

VISTAS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Board Actions April 19	2
Home Projects / VGPL	3
For Birds and People	4
Wine & Weeds Walks	5
Neighbors / Tumbleweeds	5
Our Ecosystem / Radio	6
Calendar / News Corral	7
Online Portal for Our Roads	8

Join Us for the Inaugural “Cactus Garden Tour”

When you think of Santa Fe, you think of cactus. Well, at least that’s what 10 Eldorado gardeners do, and they’ll be opening their gardens to share their love of all things cactus on Saturday, **June 4, 9:30 AM–2:30 PM**. The first-ever “Cactus Garden Tour” in Eldorado will start at the amazing cactus garden at La Tienda shopping center at **9 AM**, adjacent to the parking lot outside of the Santa Fe Brewing Taproom and Del Norte Pharmacy. There you can pick up a map to visit all 10 participating gardens, including the final stop at the Eldorado Community Center Cactus Garden. Follow the “Cactus Trail” to visit a wide variety of cactus gardens, some newer and some more mature. Talk with the gardeners who fell in love with cactus and planted their own gardens, inspired by the fantastic work of the “Cactus Rescue Project” led by John “Obie” Oberhausen and Joe Newman.



*Left, endangered *Cylindropuntia viridiflora*, Santa Fe Cholla; Right, *Cylindropuntia imbricata*, common tree cholla.*

The Cactus Rescue Project (CRP) was founded by Obie, Joe and Nancy Lehrhaupt, with the initial goal of saving the endangered Santa Fe Cholla. The CRP set about propagating this endangered plant around the Eldorado area and later, further afield. The Santa Fe Cholla, unlike the common tree cholla we generally see in this area with bright pink flowers, has a lovely and subtle peach flower that turns to bronze as it ages—it’s gorgeous! After their complete success in expanding the quantity and spread of the Santa Fe Cholla, the CRP went on to build some of the best cactus gardens in the state, starting with the public garden at the Eldorado Community Center (part of the Cactus Tour). Obie generously shares his love and knowledge of cactus with countless Eldorado area gardeners. Dozens, if not hundreds, have been inspired to start their own cactus garden with the help of free cactus cuttings that the CRP provides at their regular presentations and weeding “parties” held at the established community cactus gardens.

If you can stick a piece of cactus in the ground, you too can become a cactus gardener—no water needed. It’s that easy! Plan to visit and be inspired by these extraordinary gardens on Saturday, **June 4, 9:30 AM–2:30 PM**. You can also sign up to be on Obie’s mailing list at JWO1959@gmail.com for future cactus giveaways, the next one is **July 17**, or buy an established (rooted) cactus or two. Join the Cactus Rescue Project’s Facebook page for more updates.

—Barrie Brown,

Photos: Left, courtesy Cactus Rescue Project; Above: Sandra Vreeland



Joe Newman, Kris Palek, John “Obie” Oberhausen, Nancy Lehrhaupt, Catherine Williamson, Phil Musser, Eldorado Bullsnake

Board Actions and Summary April 19

ECIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING was called to order at 5:30 PM. The Board met in person, and the meeting was held via Zoom and recorded. All Board members were present and quorum was met. President Monaco briefly discussed the New Residents Welcome Event scheduled for Sunday, **June 5**, and the need for additional volunteers across all the committees.

The HOA's liability insurance has been renewed with a 5% increase in premium, which is consistent with what other HOA's are seeing. The concerns over Waste Management continuing to tell residents there is a contract with ECIA has been an ongoing issue and one that is causing frustrations in the community. It was reiterated there is no contract between ECIA and Waste Management, and residents are free to contract with their waste hauler of choice.

The consent agenda items were motioned for approval by Director Caruso, seconded by Director Penczer and all were in favor. Minutes can be viewed on the website.

Board Treasurer Gutierrez reported the operating expenses are under budget through the first quarter. As of **Mar. 31**, approximately \$140K of assessments are unpaid. The cost for the budgeted 3rd marquee (Capital Expenses) will be higher than estimated but will be a long-term investment for the community and will be presented to the Board for approval. Our cash position is \$316K higher than last year and all financial indicators are good.

Board Treasurer and County Liaison Gutierrez reported on the ongoing projects in the community with SF County. The continuation of the Hike/Bike path on Casa Del Oro was completed at the beginning of the year. Though ECIA requested \$30K for a school crossing, SF County awarded \$60K for this project. For 2022, ECIA budgeted \$20K to match any legislative funds.

The GM reported the office has sent out 1st late notices, and at least fifteen additional payments have been collected. As of **Apr. 19**, \$98K of 2022 assessment are currently outstanding. Google Workspace went live **Apr. 19** for all committee, Board and staff members. The office will work with committee members to make sure they understand how it works. The office continues to issue proximity cards to residents. All amenities, except for the Dog Park, will require proximity cards for entry starting **May 9**; the Dog Park will take a bit longer.

Pool re-plaster is scheduled for **Apr. 28** and **29**, and both pools will be inspected on **May 10**. The ECIA parking lot will receive sealcoat and restripe beginning **May 2** and is expected to take approximately a week. This will be done in two sections starting with the Northeast and Northwest areas first. Residents and staff will need to park along the road and use the Hike/Bike path to access the Dog Park and Community Center. The entry monument at Vista Grande has been repaired and bollards

ordered. Once received they will be placed around the monument for protection since we have had cars crash into them two years in a row. Shade structures at Compadres Park will be installed soon and the Handball Court will be painted and fenced.

Committee Reports can be reviewed on the ECIA website by accessing the respective Committee's most recent meeting minutes.

The following Architecture Committee variance recommendations were presented to the Board and approved:

1. 3 Manzano Lane—approval to not have a connecting wall;
2. 24 Cerrado Loop—to add additional square footage above the 18 ft. maximum height requirement;
3. 9 Ricardo Road—to allow for a coyote screening fence to be built that would encroach a maximum of 4 ft. into the 20 ft. setback;
4. 16 Chapala Road—to allow for a large accessory structure to be located more than 15 ft. from the home;
5. 11 Domingo Road—to approve a new wood post and wire fence of 380 sq. ft. to exceed the maximum allowed enclosure space on a lot by 380 sq. ft.;
6. 6 Gualdo Road—to allow for a coyote and metal post and wire fence that fully encroaches the 20 ft. rear setback;
7. 6 Sombra Court—to allow for a large accessory structure to be located more than 15 ft. from the home.

The Board of Directors approved the following motions:

1. To accept Jürgen Lehmann's resignation from the Conservation Committee;
2. To approve the Stable Amenity Rule XII, Barn Owners/Sharer Liability Insurance, and Appendix VIII, the ECIA Stables Equestrian Liability Waiver and Release Agreement.

New Business:

- Discussion regarding the Architectural Committee setbacks beginning **May 1**. If a resident is opposed to a variance, it will not be on the Consent Agenda and will be discussed during the Board Meeting. The variance approval will be stipulated on record when a variance was grandfathered so if questioned, it will be documented.

Open Forum:

- A resident from 53 Cerrado Loop requested clarification regarding the variance request at 24 Cerrado Loop. The variance is additional square footage to the home, not an addition.

Board President Monaco moved to adjourn the meeting; Board Director Caruso seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM. The Board recessed for Executive Session to discuss legal matters. The next Board Meeting will be held via Zoom for residents and in-person for Board members on Tuesday, **May 17 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 **Jonathan Turkle**.

Management: ECIA is managed by HOAMCO. General Manager **Julie Navarro**, jnavarro@hoamco.com
Monthly report available at www.eldoradosf.org > Board & Committees > ECIA Governing Board.
ECIA office open 8:30 AM–4:30 PM, closed Noon–1 PM for lunch. Info call 505 466-4248.

Residential Projects Requiring ECIA Approval

With Eldorado residents experiencing warmer temperatures in May, many residents may be thinking about starting a home project that they had been putting off for years. Many, however, are not aware that any exterior change to their home, which is of a permanent nature, requires the approval of ECIA.

The ECIA finds that the most common project started without ECIA approval is the re-stuccoing or repainting of homes. A possible result of not getting ECIA approval and using a non-compliant stucco color could be that the resident would be required to go back and re-stucco their home with a compliant stucco color, at a significant cost to the homeowner.

In general, we at ECIA would like to remind all residents that any permanent exterior modifications or improvements on the outside of their home, require the approval of the ECIA Architectural Committee or ECIA staff. This includes additions such as garages, sheds, walls, fences, cisterns, solar arrays or any other project that is permanent in nature.

A partial list of some of the projects that require ECIA approval include:

- Replacing any exterior doors or windows;
- Adding a new roof or roofing membrane;
- Adding awnings or shade devices;
- Adding a new shed (small accessory structure);
- Changing or modifying existing fencing on the lot;

- Adding above ground raised gardens, garden enclosures or greenhouses;
- Repairing an existing fence but changing the height, size or method/style of construction.

While these projects may be small in comparison to a home addition, the fact that they are a permanent structure change, means that they will likely need ECIA approval.

Residents should note that many of these projects (such as re-stucco work and replacing exterior doors or windows) can often be approved quickly and efficiently by ECIA staff, via a consent approval, provided the resident is using compliant materials and designs.

If you are a homeowner and have a project in mind, we ask that you email the ECIA Covenant Compliance Representative, Mark Young, at myoung@hoamco.com to see if your project will require an Architectural Committee review. Mark will gladly work with you to ensure that you have the required forms filled out properly to streamline the review and approval process. Residents may pick up the needed forms at the ECIA office or they can download the required *Architectural Committee Submission Form* from the Eldorado website at eldoradosf.org. As well, residents can review the most current *Eldorado Covenants and Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions* on the website.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mark Young at myoung@hoamco.com.

Annual Meeting In-Person Event: Monday, May 2, 5:30–7:30 PM

Max Coll Senior Center; Refreshments served. For more information call ECIA 505 466-4248.

Vista Grande Public Library Upcoming Events

Vista Grande Public Library (VGPL) will be open **Tuesday—Friday, 10 AM–6 PM** and **Saturdays, 10 AM–4 PM**.

Do you like the art at VGPL? Our volunteer exhibit coordinator is retiring and we're looking for someone to step into her shoes. If interested, please contact librarydirector@vglibrary.org to have your inquiry passed on.

Help support us during our **Bi-Annual Book Sale:** Thursday and Friday, **May 5–6, 10 AM–6 PM** and Saturday, **May 7, 10 AM–4 PM**. **\$25 Early Bird** entry Thursday, **May 5**. Thousands of nearly-new items—CDs, audiobooks, DVDs, non-fiction and fiction books for all ages! Most items \$3 or less. Books make a wonderful Mother's Day gift! This sale of donated items is a major fundraiser for the library. Get great reads for a great price while helping to keep our doors open.

- **Rock Time:** Saturday, **May 7, 11 AM**. Bring rocks, fossils and questions. Local geologists and archeologists are available with answers.
- **Medicare Information Sessions:** Thursday, **May 12** at **10 AM** and Tuesday, **May 17** at **1 PM**. Meet with a

certified Medicare benefits volunteer from the NM Department of Aging for information and advice.

- **Grown-Up Movie Night:** Friday, **May 13, 7 PM**.
Family Movie Night: Friday, **May 20, 7 PM**.
Family Movie Matinees: **Tuesdays in June and July, 1–3 PM**. Free popcorn and juice. Our license prevents us from listing movie titles here, please call **505 466-7323** for more information.
- **Lunar Eclipse Event:** Sunday, **May 15, 7:30–10:30 PM**
- **World Migratory Bird Day:** Family-friendly event, Saturday, **May 21** at **1–3:30 PM**.
- **Summer Reading:** Starts **June 1**. Kick-off Party **1–3 PM**. Activities and giveaways for all ages.
- **Summer Reading Club:** Wednesdays, **June 8—July 27, 2–3 PM** (Registration required).
- **Toddler Story Time:** **Thursdays** at **10:30 AM**.
- **All Ages Chess:** **Fridays** from **3–5 PM**.

For Birds and People: An Ode to Dark Skies

One of my favorite birding memories was going out into the dark, starry night to listen, yes listen, to the streams of migratory birds flowing invisibly through the air above me. Their nocturnal flight call notes to the uninitiated were barely discernible, distant and vague, but to the trained ears of ornithologists, they were distinctive, identifiable by species. It was another amazing nighttime flight over sleeping towns and quiet woods, these long-distance travelers heading instinctively north from their wintering grounds.

Most bird species, such as “our” beautiful warblers, grosbeaks, and tanagers, migrate by night when the sky is calmer and there are fewer predators. Migrating birds are guided primarily by the stars, but when it is overcast, they may orient by the sun at dusk or by tracking major geographic features, monitoring wind direction and sensing the flux of magnetic fields.

In many places, we are causing trouble for the birds’ navigation with artificial light at night (ALAN). The bright lights of cities, on buildings, in neighborhoods and along highways, attract and disorient these birds, setting them on a course more vulnerable to collisions and predation, disrupting their feeding and other behaviors, making it harder and requiring more energy to find their way. Given the recently

documented loss of three billion birds in the U.S. and Canada (Rosenberg et al. 2019), we know these shared species face a myriad of seemingly intractable threats...but night lighting is one that we can easily do something about.

The importance of dark skies and the negative impacts of light pollution on birds is the 2022 conservation theme for **Environment for the Americas’ World Migratory Bird Day** (WMBD; www.migratorybirdday.org), the hallmark outreach and education event of Partners in Flight. WMBD is celebrated in May in the U.S. and Canada when birds are coming north to breed and in October in Latin America and the Caribbean when birds are returning south for the winter.

However, WMBD can be celebrated at any time when local communities witness the return of these magical migrants.

It turns out that what is good for the birds we enjoy in our backyards, is also good for another treasured aspect of living in Eldorado, our beautiful night skies where we can clearly see the planets, stars, constellations and the Milky Way galaxy. Many dark sky advocates live here for this reason,

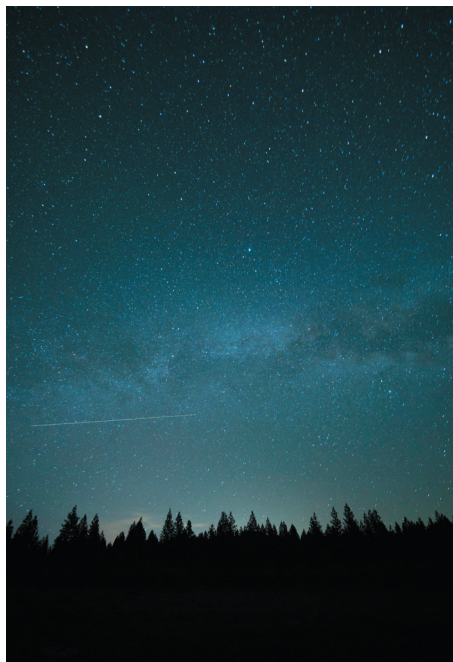
including members of the Santa Fe Stargazers group <https://www.santafestargazers.org/dark-sky-advocacy/> and they support our efforts to turn out the lights for the sake of birds as well.

So, think about what lights you may have on at night. We must all have downward-facing lights per the ECIA Covenants but you can reduce the wattage, use warmer color lights, close your shades or add window treatments (including on clerestory windows) and consider turning off your outside lights during nighttime hours when they are not needed for coming and going. Remember also, solar-powered lights, especially a “runway” of them, can be very disorienting to birds, so use them sparingly and let your headlights do the rest. Your neighbors, the birds and the local astronomers will thank you!

Then get ready to enjoy the parade of arriving migrants coming through your yard this spring and go out into our inspiring darkness to see if you can hear their passage overhead. The Vista Grande Public Library will be celebrating **World Migratory Bird Day** and the protection of dark skies for birds on Saturday, **May 21** from **1–3:30 PM**, with live raptors and activities for kids of all ages. Join dark sky enthusiasts to enjoy the **total lunar eclipse** on **May 15–16!**

—Carol Beidleman,

Eldorado resident who works with Environment for the Americas; Images: Above, Environment for the Americas; Left, Will Stewart



Wine and Weeds Walks at the Eldorado Stable

The Eldorado Community Stable will be hosting its second season of *Wine and Weeds Walks* starting Saturday, **May 21 at 5:30 PM** at the north end of the Stable Main Road. A total of three Walks are planned this summer, on the third Saturday evening of the month in May, June and July.



Above: Susan Tweit urges support of beneficial dryland plants. Right: Philippe Cohen shares information of biological research stations.

These educational and social gatherings typically feature a guest speaker on the local ecology, while we enjoy light refreshments. Afterward, we stroll through the Stable common areas pulling weeds and socializing, while learning to distinguish weeds from native vegetation. Equines may help out by grazing on weeds as we go.

Why a Walk? Many hands make light work of pulling weeds, reducing future fire risk and helping native plants thrive. Many invasive weeds are highly palatable for equines, including Kochia, Russian thistle, and cheatgrass, if grazed before it goes to seed.

Eldorado residents are welcome to join the fun. Please bring finger food or drink to share, plus your own beverage container, to make these no-landfill-waste events.

—Article and Photos, Amelia Adair,
ECIA Stable Committee Chair

Neighbor To Neighbor

Eldorado Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a small group, dedicated to offering short-term help to those in need in Eldorado and the surrounding area. We function under the auspices of Santa Fe County and in conjunction with the Eldorado Senior Center. We are not limited to seniors—our help is available to anyone in the community. Currently, because of Covid, we are not entering homes; however, there is still a lot we can do!

For example, if you broke your leg, we can pick up your mail, roll the trash container to the street, pick up your pre-ordered groceries and drop them off at your door. Maybe your dog needs a walk. If you are lonesome and feeling isolated due to the pandemic, we can provide regular phone call visits. We do not transport individuals to appointments; however, the Santa Fe County Senior Program can let you know of other transportation options. In addition, the Senior Center still provides daily home-delivered meals. The County can facilitate meal delivery by calling **505 992-3069**. You can also email us at enhnm@gmail.com.

We are very concerned for the residents of our community, especially those living alone or who are reluctant to ask for help directly. If you know of someone who could use our help, please reach out to us and we will contact them.

We need more volunteers! We meet monthly and you are welcome to join us. Please contact us by email so we can let you know about our meeting schedule. Maybe you have been helped by our group in the past and are now able to give back to the community. Join us and get the satisfaction and fulfillment of genuinely helping others.

Tumbling Tumbleweeds



Libby Maclaren loading tumbleweeds at Compadres Park during the Second Annual Tumbleweed Corral.

A big shout out to all the residents who gathered the tumbleweeds and brought them to Compadres Park. Gratitude to Liz, Mel, David and Jane, my neighbors who raked tumbleweeds with me on Espira Road near the Greenbelt.

Thank you to ECIA maintenance who took many truck and trailer loads to the transfer station.

Next year we will go green and use paper bags for collection—NO to plastic.

Peace,
Libby

—Photo, Amelia Adair

Eldorado's Ecosystem Depends Upon Us All

Eldorado's permanent wildlife is of critical importance to the balance of our ecosystem. Our greenbelts are historic wildlife habitats and travel corridors. Aside from their intrinsic value, wildlife adds genuine worth—especially with their community service.

The warmer weather will encourage our population of snakes to resume their rodent control activities. Snakes will venture onto roads. Care is required to recognize and help them cross (a broom will be useful). Snakes are on the roads most often in the morning and in the evening. Several busy roads cross major habitat areas and corridors have “Watch for Wildlife” signage. A few seconds to save a life is a positive contribution to our community.



Our popular coyotes and bobcats will be raising their young now through the summer months. These new families will require space and privacy. It is a wise practice to keep

dogs on leashes in habitat areas to avoid conflicts. While companion animal emergency medical services are still lacking, they are severely restricted for wildlife.

The Eldorado coyote population has been impacted by distemper and rodenticide poisoning as verified by NM Department of Agriculture Veterinary Diagnostic Services. Distemper is highly contagious and can be quickly spread between coyotes and domestic dog populations. The verified deaths from rodenticides can be avoided by simply not adding anything foreign and toxic to the wildlife food chain that we would not add to our own. Access to natural, appropriate and healthy food is necessary for all species and the stability of wildlife habitats.

Keeping our indigenous predators healthy and active is the best practice to naturally control rodent populations. We all have similar basic needs for food, water, shelter and safety. Our efforts to limit access to these attractants and exclude rodent populations from our homes will maintain the natural balance in our wildlife habitats.

Any supplemental feeding of wild mammals, especially coyotes is to be avoided. Dr. Sarah Sirica DVM of the New Mexico Wildlife Center comments, “Feeding or otherwise supporting a wild animal population can elevate their numbers to greater than the true ‘carrying capacity’ of the land. That artificial population level will almost always lead to increased spread of disease.”

Eldorado has dedicated resident volunteers for helping wildlife—especially snakes and coyotes. For information and responder services please contact **Joe Newman**—Project Coyote, Snake Responders, Cactus Rescue Project at **505 690-3709**, jenewman@earthlink.net, jenewmansp@gmail.com.

Thank you for coexisting.

—Photo, Coyote Pups ©2018 Martha Marks,
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Community Radio Previews 2022 Santa Fe Operas

Again this year, ELDORADIO 1660 AM, in Eldorado at Santa Fe, will preview the coming summer season of the Santa Fe Opera (SFO) with complete broadcasts of four of the works set for production this summer, at the open-air theater north of Santa Fe. Listeners can become familiar with the music and the plots to prepare for the opera experience. Those new to the art can sample the vocal values and musical mastery of the repertoire. Giuseppe Verdi's, *Falstaff* will be heard on Saturday, **June 4 at Noon**; Richard Wagner's, *Tristan and Isolde*, which SFO is producing for the first time here, will have a radio preview on Saturday, **June 18 at Noon**. Performances in ELDORADIO's *Saturday Matinee* series are from recorded live or studio productions.

As an added opera bonus, on Saturday, **July 16 at Noon**, the anniversary of Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory's test of



the first atomic bomb at Alamogordo, *Saturday Matinee* will broadcast John Adams and Peter Sellars' opera *Doctor Atomic*. It tells the story of that event and its background on “The Hill”—the laboratory town visible through the back of the SFO stage when it was produced here in 2018. The weekly *Saturday Matinee* regularly showcases recorded public performances of classical, jazz and folk music, as well as dramas and other performances. ELDORADIO is a commercial-free low-power 24-hour radio service heard only in Eldorado.

May Meetings—Community Center Now Open

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

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	10, 24	3–5 PM <i>CFR & Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board Meeting	Tuesday	17	5:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	3	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Sue Will	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	Wednesday	11	3–5 PM <i>CFR & Zoom</i>	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	4	10 AM–12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	Tuesday	10	9:30 AM–Noon <i>Zoom</i>	Joseph Gutierrez	j.gutierrez@eldoradosf.org
	Road Committee	Wednesday	4	5:30–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com
	Stable Committee	Monday	16	6:30–8:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Amelia Adair	stablechair1@gmail.com
Monthly	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	10	4–6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	18	3–5 PM <i>LR</i>	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net
Weekly	Adult Basketball	Thursdays from May 5		6 PM–Dusk <i>Courts</i>		
	Bible Study & Worship Service	Saturdays		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 trgibbs@comcast.net
	Fitness Class	Tuesdays/Thursdays		9–10:30 AM <i>CR</i>	Tana Monaco	tana.monaco@gmail.com
	Knitting Club	Contact for information			Joyce Hanmer	505 466-3018 joycehan@msn.com
	Recovery AA Meetings	Tues/Thurs/Fri		Tues: 5:45 PM <i>CR</i> Thurs: 6 PM <i>CR</i> Fri: 6 PM <i>RR</i>	Olivia Ogorek	oliviaogorek@gmail.com
*	Annual Meeting	Monday	2	5:30–7:30 PM <i>Max Coll Sr. Ctr.</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Social Games	Thursdays	5, 19	11:30 AM–3 PM <i>Breezeway</i>	Carol Hardin	caje8@comcast.net
**	Cactus Rescue Project	Saturday	June 4	9:30 AM–2:30 PM <i>Cactus Garden</i>	Barrie Brown	barrie@kp-bb.com

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: Comm. Ctr.; CC Patio: Comm. Ctr. Patio; CC Pkg.: Comm. Ctr. Parking Lot; RR: Railroad Bldg.

* Indicates Community May events; ** Indicates Community June events

News Corral

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. We would like to feature you in an upcoming *Eldorado Living* 285/Recycles article. Please contact Libby Maclaren at libbymac3@icloud.com.

MASTER GARDENER'S ANNUAL ONLINE PLANT SALE

Visit www.sfemg.org to access the sale.

Order: **Apr. 23–May 11**

Plant Pickup: **May 14**

Santa Fe County Fairgrounds
3229 Rodeo Road

THURSDAY EVENINGS ADULT BASKETBALL



Beginning **May 5** at **6 PM** join us on Thursdays on the Community Center Basketball Courts. Adults only, games end at dusk. Proximity cards required as of **May 9** to access all amenities, including courts.

LOCKED AMENITIES / PROXIMITY CARDS

Onsite amenities at the Community Center will be locked beginning **May 9**. Please pick up your Proximity Cards at the office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help us create a fantastic community event for Eldorado's 50th Anniversary and July 4th Celebration. Contact Tana Monaco, lead resident volunteer, tana.monaco@gmail.com.

50TH ANNIVERSARY FUN FACT

The small array of hills that occupy part of the foreground between Eldorado and the Sandias are Los Cerrillos. One of the minerals found in abundance in "The Little Hills" is turquoise which was mined there by Native Americans for at least a thousand years.

When the Europeans took over ownership of the mines, for a brief period in the 1880s, the price of high-quality sky-blue turquoise rivaled that of gold. Ownership of some of the mines was associated with the famous Tiffany and Co. jeweler.

—Patricia Robert, *Windmills and Dreams*



*Fluttering fairies
Making spring scents seem aglow
Fertilizing buds*

—Jessica Collins

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.

Santa Fe County Online Portal Helps Improve Roads

Eldorado residents can help Santa Fe County improve road maintenance by alerting the County to problems and maintenance issues. All roads in the Eldorado subdivision are owned and maintained by Santa Fe County and they have a “Citizen Work Order” portal on its website. A link to this portal is available on the Road Committee’s web page: Go to www.eldoradosf.org > Boards and Committees > Road Committee, scroll down until you see the icon below: There you’ll find the county’s website, santafecountynm.gov/public_works/road_concern. Here you can register issues, complaints or leave comments about road conditions in your neighborhood.



The County typically responds to reported issues via this portal within days of contacting them, although the timing of repairs depends on the severity of the problem compared to

other repairs needed around the County and the availability of a maintenance crew. Even if not addressed right away, notifying the County of problems via their portal allows them to track issues so they can plan for future maintenance and if necessary, seek funding for larger projects.

Several senior staff from Santa Fe County attended the Road Committee’s meeting in March to update us on their road project priorities and to hear from Eldorado residents. The County reported a severe shortage of road maintenance personnel. As of last month, nearly 50% of all Public Works positions for the County of Santa Fe were vacant and they were seeking to hire for those positions. Unfortunately, that means the County has a growing maintenance backlog. Hopefully, as staffing levels increase, we will see more road maintenance projects moving ahead.

ECIA residents are always welcome to attend Road Committee meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next meeting is **May 4**. Watch for eBlasts or check the events calendar at www.eldoradosf.org for more dates and times.

—ECIA Road Committee



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