

ELDORADO AT SANTA FE VISTAS

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS IN ELDORADO

By the time this article goes to print, we have hopefully had a few storms bring some snow to Eldorado. And while the moisture is much needed, we don't welcome the challenges that come with driving on snow-covered roads. When we do get snow, the Santa Fe County crews that are responsible for clearing our roads go to work at 4 AM. Snow-plow trucks with salt/cinders are deployed on the paved roads, while motor graders work the unpaved roads. Priority is given to high-volume major and minor arterial roads first, followed by collector and then local roads. Internal subdivision roads are a lower priority. If a storm persists, the county crews will continue to address the major and minor arterials before moving on to collector and local roads. Depending on the depth of snow, unpaved roads may not be plowed, and snow may be left to provide moisture for road grading after the snow melts. Crews will work an average of 10- to 12-hour shifts, with snow removal operations ceasing around 8 or 9 PM and resuming at 4 AM the next morning if necessary.

The priority roads in Eldorado are the arterial roads, including Avenida Amistad, Avenida Vista

Grande, Avenida Eldorado, Avenida Torreon, Avenida Monte Alto, Caliente Road, Avenida de Compadres, and Avenida Casa del Oro, followed by the collector roads and paved local roads, including Avenida Azul, Herrada Road, Verano Loop, Camerada Road, and Encantado Loop.

Eldorado's 28 miles of paved and 52 miles of unpaved roads make up just 14% of the 563 miles of roads the county is responsible for maintaining. Depending on the area, duration, and frequency of snowstorms, the task of clearing roads across the county can be a big one. When snow is forecasted or when it comes, residents are encouraged to allow extra time to navigate the roads. Or if a trip to town can wait, please hold off to give the road crews more time to get the roads in shape. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Residents can call the Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) at 428-3720 to report a non-emergency snow-related concern. Residents should call 911 for life-threatening emergencies.

—*Felicia Probert*
Chair, ECIA Road Committee

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

Assessment Reminder

Assessment payments are due as of March 1. Anyone who has not paid the 2017 assessment or other amounts owed to the ECIA as of that date will not be eligible to vote in the 2017 election. In addition, those overdue will not be eligible to serve on the ECIA Board or committees, or use the Association's amenities, until their account is current.

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

Any ECIA property owner who has not received a 2017 assessment notification, has questions about the amount owed, or who wishes consideration of unusual circumstances, should immediately contact ECIA General Manager **Isabel Ugarte** at 466-4248.

Eldorado Turns Out for Wirth and McQueen

Senator **Peter Wirth** and Representative **Matthew McQueen** hosted a town hall meeting to an overflow crowd in ECIA's Railroad Building on January 12. During the hour-and-a-half forum, our two state legislators touched on the challenges facing lawmakers during New Mexico's 2017 legislative session.

As outlined by Senator Wirth, the state's number one challenge is its unprecedented budget crisis. As a comparison, Wirth recalled that during Governor Bill Richardson's years, the state's capital outlay fund held as much as \$1 billion. Today, that same fund holds just \$60 million. That leaves very little bacon for any of our state's representatives to bring back home.

Wirth explained that much of the \$450 million deficit is due to the precipitous drop in oil prices. In most years, oil revenues make up a third or even

more of the state's revenue. Since our state constitution requires a balanced budget, there is much scrambling on both the executive branch's side and the legislative side to meet that requirement.

We may see both branches struggle to find a middle ground between spending cuts and increasing revenues. Wirth hinted that Gov. Martinez might be willing to close some of the \$1 billion in tax loopholes that New Mexico corporations currently enjoy. This would be no small victory, given that the governor has signed Grover Norquist's pledge to never raise taxes.

Representative McQueen spoke to the three "E's" he will focus on this session: ethics, education and economic development. He wants to amend the current ethics legislation that prohibits lawmakers from soliciting campaign funding during the session to include

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 >>>



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.

Visible Equipment on Roofs and Exterior Walls

Over the past five years, the ECIA has noted an increase in the number of Eldorado homes that are installing the newer heating and air conditioning units that involve running exterior ducting from the roof as well as down the exterior walls. These units, and their associated ducting, are usually tan or white and are often very visible to neighbors (see photo). Under the Eldorado Guidelines, Section 6, page 7, all rooftop equipment should be painted to match the stucco color of the home:

6. Limitations on Permitted Design Features

While certain design features may be desirable, their incorporation into a structure may be disruptive to adjacent property owners. Accordingly: . . .

- 2. Unless it can be demonstrated that it will interfere with operation, visible rooftop equipment such as swamp coolers and the like shall be painted to match adjacent walls (or pitched roof if applicable). Covers shall match the adjacent walls.

While the guidelines currently specify only rooftop equipment as requiring paint to match the stucco color, the ECIA Architecture Committee is, at the time of this writing, in the middle of a public review process to consider proposed guideline revisions, which, if adopted by the ECIA Board, will extend the requirement to equipment not on the roof, but on walls and still very visible to neighbors. These proposed changes are written as follows:

4.8.1.2. Unless it can be demonstrated that it will interfere with their operation, rooftop and ground based heating, ventilation and cooling units (exclusive of solar systems) and their associated ductwork, as well as other visible equipment and associated covers, should be earth toned in color, similar to the approved stucco colors of Eldorado.

In the interim, and until the Revised Guidelines are formally approved by the ECIA Board, we ask that all residents who install any such exterior ducting or conduits on exterior walls, consider their neighbors and, in the spirit of keeping Eldorado a beautiful place to live, paint these ducts to match the color of their home's stucco, assuming that this will not interfere with the operation of the equipment.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Mark Young, ECIA Compliance Coordinator
466-4248; mark@eldoradosf.org



Arrows indicate white-painted ducts.

Board Nomination Petitions Due March 1

The Election Committee urges you to consider serving your community by becoming a candidate for the ECIA Board. The process to become a candidate for the 2017 Board of Director Election is simple and direct. Three Board of Director positions are open for election, each with three-year terms ending May 4, 2020. The Nomination Petition and its accompanying Instruction and Information sheets are available at the ECIA office or online at eldoradosf.org under the tab Resident Resources > Forms and Applications > Board Nomination Petition. Don't delay! The completed and signed petition must be submitted to the ECIA office no later than 5 PM, March 1, 2017. A statement with biographical information and your goals for the community, not exceeding a total of 400 words, must be submitted, along with a photo, by the above date.

Prospective candidates must meet all the following criteria: Be a lot owner of record, (1) who is current with assessments as of March 1, 2017; (2) whose rights and privileges are not suspended, and (3) who resides in Eldorado.

Petitions require at least 25 valid signatures of lot owners who are Members In Good Standing as of the date the petition is signed. Signers must have paid their 2016 assessment, any additional assessments or fees, and must not have had their rights and privileges suspended as of the date of signature.

Ballots will be mailed at the end of March 2017. Remember that to vote and support the candidate of your choice, your 2017 assessment must be paid by March 1, 2017. You will not receive an election ballot if your account is not current by this date.

—Election Committee

Message from the ECIA President

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association held a retreat last month to discuss critical issues and set some preliminary priorities for the coming year. At the top of the priorities list is a need to refine and improve our working relationship with our management company, HOAMCO, particularly with reference to reporting, documentation, and billing. The Board remains pleased with the tireless efforts of our general manager, **Isabel Ugarte**, but feels that more can be done to improve the interaction between our community, the staff, and HOAMCO. We look forward to working with HOAMCO officials to achieve these ends.

Among the Board's other priorities is to increase community participation in all aspects of the ECIA. The Board will continue to hold open forums on various issues, will improve the quality and quantity of information on our website, and will look for other ways to interact directly with ECIA membership. It will also be necessary to recruit new members to several of our all-important committees, particularly the Finance, Facilities and Grounds, and Information Committees, all of which have recently lost some dedicated volunteers.

With regard to communications, the Board welcomes other platforms that have recently become available to Eldoradoans. One of these is Nextdoor Eldorado (<https://nextdoor.com/neighborhood/eldoradonm--santa-fe--nm/>), which performs many useful services by bringing residents and members with various needs and special interests together. Since it is impractical for us to respond to every posting on such websites, we recommend that any inquiry about ECIA or community issues be directed to staff. In response to a recent meme, the ECIA general manager has complained to Waste Management about conflicting and misleading information provided by its customer service representatives. ECIA does not have a contract with the hauler, and it is Santa Fe County, not ECIA, that has mandated recycling in conjunction with garbage pickup.

Of course, the most important aspect of community participation in the ECIA is Board membership. Several Board positions will be up for election in a few weeks. We hope that many civic-minded individuals will turn in nomination petitions to run for the Board, and we hope that every member of the ECIA will participate by voting in this important election.

President, ECIA Board of Directors

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on January 19, 2017. Board members present were President **Dag Ryen**, Vice-President **Pam Henline**, Treasurer **Todd Handy**, and directors **Antone Forneris**, **John Henriksen**, and **Michael McDowell**. The following actions were taken:

- ▼ A consent agenda was approved, including an update of the Mission Statement and Charter for the Election Committee.
- ▼ A motion was approved by a unanimous vote for a variance at 6 Verano Lane to allow a ground-based solar array more than 15 feet from the home to take advantage of existing vegetation screening.
- ▼ A motion was approved by a unanimous vote to accept the resignation of Board Secretary David Yard and to thank him for his service to the ECIA.
- ▼ A motion was approved by a unanimous vote to elect Director John Henriksen as Interim Secretary of the ECIA Board.

- ▼ A motion was approved by a unanimous vote to defer approval of the January financial statement from HOAMCO in anticipation of adjustments consistent with the 2016 financial audit.

The next regular meeting of the ECIA Board will be held on February 16, 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.

SAVE THE DATE:
ECIA BOARD
CANDIDATE FORUM
Tuesday, March 14, 2017,
7-9 pm
Railroad Building at ECIA
Community Center

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 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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PROTECT OUR NIGHT SKY

Lights left carelessly on may spoil the views of our night sky.



Try yoga in 2017!



It's hard to see, but there's a rattler underneath this golden's right forepaw. Teach your dog how to stay safe!

Rattlesnakes are very common along hiking trails in the Eldorado and Galisteo area, and up in the national forests as well. . . .

—“Rattlesnakes and Your Pet in Santa Fe County”

© 2014 Eldorado Animal Clinic



Yoga, Five Days a Week

Have you made a New Year's Resolution to become healthier in 2017? Is it possible that your description of “healthier” encompasses the three areas of body, mind, and spirit? If so, consider incorporating a yoga practice into your weekly routine. The *Eldorado Yoga for Every Body* teachers, **Julia Cairns** and **Mary Horst**, have expanded their class offerings starting in January to one class every day of the week and will continue them throughout the year. These classes vary according to ability and intensity levels, as well as by styles of practice (Vinyasa Flow, Yin, and Gentle Stretch/Slow Flow). Now, practitioners of all levels will be able take two to three classes weekly right in our own community room of the ECIA building taught by certified yoga instructors.

For the beginning student, the Gentle Stretch/Slow Flow classes will be offered on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9 to 10:15 AM taught by Mary Horst. Additionally, a Monday evening 5:30–6:45 PM Yin Yoga class will be led by Julia Cairns for students of all levels who are looking for a deep stretch experience that invites in greater relaxation at a slow pace. Finally, for those more regular and seasoned yoga students, Julia Cairns will continue to teach the popular Vinyasa Flow class on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9 to 10:15 AM. These classes are listed in the monthly *Vistas* calendar, but for more detailed information on fees, class descriptions, weekly schedule, and monthly articles, go to eldoradoyogaforeverybody.com.

—*Mary Garvey Horst, RYT-200*

Free Tax Help at Senior Center

AARP Tax-Aide will prepare your 2016 personal income taxes at the Adam Senior Center, 16 Avenida Torreon, on Tuesdays only, 8:30 AM to 3 PM through April 11. Appointments are required. For information or to schedule an appointment, call 466-1039.

Eldorado Neighbor to Neighbor

There will be an exploratory meeting of a new volunteer group in Eldorado called Eldorado Neighbor to Neighbor focused on providing volunteer support to older adults to help them stay in their homes in Eldorado. Anyone who needs this kind of support, wants to provide this support, or is just interested in checking out the concept should consider attending. The meeting will be held at the ECIA Conference Room, Tuesday, February 14, 6–7 PM. Contact **Michael Landen** at 466-8896 or mjlanden@q.com for more information.

Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinic for Dogs

It's early January, with fresh snow on the ground, but I'm thinking ahead to spring when the greenbelt comes alive in Eldorado. The sounds of spring here include the unmistakable buzzing sound of rattlesnakes.

As an owner of Brittany's, a dog breed with hunting in its DNA, I have been aware of the presence of rattlers since moving to Eldorado in 2004. I have

MOON PHASES FOR FEBRUARY 2017



seen them on the roadways, on my neighbors' properties, and in my courtyard. I have talked to folks in our dog park who have encountered rattlers in their yards and inside their homes . . . yikes!

As a long-time member of the Central New Mexico Brittany Club, I have been helping our club sponsor Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinics for Dogs for the last three years. We have held these clinics in Eldorado since 2015, with participation increasing each year. In 2016, more than 150 dogs participated here.

The ECIA requested to host this year's clinic, scheduled for Sunday, March 26, on the grounds of the Community Center. Sessions will be scheduled on the hour, beginning at 8 AM, with registration available now. Another clinic will be held Saturday, March 25, on the West Mesa in Rio Rancho.

Conducting the training again are **Terry** and **Janet Chandler**, owners of Rugerheim Kennels of Las Cruces, NM. They are top-tier professional trainers of high-quality hunting and competition dogs with more than 40 years of experience. Among the top high-performance sporting dog trainers in the nation, they developed this rattlesnake avoidance clinic for their own as well as their clients' dogs. They have been conducting these clinics throughout the Southwest and beyond for more than 25 years, with exceptional results.

We are thankful for the Eldorado Animal Clinic and Cameron Veterinary Clinic's ongoing support for these clinics. Eldorado Country Pet, Cheeky Bubbles, and Quik Send have helped us spread the word too.

For more information, contact Tom on 466-6511, at tjmauter@comcast.net or visit www.central-newmexicobrittanyclub.com (click on Training menu tab). —*Tom Mauter, Central NM Brittany Club*

New Faces on EAWSD Board

The January 10 election to fill three EAWSD Board positions saw an unusually large voter turnout. Just 80 District members voted in the previous election compared with 567 this time. This year's election took place in the District's new administrative offices at 2 North Chamisa Drive just south on 285 from Eldorado.

The purpose of the election was to install two board members to fill board positions expiring in 2017. One appointed position with a remaining two-year term was also on the ballot.

With a two-year term remaining, incumbent **David Burling** lost to **David Yard**, 235 votes to 320. **Steve Ewers** won a full four-year term over incumbent **Stephen Holder**, 329 to 228 votes.

Coming close, but no cigar, John Hawkins garnered an impressive 205 write-in votes, to Gregory Hart's 268.

Perhaps the election's discussion playing out on the local social media platform, Nextdoor Eldorado (<https://eldoradoatsantafe.nextdoor.com/>), contributed to the larger-than-usual voter turnout. However, the eight candidates who ran for the board in the January 2009 election (long before "Nextdoor Eldorado") garnered an even bigger turnout at 768. —Gershon Siegel

Legislators, cont. from p. 1

prohibiting legislators from receiving any funding during the session as well. He has also introduced HB 82, which would extend the state's solar tax credit.

McQueen wants the state to put more funding into early childhood education. He'd like to see civics and financial literacy added to school curricula. He is convinced of the need for economic development in our rural areas after seeing what happens to small communities in his district when they lose their supermarkets.

Questions were taken from the audience after the lawmakers' comments. Topics touched upon included stopping coyote killings as a "blood sport"; passing a "death with dignity law"; transferring of federally owned lands back to the states; and reinstating a food tax.

Wirth mentioned a bill being introduced by another lawmaker calling for the legalization of recreational marijuana. He spoke of his support for it. McQueen, however, was less enthusiastic, concerned with impaired drivers under the influence and keeping it out of the hands of teenagers. The possibility of overriding a likely Martinez veto of a bill allowing the growing of industrial hemp was also discussed.

Given the size of the budget crisis and the paltry amount of funds in the state's coffers, there was no discussion as to what Eldorado projects might receive state funding. —Gershon Siegel

February 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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., Feb. 14, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., Feb. 28, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Feb. 13, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Feb. 7, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Feb. 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Feb. 8, 2-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Feb. 1, 4-6 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., Feb. 13, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., Feb. 20, 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 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., 4-5:30 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., 3-5 pm	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
Yin Yoga	Mon., 5:30-6:45 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Tues., 9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Wed. & Thurs. 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Fri., 9-10:15 am	Julia 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

Winter Birds and Bird Lists

The start of this winter season (late 2016) has been somewhat different, birdwise. Our weather has been quite warm, hovering in the high 40s and low 50s, with a few cold nights below 20, but not many. The most notable event has been a huge number of American Robins. They were everywhere, with their distinctive one-note call and red breast. But suddenly, around December 14 during a cold snap, about 80% of them departed for better weather. For a while I could fill my heated water bowls once a day instead of three times! This eruption of Robins continues with the Robins coming and going.

American Robins are one of the birds we see in late fall, but not necessarily all winter long. According to Cornell's Feeder Watch, the Dark-eyed Junco is one of the most frequently reported winter feeder birds. We have three commonly seen varieties: the Oregon Junco, the Pink-sided Junco (usually rare around the US, but abundant here), and the Slate-colored Junco. This year, I am seeing fewer of these perky little birds at my feeder and on the ground foraging for seeds, and they seemed to have arrived a little later too!

Some of our birds are year-round residents and they can be seen all winter. The following list is from my yard, and you may be seeing others not mentioned! These are the birds I see fairly regularly in the winter; I have left out some that come by my yard infrequently. I see Western Scrub Jay, Ladder-back Woodpecker, Northern (Red shafted) Flicker, Curve-

billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Spotted Towhee, House Finch, Western Bluebird (sometimes in flocks of 10–20), Mountain Bluebird (more in winter than in summer), Juniper Titmouse, Crows, Mourning Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Bewick's Wren. I hope you are enjoying our winter birds. They appreciate water and birdseed and suet.

You probably think that bird lists are for passionate bird watchers who keep a list of every bird they see. But there is another type of bird list, one that lists the birds identified in a particular area. Most national parks, wildlife areas, or reserves have a bird list. It is almost never displayed, so when you enter a Visitor Center, ask if a bird list is available. I often use lists from nearby locations when I am trying to pin down the ID of a new bird.

New Mexico is a diverse state with many microclimates and many different types of birds. A recent count lists 542 species in New Mexico. The following website is a guide to NM birds: <http://www.nm-birds.org/wp-content/2016-08-14-Checklist-of-New-Mexico-Bird-Species-14-August-2016-57th-Supplement-included.pdf>.

A few of the local lists I have used include

- ▼ Pecos National Historic Park
- ▼ Randall Davey Audubon Center
- ▼ Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge
- ▼ Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge
- ▼ Chaco Culture National Historic Park

—Pam Henline



Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*).

News from Eldorado/285 Recycles

Spring is around the corner, and along with it spring cleaning! As you clear out “stuff,” Eldorado/285 Recycles reminds you that there are many reuse opportunities in our community.

If you have furniture and household goods that might need a little repair but are still usable, drop them at the ReUse Center at Eldorado Convenience Center, 2 miles down US 285 from the Eldorado entrance. Someone with time and skill to repair may return your items to a useful state, or an artist will incorporate them into something new. Check out that space; you may find a free gem yourself. While there, you can drop off mixed recyclables plus glass, fluorescent and LED light bulbs, motor oil, metals, and household batteries.

If your household items are in good shape or if you have clothes to pass on, take advantage of the many consignment and reuse shops here and in Santa Fe. They can benefit your pocketbook or your favorite charity—from people to animals. A list is available at Eldorado285recycles.org. Soon there will be Flea Market opportunities.

Don't forget that Vista Grande Public Library takes book donations the first Saturday of the month, 9–11:30 AM. Unused bike? Chainbreaker (989-3858) takes bikes in any condition for refurbishing and donation.

Eldorado285Recycles also accepts materials for repurposing at LaTienda. Athletic shoes may be dropped off in Building B next to the Gym. Usable pairs are taken to shelters; unusables go to Goodwill, which sends them to a shredding facility.

Dental and cosmetic items and containers, collected in Building A, are returned to a manufacturer for their recycling programs.

Think outside the box! You never know who needs what. An Eldorado community member recently benefited from a single shoe left at Nina's Closet. You know that item you've been keeping “just in case”? A wedding gift from 35 years ago you never really liked. The ugly Christmas sweater? It will benefit someone else and reduce your clutter!

Remember: Throw it Away? There is NO Away. So think Reduce, Repurpose, ReUse, Someone else will appreciate it. Happy Spring – only 48 more days!



Cloth recycle arrows.
Photo: Lauren Jong, Creative Commons license



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

The Open Land Next to Eldorado

Ever wonder about the open land at the far west end of Avenidas Eldorado and Vista Grande? We've heard people refer to it as ranch land, or BLM land, or open trail land. In fact, none of those claims are true. Home to wildlife and native plants, the open area is State Trust Land, managed by the New Mexico State Land Office, closed to public access without a permit or lease. And it's a big space, approximately 4,500 acres!

What's the difference between BLM and State Trust, you ask? Plenty. For starters, one is federal and the other is state. The (federal) Bureau of Land Management is responsible for over 245 million acres of land (plus another 700 million subsurface acres) throughout the Western states. BLM property is managed for a variety of uses, including energy development, grazing, recreation, and timber harvesting. BLM land is also protected from a natural, cultural, and historical perspective, including monuments such as Tent Rocks and a variety of wilderness areas.

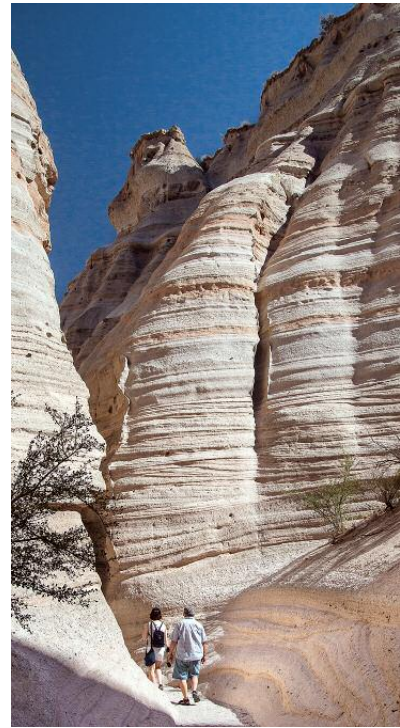
The NM State Land Office, on the other hand, is responsible for approximately 9 million acres (plus another 13 million subsurface) in our state. Managed so that it generates income for the State Land Trust—which in turn supports schools, universities, hospitals, and other public institutions—the land's uses can include leases, recreation such as hiking, and hunting/fishing/trapping.

How is the State Trust Land next to Eldorado used? Although some of our community's greenbelt

trails go right to the edge of the open land, that land is leased to a rancher and is not open to the public except with a current recreational access permit and/or valid hunting license. An easement (extension of Avenida Eldorado) has also been provided for a road to access a private development. And a portion is actually private property, notably a 14-acre parcel behind Tetilla Road. Jason Lithgow, the Santa Fe District Resource Manager for the State Land Office, refers to New Mexico as the "Know State." It is the users' responsibility to know where they are and the legal status and use of areas they visit.

As Jim Norwick of the State Land Office noted in a 2014 presentation to the ECIA Board, State Trust Lands are not open to the public without permit. The fine for trespassing is \$500. Residents are encouraged to purchase a \$35 recreational permit (call 505-827-5724 for information), as those funds provide much-needed revenue to maintain the land. It's important to note that even with a permit, dogs are to be leashed on State Trust Land. Cattle (when leased), leghold traps, hunting, and other hazards pose serious risks to trespassers and loose dogs.

For accurate identification of land status via your mobile device, go to <https://roam.onxmaps.com/>. Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com. For archived Flora & Fauna articles, go to <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com/flora-fauna-group/>.



An example of BLM land, The Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument in New Mexico. Photo: Bob Wick, BLM

Library News

February is "I Love VGPL" month. Vista Grande Public Library invites you to come in and make a Valentine showing what you love about your local library. You can also take a heart from the "Wish Tree," representing an item on the library's wish list so that you may donate toward your favorite things at VGPL, including books, DVDs and programs.

PROGRAMS

After School Reading Club has just begun. It meets Wednesday afternoons after school. Parents can still register students in grade K to 4; come by to sign up your child. **Story Time** for the pre-K and under crowd and their caregivers meets on Friday mornings at 11:30 AM. There is no registration required for this program.

The **All Ages Chess Club** is open to students (and adults) interested in learning the game. The Chess



Club meets every Friday afternoon from 3 to 5 PM. Kids under 12 will need a parent to register them the first time.

All programs will follow the SFPS schedules and snow closings, so please call the library at 505-466-7323 or check the website at www.vglibrary.org to verify the group will be meeting that day.

IMPORTANT DATES

Book Donation Days: Saturdays, February 4 and March 4, 9 to 11:30 AM only.

Family Movie Nights: Fridays, February 10 and March 10, 7 PM. Call the library at (505) 466-7323 for the titles. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

Physics for Everyone: Thursday, February 16, 1 to 2:30 PM. No previous knowledge of physics is required. This month's topic is Quantum Theory. Can you be in two places at once? Should you try?

—Tracey Mitchell

Rock the Arts Events for El Dorado School

Rock and Glow Cocktail Fundraiser: Wed., Feb. 22, 6–9 PM, Café Fina, 624 Old Las Vegas Highway, \$15 each; \$25 per couple. An adults-only event featuring cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction of fine art, jewelry and one-of-a-kind pieces to benefit arts programs at El Dorado Community School.

Rock and Glow Family Art Extravaganza: Sat., Feb. 25, 2–6 PM, El Dorado Community School. Student performances, artmaking stations, blacklight Glow Room, Student Art Gallery and Silent Auction to benefit El Dorado Community School. FREE and open to the public, all ages welcome. Contact Jackie Camborde at 505-501-9238 or jackiecamborde@yahoo.com or for more information.

VISTAS

Eldorado Community Improvement Association
 #1 La Hacienda Loop
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
www.eldoradosf.org

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SAVE PAPER/MAILING COSTS

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



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Road Repair (SF County) 992-3010
www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works/road_concern

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

Racetrack Rescue

Horse racing is one of the oldest sports in the world, dating back to about 4500 BC among the nomads of Central Asia, who first domesticated the horse. Since then, horse racing has flourished as the sport of kings. The ancient Greek Olympics included both chariot and mounted horse racing. The sport was also popular in the Roman Empire.

There are over 100 viable racetracks in the United States today, and thousands of races are run annually. Consequently, thousands of thoroughbred horses are born every year, each with the potential to win money for their owners. Unfortunately, only about 5 to 10% of these horses ever see a racetrack, and the ones that do, race only until about age 6, if they're not too slow or are not injured in the sport. What's their fate for the remaining 20+ years of their lives? What happens to these "rejects?" Unless they are lucky enough to find another career, many are euthanized or disposed of at slaughterhouses, trucked over our borders to slaughter facilities in Mexico and Canada.

There is another solution to save retired or discarded racehorses and thoroughbreds simply not cut out to be a racehorse. Several or-

ganizations have been rescuing these horses and rehabilitating them for second "careers," including equine competition, police work, recreational riding, and companion animals, proving their relevance and versatility. Off-the-track thoroughbreds (or OTTBs) at Eldorado Stable include Sunny, Robin, Hawk, Paris, Will, Dazzler, and Elvis. All are being ridden now or have been ridden and are now just relaxing and being cared for by their loving owners (see photos of Hawk, at right). Of course, it takes time and patience to retrain these horses. How they're treated and trained in their first year determines how usable they will be. But ex-racehorses are remarkable animals, very athletic and intelligent. They can adapt to a wide range of alternative horse careers. Everyone should consider a rescued racehorse as their next horse. They really can do anything.

If owning a horse isn't an option for you, you can still get involved with horses by volunteering at The Horse Shelter or joining the United State Pony Club, which has participating and non-participating memberships for kids and adults. Activities include mounted and unmounted meetings, clinics, rallies, certifications, exchanges and other special opportunities. You can also support a horse rescue organization with donations. Canter USA



Hawk, at Eldorado Stables.

is the largest and best source for OTTBs to be adopted or purchased for retraining in new careers. Locally, there is the Santa Fe Horse Shelter and The Santa Fe Pony Club for opportunities to learn, volunteer, donate or shop.

Check the following organizations to donate or look for a horse:

- <https://canterusa.org>
- thehorseshelter.org • horseadoption.com
- www.transitionthoroughbreds.org
- <https://www.thoroughbredadoption.com>
- <https://www.ponyclub.org>

References available on request. Contact Bonnie Mamp halimaflame@hotmail.com.
 –Bonnie Mamp, Eldorado Stable Committee