

# VISTAS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

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## A Tribute to John “Obie” Oberhausen



John “Obie” Oberhausen

John “Obie” Oberhausen passed away on Christmas Eve, 2022.

Driving through Eldorado, you will see Obie’s influence everywhere, from the cactus median on Vista Grande, to the cactus garden at ECIA, another at La Tienda, more at the entrance to Eldorado and countless private home gardens that he influenced with his passionate promotion of cacti.

Obie was one of the founders of The Cactus Rescue Project (CRP), along with his wife, Nancy Lehrhaupt and friend, Joe Newman. CRP is a grassroots organization instrumental in saving an endangered New Mexico cactus called the Santa Fe Cholla. CRP also promotes the use of cacti as a xeric alternative in our drought prone area.

Not only was Obie known locally for his cactus and conservation work, but he became a well-known expert on the Santa Fe Cholla throughout the Southwest, working with the curator of the Denver Botanical Garden. He worked with the New Mexico State Botanist to start colonies of the endangered Santa Fe Cholla, *Cylindropuntia viridiflora*. He put Eldorado on the map as “Cactus Central” and as having the largest concentration of this endangered plant.



Endangered Santa Fe Cholla, *Cylindropuntia viridiflora*.



Obie working in the ECIA Cactus Garden, May 2013.

Obie believed in volunteerism. He volunteered to work on the Facilities and Grounds Committee at ECIA and put in many community cactus gardens with CRP entailing countless hours of volunteer work. He and Joe started the Eldorado Garden Tour. He was a Neighborhood Watch captain and one of the founders of the Eldorado School and Community Garden. He volunteered at the New Mexico Cancer Foundation and co-chaired a holiday basket drive for cancer patients in need. He was the 2016 Resident of the Year in Eldorado and Grand Marshal of the 4th of July parade.

Obie was a larger-than-life kind of guy. With his booming voice, forthright manner and “all in” personality, it was hard not to know him. A trip to the Agora was never without a “Hey Obie”, or a garden consultation. He was kind and giving of his time, he had an open and generous heart.

Obie’s organization, Cactus Rescue Project, will be continuing Obie’s legacy as he would have wanted. You can follow CRP on Facebook and on their website [cactusrescueproject.org](http://cactusrescueproject.org).

There will be a celebration of life for John “Obie” Oberhausen on **June 4, 2023**, at ECIA and all are welcome.

—Nancy Lehrhaupt

Photos: Bottom left, Sandra Vreeland;

All other photos, J E Newman/Cactus Rescue Project



Obie and Nancy’s *Opuntia*

# Board Actions and Summary January 17

**THE ECIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** was called to order at 5:32 PM and held in-person and via Zoom. The meeting was recorded for minute taking purposes.

**Roll Call:** President Carol Sanguinetti, Vice President Amelia Adair, Treasurer Joseph Gutierrez, Secretary Jonathan McLaughlin, Directors Jonathan Turkle, James Herbert Williams, and Mary Bonilla were present, and a quorum was met.

**HOAMCO staff attendees:** General Manager Julie Navarro, Operations Manager Mike Rogers, Architecture and Compliance Coordinator Mark Young, Executive Assistant Ciara Walsh, HOAMCO Vice President of Operations Michael Franciosi, and HOAMCO Community Manager Jessica Neal was present for minute taking purposes.

Consent Agenda items were motioned for approval and was unanimously approved. Vice President Adair requested to amend the agenda to include a third motion to add a member to the Stable Committee. The agenda was unanimously approved with the amendment.

Treasurer Gutierrez reported on the fiscal year end financials and stated there was less than 1% of assessments not collected in 2022. \$260K was budgeted to be transferred to reserves at the end of the fiscal year, but nearly \$336K was transferred. Year end transfer to reserve for 2023 is budgeted to be less than 2022.

Santa Fe County Liaison Gutierrez reported he is scheduling a townhall with the Sherriff to discuss community and County issues, including zoning for the maintenance building and community safety. ICIP requests to the County will be sent to request more money for the Azul Trail.

The General Manager's Report can be located on the ECIA website, Board & Committees > ECIA Governing Board > Board Meeting Reports. It was reported Jessica Neal, formerly Jessica Collins, will be returning to the team in March as the Director of Communications.

Operations Manager Rogers reported the County rezoned the 29 acres of the Community Center as residential and will be working with the Architecture Committee and Santa Fe County to have it rezoned back to commercial in order to move forward with the maintenance facility and pump track. Replacement and Reserve projects for the year include replacement of the Kubota, Toro mower, classroom floor, pool vacuum, ice maker, kitchen remodel, and the island xeriscape. Capital projects include speed bumps at the Community Center parking lot, Dog Park entry system, and Community Center patio cameras.

The Board of Directors approved the following motions without any objections:

1. Treasurer Gutierrez moved to approve the 2022 financial statement for submission to the auditor. The motion was seconded by Vice President Adair, and the motion was unanimously approved.
2. Vice President Adair moved to appoint an ECIA Covenant Compliance task force to edit and revise the policy. The task force will include Amelia Adair, Taylor Ward, Mark Young as staff liaison and ACC members who will be appointed at the February Board meeting. Motion was tabled until the next Board meeting.
3. Vice President Adair moved to appoint Frank Tadeo to the Stable Committee. Director Turkle seconded the motion; the motion was approved unanimously.

The following Architecture Committee variance request was presented to the Board:

- 4 Carlito Road—Variance request to not have a fence screen a solar array. The Architecture Committee recommended disapproving the variance due to a lack of supporting documentation. The variance was unanimously disapproved.

**No Old Business**

**New Business:**

- Vice President Adair presented on the HOA Skills workshop. The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on the ECIA website: Board & Committees > ECIA Governing Board > Documents. The next workshop will be held **Feb. 8 at 6 PM** at the Community Center classroom. Please RSVP to Jessica at [jneal@hoamco.com](mailto:jneal@hoamco.com).
- Vice President Adair will be presenting Social Media Regulations for approval by the Board of Directors at the next meeting.

**Open Forum:**

- 32 Camerada Road: Inquired if the Camerada Loop access trail is on the 2023 project list. The resident was encouraged to bring the question to the next Conservation Committee meeting.

With no further Board actions required, Director Herbert Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Bonilla and the meeting was unanimously approved to adjourn at **7:32 PM**.

The next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, **Feb. 21 at 5:30 PM** via Zoom and in-person. All members are welcome to attend.

## 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](mailto:jnavarro@hoamco.com)  
Monthly report available at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) > Board & Committees > ECIA Governing Board.  
**ECIA office open Mon-Sat 8:30 AM-5 PM\*. For information call 505 466-4248.**

**\*The office is closed on Sundays with the exception of scheduled groups.**



# ECIA Board Nomination Petitions Due March 1



**D**on't delay! Consider serving your community by becoming a candidate for the ECIA Board of Directors. Three positions for Directors are open for election, each with three (3) year terms ending **May 6, 2026**. The process to

become a candidate for the 2023 election is simple and direct. The Petition along with specific instructions is available at the ECIA office or online at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) under the Resident Resources tab > Forms and Applications > Board Nomination Petition. A completed and signed petition with all required materials must be submitted to the ECIA office no later than **March 1 by 5 PM**.

To be able to vote and support the candidate of your choice, please remember your 2023 Assessment must be paid in full and have been received and credited to the Association's financial account as of **March 1**.

—Election Committee

**Save the Date: ECIA Candidate Forum**  
**When: Wednesday, Mar. 15, 6:30–8 PM**  
**Where: Zoom and in-person**



## Eldorado Stucco 101—ECIA Approval is Required

**E**ach year ECIA finds residents performing re-stucco or painting work on their home, without first obtaining approval. ECIA regulates stucco colors on new homes, as well as existing homes under Article II, Section 5, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Covenants, which is detailed as follows:

*(a) Construction of a building on a lot in Eldorado shall not commence until its siting, design, **exterior colors** and building materials have been approved in writing by the E.C.I.A. Board of Directors (or its designees), nor shall construction commence until water is available for immediate use at the lot from either an individual well or a public utility water system.*

*(b) No additions nor exterior alterations above the natural grade shall be made to an existing building until the design, location, **exterior colors** and building materials for such additions and alterations have been approved in writing by the E.C.I.A. Board of Directors (or its designees).*

ECIA requires all stucco work be first approved by ECIA. This is a simple process and involves the completion of the one-page Architectural Plan Form. In most cases, projects can be approved of in-house, and without Architectural Committee review. This is known as “consent approval”, which can usually be done in one or two days. When a resident wants to use a color that is not in keeping with ECIA’s approved colors, the Architecture Committee will be required to review the application.

Residents should be aware that ECIA does not regulate the brands of stucco, or type of stucco that are used. Both

traditional Cementitious stucco versions and Elastomeric stucco styles are acceptable; but ECIA does require the submission of the color that will be used. ECIA wants to ensure that the stucco colors chosen blend with the environment, other homes, and minimize the impact of homes on the natural landscape. The goal of protecting the natural beauty and environment of the community is made clear in Section 1 of Covenants which states:

*This Amended and Restated Declaration, (hereafter “Restated Declaration”) is made by the Eldorado Community Improvement Association, Inc., a New Mexico non-profit corporation, (hereafter “the Association” or “ECIA”) for the express purposes of protecting the natural beauty and environment of the community of Eldorado at Santa Fe, providing an attractive rural setting for residential neighborhoods and home sites and preserving property values.*

To learn more about the approved ECIA colors, stop by the office to see the chart of approved colors, or check out the link: <https://eldoradosf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Updated-stucco-colors-2021.pdf>.

The Architecture Plan Submission Forms are also at the ECIA office or on the website at this link: <https://eldoradosf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ECIA-Architecture-Plan-Submission-Form-New-Home-final-version-2018.pdf>.

Please contact ECIA with any stucco questions.

—Mark Young  
 ECIA Covenant and Architectural Compliance Coordinator

# Firewise/Waterwise/Earthwise—Love Your Land



*Our native landscape is drought tolerant, regenerative, and creates safe ground cover for birds and mammals.*

It is absolutely possible to interact with the land that embraces your home using Firewise/Waterwise/Earthwise principles that allow you to live in harmony with the magnificent natural world around us while keeping your home safe. Here on Tewa and Tanoan land we can co-exist with wildlife as we sustain and restore rich biodiversity—the web of life that includes everyone from humans to the smallest microorganism in the soil.

Exacerbated by climate breakdown, we face challenges with water availability in our pinon-juniper and juniper savannah habitat (it's not “high desert”). Over two decades into the worst Southwestern megadrought in 1200 years, we need creative solutions to nourishing both the wild land and our food and ornamental gardens. We can do this while proactively addressing fire danger.

Due to “creeping baseline,” many new residents have no idea what the local climate was like 30 or even ten years ago, or what practices are “normal.” Decades ago, no one in Eldorado mowed their entire land to the ground, but in recent years it's become more common so it's important to educate people about the long-lasting damage caused by extensive mowing.

Here are suggestions for interacting with your land through incorporating the principles of rewilding, restoration, and regeneration:

## DOs

Because the greatest danger in a wildfire is from embers that can travel half a mile to a mile, cover all roof vents with hardware cloth and install spark arresters on chimneys and stovepipes. This will also exclude rodents and the errant bird who could get trapped in your chimney.

Arrange a free site visit (and consider making a donation) from the Eldorado Fire & Rescue department to advise on best Firewise practices for your unique land and home. Contact Nort Phillips at **541 991-0693**.

Fire professionals recommend creating a 30-foot defensible space around your home, but doing so does not guarantee protection from fire and reduces wildlife habitat. If you do this, carefully weed-whack leaving about six inches of vegetation to regrow. Only weed-whack when grasses are dormant and the seeds have been eaten by birds and small mammals. NEVER do it while the grasses are in the growing season.

Remove dry tumbleweeds stuck under juniper trees or in tangles. During the growing season, pull invasive weeds while they are still small, or cut them before they go to seed several inches above the ground to minimize erosion.

Refrain from cutting the lower limbs of your junipers (“poodling”), which dries out the area and deprives birds and mammals of safe ground cover.

Reseed bare areas with native grass seed, such as blue grama, available from local nurseries or on your own land. Synchronize with predicted rains if possible.

Respect and cherish our wildlife and your companion animals by keeping your land poison-free. Avoid using any rodenticides (even if pest control companies incorrectly claim they do not harm non-target species), herbicides, or pesticides.



*Blue grama grass*



Plant waterwise species. Cactus and succulents are good choices, but you can also xeriscape with flowering shrubs, native and adapted. Plant in containers or raised beds, which are excellent for growing vegetables as long as you protect them underneath from gophers.

Join the Eldorado School Community Garden and enjoy learning and sharing about organic gardening.

Preserve as much of the natural wildlife habitat as you can around your home so that the creatures whose land we live on can thrive.



Example of mowed versus wild landscape.

## DON'Ts (and the reasons)

**DO NOT mow your whole property**, especially not right to the ground. Denuding the land offers little to no fire protection (remember the part about embers, the greatest danger, flying half a mile to a mile?) but decreases biodiversity

and deprives wildlife of crucial habitat, cover, food, and contiguous corridors. Mowing destroys the delicate soil crust and the microorganisms crucial to healthy soil. It causes desiccation and erosion that can contribute to flooding as well as dust, and encourages burrowing rodents. Removing biomass interrupts the small water cycle and decreases the ability of the land to absorb atmospheric carbon.

**DO NOT use poisons.** Rodenticides kill the predators who are humans' greatest allies in rodent control. Coyotes, bobcats, hawks, owls, ravens, snakes, and others have died of secondary rodenticide poisoning, as have people's beloved cats and dogs. No rodenticide is safe, no matter what pest control companies tell you. Ditto for herbicides and pesticides.

**And one more DO:** Enjoy the quiet and dark and the ever-changing night skies while being aware of the full spectrum of wildlife around you by day and by night. Delight in songbirds, hawks, and owls, the ever-present coyotes, and night denizens like bobcats, raccoons, and badgers. Appreciate the variety of rodent neighbors—from rabbits to desert woodrats to deer mice—snakes who live beneath the ground, and the mysterious mycorrhizal fungal networks in the living soil that underpin and connect the web of life.

Debra Denker is chair of the Eldorado Safety Education Task Group, Senior Editor of *Voices for Biodiversity*, and a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

—Article and photos, Debra Denker  
Chair, Eldorado Safety Education Task Group

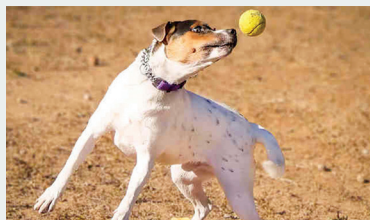
## News Corral

### HOA SKILLS WORKSHOP FEB. 8

HOA Skills Workshop, Wednesday, **Feb. 8 at 6 PM** at the ECIA Community Center. Send RSVPs to Jessica Neal [jneal@hoamco.com](mailto:jneal@hoamco.com).

### DOGGY ADOPTION EVENT FEB. 11 AT ECIA

Doggy Adoption Event hosted by the Santa Fe Animal Shelter, **Feb. 11, Noon–3 PM**, at the ECIA Community Center. Adopters must be 18 years or older and bring a photo ID.



*I am Ralph, a neutered male, tricolor Mixed breed. The shelter staff think I am about 2 years and 6 months old. I am excited for my furever home! ID#A159774*

### TABLE TENNIS MATCHES

Are you interested in playing table tennis? ECIA resident Greg Vaughan is calling for neighbors to begin a schedule of matches. Please email [greg@standingwavemusic.com](mailto:greg@standingwavemusic.com).

### ASSESSMENT DUE FEB. 15

Reminder: 2023 Assessment due date is **Feb. 15**.

### ECIA RESIDENT CALIBER PORTAL

ECIA and HOAMCO are launching the Resident Caliber Portal. With the portal, you can:

- View account information
- Make online payments
- View personal compliance issues
- View maintenance requests
- Submit service requests
- Update personal profile information
- Update digital and paper mailing preferences and info
- Manage tenants/family members
- View your documents

Caliber portal registration instructions:

<https://hoamco.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/caliber-web-registration-instructions.pdf>

# Worm Love—the Heart of Vermicompost Systems



*"It's just worm love  
It's just worm love  
And they're ever-present everywhere  
And they're ever-present everywhere  
Worm love"*

If you are old enough, and/or a Van Morrison aficionado, you might recognize the above refrain as a take-off on the lyrics of his 1973 hit, "Warm Love". Maybe not, but members of the compost committee of Eldorado/285 Recycles really do love their red wiggler worms. That's because the worms are the main ingredients of the straw-bale vermicompost systems that they have been constructing for residents of the Eldorado area since 2014.

When one thinks of February, the first thought is often of love, represented by Valentine's Day. If you are an avid gardener, February is also a time for garden planning, poring over seed catalogs to choose varieties for spring plantings, and thinking about how to improve your garden's soil. That's where compost, worms, and love all come together!

If you are among the lucky 250+ area residents who already have a straw-bale vermicompost system, you can show your worms some "worm love" for the remainder of the winter. Basically, worms have the same needs as humans: food, water, and a comfortable shelter. Here's how you can help make your worms happy until springtime:

## 1. FOOD

Continue feeding the worms veggie scraps throughout the winter. Although they will eat at a slower rate, they still need nourishment to survive. You can help them by lovingly cutting up their food into small bits, or even using a blender to help the vegetable matter break down in the colder weather. This makes it easier for them to digest and produce the "black gold" that helps our gardens grow.

## 2. WATER

Red wiggler worms need to stay moist because they breathe by absorbing oxygen from water through their skin. Be sure that the bin stays moist by adding a small amount of water to the top of the bin or with the food scraps. Be careful not to add too much or you might drown your little friends. Remember that the veggie waste naturally contains moisture.

## 3. COMFORTABLE SHELTER

Always add some loose straw to the top of the bin, as a certain amount of straw will decompose over the winter and be consumed by the worms. You want to keep the level of the loose straw equal to the height of the straw-bale walls. Straw is a good insulator (with an R-value comparable to fiberglass) and is used to insulate some human dwellings, as well. In particularly cold weather, the bin can be covered with a tarp or an old carpet to keep the wigglers toasty.

If you would like to have some worms of your very own to love, please check out [www.eldorado285recycles.com](http://www.eldorado285recycles.com) to learn more and then email Chris at [clharrell505@gmail.com](mailto:clharrell505@gmail.com) to have a vermicompost system installed by our friendly crew or to order extra straw for your present system.

—Gary Stoller, Eldorado/285 Recycles  
Graphic by Chris Harrell

# "Radio Neighbor" Offers Music, Poetry, Tranquility

Eldorado's 24/7 low-power "relaxation station," ELDORADIO 1660 AM, salutes African-American musical heritage this month with *Saturday Matinee* noon concerts by the Chicago Symphony and by Kathleen Battle and Jesse Norman, as well as John Denver and Stephane Grappelli. In March, this recorded-live series begins the local station's annual Santa Fe Opera spring previews.

The weekday *BreakTime* programs at 10:30 Monday through Friday mornings will feature a pre-Valentine Day reading by poet T. S. Eliot of his ironic *Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* on "The Voice of the Poet" **Feb. 9**, plus drop-in



romantic poetry throughout the day and a romantic story on *BreakTime*'s "Tell Me a Story" on **Feb. 14**.

*News Headline Updates* twice a day keep listeners current with local and world events, at about 7:15 on *Good Morning Eldorado* and a half-hour before sunset—between 4:30 and 5 in the afternoon during February. Most of the rest of the day and night offers a mix of music for easy listening.

# February Meetings

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

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesdays	14, 28	3-5 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board of Directors Meeting	Tuesday	21	5:30 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday Bi-Monthly	No meeting this month		Thomas Brandenburg	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	Wednesday	8	2-4 PM <i>Zoom / CFR</i>	Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	1	10 AM-12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	Monday	6	9:30 AM-Noon <i>Zoom</i>	Joseph Gutierrez	j.gutierrez@eldoradosf.org
	Road Committee	Wednesday	1	5:30-7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com
	Stable Committee	Monday	20	6:30-8:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Lisa Bessone	stablechair1@gmail.com
Monthly/Semi-Monthly	Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Committee	Thursday	2	9:30-11:30 AM <i>Zoom</i>	Amelia Adair	a.adair@eldoradosf.org
	Bridge Club	1st & 3rd Wed.	1, 15	1-4 PM <i>CR</i>	Susan Lovro	sulovro@aol.com
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	14	4-6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797
	Eldorado Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Monday	6	1:30-2:30 PM <i>CFR</i>	Naomi Burtnick	505 577-7305 enhnnm@gmail.com
	Life Drawing Class	Alt. Mondays	13, 27	9:30 AM-12:30 PM <i>CR</i>	Joe Mullins	joe@fishprint.net
	Model Railroad Club	2nd Tuesday	14	6-8 PM <i>RR</i>	Anthony Balano	apbbalano@gmail.com
Weekly	Mah Jongg (Social Games)	1st & 3rd Wed.	1, 15	11:30 AM-3 PM <i>Foyer</i>	Carol Hardin	caje8@comcast.net
	Al-Anon	Saturdays		3:30-5 PM <i>CFR</i>	Phebe Macrae	phebemacrae2@gmail.com
	Bible Study & Worship Service	Saturdays		10:30 AM-12:30 PM <i>CR</i>	Kevin Rehorn	kevinrehorn@msn.com
	Chair Aerobics	Tuesdays / Thursdays		10:30-11:30 AM <i>RR</i>	Naomi Burtnick	505 577-7305 naomiburtnick@gmail.com
	Dance Fitness	Tuesdays / Thursdays		9-10 AM <i>RR</i>	Sandra Young	ysandra317@gmail.com
	Eldorado Hikers	Tuesdays		8:30 AM <i>NE corner CC Pkg.</i>	Terry Gibbs	505 466-6914 trgbbs@comcast.net
*	Recovery AA Meetings *Thursdays Women Only	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
	Informational Forum re: WIPP	Sunday	19	2-5 PM <i>RR</i>	Erica Valentine	ericavalentine@sbcglobal.net

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".

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

\* Indicates Community February Events

## February at Vista Grande Public Library

Thanks so much to Johnny Boggs and everyone who attended our fundraising event! We had a great time, despite challenges and were able to wish Johnny a Happy 39th Birthday!

February is a busy month at VGPL. First, we are very excited for the return of local author, evolutionary scholar and great writer Dan Flores (*America Serengeti*, *Coyote America*) to Vista Grande Public Library. He will talk about and read from his latest book *Wild New World* and answer all your questions about it. Please join us Friday, Feb. 3 at 7 PM for this special event.

We also have a great "installation" coming for two weeks. From Feb. 18-25, we are delighted to host the "Santa Fe Origins Book" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJP5EXt8GtK>). This amazing and educational work will take up about 12 feet in the main library, is interactive and will tell you things you never thought to ask about our home. On Feb. 18 at 1 PM, Barbara Mack and Sally Blakemore of the project will host a program



Left and above: "Santa Fe Origins Book"

and gallery talk about the book, which will also take place in the main library and be open to the public. On Feb. 24 from 1-4 PM, there will be an all-ages workshop on the book, its creative process and book making.

There will be a reception for our February artists on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 2 PM.

**Toddler Story Time:** Thursdays at 10:30 AM, includes a story and a craft.

**Chess:** Fridays from 3-5 PM. Open to all ages; under 12 needs parental permission.

**Family Movie Night:** Friday, Feb. 17 at 7 PM. Contact VGPL or see our newsletter for movie title. Free admission, popcorn, and juice.

**Library Board Meeting:** Monday, Feb. 20 at 5:30 PM, and open to the public.

For questions: 505 466-7323 or [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org).



Winter slow waning,  
vernal equinox gaining,  
seasons exchanging

—Scott Manzer

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

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

## February Pays Homage to Kindness and Love



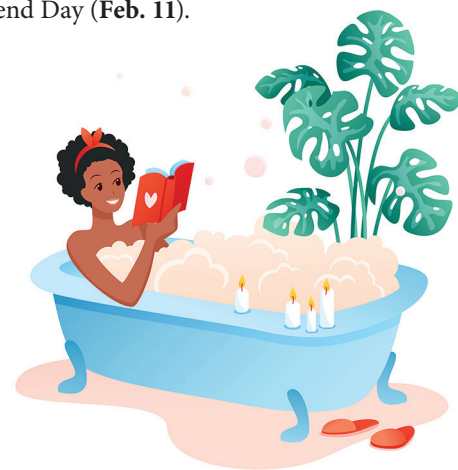
During one of the cold months of winter, it is reassuring to know there is an upcoming holiday sure to warm hearts: Valentine's Day. While this is a day typically filled with all things love, February has plenty of additional opportunities to show love to yourself and others.

This month, recognize those who work hard with a kind note or extra "thank you" on awareness days such as National Women Physicians Day (Feb. 3), National Thank a Mail Carrier Day (Feb. 4) and Supermarket Employee Day (Feb. 22). Reach out to friends on National Send a Card to a Friend Day (Feb. 7) or make it a full-on friend celebration with Galentine's (Feb. 13) and Malentine's Day (Feb. 12).

Since February also has Random Acts of Kindness Week (Feb. 12 to 18) and Day (Feb. 17), show a bit of kindness to strangers who could use a boost. These acts of compassion can also be accomplished on Pay a Compliment Day (Feb. 6) and National Make a Friend Day (Feb. 11).

Self-care is essential, especially during gloomy, winter weather. Celebrate you and any self-love you may need on Read in the Bathtub Day (Feb. 9), National Comfy Day (Feb. 20), and National Latte Day (Feb. 11).

However you choose to commemorate the month, showing kindness to others in our community is always welcome and warming. And in order to effectively express love to others, we must first love ourselves.



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