

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XIII, ISSUE 12
December 2011

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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.eldoradosf.org

Who Governs Eldorado?

As the largest unincorporated community in the state, some may say that no one governs Eldorado. Surprisingly, that is far from accurate. Approximately 12 federal agencies, 32 state agencies, 18 county departments, the City of Santa Fe, and 2 local entities have varying degrees of governance over our community, the residents, and their future.

In 1998, a group of local residents banded together to conduct a year-long study on the feasibility of incorporating Eldorado into a village type of government. However, their proposal for incorporation, which was based on detailed financial income projections and was approved by Santa Fe County, was soundly defeated in a community vote. One of the major objections was that incorporation would bring additional layers of governance. Ironically, it would more likely have consolidated some of the multiple agency governance that exists today.

What are the alternatives? Eldorado now has over 6,000 residents. The 20 surrounding subdivisions add about another 2,000 residents to the mix. While Eldorado itself is almost built to capacity, our surrounding subdivision neighbors have considerable growth potential, and a number of new developments are already underway or are being planned.

How long can Eldorado continue as a ward of the county and state and still expect to receive all the needed services in the face of an increasingly tight statewide economic environment? Already residents complain about inadequate law enforcement, road improvement, and other services.

In 1997, the Long Range Planning Committee of ECIA, in conjunction with the County, spent about a year developing a Comprehensive Master Plan for Eldorado. As a part of the overall plan, it proposed two major options for governance: (1) incorporation into a village government, or (2) annexation by the City of Santa Fe. A third option, governance by ECIA, was rejected because of the lack of statutory authority by private homeowner associations. Because a community consensus on the plan was never achieved, the Comprehensive Master Plan was never

approved. In 2002, a further attempt was made, with the aid of a county planner, to develop a "Simpson Ranch" Master Plan which included Eldorado. This also failed because the communities involved could not come to agreement.

A portion of Eldorado—like our Rancho Viejo neighbor—is currently considered to be within the City of Santa Fe's "Urbanized Territory." In the absence of any positive action by our two communities, both entities may eventually end up as a part of the city of Santa Fe through annexation. This could undoubtedly increase available community services but also would likely also involve increased taxation.

In the 2011 State Legislative session, **Rep. Mimi Stewart** introduced legislation at the request of the Judiciary Committee to better regulate homeowners associations throughout the state. Apparently, frequent legal disputes between some homeowner association boards and their members have been clogging District Court calendars and creating added expenses.

Recently, the ECIA Board established a new committee on Sustainability, Planning and Education (SPEC); its chair and its subcommittee chair recently met with **Robert Griego** from County Land Use regarding this project.

—Don Dayton

Assessments Increase to \$340 with Options

The ECIA Board has accepted the recommendation of its Finance Committee and voted at its November 17 meeting to increase the 2012 member assessment, from \$300 to \$340 annually. In addition, the Board has authorized, for the first time, options for semiannual payments and for payment by credit card (see chart on p. 3).

Because of increased costs for processing multiple payments and/or credit card transactions, the approved payment options have some conditions.

Continued on page 3

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center, Thurs.,
December 15,
7 pm.*



Share your comments with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below

Editorial Policy

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

Building Earth Berms

Over this past year, the ECIA has received a number of calls from members concerning earthen berms that neighbors have built in their yards in order to create a visual screen or an elevated area for planting shrubs or small trees. Complaints have been lodged because, in many instances, these earth berms have been left as unfinished piles of dirt and have not been landscaped or planted. The net result of such cases in our windy climate is a pile of blowing dust and dirt which often irritates neighbors who have allergies or asthmatic conditions. Such unfinished berms can also be very unsightly and, when left unlandscaped, do little to improve the appearance of the neighborhood.

While earth berms are allowable under the guidelines for Recreational Vehicle Screening (Article II, Section 13), there are currently no requirements to ensure that the berms are landscaped or seeded. The guidelines regarding earth berms read as follows:

Option 5: Berms: Earth berms may be allowed, although berms alone will normally not be sufficient as a sole method of screening RV's. However, earth berms used with other options, such as trees and/or plantings,

may provide sufficient screening. Total height of berm and fence shall not be greater than six feet above the natural grade.

Because there are presently very few requirements concerning the completion of earth berms, the ECIA asks all residents who plan to construct them to please adhere to the following commonsense practices:

- ▶ Be sure that any earth berms are located on your own property and do not encroach onto your neighbor's property.
- ▶ Remember that the total height of berms, or a berm and fence, shall not be greater than six feet above the natural grade.
- ▶ Please be considerate of your neighbors and complete your berms with plantings and mulch, or seed them, to ensure soil stability and prevent erosion and blowing dust.
- ▶ Do not use construction fill for berms that includes any kind of construction debris such as bricks or cement, as this could easily be considered a nuisance under the covenants.

Thank you for considering your neighbors when building an earth berm. And please call me at 466-4248 if you have any questions concerning berms.

—Mark Young, *Covenant Compliance Representative*

ECIA Website Success!

The new Eldorado Community website will be one year old in December. Judging by user statistics, the new site has been a success.

Site usage jumped from 200–300 visitors in January–March of this year to over 1,000 by May. Site visits now average over 2,000 per month, with visitors accessing an average of over 7 pages per visit and spending an average of 9 minutes on the site (10% of our visitors spend over 30 minutes on the site!).

What are people viewing on the site? The most popular, by far, are pages describing amenities and trails, followed by the archives for the *Vistas* newsletters. These archives go back to 2002.

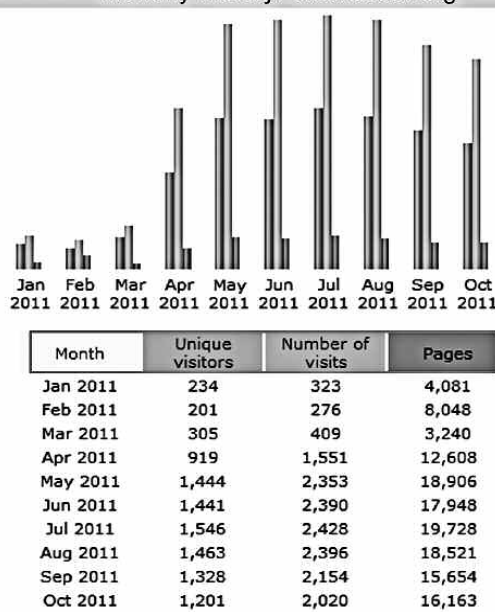
Also popular is the contact list for Board and staff, as well as Board and committee minutes, the ECIA calendar, financial reports, and information about covenants. The bird articles are also very popular; the one on the Mountain Bluebird is currently in the lead!

Who is visiting the site? While it is not possible to identify individual visitors, we can tell that the greatest percentage come from the immediate area. But it is also interesting to see who else is visiting. A large percentage of out-of-state visitors are Texans, followed by Californians, as well as a fair number from Seattle. (Realtors, take note!)

All this information is useful to the Information Committee, because it helps us shape our strategy for improving the site in the coming year. Obviously, one of our immediate goals will be to improve the photos and descriptions of our amenities!

—Jack Arnold, *ECIA Webmaster*

monthly history: eldoradosf.org



Securing the Future: The 5-10-25 Plan

I am asking Eldoradoans to support the \$340 assessment that will be in effect for 2012 and 2013. This increase is necessary to ensure that ECIA is able to maintain quality amenities, without putting extraordinary burdens on residents, and to secure our financial future. Here are the important points:

- ▶ Operating costs are reduced 3% from 2011 to 2012.
- ▶ New revenues will go into the Replacement Reserve Fund (RRF).
- ▶ Without an increase, the RRF will not have enough money to keep the amenities in good condition.

In recent years, we have developed a realistic forecasting tool for the replacement and repair of every amenity and components—from pool filters to the Community Center roof—by date, frequency, and estimated replacement cost with inflation.

Based on experience, the RRF is an infrastructure fund that is designed to protect residents from “special assessment shock.” Without the RRF, for example, the \$100,000 package of pool repairs and safety improvements planned for 2012 would require a special assessment of almost \$36 per lot. Instead, that money was previously saved and is available to ensure that the pool is clean, safe, and attractive.

To secure our financial future, we have developed the 5-10-25 Plan:

FIVE Our auditors say associations should have funds to maintain quality amenities five years in the future, as required in some states. Today, the ECIA can support next year’s projects but has a five-year reserve deficit of \$1 million, and growing.

TEN Over the next ten years, it is proposed that assessments will increase every two years by about \$40 to build the reserve. The deficit will shrink, and by about 2020 the balance should be close to meeting the five-year requirement. Then, the Board will be able to set sustainable assessments at about \$500.

TWENTY-FIVE The forecasting tool takes a 25-year view, to the year 2037. Obviously the long-term forecast is less reliable, but maintaining the long view is important because it will ensure that Eldorado remains a strong and vibrant community—as long as we follow the plan. We owe it to today’s children, the homeowners of the future.

We will soon circulate a community survey on priorities for amenities, updating the 1993 survey that has guided decision-making for 20 years. Look for more in the January *Vistas*.

—Ed Moreno, ECIA President

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on October 20 and took the following formal actions:

- ▶ A variance for two solar tracking arrays was approved at 110 Verano Loop for locations greater than 15 feet from the dwelling, with conditions to use existing and new vegetation for screening.
- ▶ A motion for a variance at 16 Dovel Road for an existing screening fence to remain in the 50-foot front setback was tabled to allow the Board to visit the site. Following a site visit on 10/24, a variance was approved with conditions.
- ▶ A variance to allow existing plywood to remain on the fence at Stable #3 was approved with conditions.

- ▶ A variance for an unscreened trailer was approved at 8 Moya Loop, with conditions to permit the trailer to be backed farther into the lot.
- ▶ An amount not to exceed \$5054.73 was approved from Replacement Reserve funds to replace the wood chip surface at the Dog Park amenity.
- ▶ **Tom Willmott** was approved for membership on the Finance Committee.

Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Community Center, and are open to the public. An open forum, community announcements, and reports from ECIA committees are regularly included. For complete minutes and meeting agendas, visit the ECIA office or website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.

Assessments Increased, continued from page 1

An assessment increase was recommended by the Finance Committee after a thorough analysis of increasing maintenance and replacement requirements for the Association’s capital assets and amenities over the next 25 years. The complete set of budget details and analysis is available at the ECIA office and on the Association’s website, www.eldoradosf.org. Since the Association’s Bylaws permit assessment increases

only in even-numbered years, the assessment cannot be increased again until 2014 at the earliest.

Payment Options	Cash/Check	Credit Card
Annual payment by 3/1	\$340	\$350
1st semiannual payment by 3/1	\$175	\$180
2nd semiannual payment by 8/1	\$175	\$180

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Election: Jean Crawford
Facilities & Grounds:

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Finance: Dan Drobnis

Information: Open

Neighborhood Watch:

Marilyn Walker

Roads: Nolan Zisman

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

eldoradofirerescue.org

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)

ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit our website to read the full text of Raven Hicks's page 7 article on preparing for emergencies in winter.

Go to
www.eldoradosf.org



IN THE COMMUNITY

Free Health Screenings/Information

The Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van will be in Eldorado for free blood pressure and blood glucose screening on Tuesday, December 6, at the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center, 10 am–3 pm; and on Saturday, December 10, La Tienda Shopping Center, 12 pm–4 pm. For more information, please call **Angela Thorndyke**, RN/BSN at 505-231-2382. The Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van also carries the new Santa Fe County Discount Drug Card, which provides discounts on medications, lab, radiology, dental and vision care when not covered by insurance.

Great Family Theater

Come see Rodgers and Hammerstein's "CINDERELLA" (with a few zany twists) running one weekend only at the James A. Little Theater at the New Mexico School for the Deaf: December 2 at 7:30 pm; December 3 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm; and December 4 at 2:00 pm. This is a great family show featuring over 40 performers with a professional chamber orchestra, costumes, sound, lights, and sets. Reserve your tickets by calling 466-4656, order them online at www.eldoradochildrenstheatre.org, or buy them at the door. Anyone who dresses in full "Cinderella" costume will get in half price to either matinee!

Happy Holidays from La Tienda

Main Street, La Tienda's holiday village, is up again for the holidays. The buildings have been decorated by local nonprofits and schools, with some new ones added this year. Bring the kids down after dark and stroll through the village when the thousands of lights are lit. Main Street will be up for the entire month of December. Events are being planned for some Saturday evenings. There will be a bonfire, caroling, a marshmallows roast, a farolito maze, and other fun things. Check the La Tienda Weekly Update email for what is coming up. To sign up for the email newsletter, go to LaTiendaEldorado.com.

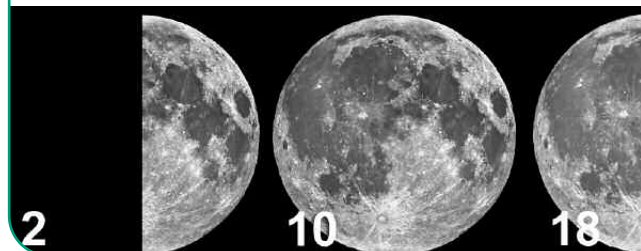
Santa Fe County Redistricting

In the process of redistricting, which takes place every 10 years based on the most recent census, the 285-corridor did not remain in one district. Eldorado stays together for County District 5, but the east side of Hwy 285, Precinct 63, is now in County District 4. To see a map of the new districts and to read more about redistricting, go to http://www.santafecounty.org/county_commissioners/redistricting.

There will be three voting sites for Eldorado during the primary election. It is expected that, for the general election, the school renovations will be completed and all voting will take place at the El Dorado School.

—From the office of
County Commissioner Liz Stefanics

MOON PHASES FOR DECEMBER



Fresh-Cut Christmas Trees

Beginning Saturday, December 3, at the north parking lot of La Tienda at Eldorado (adjacent to the new dog park), quality, fresh-cut Christmas trees from Oregon will again be available. There will be Douglas Fir, Grand Fir, and Noble Fir in sizes from tabletop to tall trees, provided by an Eldorado-owned and -operated business, serving Eldorado and the eastern communities of Santa Fe. A portion of proceeds will be donated to the El Dorado Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association.

Two New Eldorado Blogs Now Online

Ed Moreno, president of the ECIA, is blogging at <http://eldoradobeat.blogspot.com/> on topics related to Eldorado, the ECIA, and things in general (the latest post as of mid-November is about the inclusion of chickens, ducks, and goats in Eldorado). Eldorado resident **Claudia Daigle** has also started a blog about the issues raised by Eldorado living: <http://eldoradogadfly.blogspot.com>. She writes about what's happening in the ECIA committee meetings she's attended; and readers can post questions or thoughts about these issues. Both new blogs hope to inform readers about the considerations and decisions that ECIA undertakes and also to encourage more residents to participate in ECIA meetings and to make their voices heard about different issues of local interest.

Christmas Music Concert at La Tienda

Michael John Hall will be playing at The Performance Space at La Tienda on December 11, 6:30–8:30 pm. Michael Hall plays piano like few others—a soft and moving style that opens the heart. Hall's solo piano album "Dashing through the Snow" has been called "the best holiday album in years." At The Performance Space, Hall will perform songs from this album well as from A Charlie Brown Christmas, James Taylor, the Muppets, George Gershwin and more! A free CD will be given to each child when the parent purchases one! Visit www.ThePerformanceSpace.com or sign up for the La Tienda weekly newsletter at www.LaTiendaEldorado.com.

Destiny Allison, Business Woman of Year

Destiny Allison, Managing Partner at La Tienda, owner of Destiny Allison Fine Art and Destiny Allison Studio in Eldorado, has been named the 2011



ASTRONOMY CORNER



December 2011

DECEMBER 10: TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE. The eclipse will be visible throughout most of North America.

DECEMBER 13, 14: GEMINIDS METEOR SHOWER. Considered by many to be the best meteor shower, the Geminids are known to produce up to 60 multicolored meteors per hour at their peak. The peak of the shower usually occurs around December 13 & 14, although some should be visible December 6–9. The gibbous moon will interfere this year by hiding the faintest meteors, but this should still be an excellent show.

Protect Our Night Skies: Lights left carelessly on may spoil the views of our night sky.

Santa Fe Business Woman of the Year by the Santa Fe Professional Business Women. According to First National Bank's **Kathy McGee**, "Allison has been a driving force in creating a new and vital sense of community in Eldorado and, at the same time, has a successful career as an artist with clients throughout the world." Destiny's talent and experience as an artist and a business woman have helped to steer the creative endeavor that is La Tienda. Her commitment to artists, as well as the work they produce, and her innovative ideas across a broad spectrum of community interests have helped La Tienda meet the needs of this community while building a vibrant center for community interaction, artistic endeavor, and commerce.

December Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@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.

LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Room, CR=Class Room, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Pet Photos with Santa	Sun., Dec. 18, 2:30-4:30	Judy Anderson	466-2108	La Tienda
ECIA Offices Closed	Mon., Dec. 26			

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Dec. 13, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Dec. 27: CANCELED	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Dec. 12, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Dec. 6, 7-9 pm	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board	Thurs., Dec. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., Dec. 6: CANCELED	Jeanne Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Dec. 7, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Dec. 20, 7-9 pm			CFR
Road Committee	NONE	Nolan Zisman	466-2968	CFR
Stable Committee	NONE	Lisa Bessone	466-7100	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., Dec. 8, 7-9 pm	Dana Richards	690-5500	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

Bridge	Dec. 7 & 21, 9-noon	Natalie Bernet	466-6118	LR
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs of month		204-7007	LR
EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs, 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR
Eldorado Camera Club	4th Wednesday, 7-9	Joan Biordi	biordi@aol.com	La Tienda
Eldorado Dog Club	4th Saturday 9:30 am	Freddi Fullington	466-2005	Dog Park
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 7 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Wed., 5:45-6:45 pm (Men Only)			CFR
AA	Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			LR/CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	466-3091	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:30 & 11 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
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
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Richard Robinson	466-7319	RR

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm> ***Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

At the Crossroads

Some of our residents have been in communication with me regarding a recent *Santa Fe New Mexican* article about a new (to the U.S.) soil stabilization product for roads called RoadPacker Plus which has been used around the world for about 25 years. The article describes the product as one that will keep down dust, severely restrict the formation of washboard, and would be maintenance free for an estimated ten years. Allegedly cheaper than asphalt and environmentally friendly, this product has been applied to about a one-mile stretch of Spur Ranch Road, just down the 285 corridor from Eldorado.

The gist of the emails I received was that we should take a look at this product for possible use in Eldorado. Upon driving this section of Spur Ranch, I found the road very smooth (having been scraped down to the bare dirt) and dust free (the stabilization product having been apparently sprayed on top). An inquiry has been put in to the County about this product and its possible application to a test section of one of our worst dirt roads in Eldorado. We will certainly keep an eye on the Spur Ranch Road segment to see how it holds up after our winter freeze-thaw cycle.

—Nolan Zisman, Chair, ECIA Road Committee

Trail Stewardship Workshop

Below, and bottom right: Erosion control structures (rock pavement and zuni bowl). **Below left:** Mark Young and members of Boy Scout Troop 414.

Eldorado youth received hands-on training on how to build and maintain trails on Saturday, October 22, in the greenbelt near the intersection of Gavilan and Frasco Roads. Members of Boy Scout Troop 414 participated in the Trail Stewardship

Workshop sponsored by the ECIA Conservation Committee. The workshop, conducted by Earthworks, taught participants how to stabilize eroding soil and gullies and how to build and repair trails in a way that requires little maintenance. The scouts, with some parents, Troop Leader **Mark Sword**, Conservation Committee members, and Earthworks staff, completed the project, which consisted of abandoning a heavily eroded section of trail, controlling erosion in the immediate vicinity, and creating a new trail.

If you would like to nominate a section of trail in an Eldorado greenbelt for a future project, please send an email with a description of the location and problems with the current condition (pictures help!) to eciamarilyn@aol.com. Also include a list of residents or organizations that would be willing to assist with the project. We'll announce the winner in the January *Vistas*.

—John Parker, Chair, Conservation Committee



What Is Neighborhood Watch?

When my wife and I moved to Eldorado more than seven years ago, we were drawn by the country lifestyle. A casual conversation with a sheriff's deputy back then, however, alerted us to the dangers of living in a remote location. This county, the size of the State of Delaware, has at most eight deputies patrolling at any time. Then, we were introduced to Neighborhood Watch (NW).

For those of you as yet unacquainted, NW is a voluntary grassroots organization that employs neighbor-to-neighbor communication and fosters enhanced cooperation with local law enforcement, thereby encouraging rapid response time. It provides pertinent information on home security (what security and safety measures to employ) and quickly alerts neighbors to any crimes or suspicious activities in Eldorado.

NW provides education on how, when, and to whom suspicious activity or crime should be reported and provides the means to effectively communicate with the proper authorities. This in itself discourages residential and auto burglary. In addition to home, personal, and traffic safety, NW addresses animal control issues, including information on where to direct concerns regarding these matters.

Because of the distance between homes in Eldorado, many residents—long-time and newcomers alike—complain they do not know their neighbors. NW helps Eldorado residents become acquainted by encouraging them to watch out for and assist one another, and that is the foundation for building a secure, informed neighborhood.

While crime rates are soaring in the City of Santa Fe, crime has steadily declined in Eldorado since NW became active. Law enforcement response time has improved since **Sheriff Garcia** took office, with an officer always on duty on the 285 corridor.

If you haven't yet joined, but would either like to do so or simply to receive more information, please contact NW's chairperson, **Marilyn Walker**, at 505-466-2553 or by email, lightwalker2@comcast.net.

CRIME STATS FOR OCTOBER:

October 20: Bobcat and kittens sighted on

Avenida de Compadres at Mimosa Road

October 31: Camino Amansador, just east of 285, there was a report of Burglary/Larceny/Criminal Damage/Conspiracy (while not Eldorado, it occurred just across the road).

—Raymond Bolton

Senior Center News

Happy holidays to our seniors. Come join us as we learn new skills, keep physically fit, and meet new friends. Transportation, Meals on Wheels, and daily lunches are open to registered seniors 60+ years of age. Sign up at the Center and call a day ahead for lunch reservations: 466-1039.

TRIPS

We have one trip scheduled for Thursday, December 8. We will be going to the Bio Park in Albuquerque to see the Christmas lights. Call the Center for times and to reserve a spot, as spaces are limited.

NEW CLASSES

Starting in late November and continuing through December, **Bob Richardson**, author of *Promptings of Necessity*, will lead our Book of the Month Club on Mondays at 12:45 pm.

VOLUNTEERS / MEALS ON WHEELS

We are always looking for volunteers for Meals on Wheels, answering the phones, helping in the kitchen, or leading activities. Anyone needing Meals on Wheels delivered to a family should call the Center to get registered and have an evaluation by a staff member. Lunch and Meals on Wheels are a donation of \$1.50 per person.

—Carol Branch

Emergency Planning for Winter

As I write this article, parts of the Northeast are covered in more than two feet of snow. Power is out to over 3,000,000 people and could be out for up to one week.

Imagine, Santa Fe in mid-January, with temperatures in the minus 0 range and you have no power or heat in your home. It happened here in New Mexico last year; it could happen here in Eldorado this year. What are you doing about it?

Do you have several days of water and food stored? Do you have an alternate heat and electric source at your home? Do you have survival gear in your vehicle? Do you have cash available in case of a power failure? Do you keep the car's gas tank at least half full all the time? These are all important things to think about. Here are some solutions to these questions.

- Keep 3 to 5 days' worth of food and water stored in your home in case of power failure, snowstorm, or other emergency. Include nonperishable food, 3 gallons of water per person per day, medications, first-aid supplies, personal hygiene products, and any other personal items that are important.

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This article continues on our website, www.eldoradosf.org



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

School Construction Update

Construction of the new building at El Dorado Community School continues on schedule. Over the summer, four former middle school classrooms were converted by our contractor, McCarthy New Mexico, into spacious, light-filled kindergarten rooms. This fall, the exterior structure of the two-story academic building and full-size gym has been built, so that work on the interior of the new building can continue throughout the winter months. This coming spring, students and staff will move into the completed academic building, into new classrooms and office spaces that will meet the needs of our K–8 school. Our gym will have locker rooms, a concession stand, bleacher seating, and a wood floor; the gym will have the capacity to host our Dust Devil sports teams—for practices and games. The academic building will have two art labs, two computer labs, teacher workrooms, and spaces for our many programs. A stage will be added to our current small gym, enabling us to have performances at our school.

In mid-November 2011, the principal, assistant principal, and school nurse moved into their new offices. The administrative suite has two offices and a conference room, as well as record storage and closet areas. The school nurse has a treatment area, bathroom, and office space. Our secretaries will remain in the front office trailer until the front entrance is redesigned; that space will open up in the spring along with the rest of the academic building. Next spring and summer, the last section of the old building will be taken down and work will begin on a new multipurpose room/cafeteria and kitchen. Our school community is excited to move into an amazing new facility that will accommodate our growth as a school. We know that the new building will be enjoyed and appreciated by the greater community as well!

—Anne Darnton, Principal

Our Covenant Compliance Rep Works!

Here's a sample month's statistics for the work that **Mark Young**, ECIA Covenant Compliance Representative, does in reviewing architectural projects and monitoring covenant compliance. We thought readers might want to know how the ECIA works for our residents.

ARCHITECTURAL APPLICATIONS AND COVENANT COMPLIANCE STATUS

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS

OCT 2011		YTD PREVIOUS MONTH		PLANS YTD
SUBMITTED	14	PROJECTS	169	183
APPROVED	11	APPROVED	120	131
VARIANCE REQ	4	VARIANCES APPROVED	29	33
VARIANCES DENIED	0	VARIANCES DENIED	9	9

No pending site visits.

COMPLIANCE ISSUES

MTD NEW	CLOSED MTD	NEW YTD	CLOSED YTD
24	29	266	269