

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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Ideas for An Eco-Friendly Holiday

We all know Mother Earth is in crisis; what do we do about it? The upcoming holiday season is close, which means gift giving, decorations, and food. Here are some ideas to make the season eco-friendlier and more creative:

- 1 Wrapping paper is NOT recyclable. About 2.3 million pounds ends up in landfills each year. Much of it is produced in Asian sweatshops and then shipped to the US. Instead use craft paper, brown paper bags that you decorate, comics from the local newspaper, old bandanas or scarves, and maps.
- 2 Buy energy saving LED lights. While not perfect since they contain lead and PVC, they are cooler so there is less risk of fire. Look for RoHS compliant lights.
- 3 Shop for organic and local foods.



- 4 Choose a grower that offers chemical- and pesticide-free trees. An eco-friendly idea is a potted tree which you can later plant in your garden. If you buy a cut tree, remember to recycle it at a local mulching station.
- 5 If you choose an artificial tree, handle it with care, as they are made with PVC, a non-renewable petroleum product.
- 6 Try to avoid plastic and choose sustainable holiday decorations.
- 7 Gift Ideas:

Donate to an environmental cause or charity
Give an experiential gift
Create handcrafted DIY gifts
Shop locally
Send a card that plants trees

**HAVE A WONDERFUL, SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON
FILLED WITH JOY AND LOVE!**

—Libby Maclaren, Eldorado/285 Recycles

Tips for An Enjoyable and Safe Fireplace Fire

Tis the season for the comforting sights, smells, and sounds of an evening enjoyed by the fire. While this soothing experience will always be a delight, it is important to be reminded of preventative actions to avoid a chimney fire and fire safety in your home. Chimney fires can quickly spread through the home, onto your property, and through the surrounding community.



CHIMNEY FIRES—Creosote, a natural by-product of burning wood, is a tar-like substance that is highly combustible. When creosote builds up, and with restricted air flow due to flue lining and flue cap deterioration,

a chimney fire can easily ignite due to high temperatures. Having your chimney cleaned by a professional sweeper and regularly assessed is an essential precaution for limiting the risk of a devastating fire.

Avoid the buildup of creosote:

- Fully close glass doors
- Fully open the damper

- Do not close the damper or air inlets too soon or too often
- Do not use unseasoned wood—or wood that still has water trapped in the cells of the log
- Do not overload the firebox with wood in attempt to have a longer burn

Fireplace Safety:

- Keep a screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out
- Once the fire is initially lit, do not burn paper
- Maintain a minimum of a 3-foot distance from anything that can burn
- Put the fire fully out before bed or leaving your home. Use sand, salt, or baking soda; NOT water.
- Put fully cooled ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least 3 feet from your home or other combustible material

Review tips on how to build a fire in a Rumford and Kiva fireplace on ECIA website: https://eldoradosf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Building-a-Fire_Rumford_Kiva-1.pdf.

Information provided by K.C. Wester, an ECIA resident and sweeper since 1979; and FEMA.gov.

BOARD CORNER

2024 BUDGET APPROVED

At the November Board meeting, the Board approved the final version of 2024 Budget, which is available for review on the ECIA website on the budget page [ECIA Budgets | Eldorado Community Website \(eldoradosf.org\)](#). Key variances from the 2023 budget include a 7% increase of the annual assessment to \$610, and additional funding for community outreach and open space management. No new capital or reserve and replacement (R&R) projects were approved for 2024, except for those budgeted but not completed in 2023.

The Board also approved the annual audit engagement letter and rolled over any unspent 2023 operating funds into the reserve account. In addition, the Board—as previously approved in the July 2023 Board meeting—directed the ECIA’s accountant to roll over unspent funds allocated for the maintenance facility in 2023 into a liability on the balance sheet, which will be spent to complete the maintenance facility in 2024.

POLICIES

After considering public comment, the Board approved the final **Staff Paid Holidays Policy**, which is consistent with the Board’s direction over the past three years.

The Board approved posting for public comment the draft revised **Dog Park and Annex Rules** recommended by the Dog Park Subcommittee of the F&G Committee. The article on page 8 of *Vistas* has details about the proposed Rules.

Finally, Board approved posting for public comment the revised draft **Facebook Procedures** and the draft **Editorial Policy** recommended by the Director of Communications. All draft policies may be viewed on the Board webpage, where member comments and feedback may be submitted in the form below the links to all draft policies.

DECEMBER INVOICES AND MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The final budget will be mailed out to all members **in December** with the 2024 assessment invoice and a membership survey. All members are encouraged to answer the questions which will provide valuable input to the Board, staff, and committees. Member feedback will drive the initiative to revise ECIA’s mission and vision statements and position us to do effective strategic planning next year.

FACILITY AFTER HOURS RENTALS AND FACILITY ATTENDANTS

The Board discussed the General Manager’s options for Community Center staffing to save money on facility attendant payroll. It approved a plan to provide Saturday staffing for the Community Center and allow local groups to rent the Railroad Room after business hours, but limits the days the Community Center itself may be rented after hours during the winter. The Saturday staff person will also provide administrative support for ECIA committees.

FACILITY MASTER PLAN TASK FORCE

The Board appointed a task force to report to the Facilities and Grounds (F&G) Committee to work with the Operations Manager to prepare a Facility Master Plan, with member input. The goal will be to determine the requirements of facility users and develop a plan for achieving those needs and requests as feasible. It will guide, help coordinate, and prioritize future R&R projects. Based on the data the Task Force obtains, the F&G Committee and the Board will update the ECIA facility use policy.

COMMITTEE 2024 GOALS

President Adair announced that, as usual, committee reports for the ECIA annual report are due **Feb. 15, 2024**. As part of their report, all committees are asked to include their goals for 2024. Consistent with the top strategic priorities discussed at the annual leadership retreat, the Board would like all committees to set a goal to conduct strategic planning and community outreach in 2024.

NO BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER

Consistent with our usual practice, the Board will not meet in December, to give everyone more time to spend with family and friends during the holiday season. Our next meeting will be held at **5:30 PM on Jan. 16**, the third Tuesday of the month. The Board thanks the staff and community volunteers for all their hard work and dedication through the past year—Happy Holidays!

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.

Community Center & Office: Mon.–Fri. 8:30 AM–5 PM, Sat. open for restrooms & water. For information, 505 466-4248.

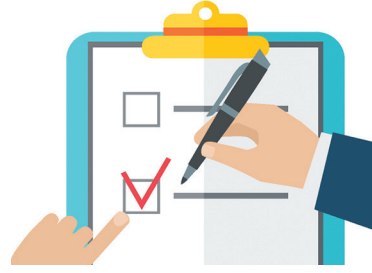
ECIA Board Candidate Nomination Petition

Board members are elected through the voting process which begins **early January** and culminates at the ECIA Annual Meeting of Members on **May 6, 2024**. Two Board of Director positions are open for election, each with three (3) year terms expiring on **May 3, 2027**.

To be a candidate for election to the Board, the ECIA Bylaws require the following criteria be met. Petitioner must be a Lot Owner of Record: (1) whose 2024 assessments are paid in full and have been received and credited to the Association's financial account as of **March 1**; (2) Whose rights and privileges are not suspended; and (3) who resides full-time in Eldorado.

Each Petitioner must submit a completed and signed Nomination Petition to the ECIA office with the required twenty-five (25) signatures which are valid, one signature per Lot; more than 25 signatures are recommended. To be valid, a signature must be of a Lot Owner of Record whose 2023 assessments have been paid in full and have been received and credited to the Association's financial account when signing the Petition and whose rights and privileges are not suspended as of the date of signature.

Signatures may be obtained in two ways: (1) Lot Owners may sign the Nomination Petition in person, or (2) Lot Owners may send their support via an email TO THE PROPOSED CANDIDATE. The email must contain name,



ECIA mailing address, date, and a statement of support (e.g. "I Jane Doe, support the candidacy of Mack Smithy for the 2024 ECIA Board of Directors election."). If an email is submitted in

lieu of physical signature, each individual supporting email must be attached to the Nomination Petition (there may be multiple sheets).

The completed and signed Nomination Petition, and a biography and goals statement for the community, not exceeding a total of 400 words, and recent photo must be submitted to the ECIA office no later than **5 PM on Friday, March 1**.

The Nomination Petition will be available in December at eldoradosf.org > Resident Resources > Forms and Applications > Board Nomination Petition, or at the ECIA office. Information and instructions are included with the Nomination Petition.

If you have questions about the candidacy and Petition requirements, call or email the ECIA office: Julie Navarro, (505) 466-4248, jnavarro@hoamco.com, or email Election Committee Chair, electionchair1@gmail.com.

Eldorado Volunteer Committee (EVC) Outreach



In less than one year, the renamed Eldorado Volunteer Committee (EVC) has accomplished a tremendous amount, while significantly improving ECIA's focus on community outreach. Plus, committee members have had more than their share of fun! This brand new committee sponsored five community events in 2023: an HOA Skills

Workshop, Earth Day, two New Resident Welcome events, and a children's bike decorating event the day before the 4th of July parade.

According to its Charter, the EVC's vision is "for the ECIA to have exceptionally engaged, caring and talented volunteer leadership at all levels of the organization. The EVC's mission is to improve the quality of the ECIA's volunteer leadership..." The committee started by revitalizing the way new residents are welcomed to the community. It is also taking an oversight role for ECIA events, encouraging event sponsors effectuate community, budget wisely, report outcomes, and be more sustainable.

The EVC is critical to achieving two of the Board's top

three goals for 2024 (identified at the annual leadership retreat): to increase community engagement and participation in the ECIA, and to recruit volunteers, including increasing their number and diversity. Looking ahead to 2024, the EVC will hold at least one leadership training, continue the new resident welcome events, and will explore other ways to encourage more new and longer-term residents to get involved with the community, especially with the ECIA, as volunteers.

The committee holds hybrid meetings on the **third Thursday of most months (except December) at 3 PM** at the Community Center and via Zoom. Chair Kathy Ritschel is not only a long-time resident and passionate community volunteer, she has great experience in organizational development including leadership training and onboarding new staff for a major national bank. She also led the PTA for the El Dorado Community School through its significant renovations. Other committee members are long-time residents with connections to active local non-profit groups, and newer residents eager to contribute to their community.

If you are interested in serving your community, supporting community volunteers, and having fun, please attend the next EVC meeting **Jan. 18, 2024**, or contact Communications Director Jessica Neal at the ECIA office, jneal@hoamco.com, for more information.

Board of Directors and Committees Seek Volunteers



January 2024 is just around the corner, and it is time to consider being a part of the ECIA Board of Directors. There

will be two (2) positions open which will expire **May 3, 2027**. Serving on the Board requires a dedication to the betterment

of Eldorado and a willingness to give of your time, experience, and expertise. Consider becoming a volunteer for your HOA community, whether running for a seat on the Board of Directors or joining a committee. Members are welcome to attend the Board meetings each month via Zoom or in person. Committee meeting schedules vary so check the webpage or *Vistas* to find out when they meet. Committees are currently looking for volunteers. Committee charters, agendas and minutes are on their webpage for more information. Get involved!

ECIA's 2nd New Resident Welcome Event A Success

The Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) hosted a successful 2nd New Resident Welcome Event on **Nov. 4**, with 38 attendees. The event, a collaboration between the Eldorado Volunteer Committee (EVC) and HOAMCO staff, aimed to provide newcomers with information about living in Eldorado. Key takeaways include:

1. Learning about Eldorado's rich history and culture, from its origins as a private ranch to its development over the past fifty years.
2. Understanding the ECIA's board structure, governance, and partnership with HOAMCO, who is responsible for day-to-day operations.
3. Emphasizing community building and encouraging new residents to contribute.
4. Offering an opportunity to display lawn art to symbolize newcomer status and foster a warm welcome from neighbors.
5. Introducing residents to ECIA's amenities, including recreational facilities, social clubs, and upcoming projects like the pollinator garden.
6. Joining the Greater Eldorado Neighborhood Watch can help create a safer and more connected community.
7. Dispelling myths and sharing facts about coexisting with local wildlife and plant life while emphasizing the dangers of using pesticides and rodenticides.



Attendees appreciated the event, enjoyed meeting fellow residents, and were surprised to see the local volunteer fire department in attendance. ECIA plans to host another new resident welcome event on **Feb. 10, 2024**, promising more enriching and informative experiences for newcomers.

—Photos by Jim Brown



Sheila Doran-Benyon, top, speaks to a full house, bottom, and shows the lawn art available to symbolize newcomer status.

*The Staff and Board
wish you a
Joyful Season!*

**Our offices will be closed from
Dec. 23, 2023 through Jan 2, 2024**

ADAM & KIM'S CHRISTMAS TREES

Opening **Saturday Dec. 1**, at the north parking lot of La Tienda. The Eldorado-owned and operated business, Adam and Kim's Christmas Trees, will offer quality, fresh-cut Christmas trees from Oregon—Douglas fir, Grand Fir, and Noble Fir. Wreaths, garland, and chili ristras will also be available. A portion of proceeds will be donated to Most Wanted K9. In addition, they offer online sales with curbside pick-up, drive-thru shopping, and local delivery. Check them out at ChristmasSantaFe.com or FB: [AdamKimsChristmasTrees](https://www.facebook.com/AdamKimsChristmasTrees).



CORNER NOTES FROM GREATER ELDORADO NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (GENW)

WATCH



December brings the Winter Solstice and ushers in frosty days, freezing nights, star-filled skies, hot chocolate, and animal tracks in the snow. Celebrating Hanukkah,

Christmas, Kwanza—all special December holidays.

Enjoy Peppermint Bark Day, Bathtub Party Day (it's real!), and Eat an Apple Day. Remember Pearl Harbor on **Dec. 7**. Turn serious thought to International Solidarity Day, National Human Rights Month, Persons with Disabilities Day, and Bill of Rights Day.

GENW asks you to think about the wisdom of Ben Franklin, "*An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*".

Law enforcement and emergency responders are here to help us in emergencies. However, it's up to each of us to try to prevent problems in the first place.

Here are some prevention actions recommended by the Santa Fe County Sheriff and National Neighborhood Watch.

- 1** If there is snow, drive your vehicle in and out of your driveway to show that someone is at home. If you're not in town, ask a neighbor to do the same for you.
- 2** Be house-fire aware. Never leave a fire of any kind unattended. Cozy fireplaces are wonderful. But never leave them burning when you're not home or spending time in a different room in the house.
- 3** If you decorate inside and/or out with holiday lights, don't leave them burning all night. Don't overload outlets. Don't put electrical cords under carpets or rugs. Keep indoor trees or decorations away from outlets. Keep entryways clear of decorations.
- 4** Watch for icy walkways at home or anywhere you go. Avoid walking on ice if possible. On your walkways, try using an eco-friendly ice removal product.

- 5** In your car, keep valuables out of sight. When walking to your car, be aware of your surroundings. Be prepared to open the car door quickly and lock it once you are in. At store parking lots, if there are security personnel, ask them to walk you to the car.
- 6** Prevent porch package theft. Try timing the delivery so you can be there to receive it. Ask a neighbor to watch for the delivery if you cannot.
- 7** Put boxes into recycling bins, not beside them. Thieves look for visible empty boxes that broadcast you bought something new.

Please visit the GENW website for more valuable information and resources. <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>. Contact Joe Loewy, jloewy42@aol.com or (505) 231-6462.

Safety starts with you. Practice Prevention!

Look for the next Watch Corner in January *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.

EMERGENCY: Call 911

FIRE INFORMATION:

El Dorado Fire and Rescue, (505) 466-1204

COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL: (505) 992-1626

NM WILDLIFE CENTER: (505) 753-9305

US POSTAL INSPECTOR: (877) 876-2455

Vista Grande Public Library December News

Thanks to everyone who shopped, volunteered, and donated materials that were clean and in good condition. You all helped make our Book Sale yet another successful fundraising event!

Friday Dec. 1, 7 PM: Local author and terrific library supporter, Johnny Boggs, will be at VGPL to talk about and share his latest book, *Longhorns East*.

VGPL HOLIDAY EVENTS

Art Silent Auction and Reception:
Saturday, Dec. 2, 1–3 PM

1st Annual Holiday Delights Bake Sale:
Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 AM–2 PM.

VGPL will be hosting a silent auction and bake sale to help offset the library's expenses. The silent auction will kick off with

a reception hosted by VGPL Board Members. Stop by VGPL to shop for the beautiful artwork provided by the library's artists, mingle with the Board Members, and the following week, pick out some sweet treats. We hope to see you there!

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 9 AM: Trond Peersen will be holding a special photo archiving class on 'Learn how to save all your precious holiday photos!'

IT Classes, generally every other Monday, 9 AM: See website calendar, www.vglibrary.org, for details.

Tuesdays, 10 AM–12 PM: Eldorado Knitters

Thursdays, 10:30 AM: Toddler Story Time

Fridays, 3–5 PM: All Ages Chess

VGPL will be closed **Saturday, Dec. 23 and 30**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Night Skies Over Eldorado During December

December marks the return of winter and long, cold nights. But, for those who are willing to brave the frigid temperatures, December skies offer much to see.



One of the most breathtaking objects in the night sky, the Orion Nebula is a giant cloud of gas and dust where stars are born. The nebula is visible to the naked eye, just below 'Orion's belt.' Even binoculars or a small telescope will reveal some detail.

lie flat and look up at the sky, so bring a blanket or reclining folding chair. It's also a good idea to bring water, snacks, and a red light (regular light hampers your night vision).

Meteors may show up anywhere in the sky. Those seen close to the shower radiant (the place in the sky where the meteors seem to emanate from) tend to be shorter and more frequent, while ones seen on the opposite side of the sky tend to be longer and brighter. Looking at a spot about a quarter of the sky away from the shower radiant seems like a good way to view lots of meteors, short and long.

Most importantly, bring patience. Meteors are unpredictable. You may see several meteors one minute and then nothing during the next five. But a meteor can be surprising and even spectacular when you spy one silently sliding across the starry firmament.

KEY DECEMBER NIGHT SKY EVENTS:

Dec. 4: Mercury is at its greatest distance east of the Sun, low in the southwest during evening twilight.

Dec. 4–6: The usually inactive Andromedid meteor shower is predicted by one astronomer to be extremely active this year. It's suggested that this shower is best observed on the evening of **Dec. 5** since the predicted peak is forecast to occur that afternoon, **between 2 PM and 5 PM**. Since a lot about this meteor shower remains uncertain, it's best to keep your eye on the sky for a couple of nights around **Dec. 5**. The shower could be special or it might be a dud.

Dec. 12: New moon.

Dec. 14–15: The Geminid meteor shower peaks around

In the early darkness, the bright constellations Orion and Gemini join Taurus and Auriga in the east. Jupiter and Saturn bracket the south, well-positioned for evening viewing. Plus, the most prolific annual meteor shower, the Geminids, peaks mid-month (details are shown under Key December Night Sky Events).

To observe a meteor shower, select a dark viewing location with low horizons. It's best to

midday on **Dec. 14**, so observing during the **pre-dawn of Dec. 14**, the **night of Dec. 14**, and the **pre-dawn of Dec. 15** should be well-rewarded. Around the peak and under ideal conditions, about 120 meteors per hour might be seen. The waxing crescent moon will not interfere with viewing.



A Geminid meteor streaks to the left of the Winter Milky Way (center) and constellation Orion (right).

The shower radiant is near Castor, the second brightest star in Gemini. Since the radiant is close to the ENE horizon when it gets dark, it's best to wait a couple of hours and view the shower when the radiant is higher in the sky.

Some Geminids appear in different colors. The color of a meteor provides a clue to its chemical composition (e.g., yellow = iron; violet = calcium).

Dec. 21: Winter solstice occurs at **8:21 PM**. At that time, winter begins in the Northern Hemisphere and the Sun begins its six-month journey northward.



The Sun sets just to the right of the Sandia Mountains during last year's Winter solstice. This is as far south as the Sun will appear to set. At Summer solstice, the Sun will set behind the Jemez Mountains.

Dec. 21–22: The Ursids meteor shower peaks on the **evening of Dec. 21** and **morning of Dec. 22**. Approximately 5–10 meteors per hour might be seen, once the moon sets around **2:30 AM on Dec. 22**. Ursids meteors appear to radiate from the constellation Ursa Minor (a.k.a., the 'Little Dipper').

Dec. 22: The waxing gibbous moon is located a little over two degrees from Jupiter as they set around **2:30 AM**.

Dec. 26: The full Cold Moon occurs at **5:34 PM** in the constellation Gemini.

—Article and photos by Eric Saltmarsh

December Meetings

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

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesday	12	3-5 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board of Directors	No Meeting This Month			ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Bylaws Review Committee	Monday	4	10:30 AM-12:30 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	Jody Price	505 466-4248
	Conservation Committee	No Meeting This Month			Thomas Brendenburt	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Covenant Compliance Task Group	No Meeting This Month			Katherine Mortimer and John McDermon	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Eldorado Volunteer Committee	No Meeting This Month			Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	No Meeting This Month			Bette Knight	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	No Meeting This Month			Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	No Meeting This Month			Joseph Gutierrez	j.gutierrez@eldoradosf.org
	Road Committee	No Meeting This Month			James Mason	roadchair1@gmail.com
Mthly/Semi-Mthly	Stable Committee	No Meeting This Month			Lisa Bessone	stablechair1@gmail.com
	Acoustic Jam	No Meeting This Month			Chris Harrell	clharrell505@gmail.com
	Bridge Club	1st & 3rd Wed.	6, 20	1-4 PM <i>CR</i>	Susan Lovro	sulovro@aol.com
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	12	4-6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	20	3-5 PM <i>LR</i>	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net
	Eldorado Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tuesday	5	1:30-2:30 PM <i>CFR</i>	Naomi Burtnick	enhnm@gmail.com
	Social Games	No Meeting This Month			Carol Hardin	caje8@comcast.net
Weekly	Al-Anon	Saturdays		3:30-5 PM <i>CFR</i> (if closed email Phebe for Zoom)	Phebe Macrae	phebemacrae2@gmail.com
	Bible Study & Worship Service	Saturdays (except Dec. 2)		12 Noon-2 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
*	Upstart Crows Wars of the Roses	Nov. 30-Dec. 3		6: 30 PM <i>Performance Space, 7 Caliente Rd. Bldg. 1</i>		www.upstartcrowsofsantafe.org
	EACA Winter Show	Saturday	2	10 AM-4 PM <i>Community Center</i>	Karen Murry	kmurry@comcast.net
	Santa Meet & Greet	Saturday	16	11 AM-12:30 PM Open House <i>LR</i>	Jessica Neal	jneal@hoamco.com

Zoom meeting information is online at www.eldoradosf.org > News & Events > Zoom Schedule. Calendar info collected and verified by ECIA office, GM@eldoradosf.org. Sign up for ECIA Newsbriefs 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 December Community Events

Compliance Policy Town Halls Scheduled

Two town halls are scheduled to take questions and comments about the draft, revised Compliance Policy. The first will be held in the evening on **Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 6 PM**; the second will be held in the morning on **Saturday, Dec. 9 at 10 AM**. The Board approved for posting for member comment the draft revised Compliance Policy, which is available for review, with a form for leaving comments on the Board's webpage: www.eldoradosf.org/ecia-governing-board/. Everyone is welcome to join these town halls or share your written comments.

The current ECIA Covenants Enforcement Policy was adopted 23 years ago. Eldorado has grown substantially since then and New Mexico law has also changed. In February, the Board appointed a review task force composed of members of the Architecture Committee, the F&G Committee, Board members and the ECIA's Covenant Compliance Coordinator.

The task force has held monthly, open meetings to review sample policies recommended by the ECIA's attorney, our management company and those used in other HOAs. The task force drafted a policy that reflects Eldorado's values while streamlining the compliance process, giving the staff

and members clear guidance on how that process will move forward, and hopefully saving ECIA money on attorney fees.

Changes in this proposed Policy include adoption of a fine schedule and clarifying when members who fail to follow rules may have their privilege to use the common amenities suspended. Both changes are specifically authorized in the ECIA Covenants but were not included in the old Compliance Policy.

The draft Policy reflects HOA best practices, which include imposing fines or suspending privileges to use the common areas are actions of last resort, and should only be taken after all other methods to restore compliance have been exhausted. This philosophy of "communicate, educate, enforce" is widely recognized as the best way to encourage compliance while maintaining community harmony.

The Compliance Policy Update Task Force was not asked to recommend any changes to any other ECIA rules, policies or guidelines. Other committees will be responsible for updating standards they oversee, such as the current projects to revise the Architecture Guidelines and the revised Dog Park Rules.

*Twinkling in the sun
A snowman watching the world
Perfect snowshoe day*

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.

Dog Park Subcommittee Invites Ideas and Comments

The Dog Park Subcommittee, members Kim Kiplin, Mike Busby, and chairperson Marie Aragón have reviewed rules from the county, local parks, and ECIA existing rules for revision and updating.

The proposed rules were presented to the Facilities and Ground (F&G) Committee on Nov. 1. To continue our due diligence, you are invited to participate by submitting your ideas via:

- eldoradosf.org Scroll to the bottom of the homepage to access the comment form.
- send an email to: jnavarro@hoamco.com
- call the ECIA office at (505) 466-4248
- walk into the Community Center at 1 La Hacienda, Santa Fe, NM, 87508
- write a letter to the address above

After public comment, the Dog Park subcommittee will review, discuss, and make changes where warranted. The



rules will be sent to the Board of Directors for final approval during the January Board meeting.

PROPOSED DOG PARK RULES REVISED 11/8/2023

- Limited to ECIA residents with assigned Amenity Card
- Dogs must be registered with ECIA
- Dogs shall wear a red ECIA tag on prominent display
- Male dogs must be neutered no later than two years of age
- Female dogs in heat are not allowed
- Remove dog waste & place in trash cans
- Remove unruly dogs immediately
- Residents are liable for injury or damage caused by their dog
- Handle conflict respectfully
- Children under 13 must be accompanied by an Adult
- No alcohol, smoking or weapons
- Animal Control (505) 428-3720
County Sheriff (505) 986-2400
- Additional Info: eldoradosf.org/amenities-facilities/dog-park

Annex

- Intended for single resident use
- Dogs requiring separation
- Examples: Small or elderly dogs, weak or impaired dog.
- Limit time to 30 minutes if others are waiting



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".



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