

# VISTAS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ELDERADO 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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## Meet Your Board Candidates

There are two positions on the Board of Directors up for election this year; both are for terms of three (3) years. We have three candidates running for the open positions: Lou Matta, Carol Sanguinetti, James Herbert Williams.

**CAROL SANGUINETTI** I have been a resident and a board member since 2019. I have been the President, the Secretary and am currently the Treasurer on the board.



Over my tenure as a board member, I have been a liaison to the following committees: Conservation, Stables, Roads, Finance and Eldorado Volunteer Committee.

Being a new resident when appointed to the board, I envisioned starting welcome events. I truly had no idea how much Eldorado had to offer until I was on the board. Those welcome events are now being held quarterly through the Eldorado Volunteer Committee. I am a co-chair of that committee.

A bigger vision I had was to have events with our sitting committees represented. That happens yearly at the Earth Day event. This is an opportunity for residents to learn more about our committees and volunteer opportunities and possibly get inspired to get involved in one of our committees or one of the many other Eldorado area volunteer opportunities who will be present.

I would like to continue working on improving our sense of community here in Eldorado and to get more people involved. We typically get less than half of the number of lots to vote on our annual ballot. As a board, we want to hear your thoughts—what you want. We can't represent you if we don't know what you want. The annual surveys we started the last two years have been helpful in getting more of this information to us. I am hoping to encourage more people to respond to those as well.

I look forward to continuing to represent the members of our community and build more community among us.

**JAMES HERBERT WILLIAMS, PhD.** is the Arizona Centennial Professor of Social Welfare Services and Director of the Center for Child Well-Being at the School of Social Work at Arizona State University in Phoenix, Arizona. Prior to his current appointments, He held faculty and administrative leadership appointments at University of Denver in Denver, Colorado and Washington



University in St. Louis, Missouri. He has an extensive record of professional leadership, scholarship, and service. He has been active in his profession as a leader, practitioner, scholar, and educator. He and Randall purchased their home in 2018 and moved to Eldorado in 2020 from Phoenix, Arizona.

His childhood and high school were spent in North Carolina and Ohio. He is a graduate of universities in Louisiana, Massachusetts, Colorado, and Washington. As an adult, he has lived in St. Louis, Denver, Colorado Springs, Phoenix, and Seattle. He has served on

several professional, community, and homeowner association boards. I have always been an engaged member of my community, and I am completing my three-year term on the ECIA Board in 2025.

Eldorado is a wonderful community, and we are happy to call it home. I am very pleased to seek reelection to the ECIA Board of Directors. During my first term on the ECIA Board of Directors, I worked with my fellow board colleagues to partner with HOAMCO to finalize job descriptions for ECIA staff, clarify the roles and responsibilities for board members, staff, HOAMCO, and committees; professionalize organizational operations; develop and implement the ECIA strategic plan, and launched the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) development process. As a member of the ECIA board, we worked to improve communications between ECIA and Eldorado residents. I also served as board liaison to both the Roads and F&G committees, and I currently serve as the board liaison to the Architecture committee.

If reelected, I will continue to support the mission and vision of our community. I will support the continued implementation of the ECIA strategic plan. I will be a good steward for ECIA's finances and budgets. I will actively partner with my fellow board colleagues to provide high quality services and amenities to Eldorado residents. I will support the ECIA Board of Directors' continued efforts to ensure a stronger partnership with Santa Fe County and advocate for better county services to our community.

**LOU MATTA** Originally from Ohio Lou and his wife of 50 years, have lived in Eldorado since '89. Lou has served as ECIA Road Comm. Chairman & as a member of the Santa Fe County Road Comm., overseeing the planning and paving of the majority of our roads. He was also active in fund raising for the Library's operating expenses in its early years and his wife now serves on the Library Board. Lou is also a three-time president of a local Rotary Club and former District officer.



With a Marketing degree from Arizona State and an MBA from Univ. of Phoenix he has taught at the grad and undergrad level. He developed and taught a Community College course "Everyday Finance" and taught Financial Literacy courses at local high schools. Well traveled, he has lived in 9 states as a salesman and sales manager for Fortune 500 & major corporations. Currently, Lou's a retired Financial Advisor and the proprietor of Tax Services. His wife Kathleen is a retired nurse and former director of the SFCC Nursing Program. She was also a friend of the daughter of rancher Alva Simpson of the Onderdonk Ranch that became Eldorado. Their sons, early retired professionals, also own a ranch in Clayton, NM.

"I'd like to spend wisely, maintain E.C.I.A.'s solid financials, strengthen our reserves, support and improve our community services."

# Vote! Vote! Vote!

**V**oting is easy to do and is your right as an ECIA Member. The Annual Report Packet containing the 2025 Annual Meeting Notice, along with the Election Ballot, and Proxy Form for those members in good standing, will arrive in your mailbox soon. We need 278 members represented in person or by proxy to hold an official annual meeting and to ratify the election results. Please complete and return your Election Ballot and Proxy Form **by 5 PM, Thursday, May 1** by USPS mail or by placing them in the drop box located in the ECIA office (Hours **Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM**). Please remember to use the envelope provided for your privacy and convenience.

If you need to deliver your ballot outside of ECIA office hours, please contact GM Allison Bale to set up an appointment.

If you have questions about the Ballot or Proxy Form, or to request a Replacement Ballot, please contact ECIA General Manager, Allison Bale at **505 466-4248**.

Election Ballot counting will commence at **9 AM, May 2** at the Community Center. Members may view the process via Zoom. Results will be announced at the Annual Meeting for Members on **Monday, May 5**, Community Center.

—*Bette Knight, Chair Election Committee*  
 & ECIA Management

## BOARD CORNER

### BOARD ACTIONS

The Board approved the repairs at the pool as recommended by the F&G Committee which includes resurfacing of the pool decking, and replacement of the pool coping and water line tiles. Work will be completed before the pool opening date of **Saturday, May 24**.

The Board approved the removal of the old maintenance barn by the staff. It is a haven for rodents and unsafe for use. The exterior barn wood may be salvaged to use elsewhere in the community.

The Board working session to discuss the Pickleball Court options recommended by the F&G Committee was postponed. As soon as a new date is set, a notice will go out to the members.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

**CORRECTION:** In last month's Board Corner, it was reported the Architectural Committee planned to work on getting Santa Fe County to implement an overlay zone for Eldorado. This would restore the original setbacks to make it easier for lot owners to get SF County permission when they want to make modifications. Last month's article reported the original set back as 10 feet, which was incorrect. The original set back is 20 feet.

We are pleased to report the grant funding awarded for our CWPP that was recently frozen by US presidential executive order has now been unfrozen, and the project is moving forward as planned. The CWPP Stakeholder Townhall meeting to present the draft CWPP Report is scheduled for **Sunday, Apr. 6 at 3 PM** at the Eldorado Community Church. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

This month's full GM Report, including the summary of the tasks and projects completed by the maintenance staff, may be viewed on Management page of the ECIA website, <https://eldoradosf.org/management>.

The new magnetic locks for the Dog Park will be installed by the contractor within the next two weeks. Advanced notice will go out to the residents to remind them to bring their access devices with them when using the Dog Park.

GM Bale and Amenity Maintenance Coordinato, James Arquero are actively obtaining proposals for reserve and replacement maintenance projects including: new marquee signs; rehab of the exterior of the CC and roof replacement.

GM Bale met with the Pollinator Garden Subcommittee, now named the Grounds Advisory Subcommittee, to develop new best practices for maintenance of the landscaping around the Community Center. This will include less mowing, more removal of noxious weeds, and less trimming of shrubs and trees. The introduction of more native plants will also be evaluated. The Board wishes to maintain the grounds in a sustainable way that is more in keeping with the natural landscape. The goal is to set an example and inspire residents.

Thomas Stagl inspected Greenbelts for damage, erosion, invasive species, signage, etc. The maintenance projects the staff would like to undertake in the Greenbelts in 2025 were shared with the Conservation Committee for input.

Two new Maintenance Techs have joined our team. Please welcome Elwin Sandoval and Stuart Warren. We are still looking for a part-time Facilities Attendant. We have started hiring lifeguards for the new pool season.

**Board Meeting Minutes:** <https://eldoradosf.org/ecia-governing-board> • **Management Report:** <https://eldoradosf.org/management>

## ECIA BOARD & MANAGEMENT

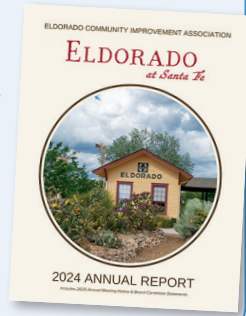
**Board:** *President Amelia Adair, Vice President Jonathan Turkle, Interim Treasurer Carol Sanguinetti, Secretary Anne Salzmann, Director Ken Howard, Director James Herbert Williams, Director Jim Brown*  
[board@eldoradosf.org](mailto:board@eldoradosf.org)

**Management:** ECIA is managed by HOAMCO; *General Manager Allison Bale*, [gm@eldoradosf.org](mailto:gm@eldoradosf.org)  
 Monthly reports available at [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) > Board & Committees > ECIA Governing Board.

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

## Annual Report Packet

The Annual Report packet containing the 2025 Annual Meeting Notice, Election Ballot, Candidate Statements, and Proxy Form will arrive to your mailboxes soon. If you have not received your packet by **Apr. 10**, please contact the ECIA Office [gm@eldoradosf.org](mailto:gm@eldoradosf.org), 505 466-4248.



## May 3 Lecture Series

The Eldorado Volunteer Committee Lecture Series welcomes Wildlife Biologist/Ornithologist Carol Beidelman. On **Saturday, May 3 at 6 PM** at the Eldorado Community Church, Carol will present: **From Local Birds to Beyond Borders: How Our Backyard Habitat Protects Them and Connects Us**. Come learn about the birds we enjoy watching in our backyards and open space habitats, the threats they face, and how we can make a difference by being good land stewards.

## How to Reduce Risk of Wildfire Across the Landscape

This third CWPP article focuses on what can be done to reduce the risk of wildfire across the wider Eldorado landscape. The previous articles focused on the ongoing wildfire preparedness planning that the Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) has undertaken and what homeowners can do to reduce wildfire risk on their properties.

Over the years, residents have expressed their love for the wide views and the hidden treasures of canyons, plants, animals, and cultural resources in the greater Eldorado area. For some it is hard to imagine that such a landscape can be ravaged by fire. For others, the images of devastation in other parts of the country are easily translated into what could happen in the Eldorado landscape.

The somewhat bucolic nature of the area can be deceptive when thinking about fire risks. When all the relevant facts are considered, it becomes clear that wildfire could cause serious damage to homes, infrastructure, and beloved places in our wider landscape.

Therefore, we need to analyze the greater Eldorado area fire risk for the wider landscape. Two important scenarios include: (a) wildfire on the national forest lands or in the Eldorado Community Preserve to the north and east of the residential area and (b) wind-driven grass and brush fires from the west and southwest that run through continuous patches of grass and shrubs in the Greenbelts and into the wooded residential areas on the hilltops. The scenario of wildfire to the north and east, and to a lesser extent the one of wildfire from the west, would likely cause post-fire floods in arroyos downstream. Such floods could pick up woody debris and sediment that can clog culverts, which could cause flooding outside the usual flood zones and cause serious erosion to roads and other infrastructure.

These wildfire and flooding scenarios require precautions, both local and for the wider landscape. At a local level, the best strategy to avert the impacts from such scenarios is to create “hardened” homes and “defensible spaces” in the community, as explained in the previous article. For the wider landscape, community leaders and public agencies must develop vegetation treatment plans for the common lands and public lands managed by HOAs, utility companies, and public land management agencies. Due to their public nature, such areas will require the development of stewardship plans that identify

biological and cultural resources, long-term interventions, monitoring, and maintenance activities. This work takes collaboration, time, and money. Therefore, preparations for plan development and formulating possible treatments must start by forming an action committee that is tasked with coordinating the development of stewardship plans and coordinating the CWPP implementation.

Vegetation treatment details can be documented in separate stewardship plans for the ECIA Preserve in relation to the first scenario described above, and for the Greenbelts in relation to the second scenario. Such plans would need to specify the best places and strategies for selective vegetation removal to interrupt the continuity of combustible plant matter. Everywhere in the greater Eldorado area, vegetation management activities would need to be implemented locally, selectively, rotationally, and ideally in conjunction with nearby non-flammable surfaces, such as roads and parking areas. Techniques could include seasonal mowing, managed (goat) grazing, brush removal, and tree thinning or mastication (a form of chipping) on a multi-year rotational schedule so the biological values of the land are protected. The Action Committee which will be formed to consider and implement the recommendations made in the CWPP will need to coordinate monitoring of treated areas to check if the desired results are achieved and whether unwanted side effects are minimized.

Besides organization and coordination among public and private entities, the CWPP Action Team can also play a role in public-private fund acquisition for implementation of the recommended actions in the CWPP.

This concludes the series of three articles describing the key elements of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the greater Eldorado area. More information about this CWPP is available at <https://eldoradosf.org/community-wildfire-protection-plan/>.

Funding for the ECIA’s 2025 CWPP came from a grant from New Mexico Counties Wildfire Risk Reduction program based on National Fire Plan funding via the Bureau of Land Management.



—Jan-Willem Jansens,  
Ecotone Landscape Planning, Santa Fe

# The Gift of Our Local Habitats: Cottonwood & Willows

The words “Wetland” and “Marsh” may not come to mind when describing Eldorado, but those are the names of two areas in the Eldorado Community Preserve. Both, which support the growth of willow and cottonwood, are dry washes, or ephemeral streams, and are located in the northern part of the Preserve. These drainages are usually without water but can flow like small rivers several times a year. Perennial native vegetation can stabilize these streambanks, capture moisture and rich alluvial soil, and provide cover and food for insects, birds, and other wildlife. This creates a unique habitat, an important part of our Preserve.

Extensive rock work and plantings have been done by Conservation Committee volunteers and contractors over the years in the Marsh and the Wetland to reverse the expansion of arroyos from erosion and restore healthy soil and habitat. The Marsh, identified on the Preserve map, parallels Trail 101 between the intersections 1F and 1E. The Wetland, identified on the informational kiosk at Trail 201, is between Trailhead 2 and 3 and runs parallel to CR51. Both drain the southern slopes of the Cerros Negros between the Cañada de los Alamos and Apache Canyon watersheds along with increased runoff from hardscapes created by upstream highway and roads.

The depth of the arroyo upstream from the Wetland gives one a sense of the volume and power of the water during the monsoon. Between Trailhead 2 and 2A the arroyo broadens out to a grassy canyon bottom, and two very important perennial plants appear in this semi-riparian habitat: Sandbar Willow and Rio Grande Cottonwood.



**Coyote Willow**

forming micro dams. They decompose rapidly adding organic matter and carbon to the soil.

Traditional cultures used *Salix* for basket weaving, fabric, and medicinal purposes. All willows produce salicin, which

Sandbar Willow, *Salix exigua*, colloquially called Coyote Willow, grows as slender stems reaching a height of 10 feet. It loves sunlight and water and develops thickets and root systems that hold soil and spread flood water and alluvial matter.

*Salix* propagates mostly by rhizome, but also by seed and broken twigs spread by flooding. Stems die after a few years and break off easily

is closely related to acetylsalicylic acid, commonly known as aspirin. Birds eat the seed and the flowers attract pollinators. The green stems and leaves are a favorite food for browsing animals, but mule deer, whose tracks and scat are seen throughout the Preserve, seem to leave willow alone.

Sometimes a native species is more successful in our environment than we would like. Willow thickets can make some canyon trails north of the Preserve impassable for hikers. At one time we were concerned that accumulated dead willow stems in the Marsh arroyo constituted a potential wildfire hazard. However, a strong flood cleaned out and buried the fuel along with those concerns. Periodic flooding reduces fuel accumulation in a flood zone and requires no human intervention.

Peach-leaf Willow, *Salix amygdaloides*, is much larger and more shade tolerant than Coyote Willow and requires more water. There are some, but not many, in the Preserve.

Rio Grande Cottonwood, *Populus deltoides wislizeni*, is present in the Marsh and Wetland, but does not grow very large there. With adequate water and sun these fast-growing trees can reach a height of 80 feet with a correspondingly large diameter. Unfortunately, these trees live only an average of 70 years. But like dead piñon pine trees, dead cottonwoods can serve as a nursery tree providing shelter and nutrients to microbes, insects and the next generation of native plants and wildlife.



**Rio Grande Cottonwood Leaves**

Cottonwoods spread naturally by their recognizable cottony seeds. Historically they have been propagated by cuttings planted directly into the moist stream bank. This could be a future Wetland project.

Ideally, a healthy population of willows and cottonwoods in an ephemeral stream can contain the spread of invasive trees like Salt Cedar (tamarisk), Siberian Elm and Russian Olive. Volunteers planted and nurtured additional native Coyote Willow seedlings in the Wetland for this purpose. The ECIA Conservation Committee continues to monitor and trim back invasive perennials in the Wetland, but has never used chemical herbicides.

—Article by Thomas Bredenberg, Conservation Committee  
Photos: Left, Southwest Colorado Wildflowers; Above, Brandt Magic

## Weeds—It’s Time to Pull and Dig!

It is best described that “a weed is a plant in the wrong place, appears to serve no purpose, and multiplies beyond control”.

Be aware of some of the worst plants that invade our lands crowding out the native species. Russian thistle (Tumbleweed), Kochia, dodder (parasitic), Downy brome (cheatgrass), Foxtail barley and Puncturevine (goathead).

Early spring when we are most thirsty for color they start popping up green shoots—best practice is to pull them up or dig them out before they grow deep roots some reaching down to 20 feet and start spreading.

Don’t feel overwhelmed, it is fine to attack them one weed at a time, although it can be “more-ish” once you start!

Best general resource book *Weeds of the West* and your local nurseries, and on the ECIA site: <https://eldoradosf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WeedHandbook2012.pdf>.

# EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

at the ECIA Community Center, Saturday APRIL 12, 12-2 PM

Activities, Crafts, Snacks and a Raffle, as well as Presentations on Labyrinths, Neighborhood Watch, and Rodenticides.

- Electric & Hybrid Vehicles
- Recycling & Composting
- Solar Energy
- Night Sky Awareness
- Sustainable Art
- Noxious Weeds & Invasive Species
- Tree Trimming
- Pollinator & Cactus Gardens
- Snakes & Wildlife in Eldorado (Live Snakes)
- Fire Hardening

## News Corral

### ECIA IS HIRING LIFEGUARDS FOR SUMMER 2025

Want the best summer job in a gorgeous setting? ECIA is now hiring lifeguards for the upcoming pool season. Please email [nwalsh@hoamco.com](mailto:nwalsh@hoamco.com) for more information.

### ECIA MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS NOW ONLINE

Results can be viewed at [www.eldoradosf.org/](http://www.eldoradosf.org/)

### ANNUAL TUMBLEWEED CORRAL

Bring your tumbleweeds to our dedicated dumpster, located at the northwest corner of the Community Center (near the Courts) from **Apr. 1** through **Aug. 31**.

### ELDORADO STUDIO TOUR REGISTRATION

The Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association is thrilled to announce artist registration is open from **Apr. 4-25** for the 33rd annual Eldorado Studio Tour™, scheduled for the weekend of **Sept. 20 & 21**, <https://www.eldoradoarts.org/>.

### FREE, CLEAN HORSE MANURE AT ECIA STABLES

Available any day of the week. Great for xeriscape, herb, vegetable, and flower gardens. Bring a shovel and bin and take as much as you would like.

### ELDORADO ARTS & CRAFTS ASSOC. MAY SHOW

Multiple artists will showcase their wares Saturday & Sunday **May 3-4 from 10 AM to 4 PM** at ECIA Community Center. Enjoy a wide variety of media and styles, and show your support by purchasing a new piece of art for your collection!

## Let's Go Fly a Kite! First Annual S.O.A.R with Solace

**A**pril is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, but did you know it's also National Kite Month? Think those have nothing in common? You'd be wrong. This April Solace is holding the first annual S.O.A.R. with Solace event to show our support for survivors by flying Monarch butterfly kites.

### SUPPORT SOLACE'S SUSTAINABILITY CAMPAIGN

Donate today at [www.findsolace.org](http://www.findsolace.org) to help ensure a future for Solace that is less dependent on government funding.

### ORGANIZE A FRIENDBRAISER

Invite a group of friends to who might be interested in learning more about Solace and supporting our mission to a party. This can be hosted in your home or at Solace. We can arrange to have a speaker join you.

### ADVOCATE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND CHILD ABUSE

Reach out to your representatives and ask them to continue to fund services at current level or more.


<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

### RALLY FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND CHILD ABUSE

Show your support by flying a Monarch butterfly kite and/or wearing Monarch butterfly gear to our S.O.A.R. with Solace rally **Apr. 27**. Spread the word during Sexual Assault Awareness Month #SAAM.

—Amy Adler, Eldorado Resident

Raise your voice and your kite  
in support of sexual assault survivors



- Sunday April 27th
- Fort Marcy Park- Mager's Field
- 11am-1pm
- Free admission
- Food trucks

Hosted by Solace Sexual Assault Services  
[www.findsolace.org](http://www.findsolace.org)

# Night Skies Over Eldorado During April

**A**s April opens, Jupiter and Mars are the only planets visible to the unaided eye in the evening sky. Most of the planetary action has moved to the morning sky, where Venus, Saturn, Neptune, and Mercury congregate near the Head of Pisces during bright dawn. The four morning planets will become easier to see as the month goes on.

The Lyrid meteor shower occurs around mid-month. The meteors appear to emanate from a point not far from the bright star Vega, which rises around **9:30 PM** on **Apr. 21**. Further details are provided in the 'Key April Night Sky Events' section.

When the Moon is high in the night sky, it appears rather drab, with shades of white and gray predominating. This is partly due to the vast contrast in brightness between the Moon and the dark sky around it. However, with a good image of the Moon and some photographic processing, subtle colors become visible, providing information about the Moon's composition.



*This image of a full moon was photoshopped to reveal colors on the surface. During the photoshopping process, colors present were enhanced, but no colors were added.*

Notice the two round areas that take up much of the right side of the close-up second photo (right). These are impact basins that occurred almost 4.0 billion years ago when two large asteroids collided with the young Moon.

The top basin in the second photo is called Mare Serenitatis or the Sea of Serenity (419 miles wide); the bottom basin is Mare Tranquillitatis or the Sea of Tranquility (544 miles wide). Both basins were subsequently filled with molten magma that percolated through cracks in the Moon's crust, leaving the basin floors appearing relatively flat, smooth, and dark. When the lava cooled, the resulting rock that formed was volcanic basalt.

While these neighboring basins have similar histories, note that their colors are quite different. Mare Serenitatis has an orange-brown color due to a large concentration of iron oxide in its basalt. On the other hand, Mare Tranquillitatis appears bluish-gray because its basalt contains a significant amount of titanium oxide, in addition to iron oxide.



*This is a close-up of the previous image, focusing on the area near the Moon's center. Some might recognize the 'Lady in the Moon' gazing up toward the upper left corner. As you can see, the Moon has more color than our unaided eyes suggest.*

Colors on the Moon can provide scientists with important clues about the Moon's chemical structure and geological history, allowing us to better understand how the Moon formed and evolved and what may lie beneath its cratered surface.

## KEY APRIL NIGHT SKY EVENTS:

**Apr. 1:** The waxing crescent moon will pass about three degrees from the Pleiades cluster as darkness falls.

**Apr. 12:** The full Pink Moon occurs at **6:24 PM**. When the Moon rises shortly after sunset, it will be close to the bright star Spica in the constellation Virgo.

**Apr. 16:** Mercury and Neptune are about two full moon-widths apart when they rise around **5:30 AM**, an hour before sunrise. Neptune, at magnitude 8.0, requires optical aid to view.

**Apr. 16:** The waning gibbous moon rises near the bright red star Antares around **11:30 PM**.

**Apr. 21:** Mercury will be farthest west of the Sun, rising in the east during dawn in Pisces.

**Apr. 21–22:** The Lyrid meteor shower produces about 20 meteors per hour during its peak. This year, the shower peaks around **7 AM on Apr. 22**, so the best time to view the shower is before dawn on that day. The 40%-illuminated moon rises at **3:30 AM**, partially interfering with viewing some of the fainter meteors.

**Apr. 25:** Around **5:25 AM**, the waning crescent moon will be in the midst of four planets (Venus, Saturn, Neptune, and Mars) near the eastern horizon. Faint Neptune will be closest to the Moon, but will require optical aid.

**Apr. 27:** New moon.

—Article and photos by Eric Saltmarsh

# Meetings and Events—Apr. 1 through May 5

Meetings are subject to date, time, or location changes: please check [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org).

ECIA Committee	Architecture Committee	2nd & 4th Tues.	5:30–7 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Katherine Mortimer	<a href="mailto:info@eldoradosf.org">info@eldoradosf.org</a>
	Board of Directors	3rd Tues.	5:30 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248
	Conservation Committee	1st Tues. (Bi-Monthly)	7–9 PM <i>Zoom / CFR</i>	Jeff Isalli	<a href="mailto:info@eldoradosf.org">info@eldoradosf.org</a>
	Eldorado Volunteer Committee	3rd Thurs.	9–11 AM <i>Zoom / LR</i>	Carol Sanguinetti	<a href="mailto:info@eldoradosf.org">info@eldoradosf.org</a>
	Election Committee	2nd Wed.	1–3 PM <i>Zoom / CFR</i>	Bette Knight	<a href="mailto:info@eldoradosf.org">info@eldoradosf.org</a>
	Facilities & Grounds	1st Wed.	6–8 PM <i>Zoom / CFR</i>	Kimberly Kiplin	<a href="mailto:info@eldoradosf.org">info@eldoradosf.org</a>
	Finance Committee	2nd Tues.	9:30 AM–12 Noon <i>Zoom / CFR</i>	Carol Sanguinetti	<a href="mailto:info@eldoradosf.org">info@eldoradosf.org</a>
	Stable Committee	3rd Wed. (Bi-Monthly)	6:30 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Lisa Bessone	<a href="mailto:info@eldoradosf.org">info@eldoradosf.org</a>
Weekly / Monthly Groups	AA *Thursdays Women Only	Every Tues./Thurs./Fri. & Sun.	Tues: 5:45 PM <i>RR</i> Thurs: 6 PM* <i>RR</i> Fri: 6 PM <i>RR</i> Sun: 6:15 PM <i>RR</i>	Olivia Ogorek	<a href="mailto:oliviaogorek@gmail.com">oliviaogorek@gmail.com</a>
	Al-Anon	Every Sat.	3:15–4:45 PM <i>LR</i>	Suzane Maheshi Shakespeare	<a href="mailto:smshakespearejones@gmail.com">smshakespearejones@gmail.com</a>
	Basketball	Every Thurs.	6 PM <i>Basketball Court</i>	Damon Hudson	<a href="mailto:HUDSONDAMON1@gmail.com">HUDSONDAMON1@gmail.com</a>
	Bible Study & Worship Service	Every Sat.	12–2 PM <i>RR</i>	Kevin Rehorn	<a href="mailto:kevinrehorn@msn.com">kevinrehorn@msn.com</a>
	Bridge	Every 1st & 3rd Wed.	1–4 PM <i>CR</i>	Sue Lovro	<a href="mailto:sulovro@aol.com">sulovro@aol.com</a>
	Book Club	Every 3rd Wed.	3–5 PM <i>LR</i>	Pam Henline	<a href="mailto:phenline@comcast.net">phenline@comcast.net</a>
	Chair Aerobics	Every Tues /Thurs.	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 Wed.	10 AM <i>CR</i>	Nancy Patmont	<a href="http://www.eldoradoarts.org">www.eldoradoarts.org</a>
	Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues.	4–6 PM <i>Zoom</i>	Karen Sweeney	505 577-7379
	Eldorado Fiber Group	Every Sat.	10 AM–12 Noon <i>LR</i>	Eileen Tomaro	303 517-8844 <a href="mailto:itsmefiber@aol.com">itsmefiber@aol.com</a>
	Eldorado Hikers	Every Tues.	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 Jams	2nd & 4th Sun.	3–5 PM <i>CC Patio / RR if weather</i>	Greg Marshall	503 516-5952 <a href="mailto:eldojams@gmail.com">eldojams@gmail.com</a>
	Eldorado Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tues.	1:30–3 PM <i>RR</i>	Anne Nichols	207 797-5555 <a href="mailto:enhnm@gmail.com">enhnm@gmail.com</a>
	Tai Chi	Every Tues.	4–5 PM <i>CR</i>	Paul Mahoney	<a href="mailto:info@greatbaytaichivt.com">info@greatbaytaichivt.com</a>
	Yoga	Every Tues. /Thurs. /Fri.	10 AM <i>CR</i>	Sue Schmitt	<a href="mailto:susha.schmitt@gmail.com">susha.schmitt@gmail.com</a>
	*	Earth Day	Saturday, Apr. 12	12 Noon–2 PM <i>CC</i>	Niamh Walsh
CWPP Townhall		Sunday, Apr. 6	3 PM <i>Eldorado Church, La Tienda</i>	Jan-Willem Jansens	<a href="mailto:jwjansens@ecotonelandscapeplanning.com">jwjansens@ecotonelandscapeplanning.com</a>
Snake Avoidance for Dogs		Sunday, Apr. 13	8 AM Registration Required <i>CC</i>	Tom Mauter	<a href="mailto:tjmauter@comcast.net">tjmauter@comcast.net</a>
EACA Spring Show		Sat. & Sun. May 3 & 4	10 AM–4 PM <i>Community Center</i>	Karen Murry	<a href="mailto:kmurry@comcast.net">kmurry@comcast.net</a>
ECIA Annual Meeting		Monday, May 5	5:30 PM <i>Zoom / CR</i>	ECIA Board	505 466-4248

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 Events

## Confused about Recycling and Composting?

**O**n Feb. 27, Santa Fe Solid Waste Management agency director Randall Kippenbrock addressed community members at the Vista Grande Public Library, along with Trevor Ortiz, operations manager of Reunity Resources, and County Commissioner Hank Hughes.

### UPDATES ON RECYCLING

Kippenbrock reiterated the major concern about recycling—contamination, particularly when recyclables are placed in plastic bags. Workers do not have time to open and sort through them, so the entire bag is discarded. The only exception is shredded paper, which should go in a clear plastic bag. Items should also be relatively clean—for example, a pizza box is recyclable, but leftover pizza inside ruins it.

Cardboard is the most valuable recyclable, as it can be processed up to eight times. Other important materials include mixed paper, aluminum, and metals. Plastics, however, can be confusing. Only #1 and #2 plastics are consistently accepted. If an item is smaller than your hand, it should be thrown away.

### COMPOSTING: A BETTER ALTERNATIVE FOR FOOD WASTE

Reducing food waste in landfills benefits the environment and soil. **Reunity Resources** operates a commercial composting facility at 1829 San Isidro Crossing, Santa Fe, collecting food waste from

32 schools, 150 restaurants, and 650 households. Since commercial composting reaches higher temperatures, it can process meat, dairy, and other materials that backyard composting cannot.

Ortiz explained residents can drop off kitchen waste 24/7 at Reunity’s gate, at La Tienda’s satellite site, or arrange for home pickup. Details: [reunityresources.com](http://reunityresources.com). Eldorado/285 Recycles offers backyard composting setups with 275 straw bale systems to date in the community. Details: [eldorado285recycles.org](http://eldorado285recycles.org).

### COMPOSTABLES V. BIODEGRADABLES

Compostable service items break down in commercial composting, but biodegradables do not fully decompose because they contain plastic. BPI certification ensures a product is genuinely compostable.

Commissioner Hughes spoke about the ordinance passed by the county in 2024, which eliminates single use plastic carryout bags from retail businesses and styrofoam takeout containers from restaurants.

While these efforts are designed to reduce waste in our community, both Kippenbrock and Ortiz reiterate the phrase: **When in doubt, throw it out!** Contamination reduces the efficiency of the system.

—Eldorado/285 Recycles

Eldorado Community Improvement Association  
1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508  
[www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

*Juniper pollen,  
settles on buried pueblo—  
ancient spirits breath.*  
—Marie Aragón

**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.

## Vista Grande Public Library April Events

**A**pril is a very busy month at Vista Grande Public Library (VGPL).

In order of appearance:

**Apr. 5, 1–3 PM, Artist Reception** for Gwen Feist and Heidi Vogel.

**Friday, Apr. 11** we're having a **Family Movie Night**. Please contact for VGPL for title. Movie starts at **6:30 PM**. Admission, popcorn and juice all free.

On **Apr. 12**, we're blessed with a double event:

Outside from **11 AM–2 PM, Rock Time** returns! Bring your rocks, fossils, questions and curiosity. Learn about the land you're standing on. Talk to local experts!

Also on **Apr. 12**, in the Meeting Room, starting at **1 PM** (meaning those interested will have time for both!) Carlyn Montes de Oco will join with news anchor Karen Foss to explore the dramatic story behind her book *Junkyard Girl* and how it changed her understanding of the world.

On **Apr. 19, at 1 PM** in the Meeting Room, the authors of the poetry book *The Santa Fe Six: Outlaw Poets*, will be present to read from this exciting new local creation and answer questions about their work as local poets.

**Medicare Information Session: Apr. 23 at 10 AM.** Topic is what to know about Medicare before you turn 65 or no longer have health insurance coverage after 65.

On **Saturday, Apr. 26**, in celebration of National Poetry Month, The **Eldorado's Sixth Annual Poetry Reading** will take place. Poets will read their original poems on Women—Their Struggles and Triumphs. The special guest poet is Barbara Rockman of Santa Fe. Doors open at **5:30 PM** and the reading begins at **6 PM**.

Don't forget that the library's popular **Trivia Nights** are back, on the **4th Monday of the month, at 7 PM**, at the Eldorado Taphouse, in La Tienda. This month's date is **Apr. 28!** Entry fee is \$10 a person and all proceeds benefit VGPL, your independent library serving Southeastern Santa Fe County.

**Eldorado Knitters: Tuesdays, 10 AM.**

**Toddler Story Time: Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM.**

**All Ages Chess: Every Friday, 3–5 PM.**

**Santa Fe Stargazers, 3rd Wednesdays at 7 PM.**

**Board Meeting: Monday, Apr. 21, 5:30 PM**

505 466-7323 | [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org) | 14 Avenida Torreon



**NEWSBRIEFS:** For the latest information from the ECIA via email, 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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