

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME V, ISSUE 10

Oct. 2003

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

When we see an advertisement for a home for sale, it usually mentions the views, or the size of the house and other special features. But what are we really looking for when we buy a home here? Check out these "10 commandments." They are all about the things people come to Eldorado for and that make Eldorado a great place to live and raise a family.

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Oct. 13, 7 pm*

Ten Good Neighbor Commandments

- 1. Drive calmly and carefully everywhere in Eldorado.** Follow all posted speed limit signs and be especially careful at or near our school, the shopping center and on all the paved avenidas. So what if the guy behind you is tailgating? Maintain the legal speed and let him/her fume. He/she will get over it.
- 2. Take pride in your pet's good manners.** Incessantly barking dogs are a nuisance and a violation of the law. Dogs that are off-leash and not under your immediate and effective control are also violations of the law. And sure, your furry friends have to "go," but they shouldn't make deposits on your neighbor's driveway or on roadways or pedestrian paths. As they say in New York, "Curb your dog."
- 3. Protect our beautiful night skies.** Follow the rules that came with your house, the ones that clearly state that outside lights use no more than 75 watts and must in all circumstances be shielded. As for outside security lights, make sure that they either go off automatically or you turn them off on a timely basis. Let your neighbors enjoy the stars. A lot of people in the world only see them rarely.
- 4. Make sure that you have a visible mailbox number on both sides.** That number is an essential emergency safety device. Make sure that it is big enough to be seen by emergency responders. What good will it do to call 911 if the fire, police and emergency medical folks can't find your house because your mailbox has no number?
- 5. Protect our water resources.** We mine water

here and no one is sure just how much is underground. Amazing but true! Some of the water we use filled our local, underground aquifer during the last ice age. Water your plantings early and late in the day, when evaporation is at a minimum. Check your home plumbing system regularly for leaks, and repair them right away.

- 6. Get to know your neighbors.** You may need them when the emergency that no one expects either hits your home or hits us all. Just volunteering to look out for your neighbor's house when they are away is a great way to start. Consider setting up a Neighborhood Watch group on your street. Check out how to either join or set up a Watch at www.eldoradocommunity.org.
- 7. Keep our street and roadsides clean and if you see graffiti in any form at any time, please take it off or paint it over right away.** Garbage days, especially windy ones, are prolific litter producers. Keeping Eldorado beautiful means keeping our streets and roadsides free of trash and litter.
- 8. "Live lightly on the land" here. It's an Indian value that stresses the beauty of the landscape and blends houses into the vast panoramas that are our treasured views.** To stay in this tradition, our houses are kept low and in earth-tone colors. Modern conveniences like boats, trailers, sheds and recreational vehicles are screened from view and any "treasure" that a neighbor might think is "junk" shouldn't have permanent residence

SEE "10 COMMANDMENTS"
ON PAGE 2

Share your comments with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too.

Deadline: Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to info@eldoradocommunity.org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

Mission Statement

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

From the ECIA Code Enforcement Officer

This month's theme is "odds and ends". **Signs... Signs... everywhere signs!** Real Estate, Yard Sale, For Sale, Open House, Wood Cutting, Rummage Sale, For Rent, Lose Weight Fast, and so on and so forth! What do the covenants say about signs? Excerpt from Section 9: *"The following signs do not require approval under this section when erected on a lot: community interest signs such as neighborhood watch or beware of dog signs; nameplates, address signs; one-time-only signs, such as signs for garage sales, lost animals, birthday parties and the like, which shall be*

Phone Call Log:

Here are the top 5 complaint calls I am getting from our residents;

1. Dogs, barking and loose (5:30 AM bark, bark, bark...),
2. Yards messy and trashy (trampolines, broken chairs, building stuff)
3. Vehicles (Would you drive that on the road?)
4. Lights (I can't see Mars.)
5. RV's (How tall is that anyway?)

Property Values

Have you been keeping track of the Eldorado real estate market lately? Property prices in Eldorado continue to increase steadily. The market has been strong for a number of reasons such as lower interest rates, limited inventory and high demand for value.

I believe a large contribution to the value of the property in Eldorado is because we have covenant compliance. Ponder and picture for a moment; quarter-acre lots, setbacks of three feet, "Victorian Adobes" next to a 1960s ranch house, any kind of fence, any kind of shed, any color you want and piles of building stuff next to old trampolines and rusty cars on every lot. Can you say "Pleasantville?" Not!!!

It is for good reason the covenants were developed. The covenants protect the natural beauty and environment of the community, they provide an attractive rural setting for the residents, and they do **preserve property values**.

—Charles Smith, the ECIA CCR



removed after 72 hours; one only for rent, for sale, and/or builder's construction sign; and one only open house sign to be removed daily.

10 Commandments

FROM PAGE 1

on our properties.

9. Before you build, remodel any structures on your property or emplace any sheds or fences: check out our Covenants, Codes and

Restrictions (the CCandRs) to make sure that you are following the right procedures that will ensure that you won't have to tear anything down. Get in touch with the Covenants Compliance Officer first, check out the rules, get the necessary approvals, then build.

10. Volunteer to serve. Sure we all pay dues, but well over half of the work done to make Eldorado such a great place to live is done by resident volunteers—the Conservation Committee, the Road Committee, the Information Committee, the Neighborhood Watch Committee, the Finance Committee, the Recreation Committee, the Stable Committee—they all need volunteer support. To check out any of these committees, call 466-4248.

The ECIA Board is considering adopting the following
Recreational Vehicle Screening Guidelines for the community.
 If you have any specific questions or comments, please send them to
 the ECIA Board on or before October 15, 2003.

Recreational Vehicle Screening (Article II, Section 13)

To store a Recreational Vehicle (RV) on residential lots is considered to be an important Eldorado Community Improvement Association, Inc. (ECIA) amenity. However, it must be recognized that many RVs, by virtue of their color, size or placement on the lot, are inconsistent with the design requirements of the community that create our unique Eldorado living environment.

The ECIA Covenants address the RV screening issue by requiring that "Recreational Vehicles, such as motor homes, campers, camper shells, vehicle accessories, trailers, horse trailers, airplanes, boats and the like, when stored on a lot shall be located so as to minimize their visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood and roads and shall be obscured by screening in a reasonable manner, for example by the dwelling house and/or plantings or fencing." As used in this Guideline, the term "RV" shall have the same broad meaning as listed in the Covenants.

The options below are approved methods for screening RVs in Eldorado. It is recognized that many screening methods are lot specific; some lots may require only one of the options listed below, while others may require several in combination. The overall objective of this Guideline is to screen at least 50% of the RV from all ground level views.

Homeowners are urged to contact the ECIA and Architectural Committee before installing any RV screening to determine if their plans meet these Guidelines.

OPTION 1: RV GARAGE OR CARPORT

An RV garage or carport may be constructed, provided the structure is approved by the Architectural Committee and meets the ECIA Covenants and the other provisions of these Guidelines. In a structure which is detached from the primary dwelling and which qualifies as a large accessory building, the ECIA may grant exceptions to the Guidelines for those buildings, provided that the structure does not exceed the maximum height of the primary dwelling or exceed six hundred square feet in size. The RV garage or carport should also be architecturally

integrated into the existing structure by way of a ramada, wall, gate, fence, breezeway or courtyard.

If a carport is constructed, the RV must be at least 50% screened from all ground level views.

OPTION 2: TREES AND/OR PLANTINGS

Evergreen trees and other similar types of plantings are an approved screening method, especially when used in conjunction with existing structures on the property. There must be adequate trees and/or plantings such that the RV is at least 50% screened from all ground level views.

OPTION 3: RV COVERS

An earth tone cover may be used as a substitute for physical screening, provided that the RV is located on the lot so that the outline is least visible from view, and the maximum use of evergreen trees and/or plantings is made to screen the RV.

OPTION 4: RV SCREENING FENCES

The Architectural Committee may approve RV screening fences, up to a maximum height of eight feet, for the express purpose of screening a large RV, provided the fence is constructed so that its height can be reduced to at least six feet upon permanent removal of the RV from the lot. In the case of an RV screening fence, the RV must be at least 50% screened from all ground level views.

OPTION 5: BERMS

Earth berms may be allowed, although, berms alone will normally not be sufficient as a sole method of screening RVs. However, earth berms used with other options, such as trees and/or plantings, may provide sufficient screening to meet the requirements of at least 50% screened from all ground level views. Placing fencing on berms is not an allowable screening option, due to the resultant excessive height.

OPTION 6: OFF-SITE STORAGE

If the above options do not result in screening at least 50% of the RV from all ground level views, or an RV owner is not willing to implement the above options, then the RV shall not be stored on an ECIA residential lot.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

Animal Control

424-2050

Ice Cream Social/Silent Auction

The weather was PERFECT for the fourth annual Ice Cream Social & Silent Auction, an event that has become an early autumn tradition celebrating the Vista Grande Library and the community it serves. This year over 100 volunteers organized, promoted and implemented this outstanding community celebration. We are pleased to announce that the money generated for the library this year exceeded last year's earnings. As the ice cream and watermelon were portioned out to over 500 eager people, and auction shoppers perused over 400 items, a lucky crowd enjoyed great live music and the company of friends, neighbors and family.

This year outstanding entertainment was generously donated by:

- ▼ Classical guitarist David Yard (a professional guitar performer & teacher)
- ▼ Guitarist/Vocalist Phillip Trujillo (he's also Santa Fe County Treasurer)
- ▼ Cowboy Singer & Guitarist Pedro Marquez (who performed the following week at the Lensic)
- ▼ Eddie Hernandez & his group, Mariachi Azteca (a Santa Fe Community College mariachi teacher)
- ▼ Blue Heaven Band (Jerry Nelson is the bandleader and County Commissioner Jack Sullivan is the trumpeter)
- ▼ Ande Youth Marimba Band (most of whom have built their own instruments)
- ▼ Eldorado Community Band (under the baton of their new conductor, John Emory)

Thanks from the Vista Grande Public Library go to all who generously donated their time, talents and auction items which combined to create the success of this year's well-received event. And a special thanks to all those who bought tickets and auction items, or donated directly to the library.

Eldorado Community Telephone Directory

A group of Eldorado residents would very much like to see a new community telephone directory made available to residents of Eldorado. Because of strict new privacy laws the directory must have a signed waiver from each resident who would like to see the telephone directory reinstated.

If you are interested, please call **Pat Lavengood** at 466-9765. We will provide you with the necessary waiver.

Artists' Shoptalk

Wednesday, October 15, 10:00 am-noon, at the home of **Joyce Dant** (call 466-4784 for directions). We meet at different homes each month to talk art. Joyce is a landscape painter (oil and acrylic) and has a new studio to show us. Fellow artists are welcome.

Arts Association

Wednesday, October 29, 7:00 pm, at the Community Center. Printmaker **Jack McCarthy**, member of the EACA, will demonstrate how to make a three-dimensional print. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Year 2004 Budget Hearing

All ECIA members are invited to attend the ECIA Board's annual budget hearing on Saturday, November 8, at 10:00 am in the Community Center's Railroad Station. The Finance Committee is preparing a budget recommendation based on input from the ECIA Board, the General Manager, committees and association members. Copies will be available at the ECIA office beginning Wednesday, November 5, for your review. Please come to learn about your Association's financial plans, and to express any concerns or observations.

A Sign of the Times

Have you seen the new Eldorado entrance sign at Vista Grande? **Sandra Vreeland**, a graphic designer and co-owner of Array Design Studio, based in Eldorado, saw the attractive signage in neighboring communities, such as Dos Griegos and The Ridges, and decided to donate her design time to create new signage that better reflects our beautiful community. Taking into consideration the destructive effect of the elements on the original signage (i.e., it was falling apart), Sandra proposed the new sign's standard metal lettering that is guaranteed for life and that also has a classic look that won't look outdated for years to come. Many thanks to Sandra and her experienced



The new entrance sign.



team of **Stan** and **Trish Chester** of Eldorado's Sign Graphics, who were able to put together an attractive solution within a reasonable budget. If you enter Eldorado at the first or third entrance, consider driving the extra bit out of your way to see the new sign at the Vista Grande entrance.

Elementary School News

Monday, October 6, school is closed for Fall Break.

Thursday, October 9, 6:30 to 8:00 pm, the PTA is hosting Family Fun Bingo Night for parents and children.

Saturday, October 25, the school hosts the annual Halloween Carnival from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Fall is for Composting!

Organic horse manure from Eldorado Stables makes glorious rich compost, and now is the best time to start a compost pile to use in your spring gardens. Saturday, October 25, from 9:00 am until noon we will load your pickup for free!

Composting is easy. Make a big pile (3' by 3' is a good size), thoroughly moisten and cover (plastic tarp works well) to hold in the moisture and heat. Turn the pile occasionally and keep it moist. In a couple of months when it no longer looks like manure it is compost ready to add to your gardens. Manure compost adds vital nutrients, improves soil texture and holds in precious moisture.

So come on down anytime to get a load of manure, or come on

October 25 and we will load it for you!

The Eldorado Stables are near the corner of Avenida Eldorado and Highway 285 and you have two manure piles to choose from.



October Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting or event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 8th of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. **Type of Event**
 2. **Location**
 3. **Date & Time**
 4. **A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.
- Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

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

OCTOBER SPECIAL EVENTS

ERA Quarterly Meeting	Mon., Oct. 6, 7-9 pm	CR
ERA T.G.I.F.	Fri., Oct. 24, 5-7 pm	LR

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Information Committee		ECIA	466-4248	
Neighborhood Watch		Frank Schober	310-8593	call
Recreation Committee		Vacant		
Road Committee	Mon., Oct. 6, 6-7 pm	Allen Larson	466-4792	CFR
EAWS&SD*	Wed., Oct. 8, 7-9 pm	Ray Nichols	466-2411	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Oct. 13, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Finance Committee	Tues., Oct. 14, 10-11 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., Oct. 14, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
285 Coalition	Wed., Oct. 15, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Oct. 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Architectural Committee	Tues., Oct. 28, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Coffee Social	Tues., Oct. 7, 10-11 am	Jerry Bradley	466-4253	F
Vista Grande Book Club	Thurs., Oct. 9, 7-9 pm	Shelly Moore	466-9636	
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Oct. 9, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Book Club	Sat., Oct. 11, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559	
Book Club/Pot Luck	Sun., Oct. 12, 6-9 pm	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
Arts Assoc. Shoptalk	Wed., Oct. 15, 10 am-noon	Cary Carlson	466-6073	
Coffee Social	Tues., Oct. 21, 10-11 am	Jerry Bradley	466-4253	F
Cub Scouts Pack 414	Tues., Oct. 21, 7 pm	Clay Williard	466-3909	
Arts Assoc. Program	Wed., Oct. 29, 7-9 pm	Arlene Siegel	466-3274	LR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Saturdays, 10:45-11:45 am			CR
AA	Sundays, 5:15- 6:15 pm			CR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Knitting Club	2nd & 4th Wed., 1-3 pm	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	
Bridge (Beginning)	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Gen Norris	466-4120	LR
Bridge (Mens')	Thursdays, 1-4 pm	Bill Kapoun	466-8497	LR
Boy Scouts Troop 414	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	
Community Band	Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm	Peg Johnson	466-1459	School
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR
Wireless Assoc.	2nd & 4th Mondays, 7-9 pm	Scott Gerber	466-9333	CR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

The Look, the Feel

Rick Gets It All on Reel



Rick McGuire checking his light meter

Gretel Underwood recently interviewed Eldorado resident and freelance director, Rick Maguire

Gretel: Rick, you live in Eldorado and you have an interesting job that often takes you far from home. Tell us what you do.

Rick: I'm a free lance Director of Photography, which means I am in charge of the way a motion picture looks. Before production I discuss with the director and the producer what we want the show to look like. On the set, I'm in charge of the camera crew, the lighting crew and the grip crew. Basically it's my interpretation of how things should look that gets transferred to film.

G: How did you get your start?

R: I started in 1969 in Toronto with Ivan Reitman, Andrea Martin, Eugene Levy, and John Candy. We were all production assistants for a movie Ivan put together called *Foxy Lady*.

G: What are some of the films and television shows you've worked on?

R: The most recent would be the *Return of the Twilight Zone*. I did *Outer Limits* and the *Black Stallion* series. I shot a feature film here about eight years ago, called *The Legend of Obie Taggart*.

G: What is the most difficult aspect of this job for you?

R: The most difficult portion for me would be the interpretation of some of the very strange scripts you get.

G: Like what?

R: You get less than one line.....'World War Three begins.....' Now commit that to film.

G: What is the most rewarding part for you?

R: I've been fortunate to have done a lot of, I won't say educational, but enlightening films for HBO; 'The Great Inventors', 'The Great Composers', and 'The Great Artists'. There are a lot of other shows that I'm really proud that when I'm gone they're still here.

G: Tell us about someone you've worked with who you thought was really special.

R: This year on *The Twilight Zone* we used Lou Diamond Philips to star in one of the episodes. He is such a gentleman and so professional. They brought him back to direct an episode and he was even better, a really down-to-earth guy.

G: What about a special location?

R: I absolutely fell in love with Prague. It is probably the most gorgeous city I've ever seen.

G: Besides your work, how do you like to spend your time?

R: My work is my social life. When I'm not working we have a very quiet private life here. I've taken up sculpting. I just enjoy Eldorado.

G: You and your wife have horses here. Is there any connection with *The Black Stallion*?

R: I grew up around horses on a dairy farm in Canada. I'd had horses pretty much all my life. I was hired to work on the *Black Stallion* series in France because of my knowledge of horses and being a cameraman. I set up all the gags and stunts. Over the years, I've been stepped on, bit, and crapped on by every horse going.

G: Why did you choose to settle in Eldorado instead of Hollywood?

R: My wife and I think we have the best of both worlds; you can ride your horse in the morning and go skiing in the afternoon. I also love the Old West and this is as close as you can get.

—Gretel Underwood

House Dr.

Now is the time to check, check and recheck your Eldorado home for the winter ahead of us.

Get on your roof (carefully) and check out the canales. Make sure they are clear and that the seals between them and the rest of your roof are intact. A common location of leaks is at the joining places between your roof parapets and your roof, and between the canales and your roof (flat roofs leak more quickly than sloped ones). Maintenance now will prevent winter heartache later.

While getting your house ready for the tough season ahead, resolve to save energy. You've got the power to make a difference!

For your washers: Match the level and temperature settings on your washer with the size and type of the load you put in it. Don't waste water by filling the entire tub for just a few items.

For your clothes dryers:

- a. Dry similar types of clothes together. Light synthetics dry more quickly than heavy bath towels.
- b. If you have two or more loads of clothes to dry, dry them in a row and take advantage of your dryer's retained heat.

For the fridge:

- a. Make sure the door seals are air-tight. Test them by closing the door over a dollar bill. If you can pull the bill out easily either your door latch must be adjusted or you need new door seals.

- b. Vacuum your refrigerator coils. This will eliminate dirt buildup that reduces efficiency and costs you money.

Your dishwasher: If your dishwasher is just a few years old, it will use less energy than washing by hand. Don't do both. Wipe your dishes free of excess food. Face the dishes in and not out. Save water and save electricity in the process.

Any and all electrical connections: Rubber, particularly any rubber insulation exposed to the sun, may be fried and you may not know it until you have a fire and the firemen discover it. Beware and Be aware. The sun is wonderful but also the biggest cause of damage to all man-made things.

Prepare your home now for the winter ahead. Repair the damage you see on your inspections...caulk, seal and repair where needed. Your car maintenance program is probably not one that just waits for something to fall out, break or burn up before you take action. Your home maintenance shouldn't be any less vigilant.

Eldorado's Shy Scaled Quail

On August 8, I braked to allow a single-file line of about 15 Scaled Quail scurry across Ave. Eldorado. Most of us have seen these birds, and also heard their rakisish squawk. They are named for their beautifully outlined feathers, giving the impression of scales, as on a fish.

Scaled Quail lack the elegant black head-plume of other quail, and have instead a short scruffy topknot of gray feathers. They are stocky appearing, about 6 oz. in weight and 10 inches long.

Late summer/early fall is the time for baby quail. A monogamous pair produces anywhere from 9 to 18 eggs. The young are precocial—hatched with eyes open and covered with down. The babies leave the nest in a few days, trailing their parents, who show them food.

The rate of reproduction is related to the weather. More eggs seem to be produced when there is lots of rain in July, resulting in more forage in August for their diet, which consists of

seeds, acorns, and a small number of insects.

In some areas, legumes may influence the rate of egg laying. Drought stressed plants contain high levels of phytoestrogens which inhibit reproduction.

Scaled Quail are found almost everywhere in New Mexico, western Texas and Oklahoma. In the winter, I have seen coveys of 30 or 40 birds under my seed feeder. Studies have shown that medium sized groupings of birds (5 to 20 or more) are more successful at feeding and less likely to become a meal to some other predator. I am glad to have them as feathered friends in Eldorado.

—Pam Henline

A. Wilson, USGS

Security
204-2945

Torreon hike-bike path

The new Torreon hike-bike path is already being heavily used, although those who like more solitude can also find times to use this new path. Joggers, bikers, skateboarders, and walkers seem to be quite happy with the new path that runs on the west side of Avenida Torreon between Avenida Vista Grande and Avenida Eldorado. This is the longest completed stretch of the recent project that runs from Torreon west to Compadres, then along Compadres linking up with the existing hike-bike trail to complete a grand loop..



Max Underwood

The Torreon path provides even more possibilities for people to exercise or just stroll in our beautiful Eldorado.