

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

EAWSO Continues Search for Office Space

WATER MATTERS PART 5

On January 11, 2016, the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSO) Board held a “special meeting” addressing the critical need of securing its business offices. The first agenda item was a closed-door “executive session pertaining to the discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property.” For a number of months, the District has been at odds with its current landlords over its lease—or rather, lack of one. Since 2012, the District has been renting office space in La Tienda on a month-to-month basis. Succeeding boards of directors have viewed this arrangement as temporary until the District could own a permanent building.

EAWSO President **Jim Jenkins** has long believed that the District should own its own facility because of the economic advantage. Jenkins also points out the day-to-day practicality of having a protected, sheltered maintenance facility. “While the District can limp along renting business office space,” said Jenkins, “our maintenance staff must work out of the back of their trucks in January. We’ve also had a number of tool thefts over the years since, in our current situation, we can’t secure our maintenance vehicles.”

Back in 2010, the District received county approval to build a combined office/maintenance facility at 190 Vista Grande. The plans show a 3,175 square foot maintenance facility and a 5,000 square foot operations and administration building. Several years later, the New Mexico Finance Authority committed to fund the planned buildings based on the

2011 District revenues. However, upon reviewing the District’s 2012 revenues and seeing a decline, the Authority was required to withdraw its commitment.

The recently approved EAWSO rate hike is designed to both address its debt burden acquired from the system’s original purchase and enhance the District’s revenue stream. The District hopes that such an increase will allow them to secure funding for its own long-envisioned facility as well as for other capital improvements. Anticipating such funding, the District felt it could negotiate purchasing a building at **Joe Miller’s** Cimarron Office Center. However, the parties could not agree on the terms.

In the meantime, last month’s “special meeting” was convened for the express purpose of reviewing and taking action on one of two separate leases allowing the District to continue renting “temporary” space. One lease was from **Steve Ewers** and **Destiny Allison**, the District’s current landlords. The other lease was from Joe Miller for one of his Cimarron buildings.

During the executive session, the EAWSO board reviewed the terms of both leases with its attorney, **Patrick Redmond**. Once the executive session was over and the public was allowed back into the meeting, Director **Tom Willmott** motioned to authorize the President and the General Manager to negotiate and sign a lease “for administrative and operating office space at the most favorable terms, including due diligence regarding inspection of the building condition.” The motion carried unanimously.

– Gershon Siegel

Assessments Due Mar 1

By now, all homeowners should have received their 2016 Annual Assessment invoice. If you have not, please contact the ECIA office at 466-4248 to verify your mailing address.

For detailed information on payment options for the Annual Assessment, check our website, eldoradosf.org.

If you know that you will be unable to pay your entire assessment by the March 1, 2016, deadline, contact **Brenda Leonard** via email at gm@eldoradosf.org to set up payment arrangements.

What’s a Replacement Reserve?

A substantial portion of our 2016 assessment (\$225,137, or 8.84%) has been budgeted (shown on the Eldoradosf.org website under Resident Resources) to fund the Association’s Replacement Reserve. So what is that?

Every homeowner association (HOA) has (or should have) a reserve fund set aside to replace its assets as they wear out and need major repair or replacement. This Association’s assets include obvious things

like capital equipment: vehicles, gardening machinery, office equipment (copiers, computers, printers), and furniture. We all understand from our own lives how such things wear out, become uneconomical to repair, or become obsolete and must be replaced.

However, another and much larger category includes the amenities we offer: swimming pools, tennis courts, playgrounds, basketball court, athletic field,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 >>

ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Bldg. Thurs., February 18, 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.

Vehicles Allowed on Eldorado's Lots

To get a better handle on the types of covenant violations that are on the increase in Eldorado from one year to the next, the ECIA undertakes an annual comparison of the 22 various covenant violation categories. In this year's study, we discovered that one of the largest category of increases was in the area of non-compliant vehicles on lots.

More specifically, the ECIA found that in 2015 there was an increase in the number of unregistered vehicles found on lots (i.e., those without valid plates), and these vehicles were often being stored illegally on the lot. Lot owners and tenants need to be aware that all vehicles parked on a lot in Eldorado must be properly registered in New Mexico or another state and cannot be under repair on a lot.

Additionally, while the covenants do not specifically mention a maximum number of vehicles allowed on a lot, no property should be so cluttered with vehicles that it is a visual nuisance for the neighbors.

Another category of violations that increased in 2015 was the number of large vehicles on a lot that were not consistent with single-family residential use. While the following is not a complete list, examples of types of vehicles we would consider to be in violation of the covenants are:

- ▼ Large commercial vehicles
- ▼ Semis or semi cabs
- ▼ Dump trucks
- ▼ Backhoes, graders, or other earth-moving equipment.
- ▼ Passenger or school buses

To preserve Eldorado as a beautiful place to live, and to keep your neighbors from having to look at commercial vehicles or unregistered cars or trucks under repair, we ask that all homeowners and their tenants abide by these regulations in the Eldorado Covenants and Guidelines.

Found in Section 13 of the Covenants, these regulations read as follows:

Section 13. Storage and Screening of Vehicles and their Accessories.

b) No vehicles not licensed for use on a public road, nor any type of earth moving equipment, nor any tractor-trailer or part thereof, nor similar large vehicles, inconsistent with single-family residential use, shall be parked, stored or repaired outside of a building on any lot provided; however, such vehicles may be parked temporarily on a lot for a period not exceeding two weeks. Construction trailers may be parked on a lot during the period of the construction or alteration of a dwelling house on a lot.

Additionally, in Section 20 (Nuisance Clause) of the Eldorado Guidelines, under paragraphs 1 and 3, the following types of vehicles are expressly prohibited:

1. Abandoned or partially repaired vehicles or devices or parts of vehicles and other devices.
3. Business and household construction devices and machinery such as scaffolding, tractors, backhoes and the like.

We thank you for your cooperation.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

New ECIA Architecture Forms Online

In an effort to make the submission of Architectural Plans and Variance requests easier, the ECIA Architecture Committee has developed online forms for these submissions.

To access either of these forms, simply go to our website, eldoradosf.org, and look under the Resident Resources tab > Forms and Applications. There you will find the Architectural Plan Form and the Variance Request Form (in alphabetical order).

The direct links to these forms are:

- ▼ <http://eldoradosf.org/Architectural-Plan-Submission-Form/architecture-plan-submission.html>
- ▼ <http://eldoradosf.org/Variance-Request-Form/variance-request.html>

If you choose to submit these forms online, be sure the forms are complete or they cannot be processed.

If you have any questions, contact me at the ECIA at 466-4248 or e-mail me at mark@eldoradosf.org.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular monthly meeting on January 21, 2016. A report of the actions taken can be found on our website eldoradosf.org and will appear as well in the March issue of *Vistas*.

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.

Message from the ECIA Board

Winter is upon us and thanks to El Niño, Eldorado is getting a good bit of much needed moisture. Unfortunately, the snow and subsequent melt-off can lead to problems for many of our unpaved roads. The results can often test the patience of Eldorado residents.

Maintenance of all roads in Eldorado is the responsibility of Santa Fe County. County road crews normally do a good job of keeping up with washboard conditions and monsoon rains. However, during winter storms, crews quickly get backed up. Also, county maintenance budgets can get stretched to the limit when bad weather hits.

If you experience severe road problems this winter, let the county know immediately. You can report road problems online, at www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works, or by calling (505) 992-3016. County crews will address the issue as soon as possible.

The ECIA does have the ability to apply a special district assessment to fund road improvements. However, this process has not been used for many years, in part because of the difficulty in getting all the residents along a road to agree to the additional assessment. If you are interested in pursuing such an option, please circulate a petition among the residents along your road to gauge interest.

The Board would also like to remind everyone to go to the ECIA website to review the draft changes to our by-laws. These will be voted on in conjunction with the election for two new Board members in April.

Finally, take care driving, bundle up in the cold, and enjoy the beautiful vistas that winter's white blanket offers Eldorado residents.

—Dag Ryen, ECIA Board President

What's a Replacement Reserve? *(continued from page 1)*

community center, meeting room furniture, parking lots, sidewalks, patio, landscaping. These too require repairs, both major and minor, and eventually partial or complete replacement, in order to maintain into the future the same quality amenities that existed when we each bought into our community.

Some states require that every HOA hold in reserve a fund sufficient to pay for the next five years of these expenses. New Mexico has considered such a law but has not yet enacted one. Nonetheless, the Association's accountants consider a five-year reserve to be a "best practice" and have consistently recommended accumulating a reserve of this size.

The Finance and Facilities & Grounds committees maintain a list of repair and replacement needs (sometimes called R&R). Presently it is documented by a spreadsheet with over 700 lines of items and their repair/replacement needs for the next 25 years. Examples:

- ▼ Adult Swimming Pool Pump, last replaced 1999 at a cost of \$4800, estimated life 18 years, next replacement planned 2017, cost inflation 3% per year, estimated cost \$8172. Replacement thereafter in 2035.
- ▼ Community Center Living Room Window Coverings, last replaced 2013 at an estimated cost of \$1000, estimated life 5 years, next replacement planned 2018, cost inflation 3% per year, estimated cost \$1159. Replacements thereafter in 2023, 2028, 2033, and 2038.

Obviously, these are estimates. If 2017 passes with the pool pump still chugging along, then its replace-

ment will be postponed and its estimated life increased. However, if it fails in 2016, nearly its entire replacement cost will already be accumulated. Such over- and under-estimates fortunately tend to balance out. And replacements/repairs are purchased in accordance with ECIA procedures, with competitive bids as necessary, at a price that may be more or less than estimated. And sometimes a strategic repair may extend life and postpone replacement. Obviously, money that is not needed in a given year is held until it is inevitably required.

From the aggregation of many details, the comprehensive R&R spreadsheet can produce, among other things, 5-year and 25-year plans, and the Association's long-term financial needs evaluated. The present plan shows the Association accumulating its targeted five years of anticipated Replacement Reserves by the year 2019, made possible by noticeable assessment increases until then, and lesser increases to keep up with inflation thereafter.

A summary of the current R&R forecast is shown at the end of the 2016 budget message (also on the website). The Finance Committee considers a realistic appraisal of R&R needs to be so important that it has recommended for the first time, and the Board has approved, an outside study in 2016 of future R&R needs.

Any interested ECIA member may request the entire current R&R analysis by contacting ECIA General Manager **Brenda Leonard** (gm@eldoradosf.org or 466-4248).

—Dan Drobnis, Finance Committee

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Information: **Frank Schober**
Roads: **Felicia Probert**
Stable: **Open**

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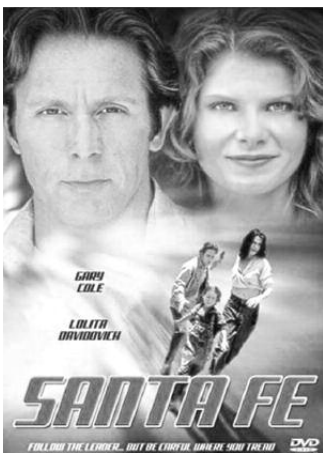
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library
466-READ
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofirerescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)



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/Arch-agenda> or the ECIA Board agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lkxxdmw>.



Film screening on February 11 at La Tienda

Zumba: Shrink Everything but Your Smile

The Eldorado Community Center is offering FREE fun and calorie-burning Zumba dance fitness classes in 2016! The Latin-inspired steps are easy to follow and taught by a certified Zumba instructor. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9–10 AM, starting February 2 in the Railroad Room at the Community Center. The classes are free to Eldorado community residents. For more information, contact Tana Monaco (tana.monaco@gmail.com).

Soccer League Signups

Spring Development Soccer registration is now open until February 29. The spring season starts the week of March 21, and the first game is Saturday, April 2, at the Santa Fe Downs. Cost: \$105 per player. *Soccer Academy* registration is also now open for U8, U9, U10 Boys and Girls until March 11. The Academy starts on Monday, March 14, for 8 weeks. For either program, please go to www.northernsc.org and click on REGISTER, to register or for more information. For questions, call 982-0878 ext 1 or email registrar@northernsc.org.

Volunteer Coaches: The soccer league is looking for volunteer coaches. Please contact the Rio Rapids Northern Soccer office if you are willing to coach or to serve as an assistant coach. Training and guidance can be provided. Without parents, family, or friends willing to coach and help with the teams, the league would fail. There are several El Dorado teams that practice in Eldorado; games are played on Saturdays at the Santa Fe Downs. The season begins with practices starting the week of March 21, and the last game is Saturday, May 21. Please call 982-0878 ext 1 or email registrar@northernsc.org.

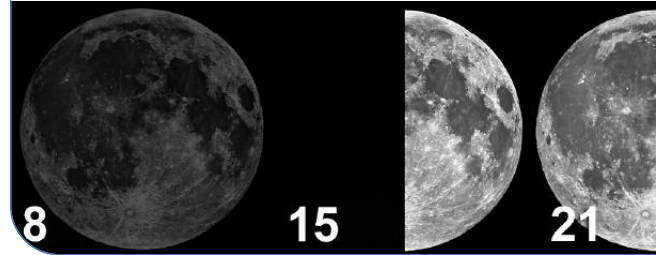
Reel New Mexico, in February

Screening at La Tienda Performance Space on Thursday, February 11, at 7 PM is “Santa Fe,” a drama/comedy/parody of all things Santa Fe in the 1990s. This 1997 release follows Paul Thomas, who has survived an odd cult experience and returns to his hometown of Santa Fe to reunite with his wife and daughter, only to learn that they have become deeply involved in New Age philosophies. Weary of anything remotely cultish after his near-fatal experience, he still manages to fall in love with a local self-help guru.

The movie was filmed entirely in and around Santa Fe and played at the Sundance Film Festival.

Please help to keep REEL NEW MEXICO alive and kicking by attending our screenings. There is a suggested admission of \$5, and you are welcome to bring food and drink from La Plancha, our good friends just outside our door! For more information, please contact Jeff Berg at 466-1634.

MOON PHASES FOR FEBRUARY



Sally Hayden Von Conta Pastels on View

Plein Air Pastels by Sally Hayden Von Conta are on view at First National Bank of Santa Fe in Eldorado in the Agora Shopping Center, through March 31, 2016. www.sallyhaydenvonconta.net.



ECIA E-Mail News Briefs

ECIA residents may sign up to receive e-mail bulletins on important community news. On the ECIA website (www.eldoradosf.org), the home page has a sign-up notice and a place to enter an e-mail address. No login or other information is necessary.

Free Manure/Compost Available

Free manure and/or compost is available for pick up (sorry, no delivery). If interested, please contact the ECIA Office at 466-4248 for more information.

Yoga in Eldorado

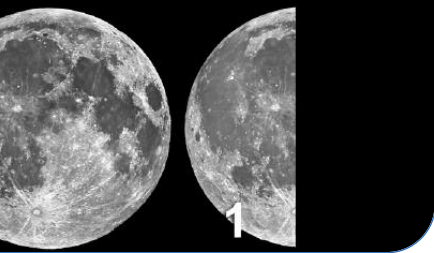
When you think of yoga, do you imagine an extremely flexible person getting into positions worthy of a circus act and definitely not something you could ever do? Actually, yoga is for every body and every age. It is in fact a *gift* for older people. Those who study yoga in later life not only gain health but also a freshness of mind and happy outlook on life. With yoga comes a rebirth, teaching one to face the rest of one’s life happily, peacefully, and courageously.

There are many different kinds of yoga, but most are related to classical Hatha yoga that has been practiced in India for hundreds of years. Yoga is really all about balancing the mental and the physical through breath and movement. Being off balance doesn’t feel good, and as we age, we can lose not only our ability to balance but

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE >>

February Events

FEBRUARY 2016



also our flexibility, strength, and focus. Yoga teaches us to slow down, breathe, and move with awareness at our own pace. It is not about keeping up with others in a class.

Beginning a yoga class may feel intimidating, but through gentle practice (twice a week is good) you will feel better in your body and more open to whatever life brings. A Gentle Stretch/Slow Flow class is being offered in Eldorado on Monday and Wednesday mornings for those who are just beginning and may feel uncomfortable in larger, less personal classes. On Tuesday and Friday mornings, a Vinyasa Flow class is offered for more experienced practitioners who enjoy an active, energizing yoga experience. The Vinyasa Flow classes include pranayama (focusing the breath), hatha yoga (asanas or postures), and vinyasa (a steady flow postures linked to breath).

Some people complain that they have injured themselves while practicing yoga and had to stop. The usual culprit for this is practicing incorrectly, so it is important to find a teacher who takes time to explain poses and assist when necessary. There is no magic pill that will give you better posture, strength, energy, balance, or inner joy, but with the regular practice of yoga, all these benefits can be yours. Give this gift to your body and your whole being will benefit.

Classes are offered at the Eldorado Community Center from 9 to 10:15 AM on the days noted above. For class fees and/or more information, contact **Mary Horst** at 490-2790 or **Julia Cairns** at 466-1935.

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

Public Bylaws Forum	Tues., Feb. 9, 7-9 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	RR
ECIA Offices Closed	Mon., Feb. 15	ECIA	466-4248	CC
TGIF	Fri., Feb. 19, 5-7 pm	ECIA	466-4248	LR

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., Feb. 9, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., Feb. 23, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	
Board Work Study	Tues., Feb. 16, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Feb. 2, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Feb. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Feb. 10, 2-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Feb. 3, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Tues., Feb. 16, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., Feb. 22, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	TBA	Felicia Probert	466-1563	CFR
Stable Committee	TBA	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	Susan Daniel	856-220-7087	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	santafesar.org		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., 11-12 pm			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			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
Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Mon. & Wed., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa	Tues. & Fri., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Zumba	Tues. & Thurs., 9-10 am	Tana Monaco	858-886-6343	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

It's "I Love VGPL" month. Come in and make a Valentine showing what you love about your local library. There also will be a "Wish Tree" with special hearts hanging on it, each with an item on the library's wish list. Patrons can take a heart and donate toward their favorite things at VGPL, including books, DVDs, and programs.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS: *After School Reading Club* has just begun. It meets Wednesday afternoons after school. Parents can still register students in grades K to 4; come by to sign up your child. *Story Time* for the pre-K and under crowd and their caregivers meets on Friday mornings at 11:30 AM. There is no registration required for this program. *Lego Club* for all ages meets on the third Tuesday of every month from 3 to 5 PM. All programs will follow the Santa Fe Public School schedules and snow closings, so please call the library or check the website at www.vglibrary.org to verify that the group will be meeting that day.



MOVIE NIGHTS: This month's Family Movie Night will be on Friday, February 5, at 7 PM. The film will be a recent PG-rated animated release. There will also be a Grownup Movie Night this month, on Friday, February 19, at 7 PM. The library will show a recently released film about climbing the tallest peak in the world. It is rated PG13. All Movie Nights have free admission and include popcorn and juice. Call 466-7323 for movie titles.

BOOK DONATION DAY: Please bring your donations of gently used items on Saturday, February 6, from 9 to 11:30 AM, while the processing team is available. The library can accept recent (copyright 2011 and newer) adult fiction and nonfiction; any children's materials in good condition; puzzles and games containing all the pieces; DVDs and audio books on CD. At this time, the library cannot accept textbooks, law books, magazines, older adult books, or video or cassette tapes. March 5 will be the next Donation Day.

—Tracey Mitchell

The Battle with Rodents Continues

Last month, *Vistas* published an article by Ray Nichols about keeping rats and mice out of the garage and our vehicles. Several residents contacted us to say that while they appreciated the many good suggestions in the article, they disagreed with the recommendation to use solid rat poison that contains warfarin, which Nichols said "causes internal bleeding and therefore is not a danger to coyotes."

Merrylyn Janiga wrote: "To claim that warfarin is 'not a danger to coyotes' is completely and utterly false. . . . Warfarin-laden bait affects not only small rodents of all descriptions, but any unfortunate pet dog or cat or wild coyote that finds and eats a poisoned rodent. Death from warfarin ingestion is particularly painful, causing the animal to bleed out internally."

"We all understand that this exceptionally cold and lingering winter weather is encouraging the small rodents to find shelter, and eat anything available, including any exposed wiring/hoses in the engine compartments of our vehicles. Some of us have already experienced this, together with the large bills and inconvenience involved in having wiring replaced."

Joan Mitchell concurs: "To recommend the use of poisons to protect cars parked outside is misguided. Manufacturers of rodenticides would love for us to believe that the blood-thinning poisons do not have effects beyond the target rodents. Untrue. Research on raptors—hawks, owls, and eagles—shows that these poisons accumulate in the liver of the predator. Blood-thinners may not kill them outright, but a sick or weak hunter is a dead one from starvation. During a Project Coyote presentation a few years back, experts

mentioned these poisons as a major problem in coyote mortality."

Butch Gorsuch is also concerned about secondary poisoning via warfarin: "Owls are extremely beneficial as predators of pack rats (and mice), yet they are susceptible to secondary poisoning. You can use any browser search engine on 'warfarin owls' and view articles concerning secondary poisoning on raptors."

"Additionally, using a solid bait with pack rats may not have the intended result. Pack rats by nature are hoarders. Before I became aware of secondary poisoning, I tried using poison in 'bait boxes.' I can attest from personal experience the pack rats simply stole most of the bait and stored it for future use. I was going through a lot of bait yet found no evidence of a decline in numbers. Then I stumbled upon one of their nests and after digging it up, I found a cache of my rat poison as well as prickly pear and cholla. Here is one (of many) articles explaining why poison is ineffective with pack rats: <http://mrpackrat.net/poison.html>."

The concerned residents submitting these comments all offered the following alternative: electronic strobe lights that can be attached to the car's battery, as described on rid-a-rat.com. These use LED light technology which is said to cause the rat's iris to contract and expand repeatedly, causing eye fatigue and encouraging the rat to find a new territory. These lights are available for around \$45 in hardware stores, including the one in La Tienda, and at Amazon.

That said, the mrpackrat.net website cited above lists many so-called solutions that it claims do NOT

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Another rodent-prevention suggestion for vehicles:

Keep vehicle hood propped open when not in use.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Trees and Cacti in Winter

While looking out the window at trees covered in snow, a friend quoted William Carlos Williams: “The wise trees stand sleeping in the cold.” This beautiful quote got us to thinking: How do our trees and cacti survive the winter? We did some research, including contacting John “Obie” Oberhauser, Eldorado’s cactus guru.

Because deciduous trees contain water in their leaf cells, which would be damaged by freezing, they have evolved a cycle of hormones to drop their leaves in the fall and grow new leaves in the spring. In autumn, the green chlorophyll—one of the chemicals in the cells that convert light energy (photons) into food (glucose)—dies, thus allowing the other chlorophylls to show. This gives us the beautiful fall show of red-orange-gold colors.

Evergreens are aided in winter survival by the waxy-like substance on their needles, which helps them resist freezing. Sap, which is temperature sensitive, also slows its flow in the colder months. Sap, which is present in both deciduous and evergreen trees, is the thick fluid that carries water and nutrients from the roots up the tree to the glucose-manufacturing plants in the leaves or needles. Sap also carries water and glucose down to the roots.

Despite a lack of leaves, trees continue to take up water as their roots grow over the winter months. Un-

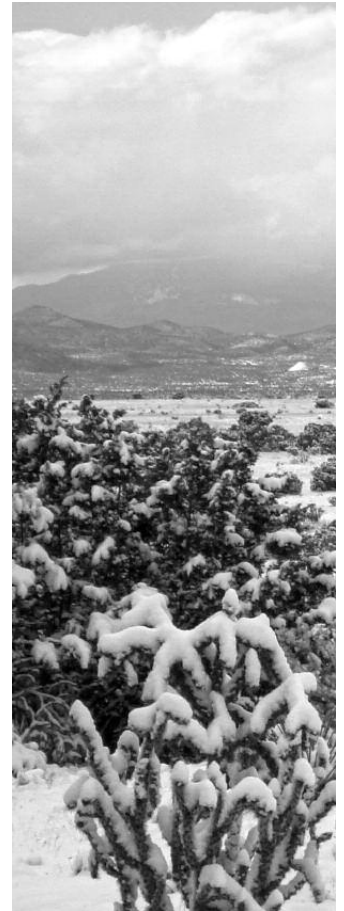
like trees, however, cacti do not take in water during the winter. Cacti are completely dormant in the cold season. During this time, the sap (or “juice”) inside cacti thickens and acts as an “antifreeze” for the plant. That’s why you can see cactus up in Colorado and Wyoming during the winter.

Because they do not take in water, cacti that have “arms” droop during the winter. In spring they take in water, resume normal pressure, and the arms rise up again. Prickly Pear lay down in cold weather. If they turn purple, that’s a sign of stress due to cold and/or a lack of water. With the warmth of spring, they perk up.

Local cacti can take the cold. Those of us who were here around five years ago will remember when the temperature dropped to -22°. An amazing 95% of our cacti survived that cold snap. It’s important to note, however, that cacti can be damaged if we have a warm spell followed by a sudden cold snap, when water quickly freezes into crystals. If a sudden cold snap is predicted, cover your prized cacti with something substantial such as a plastic container.

A planting tip: Because deciduous tree roots will grow over the winter, fall is the best time to plant them. Since cacti do not grow over the winter, it’s best to plant them in the spring.

References for this article are available upon request. Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com.



Eldorado in snow. Photo: Jack Arnold

Eldorado/285Recycles

The local recycling scene underwent many changes last year, creating some confusion in the what, where, and how of recycling in this area. To clarify:

The dump = Eldorado Transfer Station = Eldorado Convenience Center!

New recycling guidelines became effective August 2015. Now almost everything you always wanted to recycle is accepted. Check out the new guidelines and more at eldorado285recycles.org or the website santaferecycling.org.

Waste Management customers have the same guidelines, but NO glass is accepted in their recycling cart.

El Dorado Supermart, aka the Agora, accepts plastic grocery bags, newspaper bags, and many other types of plastic film. A drop-off area is just inside the store en-

trance to the left. Review the helpful poster there or at plasticfilmrecycling.org, since this material can never be recycled with your “mixed” recyclables.

Eldorado/285Recycles collects several hard-to-recycle items in La Tienda Building B across from the Gym: #5 plastics, corks, pens, markers, rubber bands, dental items and skin care item containers, and athletic shoes. Proceeds from the dental and skin care items benefit El Dorado School. Please do not leave other recyclables in this area.

Empty printer cartridges are collected in La Tienda Building A near the hardware store, and proceeds benefit El Dorado School.

There are helpful flyers explaining much of this information on the wall near the Building B special collections, so help yourself and feel free to take one for a friend.



Rodents, continued

work. Among these are the mini-strobe lights: “There are simply too many hiding places in most cars for these lights to really be effective. Also pack rats adapt quickly. A light in an enclosed area is still a safe en-

closed area and the rat will just ignore the light after a short time.”

The same website has excellent suggestions for clearing out and then preventing pack rats, mainly by efforts to keep garages and landscapes free of warm, secure shelters for these animals.
—Carol Leyba

VISTAS

Eldorado Community Improvement Association
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 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
www.eldoradosf.org

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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>

Farm to Table in Eldorado: The School Community Garden

Our winter weather couldn't be less hospitable to gardening, but gardeners are dreamers and schemers. Does that describe you? If so, please join the 2016 Season Kickoff for the Eldorado School Community Garden on Saturday, March 12, from 9:30 to 11 AM at the El Dorado Community School library, at 2 Avenida Torreon.

Haven't heard about our community garden? In January 2009, the school invited community members to establish a school-community garden on their property, located on 1.5 acres behind the school's soccer field. Since then, a dedicated group of volunteers has transformed the raw land into a magical place of life, color, and sustenance during the growing season. The garden now boasts 40 4x8 foot beds, a 2,500 square foot communal garden, a labyrinth, cactus garden, perennial garden, tool shed, greenhouse, several compost areas, and a drip irrigation system. Herbicide- and pesticide-free, we offer a variety of spaces for organic gardening.

Gardeners may obtain their own bed, or join the "circle" garden, in which members work together to raise and harvest an amazing variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers each year. The garden also serves as an outdoor classroom for the community school and a venue for workshops, open to all, on various topics throughout the growing season.

Whether you want to learn more about gardening and land stewardship or about how to garden in our climate, or just want to exercise in the fresh air or develop friendships with other gardeners, please come to the kickoff on March 12 to sign up for the community garden and get a garden tour. For questions or to request a membership packet, contact Carol Robles at (240) 478-8685 or eldogardeninfo@eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.org. We are also on Facebook and at www.eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.org.



You too can grow beautiful vegetables like these by joining the Community Garden.