

# 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)

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## El Dorado Fire & Rescue Gets New Chief

**W**endy Servey was voted in as Fire Chief of El Dorado Fire & Rescue Service (EFRS) in December 2015. Born and raised in Ohio, she started college studying computer graphic design. After several years performing that task for a major corporation, she began studying for a job as a paramedic, passed the exams, and was hired as a firemedic by the Coventry Township Fire Department that serves a suburb of Akron, Ohio.



After several years with the Akron department, Servey moved to the Santa Fe area, where she began work for our county's fire service. Eventually, she applied for and was selected as a full-time member of the Los Alamos Fire Department, where she serves today as Battalion Chief.

Living in the Eldorado area and impressed by the professionalism and ability she regularly observed in its volunteer firefighters and EMTs, Servey decided to apply as a volunteer with our department, an organization known statewide for its high standards of training, its well-cared-for equipment, and its ready access to water resources—all essential attributes of a highly ranked department at an Insurance Services Organization (ISO) level 3.

This year, with 19 years of service working in fire and medical emergencies, Servey was named Chief of our department, where, in addition to her full-time duties in the Los Alamos Department, she provides volunteer, unpaid service to our community alongside many others who volunteer their time. As Chief, Servey supervises an array of fire-fighting and rescue efforts and is in charge of emergency medical equipment, fund disbursements, and training.

In this role, Chief Servey conducts twice-weekly fire and rescue and extrication training, supervising her department's volunteers.

As Chief, Servey also oversees the disbursement of grant funds that support her department's mission. In recent years, the equipment provided by grants has become increasingly technical in nature. For example, their thermal imaging camera is able to show fire and hot spots in interior walls and ceilings and can also see a victim's body through thick, black smoke in a fire scene which often has minimal visibility for firefighters.

Currently, the department has three structural engines, three wildland engines, two tenders, one specialized rescue, one tower-aerial truck, and two ambulances. These pieces of equipment will be on display at this year's Community BBQ on September 18.

At the close of a recent interview by this writer, Chief Servey indicated that she would like to "partner with *Vistas*" to assist her with an item of vital concern—volunteer recruitment. Of course, every department needs firefighters and emergency medical personnel. But volunteers are also needed for what Servey calls the "business aspect" of the department's operations: marketing, public education, data entry of training records, or other duties as assigned after holding personal conversations with residents.

*Vistas* is looking forward to supporting Eldorado's Finest, its small group of professional volunteer firefighters and EMTs and those volunteers who also serve the day-to-day administrative and logistical support needs of the department. To that end, we encourage anyone interested in volunteering to stop by and meet Chief Wendy Servey or Assistant Chief Glenn Saums any Monday morning from 10 to 11 AM at the Main Fire Station on Avenida Vista Grande, have coffee, fill out an application form, and meet some of your neighbors.

—Frank Schober



At left: New Fire Chief Wendy Servey; above: EFRS attends to house fire in Eldorado (photo: Max Underwood)

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



Share your  
comments  
with us!

For policy and  
deadline, see  
below

### Editorial Policy

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

**DEADLINE:** Newsletter deadline is the 5th day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or e-mailed to 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.

## Road Survey Results Are In

**B**alsa Road has long been on the Road Committee's paving priority list. In addition to the 44 lots along Balsa Road itself, this street serves an additional 75 lots on the "captive" roads (those that can only be accessed via Balsa Road), such as Domingo Road and Balsa Place, making it one of the most heavily traveled unimproved roads in Eldorado. In September 2014, several residents of Balsa Road attended a meeting of the Road Committee to present a letter and the results of a partial door-to-door survey of residents of Balsa and captive roads, requesting that Balsa Road be resurfaced. Forty-one residents representing 32 homes signed the survey in support of upgrading the surface of Balsa Road from dirt to a paved surface. In the interest of getting a more complete picture of the opinion of all 119 lot owners on Balsa and captive roads, the Road Committee conducted a formal survey in March 2016.

The goal of the survey was to determine the preferred road surface (asphalt, chip seal, base course, or dirt) and preferred funding mechanism (self-fund through a county improvement district or wait for public funding) if the respondent was in favor of an asphalt or chip seal surface. A survey form was mailed to the 119 lot owners of record on Balsa Road, Court, Drive and Place, and Domingo Road, Court, and Place. The survey mailing included a self-addressed stamped envelope to encourage return of the completed survey. The surveys were mailed on or about Sat-

urday, February 27, 2016, with a return deadline of March 31, 2016. All surveys returned were considered, including those received after the deadline.

A total of 85 surveys (71%) were returned. Forty-eight of the respondents (57%) preferred an asphalt or chip seal surface over a base course or dirt surface. As for funding, 35 (or 72%) of the 48 respondents who preferred asphalt or chip seal wanted the improvements funded by public funds as opposed to self-funding through a county improvement district. The detailed results of the survey are available on the ECIA website at [eldoradosf.org/News/balsa-and-captive-roads-survey-results.html](http://eldoradosf.org/News/balsa-and-captive-roads-survey-results.html). Many of the survey respondents included comments. A compilation of the comments and responses, where appropriate, is available at the same link.

It is important to stress that the purpose of the survey was information gathering and that no funding is currently available to improve Balsa Road. If funding were to become available through a bond election or other means, there would be public meetings as part of the planning and design process, with opportunities for the residents to provide input. The Road Committee would like to express thanks to all of the residents who took the time to complete and return the survey and for the many thoughtful comments received.

—*Felicia Probert, Chair, Road Committee*

## Recent Board Actions

**T**he ECIA Board held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 16, 2016, with members **Dag Ryen, Pam Henline, Todd Handy, Greg Colello, Antone Forneris, and Claudia Daigle** present. The following formal actions were taken:

- ▼ A motion to reappoint **Felicia Probert** as chair of the Road Committee was approved unanimously.
- ▼ A motion to approve purchase of playground equipment for Compadres Park at a cost of \$29,385 was approved by a vote of 5-0, with Director Daigle abstaining.
- ▼ A motion to approve the purchase of playground equipment and mulch for the community center playground at a cost of \$48,153.91 was approved by a vote of 5-0, with Director Daigle abstaining.
- ▼ Motions by Director Daigle 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.
- ▼ A letter censuring Director Daigle was approved

by a vote of 6-1 (Daigle voting no) and read into the record.

The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board will be a working session on Monday, July 18, 2016, at 6 PM at the Community Center. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21, 2016, at 7 PM at the Community Center.

The ECIA Board will hold a public forum and presentation of community response on the proposed interim resolution on outdoor animals, including hens, on July 14, 2016, from 6 to 8 PM at the Community Center.

### Late-Breaking News: Rail Trail Construction

Santa Fe County has announced that construction begins in July on the Santa Fe Rail Trail from Avenida Vista Grande to Avenida Eldorado. The trail will be closed during construction to protect the safety of trail users, starting Tuesday, July 5, through December 2016. Trail users should plan to use an alternate route during the trail construction and closure. For more information, contact **Colleen Baker**, Project Manager, (505) 992-9868 or [cbaker@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:cbaker@santafecountynm.gov).

## Message from the ECIA President

As your homeowners association, the ECIA has two primary functions: keeping our common areas and amenities in quality condition, and enforcing the covenants that we all agreed to when we purchased our Eldorado homes. Obviously, a prerequisite for success in these responsibilities is maintaining an efficient and responsive staff and developing adequate yet fair budgets for the work that needs to be done. We are very fortunate in Eldorado to have our roads dedicated to the county, which means that its agencies are responsible for maintenance and upgrades. Many of our neighboring associations still have private roads, and their annual dues are used almost exclusively in maintaining them. And we are also blessed with many amenities that our neighbors don't have: our pool, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, public greenbelts, and our Preserve. For the ECIA Board of Directors and all our committees, it is both a privilege and a challenge to oversee and, when necessary, improve all these perks that make living in Eldorado so attractive.

We are now in the midst of another Northern New Mexico summer. I hope that every ECIA member has an opportunity to make use of our wonderful amenities,

be it swimming to stay cool, walking the dog to enjoy the fabulous light at sunset, or hiking the Preserve trails for exercise and rejuvenation. As you enjoy these amenities, please let us know of any suggestions you might have for improvements or adjustments.

And be sure not to miss the capstone of our summer celebration, our Fourth of July extravaganza. Food, fun and games! The grandest little parade in the state will roll out at 10 AM. Food and beverages will be available at 11, and the popular trio American JEM will entertain us at the Community Center bandstand from 1 until 3 PM. The pool will be open, and our first-rate team of lifeguards will offer games throughout the afternoon for kids of all ages. Hope to see you there!

The ECIA Board in May passed a resolution proposing interim guidelines for outdoor animals that would include a ban on roosters and other domestic livestock as defined by Santa Fe County statutes and would limit the number of hens to eight. The full text of the resolution is available on the ECIA website. Comments on this proposal should be directed to [outdoor.animals@eldoradosf.org](mailto:outdoor.animals@eldoradosf.org) by July 5.

—Dag Ryen, President, ECIA Board of Directors

## Motorbike, Dirt Bike, & ATVs Prohibitions

Over the past few months, the ECIA has received calls concerning residents in Eldorado riding unregistered ATVs, motorcycles, and dirt bikes around on their lots, in the greenbelts, and on public roadways. Because these vehicles create a significant noise disturbance, the ECIA considers riding them on lots and in the greenbelts to be a violation of Article II, Section 13, and Article II, Section 14 of the Eldorado Covenants, which prohibit (1) non-licensed vehicles from being stored on lots in Eldorado (for more than two weeks) and, more importantly, (2) any riding activities that would create noise and fumes and disturb the community:

**Article II, Section 13:** No vehicles not licensed for use on a public road, nor any type of earth moving equipment, nor any tractor-trailer or part thereof, nor similar large vehicles, inconsistent with single-family residential use, shall be parked, stored or repaired outside of a building on any lot provided; however, such vehicles may be parked temporarily on a lot for a period not exceeding two weeks. Construction trailers may be parked on a lot during the period of the construction or alteration of a dwelling house on a lot.

**Article II, Section 14, line 7:** Nuisances-Clause: No activity shall be conducted, nor equipment or process used, nor substance or animal kept which emits foul or obnoxious odors, or which creates noise, glare, fumes or electrical interference.

Additionally, the rules and regulations for the greenbelts and Eldorado Preserve prohibit the use of any kind of motorized vehicles, including ATVs, go-carts, or motorcycles in these areas in order to prevent erosion, noise, and environmental damage.

Lastly, the riding of all non-registered off-road vehicles on the public roads of Eldorado is in violation of New Mexico State laws; this is detailed in the NM Motor Vehicle Manuals at the New Mexico MVD website.

If you witness any such illegal riding of ATVs or dirt bikes on a lot, greenbelt, or public road, please alert the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department; and if you can get the address of the rider, please contact the ECIA with this information.

Thank you for your efforts to prevent further illegal riding in the future. 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](mailto:mark@eldoradosf.org)

—Mark Young

ECIA Covenant Compliance Representative

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Finance: Dan Drobnis  
Information: Frank Schober  
Roads: Felicia Probert  
Stable: Open

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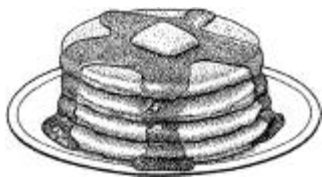
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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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



"Around the Bend" screens July 14.



**Summer Fridays at The Agora**

Every Friday evening of the summer, 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](mailto:joseigner@gmail.com).

**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.

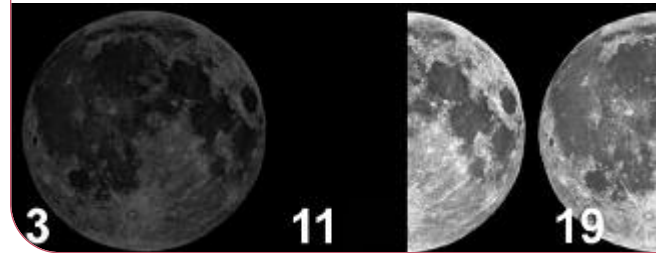
**Historic Garden Restoration**

"Let's Grow," a monthly education series for the home gardener sponsored by the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association, will look at Historic Garden Restoration on Friday, July 22, from 5 to 7 PM at the Garden at El Zagan, Canyon Road, during 4th Friday Art Walk on Canyon Road. Learn how Master Gardeners are restoring the gardening and maintaining its historic layout and ambiance with plants appropriate for the current climate.

**Discover Square Dance**

The Eldorado Depot Dancers invite you to a "Discover Square Dancing" open house, Friday July 8, from 7 to 8 PM in the ECIA Community Center Railroad Room. 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](http://squaredancesantafe.org).

**MOON PHASES FOR JULY**



**Soccer Registration is Open**

Fall Development Soccer registration with Rio Rapids Northern soccer is now open until Friday, August 5. The Fall season starts with practices the week of August 29, and the first game is Saturday, September 10, at the Santa Fe Downs. \$105 per player. Limited scholarships available. Kids born between 2003 and 2013 are eligible to play. To register or for more information, go to [www.northernsc.org](http://www.northernsc.org) and click on REGISTER. For questions, call 982-0878 ext 1 or email [registrar@northernsc.org](mailto:registrar@northernsc.org).

**Different Drummers Drum Circle**

A drum circle is now held at the Performance Space in La Tienda on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. Launched in 2014 and hosted monthly in Eldorado, this drummers circle requires neither prior experience nor the ownership of a drum. A ten-minute lesson is offered at the start of each session. Founder **Rick Cormier** has been hosting drum circles for 20 years, is the author of the book *Freestyle Community Drum Circles*, and has helped to start well over 100 community drum circles in the U.S. and Canada. For more information, email [differentdrummers@gmail.com](mailto:differentdrummers@gmail.com); visit [differentdrummersdrumcircle.com](http://differentdrummersdrumcircle.com), or phone 629-1666.

**Cactus Propagation Class/Cutting Giveaway**

The Cactus Rescue Project will be holding its annual propagation class, followed by a cactus cuttings giveaway, at La Tienda Cactus Garden on Sunday, July 17, at 9 AM (no giveaways until after the class). Last year we had over 1,000 cuttings. For more info, email [jwo1959@aol.com](mailto:jwo1959@aol.com).

**Reel New Mexico, July 2016**

Thursday, July 14, at 7 PM, at La Tienda's Performance Space, Reel New Mexico is screening "Around the Bend" (2004, 85 minutes, mostly shot in NM).

Michael Caine and Christopher Walken breathe spirited life into debut writer/director Jordan Roberts's road trip of family bonding in this independent movie with a big heart. The 85-year-old Henry Lair (Caine) lives in Los Angeles with his 32-year-old grandson, Jason (Josh Lucas), and 6-year-old great grandson, Zach (Jonah Bobo). Jason's long-lost father, Turner (Walken), unex-

# July Events

JULY 2016



## Limerick

Eldorado workers and employers,  
The builders-up and the destroyers,  
They all want their say  
On the fuss of the day:  
Which came first, the chickens  
or lawyers?

pectedly materializes for the first time in 30 years. Turner's sudden appearance is especially surprising to Zach who has always been told that his outlaw grandfather is deceased. The four generations of men do soon drop in number, however, when the ailing Henry dies, immediately after writing his final requests on post-its in the comfort of a local Kentucky Fried Chicken. Henry's circuitous instructions send his three male descendants on a family history soul-searching road trip from Los Angeles to Albuquerque which culminates in a cathartic admission by Walken's character that marks one of the actor's finer cinematic moments. "Around the Bend" may be a "small" movie, but it's better than Hollywood's average dramatic fare.

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

## Eldorado

Familiar music — jazz, classical, salon, pop: always something . . . nice. Eldorado 1660 on the am dial. Music, poetry, drama, comedy, local events, and news. Take a break today.

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

Email [gloria@eldoradosf.org](mailto: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

4th of July Events Monday, July 4, 10 am-3 pm + 466-4248

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., July 12, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., July 26, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., July 18, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., July 5, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
<b>ECIA Board Meeting</b>	<b>Thurs., July 21, 7-9 pm</b>	<b>ECIA</b>	<b>466-4248</b>	<b>RR</b>
Election Committee	Wed., July 20, 2-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., July 6, 4-6 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., July 18, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., July 25, 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	690-4332	Moved****

\* Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

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

\*\*\* Reservations required

\*\*\*\*New location: Max Coll Corridor Community Center attached to the Adam Senior Center

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

## Library News

**Y**our local library is happy to be bringing the **Zoo to You** Education Program to Eldorado. The program brings live animals and artifacts from all over the world to our community, and presenters talk about conservation and educate us about the creatures. The Zoo to You presentation will take place on Monday, July 25, at 11 AM and again at 1 PM, in the library's meeting room. Both are free and open to the community. Come early for a good seat and enjoy this great opportunity.

**PROGRAMS:** **Family Movie Night** will be on Friday, July 8, at 7 PM. The film is animated and shows the happenings in a town populated by zoo animals. Screening is in the meeting room, with free admission and popcorn. Call the library for film title and ratings.

Local film historian **Jeff Berg** will be showing another film made in New Mexico on Friday, July 29, at 7 PM in the VGPL meeting room. Admission is free.

The **Summer Reading Club** continues through July. Kids entering grades K to 4 are invited to join in such activities as games, crafts, and stories from 1 to 2:30 PM on Wednesday afternoons. Students 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) meets on Friday mornings at 11:30 AM. Older siblings are welcome. On Friday afternoons, the **All Age Chess Club** has lessons and plays in the library's meeting room 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, check the library website [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org) or call at 505-466-7323.

**JULY DONATIONS:** From July 11 to 15, the library board is matching donations to the 2016 appeal up to \$1,600! Mailed or delivered checks received on or between these dates will be a double gift to the library.

Also, because of the holiday weekend, the July Donation Day for books and DVDs will be Saturday, July 9, from 9 to 11:30 AM only. The library welcomes current adult fiction and nonfiction, DVDs, audiobooks on CD, and children's items in good condition. Please, no textbooks, law books, or magazine back issues. The next Donation Day will be August 13.

**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.

## What/Where to Recycle?

**R**ecycling rules are often changing, but Eldorado/285Recycles strives to keep you up to date. For questions and the latest info, consult <http://www.eldorado285recycles.org>.

### ELDORADO CONVENIENCE CENTER (ECC) OR YOUR WASTE MANAGEMENT (WM) MIXED BIN:

▼ #1–7 plastic containers (no film, bags); all paper—office, paperboard (e.g., cereal boxes), aseptic containers (e.g., milk and soup containers); corrugated cardboard; tin and aluminum cans; foil sheets crushed into a ball.

### ECC ONLY, GLASS BIN

▼ Glass has to be kept separate. WM does not take glass in recycling bins.

### LA TIENDA "SPECIAL COLLECTIONS" MANAGED BY E/285 RECYCLES:

▼ #5 plastics. Yes, they can go in the EEC Mixed bin, but this is special "closed loop" recycling. #5s go to Whole Foods, which sends them to Preserve, which remakes them into other useful goods.

▼ Dental products. Any item, any brand associated with dental care—toothpaste tubes, toothbrush, floss containers, etc.

▼ Corks. Held for crafts.

▼ Rubber bands. Held for newspaper carriers.

▼ Cosmetic products. Empty hair care, skin care, and cosmetic containers; no aerosols or medication containers, please.

▼ Athletic shoes collected outside the gym. These are "triaged" as reusables to local shelters, others sent for repurposing.

▼ Writing instruments. Pens, markers; supports Third World water projects thru CH2MHill.

### NEW INFORMATION

▼ Batteries, rechargeable and button cell (watch, hearing aid type) to ECC battery bin; alkaline (AA, AAA) go in trash; these are not hazardous and are very expensive to ship to a reclaim facility.

▼ Film and bag recycling at the Agora. If you can stretch it, recycle it (dry material only). If it does not stretch, or contains netting, trash it.

▼ Other: ReUse Area at ECC. This is for items that are not quite ready for the landfill and someone else might repair or use.

▼ For better ReUse items, donate to many Santa Fe Reuse outlets. A list is available at <http://www.eldorado285recycles.org>. A Big Brothers/Big Sisters drop-off bin is behind La Plancha at LaTienda.

### 4TH OF JULY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

E/285 Recycles is hosting the July 4 Breakfast in conjunction with La Plancha. New time: 7:30–9:30 AM. Celebrate the 4th and our community!



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

# Our Remarkable Snakes

When we recently posted a photo of a bull snake on a personal Facebook page, responses including “how awful,” “nasty,” “creepy,” and “I hate snakes.” Due to myths and superstition, these are, sadly, common reactions.

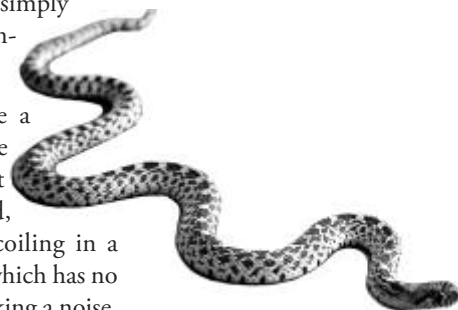
Fortunately, more Eldoradoans than in the past are beginning to recognize that snakes are a vital aspect of our ecosystem, deserving our respect and protection. Snakes face daily hazards from natural predators (hawks, eagles, owls, roadrunners, and other snakes) and from humans (traffic, rodent poisons, chicken wire, netting, mouse traps of all types, and hunting). Although we’ve published earlier articles about snakes, the subject is so significant that it’s worth further information.

Why are snakes so important? Because they eat the rodents that carry diseases such as hantavirus. And they do so without passing on the diseases, making them nature’s best immunity system for our community. In addition to rodents, most snakes also eat lizards, birds, and some also eat other snakes.

Snakes are fascinating. They move by articulating broad overlapping plates (scutes) along the length of their bellies. Their unfused jaws allow them to swallow large prey. Their sensitive, slender tongues are used for noting chemical changes in the environment, and as an aid to detecting prey. They also find their prey via movement, and some snakes also sense prey via body heat. In cold weather, snakes enter a period of brumation. Whereas mammals live off their fat reserves during hibernation, snake metabolism slows so much during brumation that, although they are awake and can be active (but generally lethargic), they don’t lose significant weight.

There are 2,300+ species of snakes worldwide. All snakes, like all wild animals, will bite when defending themselves, but in Eldorado, only two types of snakes (Prairie and Western Diamondback rattlesnakes) are venomous. Rattlesnake young are especially toxic, as they haven’t yet developed the ability to control the amount of venom they eject when striking. They will not strike unless provoked, so it’s best to simply leave them alone. Eldorado’s most common snakes are:

▼ **Bull/Gopher snake:** Bull snakes are a subspecies of Gopher snakes. They are powerful constrictors about 4–6 feet long, some larger. When threatened, they often mimic a rattlesnake by coiling in a strike posture and shaking their tail (which has no rattles) against dry leaves or rocks, making a noise.



Bull snakes are typically brown-yellow brown, with black or reddish blotches. Non-venomous.

▼ **Western Coachwhip or Red Racer snake:** The color varies but is typically reddish, sometimes with cream bands on the body. They are thin, long, and can move very quickly (up to 15 MPH!). Will eat rattlesnakes. Non-venomous.

▼ **Hog Nose snake:** Their upturned snout aids in digging by moving in a sideways motion. When threatened, they raise their head off the ground and

hiss like a cobra; if that doesn’t work, they roll over and play dead. Non-venomous.

▼ **Texas Night snake:** A small rear-fanged, mildly venomous (harmless to humans) snake.

▼ **Prairie Rattlesnake, also called Western Rattlesnake and Great Plains Rattlesnake:** Usually lightly colored in hues of brown, it measures 3–4 feet long, is very well camouflaged, but will rattle as a warning when threatened. Venomous.

▼ **Western Diamondback Rattlesnake:** Can reach 7 feet and is considered the “king” of 20-plus species of Southwestern desert rattlers. Mostly nocturnal; will rattle as a warning when threatened. Venomous.

For help with an injured snake or for snake removal, do not try to capture or agitate the animal. Instead, keep it in sight and call Eldorado Snake Relocation Volunteers (Lyn deMartin) 505-603-0250.

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

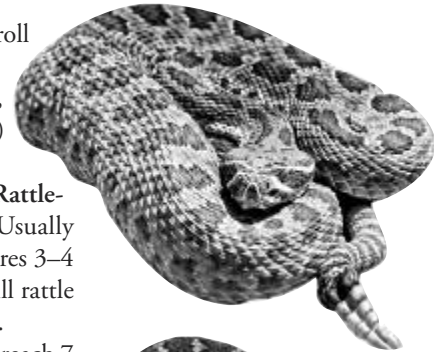
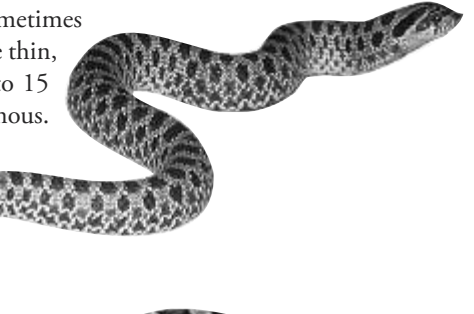
**ABOVE, RIGHT:**

*Top:* Hognose snake

*Middle:* Prairie Rattlesnake

*Bottom:* Western Diamondback.

**BELOW & RIGHT:** Bull snakes.



# VISTAS

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

## When One Is Not Enough

ECIA has broken its long-standing tradition of recognizing only one of its volunteers by giving its “Resident of the Year Award” to both **Tom Willmott** and **John Oberhausen**. The whole community has been made better by the untold hours and hard work these two exemplary citizens have so generously given.

### TOM WILLMOTT, A VOLUNTEER FOR ALL SEASONS

Tom’s volunteerism began in 2008, just two years after moving here from Ohio with wife, Catherine. He found himself invited to sit on a review committee tasked with selecting a new general manager for Eldorado Water and Sanitation District. Subsequently, Tom went on to serve EAWSD over the years in a variety of capacities, including its VP, Secretary, Procurement Manager and as a member of its Capital Improvements Planning Committee.

Tom has been equally versatile serving the ECIA, having been both a Board Director and President and a long-time member of the Finance Committee. He counts his career in software engineering and managing large budgets as invaluable for serving on Finance.



Recently Tom was part of the ad hoc committee on the document retention (scanning) project. Said ECIA President **Dag Ryen** of Tom’s service, “It has been extremely useful for me and other Board and committee members to tap into his institutional memory.”

Of volunteering, Tom said, “If one wants to live in a great community, one must be willing to contribute to that objective.”

Although health reasons have recently forced the Willmotts to leave the community, they plan to stay in

the Santa Fe area. No doubt their neighbors in the Balsa neighborhood will miss the Willmotts, as will the remaining ECIA volunteers.

### JOHN “OBIE” OBERHAUSEN, GARDENER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Fourteen-year residents of Eldorado, Obie and wife, **Nancy Lehrhaupt**, moved here because they wanted to be outside of town in a beautiful open area. Says Obie, “We love the views and the sense of community.”

Most of Obie’s Eldorado volunteerism has involved gardening and landscaping projects. A founding member of the El Dorado School Community Garden, he’s been Operation Chairman for five years.

Obie is one of the co-founders of the Cactus Rescue Project (CRP). Its volunteers have installed four Eldorado community cactus gardens. This includes the stunning one at the Community Center, considered the third largest cactus garden in New Mexico. And, if you guessed Obie had a hand in the cactus-studded median on Vista Grande, you’d be correct.

Obie volunteers on the landscaping subcommittee of Facilities and Grounds, tasked with beautifying ECIA Community Center grounds. Says Obie, “I believe in community. I have wanted to share my passions and interests with others in Eldorado.”

Obie is most encouraged by the positive community response to his work: it’s common to have over 50 people show up at one of his free cactus classes. “The process of working together on projects that enhance our community is very rewarding and helps me to feel connected to Eldorado,” says Obie. *—Gershon Siegel*

