

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 10

October 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

Letters	2
ECIA News.....	2-3
Ice Cream Social	3
In the Community.....	4-5
Senior Center / Library	6
Song Sparrow.....	6-7
Safety / NW	7

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

October Is Fire Prevention Month

On October 9, 1871, as legend would have it, a cow belonging to a Mrs. O'Leary kicked over a kerosene lantern and ignited a fire that consumed much of the City of Chicago, Illinois. The Great Chicago Fire and not its storied cause, which some historians doubt, is the basis for National Fire Prevention Month being observed in Eldorado and across the USA throughout the month of October.

Chief **Guy Monroe** of the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service agrees heartily with former Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Dennis Hunsinger that most Americans underestimate the risk of a fire affecting their homes and families. The facts speak for themselves: in New Mexico and elsewhere in the country, 83% of all fire deaths and 79% of all injuries are caused by home fires; roughly eight people die in home fires every day, and cooking is the number one cause of home fire fatalities and injuries.

According to FEMA statistics, one of three home fires starts in the kitchen. The experience of firefighters shows that leaving food unattended while it's being cooked is a recipe—for disaster.

Firefighters are united nationally on one thing: functioning smoke alarms are their allies in preventing fires. Smoke alarms, as difficult as they can sometimes be, beeping at 3 am and signaling they have low batteries, or their disturbing sound—enough, some would argue, to wake the dead—reduce deaths and injuries; they are proven to cut the risk of dying in a fire by one-half.

By the same token, smoke alarms are worse than no alarms at all if they convince us they are providing protection when they are not. In more than half of the reported home fires in which smoke alarms were installed but did not operate to warn the occupants, batteries were missing or disconnected. Nuisance signals were the leading reason for disconnecting them.

Some communities in the U.S. have worked to mitigate the problem of non-functioning alarms by urging residents to replace the alarm batteries at least twice a year, whether they need replacement or not. The best time to do that is when we change all our timepieces

to and back from Daylight Saving Time. This practice ensures two things: that your smoke alarms are tested and functioning, and that they will be highly unlikely to provide nuisance wake-up calls to family members at inconvenient hours.

Many of us have wood-burning fireplaces in Eldorado. They are beautiful to watch and provide us with comfort and warmth, but if their chimneys are soaked in creosote, they may be the source of dangerous fires. Fires in the hearth start when the temperature drops, but fires in the chimney can be prevented by having a qualified chimney sweep conduct an annual inspection and cleaning.

Lastly, Chief Monroe urges all Eldorado residents to think about the potential for wildland fires which may affect their homes. "We have had a lot of moisture this year; the monsoons were good and the fire fuels (read weeds) have grown high and thick. Residents should clear flammable vegetation from at least 30 feet around their homes. It's a common-sense practice. Things look nice wild, but wild weeds and other vegetation when dry will provide the fuel for a fire that may seriously damage your property."

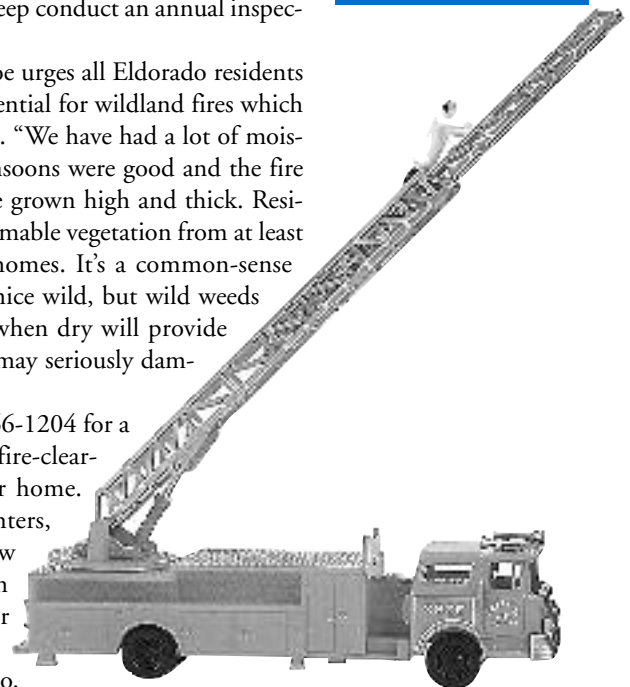
Call the EFRS at 466-1204 for a free inspection of the fire-clearance area around your home. Our volunteer firefighters, who are looking for a few good men and women to join them in their vital work for us, will be grateful when you do.

—Frank Schober

Website Redesign

The community website has recently been redesigned to make it easier for residents to use. Check out www.eldoradocommunity.org to see the new features, almost all of which are now available without logging in. In the coming months we will continue to refine the site. Contact webmaster **Jack Arnold** if you have comments or questions.

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center,
Thurs.,
October 21,
7 pm. Public
is invited.*



**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 e-mailed to ECIA@DiAna@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.

A Success Story

Congratulations to the people of Eldorado for the high level of success at implementing the leash law that was introduced in 2007. After the rowdy, divisive meeting where half the participants were yelling for all dogs to be leashed at all times, and the other half were holding up their arms to be handcuffed, retorting, "Lock me up now because I'm not putting my dog on a leash!"—we all thought we'd hit an impenetrable wall.

People of both points of view formed a committee to solve this and quickly arrived at a cooler, more realistic place. We compromised—with the resulting Responsible Dog Ownership Policy being simple and sensible. People respond to good ordinances.

Under the new policy, when in greenbelts and the Wilderness Preserve, your dog that responds immediately to voice commands does not have to be on a leash *unless you are approaching other people or dogs*. In that situation, you are asked to leash or hold your dog and step to the side of the trail if possible. We walk in the greenbelts or the preserve almost every day and have noticed that most people are aware of this rule, are making an effort to comply, and person-



ally, we have not been scared or slimed once since the rule went into effect.

And don't forget, dogs must always be on a lead in high-use areas like the playgrounds, sports fields, Community Center, and the paved hike/bike paths.

We urge the ECIA to remind people of the details of the policy with reasonable frequency, and to make sure it is posted at trailheads. Meanwhile, thank you for everyone's efforts at compliance. Reports about off-leash dogs have dropped remarkably at the office. There are still infractions, but keeping a steady simmer under this ordinance, and possibly tweaking it now and then, should keep us going in the right direction. Thank you, friends, for making this work!

—Pam Christie, Su Anne Armstrong,
and Richard Anderson

ECIA Board's Ad Hoc Dog Committee

Eldorado Home Renters Responsibilities

This past year we have noted an increasing percentage of covenant violations at Eldorado homes being rented out to individuals and families. These violations range from unscreened RVs, boats, and utility trailers, to barking and roaming dogs. Because often we do not have the names and telephone numbers for renters in Eldorado, this makes dealing with these covenant violations much harder to address and resolve. Also, it is apparent in speaking with house renters in Eldorado that homeowners often fail to convey to their renters the fact that Eldorado does have protective covenants and guidelines and that it is important that renters adhere to these "rules of the road."

The most problematic covenant violation on the part of renters is barking and roaming dogs. Renters need to be aware that Eldorado does have specific covenants that address problematic dogs, and these are detailed in our "Responsible Dog Owner Policy," which is available both at the ECIA offices and on the Eldorado website (www.eldoradocommunity.org). This pamphlet outlines the responsibilities of dog owners in Eldorado, whether homeowners or renters.

Homeowners who plan to rent out their house should make these policies clear to their renters. In fact, since homeowners are the ones ultimately re-

sponsible for compliance with the covenants and guidelines, it is in their best interest, as well as in the general Eldorado community's interest, to educate their renters as to their responsibilities as Eldorado residents. Also, it's important that ECIA be given the names and addresses of renters so that we have accurate house rental information on file.

If any homeowners or renters have covenant or guidelines questions, please call me, Mark Young, at the ECIA at 466-4248 or email me at eciaccr@aol.com.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

Your Input Requested

Please help update the ECIA database. Has your billing address changed? Are you a new property owner? Have property owner names changed? Do you have renters who want to receive the *Vistas*?

Please contact DiAna, Administrative Assistant, at 466-4248, email eciadiana@aol.com, or stop by the office. Thank you for your assistance.

—DiAna Gutierrez

ECIA Budget Meetings

Development of the 2010 ECIA Operating Budget has been ongoing since August. Several more meetings to discuss this topic will be held in the next few weeks. The meetings are open to all members of the ECIA—which includes everyone who owns property in Eldorado. Note: Since the annual assessment was raised for 2010, the Association Bylaws preclude an increase in 2011, and the assessment will remain at \$300 per year per lot.

On **Wednesday, October 13, 9:30 am**, the Finance Committee will meet in the Community Center Conference Room to review the third draft of the tentative budget at its regular monthly meeting, and adopt a recommended budget to present to the Board.

On **Monday, October 25, 7 pm**, a joint meeting of the ECIA Board and Finance Committee will be held in the Community Center Conference Room. Committee chairs and Association members are invited to further explain their budget requests if they wish.

On **Tuesday, November 2**, the proposed 2011 budget will be available at the ECIA Office and on the Association's web site, www.eldoradocommunity.org. And on **Saturday, November 6, at 10 am** in the Railroad Building, the Board will conduct a public hearing on the proposed budget. Copies will be available at the hearing.

On **Thursday, November 18, 7 pm**, the Board plans to adopt the final 2011 budget at its regular meeting in the Community Center classroom.

—Dan Drobnis

What Happened to the Bond Money?

In an effort to provide transparency, I offer the following information to the readers of Eldorado Vistas.

Many individuals in Eldorado have questioned whether the monies from the 2004 bond issue were used appropriately and if the promises that were made to Eldorado were funded. Were they really promises? Or rather, were they suggestions of how the bond proceeds could assist Eldorado with their roads?

The vote was in 2004 and the language stated:

"Shall Santa Fe County issue up to \$20 million in General Obligation Bonds payable from general (*ad valorem*) taxes, to acquire, construct, design, equip, and improve roads within the County and related public works facilities to house, maintain and service road improvement equipment?"

An analysis of the Bond proceeds of the first \$10 million has identified the following expenditures:

Public Works Facility: \$5,322,892

County Roads: \$4,571,195

Roadwork accounted for 46% of the first \$10 million expended. This included work on Avenida Vista Grande, Encantado Loop, and Encantado Road in the Eldorado community. This represents approximately 10% of the road expenditures in this first round of bond proceeds. The rest of the county roads also have great need and are required to be maintained.

An analysis of the second \$10 million bond funds showed that more was spent on the Public Works building than the approved \$10 million. Additional resources, totaling \$1,985,340, which included in-

vestment earnings and other funding sources, were added to the Public Works project.

Complete Public Works Facility: \$11,452,000

County Roads: \$512,109

Of the \$20 million approved by the voters, then, \$5,083,304 has been spent on roads and \$16,774,892 was expended for the Public Works Facility.

—Liz Stefanics, County Commissioner

Library's Ice Cream Social a Success

Vista Grande Public Library's 11th Annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction, its largest annual fundraiser, held August 29 at the Community Center, was a resounding success, despite a power outage during 2.5 hours of the 3.5-hour event!

The Library would like to thank our sponsors, and especially our Business Sponsor, First National Bank of Eldorado. (You'll find all our sponsors listed on our website, www.vglibrary.org.) Thanks also to everyone who donated items to our silent auction. And a huge thank you goes to our volunteers, who worked tirelessly before, during, and after the event to ensure its success. Without these three groups, there would be no VGPL Ice Cream Social.

Special thanks also goes to our live entertainment—**Gerry Carthy** (folk music with an Irish twist) and Calypso Coyote (**John White**)—for their valiant efforts to entertain without benefit of amplified sound.

Continued on page 5 >>

ECIA OFFICE

#1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87508
466-4248, 466-4249
eciacommunity@aol.com
www.eldoradocommunity.org

General Manager

Bill Donohue
466-4248
gmbill1@aol.com
Covenant Compliance Rep
Mark Young
466-4248
ECIAccr@aol.com
Community Services Mgr
Raven Hicks
204-2945

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Tom Willmott
982-1602
tom.willmott@att.net
Vice-President
Ed Moreno
466-1183
edmoreno@newmexico.com
Treasurer
Todd Handy
466-3785
Todd_Gilliss@yahoo.com

Secretary

Gregory Bundrick
gjugiu@msn.com
Director
Elan Colello
elanishere@gmail.com
Director
Pat Lavengood
466-9765
plavengood@q.com

Open position

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Dan Drobnis
Architecture: Vacant position
Conservation: John Parker & E.J. Evangelos

Stable: Bonita Mamp
Election: Jean Crawford
Roads: Nolan Zisman
Information: Frank Schober
Neighborhood Watch:
Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker
Facilities & Grounds:
Fred Raznick

VISTAS NEWSLETTER

Editor & Designer
Carol Leyba
466-1158
cbsleyba@comcast.net
Webmaster:
Jack Arnold
jwellsarnold@gmail.com
Editorial Assistant:
DiAna Gutierrez
466-4248
ECIADiAna@aol.com

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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



ENERGY-SAVING TIP OF THE MONTH

Just One Thing!

With the onset of cool autumn weather, now is the perfect time to check your home for heat/energy leaks through infiltration. A good place to start is with your doors. Check the insulating seal around the sides and top and replace as needed. If a piece of paper slides freely under the bottom of the door, it's time for a new threshold. On a cold day, smoke from a lit candle or incense will also show where you've got leaks.

If you'd like a free energy audit of your home by EEC's Carbon Buster team, call 466-2295. Stay warm and save \$ and energy this winter!

— Eldorado Energy Coop



Solar Home Tour Oct. 2

The 2010 annual American Solar Energy Association Solar Home Tour will feature at least six solar and sustainable homes in Eldorado on October 2, 10 am to 4 pm. See up close some of Eldorado's solar homes and sustainable practices. Another eight or so homes will be open in Santa Fe as well. Go to the website www.santafesolartour.org for directions and listings. The tour is free. Homeowners will have information on costs, rebates, production, options, on what their process was, and how it has turned out—a person-to-person sharing on this very vital subject.

One of the Eldorado homes on the tour is that of **Linda and Larry Eccard**. Since their solar array went online in late November 2009, the Eccards have had \$0 electric bills and have received a monthly check from PNM ranging from \$48 to \$138 (averaging about \$100/month). They will share information on how to connect your solar system to the PNM program called net metering and renewable energy credits to achieve this result.

Call **Tom Engel** at 660-1719 or **Jan Deligans** at 920-2234 for more information.

Eldorado Gets a Tea Room

Tea rooms and tea houses are quickly gaining popularity across the country. Unlike the hurry-scurry of coffee shops like Starbucks, the feeling of a tea room is one of relaxation, reflection, and refreshment. The Art Garden at La Tienda is already a relaxing environment with water fountains, soothing music, and beautiful art to look at, but responding to customer comments that they would love to stay awhile, owners **Jessica** and **Mark** have added a tea room to the gallery—featuring a great variety of teas, wonderful desserts, a browsing library, an ongoing community jigsaw puzzle, journals, free wireless, and an invitation to sit and relax. A perfect place for a break in your day, or a meeting with a friend. Hours Tues.–Sat. 10–5; call 466-1225.

Family Movie Night at VGPL

Vista Grande Public Library is showing *The Wizard of Oz* on Friday, October 8 at 7 pm. A tornado transports Kansas farm girl Dorothy Gale (Judy Garland) and her dog, Toto, to the magical land of Oz, in this much-loved 1939 musical adaptation of L. Frank Baum's classic novel.

New Book Group Meets at La Plancha

The newly formed Eldorado Free-form Book Group meets Thursday, October 14, at 5:30 pm at La Plancha restaurant in La Tienda. Everyone's invited. We don't all read the same book. Instead, we each come prepared to talk for five minutes or so about one or two books we've recently enjoyed. Come alone or bring a friend. Feel free to come

MOON PHASES FOR OCTOBER 2010



late if necessary. Those who want can stay for dinner. For more information, contact **Diane Thomas** at 466-1265 or dianethomas814@gmail.com

EACA Revs Up as 2010 Winds Down

The year culminates a little earlier for the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association (EACA). With their upcoming Fall Art Show, followed by the onset of the holiday season, time is flowing quickly, and to accommodate members' accelerated pace, EACA is holding the year's last meeting on October 28 in the meeting room of the Fire Station on Vista Grande. The Spirit of the Mask, as a vehicle to "be otherwise," is the meeting's theme. Members and visitors are encouraged to have fun with that by creating and wearing their "alter ego" masks to the meeting, and should be ready to "explain themselves."

EACA's holiday Fall Show, featuring more than 50 Eldorado artists, will be held November 13–14 at the El Dorado Community School. High-quality artwork, fashioned with holiday gift-giving needs in mind, will be on hand.

EACA's monthly meetings will resume the last Thursday of January 2011. Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association membership is open to residents of Eldorado. For further information about EACA, please call 466-4988.

Is Baseball in your Blood?

Please feel free to join a group of your neighbors (with a few outsiders thrown in to add some talent) in our softball pursuits. Slow pitch, not fast pitch: easy to adjust to if you have played ball in the past, but deceptive in the strategy. If you have an interest, contact **Bill Schwent** (billschwent@juno.com), 466-7708, or **Tom Miller** (events@miller91.com), 553-5888 for more information.

Artist's Day at Eldorado Stables

The Eldorado Stables is hosting Artist Day at the Eldorado Stables on Saturday, October 9, from 9 am until noon. Bring your whole family and come visit the horses. There will be organized events as well as activities just for children, including pony rides. Bring your camera, your pencils and paints, or just your inner artist, and join the fun. For the pony rides, please have your children wear long pants and close-toed shoes. Contact **Alice Griffin** (griff@indra.com or 466-4864).

Galisteo Art Tour

Galisteo Studio Tour, October 16–17, 10–5 both days. 35 artists, two great food stops! A great time to wander through the 400-year-old village of old adobes and fall color along the creek. For details and a downloadable map, visit Galisteostudiotour.org.

ASTRONOMY CORNER



October 2010

Oct. 8-9: White Sands Star Party,
Alamogordo, NM

Oct. 16: Astronomy Day

Oct. 20: Comet Hartley 2. Look east in
early morning, before sunrise.

Oct. 21-22: Orionids Meteor Shower.
Look east after midnight.

Protect Our Night Skies: Small
lights left carelessly on may spoil
the views of our night sky.

Library Event, continued from p. 3

Finally, an enormous thank you goes to everyone in the community who attended, who bought raffle tickets, and who bid on and purchased items at the auction. The money raised goes toward VGPL's operating expenses to keep your library functioning at its best.

Everyone at the Social had a good time. Adults enjoyed visiting with friends, eating ice cream and iced coffees, bidding on items in the Silent Auction, and buying raffle tickets for one of the event's three special prizes. Kids had fun under the Big Top, with the Santa Fe Dog Dance Club, water bottle rocket launches with **Jack Abernethy**, games, a tattoo booth, a cup-stacking contest, and the chance to learn Zumbatomic dance with **Jackie Camborde**. And, once electricity was restored at 3:45 pm, the Dalmation Dog jumper room got plenty of use.

Vista Grande Library director **Tina Stephenson** and all our many volunteers join in thanking the community for their support of our 11th Annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction and for support of VGPL throughout the year. To learn more about Vista Grande Library and access a calendar of library events, including meetings, special "author talks," and children's activities, go to www.vglibrary.org.

October Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd 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

Artist Day at the Stables	Sat., Oct. 9, 9 am-noon	Alice Griffin	466-4864	Stable
---------------------------	-------------------------	---------------	----------	--------

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Road Committee	Mon., October 4, 6-8 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., October 5, 4-6 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., October 5, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Architectural Committee	Tues., October 12, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Finance Committee	Wed., October 13, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., October 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., October 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Stable Committee	Mon., October 25, 7-9 pm	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	Foyer
Information Committee	Tues., October 26, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., October 26, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer

MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 7 pm	santafesar.org		CR
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Eldorado Dog Club	4th Saturday 9:30 am	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	Dog Park
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Conservation Com Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	CC Prk Lot
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Fire Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kielling	466-4232	Sm Gym
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-4988	Fire
MOMS Club	Call for dates & times	Tracey Mitchell	670-6508	

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Wed., 5:30-6:30 pm			Annex
AA	Wed., 5:45-6:45 pm (Men Only)			CFR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 6 pm-dusk			CC Court
Al-Anon	Thurs., 6:45-7:45			CFR/LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	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
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	
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
Life Drawing (EACA)	Mondays, 10 am-noon	Sande Anderson	466-4688	RR
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Richard Robinson	466-7319	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm> ***Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Senior Center News

PAINTING CLASSES

Beginning October 19, two painting classes will be taught at the Senior Center by **Janet Amtmann**, running for eight weeks. A beginning Introduction to Painting class will start at 1:30 and end at 3:30 pm. At the same time, students who have taken the introductory class may come and paint in the dining room and receive instruction and critique. The introductory class is limited to eight students; the group painting class to twelve students. Stop by or call the Center to reserve space in either class. The beginning class will explore watercolor, acrylic, and pastel. The group class students may paint in acrylic, watercolor, or pastel, but not in oil because we will be indoors.

TRIPS

The Center has planned an October 6 trip to the Albuquerque Museum's historic Casa San Ysidro, also known as the Gutiérrez-Minge House, located in Corrales, just north of Albuquerque. The original



Historic San Ysidro

home, built by the Gutiérrez family, dates to the 1870s. Today Casa San Ysidro also includes Alan and Shirley Minge's re-creation of a 19th-century rancho, complete with a small family chapel, a central plazuela, and an enclosed corral area. During this trip, we will also stop at the Corrales Visual Arts Annual Art Show at the San Ysidro Church, with a lunch at the Indigo Crow Restaurant. Call to reserve your place: 466-1039

The Center also offers weekly trips to shop in town. And seniors may call to set a time to be taken to doctor's appointments.

UPCOMING EVENT

The "Junktique" crafts and gently used treasures show will be held on November 20 from 9 am to 2 pm. Contact the Center for details and to reserve a table.

COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE

The County Satellite Office continues to be open at the Adam Center on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12:30 to 5:00 for the purchase of trash permits.

—Janet Amtmann

Library Hosts Authors

BARBARA MAYFIELD—Thursday, October 14, at 7 pm. Santa Fe's Barbara Mayfield will discuss and sign her award-winning first novel, the children's book *The Magical Mrs. Iptweet and Me*. For 9½-year-old Prudence, life is dull, sad and hopeless until the fairy godmother-like Mrs. Iptweet moves onto her street. A professional actress, comedian, puppeteer and artist, Mayfield both wrote and illustrated her novel, planned as the first in a Mrs. Iptweet series. It has won several awards, including the 2009 Moonbeam Children's Book Award Bronze Medal for Juvenile Fiction, the New Mexico Discovery Award for 2008 and the New Mexico Book Award 2009 for Pre-teen Fiction.



Author John Kenny Crane

JOHN KENNY CRANE—Thursday, October 28, at 7 pm. Santa Fe author John Kenny Crane will discuss and sign his new novel, *The Secrets of Brother Island*, nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Central to this work of fiction is a very real tragedy, the burning and sinking of the pleasure boat *General Slocum* off Long Island in 1904. More than 1,000 died, half of whom were children. Called the "forgotten disaster," the *General Slocum* incident was, until 9/11, the largest nonmilitary disaster in U.S. history. John Kenny Crane is Dean Emeritus of the College of Arts at San Jose State University. An earlier novel, *The Legacy of Ladysmith*, was a Book-of-the-Month Club Featured Selection.

—Diane Thomas

Song Sparrow

Every bird article in the *Vistas* is inspired by a bird I have seen in the confines of Eldorado. I am almost out of new birds to write about, and last season I hoped I might spot a spring migrant I hadn't seen in our area. Luck was with me. A Song Sparrow (SS) appeared at my bird feeder briefly one afternoon in March. This typical sparrow-appearing bird is 6.25 inches long with a wingspan of 8.25 inches. They appear with many slightly different colorations depending on where this bird is found (31 subspecies!). The head is rusty brown with some white or gray streaks; the back and wings are a rusty brown. A light-colored breast has many dark or rus-



set streaks and may give the appearance of a dark spot in the middle of the breast. The tail is longish. It is resident year-round over a large portion of the U.S., coast to coast. The population map indicates that some SSs may winter in New Mexico. In general, their migrations are short and stay within the U.S. Best of all is their song, a distinctive and lovely series of trills. Go to http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/song_sparrow/id to hear their song.

This stocky little bird prefers low, weedy, open or bushy habitat and forages on the ground. Pairs may stay together for several years. Courting males flutter and vibrate their wings, stretch out head and tail, and

Continued on facing page >>



More on Safety

Last month, *Vistas* offered some safety tips from the new ECIA Community Services Manager, **Raven Hicks**. The following are additional questions we asked him about safety.

What constitutes “suspicious activity” within a neighborhood?

Anything that is not normal for your area. A car you have never seen before, a person you do not recognize looking at your neighbor’s house, a vehicle driving slowly up and down your road. People know what is normal in their area, such as who lives there, who belongs there, etc.

How important is having an active Neighborhood Watch on one’s street?

Your neighbors are your BEST security measure. It is vital to watch out for one another, and Neighborhood Watch is an excellent way to communicate and get involved in your community. The police are very busy and are simply not around very often. It is every resident’s responsibility to take control of their own safety, and working together with your neighbors is the best way to make your community safer. We have the best and most extensive Neighborhood Watch group in New Mexico. It would be silly not to get involved and take advantage of the security that is created in numbers.

What types of activity should be reported to Eldorado security or the Sheriff’s office and in what time frame? Why should residents not feel reluctant to call and participate in the process?

It is vital that all suspicious activity be reported immediately by the person witnessing it. It is of little value to call the next day, or to just let a block captain

know; it is too late then and nothing can be done. People need to call the Sheriff’s Department first at 428–3720 or, if it is an emergency, to call 911. After reporting to the police, call Community Services at 204–2945. Provide the location, what is going on, descriptions, and all pertinent data. Remember to get license plate numbers, vehicle make, model, color, etc., and descriptions of all persons. Start with gender, age, height, weight, hair color and style, facial hair, clothing, and distinguishing features such as tattoos. Provide location, direction of travel, and anything else that will assist in locating and identifying suspects. I really do not understand the reluctance of people to call the police. If they don’t, who will? It is every person’s responsibility to protect themselves and their neighbors. There is no one else to do it.

HOME SAFETY TIPS—GET READY FOR FALL

An unusual aspect of many Eldorado homes is the presence of dryer vents that exit through the roof. If your laundry room is not against an exterior wall, chances are your vent is on the roof. Also, many of us use a wood stove as a primary source of heating in the winter, particularly during these tough economic times.

According to **Guy Monroe**, Fire Chief of the Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department, 20 to 25% of all Eldorado structure fires are related to chimney flues or dryers. **K.**

C. Wester of Clean Sweep, based in Eldorado (www.kc-cleansweep.com), says dryer vents should be cleaned when loads are not drying as quickly as they should—that is, if they require more than one cycle. “Ninety percent of the people buying new dryers just need to have the vents cleaned and they will save money on energy costs too,” he says. I have a friend who had no idea the dryer vented out through the roof, and she just cleaned out 19 years worth of lint!

Those of us with wood stoves need to have the chimneys cleaned every year if the stove has been used more than two or three times a week, Wester says. Kivas and other kinds of fireplaces need to be cleaned every year if they are used regularly as well.

AUGUST CRIME STATISTICS

2 Thefts

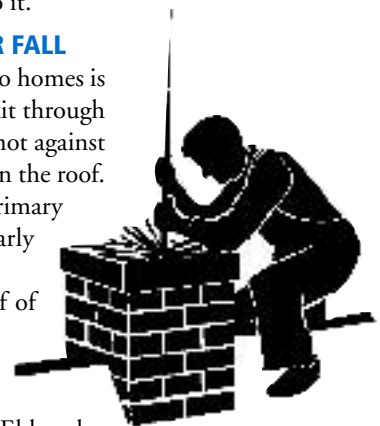
1 Property Crime

Source: www.crimereports.com.

NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING

Monday, November 1, at 7 pm at the Eldorado Community Center. For information on how to join Neighborhood Watch, please email **Marilyn Walker** at lightwalker2@comcast.net.

—Lisa Smith, lisasmithsantafe@gmail.com



Song Sparrow, cont. from p. 6

soar and sing to the female. Cup nests of grasses are built in low shrubs. Three or four eggs hatch after 12 to 14 days, and the helpless young grow quickly and fledge in 12 to 14 days. The female incubates the eggs, and both male and female feed the nestlings. Food consists of grass seeds, berries, and small insects. Some pairs may have two or three broods per year. The male sometimes takes over the active fledglings while the female begins the next clutch.

Studies show that the SS acquires its song during the first few months after hatching, and probably some learning occurs from hearing other SSs sing.

—Pam Henline



Scouting in the Wilderness

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

Eldorado has an extensive system of hiking trails throughout the community and in the 4,000-acre Wilderness Preserve. Recently, Boy Scout Troop 414 and their parents completed a trail restoration project in the community's Wilderness Preserve. Approximately one mile of trail, significantly eroded by recent heavy rains, is now restored and better able to withstand future impacts by seasonal thunderstorms.

For troop member **Oliver Denny**, this project completed an important step in becoming an Eagle Scout. Oliver chose portions of the trails around the newly restored wetland off County Road 51 (accessible from Trailheads 2 and 3).



There are limited funds to maintain these trails, and volunteers perform most of the work. Additional volunteers are needed to assist with projects in the Wilderness Preserve. Please see our web page at www.eldoradocommunity.org, or attend a Conservation Committee meeting: 7 pm at the Community Center, the first Tuesday each month.

*—John Parker, Chair
ECIA Conservation Committee*

Left: Scouts place dead tree limbs in heavily eroded sections of the trail to deter use and further erosion. **Above:** Oliver Denny lops vegetation intruding into the path. Photos: Elan Colello.