


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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UPCOMING CANDIDATE FORUM

A Candidate Forum will be held on **Wednesday, Mar. 20, at 6:30 PM in person and via Zoom.** Candidates will respond to questions presented by the Election Committee. Plan to attend and get to know your candidates.

Candidates for election to the two open Board positions will be announced to the Members on **Mar. 5.** Look for further information on eldoradosf.org and via Eblast.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

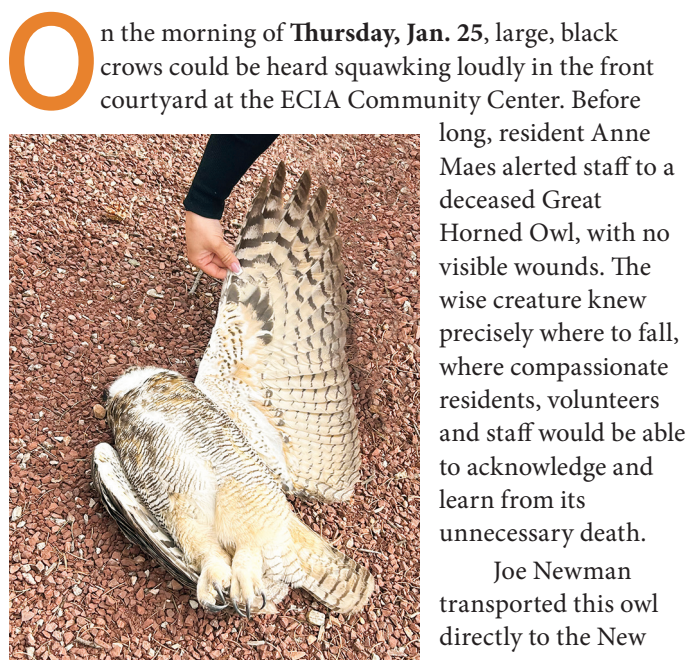
Please join us at Vista Grande Public Library **Monday, Mar. 11 from 6:30–8:30 PM** for a **Wine & Cheese Fundraiser and Speakers' Bureau Event** featuring author Olivia Messenger Carril, M.Sc., Ph.D. (the "Queen Bee").



Carril, a nationally recognized wild bee expert and author, will speak about the wild bees in your backyard.

Tickets are \$30 per person: Contact Vista Grande Public Library at **505 466-7323** or purchase at the door, 14 Avenida Torreon. Books will be available for sale. www.vglibrary.org

Considering Alternative Ways to Control Rodents



Great Horned Owl fatally poisoned.

On the morning of **Thursday, Jan. 25**, large, black crows could be heard squawking loudly in the front courtyard at the ECIA Community Center. Before long, resident Anne Maes alerted staff to a deceased Great Horned Owl, with no visible wounds. The wise creature knew precisely where to fall, where compassionate residents, volunteers and staff would be able to acknowledge and learn from its unnecessary death.

Joe Newman transported this owl directly to the New Mexico Wildlife Center. The liver

Laboratory. The owl tested positive for the presence of the poison Brodifacoum, typically used locally by commercial exterminators but available, despite restrictions, to consumers.

This scenario is not specific to Eldorado. The following week, Joe Newman transported a stricken coyote, rescued at a residence in La Tierra, to the Wildlife Center. The coyote was immediately placed on a regime of Vitamin K, but did not survive.

The effect of Brodifacoum or "superwarfarin," often used as a rodenticide, lasts for weeks to months, and treatment of poisoning with this substance requires repeated administration of vitamin K with follow-up PT monitoring.

This information comes at a cost on numerous levels. ECIA encourages residents to learn about the effects of rodenticide use and secondary poisoning on pets and wildlife in order to make a more informed decision on their critter control practices.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/medicine-and-dentistry/brodifacoum>
<https://raptorsarethesolution.org/tracking-poisons/rodenticides-that-kill/>

—Article by ECIA Staff and Joe Newman,
photo by Jessica Neal

BOARD CORNER

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Major initiatives undertaken by HOAMCO at the Board's direction are now coming to fruition. As described in more detail elsewhere, the General Manager introduced two new full-time positions: Amenities Manager and Committee Administrator. These new positions fall within the existing community management budget, but represent reallocation of duties among staff and consolidation of positions such as the former Pool Manager, Facility Attendants and Architecture and Compliance Coordinator.

Staff is also working on rolling out the FrontSteps portal, a more efficient document management system that all owners have access to, and that will enable Board and committee volunteers to more easily share documents and communicate.

The new Maintenance Facility is being assembled; the work is on schedule. Hopefully the new facility will be ready for use by the end of April or early May.

AUDIT REPORT APPROVED

The Treasurer reported that the 2023 Audit Report was completed, and it once again has no issues of concern, reflecting strong financial controls. The Board approved the **2023 Audit Report**, which is posted on the Finance Committee webpage.

CHART OF AUTHORITY

The Board approved the **2024 Chart of Authority**, which clarifies roles and responsibilities between staff, Board, committees, owners, and Santa Fe County. The Board and staff have been working on completing this document since the 2023 Annual Leadership Retreat.

COMPLIANCE POLICY APPROVED

The Board approved the revised Compliance Policy drafted by the Compliance Policy Review Task Force. The draft Policy was posted for member comment on the ECIA website following the November Board meeting. Two town halls were held in December to present the draft Policy, answer member questions, and take comments about the draft Policy. The Task Force reviewed those member comments and legal recommendations from the Association's attorney, and updated the Compliance Policy. The philosophy reflected in this Policy is the importance of communication and education first, and only as a last resort moving toward enforcement. The Policy also emphasizes mediation as the community's preferred dispute resolution strategy, to encourage positive and mutually-agreed-upon solutions to compliance issues.

POLICY ON ADOPTING AND AMENDING POLICIES

Over the past year the Board has been following, in the form of a checklist, a uniform procedure for adopting policies.

The Board has now approved for posting for public comment a formal policy on adopting and amending policies, to be more transparent about how the Board will govern. The draft policy was posted for member comment on the ECIA website on Board webpage.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)

Jonathan Turkle gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the status of the CWPP process and the benefits of ECIA participating as one of the stakeholders in a CWPP for the greater Eldorado area. This process will involve representatives of ECIA and other community stakeholders and will involve public meetings to educate and inform all interested residents in the entire area. The objective is for ECIA to collaborate with other local stakeholders planning to address the risks of fire, flooding, and erosion in the Eldorado Community and surrounding areas.

BOARD ELECTION PROCESS

The President announced that two Board positions will be open for election this year. Nomination packets are due March. Election Committee Chair Bette Knight provided more information about the process and announced that the first Board candidate forum will be held **Mar. 20 from 6 PM to 8 PM** at the Community Center. The Eldorado Volunteer Committee sponsored an ECIA Leadership Skills Workshop on **Feb. 8**, which was open to all ECIA members, to encourage interested members to consider running for the Board or joining ECIA committees.

MEMBER SURVEY FEEDBACK, MISSION & VISION STATEMENT UPDATE TASK FORCE

The Task Force composed of the Board, committee chairs, and two community members met immediately after a shortened Board meeting to work on updating ECIA's mission and vision statements, guided by the membership survey responses. Board President Adair gave a presentation on HOA mission and vision statement development originally provided to ECIA by Chip Munday, PCAM, LSM, at the 2023 Leadership Retreat. The Task Force will meet again to review specific potential recommendations scheduled for **Wednesday, Mar. 13 at 5 PM**. Draft statements will be sent to all Members as part of the Annual Meeting Packet, and the **Annual Meeting on May 6** will include a town hall style discussion about these proposed revised statements.

MINUTES POSTED ONLINE

ECIA Board Meeting Minutes are available on the ECIA website www.eldoradosf.org > Board & Committees > ECIA Governing Board > 2024 Minutes + Agendas.

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 Annual Report Packet for Members

The Annual Report Packet for Members will be mailed by the end of March. Enclosed in your packet is the ECIA Annual Report booklet which includes the budget report, Agenda for the annual meeting with date, time, and location, Candidate Statements, and recaps of 2023. The proposed Bylaws Amendment booklet is also included in your packet. If your 2024 Assessment was paid in full and received and credited to the Association's financial account **by Mar. 1**, you are a Member Eligible to Vote in the upcoming Director's election. You will receive within the Annual Report your election materials consisting of a Ballot, Quorum Proxy Statement (QPS) and a secure postage paid return envelope. Read the instructions on the Ballot, and VOTE for the

candidate(s) of your choice. Also on the Ballot in 2024 is the proposed Bylaws Amendment. To ensure Bylaws quorum requirements are met for the Annual Meeting, Members are asked to sign, date, and return the QPS along with their Ballot in the enclosed postage paid return envelope. Members can either mail (allow 14 days) or hand deliver the provided return envelope to the ECIA office **no later than Thursday, May 2, by 5 PM**. Ballot envelopes can be placed in a secure ballot box inside the ECIA office door during regular business hours of **Monday—Friday, 8:30 AM–5 PM**. If you need to deliver your ballot outside of ECIA office hours, please contact GM Julie Navarro to set up an appointment. If you do not receive this packet by **Mar. 30**, notify the office immediately.

ECIA Amenities Manager & Committee Administrator



Thomas Stagl
Amenities Manager

Since joining the ECIA maintenance team in 2023, **Thomas Stagl** has been an exceptional asset to the team. His passion, work ethic, and ability to provide a positive experience for residents will contribute greatly to his new role as **Amenities Manager**. Thomas will oversee pool operations and supervise lifeguards; enforce compliance with all amenity rules and regulations; ensure amenities and open spaces are in good condition; and assist in developing fire mitigation efforts.



Niamh Walsh
Committee Administrator

Since joining ECIA in 2022, **Niamh Walsh** has exhibited an aptitude for learning and adapting to various positions. Her commitment to excellence has been recognized, culminating in her current role as **Committee Administrator**. Niamh will ensure committee chairs are well-informed with timely reminders; collaborate on budget requests and spending; charter compliance; guidance on use of information and reporting tools; assist with ongoing committee projects; and process monthly Stable billing.

Members Respond to Year-End Survey

At the time this article was written in early February, survey responses were still coming in from ECIA Members, so we did not have final results. However, we already know the first membership survey in many years is a resounding success: more than 10% of all members responded. Many took the time to share specific and constructive comments and suggestions. That's very good news, a higher percentage of the Membership than typically returns ballots in our Annual Elections! The bad news is most survey responses were handwritten. That means staff have been manually entering the data and comments into the JotForm survey tool.

As soon as all results are entered, the link to the final survey results will be posted on the ECIA website and announced via eBlast. If you do not receive eBlasts, please sign up! Details will also be announced in the April *Vistas*.

The Board is excited to have a rich source of data to help guide its work on updating the mission and vision statements, and then developing a long-term strategic plan. The Facilities & Grounds Committee has concrete data from the survey responses to guide its Facility Master Plan Task Force, and

to do planning for facilities maintenance and improvements. The staff have received feedback to help them become more responsive to Members.

Although most comments were positive, some were critical, and some reflected common misunderstandings about issues in the community. All the responses were valid and appreciated, and they give ECIA the opportunity to improve our community governance, management, and communications. In a series of articles over the next several months, we will share high level outcomes from the survey, answer common questions, and clear up misunderstandings.

For example, Santa Fe County, not ECIA, owns and is responsible for all road maintenance and for building hike/bike trails in the road tracts. The work being done by PNM alongside the public roads and sometimes under or near the hike/bike trails is being done on easements on County property. The County is responsible for overseeing restoration of those disturbed areas. The good news is the work being done by PNM represents their long-promised upgrades to electrical service in Eldorado.

Changes to the ECIA Road Committee

As discussed at the January and February meetings, the Board has decided to sunset the current Road Committee and plan to change the charter to an *ad hoc* committee, appointed when necessary, to advise the Board on significant issues regarding the roads. All roads in the Eldorado subdivision are public and owned and maintained by Santa Fe County. Other changes: County Commissioner for District 5, Hank Hughes, has agreed to have County Public Works managers participate in an annual town hall meeting in **July** to hear Members' road concerns. In addition, Commissioner Hughes or another County representative will give the Board regular reports on County projects in Eldorado, in **April, July** and **October**. Finally, the Board will work with the County in hopes of improving education and communication about the roads via the ECIA website and other communication tools.

The Board is able to take this step mostly due to the

important analysis and documentation of our roads, and the prioritization system the Road Committee developed under the leadership of James A. Mason, Ph.D. The County Public Works Department is now aligned with this prioritization study. ECIA has supported the County in successfully obtaining legislative funding and bond issues to support these road priorities.

In addition, the County has an online "work order" link, which you can find on the County website: Report A Road Concern | Santa Fe County (santafecountynm.gov), where anyone may report road issues and upload photos directly to the County. The combination of this tool plus a regular town hall schedule should significantly reduce the ECIA volunteer workload on road issues. The Board thanks Dr. Mason and the other Road Committee members for their important work with the County and service to the community!

—ECIA Board

Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinics for Dogs

Family Safety at Its Heart

The Mountain Canine Corps (MCC) Search & Rescue wants to keep your dog and your family members safe. MCC is hosting the annual Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinics for Dogs (RAC) **at the ECIA Community Center, Apr. 20, 8 AM, running on the hour until noon**, depending upon the number of registrations.

The volunteer members of MCC, based in Los Alamos and Santa Fe, fulfill search and rescue missions in the training and fielding of search dogs and personnel to help locate missing persons. Their motto is that of the Search and Rescue (SAR) community—"that others may live." Although Mountain Canine Corps focuses primarily on wilderness missions, their team also has experienced handlers and canines in urban disaster SAR. MCC volunteers will assist in this clinic.

Teaching dogs to be wary of and avoid rattlers will alert you, family members, and friends to the presence of these venomous critters. With heightened senses of smell, vision and hearing, dogs can detect trouble humans do not. The clinic's goal is to keep your dog from wanting anything to do with a rattler and alerting others.

In our beautiful state, we share habitats occupied by creatures, some of which we prefer not to encounter. There are ten varieties of rattlesnakes across New Mexico with half a dozen found in and around Santa Fe.

The clinics held in Eldorado, since 2015, have attracted more than 100 dogs annually with participants from as far as Roswell to the south and Colorado Springs to the north. The effectiveness of this training is confirmed in the dozens and dozens of first-hand testimonies from participants about their dog avoiding rattlers on hikes, walks, or just hanging out in their courtyards. Rattlesnakes make house calls in many of our communities!

Moms and dads, as well as handlers as young as 10, have participated with their dogs. It is common to see parents with their children participating as a family with their dog. In fact,

we encourage it. Learning to identify your dog's avoidance techniques is central to safety. Dogs develop their individual avoidance behaviors irrespective of breed, age, or gender.

Terry and Janet Chandler, owners of Rugerheim Kennels, Las Cruces, will be again conducting the clinic. This training includes the use of specially designed E-collars by Terry. His 25+ years of experience makes him an expert in providing this proven training program.

With your \$100 registration fee per dog, you are entitled to a one-time free follow-up in a clinic conducted by Terry a year or later. I have witnessed dogs returning from one to seven years post-training and nearly all wanted nothing to do with the rattlesnake. Additional follow-up training is available for a separate registration fee of \$50.

Registration is at www.perfdog.com. For information, contact Tom Mauter: tjmauter@comcast.net, 505 466-6511.

—Tom Mauter,

RAC Clinic Administrator, Eldorado resident



Dr. Marcus Martin (in red jacket) and his daughter (in teal jacket) bring their dog to the Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinic for retesting. Left, the dog is on

alert detecting the rattlesnake as trainer Terry Chandler's granddaughter, Aurora, watches. Right, the dog is reversing course and heading away to safety while trainer Terry Chandler (in brown jacket) oversees.

TRIVIA NIGHTS ARE BACK!

By popular demand the Vista Grande Library will again be hosting trivia nights at the **Santa Fe Tap House** located at 7 Caliente Road. The first game this year will be on **Thursday, Mar. 25 at 7 PM**. Games continue on the **4th Thursday of each month through August**. \$10 registration fee per person and funds go to the library.



CORNER NOTES FROM GREATER ELDORADO NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (GENW)

WATCH



March heralds the time to start turning our thoughts to better weather, gardening, a mid-year get away. March can be a time to reenergize, do some spring cleaning, and welcome more daylight.

It is also time to do a **Spring Safety Check**. Greater Eldorado Neighborhood Watch (GENW) encourages you to take time and complete vital steps you can do now to help keep your family safer.

Daylight Savings can create a change in sleep habits. If sleep is disturbed, fatigue can set in which can lead to our being distracted or becoming unfocused. This happens to children too. Children may find it more difficult to feel energetic or to concentrate on schoolwork. Schedule more sleep each day so the body can adjust to the change.

Check Smoke Alarm batteries. If you did not change them in October, do so now. The National Poison Center states that 3 out of every 5 home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms.

Change Carbon Monoxide batteries. Any material that can catch fire can become a cause of carbon monoxide. If your home does not have a carbon monoxide detector it is vital to purchase and install one.

Check the fireplace, gas appliances, furnace, dryer,

and stove vents to be sure they are free of debris or snow.

Blocked vents can lead to carbon monoxide build up. People die each year because of carbon monoxide poisoning. Take the steps to prevent this from happening in your home.

Create a Family Emergency Plan. The National Safety Council (NSC) recommends that every family have a plan in case of an emergency and make emergency kits for home and vehicles. Plans should include ways to exit your home and a safe place to meet when you leave.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) says emergency kits should contain 1 gallon of water a day for each person and a 3-day supply of food, flashlight batteries, first aid kits, masks, and medicines you need. More information on this topic will be coming in future articles of Watch Corner. Also find more emergency kit details on the FEMA website <https://www.fema.gov>.

Take expired or unused medications to the pharmacy and drop them in the prescription drop box.

Check that locks on windows and doors work properly. If it's warm enough to open them, don't forget to relock them when you go out.

Report incidents to Santa Fe County's non-emergency number: **505 428-3720**. Get more information and crime safety tips at the GENW website: <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>. Look for the April Watch Corner article in the April *Vistas*.

—Leadership Team of GENW

March Events at Vista Grande Public Library

Join us for classes and entertainment! March also brings our Wine & Cheese Fundraiser (details on front cover of this issue of *Vistas*).

Medicare Information Session: Wednesday, Mar. 13, 10–11:30 AM. Hospitalization coverage with Original Medicare.

Grown-up Movie Night: Friday, March 22, 6:30 PM. Oprah's 2023 movie, rated PG-13. Well-behaved and interested children are welcome to attend with parents. Admission, popcorn, juice and water free. Please contact library for specific title.

1st in five-month series on gardening in the Eldorado/Santa Fe Area: Saturday, Mar. 30, from 1–2 PM: "Successful gardening in Santa Fe," presented by Ken Bower, who has taught classes at the Botanical Garden among other ways of sharing his gardening knowledge with Santa Fe.

All Ages Chess: Every Friday, 3–5 PM

Toddler Story Time: Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM

Tech Classes: March 4 & 18, see vglibrary.org calendar for time and details.

Eldorado Knitters: Tuesdays, 10 AM

Night Skies Over Eldorado During March

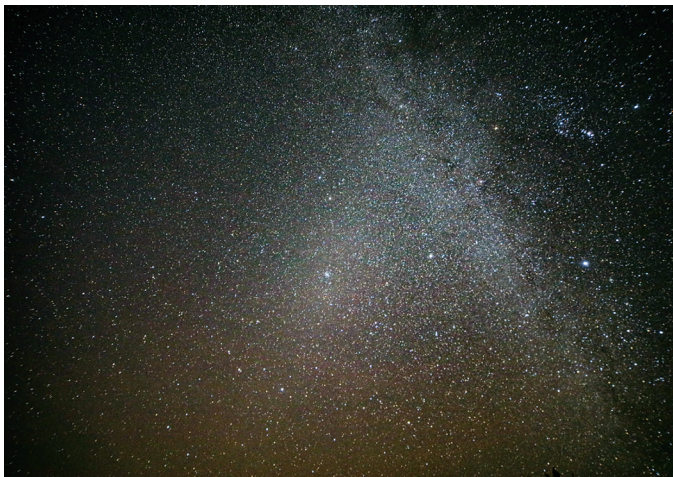
March is the month in which days become longer than nights and nighttime temperatures begin to moderate. During this month, daylight saving time begins, the spring equinox occurs, and a penumbral lunar eclipse is visible (please refer to Key March Night Sky Events for details).

Jupiter is receding from Earth, fading in the west. By month's end, the Giant Planet sets shortly after dark. Most of the planetary action is in the morning sky. By late March, Saturn has become a morning object, joining Venus and Mars in the ESE during dawn.

This is a good month to view tiny, fleet-footed Mercury. During March, the smallest planet rises out of the evening twilight, setting as darkness falls in the last week.

Because Mercury's orbit is closer to the Sun than Earth's, it never appears to stray far from the Sun, usually seen in twilight skies and always near the horizon. The planet appears to move quickly, changing position from night to night.

March is arguably the best month to try to view the Gegenschein, a faint glow found at the antisolar point (the point directly opposite the Sun) in the sky. Like the Zodiacal Light and the Zodiacal Band, the Gegenschein (from the German for 'counter-shine') is sunlight reflecting off dust particles that orbit the Sun. During the year, the Gegenschein slowly moves along the path of the Sun, in lockstep with the Sun's apparent movement on the opposite side of the sky.



The faint, reflected glow of the Gegenschein (center), photographed adjacent to the Milky Way (right) on January 31, 2024. In this photo, the Gegenschein is superimposed in front of the Beehive Cluster.

Recently, evidence from the Juno spacecraft, now orbiting Jupiter, suggests that the dust particles creating the Zodiacal Light, the Zodiacal Band, and the Gegenschein originate from the surface of the planet Mars. Astronomers are still wrestling with the problem of how martian dust escapes Mars' gravity and floats freely in space, but it's thought that the mechanism may have something to do with ferocious dust storms that lift the particles high into the martian atmosphere.

A very clear, dark sky and dark-adapted eyes are necessary to see the Gegenschein. While it's occasionally visible to the unaided eye, long-exposure photographs show the Gegenschein more often. This month, the Gegenschein is visible because it's relatively high in the sky at midnight and it's away from the glow of the Milky Way.



The full Wolf Moon, Jan. 25, is poised above Tetilla Peak (foreground) and Ruiz Peak (behind and slightly to the left of Tetilla Peak).

KEY MARCH NIGHT SKY EVENTS:

Mar. 10: Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 AM.

Mar. 10: New moon.

Mar. 13: The waxing crescent moon passes near Jupiter and Uranus as twilight ends.

Mar. 14: At approximately 10 PM, the Moon passes one-third of a degree from the Pleiades cluster.

Mar. 19: The Spring Equinox occurs at 9:01 PM, as the Sun shines over the equator, heralding the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

Mar. 21: Venus and Saturn rise together about 6:30 AM.

Mar. 24: Mercury is at its farthest point east of the Sun, visible in evening twilight and setting as darkness falls.

Mar. 24–25: On the evening of Mar. 24 and morning of Mar. 25, 99% of the full Crow Moon is eclipsed by the Earth's atmosphere (called a 'penumbral eclipse').

Unlike a total lunar eclipse, which results in a significant darkening and reddening of the Moon's image, a penumbral eclipse only shows a faint shadow on the Moon. This is because a total lunar eclipse occurs when the Sun is eclipsed by the body of the Earth, while a penumbral eclipse occurs when sunlight passes through the Earth's atmosphere on its way to the Moon, the atmosphere slightly dimming the sunlight.

The eclipse begins at approximately 10:53 PM on Mar. 24 and reaches maximum at 1:12 AM on Mar. 25, ending at 3:32 AM.

—Article and photos by Eric Saltmarsh

March Meetings

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

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	Tuesdays	12, 26	3-5 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Board of Directors	Tuesday	19	5:30 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	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			TBD	conservationchair@gmail.com
	Covenant Compliance Task Group	Thursday	7	10 AM <i>Zoom / CFR</i>	Katherine Mortimer	architecturechair@gmail.com
	Eldorado Volunteer Committee	Thursday	21	3-5 PM <i>Zoom / LR</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Election Committee	Wednesday	13	2-4 PM <i>Zoom / CFR</i>	Bette Knight Butch Gorsuch	electionchair1@gmail.com
	Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	6	10 AM-12:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Kathy Ritschel	fandgchair@gmail.com
	Finance Committee	TBD	TBD	9:30 AM-12 Noon <i>Zoom</i>	Joseph Gutierrez	j.gutierrez@eldoradosf.org
	Stable Committee	Wednesday	20	6:30-8:30 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	Lisa Bessone	stablechair1@gmail.com
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	oliviaogorek@gmail.com
	Acoustic Jam	2nd & 4th Sun.	10, 24	4-6 PM <i>CC Patio / RR if weather</i>	Chris Harrell	clharrell505@gmail.com
	Al-Anon	Saturdays		3:30-5 PM <i>RR</i>	Phebe Macrae	phebemacrae2@gmail.com
	Athletic Club	Mondays		8:30 AM <i>CR</i>	Megan Maher	msmaygin@gmail.com
	Bible Study & Worship Service	Saturdays		12 Noon-2 PM <i>RR</i>	Kevin Rehorn	kevinrehorn@msn.com
	Bridge Club	1st & 3rd Wed.	6, 20	1-4 PM <i>CR</i>	Susan Lovro	sulovro@aol.com
	Chair Aerobics	Tuesdays / Thursdays		10:30-11:30 AM <i>RR</i>	Naomi Burtnick	505 577-7305 naomiburtnick@gmail.com
	EACA	2nd Wednesday	13	10 AM <i>CFR</i>	Nancy Patmont	www.eldoradoarts.org
	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 Hikers	Tuesdays		8:30 AM <i>NE corner CC Pkg.</i>	Lois Owens	505 670-8942 loisowens2@gmail.com
	Eldorado Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tuesday	5	1:30-3 PM <i>CFR</i>	Naomi Burtnick	enhnm@gmail.com
	Eldorado Resident Delegates	2nd Tuesday	12	6:30-9 PM <i>RR</i>	Henry J. Day	dayhenry8th@gmail.com
	Knitting Group	Mondays		10 AM <i>LR</i>	Frieda Claes	frmh@me.com 508 984-1704
	Ping Pong	Wednesdays		3-5 PM <i>RR</i>	First Come First Serve	
	Social Games	1st Wednesday	6	11:30 AM-3 PM <i>LR</i>	Carol Hardin	caje8@comcast.net
	Yoga	Tues./Thurs./Fri.		10 AM <i>CR</i>	Sue Schmitt	susha.schmitt@gmail.com
	* Candidate Forum	Wednesday	20	6:30 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	Please see eldoradosf.org for Candidate details.	

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 March Events

What's Hanging in Your Closet?

If someone asks what you're wearing, you probably won't respond "plastic", but according to a 2022 report from Textile Exchange, over 60% of our clothing is now made of plastic! Materials such as polyester, nylon, acrylic, spandex, and fleece are all made from plastic, a synthetic product of the fossil fuel industry.

This presents a major ecological problem as synthetic fibers break down with wear, washing, and age into smaller particles called microplastics and microscopic nanoplastics, which have made their way into all sorts of living things, including humans. In clothing, these particles take the form of microfibers which contain carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and toxic PFAS. Medical researchers are just starting to uncover their harmful effects on our health.

According to the Plastic Pollution Coalition, plastic microfibers are everywhere—in fish, bottled water, tap water, salt, and beer. Researchers estimate that each human likely ingests 14,000 to 68,000 plastic microfibers every year and inhales about a credit card's worth of plastic per week. One study revealed that in a household, 33% of microplastics in floating dust come from synthetic fabrics. We now know there are plastic particles in human hearts, bloodstreams, veins,

lungs, placentas, feces, semen, and breast milk. However, there are some actions that we can take to help mitigate this.

TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER CLOSET

Shop secondhand: The best place to start shopping is your own closet. Start wearing some of your old clothes made of natural fabrics. Before the present Plastic Age, clothes were made of natural fibers like cotton, linen, silk, wool, and leather. Check out local thrift shops for used clothes.

Buy sustainable fabrics: Avoid purchasing new clothing made of plastic. Check the labels! Refusing to buy new plastic-based clothes will decrease demand and reduce the manufacture of more plastics.

Change approach to clothes washing: While it would be best to rid your closet of plastics entirely, it is not always possible. Those synthetic articles that remain should be washed as little as possible because they shed microfibers into the wastewater which eventually winds up in our waterways and oceans. Also consider purchasing a microplastics catcher or filter for your washing machine.

Please visit our website beyondplasticssfe.weebly.com to learn more, or email beyondplasticssfe@weebly.com.

—Gary Stoller

*Spring winds scatter seeds,
Birdsong accompanies dawn—
Wait! One last snow storm!*

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.

Tree Samaritans Seek Volunteers for Spring Season



The Tree Samaritans under a newly-pruned Elm in Eldorado.

The Tree Samaritans enjoy the camaraderie of working together and take pride in making the roadsides more attractive and the intersections safer for motorists and cyclists. They especially

appreciate the almost daily waves and thank yous from drivers and walkers. In the past nine years the roadside landscape has changed—the number of trees has doubled, and the trees no longer look like overgrown bushes.

The Spring Season is a short one for the Tree Samaritans. They start during the dormant period in mid-February and go to about April 6 when the sap starts running and the leaves come out. They currently need four more regular volunteers to complete the 34 miles of roadways in the time available. The Samaritans' work schedule is very flexible and is structured to allow volunteers the greatest latitude in choosing days that fit with their lives. They offer volunteer opportunities

every day from Monday to Saturday and work for two hours when the temperature is most comfortable. They do not work when rain, snow, wind, or mud are likely to interfere with tree trimming. Most volunteers come out one to three times a week, according to their personal schedules. The median age of volunteers is about 73, and the work is adjusted to fit their capabilities. There are 10 men and six women volunteers.

The work is carried out exclusively in the Santa Fe County right of way on the sides of the paved roads. Safety for the volunteers is a priority, and ECIA and the County have provided warning signs for the work areas. ECIA has also equipped the volunteers with hard hats and safety vests, and some of the necessary tools. To join the Tree Samaritans and be proud of your contribution to our community, contact John Gervers at johnnergervers@gmail.com.

FREE TREE TRIMMING WORKSHOP

Tree Trimming Techniques, Timing, & Tools: There will be a free tree trimming workshop at Vista Grande Public Library on **Tuesday, Mar. 5, at 5:30 PM**. Learn how to do it yourself and save big bucks! No advance sign up is necessary.



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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