

# VISTAS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

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## Singalong Composting Songs with Chris Harrell!



Red wigglers composting

It's springtime and a great time to get into strawbale vermicomposting! Convert your kitchen veggie waste into rich garden soil, thanks to the voracious appetites of red wiggler worms. Already composting? Great! Now is a good time to harvest your compost soil from the winter and tune up your bin with fresh moistened straw for the growing season. Want to get started with strawbale vermicomposting? Contact Chris at [clharrell505@gmail.com](mailto:clharrell505@gmail.com). We've got the straw, the worms and even some songs to teach you all about it!

Singalong with Chris at <http://eldorado285recycles.org/composting.html>.

### 1. THE WORMS CRAWL IN, THE WORMS CRAWL OUT

**Tune: The Hearse Song**

The worms crawl in, the worms crawl out,  
up and down, and all about!  
Chewing up, my scraps of food,  
and making dirt, that can be used

### Chorus:

*Red wiggly jiggly worms, how they squiggle, how they squirm  
In my compost pile, they'll be eating there awhile*

My backyard dirt is full of weeds, gopher holes,  
and cholla seeds

It needs more life, that's rich and brown,  
and fertilized, with worms around (to chorus)

### 2. POO! POO! POO!

**Tune: Volcano, by Jimmy Buffett**

### Chorus:

*Oh Poo! Poo! Poo! Poo! Poo! Poo!*

*That's what red wigglers do, they Poo! Poo! Poo!*

In my compost, you will find...  
red wiggler worms, oh so fine!

Munching up my kitchen scraps...  
They're "casting" dirt for my garden plants (to chorus)  
It may seem a little gross... what worms do in my compost

After eating up my scraps, they poop out dirt!

Imagine that! (to chorus)

—Chris Harrell, *Eldorado/285Recycles*

Photo: "vermicomposting" by looseends is marked with  
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## Annual Spring Manure Loading Day at Stables

Attention gardeners! The annual spring 'manure loading day' at the Eldorado Community Stables will take place Wednesday, **Apr. 13, 9 AM–Noon**. The ECIA maintenance crew will be available that day to load manure into your truck or trailer at no charge.

Don't need a whole truckload? Free, clean horse manure for worm bins and compost is available any day of the week at the Stables. Eldorado residents simply need to bring their own shovel and containers to take as much manure as desired out of the 14 green manure bins, located throughout the Stables. Bins are emptied on Wednesday afternoons, so the easiest days for picking up manure are Saturday through Tuesday.

Don't like to shovel? Ask about the ECIA Manure Match Program. The Eldorado Stable Committee connects Eldorado gardeners seeking manure with barn owners willing to muck into containers provided by the gardener. No truck or shovel is needed! Gardeners coordinate with individual barn owners



to arrange for the pickup of their filled containers.

Email [eldoradostables@gmail.com](mailto:eldoradostables@gmail.com) or call the Stable Committee hotline at **505 585-4054** for more information.

### GATE INFORMATION:

Stable gates open and close automatically during daylight hours without a code. Just pull

forward almost to the gate, past the keypad and wait.

**COMPOSTING BASICS:** Check out <https://bernalilloextension.nmsu.edu/mastercomposter/> for information about composting in our climate. Horse manure is also great for worm bins.

—Stable Committee,

Photo of Amelia Adair at the Stables by Elizabeth Mathews

# Board Actions and Summary March 15

**ECIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** was called to order at 5:31 PM, held via Zoom, and recorded. President Sal Monaco, Vice President David Sorkin, Secretary Carol Sanguinetti, Treasurer Joseph Gutierrez, and Directors James Caruso and Jonathan Turkle were present, and quorum was met. HOAMCO staff included General Manager (GM) Julie Navarro, Assistant General Manager (AGM) Jessica Collins, Operations Manager (OM) Mike Rogers, Administrative Assistant Ciara Walsh and Executive Vice president Nigel Burgess.

President Monaco provided an update on a proposed commercial lot split located on corner of Vista Grande and Monte Alto. This belongs to the Miller trust; developer is asking to divide this into two residential lots. Commercial lots do not fall under ECIA covenants, the residential lots would measure about 2.45 acres each. After Monday night's meeting developer agreed to refile their request and have the lots become a part of the ECIA HOA. This request will still need to be approved by the County.

The agenda was adopted with an amendment to remove the lot split discussion listed under "New Business". Director Caruso added a motion to the agenda. The consent agenda items were motioned for approval by Vice President Sorkin, seconded by Director Caruso, and all were in favor. Consent agenda items approved included the General Manager's Report, Covenant Compliance Report, February Board Meeting Minutes.

Treasurer Joseph Gutierrez reported that the operating budget is in excellent shape. Most categories are under budget. Balance sheet reflects a \$340K growth from same time last year. We have collected about 85% of receivables as of **Feb. 28**.

The treasurer also reported that the Governor signed approval of \$180K for roads and \$60K for school crossing, the only request turned down was for an additional \$350K for Azul paving however we still have plenty of money for planning the Azul path.

The GM reported that our annual report is in final approval stages and will be mailed to all residents the week of **Mar. 21**. We foreclosed on thirteen liens in 2021, eleven

of those have paid and only two accounts remain severely delinquent. We will continue legal action on those.

The OM reported that the pool plastering is waiting until temperatures are above freezing for a few consecutive days. Proximity cards are in place for the pool and other locations except the dog park which will require new gates. Barn fencing project was completed. No new vandalism was reported.

The General Manager's Report, Treasurer's Report, County Liaison Report, and Committee and Task Group Reports can be found under "**ECIA Governing Board**" on the ECIA website.

## The Board of Directors approved the following motions:

1. To allow either Board Liaisons, Committee Chairs or Committee Designee to provide monthly reports to the Board of Directors.
2. To allow an alteration to the 2022 Election Procedures for the Directors' positions, to count only the first 25 votes, due to one candidate running unopposed for two open positions.
3. To authorize ECIA General Manager (staff) to determine the location of the secure Ballot Box based on current safety protocols.
4. To allow for variance approval of encroachments by the Architecture Committee effective **May 1, 2022**, for a six-month trial period. Homeowners may appeal variance decisions made by the Architecture Committee to the Board. Variances granted will be provided on the Consent Agenda to be approved by the Board at the next Board Meeting.

Reopening the Community Center for public meetings was discussed and all Directors were in favor. The CC will reopen on **Apr. 4**.

Board President Monaco adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM. The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, **Apr. 19** at **5:30 PM**.

—Sal Monaco,  
ECIA Board President

## ECIA BOARD & MANAGEMENT

**Board:** President **Sal Monaco**, Vice President **David Sorkin**, Treasurer **Joseph Gutierrez**, Secretary **Carol Sanguinetti**, Director **James Caruso**, Director **Erika Penczer**, Director **Johnathan Turkle**.

**Management:** ECIA is managed by HOAMCO. General Manager **Julie Navarro**, jnavarro@hoamco.com  
Monthly report available at **www.eldoradosf.org** under Resident Resources.

**ECIA office open for business. Community Center reopens Apr. 4. For info call 505 466-4248.**

# Pilot Trial: Approval of Setback Encroachment Variances

**B**eginning in May, the ECIA Board of Directors has delegated to the Architecture Committee (AC), the responsibility of approving or disapproving variance requests for setback encroachments. This will be a six-month pilot program to see if requests for setback encroachment variances can be streamlined, to reduce the workload from the Board. The AC currently makes a recommendation to the Board, who then makes the final decision. The pilot program will ensure that neighbors directly affected by the proposed variance are notified. In addition, there will be an appeal process, should neighbors disagree with a decision made by the Committee. Such appeals will be heard by the Board.

## THE PROCESS WILL BE:

1. An Eldorado property owner will complete a new application form for setback variance for AC consideration.
2. Whatever the AC decides, there will be a 14-day period for either the property owner to appeal a denial or for an affected neighbor to appeal a variance approval. During this 14-day window, the decision is provisional.
3. The Board will hear the appeal at their meeting following the 14-day period, which allows for notice and inclusion of the appeal on their agenda.

After the 6-month trial program, the Board will decide whether to make the delegation permanent.

—ECIA Architecture Committee

# Requesting Your Vote to Approve the Amended Bylaws

**Y**our annual meeting packet contains the proposed Amended Bylaws which have been developed over the past nine months by ECIA's Bylaws Review Committee. Suggestions for changes were made by ECIA members and the proposed redline version has been available on ECIA's website for public comment, since January. A town hall meeting to discuss the proposed revisions was held in January for Eldorado Members, where additional revisions were made.

The Bylaws Review Committee is requesting members vote "YES" to approve the Amended Bylaws. The committee believes these changes will benefit the community by

improving its governance. The changes include modernizing procedures by requiring Board policies to be posted on ECIA's web page and authorizing electronic voting if approved by the Board in the future. Another benefit to the community is to increase transparency by defining open Board meetings and strengthening conflict of interest provisions by clarifying ambiguous sections like Board residency and recall petition requirements.

Specific details of why each change was recommended are posted on the Bylaws Review Committee web page, "**Proposed Changes in the 2022 Draft Bylaws**".

—ECIA Bylaws Review Committee

# Vote! Vote! Vote!

**E**CIA Board of Directors election Ballots and Quorum Proxy Statements are due Thursday, **Apr. 28 by 5 PM**. They can be sent by mail or hand-delivered to the secure ballot box at the ECIA office during business hours, **Mon–Fri, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM**.

**REMINDER:** The Ballot includes a section to vote on the Proposed Amended Bylaws. Annual packets were mailed on **Mar. 22** to Members. If you do not receive your annual packet, immediately notify GM Julie Navarro, [jnavarro@hoamco.com](mailto:jnavarro@hoamco.com) or call **505 466-4248**. All packets include a copy of the Proposed Amended Bylaws. If your 2022 Assessments were paid in full by **Mar. 1**, Election materials (Ballot, Quorum Proxy Statement and a postage-paid secure return envelope) are enclosed in your packet. Members may request a Replacement Ballot by contacting the GM.

Counting and tallying of Ballots will commence Friday, **Apr. 29 at 9 AM** at the ECIA Community Center. Members may view the process via ZOOM. Results are announced at the Annual Meeting for Members held on Monday, **May 2**.

—ECIA Election Committee

## Seeking Volunteers

**FUN FACTS** The early history of human habitation in the Eldorado area began with the Anasazi in about A.D. 600. It is believed those who lived here remained until around A.D. 1325, when the wells ran dry. Archaeologists believe the population more than likely moved to the Galisteo Basin, and from there eventually to the many pueblos existing today in Santa Fe, Taos and Albuquerque. Remains of 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 types of ceramics found in the area were:

- Santa Fe Black-on-White, dating A.D. 1200 to 1350;
- Pindi Black-on-White, dating 1300 to 1350;
- Wiyo Black-on-White, 1300 to 1400;
- Galisteo Black-on-White, 1300 to 1400+;
- St. Johns Polychrome, 1175 to 1300; and
- Chupadero Black-on-White, 1250 to 1300

Taken from *Windmills and Dreams*, 1997, 2016





# Congrats to El Dorado Community School Students



**T**he Santa Fe Public Schools 2022 STEM fair season closed as a success with the collaboration of the district, teachers, judges and students. Volunteer judges from Santa Fe Alliance for Science assigned place winners for various Santa Fe schools' science projects. First place winners received a \$100 Target gift card; Second place winners received a \$50 Target gift card; and Third place winners received a \$25 Target gift card.

## EL DORADO COMMUNITY SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVED MANY AWARDS:

### 4th Grade:

- First Place: Bonnie Bannerman—Shampoo

### 5th Grade:

- Honorable Mention: Olivia Kunz—Does the color of your food or drink affect perception to taste?

### 6th Grade:

- Second Place: Leandro Narvaez, Nico Johnson—Paper Airplane Flight
- Honorable Mention: Eli Tager—Mushroom Growth

### 7th Grade:

- First Place: Kaitlin Rusher—Which chips have the most calories?
- Second Place: Amelia Smith, Olivia Liley—Will high frequency music affect plant growth?
- Third Place: Tobias Pfau—Light: A Change of Direction

### 8th Grade:

- First Place: Sawyer McIntosh—Design a Building Well Suited for Strong Winds
- Second Place: Landen Kessler—How Microplastics Affect the pH of Marine Environments
- Third Place: Derek Darby—Speed of Water

ECIA welcomes articles and photos for *Vistas* of students, staff and others who participated in the science fair. Please send submissions to [articles@eldoradosf.org](mailto:articles@eldoradosf.org).

—Santa Fe Alliance for Science

# Celebration Fundraiser: Library Turns 21 on April 10

**P**lease help us celebrate at a fundraiser to be held at Le Pommier (at La Tienda) on Monday, **Apr. 18**, from 5–7 PM.

We are thrilled to have Anne Hillerman present to read from her latest book, *The Sacred Bridge*. Tickets are \$50 per person. Included in the price will be Ms. Hillerman's reading, hors d'oeuvres, water/tea/coffee. (Cash bar).



**Rock Time** is back! Bring your rocks, your fossils and your questions. Local geologists and archaeologists will be present at VGPL (outside, weather permitting), to satisfy your curiosity and share their own finds on Saturday, **Apr. 9** at **11 AM**. This is an all-ages program.

**Family Movie Night** returns Friday, **Apr. 15** at 7 PM. This is a free showing of a recent, family-friendly release. Our license prohibits us from publicizing titles outside of the library; please call us for details. Popcorn and juice are also available for free.

On Saturday, **Apr. 16** at **11 AM**, join us for Fly Fishing with David Yard. Learn about techniques, streams and special fishing spots.

**Tech Classes** on Mondays: iPhone/iPad, **Apr. 4**, and File/photo archiving, **Apr. 18**.

Please contact Trond Peersen at [trond@peersen.com](mailto:trond@peersen.com) for more information on tech classes.

In honor of National Poetry Month, please join our **Third Annual Poetry Reading**. This event features diverse voices of local poets reading their original poetic works. Join your neighbors for a delightful evening on Saturday, **Apr. 23** at **6:45 PM**.

**All Ages Chess** meets **every Friday from 3–5 PM**. Children under 12 need parental permission on initial visit. Interest in Chess is the only requirement for participation.

Our **Bi-Annual Book Sale** will take place **May 5–7**. We will be seeking volunteers soon; if you're interested, please let us know.

We hope it's going to be a busy summer. VGPL has received an ALA Humanities Grant which we plan to use to both expand our summer reading program—Twins, Teens and Adults, this means you!—and produce a lot of humanities programs with the help of local groups, authors and artists. We will be purchasing materials and some other items to support this endeavor. There will be free books and more things that we're still working on. This will also help us expand our usual children's summer reading program.

The **Official Summer Reading Theme** is *Oceans of Possibilities* and given that New Mexico has a deep history as an inland sea, we see a lot of possibilities, including the possibility of a poetry contest. Please stay tuned.

For information, please call **505 466-7323**, visit our website at [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org) or email Julia at [librarydirector@vglibrary.org](mailto:librarydirector@vglibrary.org).

# Visible Ductwork and Conduits Compliance

Over the past few years, ECIA continues to see an increase in the number of Eldorado homes that are installing newer heating and air conditioning units that involve running exterior ducting, pipes and conduits from the roof, as well as from exterior walls. This ducting is usually white and often very visible to neighbors. Additionally, we have noted many new Radon Mitigation systems that are also very white and visible to neighbors.



*Eldorado residence with non-compliant white ducting*

The requirement, to have all rooftop equipment painted to match the stucco color, was further clarified in the *2017 Revision of the Eldorado Guidelines* and reads as follows:

*4.9.1.2. Unless it can be demonstrated that it will interfere with their operation, rooftop and ground-based heating, ventilation and cooling units (exclusive of solar systems) and their associated ductwork, as well as other visible equipment and associated covers, should be earth-toned in color, similar to the approved stucco colors of Eldorado.*



*Above residences are examples of non-compliant white conduits and ducting.*

The requirement to paint all such ductwork to match the color of the home has been in effect since the *2017 Eldorado Guidelines* were approved. Since many homes still have non-compliant white ducting, pipes and conduits on their roofs, we urge residents to paint all such equipment this summer, in a color that matches or is close to their stucco color. Please note, this not only will be appreciated by your neighbors but it is also a *Guidelines* requirement that could be enforced at the time of the sale of your home.

For more information or questions, please contact me at [myoung@hoamco.com](mailto:myoung@hoamco.com) or 505 466-4248. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

—Article and photos by Mark Young,  
ECIA Architectural and Covenant Compliance Coordinator

# New Resident Proximity Cards Available April 11



Residents may obtain their new Proximity Cards for access to all onsite amenities beginning **Apr. 11**. Amenities immediately accessible with the card are the CC Tennis and Basketball/Pickleball Courts. The Pool will be accessible Memorial Day Weekend, and the Dog

Park is in the process of having the system installed.

The proximity card reader project for all onsite ECIA amenities has been under discussion for over a year. The reasons to secure the amenities are as follows:

1. **Liability Insurance:** All association members are covered under the general policy. Non-residents are not covered. ECIA is liable for injuries sustained by non-residents using any of our amenities. Our objective is to decrease

our exposure to expensive lawsuits, as recommended by our attorney.

2. **Vandalism:** In the last 6 months, our association has paid out \$3600 to repair damages sustained at Compadres Park, the CC Basketball Court (Pickleball nets) and the shed nearest the courts, which was a total loss. Our deductible is \$5000 therefore repairs came out of the Operating Budget.
3. **User safety:** The Dog Park is our most popular amenity, and the one-acre park is often crowded. Users have expressed safety concerns about unruly, unsupervised dogs as well as vaccination status. The Sheriff's department has been called out to arbitrate threats made between users.
4. The Pool has utilized an identification card system for over 23 years. Pool users must be residents and members in good standing with the association.
5. Our goal is simply to expand what is already in place at the Pool to the other gated amenities.

—ECIA Facilities and Grounds Committee



# Understanding Our Greenbelt Trails



*A social trail off Pueblo Cañon trail*

**A**lthough many Eldorado residents use trails in our Greenbelts, most of us do not understand the trail system. The Greenbelts are designated floodplains, required for flood control and drainage, where no permanent structures are permitted.

The brochure *Eldorado's Greenbelts and Bike Paths*, which is available at the ECIA office, is a good

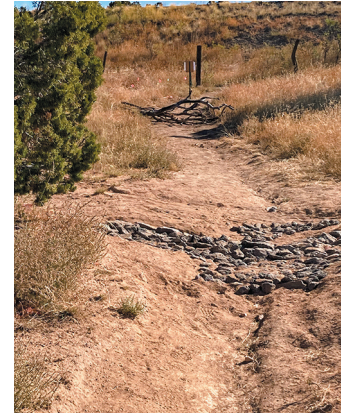
starting point. Be aware that there are only a few approved trails in the Eldorado Greenbelts. These approved trails include the Pueblo Cañon Park and Library trails and the Gallina Park "Playground" trails, all of which are mowed by HOAMCO. Outside the Greenbelts, there are also hard-surfaced multi-use trails along Avenida Del Monte Alto, Avenida Vista Grande, Avenida Torreon, Avenida de Compadres, Avenida Casa del Oro and Avenida Eldorado. Santa Fe County's Santa Fe Rail Trail, which is open to the public, bisects Eldorado but is not part of the Greenbelts.

One of the persistent obstacles to working on trails or other issues in the Greenbelts is that, although subdivision lot boundaries have all been surveyed, many lot boundary markers are not visible where they define part of a Greenbelt boundary. There are signs along some of the Eldorado roads designating the Greenbelt access points but most of these points have not been surveyed and some of them cross private property.

Thus, almost all the 'trails' we use in the Greenbelts are 'social trails'. That is, they have been made by residents who repeatedly walk in an area until a pathway is created. Because the soils in our Greenbelts are highly erodible, every time a new social trail is created, it has a negative impact on the drainage of water in the Greenbelts. It can also damage



*Left, erosion on one of the social trails; Right, trail stabilization work by the ECIA Conservation Committee*



native vegetation, increase erosion (with the tendency to take the shortest route—usually directly down or upslope) and trespass on private lots. Dog waste along these trails contaminates the watershed, contributing to pollution and the spread of disease to wildlife. Walking or biking on the trails when wet, worsens erosion and widens the trails, as we try to go around those spots. In several cases, stabilization has been required to avoid additional erosion or damage to the watershed, for which the Greenbelts were established.



*Pueblo Cañon trail access from Enebro Road*

The ECIA Conservation Committee, which manages the Greenbelts, will conduct an educational hike for Eldorado residents on the Pueblo Cañon Park Trail on Apr. 23 (no dogs, please), to introduce the trail system and the Committee's work. More details will be available on an eBlast as the date gets closer.

—ECIA Conservation Committee

## Interested in Participating in the EACA Studio Tour?

**T**he Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association will be accepting applications for the 2022 Eldorado Studio Tour from Apr. 1–22. This year's Eldorado Studio Tour will be held Sep. 24 & 25.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The participant **must live** (not just own property or know someone here) within the geographic area accessed by the three main roads leading into Eldorado at Santa Fe to the west of US Hwy 285. These include Avenida De Amistad,

Avenida Vista Grande and Avenida Eldorado.

2. Participants must be Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association members in good standing.
3. Participants must submit an online application and payment (only open during the designated enrollment period—see the EACA website and calendar for more information).

For more information on applications and the Tour, visit our website [www.eldoradoarts.org](http://www.eldoradoarts.org) or contact Jolene Petrowski at [eldoradostudiotour@gmail.com](mailto:eldoradostudiotour@gmail.com).

# April Meetings—Community Center Reopens April 4

Meetings may be suspended, held via Zoom, and/or in-person: please check [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org).

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	12, 26	3–5 PM <i>CFR &amp; Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board Meeting	Tuesday	19	5:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	5	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Paul Butt	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	Wednesday	13	3–5 PM <i>CFR &amp; Zoom</i>	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	6	10 AM–12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	Tuesday	12	9:30 AM–Noon <i>Zoom</i>	Joseph Gutierrez	financechair1@gmail.com
	Road Committee	Wednesday	6	5:30–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com
	Stable Committee	Monday	18	6:30–8:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Amelia Adair	stablechair1@gmail.com
Monthly	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	12	4–6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	20	3–5 PM <i>LR</i>	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net
Weekly	Basketball	Thursdays from May 5		6 PM–Dusk <i>Courts</i>		
	Bible Study & Worship Service	Saturdays from Apr. 9		10:30 AM–12:30 PM <i>CR</i>	Kevin Rehorn	kevinrehorn@msn.com
	Eldorado Hikers	Tuesdays		8:30 AM <i>NE corner CC Pkg.</i>	Terry Gibbs	505 466-6914 <a href="mailto:trgibbs@comcast.net">trgibbs@comcast.net</a>
	Knitting Club	Contact for information			Joyce Hanmer	505 466-3018 <a href="mailto:joycehan@msn.com">joycehan@msn.com</a>
	Overeaters Anonymous	Contact for information			Barb	505 954-1533
*	EACA Spring Art Show	Saturday Apr. 30		10 AM–4 PM <i>CC</i>	Karen Murry	<a href="mailto:kmurry@comcast.net">kmurry@comcast.net</a>

**Zoom meeting information is online at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) > News & Events > Zoom Schedule**

Calendar info collected and verified by ECIA office, [GM@eldoradosf.org](mailto:GM@eldoradosf.org). Sign up for ECIA Newsbriefs, [jcollins@hoamco.com](mailto:jcollins@hoamco.com) to be notified of changes.

**CFR:** Conference Room; **CR:** Classroom; **CC:** Community Ctr.; **CC Patio:** Community Ctr. Patio; **CC Pkg.:** Community Center Parking Lot

\* Indicates other events held at the Community Center

## News Corral

### COMMUNITY CENTER REOPENS APRIL 4

After a challenging, two-year interruption of in-person meetings, groups and events, the ECIA Community Center (CC) is reopening **Apr. 4!** Please find the CC rental application on the ECIA website <https://eldoradosf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CC-Rental-Application.pdf> or contact the office for more information **505 466-4248**.

### 285/RECYCLES FEATURE IN UPCOMING MAGAZINE

Seeking Eldorado artists and residents who regularly visit the Re-Use area at the Eldorado Convenience Center, 28734 US Hwy 285, and take items for professional, artistic or personal use. Would you like to be featured in an upcoming *Eldorado Living* 285/Recycles article? Please contact Libby Maclaren at [libbymac3@icloud.com](mailto:libbymac3@icloud.com).

### EACA MEMBERS SPRING SHOW: APRIL 30

**Saturday, Apr. 30, 10 AM–4 PM**  
Eldorado Community Center  
1 La Hacienda Loop

### MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL ONLINE PLANT SALE

The annual plant sale is the Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners' primary fundraiser. Visit [www.sfemg.org](http://www.sfemg.org) to access the sale.

Order: **Apr. 23–May 11**  
Plant Pickup: **May 14**  
Santa Fe County Fairgrounds  
3229 Rodeo Road

### HOAMCO IS HIRING

HOAMCO is actively seeking a qualified individual interested in working for our ECIA community. The **Communications Coordinator** will be responsible for engaging communication between management and members of the HOA. This position will require the ability to reach diverse audiences comprising the Eldorado Community. Strong editing, technological and customer service skills are essential. A pre-hire proficiency test will be required. For more details and to apply, please visit <https://hoamco.com/careers/>.



*Eldorado resident John Bentley showcases a serene sunset.*



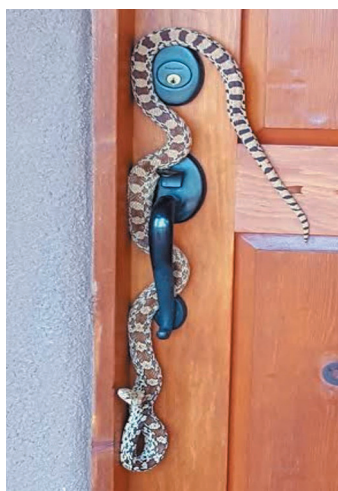
*Nascent days of Spring  
Winter's waning, snow gives way  
Greening, Spring arrives!*

—R. Scott Manzer

**Mission Statement** The mission of the monthly newsletter, *Vistas*, is to inform members of ECIA about issues before the Board of Directors, various committees, and the office staff. Any interesting events happening in Eldorado or the surrounding areas may be included. The publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision-making process.

**Editorial Policy** *Vistas* welcomes factual and objective submissions, which will be selected and edited at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Community announcements, photos, and articles of interest to homeowners are welcome. Submissions are due on the 5th of the month preceding publication. Submissions may be submitted to [articles@eldoradosf.org](mailto:articles@eldoradosf.org). For help with any article, see the *Vistas* Style Guide: [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) > News & Events > *Vistas* Newsletters.

## Local Snake Relocation Volunteers to Limit Services



*A Bull Snake visits Eldorado*

**A**fter 10 years serving Eldorado area residents, training amazing volunteers and handling our beautiful and valuable snakes, Eldorado Snake Relocation Volunteers (ESRV) will offer limited relocations going forward. Volunteers will only be dispatched to relocate **non-venomous** snakes from inside homes, including garages but not from yards. We will continue to relocate

**rattlesnakes** from homes, garages and property. Please know, however, that due to an expanded commitment in my personal life, I may not be able to answer calls promptly as in the past.

During the past decade, we have relocated 574 snakes, answered many emails and calls, offered public workshops, participated in parades and other community events and presented after-school programs. Most of the snakes we have relocated were Bulls or Coachwhips/Red Racers and a quarter

were Prairie Rattlers and Western Diamondbacks. Nearly half of the non-venomous snakes were relocated to Eldorado area homes, whose properties were vetted as being snake friendly. Eldorado Snake Relocation Volunteers has also transported injured or sick birds, mammals and amphibians to the New Mexico Wildlife Center. Grateful residents have donated close to \$8,000 in the last decade to the Center through our services.

Last year we had fewer calls than any season prior. Area residents are learning to identify and appreciate our snakes. Our Facebook page [@eldoradosnakes](https://www.facebook.com/eldoradosnakes) is heavily visited. Among other things, the page helps residents identify our snakes by appearance, behavior and range. There is also information to help those who are frightened of snakes. It is best for snakes and for humans to allow snakes seen outdoors, to just pass through. They have no interest in humans, only rodents and other prey.

Tom Wyant, snake expert for the New Mexico Wildlife Center, has agreed to resume offering his popular Snake Awareness Workshop after a two-year COVID hiatus on Sunday, **May 1**, from **1–3 PM**, at the Hondo Volunteer Fire Department, 645 Old Las Vegas Hwy, one block south of Café Fina on the right. Masks will be required indoors per Hondo VFD and occupancy limit will be respected.

—Article and photo by Lyn deMartin



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