

VISTAS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 • 505 466-4248 • www.eldoradosf.org

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Get to Know Your Candidates for Election to the Board



A Candidate Forum will be held on Tuesday, **Mar. 22, 7 PM** via Zoom. Candidates will present their views and ideas based on a universal question. Plan to attend and get to know your candidates.

Candidates for election to the two open Board positions will be announced to the Members on **Mar. 3**. Look for further information on the web page and via Eblast.

—Bette Knight,
Election Committee Chair

Annual Report Packet for Members Arrives in March

The Annual Report Packet for Members will be mailed by the end of March. Enclosed in your packet is ECIA Annual Report booklet which includes the budget report, notice of annual meeting date and time, candidate statements and recaps of 2021, along with the Proposed Bylaws Amendment. If your 2022 Assessment was paid in full and received and credited to the Association's financial account by **Mar. 1**, you are a Member Eligible to Vote in the upcoming Director's election. You will receive within the Annual Report your election materials consisting of a Ballot, Quorum Proxy Statement (QPS) and a secure postage paid return envelope. Read the instructions on the Ballot, VOTE for the candidate(s) of your choice and also Vote (YES or No) to adopt the Proposed Bylaws Amendments. To ensure Bylaws

quorum requirements are met for the Annual Meeting, Members are asked to sign, date and return the QPS along with their Ballot in the enclosed postage paid return envelope. Members can either mail (allow 14 days) or hand deliver the provided return envelope to the ECIA office no later than Thursday, **Apr. 28, 5 PM**. Ballot envelopes can be placed in a secure ballot box at ECIA office during regular business hours of Monday—Friday, 8:30–4:30 PM. If you need to deliver your ballot outside of ECIA office hours, please contact GM Julie Navarro at **505 466-4248** or jnavarro@hoamco.com to set up an appointment. If you do not receive this packet by **Mar. 30**, notify the office immediately.

—Bette Knight,
Election Committee Chair



A welcome snow blanketing the local landscape was photographed by Eldorado resident Eric Saltmarsh.

Board Actions and Summary February 15

ECIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING was called to order at 5:32 PM, held via Zoom, and recorded. President Sal Monaco, Vice President David Sorkin, Secretary Carol Sanguinetti, Treasurer Joseph Gutierrez, and Directors Erika Penczer 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, Architecture, Compliance Coordinator Mark Young and Administrative Assistant Ciara Walsh.

Board President Monaco thanked Mark Young for organizing the Feb. 10 Town Hall Meeting on Fire Safety. The lineup of speakers included Dr. Matt Hurteau, Professor, Department of Biology, University of New Mexico on Climate Change and Wildfire in the Southwest, Dennis Carril, USFS, Fuels Program Manager, Santa Fe National Forest and on Fire Ecology and Risk and Mike Feulner, Santa Fe County, Wildland Fire Captain on the “Ready, Set, Go! Personal Wildfire Action Plan” (see it on our website at <https://eldoradosf.org/safety-education-task-group/>).

The consent agenda items, including the General Manager’s Report, Covenant Compliance Report, approval of the January Minutes and a motion to authorize the Treasurer to sign contracts that are already approved and within the budgeted cost estimate. 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.

Treasurer, Joseph Gutierrez reported that we are doing very well in collections of assessments as of the end of January and that the completed audit of our Financials by Porch and Associates was a clean audit with no exceptions. Our auditor indicated that our audit grade was the best possible result.

The GM reported as of Feb. 14, \$1.28 Mil, or about 65%, of 2022 assessments have been collected, leaving about \$500,000 outstanding. The office is working on the Annual Report and asked Committees to send 2021 reports to the GM by Friday Feb. 18. The OM reported of the 10 capital projects planned for 2022, two have been completed including purchase of the arena implement and installation of the upstairs mini split. Of the five 2022 R&R projects, the barnyard fence has

been completed except for staining the wood. The OM will create and maintain a spreadsheet for Board and Committee members to track capital and R&R project progress.

The Board of Directors approved the following motions presented by Treasurer Gutierrez:

1. To adopt the 2021 Financial Audit;
2. To approve the replacement of pool lounge chairs in the amount of \$10,000 from R&R funds from 2030 to the current year.

The Board of Directors approved the following motions on variances presented to the Board by John McDermon:

1. 59 Monte Alto Road to allow a wall addition to be built that would encroach a maximum of 3 feet into the 20 foot side setback;
2. 27 Palacio Road to allow for a carport to encroach a maximum of 4 feet into the 20 foot side setback;
3. 4 Juego Road to allow for an existing wall and a new fence to encroach a maximum of 17 into the 50 foot roadside setback.

John McDermon addressed the Board and asked if there plans to be a cloud-based storage function for Committee Members. Mr. McDermon was informed this has been a request from other Committee Members and Board and staff will develop a plan to move forward with this request.

Michael Schneider addressed the Board regarding the Board’s ability to mitigate fire risk in the Greenbelts and to educate residents on how to protect their homes. Mr. Schneider was informed the Association cannot mandate owners to clear or mow weeds and grasses. Mr. Schneider and other residents were encouraged to develop a plan to present to the General Manager to explore further options steps. Additionally, residents may obtain a copy of the Fire Town Hall recording by contacting the ECIA office.

Board President Monaco moved to adjourn the meeting; Board Secretary Sanguinetti seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

The next Board Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, Mar. 15 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 closed for activities. For info call 505 466-4248.

January Bylaws Review—Final Draft Ready for Vote

On Jan. 13, the Bylaws Review Committee held a town hall meeting to discuss proposed revisions of the Bylaws, which was open to all ECIA members. Fourteen ECIA Members attended to ask questions and provide feedback about the redline draft of the proposed Amended Bylaws. ECIA's attorney was also in attendance to answer questions and make recommendations.

Following the town hall meeting, the Bylaws Review Committee reviewed the attorney's recommendations, then revised the draft Bylaws, taking all member feedback into account. The current amended version of the Bylaws is available on ECIA's website at edoradosf.org > Boards & Committees > Bylaws Review Committee, scroll down to "2022 Redline Draft ECIA Bylaws 2.13.22", or you can request a paper copy from ECIA office.

The revised draft was presented to the Board at its February meeting. The final version of the proposed Amended Bylaws will be on the ballot for a vote by members as part of the 2022 annual meeting packet.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES

The Bylaws Review Committee and ECIA members who proposed and support these changes, believe they will help improve the governance of our community. A document summarizing the major proposed changes to the current Bylaws

and reasons why the Bylaws Review Committee recommends them is available on ECIA website at edoradosf.org > Boards & Committees > Bylaws Review Committee, scroll down to "Proposed Changes in the 2022 Draft Bylaws" or you can request a paper copy from ECIA office.

MAJOR CHANGES

- Clarify the residency requirements for Board Members (Directors);
- Strengthen Director conflict of interest rules;
- Define a Board meeting and require that all ECIA business takes place at open meetings;
- Authorize electronic meetings and emergency action without a meeting, subject to caveats;
- Authorize electronic voting, if approved in the future, by the Board;
- Require Recall Petitions for a Director must include a "just cause" reason for the proposed recall;
- Require all policies to be posted on ECIA's website, in addition to being available at ECIA office.

Details of proposed changes are shown in the redline draft of the Bylaws referred to above.

—Amelia Adair,
Bylaws Review Committee Chair

LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG—A CELEBRATION OF THE HERITAGE OF IRELAND

Many Irish honor Saint Patrick each year on the traditional death date, **Mar. 17**. Cultural and religious celebrations are held. Lá Fhéile Pádraig, 'the Day of the Festival of Patrick', celebrations traditionally include public parades, church services and feasts.

On St. Patrick's Day in Ireland you are likely to find roasted lamb, savory fish, shepherd's pies or stew on the menu. In America we traditionally celebrate with corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots. If you have never tried cooking this dish, here is a recipe you might like to try: <https://www.smalltownwoman.com/easy-traditional-corned-beef-and-cabbage/>.



Update on Santa Fe County Funds for Eldorado Roads

The **Mar. 2** meeting of the Eldorado Roads Committee will include guests from the Santa Fe County Public Works Department (SFCPW), to update us on the status of funding and planning for improvements to public roads, drainage, hike/bike trails, other County projects in Eldorado and scheduled road maintenance operations. If you have questions about road issues, please join this meeting, which will be held via Zoom, **Mar. 2, at 5:30 PM**. You can find the Zoom invite on edoradosf.org > News & Events > Upcoming Zoom Meetings.

As this article goes to press, Santa Fe County has requested capital outlay funding (FY22) from the State

Legislature for several roads and road-related improvements to County-owned infrastructure in the Eldorado subdivision. At the **Mar. 2** Roads Committee meeting, we should hear the outcome of those funding requests, plus the County's plans for spending money previously appropriated and earmarked for projects in Eldorado in the County's 2020 bond election.

Projects the Roads Committee is following include: paving Encantado Road, the Azul hike/bike trail, a crosswalk at the El Dorado Community School and drainage upgrades to non-paved roads throughout Eldorado.

—James Mason,
Road Committee Chair

Counting Birds in a Challenging Climate

The proverbial canary in the coal mine is a cautionary tale about the effects we humans can have upon our environment. A buildup of dangerous carbon dioxide and methane gases caused the canary to stop singing and ultimately led to its demise, a not so subtle signal to miners that their lives too were in imminent danger.

Although not all birds are gifted with such abilities, birds are excellent indicators of environmental conditions. They are especially sensitive to a changing climate. As a result, monitoring wild bird populations over time can tell us a great deal about the health of our planet.

In 1900, during an era when there were few legal protections for birds, a popular past-time consisted of seeing who could shoot the largest number and variety of birds, the so-called “Christmas Side Hunt”. Enter one Frank M. Chapman of New York City’s American Museum of Natural History. He decided it would be more beneficial for bird populations to count them rather than take them as trophies. So on Christmas Day that year, Dr. Chapman initiated what would ultimately become the world’s largest community science project—the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Twenty-five counts were held that Christmas Day in 1900 with 27 volunteers. Fast forward to the 2021 count (December 27 in Santa Fe), National Audubon’s 122nd overall, conducted by some 80,000 observers in North America, Latin America and Pacific Islands!

In New Mexico, thirty-eight 15-mile diameter CBC circles are currently active. One of these is the Santa Fe CBC, begun in 1949 (Eldorado by the way, is not within the circle). This year was its 64th (weather and/or other factors kept the count from being held some years according to Santa Fe compiler and long-time birder Lonnie Howard). Seventy-five folks took part. Each year’s count is different. A total of 67 species were found this year, close to the average. But last year’s count produced a bumper crop of 82 bird species. Regarding abundance, 6,653 individuals were tallied this year as compared to 9,058 last year. Of course some species are common one year and virtually absent the next. Case in point: Evening Grosbeak, a large, thick-billed, yellow and olive finch. This winter they are essentially nowhere to be found. The same may be said of Pine Siskin, Cassin’s Finch, and



Male Evening Grosbeak

Red-breasted Nuthatch, all conifer seed eaters. The take away: seed crops are more abundant elsewhere. Waterfowl of course are dependent on ice-free ponds and streams and so below-average temperatures leading up to count day have a negative

bearing on how many ducks and geese are present. The number of eyes in the field also plays a major role, as do other factors such as long-term drought, exacerbated by climate change.



Pine Siskin

more than 100 years in some cases, revealing trends emerge. Christmas Counts as well as annual breeding bird censuses, bird banding records and hawk watch counts have combined to produce a wealth of valuable data for scientific analysis. Unfortunately, significant numbers of species have declined by 50% or more (think Pinyon Jay), while a few have actually increased over the past century. The troubling overall trend is downward and that is cause for concern.

—Articles and photos by René Laubach



Some returning species to watch for in Eldorado during March include Say’s Phoebe (first photo to left) in early March, Chipping Sparrow (center photo) by mid-March, and Turkey Vulture (third photo to left), Violet-green and Barn Swallows near the end of March.

A Rattling Experience Prompts Change

After moving to Eldorado in mid-2004, the subject of rattlers would come up from time to time. My immediate neighbors told me they had seen rattlers on their property. I guess we were lucky that we and our dogs never saw a rattler.

That all changed in 2013. Two adult rattlers were hiding under vegetation adjacent to the eight foot walkway connecting our house and garage. While Kris, my wife, recalls hearing a rattle, she didn't make the connection between the sound and source. My Brittany, Ollie, did not know that they were there.

I became aware of their presence after they moved from our courtyard to our fenced-in side yard. They got tangled up in the bird netting covering our raised bed garden. Ollie saw them and went on his rapid snake bark and I heard them rattle, which alerted me to their presence. They were obviously upset about their entrapment.

Santa Fe County Animal Control came to the rescue, cutting them free and removing them for relocation.

The next year, with the support of the Central New Mexico Brittany Club, we began to host an annual Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinic for Dogs. This year marks our ninth year hosting these clinics and our fifth year on ECIA Community Center grounds.

Since 2013, four rattlers have appeared in our courtyard, one was two feet from our front door threshold. All my Brittans go on a sit-stay while I check the outside surrounding of any exterior door they use. Snakes like to move along building edges, protected from aerial predators.

If you would like to get involved in this clinic or have a dog you would like to register, see the article below for further details.

—Tom Mauter

Fifth Eldorado Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinic for Dogs

Terry and Janet Chandler, owners of Rugerheim Kennels, Las Cruces, NM, will again be conducting 'Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinics for Dogs' on ECIA Community Center grounds. The clinic will be held on Saturday, **Apr. 2**, beginning in groups of about 25 handlers and dogs at **8 AM**, running on the hour, until noon or 1 PM, depending on the number of registrations.

This marks the ninth consecutive year the Central New Mexico Brittany Club (CNMBC) has hosted this clinic. It will also be held on Sunday, **Apr. 3**, on the West Mesa in Rio Rancho, NM.

The clinics held in Eldorado date to 2015 and have attracted more than 100 dogs annually. The effectiveness of this training is reported in the dozens of firsthand testimonies from our residents and their dogs avoiding rattlers on hikes in the preserve, walks on the greenbelt or inside their courtyards. The e-collars used are specifically designed for Terry in this training. Adjustments are made for each dog's size, age, breed, physical shape, medical preconditions and personality.

The goal is to keep your dog from wanting anything to do with a rattler. Avoidance behaviors are individual to each dog. Some dogs veer away while others do a hard about face.

The \$89 registration fee per dog includes an additional, one-time free follow-up in a clinic conducted by Terry a year or more later. I have witnessed dogs returning from one to seven years post-training and almost none wanted anything to do with the rattlesnake.

This training works!

This clinic will be conducted with strict compliance of all COVID-19 rules and restrictions. **KN95 Masks will be required by everyone attending.** Masks will be available on site for \$1 each.



For information visit the Central New Mexico Brittany Club web page: https://centralnewmexicobrittanyclub.com/CNMBC_Hosted_Rattlesnake_Avoidance_Clinics.html

Register at: <https://perfdog.com/>

For specific questions not covered on the club's clinic web page, call Tom Mauter at **505 466-6511** or email at tjmauter@comcast.net.



Photos on left show dogs attempting to get too close to the rattler; Photos on right show the same dogs exhibiting avoidance behavior due to the clinicians' training techniques.

—Tom Mauter

Safeguard Your Home Against Wildland Fires



Example of an Eldorado home where owners are working to establish a protective zone.

ECIA hosted a Wildland Fire Town Hall Zoom meeting on Thursday, Feb. 10 and was fortunate to have three professionals speak to the Community on this important topic. The first speaker, Dr. (Professor) Matt Hurteau, Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, spoke on Climate Change and Wildfire in the Southwest; the second speaker, Dennis Carril, USFS, Fuels Program Manager, Santa Fe National Forest, spoke on Fire Ecology and Risk; the third speaker, Mike Feulner, Santa Fe County Wildland Fire Captain, spoke about the Ready, Set, Go! and Smart 911 Programs.

These professionals discussed warming climate as part of the new normal, with increasing drought conditions in New Mexico. Santa Fe County is currently in extreme drought conditions. Please see <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?NM> for further information on drought conditions in New Mexico.

In part because of warming climate conditions which may increase fuels, we may see increased wildland fire risks,

which can be further heightened by our high winds. The speakers addressed some key measures we can take to help safeguard our homes, by creating defensible space. Creating defensible space can be done through the following practices:

- Establish a protective zone around your home—at least 30 feet from your home that is either xeriscape, or if you have grasses or weeds or other vegetation, cut the vegetation to a height no more than 4 to 6 inches tall and remove any dead or dry volatile fuels from this area;
- Do not plant trees and shrubs right up against your home. If there are trees within 30 feet of your home, make sure to prune them annually to help prevent them from becoming ladder fuels;
- Remove wood piles and any other flammable materials that are close to your home;
- If you have a wooden fence attached to your home, replace the boards that are attached to the home with a non-flammable material (with approval from ECIA) or treat this area with a wood fire retardant;
- Consider having a member from Eldorado Fire Department visit your home to perform a free wildfire assessment, by calling **505 466-1204**.

Please consult the following website for further information on wildfire preparation action plans: <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/ready-set-go/>.

If you missed this important town hall Meeting, please stop by ECIA office and we will provide you with a flash drive with the recording of the meeting.

*—Photo and article by Mark Young,
Architecture and Compliance Coordinator*

As we plan a 50th anniversary celebration, we are seeking enthusiastic volunteers. Please contact articles@eldoradosf.org if you are interested.

FUN FACTS

Sam Shepard and Kim Bassinger starred in “Fool for Love”, filmed in Eldorado and Las Vegas, in 1985. Conditions of filming in Eldorado meant the facades of a neon lighted motel, a truck stop and an auto repair shop, be removed in order for the landscape to be restored to its natural state. Originally written as a play in 1983, Shepard adapted the play for film, which was entered into the 1986 Cannes Film Festival.

See *Windmills and Dreams*, (available for \$15 purchase on Amazon or at ECIA office) for more historical facts about Eldorado.



Eldorado resident Mekah Gordon captures a glorious sunset.

March Meetings—Community Center Closed

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

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	2, 22	3–5 PM <i>CFR & Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board Meeting	Tuesday	15	5:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	1	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Paul Butt	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	Wednesday	9	3–5 PM <i>CFR & Zoom</i>	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	2	10 AM–12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	Tuesday	8	9:30 AM–Noon <i>Zoom</i>		financechair1@gmail.com
	Road Committee	Wednesday	2	5:30–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com
	Stable Committee	Monday	21	6:30–8:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Amelia Adair	stablechair1@gmail.com
Monthly	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	8	4–6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	16	3–5 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net
Weekly	Eldorado Hikers	Tuesdays		8:30 AM <i>NE corner CC Pkg.</i>	Terry Gibbs	505 466-6914 trgibbs@comcast.net
	Knitting Club	Contact for information			Joyce Hanmer	505 466-3018 joycehan@msn.com
	Overeaters Anonymous	Contact for information			Barb	505 954-1533

Zoom meeting information is online at www.eldoradosf.org > News & Events > Zoom Schedule

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

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

News Corral

AMENITY ENTRY CARDS

- Current amenities set up on key card entries will be basketball courts and tennis courts;
- Pool will be automatically added when pool season begins;
- You can obtain your entry card at the Community Center, Monday—Friday 8:30 AM–4:30 PM;
- 2022 assessments must be paid to obtain card;
- There will be a \$20 fee for card replacements.

SECOND ANNUAL TUMBLEWEED CORRAL

Please join us on **Friday, Mar. 25** from **10 AM–12 Noon** at **Comprades Park** for the 2nd annual tumbleweed corral!

Tumbleweeds = Fire Fuel but with the community working together, we can keep the spread under control. We are asking residents to gather tumbleweeds and crush them into a wastebasket bin or cardboard box, then place them in a heavy-duty plastic bag.

You can transport these crushed tumbleweeds to Compadres Park between **10 AM–12 Noon**. ECIA Maintenance Crew will be waiting to take care of them from there.

We are fortunate to have the support from ECIA Board, General Manager Julie Navarro, Mike Rogers and ECIA Maintenance Crew. If you have further questions or thoughts on this matter, please reach out to libbymac3@icloud.com or 617 276-2184.

VISTA GRANDE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN-PERSON EVENTS

Story Time has returned! **Thursdays at 10:30 AM**. This is a special time just for toddlers and preschoolers with their caregivers.

Wags and Words is back! Got a student who is beginning to read, or struggles with reading? Then this is the perfect program. **Latigo the Reading Dog** would LOVE to be read to, and he is the perfect no-judgement listener. Latigo is here on **Tuesdays**, from **3:30 to 4 PM**. Interested? Contact Tracey at libasst@vglibrary.org or call us at **505 466-7323**.

EL DORADO SCHOOL COMMUNITY GARDEN

The El Dorado School Community Garden opens its 2022 gardening season with membership renewal and new member applications. The garden is located behind the school soccer fields with access through the faculty and bus parking lot.

As places are limited, returning members will receive priority. Gardeners can choose from individual plots or participate in the “circle garden” which is a collective gardening effort. All members are required to participate in several workdays during the season and contribute actively to a group of their choosing. Water and drip irrigation, tools and lots of camaraderie are provided! Check out the website: <https://eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.org/>.

Deadline for application and membership fees is **Mar. 31**. For more information, please contact Carol Robles at crobles656@gmail.com or **240 478-8685**.

*Longer days arrive.
Birdsong carries on the wind.
Gardeners rejoice!*

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. For help with any article, see the *Vistas* Style Guide: www.eldoradosf.org > News & Events > *Vistas* Newsletters.

Single-Use Plastics & Polystyrene Ban Initiative



In the Spring of 2021, Eldorado/285 Recycles, an environmental and recycling non-profit organization located in Santa Fe County, hosted a screening of the films, “The Story of Plastic” and “New Mexicans Taking Action on Plastic Waste”. The films garnered interest and support from local recycling organizations and elected officials like Santa Fe County

Commissioner, Hank Hughes. After a few community meetings and consultations, Commissioner Hank Hughes proposed to co-sponsor a Resolution with Commissioner Anna Hansen authorizing County staff to investigate the feasibility and pathway to banning all single-use plastic and polystyrene products in Santa Fe County.

While Santa Fe County does not yet have an ordinance regulating or banning single-use products, other local governments—the City of Santa Fe, Bernalillo County, City of Las Cruces and the Town of Taos, have undergone plastic bag bans and other policy initiatives creating a statewide policy

movement which encourages alternatives and regulations to keep our communities free from plastic pollution.

County Commissioners Hughes and Hansen plan to bring forward a resolution April 2022, in celebration of Earth Day that aspires to form a working group who will make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on adopting an ordinance that bans single-use plastic and polystyrene products in Santa Fe County. The aspirations of the work group are to have recycling, solid waste and retail associations identify areas in Santa Fe County that are most impacted by plastic pollution, fiscal impacts of a plastics ban, outreach strategies and plant-based alternatives that will create a pathway toward a more sustainable community.

If you are passionate about recycling and support Santa Fe County in pursuing a ban on all single-use plastics and polystyrene products, please consider reaching out to your Santa Fe County Commissioners by sending letters/emails of support and join their meeting in April to make your voice heard in support of this policy initiative. You may also want to speak with your local recycling group, favorite restaurant or local business in consideration of joining the working group, if the resolution is passed.

—Gary Stoller
Eldorado/285 Recycles



NEWSBRIEFS: For the latest information from ECIA, please sign up for newsbriefs, (ECIA's electronic mailing system) by contacting jcollins@hoamco.com.



RECYCLE: Help ECIA go green! Save on paper and mailing costs by opting out of receiving a mailed copy of *Vistas*. To sign up, email jcollins@hoamco.com. You will be sent an email once a month with a link to the next issue of *Vistas* on ECIA website, in pdf format, ready to view and print at home. Past issues are also available online. This paper is recyclable. Please recycle after use.