

ELDORADO VISTAS

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October 2013

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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El Dorado Community School

AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE FOR EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY

By this time in the fall, El Dorado Community School can be seen in full operational mode, having begun its school year in late August. Its 625 students who attend classes from kindergarten through the 8th grade are busily engaged in learning the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic. But in a departure from the time when elementary and middle schools taught little more than these essentials, schools of today, such as El Dorado Community, provide students with a variety of activities and programs that supplement and reinforce their learning and make it more vital and interesting.

The bulletin board just inside the entrance to our community school provides a great deal of information on these activities and programs. The “Walking School Bus” is a program begun last year that has now become standard as an option for students who want to walk to school, even if they live far from the campus. Sponsored by the school’s PTA whose volunteers provide adult supervision, students meet at a pre-arranged starting point somewhere along our hike-bike trails and walk to school two mornings a week. This program has had demonstrably good results. Besides offering physical exercise benefits to its participants, it has lessened the automobile traffic during the morning drop-off times at the school.

The type, numbers, and variety of programs available to today’s students, if Eldorado Community School is an example, would surprise those of us who attended elementary, middle school, and high school in earlier days. There are homework programs, after-school enrichment programs, and programs that care for students whose parents work and are not available to pick them up at the regular times. Field trips such as those that visit the Santa Fe Botanical Garden and historical museums in the area supplement studies in biology and history.

A number of fund-raising activities by the P.T.A. are posted on the school’s bulletin board. One of them is titled “The Wrapping Paper Drive.” It asks students to volunteer to sell gift-wrapping paper to support the activities of the P.T.A.

Another PTA-sponsored program that began this year is the “Clothing Swap Program.” Students and their parents are asked to bring clean, wearable, but outgrown children’s clothing to locations in the school for redistribution to children who need such clothing.

Students at El Dorado Community School are enrolled in assisting in the teaching process—something unheard of in former times. Older students who qualify may volunteer to tutor students in reading, writing, and arithmetic at the lower grades. They may also volunteer to coach lower-level students in physical education, team and individual sports. Often, an entire class of older students “adopts” a younger class to help all members of that class with reading or math skills.

El Dorado Community School combines kindergarten through 8th grades under one roof. The advantages of this organization have proven to be major. One example of the success of this model is that athletic programs have a larger base from which to draw team members, and there are more spectators cheering them on as they compete with each other and with students from other schools in the district. There is a sense of family and community that builds through the elementary years and supports students through the sometimes-challenging middle school years.

School days may have been boring and humdrum in days gone past. Few can make that accusation justly today. The students at El Dorado Community School are lucky to be where they are, studying in a place where faculty, staff, administrators, and volunteers strive every day to make their studies fun for the present and useful for their future.

—Frank Schober



*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
October 17,
7 pm.*

*Don't Miss
the ECIA
Open Forum
October 2, 7 pm
La Tienda*



**Share your
comments
with us!**

*For policy and
deadline, see
below*

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include full name and contact information. The newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, biased, or inappropriate. Submissions will be selected and edited at the discretion of the editor. 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 eciadiana@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.

Our Aging Fences

This past summer, the ECIA witnessed an increasing number of fences on lots that are falling down or are in general disrepair. This is largely because many of the fences in Eldorado are quite old, combined with the fact that we've experienced some very strong winds over these past two years. Many older fences, no longer able to withstand the high winds, are falling down.

We consider downed or decrepit fences to be a violation of the covenants, per Article II, Section 14 of the Eldorado Covenants which states, "No offensive objects shall be erected, placed, stored or permitted to remain on any lot, nor shall any lot be permitted to appear in an unclean or untidy condition." This covenant is detailed as follows:

Eldorado Covenants Article II, Sec. 14, "Nuisances Clause":

No lot shall be used in any way for the storage or dumping of trash or debris, nor for any purpose which may endanger the health of, or unreasonably disturb, other lot owners, or which creates or constitutes a nuisance. No unsightly or offensive objects shall be erected, placed, stored or permitted to remain on any lot, nor shall any lot be permitted to appear in an unclean or untidy condition. Construction sites must be maintained in a clean and orderly fashion; litter, trash and construction debris, when retained on site, shall be stored in covered containers. All construction debris shall be removed from the site and disposed of in an appropriate manner. No activity shall be conducted, nor equipment or process used, nor substance or animal kept which emits foul or obnoxious odors,

or which creates noise, glare, fumes or electrical interference.

If residents have older fences on their lots, we encourage them to ensure that the posts are still sound and securely in the ground and that the boards or latillas are securely attached to the horizontal stringers. If they are not, we ask that you perform the needed repairs so that the fence will withstand future winds and weather. Should your fence require repair, keep in mind that under the covenants, any changes to the fence location, as well as structural or material changes to the original approved fence, must be reviewed by the ECIA Architectural Committee before any work is done.

Many residential fences were built to comply with the Eldorado screening requirements for such items as RVs, sheds, and propane tanks, and when they are no longer effectively screening these items, this also can become a compliance issue.

Thank you for your help in maintaining your fences to help keep Eldorado a beautiful place to live! Do not hesitate to call me at the ECIA with any fence questions at 466-4248 or e-mail me at mark@eldoradosf.org.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative



Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on August 15, with Board members present: **Dag Ryen** (Acting President and Chair), **Nolan Zisman** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Pam Henline**, and **Jan Pietrzak**. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting:

- ▼ A new set of check signers was authorized: Donohue, Handy, Henline, and Ryen.
- ▼ A variance for 24 Monterey Road was disapproved that would have allowed a partially constructed planter box to remain within the required side setback, and instead to require any planter to be finished as in approved plans.

▼ A variance for 2 Cuesta Road was approved to allow a garage 30 feet from the residence, where the guideline maximum is 15 feet, to avoid existing utility lines.

▼ **Karen Murray** was appointed to the Road Committee.

▼ **Jan Burnham** was allowed additional time to keep horses at the stables in order to allow completion of a move to a new home.

Regular Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Community Center and are open to the public. An open forum, community announcements, and reports from ECIA committees are normally included. Complete minutes and meeting agendas are available at the ECIA office or website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.

Message from the ECIA Board

Great news—the ECIA has finally secured an agreement with Santa Fe County so that the county can expend capital funds on the rehabilitation of some of our deteriorated hike/bike trails. The county has already identified funds for use early next year on trails around the school area.

The Board, staff, and committees are in the middle of budget season. Budget proposals will be analyzed and compiled by the Finance Committee and then brought before the Board.

The parties in the legal suit over the covenants/poultry have exchanged interrogatories and documentation. Early in October, they will meet with an independent mediator, as required by the courts. If the mediation does not result in a satisfactory resolution, the process will continue, with depositions and evidence being gathered in preparation for a trial date next year.

All seven positions on the Board will be up for election next May, and there are various ways in which staggered terms for those elected can be configured. A public meeting to discuss the various proposals has been scheduled for October 23 at La Tienda. More detailed information is available on the EICA website, eldoradosf.org.

Another important event, the fall town forum, is just around the corner on October 2. Current Board members will answer questions on a variety of topics at the Performance Space at La Tienda from 7 until 9 PM. We hope to see you there.

As *Vistas* was going to press, the Board of Directors nominated two new members, **David Perlmutter** and **Karyn Mounsey**. Their appointment as directors is on the agenda for the September Board meeting. See the ECIA website for additional information about the new Board members.

—The ECIA Board

2014 Budget Meetings in October

The Finance Committee is continuing its review of the 2014 ECIA Operating Budget, including transfers to the Capital and Reserve/Replacement funds and allocation of 2014 maintenance expenditures. This will determine, among other things, the 2014 assessment. Long-term maintenance needs, as well as rising operating costs, will likely require a substantial assessment increase in 2014. The following is the schedule of October budget meetings:

Wednesday, October 9, 9:30 AM: The Finance

Committee completes review of the tentative budget at its regular monthly meeting, and adopts a preliminary recommended budget. Venue: Conference Room.

Monday, October 14, 6:30 PM: A joint meeting of the ECIA Board and the Finance Committee. Committee chairs and residents are invited for purposes of gaining information or to further explain their budget requests if desired. Venue: Conference Room. **The Board assumes responsibility for the 2014 Budget at the conclusion of this meeting.**

Community Center Gets Spiffed Up

If you haven't been inside the Community Center lately, you should stop by to take a look at some updates. In the late spring, new window treatments were purchased for the classroom, living room, and the annex (Mark and Raven's office). They are triple-comb insulated shades that have really made a difference in keeping out the heat this summer and we expect will keep the cold out too. A beautiful new bay window cushion was made for the living room to replace the decades-old one. Four matching pillows for the couch also were made. These were all fabricated by Eldorado resident **Nancy Clusiau** of Clusiau Designs in Santa Fe.

For years we heard complaints about the echo in the Railroad Building during meetings. The Facilities and Grounds Committee had looked at several options for mitigating this and finally settled on beautiful quilts made by Eldorado resident **Jean Stokes**. There are three different hangings serving as sound

barriers. Two are Southwestern-themed quilts (see below) with a special sound-barrier backing.

Many thanks to the Facilities and Grounds Committee Chairperson, **Jean Crawford**, and her members, for moving these projects forward and giving our Community Center a great new look.

—Marilyn Farrell



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Election: Kathie Graham
Facilities & Grounds:
David Lovro
Finance: Dan Drobnis
Information: Frank Schober
Neighborhood Watch:
Marilyn Walker
Roads: Open
Stable: Gretel Underwood (Interim Chair)
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Fire and Rescue
466-1204
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County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)



IN THE COMMUNITY



See soda-fired ceramic ware by Vicki Snyder at the Galisteo Studio Tour, Oct. 19–20.



Mixed media by Holger Schmidt, coming to La Tienda Exhibition Space October 5.



ECIA Open Forum

The ECIA Open Forum will be held on October 2, at La Tienda in the Performance Space at 7 PM. Learn what is going on in the community, and voice your concerns, issues, and questions and give/get feedback.

New Maps of the Preserve

New Preserve Trail Maps have been printed and are available to residents at the ECIA Office. These show new trails completed in the past year through the planning and labor of ECIA Conservation Committee members.

Galisteo Studio Tour, 26th Anniversary

On Saturday and Sunday, October 19–20, from 10 AM to 5 PM, the town of Galisteo is holding its annual studio tour. It's FREE and kid friendly! Thirty-one artists will present their work at 24 stops, exhibiting everything from pottery and painting to wearable art and garden sculpture... and folk art and food too!

Take Rt 41 and CR 42—just south of Eldorado off Hwy 285. For downloadable maps, artist lists, and food menus, go to Galisteostudiotour.org. And come on out and enjoy a stroll through the historic adobe village and meet some of the very talented artists who call this unique place home.

Art Show at La Tienda

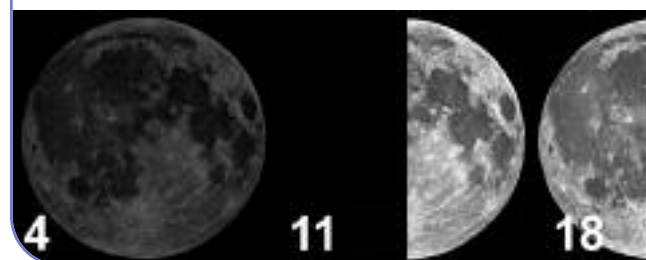
"Vibrant Choices in the Abstract Realm" is the name of the upcoming art show at the La Tienda Exhibition Space, featuring artists **Merlin Emrys**, **Felicitas**, and **Holger Schmidt**. Artist's reception: Saturday, October 5, 5–7 PM at La Tienda Exhibition Space: "There are swirling motions of the myth of Atlantis, the tactile sensuality of wrapped boxes, and the radiance of joyous expressions of our Vortex."

Children's Theatre Auditions

Auditions for Eldorado Children's Theatre production of "Charlotte's Web" are being held on October 10 at the Eldorado Community Center from 4 to 6:30 PM. This timeless classic will be performed at the Scottish Rite Temple in Santa Fe on January 23–26, 2014. For more information, contact **Rebecca Oden** at odentaism@yahoo.com or 435-640-4444.



MOON PHASES FOR OCTOBER



Tree Planting Workshops

Two tree planting and tree care workshops will be presented by **Jim Freeman** on October 5 and 12, from 9 AM to noon in the Railroad Building. These workshops will give participants solid information on how to correctly select, plant, water, and otherwise care for trees. Freeman, a consulting arborist and former statewide urban forester, has owned and operated a business called Tree Technologies for 20 years. He will be ready to answer any questions you have about your trees.



Recycling Comes to the Agora

Good news from the Agora! **Pete Vogel**, the Agora's hard-working operations manager, with support from the mall's owner and from **Guy Waldorf**, the Eldorado Supermart's manager, has inaugurated a comprehensive recycling program for all eighteen businesses at the Agora.

The program works this way: the tenants remove corrugated cardboard from their trash, and instead of dumping it in the Agora's large waste compactor, they place it in a wooden rack that Pete has built on top of the compactor's motor compartment. Pete takes the cardboard to the Supermart's storage room where it is baled (and later shipped to Amarillo, Texas, for recycling). The tenants remove all other recyclables (except glass) from their remaining waste and place it in a large green recycling cart. Waste Management, Inc. delivers the recyclables to BuRRT, the Santa Fe recycling plant, for separation and sale.

Pete is also doing research on the feasibility of a large vermicomposting system to handle the food waste from the Supermart and the Agora's food service establishments.

Eldorado/285 Recycles's role has been to support Pete and Guy in developing the program and to introduce the details of the program to each of the tenants. For this purpose, we developed and handed out a Recycling Guide specifically for the Agora (similar to the ones we distribute to Waste Management and Eldorado Transfer Station customers).

—Joe Eigner, 285 Recycles



PROTECT OUR NIGHT

SKIES: Lights left carelessly on may spoil the views of our night sky.

Reel New Mexico Screens Western Retrospective

On Tuesday, October 8, at 7 PM at La Tienda's Performance Space, **Jeff Berg** will show a compilation of great clips from westerns filmed in New Mexico and comment on their place in film history. Jeff is a film historian, film critic, and film buff who currently is involved in managing the new Jean Cocteau Theater. This is his second appearance at Reel New Mexico. His first was well attended and very entertaining. Because of his encyclopedic knowledge of the film industry, he is able to provide background and insider information denied to most film lovers.

October TGIF Planned

The October TGIF will be held on Friday, October 18 from 5 to 7 PM at the Community Center living room. Bring an appetizer and come meet your neighbors; bring new neighbors and old friends.

Senior Center News

Kathleen "Kat" Roybal has been hired as the new, full-time Adam Senior Center activities coordinator. If you have not been to the Center for a while, drop by and say hello. Kat will be a great help in planning programs and overseeing current and new activities.

Remember that the lunch hour is now from 11:30 to 12:30, and reservations are needed by the day before. Monthly lunch menus and activity lists can be picked up at the Center. Lunch is \$1.50 for seniors 60 and older. To make your lunch reservation, call 466-1039.

October Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email eciamarilyn@aol.com 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

SPECIAL EVENTS

ECIA Town Hall Meeting	Wed., Oct. 2, 7-9 pm	La Tienda
Tree Care & Planting	Sat., Oct. 5, 9-12 noon	RR
Paws in the Pool	Sun., Oct. 6, 12-3 pm	Pool
Tree Care & Planting	Sat., Oct. 12, 9-12 noon	RR
TGIF	Fri., Oct. 18, 5-7 pm	LR
ECIA Elections/Public Mtg	Wed., Oct. 23, 7 pm	La Tienda

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Oct. 8, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Oct. 22, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Thurs., Oct. 3, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Oct. 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Oct. 1, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Oct. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Oct. 2, 4-6 pm	Jeanne Calzada	466-1947	RR
Finance Committee	Wed., Oct. 9, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Oct. 22, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., Nov. 4, 6-8 pm		466-4248	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., Oct. 23, 7-9 pm	Gretel Underwood	466-7825	CFR
SPE Committee	None in October	Steve Rudnick	466-1335	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR/CR
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs., of month	Barrie Brown	466-3035	CC
Eldorado Camera Club	4th Wednesday, 7-9	biordi@aol.com		La Tienda
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 5-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
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			LR/CFR
Adult Basketball	Thurs., 6:30 pm-Dusk			CC
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	670-6949	LR
Bridge	Every Other Fri., 9-noon	Natalie Bernet	466-6118	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
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
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-4:30	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Kate	216-5302	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 11:30-12:30 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	RR

**For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

*** Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Vehicle Security Alert

In general, we have become accustomed to a relative low frequency of crime in Eldorado, much of it due to the great Neighborhood Watch program that exists here. This impression is reinforced by the statistics shown in the table below.

It is therefore somewhat unsettling to find that vehicle break-ins may be now increasing, at least in the greater Eldorado commercial area. Recently, a thief broke into several cars at the Agora parking lot. This took place over a 20-minute period in mid-afternoon as many shoppers were coming and going. A young woman who had recently moved from Los Angeles to Eldorado to get away from the high California crime rate there had her car window smashed with a purse and cell phone stolen. Very distraught, she stood by her car waiting for the arrival of a deputy sheriff. At least one other vehicle was left with the front door open but fortunately was without any valuables to steal.

A retired federal law enforcement officer and former special agent who now lives in Eldorado just hap-

pened to be in the area shortly after the theft. He talked to the victim and made the following comments, which are very timely:

"This is not the first time we've had break-ins in the Agora parking lot. It has happened too often. Based on my 30 years of experience, security cameras in the Agora parking lot would be a good, minimum investment with a huge preventive payoff. Any community with a setting like this that doesn't have basic preventive security measures in place in the form of simple security cameras is asking for trouble. These criminals are smart enough to scan the parking lot before they break into an automobile. They are certainly smart enough to know whether there are cameras watching them. Most will not take the risk if cameras are in place. Another step that should be implemented at the Agora is installing educational signs warning people not to leave valuables in their cars."

—Don Dayton

	ELDORADO	NEW MEXICO	U.S.
Violent crimes	185/100,000	569/100,000	301/100,000
Property crimes	1,087/100,000	3,344/100,000	2,849/100,000

EACA's Fall Art Show

On October 25 and 26, the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association (EACA) is holding its 12th annual Fall Show at St. John's United Methodist Church, to kick off the spirit of holiday gift-giving. Once again the show will coincide with Santa Fe's favorite place to pumpkin-shop for Halloween; the church fills its property front with hundreds of pumpkins in all shapes and sizes. The conjunction of the two events makes a fun outing for both Santa Feans and Eldorado residents.

This year at the show, there will be 41 artists showing work in a variety of media, including painting, jewelry, ceramics, glass, photography, mixed media/recycled art, gourd art, wearable art, and digital art. Eleven of the artists are new to the association, with work unseen by the local public before. And visitors can expect the unexpected from the ever-evolving work of EACA's seasoned exhibitors. The artists themselves will be providing complimentary snacks and refreshments for visitors. A percentage of EACA's show proceeds benefits non-profit organizations within the Eldorado community. For further information go to www.eldoart.org.



"Eye To Eye" by Victoria Mauldin



"Out on a Limb" by Al Hockwalt

WHERE

St. John's United Methodist Church
1200 Old Pecos Trail at Cordova, Santa Fe

SHOW TIMES

Friday, October 25, 3–7 PM
Saturday, October 26, 9 AM–5 PM

—Margaret Nelson

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Rabbits, Jackrabbits, and Chamisa (aka Rabbit Bush)

A new neighbor, unfamiliar with our wildlife, recently saw a jackrabbit for the first time. “Wow! I wasn’t sure if it was a dog or something completely different,” he said. “Then I realized, it’s one of those things I’ve heard about, a jackrabbit!”

Most of us are familiar with the common New Mexico cottontail. But we may not be as accustomed to jackrabbits. Cottontail rabbits and jackrabbits are both from the order Lagomorpha; they are not rodents.



Cottontail.
Photo by Ann V. Wood.

But here’s the part that can be a surprise: despite the name, jackrabbits are not rabbits. They are, rather, hares.

Although rabbits and hares share many traits, there are a number of significant differences. Compared to rabbits, hares (“jackrabbits”) are longer (24–26 inches), faster (can run 35 MPH), and have larger home ranges. Unlike many rabbits, hares do not dig their own burrow, and they eat a slightly different diet (more hard foods such as bark, rinds, and twigs). Also unlike rabbits, young jackrabbits are born with eyes open, fully furred, and able to hop right away.

The misnomer *jackrabbit* came from early settlers, who called them “jackassrabbits” (due to their long ears, like a jackass). The name was later shortened to jackrabbits.

Chamisa: Our Eldorado landscape is painted bright yellow every year in late summer when the chamisa shrubs come into bloom. Chamisa, also called Rubber Rabbit Bush or Rabbit Brush, grows naturally along our roads and fields. The plant is also purposefully cultivated both for its beauty and for erosion control.

Chamisa, a member of the Aster family, can achieve a height of 3 to 4 feet. Its yellow (sometimes white) flowers provide nutrition for bees and butterflies. The plant grows well throughout Rocky Mountain high desert areas. Once established, it needs little water, making it an excellent xeric plant for Eldorado.

When in bloom, chamisa emits a pungent odor, which some people dislike, and its pollen can produce allergies, so it’s best to avoid direct contact. Chamisa are blooming somewhat erratically this year due to our unusual weather, but it’s still easy to spot the bright yellow flowers. These blooms were used as a traditional dye for Native American blankets and as a paint ingredient by early Spanish-Americans.

References for this article are available upon request. And we would love to hear from you! Send comments and suggestions to us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com.
—Flora and Fauna Working Group



Jackrabbit.



Chamisa in bloom.

Western Tanager (WT)

Others have seen this beautiful bird in Eldorado, but I had to wait 14 years before two showed up briefly at my water bowl one Sunday morning in May 2013. This year the migration patterns seemed different, and there were many reports of WT sightings. This colorful bird is medium size, 7 inches in length with 11.5-inch wingspan. The male in breeding plumage has a bright orange-red head, yellow body, black wings with two yellow wing bars, and a black tail. In winter the male’s head loses its bright color. These birds are sexually dimorphic, meaning that males and females do not look alike. The female is a dull gray-yellow or olive-greenish, with a grayish head and gray wings and tail. They may breed in New Mexico, but most of their breeding territory is north as far as central Canada. Winter is spent in Central America.

The WT makes a flimsy nest-cup well out on a branch in open coniferous and mixed coniferous-de-

ciduous forests. Pairs are presumed monogamous. Both male and female sing while courting, and the female sings while she builds the nest. The female incubates one to five eggs for 13 days, and babes fledge in about 13 days. The young are helpless when hatched, and both male and female feed them primarily insects. WTs glean insects from branches, sometimes hawk insects from the air, and also eat fruit. They may come to fruit feeders.

Recent DNA information suggests some of the “tanagers” should be in the cardinal family and vice-versa. The red pigment in the face (rhodoxanthin, a pigment rare in birds) is not produced by the bird but is acquired through their diet of insects which they themselves acquire from plants. The WT species was first recorded on the Lewis and Clark expedition (1803–1806). A group of tanagers are collectively known as a “season” of tanagers. The oldest known WT was 10 years old.
—Pam Henline



ELDORADO VISTAS

Eldorado Community
Improvement Association
#1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
www.eldoradosf.org



These QR codes will take
you to YouTube videos of
Eldorado's past Paws in
the Pool events! Enjoy!

If you don't have a smart phone,
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Paws in the Pool! October 6, 12–3 pm, Eldorado Pool!



Stills from video "Eldorado Doggie Pool Party" by William Salopek, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZLwwh_8FLI.
Photo collage by Carol Leyba.