

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 10  
October 2009

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

## Assessment Increase Coming

**I**T HAS BEEN EIGHT YEARS SINCE THE ECIA last increased the assessment for each homeowner's lot—from \$200 in 2001 to \$240 in 2002, the level at which it has stayed through 2009. Over those eight years of unchanging assessments, inflation—as indicated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index—has totaled 21.6% (data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl).

Not surprisingly, the cost of labor, goods, and services needed to operate the ECIA and maintain its amenities has increased as well over that period. And major investments in amenities since 2001 include over five miles of paved hike/bike trails, a rebuilt Community Center courtyard, an athletic field upgrade and a regulation basketball court. All require additional funds to be reserved for maintenance and eventual replacement. Contributions to Replacement Reserves are now rising 7.5% per year, even without additional amenities. And our Community Center, much of it dating back to the 1950s Simpson Ranch, and pool require more maintenance as they age.

For 2010, the Finance Committee is recommending to the ECIA Board an increase in assessments roughly corresponding to inflation over the last eight years. The exact amount is still being discussed and will be proposed as part of the Draft 2010 Operating Budget, available at the ECIA office and on the website ([www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)) on Monday, November 2. The Budget will also be discussed at the regular meeting of the Finance Committee on Wednesday, October 7 at 9:30 am, at a public Budget Hearing scheduled for Saturday, November 14 at 10 am, and is scheduled for adoption by the Board at its regular meeting on Thursday, November 19 at 7 pm.

In preparing the 2010 Operating Budget, the Finance Committee and General Manager **Bill Donohue** compared information from neighboring homeowners associations. Results are shown in the accompanying table, along with some comparisons of amenities provided.

The results are startling. Eldorado at Santa Fe (our formal subdivision name) provides its homeowners and residents with far more amenities, at a cost comparable—and in many cases far lower—than other nearby subdivisions. The only exception is Dos Griegos, which receives all of its needed revenue from leases for cell phone towers on its property.

There are two secrets to Eldorado's low assessment:

- ▼ We have 80 miles of roads—26 of them hard surfaced with asphalt or chip seal—that are maintained by the county. Quality may (and does) vary, but almost all the expense (except for a special road assessment in 1995–1998 for paving western Avenida Eldorado and Avenida Casa del Oro) is paid by the county.
- ▼ The number and energy of the volunteers who serve on the ECIA's Board and nine committees, and who contribute to other community organizations such as Fire and Rescue Service, Library, PTA, Senior Center, Scouts, Soccer, and others, greatly enhance the quality and reduce the cost of the amenities and services we enjoy. ECIA President **Ed Benrock** praises volunteers and encourages more, and the economic benefit to Eldorado residents is real and large.

—Dan Drobnis

*ECIA Board  
Work Study  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Mon.,  
Oct. 12, 7 pm*

Subdivision	Yearly Amount	Local Staff	Community Center	Own Roads	Amenities
Eldorado	\$240 (last 8 years)	Yes	Yes	No	Pool, tennis, trails, basketball, athletic fields, playgrounds, greenbelts, 4000-acre preserve
Belicia	\$400 + \$400 road	No	No	Yes + Gate	No
Alteza	\$650	No	No	Yes	Common area
Dos Griegos	None	No	No	Yes	No
Cielo Colorado	\$250	No	No	Yes	No
La Paz	\$250	No	No	Yes	No \$25/yr to ED Fire/Rescue
Rancho Viejo So.	\$900	No	No	Some	Trails, greenbelts
Las Nubes	\$400	No	No	Yes	No
Nava Adé	\$472	No	Yes	No	Pool, fitness center, commons

## 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 [ECIADebby@aol.com](mailto:ECIADebby@aol.com). 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.

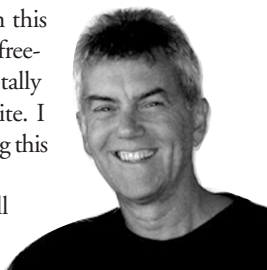
## Passing the Torch

**SEVEN YEARS AGO** the *Vistas* newsletter as we know it was designed by local graphic artist **Fabian West**. If you were here then, you will remember the stunning change in look and breadth of the *Vistas* compared with the previous newsletter. When Fabian and her husband moved to Texas in 2002, I was hired to take her place. As a freelance web designer, it was quite a boon and a pleasure to have predictable work while inheriting a lovely design layout. Working on something relevant to the Eldorado community was another major plus. Believe it or not, I looked forward to attending the Information Committee meetings every month! The committee members were friendly, and enthusiastically interested in the communication needs of the ECIA board and the Eldorado community. We really had fun.

In 2005 the Board approved a plan for a community website. [eldoradocommunity.org](http://eldoradocommunity.org) was born and evolved over the years to include a bulletin board and logins for committee chairs so they could update their pages. When the time came for an upgrade last year, the Board approved a move to the current site, which utilizes a system designed for homeowner associations. In the last year, we tweaked the look-and-feel and navigation until it became more user-friendly whether you log in or not. When you do request a login and use it, you can post classified ads, a lost pet's photo, and much more. If you haven't done so, request your login today and see what's there for you (click on LOGIN > REQUEST LOGIN).

It is seven years now since I designed my first *Vistas*, and it's time to move on. My web business has grown to the point where I need more focus in that direction. Happily, there are two brilliant people taking my place. Our current *Vistas* editor, **Carol Leyba**, is now also the designer; and photographer/web designer **Jack Arnold** is managing the website. Carol is a long-time freelance designer and production editor and will have no trouble with the *Vistas*, as you can see from this issue. Jack is immersed in freelance web design and is totally capable to take over the site. I thank them both for making this change so easy!

I am also grateful to all of you readers and the ECIA Board for supporting me as your print and web designer. How lucky am I to have enjoyed these years of dependable income and relevant community work! I also thank the members of the Information Committee, especially the intrepid



Jack Arnold, our new  
webmaster

volunteers **Frank Schober** and **Dan Drobnis**, who were involved well before I showed up and who still spend countless hours coming up with ideas, writing articles, taking pictures, interviewing members, attending meetings, etc. I have truly been inspired by them and the many volunteers who make this unincorporated community possible! I thank Fabian West for the original design which remains fresh and attractive. I look forward to getting this *Vistas* edition in my mailbox and enjoying the articles and inspiration of all the engaged people in our little world. If you haven't already become involved, I wish you would, for the opportunity to work with some of the amazing people who make this life better in our beautiful community. Find out how at [eldoradocommunity.org](http://eldoradocommunity.org)!

—Hope Kiah

## Bikes and Dogs

**I GREATLY ENJOYED** David Goodrich's articles on bicycle etiquette and safety. However, I would like to add that on pedestrian paths and sidewalks, bikers should endeavor to pass dogs and handlers "on your right." This is because dogs are trained (at least well-trained ones!) to walk on the handler's left. If the handler were to suddenly veer right, this could leave the dog(s) on the left side of the path, the handler on the right, and leashes strung across the path!

The left-hand rule, incidentally, dates from field hunting, when a right-handed hunter would carry a shotgun or rifle on the right, breech open and pointing down, and the hunting dogs would be ranged out of the way on the left. Continuing this custom today permits dog handlers to predict where the dog will be when meeting another handler, and to better control their animals if they react to each other. It also allows walking on the highway facing traffic, with dogs toward the shoulder on the left.

—Dan Drobnis

## Mailbox Numbers

**WHILE MAKING ROUNDS** with our CCR (see "Dark Skies" on p. 3), I observed that some of our mailboxes have no numbers. Proper, visible numbers on our mailboxes are essential for emergency fire, medical and law-enforcement responders. According to **Chief Guy Monroe**, reflective, properly sized mailbox numbers are available *for free* at the main station firehouse on Avenida Vista Grande every Saturday morning. If a mailbox is located somewhere other than the driveway to one's house, Santa Fe County fire regulations require that a post with the appropriate number be placed at the entrance.

—Frank Schober

## ECIA Continues Support for *Vistas*

**A**T THE AUGUST ECIA BOARD meeting, your Board took a close look at the costs for producing and mailing this newsletter, *Eldorado Vistas*. After considering various cost savings suggested by the Finance Committee—such as publishing every other month, reducing pages by one-half, and posting the newsletter on a web page and ceasing the print version entirely—we decided to continue the publication as you see it now.

Our decision to keep *Vistas* as-is was based on the Board members' feeling that there is a critical need to keep our owner-members as well as area renters fully informed of programs, policies, and issues for which the Board is responsible to association members.

As we know, Eldorado, the largest unincorporated community in the state of New Mexico, is underserved in a number of ways. No local radio or TV station regularly reports on events here. The recent demise of the "Eldorado Section" of *The Santa Fe New Mexican* has left our residents with little or no coverage of what may be, for us, crucial local issues. The nine ECIA volunteer committees, which work tirelessly to sustain our property values, protect and improve our open spaces, and improve and maintain our amenities, are covered only by *Eldorado Vistas*.

Transparency is a value of both government and private agencies—one that is honored, most often, by words and seldom in deeds. News of your Board, representing some 7000 individuals in the area, is covered only by the means of the monthly publication you are now reading and by its companion website, [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org).

*Vistas* is focused on providing information to Eldorado. It is not a "journal of record." It does not, and cannot, publish every letter sent to its editor. Controversy, politics, and religion are not a part of the mission the ECIA Board has given our Information Committee. That mission is, by priority, to:

1. Keep residents fully informed of the Board's concerns, policies, programs, and actions.
2. Report on the activities and programs of the volunteer committees which sustain the ECIA.
3. Cover items of interest to residents, particularly those that relate to the special circumstances of our life here.

I urge all residents to get and stay involved by becoming an ECIA volunteer as a member of one of committees. Those who do are truly living the motto "act locally and think globally."

—Ed Benrock, ECIA President

## Help Protect our Dark Skies

*How far that small, wee bulb doth shed its light;  
My neighbor blocks Orion from my sight.*

**W**ITH APOLOGIES TO William Shakespeare, I thought of the Great Bard, and how he might comment on the beauty of Eldorado's darkened, star-filled night (and the few, pesky lights that disturbed it) as I rode with **Mark Young**, our Covenants Compliance Representative (CCR), during one of his weekly rounds checking out the complaints he receives on lighting violations.

Mark sends an official notice to residents who have unshielded, bare bulbs or other exterior lighting violations. Sometimes he has to send second and third notices to an unresponsive party. If after a third and final notice, the resident still does not respond, or has not attempted to correct the lighting violation, Mark occasionally has to ask the ECIA's attorney to intervene with an official letter urging compliance.

A simple call to a resident is usually enough to correct a lighting problem. Security lights left on for extended periods are often at fault, particularly if they are not on timers that shut them off within the required two-minute period. Most of the lighting violations I saw that night were the result of inadvertence and lack

of knowledge about our lighting guidelines, and not willful attempts to disturb a neighbor's view of the stars.

Several inexpensive things can be done to protect our night skies and maintain our status as a recognized night-sky community:

- ▼ Replace offending bulbs with energy-efficient, pre-shielded, compact fluorescent bulbs in outside fixtures that have no shielding. (Contact Mark at the ECIA for information about these bulbs.)
- ▼ Add inexpensive, clip-on metal shields to older-style fixtures to direct lights downward.
- ▼ Replace older, noncompliant outdoor lighting fixtures with compliant ones or modify them to direct all light downward.
- ▼ Check your outdoor bulb wattages. The maximum permitted wattage is 75 watts.
- ▼ Simply remember to turn outdoor lights, particularly if they are in noncompliant fixtures, off—and thereby keep stars in view for your neighbors.

For more information on covenant-compliant lighting, including how to take advantage of the suggestions made above, call Mark Young at 466-4248 or e-mail him at [ECIAccr@aol.com](mailto:ECIAccr@aol.com).

—Frank Schober, with Mark Young

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Conservation: John Parker & E.J. Evangelos  
Stable: Bonita Mamp  
Election:  
Roads: Nolan Zisman  
Information: Frank Schober  
Neighborhood Watch:  
Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker  
Facilities & Grounds:  
Fred Raznick

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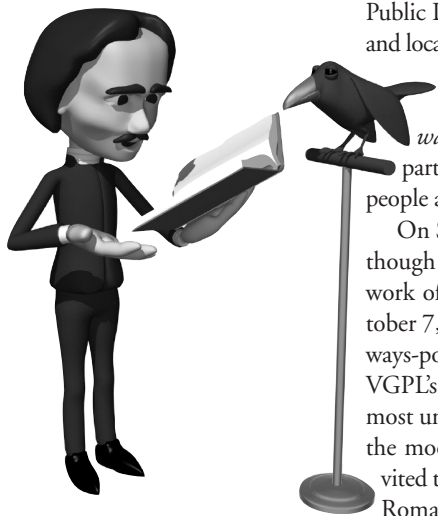
### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library  
466-READ  
Security  
204-2945  
Fire and Rescue  
466-1204  
County All Purpose  
820-CNTY (2689)





Hope Kiah offers free web workshop Oct. 3



### Free Web Workshop

Improve your web presence with a free web marketing workshop by **Hope Kiah**, author of the award-winning *Keyword Tutorial Ebook*, Saturday, October 3, 10 am to noon at La Tienda Eldorado (the newly purchased shopping center across from the Agora), Suite 101 (in the same building as Subway). For more info, call Hope at 466-4447. Sponsored by La Tienda Eldorado.

### Of Ravens and Jackrabbits

October is a wonderful time to explore the poetry of creatures, both mysterious and benign. Vista Grande Public Library is hosting an Author Talk with poet and local resident **Sheila Cowing** on Thursday, October 8, at 7 pm. Sheila will be reading from her latest published book, *Jackrabbit Highways*. Her poems revel in the natural world, particularly the effect of seasonal changes on the people and animals in the high desert.

On Saturday, October 17, we go further afield, though still in the realm of poetry, and honor the work of Edgar Allan Poe (January 19, 1809–October 7, 1849) with another one of the library's always-popular pancake breakfasts. Edgar the Raven, VGPL's mascot, will be reading from some of Poe's most unforgettable works and is sure to put you in the mood for All Hallows' Eve. The public is invited to read their own favorites by Poe, American Romanticist and master of the macabre.

### Attention Holiday Shoppers!!!

Mark your calendars NOW for the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association Fall Show. It will be held in the Eldorado Community School gyms on November 7 and 8, from 10 am to 5 pm, and admission is free. There will be about 55 artists/craftsmen showing and selling their work, which includes wearable art, fine arts, jewelry, weaving, ceramics, and much more! Contact EACA President and co-chair of the Fall Show, **Virginia Westray**, 466-9133 ([www.eldoradoarts.org](http://www.eldoradoarts.org)).

### The Healing Sound of HU

HU, an ancient name for God, is a word that can be used in prayer, meditation, or contemplation to uplift the awareness, bring solace in troubling times, and experience a more direct connection with the universal life force and one's true self. As a community service, Eckankar will present a 45-minute experiential workshop on HU at the Eldorado Community Center on Saturday, October 3 at 11 am. For information, call **C. John Graham**, 466-3690 or see [www.hearhu.org](http://www.hearhu.org) to download a recording.

### Moon Phases for October 2010



### Eldorado Energy Coop (EEC)

Carbon Busters—a project of the Eldorado Energy Coop (EEC)—debuts its community outreach program on Saturday, October 3, 10 am–3 pm at the Agora, featuring weatherization techniques, materials and resources, and cost savings to be had while reducing your carbon footprint. See the article on page 7 for more on EEC and the Eldorado Carbon Busters.

### The Eldorado Spiritual Coop

Eldorado Spiritual Cooperative is a non-hierarchical, meditative sharing that helps fuel the rest of the coops. Come join us on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 5:45–7:15 pm, in the school library. Be part of a wave of change here in Eldorado, in a spirit-filled way! Call **Don McAvinchey** at 955-1847.

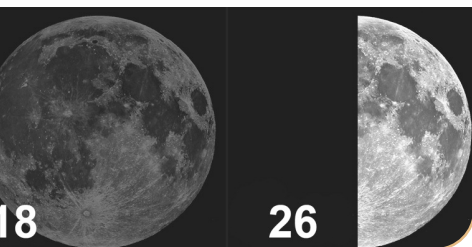
### The Eldorado Food Coop

The Eldorado Food Cooperative meets once a month and/or as needed. Our food interests include better access to locally produced food; ways to gain more knowledge, information, and skills about food production, preparation, and preserving; community interaction; foods that are any or all of the following: local, organic, minimally processed, home produced, cost effective, cruelty free. For more information about our group, contact **Fox** at [foxwoman22@hotmail.com](mailto:foxwoman22@hotmail.com), 231-0892 or **Carole Tashel** at [Ctashel@cybermesa.com](mailto:Ctashel@cybermesa.com), 466-6153.

### Halloween Fundraiser

It's a rip-roarin', bad-taste, Halloween costume soirée for adults! On Saturday, October 24, at 6 pm, those who love New Mexico museums and culture—and those who love to dance!—will don their most atrocious costumes or masks (optional) for a FUN(d)raising night of music and dancing, delicious vittles, and a Chinese raffle, at the historic Legal Tender building in Lamy, now the Lamy Railroad & History Museum. Proceeds will benefit Eldorado-based Museum Development Associates, the only museum field services organization that specializes in serving New Mexico's 200+ small, start-up and rural museums. Museum Development Associates, founded in Santa Fe in 2005, offers a hand up to New Mexico's community museums, providing training and services to assist them in improving their collections care, op-





erations and infrastructure. Admission to the Bad Taste Costume Ball is by donation, \$45 or more if you wish, and includes a raffle, a buffet from the Pantry Restaurant, and a cash bar. Many genres of music for dancing will be provided by DJ **Donna Every**, a local favorite at many theme parties in the Santa Fe area. Bad-taste attire is requested; a costume or mask is optional. Contact **M. Susan Barger**, Director, Museum Development Associates, info@museumdevelopment.org, 466-3480 (www.museumdevelopment.org).

### School Buildings

If you've wondered about the temporary buildings situated on the Eldorado School lot on Vista Grande, Principal **Yann Lussiez** has informed *Vistas* that these are there only for the duration of construction at the school. They will be removed when the construction and expansion of the school are complete.

### Are You Web Savvy?

ECIA is looking for a volunteer to manage the logins for eldoradocommunity.org. This involves checking the login requests daily and handling the approvals. You will work closely with the webmaster and ECIA office staff. This is a great opportunity to get to know what's happening in Eldorado. If you're interested, please send an email with your web experience to ecommunity@aol.com.

### ECIA Board Director Sought

There is an opening for a Director on the ECIA Board. The position requires between 4 and 10 hours of time a month. The term of an appointed Director is no less than one year and no greater than two years. The only qualifications needed are a willingness to work and an open mind. If you are interested and would like to volunteer, call the ECIA offices by October 31, 466-4248.

# 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

Doggie Pool party	Sun. October 4, 1-4 pm	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	
EDC wilderness dog walk	Sat., October 10, 8:30 am	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	trail tba
Doggie Halloween Social	Sun., October 11, 2-4 pm	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	
ERA TGIF	Fri., October 16, 5-7 pm	Bill Dunning		
Joint Finance/Board Budget Mon.	October 19, 7-9 pm	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Facilities & Grounds	Tues., October 6, 4 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., October 6, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Finance Committee	Wed., October 7, 9:30-12	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., October 12, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., October 14, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	F
ECIA Board	Thurs., October 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., October 20, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., October 27, 7-9 pm	Bonnie Mamp	466-4271	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., October 28, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	F

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Search & Rescue	Thurs., October 8, 6:30-9:30 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
La Canada Wireless	2nd and 4th Mondays, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
Eld Dog Club	Sun., October 11, 2-4:30pm	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	RR
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kielling	466-4232	Sm Gym
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues of month	Bill Bodle	466-3011	
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
EAW&SD*	Thurs, October 1 & 15, 7-9 pm		466-2411	RR
BOOK Group	2nd Saturday, 9-10:30 am	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/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			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	All bldgs
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	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 Church	Sun., 9:30 & 11 am	David McPherson	466-2495	CC
Community Band	Thurs., 6:30-8:30 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	New gym
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**	M, W & F, 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR

\*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

\*\*Reservations Required

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

## At the Crossroads

**WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN** recent signs of an economic rebound, the upturn isn't being shared equally across all sectors. Our state and local governments are still facing more belt tightening for this new fiscal year. As mentioned in the September *Vistas*, we are very unlikely to receive more funding in the next year or two to replace worn-out base course or to pave or chip seal any additional roads in Eldorado. From a roads perspective, this means more scrutiny and efficiency in how the county spends its road maintenance funds.

In spite of Eldorado having one of the largest population concentrations in the county, outside of the city of Santa Fe our road network represents slightly less than 14% of all roads maintained by Santa Fe County. Of a total of 20 persons assigned to maintain county roads, our district (part of Maintenance District III) is assigned five persons. Eldorado has about 47% of all roads in the district. As these people are responsible for a lot more than grading, it appears that, based on the numbers, Eldorado is receiving its fair share of road maintenance services within the county.

—Nolan Zisman, Road Committee Chair

## Adam Senior Center News

### WELCOME PAUL VIGIL

**Paul Vigil** was hired as the new driver/cook's assistant at the Adam Senior Center. Paul comes to us with a long history of working with seniors in Pecos, where he lives. He has already proven himself as a great asset, both in the kitchen and in helping seniors with such problems as broken wheelchairs. He is beginning to set up the Center's transportation program, which can provide rides for seniors to doctors' appointments, grocery stores, and the Center itself. If you are a senior registered with the Center and you need transportation services, please call Paul at the main Center number, 466-1039, to make an appointment for this service.

### UPPER-BODY STRENGTHENING CLASS

A new class has been added to the roster at the Senior Center: Upper Body Strengthening. This class is offered in cooperation with Eldorado Physical Fitness and is appropriate for seniors at any fitness level. There is no charge or preregistration required for this class, which meets on Wednesdays, 1:30–2:30, at the Adam Senior Center, 16 Avenida Torreon. Call the Senior Center at 466-1039 for more information.

### TALK ON AFGHANISTAN

The Adam Center is pleased to announce that **Ed Rau**, who has traveled extensively in the Middle East, will present a talk and slide show on Afghanistan. At press time, the presentation is tentatively set for October 15 or 16 (time to be determined). Call the Center in early October for updated information. This program promises to be both fascinating and timely, so save the dates!

## County Satellite Office

**DO YOU KNOW** that Santa Fe County has a Satellite Office located in the Adam Senior Center? This office offers a variety of county services, including voter registration, county job descriptions and applications, Assessor information, DWI information, and the sale of landfill permits ("dump passes").

Although it is situated within the Senior Center, the Satellite Office is completely separate. The Satellite Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12 noon until 5 pm. For more information, please call the Satellite Office directly at 466-4029.

—Cathy Berkley

## ERA News

**ERA IS GRATEFUL** for the outpouring of tribute to our fallen captain, **Bruce Blossman**, in August. We also thank the ECIA staff and Board, and the president of the ECIA, **Ed Benrock**, for making the Community Center available for this memorial to our friend, and a friend of Eldorado. We shall do our best to carry on the ERA tradition of some three decades that Bruce exemplified so well: a cooperative spirit, a concern for the needs of everyone, and a splendid sense of balance in it all.

We'd also like to thank everyone who bought, sold, and just had a good time at the Fall Flea Market last month. Kudos to **Marilyn Farrell**, our Flea Queen, and **Eddie Marshall**, the grand marshal.

People are what ERA is all about. We consider every resident of Eldorado, owner or renter, as an automatic member of the Eldorado Residents Association, and we invite each of you to the next Quarterly Meeting, at 7 pm, Monday, October 5, in the Community Center Living Room. Let's sit down and talk about what you need, and what the ERA Board can do to make it happen for you.

—Bill Dunning, President, [www.eldoradoresidents.org](http://www.eldoradoresidents.org)





## Eldorado Carbon Busters

**WHAT COULD BE MORE** overwhelming than global warming? How do we make a dent in a carbon problem that's global, measured in billions of tons per year, with so many variables out of our control? While we're waiting for the titans of industry to find ways to grow in a sustainable way, or for the U.S. renewable energy industry to take flight, or for a new and improved mass transit system, the Eldorado Carbon Busters invite you to join in a local, community-spirited initiative to make our homes more energy efficient while saving money and reducing our carbon footprint.

The Eldorado Carbon Busters are a group of volunteer Eldoradans who share a desire to move our community toward energy independence. We're an initiative of the Eldorado Energy Cooperative (EEC), and we work in partnership with ECIA's Conservation Committee. Our vision is for Eldorado to once again become a national model in its use of energy. We're pursuing this goal through educational outreach and action within the community.

### COMMUNITY ACTION—GET INVOLVED!

We're launching our educational outreach program on Saturday, October 3, 10 am–3 pm at the Agora. Join us for our debut demonstration.

- ▼ See examples of retrofit materials like low-flow showerheads, door weather stripping, water heater insulating blankets and compact fluorescent lights.
- ▼ Learn about appliance efficiency, phantom loads, and fridge temperatures.

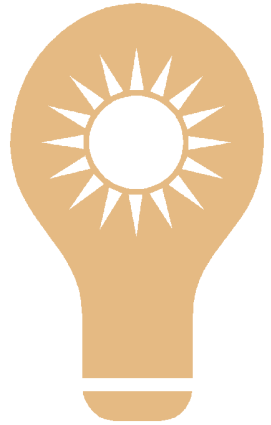
- ▼ Come play with energy efficiency gadgets like watt meters and infrared thermometers.
- ▼ Get the facts on how much you can save by making some simple changes.
- ▼ Let the huge problem of climate change become an opportunity to deepen connections within our community, so that we go beyond surviving the current crisis to thriving in the midst of it.

Our second initiative is where the action comes in: a self-help weatherization program designed to make our homes more energy efficient and less expensive to operate. The EEC's Carbon Busters team is joining forces with 4C, a youth employment program that combats climate change and prepares young adults for green-collar careers. We'll assess your home's efficiency needs, offer consultation on relevant goods and services, and assist with the installation of many weatherization and energy-saving devices. The consultation is offered free as a service in support of the community and the planet.

To learn more about EEC's Carbon Busters and/or schedule a weatherization consultation, join us at the Agora on October 3. Or contact **Amy Bertelli** at 466-1624, [amysue@cybermesa.com](mailto:amysue@cybermesa.com), or **Deborah Boldt** at 466-2295, [dboldt23@gmail.com](mailto:dboldt23@gmail.com).

And don't forget the Santa Fe Solar Home Tour, also taking place October 3. For details see the website at <http://www.santafesolartour.org/>.

—Dana Richards and Deborah Boldt  
for the Conservation Committee and the EEC



## Green-tailed Towhee (GtT)

**UNLIKE OUR YEAR-ROUND** Canyon Towhee, the GtT is elusive and shy, spending much of its time in dense brush. The GtT is also a bit smaller (length 7.25 inches and wingspan 9.75 inches); it is the smallest towhee. Distinctive marks are greenish flight feathers and a rufous crown, with gray underneath. A close look also shows a distinctive white throat with a black line through the white. Males and females are similar; full coloration comes the year after hatching. According to the *Sibley Guide*, the GtT is here during the summer months. During winter, birds may go as far south as central Mexico. However, I spotted one outside my window in brush in the the spring. The Bosque del Apache guide lists the GtT as uncommon in spring and fall, occasional in winter. During summer, GtT is found as far north as Oregon.

Their breeding biology is not well known. Most likely, mating display by males consists of singing from prominent locations. Pairs are seasonally monogamous. A bulky nest of sticks and grass is usually built

near or on the ground. Days to hatch (12) and to fledge (11–14) are probably similar to other towhees. Both male and female feed the chicks, usually insects. Their diet changes to seeds as the season changes. When searching for food, a double scratch motion in ground litter is characteristic. The song resembles a Fox Sparrow's; GtTs are classified as New World Sparrows, preferring to stay on the ground, and do not form large flocks. When the nest is approached, the female runs away in a mouse-like manner, presumably to draw attention away from the nest. Young birds develop leg size and strength before acquiring all flight feathers, presumably so that the young can abandon their ground nest when predators approach.

**INTERESTING SIGHTING:** Beginning on August 15, 2009, an immature Blue-footed Booby has been seen at Conchas Lake State Park. These birds are often seen off southern California and Mexico, but never before in New Mexico!

—Pam Henline

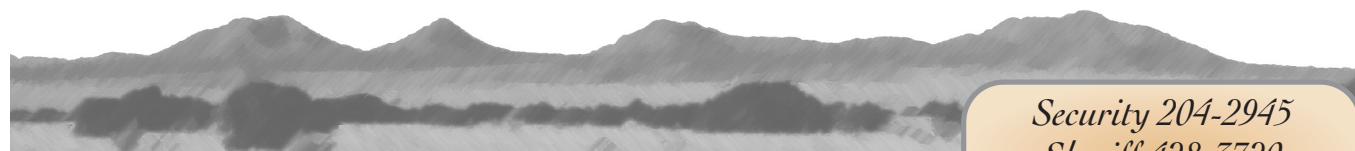


ELDORADO  
**VISTAS**

Eldorado Community  
Improvement Association  
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[www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

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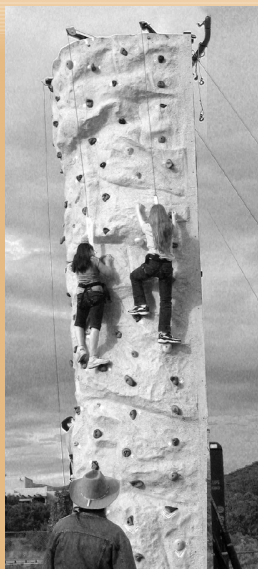


## *Friday Afternoons at the Agora*

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



Photo by Jackie Koger



On Friday afternoons, from 4 to 7 pm, the Agora is the place to be. The parking lot is filled with vendors and customers for the Eldorado Farmers Market, and the patio hosts great eats, music, and arts and crafts. According to the organizer, Susan Tarver, the market will be open until October 2, weather permitting. Susan is making plans for a Fall/Winter Market, indoors, across the street at the new "La Tienda" Eldorado shopping complex.

The new owner of the complex, Steve Ewers, has offered to help make the indoor market a great success. Stop by the Community table on the patio to find out more. Pictured above are (left) Miguel Qusath and Agapita Vigil Qusath from Chimayó and their colorful display of vegetable produce; (center) kids on the climbing wall next to the farm stands; and (right) Julia Cairns, watercolorist, showing her wares on the patio.