

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME X, ISSUE 11

Nov. 2008

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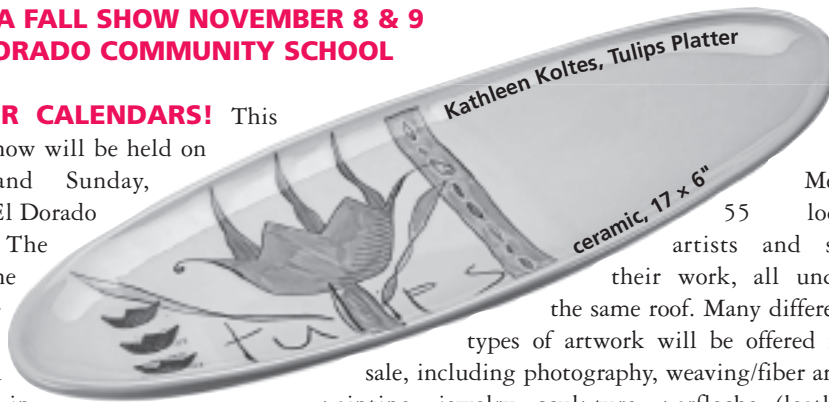
Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

Eldorado Arts & Crafts Fall Show

7TH ANNUAL EACA FALL SHOW NOVEMBER 8 & 9
10 AM-5 PM EL DORADO COMMUNITY SCHOOL

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! This year's Fall Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9, at El Dorado Community School. The event, also known as the Holiday Show, will be open between 10 am and 5 pm in the Small and Large Gyms and in the hallway.



Meet 55 local artists and see their work, all under the same roof. Many different types of artwork will be offered for sale, including photography, weaving/fiber arts, painting, jewelry, sculpture, parfleche (leather work), clay, stained glass, mosaic, and woodwork.

**ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Nov. 17, 7 pm**



Julia Cairns, "To Market," watercolor, 12 x 16"



Victoria De Almeida, "The Good Deed," acrylic on wood, 10.5 x 7.5"

Join the thousands of people who will visit the event. Stop by to get that early holiday gift or something unique to decorate your house. Some artists will provide free refreshments. A portion of sales revenues will be donated to our local nonprofit organizations, El Dorado Fire and Rescue, El Dorado Community School, and Vista Grande Public Library.

Each artist/member of EACA must apply to be included in the show and pay an entry fee. The event is now in its seventh year. The EACA has been in existence for 17 years now.

For more information, contact the EACA chairperson, **Jean Crawford**, at 466-1000, or **Joretha Hall** at 466-6245, or go to www.eldoradoarts.org.

—David Goodrich



Brian Commerford, "The Conversation," oil on canvas, 30 x 36"

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The annual Public Budget Hearing will be held by the ECIA Board and Finance Committee at the Community Center Railroad Room at 10 am, Saturday, Nov. 8. More on page 2.

*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 ECIADebby@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.

Problem Dogs

THE ISSUE OF UNCONTROLLED DOGS remains open. If dogs are family members, then do they not warrant the discipline that one would bestow on a child? Most dog owners are considerate, so it is to the indolent and careless that action must be directed. Unleashed dogs and constant barking are threats to the physical and mental well-being of the community.

The ECIA needs to institute more rigorous regulations through revised covenants with realistic sanctions and perhaps a neighborhood Dog Watch. Enforcement of the existing county ordinances is ineffective, mainly due to difficulty in identifying dogs. However, we must take action lest we permit selfish and irresponsible owners to degrade the quality of life for all.

—David Brown

More on Speeding

I COULDN'T AGREE MORE with Ms. Mandel's call for proactive measures about unsafe driving. As for Mr. Zisman's unattributed assertion that drivers "greatly dislike" roundabouts, I disagree. That seems to be an opinion on his part, and a little education regarding roundabouts would not only change people's minds but would show that they are safer and improve fuel economy.

I urge Mr. Zisman to reconsider his opinions about roundabouts. Police presence is a reactive measure and, given our current national administration, is something I'm sure we're all anxious to avoid.

—Bill York



ECIA Financial Forecast

BUDGET HEARING

GOOD NEWS FOR 2009: no proposed assessment increase. But for 2010, an assessment increase is likely.

This and other Association fiscal news will be discussed at the annual ECIA budget hearing on Saturday, November 8, at 10 am at the Community Center Railroad Building. The detailed proposed 2009 ECIA Operating Budget will be available in print at the ECIA office and website on Monday, November 3. This will be the final opportunity for public comments and questions prior to the adoption of the 2009 budget at the regular Board meeting at 7 pm on Thursday, November 20.

2008 REVIEW: The 2008 Operating Year is projected to finish slightly under budget for both revenues and expenditures. Anticipated revenues are expected to fall short of the budgeted amount by about \$10,000, or 1.5%, mostly because of small shortfalls in items such as architectural applications, assessment certificates, and Community Center rentals. Spending is expected to be underrun by a similar amount, with notable savings in the area of wages, property insurance and taxes. Modest overruns are anticipated for building repairs, trash removal, and gasoline. A major portion of the \$20,000 contingency line item was committed to unanticipated covenant enforcement legal expenses.

2009 OUTLOOK: Revenues are budgeted at \$734,510—a minor decrease of \$4,225 compared

with the 2008 budget. Most of this reduction is expected in the area of architectural applications and assessment certificates as a result of reduced building and real estate activity.

Expenses and reserve transfers are budgeted at \$791,925, an increase of \$29,050 from the 2008 budget. Categories accounting for this increase from the 2008 budget include health/life insurance for the employee benefit plan, energy and water costs, trash removal, *Vistas* and website operation and upgrades, amenities survey, security contract, and replacement reserve transfer. This exceeds budgeted income by \$57,415.

However, over the years, a balance of unexpended Association operating funds has been accumulated, projected to be about \$320,000 at the end of 2008. The Finance Committee has previously recommended that the Unallocated Funds Reserve (UFR) be gradually drawn down to prevent or mitigate future assessment increases, until the UFR reaches approximately 20-25% (\$130,000-\$170,000) of annual assessments. Therefore, no assessment increase is recommended for 2009, leaving annual assessments at \$240 per lot. However, the Finance Committee also believes that a recommendation for an assessment increase for 2010 is virtually certain, to cover increasing operating costs, increasing requirements for transfers to the Repairs and Replacement Reserve, and the need to rebuild the Capital Reserve Fund.

—Dan Drobnis

*The
detailed
proposed 2009
ECIA Operating
Budget will be
available in print at
the ECIA office and
website on Monday,
November 3.*

Ed Benrock, New ECIA President

ON SEPTEMBER 18, the ECIA Board elected Ed Benrock to serve as our Association's president. He brings to the post a lifetime of experience in dealing with difficult problems, and his talent in dealing with people is obvious.

Born in Dearborn, Michigan, he both studied at and wrestled his way through Lowrey High School in that city and later attended Wayne State University in Detroit. Following college studies, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard, learned how to sail in the waters surrounding Key West, Florida, and Long Beach, California, and became an expert in life-saving techniques and navigational aids.

The technical expertise Ed derived from his service in the military was useful to him in the next part of his life. Leaving the Coast Guard, he took up the trade of locksmithing, operating a business for 20 years in the city of Montclair, California. "It's one of those professions," Ed points out, "that people won't call on until they have a real problem; I guess I developed a sympathetic ear working in that job."

Ed spent long hours working at his business, Lock and Safe of Montclair, but what interested him much more was the volunteer work he took up that linked to his experience at sea. He became a museum pilot (docent) with the Los Angeles Maritime Museum in San Pedro, California, and over the years rose to become president of that association's board of directors. He learned a lot, he says, about motivating and encouraging volunteers. "Recognition for accomplishment is the key," he says. "Volunteers are rewarded by recognition."

Later, Ed was appointed to the planning commission of Montclair. He knows the ins and outs of land-use planning and compares it a bit to the work of our Architectural Review Committee. "The temptation is to try to please everybody, but you learn—that can't be done. You do the best you can to get people to listen to one another."

On moving to Eldorado, Ed Benrock immediately volunteered for service with the ECIA and was shortly thereafter made chairman of the Road Committee. He was later appointed a member of the Santa Fe County Road Advisory Committee. "Most

of us don't want asphalted speedways beside our homes here; but on the other hand, we want the County to provide regular and effective maintenance of our base-coursed roads. I will continue to work for that while serving as president," he said.

Looking at the job ahead as ECIA President, Ed says, "I guess you could call me a 'professional volunteer' if there is such a thing. "He has always tried to be involved with the community he lives in—from being a docent and living history director to being a board member of a local Chamber of Commerce and working on the Main Street Project in Silver City, New Mexico. "Our Association," Ed stresses, "depends very heavily on the hard work of its volunteers. That's why it has been able to keep its



costs low and its annual dues among the lowest in the country for an association that provides its members with so much. We simply need more of our residents to see the need and volunteer. It's the American way."

Things have changed since Ed Benrock moved to Eldorado. For one thing, gas prices have gone up very significantly, and the trip we thought nothing about making a couple of times a day into Santa Fe and back has become costly. Ed says he will push for improved transportation links to Eldorado from

Santa Fe, with linkage to the Rail Runner to Albuquerque (scheduled for completion in December).

Other cities Ed has lived in have pushed for having Neighborhood Watch. "Ours, thanks to the good work of Marilyn Walker and Larry Eccard and their dedicated committee, is the best in the County of Santa Fe," he noted. "The ideal situation would be for every resident to sign up for Neighborhood Watch. It's not only important as a proven deterrent against crime, it's a way of being able to help each other out when emergencies—like the huge snowstorm we had a couple of years ago—strike us with little or no warning."

"My goal is to build on the past efforts of the many—the volunteers and the staff—and keep Eldorado clean, safe and beautiful," says Ed Benrock. All of us living here wish him well in that endeavor.

—Frank Schober

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Conservation: John Parker and E.J. Evangelos
Stable: Mary Ann Caldwell
Election: Ken Robinson
Roads: Nolan Zisman
Information: Carol Leyba
Neighborhood Watch: Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker
Facilities & Grounds: Fred Raznick

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



PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH

Fun times this September at the annual barbecue sponsored by El Dorado's and the State's finest Fire and Rescue Service.



PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH

Tom Miller Resigns

Board President and Director **Tom Miller** has resigned from the Board of ECIA. Tom served on the Board as a Director and then was elected as the Board's President. His dedication to and foresight on behalf of the community of Eldorado will be missed. We wish Tom well and thank him for his service to our community.

—*Ed Benrock, ECIA President*

ERA News

Inspired by our highly successful Doggie Pool Party, dog owners are in the process of forming an Eldorado dog owners' club. If you would like to be involved and help organize fun events for your dog, contact **Freddie Hetler** at 466-2005.

The Eldorado Mobility Committee held a series of public hearings in October to gather ideas and suggestions to improve our Eldorado Express Bus Service. You can enter your ideas by going to www.eldoradocommunity.org and responding to the bus survey. For additional information, contact **John Whitbeck** (466-4436) or **Jessica Boinoff** (466-4355), Committee Co-chairpersons.

—*Bruce Blossman, ERA President*

The Wisdom Eye

On Tuesday, November 11, a free public talk with **Gen Kelsang Choma**, Resident Teacher at Santa Fe's Tushita Buddhist Center, will be held at the Eldorado Community Center Railroad Building 7-8:30 pm. This begins a new series, "Opening the Wisdom Eye." Through developing our own wisdom, we can maintain a calm and peaceful mind all the time. We will grow our inner strength, become happier and progress quickly on the spiritual path.

Meals on Wheels Looking for Drivers

The Adam Senior Center's Meals on Wheels Program (MOW) is expanding to include other communities in the area. Already there are MOW clients in Galisteo, and there is hope to include Glorieta and Cañada de los Alamos, to name a few. The program continues to serve homebound seniors in the Eldorado area, but it would be so helpful to have additional drivers to add to the current list. For information and to volunteer, contact 466-9765.

EACA Life Drawing

Informal life drawing workshops are open to all on Monday mornings 10-12 (except holidays) at the Eldorado Community Center Railroad Bldg., sponsored by the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association. Shared model's fee: \$6-9. For more information, go to www.eldoradoarts.org or contact **Mary Fredenburgh** at 466-4284.



Mobile Health Van in Eldorado

The Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van will be at the Adam Senior Center on November 12, 10 am-2 pm. The Health Van offers, free of charge, blood pressure and glucose screening, referral to low-cost physicians and providers, free health information in English and Spanish, and community health fair information such as flu clinics and low-cost breast and prostate screenings. Free flu shots will also be available.

EGOT! Survey

Eldorado Gas and Oil Team (EGOT!) has just released a first attempt to determine what ordinary citizens of Santa Fe County think about aspects of potential gas & oil drilling within our county's borders. If you'd like a copy of the report, contact **Doug Stewart**, Coordinator, EGOT!, stewart@rt66.com.

Mount Rushmore Tour for Seniors

The Adam Senior Center presents a tour of Mount Rushmore and the Black Hills of South Dakota, May 17-23, 2009: 7 days and 6 nights is \$570 per person, double occupancy. This includes 10 meals (6 breakfasts and 4 dinners, gratuities included). Deposits of \$75 per person must be received by Nov. 7, 2008. For information, call **Dolores Brock**, 466-3848 or **Pat Kuhlhoff**, 466-4877.

Election Signs

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.

—*Bill Donohue, ECIA General Manager*

PTA Hosts Holiday Fundraiser

Christmas time will be here before you know it! El Dorado Community School PTA will be trying a new fundraiser this year: We invite you to purchase a "live" Christmas tree/wreath from the school. The tree selection will be The Douglas Firs, The Noble Firs and The Grand Firs. Tree sizes range from 5 or 6 feet to 8 or 9 feet. Wreath sizes are 22 inches. Watch the school marquee for sale dates (mid-November). Tree delivery date will be the week of December 13. All funds from this event will be put back into our children's classrooms for enrichment. Please continue your support for the El Dorado PTA. If you have questions, you can reach a member of the PTA Board by calling the school at (505) 467-4901.



ASTRONOMY Corner

CHOOSING BINOCULARS

Binoculars come in all sizes and prices. With their use, the sky offers a whole new dimension, but which ones are best for your astronomical journey? There are many advantages to a pair of binoculars, compared with a telescope, as a first astronomical instrument: cost, weight, size and availability. My first choices for astronomy are 10x50 and 7x50. The first numbers (10 and 7) indicate the magnification; the second number (50) is the diameter in millimeters of each front lens.

With binoculars in a dark sky, you can see star clusters in Sagittarius and Scorpio, and you can even see the Andromeda galaxy and, of course, the Moon.

— Juan Alvarez
jalva88610@aol.com

Protect our night skies; keep outside lights low or off when not needed.

E-Waste Day at Eldorado Transfer Station

The Eldorado Transfer Station on US 285 is having a special waste disposal day for electronic equipment on Saturday, December 13. Dispose of your old computers, monitors, printers, copiers, scanners, plotters, peripherals, telecommunication equipment, servers, phone systems, security equipment, UPS systems, cell phones, and VCRs. Items NOT accepted include TVs and household appliances such as vacuums, refrigerators, washers, dryers. Solid Waste permits will be punched with drop-off E-waste. For more info call 992-3010 or 992-3025.

November Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

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

NOVEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Daylight Savings Time Ends	Sunday, November 2	Fall back 1 hour	
Eldorado Arts & Crafts show	Sat. & Sun., November 8-9		School
Thanksgiving Day	Thurs., November 27	Have a Great Holiday!	

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Committee	Tues., November 4, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., November 11, 4 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., November 12, 10-noon	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., November 12, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., November 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., November 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., November 25, 7-9 pm	Carol Leyba	466-1158	LR
Architectural Committee	Wed., November 26, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., November 25, 7-9 pm	Bonita Mamp	466-4271	CR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Shakespeare Group	Tues., November 11, 2-4:30 pm	Andy Dobek	466-0223	CFR
Search & Rescue	Thurs., November 13, 6:30-9:30 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
La Canada Wireless	Mon., November 10 & 24, 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		Library
Roadrunners RV Club	Tues., November 18, 6 pm	Beverly Cottingham	466-4655	Fire
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	John Kieling	466-4232	Sm Gym
MOMS Club	Mon., November 17, 3-5 pm	Mandie Rippey	795-4086	
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	466-6398	
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245	Fire
EAW&SD*	Thurs, November 6 & 20, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/RR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7:15-8:30 pm			LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Ramon Quintana	757-6424	RR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thurs., 6:30-8:30 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	New gym
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
Senior Lunch**	M, W & F, 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Figure Drawing	Mon., 10 am-noon	Sande Anderson	466-4688	RR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 6 pm	Scott Gerber	466-9333	CC field

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Academy of Leadership in Its First Year

EL DORADO COMMUNITY SCHOOL has begun its first year for middle-school students with new teachers and an exciting new curriculum. The 6th and 7th grade program, called the Academy of Leadership, is currently holding classes in preexisting school space as well as in one portable science lab building. The Academy teachers include **Anita Navrot** (7th grade math and 6th grade world history), **Brian Delay** (6th grade language arts and 6th/7th grade history), **Suzanne Rodriguez** (6th grade science and math), **Scott Larson** (7th grade science and 6th grade math), and **Jamie Guevarra** (6th and 7th grade language arts).

In addition to these core curriculum classes, this year students can choose from eight elective classes, including Spanish, art, band, orchestra, chorus, 6th grade current events, academic lab and physical education. The current events class is currently doing research on the 2008 election. The Academy also has started an experimental outdoor learning program involving Vertical Ventures, Inc., which convenes monthly for two hours. This program adheres to a

“learning by doing” philosophy and encourages team efforts in such activities as rock climbing, gardening and environmental projects. Students in this program will culminate at the end of the year by attending a three-day backpacking trip. Students at the Academy will also be working closely with other Eldorado community organizations, such as Vista Grande Public Library, the Senior Center, and El Dorado Fire and Rescue, in a leadership/mentoring program on Friday afternoons. This program teaches students about community responsibilities and leadership through community and global projects.

A sports program has not been offered yet at the Academy. However, students have been able to play on the De Vargas Middle School football team this year and will have basketball tryouts in the fall for the De Vargas or Capshaw teams.

Plans are currently being developed for additional classrooms for 2009-2010. These building plans are contingent on passage of the school bond in February 2009.

—Lisa Robles

Facilities & Grounds Committee News

THE FACILITIES AND GROUNDS Committee was created in the winter of 2008 in part to assist in the long-range planning for the Community Center and its surrounding 28 acres. The committee generally meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 4 pm in the Community Center Board Room (though because of the election, this month’s meeting will be held on the second Tuesday, November 11). Meetings are open and anyone can attend.

Since our inception we have been developing the protocol for a long-range master plan for the 28 acres. A physical survey of the acreage, showing the boundaries and location of all existing buildings and amenities—such as the soccer field, dog park, tennis and basketball courts, swimming pool, playground, and paved access—is needed. Such information is vital for understanding exactly what is in place and where.

We are presently reviewing data collected in 2006 to assess whether ECIA should build an additional freestanding multi-use building. We have contacted some 40+ frequent users to get a sense of their needs. If it appears that the community does

need additional space, we will determine an appropriate site for the facility, obtain construction cost estimates, and perform a cost-benefit analysis. Only then, if the analysis looks favorable, will we send our findings to the Finance Committee, and ultimately to the Board, for their review. The Board, at any time, may direct that public meetings be held to get broader community input for such a proposal.

In 2008, benches were added in the playground and basketball areas, and two horseshoe pits were installed between the dog park and swimming pool. The deteriorating athletic field fencing was replaced with new split-rail fencing, and the flooring in the Railroad Building next to the Community Center was also replaced.

We are planning on replacing the old furniture in the Community Center living room with new and more comfortable furniture that better fits community needs.

The committee is also working to revise the “rental agreement” and rules and regulations concerning loud and/or amplified music at the Community Center and its surroundings. Committee recommendations on both issues will soon be made to the Board.

Residents’ comments, concerns, and attendance at our meetings are welcome.

—Fred Raznick, *Chairperson*

New soccer field fencing

PHOTO BY CAROL LEYBA



Neighborhood Watch

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the security of Eldorado residents.

“How? you may ask. You can participate in the Eldorado Neighborhood Watch (NW) program. NW was developed in 1972 by the National Sheriffs’ Association to help reduce burglaries in residential neighborhoods. Studies show that NW programs can reduce crime, including burglaries, by as much as 75%.

“How does it work?” You simply have to be observant and report suspicious neighborhood activities to the county sheriff or to Eldorado security.

“But I’m not qualified to do this.” Yes you are. You only need to be observant and willing to get involved in a non-dangerous way by reporting activities by telephone to the authorities.

“But I really don’t have the time.” The time commitment of NW participants is negligible; in general, you simply go about your usual activities while being more observant.

“This is a great program. What if I want to do more?” If your street does not have a block captain, here is the perfect opportunity to get involved. Block captains spend a minimal amount of time organizing their neighbors into a team that watches out for one another. They distribute program information and communicate regularly with their neighbors, mainly

via e-mail. Eldorado NW has increased the number of block captains from a just handful to 76, but needs more to reach its goal of 250.

You can also volunteer for behind-the-scenes tasks such as data entry or working on the new computer mapping project. You can also staff outreach tables, assemble block captain kits, take notes at quarterly meetings or help with other needed tasks. Eldorado Neighborhood Watch is run by resident volunteers, has grown considerably and needs your involvement.

Finally, you can get involved with the new Volunteer Observation Patrol (VOP) program (see the August edition of *Vistas*). VOP is being organized into teams of two residents each, who volunteer to drive around Eldorado in two-hour shifts serving as eyes and ears for the sheriff.

You can read the Neighborhood Watch mission statement and get other information on our website at www.eldoradocommunity.org. Click on the Neighborhood Watch link. If your street has no active NW program and you want to get one started, or if you find the VOP program appealing, please contact Marilyn Walker (lightwalker2@comcast.net), 466-2553, or Larry Eccard (desertraat@comcast.net) to begin making a difference.

—Ken Pinter, Eldorado Neighborhood Watch



Studies show that NW programs can reduce crime, including burglaries, by as much as 75%

Dirt Roads 102

AS YOU MAY HAVE NOTED, the County has been trying a slightly different approach to grading our dirt roads. Where practical, the grader is pushing the side of the road back toward the original bar ditches (if they exist), thereby opening water flow access to driveway culverts that haven’t been exposed for many years. Several roads have been earmarked by the County for this special grading, and your Road Committee is putting together a list of additional candidates.

This grading technique has two advantages: runoff will keep the culverts open, and water that used to pool on or at the side of the roadways will be diverted off the driving lanes. Where water stays off the top of the roadway, deep ruts and excessively muddy spots are less likely to form, leaving roads more passable where they have been graded in this manner.

During a recent road inspection, however, Road Committee members noticed that many driveways have no culverts. In many of these cases, the driveway also sits at a higher elevation than the roadway. Under both these conditions, water running along-

side the roadway, with no culvert to move through, runs in front of the driveway and forms a small gully. After last July’s rains, some of these gullies were fairly wide and deep. So, between speeding vehicles and the absence of culverts, road grading will have to be done more frequently, and ultimately the roads will get lower and the gap between the driveway and roadway higher. If you have driveway culverts, you can help reduce this cycle by keeping your culverts open and free of debris that may otherwise inhibit the flow of water.

—Nolan Zisman, Chair, ECIA Road Committee



Photo by www.ejmagazine.com/2006b/raingardens.htm

Driveway culvert



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

Win a Private Soak at 10,000 Waves!



RECYCLE!

Start Today and Make a Difference!



Recycling 1 aluminum can = enough energy saved to power a TV for 3 hours
Recycling a 3 ft. high stack of newspaper = 1 tree preserved
Recycling 5 plastic bottles = 1 XL T-shirt or 1 sq. ft. of carpet

For more information about Waste Management's Curbside service call 473-0982

For more information about recycling at the Eldorado Transfer Station call 992-3010

For additional information on what and where to recycle, please visit www.recyclenewmexico.com

Get Caught Recycling in Santa Fe! Recycle and win!

Throughout the month of November, random winners at homes, businesses, transfer stations & drop offs will be chosen throughout the city and county.

Set out your curbside recyclables for Waste Management or take them to the Eldorado Transfer Station and you could win a gift card to O'hori's Coffee, a tub for 2 at 10,000 Waves, \$10 off at Rapid Refill Ink, and more!

THANK YOU to our generous sponsors:
*City of Santa Fe *Santa Fe County *Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency *Waste Management *Intel Corporation *SBM Site Services *Dex *Sandia National Laboratories *Keep NM Beautiful *NM Clean & Beautiful