

# ELDORADO AT SANTA FE VISTAS

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

ECIA, 1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

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## Keeping Eldorado Informed: Information Committee

Meet the Information Committee! This group is tasked with planning and, with the approval of the ECIA Board of Directors and efforts of ECIA staff, implementing communications between the Association and its members. The committee has primary responsibility for the regular production of the *Vistas* newsletter and maintenance of the association website, [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org). To meet these needs, the Association has been using the contract services of a graphic designer and a webmaster, who are also members of the committee. The Information Committee also provides input into the content and distribution of email alerts and messages posted on the community's outdoor marquees and bulletin boards.

A critical element of the committee's efforts is providing timely and useful information on significant developments in Association governance and policy. This includes information about Board elections, changes to ECIA by-laws, and modifications to the community's architectural guidelines. In addition, the committee seeks to disseminate stories about Eldorado's history and development. This task is greatly facilitated by vol-

unteer writers who provide pieces on the local flora and fauna and other wildlife in Eldorado.

The committee meets monthly to discuss ideas for upcoming issues of *Vistas* and the website. New members are always needed. Anyone with experience in writing and publishing is particularly encouraged to attend one of its meetings, but all members with an interest in community communications are welcome.

*Back row:* Jody Price (Board Liaison), Marilyn Farrell, DiAna Gutierrez, Gershon Siegel (Acting Chair). *Front:* Pam Henline (alt. Board Liaison), Dag Ryen, and Carol Leyba (*Vistas* Editor).



## Vistas Editor Retires

After nearly a decade as the heart and soul of this newsletter, our cracker-jack graphic designer and editor, **Carol Leyba**, has decided to hang up her red pencil. Through a long career in publishing, Carol has surely earned a break, but her keen eye and sense of balance will be sorely missed.

Carol began her career in publishing while studying art history at UCLA. She edited academic journals for many years from her base in Southern California. After a time, she and her artist husband wanted a change of pace and moved to New Mexico where they had family connections. The two spent a time in rural isolation in Glorieta and then in Villanueva before moving closer to Santa Fe, where Carol worked in town as production manager with High Mountain Press. Then, buoyed by longstanding contacts with academia, she decided to go freelance.

Carol began consultant work for the ECIA in 2007, first as editor of *Vistas*, and then within a year, as editor and graphic designer. She has been at it ever since.

"*Vistas* has been my way of keeping up with the community," Carol says. She is proud of maintaining the consistent quality of the newsletter, but admits there have been challenges. "When you are working with volunteers, getting people to follow through can be difficult," Carol says. She adds that divisive issues within the community occasionally put a strain on the work. "But all in all, the people of Eldorado and my colleagues on the Info Committee have been great," she says.

Carol has no firm plans for her retirement. "I've been supporting myself since I was 18. I don't really know who I'm going to be," she jests. As co-workers, we can assure her she will continue to be the dependable, competent, affable and diligent person she has always been.

—Dag Ryen



**ECIA Board  
Meeting,  
Community  
Center  
Railroad Bldg.  
Monday,  
Nov. 20, 7 PM**



*Share your  
comments  
with us!*

*For policy and  
deadline, see  
below*

## Editorial Policy

Vistas welcomes your ideas, stories, photos, and art. Please include full name and contact information. The newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, biased, or inappropriate. Submissions will be selected and edited at the discretion of the editor. Community announcements are welcome as well, along with accompanying photos.

**DEADLINE:** Newsletter deadline is the 5th day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or e-mailed to gloria@eldoradosf.org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

## Mission Statement

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

## Roadwork Updates

Work to apply recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) to select roads in Eldorado is continuing, albeit on a slower schedule than expected, due in large part to higher-priority, weather-sensitive road maintenance projects that required completion. Work on the RAP will continue through the fall and winter as weather permits.

At the time of this writing, Carlito, Estambre, Demora, and Juego roads have been completed. The list of roads identified to receive the RAP is available on the ECIA website: <http://eldoradosf.org/document/RAP%20Project%20Info%20Sheet%202017%2006.pdf>.

## Safety Reminders

The Santa Fe County Public Works Department and the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office advise:  
*Share the road.*

- ▼ Be on the lookout for bicyclists and pedestrians. Even as the weather cools, Eldorado residents are still out walking and bicycling along our roads and paths.
- ▼ When passing a bicyclist or pedestrian, motorists must do so slowly and safely. A minimum distance of three feet between a vehicle and the bicyclist or pedestrian is recommended.

*Motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists all share responsibility for traffic safety.*

- ▼ Bicyclists generally must obey all traffic laws when riding on roadways.
- ▼ Pedestrians crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.
- Slow down and obey the posted speed limit at all times.*
- ▼ The speed limit on the paved and gravel/dirt residential roads in Eldorado is 25 MPH; on feeder roads such as Ave. Vista Grande, Ave. Eldorado, and Caliente Road, it is from 25 to 40 MPH. When school is in session, the school zone speed is 15 MPH.
- ▼ Speeding tickets are costly, and penalties for speeding can include fines, court appearances, and loss or suspension of driving privileges. Also, speeding tickets can raise your insurance rates.
- ▼ Speeding gives you less time to react and increases the severity of an accident.

*Always wear your seat belt and make sure every passenger in your vehicle is properly restrained.* Failure to do so puts unrestrained passengers at risk of serious injury, and could result in fines.

*Cell phones distract drivers.*

- ▼ Don't text and drive.
- ▼ Use only hands-free devices to talk while driving.
- ▼ Always drive sober and drug-free.

Let's all try to remember these safety tips as we make our way about our community.

—Felicia Probert, Chair, Road Committee

## Every Vote Counts

Many Eldorado residents think the Election Committee (EC) exists solely to count ballots in the annual election for ECIA directors. However, the EC conducts all elections for the Eldorado community. Other elections might include a covenant vote, bylaws amendment, removal of a director, or a special assessment vote. The committee's charter, election procedures, and various forms are approved by the ECIA Board.

Counting the ballots is just part of the electoral process. To encourage community voting, the EC publicizes the election through *Vistas* articles, the Eldorado website, and e-blasts. The EC holds forums to allow each candidate to introduce themselves to the community and to address issues surrounding the election. At the end of the process, ballots are carefully counted so that each Eldorado citizen knows that their vote is important and has been counted.

Every two years, the EC reviews the Bylaws, one of the governing documents of the ECIA. Relevant changes are proposed, and the draft document is reviewed by the Board before being presented to the membership on the website and at an open forum. The proposed document is then reviewed by the ECIA attorney. Voting on the Bylaws is included as

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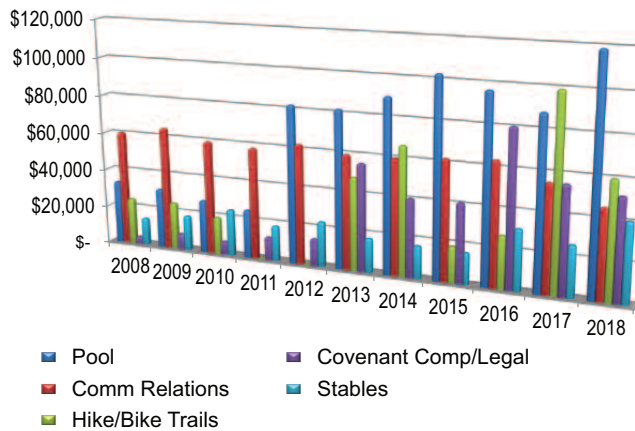
Election Committee, June 2017.

*Front, left to right: Mary Cassidy, Butch Gorsuch, Kathie Graham.  
Back, left to right: Jeanne Calzada and Bette Knight (Chairperson).*



## Message from the Board

The ECIA bases our annual HOA fee on lot ownership, not the lot size or value. When all lot owners pay the same amount, economists use the “benefits received” principle for justification and the distribution of monies collected. For the Board, this means distributing the monies received to achieve the most good for the most people. With budget planning upon us, now is a good time for all of us to review where the ECIA has been spending the community’s money. The accompanying graph shows the eight-year history of costs of our major amenities. Year 2017 is the year-end projection, and 2018 is the initial draft budget. Since none of the amenities provided by the ECIA are guaranteed by our governing/legal documents, this is the time to get involved and help the Board allocate our precious resources. The ECIA’s system of governance is based



on a *participatory democracy*; the more active the adjective, the more accurate the noun. Get involved.

For supporting and additional data, go to our website, [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org).

—Antone Forneris, ECIA Vice-President

## Recent Board Actions

The Board of Directors of the ECIA met on Monday, October 23, 2017. Members present were President **John Henriksen**, Vice-President **Antone Forneris**, Treasurer **Joseph Gutierrez**, Secretary **Michael McDowell**, and Directors **Pam Henline**, **David McDonald**, and **Jody Price**. The following formal actions were taken:

- ▼ Motion was passed to approve a variance at 5 Domingo Court to allow for a new small accessory structure (Tuff Shed) to be built at a height of 9 ft. 6 in., whereas the maximum allowed height is 9 ft.; Henline voted no.
- ▼ Motion was passed to approve a variance at 5 Monterey Road to allow for a proposed garage to be built 5 feet into the 20-foot setback; Henline voted no.
- ▼ Motion was passed unanimously to approve the General Guidelines for the Consideration of Common Variances.
- ▼ Motion was passed unanimously to approve the 2018 HOAMCO contract.

- ▼ Motion was passed to approve the Revised Stable Funding Guidelines; Henline and Gutierrez voted no.
- ▼ Motion was passed to approve the 2017 Revised Finance Committee Charter; Henline abstained.
- ▼ Motion was passed unanimously to approve **Larry Ward** as a member of the Architecture Committee.

The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board will be a Working session focusing on the 2018 ECIA Budget on November 2, 2017, at 4 PM, in the Community Center Classroom. Next, the ECIA Board of Directors will hold a Working session on November 15, at 6 PM, in the Community Center Classroom. Finally, on November 20, at 7 PM, the Board will conduct its regular meeting in the Railroad Room. Regular Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at the Community Center and are open to the public. An open forum and community announcements are normally included. Complete minutes and agendas are available at the ECIA office or on the website: [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org).

## Votes, continued from p. 2

part of the annual election ballot. The EC is presently finishing the first part of the bi-annual Bylaws review; the membership will be invited to an open forum in January and will vote on the proposed Bylaws revision in April 2018.

Pictured (facing page) are the members of the EC. Interested Eldoradoans may attend the EC’s month-

ly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 2 PM. The EC welcomes community input, and scheduling an open forum is part of its monthly agenda.

As always, special thanks to the current and past Election Committee volunteers, as well as all the resident volunteers who put in thousands of free hours of work to ensure Eldorado remains an area we are proud to call home.

—The Election Committee

### ECIA OFFICE

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President**  
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**Vice-President**  
**Antone Forneris**  
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**Secretary**  
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**Treasurer**  
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**Pam Henline**  
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**Director**  
**David McDonald**  
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**Director**  
**Barrett “Jody” Price**  
[J.Price@eldoradosf.org](mailto:J.Price@eldoradosf.org)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**Architecture:**  
**Katherine Mortimer**  
**Conservation:** **Jim Daniel**  
**Election:** **Bette Knight**  
**Facilities & Grounds:**  
**Lee Onstott (acting chair)**  
**Finance:** **Sal Monaco**  
**Information:** **Gershon Siegel (acting chair)**  
**Roads:** **Felicia Probert**  
**Stable:** **Open**

### ECIA STAFF

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### VISTAS NEWSLETTER

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**Jack Arnold**  
[webmaster@eldoradosf.org](mailto:webmaster@eldoradosf.org)

### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Vista Grande Library**  
**466-READ**  
**Fire and Rescue**  
**466-1204**  
[eldoradofirerescue.org](http://eldoradofirerescue.org)  
**County All Purpose**  
**820-CNTY (2689)**

### Changes Near You?

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



Reel New Mexico is showing holiday fare in December.  
Save the Dates!

### Verteran's Day Haiku

The brave veterans:  
When duty called, they  
went  
Some came home; salute!

### Position Open in Architecture Committee

Applicants should have some familiarity with home design and/or architecture, and will be working with the committee in reviewing projects for the construction, addition, or remodeling of dwellings and other structures covered under the Covenants and Guidelines. Usually there are two meetings per month, plus occasional site visits. For further information, call Mark at the ECIA at 466-4248.

### Reel New Mexico Returns for the Holidays

In what might be the first ever Christmas movie festival ever held in the U.S., this Reel NM festival will feature a mixture of music, comedy, drama, and maybe even a bit of romance (sorry, interesting Hanukkah and Kwanzaa movies could not be found). The festival begins on Friday, Dec. 1, with the 1979 television special, "Perry Como's Christmas in New Mexico." (Notice how many banners in the scenes shot on the Plaza spell "chile" as "chili"! This free opening event begins at 5:30.

All films will be screened at the Performance Space at La Tienda; viewers can bring food and drink from La Plancha, right across the hall.

The schedule is as follows but subject to change! All films after the Como special are \$5 (except the Randy Travis special, which is free). If you are a die-hard holiday movie fan, you can get a pass for \$20 which covers the entire weekend.

#### Friday, Dec. 1

5:30 PM: "Perry Como's Christmas in New Mexico" (1979, 1 hour, free)

7 PM: "Scrooge" (1970, musical, 1 hour 53 minutes)

#### Saturday, Dec. 2

10 AM: "Randy Travis: Christmas on the Pecos" (45 minutes, free)

11:30 AM: "Holiday Affair" (romantic comedy starring Robert Mitchum, 1949, 90 minutes)

1:45 PM: "Miracle in the Wilderness" (drama, made in New Mexico, 1991, 90 minutes)

4 PM: "Joyeux Noel" (drama, 2005, 1 hour 56 minutes)

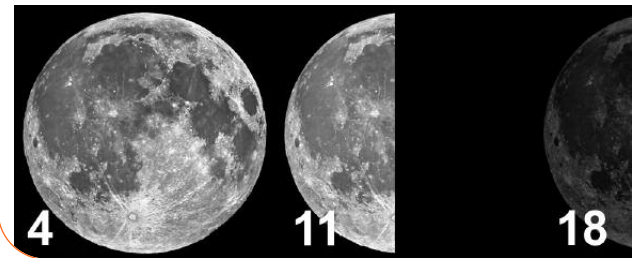
7 PM: "How About You?" (comedy, 2007, 90 minutes)

For more information on the films, go to [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) or if you would like to help with the festival, please call 466-1634!

### Library News

Want to meet a bird of prey? Come to the Raptor Meet-and-Greet on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 10:30 at the Vista Grande Library, to learn about rescued raptors from the New Mexico Wildlife Center. Pecos National Historical Park will provide an introduction to the hour-long presentation on the lifestyles, behavior, and

### MOON PHASES FOR NOVEMBER



environment of these birds. Reservations are required, as space is limited to 40 attendees; please call the Park Visitor Center at 505-757-7200 to make reservations.

**BOOK SALE:** The Book Sale will be held at the library on Nov. 9–11 during regular library hours. The hours are 10 AM to 6 PM on Thursday and Friday, and 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday. There will be Early Bird Entry on Nov. 9 from 9 to 10 AM, for a \$20 admission fee. Shoppers can find thousands of adult titles, both fiction and nonfiction, as well as children's and youth books, DVDs, and music CDs. The book sale is a fundraiser for VGPL and will help buy new materials, fund programs, and cover other expenses to help VGPL continue to provide free services to the community.

**HOLIDAY CLOSURES:** VGPL will be closed November 23 and 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Normal hours will resume November 25 (10 AM to 4 PM).

**OTHER EVENTS:** (Events take place in the meeting room and are free, unless noted otherwise.)

**Artist Exhibition for November:** Selene Sinclair "Waldo Canyon Acrylics," Nov. 1–29. Meet the Artist Reception, Nov. 3, 5–7 PM, located in the Main Library; light refreshments will be served.

**Story Time for toddlers and preschoolers:** Friday mornings at 11 AM in the Children's section. No Story Time on Nov. 24 when the library is closed.

**All Ages Chess:** Friday afternoons from 3 to 5 PM. All ages and skill levels are welcomed. Children under 12 must be registered by a parent.

**Book Donation Day:** First Saturday of the month (Nov. 4 and Dec. 2) from 9 to 11:30 AM only. Please help us by bringing only materials in good condition and in containers you don't need back.

**Medicare Signup Information Sessions:** Monday, Nov. 13 and 27, 10:30 AM–1:30 PM, with a certified benefits counselor for Medicare from the NM Department of Aging. No appointment needed.

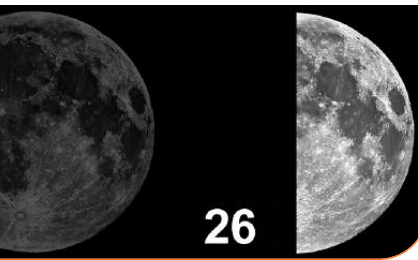
**Physics for Everyone Lecture Series:** Thursday, Nov. 16, 12:30–2 PM: Einstein's General Relativity (warped space and black holes).

**Alzheimer's Talk:** Friday, Nov. 17, from 10 to 11 AM, the Alzheimer's Association will present the final class on early, middle, and late stage Alzheimer's.



# November 2017 Events

MBER 2017



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**Family Movie Night:** Friday, Nov. 17 and Dec. 1, 7 PM. Call 466-7323 for the film titles and rating.

Nov 28 is the International Day of Giving. Support Your Vista Grande Public Library!

—Tracey Mitchell



Ospreys are present here primarily during migration, and during this season, can be found far from water, over open plains. Interested in raptors? Check out the Raptor Meet-and-Greet at the Library, Nov. 18.

## New Local Businesses Open

Good news for Eldoradoans who value the convenience of local business offerings. La Tienda welcomes two new tenants: Del Norte Pharmacy, a neighborhood full-service pharmacy ([www.delnortepharmacy.com](http://www.delnortepharmacy.com)), open in the space adjacent to the Santa Fe Brewery Tap Room; and the newly opened Eldorado Fitness ([eldoradofitnessstudio.com](http://eldoradofitnessstudio.com)). Also new at the Agora Shopping Center is Arable Restaurant, a “farm-to-table restaurant,” plus a new Eldorado fixture, the bright yellow coffee truck for your morning or afternoon fix.

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

Email [gloria@eldoradosf.org](mailto:gloria@eldoradosf.org) with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd of the month for publication in the following month's Vistas. Please include “Attn: Vistas” and be sure to indicate:



- 1. TYPE OF EVENT**
- 2. Location**
- 3. Date & Time**
- 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.

CC=Community Center, LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Rm, CR=Classroom, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS\*\*\*\*

Architecture Committee	Tues., Nov. 14, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., Nov. 28, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Wed., Nov. 15, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Nov. 7, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Mon., Nov. 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Nov. 8, 2-4 pm	Bette Knight	466-4248	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Nov. 1, 3-5 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., Nov. 13, 9:30-11:30 am	Sal Monaco	505-690-5125	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Nov 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	FR
Road Committee	TBA	Felicia Probert	466-1563	RR
Stable Committee	TBA	Bonnie Mamp	eldoradostables@gmail.com	F

### MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY

Cub Scout Den 414	1st & 2nd Wed 6-7 pm	Will Scoberg	karlwscoberg@aol.com	CR
EAWS&SD	1st & 3rd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	EAWS&SD
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs., 7 pm	Mary Fredenburgh	466-1035	CR
Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wed., 3 pm	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net	LR
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Sue Daniel	856-220-7087	CFR
Healing Arts Practitioners	2nd Tues., 4-5:30 pm	Terry Terry	303-475-0922	LR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Brad Cottingham	466-4655	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	santafesar.org		VGPL

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 7-8 pm			CFR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 11-12 pm			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			La Tienda
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Karl Cordova	karl_cordova747@msn.com	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Shirley Davis	982-6179	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Creative Movement for Kids	Tues., 3:30-4:30 pm	Teresa Schwarz	428.0832	CR
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Fire & Rescue Training	Tues., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Duty Sections	Sat., 8-12 noon	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Interval Training	Wed., 9 am	Susan Kayar	204-8290	Max Coll CC
Interval Training	Fri., 8:30 am	Susan Kayar	204-8290	Max Coll CC
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Mavis Murphy	466-8189	RR
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-5 pm	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Barb	954-1533	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 11:30-12:30 pm		466-1039	Sr Center
Spinning Group (Fiber)	1st & 3rd Thurs., 9:30-11:30 am	Ellen Higgins	970-201-4776	LR
Square Dancing	Fri., 6:30-9 pm	Connie Walters	466-4226	Max Coll CC
Yin Yoga	Mon., 5:30-6:45 pm	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Tues., 9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Wed., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/ Gentle Stretch	Thurs., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Fri., 9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga for Healing	Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:45 am	Maureen O'Brien	505-216-0807	Sr Center

\* Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

\*\*For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

\*\*\* Reservations required \*\*\*\* Check the ECIA website for the most accurate dates/times

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



FROM ELDORADO 285/ RECYCLES

## Make Your Next Event Zero Waste!

**W**hether you are having a barbecue with a few neighbors or are hosting a family reunion or neighborhood block party, every bit of waste reduction and recycling at your event will make an impact. With some planning and communication with your guests ahead of time, these simple tips can help you reduce waste at your event.

**REDUCE:** Avoid individually wrapped single serving items. You can serve bite-size or finger foods that require no utensils or choose entrees that can be served in large containers, like pasta in a large bowl or a platter of sub sandwiches.

Plan ahead to avoid wasting food. Accurately estimate attendance when preparing food or placing orders for catering.

**REUSE:** Provide reusable items or encourage participants to bring their own. Silverware, glasses or mugs, and plates can be washed and reused. Cloth napkins and tablecloths can be used instead of paper. Serve beverages in glasses rather than single-serving, one-use bottles or cans.

**RECYCLE:** Use easily recyclable items. Aluminum cans and glass bottles, and most plastic items are recyclable in Santa Fe, but avoid items made of plastic film and expanded polystyrene that are not recyclable in our area.

**MAKE DIRT, NOT WASTE!** Compost your food waste. If you have a backyard compost bin, this is an easy way to reduce waste. You can compost food waste like fruit and vegetable peelings, stale bread and pasta, and even some non-recyclable paper products like napkins or paper towels. Meat, dairy, and greasy foods should not be put in a backyard bin.

If you don't compost already, consider starting now, or talk to a neighbor who may be able to collect the food waste and compost in their bin. Go to the website [eldorado285recycles.org](http://eldorado285recycles.org) for composting resources and information on getting your own straw bale worm compost pile.

Compostable bio-based cups, plates, and service-ware are now available to replace disposable plastic products made from petroleum, but these are not compostable except in commercial composting facilities. Contact Reunity Resources or Paynes' Organic Soils Yard to see if they will accept your non-food compostables

**COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR GUESTS** at the event and monitor your efforts.

Provide containers for recycling and compost and trash, if needed. Make sure that no trash container stands alone. Be sure they are next to clearly labeled recycling and composting containers so that it is easy for people to make the choice to recycle and compost.

Clearly label containers at all locations. Pictures, lists and symbols in combination are most effective.

Place containers in obvious places where they will be visible and accessible. Containers near eating areas and exits often do the trick.

Announce your waste reduction efforts to your guests. Recycling, composting, and waste reduction practices vary from city to city and sometimes from house to house, so briefly explain what your guests can compost and recycle at your event.

Monitor your recycling and trash containers. Some guests will inevitably misuse the containers by placing trash in recycling containers or recycling in trash containers. Ask kids at the event to help with this; they are great at getting others to recycle and compost.

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

## Environmental Toxins

**R**ecently, a neighbor happily talked about keeping his yard "beautifully weed-free" with Roundup. "Wow," we said. "Just the other day we read an article about how dangerous that is to use. Are you sure you want to put it on your property?" He replied that the manufacturer's container said it wouldn't be a health hazard if used properly.

Unfortunately, that has proven to be incorrect. Insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, rodent and weed killers are all toxins. No matter what the package says, all such poisons can cause significant destruction. They regularly kill non-target organisms, including beneficial insects, soil bacteria, and important native predators such as owls, hawks, snakes, coyotes, and bobcats. And it's a slow, painful death for them. Not to mention the dangers these toxins present to humans! The chemical glyphosate is an active toxin, to be sure, but a number of "inert ingredients" in marketed poisons are also harmful and have remained largely unregulated in order to protect corporate trade secrets.

Have you heard of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF)? The country's largest conservation, education, and advocacy organization, NWF focuses on environmental issues that affect both wildlife and

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## Eldorado Preserve Gets New Gates

There's an old saying "Good fences make good neighbors." The Eldorado Conservation Committee has sponsored the installation of two new gates at the parking lots for the 200 series trails off Ojo de la Vaca road. Both gates are flanked by "chicanes" (openings that allow walkers to pass without having to open the gate), and at this time we plan to leave the gates unlocked (more about that later).

Mike Armijo and his crew (HOAMCO) did a great job installing these gates, which were laid out by Conservation Committee member Paul Butt. Paul, with assistance from other committee members, put a great deal of effort into planning for these gates, and we really appreciate his effort. Paul also took the photo that accompanies this article.

Why gate these access points? Last winter, significant damage was done to the 200 series trails by horses whose riders took them on rain-soaked and muddy trails. This carelessness undid weeks of efforts by volunteers, who work throughout the year to keep our trails nice. We do not know who the riders were, but we are pretty sure they weren't Eldorado residents, as our "horse people" are very thoughtful and help maintain the trails.

In response to this trail damage, the Conservation Committee agreed that gates would be the best step to take. We've installed "chicanes" so that hikers won't be impacted. The gates are for those with horses or bikes. We've chosen to leave the gates unlocked, because we're hoping that the act of opening and closing the gates will be enough to get folks to think be-

fore embarking on the preserve's trails when the ground is wet or snowy.

Our preserve is a marvelous community resource but one that requires stewardship to maintain. We've had our fence cut near the railway line by some unknown persons whose cattle enjoyed our grass, and we've had our fence cut near the trailhead 4 parking lot by some unknown persons who wanted access to the upper sections. This was rude, to say the least, and we had to bear the cost of repairing the fences.

Please help us keep our preserve as special as it is, and if you haven't experienced it yourself, make time to do so. It's fantastic.

*—John Reynolds*



## Toxins, continued from page 6

people. A number of Eldorado residents have registered their properties as NWF Certified Wildlife Habitats. It's easy to do: Ensure your property meets the criteria for natural food sources (seeds, berries, nectars, etc.), water sources, natural cover (trees, native grasses, ground cover) for animal shelter and places to raise young, provide sustainable practices such as soil and water conservation, control non-native species (such as Russian olive and tamarisk), and avoid dangerous chemicals as described above. You can see the criteria on NWF's website ([www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Certify.aspx?campaignid=WH09ASLP&src=CWH\\_GoogleMini\\_certify](http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Certify.aspx?campaignid=WH09ASLP&src=CWH_GoogleMini_certify)). And you can watch for your neighbors who have posted their certification signs on their properties.

Another program offered by NWF is Community Wildlife Habitat Certification. This program empow-

ers neighborhoods to confirm they are wildlife-friendly. Nearly 100 communities nationwide (including Aldea de Santa Fe) have been certified, and another 70+ requests are pending. We would love to see some (or all!) of Eldorado formally certified as a community that appreciates, protects, and celebrates our diversity of wildlife. To do so, we would need to avoid toxins.

And about those weeds? Some people just pull them or use a non-toxic product like boiling water, or a mixture of vinegar, salt, and dish detergent. You can find various formulas online (such as [www.chow.com/how\\_7589052\\_kill-weeds-forever.html](http://www.chow.com/how_7589052_kill-weeds-forever.html)). Works great.

Archived articles can be found at <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com/flora-fauna-group/>.



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[www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

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Sheriff 428-3720  
Crime Stoppers 955-5050  
Neighborhood Watch: <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>

## Paws in the Pool, End of Summer 2017



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