

# ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 11

November 2009

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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](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org)

## ECIA Architectural Committee

### AN EYE-OPENING MEETING

**I**T IS VERY LIKELY THAT EVERY resident who has hosted a guest at his or her home here has been asked the question, “How do you keep this community looking so good?” Thanks to a county ordinance that forbids, among other things, the construction of strip malls and roadside billboards (with one or two “grandfathered” exceptions), views around us have not been spoiled. To answer the above question, it can truly be said that the present “good looks” of our place on the planet have been preserved over the years by the hard work of the ECIA Architectural Advisory Committee.

**Bill Schwent**, the chairman of the committee, is a U.S. Army veteran and saw service as a combat pilot with the 11th Armored Cavalry regiment during the Vietnam War. As a committee chair, his “combat” today is less physically dangerous but in some ways no less grueling. I saw the committee in action at a recent meeting, dealing with such subjects as fencing, building colors, roofing styles and materials, construction setbacks, view obstruction complaints, building elevations, neighbor complaints and lighting issues, and I thought that their knowledge and dedication is the first line of defense in maintaining our property values here.

The Architectural Committee, as it is most often called, is the one volunteer organization of the ECIA which must, because of the volume of its work and the rules pertaining to its activities, meet at least twice monthly. The meeting I observed began at 7 pm and was still going strong when I left it at 9 pm. The average time of service for its members is remarkable, at over six years. In addition to Bill Schwent, others on the committee include **Ralph Heimberg, Babs Peck, Praxedes Salazar, Dan Drobnis, Lauren Sato, Lisa Smith** and **Philip Balcombe**.

It is both interesting and instructive to see the Architectural Review Committee in action. Its members are as serious as those on a grand jury, but the proceedings show some ease and humor on occasion.

Committee members try to balance community and neighbor concerns with the needs of the individual homeowner—a far from easy task. During one exchange, a committee member referred to a planned construction as “ugly as sin,” but this was deemed unparliamentary by the chairman, and the record reflected that the member thought the proposed addition was “inappropriate.”

The committee has taken advantage of relatively new technological resources in recent years. Every plan it considers and the visual substance of every complaint that it deals with are now part of a Powerpoint presentation at its meetings. Members are able to review both applications and the details of construction.

The mission and guidelines for the Architectural Committee can be found in the first part of our Covenants, which reads “Architectural Styles of Santa Fe’ shall mean and refer to the design motifs of Santa Fe, New Mexico, characterized by stucco or adobe walls, flat or pitched roofs, red tile or metal roofs, earth colors, vigas, portals, verandas, courtyards, patios and walkways, occasionally incorporating design elements of metal, stone, brick, wood and stained glass. These design motifs are derived from the Spanish Pueblo, Mexican colonial, Northern New Mexico, Territorial and Mission styles of architecture.”

The above is indeed a useful guide, but the real work in making it a reality for our community is, as our British cousins might say, “a very difficult commission indeed.”

Among things to be grateful for on Thanksgiving Day this year is the work of our ECIA volunteers. The work of our Architectural Review Committee is one example of the hard work and dedication on which our community depends.

**NOTE:** This is the first of a series of articles that *Vistas* will publish detailing the work of its volunteer committees.

—Frank Schober

*ECIA Board  
Work Study  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center, Mon.,  
Nov 16, 7 pm*



Photo: Jack Arnold

## 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](mailto: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.

## Reminder: Slow Down

**I T HAS BECOME EVIDENT** lately that there are several new cars on our street (Moya Road). The drivers may not be aware of our speed limit, or maybe they're just intent on rushing to work, having gotten a late start.

Many years ago I used to be in the habit of driving very fast and was called "Italian Race Driver" by some of my friends. At the time I thought this was rather cute. Well, no more! I realized that it was much kinder to respect my neighbors' safety and comfort, particularly since I am quite often the recipient of billowing clouds of dust on the side of the road while walking my dogs and am very grateful to the drivers who slow down when they see us. It is definitely not worth the two or five minutes of travel time we might save by putting people, small children, and animals at risk.

Thank you for keeping our community safe and let's appreciate what we have here in Eldorado.

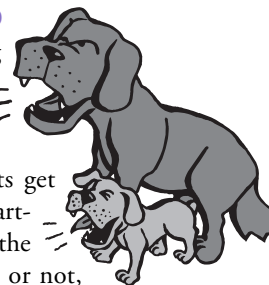
—Gudrun Hoerig

## Cold and Lonely

### I AM CONCERNED

about dog-owning neighbors who leave their dogs outside all night, barking and bereft. As the nights get colder and colder, it is heartless to leave a dog out in the cold all night, doghouse or not, and if you tether your dog as well, that might even be grounds for being reported to the humane society. Please, have some compassion, for your animal and your neighbors. If you're at work all day, the dog often barks out of loneliness, so at least bring your pet inside to be with you at night. The argument I've heard most often is "Dogs are meant to be outdoors" or "He's an outdoor dog." But no animal wants to be cold and separated from its owner hour after hour, day after day. That's what they're trying to tell you by barking all night long!

—Jill Koenigsdorf



## Mailbox Tampering and Identity Theft

**ELDORADO CRIME STATISTICS** were down for the month of August. This is great news, and we believe that neighborhoods organizing and communicating via Neighborhood Watch contribute to this. One thing new and troublesome, however, is reports of mailbox tampering. Although only one report was significant because a neighbor was able to report details of the tampering, other suspicious activity at mailboxes has been reported.

Most often, criminals tamper with mailboxes and rummage through garbage cans because they are looking for checks, personal identifying information (like Social Security numbers), personal or professional records such as bank statements, medical, or homeowner's and auto insurance information, and credit card numbers. This information could allow someone to commit fraud in any number of ways.

The Federal Trade Commission website ([www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)) reports that "as many as 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year. Identity thieves may rent an apartment, obtain a credit card, or establish a telephone account in your name. You may not find out about the theft until you review your credit report or a credit card statement and notice charges you didn't make—or until you're contacted by a debt collector. . . . While some identity theft victims can resolve their problems quickly, others spend hundreds of dollars and many days repairing damage to their good name and credit record. Some con-

sumers victimized by identity theft may lose out on job opportunities, or be denied loans for education, housing, or cars because of negative information on their credit reports. In rare cases, they may even be arrested for crimes they did not commit."

Although mailbox tampering and dumpster diving are not the only means by which identity theft can occur, these are the means by which Neighborhood Watch can help. Report suspicious activity around or to mailboxes and garbage cans.

**TIP OF THE MONTH:** Shred sensitive documents with a home shredder or use a professional shredder that shreds on-site and receives a Certificate of Destruction.

### AUGUST CRIME STATISTICS:

Mailbox tampering: 1

Burglary: 1

### SEPTEMBER CRIME STATS:

Attempted break-in: 1

Suspicious vehicles: 3

Gunshots fired: Multiple reports

Next meeting: Monday, Nov. 2, 2009, at 7 pm in the Community Center Classroom. **Detective Martinez** of the Santa Fe Police Department will speak on gang activity. For more information contact **Marilyn Walker** at [lightwalker2@comcast.net](mailto:lightwalker2@comcast.net).

—Lyn deMartin

# From the President's Desk

## Thoughts Worth Thinking about Our Organization, the ECIA

**I HAVE REFLECTED, DURING MY TIME** as president of your Board, why someone at our beginnings over a quarter of a century ago gave us the name Eldorado Community Improvement Association. It is a name unlike those most often used to designate homeowner associations. Even though we often use our acronym—the ECIA—it is important to keep the goal contained in our name in mind: to be always in a state of making our lives better in this community.

Two factors make us a success and distinguish us from the typical homeowner association. First, we have a small and very dedicated professional staff led by **Bill Donohue**, our General Manager. **Debby Padilla**, our Office Manager, is often the “voice of the ECIA,” responding to calls from our members, which range from simple requests for information to difficult-to-answer questions such as “Is this snake in my yard poisonous?” and, more rarely, to complaints that she records and gets a response to.

**Mark Young**, our Covenants Compliance Representative, works tirelessly to enforce—and explain—the rules that keep our community looking as it was designed to look: beautiful and in the style that keeps it unique and maintains our property values.

Responding to walk-in inquiries at the Association's front desk at the Community Center is **DiAna Gutierrez**, and working outside in all types of weather maintaining our facilities, grounds, and amenities are **Domenic Shorty** and **Dominic Gallegos**.

The second factor is that our paid staff works with, attends the regular meetings of, and supports the programs of the volunteer Board and committees that make the ECIA the success that it is.

Some simple math will show the great advantage we have as an organization. Approximately 100 volunteers spread over nine committees—Architectural Review, Conservation, Elections, Facilities and Grounds, Finance, Information, Neighborhood Watch, Roads, and Stable—work with our paid staff and under the direction of your elected Board to support our community in each of their respective areas. The total number of volunteers account for less than 1.5% of our estimated population of 7,000 residents. It is safe to assume that each volunteer gives the national average of 12.5 hours per month of time and talent to support the work of his/her committee—for a combined 15,000 hours a year. If we paid our volunteers the state minimum wage of \$7.50 an hour, their work would cost our association \$112,500 a year and force us—if we wanted to maintain our present provision of services and amenities—to increase our assessments in a major way (and in line with homeowner associations that lack the same level of volunteer commitment).

We have a unique, good thing going in the Eldorado Community Improvement Association. Help maintain and improve that good thing with your time and talent. We need it to succeed.

*Ed Benrock, ECIA President*

## Annual Assessment of \$300 Proposed

### Finance Recommendation to the Board

**FOR 2010, THE ECIA BOARD** has received a recommended Association Budget from the Finance Committee that includes an increase in the annual assessment to \$300. The final budget is subject to Board action, and will be presented at a public hearing on Saturday, November 7, at 10 am in the Community Center Railroad Room. (Note the date: an incorrect date was cited in the October *Vistas*.) Adoption of the FY 2010 Budget is expected at the regular Board meeting on Thursday, November 19, at 7 pm in the Community Center Classroom.

This year for the first time, an option is proposed for payment by credit card, but an additional \$15 would be charged on credit card payments to defray processing costs.

For the last eight years, the ECIA has maintained its annual assessment constant at \$240. In that time,

inflation—as indicated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index—has totaled 21.6%. This inflation has affected the wages and benefits for full-time and summer staff, costs of materials and services, equipment, repairs and maintenance, and the allowance for our amenity and facility Replacement Reserve. In addition, since the assessment can only be increased every two years, the assessment for 2010 is an upper limit for 2011 as well.

Details of the proposed 2010 budget will be available online to ECIA members on Monday, November 2, at [www.eldoradocommunity.org/outside\\_home.asp](http://www.eldoradocommunity.org/outside_home.asp), or in printed form at the ECIA office. Since the detailed budget relates to operation of the Association, it is available only to ECIA members. If you have not already established it, a website member login is available at the tab on the top far left of the home page.

*—Dan Drobnis*

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**Finance: Dan Drobnis**

**Architecture: Bill Schwent**

**Conservation: John Parker & E.J. Evangelos**

**Stable: Bonita Mamp**

**Election:**

**Roads: Nolan Zisman**

**Information: Frank Schober**

**Neighborhood Watch:**

**Larry Eccard & Marilyn Walker**

**Facilities & Grounds:**

**Fred Raznick**

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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Vista Grande Library**

**466-READ**

**Security**

**204-2945**

**Fire and Rescue**

**466-1204**

**County All Purpose**

**820-CNTY (2689)**





The Depot Dancers square off at the Community Center



Diane Thomas will be featured at the Library's Author Talk Nov. 12.



Cheryl McChesney (*Encounter* #3, oil on canvas panel, 20x24) will be showing her work at the Fall Holiday Arts & Crafts Show, Nov. 7-8.

## Dancing the Night Away

The Depot Dancers square dance club in Eldorado provides square dancing activities to area residents. Dances are held every Friday night at the Eldorado Community Center. Classes for beginners are being held 7-8 pm. Dancing for experienced Mainstream dancers follow, at 8-9 pm.

Square dancing has been called "friendship set to music." Wherever you travel, the local square dance clubs welcome you as family. If you move, the transition to your new environment is greatly eased by your immediate welcome into the local square dance club. The friendship circle naturally expands when club members visit other nearby clubs to dance, such as those clubs in Albuquerque and Los Alamos.

Although derived from old European dances, square dance as performed today is a truly American dance. Anywhere you go in the world, the square dance "calls" are in English, the same ones we learn here. Many of the basic square dance movements are the same ones found in modern Contra dances.

A "square" is made up of four couples forming a square. A couple may be of any gender. Ages of square dancers vary from pre-teens to 80+. The dancers move in steps and patterns as announced by a "caller." Square dancing is performed to a wide variety of music, including oldies, country western, pop, rock, gospel and even Christmas music. A single evening of square dancing has been reported to provide the exercise equivalent of a five-mile walk.

Additional information can be obtained from **Richard Robinson** at 466-7319 or from the Depot Dancers at [www.xoweb.com/DepotDancers.htm](http://www.xoweb.com/DepotDancers.htm).

## New Play Equipment Coming

Parents, be on the lookout for new play equipment for the 5- to 12-year-olds. It is on schedule for completion by Thanksgiving, so if you and your curious ones would like to venture out in the cold during the break from school, come on by the Community Center playground and have fun this winter.

## Library Events for November 2009

Vista Grande Public Library continues its Author Talk series on Thursday, November 12, at 7 pm, when longtime Georgia writer **Diane Thomas**, now living in Eldorado, speaks on "Growing up White in the Segregated South." Her debut novel, *The Year the Music Changed* (Toby Press, 2005), is set in 1955 Atlanta. Presented as a correspondence between a facially disfigured teenage girl who yearns to be a poet and an up-and-coming country singer named Elvis Presley, it deals with race as one



of its themes. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* reviewer compared the book with Harper Lee's classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* and called it "the most satisfying novel I have read in a long, long time."

Also note: VGPL Writers Group now meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays, 3-5 pm, at the library. Interested poets, memoirists, and fiction writers, call **Hannah Burling**, 466-9306, for information.

## Dog Show and Adoption Event

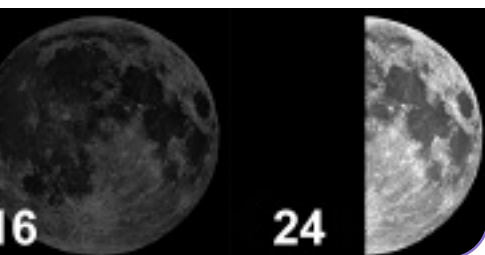
Polish up your tricks, create those costumes, and head on over to the Eldorado Dog Club Fall Dog Show/Adoption event, Sunday, November 1, at the main fire station, 1-4 pm. Among the award categories are Best Trick, Best Costume, Cutest, Shortest, Tallest, and Best Kisser. First-, second-, and third-place ribbons will be awarded for each category, plus the grand prize for Best in Show parade. For more info, contact **Judy Anderson** 466-2108.

Also, a number of animal rescue groups will be there with a variety of wonderful dogs available for adoption. Help support their work by adopting a dog or contributing monies for spaying, neutering, feed and needed medical care. Or just come and have fun seeing and giving love to all the animals. We look forward to seeing you there!

Eldorado Dog Club will be hosting a talk from **Lynn Keller**, Hospital Administrator at the Emergency Animal Clinic of Santa Fe. She will be discussing the new hospital and specialty clinic. She will explain what services they offer and what equipment they have that allows local veterinarians to better serve their clients. This Dog Club meeting will be held Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 7 pm in the Clubhouse living room. For more information, please call Freddi at 466-2005.

## Eldorado Energy Coop (EEC)

With winter soon upon us, would you like to know where heat is escaping from your home, where you're paying for electricity you don't use...and more? Call the Eldorado Carbon-Busters! We'll do a free home energy review and recommend simple changes that will save \$\$\$ and reduce your carbon usage. Sign up today! Contact **Amy Bertelli** at 466-1624, [amysue@cybermesa.com](mailto:amysue@cybermesa.com), or **Deborah Boldt** at 466-2295, [dboldt23@gmail.com](mailto:dboldt23@gmail.com).



### The Eldorado Spiritual Coop

Eldorado Spiritual Cooperative is a non-hierarchical, meditative sharing that helps fuel the rest of the coops. Come join us on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 5:45-7:15 pm, in the school library. Be part of a wave of change here in Eldorado, in a spirit-filled way! Call **Don McAvinchey** at 955-1847.

### The Eldorado Food Coop

The Eldorado Food Cooperative meets once a month and/or as needed. Our food interests include better access to locally produced food; ways to gain more knowledge, information, and skills about food production, preparation, and preserving; community interaction; foods that are any or all of the following: local, organic, minimally processed, home produced, cost effective, cruelty free. For more information about the group, contact **Fox** at foxwoman22@hotmail.com, 231-0892 or **Carole Tashel** at Ctashel@cybermesa.com, 466-6153.

### Business Women's Network

A new group is forming: Eldorado Area Business Women's Network. They are now meeting once a month (2nd Fridays), noon-2:30, in the Railroad Bldg. If you want to network with other businesswomen and help your business grow, bring your lunch and a beverage and join in. Contact **Beth Prothro**, 466-2163.

### Voter Registration Updates

SF County Clerk **Valerie Espinoza** reminds voters to keep their voter registration file up to date. Call the Clerk's office at 986-6280 to see what information is currently in your file. Check your name, residence address, mailing address, and party affiliation. If your file needs updating, call and ask for a Voter Registration form, or go to 102 Grant St. in downtown Santa Fe.

# November Events

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

Email [info@eldoradocommunity.org](mailto: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

Arts & Crafts Show	Sat./Sun., Nov 7-8, 10-5	Virginia Westray	466-9133	School
2010 Budget Public Hearing	Sat., Nov 7, 10-12 Noon	ECIA Board	466-4248	RR

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Road Committee	Mon., Nov 2, 6-8 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Nov 3, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	LR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., Nov 3, 4-6 pm	Fred Raznick	466-2305	F
Finance Committee	Sat., Nov 7, after Hearing	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	RR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Nov 11 & 25, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	F
Board Work Study	Mon., Nov 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Nov 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Tues., Nov 24, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., Nov 24, 7-9 pm	Bonnie Mamp	466-4271	LR
Neighborhood Watch	Tues., Nov 2, 7-9 pm	Marilyn Walker	466-2553	CFR

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Search & Rescue	Thurs., Nov 12, 6:30-9:30 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mondays, 7-9	lcwireless.org		Library
Eldorado Dog Club	2nd Tuesday, 7-9	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	LR
Business Women's Network	2nd Friday, 12:30-2 pm	Beth Prothro	466-2163	RR
Library Book Group	3rd Monday, 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tuesday, 7-9 pm	John Kieling	466-4232	Sm Gym
Preserve Hike	3rd Saturday of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949	
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tuesday of month	Bill Bodle	466-3011	
EACA Meeting	Last Thursday of month	Virginia Westray	466-9133	Fire
EAW&SD*	Thurs, Nov 5 & 19, 7-9 pm		466-2411	CR
Book Group	2nd Saturday, 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
VGPL Writers Group	2nd & 4th Sunday, 3-5	Hannah Burling	466-9300	VGPL

## WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			LR
AlAnon	Thurs, 6:45-7:45 pm			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon, 1-4:30 pm	Kate Kaulbach	466-1465	LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-12 noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Church	Sun., 9:30 & 11 am	David McPherson	466-2495	CC
Community Band	Thurs., 6:30-8:30 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	New gym
Eldorado Hikers	Tue., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC pkng
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, Thurs & F, 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR

\*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

\*\*Reservations Required

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

## Volunteers to the Rescue

**EL DORADO FIRE AND RESCUE** Service (EFRS) is responsible for an area of approximately 100 square miles. In addition to servicing the Eldorado community, they respond to calls along the Highway 285 corridor, from Interstate 25 south to White Lakes. The department also has an interacting agreement with the Hondo, Glorieta, and Galisteo fire departments when called upon.

The main Eldorado station house is located on Avenida Vista Grande near the Eldorado Community School. There are two other station houses within the Eldorado community from which the department

can dispatch personnel and equipment. Each of the Fire and Medical responders are alerted by pager when a 911 call comes in.

The all-volunteer fire and rescue personnel include individuals with a mix of many different backgrounds. Although some are retired, most still have their “day jobs.”

**Fire Chief Guy Monroe** is employed by the Santa Fe Indian School in the Fire, Safety, and Medical spectrum for the school.

**Assistant Fire Chief Chris Werhane** is the New Mexico State Director of Challenge, which works with disabled people of all ages.

Chief Monroe says they are always delighted to have new people join their ranks, and you don’t have to be “fire-fighting” ready, or “medical-alert” ready, nor trained to be so. Some of the volunteers take care of other tasks, such as cutting grass around 60-odd fire hydrants; others do photocopying and similar jobs.

The department conducts training Wednesday evenings 7–9 pm. This ongoing training is one of the elements considered in a fire service rating and is among the criteria that determine homeowners’ insurance rates. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest rating, EFRS has a 4 rating. Their equipment includes Thermal Imaging. The Thermal Imaging technology can see through walls, so to speak. It can determine if a wall is on fire or not, which may prevent damage to the structure and undue waste of water.

Of the 28 men and women volunteers, 13 are emergency medical technicians (EMTs). When a medical emergency 911 call is made, the call goes to a dispatcher who in turn routes the call to the pager system. An EMT will probably arrive at the scene before an ambulance gets there, and hopefully within 5 minutes of the 911 call.

Eldorado is fortunate to have the services of these dedicated volunteers.

—Jackie Koger



Photo by Jackie Koger

Fire Chief Guy Monroe and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Werhane

## Adam Senior Center

**NEW PAINTING CLASS.** We are pleased to announce that **Janet Amtmann**, well-known Eldorado artist, has offered to teach a painting class at the Senior Center. The class started on Tuesday, October 20, and runs from 1:30 to 3:30 every Tuesday for 8 weeks. Space is limited to 8 participants, so stop by the Adam Center to sign up or phone us at 466-1039 to register. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn from an award-winning master!

**MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM.** The need for home-delivered meals is growing quickly in this area of Santa Fe County, and we need more drivers to help with the expanding routes. We deliver lunch every weekday (Monday–Friday), except for County holidays, to seniors from Arroyo Hondo to Galisteo and all spots in between. We would like to expand to Glorieta and Cañoncito, but we do not have drivers to cover those routes. Most drivers only drive one day/week or even one day every two weeks. We also

need substitute drivers to fill in on an occasional basis. If you would like to make a big difference in the life of a senior by driving for Meals on Wheels, please call **Pat Lavengood** at 466-9765 or the Center at 466-1039.

### **STRENGTH TRAINING CLASS CORRECTION.**

Our new strength training class has met with an enthusiastic response! The class is offered every Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:30 and is taught by **Neela**, from Eldorado Physical Therapy (not Eldorado Physical Fitness, as I mistakenly stated last month—my apologies for this error). Come on over and join in the class; a good time is definitely being had by all!

**OTHER CLASSES.** And while we are on the subject, the Center also offers the following fitness classes:

**Chair Yoga:** Mondays, 10:30–11:30 am; Fridays, 1:30–2:30 pm

**Tai Chi:** Wednesdays, 10:15–11:15 am.

All fitness classes are free of charge and are open to all seniors, no advance sign-up required!

—Cathy Berkley



# Observing the Night Sky

**WHAT'S THE BEST WAY** to start observing the night skies in Eldorado? Here are a few tips to get started.

1. Go outside and give yourself about 15–30 minutes for your eyes to adjust. You will see many more stars this way. Be sure you are away from any bright lights, even from your own house.
2. Use a planisphere (an inexpensive star chart with a revolving dial that you adjust to your date). Set the date on this dial, point the north dial toward north in the sky, and it will show you the brightest stars and their position in the night sky. Use of night sky software is helpful too, but harder to take outside.
3. Start by using your eyes to locate stars, notice their patterns (constellations), positions, colors, and brightnesses. Redder stars are larger and hotter and typically don't last very long before they explode and burn out.
4. If you don't have a telescope, most experts agree that the best place to start is with a pair of binoculars.

Binoculars have several advantages over telescopes: they are less expensive, are easier to maneuver and find stars (it can take quite some time to find particular stars, planets, or comets with a telescope), and have a larger field of view (which means you can see more stars in one view than in almost any telescope). The best general suggestion for the type of binocular is a good 10x50 (meaning a 10-power by 50 mm lens) pair with "porro prisms." Other prism designs, such as those that allow you to look in a straight line through the binocular (called "roof" prisms), are not recommended for astronomical use. If you get a binocular that is larger than 10x (ten power), you are likely to see more hand-shakiness in your viewing. If you get a lens larger than 50 mm, you see objects better and brighter, but it may be too heavy to hold for long periods of time. A "stabilized" binocular can be especially good for astronomical use, but is considerably more expensive.

—David Goodrich



10x50 porro prism binoculars

## Bewick's Wren

**THIS PERKY LITTLE BIRD** lives in Eldorado year round. The Bewick's Wren (BW) is 5.25 inches long with a wingspan of 7 inches. The chestnut head has a white line from the beak over the eye to the back of the head. Back, wings, and tail are a chestnut brown. The head is somewhat narrow, with a small dark eye and narrow, slightly curved bill. The belly and lower wings are light gray; the underneath of the rump and tail have dark bars. The tail seems long compared with the small body and is carried tipped up in a jaunty manner. Males and females are similar. The warning call is made up of thin buzzes and trills. The severe declines of Bewick's Wren in the eastern United States coincide with range expansion in the House Wren. It is suspected that the House Wren frequently removes BW eggs from nest cavities. However, western populations are stable.

I had multiple short glimpses of this little bird over several years, but usually did not get a clear view. The BW moves quickly on the ground, seems shy, and stays in thickets and underbrush.

Both male and female build a nest in a natural cavity, amid roots or in a brush pile. Grasses are used to make the nest suitable for eggs. Pairs are monogamous. The female lays five to seven eggs and does all of the incubation. Helpless young hatch in 12 to 14 days. Both parents feed the young, who fledge in 14 days. Food

includes insects and spiders gleaned off of foliage. Some berries and seeds are consumed in winter. A small number of birds may migrate to central Mexico during the winter months.

The male song shows large geographic variability. For example, an Arizona male has a short, simple song but may have 15 or more distinct songs. Colorado males have long, complex songs but only a few variations. Some studies of song development suggest that much of a species' specific song is learned. Birds raised in a soundproof room who never hear any bird songs (or even other noise) rarely develop anything that sounds like a song of their species. Nonmigratory groups of BWs may pick up the local dialect, which has slowly changed to be distinct in different geographical areas. Vocalization is used for defense of territory, and the BW defends its territory all year long. The BW male learns the song not from its father, but rather from the neighboring territorial males. The song repertoire, developed before the first winter, is retained for life.

—Pam Henline



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## *Fall Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair 2009*

*Security 204-2945  
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*Left to right: Deborah Klezmer, **Sustenance**, mixed-media glass, 56x20; Victoria De Almeida, **Restaurante**, acrylic on canvas, 16x20; Christine Drumright, **The Perfect Pouch handbag**, cotton & lambskin, 10x8*



The Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association is holding its annual Fall Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair on November 7–8, 2009, 10 am–5 pm. Fifty-seven artists will be showing their work at the Eldorado Community School on Torreon Avenue, just in time for holiday shopping.

On view will be fine art, wearable art, ceramics, jewelry, photography, sculpture, textiles, and glass-work—all in one venue.

Come support your local artists and your community. For more information, contact Cate Goedart at 670-6449 or go to [www.eldoradoarts.org](http://www.eldoradoarts.org).