

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME VII, ISSUE 10

Oct. 2005

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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Recycling For a Sustainable Eldorado

IN 1987, THE WORLD COMMISSION on Environment and Development developed a definition of sustainability that was included in its findings, known as the Brundtland Report. The report stated that: "Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Eldorado's founding as a passive solar community suggests a community concerned with sustainable living. Do you take an extra few minutes a week to live more lightly on the earth? One simple contribution is recycling.

While Waste Management picks up some recycling as part of their paid monthly service, the Eldorado community is also very close to the Eldorado Transfer Station (one mile south on US 285), which has a new and greatly improved recycling area. At the station, separate bins are provided for:

- ▼ cardboard and brown paper bags,
- ▼ mixed papers (newspapers as delivered, white office, junk mail including envelopes with windows, and magazines),
- ▼ glass bottles and jars—all colors, and
- ▼ mixed containers, which include aluminum, tin foil and pie plates, steel food and beverage cans, plastic bottles with necks with the numbers 1 and 2 on the bottom.

NEW ORDINANCE

All it takes is a little organization to return reusable products to the system. Recognizing the importance of reuse and with an eye toward reducing the huge amount of material deposited in our local landfill, the Santa Fe County Commissioners recently approved a new Solid Waste Ordinance, which prohibits depositing mixed papers and corrugated cardboard into the trash taken to the transfer station. Both products are completely recyclable, and papers and cardboard make up approximately 40% of the entire waste stream. Cardboard is a particularly valuable product for resale; in the landfill it acts like ice and causes problems with equipment.

County Solid Waste Director Auralie Ashley-Marx is quick to point out that keeping paper out of the trash will be a learning process and inspectors are not going to look in bags for violators. Rather, it is the spirit of each of us taking responsibility that matters. If it's reusable, don't throw it away. Ashley-Marx says, "However, at some point we will be required to begin issuing citations that could result in a court appearance and issuance of \$25.00 fines to those who do not follow the recycling mandates and/or who place inappropriate items such as waste in recycling bins."

Eldorado's Waste Management customers will not face the ban on paper and cardboard in their trash, as Waste Management hauls garbage to its own landfill, not the county's.

According to Ashley-Marx, "Due to the high level of recycling, especially at the Eldorado transfer station, the county has earned enough revenue to be able to purchase another recycling bin to continue to improve recycling services. Thanks to the Eldorado community for the continued strong support of recycling."

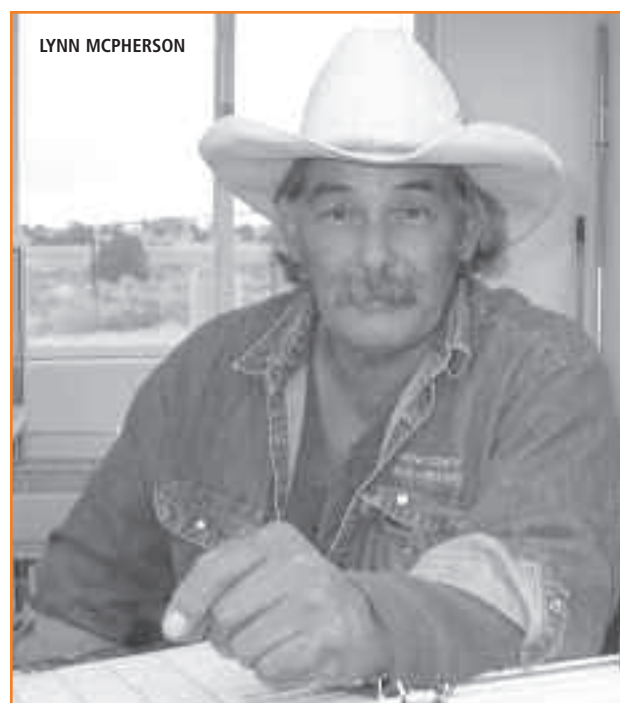
A permit is required to gain access to the transfer station to use the recycling area or dispose of wastes. See page 2 for more information.

Look for additional tips on recycling in future Vistas.

—Anne Salzman,
Karen Sweeney

**ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Oct 17, 7 pm**

William Mares has been punching passes at the transfer station for many years.



LYNN MCPHERSON

**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.

Thoughts from Afar

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED how far Eldorado *Vistas* travels? My guess is that my copy wins the prize for most miles traveled – first to my father in Chicago who then forwards it to me in Dubai. Dubai is in the United Arab Emirates in the Middle East, bordered by the Persian Gulf, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Two years ago I purchased a house in Eldorado after spending 10 days in Santa Fe. Like so many people, I was captivated by the multi-cultural aspects of the region, the architecture, the arts, the sky and on and on. I haven't lived in my new home, yet I believe that day is fast approaching. Through Eldorado *Vistas* I feel as if the community is becoming my home and look forward to meeting all of you. What strikes me from afar is how normal and American your community sounds—a 4th of July parade, requests for more volunteers, nuisances caused by barking dogs, plans for an Ice Cream Social, chances to learn about astronomy. From inside my Middle Eastern culture and thousands of miles away, I imagine myself joining you, meeting the artists, volunteering on the Stable Committee—perhaps sharing my experiences in Dubai and my knowledge of Persian rugs with you.

I'm a NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association) advanced therapeutic riding instructor and run the Riding for the Disabled Association of Dubai. We offer free therapeutic riding lessons to children and young adults with special needs. We teach children from 11 different countries



Pat and her dog.

including the UAE, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Canada, England and India—a very rewarding and challenging life. Our many volunteers come from another 10 different countries.

In my spare time and when it's too hot for riding (last week it was 117 degrees), I explore the souks (markets) and indulge in my hobby and passion—Persian and Caucasian rugs. They are incredible works of art—each with a story to tell.

I recently received the August *Vistas* and was pleased to see a photo of the 4th of July parade with horses and riders from the Eldorado stable. However, as a therapeutic riding instructor, I wish all the riders had been wearing protective riding helmets. A life-changing accident happens in a split second. For those riders who ride western there are even western-style protective hats. If you need further convincing, get your hands on a copy of the video "Every Time, Every Ride" produced by Washington State 4-H Foundation. Contact them at (253) 445-4570 or at their website, 4-h.wsu.edu.

Looking forward to meeting you,

—Pat Bellairs

Recycling and Solid Waste Permits

As stated on page 1, a permit is required to gain access to the site to use the recycling area or dispose of wastes. For recycling only, your punch card will not be punched, but you still need a permit to enter the facility. To view the new, multiple options for permits, go to <http://www.co.santa-fe.nm.us>, click on Public Works, then Solid Waste, then Residential Permit Options Chart. You may also obtain recorded information after hours by calling 992-3017.

To obtain a permit application, you may:

- ▼ Pick one up at the transfer station scale house.
- ▼ Go to the county website at www.santafecounty.org, select Public Works, then Solid Waste and choose the permit link to print the application.
- ▼ Call the Solid Waste office at 992-3010.

Once received and filled out, send the application to the address provided. Residents may also purchase

a permit of their choice from 8-5, M-F at the Finance Department at the County Court House (corner of Grant and Johnson in Santa Fe). All rules and permit sale options are posted on the website mentioned above.

Please be advised that two-trip solid waste cards are no longer valid for recycling and these cards are no longer sold at the Eldorado Supermart. If you still have a pink two-trip card, you may use it for disposal of waste until December 31, 2005.



permit example

Views from the CCR...

LARGE ACCESSORY BUILDINGS...

All residential properties belonging to members of the ECIA are zoned as "single family residential." A large accessory building is typically designed for use as a studio or a garage and not to be used as a separate rental casita or condo.

A large accessory building can be up to 600 square feet, and must be located close to the dwelling house (historical intent, within 15 feet). A large accessory is required to match the style, materials and color of the house. It must be linked (architecturally integrated) with a ramada, wall, gate, fence, breezeway or courtyard. As with all structures above natural grade it shall not be sited in the property setbacks.

SETBACKS...

The ECIA covenants are very clear regarding the protection of all property setbacks. The property setback is the distance a building or structure is required to be set back from a property line. No building or other structure shall be placed in the distance between the property line and the setback line. The purpose of setbacks is to ensure that the use of a



A large, connected accessory building

property does not infringe on the rights of neighbors, and to prevent structures from obstructing views on adjoining lots.

STRUCTURES REQUIRE APPROVAL...

"Structure" means and refers to anything constructed or erected at a more or less permanent location on a lot. In addition, Black's Law Dictionary defines "structure" as "any construction, or any production of a piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner."

No accessories, additions or exterior alterations above the natural grade shall be made until the design, location, exterior color and building material for such structures, additions and alterations have been *approved in writing* by the ECIA.

—Charles Smith, ECIA CCR

From the President's Desk

BUDGET

Fall has arrived and once again it is budget time for the ECIA. The Finance Committee is meeting regularly to build a budget that meets our needs, and is fiscally responsible. They spend a lot of time and energy in the process. What many residents do not realize is that the Finance Committee will consider funding requests by residents for repairs, maintenance and beautification projects that could improve Eldorado amenities. For instance, a resident emailed me several months ago suggesting that the pool area could be improved with paint and plants. This seems like a good idea, wouldn't cost much and could make one of our most used amenities more attractive. If you have a thought about an improvement, request a form from the association office, fill it out and forward it to the Finance Committee for consideration. Please put in your request before October 24 because the budget will be published for residents to review on November 2.

If you are curious about how the homeowners' assessments are spent, please join the Board and Finance Committee at a public hearing on the proposed budget on Saturday, November 5, at 10 am at the Community Center. At that time you can have your questions answered and have your input considered for different budget items.

PERSONAL NOTE

I became involved with the ECIA Board first as an appointee and then in May as an elected member. I wanted to be involved in this community because it is a special place, sitting lightly on an amazing environment with surrounding views that literally take your breath away. I like working with communities to make things better, to build new things and to generally leave the place a little better than I found it. Of course, any time you take on this kind of work there will be people who disagree with you or who have better ideas than you might have. I can take all of that, but what really upsets me is when I am insulted personally.

Let us continue our discussions about building the pavilion, about adopting new covenant guidelines, and about beautifying the swimming pool, but keep it civil without personal insults. I can do that, and I am asking Eldorado residents to do the same.

—Jeanne Klein



Ken McPherson

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library
466-READ
Security
204-2945
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
Animal Control
986-2430

Budget Hearing

All ECIA members are invited to attend the ECIA Board's annual budget hearing on Saturday, November 5, at 10 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 2 for your review. Please come to learn about your association's financial plans, and to express any concerns or observations.

Can You Spare 3 Hours a Month?

The Eldorado Meals on Wheels Program is looking for a few more drivers who can spend three hours once or twice a month delivering meals to homebound seniors in Eldorado. Currently, we have devoted drivers but would like to have a list of backup drivers to allow for vacations and other events that may come up.

It is exceedingly important for these homebound seniors to see a smiling face at midday. It's a chance to chat and find out how these seniors are doing, and, of course, it extends the senior's ability to remain in their own homes. **Patty Adam** coordinates both the sign-up for homebound seniors to receive meals and the sign-up for volunteer drivers. Her number is 466-1949.

Author's Talk and Book Signing

Thursday, October 20 from 7-9 pm, Santa Fe author **Steven McFadden** will discuss his book, *Legend of the Rainbow Warriors*, a myth-based telling of "when the Earth becomes desperately sick, people of all colors and faiths will unite, and rise to face the overwhelming challenges with insight, honesty, caring, sharing, and respect."

Following the discussion, copies of McFadden's book will be available for purchase and signed by the author. McFadden is director of Chiron Communication in Santa Fe and has been a journalist for 30 years. In that time he has published eight non-fiction books.

ERA Quarterly Meeting

The Eldorado Residents Association Quarterly Meeting will be held from 7 to 9 pm, on Monday, October 3, at the Community Center. We will cover the proposed bylaw revisions and give community organizations an opportunity to voice their needs for allocations of funds for 2006 legislative consideration. Each year the ERA writes to the legislative representatives asking for support of projects for the Eldorado



community. In the past the legislature has allocated funds for the railroad crossing on Ave. Eldorado, the paving of the fire station's parking lot, and funding for the Senior Center—all projects that the ERA has supported. All residents of Eldorado are welcome to attend. For information, call 466-1484.

School News

The annual Halloween Carnival will be held at El Dorado Elementary School on Saturday, October 29. Doors will open at 1 pm and close at 5 pm. Activities for the whole family include a silent auction, booths for the kids ranging from the famous fishpond to spooky BINGO, face painting/crafts for the kids, and refreshments from soup and salad to yummy desserts! Oh, and of course the haunted house is back. Those interested in helping can contact **Holly Callin** at 466-4906. The PTA sponsors this event, and proceeds go to support our art and P.E. programs.

El Dorado Elementary/Vista Grande Public Library Chess Team have resumed meeting on Fridays from noon to 1:30 pm at the Vista Grande Public Library. For more information, call the library at 466-READ.

Vista Grande Public Library will be hosting a "Battle of the Books" book club for middle school students in the Eldorado area who are interested in participating in the state level competition. Students in 7th and 8th grade or home schoolers of that age level are eligible to join. Contact the library for more information.

Fall Arts & Crafts Extravaganza

A group of 47 Eldorado artists will exhibit their work at the 4th Annual Fall Art Show on November 5 and 6 (Saturday and Sunday) from 10 am to 5 pm at the El Dorado Elementary School. This year's event, presented by the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association, will again feature items to appeal to every pocketbook and taste. You will find it all at the elementary school in their two gyms—all types of crafts and fine arts.

The exhibit is free so bring your friends, out-of-town visitors and neighbors for two days of art exploration. Easy access and handicap parking is available in the school parking lot. For information, contact **Mary Ann Rall** at 466-6293, or



Astronomy Corner

Choosing Binoculars

Binoculars come in all sizes and prices. There are many advantages to a pair of binoculars compared to a telescope as a first astronomical instrument—cost, weight, size and availability. My first choices for astronomy are 10x50 and 7x50. The 10 or 7 indicate the magnification; the second number, 50, is the diameter of each front lens in millimeters.

With binoculars in a dark sky you will be able to see star clusters in Sagittarius and Scorpius. You can even see the Andromeda Galaxy, and, of course, the Moon.

October viewing: **Mercury** - not easily observed. **Venus** - low in the SW in evening twilight. **Mars** - rises in ENE in evening twilight, moves to WSW by dawn, and the closest approach is October 29! **Jupiter** - not observable. **Saturn** - rises after midnight in ENE, and is high in ESE at dawn. **Moon** - partial lunar eclipse on October 17.

Next time: Buying a telescope for a child.

—Juan Alvarez
jalva88610@aol.com

Janet Amtmann at 466-3256.

Papermaking in Tibet

On October 27, the Eldorado Art Association is looking forward to a presentation by **Tom Leech**, a local Eldorado artist, who will present a slide show of a project he organized in Tibet. Tom will discuss his paper-making techniques and experiences in Tibet, as well as his current work. The meeting will begin at 7 pm at the El Dorado Fire Station on Ave. Vista Grande. This event is open to the public. For information about the Art Association, call 466-3256.

October Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

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



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

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

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

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

OCTOBER SPECIAL EVENTS

ERA Quarterly Meeting	Mon., Oct. 3, 7-9 pm	CR
ERA T.G.I.F.	Fri., Oct. 28, 5-7 pm	LR

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Road Committee	Mon., Oct. 3, 6-7 pm	Ed Benrock	466-2088	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Oct. 4, 7-9 pm	Stephen Wust	466-0436	LR
Perform. Arts Assoc.	Tues., Oct. 4, 6 pm			RR
285 Coalition	Wed., Oct. 5, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Neighborhood Watch	Mon., Oct. 10, 7-9 pm	Sandra Vreeland	466-6079	LR
Architectural Committee	Tues., Oct. 11, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
EAW&SD*	Wed., Oct. 12, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Oct. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Oct. 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Oct. 24, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
Architectural Committee	Tues., Oct. 25, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., Oct. 25, 7-9 pm	Dina Sassone	466-2516	LR
EAW&SD*	Wed., Oct. 26, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Oct. 8, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559	
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
Library Book Group	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	Lib
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Oct. 4, 10-11 am	Joe Auburg	466-1484	F, K
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Oct. 13, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Troop 414 Committee	1st Wed., 7:30-9 pm	Bruce Blossman	955-0880	CR
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726	C
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579	Sm Gym
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Oct. 10, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Call for date and time	Shannon Ratcliff	986-9050	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Oct. 18, 10-11 am	Joe Auburg	466-1484	F, K
Arts/Crafts Assoc.	Thurs., Oct. 27, 7 pm	Jane Amtmann	466-3256	Fire

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Fridays, 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon., 1-4 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thursdays, 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
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	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR
Knitting Club	2nd & 4th Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	F
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641	School

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

New School Year; New Principal



Susan Lumley in her elementary school days

OUT OF BREATH FROM a just-completed tour as lunchroom monitor—an additional duty for the principal of El Dorado Elementary—Susan Lumley greeted us warmly in her office at the school. Like many who work successfully with the public, she has an easy grace and manner that puts one immediately at ease.

Principal Lumley was born in the north central plains of Texas, in Mesquite, a town near Dallas that calls itself the “Rodeo Capital of the West.” She attended grammar and high school there, and later attended the University of Texas at Arlington. She speaks endearingly of her high school track and field coach who motivated her to excel as both an athlete and a student.

Susan Lumley’s teaching career began in Euless and then took her to Huntsville, Texas. Before coming to Santa Fe, she worked for 16 years as a principal at the elementary level and as a teacher at Huntsville High School. She put both her English language studies and her success in track and field to use and for a number of years taught all levels of English while serving as that high school’s athletic coach, during which time her teams won two state championships and a number of district level cross-country awards.

Some readers may recall that being “sent to the principal’s office” was not something one wanted to mention to one’s parents. The principal’s office at El Dorado Elementary has no look of foreboding that many readers may recall from their own school days. While Principal Lumley is clear that respect for the rules is essential for learning, she is adamant that discipline can no longer be expected on demand. In her view, times have changed in a way that compels us to earn the confidence of every student, by treating them with respect and forming a relationship that has meaning for them.

Our school’s new principal is heartened by the support she is getting from faculty and parents in her new job. She states with some emphasis that respect and support is a two-way street and she intends to keep it that way, every day of her new job. She is delighted with El Dorado’s PTA—one of the best and most active in the state of New Mexico—and is anxious to work with her faculty and PTA members in the goal she shares with them of developing the best and safest learning environment for her young students.

El Dorado Elementary has proven itself to be a good learning environment, having for the past

several years passed with flying colors the rigorous annual tests and evaluations administered by the state of New Mexico. Recently, the nomenclature for that top rating has changed from *Exemplary* to the much less attractive term, *Adequate Yearly Progress*, or AYP, and the rules for reaching this status have become more stringent. However, El Dorado Elementary will doubtlessly continue to meet the challenge.

Principal Lumley, excited by her school’s past success, is particularly happy with the school’s new full-day kindergarten and says she agrees with the author of a still-popular book published some years ago, *All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten*.*

In addition to stating that she will work with ECIA’s Traffic Calming Committee, Principal Lumley has also promised to encourage students to contribute to the Vistas, and to foster that effort will this year promote the formation of a journalism club at the school, a promise that has made contributors to the *Vistas* very happy.

* Readers may recall the common admonitions of their kindergarten experience that are also the core of the book, such as: “Share, play fair, don’t shove, line up, say you’re sorry when you hurt someone.” Be assured, these key social values are still strongly emphasized at El Dorado Elementary.

—Frank Schober



Susan Lumley

Red-tailed Hawk

I LOVE ALL THE HAWKS, but don't see so many here in Eldorado. A few weeks ago though, a Red-tailed Hawk (RTH) swooped by my window and bird feeder, which is in the open. Needless to say, the small birds scattered quickly and stayed hidden for a while. This was a bit unusual as these large Buteos hunt mostly small mammals and rodents. The RTH (and Buteos, which are usually called Hawks) have relatively large wide bodies, short broad tails, wide long wings, and cannot maneuver as well as other hunting birds, such as the Peregrine Falcon. The RTH female is slightly larger than the male at 19 inches long, with a wingspan of 49 inches, and weighing 2.4 pounds. It takes two years to attain adult plumage. When seen soaring, the bright red tail is distinctive, outer primaries are dark and several patterns may appear on the wings. RTH shows the most variation in plumage and the highest incidence of partial albinism. RTH has a hoarse and rasping two- to three-second scream that is most commonly heard while soaring.

After an aerial display of rolling, swooping and feet touching, a monogamous pair builds or reuses a stick nest in a tree or on a rocky ledge. The female lays two or three eggs, every other day. Both parents incubate eggs for about 33 days. Babies are downy with eyes open. Both male and female feed the



young, which fledge in about 45 days.

RTH occur throughout North America and are the most common Buteo. Although not truly migratory, they do adjust seasonally to areas of the most abundant prey. In winter many of the northern birds move south, some as far as Panama.

I haven't seen any here during the winter, although both the Bosque del Apache and the Chaco Canyon bird lists mark them as common during the winter. In 2000, Hawk Watch counted over 600 migrating birds at their Manzano Mountain site.

—Pam Henlin

Greetings All You Plant People

AS WE WIND DOWN another gardening season, I would like to share some thoughts on activities related to the first frost, which is due around October 15. This time of year in the plant world signals action on our part to protect plants from freezing temperatures, prepare for winter, and generally sanitize to ensure a fresh, clean start for next spring.

Throughout October, continue to keep the active parts of plants hydrated with slow, deep watering. The ground will remain warm for several more months, and there will be serious root growth. Remember, healthy root systems will protect trees, shrubs, vines and perennials during dry times. Often, we concentrate on the aboveground part of a plant, but underneath is the root (or heart) of the matter. Mark your calendars now for twice-monthly watering for the winter months on established plants.

Now is also the time to haul in those houseplants that have been out under the portal all summer. Take care of this chore early in the month to avoid freezing "accidents". Be careful not to carry in harmful,

hitchhiking insect pests that can multiply like crazy in your toasty, warm interior environment. Wipe down the outside of pots—including the bottom—with a five percent bleach solution to kill insect eggs. Thoroughly clean and dry saucers before placing them on rugs or wood floors. Of course, plastic saucers are best because, unlike clay saucers, they don't sweat and stain surfaces. Remove dead leaves on the plant and soil surface, and wash leaf surfaces with dish soap and water. With the absence of wind, plants usually use less water inside for the winter. If you're not sure how wet the soil is, it's best to use a moisture meter before watering. Most houseplants don't like their "feet" wet.

In the garden, sanitation is also important. Remove dead and diseased plant materials and seed heads (deadheading), both on plants and on the soil surface beneath them. Insects like to lay their eggs in old plant debris.

Enjoy the "down time" of winter, and continue to dream of next year's horticultural possibilities.

Forever green—Michael Clark
Owner, *Tropic of Capricorn*

Security
204-2945

The Pipes are Calling

The library's annual Ice Cream Social & Silent Auction had another successful year. Bowls and bowls of ice cream were eaten, donated merchandise and art were auctioned off, and several crowd-pleasing musical groups performed—tons of fun for the whole family. One musical group was the Scottish Rite Order Of The Thistle Pipes And Drums, who showed up in all their Scottish splendor. The band is a service to the community and not for profit. The band requires members to be at least ten years of age. Annual dues are \$10.00 for those members ten to eighteen years of age and \$20.00 for those older than eighteen. After becoming a member, an individual receives free lessons on drums or bagpipes. Visit their website at: <http://members.aol.com/sfotpd> for much more information.



Hope O. Kiah

The Scottish Rite Order Of The Thistle Pipes
And Drums played for all the lads and lasses.