### VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 11

#### Nov. 2006



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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

# Thankful To Be in Eldorado

OVENANTS!? NO, NO, NO, not a community with rules," we told our real estate agent when we first explored the idea of moving to New Mexico in 1997. But he insisted on showing us a little home at the far western end of Eldorado.

We fell in love with the sense of wide-open space and the incredible 360° views. Always enamored with Southwestern style, we were charmed by the saltillo tiles, the vigas and the kiva fireplace. A big plus was the lack of rusted out cars sitting on cinder blocks in the front yards. In our search for a home, we had hoped to find a horse property, but nothing quite worked for us. The Eldorado stable amenity became a big selling point.

We came to appreciate the minimum of covenants as rules we and our neighbors could easily abide by to create this pleasant community of coexistence. Shielded lights to preserve the awesome night sky enhanced our frequent stargazing. With the height and style restrictions, the homes seem to hug the earth, allowing the mountains to dominate the views.

The south-facing windows in our cozy little home were not only a huge energy saver (we called it "active solar heating," not passive) but those windows became our multi-screen cinema of this incredible New Mexico landscape— thunderstorms, sunsets, clouds and that wide open, big sky view with the wonderful soundtrack of wind in the piñons and junipers and the forlorn call of the coyotes.

Eldorado is the perfect size. The one acre minimum lot size guarantees us a buffer zone of privacy when we want it, but we never have a feeling of isolation. We are always bumping into friends at the Agora. There is a real sense of a village community. We have lived in big cities and know well the crushing isolation of being surrounded by too many strangers. We're also impressed by the number of artists and entrepreneurs living here.

Of course since we are horse owners, the stable amenity is very important to us. The stable area is a community within a community. The stable owners

are always looking out for each other. If we have a question about horse health or maintenance, there is a deep resource of horse experience right there. Having access to the Eldorado Wilderness Preserve is unmatched by any other place we have lived.

After living in Eldorado for five years, in 2002 we followed a crazy, inexplicable whim— we moved to Texas. Within six months, we knew we had made a mistake. It was definitely a case of "absence makes

the heart grow fonder." After a 3-1/2 year sidetrack, we returned to Eldorado last Thanksgiving week. Still stumbling over boxes, we threw a Thanksgiving celebration with 12 friends and family members. What a great way to celebrate our return home.

As we prepare for another Thanksgiving gathering, at the top of our list of blessings is how happy we are to be back home in Eldorado, New Mexico. Life is a little different this second time around. We've made new friends, and we see less of some old friends. Some new activities have taken priority over some old ones. One of us commutes to town instead of working from a home office. Our new home is more tucked

in from the winds, but we can still hear them. And we really enjoy walking our sweet Sheltie, Sadie Mae, on the greenbelt trail.

We knew we couldn't pick up exactly where we left off-life evolves. It is hard to explain why we ever left, but we certainly gained a perspective on what we had here. Every time we gaze out at that unparalleled landscape, we both know that we won't make that mistake again. We're back, we're glad, and we ain't leaving again!

- Fabian and Chuck West

ECIA Board Work Study Meeting, Community Center, Mon., Nov 13, 7 pm



At this time of year. Fabian and Chuck West are especially thankful for their life in Eldorado.

# LOCAL ISSUES

### Share your comments with us!

For policy and deadline, see below

### **Editorial Policy**

Vistas invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too. DEADLINE: Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to info@eldoradocommunity. org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

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

# Struggling to Maintain Our Roads

HEN TODAY'S ELDORADO was first laid out, the developer, AMREP Corp., graded the roads here and covered them with "base course" (the compacted base layer of an asphalt roadway). Thirty-five years later, after much grading and scraping by AMREP and Santa Fe County, which took over responsibility for road maintenance in 1996, we have little gravel and no base course. With the exception of the paved main thoroughfares, most of our roads can best be described as dirt poor.

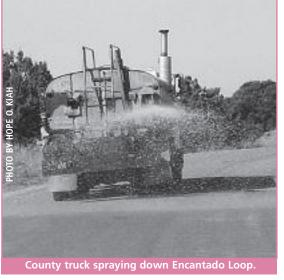
Records show that successive Boards of the ECIA have made strenuous, good-faith efforts to improve and maintain the 80-mile road network that serves our community. Some years ago, Verano Loop residents voted to set up a special district and assess themselves a tax to provide a hard surface for their road. In 1992, ECIA members voted for an additional \$50 a year in dues to establish a fund to match the county's expenditures for roads in Eldorado. As much as 50% of the costs were provided from that fund for paving Avenidas Eldorado, Vista Grande, Azul, Compadres and others.

ECIA members disagree about how much hardsurface pavement we should have. The cost of keeping what some prize as our "rural, rustic, outback look" is high. Anyone who tries to keep furniture dust free has their work cut out for them. When strong winds blow, which is often, major portions of our dirt roads end up in our living rooms. Some residents have jokingly referred to roads leading to their homes as "Brokeback Road" or "Broken Axle Way."

A survey completed recently by the ECIA Road Committee found that a large number of residents, some 70%, wanted to see improvements in the status and maintenance of our roads and only 30% wanted to keep them "as is." Of the small number who bothered to respond to the questionnaire, 49% said they would prefer asphalt. A majority indicated that they would be willing to be assessed for roads in front of their homes but did not agree on the amount and duration of such an assessment.

The level of county support for road maintenance in Eldorado can fairly be described as marginal. At last count, three of the four road maintenance positions in the public works department were unfilled, and grading is done when residents complain, not when a regular maintenance schedule dictates.

Solutions, as ever, come with a price tag. The Road Committee is considering a proposal (to be advanced to the county after approval by the ECIA Board) that would petition the state legislature to



authorize an expenditure to restore the long-gone base course to our roads. The price tag, which would include both gravel and re-grading, is estimated by the county to be approximately \$50,000 per mile. Since the total cost would range from \$3.5 to \$4 million, our local legislators, Peter Wirth and John Grubesic, might seek a multi-year solution.

No solution will come without full community involvement and support. An election is coming up and participation by all eligible Eldorado voters will make a critical difference in terms of not only getting our roads maintained but for getting the other services that we need for our community. Eldorado is one of the most beautiful and desirable places to live in this great country of ours—let's keep it that way.

-Frank Schober

# Dogs, Dogs, Dogs

OR THIS MONTH, the Information Committee has decided not to run any dog letters. Since there isn't a December issue (the 2007 Eldorado Calendar replaces it), we will have a two-month hiatus from discussing both sides of the dog issue.

Reminder about letters: they must be close to the 150-word limit to ensure publication. As it says in the sidebar on this page, letters longer than 150 words may be edited. When they run as long as 400 words or more, we may not be able to run them. Please consider this when you submit a letter. Thank

> -Ken McPherson Editor

### From the President

**HE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** has been working with two well-known area dog trainers to develop sessions that will assist dog owners and residents in dog training and in recognizing and reacting to certain dog behaviors. The trainers are Evelyn Gregory and Suzanne Fuqua. Both come highly recommended, with many years of experience.

These sessions will begin in January and continue into spring. Listed below are the training times, dates and cost. If you have questions, contact the Association office (466-4248) or call me at 466-2466.

#### **BASIC MANNERS**

For dog and owner, six weeks of training beginning Saturday, January 20, from noon to 2 pm, and ending on February 24. All sessions will be in the Depot at the Community Center. The first session on January 20 is for the owner only. All other sessions will be owner and dog. The training will include:

- ▼ Dogs learning to walk on a leash
- ▼ Dogs learning to recognize their name
- ▼ Dogs learning to sit, stay and lie down
- ▼ Dogs learning to come when called
- ▼ Dogs learning polite greetings

Cost: \$90 for the six sessions. Call the Association office for a reservation (466-4248).

#### **TECHNIQUES FOR OWNERS**

This is for owners only and is one session offered on Thursday, March 22 from 7 to 8:30 pm, and again on May 10 at the same time. Both sessions will be in the Depot. This workshop will help owners learn techniques for:

- ▼ Containment in the house, fencing and kenneling
- Anti-barking remedies
- ▼ Self-protection in dealing with your dog Cost: \$10 paid at the door at time of session.

#### **AVOID BEING BITTEN**

This is for residents. There will be one session

offered on February 22 and the same information offered again on April 12 from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Depot. This will be an intense workshop on:

- ▼ Reading dog body language
- ▼ Learning to act appropriately

Cost: \$10 paid at the door at time of session.

- Jeanne Klein



## Water Board Elections

LL FIVE POSITIONS on the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD) Board will be decided in an election on January 9 at the El Dorado Fire Station on Avenida Vista Grande. The qualifications for voting in a District election have recently been expanded by the state legislature to include people who are registered to vote in any precinct in the State of New Mexico and who:

- ▼ reside in the District, or
- ▼ pay or will be liable to pay any taxes set by the
- ▼ have paid or incurred any tax liability on property within the District during the last twelve

This means that people who are not registered to vote in the appropriate Eldorado precincts can, nevertheless, vote for the EAWSD Board as long as they bring to the polling place proof that they are registered to vote somewhere in New Mexico along with either an invoice showing they are a ratepayer of EAWSD's (this can include tenants who pay the water bill) or a property tax bill showing they pay taxes to EAWSD.

District residents interested in running for a Board position have until December 11 to file a formal application. Check www.eldoradowaterdis trict.com for additional information. All five positions are vacant because of the recent Board expansion from three to five positions, and terms have expired.

A candidate forum is planned for the week preceding the January election. Mary Ann Hale, the current Board member responsible for organizing the election, expects that some, but perhaps not all, of the current Board members will stand for reelection to the Board. "It is a real commitment," she said. In addition to two formal Board meetings per month, each Board member takes on individual

> tasks such as government or developer liaison, financial planning or engineering planning.

> Recent staff additions, however, have reduced the Board member duties. New staff includes a full-time civil engineer, and part-time administrative and financial assistants. A full-time general manager is also being sought.

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466-READ

204-2945

466-1204

992-1621

#### Come for a Hike

There will be a hike in the Eldorado Preserve November 11 at 9 am sponsored by the Conservation Committee. Please meet at the Community Center parking lot at 9 am and bring a small snack and water.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\* CORRECTIONS \*\*\*\*\*\*

The October issue of Vistas relayed two incorrect dates. First, the Agora's Halloween Celebration will be on Halloween, October 31 from 3 to 5 pm, not the date previously reported (hopefully this issue will arrive soon enough to clear this up). Secondly, the free Tropic of Capricorn workshop was meant to happen on October 14, not the 4th. We apologize for any inconvenience that may have

#### **Bring the Family**

Come to the PTA Family Fun Night on November 16, at 7pm (Bingo and New Games/Art Night).

#### **Sharing Budget Info**

All ECIA members are invited to attend the ECIA Board's budget hearing on Saturday, November 4, at 10 am in the Community Center's Railroad Station. The Finance Committee has prepared a draft budget for 2007 based on input from the ECIA Board, the general manager and committees. Copies will be available at the ECIA office beginning

Thursday, November 2 for your review. Please come to learn about your Association's financial plans and to express any concerns or observations.



#### **Open Hearts**



Thursday, November 16, from 7 to 9 pm, at the Vista Grande Public Library, Eldorado resident Maggie Lichtenberg will discuss her recent book, The Open Heart Companion: Preparation and Guidance for Open-Heart Surgery Recovery, plus her trials and tribula-

tions during her own pre- and post-surgery experiences. Lichtenberg, Eldorado's very own "openheart coach," will be available to answer your questions following the presentation. She also offers a free newsletter and phone support for recovering heart patients.

#### Job Opening

The ECIA is looking to hire a full-time Covenants Compliance Representative. Please send résumés to Bill Donohue at the ECIA office at #1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87508.

#### Care Enough to Carpool

Concerned about global warming? Two residents want to create an on-line clearing site to facilitate carpooling between the Eldorado/285 area and Santa Fe destinations (e.g., Santa Fe Community College, the Plaza, or wherever you work/study). Can you help us create a website to accomplish this? Please contact Lyn deMartin at 466-1237 or Idemartin@hotmail.com.

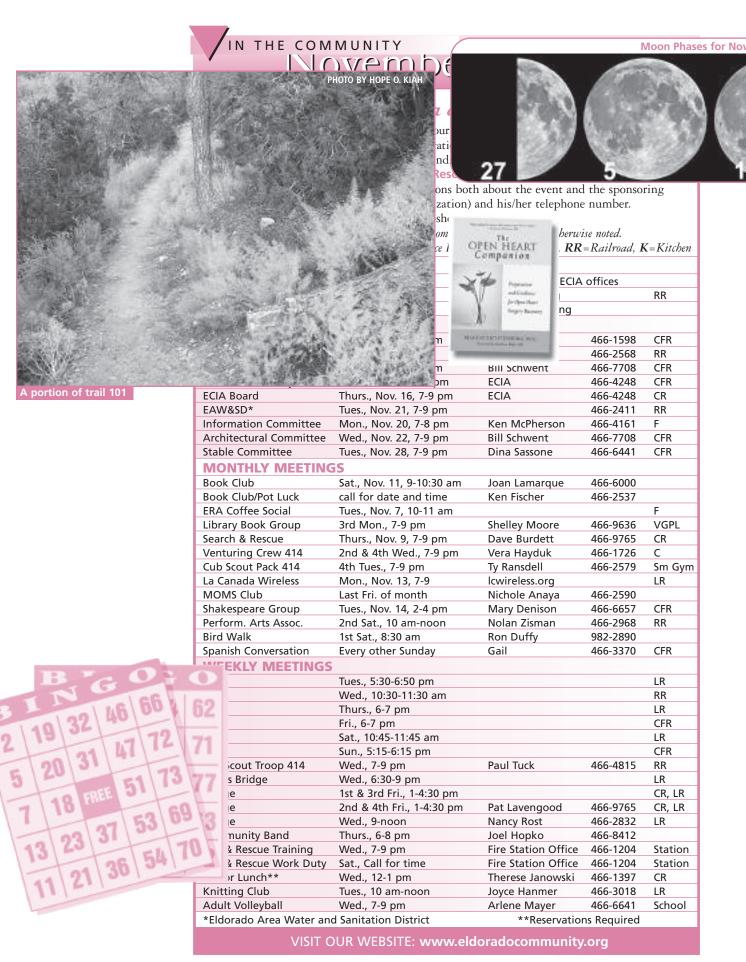
#### Linguistics

Meetings of the El Dorado Intermediate Spanish Conversation Group are held every other Sunday at 6:30 pm in the conference room of the Eldorado Community Center. Please call Gail at 466-3370 or Vicki at 466-4186 for information.

#### **RV Fun**

Every month the Eldorado Roadrunners RV Club either meets for a potluck/meeting or takes trips, such as to the spring and fall Samborees. We eat good food, raise money for Dogs for Deaf and share good company. If this sounds like your cup of tea, call Bill or Lillian Bodle at 466-3011 for information on joining the club.





# Pumpkin Corn Soup with Ginger Lime Cream

HIS SIMPLE RECIPE is easy to prepare and utilizes two very basic ingredients in Southwestern cooking: pumpkin and corn. It is a delicious and rich-bodied soup, and the Ginger Lime Cream adds a refreshing zest.

#### **Pumpkin Corn Soup**

- ▼ 3 cups corn kernels, (fresh if in season, otherwise frozen)
- ▼ 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- ▼ 3/4 teaspoon salt
- ▼ 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- ▼ 3 cups chicken stock
- ▼ 3 cups cooked pumpkin

#### **Ginger Lime Cream**

- ▼ Juice and zest of 2 limes
- ▼ 1 tablespoon peeled and grated fresh ginger
- ▼ 1/2 cup heavy cream

In a medium covered pot, cook the corn kernels with a little water until soft, about 10 minutes. In a food processor, process the corn until smooth, about 2 minutes. Run through a sieve and discard the skins.

> Combine the corn purée, garlic, salt, white pepper and stock in a saucepan and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat to low, add the pumpkin, and cook 10 minutes while stirring.

In another saucepan cook the lime juice and ginger for 2 minutes over medium heat. Remove from heat and pour through a sieve to remove the ginger.

In a bowl, combine the ginger-lime juice, the lime zest (save some for the garnish) and cream. Whip until the mixture has soft peaks. You can put the Ginger Lime Cream into a squirt bottle for presentation, if you choose.

Paint or spoon a dollop of Ginger Lime Cream into each bowl filled with soup and garnish with the remaining lime zest. Serve immediately. Serves 6

-Lois Ellen Frank

#### **Now Hiring**

The ECIA is looking to hire a full-time **Covenants Compliance Representative.** Please send resumes to Bill Donohue at the ECIA office at #1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87508.



An Eldorado-based chef, author and photographer, Lois Ellen Frank was born and raised on Long Island, New York and her first career experiences were as a professional cook and organic gardener. Lois spent over 18 years documenting foods and lifeways of Native American tribes from the Southwest. This lengthy immersion in Native American communities culminated in her newest book, Foods of the Southwest Indian Nations, featuring traditional and contemporary recipes, published by Ten Speed Press, 2002, which won the James Beard Award in the Americana category in 2003.

### Vote November 7

**OMETIMES WHEN THE PRESIDENT** isn't up for reelection we forget that there are still many important decisions on which to vote. This year's national election day includes the governor, senator, secretary of state and attorney general offices, to name a few. Also, consider that you can vote for county officials who directly affect us in Eldorado. Get out and vote!

Polls will be open from 7 am to 7 pm on Tuesday, November 7 (lucky 777). All votes will be recorded on paper ballots for this election under a new state law. You shouldn't be asked to provide identification at the polling place unless you registered to vote for the first time by mail and don't know the last four digits of your Social Security number and year of birth. The secretary of state mailed out voter ID cards this year, but you don't have to show them to vote.

Could it get any easier? Vote!

# The American Magpie

THINK EVERYONE WOULD recognize an American Magpie (AM) from its description, although you may not have seen one in Eldorado. I have spotted an AM here just twice, both times in the more hilly NE section of Eldorado. These largish birds (19 inches long, with a wingspan of 25 inches) are resident all year long in the western US and Pacific Coast as far north as Alaska. Eldorado is on the southern edge of their range. The first impression is of a black and white bird, although the tail and back are a dark blueblack, with wings and tail a glossy iridescence. The belly and shoulders are bright white. In flight, the wings seem to flash—the outer part of the wing is white and the inner wing is dark. Its head and eyes are dark and its bill is strong and dark. When perched, the birds seem to be dressed in formal black-and-white. Females and males are similar. They prefer open country with brushy trees and scrub. AMs are in the Corvid family (crows, jays, ravens) and they have a familiar sounding nasal call.

Males and females form a long-term bond, usually staying together all year. Large mud nests, lined

with grasses high in a tree, may take up to 40 days to build. Males strut, flash wings and chase females during courtship. The female broods five to eight eggs, which hatch as helpless young in 16 to 21 days. Young fledge

in 25 to 32 days and stay with parents for some time. Nestlings are fed insects, carrion, vertebrates and invertebrates. The adult diet adds fruit and seeds—about 15% of the total. A study found that nest building uses about 1% of the bird's daily energy, while laying eggs uses 23% of the female's daily energy budget! AMs also cache food. Of the *Corvids*, AMs eat the most insects. During the non-breeding season, small flocks of eight to ten birds occur.

Corvids are intelligent—for one thing they have to remember where all that food is cached. They have learned to land on large mammals, such as deer and moose, to remove ticks from them. One of my references states that AMs have a nonverbal ability to count up to seven. But it didn't say how this was postulated.

-Pam Henline



# Running for Fun!

N OCTOBER 7, NEAR 8 AM, two minutes before the runners got the "Go!" signal, a light rain began falling at the El Dorado Elementary School. But minutes later, runners of all ages enthusiastically took off despite the rain, kicking off the most successful Fun Run to date. Hundreds of people and over 385 runners (433 total registrants) got to enjoy the fun while helping raise funds for the school.

For over a decade, the Fun Run has been a major fundraising activity for the El Dorado Elementary School. The El Dorado PTA raises funds to complement state funding that provides students with a richer educational experience, including physical education and arts programs, as well as school property enhancements.

"Building community around awesome events is what the El Dorado PTA is all about," said Don McAvinchey, El Dorado PTA President. This year's Fun Run included awards for 5k runners and parent/child teams, and the El Dorado Dads Club hosted an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast after the race.

John Thornell, race director, said, "The Eldorado community really knows how to come together for a cause. Runners and walkers, along with sponsors and donators, helped raise a record amount of funding for the school through the Fun

Run." More than two dozen community-oriented businesses supported this year's Fun Run.

This year, kids planning on running got an extra treat—several world-class runners from the Santa Fe-based AmeriKenyan Running Club met with the young runners after school for three consecutive Thursdays before the actual run. They gave free advice about running, taught the kids several Swahili words and graciously shared their love of the sport. More information about the running club can be found at www.AmeriKenyanRunningClub.org.

For results of the 1 mile run, see page 8.

—Ken McPherson

Runners from the AmeriKenyan Running Club setting pace for the kids. The Kenyan runners in the photo (I to r) are Abraham Kosgei, Richard Rono and Richard Kimeli.





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

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## Fun on the Run



The results from the El Dorado Elementary School's 1 mile Fun Run are too numerous to list even the first three placers. Therefore, we will list only the first place male and female runners for each grade.

**Pre-K:** Lauren Fulgenzi and Gabriel Rutherford 1<sup>st</sup> grade: Brandelyn Fulgenzi and Riley Kinlaw 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Carley Cook and Kieran Thornell 5<sup>th</sup> grade: Greta Miller and Zack Grand 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade: Calle Hewett and Elliott Henry

K: Kayla Garcia and Forest Nelson-Torres 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Elise Breeden and Logan Taylor 4<sup>th</sup> grade: Isabel Chavez and Hayden Hargrove 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Ariel Parella-Aureli and Toby Hogan **Adults:** Dot Breeden and David Henry. Congratulations to all runners, and thanks to all who helped raise funds for the school.