

# ELDORADO VISTAS

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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## Eldorado Shopping Opportunities Widen

**S HOPS AND BUSINESSES** at The Village at Eldorado, at the corner of Avenida Vista Grande and Caliente Road, are now gradually opening as their spaces and move-ins are complete. Among those in the first phase are:

- ▼ Brumby's Pub and Grill
- ▼ The Gym at Eldorado fitness center
- ▼ Pilates Bodies exercise studio
- ▼ Two Pears art gallery
- ▼ Muse art supply and workshop
- ▼ Subway Sandwich shop
- ▼ Mangia! gourmet pizza
- ▼ Outback Video rental
- ▼ Rowan's Leaf Herbals
- ▼ Verizon cellular phones

There will also be a bead shop, a coffee shop offering baked goods, and an ice cream shop.

Owner and developer Stacy Crossingham also has a second phase in development that will include a three-screen cinema, with one auditorium suitable for live productions. During plan approval, the county inserted a glitch by changing its building requirements for the theater from the Uniform Building Code (UBC) to the stricter International Building Code (IBC). Stacy nonetheless hopes to have revised plans ready for groundbreaking in about 90 days, and completion about this time in 2007. She also hopes to bring a formal Farmers' Market to the site within the next year.

The center will not only be a shopping destination, but an employment opportunity as well. Brumby's Pub and Grill alone plans to employ over 50 full- and part-time people, and will seat 250 customers. In addition, Stacy has hired San Diego restaurant manager Patty McNally and

Nashville-area chef Carl LoStracco. Brumby's plans a relaxed neighborhood pub atmosphere that includes pool, darts, backgammon and chess, and hours from 11 am to 10 pm. The menu will feature hormone- and antibiotic-free beef along with lamb, game hens, and duck. A breakfast menu may be added later. (Note: A Brumby is an Australian term for a wild horse, reflecting the down-under roots of Stacy's husband, Allan).

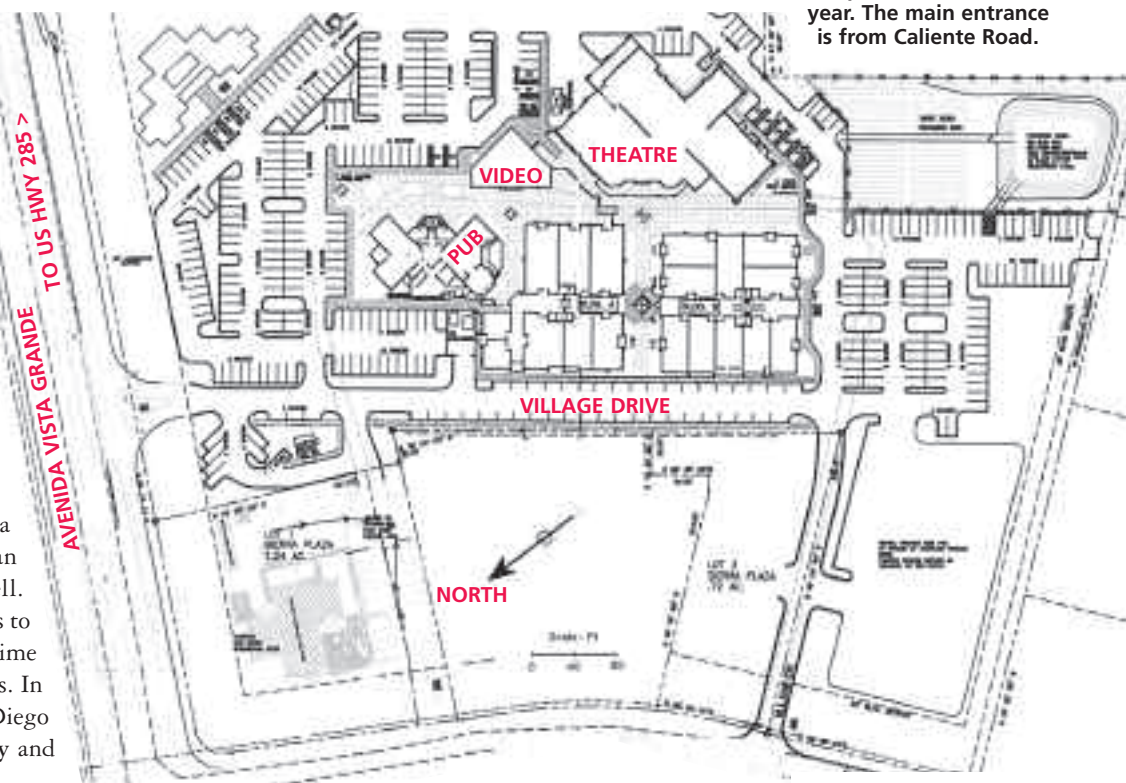
Stacy comments that construction has had its normal share of minor crises, but people have generally commented positively to her on the architecture and appearance of the center. "It's been a while since I have heard anything negative," she says with obvious relief.

In dealing with traffic, entry from and exit back onto Avenida Vista Grande will be right turn only. The main entrance will be off of Caliente Road, just south of the present Outback Video building.

—Dan Drobnis

**ECIA Board  
Work Study  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Mon.,  
Oct 16, 7 pm**

The Village at Eldorado plan, located across Avenida Vista Grande from the Agora. The 3-screen cinema is planned for completion in about a year. The main entrance is from Caliente Road.



*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](mailto: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.

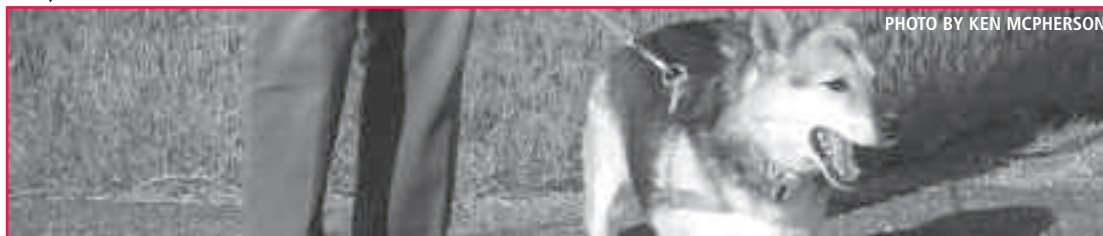


PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

Jim Waterfield and his companion Maggie on her leash.

## Taking That First Step

**W**RINGING OUR HANDS is not going to solve the problem. Leaving the solution to the various county entities is not expedient. So, as a community, we must work together to solve our "dog issue." The ECIA Board has agreed to work on a plan that should alleviate some of the dog disturbances.

The first step in the solution is to recognize that owners need to protect their dogs and others who come in contact with them. Dogs are animals that humans must have in control. Once we look at the problem in this light, then we have to hold owners to a standard that we can live with in this community. There have been over one hundred dog bites reported in Santa Fe County. Five of those incidents have happened in Eldorado, but those are just the ones that have been reported. We have to assume that there have been more. A dog barking excessively when in their yard has disturbed neighbors to the point of exasperation. Loose dogs running off-leash with owners trailing far behind is a common occurrence. Seeing unattended dogs running through the neighborhood happens frequently. And finally, aggressive dog behavior toward residents and other dogs is often observed. The solution is for all of us in the community to take action.

### THE PLAN

This is not an earth-shattering plan, but when we put it all together with each of us doing our part, it may help.

If you are bitten or attacked by an aggressive dog, find out where the dog lives. This is easier said than done when you are hurting and frightened, but get as much information as you can. Call Animal Control (986-2430) as soon as possible. The agent is on duty until 8 pm and in the past has been very helpful. If Animal Control is off duty, call the Sheriff's Department. Do not let a dog incident go unreported. Also call the ECIA office so that we can keep track of incidents.

Excessive barking can be taken care of by invoking the nuisance clause in the Covenants. Call the Association office to report the barking. A letter will be sent to alert the owner that a violation is being committed. If there is no resolution within a short time, the violation will be referred to our attorney.

The Association is planning a series of dog training sessions that will help owners learn techniques for controlling their pet. Also, we hope to have sessions on how to approach dogs and what to do if you encounter an aggressive dog. Stay tuned for more information.

The dog park may help somewhat in allowing dogs to exercise and to socialize with other dogs. All issues with the park have not been reconciled, but before the park opens all rules and regulations will be worked out.

Finally, the Board is working on a policy that requires all dogs be on a leash when on common property. Signs will be posted on hike/bike paths, at the trailheads in the preserve and at most entrances to the greenbelts. The only way to enforce this policy is if neighbor reminds neighbor when a dog is off-leash.

Together we can solve this issue. If you have ideas or disagree with what is proposed here, let us know. Remember, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world."—Margaret Mead

—Jeanne Klein  
ECIA President

## Meet and Greet

### THE ELDORADO RESIDENTS

Association and the Santa Fe Chapter of the League of Women Voters invite you to a Candidate's Forum in the Community Center Depot on Tuesday, October 10, from 7 to 9 pm.

It is difficult in the middle of September when this is written to confirm exactly which candidates can be in attendance due to the craziness of their schedules. But it is important for you to show up and hear what the attending candidates have to say. Get to know your potential congressman, governor, etc. Participation will be limited to 6 candidates or their representatives.

Channel 16, the Community TV Station, will record and broadcast the Forum. Depending on the expected size of the audience, a larger venue may be reserved.

## Dogs Again

### Greenbelt Behavior

The ECIA gets many complaints about people not cleaning up after their dogs, or not walking their pet on a leash. Most of the time, the homeowner doesn't know the name or address of the pet owner (or is unwilling to give it), so there is really nothing the ECIA can do to notify the pet owner of this nuisance behavior.

The first line of defense against these offenders is for you to talk to them personally. Good communication can lead to voluntary compliance and a more neighborly neighborhood.

### Barking\*

Next to uncollected pet waste, barking is probably the most frustrating pet problem faced by associations. Dogs left alone all day get bored and restless, and many find relief in barking. Nothing is as



annoying as incessant barking—even for dog owners. So, if Baxter is barking all day, his owners might not even realize he leads a double life when he's alone. Once notified, most owners will respond with compassion and fix the problem. Some mistakenly believe there's nothing they can do about it, but actually the association can offer a few suggestions:

**Training.** Always the first recommendation for any behavioral problem! Help is as close as the yellow pages.

**Citronella Collars.** A humane alternative to the electric-shock, anti-barking variety that costs about the same. Available on the web and in pet stores.

**Confinement.** Sometimes simply bringing an outspoken dog indoors or confining it to a crate can cut down on the disturbance to neighbors.

**Reduced Stimulus.** Close drapes to help muffle street noise, or leave a radio on to mask it. Disconnect telephones and doorbells if they cause Fido to holler.

**Companionship.** Dogs are pack animals; they need companionship—a cat, bird, or other dog. Consider a mid-day pet-sitting service, or send Dudley to daycare once or twice a week.

\*Excerpted from *A Guide for Association Practitioners Pet Policies: How community associations maintain peace and harmony.*

—Charles Smith  
ECIA CCR



## Please Mr. Postman

*The following letter was sent to Eldorado resident John Matis after his inquiries to the post office about mail problems in Eldorado. Mr. Matis felt that all Eldorado residents would be interested in the response received from Mr. Ruben Romero Jr.*

Dear Mr. Matis:

Thank you for taking the time out of your day to meet with me and allow me the opportunity to provide input and viewpoints about current issues experienced by the residences in the El Dorado area. The U.S. Postal Service recognizes and shares your concerns, every effort is currently being made to process and deliver the mail entrusted to us in a timely and safe manner.

The Santa Fe Post Office has hired eighteen additional rural carrier associates in order to provide additional resources to process and deliver the mail. In addition, adjustments have been made to numerous rural carrier routes to improve on timely delivery of all mail daily.

I have submitted a proposal to our district office to have a carrier annex built near or around the El Dorado community. If approval is granted, it will provide a means for customers to pick up mail or packages. This will reduce the amount of travel time people are currently experiencing to retrieve mail.

The U.S. Postal Service is in the process of establishing a Postal Consumer Advisory Council to improve the quality of service we provide. We hope to develop a partnership with the diverse communities we serve and keep an open dialogue between postal managers and our valued customers. The CAC will consist of community members and postal representatives and will meet to seek input on proposed changes in local procedures and policies.

Our commitment is to provide first class service to all our customers. If I can be of any further assistance in any other postal matters, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Ruben J. Romero Jr.  
Postmaster, Santa Fe

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Road: Ed Benrock  
Information: Ken McPherson  
Neighborhood Watch:  
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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library  
466-READ  
Security  
204-2945  
Fire and Rescue  
466-1204  
Animal Control  
992-1621



PHOTO BY HOPE O. KIAH



The Eldorado Community Band, performing at the Community Center this summer on the 4th of July.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Strike Up the Band!

The Eldorado Community Band will perform its Fall Chamber Concert on Saturday, October 21, 2006 at 7 pm at the St. John's United Methodist Church in Santa Fe. The concert will include chamber works for wind instruments, and will feature two pieces for brass soloists and symphonic band. Please join us for an evening of wonderful wind music. Admission is free.

### The Yoga of Design

On Thursday, October 19, from 7 to 9 pm, the Vista Grande Public Library will present **Sherri Silverman** giving a talk on the topic of her book, *The Transcendental Home: Vastu, the Yoga of Design*. Vastu is the system of design, architecture, and sacred space that originated over 10,000 years ago in India. Vastu requires beauty and natural materials, and it honors nature and the five elements of earth, air, fire, water, and space. Sherri will discuss how she uses Vastu guidelines and related knowledge from ancient India's Vedic tradition to bring greater beauty, functionality, harmony, tranquility, and abundance to existing spaces. This talk will also cover the history of Vastu, how it differs from Feng Shui, and practical applications for homes, gardens, and businesses. There will also be time for questions. Sherri Silverman, Ph.D., is an artist, writer, and Vastu design consultant.

### The Rundown

The 12th Annual Eldorado 5K Run and 1 mile fun run will be held October 7, starting at 8 am in the school parking lot. Register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com), under Eldorado Fun Run. This is a fun community event that also raises needed funds for El Dorado Elementary.

### Free Loading

Saturday, October 21, from 9 am to 1 pm, the stable crew will load your truck or trailer with free horse manure. Just come to the Eldorado stables off of Avenida Eldorado at Highway 285. We can't promise you a prize-winning garden, but horse manure makes rich compost and compost makes great mulch. Call **Su Anne Armstrong** at 660-1996 for more information and to inquire about home delivery.

### Landscape Health

We all live in a watershed, and ours is the Galisteo! Understand the concepts of landscape ecology and the management principles of soil and water conservation in your own backyard. Learn what you can do to improve the health of your land and the community at a *free* workshop sponsored by Earth

Moon Phases for October



Works Institute and The Quivira Coalition. This workshop will be held on Saturday, October 21, from 1 to 5 pm at the Eldorado #1 Fire Station (144 Ave. Vista Grande). For information and registration, visit [www.quiviracoalition.org](http://www.quiviracoalition.org) or call 505-820-2544, ext 0#.

### Social Dancing

Eldorado now has a square dance group that gets together Friday nights from 7 to 9 pm in the Community Center Depot. The first night brought out 30 dancers of all ages, from beginners to those who had square danced before in clubs or at school. **Mike Holly**, the caller from Albuquerque, soon had everyone dancing the basic moves.

Square dancing is a social event, a learning experience, a painless addition to your exercise program and above all, fun. Plan on joining us for the fun, whether single or, better yet, with your partner. Join friends and neighbors every Friday night. For more information, please contact **Bruce Blossman** at 955-0880 or [blossman@santafe-newmexico.com](mailto:blossman@santafe-newmexico.com).

### MOMS Have Fun!

The Southeast Santa Fe Chapter of the MOMS Club will be hosting a "MOMS Club Fair" on Saturday, October 14, at the Eldorado Community Center, from noon to 4 pm. We will have free food and activities for children and parents, as well as information about our group. MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) Club is an international organization for mothers who stay home with their children full- or part-time. Our children are all ages, from infants to high school age. For more information on the Fair or about MOMS Club, please contact **Tracey Mitchell** at 466-1380 or **Nichole Anaya** at 466-2590.

### Scary People

The Halloween Carnival will be held at the school on Saturday, October 28. This is a fun community event that takes many volunteers. Start saving your clean stuffed animals to donate for the animal walk!

For more info, contact **Jenny Landen** at 466-8896 or [mjlanden@earthlink.net](mailto:mjlanden@earthlink.net).



## Astronomy Corner

### PLANET X

Planet X is the name given to a hypothetical tenth major planet, once believed to exist beyond the orbit of Pluto. The Kuiper belt remained theory until the 1992 detection of a 150-mile wide body called 1992QB1 at the distance of the suspected belt. Several similar-sized objects were discovered quickly, confirming that the Kuiper belt was real. The planet Pluto, discovered in 1930, is considered the largest member of this Kuiper belt region.

**October Sky:** **Jupiter**, low in the western evening sky; **Saturn**, emerges into the eastern morning sky; **Mars**, unobservable; **Venus**, becomes engulfed in dawn twilight at the start of the month and is lost from view.

*Next time: Supermassive Star*

—Juan Alvarez  
Jalva88610@aol.com

See the light—follow outdoor lighting rules so we can all enjoy the stars.



# October Events

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

Email [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto: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 TGIF	Fri., Oct 20, 5-7 pm	LR
ERA Quarterly Meeting	Thurs., Oct 26, 7-9 pm	CR

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

285 Coalition	Wed., Oct 4, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Oct 11, 9:30 am	Gisela Knight	466-2568	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Oct 11, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Oct 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
EAWS&SD*	Tues., Oct 17, 7-9 pm		466-2411	RR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Oct 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Oct 23, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
Stable Committee	Tues., Oct 24, 7-9 pm	Dina Sassone	466-6441	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Oct 25, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Oct 14, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Oct 3, 10-11 am			F
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Oct 12, 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
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Oct 17, 10-11 am			F
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Oct 9, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Nichole Anaya	466-2590	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Oct. 17, 2-4 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR
Perform. Arts Assoc.	2nd Sat., 10 am-noon	Etain O'Malley	466-4708	RR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	982-2890	

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm			LR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Wed., 6:30-9 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	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thurs., 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	Wed., 12-1 pm	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
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](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

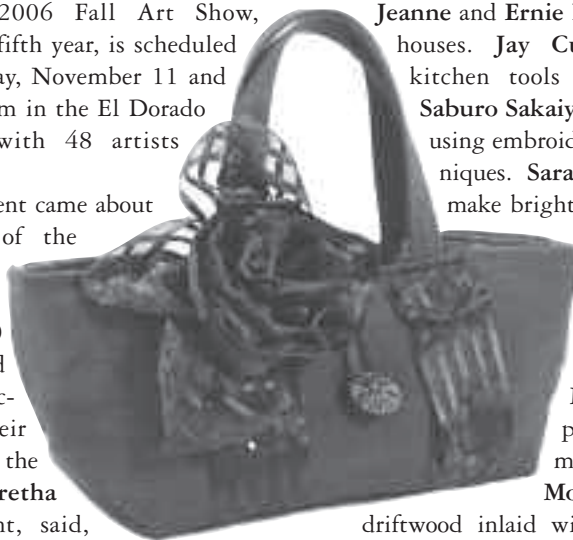
## Another November; Another Fall Art Show

### THE ELDORADO ARTS AND CRAFTS

Association's 2006 Fall Art Show, celebrating its fifth year, is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, November 11 and 12, from 10 am to 5 pm in the El Dorado Elementary School, with 48 artists showcasing their work.

The idea of a fall event came about as the membership of the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association (EACA) grew to 180 members. Artists asked for a fall venue as a second way to show their work, in addition to the May Studio Tour. Joretha Hall, EACA President, said, "We really needed an indoor venue to guarantee we would be able to show work no matter what the weather. The school has it all: a place for artists who might not participate in the Studio Tour, as well as plenty of room to display art in both gyms and the hallway connecting the two locations. The school's central location makes it an easy place for visitors to park. Once inside, visitors have ample space to view the artwork, make purchases, and talk to each artist."

Christine Drumright designs wearable art, including this handbag made from silk and a handmade ribbon flower with vintage sequins and button.



Eighteen artists will participate for the first time. Jeanne and Ernie Peterson make exotic birdhouses. Jay Cudd produces utilitarian kitchen tools from exotic woods, and Saburo Sakaiyoto produces unique frames using embroidery, beads and quilted techniques. Sara Jane and Barry Gilbert make bright, embellished leather handbags. Just to name a few.

Some of the returning artists are Roni Rohr and her hand-painted, whimsical pieces for the home; Maggie Beyeler's colorful pottery, Christina Miller's modern icons on wood, Nina Morrow's jewelry made from driftwood inlaid with beads, Emily Brown's photography, and Joretha Hall's clay figures.

As a group, the artists present a dynamic cross-section of fine arts and crafts. Mary Ann Rall, co-chair of the Fall Show, said special care was taken to select this weekend so as not to conflict with the Dixon Studio Tour.

Preview the Fall Show artists' work at [www.eldoradoarts.org](http://www.eldoradoarts.org). Call for information at 466-6293 or 466-2741.

—Janet Amtman

## Senior Center Progressing!



PHOTO BY RICHARD ANDERSON

to be built as a future phase. Thankfully these areas are now included in the funding and will be completed with the current construction. The Center is anticipated to be open on a limited basis in January, with a grand opening in March of 2007.

The Senior Center Building Committee, county officials and the design team are currently working hard to establish the furnishing needs and budget for the center, understand the funding and procurement options available for meeting those needs and develop a procurement action plan for the finishing of the Center. The building committee consists of Jurgen Amtmann, Dave Davis, Don Dayton and Joyce Hanmer.

The Senior Center is designed to provide free lunch five days a week, provide space for social activities, a community meeting room, arts and crafts room and a small exercise facility. In addition, there will be office space for the anticipated staff of four who will operate the facility. The Center is a regional Senior Center and will support seniors in the rural Southeast corridor as well as Eldorado seniors.

—Richard Anderson

The Senior Center under construction next to the library.

AS MANY OF YOU HOPEFULLY have noticed when driving by the Vista Grande Public Library, the Ken & Patty Adam Senior Center is progressing very nicely, with construction anticipated to be completed by December 2006. After budget constraints and concerns, rising construction prices and vetoed monies by the Governor, the County Commissioners allocated \$300,000 above the legislative appropriation to assist in the construction of the Senior Center as originally designed. Funding for several of the ancillary rooms had been cut, leaving these rooms



## Intelligent and Resourceful

**THIS LOUD, BOLD BIRD** should be familiar to everyone. The Western Scrub Jay (WSJ) is resident all year here. This largish, crestless bird (11.5 inches long, with a wingspan of 15.5 inches) is bright blue on its back, tail, head and upper wings. Its under parts are light gray. Males and females are similar with females being less colorful. WSJ is divided into Pacific and Interior populations, which do not overlap. Pacific birds are brighter and have a sharply defined blue breastband.

WSJs are found in dense bushy areas and areas with lots of Junipers (sounds like Eldorado!). They fly from tree to tree making harsh *shreeeenk* sounds. The courting male hops around the female, raising and fluttering its wings, followed by both birds building a cuplike nest in scrub or bushes. Pairs are monogamous. The female lays two to seven eggs, which she tends. Eggs hatch in 16 days and the atirical babies fledge in 18 days. The expression “naked as a jaybird” could originate from the naked hatchlings (no-feathers or down). The adults stay on their breeding ground year-round.

Their summer diet consists of insects, invertebrates, small vertebrates and occasionally bird eggs. Their winter diet is acorns, piñon nuts, seeds and fruit. Most of us also know that WSJs love peanuts (with or without the shell) and sunflower seeds. WSJs cache food for later consumption, which might explain why I have sunflower plants coming up in strange parts of my yard.

WSJs are intelligent and resourceful (they are part of the *Corvidae* family which includes ravens and crows). DNA studies indicate that all corvids have a common Australian ancestor. WSJs have a special flange on the lower jaw that braces it against the skull so that they can easily peck shells open with their lower bills while holding the seed in their foot. The Florida Scrub Jay is a relative of WSJ and is threatened due to habitat loss.

—Pam Henline



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STEVE METZ PHOTOGRAPHY.COM

## Mulch to Be Thankful For

**THE CLOSE OF ANOTHER GROWING** season in our high desert environment... This atypical year brought lots of moisture and cloudy days, allowing the plants to receive relief from the intense sun. Our gardens and landscapes are full of happy plants, desirable and not, and insects, beneficial and not. The whole ecosystem is on the upswing—even the fungi, which help in decaying, are doing their best to break down the dead piñon trees. The entire Southern Rockies are getting mulched.

The abundant weed growth needs to be addressed. Let's talk fire threat—all that plant matter is potential fuel. Now is the time to remove those dead weeds (along with seed heads). Weeds are wonderful composting material, and rot pretty quickly. Even large piles reduce to very little, with some help! We have a great resource to help us with this job—the stables and their piles of nitrogen rich, weed-eating manure. Pile your leaves and weeds, then generously cover them with manure and, miraculously, next spring you will have a pile of mulch ready for the garden. Add some water and the process speeds up. Of course, it's best if the pile is at least 100 feet away from structures. Again, think fuel. Talk about making lemonade from a bunch of lemons!

The weeds aren't the only population on the rise from our wet summer. Our six-legged friends and foes

are also enjoying the added moisture. For several months now the insects have been laying their eggs for next season. Removing plant debris helps reduce them. However, trees, shrubs and vines also harbor the eggs. Starting now, and then again several times before spring, spray branches with dormant oil. This nontoxic material will suffocate the eggs without harming you or your plants. Be sure to thoroughly cover all surfaces at an application rate of 3 Tbsp. per gallon of water. Hose end sprayers work very well for this treatment. Fruit trees, aspens, roses, lilacs, trumpet vines and any other plants that were showing insect damage last season are especially good candidates.

October is the time to bring in houseplants, transplant perennials, plant most trees, vines and shrubs, and best of all, harvest what's left in the veggie and herb garden. On Saturday, October 4 at 10 am, I will give a free talk at Tropic of Capricorn on “October in the Garden.”

Enjoy the weather and Get Green!

—Michael Clark  
Tropic of Capricorn



*Security 204-2945  
Sheriff 428-3720*

## *Holding Court at the Agora*



PHOTO BY KEN MCPHERSON

After the owners of the Agora shopping center built a ramada and laid bricks throughout the courtyard, many of our residents complimented the results. Then, to put it to good use, the owners of the Agora and the merchants sponsored Saturday concerts under the ramada, beginning in June. The concerts were successful despite the rains, and although they ended on September 9, we look forward to them returning next summer. Meanwhile, don't miss the Agora's annual celebration of Halloween on Saturday, October 28. Look for details at the Agora.