

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 10

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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## Beautiful Night Skies—Can We Keep Them?

**THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS** that make Eldorado a good place to live: spectacular mountain views all around, houses that blend in and do not spoil the landscape, beautiful sunsets and a sense that we are living in a rather special place that attracts and inspires those who love and create art.

Step outside on a cloudless night when the moon has set and myriad stars overwhelm the senses. Pity the vast majority of our countrymen who look up but cannot see what we see, who cannot enjoy the night sky because they are blinded by the ubiquitous “glare-bombs” of city and suburban lighting.

Most Americans never see what we enjoy here—the wonder of the Milky Way, Earth’s home galaxy. Most of us now live in cities and city residents, especially those east of the Mississippi, never see what to non-astronomers is the most spectacular of constellations—The Big Dipper.

We have little reason to feel completely secure about our night sky advantage. Looking north from Eldorado, a glow offends the darkness from nearby Santa Fe. To the southeast an unwelcome glare shines up from Albuquerque, blanking our view of stars in that direction. Worse, because they are closer to home, are the nearby floodlights that surround New Mexico’s State Prison.

Wide open spaces attracted us here. Over the nearby Cerrillos range to the west in the daylight, we can see much of Mount Taylor between Grants and Gallup, about 120 miles away. But we can also see a piece of trash blowing over the landscape a mile

away or more. At night, our view of the stars can be ruined by a distant, unshielded light someone has forgotten to turn off on their porch or over their garage.

Bert Lysen, our Covenants Compliance Officer, works hard reminding us of our community’s lighting rules. He gets five to seven complaints a month, mostly about unshielded security lights that a few of us thoughtlessly leave on too long. The rules (our CCandRs) in general state that our lights:

- ▼ Must be shielded.
- ▼ Must be pointed down, not up or horizontally.
- ▼ Must be of no brighter than 75 Watts.

Bert recommends that security lights be on timers to turn off in two or three minutes after they are switched on. For information on the rules for home and landscape lighting, call him at 466-4248.

In April 2005, the ECIA won an award from the American Preservation Alliance for the care of its portion of the night skies of New Mexico. Such an award is best seen as both a compliment and a challenge: “Let’s keep our night skies dark and beautiful.”

The night sky here may be hard to describe in prose. A poem such as the following may be the best way to remind ourselves of the priceless, inspiring treasure we have and can keep—if we have a mind to.

—Frank Schober

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

*Nighttime;  
steely sky.  
Dots of glistening light,  
above view and beyond.  
Surround you in a moment  
like raindrops shaken from a tree.  
Beyond reach,  
within sight.  
Tell a story  
of creation, beauty, a journey,  
Of dreams they hold,  
told in secret,  
from those who believe  
In the beauty  
of a night sky.  
—Anonymous.*



NASA photo of North America's night skies.

*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.

## Open Stable Day

**O**N SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, THE Eldorado Stable amenity will host its first Community Day Open House from 1 to 4 pm—an afternoon that promises to be educational and entertaining for the whole family.

Certain to be the highlight of the day are the free pony rides from the gentlest four-legged residents of the stables. (Helmets will be provided and participants will be asked to sign a waiver, much like that required by the community's September Fun Run.)

Before the pony rides, however, you will be treated to the Parade of Breeds, a chance to view the different varieties of equine that live in Eldorado then learn what makes them so special.

Come watch **Emma Cameron**, 7, barrel race (she has competed at both the Santa Fe and Galisteo rodeos) and **Chloe Wolff**, 11, jump (she has competed in horse shows at Albuquerque and Rio Rancho). Kids and adults also will show off their skills at roping, polo, Western pleasure, Natural Horsemanship and dressage. We will provide information on trainers for families who want to celebrate the tradition of the West and teach their children to ride horses. We will also provide information on the amenity and how to acquire a barn.

The ECIA will provide refreshments: Sno-cones and lemonade for all!

The stable amenity has two entrances: one off of Hwy 285 just past the Avenida Vista Grande light heading south toward Lamy and the other off Avenida Eldorado just past the water tanks. Look for the balloons marking both entrances. Stable volunteers will direct you where to park from either entry.

## Biker Retorts

*Editor's Note: One reader responded to the mention in the September Vistas about bikers being more careful of people on the bike/bike trails. The reader's response was very long and can only be summarized here.*

At first, he or she notes that "true bikers" do warn walkers, then proceeded to list some walker behaviors that cause problems for bikers. The following are quotes from the letter:

"Many folks, pedestrians and bikers alike, are simply unaware that there is a hike/bike path basic protocol and that such a protocol exists for one reason only—**safety!**" This protocol was explained as, "Bikers heed warning to walkers. Walkers move right, bikers pass on the left. It's just like driving on an American road—pass on the left."

—Eldorado Biker



Chloe Wolff jumping her horse, Chinook.

We invite you to stroll around and meet our horses by reading bios posted on each of the barns. Please don't feed the horses without permission because some are on special diets.

We love all animals, but please leave your dogs at home. You also will be asked to leave bikes at the entrance. We hope to see all of you there.

## Mowing Down Beauty

**I**TURN TO YOU FOR CLARIFICATION and also with a sad heart. When we bought our property 12 years ago, we were told that it was illegal to cut down the natural growth on our lot, except for a small part where growing a bit of grass and flowers was appropriate. I was delighted as I love the wild beauty of this environment. Also, I was fed-up with the endless noise of lawnmowers, leaf blowers, chain-saws and other machines that disturbed our summer days in Illinois from dawn to dusk.

Recently I hear weed whackers at dawn and dusk almost daily. On a recent walk I noticed three or four adjoining lots shaved to the ground, looking grey and sterile in their tidy sterility. No snake weeds, cholla all carefully removed, just grey and lifeless looking landscape. Is this someone's concept of beauty? What about the wildlife here that so delights many of us? With no habitat left for them, no food, no shading shrubs, no protective nesting areas, their days are numbered.

Please let me know if this is a new policy in Eldorado to make the landscape look tame, tidy and domestic. I sure hope not, as I know so many of us love the scarlet blooms on the cholla, the brilliant yellow snake weed mounds, the swaying bleached grasses and purple asters. After all, this is the wild west and I for one love the wildness of this landscape. Please enlighten me!

—Ramona Mitchell

## From the President's Desk

**A S YOU PROBABLY HAVE READ** in the Eldorado section of *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, the ECIA Board of Directors at their business meeting on August 16 approved unanimously The Responsible Dog Ownership policy. As I reported last month, an ad hoc committee of residents was charged with developing a responsible dog ownership policy and a campaign that would educate residents about it. The committee did an admirable job and each household in Eldorado should very soon receive a brochure that outlines the policy in a very readable format.

I continue to get questions concerning enforcement of the policy. This is the difficult part since the committee did not recommend fines for infractions, nor did the Board wish to go in that direction. Also, we do not have an animal control person in our employ and we never will. We are a large community and residents may note a violation of the policy, but often the dog and owner cannot be identified by residence or name. So some say the policy is moot. But it is only moot if we do not try to make it a viable policy. I believe when the community comes together and determines it wants an issue resolved, it is amazing what can be done. We, as individuals and as a community, can solve the issue of enforcement. The committee has made some suggestions that are outlined in the forthcoming brochure. I will

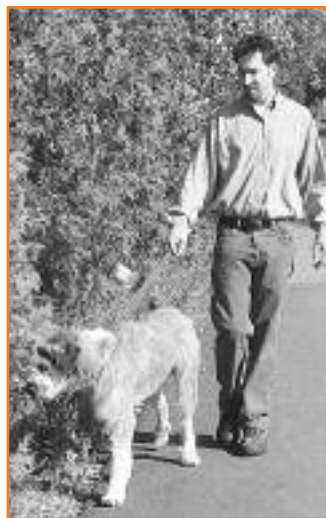
outline them here, and you can review them when you receive the brochure.

What can residents do if the policy rules are broken?

- ▼ If you own a cell phone, carry it when you are out walking or biking. If threatened or harmed by a dog, call 911 immediately.
- ▼ The rules are based on the spirit of cooperation. If you notice someone violating the rules and if you feel comfortable, talk to them about the rules and why it is necessary for all of us to comply with the policy.
- ▼ If this is not an option for you, call the county animal control at 955-2700. After hours and on weekends, call the sheriff at 986-2455.
- ▼ Report all incidents to the ECIA office at 466-4248. Through the covenants there is a nuisance process that can deal with continuing or serious infractions.

Working together, we can make this policy work.

—Jeanne Klein



## Dog Owner Policy

**THE ELDORADO RESPONSIBLE DOG** Owner Policy, as published in last month's *Vistas*, was discussed and unanimously approved by the ECIA Board of Directors at the August Board meeting and is now in effect.

Eldorado is a very special and wonderful place. The collaborative spirit of community enabled the Ad Hoc Dog Committee to take a challenging and potentially divisive issue and work through a diverse array of concerns and solutions to create our new Eldorado Dog Owner Policy.

Awareness-raising is a key component of the committee's mission and, as such, we will be promoting Responsible Dog Ownership throughout the community and in the *Vistas* each month.

Participation with the Ad Hoc Dog Committee involved many Eldorado residents from our face-to-face monthly committee meetings to an ongoing email dialogue of information sharing. The Board members and committee co-chairs, Su Anne Armstrong and Richard Anderson, want to

extend our heartfelt thanks to all of those who participated and brought about this policy. Volunteer participation is critical to our community and their involvement has been invaluable in creating such a collaborative effort as the policy and the implementation plans we have for the year ahead.

Thanks again to all these wonderful volunteers: Maggie Alexander, Jamie Barr, Don Begley, Bruce Blossman, Theresa Bohrer, Sheila Burke, Julia Clough, Pam Christie, Bill Donohue, Karen Edwards, E.J. Evangelos, Gudrun Hoerig, Joyce Johnson, Peg Johnson, Mark Kaltenbach, Carol Klawa, Richard Lawn, Lorita Magee, Mike Montgomery, Annette Morreale, Nancy Preiss, David Rasch, Susan Rehr, Nancy Robbins, Michael Tomko, Lynn Tomko, Kate Greenway and Lisa Boegl. Herculean efforts were provided by Pam Christie and Su Anne Armstrong in writing the initial policy draft and with Don Begley and Mike Montgomery in creating the brochure draft.

—Richard Anderson

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Election: Pat Lavengood  
Roads: Nolan Zisman  
Information: Ken McPherson  
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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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





### Working on a Wetland

On October 13, from 9 am to 2 pm, the Eldorado Conservation Committee and the Earth Works Institute will cosponsor a community workday to further restore and enhance a wetland ecosystem in the Eldorado Wilderness. Food and beverages will be provided free as we work together to create a sustainable trail crossing and to plant native plants to expand and secure the Canoncito Arroyo Wetland just off of County Road 51.

Come experience the joy and satisfaction of working with fellow community members to steward a valuable common resource. It's good for our water, it's good for native plants and animals, it's good for the land, and it's good for our own health. Wear work clothes and meet at 9 am at the ECIA Community Center. Any questions, call **Dana Richards** at 690-5500.

### Scary Then, Scary Now

Thursday, October 18, at 7 pm in the Vista Grande Public Library, **Tom Clagett** will talk about the differences in horror filmmaking over the years. Tom is author of *William Friedkin: Films of Aberration, Obsession, and Reality* and an active member of Vista Grande Public Library. Tom will compare scenes from *The Exorcist* as they were produced in the 1970s and as they were produced a generation later.

This talk will focus on two versions of the *Exorcist* story. The first is the 1973 film, based on the novel by William Peter Blatty. This film was directed by William Friedkin and starred Ellen Burstyn, Linda Blair, Max von Sydow, Kitty Winn, Lee J. Cobb and Jason Miller. It earned 10 Academy Award nominations and won two. It is one of the most profitable horror films of all time.

Author Tom Clagett will talk about the differences in horror filmmaking over the years.



The second film, released in 2000, is a remake of the original. In *The Exorcist: The Version You've Never Seen*, Friedkin and Blatty added scenes to clarify the story, as well as visual effects and music to enhance the experience for a new audience. The power of both versions is visceral and undeniable.

### Free Horse Manure

Saturday, October 13, from 9 am to 1 pm, we will load your truck or trailer with manure for free. Horse manure makes rich compost and compost makes great mulch. Call **SuAnne Armstrong** at 660-1996 for more information and to inquire about home delivery. Come to the Eldorado Stables, Avenida Eldorado at Highway 285.



### Red Hats

The Santa Fe Wild Flowers Chapter of the Red Hat Society cordially invites women of "a certain age" to join us for at our monthly Ladies' Luncheon. Red Hatters visiting the City Different from out of town are especially welcome.

Our chapter welcomes new members—those in their 20s, 30s, and 40s, as well as those who have reached "The Birthday." We are funny, serious, creative, and always look for new ways to laugh and have fun.

Our worldwide sisterhood has nearly 40,000 chapters across the United States in all 50 states and in more than 30 foreign countries. It has grown "FUNominally" fast and has been featured in such national magazines as *Newsweek*, *Good Housekeeping* and *Women's Day*, in addition to such major metropolitan newspapers as *The Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*, plus hundreds of local dailies. It even has inspired a legendary team of award-winning talents to create our musical, *HATS*. This marvelous play manages to nod to the poignant side of aging, inspire belly laughs and deliver a wildly entertaining theatrical experience at the same time. For more information on this month's location, please contact our Queen Mum, **Lee Farragher** at 505-757-2904, for location, time and directions.



## ASTRONOMY Corner

### LAYER OF LIGHT

The photosphere is the part of the Sun from which visible light is emitted. More generally, it is the region of any star that gives rise to its visible radiation. Most of the Sun's energy escapes into space from the photosphere. The effective temperature of the Sun's photosphere is around 5780 Kelvins. The in-and-out heaving motions, or oscillations, of the photosphere are used in helioseismology to decipher the dynamics and structure of the solar interior.

### October Sky:

**Mars**, enters in Gemini by midnight as October begins; **Venus**, shines in the east-northeast in the morning sky; dimmer **Saturn** will be your favorite in a telescope; **Jupiter**, low in the southwest at dusk three hours before sunset.

*Next Time: How Red is Mars?*

—Juan Alvarez  
Jalva88610@aol.com

Protect our night skies; keep outside lights low or off when not needed.

### Swimmers Grateful

We, the "Ladies of the morning" (8 am to 8:30 am) swimming group, want to congratulate the lifeguards for a great job in keeping the pool clean and being so friendly to us. There is always a "Good Morning" when we arrive and "Have a Nice Day" or "Good-bye" as we leave. Thank you from Wingrad, Chris, Sheila, Barbra, Erika and Lillian.



# 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 Quarterly Meeting	Mon., Oct. 8, 7-9 pm			CR
Fin. Comm./Board Meeting	Mon., Oct. 22, 6:30-9 pm	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Road Committee	Mon., Oct. 1, 6-7 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Neighborhood Watch	Mon., Oct. 1, 7-9 pm			CFR
EAWS&D*	Tues., Oct. 2, 7-9 pm		466-2411	LR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Oct. 2, 7-9			CFR
285 Coalition	Wed., Oct. 3, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Oct. 10, 9:30-noon	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Oct. 10, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Oct. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
EAWS&D*	Tues., Oct. 16, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CR
Stable Committee	Tues., Oct. 16, 7-9 pm	Tommie Brasel		LR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Oct. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Oct. 22, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	310-1120	F
Stable Committee	Tues., Oct. 23, 7-9 pm	Tommie Brasel		LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Oct. 24, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Oct. 13, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Oct. 2, 10-11 am	Bruce Blossman		F
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Oct. 11, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	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. 8, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Mandie Rippey	795-4086	
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Oct. 16, 2-4 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	466-6398	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Oct. 16, 10-11 am	Bruce Blossman		F
League of Woman Voters	Sat., Oct. 20, 9:30-noon			LR

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7:15-8:15 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Men's Bridge	Tues., 6:30-9 pm			F
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	Senior Center	466-1039	
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Adult Basketball	TBD	Eddie Marshall	660-2172	Court
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)



## A Community Man



PHOTO BY RICHARD GROSS

Tom Miller, the ECIA Board's newest member.

**TOM MILLER** is a promoter. He does it for a living, and he plans to do it for Eldorado. The Eldorado Community Improvement Association “has to make the community a little bit more aware of the ECIA—to enlist the community to find out what the goals are,” said Tom, the newest and youngest member of the ECIA Board of Directors.

He was appointed in July to the seven-member Board to a three-year term. He is the panel's liaison to the Neighborhood Watch Committee.

Tom, 42, moved to Eldorado with his wife, Noelle, and 4-year-old daughter, Faith, in August 2006, arriving from a San

Diego where there was “too much traffic, it was too crowded and the cost of living was too high.”

Born and raised in Goshen, N.Y., about an hour north of New York City, Tom went to San Diego in

1983 to join his brother, who was in the Navy. He signed up as well and served as a navigator aboard the *USS Hoel*, a guided missile destroyer.

“I had a great time,” Tom said. “I got to see the world. That was my college.”

His four Navy years done, he met and married Noelle and together they made their home in San Diego, where Tom worked in marketing and promotion for a classic rock radio station, The Planet. It later switched to all-talk radio and Tom lost his job, an impetus for the move to Santa Fe.

A similar position at Santa Fe's KABC—98.1 on the FM dial—awaited him, but it later was bought out. So Tom turned off radio and joined the First National Bank of Santa Fe as its community outreach coordinator.

It was in San Diego that Tom first got involved in community issues because he and Noelle “realized that we weren't getting the services that our taxes were paying for.” They both were voted onto the San Diego Community Council.

Tom and Noelle moved to Eldorado because they liked the idea of a controlled wilderness where there was a guaranteed water supply. That and the El Dorado Elementary School.

“I want to make the community better,” Tom said. “I want to be involved, to know which way the community is going, to be on the front line.”

—Richard C. Gross

## Townsend's Solitaire

**THE TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (TS)** is a drab member of the bluebird (thrush) family; it missed out on the beautiful blues that we love. Nevertheless, the TS is a handsome bird. At 8.5 inches long with a wingspan of 14.5 inches, it is slightly larger than our Western Bluebird. Male and female adults are similar—a drab gray, a bright white eye ring, small black bill and some light brown on outer wing feathers. A light brown stripe flashes on the under-wing when in flight. The tail shape is similar to that of mockingbird's and a white stripe can be seen on the sides of the tail when it is spread in flight. They have a pleasant, long trilling song.

TS is seen in open montane coniferous forests (that is closer to the Agora-Dos Griegos area) and moves to some lower elevations in winter. They can be seen in our area year round but are more common in winter, sometimes in flocks with Mountain Bluebirds. Some birds winter as far south as central Mexico. During the winter, the male and female are both strongly territorial, defending patches of

juniper trees against other solitaires. The TS sings throughout the fall and winter to set up and hold its winter territory.

My *Birder's Handbook* by P. R. Ehrlich and others is surprisingly short on information about this species. Small cavity nests are built on the ground or in cut banks but brood information is undocumented (I'll guess it is similar to Western Bluebirds with eggs taking 12 days to hatch and 15 days for young to fledge). Their diet is fruit, insects and seeds from juniper, mountain ash, serviceberry, Texas Madrone and other trees and bushes. In winter, they prefer the juniper's ripe, fleshy berries.

Insects are gleaned off of vegetation from the ground or from short low flight. They sometimes hover briefly when plucking fruit. They are an important part of the ecosystem as long-distance seed dispensers.

I first saw this bird at the top of a large leafless tree at the Community Center while out with the monthly birding walk.

—Pam Henline



Photo By: Mike Yip  
vancouverislandbirds.com

## Observing the Community

**YOGI BERRA FAMOUSLY NOTED** that “You can see a lot just by observing.”

The Santa Fe District 1 Office of the New Mexico State Police is preparing a program for volunteer observers to actively patrol Eldorado to deter crime and report suspicious behavior. It is based upon other national programs, particularly on a Volunteer Observation Patrol (VOP) program set up in Farmington, NM.

State Police Lt. **Eric Garcia** is working to adapt other VOP programs to Eldorado and to coordinate the implementation with the county Sheriff's Department and the Eldorado Neighborhood Watch Committee of the ECIA. Lt. Garcia praises Eldorado's Neighborhood Watch, but adds that Neighborhood Watch tends to be reactive, to deal with things once they happen in a neighborhood and coordinate and inform immediate neighbors. VOP programs train community members to actively patrol, observe and report potential problems before they occur.

Volunteers would patrol two at a time in a marked vehicle. They would be trained in what to look for and what details to pass on to 911 or designated phone numbers. Unlike a Sheriff's Reserve Deputy, VOP volunteers would not be required to approach suspicious persons or be authorized to

make arrests. Instead, they would report to and summon regular law enforcement when necessary. The program is still in the final stages of development, but Lt. Garcia expects that training will consist of three to four hours at State Police headquarters or Eldorado's Community Center.

Both Lt. Garcia and County Sheriff **Greg Solano** have noted that Eldorado enjoys a relatively low rate of crime within Santa Fe County but that separate Eldorado area crime statistics are not available. However, Neighborhood Watch participants have commented upon a perceived increase in burglaries and vandalism recently and have been strongly advocating increased police presence.

Lt. Garcia, who lives in Eldorado, is coordinating VOP details with Sgt. **Ken Johnson** of the Sheriff's Department, and with **Marilyn Walker** of Eldorado Neighborhood Watch. Marilyn reports that about 15 people have requested information about volunteering for the VOP program. Anyone else who would like more information should contact her at [lightwalker2@comcast.net](mailto:lightwalker2@comcast.net) or at 466-2553. She stresses that the call is merely an indication of interest, not a firm commitment.

—*Dan Drobnis*

## A Place for Injured Birds

**IF YOU MISSED THE BIRDS** brought to the Agora on September 15, a second chance awaits you. The Santa Fe Raptor Center (SFRC) is holding an open house at its nearby facility on October 6 between 11 am and 2 pm. The center is located at 32 Jacinto Road (south of Eldorado, the first road after Avenida Eldorado). Some of the birds which cannot be released due to injuries and which can be seen include a flammulated owl, a red tailed hawk, a burrowing owl, a peregrine falcon, a Swainson's hawk and a merlin.

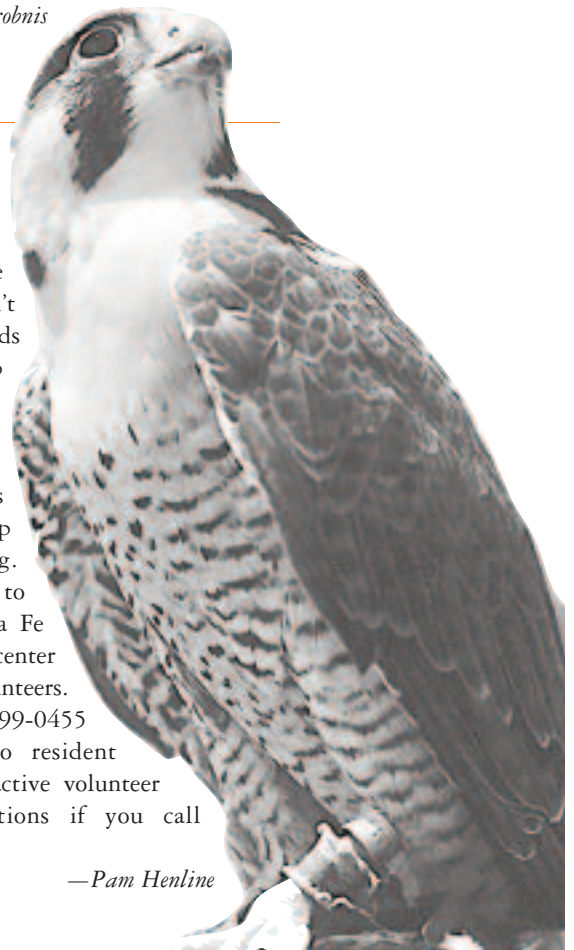
The SFRC was founded in 2004 and has built up an impressive record in that brief time. In 2005, 17 raptors were treated, with 14 released back into the wild, as were 191 songbirds, with 96 released, including seven hummingbirds. During part of this year, the educational program of the SFRC has reached 1,820 children and 4,293 adults.

The center will take injured or orphaned birds and recommends that you place the bird in a box with holes and lid and then call the center at 699-0455 or 662-7418. I find that for small birds that are not thrashing around, a waste basket with a

towel thrown over the top works and can be assembled quickly. Don't try to give injured birds food or water; just keep them quiet and in a darkened container.

SFRC is a nonprofit organization and always needs donations to keep the center running. Donations can be mailed to P. O. Box 32021, Santa Fe NM 87594. And the center runs because of its volunteers. To find out more, call 699-0455 or 662-7418. Eldorado resident **Robin Hilliard** is an active volunteer and can answer questions if you call 466-1478.

—*Pam Henline*





*Security 204-2945  
Sheriff 428-3720  
Crime Stoppers 955-5050*

## *Ice Cream Social*



There was music, ice cream, and silent auctions, but the face painting was an obvious hit. All in all, the Vista Grande Public Library's Annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction was a big success.