

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

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Post-Litigation Workshop Breaks Impasse

Now that the Board of Directors has accepted the Appellate Court’s recent decision that Eldorado covenants do not prevent the keeping of hens as pets, the directors are reviewing their options. In an effort to begin that process, they held a special session followed by a 2.5-hour workshop attended by some 30 community members.

Although the issue has been in contention for the last four years, the workshop was remarkable in its civility. Beginning as a roundtable discussion, each Board member had four or five minutes to express him- or herself on the topic. After a brief lunch break, the public was invited to address the Board.

The workshop was seen as a beginning step in settling the pet hen matter through continuing civil dialogue. Community members who had yet to express their views were invited into the discussion.

Following are highlights of the individual Board directors’ statements made at the April 22 workshop.

President Dag Ryen expressed some sadness about how hard this episode has been on the community, stating that he’s lost friends over it. Now that the Board has decided to accept the Appellate Court ruling, he explained that there are a number of options the community can take. One option is to create some level of guidelines for all pets. There is also the possibility of holding a new election to change the covenant. However, Ryen pointed out that this option is difficult because of the exceedingly high level of participation needed to change a covenant.

Vice President Pam Henline spoke about how troubled she was by the ruling. She believes it undermines all of the covenants and feels that, as a first step, the number of hens should be limited. The community should be involved in developing guidelines relative to the keeping of hens via an ad hoc committee. If the community desires, an ad hoc committee could design language to be used for a covenant vote.

Treasurer Todd Handy characterized the previous attempt at voting to change the guidelines as a “bad vote.” He believes a cooperative effort is needed to get out the vote. He also revealed that the ECIA has spent \$98,000 out-of-pocket on the hen case. Handy

also agreed with Henline that there is some urgency to create guidelines because of the current “anything goes” pet situation. Since the community has already heard from the vehement anti- and pro-hen population, Handy feels they need not be part of any future community dialogue.

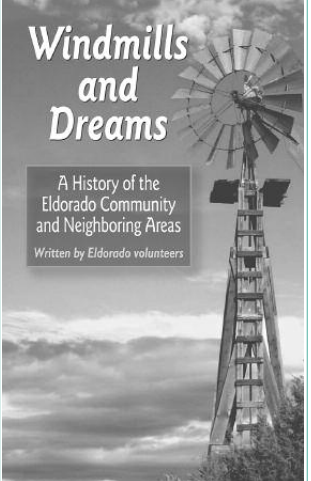
Secretary Greg Colello cautioned that rushing into another covenant vote could leave us back where we began. He suggested conducting a two-year experiment under the current covenant, in which ECIA has already invested three years and \$100K to judge its meaning. Colello proposed that ECIA create “helpful hints guidance” for early pet hen adopters. This, he said, would bring cooperation and some positivity. The County Animal Control Ordinance, Colello believes, would serve most community enforcement needs during the experiment. An ad hoc “pet nuisance hearing committee” could record and investigate all pet hen complaints. Collection of real problem data could result in guidelines or new covenant language that is well targeted and would have built-in support.

Director Antone Forneris also referenced Santa Fe County’s current livestock ordinance requiring licenses for any hens exceeding its limit of ten. He expressed concern about the total number of hens inside the subdivision, feeling that limits on hens must be considered in relation to protecting Eldorado’s water and air. Still, Forneris believes ECIA has to be very careful that the creation of pet guidelines does not exceed its authority by impinging on a landowners’ rights.

Director David Yard asked that everyone calm down and allow the community to dialogue with itself. Like Handy, he wants to hear from the larger community, asking that people refrain from actions and verbiage that could serve as divisive and unproductive. He also asked that homeowners refrain from filing lawsuits, noting that whenever the Board is involved in litigation it cannot dialogue with the community about the relevant issues. He believes Eldorado cannot make plans for a positive future without dialogue. Yard used the pet hen issue as an example of litigation’s ineffectiveness in resolving community conflict.

—Gershon Siegel

ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Bldg. Thurs., June 16, 7 PM



The second edition of *Windmills and Dreams*, featuring the past and recent history of Eldorado, is now available at the ECIA Office at the Community Center. It contains updated information, a terrific chapter about water in our dry Southwest, geology of the area, and more! Cost: \$15 (checks and money orders only).



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.

Home Project Completion Time Requirements

This time of year, the ECIA encounters home improvement projects (especially re-stucco work and window and door replacement projects) that have been approved but fail to be completed in a timely manner, creating an eyesore for neighbors. Although ECIA policies require residents to complete all projects within six (6) months of the start date of construction, this often does not happen, leaving unattractive and unfinished exteriors for many months. The requirement to have projects completed is detailed on all ECIA approval letters and is noted as follows:

Construction must start within sixty (60) days of the date of approval, and must be completed according to the approved plans within six (6) months of the date of commencement of construction.

If you have had work done on your home, and the gray scratch coat is visible to your neighbors, we ask that you take advantage of the warm, dry weather to complete your project as soon as possible, before the summer rainy season begins. This will ensure not only

that you get the required and protective color coat to your home's stucco finish, but also that you are in compliance with the ECIA policies concerning timely completion. This effort will add to the value of your home, provide a much more attractive and finished appearance, and prevent the ECIA from having to take enforcement actions to get the project completed.

If you are a homeowner and have not received the required approval for such exterior work, we ask that you complete the Architectural Plan Submission Form (available at the ECIA Office or online), or submit it via the online application process, available at: <http://eldoradosf.org/Architectural-Plan-Submission-Form/architecture-plan-submission.html>.

Upon receipt of your submission, we will process the application and ensure that your project meets the requirements of the Eldorado Covenants and Building Restrictions. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me, Mark Young, at the ECIA at 466-4248 or e-mail mark@eldoradosf.org

—Mark Young, Covenant Compliance Representative

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board met for its 2016 organizational meeting on May 9, 2016, with members **Dag Ryen**, **Pam Henline**, **Greg Colello**, **Antone Forneris**, and newly elected member **Claudia Daigle** in attendance. The directors elected Dag Ryen as Board President, Pam Henline as Vice-President, and Greg Colello as Secretary, all by secret ballot and all by a vote of 4–1. The Board then voted unanimously to appoint **Todd Handy** to the vacant Board position ending in May 2017, and subsequently voted unanimously to appoint Director Handy as Board Treasurer.

The ECIA Board held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2016, with members Ryen, Henline, Handy, Colello, Forneris, and Daigle present. In its first action, the Board voted 5–1 to appoint **David Yard** to the vacant board position ending in May 2019. The following formal actions were taken:

- ▼ A motion was passed to grant a variance for an existing concrete slab extending into the 20-foot setback at 49 Camerada Road (6–1).
- ▼ A motion was passed to grant a variance for a small structure located more than 15 feet from the primary residence but within 15 feet of an existing studio at 26 Lucero Road (6–1).
- ▼ A motion was passed to allow construction of a ground-based solar array located more than 15 feet from the primary residence at 3 Verano Court, with stipulations for adequate screening(6–1).
- ▼ A motion was passed to table a variance request

for new garage construction extending into the 20-foot setback at 6 Gavilan Road, pending further exploration of options(6–1).

The following motions were passed unanimously.

- ▼ Motion to circulate to the ECIA membership a proposed interim resolution on the keeping of outdoor animals, with a request for community input through June 30 at outdoor.animals@eldoradosf.com. The proposed interim resolution will be posted on the ECIA website.
- ▼ Motion to appoint **Patrick "Butch" Gorsuch** to the Election Committee.
- ▼ Motions relating to final completion of the 2015 year-end financial report and additional instructions to the auditor which were contained in the consent agenda.

Motions mandating a covenant vote to ban hens as pets and to eliminate the use of security codes in ECIA balloting were not seconded and thus failed.

Get Your Pool Pass!

Nothing says summer like sunny days spent at the Eldorado pool, which opened on May 28. Pool hours are 7:30 AM–8 PM Monday–Friday, and 8 AM–8 PM weekends. We regret we will no longer see the friendly face of our former Pool Manager, **Julee White**, to whom we bid a fond farewell. **Kelsea Pederson** has returned this year in her new role of Pool Manager, along with other longtime lifeguards.

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE >>>

Message from the ECIA President

Eldorado. Spectacular views. Peace and quiet. Natural setting and wildlife. Incredible night skies. And, we were impressed with the diversity of the community. Eldorado was then, and still is, filled with people from all walks of life, people with differing backgrounds, experiences, and lifestyles. Diversity remains a strength of the community and one of the key reasons we enjoy living here.

However, diversity can also pose a challenge. Our residents have differing tastes and differing needs. Some may want to mow their yards; others prefer the native habitat. Some appreciate various kinds of yard art; others may find them unattractive. Nonetheless, it is essential that we maintain community cohesion in the face of these differences. And the only way to do that is through tolerance and compromise.

With two major lawsuits having been brought to a conclusion, we have an opportunity to strengthen our cherished community. We have a chance to treat

our neighbors fairly, to respect their choices, and to celebrate the commonalities that exist through our covenants and the history of our development. I encourage all ECIA members to join in this effort.

The ECIA Board is looking forward to another productive year. There is a lot to do, and to ensure that we have enough hands on deck, the Board has appointed two experienced volunteers to fill Board vacancies, in addition to newly elected Board member **Claudia Daigle**. Our long-time treasurer, **Todd Handy**, has agreed to serve out the remaining year of one vacated term, while **David Yard** will begin the term that was left vacant due to the lack of candidates in this year's election. I am grateful to them both for their willingness to continue serving the community, and hope that more individuals will step forward for next year's election, when three positions on the Board will come up for election.

—Dag Ryen, President, ECIA Board of Directors

Inside ECIA Committees

ELECTION COMMITTEE: Who won? Who won? Although we might like to think of ourselves as Mayberry, we do follow the rules. The purpose of the Election Committee is to conduct elections for Board positions and/or for proposed amendments to the documents governing the ECIA and other related matters. There is a process to follow, and members of this committee pride themselves in conducting this business by the book. They meet once a month at the Community Center, and anyone interested is welcome to sit in on one of their meetings. If this sounds like a group you'd enjoy working with, contact **Kathie Graham** at 466-2133.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Show me the money! Managing the Association's monies is the responsibility of the Board, Treasurer, General Manager, and the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee oversees the annual budgeting process. If you have a background in accounting and can meet at least once a month, the Finance Committee wants you! If you're

not certain but are just curious about how your yearly assessment is being spent, join this committee on the Monday before the monthly Board meeting in the Conference Room at the Community Center. For more information or if you just have a question or two, contact **Dan Drobnis** at drobnisd@comcast.net.

INFORMATION COMMITTEE: The members of this committee are dedicated to keeping you as fully informed as possible concerning activities, actions, and programs of the Board and the committees on which the Board depends. The Information Committee publishes the *Vistas* newsletter and maintains the ECIA website. Meeting once a month at the Community Center, committee members plan the upcoming *Vistas* and check the data regarding how the website is being accessed and where improvements need to be made: Are bulletin boards and marquees being updated in a timely fashion? Are there better ways to stay in contact with our residents? If you are interested in joining this group, contact **Frank Schober** at fschober@att.net.

—DiAna Gutierrez

Pool Passes, continued

Pool passes can be obtained in the ECIA Office for \$2, with proper ID. The ECIA office is open on Saturdays, 8:30 AM–5:30 PM for homeowners who cannot come in during the regular workweek. If you have a prior year's pass, you will need to come in to get a 2016 sticker. Everyone who purchases a pool pass or obtains a new sticker will be asked to read the pool rules and sign a statement agreeing to abide by the rules.

To be eligible for a pool pass, a lot owner must be a "Member in Good Standing," which means that all amounts owed the Association must be paid. Children 13+ can be issued their own pass. Each Member in Good Standing with a valid pool pass is allowed to escort a maximum of three guests per day. The Member will be asked to sign their guests in and be responsible for them. As stated in the Bylaws, Members may delegate their pool rights to a tenant, but a current lease must be presented to the ECIA Office. >>

ECIA OFFICE

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Treasurer
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Director
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Director
David Yard
D.Yard@eldoradosf.org
Director
Claudia Daigle
C.Daigle@eldoradosf.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:
Katherine Mortimer
Conservation: Jim Daniel
Election: Kathie Graham
Facilities & Grounds:
Lee Onstott (acting chair)
Finance: Dan Drobnis
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)

*Want to be a lifeguard?
Pick up an application at
the ECIA Office or at the
Pool Office. Have a fun and
safe 2016 swim season!*



Figure Drawing Group Meets in Eldorado

The figure drawing group at the Railroad Building is the best-kept secret in Eldorado. It meets on Monday mornings from 10 to 12. During summer, Life Drawing will meet every other Monday, starting June 13. The cost is only \$10 per session. Everyone is welcome. The choice of drawing materials is up to the individual. People may or may not bring easels. Wet media are welcome, but no solvents, please. There is no instruction, just drawing the figure with various time limits. The shortest poses for gesture drawings are held for two minutes, and the longer poses are from 25 to 45 minutes. Creative expression with figure drawing helps eye-hand coordination and self-expression.

Summer Fridays at The Agora

Every Friday evening starting May 27, come enjoy free music by top local musicians on the beautiful Agora courtyard 5:30–7:30 PM. Happy Hour food and drinks are on offer at Chez Dré and pizzas are available from Pizza Centro. What a great way to relax and soak in the summer evenings! And be prepared to want to dance! For more information or details, please call Enchanted Leaf Florist at 466-3430.

July 4th Pancake Breakfast at La Plancha

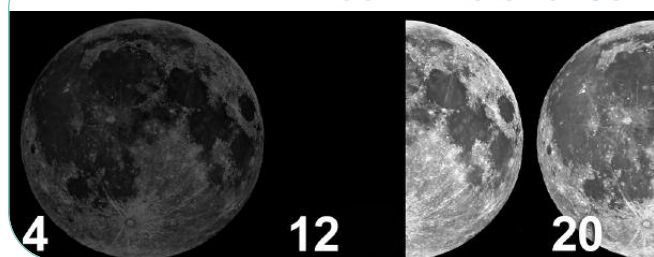
Pancakes, sausage, syrup, coffee. Yum! Come out to La Tienda mall and enjoy a community breakfast before the big Fourth of July parade! You can now enjoy this Santa Fe tradition right here in the Eldorado/Hwy 285 Corridor! This year's event will again be hosted by Juan Carlos and Lydia, our good neighbors at La Plancha Grill, and by our local recycling advocacy group, Eldorado/285 Recycles. Everyone will be served in time to get to the Fourth of July Parade. New hours are 7:30–9:30 AM. Come in your PJs or in Red, White & Blue, bring the kids, and help celebrate Independence Day! Enter from the East Patio of La Plancha (facing Hwy 285). Cost: \$6 per person (includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee). This is a Zero Waste Event! Bring your own mug and pay only \$5.50. Cash only. Kids 6 and under free. Volunteers welcome. Contact Joe at 570-0583 or joseigner@gmail.com.

ELDORADIO Previews Santa Fe Opera 2016

Each Saturday beginning May 28, ELDORADIO 1660 AM will broadcast a complete performance of one of the operas set for this summer at the Santa Fe Opera. These programs are offered as a service to listeners in Eldorado, to familiarize opera-goers with the works before their SFO performances. The broadcasts begin at 12 noon each Saturday as follows:

- May 28: "La Fanciulla del West" by Puccini
- June 4: "Don Giovanni" by Mozart
- June 11: "Roméo & Juliette" by Gounod
- June 18: "Capriccio" by Strauss
- June 25: "Vanessa" by Barber; libretto by Menotti

MOON PHASES FOR JUNE



The 2016 SFO season opens with the Puccini work on July 1. Visit Santafeopera.org for their full schedule.

ELDORADIO is a very-low-power AM station, heard only in the Eldorado area. It broadcasts 24 hours a day of eclectic music and occasional special features such as these previews, at 1660 kHz.

Reel New Mexico, June 2016

On Thursday, June 9 at 7 PM, "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" (1974, 110 minutes, shot partially in and around Socorro), screens at La Tienda Performance Space.

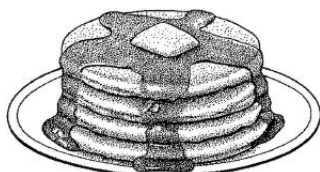
The film opens with a parody of the Hollywood dream fantasized by little girls a generation ago. The screen is awash with a fake sunset, and a sweet little thing comes strolling home past sets that seem rescued from "The Wizard of Oz." But her dreams and dialogue are decidedly not made of sugar, spice, or anything nice: This little girl is going to do things her way.

But by the time she's 35, Alice Hyatt has more or less fallen into society's rhythms. She's married, has a precocious 12-year-old son, and kills time chatting with the neighbors. Then, unexpectedly, her husband dies in a traffic accident and she's left widowed—and independent. Can she cope by herself?

When she was young she had wanted to be a singer when she grew up. Now she's a grown-up 35. So, she holds a garage sale, sells the house, and sets off on an odyssey through the Southwest with her son and her dreams. What happens to her along the way provides one of the most perceptive, funny, occasionally painful screen portraits of an American woman ever.

Ellen Burstyn gives an Oscar-winning performance as Alice. She's determined to find work as a singer. She meets some generally good people, who help her when they can. But she also meets some creeps, especially a deceptively nice guy (Harvey Keitel). The singing jobs don't materialize much, and it's while she's waitressing that she runs into a divorced young rancher (Kris Kristofferson), with whom she falls warily in love. Most women in Alice's position probably wouldn't run into a convenient, understanding, and eligible young man, but a lot here isn't purely logical. Still, there are great moments in this film that give us Alice Hyatt: female, 35, undefeated.

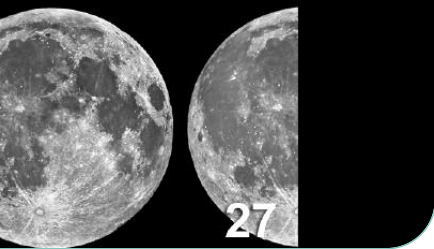
Suggested donation is \$5; and viewers are welcome to bring food and drink into the space from La Plancha.



"Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" screens June 9 at La Tienda Performance Space

June Events

JUNE 2016



Doggerel

Everyone's dog loves to roam;
To them, the whole town is home.
But when they leave a bio-graffito
In my yard, that's not neat-o,
It doesn't dissolve into loam!

Thanks from EACA

The artists of the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association would like to thank the Eldorado Community and our local Eldorado Sponsors for their wonderful support of this year's 25th Anniversary Studio Tour, held on May 14 and 15. Our artists truly appreciate the community support we have had for the tour over the decades, which is currently the largest in New Mexico. A portion of the artists' sales are donated each year to community organizations, including the El Dorado Community School, El Dorado Fire and Rescue, the Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center, and the Vista Grande Public Library. Our next event is the Eldorado Fall Show, once again at St. John's United Methodist Church, 1200 Old Pecos Trail in Santa Fe, on October 14-15. The same community organizations will receive a portion of the artists' sales from the Fall Show.

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>.

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., June 14, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., June 28, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., June 13, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., June 7, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., June 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., June 8, 2-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., June 1, 4-6 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., June 13, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., June 20, 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 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
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
Martial Arts	Tues. & Thurs 5:45-6:45 pm	Brett Maul	204-8850	RR
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	Monday 5:30-6:45 pm	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.areasconnect.com/churches.htm>

*** Reservations required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Library News

Vista Grande Public Library would like to thank everyone who shopped at the Spring Book Sale last month. All the funds raised will help keep the Library's collection current and provide interesting programs, as well as keep the doors open. In addition, VGPL has begun its annual \$40,000 donor drive. Many residents will receive donor requests in the mail or via email.

Many of the items in the book sale came from Book Donation Days, which are usually held on the first Saturday of each month. Community members can bring their gently used books, CDs, and DVDs to the library meeting room on those mornings, when a special team of volunteers is ready to sort and process donations. The next Donation Days are June 4 and July 9 (from 9 to 11:30 AM only, please).

ART AND BOOK TALKS: Area artists seeking exhibition space are encouraged to apply for a monthly slot at the library. Applications are available on the Vista Grande Library website and at the library's front desk. Local writers and poets are also encouraged to come talk to the staff if they are interested in giving a reading or presentation of their latest works.

PROGRAMS: *Family Movie Night* will be on Friday, June 10, at 7 PM. The film takes place in a galaxy far, far away. The screening is in the meeting room and has free admission and popcorn. Call the library for film title and ratings.

Registration for the *Summer Reading Club* has begun. This year's theme is: On Your Mark, Get Set, Read! The Summer Reading Club is for children going into grades K to 4 next year, and has activities such as games, crafts, and, of course, stories. Times will be Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 2:30 PM, from June 8 to July 27. Kids of all ages can take part in the Summer Reading Contest; contest kits are available at the library now. The Top Reader will receive a Kindle for Kids bundle!

Story Time for children 5 and under with their caregivers continues to meet most Friday mornings at 11:30 AM. Older siblings are welcome. The *All Age Chess Club* meets in the library's meeting room on Friday afternoons from 3 to 5 PM. Players of all levels are welcome, including children who are interested in learning the Sport of Kings. For more information about any of these programs, please check the library website www.vglibrary.org or call at 505-466-7323.

UPCOMING EVENTS: VGPL will be marching in the Eldorado Community's 4th of July Parade. All patrons are welcome to join the group. In observance of the holiday, the library will be closed on Saturday, July 2. And mark your calendars: the Summer Fling Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Sunday, August 7.

Birds, Babies, and Eggs

Summer is the time for baby birds in Eldorado. A western bluebird pair raised babies in April/May on my back porch and then started on a second brood. In August, the Scaled Quail are just starting to be seen with multiple young trailing behind them.

There is a lot of timing involved in being a bird parent. The first concern is being sure food is available for demanding hatchlings. A second concern is how many hatchlings a parent or pair can reasonably incubate and feed.

I observed the bluebirds examining my nest box, bringing nesting material and mating. So I wondered how long it would take before the female had a full clutch of eggs to incubate, perhaps two to five eggs. The female cannot lay five eggs in one day. Producing an egg takes energy and resources from the female. Based on Internet searches, it seems that it takes most birds about one day to produce one egg. This seems obvious when we think about chickens laying an egg a day. So my lady bluebird would be laying eggs over several days. Does this mean she would have to mate

four or five days in a row? No. The female is able to store the semen to use when needed.

The next bluebird rearing consideration is that the eggs should hatch at the same time so that all babies are ready to fly from the nest at the same time. Imagine the size difference if one bluebird baby is five days older than the youngest sibling. In this situation, the pair aims to have synchronous hatching of all eggs. The female accomplishes this by sitting just enough on the first eggs to keep them viable without actually allowing development to occur. A particular number of hours of brooding is necessary for an embryo to develop, so the female waits until she lays the last egg before starting her fairly continuous brooding.

In the case of the Scaled Quail, synchronous hatching is very important, since all of her babies must be able to follow her within 24 hours of hatching, and she may lay 11 or 12 eggs over two weeks. The Scaled Quail babies are "precocious," hatching with a down covering, eyes open, legs strong enough to support them, and able to peck and find their own food al-

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE >>



You can't tell by this photo, but these western bluebird eggs are turquoise blue!



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Native Bees Please!

The Santa Fe New Mexican recently published a wonderful article about the importance of bees. We composed this *Vistas* story before the *New Mexican* article was published, but we think the topic is so important that it's worth the extra attention.

Quick: How many types of bees can you name? It would take a very long time to name them all, because there are over 1,000 species of native New Mexican bees! Types of our native bees include Leaf-cutters, Mason Bees, Digger Bees, Carpenter Bees, Sweat Bees, Yellow-Faced Bees, Plasterer Bees, Long-Horned Bees, Squash Bees, and Mallow, Sunflower, or Cactus Bees. Each contributes to our ecosystem.

We need bees! Bees pollinate three-quarters of the vegetables and fruits grown in our country. Our native bees coexisted with our native plants long before Europeans brought over species that are not native, such as the honey bee. Because they live in social hives, honey bees are especially useful for harvesting and can be relocated (moved around the country, to different fields) for crop pollination. In recent years, however, Colony Collapse Disorder has wreaked havoc on the number of honey bees. Our native bees can help fill the "pollinator gap." They are essential for our survival.

In addition to being vital to our ecosystem, bees and their behaviors are fascinating. For example, because they can't see the color red, bees are primarily attracted to purple, yellow, and white flowers. Depending on the species, native bees build their nests in the ground or in cavities, with different materials such as mud, leaves, and wood. And if a wasp tries to invade a nest of bees who live in a hive, bees will surround the wasp and frantically beat their wings, heating the wasp until it reaches such a temperature that it dies from being "cooked."

Unlike the image many of us have of bees in a hive, with a queen and workers, most of our native bees are loners. They don't live in hives. Instead, the female builds her own nest and gathers her own nectar and pollen. Therefore, since they have no hive and queen to protect, native bees are not aggressive and will only rarely sting. However, in some native species, each female forms her nest close to other female nests, almost in a "village" manner.

How can you help our native bees?

- ▼ Avoid pesticides. It is unrealistic to believe that insecticides only kill "bad" insects while not harming "nice" insects like butterflies, ladybugs, and bees.
- ▼ Provide a source of water, such as a shallow saucer with partially submerged pebbles. (Empty the container and allow it to dry out every few days to avoid mosquitoes.)
- ▼ Build or purchase bee houses for cavity dwellers. This can be a simple block of wood with drilled holes (but not going all the way through the wood) of various sizes ranging from 1/8" to 1/2", and a roof with an overhang. Install the block three to four feet high in a sheltered area that receives morning warmth. Contact the Randall Davey Audubon Center for tips on how to do this.
- ▼ Provide nesting areas in portions of your yard that are unplanted and undisturbed but have natural twigs for the ground dwellers.
- ▼ And be sure to grow native plants in your yard, including selections that bloom at different times of the season.

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



Above: Long-horned bee; below: carpenter bee. Both are native to New Mexico



Birds, Babies, and Eggs, continued from p. 6

most immediately. Quail start their families later in the season, when there is plenty of seed and bugs for the fast-growing babies to find and consume.

Other birds rely on asynchronous egg hatching, common among birds of prey. An eagle or hawk may lay one or five eggs. The female starts incubation immediately, resulting in the first egg hatching earlier than the others, and so on. In times when food is very abundant, the parents can successfully feed all babies. When food is not readily available, the largest baby competes and receives most of the food, and the remaining young may starve. In some cases, the largest

baby attacks and hastens the death of the others, termed *siblicide*. (Additional reasons are postulated for asynchronous hatching.)

Both synchronous and asynchronous egg hatching are strategies birds use successfully to raise young and ensure that their species survives.

In the 1800s and early 1900s, egg collecting, oology, was a popular hobby. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act makes it illegal to disturb migrating birds, their nests, eggs, and young.

—Pam Henline



Scaled Quail.

VISTAS

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Is Your Home Fire-Safe?

The Information Committee is working on an article about fire in Eldorado. In the upcoming July issue of *Vistas*, we plan to print a front-page story on the volunteer firefighters and the emergency medical technicians who are members of our fire department, the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service. We are fortunate that the department that protects us has been accorded the title of "Best volunteer fire organization in New Mexico."

When you hear sirens day or night, you are listening to an emergency response from your fellow residents who have chosen to volunteer to attend emergencies when called, every day of the year, day or night, 24/7.

Our July article will describe and discuss the many volunteer tasks our fire department's volunteers perform. They fight fires but they do much more, all essential to keeping our department functioning.

The photos at right show what was left of one home in our community that burned to the ground recently. Adobe houses don't burn easily, but for the most part ours are not true adobes. They are simply constructed to look that way.

Our July article will provide you with the startling details of how the fire started and why its destruction was so total. The article will enlist your support and that of your family in making your Eldorado home fire-safe.

—Frank Schober
Photos: Gershon Siegel

