

# ELDORADO at SANTA FE VISTAS

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

**IN THIS ISSUE**

ECIA News .....2-3  
 In the Community ....4-5  
 Library News.....6  
 Recycling .....6  
 Water Matters.....7  
 Winter Hibernation .....8

## First Year with HOAMCO Reviewed

This month marks the first-year anniversary of the ECIA contract with its management company, HOAMCO. At this juncture, the ECIA Board has begun a review process and will be meeting with HOAMCO officials to evaluate the partnership and identify areas for improvement.

“Going from total self-management to professional management has been a complex transition,” according to Board President **Dag Ryen**. “There have been a couple of hiccups along the way, but the end result of the change has been great improvements in our management practices,” Ryen says. He points out that the early departure of HOAMCO’s first general manager resulted in some delays in the transition, but the current general manager, **Brenda Leonard**, has “hit the ground running.”

While the arrangement is viewed as a partnership, the ECIA Board remains responsible for all policy decisions. The role of HOAMCO is simply to implement Board decisions and conduct day-to-day Association business in a professional, accountable, and transparent way. “HOAMCO brings considerable financial, contractual, human resources, and legal expertise into the relationship,” Ryen notes. “Being able to draw on these resources makes the Board, committee volunteers, and staff better managers.”

Among the steps that have been taken in the past year is a reconfiguration of the collection process used for delinquent lot owner assessments. This task has now been turned over to the Southwestern law firm Carpenter-Hazelwood, which works with lot owners to bring their accounts up to date, in most cases at no cost to the ECIA. Both the law firm and the ECIA are sensitive to members’ special needs and are willing to find workable solutions, Ryen says. This program has significantly reduced the number of overdue accounts and has speeded up current-year collections. Of the 104 accounts that were turned over to Carpenter-Hazelwood last year, almost half are now settled.

Another bright spot has been the new general manager’s ability to find and negotiate better pricing for some of our ongoing expenses, according to Ryen. “Ms. Leonard has almost two decades of experience in

the homeowners management arena. She knows which vendors can provide quality services at reasonable prices.” Among recent cost-savings efforts is a contract with a seasoned evaluator to conduct a full Replacement Reserve Study, which will provide the ECIA with a better basis for funding its long-term maintenance and replacement needs for capital items and amenities.

One area where there is still room for improvement is keeping member databases up to date. A complication in this regard is HOAMCO’s transition last year to a new database system, Caliber. Transferring data to Caliber resulted in a number of mailing address errors, which in turn resulted in some ECIA members not getting their assessment invoices in a timely manner. Ms. Leonard and other HOAMCO officials have assured the Association that this glitch has been corrected and will not recur, Ryen says.

HOAMCO officials acknowledge that Eldorado is a unique community. “We rarely find associations whose volunteer base is as large, diverse, intelligent, and most importantly, highly committed to maintaining this special community located at the southern end of the Rocky Mountains,” says company president **Justin Scott**. “We thoroughly enjoy working with these exceedingly amenable and inventive collaborators while building on HOAMCO’s 25 years of experience to create new ways of protecting ECIA homeowners’ investment and ensuring the enjoyment of their community lifestyle,” he notes.

“As this partnership matures, I am certain that both sides will work to improve processes and decisionmaking to serve the best interests of every homeowner in Eldorado,” Board President Ryen says.

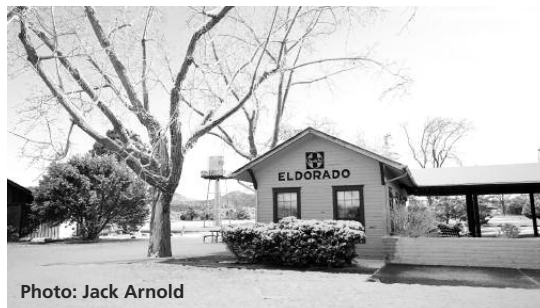


Photo: Jack Arnold

*ECIA Board Meeting,  
Community Center  
Railroad Bldg.  
Thurs.,  
March 17,  
7 PM*

**Assessments Overdue**

Assessment payments are overdue as of March 1. Anyone who has not paid the 2016 assessment or other amounts owed as of that date will not be eligible to vote in the 2016 election or use the Association’s amenities.

Overdue amounts will accrue interest beginning April 1 at a 15% annual rate as of March 1. After June 1, liens will be placed on properties and will include an additional \$200 lien fee—which will also bear interest.

Anyone who has not received a 2016 assessment notification, has questions about the amount owed for their property, or who wishes consideration of unusual circumstances, should immediately contact ECIA General Manager **Brenda Leonard** by email (greatly preferred) at [gm@eldoradosf.org](mailto:gm@eldoradosf.org) or, if necessary, by phone at (505) 466-4248.



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](mailto: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.

## Eldorado Dog Policy and Guidelines Reminder

As the March weather begins to warm, more Eldorado residents will be out walking their dogs. With this in mind, we want to remind all residents that effective April 18, 2013, the ECIA Board approved and implemented a revised Dog Policy and Guidelines. This policy superseded ECIA Board Policy 07-08-43, Eldorado Responsible Dog Ownership Policy, dated September 2007. The primary change, requiring dogs to be on leash and/or under control at all times on ECIA Common Properties (except the Dog Park and in the Preserve), was adopted because of the numerous past instances of dog bites by, and fights between, dogs under voice control but not on leash, or dogs being involved in "near collision" with vehicles.

We ask that all Eldorado dog owners comply with this revised policy by keeping their dogs on leash on ECIA common properties, including:

1. Community Center, including the surrounding grounds, fields, courts, play areas, but excluding the ECIA Dog Park (which has its own set of rules)
2. Compadres Park, including the playground, entrance road, and surrounding grounds
3. Recreational trails (bike/hike paths)
4. Stable roads, footpaths, arenas
5. Greenbelts

Additionally, as the winter snows melt, residents will begin to see piles of dog defecation that have been left there by uncooperative residents who choose not to clean up after their dogs. To prevent this in the future, we ask all residents to also adhere to Section 2 of the Guidelines:

2. When a dog defecates in a public place, the owner or handler must remove the feces and dispose of it in a sanitary manner.

Finally, as the pet walkers' traffic increases on the hike/bike paths, greenbelts, and other public places, remember that Section 3 of these Guidelines addresses proper dog walking etiquette and should be followed:

3. When encountering other people, including pedestrians, bicyclists, joggers, and equestrians, the owner or handler must yield the right of way by standing aside and holding dogs under control. If the encountered party(s) also have dogs, the parties shall hold their dogs under control until agreement is reached as to whom will have the right of way.

The updated dog policy can be found in full on the Eldorado website under Governing Documents or via the following link: <http://eldoradosf.org/Governing-Documents/responsible-dog-ownership-policy.html>.

Thank you for your cooperation in following this revised policy and guidelines. If any resident encounters other residents who are not following these guidelines, please inform them politely of the dog policy. If they are not cooperative, feel free to contact me at the ECIA at 466-4248. Should you encounter barking or roaming dogs, please first call Santa Fe Animal Control at 428-3720 and also notify us at the ECIA, and we will work with the dog owners to educate them and try to correct the problem.

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative  
[mark@eldoradosf.org](mailto:mark@eldoradosf.org)

## Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held regular monthly meetings on January 21 and February 18, 2016. All members were present for both meetings.

The following formal actions were taken in January, all by unanimous vote.

- ▼ A variance request for a fence setback at 9 Bonito Court was approved.
- ▼ A variance request for a fence setback at 1 Frasco Place was approved.
- ▼ A capital expenditure to purchase and install ten Dogipot stations was approved.
- ▼ A proposal to engage Association Reserves to conduct an inventory of equipment and assets was approved.
- ▼ A motion to appoint Robert Miller to the Architecture Committee was approved.

The following formal actions were taken in February, all by unanimous vote.

- ▼ A variance request regarding fence setbacks and accessory buildings at 10 Redondo Court was tabled, pending further information.
- ▼ A variance request for a fence setback at 43 Cuesta Road was tabled, pending further information (Henline recused).
- ▼ An application for In-Home Profession (daycare) was denied, pending further information.
- ▼ A motion to formally apply for Resident Organization status with Santa Fe County was approved.
- ▼ A motion to reject and return the January financial report from HOAMCO for minor adjustments and corrections was approved.
- ▼ A motion to raise the minimum level for depreciable assets from \$1,000 to \$5,000 at the

**CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE >>**

## Message from the ECIA Board

While the ECIA is simply a homeowners association, not an incorporated town, its Board members and staff are often asked to exert whatever influence they might have on matters outside the core responsibilities of the Association. Several issues of this kind have arisen recently: the private road extension at the end of Avenida Eldorado, the Santa Fe County debate on establishing franchise districts for refuse collection, and plans for a small package sewage treatment plant along US 285. It is difficult for the ECIA Board to know exactly how the broader Eldorado community feels about any issue. In all of the instances mentioned above, we have received telephone or email comments from residents on both sides of the issue. We will, however, in these and other cases, provide as much factual and unbiased information as possible through e-blasts, in *Vistas*, and on our website. This will include the dates and venues of any public meetings or hearings that we are made aware of. In this way we hope to keep Eldorado resi-

dents fully informed about changes that are taking place in our broader neighborhood.

March signals the beginning of the ECIA election season. Candidates for two vacant seats on the Board will have filed their candidacy petitions by the beginning of the month. A candidate forum will be held on March 16, from 7 to 9 PM in the Railroad Building at the Community Center. Ballots will be mailed to all ECIA members (each lot has one vote), and voting will take place in April. On the ballot this year will also be the adoption of revised Bylaws, as developed by the Election Committee and approved by the Board.

March also means warmer, if changeable, weather. More of our neighbors will be out enjoying the community's fine amenities. We would like to remind dog walkers to make use of the new "doggie bag" stations that have been installed along our major thoroughfares and in the Eldorado Preserve. Let's keep Eldorado spic and span this spring.

—ECIA Board of Directors

## Security at Eldorado Stables

Security is always a concern at any horse facility. It became a major issue at Eldorado Stables when security patrols were discontinued and the facility's barn owners were confronted with addressing safety and security for members, horses, and barns. As a unique community in and of itself, Eldorado Stables is a place of solidarity, camaraderie, and rapport.

At a meeting organized by the Eldorado Stable Committee and its Security Subcommittee, **Sergeant Daniel Chavez** from the New Mexico State Police discussed our concerns and ways to protect the Stable community. Implementation of a Neighborhood Watch, or Stable Watch, was discussed. Another strong suggestion was to keep the gates closed at the Stable at all times, which is now required. An open gate is an open invitation.

As for Neighborhood Watch, Eldorado Stables has now joined the Eldorado Neighborhood Watch community. Our program coordinator is **Deborah Berlin**; our watch captain is **Jacqueline Garcia**, and the co-captain is **Bonnie Mamp**. We were very fortunate to have the guidance and assistance of Neighborhood Watch coordinator, **Marilyn Walker**, and of the ECIA general manager, **Brenda Leonard**. The ECIA Board has been very supportive of having Neighborhood Watch at the stables. The Board has also created a policy stating that all the gates at the stables are to be closed at all times to deter criminal activity. If you have any questions about the Stable Neighborhood Watch, contact Deborah Berlin at 505-670-4215.

Neighborhood Watch signs have been posted throughout the stables; and information about how to report a crime or suspicious activity, when to report these activities, and who to call is posted on the Stable Community Bulletin Board along with other important phone numbers.

The Neighborhood Watch operating procedures are basic. We advise barn owners to call 911 for emergencies. If barn owners notice suspicious activity or persons, they should try to get a reasonable description of the people, vehicles, time, and the like. Be ready to provide the stable address: 11 Avenida Eldorado. And barn owners should not hesitate to call the Sheriff's non-emergency numbers: 428-3710 and 438-3720.

—Bonnie Mamp

## Recent Board Actions, *continued*

recommendation of the auditor was approved.

▼ A motion to accept the proposed revised ByLaws to be voted on in the 2016 ECIA election was approved.

Regular Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Community Center. An open forum and community announcements are generally included. Complete minutes and agendas from all Board meetings are available at the ECIA office or on the website: [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org).

### ECIA OFFICE

#1 La Hacienda Loop  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
466-4248, 466-4249  
[www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President  
**Dag Ryan**  
[D.Ryan@eldoradosf.org](mailto:D.Ryan@eldoradosf.org)  
Vice-President  
**Pam Henline**  
[P.Henline@eldoradosf.org](mailto:P.Henline@eldoradosf.org)  
Secretary  
**Greg Colello**  
[G.Colello@eldoradosf.org](mailto:G.Colello@eldoradosf.org)  
Treasurer  
**Todd Handy**  
[T.Handy@eldoradosf.org](mailto:T.Handy@eldoradosf.org)  
Director  
**Jeanne Calzada**  
[J.Calzada@eldoradosf.org](mailto:J.Calzada@eldoradosf.org)  
Director  
**Antone Forneris**  
[A.Forneris@eldoradosf.org](mailto:A.Forneris@eldoradosf.org)  
Director  
**David Yard**  
[D.Yard@eldoradosf.org](mailto:D.Yard@eldoradosf.org)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

### ECIA STAFF

General Manager (Interim)  
**Brenda Leonard**  
466-4248  
[gm@eldoradosf.org](mailto:gm@eldoradosf.org)  
Covenant Compliance Rep  
**Mark Young**  
466-4248  
[mark@eldoradosf.org](mailto:mark@eldoradosf.org)  
VISTAS NEWSLETTER  
Editor & Designer

**Carol Leyba**  
466-1158  
[cbsleyba@comcast.net](mailto:cbsleyba@comcast.net)  
Webmaster:  
**Jack Arnold**  
[webmaster@eldoradosf.org](mailto:webmaster@eldoradosf.org)  
Editorial Assistant:  
**DiAna Gutierrez**  
466-4248  
[diana@eldoradosf.org](mailto:diana@eldoradosf.org)

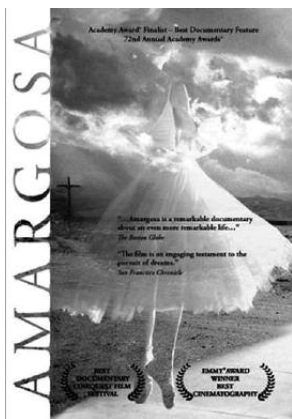
### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library  
466-READ  
Fire and Rescue  
466-1204  
[eldoradofirerescue.org](http://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>.



“Amargosa” screens March 10 at La Tienda Performance Space.



“Disruption” screens March 11 as part of Climate Change Film and Forum at La Tienda Performance Space.

**Candidate “Meet and Greet” Forum**

The Election Committee is hosting a “Meet and Greet” candidate forum on March 16, 2016, from 7 to 9 PM in the Railroad Building at the Community Center. This forum will provide the opportunity for Eldorado residents to meet the ECIA Board candidates and to hear what they hope to achieve as a director on the Board. The Election Committee will also pose a universal question to all candidates. Also, the audience will be able to interact directly with the candidates afterward. Mark this date on your calendar and come join us.

**Climate Change Film & Forum**

On Friday, March 11, at 6:30 PM at the Performance Space in La Tienda, 350 New Mexico will present an exciting and provocative forum on “Methane, The Other Greenhouse Gas.” Dr. **Bernie Zak**, a retired Sandia National Lab climate researcher, brings his decades of experience to bear on natural gas (methane) use as a bridge to a fossil-fuel-free future.

Additional presentations scheduled include **Benton Howell, Ph.D.**, discussing the first exploratory fracking well planned for the central Rio Grande Valley, in Rio Rancho; a screening of “Disruption,” a recent documentary about climate activism and its impacts, including interviews with **Bill McKibben, Naomi Klein**, and Dr. **James Hansen**; and **Alex Renirie**, a Sierra Club staffer sharing information on local climate-related activities. The forum is free and open to the public.

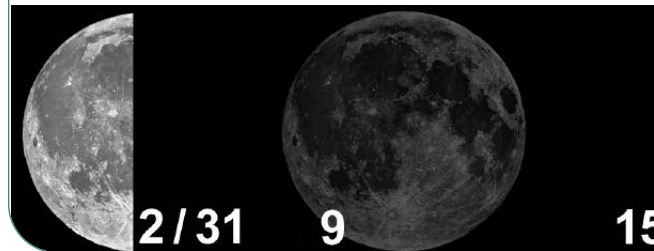
Background: The discovery of the San Juan County methane hot spot put New Mexico squarely in the center of the debate about natural gas as a bridge fuel. As coal comes under attack, is natural gas the answer to our energy needs, as the industry here in New Mexico is suggesting?

The 2014 documentary “Disruption” asks, “When it comes to climate change, why do we do so little when we know so much?” The exploration of this question lays bare the terrifying science, the shattered political process, the unrelenting industry special interests, and the civic stasis that have brought us to this social, moral, and ecological crossroads.

An Oklahoma energy company comes to Sandoval County near Rio Rancho expecting to open shop based on rosy promises for the future. A growing group of residents has demanded answers to questions about the impact of fracking on the air, water, seismic stability, and climate. How does this central New Mexico community grapple with what was once a remote threat that could only happen in other places?

Contacts: **Bill Osher**, [bill.osher@vpss.gatech.edu](mailto:bill.osher@vpss.gatech.edu), 466-1265; or **Jim Mackenzie**, 505-350-6000, [jim@350NewMexico.org](mailto:jim@350NewMexico.org).

**MOON PHASES FOR MARCH**



**Reel New Mexico Screening March 10**

On Thursday, March 10, at 7 PM at La Tienda’s Performance Space, Reel New Mexico will be screening “Amargosa” (2000, 90 minutes).

The courage needed to forge an artistic path has rarely been more passionately explored in documentary film than in Todd Robinson’s elegiac “Amargosa.” By any measure, it’s the definitive film portrait of dancer-choreographer-painter Marta Becket, whose escape from the New York art scene to ultra-remote Death Valley Junction in the 1960s has become a living chapter in California’s rich cultural lore. Perhaps due to the sheer distance of Becket’s Amargosa Opera House from any real burg, myth as much as fact has surrounded her, but Robinson’s supremely crafted and textured account places her achievement in proper context as the great adventure of an artist who has remained true to her muse.

One of the work’s most crucial contributions is to disprove the popular notion that septuagenarian Becket is a desert kook who long ago retreated from the mainstream to practice her primitive art. Limned with finely observed biographical detail, the story underlines Becket’s roots in the vibrant New York performance scene, educated in all of the arts and skilled at an astonishing number of them. Robinson structures his film in a series of time shifts from Becket’s present world in Death Valley to a past that seems to have happened on a different planet, emphasized by astonishing aerial and ground footage of the harshly beautiful desert environment surrounding the opera house.

Certainly, this is the right place for Becket, who found that her life in New York didn’t allow her the freedom to pursue her dreams as a dancer and artist, and that a vacant auditorium in Death Valley provided her with a blank canvas to create her own brand of dance theater.

Key to Becket’s transcendence of her situation is her skill at translating life experiences into dance. Besides preserving many of Becket’s performances, the film situates them within a life in which the art itself embodies the overcoming of obstacles, thereby placing “Amargosa” among prime examples of inspiring cinema about artists and art-making.

# March Events

MARCH 2016



Not dwelling on the most famous aspect of Becket's fashioning of her opera house—the wall and ceiling murals that create a marvelous effect of an audience watching Becket perform with partner Tom Willet—the film instead details the sacrifice she put into the project: namely, how her then-husband lost patience during the mural's time-consuming creation, and left her for another woman.

Becket, who owns the dusty hamlet surrounding the opera house and adjacent haunted motel, seems to have fed off her environs, involving herself in local attempts to rescue wild horses and giving the area a kind of one-woman civic boost, while immersing herself in Death Valley lore, including all those ghosts bumping around. Even this bit of eccentricity is given the utmost respect by Robinson, who employs it as part of the underlying theme that Becket, now 91, is reaching the winter of her life. Locals worry that the town will vanish along with her, which is an even higher compliment than admirer Ray Bradbury's: "She represents the spirit of the individual, of creativity."

There is a suggested donation of \$5 for REEL NEW MEXICO, and you can bring food and drink into the auditorium, thanks to our friends at La Plancha, located across the hall. For more information, please call Jeff at 466-1634.

## Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email [diana@eldoradosf.org](mailto: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 Candidate Forum	Wed., Mar. 16, 7-9	ECIA	466-4248	RR
TGIF	Fri., Mar. 18, 5-7 pm	ECIA	466-4248	LR

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., Mar. 8, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., Mar. 22, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	
Board Work Study	Mon., Mar. 14, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Mar. 1, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Mar. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Mar. 9, 2-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Mar. 2, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., Mar. 14, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., Mar. 21, 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	Sue 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	santa fe sar.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 am	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	505-690-4332	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](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

## At the Library

For those cold, windy days of spring, don't forget that the Vista Grande Public Library has a good selection of DVDs, books, and audio books for all ages and tastes, including books on gardening and cooking. The staff is always adding new titles. Popular books and DVDs can also be put on reserve by any cardholder, and the reserve lists never have more than four or five names. Cardholders can log into their own accounts to reserve an item, or they can ask for help from staff or desk volunteers.

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:** *After School Reading Club* continues to meet on Wednesday afternoons after school throughout the month of March except during Spring Break (March 30). This program requires registration; check at the library for availability. *Story Time* for the pre-K and under crowd and their caregivers meets on Friday mornings at 11:30 AM. No registration is required for this program. *Builders Club* (with Legos) for all ages meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 3 to 5 PM. All programs follow the Santa Fe Public School schedules and snow closings, so call the library or check the website at [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org) to verify that the group will be meeting that day.

*Wags and Words*, a program where children read to specially trained therapy dogs, has expanded to three afternoons—Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday from 3 to 4 PM. Practicing reading aloud to an adoring, nonjudgmental audience (dogs) can improve the reader's skills and comfort in reading aloud. Caregivers with a child who could benefit from this (or who just love dogs) should call or come by the library to sign up.

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT** this month is Friday, March 11, at 7 PM. This animated PG film follows the adventures of a sheep and his English farmyard pals. The movie is shown on the big screen in the Meeting Room and popcorn is provided. There is no admission fee, although donations are welcome.



**BOOK DONATION DAY:** Bring your donations of gently used items on Saturday, March 5, from 9 to 11:30 AM. The library can use recent (©2011 and newer) adult fiction and nonfiction; any children's materials in good condition; puzzles and games containing all the pieces; and DVDs and audio books on CD. Textbooks, law books, magazines, older adult books, and video or cassette tapes are not accepted.

**CALL FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS:** The board of directors currently has 9 members and the bylaws allow for 12. People with financial skills or past experience in fundraising and strategic planning are really needed; previous board experience is a plus. Board responsibilities are mainly in the areas of library policies, fundraising, and financial management. Depending on specific responsibilities, board members donate a minimum of 10 hours a month working with other people who are very dedicated to this community library. A new board member receives a good orientation to board responsibilities and can select from a variety of areas on which to focus. If this seems of interest to you, please contact **Judy Spain**, Chair, Nominating Committee, at [jespain@aol.com](mailto:jespain@aol.com) or 505-954-1241.

The community is always welcome to attend the monthly board meeting, held on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7 PM in the Meeting Room (this month on March 15). In addition, the board of directors will kick off a project in March to update the library's strategic plan, last done in 2009. Times have changed and the plan needs to as well. Community input is critical for identifying the ways in which the library can stay current and attuned to the needs of its community. There will be lots of ways to provide your ideas, ranging from surveys to town-hall-style meetings (no politics!) to informal posters at the library. Please keep an eye open and share your thoughts on how your local community library can serve you better.

—Tracey Mitchell

## Eldorado/285Recycles

Have a new TV? Wondering what to do with the old one? You can take a TV to the ReUse area at the Eldorado Convenience Center (2 miles south on US 285) where someone may pick it up for reuse. There is a convenient electrical outlet for testing. TVs that are not claimed are picked up periodically by a county solid waste division worker and brought to BuRRT for recycling with electronics. (BuRRT is the Buckman Road Recycling & Transfer Station in Santa Fe, operated by the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency, where recyclables, household hazardous waste, and green waste are processed.)

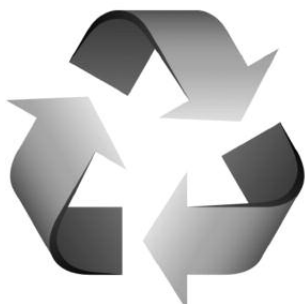
**NEW LOCATION:** Eldorado/285 Recycles has moved its collection spot for hard-to-recycle items—#5 plastics,

dental items, skin care containers, corks, pens, markers and rubber bands—to La Tienda Building A, across from Oasis Café. The athletic shoe collection will remain outside the gym in Building B.

The Second Annual Holiday Light recycling program was a resounding success, keeping 263 pounds out of the landfill. This recycled material will be turned into new wires, power cords, and cell phones. Given the success of this project, it will be continued next holiday season.

The collection of gently used and new hats, scarves, and gloves, a program started this year, was also a success. Over 140 items were donated to local shelters, which were very happy to receive them for their clients.

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE >>







WATER MATTERS PART 6

# New Meters on the March

In 2007, Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD) started replacing its old direct-read manual water meters with radio-read ones for its nearly 3,000 customers. The project was to assure accuracy of District meters, some almost 40 years old, which have aged “beyond their acceptable service lives.” The District also switched to radio-read meters because of the added efficiency and accuracy in the monitoring and billing process. Meter readers can drive by and collect readings electronically on handheld devices.

A certain number of residents, concerned about radio frequency exposure, objected to having the new meters on their properties. In March 2014, the District responded to those customers with a “Radio-Read Meter Opt-Out Policy” (#P14-01-01). For a non-refundable, initial set-up fee of \$300 plus an additional \$8 a month manual-meter reading fee, customers can keep their manual-read meters.

As of February 2016, the District reported that there are 1,621 electronic meters now installed. This leaves EAWSD with 1,341 customers with the old-style manual meters. The original replacement program managed to install 1,427 of the Badger® Orion® Electronic Water Meters.

Some customers missed being able to pop the lid on their old manual meters to monitor their household’s water usage. In response, the District offered the Orion® In Home Display (IHD) monitor for \$100. The Orion® IHD, with a magnet on the back, could be attached to, say, a refrigerator. According to a November 2011 brochure supplied by EAWSD, “this Monitor records exactly what your meter is reading, without the need to leave the warmth of your home. . . . IHD will automatically display an error message such as low battery, leak detection or a lost/no signal message for the customer.”

Unfortunately, the company supplying the IHDs stopped making them, and they became unavailable to water users. At this point, EAWSD decided to go with the next-generation meters called the Badger Meter®/BEACON® Advanced Metering Analytics” (AMA). No longer was a meter reader even required to drive by the water user’s house. The monitoring for the BEACON® all happens on a computer.

As of last January, there are now 194 BEACON® AMAs installed in the District. If BEACON® water

users wish to monitor their usage, they can go online and set up their own “Eye on Water” account. This gives them access to “water use and other information . . . using (their) home computer or mobile device.” The data from each meter is updated once a day. Water users with an Eye on Water account are told that it is important to set up a “leak alert” on the website that “will send you an alert by email and/or text message if a water leak is detected at your home.”

However, according to at least one EAWSD customer, the BEACON® seems to have problems. This particular customer (who has requested anonymity) noticed that his water bill doubled the month after the BEACON® AMA was installed. When he inquired about the severe increase, he was told about setting up his own Eye On Water account, which he promptly did.

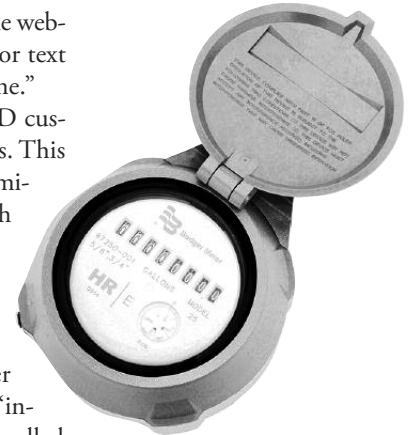
According to this homeowner, the meter readings he saw online were all over the map, “inconsistent and inexplicable.” Fearing a leak, he called a plumber who tested the pressure everywhere in the house. No leaks were found. Checking his online account again, the meter graph readout now gave the assurance of “No leak detected, Great job!”

The very next day, however, when the customer went back online to check, the report showed a base flow leak of 0.01 gallons per hour. The leak had mysteriously returned. When the customer spoke about the matter with EAWSD General Manager **David Chakroff**, he was told the meter couldn’t possibly be at fault.

According to EAWSD, however, at least four of the BEACON® AMA units have, in fact, proved faulty and were returned to BadgerMeter, Inc., the manufacturer. In 2012, the City of Santa Fe tried suing its supplier of electronic water monitoring devices, Datamatic, for the thousands of faulty electronic meters the city had installed. Datamatic responded to the suit by declaring bankruptcy.

**Willie Honohan**, owner of Sonic Leak Detection of Santa Fe, has seen his share of electronic meter mishaps. “It’s true that the manual-read meters with their gears tend to be more dependable, even though over time they begin to show wear and slow up. But whenever you have electronic digital readouts, things can go wrong. I’ve seen it. They’re not infallible.”

—Gershon Siegel



**Recycling Tip of the Month:** Contact lens containers (the ones the dailies come in) can be recycled in your Mixed collection or at the #5 collection at La Tienda, Building A.

## Eldorado/285 Recycles, cont.

Eldorado/285Recycles appreciates the continuing generous support from the residents of Eldorado and

surrounding communities. Thank you! For more recycling information, see [www.eldorado285recycles.org](http://www.eldorado285recycles.org).

# VISTAS

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

PRSR STD  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit No. 173  
 Santa Fe, NM

### SAVE PAPER/MAILING COSTS

To opt out of receiving a personal mailed copy of *Vistas*, email [diana@eldoradosf.org](mailto:diana@eldoradosf.org). Following this request, you will no longer receive a printed copy of *Vistas* but instead will be sent an email once a month with a link to the next issue of *Vistas* on the ECIA website, in PDF format, ready to view and/or print at home.



Scan this code with your phone to take you to the online version of *Vistas*

Road Repair (SF County) 992-3010  
[www.santafecountynm.gov/public\\_works/road\\_concern](http://www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works/road_concern)

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

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

## Winter Hibernation

“Wow,” said a visitor. “You’ve got about a million bunnies on your property. And birds. And I loved hearing the coyote the other night. And I might have seen bobcat and weasel tracks. But are the other animals in hibernation?”

This called for some research. Hibernation is an amazing process in which the metabolic rate, heart-beat, and body temperature are slowed to conserve energy during cold temperatures when food is less available. Depending on a variety of factors such as latitude, species, temperature, individual size, and health, the animals that hibernate might do so for different periods of time, ranging from days to months.

Badgers, who accumulate fat reserves starting in the late summer, are less active in winter and can go through “cycles of torpor” for up to 30 hours, also living underground for days without food. In the northern range of their habitat such as Santa Fe, rock squirrels, who store food in their burrows, hibernate during cold periods but may emerge during warm spells. Ground squirrels, on the other hand, can hibernate for 7 to 9 months. Like other hibernating rodents, they stir briefly every few weeks to feed on stored food.

Hibernating rodents experience significantly lowered body temperatures. During hibernation, they awaken every few days to move around, eat, and eliminate waste. Bear hibernation is different. After storing body fat starting in the late summer, bears go into hibernation with less reduction in body temperature than rodents. This allows them to react more quickly to potential danger. Additionally, bears do not eat, drink, or eliminate waste (which is recycled within their body) during hibernation.

Not all mammals hibernate, of course. Rabbits, hares, and most rats and mice remain active during the winter. Rabbits and hares, who gain weight and grow a winter coat for warmth, become less active in winter to conserve energy. Most species of rats and mice do not hibernate, but they will actively seek out shelter and warmth. They will also store food to limit venturing into the cold.

Scientists continue to study animal hibernation with an eye toward human medical treatments and space travel. The possibility of human hibernation, or “suspended animation,” long the stuff of science fiction, may one day be a reality.

References for this article are available on request. Contact us at [EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com](mailto:EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com).

Top to bottom: Badger, cottontail rabbit, and spotted ground squirrel. Photos: Ann V. Wood

