

ELDORADO AT SANTA FE VISTAS

IN THIS ISSUE

ECIA News2-3
In the Community4-5
Hellos & Good-byes6
Recycling6
Flora & Fauna7
Road Routes7

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

May is Eldorado Studio Tour Month

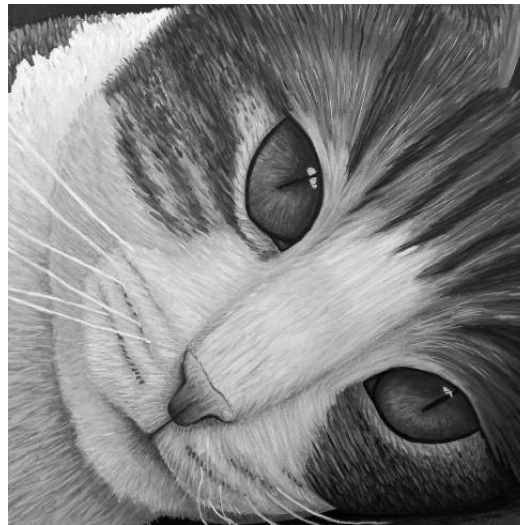
This year, 2016, marks the 25th year that Eldorado artists will come together to open their studios to the public. With 94 artists showing in 59 studios, the Eldorado Studio Tour remains the largest in New Mexico.

The 2016 tour begins on Friday, May 13, with an Artists Reception at the Eldorado Community Center from 5 to 7 PM. The tour continues Saturday and Sunday, May 14–15, with studios open from 10 AM to 5 PM. The Preview Gallery is open at the Community Center from 9 AM to 5 PM on both days.

The Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association grew out of a small group of artists who gathered to discuss art. The first studio tour in 1991 included 18 artists. According to **Arlene Siegel**, the group's first president, "We started from scratch and had enough of a nucleus to meet on a regular basis at the Community Center. Once the tours began, they had a life of their own. Each artist took on tasks to make the tours succeed." The one axiom was: no jury process to determine who was in the tour. "These artists are our neighbors," Siegel said.

Karen Fitzsimmons, who participated for over 20 years said, "If one talked to any artist in Eldorado, one would learn that what appealed to them was the open space, the mountains and the huge sky." Eldorado feeds the artistic temperament.

For information: eldoradostudiotour.org.



ECIA Board Meeting,
Community Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
May 19,
7 PM

Clockwise, from above: "Secrets" by Brian Commerford; "Spirit of Mother Earth," mask by Gilbert Candelaria; ceramic elephant "Penelope," by Joretha Hall; and contemporary table by Kris Palek.





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 gloria@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.

RV Visitor Courtesy

Summer is just around the corner, and as Santa Fe is a major summer tourist destination, Eldorado residents are frequently visited by family and friends, some of whom arrive in their RVs and end up parking in their driveways and on their lots. When this occurs, we may hear from neighbors who are concerned that their next door neighbor has purchased an RV and has not submitted a screening plan for it.

The ECIA covenants do address multiple or visiting RVs on lots in Eldorado, under Article II, Section 13 of the covenants:

Section 13. Storage and Screening of Vehicles and their Accessories. a) Recreational vehicles, such as motor homes, RVs, campers, camper shells, vehicle accessories, trailers, horse trailers, airplanes, boats and the like, when stored on a lot shall be located so as to minimize their visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood and roads, and shall be obscured by screening in a reasonable manner, for example by the dwelling house and/or with plantings or fencing. No more than three such vehicles shall be stored outside on any lot at any time. No more than one additional vehicle shall be parked temporarily on a lot for a period not to exceed three

weeks. This paragraph shall be applicable to recreational vehicle accessories, such as camper shells and the like.

While technically the wording in Section 13 of the Covenants does allow for a visiting RV to be on a lot for up to three weeks before it can be considered a violation of the covenants, this can represent a long wait for a neighbor having to look at an unscreened RV owned by a non-resident. That is why we ask residents to notify their neighbors, as well as the ECIA, when a visiting RV is going to be on their lot. We also ask that you consult with your neighbors to locate the least offensive placement for the RV on the lot.

When you contact the ECIA, please include the anticipated arrival and departure dates of the RV, as well as where it will be parked on the lot. This small gesture is likely to result in much happier neighbors and will help eliminate extra work for the ECIA staff, as we will know what RVs are owned by visitors and not lot owners. To notify the ECIA, call us at 466-4248, or e-mail me at mark@eldoradosf.org.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter this summer.

—Mark Young, *Covenant Compliance Representative*
mark@eldoradosf.org

Recent Board Actions

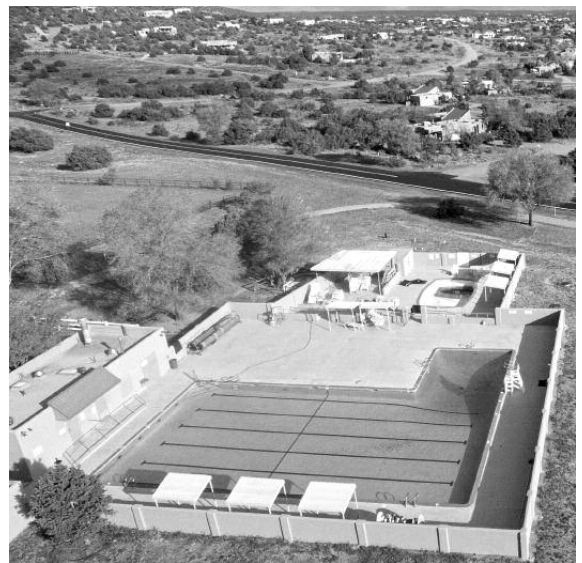
The ECIA Board held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2016, with all current board members present. The following formal actions were taken by unanimous vote:

- ▼ A motion was passed to approve a variance for a garage setback of 20 feet at 23 Sabosa Road.
- ▼ A motion was passed to approve a variance for a shed setback of 20 feet at 13 Mimosa Road.
- ▼ A motion was passed to adopt an updated Membership List Agreement governing use of membership lists by ECIA members.
- ▼ A motion was passed to approve expenditure of capital funds to purchase a Toro lawn mower.
- ▼ A motion to appoint **Luci Wienczkowski** to the Stable Committee was passed unanimously.

The annual meeting of the ECIA membership will take place on May 2 at 7 PM at the church facilities in La Tienda (there will be door prizes!). The next regular monthly meeting of the ECIA Board will take place on May 19 at 7PM in the Railroad Building.

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.



The Eldorado Pool opens on May 28 at 8 AM. Get your pool pass for 2016! See eldoradosf.org for details or call 466-4248.

Message from the ECIA Board

The next few weeks will be an important period for the Eldorado Community Improvement Association. The decision of the New Mexico Court of Appeals to overturn a lower court decision and rule that the ECIA covenants do not prohibit the keeping of hens threatens to reopen some deep but unnecessary wounds within our community. Already extremists on both sides of this issue have resorted to histrionics and misinformation in support of their stubbornly held opinions.

This is not what our community needs. What we need is for level-headed, reasonable individuals to dominate the discussion and strike a balance that will have a positive impact on the community and all who live here.

In this discussion, it will be important for everyone to keep the best interests of the entire community in mind. No one will be served by the creation of overly elaborate rules about the keeping of hens.

However, there are surely things that every reasonable person within the community can agree on, such as not allowing roosters, for instance.

The ECIA Board is committed to following an open and transparent process as we seek closure to the lawsuit that has disrupted community cohesion for the past four years. But it is incumbent on everyone involved in that process to act with respect and civility, and to remind herself or himself that we are all neighbors here.

On another legal front, Ms. Claudia Daigle, who filed suit against the ECIA on the issue of ground-based solar arrays, has filed the necessary paperwork asking the New Mexico Supreme Court to review the decisions of the District Court and the New Mexico Court of Appeals dismissing her claim. We should know within a few weeks whether the high court will consider the case or let the rulings of the lower courts stand.

—ECIA Board of Directors

ECIA Committees Are Working for Us

The Information Committee, which puts together *Vistas* and the ECIA Annual Report, has decided to run a regular column to highlight important information and current news from our various committees. This is the first such column.

ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

As the weather warms up, we look forward to working on our homes. Let's not forget that we need approval from the Architecture Committee for these changes. The process is quick and painless. Simply download the form or come into the office and speak with **Mark Young**. Once the paperwork is submitted, your request is approved overnight. If you have an interest in volunteering your time to this committee, the Architecture Committee is looking for new members and hopes to locate qualified candidates who have the skills required to be an effective member of this committee. Sit in on one of these meetings and see what you think. The Architecture Committee meets twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

If you have an interest and time to do some trail maintenance in the Preserve and on our hike/bike trails, check out the Conservation Committee. This group spends a lot of time outdoors creating and improving trails in the Preserve and in the community. If this sounds like something you'd like to do, call the ECIA office for more information at 466-4248.

FACILITIES & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Facilities & Grounds Committee makes recom-

mendations to the ECIA Board regarding amenities. These recommendations encourage long-range planning for maintenance and improvement of ECIA facilities and grounds. If you have an interest in improvements needed to the existing facilities, amenities, and infrastructure, and the beautification of the buildings and grounds, the committee welcomes new members. Call the office for more info at 466-4248.

ROAD COMMITTEE

All roads in Eldorado (about 80 miles) have been deeded to Santa Fe County, which plows, grades, repairs, and maintains our roads. Send your concerns in an email to the Road Committee Chair at **fjprobert@msn.com**. If rain, wind, or other weather events create a problem on the road you live on, or if you notice a pothole has popped up or a stop sign is down or missing, you can report it directly to the County's Public Works Division at 992-3010. Results from a recent road survey will be out soon.

STABLES COMMITTEE

Many of us drive by the Eldorado Stables every day. Did you know that there are 36 individual stable/corral units, two arenas and two round pens, all on 12 acres of land off Avenida Eldorado? Riding is permitted in the Preserve across the road and along an excellent system of trails. There are four barns for sale, and if you have an interest, please call the ECIA office for more info. Save the Date: Stables Community Day is on September 24 from 10 AM to 1 PM.

—DiAna Gutierrez

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Conservation: **Jim Daniel & Cherry Payne**
Election: **Kathie Graham**
Facilities & Grounds:
Lee Onstott (acting chair)
Finance: **Dan Drobnis**
Information: **Frank Schober**
Roads: **Felicia Probert**
Stable: **Open**

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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>.



Cactus Class

The Cactus Rescue Project will be holding an introductory class on cactus gardening on Sunday, May 1, at 10 AM at the ECIA Community Center Cactus Demonstration Garden. Our garden is the third largest cactus garden in the state. Come see what will be blooming and expand your interest in cactus. Learn about the types of cactus that will grow in our area and how you can start your own cactus garden.

Cactus Propagation

Saturday, May 14, 9–11 AM, at the County Fairgrounds Cactus Garden, learn to divide cactus and how to grow more! Get tips on soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Drop-in demos will be held every half-hour. Sponsored by Santa Fe Master Gardeners.

Commemorative Trees

The new island landscaping at the Community Center is taking shape, turning green, and beginning to bloom, and is well on its way to becoming an Eldorado community park. The shrubs and the first 10 purchased commemorative trees were planted last year. If you want to remember someone or commemorate an event with a tree, there are only about six trees left. Carved stone plaques are available to be placed with the trees. Contact the ECIA office to become part of this community project. Order now to have your tree planted this spring.

Free Zumba Classes – Dance Into Spring

It's happy hour without the alcohol! Come out and move your body as we dance our way to fitness with a variety of music, from mambo, salsa, and cha-cha to line dancing. All levels are welcome and classes are free to Eldorado residents. Why not try it out? You don't have time for "Am I good enough?" or "What will people think?" Join the fun on Tuesdays/Thursdays 9–10 AM in the Railroad Building. For more info, contact **Tana Monaco** at tana.monaco@gmail.com or (505) 690-4332.

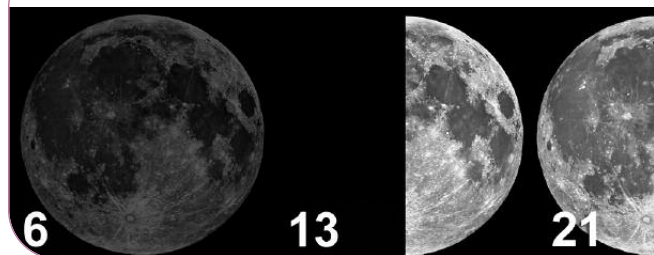
Modern Square Dancing

The Eldorado Depot Dancers invite you to a "Discover Square Dancing" open house, Friday May 6, 7–8 PM in the ECIA Community Center Railroad Building. Experience the joy, health, and mental benefits of modern square dancing, meet new friends, and eat great snacks. The Eldorado Depot Dancers are the only square dancing club in Santa Fe. No experience necessary, singles welcome, casual attire. Contact **Connie Walters** at 466-4226, **Tom Brimacombe** at 660-6043, or visit squaredancesantafe.org.

Spring Book Sale at the Library

Come stock up for summer reading from May 12 to 14, hours noon–6 PM on Thursday and Friday, and 10 AM–4 PM on Saturday. Sale items include new and gently used fiction and nonfiction for all ages, music CDs, audio books on CD and DVDs, as well collectibles and gift items. Most items are priced \$3 or less. All money raised goes to support Vista Grande Public Library.

MOON PHASES FOR MAY



Reel New Mexico Screening May 12

"The Atomic City" (1952, 85 minutes, filmed in Santa Fe, Los Alamos, and at Puye Cliffs) screens Thursday, May 12, at 7 PM, at La Tienda's Performance Space.

Inspired by concerns in the early 1950s about nuclear annihilation, communist infiltration, and the paranoia generated by the House Un-American Activities Committee investigations, "The Atomic City" is a superior melodrama set in Los Alamos within the high security and insular community of working scientists and their families. Nominated for an Oscar for Best Writing, Story and Screenplay, the film stars Gene Barry as Dr. Frank Addison, a physicist whose demanding work is creating a strain on his marriage and his relationship with his son Tommy. Frank's wife, Martha (Lydia Clarke), has already expressed her distress about living in the unnatural environment of Los Alamos, noting that Tommy has started using the phrase "if I grow up" instead of "when I grow up" in conversations about the future. Frank's promise to spend more time with his wife and son, however, coincides with an unexpected, frightening development: his son is kidnapped during a school field trip by enemy agents who pressure Frank for top secret data on his current nuclear project. If he doesn't deliver the information soon, his son will die.

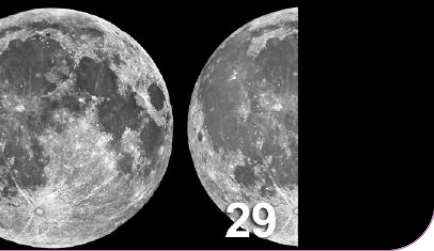
"The Atomic City" is like two films in one, the first half an intriguing look at daily life and the pressures of living in a government-financed and patrolled community with limited access to the outside world. In the second half, however, the movie shifts gears and becomes a chase thriller, with Frank and the FBI in pursuit of the kidnappers who have Tommy imprisoned inside an Indian pueblo dwelling in a remote part of New Mexico.

Although just a modest box office success for Paramount, the film received uniformly positive reviews from most major film critics. Bosley Crowther of *The New York Times* highlighted the film's strengths in his review: "It is made for suspense and excitement, and those are what it gives."

REEL NEW MEXICO needs your support in order for the film series to continue. Suggested donation is \$5; and viewers are welcome to bring food and drink into the space from La Plancha, right across the hallway! For more information, please call Jeff at 466-1634.

May Events

MAY 2016



ASTRONOMY CORNER

Haiku for an Eldorado sky

Switch off; dark the night.
Starry sky, clear bright moon
beams
...Less light, more to see."

—Frank Schober

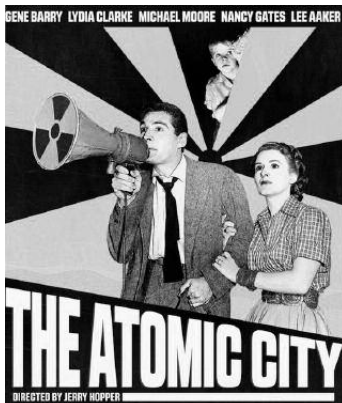
Lace 'em up!

The Eldorado Adult basketball season is here. Lace 'em, players, and c'mon out to the Community Center basketball court for fun and friendly pick-up hoops, Thursdays 6:30 PM–dusk.



Windmills & Dreams

The revised edition of *Windmills and Dreams* is now available for sale: \$15 (check or money order) at the ECIA Office. Also available from Amazon.



Screens May 12 at La Tienda

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email gloria@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 Annual Meeting	Mon., May 2, 7-9	ECIA	466-4248	La Tienda
Eldorado Studio Tour	Sat., Sun., May 14, 15	Preview/Maps	466-1035	ECIA
Pool Opens	Sat., May 28, 8 am	ECIA	466-4248	ECIA
ECIA Offices Closed	Mon., May 30	ECIA	466-4248	ECIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., May 10, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., May 24, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., May 16, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., May 3, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., May 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., May 11, 2-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., May 4, 4-6 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., May 16, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., May 23, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	TBA	Felicia Probert	466-1563	RR
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		LR
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Sue Daniel	856-220-7087	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
Adult Basketball	Thursdays, 6:30–dusk			BB Courts
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-5 pm	Shirley Davis	982-6179	LR
Cardio Martial Arts	Tues., & Thurs., 5:45-6:45	Brett Maul	204-8850	RR/Patio
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	Wed., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa	Mon., 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.areasconnect.com/churches.htm>

*** Reservations required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Community Hellos and Good-byes



Eldorado at Santa Fe is a vibrant community that through the years has experienced significant changes. Among recent developments are reconfiguration of our management structure and court decisions regarding covenant issues. Dealing with these challenges would be impossible without the hard work and dedication of the volunteers who serve on committees and the board of directors, and of the dedicated professional members of the ECIA staff. Their commitment to the community and willingness to serve make it possible for this large and diverse community to grow and prosper. Highlighted here are just a few of the people who keep our association running. There are many more, and they all deserve thanks for their efforts.

HAPPY TRAILS TO UBER VOLUNTEER RAY NICHOLS

It may be that the hardest changes to manage are an organization's personnel changes. No one is irreplaceable, but ECIA will be scrambling to fill the shoes left by Ray Nichols. As one of Eldorado's pioneers, it's safe to say Ray holds some kind of longevity record when it comes to all the generous, hard-working volunteers who've benefited this community.

Also safe to say: Few ECIA volunteers have served in as many capacities as Ray. From 1989 to 1994 he volunteered with Eldorado Fire and Rescue. He sat on the ECIA Security Committee from 1990 to 1994. When the question of owning our own water system came up, he co-chaired (with Dick Chenault) the Ad Hoc Water Committee.

In 1998 Ray jumped onto the ECIA Long Range Planning Committee for a couple of years, and from 1997 to 2005 also served as treasurer and president of

the newly formed Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District.

Ray is proudest of the establishment of the Water & Sanitation District as well as the acquisition of the water system. Said Ray, "This was a major stabilization factor in the long-term viability of the community." Most recently, Ray has served as a member of the Information Committee.

Now, after nearly 30 years in Eldorado, Ray and long-time partner Nancy Steadman are moving to an independent living facility in Roanoke, Virginia, nearer their children. Says Ray, "We want to minimize the impact on our kids that aging parents represent."

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF TREY McLARNEY AND GLORIA SILVA

Trey McLarney was hired one year ago as a Facility Attendant. He is in charge of watching over and keeping the building and grounds secure while various committees, groups, and private parties convene at the Community Center. He also assists in an administrative capacity.

Trey is always interested in ways to give back to the community. In the past, he has used some of his free time as a Big Brother for the Santa Fe chapter and as a pet adoption counselor with the Santa Fe Animal Shelter. Originally from Boston, Trey lives in Eldorado with his wife, Jenny. The couple love to hike the greenbelts and Preserve with their two dogs, Zuni and Yuri.

Gloria Silva also started with ECIA in May 2015 as a Facility Attendant. Toward the end of last year, she began taking on more administrative assistant duties for General Manager Brenda Leonard. As of this past April, she moved to full-time hours as an administrative assistant. Gloria says she's enjoying learning a new business, "...and all its finer details under Brenda's mentorship."

— Gershon Siegel



At left, top to bottom: Ray Nichols, long-time community volunteer; Trey McLarney, newly hired Facility Attendant; and Gloria Silva, newly promoted Administrative Assistant.

TIP of the Month
Got Rags? Have any old unusable clothing? Give them to Goodwill in a marked bag to recycle. Goodwill markets rags!

Eldorado/285Recycles

SIX GOOD REASONS TO RECYCLE

1. Recycling is available at NO FEE. More than 50% of household waste is recyclable, so by recycling you can decrease the cost of your trash.
2. Recycling SAVES THE LANDFILL. Reducing waste bound for the landfill extends the life of the landfill.
3. Recycling SAVES MONEY. Disposal fees are \$40/ton for trash and \$0/ton for recyclables. In 2015, the Eldorado Convenience Center recycled 421 tons and saved the County \$16,840 in fees!
4. Recycling PAYS! Recycled materials are separated and sold as raw materials for manufacturing.

5. Recycling is good for the ENVIRONMENT, saving natural resources, water, and energy.
6. Recycling is the LAW at County Convenience Centers. By ordinance, recyclable materials should not be disposed of in the trash.

Recycling is good for YOUR wallet, OUR community, and EVERYONE'S planet! For more on what and where to recycle: www.eldorado285recycles.org.





NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Golden Currant and Locoweed

One of our favorite local plants, the Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*), is native to our area, found growing along stream banks and other moist places. Cultivated since the early 1800s for its fragrant yellow flowers, its attraction to wildlife, its berries, and as a hedge for windbreaks, the Golden Currant is discouraged in other areas of the country where white pine is economically valued because the pine blister rust fungus is attracted to the plant. Although not xeric, the Golden Currant does not require a lot of water and is tolerant of a range of environmental conditions and soil pH, from slightly acidic to alkaline.

Sometimes called buffalo currant, fragrant golden currant, or clove currant, Golden Currant belongs to the Gooseberry family—but gooseberry species have thorns whereas golden currants do not. The plant spreads by underground suckers and provides great cover for wildlife. Its flowers (in the spring) and berries (in the fall) attract a wide variety of wildlife, including butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, robins, squirrels, and rabbits.

The flowers and berries are both edible. The berries can be used in jams, pies, and syrups. Native Ameri-

cans used currants to make pemmican, a portable high protein food made with meat, fat, and fruit. They also mixed it with flour to create a mush. The inner bark was used as a poultice for treating cuts, and the branches were made into arrows.

Another plant in our area, the locoweed (“crazy weed”), is found throughout the American Southwest. Not to be confused with marijuana(!), the name locoweed refers to any plant that produces the toxin swainsonine, which is a harmful phytotoxin that causes neurological damage if consumed by animals. Ranchers regularly eradicate locoweed to prevent cattle from eating it, and horse owners likewise are careful to make sure their animals avoid it. Non-native domestic animals such as cattle or pets are more likely to consume the plant; when they do, they can display symptoms such as stumbling or staggering or running in circles, or excitability, unfocused eyes, and inability to eat or drink. If you think your pet has ingested locoweed, contact your veterinarian or call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435.

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



Squirrel munching on Golden Currant flowers. Photo: Ann V. Wood.



White locoweed, *Oxytropis sericea*, is one type of locoweed found in New Mexico. Photo: Jay Sturner, Creative Commons License.

Changes in Eldorado’s Roads?

Earlier this year, residents in the Quedo Road area were surprised when construction crews and trucks showed up to begin building an extension to Avenida Eldorado into the state trust land. There had been no prior notice or information about the purpose of the extension. Further investigation turned up the fact that several easements had been purchased by the Rancho Viejo corporation to extend roads from Eldorado into lands held by the corporation. These projects could affect our community, and we formed an informal committee to learn more. We found out that:

- ▼ The initial extension of Avenida Eldorado (now complete) is for the purpose of connecting to a driveway on a private property of nearly 1,000 acres to the south. The easement also allows for possible future construction that would connect Avenida Eldorado to the community of Rancho Viejo.
- ▼ The county’s Land Use Zoning Map shows Avenida Azul and Avenida de Compadres as connector roads to the Santa Fe Community College Districts, where Rancho Viejo has extensive holdings. These same roads and Avenida Vista Grande

are drawn as connector roads on a Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management road map dated July 30, 2014.

- ▼ PNM has obtained a commercial lease to conduct a feasibility study for building a 108-acre solar panel farm on state lands bordering the Eldorado fence line, west of Tetilla Road at about Antigua Road and extending west. A solar farm of this magnitude and that close to residences could have a major impact on quality of life and property values.

The committee and concerned residents have asked the ECIA to commit to staying abreast of these developments with state and county agencies, the landholder who purchased the easements, and PNM. We ask ECIA to keep the community informed as future plans emerge. We believe it is important that Eldorado residents, through the ECIA, be informed before any construction starts and have the opportunity to make our voices heard in the approval processes, zoning, and development of lands and roads that could change the nature of our community and impact property values. We invite all residents to make their views on this known to the ECIA.

—Concerned residents of Quedo and Tetilla Roads

VISTAS

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www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works/road_concern.

Sheriff 428-3720
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Neighborhood Watch: <http://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>

Eldorado Community Center Hosts Martial Arts & Yoga Classes

Eldorado Eclectic Arts (EEA) is now offering classes at the Railroad Building in the Eldorado Community Center. Their motto: promoting a better way of living through positive self-discipline.

Tuesday Classes 5:45–6:45 PM: This class is a fusion of stretching exercises, cardio kick-boxing, tai chi, taekwondo, and Muay Thai. It features a warm-up phase, a cardio phase, and a soft-style form practice (cool down). Anyone who attends this class on a regular basis will learn a progressive and ongoing workout system that can be practiced almost anywhere.

Thursday Classes 5:45–6:45 PM: This class offers a fusion of yoga, cardio kick-boxing, and Muay Thai. It also includes a warm-up phase, a cardio phase, and a cool-down phase. A person attending this class on a regular basis will improve cardio health while learning basic striking skills on Muay Thai pads and targets.

EEA instructors are **Carolyn Maul**, experienced cardio kick-boxing instructor and Muay Thai practitioner; and **Brett Maul**, 4th degree black belt in the World Taekwondo Federation, also experienced in Brazilian jujitsu, Muay Thai, qi-gong, tai chi, and various forms of competition, including mixed martial arts.

All classes are free to residents of Eldorado. To sign up or for more information, show up at EEA class or call Brett at 505-204-8850.

The number of yoga practitioners in the United States today has almost doubled in a four-year time period, from 20.4 million to 36.7 million, most of them women (72% of students vs. 28% men). Yet, the populations that are growing the most are

men and older Americans. These statistics come from a 2016 “Yoga in America” study sponsored by the *Yoga Journal* and Yoga Alliance. Another noteworthy piece of information from this study is that 34% of Americans, or roughly 80 million people, say that they are likely to try yoga over the next 12 months.

If you live in Eldorado and are among the many interested in trying yoga, four classes are offered weekly in the Community Center Classroom at affordable rates for drop-ins or in a variety of pass options. If you are interested in receiving some of the benefits from yoga—good mental clarity, strength, good balance, and dexterity—there is a Monday **Yin Yoga** class at 5:30–6:45 PM, a Tuesday and Friday **Vinyasa Flow** class at 9–10:15 AM, and a Wednesday **Gentle Stretch/Slow Flow** class at 9–10:15 AM.

Yin Yoga involves mindfully moving and breathing, just as in any yoga practice. But whereas most yoga disciplines are yang-like in nature, yin is more passive and reaches our deeper connective tissues, ligaments, and joints, stretching the heart and mind. The difference between yin and yang yoga is the element of time. We become still physically and mentally, while keeping our awareness on the breath. Yin is quiet and simple. This is a restorative class and open to all levels. For additional questions regarding the Monday evening Yin Yoga class, contact Julia Cairns @ 466-1935.

Both teachers, **Mary Horst** (490-2790) and **Julia Cairns** (466-1935), are 200-hour certified yoga instructors. Your questions about these classes can be directed to either Mary or Julia. Next month, look for a short article on **Vinyasa Flow**.
—Mary Horst, RYT