

# 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)

## IN THIS ISSUE

Board Summary	2
Library / Recipes	3
Save the Planet / Gatherings	4
Neighborhood Watch	5
Amenities Insurance/Risks	5
Skies / Election Committee	6
Calendar / Environment / Fire	7
Giving Back to Volunteers	8

**“VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME; THEY HAVE THE HEART.”** —Elizabeth Andrew

Eldorado is a special place with special people. It is rare to find a community that offers so much, and our volunteers are the backbone of our community. Without them, we wouldn't have the beautiful wildflowers growing along Herrada Rd., hikeable trails in the Preserve, well-maintained roadsides, a thriving artist community and events, the ability to have that scary snake relocated, one of the best cactus gardens in the state, and on and on. If you can spare a little bit of time each month, consider getting involved in the community. Included in this issue are just some of the committees and organizations that make this such a great place to live, and they can always use some extra help. —Rhonda Pierce, ECIA Communications Coordinator

## Conservation Committee Volunteer Opportunities

If you have ever hiked the Eldorado Preserve, thank a Conservation Committee Volunteer!

Would you like to meet your neighbors who share similar outdoor interests? Would you like to learn conservation and habitat improvement techniques you can use on your own property? Do you enjoy working outside and getting some exercise? If you answered yes to any of the questions, then the Conservation Committee has some great volunteer opportunities for you!

The Conservation Committee is probably one of the most active committees in Eldorado and its volunteers help maintain Eldorado's most popular amenities; the 4000+ acre Community Preserve with ~28 miles of trails and the 1000 acres of Greenbelts with four approved trails.

### THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE IS RECRUITING NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

We are looking for people who are interested in conservation-related issues in the Eldorado open spaces and who are enthusiastic about contributing to the stewardship of the Eldorado greenbelts and Community Preserve in a collaborative manner. Prospective members must attend at least three Conservation Committee meetings before being considered for membership. **The Committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month except December, from 7 to 9 PM.**

Do you like the idea of supporting conservation issues, but are not able to help with physical activities such as trail work? Volunteers are needed to support the behind-the-scenes efforts by spending a few hours each month working on Committee related activities such as preparing the monthly meeting agenda, taking the meeting minutes and conducting Conservation activities.

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE PROJECTS

#### Recent Projects:

- Trail 401: South damsite habitat improvement/erosion control;
- Trail 404: Meadow habitat improvement/erosion control;

- Trail 404: Southwest “corner” trail improvement;
- Trail 201: Arroyo habitat improvement (willow planting and tamarisk control);
- New Preserve brochure and new trail signs;
- Articles about weeds/ecologically sound weed management;
- Practices for Eldorado published in *Vistas* newsletter.

#### Projects In-Progress:

- Trail maintenance on the 201–202 loop;
- Maintenance on Trail 301 (first mile);
- Habitat restoration/erosion control in meadow by Trail 302;
- Completion of Library Trail in Los Alamos Park Greenbelt;
- New trail signs for the 200 series trails.

#### Upcoming Projects:

- Pueblo Cañon Park trail maintenance;
- Greenbelt access improvement;
- Trail maintenance on the 404–405 loop;
- Additional erosion control on the Trail 401–South damsite;
- Additional work in the Trail 404 meadow;
- Weed/fuels reduction in greenbelts.

#### We are looking for fellow residents with the following skills, or the desire to learn more about:

- Committee administration;
- Project planning and management;
- Team building and work crew leadership;
- Interpersonal and consensus-building skills;
- Habitat and ecosystem recovery and improvement;
- Trail building and maintenance;
- Building erosion control structures from natural materials;
- Public speaking, education and outreach;
- GIS;
- Graphics.

Interested in volunteering for any Conservation Committee activities? Please contact: [conservationchair@gmail.com](mailto:conservationchair@gmail.com).

# Board Actions and Summary September 20

**THE ECIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** was called to order at 5:30 PM, board met in person and held via Zoom and recorded.

Roll Call: President Carol Sanguinetti, Vice President Amelia Adair, Treasurer Joseph Gutierrez via Zoom, Secretary Jonathan McLaughlin via Zoom, Director Jonathan Turkle and Director James Herbert Williams via Zoom were present. A quorum was met. Excused: Director Mary Bonilla.

HOAMCO staff attendees: General Manager (GM) Julie Navarro, Operations Manager (OM) Mike Rogers, Architecture and Compliance Coordinator (ACC) Mark Young via Zoom, Communications Coordinator Rhonda Pierce, Executive Assistant Ciara Walsh.

Changes to the agenda: President Sanguinetti announced two motions to be added: to add David Sorkin and Mike Busby as members to the Facilities and Grounds (F&G) Committee. All agreed to the agenda changes.

The agenda was adopted and the consent agenda items were motioned for approval by Director Turkle and seconded by Treasurer Gutierrez, all were in favor. Consent agenda items approved included the General Manager's Report, Covenant Compliance Report, August Board meeting minutes and the Adoption of the Stable Rule for Horse Evacuees.

Treasurer Gutierrez reported: as of **Aug. 31**, ECIA has spent 63 % of the budget. No budget shortfalls are expected. Less than .004 % is outstanding for assessment collection. Next month discussion will occur with the Board about adopting the 2023 budget. There is no assessment increase for next year, but the budget has changed.

Treasurer Gutierrez, County Report: The SF County legislative grants for Eldorado have not yet been sent to the county. We currently have SF County money authorized for Hike and Bike trails, the Azul project is still on the list, but there is a need for the 1.3 miles of the Compadres trail to be paved for safety reasons.

GM Navarro: 2023 R&R expenses include: replacing the Kubota tractor, Toro mower, classroom floor, pool vacuum, icemaker, stove, refrigerator, and a full kitchen remodel. 2023 Capital Improvement projects include license plate reader, pump track, equipment for the stable, dog park entry system, parking lot speed bump and a new maintenance facility building. A Town Hall will be scheduled for early Nov. to discuss the 2023 budget. The budget and 2023 assessment invoices will be mailed out in early Dec.

OM Rogers: A new maintenance facility building is scheduled to be built in 2023 where the old ranch house was torn down. This will allow maintenance to store all vehicles in the new facility and include a storage space for Santa Fe Search and Rescue. The existing barn will be converted into a large meeting space in 2024.

Amended Motion: Director Williams motioned for David Sorkin to be added as an F&G Committee member and for Mike Busby to be added as an F&G Committee member upon his third committee meeting on **Oct. 5**. Director Turkle seconded, all in favor.

The General Manager's Report can be found on the ECIA website under Contact > Management, then scroll down. Committee and Task Group Reports can be found under the Board and Committees tab.

President Sanguinetti gave an update from the website task force and Director Turkle gave an update on the GIS project.

**The following Architecture Committee variance requests were presented to the Board:**

- 19 Verano Loop—to allow for a small accessory structure (greenhouse) to be located 74 ft. from the home. The Committee recommends approval since it would prevent the removal of mature trees and is in a fenced enclosure providing adequate screening. All were in favor;
- 13 Bosque Loop—to allow for their current garage to remain at 18 ft. 3 in. The garage was approved at the time of construction in 1994 and this is grandfathered in. All were in favor;
- 7 Estambre Place—to allow for a new garage to be located 25 ft. from the home. The Committee recommended approval with the stipulation the stucco match the existing home and the external lighting face downward. The resident has provided the Committee with the plan for the required connecting coyote fence. All were in favor.

Old Business: Tabling Environmental Stewardship action, an article in *Vistas* is coming out asking for volunteers, this has been moved to the October meeting. Volunteer Retention and Recruitment—VP Adair would like for the community to have input prior to voting on it.

Time was allowed for New Business and Open Forum. President Sanguinetti asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice President Adair moved, Director Turkle seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

The next Board Meeting will be held in person and via Zoom on **Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 5:30 PM.**

## ECIA BOARD & MANAGEMENT

**Board:** President Carol Sanguinetti, Vice President Amelia Adair, Treasurer Joseph Gutierrez, Secretary Jonathan McLaughlin, Director Jonathan Turkle, Director James Herbert Williams, Director Mary Bonilla.

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

# Library Hosts Oktoberfest, Halloween, and More!

**O**ktoberfest! Vista Grande Public Library (VGPL) Fundraiser, **Saturday, Oct. 15, 3–6 PM** at the Santa Fe Brewing's Eldorado Taphouse. Beer, door prizes, challenging beer trivia and more! We thank the Brew Pub for giving us the opportunity to hold this event for the second year in a row. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the library, by reaching out to Board Members, or at the door.



*Spooky party goers enjoy VGPL's Halloween activities.*

and more food. The plan is to once again hold the shindig outside in front of the building and in the parking lot. In case of inclement weather, we'll head inside. While all costume concepts are welcome, in keeping with the Summer Reading Theme "Oceans of Possibilities," we're leaning toward pirates (or mer-people or sea creatures).

The final **Rock Time** of 2022 and **Liz Mikols' Harvey Girl Chautauqua** performance will both take place **Oct. 1**. Come to **Rock Time** at **11 AM** and stay to see a "real live" **Harvey Girl** at **1 PM**.

## ONGOING PROGRAMS:

**Sensory Storytime: Tuesdays 3:10 PM.**

**Toddler Storytime: Thursdays 10:30 AM.** This is a drop-in program, no sign-up required.

**All Ages Chess: Fridays 3–5 PM.** Children under 12 need parental permission.

**Wags and Words** (reading to a dog): Times may vary, please contact VGPL.

Halloween is coming! It's our favorite time of the year. VGPL will hold its annual Halloween party on **Saturday, Oct. 29** from **4–7 PM**. If you've been before, you know how much fun this all-ages, family-friendly event is with food, games, prizes, costume contest, free books,

**Family Movie Night: Friday, Oct. 21, 7 PM.** Family-friendly recent release.

## Medicare Information

The topics will be how to work with Open Enrollment (10/15–12/7) for existing Medicare enrollees and how to make the best choices for health care for 2023. Also, bring any other questions you may have.

Sessions will be **Thursday, Oct. 6, 10–11:30 AM** and **Thursday, Oct. 20, from 2–3:30 PM** in the Library Meeting Room. Nancy Johnson, a certified Medicare Benefits Counselor with the NM Dept. of Aging and a Library volunteer leads the sessions. All questions welcome.

**VGPL Board Meeting: Oct. 17, 5:30 PM.**

**Semi-Annual Book Sale:** Start building new shelves now! Our semi-annual book sale will be taking place **Nov. 10, 11 & 12** during open hours. Stay tuned for more details.

**VGPL October 3-D Artist:** Eldorado knitter Eileen Tomaro, *Knit Witchery*.

Eileen has been a knitter since age six, and has worked in that medium ever since. Her exhibit comprises knitted and crocheted pieces appropriate for fall and other seasons, including Halloween. She lives in *Eldorado at Santa Fe*, and has been an active member of numerous knitting groups throughout her life. She has exhibited previously at various sites in Colorado and New Mexico. Eileen's work will be on sale during the month, and available by contacting her directly at [Itsmefiber@aol.com](mailto:Itsmefiber@aol.com).

**VGPL October 2-D Artist:** Catherine Monserrat—Paintings.

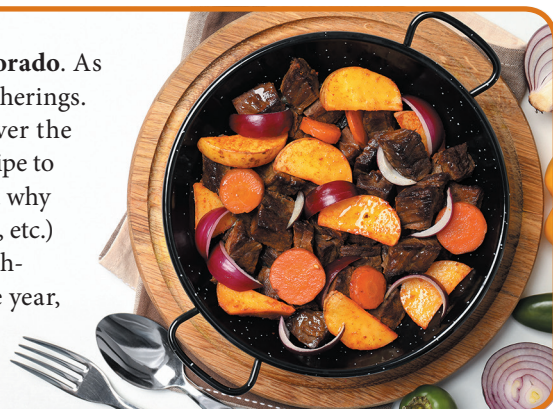
Original oil and acrylic paintings entitled *Nature's Splendor*. Catherine is a fine art painter and has previously exhibited at VGPL.

Exhibitions at VGPL are for the enjoyment of patrons and guests, and are open for viewing by the public during regular library hours.

Interested in exhibiting at VGPL? Contact **John Wylie** at [johnwyliephotography@gmail.com](mailto:johnwyliephotography@gmail.com).

Questions? Call **505 466-7323**, visit our website at [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org) or come to the library: 14 Avenida Torreon.

**S**eeking interest for a new monthly article called **Recipes Around Eldorado**. As the holidays quickly approach, the kitchen is sure to be the focus of gatherings. Eldorado is a unique community comprised of residents from all over the country and world. Residents are encouraged to submit their favorite family recipe to [articles@eldoradosf.org](mailto:articles@eldoradosf.org). Make sure to include a photo of you, a little bit about why this recipe is special (history of the dish, why it is important to you, significance, etc.) your recipe and if you can, a photo of your dish. Please make sure to send high-resolution images, cell phone images are fine. As this column will run for the year, please send your recipes in at any time, even if it is a summer recipe, as they will be collected for use throughout 2023.





# Interested in Saving the Planet?

**“THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR PLANET IS THE BELIEF THAT SOMEONE ELSE WILL SAVE IT.”** —Robert Swan

**F**eel strongly about reducing plastic usage? Want to help foster reuse and recycle in and around Eldorado? Want to raise awareness about waste and unnecessary landfill usage? Interested in limiting methane gas? Want to be educated about creating a composting system with straw bales? Then, we have an organization for you.

**Eldorado 285/Recycles** is a 36-person group with an interest in educating the public, doing something about the health of our planet, and raising awareness about alternative methods for reducing excess waste and polluting landfills all the while working to better the land we love.

There’s never a shortage of work to be done. Volunteers are always welcome to support our initiatives in many ways.

Our members have taken the initiative to learn about plastic(s) through “Beyond Plastics,” forming a local group connected to the national group of the same name. For two years they have taken continuing education classes and brought their knowledge back to the group, which often reforms our focus and direction.

We have a composting group that will install a straw bale composting system at your home for \$68 dollars (the cost of the straw bales), providing directions and free worms, as well.

As a group, we have promoted “Death by Plastic”—an interactive experiential parade/event—downtown on the Plaza and at several local venues.

Our members rotate monthly dates at the Recycle and ReUse Center (located in the Eldorado Convenience Center), working to clean the area, educate the public about what items can be left there and which need to be brought elsewhere for clean and responsible disposal.

Twice a year, we organize road cleanings on Avenida Vista Grande. SF County provides t-shirts, bags and gloves for us!

Other initiatives and collections are donation boxes at La Tienda for: corks, which are sent to Resourceful Santa Fe (creative Reuse Center on Industrial Road) and used by local artists; used pens, razors and dental items, collected as needed, are sent to Terracycle (innovative recycling company); our **“Socktober”** an **annual sock drive during the month of October**, collecting new socks and benefits St. Elizabeth’s Shelter (homeless shelter); our ongoing collection of athletic shoes is donated to the men and women of St. Elizabeth’s Shelter. This donation box is located at Eldorado Fitness Studio.

We hold an annual tag sale at the Eldorado Flea Market. This year, we contributed \$840 to the Las Vegas Fire Relief Fund and donated many items, as well. In previous years, leftover tag sale items have been donated to St. Elizabeth’s Shelter.

As you can tell, we depend on the time and talents of volunteers. If you are interested, please contact **Libby Maclaren** at [libbymac3@icloud.com](mailto:libbymac3@icloud.com).

—Cyma Shapiro and Libby Maclaren,  
Eldorado 285/Recycles Members

## Gatherings In and Around Eldorado

—Photos, Rhonda Pierce



Joe Newman presented *Coexisting with Wildlife* to Eldorado residents enjoying a summer evening on the Community Center patio, Aug. 27.



Residents of all ages had a great time at the Eldorado Community Pool this summer. Four-legged friends get their turn on Doggy Splash Day, Sunday, Oct. 2, 1–3 PM.

### FACILITIES & GROUNDS COMMITTEE TOWN HALL

Join us via Zoom from 5–7 PM, **Oct. 11** to review how we are doing, ways we can improve and ideas for new amenities and activities. Please submit your questions/comments before **Oct. 11** to [fandgchair@gmail.com](mailto:fandgchair@gmail.com).

Zoom link to meeting: <https://eldoradosf.org/upcoming-zoom-meetings/>.



## What is Neighborhood Watch?

**G**reater Eldorado Neighborhood Watch, the largest Neighborhood Watch (NW) group in New Mexico with approximately 100 Block Captains, is a voluntary program organized and run by the residents of our community that employs the concept of neighbor-to-neighbor communication. The program covers the communities of *Alteza Estates, Belicia Estates, Cielo Tranquilo, Eldorado at Santa Fe, La Paz, La Sierra and Sun Ranch*. Neighbors are encouraged to take responsibility by following security measures and reporting suspicious activity to the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office and Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch members are encouraged to serve as the eyes and ears for law enforcement, but never to directly intervene in possible criminal activity.

### WHY DO WE NEED NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN ELDORADO?

Although we are fortunate to have a low crime rate here in the Greater Eldorado area, crime does exist and there may be a lag in response time for law enforcement should a problem arise. Being a part of Neighborhood Watch is a means for neighbors to be kept aware of security-related issues, to create a stronger sense of community, to connect with our neighbors, and deter crime.

### WHO GETS OUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?

The contact information gathered by Block Captains is for neighbors' use only; only you and your neighbors have

access to this information. Neither the Neighborhood Watch Leadership team, the Home Owner's Association nor any other entity is provided this information. Neighborhood Watch communicates only with the Block Captain who forwards information to each resident. All alerts are sent Blind Carbon Copy (Bcc) to each participant. If you choose to share your email address with others, that is your choice.

### WHY BECOME A BLOCK CAPTAIN?

Block Captains are the cornerstone of Neighborhood Watch. The time involved, once initial contacts have been made, is minimal. They share responsibility for getting information out to the residents of a neighborhood, explaining the NW program, fostering communication

among neighbors and forwarding NW email alerts to neighbors as well as suspicious activity reports to NW.

If you would like additional information about being a Block Captain, would like to volunteer to be a Block Captain, or would like more information, visit the website at [eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com](http://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com) or contact **Joe Loewy** at 505 231-6462, [jloewy42@aol.com](mailto:jloewy42@aol.com).

—Greater Eldorado Neighborhood Watch Leadership Team



## Insurance and Risks for Amenities

**O**ne of the recurring questions posed by ECIA residents to the Facilities and Grounds Committee (F&G) is how ECIA insurance premiums are calculated, and why some suggested new activities or amenities are not viable, from an insurance premium cost perspective. To respond to the question, the Committee requested the ECIA's insurance agent attend an F&G Committee meeting to present information on how and why insurance coverage plays a role in considering whether a proposed activity can or should be added/included as an ECIA amenity for the benefit of the residents.

At the **Sept. 7** F&G Committee meeting, Michael Latting, Daniels Insurance Inc., the ECIA's insurance agent, provided information on the current state of the insurance market in terms of increased rates and cost as well as the willingness of an insurance company to insure certain activities. Mr. Latting indicated that insurers are experiencing a "hard market" concerning recent personal injury and property damage claims. He indicated that recent jury verdicts are awarding significant dollar amounts. As a result, Mr. Latting said that insurers are less willing to cover certain activities that create an increased risk of loss beyond what is considered to be a reasonable risk. Or, in the alternative, insurers who may be willing to offer coverage do so at a higher premium cost to the insured.

Discussion occurred on the process in place for vetting new proposed amenity projects. Currently, any newly proposed amenity activity is vetted in terms of viability. The F&G Committee's process is to review proposed new amenity projects and, based on the information received, make recommendations to the ECIA Board of Directors regarding whether to move forward with the proposed amenity project.

One component of the vetting process is to determine whether the ECIA insurance policy will cover the proposed new amenity and/or will require an increased premium cost. As part of the insurance coverage process, the proposed activity is reviewed by the insurance carrier's underwriters to determine the level of risk in connection with such activity. The greater the risk, the more insurance will cost to cover the risk. Or, in some circumstances, the insurer will decline to offer insurance coverage.

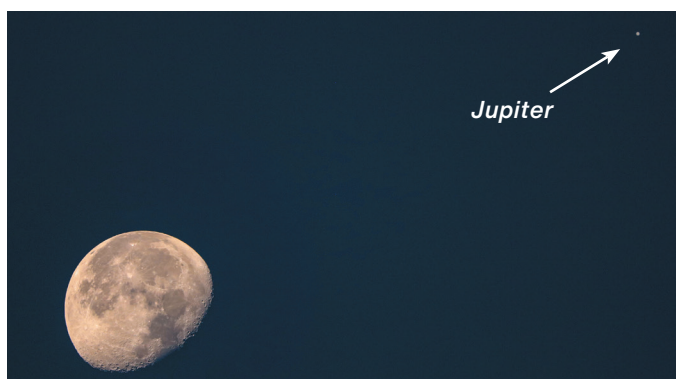
If ECIA cannot obtain insurance coverage for a certain activity, in the event of an occurrence at an ECIA amenity that results in a claim for damages against the ECIA, the ECIA is at risk of having to pay on a claim out of ECIA funds.

—Kim Kiplin,  
Facilities and Grounds Committee Member



# The Night Skies Above Eldorado: October 2022

October is usually an excellent month for stargazing. The post-monsoon period should provide us with pristine skies.



*A matter of perspective. The Moon and Jupiter made a beautiful pair in the dawn sky on Aug. 15, 2022. Jupiter, at 88,846 miles in diameter, is the largest object in our solar system, excluding the Sun. The Moon is tiny in comparison (a mere 2,158 miles in diameter). However, the Moon was only 232,300 miles from Earth, while giant Jupiter was 390.6 million miles away. Despite its great distance from Earth, Jupiter was close enough and large enough for its disk to be captured without the use of a telescope.*

The month begins with bright Saturn and brighter Jupiter straddling the southeastern evening sky. The Earth is now moving away from the two planets. Mars rises about 10:30 PM; by Halloween, it will rise around 8:45 PM, continuing to brighten as Earth approaches it. Mercury begins October in the dawn sky, but it's too close to the Sun by the end of the month to be visible. Venus transitions from a morning to an evening object, but it won't appear in the evening sky until November.

October is the last month of the year to see the Summer Milky Way in all its glory. This is the brightest portion of our galaxy and it's poised above the southwestern horizon as darkness falls, looking like a breaching whale. By month's end, it will begin to set during twilight.

While the center of our galaxy sets, two other galaxies are in prime viewing position. The Andromeda Galaxy and the

Triangulum Galaxy are rising in the northeast, visible after dark in binoculars and telescopes.

The Andromeda Galaxy is the brighter galaxy of the two, visible to the naked eye as a faint, fuzzy oval. Binoculars and small telescopes will reveal its bright galactic core. The Andromeda Galaxy contains about one trillion stars. To give you a sense of scale, the light that you see left the galaxy 2.5 million years ago. Light leaving one edge of the galaxy takes 220,000 years to reach the opposite edge.

## KEY OCTOBER 2022 NIGHT SKY EVENTS:

**October 1:** The Moon is in the first quarter phase, in Sagittarius.

**October 1–31:** For early risers, the Zodiacal Light is visible in the east, for about an hour before dawn.



*A Perseid meteor appears below the three stars of the Belt of Orion Aug. 13, 2022.*

**October 6–7:** The Draconids meteor shower peaks on the night of the 6th and morning of the 7th. During the peak, approximately ten shower-related meteors per hour can be seen.

**October 8:** Mercury is at its farthest point west of the Sun, rising in Virgo as dawn begins.

**October 9:** The Hunter's Moon rises at about 6:50 PM, about four hours after passing the full moon phase, just north of east, in the constellation Pisces.

**October 21–22:** The Orionid meteor shower peaks on the night of the 21st and morning of the 22nd with about 20 meteors per hour visible.

**October 25:** The Moon is new and not visible since it's located between the Earth and the Sun.

**October 31:** The Moon is back in the first quarter.

—Article and photos, Eric Saltmarsh

Night Skies articles will come to an end with December's issue.

# Election Committee Ensures Our Elections Run Fairly

Do you support the democratic process and want to get involved in our community? Do you want to know more about the governing documents of the ECIA and help support them? If so, the ECIA Election Committee (EC) may be a great fit for you! The committee is looking for members that want to get involved to ensure that our elections are run with both integrity and fairness. Members of the EC are also expected to work for the betterment of our community and to set aside any personal agendas.

The EC's mission is to **conduct and insure the fairness and integrity of any ECIA elections**. The committee's responsibilities also include:

- Per our bylaws, confirm a quorum of members has been met for the Annual Meeting of members to occur;
- Organize and moderate open forums for candidates running for the ECIA board of directors;
- Create and update all election materials and processes;
- Participate in the semi-annual bylaws review process.

Committee members are expected to participate in monthly meetings and ballot counting. **EC meetings** are held the **2nd Wednesday of each month at 2 PM**. Ballot counting for the Board of Directors and By-laws (when appropriate) is done the Friday before the annual meeting.

—Barrett Jody Price,  
Election Committee Member

# October Meetings

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

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	11, 25	3–5 PM <i>CFR &amp; Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board of Directors Meeting	Tuesday	18	5:30 PM <i>CR &amp; Zoom</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday	4	7–9 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Paul Butt	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	Wednesday	12	2–4 PM <i>CFR &amp; Zoom</i>	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	5	10 AM–12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	Tuesday	11	9:30 AM–Noon <i>Zoom</i>	Joseph Gutierrez	j.gutierrez@eldoradosf.org
	Road Committee	Wednesday	5	5:30–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com
	Stable Committee	Monday	17	6:30–8:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Lisa Bessone	stablechair1@gmail.com
Monthly	Bridge Club	1st & 3rd Wed	5, 19	1–4:30 PM <i>LR</i>	Susan Lovro	sulovro@aol.com
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	11	4–6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	19	3–5 PM <i>LR</i>	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net
	Eldorado Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Monday	3	1–2 PM <i>CR</i>	Naomi Burtnick	enhnm@gmail.com
	Life Drawing Class	Alt. Mondays	10, 24	9:30 AM–12:30 PM <i>CR</i>	Joe Mullins	joe@fishpront.net
	Model Railroad Club	2nd Tuesday	11	6–8 PM <i>RR</i>	Anthony Balano	apbbalano@gmail.com
Weekly	Adult Basketball Pick-Up	Thursdays		5 PM–Dusk <i>Courts</i>		
	Bible Study & Worship Service	Saturdays		10:30 AM–12:30 PM <i>CR</i>	Kevin Rehorn	kevinrehorn@msn.com
	Chair Aerobics	Tuesday / Thursday		10:30–11:30 AM <i>RR</i>	Naomi Burtnick	505 577-7305 naomiburtnick@gmail.com
	Eldorado Hikers	Tuesdays		8:30 AM <i>NE corner CC Pkg.</i>	Terry Gibbs	505 466-6914 trgibbs@comcast.net
	Fitness Class	Tuesday / Thursday		9–10:30 AM <i>RR</i>	Sandra Younf	ysandra317@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
	Eldorado Stables Community Fun Day Open House	Saturday	1	Event starts 9 AM; Free horseback rides: 9:30–11:30 AM and again at 12:30–1:30 PM <i>Eldorado Stables</i>	Lisa Bessone	stablechair1@gmail.com
	Doggy Splash Day	Sunday	2	1–3 PM <i>Community Pool</i>		
	Facilities & Grounds Annual Town Hall Meeting	Tuesday	11	5:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com

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 by going to [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org), scroll down to “Sign up for eBlasts”.

CFR: Conference Room; CR: Classroom; CC: Comm. Ctr.; CC Patio: Comm. Ctr. Patio; CC Pkg.: Comm. Ctr. Parking Lot; RR: Railroad Bldg.

\* Indicates Community October Events

## Eldorado Environmental Stewardship Committee

**A**re you passionate about the environment? Would you like to help promote ecologically sound and sustainable environmental practices for the ECIA grounds and facilities that promote a healthy and safe community? Then the Eldorado Environmental Stewardship Committee (EESC) is for you, and there's an urgent need for your service!

The EESC was established by the ECIA Board on **Apr. 18, 2019**, after its predecessor, the ad hoc Environmental Advisory Group, drafted a Pesticide Application Procedure to provide guidance to the Board and staff on Integrated Pest Management, as well as an Environmental Impact Management Policy and a list of minimal risk (least toxic) pesticides.

Using a baseline environmental audit created by the Committee, new members will assist ECIA staff and Board in conducting an annual audit to measure progress and evaluate possible ways to reduce the environmental impact of ECIA activities.

Much of the hard work has been done, but we need continued updates and monitoring to ensure that our residents—including our pets, wildlife, and especially our children and the chemically sensitive among us—can enjoy the benefits of our Community Center and its grounds without exposure to harmful toxins. Please help with this important task!

Contact **Stephanie Levy** at [cestlevy@gmail.com](mailto:cestlevy@gmail.com) or call **607 279-6557**.



### OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

Learn about fire prevention with the whole family during Fire Prevention Month. October is a great time to test your fire alarms, change the batteries or upgrade them to 10-year sealed battery alarms. Plan your escape route and make sure all family members know it well. Teach all family members how to use a fire extinguisher, and make sure your extinguisher is still in date. For more tips go to:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week>.

*Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help.*

—Heather French Henry

**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.

## Giving Back to Volunteers

Two ongoing and successful Eldorado volunteer efforts are the Cactus Rescue Project and our local Snake Responders. Why the success? Navigating spines and fangs? (Although the vast majority of snake responses are for non-venomous residents.) Each group has a unique appeal and function and continues to attract dedicated interest and participation. Both activities embrace coexisting within our environment with opportunities to better understand and appreciate misunderstood and often vilified species. Familiarity actually breeds acceptability.

Cacti are environmentally and contextually appropriate landscaping options ideally suited to our dry and warming climate. Snakes are vital to a perfectly designed natural order and invaluable for rodent management. Cacti and snakes deserve and have earned our respect. Both are intrinsic community assets. Working with cacti and snakes is a rewarding and interesting experience. The success of the ECIA Community Center Cactus Garden is the result of our community of generous volunteers.

Volunteers have personal and professional lives and numerous activity options. Volunteer time is valuable. The satisfaction of donating time and skills needs to be properly and adequately acknowledged. Gratitude is critical. As is making the volunteer experience as rewarding as possible. The Cactus Rescue Project offers advice, access to tools and techniques, rooted cactus and cuttings, free raffles, watermelon



**Cactus Rescue Project volunteers work in the cactus garden at the Eldorado Community Center.**

(in season), and unlimited weeding. Snake Responders can and will provide qualified advice and information, equipment, support and routine training, practice sessions and community outreach. (Some responders never imagined functioning so far outside of societal comfort zones.)

Volunteers are always giving—it's only fair, and wise, that they can be on the receiving end as well. For more information about the Cactus Rescue Project or Snake Responders please contact **Joe Newman** at [jenewmansp@gmail.com](mailto:jenewmansp@gmail.com).

—Article and photo, Joe Newman



**NEWSBRIEFS:** For the latest information from ECIA, please sign up for newsbriefs, (ECIA's electronic mailing system) by going to [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org), scroll down to "Sign up for eBlasts".



**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 [articles@eldoradosf.org](mailto:articles@eldoradosf.org). 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.