSD’s 2013 Utility Master Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report.

According to **Steve King**, EAWSD’s project manager, “The Well 19 project, when completed, will provide a much needed additional source of water supply as required to meet our peak summer demands.” Its location was selected as one with the potential for developing a well of significant capacity (greater than 100 gallons per minute of production).

Levels of the element antimony were detected in Well 19 at somewhat above water-quality standards. Design modifications were made to provide blending into the system. This was determined to be the most

cost effective and reliable means of ensuring a safe and fully compliant water supply.

The modified Well 19 design was completed in late 2016, at which point EAWSD had invested approximately \$600,000 into the project. The job was sent out for bid in early 2017, the lowest responsive one coming in at just over \$1 million. The award of that bid was contingent on receipt of a county permit to allow the project construction to move forward.

In the meantime, however, the county adopted a Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC), and its requirements now impinge on Well 19’s current location. In order to build the well in this location, originally sanctioned by the county before adopting SLDC, EAWSD must now obtain a series of variances. Appeals by the utility for those variances have been rejected, and the project is now stalled.

Said King, “EAWSD, its consultant, and attorney are now considering options, including appeal to the Board of County Commissioners as provided for in the SLDC. The board and its staff remain optimistic that outstanding issues can be resolved to allow this critical project to move forward.” EAWSD’s appeal is likely to be taken up by the County Board at its September meeting.

— *Gershon Siegel*

## Library News

The VGPL staff and board of directors are extremely grateful to the community for all the support during the unfortunate situation the library experienced this summer. The unplanned closure during the remediation and repairs for flood damage has been difficult for everyone. However, normal services have resumed, and the new extended hours will be in place: 10 AM to 6 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; and 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday.

Last month’s Summer Fling Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction was a big success, thanks to the community members and library supporters who came out. The organizers especially want to thank the Business Partners, volunteers, and everyone who donated items for the Silent Auction and food for the event. This key fundraiser for Vista Grande Public Library helps to pay for new books, DVDs, and other collection materials, as well as program expenses, and all the other service that the library provides to the community. Thank you, Eldorado!

**EVENTS** (Note: most events take place in the Meeting Room, unless noted otherwise.)

**Holiday Closure:** Library closed Saturday, September 2, for Labor Day weekend.

**Art Exhibition:** September 1–29, **Joan Biordi** presents “The Crown Jewels”: Western National Parks Photography. Reception on September 8, 5–7 PM.

**Book Donation Day:** Saturday, September 9, from 9 to 11:30 AM only. Please bring only items in good condition; use boxes or bags you don’t need to keep; bring large donations earlier in the morning; and do not donate textbooks or VHS tapes.

**After School Reading Club** for students in grades K–4: Wednesdays, 3 to 4:30 PM, starting September 13. Registration forms and more information available on the website and at the library.

**Story Time** for toddlers and preschoolers: Friday mornings at 11 AM in the Children’s section.

**Alzheimer’s Talk:** Friday, September 15, 10–11 AM, the Alzheimer’s Association will present the first of three classes on dealing with early, middle, and late stage Alzheimer’s.

**Family Movie Night:** Friday, September 15, at 7 PM. Call 466-7323 for the film title and rating.

**Railroad Talk:** Saturday, September 16, 1–2 PM, **Fred Friedman** will speak on the history and possible projected use(s) of the branch line running up from Lamy to Santa Fe: its construction in February 1880, its role in movies, peace, wars, and area economic development.

— *Tracey Mitchell*



Joan Biordi’s photography on view in September.

# VISTAS

Eldorado Community  
Improvement Association  
#1 La Hacienda Loop  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508  
[www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

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Santa Fe, NM

## HELP ECIA GO GREEN!

### SAVE ON PAPER & MAIL

by opting out of receiving a mailed copy of **Vistas**. To sign up, email [gloria@eldoradosf.org](mailto:gloria@eldoradosf.org). You will be sent an email once a month with a link to the next issue of **Vistas** on the ECIA website, in PDF format, ready to view and/or print at home.



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Road Repair (SF County) 992-3010  
[www.santafecountynm.gov/public\\_works/road\\_concern](http://www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works/road_concern).

Sheriff 428-3720  
Crime Stoppers 955-5050  
Neighborhood Watch: <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>

## Labyrinth for Peace

Privately nestled between piñons and lilacs behind the ECIA Community Center, a brand new stone labyrinth sits waiting for residents to walk its winding path and experience its peaceful possibilities.

My idea of building a new labyrinth for ECIA was initiated soon after my wife, Lisa, and I moved to Eldorado in 2015. We discovered “the ruins” of an abandoned labyrinth located behind the swimming pool. A faded sign indicated that it had been an Eagle Scout project from back in 2011. I contacted the local Boy Scout troop, and eventually the Eagle Scout himself, and learned that there was no plan to revive that labyrinth. I initially thought of just rebuilding it in the same place, but I preferred a more private location. I eventually got the scout’s permission to “recycle” the rocks into a new, relocated labyrinth.

Lisa and I scouted out the grounds of the Community Center area for possible locations of a new labyrinth. Once we had some options, I pitched my idea to the ECIA Facilities and Grounds Committee and received overwhelming support, which led to the approval of the project by the ECIA Board. Then, with the help of ECIA Maintenance Supervisor Mike Armijo, Lisa, our dog Abbey, and a friend John Shields, we completed the project within just a few weeks—all thanks to the prompt funding support by ECIA General Manager Isabel Ugarte.



The purpose of the labyrinth is very broad, but generally it is to provide a peaceful place for walking meditation. It is loosely designed in the shape of a peace symbol. You can’t get lost on a labyrinth, as the path always winds you into the center, where you can pause, receive insights into your life, then return on the same path back into your daily life, hopefully renewed and refreshed.

We hope you enjoy this special space and that it becomes a new private place for many of you!

To learn more about labyrinths, check out the Labyrinth Resource Group of Santa Fe at <http://labyrinthresourcegroup.org>. If you would like to build your own labyrinth, contact [lrgsantafe@gmail.com](mailto:lrgsantafe@gmail.com) and we can help!

—Chris Harrell, Labyrinth Resource Group of Santa Fe

Chris Harrell and his dog at peace in the center of the new labyrinth.