

ELDORADO AT SANTA FE VISTAS

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

Happy Holidays from the ECIA Staff!



Pictured, front, left to right: Mike Armijo, Maintenance Supervisor; Mark Young, Compliance Coordinator; Isabel Ugarte, General Manager; Gloria Silva, Administrative Assistant to the GM; back row: Regina Lucero, Receptionist; Jason McAlister, Maintenance. Not pictured: Trey McLarney, Evening Facility Attendant; Courtney Handy, Evening Facility Attendant; and Karen Logan, Digital Documents Coordinator. Photo: Gershon Siegel.

Biscochitos

The biscochito, a traditional favorite in New Mexico, is the official state cookie, often served to guests during the holidays.

- 6 cups flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 cups lard or vegetable shortening
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 2 teaspoons anise seeds
- 2 eggs

- ¼ cup brandy
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 Tablespoon cinnamon

Sift flour with baking powder and salt. Cream lard with sugar and anise seeds until fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time. Mix in flour and brandy until well blended. Turn dough out on floured board and pat or roll to ¼ or ½ inch thickness. Cut into shapes (the fleur-de-lis is traditional). Dust with mixture of sugar and cinnamon. Bake 10 minutes at 350° F or until browned.

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
December 15,
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.

PROPOSED ELDORADO GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTIVE COVENANTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING

The 2016 Proposed Guidelines are now posted on the Eldorado website (eldoradosf.org) and available for resident review. This document represents over two years of hard work by the ECIA Architecture Committee and ECIA Board and staff, and is the most comprehensive update in many years.

Additionally, in an attempt to reduce inconsistencies in the formatting of the current guidelines, the new proposed Guidelines have been reformatted to a more logical numbering system that will be easier for residents when reading or referencing the document.

The information is presented in a side-by-side comparison of the current versus the proposed guidelines. While some of the main section numbers have changed, by referring to the table of contents, residents should be able to compare the current wording with the proposed wording in the new format.

The areas with the greatest changes include the following revised categories or new sections:

- ▼ 7. Shade, play, storage and similar structures
- ▼ 12. Screening with Berms
- ▼ 15. Storm Water Management Areas

We ask that residents review these proposed guidelines and send any comments or concerns to me at the ECIA. There will be an open public forum at the ECIA on December 17 at 10 AM in the Railroad Building to discuss these proposed changes with the ECIA Architecture Committee and ECIA Board.

Hard copies of the proposed changes are available at the ECIA offices. The website also has a summary of the proposed changes for easier review.

—Mark Young, Compliance Coordinator

ECIA Seeks Board Nominations

January 2017 is approaching and it is time to consider being a part of the ECIA Board of Directors. There will be three positions open, all of which will expire on May 4, 2020. Being on the Board requires a dedication to the betterment of Eldorado and a willingness to give of your time, experience, and expertise.

The Nomination Petition for election to the ECIA Board of Directors will be available on January 5, 2017, on the ECIA website (eldoradosf.org). Open the "Resident Resources" tab, find the "Forms and Applications" tab," and look for "Board Nomination

Petition." A sheet of "Information and Instructions" is included. It is a PDF document that can be downloaded and printed at your home, or you may pick up a copy at the Community Center office.

This is early notice but it gives you time to consider becoming a volunteer for the Eldorado Community and the opportunity to attend the Board Work Session on December 12, at 6 PM (in the Community Center's Conference Room), and then the Board Meeting on December 15, at 7 PM, in the Railroad Building.

—Kathie Graham, Chair, Election Committee

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular monthly meeting on November 18, 2016. All current board members were present, including newly appointed members **John Henriksen** and **Michael McDowell**. The following actions were taken:

- ▼ A consent agenda was approved, including a variance request at 2 Casa del Oro for a new home addition rising 4 inches above the 18-foot maximum elevation above grade, and a variance request at 6 Valencia Court for a metal roof over a portal that would extend 20% farther along the façade than covenant standards.
- ▼ A motion to approve the expenditure of approximately \$11,000 on security cameras at the stable area gates was approved by a vote of 6-1 (Henline voting no).

▼ A motion to appoint **DiAna Gutierrez** as member of the Information Committee was approved unanimously.

▼ A motion to approve **Bonnie Mamp** as new member of the Stable Committee was approved unanimously.

▼ A motion to approve **Gretel Underwood** as new member of the Stable Committee was denied by a vote of 4-3 (Yard, Handy, Henriksen and McDowell voting to deny; Ryen, Henline and Forneris voting to approve).

The next regular meeting of the ECIA Board will be held on December 15, at 7 PM in the Railroad Building at the ECIA Community Center. Complete minutes and agendas of ECIA Board meetings are available at the ECIA office or on the website: www.eldoradosf.org.

Message from the ECIA President

The ECIA Board is delighted that **Isabel Ugarte** has been named permanent general manager for our Association by our management partner, HOAMCO. Ms. Ugarte hit the ground running when she stepped in as interim manager three months ago, and she has shown a great deal of dedication, energy, and attention to detail during that time. Her appointment to the permanent position is unanimously supported by members of the Board. We are, of course, a large and complex association, and any new GM will require time to learn about the community and gather knowledge about our processes and policies. We encourage everyone to be supportive of Ms. Ugarte as she accelerates through this learning curve.

It is also budget season for the ECIA. The Board has been reviewing a draft budget for 2017, which will not include any increase in assessments. A public forum to discuss and review the draft budget will be held on Saturday, December 10, from 10 AM until noon, in the Railroad Building at the Community Center.

We are pleased to report the addition of two new members to the ECIA Board. **John Henriksen** will serve out the three-year term vacated by the removal of **Claudia Daigle**, and **Michael McDowell** will serve the remainder of the term vacated by director **Greg Colello's** resignation. More information on these welcome additions to our Board can be found in next month's issue of *Vistas*.

As a parting note, I would like to encourage every Eldoradoan to reflect on the rancor and animosity that has prevailed in our recent national public discourse and to look for ways to ensure that such divisiveness does not tear at the fabric of our own community. We have too much to be thankful for: our viewscapes, our tranquility, our night skies, our excellent amenities, and most of all, each other. Let's keep it that way.

—Dag Ryen
President, ECIA Board of Directors

Final 2017 Budget Steps

The Finance Committee has recommended to the Board a 2017 budget that features:

- ▼ No Assessment increase;
- ▼ A slight decrease in Operating expenditures; and
- ▼ A modest increase in Replacement Reserve expenditures.

Final steps in approving the 2017 budget include:

- ▼ **Tuesday, December 6, 9 AM:** Proposed 2017 Operating Budget and Message available at ECIA Office and on the website.

▼ **Saturday, December 10, 10 AM:** The Board conducts a public hearing on the proposed 2017 operating budget. Copies will be available at the hearing. Venue: Railroad Building.

▼ **Thursday, December 15, 7 PM:** The Board adopts the final 2017 budget at its regular meeting. Venue: Board Meeting, Railroad Building.

▼ **Friday, December 16, 5 PM:** The adopted budget and budget message are posted to the website and released to HOAMCO for inclusion with 2017 invoices.

—Dan Drobnis, Finance Committee

FROM PART 2 OF *WINDMILLS AND DREAMS*

The History, First Settlers

The history of human habitation in the Eldorado area definitely begins with the Anasazi. They came, they dwelt here, and they left. The land and the water did not provide enough for survival. Water was barely enough during the good years, and when droughts came and the wells ran dry, they had to move to survive.

It is believed that those who lived here remained until around the middle of the 1300s, their adobe homes built atop those of the ancestors who had been here before them. Archaeologists believe that the population more than likely moved to the Galisteo Basin, and from there eventually to the many pueblos existing today in the Santa Fe, Taos, and Albuquerque areas.

It is where, in 1914 and 1915, an anthropologist named Nels Nelson would first dig up these ancient homes and ruins, and in 1969, the white man from far away would once again build homes that seemed to blend with the earth.

Remains of the ancient Anasazi pueblos have been found on parts of the former Lamy Ranch near Eldorado as well as in and around the town of Lamy. The area these tribes of ancient humans inhabited some twelve thousand years ago ranges from the hills of the Cañada de Los Alamos and Lamy Grants north of I-25 to sites past the town of Lamy down to Galisteo. Our subdivision is a part of this ancient prehistory.

The second edition of *Windmills and Dreams* is available at the ECIA office for \$15 and online from Amazon.com.

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Conservation: Jim Daniel
Election: Kathie Graham
Facilities & Grounds:
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Finance: Dan Drobnis
Information: Open
Roads: Felicia Probert
Stable: Pat Donahue

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library
466-READ
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofireandrescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)

Give a book
about Eldorado
for the Holidays!
Windmills and Dreams
Available at the
Community Center
\$15 check or credit card



Haiku

Snow, cold, brisk clean air—
sleigh and reindeer on the
way:
What new gift this year?

Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale

The artists of the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association had such a fun time last December with our impromptu “pop-up” Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale that we’ve decided to do it again this year. The date for this year’s pop-up show is Saturday, December 10, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Once again, the event will be held at the Agora shopping center in three different store-fronts, so be sure to visit all of them. There will be approximately 35–40 of your favorite artists showing their work.. Check with us at www.eldoradoarts.org sometime in late November for more details, or be on the lookout for our postcards and signs. What a great opportunity to finish up your holiday shopping with beautiful handcrafted art created by local artists!

Christmas Fair at Adam Senior Center

The Adam Senior Center is sponsoring a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, December 3 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Tables are available for \$10 each. Sign up and pay early at the Adam Senior Center on Torreon. Set-up is at 8 AM on Saturday, Dec. 3. Information: 466-1039.

Adam & Kim’s Christmas Trees

Opening Saturday, November 26, at the north parking lot of La Tienda, the Eldorado-owned and operated business, Adam and Kim’s Christmas Trees, will offer quality, fresh-cut Christmas trees from Oregon. Douglas fir, Grand Fir, and Noble Fir will be available in sizes from tabletop to tall trees. Wreaths, garlands, and chili ristras will also be available. A portion of proceeds is donated to El Dorado Volunteer Fire & Rescue. Facebook: AdamKimsChristmasTrees for more info.

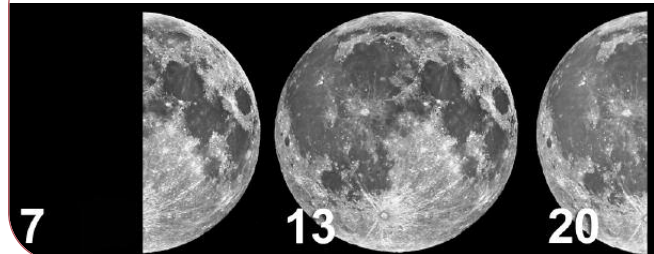
Writers Wanted for Vistas

The Information Committee is dedicated to the task of keeping ECIA residents as fully informed as possible concerning the activities, actions, and programs of our Board and committees. The Information Committee publishes the monthly *Vistas* and maintains the ECIA website, and we need members who are good at and enjoy writing journalistic articles. If you are interested in volunteering on this committee, please attend one of the committee’s monthly meetings. The date and time are listed in the Events calendar.

Reel New Mexico, December 8

Screening on Thursday, December 8, at 7 PM, at La Tienda will be the 56-minute documentary film “Unleaded,” directed and produced by Santa Fean Shereen Noon (2013). The film exposes the mainstream media’s attempt to hide the astonishing results of the 10-year \$31 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) landmark study to assess the impact of chelation therapy on heart disease and diabetes. It theorizes that heavy metals and toxins are the root cause of disease. Chelation therapy, a

MOON PHASES FOR DECEMBER



low-cost treatment, has been prescribed to reduce heavy metals like lead for over 50 years. But the American Heart Association (AHA) doesn’t want you to know.

The National Institutes of Health began the 10-year \$31 million double-blind, placebo-controlled PACT & TACT studies in 1999 to establish once and for all the true effects of chelation therapy on heart disease, diabetes, heart attacks, and strokes. On Nov. 4, 2012, they finally presented the stunning results of the multi-year study that involved the U.S. and Canada and included over 130 clinics and 1,700 patients. Immediately following the NIH presentation, the AHA announced that there was not yet enough information to recommend chelation therapy until more studies were done, despite the overall proven statistics of a 26% benefit for heart disease, a 39% improvement with diabetic heart disease, plus a 23% reduction in heart attacks and strokes. It took five months for a peer journal to publish the TACT results, and those findings were rarely made public.

A Q&A with the filmmakers Shereen Noon and Aaron William Star will be held after the screening. Afterward, we will screen a couple of fun short holiday films.

Suggested donation is \$5, and viewers are welcome to bring food and drink into the auditorium from our great friends at La Plancha, just across the hall. For more information, please call 466-1634.

Film on Carbon Fee & Dividend Dec. 9

Citizens Climate Lobby watch party for special showing of *Years of Living Dangerously*, Friday, December 9 at 6 PM in the classroom at the ECIA. Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) is an organization advocating for adoption of a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend. For further information, contact John at 505-577-3917.

Art and Yoga

I have noticed lately that the practices of yoga and painting are not so very different. During yoga poses, there is some push (yang) when we come into a pose, using our muscles to hold us there, and then a more yin-like release when we come out of the pose and rest for a moment.

Yin and yang can be defined as opposite or contrary forces (night and day, hot and cold, or even happy and sad), and these forces may actually be complementary or interconnected in the natural world. The space between “hold and release” helps us to live in the moment,



especially when combined with the focus on our breath and awareness of our bodies. This applies to painting too.

When I am drawing out my idea on the canvas, it is somewhat of a physical, focused act, when all my creative juices are flowing and all of my energy is released into my creativity. And then there comes the yin, or more dark, negative and feminine (or as I prefer to think of it, quiet and thoughtful) phase when I stop and consider what I have created thus far. Then another period of activity, the yang of positivity, brightness, and masculinity (ego?) when I am plunged into more creativity. Sometimes I forget to breathe, so caught up in the moment and act of painting am I. Then I stop and inhale, which is also probably a yang action, with the yin being the gentle exhalation. And on it goes, this process of making art, building the painting up and then stopping to ponder.

When in the midst of creating, there is little room for other thoughts; one is held in abeyance as the hand and eye work together to manifest an image. Over time this becomes instinctive. So too with yoga: when one practices regularly, one "feels" the poses, and the body and mind work together toward manifesting the perfect balance of mind, body, and spirit. I am sure there are many instances of yin and yang in our lives—there cannot be one without the other—but for me, the art of painting and the practice of yoga perfectly illustrate this Taoist concept. —Julia Cairns

December Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email 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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Budget Public Forum	Sat., Dec. 10, 10am-12pm	466-4248	RR
Archit. Guideline Forum	Sat., Dec. 17, 10 am-12pm	Mark Young	466-4248 RR
ECIA Office Closed	Sat., Dec.24, 25, & 26	466-4248	

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., Dec. 6, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Dec. 12, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	No Dec. meeting	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Dec. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Dec. 14, 2-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Dec. 7, 4-6 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., Dec. 12, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., Dec. 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Road Committee	TBA	Felicia Probert	466-1563	RR
Stable Committee	TBA	Pat Donahue	donahuemail@gmail.com	F

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY

EAW&SD	1st & 3rd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	EAWSD
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs., 7 pm	Mary Fredenburgh	466-1035	CR
Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wed., 3:00 pm	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net	LR
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Sue Daniel	856-220-7087	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Brad Cottingham	466-4655	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	santafesar.org		VGPL
Healing Arts Practitioners	2nd Tues., 4:30-5:30 pm	Terry Terry	303-475-0922	LR

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		RR, CR, LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-5 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	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
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	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	Senior Center	466-1039	
Spinning Group (Fiber)	1st / 3rd Thurs. 9:30-11:30 am	Ellen Higgins	970-201-4776	LR
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Connie Walters	466-4226	RR
Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Wed., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa	Tues. & Fri., 9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Zumba	Tues. & Thurs., 9-10 am	Tana Monaco	690-4332	Max Coll CC

* Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

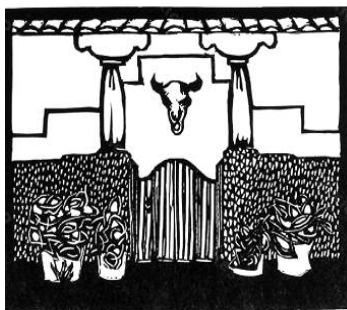
**For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

*** Reservations required

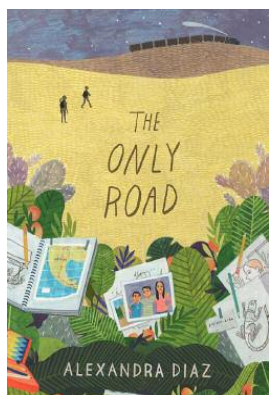
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org



Library News



Prints by Jack McCarthy on view; reception Dec. 2.



Alexandra Diaz Author Talk Dec. 10

Vista Grande Public Library has quite a bit happening this month. Be sure to check the website (www.vglibrary.org) for more recent additions to their calendar. Thank you to everyone who shopped and volunteered at the Fall Book Sale last month. The sale provides funds for new materials, program costs, and other expenses so that VGPL can continue to provide free services to the community.

Also, VGPL completes its 2016 Annual Appeal this month. Your donations provide staff time, materials, technology, and more. Donate online on our website. And thank you for your ongoing support!

Children's Programs: Registration has begun for the Winter Session of the *After School Reading Club*. The session will begin February 1 and will meet on Wednesday afternoons through April. Parents of children in grades K to 4 can get registration forms for the Winter Session at the circulation desk, or print one off the website to return to the library.

Story Time for preschoolers and toddlers will meet on December 2, 9, and 16 at 11:30 AM. This is a fun time just for the kids and their caregivers. Drop-ins are always welcome!

Wags and Words (reading to dogs) will continue throughout December. Currently there are appointments available for any beginning or reluctant read-

ers (or kids who just love dogs) on Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 3:30 to 4, so contact the staff if you have an interested child.

IMPORTANT DATES

Art Exhibition: Jack McCarthy will be showing his prints with the theme "Scratching the Surface: Relief Printmaking." Meet Jack and enjoy his art and light refreshments at a reception in the library on December 2, from 5 to 7 PM. He will be selling unframed prints perfect for holiday giving. The library receives a commission for all art sales.

Book Donation Day: First Saturday of the month, December 3 and January 7, from 9 to 11:30 AM only.

Family Movie Night: Friday, December 9, and January 13, both at 7 PM. Call the library (505) 466-7323 for the titles. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

Author Talk: Alexandra Diaz will speak about her youth fiction books, *The Only Road* and *Good Girls Don't Lie*, at 2 PM, Saturday, December 10. Books cover tween and teen situations. Open to all ages.

Physics for Everyone with Robert Henderson: Thursday, December 15, at 1 PM. Black holes, relativity and Einstein.

Holiday Schedule: Closed December 23 and 24. Open Regular hours December 27 to 30. Closed December 31.

—Tracey Mitchell

Reducing Holiday Waste

Here are a few tips from Eldorado/285 Recycles to reduce the estimated 25% extra household waste generated during the holidays.

CHRISTMAS TREES

- ▼ A living tree can be planted outside for a permanent home in your landscape.
- ▼ An artificial tree can be used over and over for many years.
- ▼ A live tree can be recycled for mulch at ECIA (but first remove all ornaments & lights); watch for dates.

WRAPPING MATERIALS

- ▼ Wrapping paper is not accepted in our recycling program, either by the Eldorado Convenience Center or Waste Management. It is a low-grade material often considered a contaminant in the recycling bin because of its high clay and ink content and low fiber content.
- ▼ Consider interesting alternative wrapping: brown paper, decorative stamps, comics, maps, fabric, reusable bags, baskets, interesting containers. Reuse ribbon and gift bags.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

- ▼ Eventually holiday lights stop working. When that happens, you can recycle them in the Eldorado/

285 Recycles bin at La Tienda. They are taken to Capital Metals who recycles the wire.

- ▼ There are now many solar indoor and outdoor lighting options, as well as low-energy use varieties, available online and at local stores.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- ▼ Use reusable plates, cutlery and glassware, cloth napkins, online invitations and greeting cards.

Community Day at the Stables

The Eldorado Stable Committee once again organized barn owners to share a passion for the horse with our neighbors at the 10th Annual Community Day. The gates swung open at 10 AM on a brisk Saturday morning and immediately cars began streaming in, enticed by offers of pony rides, petting corrals, oh, and free home-baked cookies and rice krispie treats!

Even an unseasonal nip in the air couldn't deter more than 60 budding equestrians from hopping

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE >>





NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Thinking of Trees

During the time of the winter solstice, Pagan culture members traditionally brought boughs of decorated evergreen trees into their homes. This was in recognition of the plant's ability to remain green during the rigors of winter. We in Eldorado are fortunate to live in "a rolling piñon-juniper savannah," with evergreens in every view, during the winter solstice and throughout the year. We thought it would be helpful to review which trees do well here, and how to help them best survive the winter.

Piñons and junipers, which keep their needles year-round, evolved prior to deciduous trees such as maples and oaks, which drop leaves in autumn. Male evergreens are pollen-bearing, females are seed-bearing. Juniper seeds appear as berries; piñon seeds appear in cones. We all know how wonderful the piñon seeds are to eat! In autumn, cars parked roadside give evidence of people gathering piñon seeds for personal use or to sell.

Some trees do much better here than others, and with global climate change, our area will likely warm up further. Wind is also a stress factor. It dries the trees, making them more susceptible to insect invasion.

Local evergreens can be infested by a variety of parasitic insects: piñon needle scale is evidenced by black dots on the end of branches. Pine tip moths, another local pest, infects Austrian and ponderosa pines. If invasive insects infect your trees, work with a reputable service to address the problem.

Some good trees for Eldorado include honey locust, New Mexico locust, desert willow, smoke trees, ash, oaks (shorter species such as Gambel oak), gold-

en rain tree, privet, dark leafed trees such as sand cherries and plum, and New Mexico olive (not Russian olive, which, along with tamarisks, end up in arroyos and use too much water).

Aspens are thirsty trees, needing a lot of water. And they can be fragile, prone to black spot fungus. Aspens can be successful here, however, if they are watered appropriately and positioned inside a protected courtyard or on the north-east side of a structure, sheltered from the winds.

Unless there is a good snow, trees need to be watered monthly during the winter. Deep watering is paramount; shallow watering can actually damage trees by encouraging roots to remain near the surface where they can dry out. Also, be sure to water the roots and not the tree itself; position the drip line on the ground at the site where the leaf cover ends, not at or on the trunk.

We all know it's best to store fireplace wood away from the house, since it can be a fire hazard as well as a den for various critters. It's also best to store fireplace wood away from live trees. If the firewood that is procured for your property is infested with beetles, they can bore out and infect nearby healthy trees. One suggestion is to cover firewood with several layers of clear plastic and place dirt around the bottom to secure the plastic. The sun will heat the wood and kill the beetles.

Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com. For archived Flora & Fauna articles, go to <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com/flora-fauna-group/>.



Piñon and juniper often grow next to each other, as shown here.

Community Day, *continued*

aboard these wonderful horses to be led around the upper arena. The kids were encouraged to take multiple turns—which they happily did! An estimated 200 rides were given, at no cost, thanks to Listening Horse Therapeutic Riding and its lovely corps of volunteers. Safety was paramount and these horses and their handlers were seasoned professionals in the art of the pony ride.

Odin—our amenity's gentle giant, a Shire the size of a mini-van—strolled the facility and acted as equine ambassador, inviting pats from kids and making new friends, most likely still in awe of the combination of so much kindness in an animal so large. Two of our newest horse members, Rosie and Zach who moved here from California, did the same, roaming about and inviting those in attendance to stroke their silky muzzles.

At the other end of the size spectrum was Simon, the donkey of small stature but robust vocal talents. He brays like a trumpet through a concert amplifier. Bedecked in a fashionable red ribbon, Simon enjoyed attention and brushing from even the smallest and most timid of the kids, some of whom found the pony rides to be a bit daunting but still wanted to enjoy interacting with the animals. Simon's stable mates, Juanito and Robin, were generous hosts as well.

As people walked about the facility, our 70 or so other horse residents at the Eldorado Stable amenity peered over their fences with a welcoming nicker.

The day was a success. That much was confirmed when large boxes of apples from local residents, their trees bearing more fruit than they could possibly use, appeared at the front gate after Community Day. The horses thank you very much!

—Lisa Bessone

See pictures of the 10th Annual Community Day on the back page of this issue.

VISTAS

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Promise, of Listening
Horse Therapeutic
Riding, carries thrilled
children for hours,
with the assistance of
Pedro Martinez and
side walker Gaye
Robinson.



Eldorado Stables Celebrate Community Day

See story on pages 6–7.



Our resident gentle
giant Odin pauses
for an admiring pat.

Simon the donkey
enchants visitors
of all ages.

