

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME IV, ISSUE 11  
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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

## *Public Safety in Eldorado*

# The Three E's of Traffic Safety

**I**T DOESN'T TAKE LONG to realize we've got traffic and safety problems right here in isolated, semi-rural Eldorado. We all have renditions of the same story—driving the speed limit on Avenida Vista Grande and being “pursued” by a tailgating driver, obviously urging you to go faster. And then, when unsuccessful, the speeding driver will do the dangerous and illegal thing – pass you over the double, No Passing line.

In the last few months, a driver was hit and dragged over 250 feet at the Avenida Eldorado train crossing. He seems to have been unaware that the Santa Fe to Lamy train was on the tracks, blowing its horn and traveling at the breakneck speed of 9mph. Recently on the same Avenida Eldorado (even more of a raceway than Avenida Vista Grande), drivers in two separate instances ran the stop sign at the Avenida Torreon intersection, suffered serious injuries and totaled their vehicles.

Our school poses a special problem. At pick-up time (between 3 and 3:30 pm), one can often see drivers occupying the southbound lane on Avenida Torreon, forcing others to illegally pass them by driving directly into oncoming traffic. Children have been seen running between parked cars. A number of unconscious drivers are regularly seen performing a maneuver locally known as ‘The New Mexico Pullout’ – pulling out onto the main road with little or no regard for the existing traffic.

What we need in Eldorado is what is becoming known internationally as Traffic Calming (i.e. slower traffic, controlled access where children are crossing and increased traffic control devices).

All of us in Eldorado should support the implementation of programs that provide the Three E's of Traffic Safety for our personal safety and that of every member of our community.

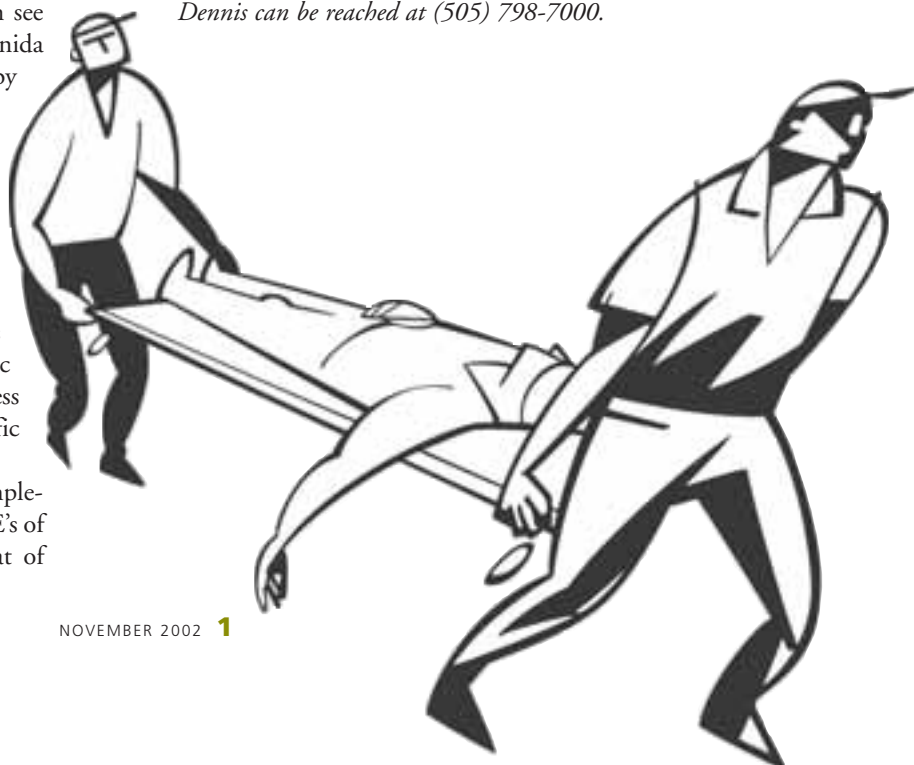
**E**ngineering. Wherever it makes sense and will help, we need to upgrade. Possibilities include: a flashing yellow light on Torreon to slow drivers down; a light at the Avenida Eldorado rail crossing; and special signs on the pavement of our avenidas to remind everyone of the speed limit.

**E**ducation. When the ECIA gets permission for a marquee-type sign at the entrance to Eldorado, they should use it to urge drivers to drive cautiously and thoughtfully on our streets.

**E**nforcement. All Santa Fe County Sheriff candidates have promised (in writing) to both make Eldorado a special zone with an assigned deputy and to have regular patrols here. Everyone needs to communicate their concerns to the candidates now and hold them to their promises after the election.

*Sheriff Candidate Greg Solano can be reached at (505) 470-7795. Sheriff Candidate Roy Dennis can be reached at (505) 798-7000.*

*ECIA Work  
Study Meeting,  
Community  
Center,  
Mon., Nov. 18,  
7-9 pm*



*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 8th day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto:info@eldoradocommunity.org). Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

### Mission Statement

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

# Disappearing Sidewalk

ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, my wife Georgia and I decided to go for a little walk. We took Jake, our Standard Poodle. On this occasion, we decided to walk up Torreon to the school, and then cross over to the asphalt trail running on the north side of Avenida Vista Grande.

We arrived at the crosswalk near the school and waited for the traffic to pass. As I clearly remember, there were three SUVs moving in the far lane (from east to west). The first whizzed past, but the second – a Toyota – began slowing to a stop. I remember Georgia saying something like, "How nice. Someone is going to let us cross."

The dog and I may have taken a step into the crosswalk when I froze. The third SUV was still moving right along toward us. For a second, it appeared to me the driver intended to pass the stopped vehicle. Imagine my amazement when the third SUV plowed right into the Toyota.

The Toyota flipped over on its nose, smashed its windshield and ended completely upside down. The north-side signpost, which once held the image of children walking, was completely flattened under the weight of the smashed Toyota. The sign was missing, having been propelled forty feet by the impact. If a family had been waiting to cross on the north side of the crosswalk, they could easily have been crushed.

By the time I pulled open the right side front door, the Toyota's driver had already scrambled out the driver's side. The Eldorado Fire and Rescue Service did its usual excellent job and were there within seconds. Injuries appeared to be slight.

All of this is unfortunate, but we all know traffic accidents happen. The interesting thing in all this is the driver of the Toyota was cited for stopping in the street. Apparently the Sheriff Department representative that issued the ticket ignored the crosswalk or thought it didn't apply on Sunday or did not apply to senior citizens and poodles or...

After thinking this over for awhile, I have come up with some recommendations for additional signage. Here's the first sign for drivers on Avenida Vista Grande:

CAUTION:  
PLEASE STOP AT CROSSWALK AHEAD IF CHILDREN  
ARE PRESENT AND SCHOOL IS IN SESSION (PLUS  
OR MINUS SIXTY (60) MINUTES). HOWEVER, IF  
ORDINARY CITIZENS ARE OBSERVED OR SCHOOL IS  
NOT IN SESSION, DO NOT STOP –  
FULL SPEED AHEAD!

The second sign is for pedestrians at the crosswalk:

CAUTION:  
IF YOU ARE AN ORDINARY PEDESTRIAN, THE  
CROSSWALK AHEAD OF YOU IS NOT REALLY A  
CROSSWALK – IT JUST LOOKS LIKE A CROSSWALK.  
HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE A CHILD (AND SCHOOL IS  
IN SESSION\*), THE CROSSWALK MAY BE OPERA-  
BLE – DEPENDING ON DRIVER UNDERSTANDING  
\* PLUS OR MINUS SIXTY (60) MINUTES

*Bob Parmelee*

## *Dying Pinons? Part Two, Keeping Survivors Strong*

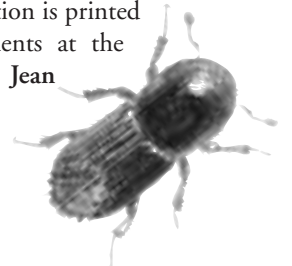
THE BARK BEETLE ASSAULT is not over. One more generation – the fifth this year – is expected this fall by **George Duda** of the US Forest Service and Santa Fe's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator, **Fabian Chavez**. The county's landfill on South 285, with a huge pile of discarded trees, has become a feeding site for the beetles. Tree removal services are inundated. Some beetles and larvae will survive a hard freeze this winter according to **Dr. Carol Sutherland**, entomologist at New Mexico State University.

Action to minimize damage is still needed. To curtail the spread of beetles, the city chips and buries trees the day they are cut down. To use these chips for mulch, residents need to solar bake them for 20

days to kill the adult beetles and larvae. Homeowners can also rent chippers locally or hire Eldorado resident **Hank Hagen**, who will cut down and chip trees (660-6299).

To protect healthy trees, forest service staff and arborists encourage several practices including: appropriate watering, mulching, and planting habits. More detailed information is printed in a flyer available for residents at the library. You can also call **Dr. Jean Stokes** at 466-0065.

*Jean Stokes*



# To See or Not to See

I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU recent input from residents regarding the negative visual impact created by recreational vehicle storage in Eldorado.

The discussions seem to focus on three principle issues:

- ▼ The inconsistency of the storage of recreational vehicles in the community with the intention of the covenants created to protect and preserve the semi-rural environment of Eldorado.
- ▼ The covenants prevent construction of structures with the style and colors typical of a recreational vehicle. Why are we allowing RVs to negatively



impact the beauty of our community?

- ▼ Residents hold the ECIA Board responsible for enforcing the covenants and guidelines that protect our environment and property values.

Based on this input, the ECIA Board and Architectural Committee again are evaluating the community's concerns. As we discuss the issue, a consensus is emerging that suggests we should let the community decide if they want to continue allowing storage of recreational vehicles on residential lots in Eldorado.

Of course this is a significant issue for the community to consider. Any change would require a covenant revision – a difficult process. Covenant revisions require a majority vote of all ECIA members, not just those who vote.

The Board and Architectural Committee need your continued input as we consider the issue. Please write, call, email or talk to us. Contact information is located both on this page and on our website, [www.eldoradocommunity.org](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org).

*John Reeder  
President, ECIA*

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

THE ECIA BOARD WELCOMES a new Board Director, **Terrence Schwind**. You may remember Terrence was recognized as Eldorado Citizen of the Year at our last ECIA Annual Meeting. Terrence is an active horse owner, always helping those in need in the stable area. He will bring a fresh perspective and management talents to our Board.

The Board received several variance requests this month; most were denied. Residents often seek relief from noncompliance by first asking for a variance. We consider variances as the last option, not the first. The Board's responsibility is to maintain the integrity of our covenants and guidelines that define why many of us moved to Eldorado. As you purchase or modify property, please ensure it conforms to ECIA covenants and guidelines. The alternatives can be troublesome and expensive for all concerned.

The proposed hike & bike trail along the west side of Avenida Torreon is progressing. The Board recently reviewed engineering drawings. The General Manager, **Bob Pritchard**, is submitting the drawings to the county for their review. I anticipate

construction to begin next spring. The new trail will connect Avenida Eldorado to Avenida Vista Grande, providing a safe path for our residents and school children.

The Board and the Architectural Committee have created an ad hoc committee to continue development of clear guidelines regarding recreational vehicle screening. This has been a difficult task for all previous boards; however, RV screening guidelines have become more imperative as the community develops. Most recreational vehicles violate both our community's requirements of muted earth tones and the principle that structures in Eldorado are subservient to our land and environment.

There certainly has been an increase in crime and graffiti in the community. If you see suspicious activities, please contact Security (204-2945) or the Santa Fe County Sheriff (986-6260). Please do not intervene; your personal safety is more important than material property.

*John Reeder  
President, ECIA*

### ECIA OFFICE

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### COMMITTEE LIAISONS

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Conservation:

Andy Winnegar

Election: Frank Schober

Information: Frank Schober

Finance: Dan Drobnis

Recreation: John Reeder,

Gretel Underwood

Road: John Reeder

Neighborhood Watch:

Frank Schober

Stable: Gretel Underwood

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466-2660  
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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library  
466-READ  
Security  
204-2945



Toni Beldock

*These paintings are just two of the many items you'll find for sale at the annual Fall Art Show on November 9th and 10th. Please see page 8 for details.*

### El Dorado School News

There is concern among members of the school and the Eldorado community regarding traffic around the school, especially during drop-off and pick-up times. The school currently does not employ a crossing guard on either Avenida Torreon or Avenida Vista Grande, nor is there a flashing light on Torreon. In addition, there is no delineated path along Torreon for students who walk home. Families are urged to utilize the bus system for transportation if at all possible. If not, please be quick and safe as you enter and leave the school. Make certain your child has help crossing the street and/or the parking lot. **To all Eldorado drivers:** please be extra careful as you pass the school between the hours of 8 and 11:30 am, after 3 pm Monday through Thursday, and after 12 pm on Friday.

We are still looking for children's artwork, poetry or short essays about Eldorado. Please call Ana at 466-2660 for more information.

### MOMS Club of Santa Fe, SE

MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) Club of Santa Fe, Southeast is a new group in the Eldorado community of mothers who stay home with their children and who wish to meet and get to know other moms in Eldorado. The November business meeting is scheduled for November 21st at 10:30 am, followed by a Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon. Call **Christine Bernstein**, President, at 466-3078 or **Kerri Lay**, Membership VP, at 466-2883 for more information, including a schedule of November events.

### 55 Alive / Mature Driving course

Would you like to sharpen your driving skills and reduce your auto insurance premium? You can do this by taking 55 ALIVE/MATURE

### Master Gardeners

Santa Fe Area Master Gardeners invite you to attend their November educational seminar November 4th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, at the Eldorado Railroad Depot. November's program features **Peg Abbey** discussing "Decorating from the Fall Garden."

### Eldorado Arts Association

**Artists' Shoptalk:** Wednesday, November 13, 10 am-noon, at the home of **Sarah Bachrach**, 5 Calle Basilica, 466-8141. Join fellow artists to socialize at each others' homes/studios.

**Artists' Program:** No program this month. Call **Arlene Siegel** at 466-3274 for information.



# November Events

DRIVING, a motor vehicle accident prevention course for persons age 50 and over. 55 ALIVE students learn defensive driving and how to compensate for normal, age-related changes in vision, hearing, and reaction time. Research shows that normal age-related physical changes begin to accelerate at age 55. Accidents per mile driven begin to increase at this same age.

Independent evaluations of 55 ALIVE graduates have demonstrated a reduction in accidents and violations. New Mexico law requires all auto insurance carriers to offer a discount on premiums to qualified graduates aged 55 and older of approved courses such as 55 ALIVE. The course must be repeated at three-year intervals to maintain eligibility for the discount. Policyholders should contact their insurance agency for more information about the discount.

55 ALIVE is an eight-hour classroom course conducted in two half-day sessions. It is open to drivers age 50 and older. There is a \$10.00 fee. A 55 ALIVE course will be taught at the Eldorado Fire and Rescue Station, 801 Avenida Vista Grande on November 6th &

SEE "IN THE COMMUNITY" ON PAGE 7



Toni Beldock

## Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto:info@eldoradocommunity.org) with your meeting or event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 8th of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. **Type of Event**
  2. **Location**
  3. **Date & Time**
  4. **A Resource Person** (one that 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.**

### NOVEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Budget Forum	Sat., Nov. 2, 10am-12pm	ECIA Offices	466-4248
District In-Service Wkshps	Nov. 4-5	No School	
Harvest Festival	Fri., Nov. 8, 6-8pm	Elaine Napp	466-2023
Veterans Day	Mon., Nov. 11	No School	
55 ALIVE class	Wed., Thurs., Nov. 6 & 7 9am-1pm	Carol Quillen	820-0766 Fire Stn
Thanksgiving Holiday	Wed, Thurs, Fri., Nov. 27-29	No School	
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 28-29	ECIA Offices Closed	

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Road Committee	Mon., Nov. 4, 6 pm	Allen Larson	466-4792
Recreation Committee	Tues., Nov. 5, 7-9 pm	Elaine Napp	466-2023
Finance Committee	Tues., Nov. 12, 10-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781
Architectural Committee	Tues., Nov. 12, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708
EAW&SD*	Wed., Nov. 13, 7-9 pm	Don Dayton	466-2411
Board Work Study	Mon., Nov. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248
Information Committee	Wed., Nov. 20, 7-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248
Neighborhood Watch		Lyn deMartin	466-1237 call
285 Coalition	Wed., Nov. 20, 7-9 pm	RoseMarie Bagioni	466-0755
MOMS Mtg/Potluck	Thurs., Nov. 21, 10:30 am	Christine Bernstein	466-3078
ECIA Board	Thurs., Nov. 21, 7-10 pm	ECIA	466-4248
Architectural Committee	Tues., Nov. 26, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Master Gardeners	Mon., Nov. 4, 6:30 pm	Beverly Hafner	466-0261
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Nov. 5, 10 am	Pat Kuhlhoff	466-4877
Book Club	Sat., Nov. 9, 7-9 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559
Book Club	Sun., Nov. 10, 7-9 pm	Ken Fischer	466- 2537
Arts Assoc. Shoptalk	Wed., Nov. 13, 10 am-12 pm	Cary Carlson	466-6073
Vista Grande Book Club	Thurs., Nov. 14, 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636 Library
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Nov. 14, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Nov 19, 10 am	Pat Kuhlhoff	466-4877
Cub Scouts Trp. 414	Tues., Nov. 26, 7 pm	Morey Walker	466-0459
Arts Assoc. Program	No Program This Month	Arlene Siegel	466-3274

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:45 pm		
Al-Annon ( <i>open to all</i> )	Tuesdays, 4:30 pm & Fridays, 9-10 am		
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fridays, 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765
Bridge (Beginning)	Wednesdays, 9-12am		
Bridge (Mens')	Thursdays, 1-4 pm	Bill Kapoun	
Boy Scouts	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815
Community Band	Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm	Peg Johnson	466-1459 School
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204 Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204 Station
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958

\*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District \*\*Reservations Required

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

# The Roads of Eldorado

## What path do we take?

**O**UR ROADS IN ELDORADO are a mixed blessing. Some people love the isolation and minimum traffic of “living on the dirt.” Others wish for the many conveniences paved roads provide. Our roads are a much discussed and debated issue in the community and truly represent a major factor impacting our cars, homes and comfort of living in the semi-rural lifestyle of Eldorado.

Eldorado has now developed into a mature community with eighty miles of roads. Our arterial roads are paved, but most other roads are not. One exception is the Verano Loop area which developed a special tax district for road paving.

Our community’s development process has been a bit bumpy at times, but the result is a wonderful place to live. Our infrastructure (water, sewer and roads) has not kept pace with our growth. The low cost alternative has always been chosen.

From here, which path do we take? The ECIA Board continues to receive requests to do something about the poor condition and safety of our roads. **If the ECIA Board is to provide community leadership and representation with Santa Fe County Public Works Department, we need input. That input should be based on a community-wide discussion regarding the future of our roads.**

The Board is well aware that the community’s frustration regarding roads is a result of expectations not met. The Board’s goal is to provide the information and the processes required for the community to develop a considered and rational position regarding the future of our roads and then represent that position with our state and county representatives.

The following information is provided to give you the necessary information you need to participate in the discussion.

- ▼ The community road plan, funded by a \$50 special assessment, is complete. All arterial roads are paved.
- ▼ Additional major collector roads that have been recommended for paving by the ECIA Road Committee are: Monte Alto Road, Caliente Road, Herrado Road, Encantado Road, and Balsa Road.
- ▼ The Road Committee recommends all roads in Eldorado eventually be paved.

▼ The type of road improvements and associated costs are:

- Asphalt paving at a cost of \$250,000 per mile. This will be recommended for roads with traffic in excess of 600 cars per day and would require state funding. Santa Fe County will not pay for asphalt paving.
- Chip seal costs \$100,000 per mile and can be implemented on roads with traffic less than 600 cars per day and no truck traffic. Santa Fe County will pay for chip sealing – if we can get the road on their annual proposed work list.
- Base course (gravel) is for lightly traveled roads. It requires careful maintenance, close attention to drainage problems, and appropriate driving habits by residents.

▼ Funding options:

- Santa Fe County has placed Monte Alto Road on their list to be paved and have requested state funding.
- The ECIA could re-impose the special road fund assessment. The amount would depend on the extent of work planned, timetables and a contract with the county. Historically, the ECIA has paid for materials and the county used their labor force and equipment.
- Request assistance from the state legislature. This option does not have a high probability of success.
- Form a special tax district in Eldorado. This is a tax-deductible option, but requires a 75% majority of votes cast for approval. Additionally, the new district must assume all responsibilities for roads within the tax district and establish a Board of Directors, similar to our Water and Sanitation District.
- All ECIA members could share in the cost of road improvements.
- Only primary road users would share in the costs of improvements.

*Note: This article is based on information developed by Allen Larson and the ECIA Road Committee.*

*John Reeder  
President, ECIA*

# Community Road Survey

We need your input in order to make recommendations based on residents' views. Please take a few moments out of your busy schedule to complete the survey below.

Once completed, please cut out survey and send to, or drop off at, the ECIA office.  
ECIA, 1 Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87508

- Yes    No   Should the ECIA Board take a leadership role with Santa Fe County Public Works Department regarding the community's future road plan?
- Yes    No   Should any additional roads be paved?
- Yes    No   Should only additional collector roads be paved?
- Yes    No   Should it be planned that all roads eventually be paved?
- Yes    No   Should all ECIA members pay for additional paving?
- Yes    No   Should only primary road users pay for additional paving?
- Yes    No   Should a tax district be formed to pay for additional road paving?
- Yes    No   Should a Special ECIA road assessment be re-imposed to pay for additional road paving?

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Community FROM PAGE 5

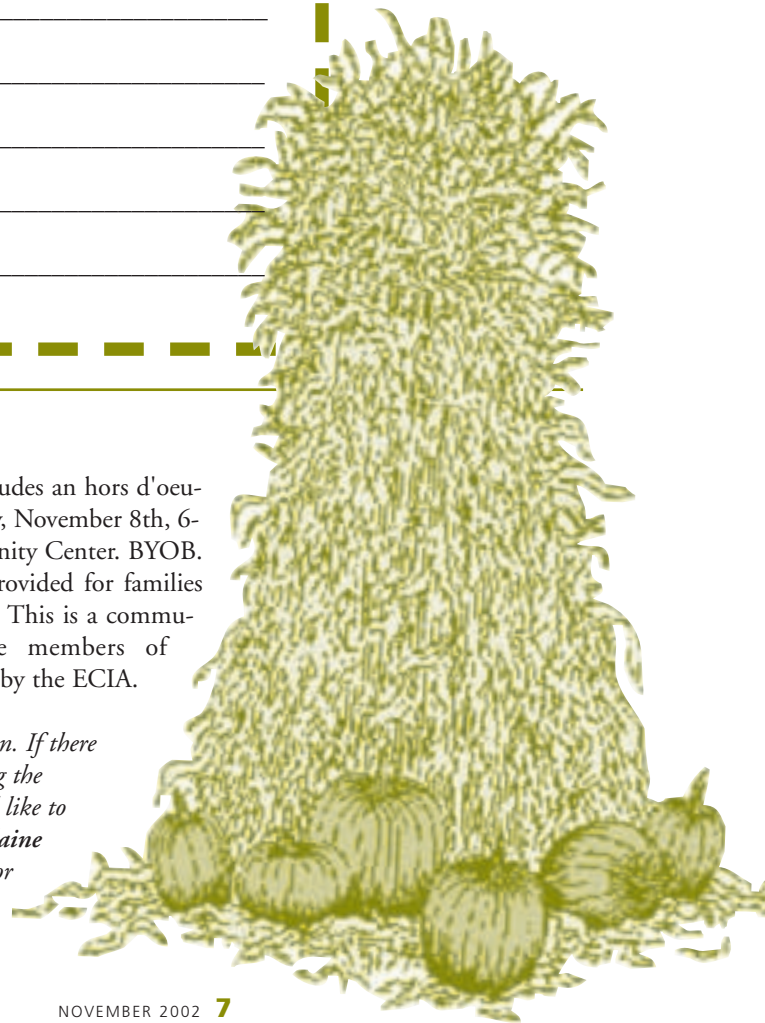
7th. Class will be from 9 am to 1 pm each day. Contact **Carol Quillin**, AARP volunteer instructor, at 820-0766 for additional information and to make your reservations. Class size will be limited so make your reservations soon.

### Harvest of Thanks Festival

For more than a year, the ECIA Recreation Committee has been working to bring residents to the community center, primarily to encourage residents to see the wonderful facility available for their use. The Harvest of Thanks Festival has become an annual 'First-Social-of-the-Holiday-Season' Open House. It's a chance for the community to get together and learn about the various community groups that use the center, create new groups, and to have a good

time. The Social includes an hors d'oeuvre potluck on Friday, November 8th, 6-9 pm at the Community Center. BYOB. Child care will be provided for families with young children. This is a community event for the members of Eldorado, sponsored by the ECIA.

*We hope to see you soon. If there are questions regarding the Festival, or you would like to help, please contact **Elaine** at [nappkin@aol.com](mailto:nappkin@aol.com) or call 466-2023.*



ELDORADO  
**VISTAS**

Eldorado Community  
Improvement Association  
#1 La Hacienda Loop  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508

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



# Fall Art Show

## Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association

The Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association will have a Fall Art Show on November 9th and 10th, 10 am – 5 pm at the El Dorado Elementary School's new community room/gymnasium located at the corner of Avenida Vista Grande and Avenida Torreon. A group of nearly 38 Eldorado artists will exhibit their work to include: pottery; weaving; jewelry; sculpture; oil, watercolor, acrylic and pastel paintings; digital art; and various creative crafts. This is a great opportunity to shop for holiday gifts or add to your own art collection. From fine art to wearable art, the exhibit will feature all works for sale. Admission is free. For further information, please contact Luther Robb, 466-0122, or Hans Turstig, 466-7747.



Hans Turstig