

ELDORADO AT SANTA FE VISTAS

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

Meet Your New General Manager, Isabel Ugarte

In the last two years, HOAMCO, ECIA’s contracted management company, has hired two previous onsite general managers. Both, however, were compelled to leave unexpectedly for personal reasons. We’re hoping that for the community’s sake, the old saying, “Third time’s the charm,” turns out to be true.

If you’ve had the pleasure of meeting our newest permanent GM, **Isabel Ugarte**, expect to be charmed. Although originally from Miami, Florida, Ugarte spent six years living in Spain with her husband, Carlos. Perhaps that’s why she brings a certain European ease to a position that is anything but easy.

Ugarte first started working in property management in early 2005 for First Service, one of the largest property management companies in North America. She stayed with that company for over four years. Carlos had already been with HOAMCO and recommended it to her as a place of work.

Isabel started as ECIA’s interim GM in mid-August. HOAMCO then presented the Board with a number of candidates for the permanent position. At the time, Isabel was content as interim GM, thinking that HOAMCO would assign her another interim position.

However, after being lobbied by a number of residents as well as Board members, she threw her hat into the ring and was installed as permanent GM on November 1.

HOAMCO has a policy that forbids its GMs from living within the communities they manage. We wondered what was behind that thinking. Isabel responded, “I believe a GM needs his or her space to disconnect from work on his or her time off. If you live in the community you manage, it’s difficult to completely disconnect.”

We also wanted to know how Eldorado compares with other communities Isabel has managed. “I’ve managed condominiums and HOAs in South Florida. Eldorado’s lifestyle is much more laid back compared to the fast-paced lifestyle I left there. Here I am surrounded by the beauty of nature.”

Is she finding challenges unique to Eldorado? Said Isabel, “I love to take on a challenge. In my short time here as GM, I have come across many challenges, but that is expected when a manager is new to a community.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>



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

2017 Board of Director Elections

The ECIA Board of Directors consists of seven volunteer members. Every Association member is eligible to run for a position on the Board as long as he or she is a Member in Good Standing and assessments are current. Directors’ terms are for three years.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the affairs of the Association, including its finances and operation and maintenance of all amenities, along with enforcement of the governing documents.

The direct work of the Board includes attending two monthly Board meetings (Working Session, on the Monday before the Board Meeting, and the Board Meeting on the third Thursday of the month), attending meetings of one or more committees to which the member serves as a liaison, and participating in other activities and functions supported by the Association.

The Board oversees the work of the standing committees: Architecture, Conservation, Election, Facilities and Grounds, Finance, Information, Road, and Stable.

Board members are elected through the voting process. Candidates file a Nomination Petition with intent to run, and if certified, the candidate(s) will be placed on the ballot. Ballots for those Members Eligible to Vote are included in the Annual Report packet that all members will receive by mail by the end of March 2017. Ballots can be returned by mail or delivered directly to the ECIA office by 5 PM, April 27, 2017. Ballots are counted and certified at 9 AM on April 28, 2017, by the Election Committee, and the results are announced at the Annual Meeting on May 1, 2017.

Challenge yourself by volunteering to serve on the Board or ECIA committee. Commit to work at keeping Eldorado the best community in New Mexico.

Interested in a Board position? See article on page 2 regarding Nomination Petitions.



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.

Exterior Driveways and Walkways Lighting

Many Eldorado residents may not know that in April 2005, the ECIA won an award from the American Preservation Alliance for the care of its portion of the night skies of New Mexico. While such an award is seen as a compliment, it is also an ongoing challenge for our community, in terms of working together to protect our dark nighttime skies.

In an attempt to work to protect our night skies, the ECIA works closely with residents when there are lighting issues that have a negative impact on our night skies. This past year has been no exception, and the ECIA has received calls and e-mails from residents concerning neighbors who have added exterior driveway or walkway lighting but have not followed the spacing between lights, as recommended in Section 8 of the Eldorado Guidelines for Protective Covenants. These lighting requirements are as follows:

EXTERIOR LIGHTING LIMITATIONS:

6. It is recommended that landscape, walkway, monument or driveway lighting shall not be mounted higher than twenty-four (24) inches above the ground or exceed 20 watts per luminary and made of a non-reflective finish.

7. It is recommended the minimum spacing of lighting fixtures for driveways and walkways visible from neighboring property shall be 20 feet for driveways less than 120 feet long and 30 feet for driveways longer than 120 feet.

When residents fail to follow these recommended guidelines, and place either larger or brighter lights, or space the lights too closely together, their driveway ends up looking like an airport landing strip.

In addition, this further degrades the quality of our dark night skies, which can make it hard for their neighbors to star gaze or enjoy astronomical observations in Eldorado, which is one reason why many residents moved to Eldorado.

To prevent what some residents are calling further "airport runway lighting" in Eldorado, we ask that residents respect our dark skies and abide by the exterior lighting recommendations in our Guidelines, especially relative to driveway and walkway lights.

If you have any questions about Eldorado's lighting requirements, please call me at the ECIA at 466-4248 or e-mail me at mark@eldoradosf.org.

—Mark Young
Compliance Coordinator

ECIA Board Candidate Nomination Petitions

Board members will be elected through the voting process which begins in early January and culminates at the ECIA Annual Meeting on May 1, 2017. Three Board of Director positions are open for election, each with three-year terms expiring on May 4, 2020. The Nomination Petition and its accompanying Information and Instruction Sheet will be available online and at the ECIA office starting January 5, 2017. The completed and signed Nomination Petition, along with a photo and a biographical statement and goals for the community, not exceeding a total of 400 words, must be submitted to the ECIA office no later than 5 PM, March 1, 2017.

The ECIA Bylaws require that a candidate for election to the ECIA Board must meet all of the following criteria: The individual must be a Lot Owner of record (1) whose assessments are current as of March 1, 2017; (2) whose rights and privileges are not suspended, and (3) who resides full-time in Eldorado.

The prospective candidate must present to the ECIA Office a Nomination Petition that contains at least twenty-five (25) valid signatures. To be valid, a signature must be of a Lot Owner whose assessment(s) are current as of the date she/he signs the Petition and

whose rights and privileges are not suspended as of the date of signature.

Nomination Petitions are available at the website, www.eldoradosf.org under the "Resident Resources" tab > "Forms and Applications," > "Board Nomination Petition" or at the ECIA office.

Petitioners should call the ECIA Office at 466-4248 if there are questions about the candidacy and Petition requirements.

—Election Committee

Isabel Ugarte, cont. from page 1

As GM of an HOA, I have learned that staff is priority. The better that staff is trained, informed, and motivated, the better they serve the community. I am the general manager, but I am also part of a team. and for me, my team is very important."

And what does Ugarte hope to accomplish in Eldorado as its GM? "I would like to successfully manage ECIA for several years. I believe this community deserves stability in its management." We're guessing Eldorado's residents couldn't agree more.

— Gershon Siegel

Message from the ECIA President

Another year is upon us, a good time to reflect on how we can continue to improve our community and make it a better and more inviting place for everyone. In the coming weeks, the ECIA Board will be looking at ways to streamline communications among the Association, its members, and our management company, HOAMCO. We now have new communication tools available, including e-blasts, social media, and a new private venture magazine. But we must ensure that all the information our members receive is accurate and useful. We all need to be on the same page for Eldorado to reach its full potential.

With the new year also comes a new state legislative session. As always, the ECIA Board will be coordinating with representatives of Santa Fe County to request appropriations from the state for road projects and other improvements in Eldorado. However, the budget outlook for the state is grim this year, and the chances for new monies look pretty slim. We are pleased, however, that the county is prepared to complete the long-awaited paving of the final stub of Avenida Amistad and the length of Buena Ventura as soon as winter weather breaks. In recent months, county officials have been helpful in other ways as

well, including providing assistance with new warning markings for the railroad crossings at Vista Grande and Eldorado.

The state legislature is also likely to consider proposals to change New Mexico laws relating to homeowners associations. These proposals could affect both us and HOAMCO, and we will watch closely to see if any major legislation reaches the governor's desk. Our contract with HOAMCO is due for renegotiation next month, and activity in the Round House could influence how those talks turn out.

We want to remind everyone again that ECIA Board elections are just around the corner. We need as many individuals as possible to toss their hats in the ring. The Association's business can only run smoothly with the dedication and guidance of its Board members and other volunteers.

Please be cautious moving around the community during winter weather conditions, and remember to take down the holiday lights by January 16.

The Board wishes every member and resident in Eldorado a safe and prosperous 2017.

—Dag Ryen
President, ECIA Board of Directors

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on December 15, 2016. All members were present except Board Secretary **David Yard**, who had an excused absence. The following actions were taken:

- ▼ A consent agenda was approved, including a variance request for an existing garage encroachment into the 20-foot setback at 7 Vista Grande Drive and a variance request for a greenhouse accessory structure more than 15 feet from the primary structure at 8 Cerrado Road.
- ▼ A motion for a variance request at 34 Tetilla Road for a low wall to define a walkway extending 8 feet into the 20-foot setback was approved by a vote of 5-1 (Henline dissenting).
- ▼ A motion to appoint **Marilyn Farrell** as member of the Information Committee was approved unanimously.
- ▼ A motion requiring all Board members to sign a formal Agreement to Serve was approved unanimously.
- ▼ A motion to adopt an operating budget for 2017 was adopted 5-0 (Forneris abstaining) and affiliated budget motions approved unanimously.

Complete budget details are available on the ECIA website.

The next regular meeting of the ECIA Board will be held on January 19, 2017, at 7 PM in the Railroad Building at the ECIA Community Center. Complete minutes and agendas of Board meetings are available at the ECIA office or on the website www.eldoradosf.org.



ECIA OFFICE

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:
Katherine Mortimer

Conservation: Jim Daniel

Election: Kathie Graham

Facilities & Grounds:
Lee Onstott (acting chair)

Finance: Dan Drobnis

Information: Open

Roads: Felicia Probert

Stable: Pat Donahue

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Vista Grande Library
466-READ

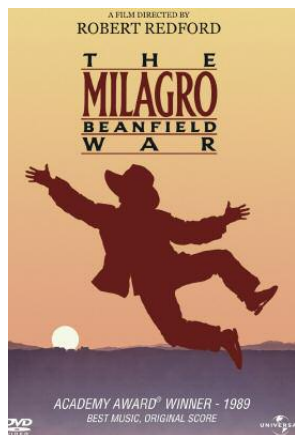
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofireandrescue.org

County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)

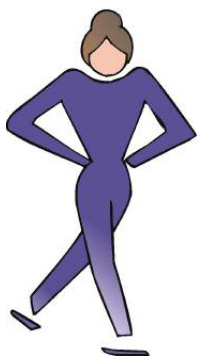


A Friendly Reminder

A live tree can be recycled for mulch at ECIA on the 31st of January thru February 2nd. The drop off location will be where the old rental house used to be. Area will be marked. Please remember to remove all ornaments and lights.



Screening January 12 at La Tienda, 7 PM



Get in shape with free zumba classes!

Eldorado Introduces Radio Concerts

Full-length broadcast concerts of classical, jazz, and theater performances begin January 7 over Eldorado's low-power local radio broadcaster, ELDORADIO 1660 AM. The new program feature, "Saturday Matinee," airs at noon every Saturday, re-creating broadcasts from past recordings of public performances. Violinists Isaac Stern, Pinchas Zukerman, and Itzhak Perlman, with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra led by Zubin Mehta, play Bach, Vivaldi, and Mozart in the inaugural Matinee, recorded in 1980 at Lincoln Center in New York.

The first Saturday of each month is devoted to a classical music concert or recital, explained ELDORADIO operator **Bill Dunning**. "The second Saturday Matinee each month is a jazz, folk or pop music concert," he said, noting that on January 14, Matinee listeners will hear a Duke Ellington concert from 1946. The third Saturday highlights a theater or stage show, and on January 21 presents Hal Holbrook in "Mark Twain Tonight!" Local artists star on the fourth Saturday, with Antonio Mendoza and the late Ruben Romero, as recorded in 1995 at Santa Fe's Hotel Eldorado, broadcast on January 28. When there is a fifth Saturday in the month, Saturday Matinee presents an opera performance recorded "live."

Most of ELDORADIO's 24-hour broadcast day is a wide-ranging mix of classical, jazz, popular, new-age and folk music, designed for easy listening and relaxation without commercial interruption. At 7 AM each morning, Eldorado residents can wake to "Good Morning, Eldorado," with music, weather forecasts and a calendar of Eldorado and Santa Fe events for the day. Edward R. Murrow's "This I Believe" at 7:30 every morning rebroadcasts a feature first heard in the 1950s, and "Retro Radio" at noon every Sunday revisits programs from the "golden age of radio" between 1930 and 1960. At 10:30 AM Monday through Friday, "Break-Time," a variety of short talk features, offers mid-morning relaxation.

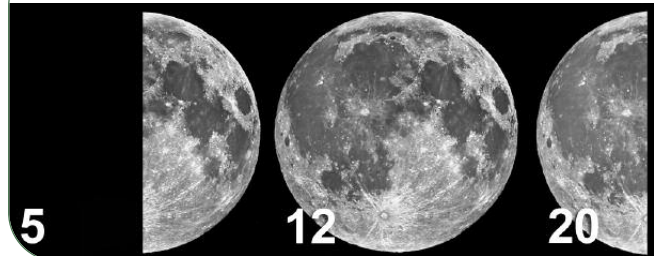
Because of legal limitations, ELDORADIO, on the air since 2010, operates with restricted power and can only be heard within Eldorado.

Free Zumba Classes in Eldorado

Meet new friends and have fun while you warm up/shape up in 2017! Keep winter blues away as you let everything go for one hour and move your body to an eclectic, lively mix of music—from pop, salsa, and oldies to country western line dance. No experience is needed, so why not give it a try? Only two rules to follow: move something and have fun!

Join us on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9 to 10 AM in the Max Coll Community Center Room (adjacent to the Eldorado Senior Center). Wear comfortable cloth-

MOON PHASES FOR JANUARY



ing and aerobic shoes, and bring water. The classes are FREE and taught by a licensed Zumba instructor. Just suit up and show up! For more information, contact **Tana Monaco** at (505) 690-4332.

Eldorado Arts & Crafts News

The Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association (EACA) is looking forward to the New Year with many new and exciting opportunities for Eldorado area artists. This month, we are accepting applications for the 26th Annual Eldorado Studio Tour, which is being held on May 20-21, with an opening reception on May 19. New members are encouraged to join and participate in the largest studio tour in New Mexico. To obtain an application, contact eldoradoarts@gmail.com; applications are due on January 23. More details are available at our website, www.eldoradoarts.org.

Also this month, the EACA general members' meeting is being held on January 26 from 7 to 9 PM at the Eldorado Community Center. This is the group's annual business meeting, where the EACA board is elected for 2017. Newly joined members, or those thinking about joining, are encouraged to attend and meet other Eldorado area artists.

Reel New Mexico Ends Its Run with Iconic Film, Milagro Beanfield War

REEL NEW MEXICO ends its 2.5-year run with one of the most iconic New Mexico films ever made, "The Milagro Beanfield War." The film will play on January 12 at 7 PM at La Tienda's Performance Space. It is just under two hours long.

"The Milagro Beanfield War," directed by Robert Redford and adapted from John Nichols's 1974 novel, treats the theme of creating community with humor and humanism. The film is set in a small Hispanic town in northern New Mexico where a developer is building a leisure-time resort replete with condos, tennis courts, and a golf course. When Joe (Chick Vennera), a handyman from Milagro, irrigates his half-acre beanfield with water controlled by the development, he sets in motion a series of events that reveals the underside of the Anglo's vision of progress.

Among the colorful performers in this picaresque tale are salsa singer Ruben Blades as the sheriff who tries to stem the tide of troubles in the town; Brazil's Sonia



Braga as Ruby, the community's passionate political activist; John Heard as a burnt-out 1960s lawyer and publisher of the local newspaper; Daniel Stern as a graduate student from the East who is studying Hispanic culture; Christopher Walken as an undercover agent for the state police; and Carlos Riquelme as the town's indestructible senior citizen. This religious old man and his other-worldly companion (Roberto Carricart) serve as catalysts to bring about Hispanic solidarity.

Screenplay writers David Ward and John Nichols have successfully translated the novel's delightful mix of fantasy, folklore, and comedy to the screen. "The Milagro Beanfield War" celebrates the magical and often surprising ways in which people can come together in community. And politics has little to do with it. The film won an Oscar for Best Soundtrack.

Suggested donation is \$5, and you are welcome to bring food and drink into the performance space thanks to our wonderful neighbors at La Plancha.

This will be the last screening offered by REEL NEW MEXICO. A lack of community and media support has caused me to reevaluate the time and finances involved, and they don't add up very well. It is a fun and adventurous thing to do, but audiences have been lacking, and now it is time to end New Mexico's only film series based on New Mexico movies. For more information, please call 466-1634.

-Jeff Berg

January Events

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 Office Closed	Mon., Jan. 2		466-4248	
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., Jan. 3, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., Jan. 24, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Jan. 16, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Jan. 9, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Jan. 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Jan. 11, 1-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Jan. 4, 4-6 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., Jan. 16, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., Jan. 23, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Road Committee	TBA	Felicia Probert	466-1563	RR
Stable Committee	TBA	Pat Donahue	donahueemail@gmail.com	F

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY

EAW&SD	1st & 3rd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	EAWSD
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
Healing Arts Practitioners Grp	2nd Tues., 4:00-5:30 pm	Terry Terry	303-475-0922	LR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Brad Cottingham	466-4655	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	santafesar.org		VGPL

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Wed., 7-8 pm			CFR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 11-12 pm			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			La Tienda
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Karl Cordova		RR, CR, LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Shirley Davis	982-6179	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Creative Movement for Kids	Tues., 3:00-5:00	Teresa Schwarz	428.0832	CR
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
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/Vinyasa Flow	Tues., 9-10:15 am	Julie Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Wed., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Thurs., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Fri., 9-10:15 am	Julie Cairns	466-1935	CR
Zumba	Tues. & Thurs., 9-10 am	Tana Monaco	690-4332	Max Coll CC

* Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

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

*** Reservations required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

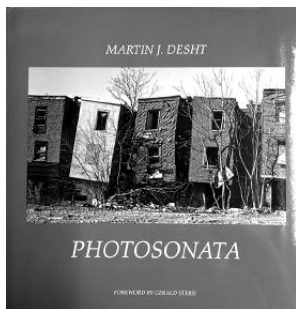
Library News

Happy New Year from Vista Grande Public Library! The library board and staff want to thank the Eldorado community for its ongoing support. VGPL continues to grow and thrive because of you.

BOOK SALE AND DONATION DAYS

The Fall Book Sale was a great success, raising \$5,000 to support library operations. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help and came to shop. The sale items come primarily from community donations.

VGPL welcomes your gently used books, DVDs, audiobooks, games or puzzles and accepts them on the designated Donation Day each month, from 9 to 11:30 AM. Generally, that is the first Saturday of every month, unless that day happens to be a holiday. The next Donation Days are January 7 and February 4. The library is equipped to handle donated items only during that specific time. It takes a special team, consisting mostly of volunteers, to sort, box, label, and store the large volume of donations that comes in. While this is a great resource for VGPL, the time and work needed make it difficult to handle donations at other times. Thank you for your understanding.



Photography by Martin Desht; reading from *Photosonata* January 20.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The After School Reading Club will resume on February 1. Registration for this program is currently going on; sign up at the library. Details are available from the website (www.vglibrary.org) or call 466-7323. *Story Time* for preschoolers and toddlers happens on Friday mornings at 11:30 AM. Miss Selene will be here with a wacky hat, a craft, and a story just for them.

IMPORTANT DATES

Physics for Everyone: January 19, from 1 to 2:30 PM. Quantum Theory: Can something be in two places at the same time? (Don't try this at home! Come to the presentation and find out first!)

Art Exhibition: January 3–30. American Dream and the Industrial City, **Martin J Desht's** black-and-white photography, is on view during Library open hours. **Meet the Artist:** January 20, from 5 to 7 PM. Open to the public. Light refreshments and artist/author reading from his book, *Photosonata*.

Family Movie Nights: Friday, January 13 and February 10, at 7 PM. Call the library 466-7323 for the titles. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

–Tracey Mitchell

News from Eldorado/285 Recycles

For the new year, and consistent with the new curbside recycling collection as required by County Ordinance, Eldorado 285/Recycles offers a recap of recycling best practices.

▼ **Glass** is not accepted in the recycling cart. Glass can be recycled at the Eldorado Convenience Center (ECC) at no charge. What's the difference? The county isolates the collection of glass, which is purchased by a vendor. Waste Management deposits all the curbside recyclables at the Buckman Road Recycling and Transfer Station. If glass is mixed in with other recyclables, it damages equipment at the processing facility and contaminates other materials such as paper. So glass is useful only if isolated.

▼ **Plastic bags** are accepted at local grocery stores, including the El Dorado Supermart. Note the signage above the bins which explains which bags may be recycled. They may also be put in with trash. Like glass, plastic bags damage equipment at the processing facility.

▼ **Shredded paper** is an exception and can be recycled with mixed recyclables, but it should be put in a clear plastic bag. If it goes in the bin loose, it is lost during processing. Helpful hint: Poke a few holes in the clear bag so it doesn't break open when

compressed, resulting in loss of the shredded paper.

▼ **Styrofoam** goes with trash since it cannot be recycled.

▼ **Batteries:** Alkaline batteries, the typical AA, AAA, C, D, and 9 volt, may be put in the trash. Rechargeable batteries, labeled Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cad) or Lithium, should be recycled since they are toxic to the environment. They are accepted at the Eldorado Convenience Center and at stores such as Home Depot, Target, Lowe's, and Walmart.

▼ **Fluorescent tubes and bulbs** are considered hazardous waste. It is very important to recycle them responsibly; they are accepted at the Eldorado Convenience Center at no charge.

▼ **Incandescent bulbs** should go in the trash.

▼ **Prescription drugs** may be disposed of Monday–Friday, 8 AM–5 PM, in the Santa Fe Police Department lobby on Camino Entrada just off Cerrillos Rd., or at the Fire Station in Ft. Marcy Park. Medications can also be buried in a container of dirt or coffee grounds with container top secured with tape and placed in the trash.

Eldorado/285 Recycles maintains collections of unusual items at LaTienda, Building A. For information, see eldorado285recycles.org.





NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Poisons, Glue Traps, and Backyard Habitats

A new friend gave directions to her home: “Take the second left, then look for us on the right. We’re the ones with the National Wildlife certification sign out front.” The what? “The NWF certification. You know, it confirms that our yard meets requirements that encourage a healthy life for local wildlife.” No, we didn’t know about this, but we were eager to find out more!

We found out that the National Wildlife Federation (NWF.org), the country’s largest conservation, education, and advocacy organization, is focused on environmental agendas that support wildlife and people. One NWF program involves certifying residential properties as Certified Wildlife Habitats. To explore certification of your own property, go to <http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Certify.aspx>. The criteria include natural food sources (seeds, berries, nectars, and so on), water source, natural cover (wooded area, ground cover, grasses) for animal shelter and places to raise young, and sustainable practices such as soil and water conservation, control of exotic species (such as Russian olive and tamarisk), and elimination of dangerous chemicals.

What dangerous chemicals, we asked? Anything that is a “cide!” (-cide = “to kill.”) Pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, weedicides — No matter what the package says, all such poisons and toxins cause significant destruction. The poisons regularly kill non-target organisms, including beneficial insects, soil bacteria, and critical indigenous predators such as owls, hawks, snakes, coyotes, and bobcats. Further, it’s a slow, painful, and cruel method of death.

Once toxins enter the environment, they accumulate in the food chain and negatively affect all beings,

both human and wildlife. Strychnine and mothballs (naphthalene/paradichlorobenzene) are particularly toxic for humans. The nervous system and organs of ecologically valuable insects and animals, including our much-needed pollinators, can be damaged, harming their ability to survive or reproduce. A bird, for example, can pick up a granular pesticide when looking for seeds. The dead bird, then, is eaten by a bird of prey or a mammal, which, in turn, is affected. Children and pets can also be exposed to the toxins and can track them into the home.

We should use any such poisons sparingly (if at all) and with extreme caution. Some non-toxic alternatives include sealing entrances and removing food sources to prevent rodents, and using mulches and weed barriers to keep weeds at bay. Many other ideas can be found in past articles and on the Internet.

A word about glue traps and glue boards: Some residents reach for these solutions, thinking they are a good choice because they don’t disperse toxins, are easy to use, and are readily available in local stores. Glue traps, however, are deeply cruel and decried by such organizations as the Humane Society. Originally designed for professionals to temporarily capture an animal, users now leave the traps out for indefinite periods of time. The animal (target and non-target alike) cannot break free and end up suffering torturous deaths. Live release traps or quick-kill traps, especially electric-current models, are much better alternatives.

Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com. For archived Flora & Fauna articles, go to <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com/flora-fauna-group/>.



This article expresses the views of The Flora and Fauna Group, volunteers not directly affiliated with the ECIA.

Our New County Commissioner, Ed Moreno

I want to thank the residents in Eldorado who voted for me in the election. There are few communities in Santa Fe County who regularly turn out in large numbers to forums and who welcome candidates at their door to see what they are offering.

Since the June primary, I have been attending meetings of the Board of County Commissioners and a number of ancillary commissions, trainings, and county events. I have identified a number of issues that I will be working on to serve the residents of District 5.

District 5 includes the suburban environs of Eldorado, from U.S. 285, and the fast-growing Rancho Viejo and the Turquoise Trail communities south to the San Marcos. During the campaign, I walked every substantial neighborhood.

What I found out was that District 5 is the economic and residential engine of the Santa Fe region, including the Santa Fe Community College, the Institute of Indian American Arts, and the University of Art and Design, a film campus with a large workforce. Thousands of people travel to these and other substantial employment centers, including the state penitentiary, the county detention center, the National Guard Headquarters, and what I consider the southern suburbs of the city. If you have driven through the double diamond intersection, you can see the houses being built in Las Soleras and the Entrada section of Rancho Viejo and south toward the county detention and emergency communication center south of the Allsup’s.

What all that means is that we will be working to improve traffic flow, starting with the traffic patterns in the area between the interstate to south of the community college. My colleague Commissioner-Elect Anna Hansen and I have targeted the completion of the Rabbit Road construction around the community college as soon as possible.

—Ed Moreno

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www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works/road_concern.

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

The Current ECIA Board of Directors

A warm welcome to our newly appointed Board members! **Michael L. McDowell** comes to us from South Dakota, where his experience in the electric industry included serving as CEO for state and regional industry trade associations as well as operating utilities. He served in leadership positions in numerous state and community organizations, plus two terms as an elected official and president of his homeowners' association.

John Henriksen found his way to Eldorado from Illinois. There he served as executive director of the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers, a not-for-profit corporation representing sand, gravel, and stone mines operating in Illinois. As an attorney with Kentucky and Illinois with state government, Mr. Henriksen helped regulate aggregate, coal, and gas extraction.

Residents will be represented well by these appointments, and you can visit with both gentlemen at our next Board meeting on January 19 at 7 PM in the Railroad Building.
— *DiAna Gutierrez*



New Year's greetings from the current ECIA Board!
Front row, Antone Forneris; Pam Henline, Vice-President; and David Yard, Secretary.
Back row: Michael McDowell; Todd Handy, Treasurer; Dag Ryen, President; and John Henriksen.
Photo: Trond Peersen.