

ELDORADO at SANTA FE VISTAS



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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

ECIA, 1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradosf.org

New GM Brings Training, Experience, and Desire to Engage

Met Brenda Leonard, Eldorado’s new General Manager. Recruited by our management company, HOAMCO, in late September on an interim basis, Brenda became our official GM on December 1. Besides her 17 years of hands-on HOA industry experience, she holds an Association Manager Specialist (AMS) certification and a Certified Manager Community Association (CMCA) certification.

A Massachusetts native, Brenda comes to New Mexico after more than 20 years of Arizona residency. During her last 14 years in the Scottsdale area, she worked as the association manager for a 2,490-residence master planned community. In March 2014 she decided to hang up her managing spurs and retire. However, she soon realized she was too young and threw her hat into the ring upon hearing that HOAMCO was searching for ECIA’s next GM.

Brenda is a mother of two grown boys, has a young granddaughter and is expecting another grandchild in early spring. Despite her crammed schedule of meetings with staff and getting to know the community in depth, she managed to answer a few of our questions.

Vistas (V): You’ve only been on the job less than three months. What’s been your experience so far?

BL: During this brief time, the Board and staff have

shared Eldorado’s rich history and how it has evolved. I’ve appreciated hearing about the process of moving from a self-managed community to one under the direction of a professional management organization.

V: How does Eldorado compare with the community you managed in Arizona?

BL: Each community develops its own unique character through its history, its boards and its location. That makes it hard to compare them. In lieu of that, I look at the health of the community by its financial condition and the willingness of the board to engage with both the general manager and the community as a whole. As with the community I managed previously, this board is quite willing to engage, and Eldorado’s financial health is good.

V: Have you found particular challenges here?

BL: Nothing extraordinary—just the normal day-to-day challenges of being new and collaborating with my staff.

V: Do you have a philosophy when it comes to community management?

BL: My philosophy for management is to let neighbors remain neighbors and to be reasonable and prudent when making decisions and providing guidance. I always try to remember that I am a facilitator and a touchstone between homeowners and the board.



Brenda Leonard, the ECIA’s new General Manager.
 Photo: Jack Arnold

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BYLAWS REVIEW

The Election Committee was assigned the task of conducting the biannual review of the Third Amended and Restated Bylaws of Eldorado Community Improvement Association, Inc. We started the process in January 2015 and finished in November. The 2013 review, headed by Jan Pietrzak, gave us a good base. We improved or simplified some of the grammar and corrected capitalization for consistency. We reformatted some areas for clarity and/or reworded for the same purpose.

New portions were added for clarity, to delineate an accepted process, or to address new issues. The appropriate wording was researched by consulting other HOA bylaws, Internet references, and members’ experience, knowledge of law, and Robert’s Rules of Order.

We presented our Final Proposed Review to the Board in November. With their approval, we are presenting this proposal to the Eldorado Community by posting it on the Eldorado website. Enter the following link into your browser to find the 2016 Proposed Bylaws Revision: eldoradosf.org/2016-proposed-bylaws-revision.html. Printed copies will be available at the ECIA office at the Community Center.

We are holding a public forum on February 9, 2016, 7-9 PM in the Railroad Room at the Community Center, to provide opportunity for community input. Bring your comments and concerns for discussion.

Voting on the 2016 Proposed Bylaws Review will be included on the ballot with the ECIA Board Election.

—Kathie Graham, Chair, Election Committee



*ECIA Board Meeting,
 Community Center
 Railroad Bldg.
 Thurs.,
 January 21,
 7 PM*



Share your comments with us!

For policy and deadline, see below

Editorial Policy

Vistas welcomes your ideas, stories, photos, and art. Please include full name and contact information. The newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, biased, or inappropriate. Submissions will be selected and edited at the discretion of the editor. Community announcements are welcome as well, along with accompanying photos.

DEADLINE: Newsletter deadline is the 5th day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or e-mailed to diana@eldoradosf.org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

Mission Statement

The mission of *Vistas*, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

Owner vs. Tenant Responsibilities

Increasingly, Eldorado homeowners are renting out their homes, and with this trend, the ECIA has noticed an increase in tenant violations of the Covenants and Guidelines. Violations range from barking or roaming dogs to uncovered RVs and trailers. This increase, we believe, is due in part to the many homeowners (often absentee landlords) who are not doing an adequate job of screening their tenants or informing them that Eldorado is a covenant-controlled community and that they, like the homeowner, are required to respect and follow the Eldorado Covenants as well as the Eldorado Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions. To clarify the responsibilities of both parties with respect to Eldorado's governing documents, the following should be read and understood:

It is the responsibility of homeowners who are renting their home to properly screen prospective renters to ensure that they will be responsible tenants and will respect and abide by the Eldorado Covenants and Guidelines. It is also imperative that homeowners provide tenants with a copy of the Eldorado Covenants and Guidelines before they rent out their home, to ensure that renters are aware of their responsibility as tenants to live in harmony with their neighbors

and within the requirements of these legal and binding documents.

It is the responsibility of any tenants in Eldorado to read and follow the Eldorado Covenants and Guidelines provided by the owner. This will ensure that they are not in violation of the Covenants and/or Guidelines. Should any tenant have specific questions about these documents, we ask that they call us at the ECIA for clarification. Tenants should also keep in mind that they cannot make any kind of exterior changes to the property (such as adding a shed or building a fence) without the owner of the home first coming to the ECIA for architecture review.

These important documents can be found on our website at the following links:

- ▼ <http://eldoradosf.org/images/document/Covenants.pdf>
- ▼ <http://eldoradosf.org/images/document/Guidelines%20for%20Protective%20Covenants%20October%2016th%202014%20Revised%20Version.pdf>

Any homeowners or tenants who have questions about the ECIA are encouraged to call us at 466-4228 or visit our website at eldoradosf.org.

—Mark Young, *Covenant Compliance Representative*

2016 Assessment Increase

The ECIA Board of Directors has adopted 2016 Operating and Maintenance Budgets as proposed by their Finance Committee. This includes an assessment increase for 2016 to \$460 per year. Invoices to all lot owners incorporating this assessment should be received by early January, with payments due by March 1. Payments must be made to HOAMCO, our Association management, in accordance with instructions on each invoice. Please contact the ECIA office for help or questions at 466-4248.

The increased assessment is also an upper limit for 2017, since the Association's Bylaws permit an increase only once every two years.

The most rapidly rising component of the Association's expenses is maintenance of amenities, both ongoing yearly upkeep and contributions to a reserve for future replacement requirements. These amenities include a network of hike/bike paths; swimming pool; tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts; children's play areas; Community Preserve and greenbelts; and the Community Center building, patio, and grounds.

2016 ECIA Board Election

Happy New Year, Eldorado! The Election Committee wants to alert you that the 2016 ECIA Board Election process is about to begin. There will be two Board of Director positions open for election that will expire in 2019. As of January 5, 2016, the Nomination Petition and its accompanying Information and Instructions sheet are available online at www.eldoradosf.org, under the "Resident Resources" tab in "Forms and Applications" or at the Community Center office. The completed petition is to be submitted to the Community Center office no later than 5 PM, March 1, 2016.

There are two requisites that every petitioner must satisfy. First, the petitioner must be a Member in Good Standing (i.e., must have paid his or her 2015 assessment) and second, can certify that she or he will be eligible to vote in the election (which requires the 2016 assessment to be paid by the deadline).

Each petition must have a minimum of 25 signatures of Members in Good Standing. This means the signers must have paid their 2015 assessment as of the date they sign the petition. Remember: To be able to

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Message from the ECIA Board

The ECIA Board is pleased to welcome **Brenda Leonard** as our permanent general manager. As a HOAMCO employee, Brenda will oversee all Association operations and will coordinate the partnership with our management company. She will answer directly to the ECIA Board and will implement Board policies and procedures. Your Association has already benefited greatly from Brenda's years of experience in community management. We will arrange a "meet the GM" coffee in the near future. Watch the ECIA website and marquees for further information.

One of the priority goals for the Board in the coming year is to expand communications with ECIA membership. As part of this effort, we will conduct an open town forum on Tuesday, January 26, from 6 to

8 PM in the Railroad Building. This will be a question-and-answer-type session, with all ECIA members invited to attend. Bring your questions and come talk with your Board representatives.

On the legal front, final oral arguments in the appellate process for the hens suit, which were postponed due to weather last month, have been rescheduled for January 28 in Albuquerque. However, it may still take several weeks after this hearing before the Court of Appeals three-judge panel issues its final decision. Also, we await a final Court of Appeals ruling on the ground-based solar lawsuit.

The Board wishes everyone in the community a happy and prosperous New Year!

—ECIA Board of Directors

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular monthly meeting on December 17, 2015. All seven Board members were present: **Dag Ryen** (President, presiding), **Pam Henline** (Vice-President), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Greg Colello** (Secretary), **Jeanne Calzada**, **David Yard**, and **Antone Forneris**. President Ryen announced that an open forum to which all ECIA members are invited will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, from 6 to 8 PM in the Railroad Building.

The following formal actions were taken by unanimous vote.

- ▼ A variance request was approved for building height above the standard limit for a building addition to a home at 19 Valencia Loop, where the original home was erected at a height of 20 feet.
- ▼ A variance request was approved for an existing garage at 13 Descanso Road that protrudes 2.5 feet into the 20-foot setback.
- ▼ A variance request was approved for an existing garage that extends 9 feet, 6 inches into the setback at 3 Frasco Place.
- ▼ A variance request for an existing berm that extends into the setback and utility easement at 3 Frasco Place was approved with the stipulation

that existence of the berm was at the owner's own risk and financial responsibility should utility construction be required at some point in the future.

- ▼ A motion to adopt the 2016 ECIA operating budget of \$1,000,813—including an annual assessment of \$460, and transfers to the Replacement Reserve Fund and the Capital Reserve Fund, for a total operating and reserve budget of \$1,328,950—was passed unanimously.
- ▼ A motion was approved unanimously to instruct the association's auditor to transfer an amount to Capital Reserve at the end of the 2015 fiscal year to bring the year-end balance to \$25,000.
- ▼ A motion was passed unanimously to instruct the association's auditor to use the amount transferred at the close of the 2015 fiscal year to the Replacement Reserve Fund to adjust the 2015 operating budget surplus or deficit to \$0.
- ▼ A motion to adopt a 2016 Replacement Reserve maintenance budget not to exceed \$116,931 in accordance with Finance Committee budget recommendations, as described in Table 1 of the committee's recommendations to the Board, was approved unanimously.
- ▼ A motion was approved unanimously to accept changes to the wording of the "Information and Instructions Sheet for Becoming a Candidate for Election to the ECIA Board" and the "Nomination Petition for Board of Directors for the term expiring May 6, 2019," to provide additional clarity.

Regular Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Community Center and are open to the public. An open forum and community announcements are normally included. Complete minutes and agendas are available at the ECIA office or on the website: www.eldoradosf.org.

Board Election, *continued*

vote and support the candidate of your choice, your 2016 assessment must be paid by 5 PM, March 1.

Take this opportunity to give serious thought about how you can serve your community and become an active participant in Eldorado.

—The Election Committee

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Conservation: **Jim Daniel & Cherry Payne**
Election: **Kathie Graham**
Facilities & Grounds:
John Calzada
Finance: **Dan Drobnis**
Information: **Frank Schober**
Roads: **Felicia Probert**
Stable: **Open**

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Recycle Old Holiday Lights

If you are taking down your holiday lights and find that some of them are no longer working, before you throw them away, think about recycling them at La Tienda in Building B.



Support Group for Alzheimer/Dementia Caregivers in Eldorado

This important support group will be moving to Vista Grande Library in January 2016. For the past year, we have been meeting at The Gloaming at Santa Fe, LLC, but are outgrowing our group room. We are happy to report that the move to the library will allow us to expand beyond our current numbers. So, if you are a caregiver for a loved one with dementia, we invite you to join our support group in 2016. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 9:30 to 11 AM. For more information, please contact The Gloaming at Santa Fe: drkittyfallon@thegloamingatsantafe.com, elainejoyce@thegloamingatsantafe.com, or (505) 930-5001.

Reel New Mexico in December

Lonely Are the Brave (1962) screens on January 21 at La Tienda's Performance Space at 7 PM (rescheduled from October 2015).

Lonely Are the Brave is something rare: a leftist American contemporary western. It's based on *The Brave Cowboy* (1956) by Edward Abbey, with screenplay by Dalton Trumbo, a blacklisted screenwriter who clearly loved and understood the source material.

The film's hero, portrayed by Kirk Douglas, is John W. Burns, a cowboy anarchist who carries no ID, respects no authority, and pays attention only to his friends and his horse. Breaking into jail to see a friend, he attracts the attention of a vindictive sheriff, a one-armed Okinawa veteran, and a hot-shot military helicopter pilot, all of whom instinctively want to take him down.

They don't. Always polite, always fair to those above him, the brave cowboy eludes his pursuers as he heads to Mexico and freedom. What happens to him and to Whiskey, his magnificent, proud horse, is as tragic as it is stupid, and inevitable.

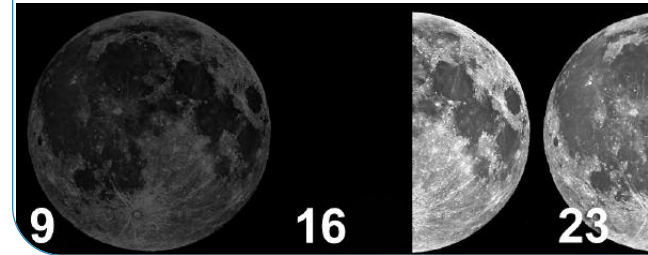
The cast includes Gena Rowlands, who plays the woman who loves the cowboy; Walter Matthau, the bored sheriff who methodically tracks him; and George Kennedy, the deputy who fails to break him.

Released in 1962, *Lonely are the Brave* still seems totally modern—probably because it deals with issues that continue to matter: individual freedom vs. authoritarian clampdowns and an increasingly militarized and regimented America. Abbey loved the desert and hated unnecessary machines. Director David Miller communicates this, contrasting magnificent, monochrome, cinematic images of landscape and wildlife with the screeching, rattling grinding of trucks and cars. The



Lonely Are the Brave screening January 21, rescheduled from October. For schedule updates, check reelnewmexico.com.

MOON PHASES FOR JANUARY



cinematographer was Philip Lathrop; the score, mostly excellent, was Jerry Goldsmith's first. *Lonely are the Brave* is a pessimistic tale of the triumph of "stuff" over all that is best in the bond of humans, animals, and the land. It is both a classic western and a great film.

Suggested donation is \$5, and viewers may enjoy the fine food and beverage menu of La Plancha in the auditorium during the film.

EACA Going Stronger Than Ever

Happy New Year to all of our art-creating and art-loving neighbors out here in Eldorado! If you're new to the community and are an artist, you might be interested in joining the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association (EACA). We hold New Mexico's largest studio tour in the spring, and the number of visitors keeps growing. This year we will be celebrating our 25th Studio Tour Anniversary!

The 2016 tour will be held May 14–15, with a preview party on the evening of the 13th. To participate in the tour, an EACA membership is required. The annual membership fee is \$15, and forms are available on our website. Studio Tour applications are sent out in early January, so now is the time to join!

For further information about EACA, please visit www.eldoradoarts.org or contact us at eldoradoarts@gmail.com.



EAWSO UPDATE

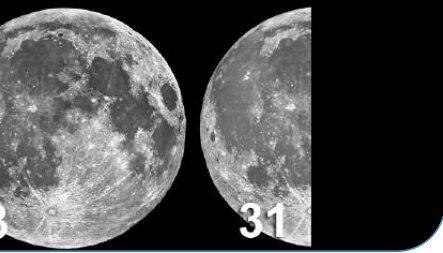
New Location for District Business Office on the Horizon?

Vistas readers may remember from last month's lead article ("To Build or Not to Build") that starting with December's rent, La Tienda owners, Steve Ewers and Destiny Allison, were requiring the Water District (EAWSO) to enter into a multi-year lease agreement. Since 2012, at its own choosing, the District has rented its current space on a month-to-month basis.

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January Events

JANUARY 2016



Changes Near You?

Have any of your neighbors submitted architectural modification plans to the ECIA for approval? What changes to the built landscape are being considered near you? Check out the Architecture Committee agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/ldjmrco> or the ECIA Board agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lkxxdmw>.

The District paid its December rent without a signed lease agreement but did not communicate its intentions to Ewers. The District has now been informed via the landlord's lawyer that if no lease is signed by January 1, the District may be required to vacate the property. When Ewers asked EAWSD General Manager **David Chakroff** about the District's lease decision, he was told it was uncertain as to when the issue would be placed on the EAWSD agenda.

Vistas has since learned from **Joe Miller** that the District made an unsolicited offer to buy one of two buildings at Miller's Cimarron Office Center on US 285 just South of Avenida Eldorado. Miller said he has shown the building to the District's general manager several times. According to Miller, the building in question is filled with tenants, and he would prefer to sell the building when it is not fully rented. Still, Miller plans to counter the District's offer, which he characterizes as "low ball."

—Gershon Siegel

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email diana@eldoradosf.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*. Please include "Attn: *Vistas*" and be sure to indicate:



- 1. TYPE OF EVENT**
- 2. Location**
- 3. Date & Time**
- 4. A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.

CC=Community Center, LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Rm, CR=Classroom, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen

SPECIAL EVENTS

ECIA Offices Closed	Fri. Jan. 1 & Sat. Jan. 2
ECIA Offices Closed	Mon. Jan. 18

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., Jan. 5, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., Jan. 26, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	
Board Work Study	Mon., Jan. 18, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Jan. 5, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Jan. 21, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Jan. 13, 2-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Jan. 6, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., Jan. 18, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., Jan. 25, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	TBA	Felicia Probert	466-1563	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., Jan 13, 7-9 pm	Alice Griffin	795-6424	F

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY

EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR/CR
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs., 7 pm	Mary Fredenburgh	466-1035	CR
Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wed., 3:00 pm	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net	
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Karen Sweeney	466-9797	CFR
Library Book Group	2nd Sat., 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Gordon Groff	699-7680	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	santa fe sar.org	Moved to VGPL	

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 7-8 pm			CFR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			Moved to La Tienda
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 12-4:30 pm	Jackie Vaughn	466-2558	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Eldorado Writers Club	2nd & 4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Randy Schultz	505-220-4327	CFR
Fire & Rescue Training	Tues., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Duty Sections	Sat., 8-12 noon	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-5 pm	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Barb	954-1533	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 11:30-12:30 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Spinning Group (Fiber)	1st & 3rd Thurs., 9:30-11:30	Ellen Higgins	970-201-4776	LR
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Connie Walters	466-4226	RR

* Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

*** Reservations required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

At the Library



Happy New Year from Vista Grande Public Library! The library board and staff want to thank the Eldorado community for all its support last year. Currently the Fall Donor Appeal is underway. If you are a library lover, please offer your support to help keep the programs going and the collection current. It's easy to donate online at www.vglibrary.org: just click the DonateNow! button on the VGPL home page. You also can set up monthly donations or donate in honor of loved ones.

BOOK SALE AND DONATION DAYS: The November book sale was a huge success, with over \$4,700 raised. The sale items primarily come from community donations. VGPL welcomes your gently used books, DVDs, games or puzzles and accepts them on the designated Donation Day each month, from 9 to 11:30 AM. Generally, that is the first Saturday of every month, unless that day happens to be a holiday. The next Donation Days are January 2, February 6, and March 5.

The library is equipped to handle donated items only during that specific time. It takes a special team, consisting mostly of volunteers, to sort, box, label, and store the large volume of donations that comes in. While this is a great resource for VGPL, the time and

work needed for processing make it difficult to handle donations at other times.

GENERAL PROGRAMMING: Jeff Berg will present a talk, with film, on his new book, *New Mexico Filmmaking*, at 7 PM on Friday, January 15. The presentation will be in the library meeting room. Also, the first presentation of the **Physics for Everyone** series in 2016 will be on January 28, from 12:30 to 2 PM, in the meeting room. Programs are free and open to the public.

Family Movie Night this month is on Friday, January 8 at 7 PM. Call 466-7323 for the title and rating of the film. Next month, Family Movie Night will be on February 5. Most films are rated G or PG. Movie Nights are always free, and popcorn is provided.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING: *The Afterschool Reading Program* will start the winter session on January 27. It will meet every Wednesday after school until the last week of April. The times are from 3 to 4:30 PM. Registration forms are available on the website (www.vglibrary.org) or at the library.

Story Time will resume this month on Friday mornings. The program begins at 11:30 AM for children 5 and under, with their caregivers, to enjoy songs, activities, and crafts just for them. Check the website calendar or call the library for dates.

—Tracey Mitchell

Combating Rats and Mice



Field mice are abundant in our area, hardly news to anyone who has lived in Eldorado for a few years. An unheated garage, where the main door is frequently left open and where there are small crevices around the door, is often the prime location for mice incursions.

To help get rid of rodents in the garage:

- ▼ Find and clean out open boxes, drawers, hidden nooks and crannies.
- ▼ Make repairs to the garage door to eliminate even small holes.
- ▼ Keep all doors to the garage closed except when during ingress and egress.
- ▼ Use rat and mouse zappers (\$15 to \$50) which are generally quite effective in killing and disposing of trapped rats and mice.

Cars parked outside attract both rats and mice. To counter their invasions:

- ▼ Park the car as far from natural areas as possible.
- ▼ Fasten small pieces of solid rat poison (a solid form that contains warfarin, which causes internal bleeding and therefore is not a danger to coyotes) under the hood with wire to permit checking whether it has been chewed on.
- ▼ Use the poison for several days; it takes that long to do the job.
- ▼ Cover exposed wires in the engine compartment with small-diameter rubber hose, slit along the side; rats like to chew on electrical insulation.
- ▼ Cover exposed sections of plastic fuel line (often near the gas tank) with rubber hose.

—Ray Nichols

New GM, continued from page 1

V: Have you found permanent residence?

BL: Now that the decision has been made for me to remain with the community, I will begin my search for permanent residence and anticipate a commitment within 30 days of the new year. And let me just add how grateful I am for the way the community has wel-

comed me. My wish is to engage with members, Board and staff and share all of my professional skills. It's my desire for Eldorado to continue moving forward in its rich history and community lifestyle.

— Gershon Siegel



Eldorado/285Recycles

Many residents drop off clean, plastic grocery bags at the recycle bins just inside the entrance of the El Dorado Supermarket. Guy Waldorf, store manager, reports that they ship 30 pounds of plastic bags every month for recycling. Given the minute weight of each bag, that's a lot of plastic.

That number may soon increase. Various types of film waste have been added to this recycling initiative. Posted above the bins on the left side of the entryway are signs showing the new film materials that can be included in this collection: bread bags, clothing bags, newspaper bags, produce bags, and the material that wraps toilet paper, tissue boxes, and the like.

The list is very large, but the plastic should be clean and dry, with no food residue left behind. Grapes now often come in film bags with a zip closure; they can be recycled, but no grapes, please!

What happens to this material? Much of it goes into composite lumber; some is reprocessed into resin to make new bags.

It is important that this type of material be recycled in dedicated collections such as at the Agora. Film/bags should never be deposited with traditional recyclables, even though we can now recycle #1-#7 rigid plastics. Why? Because in a recyclables processing facility, plastic bags and film clog the machinery, requiring expensive shutdowns to remove them.

More information is always available at www.eldorado285recycles.org.



Neighbors, Our Mutual Aid System

When Hurricane Katrina struck in August 2005, political scientist Daniel Aldrich was one of its victims. He had just moved to New Orleans. One night, when the worst of the killer winds had passed, there was a knock at his door.

"It was a neighbor who knew that we had no idea of the realities of Gulf Coast life," said Aldrich. "He knocked on our door very late at night and said, 'Look, you've got small kids—you should really leave.'" That knock on the door changed the course of Aldrich's research and, in turn, is changing the way many experts now think about disaster preparedness.

Officials in New Orleans had not yet ordered an evacuation, but Aldrich trusted the neighbor who knocked on his door. He bundled his family into a car and drove to Houston. "Without that tip from someone who knew the area, we would have waited for some sort of official notification to leave the area and would have been trapped."

Aldrich's findings show that government aid is not the principal way people survive during—and recover after—a disaster. His research proves that while official help is useful, government interventions do not bring neighborhoods back, and most emergency responders take far too long to get to the scene of a disaster to save many lives.

Eldorado is a unique community in terms of its neighbor-to-neighbor cooperation. Resident Marilyn Walker has championed its Neighborhood Watch program for many years and has seen it grow in the numbers of neighbors who watch out for one another and keep our crime stats low and our sense of safety high.

There is a sense of complacency in living in Eldorado, but we have experienced emergency situations that were certainly major for us, including a large, unpredictable snowstorm that struck some years ago, a

power outage that lasted for a day and put ATMs down and bank transactions on hold, the loss of our water supply that resulted in a boil order. But we should not dismiss the possibility that we could be seriously affected by a regional power failure, or another, perhaps more serious winter snowstorm that could paralyze us for days.

We are doing many things now as neighbors that help keep our families safe in emergencies. We are keeping crime down with the most effective law-enforcement tool of all—Neighborhood Watch. Throughout Eldorado, when a snowstorm covers our properties, neighbors make tire tracks in the driveways of their neighbors who may be away for extended periods. We pick up their newspapers from their yards to avoid a message to thieves, "Nobody's home there." When we are going to be away for an extended period of time, we tell our neighbors that tradesmen or repairmen will be at our home at a certain time to do this or that.

The police and fire agencies throughout our country have a system in use and perfected over time. They call it mutual aid. Getting into a mutual aid system with your neighbors has been proven to be the best way to survive a major emergency and maintain the sense of well-being and peace we have in what is normally the quiet, peaceful community we all enjoy living in.

When all is said and done, the people who will save you, and the people who will help you in an emergency, are your neighbors. Getting to know them and getting into a mutual aid system with them is cost-free and, according to the latest scientific studies, the best guarantee of your safety and security.

For more information on Neighborhood Watch in Eldorado see <http://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>.

—Frank Schober



VISTAS

Eldorado Community Improvement Association
 #1 La Hacienda Loop
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
www.eldoradosf.org

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Scan this code to get to our online video about Eldorado by Jack Arnold

Road Repair (SF County) 992-3010
www.santafecountynm.gov/public-works/road_concern

Sheriff 428-3720
Crime Stoppers 955-5050
Neighborhood Watch: <http://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>

Open House at the Stables

The 2015 Eldorado Stable Community Day was a great success. We estimate we had between 50 and 60 visitors to our stables on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Darby Long was the first point of contact and manned the front gate, directing people to activities and parking. The first stop was donkey and horse petting at **Gretel Underwood's** corral. Gretel was joined by Simone the donkey and horses Hugo and Juanito, and together they enchanted small and large humans for two solid hours.

Our other main activity was showcasing some of our equines up at the upper arena, as well as offering wonderful homemade goodies and hot cider made by **Jennie Dunn, Luci Wienczkowski, Debbie Swiderski, and Elsa Kloss**. Our MC for the day was **Pat Donahue**, who gave an informative, entertaining, and professional polish to our presentation.

First, new barn owner **Shawn Thomson** and the impeccable dressage champ George gave us a beautiful display of lunging in prep for dressage, even adding in a little crowd-pleasing jumping. Next, **Harmon** and Earl showed us how to rig a mule for packing. Harmon educated all of us on what is required for the rigging to be a success. Earl was a champ, even letting adoring children pet his nose.

Next up was our big, black and beautiful Shire, Oden, with his people **Debbie Swiderski** and **Mike Nosow**. They gave a wonderful presentation where we learned that Oden is small for a Shire, even though he is close to 6 feet tall at the withers, and that Oden's sire is even 8 inches taller than that!

Our last presentation was by **Lisa Bessone** and her ex-racehorse Hawk, who gave us a playful and exuberant demonstration of what a



Oden the Shire with Debbie Swiderski and Mike Nosow at the Stable's Community Day.

thoroughbred can do on a lunge line. Our MC Pat Donahue described how Lisa and Hawk go to shows, take clinics with national and international clinicians, and trail ride in the Galisteo Preserve.

Three organizations that were mentioned were the USA Pony Club (with a chapter in Santa Fe that is open to children and adults), the Santa Fe Horse Shelter, and the thoroughbred ex-racehorse rescue organization CANTER USA. All three of these organizations provide opportunities for learning, volunteering, riding, and adoption.

[Alice Griffin's article continues, with additional photo, on the ECIA website, \[eldoradosf.org\]\(http://eldoradosf.org\).](#)