

# 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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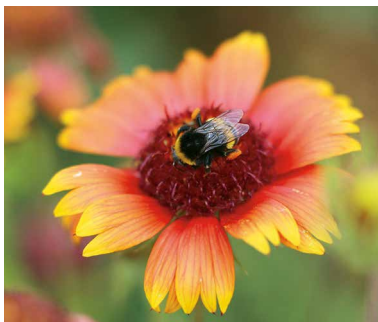
## “Adopt a Flat” for The ECIA Pollinator Garden

**W**e’re one day closer to Spring and that means seeds, seedlings, plants, flowers, bees, and butterflies! ECIA has set aside 9,000 square feet for a Pollinator Garden at the Community Center. Let’s grow some Flower Power together with this volunteer community garden project!



*Flats, soil, seeds, instructions, and a backup consultant will be provided for “Adopt a Flat” participants.*

The Facilities and Grounds (F&G) Committee is looking for residents to “Adopt a Flat” to help with seed growing. F&G will provide flats, soil, seeds, instructions, and a backup consultant to answer questions. Your part? Place the flat in an appropriate location in your home, water the seeds as directed, and send a little love their way as they grow into healthy seedlings. The time commitment for foster homes is approximately five weeks: **Feb. 25 to the end of March.**



*A bee gathers pollen from a blanket flower.*

All you do is nurture the seeds into seedlings; you don’t have to plant or weed them unless you want to continue your involvement with the garden. That would be welcome too!

The Committee is aiming for 1,000 plant “starters” which translates into 20 foster homes caring for one flat of 50 cells each, measuring 11” x 21”. All you do is nurture the seeds into seedlings; you don’t have to plant or weed them unless you want to continue your involvement with the garden. That would be welcome too!



*Wild Blue Flax (Linum lewisii)*

Since this is a pollinator garden, local perennials such as blue flax, blanket flower and chocolate flower will be grown. There will be no European bedding plants, annuals, or hybrids.



*A Monarch butterfly rests upon Blazing Star, one of the plants the Pollinator Garden will include to attract butterflies.*

The Garden will be watered through a drip system using dechlorinated pool water. All plants will be rooted deeply, using compost and mulch, minimizing the amount of water needed.

Join in! To sign up to provide a foster home for a flat of seeds, please contact Sue Garfitt, [wesellsantafe@comcast.net](mailto:wesellsantafe@comcast.net).

Seed flats, all necessary materials, and consultation will be available on **Sunday, Feb. 25, from 1 to 3 PM** at the ECIA Community Center Railroad Building. Refreshments will be served.

Remember, we’re already one day closer to Spring!

—Article by Krystala Kalil

*Photos clockwise from top left: Freepik; NickyPe for Pixabay; “Monarch on Blazing Star” by scostello22 is licensed under CC BY 2.0.; PurpleOwl for Pixabay*

# BOARD CORNER

## BYLAWS REVIEW TOWN HALLS HELD

Two town hall meetings were held by the Bylaws Review Committee on **Jan. 17** and **Jan. 20, 2024**, to present to the Members the proposed, revised Bylaws that the Committee will be submitting for a Membership vote in May. ECIA Members had the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed changes, which came from suggestions made by Members during the open comment period and two previous town halls held in 2023.

## POLICIES

At the January Board meeting, the Board approved the revised Editorial Policy drafted by the Communications Director, which has been discussed at several prior meetings. The draft Policy was posted for member comment on the ECIA website following the November Board meeting. The approved policy is available to review: [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) > Governing Documents > Policies and Rules.

The Board also approved the revised Dog Park Rules as recommended by the F&G Committee. Please see the article about those Rules and their development in this issue of *Vistas*. The draft Rules were posted for member comment on the ECIA website following the November Board meeting, and several comments were received. The F&G Committee discussed and approved revisions to the rules during their January meeting. The Board thanked Marie Aragón for her dedication to the development of the Dog Park, a very popular amenity, and her leadership in this important revision of the Dog Park Rules.

## FACILITY USE: INSURANCE CHANGES AND NEXT STEPS TO UPDATE OUR FACILITY USE POLICY

To make it easier for Members to reserve a room at the Community Center, and at the recommendation of the F&G Committee, the Board approved a motion to eliminate the requirement for ECIA Members and non-profit groups with a Member Sponsor to provide liability insurance coverage. The Board discussed next steps for drafting a formal Facility Use Policy, to include special event insurance for large public events and ADA compliance. The General Manager provided an update to the Board on the status of, and future plans for, staffing the Community Center.

## AMENITIES MANAGER

The General Manager introduced the new position of Amenities Manager: a full-time, year-round position, which will manage the pool and coordinate maintenance and rule compliance in the ECIA common areas including the Courts, Dog Park, Eldorado Preserve and the Greenbelts.

The Amenities Manager will collaborate with the Operations Manager who will oversee the actual maintenance and repair work in all these areas. Thomas Stagl, a current member of the Maintenance Team, has been promoted to this position. The Board hopes this new position will improve functioning of the pool, improve lifeguard retention, and improve management services in all ECIA common areas.

## EXPLORING PARTICIPATION IN A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

The Greenbelt Management Working Group reported on next steps, after the Finance Committee approved hiring Ecotone Landscape Planning to begin community outreach and prepare grant applications for development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The objective is for ECIA to collaborate with other local stakeholders to explore planning to address the risks of fire, flooding and erosion in the Eldorado Community and surrounding areas.

## MEMBER SURVEY FEEDBACK, MISSION & VISION STATEMENT UPDATE TASK FORCE

General Manager Navarro reported over 250 members responded to the Year-end Membership Survey by the **Jan. 15** due date. Survey results will be provided to the community in March *Vistas*. The Board appointed a task force to prepare draft, updated mission and vision statements using the survey results, with the intention of providing a summary for Members to review and discuss during the Annual Meeting on **May 6**. Ms. Navarro also presented the draft Chart of Authority, documenting management, board, volunteer and member roles and responsibilities for the ECIA.

## NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed potential changes to the Road Committee; and called for volunteers to work with staff on a task force overseeing ECIA's annual **July 4** event.

The Communications Director presented a number of options for improving communications with members, including potentially moving toward weekly emailed newsletters. The Board will appoint a working group to review the options and make recommendations.

## MINUTES POSTED ONLINE

ECIA Board Meeting Minutes are available on the ECIA website [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) > Board & Committees > ECIA Governing Board > 2024 Minutes + Agendas.

# Updated Dog Park Rules Maintain Safety

Throughout the seasons, from early morning to late evening, ECIA residents and their dogs utilize the Dog Park and Annex to socialize and exercise. The Dog Park Subcommittee, Facilities and Grounds Committee (F&G), and ECIA Board have updated the rules to ensure the safety of dog owners and their dogs.

We have reviewed and discussed all suggestions submitted by Residents regarding the revised Dog Park Rules. Residents were most interested in the appropriate use of the Dog Park by intact dogs. The range of suggestions on this topic was from never to always, if the dog is not in heat.

Per ECIA's insurance carrier, intact dogs are covered under our general liability policy. The National Kennel Association recommends female dogs in heat should not enter a dog park. So, if your dog is in heat and you don't want puppies, keep them out of the park! Check with your veterinarian to determine a proper neutering process based on the breed.

If supervised by an adult, there is no exclusion for children under 13. There is an exclusion for non-residents and their dogs, as they are not covered under the general liability policy; nor do they pay dues for the use and upkeep of ECIA amenities.

## ECIA DOG PARK RULES

- Limited to ECIA residents with an assigned Amenity Card
- Dogs must be registered with ECIA
- Owners or dogs shall wear a red tag on prominent display
- Female dogs in heat should not enter
- Remove dog waste & place it in trash cans
- Remove unruly dogs immediately
- Dog owners are liable for injury or damage caused by their dog
- Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult
- No alcohol, smoking, or weapons allowed

## ANNEX

- Used for dogs requiring separation
- Example: small or elderly dogs, weak or impaired dogs
- Intended for single-dog owner use
- Limit time to 30 minutes if others are waiting

County Sheriff **505 986-2400**, Animal Control **505 428-3720**. Additional info: [Eldoradosf.org/amenities-facilities/dog-park](http://Eldoradosf.org/amenities-facilities/dog-park).



*Zoe Luna, resident Marie Aragón's dog, enjoys the snowy Dog Park.*

**Moderating and Enforcement of Rules:** Safety at the Dog Park is dependent on users following the Rules. If a Member believes an incident occurred that is a violation of the Rules, the Member should communicate with ECIA by providing a statement to management staff at the

office, submitting a statement on the website comment form, or sending an email to [gm@eldoradosf.org](mailto:gm@eldoradosf.org). If a Member thinks their safety is at risk or threatened, immediately contact the County Sheriff. If there is a concern about the welfare of a dog, please contact Animal Control.

The ECIA Dog Park roster is updated regularly. Please ensure your dog's immunization records are current and that you have signed the agreement to follow dog park Rules. Access to the Dog Park requires an amenity card, updated records, and red tags. Residents may use the tags on their key chains, dog collars, or harnesses.

**Dog Park Gates:** The company that installed the gates is in the process of fabricating and attaching a fixture to cover the latches, making them nearly impossible to open by reaching over or putting a hand through the opening.

**Updates:** When there is information about danger to residents or dogs, ECIA will continue to inform Owners on the website, by eBlast, and with a posted notice at the Dog Park. If you do not receive ECIA eBlasts, please sign up on the [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) homepage.

After thirteen years of dedicated service, Marie Aragón is stepping down from the Committee. Her involvement with the development of the Dog Park has been exceptional and we are grateful to her for sharing her time and passion. Beginning this month, Annie Hall will join F&G and the Dog Park Subcommittee.

You are invited and welcome to join the Dog Park Subcommittee; add your experience for the benefit of the community!

## 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](mailto:jnavarro@hoamco.com)  
 Monthly reports available at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://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 Nomination Petitions Due March 1

**D**on't delay! Consider serving your community by becoming a candidate for the ECIA Board of Directors. Two positions for Directors are open for election, each with three (3) year terms ending **May 3, 2027**. The process to become a candidate for the 2024 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 5 PM on Friday, Mar. 1.**

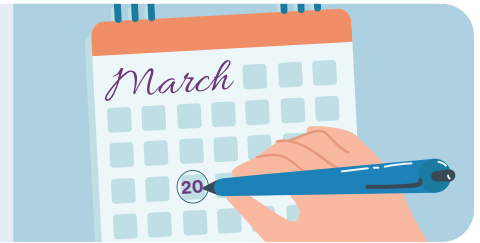
Remember, to be able to vote and support the candidate of your choice, your 2024 Assessment must be paid in full and have been received and credited to the Association's financial account as of **Mar. 1.**

—Election Committee

**SAVE THE DATE:** ECIA Candidate Forum

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Mar. 20, 6:30–8 PM

**WHERE:** Zoom and in person (TBD)



## July 4th Event Planning Task Force



**D**o you want to meet your neighbors and help plan a party, and have a time-limited volunteer commitment? Join the 4th of July fun! ECIA is seeking volunteers to help plan and execute its annual July 4th event. The July 4th parade and barbeque is the biggest community event ECIA sponsors every year. This fabulous, family-friendly community event is

a highlight of Eldorado's summer.

What does the event planning task force do? Volunteers will work with staff to plan catering, activities, entertainment,

marketing, and other tasks necessary to put on the July 4th event smoothly and efficiently.

How will the task force do its work? Staff has a binder with information about how the event has historically been managed, and a budget for the event. The Task Force will operate within this framework to plan the 2024 event.

What time commitment is necessary for being a task force volunteer? To plan the event, the task force will meet at least monthly until June, and will likely need to meet twice in June. Meetings will be held based on the schedules of the task force participants. Ideally, volunteers will also attend and help coordinate activities on July 4th.

Contact Jessica Neal, [jneal@hoamco.com](mailto:jneal@hoamco.com), for more information or to volunteer for the task force.

## Leadership Workshop



**A**ll members are invited to an ECIA Leadership Workshop **Thursday, Feb. 8 from 6 to 7:30 PM, via Zoom.** This event is sponsored

by the Eldorado Volunteer Committee. This fun, interactive workshop will provide information about how ECIA operates, a guided tour of the ECIA website, roles and responsibilities of volunteers vs. management, running for and serving on the Board and committees, and how you can get involved.

Please RSVP to [jneal@hoamco.com](mailto:jneal@hoamco.com) to receive homework materials to review before the workshop.

## Library February Events

**Artist Reception:** with Kathy Minnach and Howard Stein: **Saturday, Feb. 3 from 1–3 PM**

**Toddler Story Time:** **Thursday from 10:30–11 AM**

**Chess:** All ages, every Friday from 3–5 PM

**IT Class for MAC OS:** Monday, Feb. 5 at 9 AM



**Family movie night returns:** Friday, Feb. 16 at 7 PM.

Contact the library **505 466-7323** or visit [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org) for the movie title. Free admission, popcorn, and juice.

**14 Avenida Torreon**

CORNER NOTES FROM GREATER ELDORADO NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (GENW)

WATCH



February is the month of cupid, “be my valentine”, giving candy and flowers. It can be the snowiest month and, of course, it’s also the time to remember our Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

The National Safety Council has declared February as National Stop Speeding Month. Therefore, Greater Eldorado Neighborhood Watch (GENW) is providing you with some information from the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) about the profoundly serious act of speeding.

Speeding is a crime of violence, negligence, and is a blatant disregard for others. It is not an act of caring for oneself or one’s neighbors. This February, give the gift of safety to yourself and to others by not speeding, and by increasing your awareness about the risks; you will gain a better chance of being safe on the road.

The NHTSA reports that 25% of vehicle crash fatalities are caused by speeding. We see it every day, everywhere, including here in our neighborhoods. Frequently, we react by saying “what is wrong with that person?”. Then we may feel frustrated and wonder why this problem seems greater than ever.

Getting frustrated will not help. In fact, it can lead to a reaction which could put us in more danger. Frustration distracts our focus away from the road and diminishes our driving abilities.

There are numerous contributing factors behind the aggressive behavior of speeding. Heavy or slow traffic can lead to changing lanes frequently, or feeling angry because we are “running late”. Or, we have too much on our mind or are upset for other reasons. We forget to slow our speed in inclement weather.

Some motor vehicle designs insulate drivers, giving a false sense of anonymity. This type of driver may believe they can do whatever they choose because they can’t be identified; they can get away with speeding.

Some people have little regard for others and the law. This attitude may cause drivers to chase, race on roadways, weave in and out of traffic, or tailgate. According to the NHTSA, drunk driving is a top reason for speeding and erratic driving and the cause of many serious or fatal crashes.

According to the NHTSA and the Santa Fe County Sheriffs’ Association, incidents of speeding have increased. Santa Fe County, and law enforcement throughout NM, have stepped up efforts to reduce speeding and will continue to do so.

**STEPS TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM SPEEDERS**

Keep yourself focused on safe driving behavior and do not speed. Give speeders plenty of space; if you can, move out of the way safely. If you’re tailgated, use judgement to safely steer your vehicle out of the way. Let speeders pass. Don’t engage with any speeder.

If you see or encounter aggressive, erratic speeders, note the vehicle details and call law enforcement. It is advisable to report what you can rather than to do nothing. Speeding does not only affect the driver, but it also endangers other drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Call and report incidents to Santa Fe County’s non-emergency number: 505 428-3720. For more safety tips, visit the GENW website <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>.

—Leadership Team of GENW



**GREEN CHRISTMAS**

**RECYCLE YOUR TREE!**  
 Recycle your Christmas trees at the Community Center until Thursday, Feb. 15. Trees may be dropped off on the north side of the old maintenance building, behind the recycle and trash bins.



**heARTs in El Dorado**  
 Art Gala & Auction

**Wednesday, February 14th**  
 Legal Tender Saloon in Lamy, NM  
 5-8pm

Live music, hors d’oeuvres, libations and an art auction to benefit El Dorado Community School

Tickets available at [eldoradopta.net](http://eldoradopta.net)

# Night Skies Over Eldorado During February

**T**he bright winter constellations are in fine position for viewing as darkness falls on the first of the month. Jupiter chases Saturn into the west, while shortly after dawn begins, Venus, Mars, and Mercury congregate in Sagittarius.

As twilight ends on clear, dark evenings, the Winter Milky Way spans the sky, from the northwest horizon, past overhead, and on to the southeast horizon. Considerably fainter than the Summer Milky Way, it still has its fair share of gems to observe with binoculars and telescopes.

The Summer Milky Way rises as dawn begins. By month's end, this portion of the Milky Way will be a bit higher in the sky, visible in morning darkness, as it faintly glows above the horizon from southeast to northeast.

Frigid winter nights are a good time to look for atmospheric phenomena that can be unusual and quite beautiful. While many of these phenomena involve the Moon, Venus and even bright stars can also create interesting sights.



*The Winter Milky Way, from Auriga (top center) to Puppis (bottom left), appears around 9 PM in early February. The constellation Orion is just above and right of center. Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, is just left of center.*



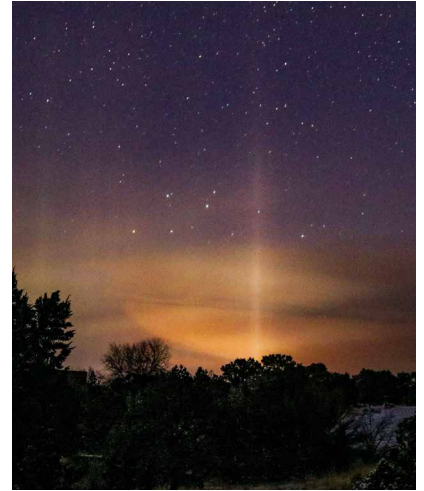
*This is certainly an unusual shot, taken in December 2023. Venus looks like Tinkerbell, exhibiting both a Venus pillar (the spikes of light above and below the planet, caused by refraction by ice crystals, high in the atmosphere) and a halo. The inside of the halo is blue, with an outer ring of red, suggesting that there are tiny water droplets in the atmosphere, at a lower and warmer level than the ice crystals.*

When ice crystals are suspended in the night sky, we can be privy to strange sights like halos and pillars. The ice crystals refract the light of bright objects, causing rings and spikes of light.

While the light sources of these night phenomena are significantly fainter than the Sun, they can occasionally produce faint colors.

Colors can sometimes be seen in lunar halos. A halo has red on the inside of the ring and blue on the outside.

A lunar corona, on the other hand, has blue near the Moon and red farther away since the particles refracting the light are tiny water droplets, which have different refractive properties than ice crystals.



*Man-made light pillars appear in front of the constellation 'Delphinus,' the Dolphin. These light pillars are the result of lights near the intersection of Avenida Vista Grande and Route 285 refracting off ice crystals, seen from about four miles away. Some of the pillars were stationary, but then moved after a moment, undoubtedly caused by car headlights at the Avenida Vista Grande-Route 285 traffic light.*

## KEY FEBRUARY NIGHT SKY EVENTS:

**Feb. 7:** The waning crescent moon joins Venus, Mars, and Mercury in the dawn sky, low in the southeast.

**Feb. 9:** New moon.

**Feb. 14:** The first quarter moon and Jupiter make a nice pair in the evening sky. They will be 2.5 degrees apart as they set together at about **11:20 PM**.

**Feb. 16:** The Moon, just past first quarter, is passing the Pleiades as darkness falls, creating a fine sight in binoculars.

**Feb. 22:** Bright Venus passes less than a degree from fainter Mars, as they rise together at about **5:40 AM**.

**Feb. 24:** The Snow Moon is full at **5:32 AM** in the constellation Leo.

**Feb. 28:** This is a good time to view Canopus, the second brightest star in the night sky. Canopus is at its highest, due south, at **9:45 PM**. Despite this favorable viewing position, Canopus is only 1.5 degrees above the southern horizon. It doesn't seem like the second brightest star because we view it through so much atmosphere.

**Feb. 29:** As darkness descends on the last evening of the month, the Winter Milky Way and its attendant winter constellations create a sky bridge running from the SSE to the NNW horizons.

—Article and photos by Eric Saltmarsh

# 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	13, 27	3-5 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	<a href="mailto:architecturechair@gmail.com">architecturechair@gmail.com</a>	
	Board of Directors	Tuesday	20	5:30 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248	
	Bylaws Review Committee	Monday	5	10:30 AM-12:30 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	Jody Price	505 466-4248	
	Conservation Committee	No Meeting This Month					<a href="mailto:conservationchair@gmail.com">conservationchair@gmail.com</a>
	Covenant Compliance Task Group	Thursday	TBD	10 AM <i>CFR</i>	Katherine Mortimer and John McDermon	<a href="mailto:architecturechair@gmail.com">architecturechair@gmail.com</a>	
	Eldorado Volunteer Committee	Thursday	15	3-5 PM <i>Zoom / LR</i>	Kathy Ritschel	<a href="mailto:fandgchair@gmail.com">fandgchair@gmail.com</a>	
	Election Committee	Wednesday	14	2-4 PM <i>Zoom / CFR</i>	Bette Knight	<a href="mailto:electionchair1@gmail.com">electionchair1@gmail.com</a>	
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	7	10 AM-12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	<a href="mailto:fandgchair@gmail.com">fandgchair@gmail.com</a>	
	Finance Committee	Tuesday	13	9:30 AM-12 Noon <i>Zoom</i>	Joseph Gutierrez	<a href="mailto:j.gutierrez@eldoradosf.org">j.gutierrez@eldoradosf.org</a>	
	Road Committee	No Meeting This Month			James Mason	<a href="mailto:roadchair1@gmail.com">roadchair1@gmail.com</a>	
Stable Committee	No Meeting This Month			Lisa Bessone	<a href="mailto:stablechair1@gmail.com">stablechair1@gmail.com</a>		
Weekly / Monthly Groups	AA *Thursdays Women Only	Tues./Thurs./Fri. & Sun.		Tues: 5:45 PM <i>CR</i> Thurs: 6 PM* <i>CR</i> Fri: 6 PM <i>RR</i> Sun: 5:15 PM <i>RR</i>	Olivia Ogorek	<a href="mailto:oliviaogorek@gmail.com">oliviaogorek@gmail.com</a>	
	Acoustic Jam	2nd & 4th Sun.	11, 25	4-6 PM <i>CC Patio / RR if weather</i>	Chris Harrell	<a href="mailto:clharrell505@gmail.com">clharrell505@gmail.com</a>	
	Al-Anon	Saturdays		3:30-5 PM <i>RR</i>	Phebe Macrae	<a href="mailto:phebemacrae2@gmail.com">phebemacrae2@gmail.com</a>	
	Athletic Club	Mondays		8:30 AM <i>CR</i>	Megan Maher	<a href="mailto:msmaygin@gmail.com">msmaygin@gmail.com</a>	
	Bible Study & Worship Service	Saturdays		12 Noon-2 PM <i>RR</i>	Kevin Rehorn	<a href="mailto:kevinrehorn@msn.com">kevinrehorn@msn.com</a>	
	Bridge Club	1st & 3rd Wed.	7, 21	1-4 PM <i>CR</i>	Susan Lovro	<a href="mailto:sulovro@aol.com">sulovro@aol.com</a>	
	Chair Aerobics	Tuesdays / Thursdays		10:30-11:30 AM <i>RR</i>	Naomi Burtnick	505 577-7305 <a href="mailto:naomiburtnick@gmail.com">naomiburtnick@gmail.com</a>	
	EACA	2nd Wednesday	14	10 AM <i>CFR</i>	Nancy Patmont	<a href="http://www.eldoradoarts.org">www.eldoradoarts.org</a>	
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tuesday	13	4-6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 466-9797	
	Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	21	3-5 PM <i>LR</i>	Pam Henline	<a href="mailto:phenline@comcast.net">phenline@comcast.net</a>	
	Eldorado Hikers	Tuesdays		8:30 AM <i>NE corner CC Pkg.</i>	Lois Owens	505 670-8942 <a href="mailto:loisowens2@gmail.com">loisowens2@gmail.com</a>	
	Eldorado Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tuesday	6	1:30-3 PM <i>CFR</i>	Naomi Burtnick	<a href="mailto:enhnm@gmail.com">enhnm@gmail.com</a>	
	Knitting Group	Tuesdays		10 AM <i>LR</i>	Dana Root Hansen	<a href="mailto:dlroot25@gmail.com">dlroot25@gmail.com</a>	
	Social Games	1st Wednesday	7	11:30 AM-3 PM <i>LR</i>	Carol Hardin	<a href="mailto:caje8@comcast.net">caje8@comcast.net</a>	
	Yoga	Tuesdays / Thursdays		10 AM <i>CR</i>	Sue Schmitt	<a href="mailto:susha.schmitt@gmail.com">susha.schmitt@gmail.com</a>	
	* New Resident Welcome Event	Saturday	10	9:30 AM <i>CR &amp; Foyer</i>	RSVP Jessica Neal	<a href="mailto:jneal@hoamco.com">jneal@hoamco.com</a>	
	* ECIA Leadership Workshop	Thursday	8	6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	RSVP Jessica Neal	<a href="mailto:jneal@hoamco.com">jneal@hoamco.com</a>	
	* Adopt a Flat Event	Sunday	25	12 noon-4 PM <i>RR</i>	Taylor Ward	<a href="mailto:tward3212@gmail.com">tward3212@gmail.com</a>	

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 \* Other February Events

## News Corral

### NEW RESIDENT WELCOME

Join us in Welcoming You to the Vibrant and Friendly Eldorado Community

Saturday, Feb. 10, 9:30-11:30 AM

Community Center Classroom

Open to new residents & existing residents wishing to learn more about our community

Learn about Eldorado's history  
Understand ECIA's governance structure

Hear about our Amenities  
Meet other residents

Light refreshments will be served

RSVP: [jneal@hoamco.com](mailto:jneal@hoamco.com)



### ECIA SEEKS CATERERS

ECIA sponsors several events every year that require catering. Are you a caterer, or do you have experience with local caterers whom you can recommend provide services to ECIA? ECIA will send out requests for proposals for catering for the July 4th and other 2024 community events to qualified caterers. Please provide contact information to Ciara Walsh, [cwalsh@hoamco.com](mailto:cwalsh@hoamco.com).

### ASSESSMENT PAYMENTS DUE FEB. 15

Assessment statements were mailed in December and should have reached you via USPS or email. If you have not received your bill, please contact GM Julie Navarro, [jnavarro@hoamco.com](mailto:jnavarro@hoamco.com), or call 505 466-4268.

*I watch as wind blows  
Startling snowflakes from their boughs  
Glitter everywhere!*

**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.

## Tree Samaritans Begin Tenth Year in Eldorado

You've seen them on the roadside in hardhats and safety vests, their loppers and pole saws snipping at the Siberian elms. What are they doing? Siberian elms are an invasive species! The volunteer Tree Samaritans have a different view about these deciduous trees that make up 95% of our roadside shade trees. They see the trees as an amenity that, when properly maintained, contribute to the attractiveness of our community. They believe beautiful roads make a positive impression on visitors and potential home buyers, thereby contributing to the economic well-being of the area. The trees can grow to enormous size in semi-drought conditions and do not require supplementary water; an advantage in an area facing a water shortage. The Tree Samaritans believe "you make the best of what you've got".

The Tree Samaritans' mission is to enhance the beauty of roadsides by trimming and maintaining the deciduous trees that grow in the highway right of way. They collaborate with the Santa Fe County Public Works Department by trimming overhanging branches, contributing to safety at intersections and ensuring visibility for motorists entering traffic. They invite and respond promptly to resident concerns, reducing the number of work orders for County personnel. The



*John Gervers trimming an elm.*

County has reciprocated by instructing its operators to mow around young trees on the roadside. There are now over 1400 trees, more than double the number in 2015.

The Tree Samaritans are starting their tenth year as community volunteers.

Almost every day from mid-February to mid-April and from August to November, a volunteer crew will be working

in Eldorado. Fifteen volunteers put in 670 hours in 2023, maintaining trees on 34 miles of paved roads. They are encouraged and supported by ECIA, which provides safety equipment, signage, and basic tools and supplies. Like the Tree Samaritans, ECIA sees trees as a visual improvement and amenity of the community.

—Article by John Gervers,

Photo by a Tree Samaritans Volunteer



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



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