

ELDORADO at SANTA FE VISTAS

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE 10

October 2014

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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People, Get Ready . . .

LONG-TERM POWER FAILURES: EMERGENCIES WE CAN DO MUCH TO MITIGATE — BEFORE THEY OCCUR

The following is a newspaper account of the statewide power failure that affected Eldorado, all of New Mexico, and a portion of the state of Texas in 2000 (Chris Roberts, AP, 3/29/2000).

“Earlier this month, a fire on a pole-mounted transformer in the Four Corners area of the state shorted out three major transmission lines, leaving 1.6 million people in New Mexico and El Paso, Texas, without electricity for up to six hours.”

Without power for six hours, ATMs did not work and credit cards could not be used. Gas stations could not pump or sell their product. Stores closed and restaurants could not wait on or serve their customers. In six hours no serious damage was done, but had the power outage lasted a week or longer, both the public safety and the state’s economy would have suffered a great deal.

A long-term power outage is something we have read about but few of us have endured. Several factors should encourage those of us who live in Eldorado to prepare carefully, thoughtfully, and as thoroughly as we can for power outages that could last much longer than six hours.

A number of accidental incidents affecting our electrical grid system could leave us without power for an extended period, defined as one that lasts for more than 72 hours. Terrorist acts on facilities and transmission lines or cyber attacks on a utility’s computer systems and databases are more likely today than they were as little as a decade ago.

To prepare for the long-term power outages and disruptions that experts and analysts are predicting:

- 1 Store water for drinking and cooking. One gallon per family member per day for three days is the recommended amount.
- 2 Store food that does not require water for its preparation and replenish it regularly.
- 3 If the power is out for more than eight hours, fill the bathtubs in your home with water for sanitation

and for flushing toilets. In Eldorado, the utility’s water tanks, if full when the power system fails, will be empty in three days if there is no power to pump water into them from its wells.

- 4 Never let your car’s gas tank drop lower than half-full. Without electricity, gas stations will not be functioning.
- 5 Keep emergency cash in a safe, accessible location. ATMs will be out of action.
- 6 Keep flashlights in locations that are so well known by everyone in the family that they can be easily accessed in the darkness.
- 7 Keep an emergency radio, but remember that the radio in your car is available to provide life-saving information too.

Check out what our electric utility, PNM, advises us to do when the power they provide is disrupted over a long period: <https://www.pnm.com/outages1>.

There are many other long and very detailed checklists put together by emergency planners that advise us to do even more to be prepared. Unfortunately, most such lists do not provide guidance for what may be the most important step to take in preparation for catastrophic emergencies of any type. That advice and guidance is simple. “Get to know your neighbors before a major emergency occurs and forces you to do so.” Neighbors pool scarce resources together. A Neighborhood Watch group is likely to have a range of experience, ability, and expertise in its ranks. Neighbors confronted by a major, catastrophic emergency can do more than band together to prevent crime and strengthen security in their respective areas; they can help each other get through the critical first hours of an emergency, before help arrives. Get to know your neighbors. Better yet, get to know them in an organized way.

Our local Neighborhood Watch is on the Internet at <http://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com/>.

—Frank Schober

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
October 16,
7 PM.*

REMINDER:
*Avoid fire
emergencies in
winter. Get
your chimney
swept before
starting your
first fire!*



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 DiAna@eldoradosf.org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

Mission Statement

The mission of Vistas, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

Signage in Eldorado

Residents may not be aware that the placement of all signs in Eldorado is controlled under Section 9 of the covenants. This covenant addresses real estate signs, builder/contractor signs, garage and tag sale signs, special event signs, public election signs, and other signage. The covenant reads as follows:

SECTION 9. SIGNS.

Except as specifically set forth below, no sign of any kind shall be erected or maintained on any lot, nor on any common area, without the prior written approval of the E.C.I.A. Board of Directors or its designee(s). The following signs do not require approval under this section when erected on a lot: community interest signs such as neighborhood watch or beware of dog signs; nameplates, address signs; one-time-only signs, such as signs for garage sales, lost animals, birthday parties and the like, which shall be removed after 72 hours; one only For Rent, For Sale, and/or builder's construction sign; and one only Open House sign to be re-

moved daily. Real estate and construction signs on a lot shall not exceed 2 x 3 feet in size. Public election signs are allowed on a lot 14 days prior to a public election, and shall be removed within 72 hours after said election.

One area, however, that is not covered in the covenants is the placement of No Trespassing or No Solicitation signs. Due to the fact that Eldorado is not a gated community, or a solicitation-prohibited community, vendors, salespersons, and other individuals are allowed to be in Eldorado going door to door, should they so choose, unless a resident has properly placed a No Trespassing or No Solicitation sign at the entrance to their lot. While such signs are not mentioned in the covenants, we ask that such signs be no larger than 12 x 18 inches and that residents do not place more than one sign per lot. Such signs are readily available for purchase and, when properly placed on a lot, should help to warn and prevent unwanted solicitors at your door.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

2015 Budget Development

The Finance Committee has begun discussions of the 2015 Operating and Maintenance budgets. Note the evening meetings on Oct. 22 and Nov. 17, and the Saturday hearing on Dec. 6. All are open to Eldorado homeowners and lot owners. Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, October 8, 9:30 AM: Finance Committee begins review of committee and individual proposals at its regular monthly meeting, and continues work on draft budget. Conference Room.

Wednesday, October 22, 7 PM: The Finance Committee continues review of proposals and budget for evening attendees, including Committee chairs. Conference Room.

Wednesday, November 12, 9:30 AM: The Finance Committee adopts a final recommended

budget and Budget Message at its regular monthly meeting. Conference Room.

Monday, November 17, 6:30–8:30 PM, followed by Board working meeting: Joint meeting of the ECIA Board and Finance Committee. Committee chairs and residents are invited for information or to further discuss budget items. Conference Room.

Tuesday, December 2, 9 AM: Proposed 2015 Operating Budget and Message available at ECIA office and on website.

Saturday, December 6, 10 AM: The Board conducts a public hearing on the proposed 2015 Operating Budget. Copies will be available at the hearing. Railroad Building.

Thursday December 18, 7 PM: The Board adopts the final 2015 budget at its regular meeting. Board Meeting, Railroad Building.

Document Preservation Project

A project is underway to convert all of the ECIA's important records to digital form. This will prevent potential loss from fire, water damage, or paper disintegration of architectural and business records going back to the 1970s. In addition, these records will be searchable electronically in seconds rather than hours or days.

Architectural files are the first being scanned into an electronic document management system. These will be followed by essential business records. The project is expected to extend into 2015.



Message from the ECIA Board

The Board wishes to thank everyone who came to our open forum in early September. Nearly a hundred people gathered to discuss security patrols in the community and the Pueblo Park greenbelt pilot project. There was a useful and frank exchange, and the Board will take all the concerns raised into consideration as it continues to work with these issues.

The search for a new General Manager is entering a final phase. At the time of this writing, several strong candidates have been interviewed, and the Board hopes to have completed the process by the time this issue of *Vistas* reaches members. We will post updates about our progress on the website, www.eldoradosf.org.

In legal developments, the New Mexico Court of Appeals has placed the poultry litigation, *ECIA v. Billings et al.*, on its General Calendar for review. A three-judge panel will look at the legal issues involved in the District Court decision by Judge Mark A. Macaron, which found that the ECIA covenants did not

allow the keeping of hens. Consideration of the case by the Court of Appeals is not likely to occur until later this winter, with a decision expected some months after that.

In a separate case, the ECIA has prevailed in an appeal of a decision by Santa Fe County Commissioners to allow an Eldorado resident to maintain two dwellings on one lot. The resident had sought to establish two permanent living quarters within her house, notwithstanding the county zoning requirements for "single-family dwellings." Judge Raymond Ortiz ruled that the commissioners vote to grant a variance was not valid.

Finally, a reminder that the pool will be closing the first weekend in October, with the popular Paws in the Pool scheduled for October 5. Come out and watch our four-legged friends enjoy an autumn splash. Thanks again to **Julee White** and the lifeguards for another great summer at the pool,

—*The ECIA Board of Directors*

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on September 18, 2014, with all seven Board members present: **Dag Ryen** (President), **Pam Henline** (Vice President), **Greg Colello**, **Gershon Siegel** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Jeanne Calzada**, and **David Yard**. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting:

- ▼ President Ryen announced the resignation of **Phil Cohen**, who is moving from Eldorado, from the Finance Committee; paving has begun on Herada Road and is expected to be complete at the end of October; installation of new play equipment at Compadres Park is in progress.
- ▼ President Ryen noted that the search for a new General Manager is moving forward; three interviews have been conducted, with one more scheduled; the position may be filled by the end of November.
- ▼ **Nina Harrison** was appointed to the Architecture Committee.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 28 Monterey Road for an 8-foot privacy wall where the guideline is 6 feet.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 2 Redondo Court for an existing wall on the property line that does not observe the required setback.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 23 Antigua Road for a driveway monument within the 50-foot front setback.

▼ Variances were approved for 11 Mimosa Road for an existing garage with one corner within the 50-foot front setback, and without the guideline architectural connection to the house.

▼ A variance was approved for 6 Gavilan Road for a ground-mounted fixed solar array of 20 panels located 22 feet from the house, beyond the guideline requirement of 15 feet, because of extensive screening.

▼ A contract was approved renewing bookkeeping services for 2015 from Zlotnik, Laws & Sandoval PC.

▼ A contract was approved renewing audit services for 2015 from Swain, MacKinnon and Grieco, LLC

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: www.eldoradosf.org

In addition, two informal Board working sessions are held each month. The first is held at 7 PM the first Thursday of each month, the second at 7 PM the Monday before the third Thursday of each month. ECIA members are welcome to attend, and may request in advance to place and speak about an item on the agenda by calling the ECIA office at 466-4781.

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Conservation: **Jim Daniel & Cherry Payne**
Election: **Kathie Graham**
Facilities & Grounds:
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Finance: **Dan Drobnis**
Information: **Frank Schober**
Roads: **Felicia Probert**
Stable: **Open**

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

**Pool Season to Oct. 4**

Mon.–Thurs.: 7:30–11:00 AM: laps
 Fri., 7:30 AM–7 PM: kiddie pool and
 main pool open to everyone
 Sat.–Sun. 8–10 AM: lap swimming
 10 AM–7 PM: kiddie pool and
 main pool open to everyone

Paws in the Pool Oct. 5

Celebrate the end of the summer by
 bringing your dog to swim in the
 pool, Sunday, Oct. 5, noon to 3 PM.

**Changes Near You?**

Have any of your neighbors submitted architectural modification plans to the ECIA for approval? What changes to the built landscape are being considered near you? Check out the Architecture Committee agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lajmreo> or the ECIA Board agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lkxxdmw>.

Easy Listening

Want to hear some easy listening music on local radio? Try ELDORADIO: 1660 AM.

La Tienda Flea Market

Want to hold a yard sale but don't want strangers at your house? Love hunting for rare treasures? The Flea Market at La Tienda will be held once more this season, on October 18, from 8 AM to 2 PM. Booth spaces are just \$15 with advance registration. Call Lucas at 225-0985 for more information.

Eldorado Flea Market October 4

The annual Eldorado fall flea market is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, at the Eldorado Community Center parking lot from 8 AM to noon. Sponsored by Eldorado Boy Scout Troop 414, this popular Eldorado event is open to the public and has a variety of vendors with interesting and novel items. This is a great outing for the whole family.

2014 Trunk or Treat Registration

A safe place for children to Trick or Treat on Halloween! You, your family, business, or group can decorate the trunk of a vehicle; children in costume go from trunk to trunk in La Tienda's parking lot—collecting treats, playing games, etc. Prizes will be awarded for best-decorated cars, co-sponsored by La Tienda Shopping Center and Eldorado Community Church. Register your vehicle before October 15 by sending your name and phone number to jacqueline@eldoradochurch.org.

Coat Donation Drive

Eldorado Community Church is inviting the Eldorado community to participate in a coat drive for the St. Elizabeth Shelter. Clean, serviceable coats in all sizes will be accepted. Donations can be made at any time La Tienda is open. Just place your coat in the large marked bin by the ECC office. For more information, please call ECC at 466-2495.

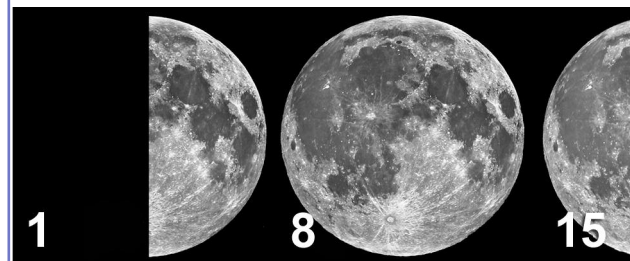
Reel NM Returns

On Thursday, October 9, at 7 PM, Reel New Mexico returns under the auspices of Jeff Berg, an Eldorado-based New Mexico film historian and freelance writer.

Due to other commitments, Reel New Mexico-founders Bill Osher and Diane Thomas had to put aside their involvement in the series they began in 2012, although Bill has promised to assist in bringing the series back to Eldorado.

The first program in the new series, to be held in La Tienda's Performance Space, will be "Made in Santa Fe," a compilation of 15 film clips of movies made in and around Santa Fe from 1936 on, presented by Berg.

New Mexico's filmmaking history is rich and varied. Since Thomas Edison arranged to shoot the first known piece of motion picture film at the Isleta Pueblo Day School in 1898 to the present

MOON PHASES FOR OCTOBER

day, nearly 700 feature films and television shows have been shot within the borders of our state.

The films Berg will present at his Reel New Mexico program encompass all genres, from comedy to drama to Westerns to film noir. He will offer background on each movie, including shooting locations, insider trivia, and New Mexico history, in a blend of humor and information that encourages audience participation.

There will be a few changes to Reel New Mexico, most especially that it will encompass other important but lesser-known films not necessarily associated with New Mexico, and although there may be featured guests occasionally, that will not be a monthly occurrence as in the past.

Later this year, the off-kilter comedy, *Bagdad Cafe* (www.imdb.com/title/tt0095801/) will be screened. Save the date: Thursday, November 13. There will be an email signup list, along with sponsorship opportunities for local businesses.

Additionally, viewers will now be able to order and bring food and drink from La Plancha into the Performance Space, offering a casual dinner-and-a-movie type of event.

The \$5 suggested donation/admission at the door will go for expenses and to bring in filmmakers for other screenings.

For more information, please contact Jeff Berg at 466-1634 or at nedludd76@hotmail.com.

Neighborhood Watch Potluck

I've been a Neighborhood Watch block captain for years, receiving and forwarding the emails that come through to alert us about suspicious or criminal activity, wildlife sightings, and other valuable news. Over time, I wanted more connection with my neighbors and contacted nearby groups. A couple in my group offered to host a potluck in their welcoming home and beautiful yard. Another block captain made flyers and got them out to more than 50 homes.

On Labor Day weekend, a couple dozen of us gathered. Everyone brought either a starter, salad,



main dish, or dessert, enough for 8–10 people. Those of us who walked in as strangers joined under the portal, dining on the amazing assortment of dishes. The chatter was constant, broken only by an interesting talk by **Marilyn Walker**, head of NW.

The amazing byproduct of this fun event was that we brought in seven new homes, and one new block captain with her own set of homes. Everyone had such a good time that at the end, our hosts proclaimed, same time next year!

The numbers support it: community connection and awareness make us more secure. In recent Security meetings, neighbors whose homes were burglarized reported that the response time from the sheriff was slow. Sometimes damage goes unreported if the residents are away when a break-in happens and the neighbors just don't notice.

Have your neighbors come and gone? It's easy to feel disconnected. There's a real hunger to reinvigorate our neighborhood connections.

Are you really busy? Think of your neighbors being observant for suspicious activity or fire at your home, and you doing the same on your way out and back. If you are interested or have questions about Neighborhood Watch, contact Marilyn Walker at lightwalker2@comcast.net.

—Susan Aylward

October Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email marilyn@eldoradosf.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**

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

4. **A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Flea Market	Sat., Oct. 4, 7-1	ECIA Parking Lot
Paws in the Pool	Sun., Oct. 5, 12-3	ECIA Pool
TGIF	Fri., Oct. 17, 5-7	LR, F, Kitchen

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., Oct. 14, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., Oct. 28, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Thurs., Oct. 2, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Oct. 13, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Oct. 7, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Oct. 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Oct. 1, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Oct. 8, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Oct. 21, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	None	Felicia Probert	466-1563	CFR
Stable Committee	None	Alice Griffin	795-6424	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAW&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 Book Club	3rd Wed., 3:00 pm	Susan Aylward	shaylward@gmail.com	
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Karen Sweeney	466-9797	CFR
Library Book Group	2nd Sat., 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
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
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jackie Vaughn	466-2558	LR
Coed Adult Softball	Fri. nights, 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
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
Horseshoes	Wed., 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon			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

* 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.eldoradosf.org

EACA's Harvest of Beauty

Members of the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association are in high gear, busily putting the finishing touches on a bounty of creations to be displayed at the EACA's upcoming Fall Show. Folks on the hunt for unique and thoughtful holiday gifts will find a cornucopia of choices rendered in glass, ceramic, fabric, and wood, as well as paintings, photography, and much more. Gifts of jewelry, wearable art, decor, books, and outdoor artworks are just some of the possibilities.



Artworks by (top) Cathy Higgins (paper art); (middle) Deborah Klezmer (jewelry), and (bottom) Lee Onstott (micaceous clay) will be for sale at the Fall Art Show, October 24. www.eldoradoarts.org

Visitors can enjoy complimentary refreshments as they wander through the show; the 47 artists will be on hand to display their work and answer any questions.

Look for EACA ads in *NOW*, *Pasatiempo*, and *Los Alamos Arts & Culture* magazine and for artist Rosemary Sparno's article in October's *Santa Fean* magazine.

FALL SHOW

Friday, October 24, 3 to 7 PM
Saturday, October 25, 9 AM to 5 PM
St. John's United Methodist Church
1200 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe

At the Library

It's been exciting for everyone to see furniture finally arriving for the new library addition. The board and staff apologize for the closure of the library, but it will be worth it. Everything will have a fresh coat of paint. There will be lots of shelf space in all the sections. Computer users will have more privacy and quiet. The new circulation system is up and running. Patrons should find it easier to navigate and use.

Regular library programs continue to meet in the Meeting Room. Story Time for preschoolers and toddlers has resumed on Friday mornings, starting at 11 AM. The library opens early just for this program. The activities and stories are geared for this age group. Drop-ins are welcome.

The informal chess club continues on Friday afternoons from 12 noon to 3:30 PM, with the addition of

classes for kids through grade 5; all ages are still welcome to come and play. These classes include skill assessment and instruction on numerous aspects of chess playing. No sign-up is required.

Family Movie Night this month is on Friday, October 10, at 7 PM. The film will be PG and features the global hijinks of a gang of fluffy puppets. As always, fresh popcorn and juice will be offered during the film, all free of charge.

The annual Haunted Library Halloween Party will be Friday, October 31, from 5 to 7 PM. This is an old-fashioned, family-style party with refreshments, games, and goody bags. There will be a costume parade and prizes for the best costumes. Volunteers to help with the party and donations are welcome! Questions about any of this? Check the website www.vglibrary.org, or call 505-466-READ (7323).

—Tracey Mitchell

Eldorado/285 Recycles

RECYCLING ELECTRONICS AND TVS

Wonder what to do with a computer that is no longer needed? If it works, there are many donation centers that will take it. If it does not work, there are numerous businesses and nonprofits that accept computers for recycling.

This information is available at santaferecycling.org, the website of the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency. Just click on the Electronics tab at the top of the page, and you will find information on what to do with cell phones, computers, peripherals (the mouse, keyboard, etc.), large and small appliances, etc. Close to home, Eldorado Computer Works at LaTienda takes computers and peripherals.

If you have a TV that works and is in good condition, you may leave it at the ReUse Area at the Eldorado Transfer Station, which will reopen as soon as construction at the Recycling area is completed. If the TV is not operable, ask an attendant for instructions on where it should be left. It will be taken to BuRRT, Buckman Road Recycling & Transfer Station, and

kept out of the landfill. In either case, you must have a trash permit for this service, a bag tag or punch pass.

While it is not unlawful to deposit a TV in the trash, it is better not to do so. There are various materials, depending on the age of the TV, that are not beneficial to the environment. It is also possible to bring TVs directly to BuRRT. There is a minimal fee of \$.025 per pound, at least until November, while there is a special pilot program with their vendor.

—Karen Sweeney

Common Nighthawks

This beautiful bird is usually difficult to spot but a welcome summer sight. And it is not a hawk. It is actually a member of the nightjar family. The nightjar family includes the whippoorwill and the common poorwill. I associate nighthawks with warm summer evenings at dusk, watching them swoop effortlessly close to the ground.

The CN is a medium-size bird with very long pointed wings, a body about 9 inches long, and a wingspan of about 21 inches. The tail is notched. The predomi-

Continued on facing page >>



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Coexisting with Wildlife

We've heard people say, "The only good coyote—or snake—is a dead one." This is an incredibly misinformed viewpoint!

A designated "keystone" animal, the average coyote eats 1,000+ rodents per year. Snakes likewise consume many rodents. With the prevalence of rodents in our community, some of which can carry diseases such as hantavirus and leptospirosis, the predators who consume rodents are a blessing to all of us. Their important contributions keep our ecosystem healthy as part of the central balance of nature. Coyotes, members of the *Canis* family (like our pet dogs), often mate for life, are devoted parents, and are highly communicative.

In general, coyotes are wary of people and will avoid us unless they are being fed by humans, are near a dog (especially a dog off leash), or protecting their own young. If, like some residents, you don't want coyotes nearby, the national organization called Project Coyote recommends "hazing." Hazing is a way of scaring (not hurting) the coyote away. Find out more at www.ProjectCoyote.org under **Resources** > Coyote Hazing Field Guide.

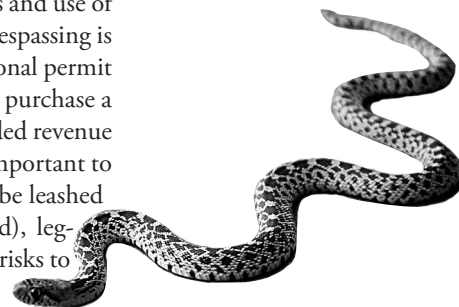
Eldorado is located in one of our state's amazing wildlife corridors. Most residents appreciate our "nature preserve-like setting." In fact, if we were to provide a motto for our community, it could be "Eldo-

rado: A Wildlife Friendly Community." However, because posted signs are outdated or in some cases nonexistent, residents may not be aware of ownership and guidelines regarding the open land (State Trust Land) at the far west end of Avenidas Eldorado and Vista Grande.

Although some of our community's greenbelt trails go right up to the edge of the State Trust Land (STL), that land is leased to a rancher and is not open to the public except with a current recreational access permit and/or valid hunting license. Public access and use of the land is not encouraged. The fine for trespassing is \$500. Contact 505-827-5724 for recreational permit information. Residents are encouraged to purchase a permit, as those funds provide much-needed revenue to support maintenance of the STL. It's important to note that even with a permit, dogs are to be leashed on State Trust Land. Cattle (when leased), leg-hold traps, and other hazards pose serious risks to trespassers and loose dogs.

With hunting season upon us, those who use the State Trust Land and those whose property is next to the STL will want to use additional caution. Posted signs from Eldorado provide limited information. Contact NM Game and Fish for additional details: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/enforcement/index.htm.

References for this article are available upon request. We love hearing from you! Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com.



Photos of local wildlife (coyote, and gopher snake) by Ann V. Wood.

CNs, continued from p. 6

nant colors are brown and gray in a barred pattern, with a large white wing bar seen near the wing tip (when in flight). The white throat may be visible in flight. On the ground, the CN virtually disappears, as the mottled dark coloring blends with dry, rocky ground. Females do not have a tail band and are more buff-colored on the throat. CNs are found throughout the lower 48 states during the summer, and in winter travel as far south as Brazil, Paraguay, and parts of Argentina, favoring the eastern side of South America.

CNs can be found in open areas; some have found cities with flat gravel roofs and bug-attracting lights a suitable habitat. The male courts the female at dusk with swooping flight, hovering and circling. This display is accompanied by a "booming" noise made by the air rushing through the primary feathers of the male. Females arrive first at breeding grounds and choose a nest site on the ground (no nest is made). Pairs are monogamous (at least for a season). The female lays two eggs and does all or most incubation. Chicks hatch in 18 to 20 days and stay near the nest for a few days but are semiprecocial, meaning that

they can move around some if needed and can hop around at 16 days. They are able to fly well (a skill needed to catch insects in the air) at 25 to 30 days and are fully grown at about 48 days. Adults feed by "hawking" insects. Young at first are fed regurgitated insects and later whole insects.

CNs arrive last at the breeding grounds and leave early. This is probably because they require a large number of insects for themselves and their young. Additionally, they are sensitive to the cold and do not tolerate it well. As nests and young are on the ground, many animals may prey on young and eggs, among them snakes, foxes, skunks, dogs, cats, coyotes, and ravens. The cryptic coloration disguises the young, and they may hide in hillocks, roots, or grasses. Parents may swoop at predators from the air or lure prey away with a drooped "broken" wing.

Look for these birds near dusk and possibly swooping around lights as they grab insects. Good viewing locations are playing fields with lights such as on Caja del Rio. The closest I have seen a CN to Eldorado is along 599. Thanks to Dale Stahlecker for spotting the CN in Eldorado.

—Pam Henline



VISTAS

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Community Center Landscaping

Have you walked around the Community Center recently? The old trees are healthier, and there are dramatic new cactus gardens and new landscaping surrounding the Community Center. This is the second year of ECIA's seven-year landscape restoration project. In September we began working on "The Island," that rather barren, weedy area between parking lots just east of the clubhouse. The Island has been contoured to catch runoff from paved surfaces, the soil improved with composted manure from the stables, and a green manure/erosion control crop of annual rye planted. Next year when the summer rains come, we will plant very drought-tolerant buffalo grass in the low central area, with shade trees and native shrubs ultimately surrounding the grassy area. Once established, this area will be very user friendly. Watch for information



on our Commemorative Tree and Bench Program and ways you can help make this area Eldorado's Community Park in the spirit of Albuquerque's beloved pocket parks.
—*Su Anne Armstrong*

Compadres Park Renovation

By the time you read this, the Compadres Park will have received new playground equipment. A subcommittee of the Facilities and Grounds Committee considered a variety of options, finally selecting a structure from Exerplay. The design is aimed at six- to twelve-year-olds, and incorporates a slide, along with many opportunities for climbing. Exerplay representative **Greg Neal** worked with the allocated \$60,000 budget to create a safe, modern, and bright structure. "We're pretty excited about it," said **John Calzada**, chair of the F&G Committee.

In addition to new equipment, the layer of chips covering the ground at the park will be replaced and refreshed. **Greg Armenta** is responsible for dismantling the previous structure and for installing its replacement. Several of Eldorado's residents, who are metal workers, have expressed interest in reclaiming metal from the old play equipment and repurposing it.
—*Juliet White*



Renovated Community Center grounds (left); work in progress at Compadres Park (above). Photos by Jack Arnold.