

VISTAS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ELDORADO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

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ECIA Amenities and Festivities Create Community Fun



Photos clockwise from top left: Residents enjoy the pool season during a particularly hot summer; Fourth of July celebrations included a bike decorating party the day before; Eldorado Stables Community Fun Day was enjoyed by all ages; Earth Day celebrations included music on the Community Center patio; The new Pump Track amenity opened on Fourth of July.

—Photo of Stables Mike Nosow; all others ECIA Staff

BOARD CORNER

ANNUAL BOARD RETREAT HELD

The Board, Committee Chairs and senior Staff members met offsite on **Sept. 12** to begin the process of long-term planning. As identified in last year's retreat, one primary goal of the Board is to update the Board's Mission and Vision statements and begin long-term strategic planning. Participants planned to deepen engagement of the community through surveys, town halls and focus groups, as they work to identify Eldorado's core values and top priorities. Other outcomes included prioritizing goals for the next two years.

SANTA FE COUNTY ENGAGED IN ELDORADO

On **Sept. 7**, Santa Fe County Fire Department Assistant Chief and Emergency Manager Martin Vigil, held a town hall at the Community Center, to provide information about the County's "Ready, Set, Go" evacuation plan system, fire mitigation and other important fire safety topics. District 5 Commissioner Hank Hughes spoke at the **Sept. 19** Board meeting, reporting to the community on the status of a number of Santa Fe County projects. See the Minutes on the ECIA website for details www.eldoradosf.org.

BUDGET PLANNING UNDERWAY

Treasurer Joseph Gutierrez reported on the financial health of the community. Our accounts receivable percentage is down to only 0.5%, a very healthy number. ECIA is also operating well under budget for the current fiscal year. He reported on the Finance Committee's work on the proposed 2024 draft budget, which the Board authorized to be posted for member review and comment. The draft 2024 budget is available on the ECIA website at <https://eldoradosf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2024-Budget-V5.pdf>. A town hall to seek Member feedback and answer questions will be held Tuesday, **Oct. 24, at 7 PM** at the Community Center and via Zoom.

DRAFT POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT AND ACTIVITY POLICY

The Board discussed, and approved posting for public comment on the website, a draft policy regarding Board and Staff political endorsement and activity. Depending on the number of comments received, the Board will either schedule a town hall to hear from

members in person, or take comments at the upcoming October Board meeting about the draft policy. Please sign up for eBlasts on the first page of the ECIA website to stay informed www.eldoradosf.org.

MAINTENANCE FACILITY STATUS

Operations Manager Mike Rogers reported that the permit for assembly of the new Maintenance Facility was approved, and our contractor has begun preliminary sitework. We are looking forward to having a facility with heat, a bathroom, well-lit workspaces, and secure equipment storage for the Maintenance Crew's use.

ARCHITECTURE GUIDELINES REVISION PROCESS—MEMBER PARTICIPATION WELCOMED

The Architecture Committee (AC) reported many comments were received from members by the end of the initial comment period. The AC is now incorporating those comments into a revised draft of the Guidelines which will again be posted for public comment, after which a town hall will be held to seek member input. That town hall is tentatively slated to be held in November.

GIS PROJECT GREENBELT MANAGEMENT POLICY WORKING GROUP

Vice President Jonathan Turkle reported that he has been in touch with several potential third-party contractors who may be able help ECIA evaluate our management needs for the greenbelts. A meeting with one potential contractor will be scheduled with a working group of three Board members, the Operations Manager and a member of the Conservation Committee, to discuss options for next steps.

COMMUNITY FUN DAY AT THE COMMUNITY STABLES A SUCCESS

The Stable Committee reported that over 175 visitors, including children and families, attended its annual Community Fun Day open house at the Community Stables.

MINUTES POSTED ONLINE

ECIA Board Meeting Minutes are available on the ECIA Governing Board webpage www.eldoradosf.org.

ECIA BOARD & MANAGEMENT

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

Management: ECIA is managed by HOAMCO; *General Manager Julie Navarro*, jnavarro@hoamco.com

Monthly reports available at www.eldoradosf.org > Board & Committees > ECIA Governing Board.

ECIA office open Mon–Fri 8:30 AM–8 PM, Sat & Sun 9 AM–5 PM. For information call 505 466-4248.

ECIA Facilities & Grounds Committee Engagement



The Facilities and Grounds (F&G) Committee (also known as “Fun and Games”!) serves the community as the voice of the residents regarding ECIA amenities and advising and making recommendations to the Board about the common area amenities.

Its Charter explains that “F&G recommendations will reflect good stewardship principles, policies and long-range planning for maintenance and improvement of ECIA facilities and grounds while balancing the needs of the community with available financial resources.” F&G advises ECIA staff on maintenance and oversight of all ECIA amenities except for the greenbelts, Eldorado Preserve and Community Stables.

By listening to the community at its annual town halls, and empowering resident volunteers to take the lead on projects supported by the community, F&G has brought

Eldorado many popular new ECIA amenities over the past 10 years, including the Dog Park, Pickleball, Disc Golf, and Pump Track. It has also supported projects to revitalize and renew plans for existing amenities such as the Pool, Playgrounds and shade structures at the Community Center and Compadres Park, the Athletic Field, and Courts.

Another F&G project now underway is the Pollinator Garden, located in the parking lot island at the Community Center. A team of talented, dedicated Eldorado gardeners is leading the effort (at substantial savings to the community) to replace irrigated lawn grass with pollinator-friendly xeriscaping. The finished space will feature benches and a Bocce Ball court.

F&G Chair, Kathy Ritschel, is a long-time resident of Eldorado who is passionate about community engagement. She leads a diverse group of F&G members who bring a wide range of life experiences to their volunteer work for ECIA. F&G meets on the **first Wednesday of the month at 10 AM via Zoom**. All Residents are encouraged to attend, and new members are welcome.

Vista Grande Public Library October Events



It's the most wonderful time of the year—Halloween, art show/fundraiser, Oktoberfest fundraiser, book talks, and more. Join us!

Medicare Information Sessions: We're getting closer to the sign-up deadline. Get all the information you need before it's too late. If you can't make one session, there should be another!

Saturdays, Oct. 14 and 21, at 10 AM

Fridays, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3, at 10 AM

Three talented artists will display their art throughout October. Mary Barron and Sue Halpern will have their versatile ceramic one-of-a-kind works, titled “Garden Harvest”, in the glass case all month. Chuck Watkins “Layers of Color” will also be showing his abstract, cold wax medium works on the walls. The show will debut with an **Opening Reception at the Library on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 1 PM to 3 PM**, where guests will have the opportunity to meet and engage with the talented artists behind these creations. Mark your calendars and join in the celebration of artistry,

friendship, and the captivating world of these three artists at the Vista Grande Public Library (VGPL) this **Oct. 1–30** (20% of sales benefit the library).

3rd Annual Oktoberfest: Saturday, Oct. 21 from 3 PM to 6 PM at the Taphouse in La Tienda. This is a library fundraiser, \$20 per ticket, and includes two free drinks, door prizes, beer trivia and more!

Saturday, Oct. 21 at 1 PM: Susan Delson, author of *Soundies and the Changing Image of Black Americans on Screen: One Dime at a Time*, will be at VGPL to share images and stories of this great book and intriguing part of American History.

Family Movie Night: Friday, Oct. 20, 7 PM. Free admission and popcorn.

It's the most wonderful time of the year! **VGPL's annual Halloween party will be held Saturday, Oct. 28, from 4 PM to 7 PM.** Food, fun, games, give aways, crafts... Fun for all ages. Our theme is “Come as Your Hero” (and you don't have to wear spandex or leap tall buildings to be a hero!), but theme-related costumes are not required. **Costume parade at 5 PM.**

Come!

Have fun!

This is Halloween!

All Ages Chess: Fridays from 3 PM to 5 PM.

IT Classes every other Monday morning, see website calendar for specifics.

And don't forget: **Book Sale, Nov. 9 to 11, during open hours.** Stay tuned for more details.

libasst@vglibrary.org • 505 466-7323 • www.vglibrary.org

ECIA Proposed 2024 Budget

At the September Board meeting, the Board authorized the draft 2024 budget recommended by the Finance Committee be posted for public comment. It is available for viewing on the ECIA website at the following link: <https://eldoradosf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2024-Budget-V5.pdf>. A town hall to hear member feedback will be held **Oct. 24 at 7 PM** at the Community Center and via Zoom. Comments and questions may be sent to the Finance Committee and the Board via the comment form on the Board page of the ECIA website, <https://eldoradosf.org/ecia-governing-board/> or via email to the ECIA General Manager at gm@eldoradosf.org.

The Finance Committee has been working since June on the 2024 draft budget including, most critically, evaluating projections for reserve and replacement costs over the next five years. The ECIA policy is to fund our replacement reserve accounts by making regular contributions gradually over time, instead of large special assessments when major repairs are needed. As a result, the Finance Committee projects regular, small assessment increases to keep pace with inflation and allow ECIA to continue prudently caring for and maintaining our community assets such as the pool, playgrounds, courts, hike/bike trails and community center.

The ECIA Covenants restrict the Board to raising assessments at most every two years. Assessments were last raised in 2022 by 4%. Considering the current inflationary environment, the Finance Committee recommended increasing assessments by 7%, to \$610/lot/year (\$3.33/month or \$40/annually). The proposed increase essentially represents catching up to the rate of inflation over the past two years.

The proposed 2024 budget shifts projected spending in some areas to fund enhanced management of the greenbelts and open spaces, and improving our community outreach activities. ECIA will be able to fund these priorities without a large assessment increase because our management team has reduced unpaid assessment debt (accounts receivable) to only 0.5%—a very low level—and because our maintenance staff has done a great deal of replacement reserve work for much less than we would have paid outside contractors. We are also earning higher interest rates on our investments.



The Board is now seeking Member feedback on the draft 2024 budget as described above. After hearing that feedback before and during the town hall, the Finance Committee will discuss and make changes to the proposed 2024 budget during its November meeting, and make a final recommendation to the Board. The Board will then review and vote on the final proposed budget at its November meeting.

Fall ELDORADIO Shows Include Halloween, History

Eldorado's local, low-power radio service, ELDORADIO 1660 AM, celebrates this fall with special programs **Oct. 12** for Indigenous Peoples' Day, including poetry



by Native American youth on that Thursday's *BreakTime* program, *The Voice of the Poet*, at **10:30 AM**. Robert Frost reads a Halloween poem on **Oct. 26**. The annual rebroadcast of Orson Welles' 1938 *War of the Worlds* airs twice: **Sunday, Oct. 29 at 12 Noon**, then **just before sunset on Oct. 31**, with

spooky music for the evening, along with a Poe ghost story at **10:30 AM** on *BreakTime: Tell Me a Story*.

History in Sound, the **Monday BreakTime** feature, salutes former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Dwight Eisenhower **Oct. 2 and 16**. Recorded live concerts of folksinger "Doc" Watson and the New York Philharmonic in Bruckner's *Symphony No. 9* are scheduled on the **Noon-time Saturday Matinee**. **Every Sunday at 12 Noon**, a "time warp" whisks listeners to the "Golden Age" of American network radio (1930–1950) on *Retro Radio*.

Weather, news headlines, and a calendar of local and city events, plus happy music, help Eldorado wake up at **7 AM every morning**. A quick news summary **about half an hour before sunset** updates listeners just before *Music Through the Dark 'til Dawn*, until the Eldoradio Birds at **7 AM the next morning**. Most of the day is a variety of music, with no chatter or commercials. Restricted by the FCC, ELDORADIO's signal covers the community in daytime, but after sunset reaches only the center of Eldorado.

—William Dunning, ELDORADIO Host

CORNER NOTES FROM GREATER ELDORADO NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (GENW)

WATCH



Sweater-weather, apple cider, pumpkins, goblins, and ghosts. The Harvest Moon, Orange Wine Day, Angel Food Cake Day. A few lovely and fun things October brings.

October celebrates

Indigenous People and the non-violent message and life of Mahatma Gandhi. It is a month dedicated to ending bullying, domestic violence, poverty, and hunger.

Preparedness is also the focus of October. We can do simple things that help keep ourselves, our loved ones, our homes, and our communities safe.

The Greater Eldorado Neighborhood Watch reminds us that we can help stop violence in our neighborhoods. If you or anyone you know is living with bullying or domestic violence, there is help. Please see important numbers in box to the right.

GENW reminds us that food insecurity for some exists all year round. Make an impact by dropping off non-perishable, good "use by dated" foods at La Alacena Food Pantry at La Tienda in Building #1. Anyone can leave goods or take what they need.

TIPS ON HOW TO PREPARE TO STAY SAFER:

GENW encourages everyone to act on these tips provided to us by the National Fire Association, our El Dorado Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Santa Fe County Department of Public Safety and Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office.

1 Change your smoke alarm batteries this month. Need help? Contact **Neighbors Helping Neighbors 505 577-7305 or enhnmm@gmail.com**. Or call the **non-emergency fire department number 505 466-1204**. If you know a neighbor who needs assistance, please offer your help. Change the batteries in carbon monoxide sensors. If you need one, they are available at DIY stores and for free through the **American Red Cross 505 265-8514**.

2 Drain/blow out your drip system to prevent lines from freezing.

3 Get your furnace checked and if necessary, change the filters.

4 Chimney fires are a real danger. Get your chimney cleaned by a professional. If you have a gas burning fireplace, find a plumber qualified to work with gas to be sure your fireplace is safe.

5 Keep stacked wood away from the house and check your yard for debris, foliage or grass that is too high or too close to your home or a neighbor's home. These can catch fire easily and spread fast. As dry as it is here, fire danger is still high this time of year.

6 Stock up on flashlight batteries in case of a power outage.

7 Be sure outside lights have good bulbs and tip them away from facing others' homes, Eldorado is a Dark Sky area.

8 If you plan to be away, let a neighbor know how to reach you in case of emergency. Stop your mail and paper or ask a neighbor to collect them for you. Leave a few lights on timers so it looks like someone is at home.

9 On Halloween, if you have children, do not let them go trick or treating without an adult.

10 If you feel uncomfortable answering the door to strangers on Halloween or on any day, you do not have to answer. It is ok not to answer a knock.

11 Don't speed or run the stop signs. Be extra careful on Halloween night. Look out for children and all pedestrians who may be attending Halloween festivities at the Agora.

Although in October we might enjoy being scared by horror films, black cats, or ghostly costumes on Halloween, don't become scared for real. Take precautionary steps to help keep yourself and neighbors safe.

Do not forget to check our website for more safety tips and valuable information <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>. Contact GENW at jloewy42@aol.com or **505 231-6462**.

Look for our November Watch Corner in *Vistas*.

TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:

1. FIRST: Report suspicious activity to the non-emergency number for the Santa Fe County Sheriff, **505 428-3720**, (Sheriff's non-emergency email, sfconcerns@santafecountynm.gov)

2. THEN: Call Joe Loewy at **505 231-6462** (email jloewy42@aol.com) so that a Neighborhood Watch Alert can be sent out.

FIRE INFORMATION:

Fire Prevention Wildland Division, **505 995-6523**
El Dorado Fire and Rescue, **505 466-1204**

STOP VIOLENCE:

National Domestic Violence Hotline, **800 799-7233**
Esperanza Shelter in Santa Fe, **505 474-5536** or **800 473-5220**

New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence, **505 246-9240**

Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, **505 443-9199**

New Mexico Children, Youth and Families, **505 795-1645**

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Emergencies, **Dial 911**

Santa Fe County Animal Control, **505 992-1626**

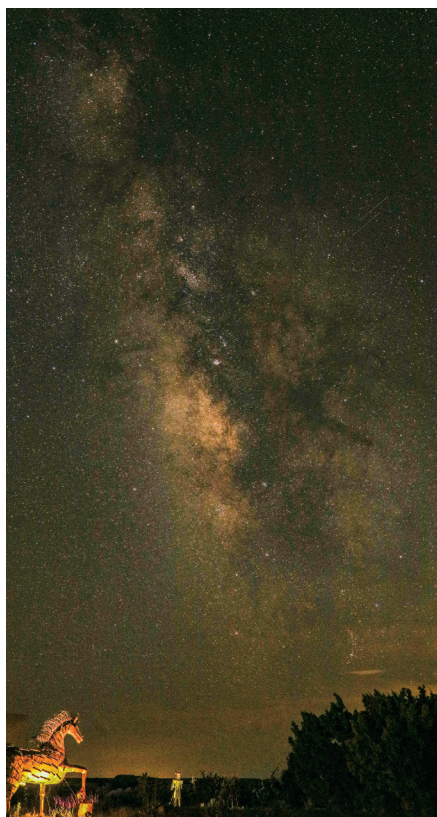
Eldorado Snake Relocation Volunteers, **505 670-5749**

New Mexico Wildlife Center, **505 753-9505**

United States Postal Inspectors, **877 876-2455**

Night Skies Over Eldorado During October

The Milky Way stands on end on cool October evenings, spanning the sky from the southwest, past overhead, and into the northeast.



The Summer Milky Way descends toward the southwestern horizon. The galactic center is in the dark area called the Great Rift, just right of center.

farthest point in its orbit around Earth, passes in front of the Sun. Because the Moon appears to be slightly smaller than the Sun, due to its distance from Earth, it will only block about 91% of the Sun, leaving a narrow 'ring of fire' around the silhouette of the Moon. Eclipse details can be found in Key October Night Sky Events.



This is a photo of an annular eclipse, showing the 'Ring of Fire' caused by the Moon's slightly smaller disk, which allows a small portion of the Sun to remain in view. When a solar eclipse occurs, the Moon begins to block the right side of the Sun. After the eclipse maximum, the Moon will exit to the Sun's left.

As the star-studded summer constellations begin to disappear into the solar glare, they are replaced by the fainter stars of autumn, rising in the east. Jupiter, the brightest object in the evening sky, rises after sunset and chases yellow Saturn.

A major astronomical event takes place mid-month when Eldorado sits within the path of totality of an annular eclipse of the Sun, turning morning into semi-night. An annular eclipse occurs when the Moon, near its



A June 2023 appulse between Venus and the Beehive star cluster.

There are also three planetary appulses in October, all involving the Moon. An appulse is a close encounter between two celestial objects. While 'close encounter' hasn't been officially defined, I'm using any encounter within three degrees (for comparison, a full moon is about 0.5 degrees in diameter).

An appulse is similar to a conjunction, but a conjunction occurs when two objects share the same right ascension (similar to sharing the same longitude on a map of the Earth), which is not the same as their closest distance from one another.

KEY OCTOBER NIGHT SKY EVENTS:

Oct. 1: The Moon passes three degrees from Jupiter at **7:08 PM**.

Oct. 2: At **11:45 PM**, the Moon passes one degree from the Pleiades star cluster in Taurus.

Oct. 8–9: The Draconid meteor shower peaks on the **evening of Oct. 9** and **morning of Oct. 10**. While only about 10 meteors per hour can be seen at peak, the shower is best viewed in the early evening, when the shower radiant is high in the sky. The last quarter moon rising about **2:15 AM** should not greatly interfere with early morning viewing.

Oct. 14: Eldorado is within the path of totality of an annular eclipse of the Sun. The eclipse begins at approximately **9:13 AM**. Totality begins at about **10:36 AM** and lasts about 2 minutes, 45 seconds. A new moon occurs at mid-eclipse.

Even though only 9% of the Sun will be visible at maximum eclipse, it's best to use a solar filter like 'eclipse glasses' to protect your eyes.

Oct. 20–21: The Orionid meteor shower peaks on the **evening of Oct. 20** and **pre-dawn of Oct. 21**. About 20 meteors per hour can be seen during the shower peak. The meteors are particles left behind by Halley's Comet.

Oct. 23: Early risers will be treated to seeing Venus at its greatest distance west of the Sun (greatest western elongation). Venus rises at approximately **3:40 AM** in the constellation Leo.

Oct. 24: At **3:47 AM**, the Moon passes 2.3 degrees from Saturn.

Oct. 28: The full Hunter's Moon occurs at **2:25 PM**.

Oct. 29: The almost full moon passes 2.5 degrees from the planet Jupiter at **12:47 AM**. Jupiter is near its brightest, being only five days from opposition.

Oct. 30: At **9:49 AM**, the Moon passes 0.6 degrees from the Pleiades star cluster. You'll have to get up before dawn to see these objects while they're close together.

—Article by Eric Saltmarsh,

Photos: Top left/right, Eric Saltmarsh; Bottom left, Bill Dunford

October Meetings

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

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesdays	10, 24	3–5 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board of Directors	Tuesday	17	5:30 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Bylaws Review Committee	Monday	2	5:30 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Conservation Committee	Tuesday Bi-Monthly	No Meeting this Month		Thomas Brendenbug	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Covenant Compliance Task Force	Thursday	5	10 AM–12 Noon <i>Zoom / CR</i>	Amelia Adair	a.adair@eldoradosf.org
	Election Committee	Wednesday	11	2–4 PM <i>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
Monthly/Semi-Monthly	Stable Committee	Monday Bi-Monthly	16	6:30–8:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Lisa Bessone	stablechair1@gmail.com
	Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Committee	3rd Thursday	19	3 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	vrrc@eldoradosf.org
	Acoustic Jam	2nd & 4th Sun.	8, 22	4–6 PM <i>CC Patio (LR if weather)</i>	Chris Harrell	clharrell505@gmail.com
	Bridge Club	1st & 3rd Wed.	4, 18	1–4 PM <i>CR</i>	Susan Lovro	sulovro@aol.com
	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	Model Railroad Club	2nd Tuesday	10	6–8 PM <i>RR</i>	Anthony Balano	apbbalano@gmail.com
	Mah Jongg (Social Games)	2nd & 4th Wed.	11, 25	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
	Eldorado Hikers	Tuesdays		8:30 AM <i>NE corner CC Pkg.</i>	Terry Gibbs	505 466-6914 trgibbs@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
	Facilities & Grounds Town Hall	Tuesday	24	6 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@eldoradosf.org
*	Budget Town Hall	Tuesday	24	7 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	Julie Navarro	gm@eldoradosf.org

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 by going to 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

* Other October Community Events

News Corral

IT'S SOCKTOBER IN ELDORADO!



What's that? Eldorado/285Recycles is sponsoring a 1-month program **during October**. We are collecting NEW socks to be delivered to a local shelter. The collection container will be located in **La Tienda Building B** near the Eldorado Fitness Center. Thanks for your support of this worthwhile project.

ANNUAL FACILITIES AND GROUNDS (F&G) TOWN HALL

On **Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 6 PM**, the F&G Committee will be holding its annual town hall at the Community Center and via Zoom. This is an opportunity for all Members to ask questions about the common facilities and provide feedback. To make this process more efficient, the Committee requests that questions be sent in ahead of time to the comment form at the bottom of the first page of our website, www.eldoradosf.org, or via email to gm@eldoradosf.org.



LANDSCAPED SIGNAGE AT COMMUNITY CENTER

A special thank you to Joe Newman for his continued volunteer efforts in the sustainability of the community and for his recent cactus installation at the Community Center entrance.

SAVE THE DATE: WINTER SHOWS AT COMMUNITY CTR.



Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 AM–4 PM



Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 AM–4 PM

*Soon a frost will come
A landscape glittering white
But first, enjoy fall!*

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.

Adding Flavor and Depth to Food

When it comes to cooking, a few key ingredients can really take your dishes to the next level. Herbs and spices are two essential tools to add flavor and depth to your food. But what's the difference between these ingredients? And when should you use each one?

Herbs are the leaves, flowers, or stems of plants that are used for flavoring food. They typically have a more delicate flavor than spices, are often used in fresh or dried form, and can be used whole or chopped. Some common herbs include basil, oregano, rosemary, thyme, and parsley.

Spices are the seeds, fruits, roots, or bark of plants that are used for flavoring food. They typically have a stronger flavor than herbs, and are often used in ground or whole form. Some common spices include black pepper, cinnamon, cumin, ginger, and nutmeg.



So, knowing that herbs and spices can enhance any recipe, how best to use them? General guidelines say to use herbs for fresh, bright flavors. Herbs are a great way to add flavor to salads, vegetables, and light dishes. Use spices for bold, robust flavors. Spices are best to add depth and complexity to stews, curries, and other hearty dishes. Recipes

are often conservative in their seasonings, so experiment by increasing the amount of herbs or spices to bring out stronger accents to your dishes.

HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF HOW TO USE HERBS AND SPICES IN COOKING:

- **Herbs:** Basil in pesto, oregano in marinara, rosemary in roasted potatoes, thyme with lamb, parsley in chicken soup.
- **Spices:** Black pepper in a steak marinade, cinnamon in apple pie, cumin in chili, ginger in stir-fry, nutmeg in pumpkin bread.

HERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- Store herbs and spices in airtight containers in a cool, dark place to help preserve their flavor.
- The rule of thumb when using dried herbs versus fresh is one teaspoon dried to one tablespoon fresh, since dried herbs have been compressed, and fresh herbs still hold a significant amount of water.
- Replace dried herbs and spices once a year to ensure freshness and full flavor.

No matter what you are cooking, herbs, spices, and seasonings can help you create delicious and flavorful dishes. So get creative and experiment with different combinations to find the perfect flavors for your taste.

—Karen Fisch, Eldorado Resident, 408 261-0331



NEWSBRIEFS: For the latest information from ECIA, please sign up for newsbriefs, (ECIA's electronic mailing system) by going to 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 to let us know. 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.