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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

Eldorado's Trail System

One of the major attractions of our area is convenient access to outdoor activities, from skiing in winter to long days of sunshine by the pool. One of Eldorado's contributions to this active lifestyle is an elaborate system of trails, which is consistently named as one of the community's most popular amenities. According to ECIA Conservation Committee Chairman, **Jim Daniel**, "There are not many places anywhere that have such wonderful trail options, with deep canyons, small mountains and wide meadows. Our trails are the best amenity in Eldorado."

Our community actually has three different kinds of trails. There are the paved or gravel trails that parallel most of our major thoroughfares. These are used extensively by joggers, dog walkers, bicyclists, and residents out for a stroll in the fresh air. These so-called hike/bike trails are technically county property, and the ECIA has an agreement with the county to maintain them so long as they are in reasonable condition. When the trails deteriorate to the point of being unusable or dangerous, the county assumes responsibility for rebuilding. Maintaining the hike/bike trails is a major expense for the ECIA. Annual costs for crack-sealing and coating can run between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Santa Fe County has also invested considerable effort, with the help of federal grants, to develop the state-of-the-art Rail Trail along the railroad tracks that run through Eldorado. The latest portion of this project brings the finished Rail Trail from Avenida Vista Grande to Avenida Eldorado. In time, the county expects to develop the trail all the way to Lamy, with connections to the popular trails in the Galisteo Basin Preserve.

Another key amenity for residents is the system of trails in the Eldorado Preserve, the 4,000-acre natural area to the east of US 285. These wilderness trails are diligently monitored and maintained by an active group of volunteers, many of whom are members of the Conservation Committee, and who devote countless hours to work days on the trails. The Preserve system offers a variety of options for hikers and bicyclists

of all skill levels, from the relatively flat loop of the 201 trail to the moderately hilly and scenic 401 trail. This is the only area where well-behaved dogs are allowed to explore off-leash with their owners. Maps to the trails in the Preserve are available in the ECIA office.

Finally, Eldorado has an informal system of trails throughout our many acres of greenbelt. Conditions on the greenbelt trails vary considerably. Some areas are overgrown with weeds, others infested with cholla, and some damaged by erosion. Much of the greenbelt is in the floodplain, and low-lying trails suffer the consequences of cloudbursts and runoff. Wet weather means that trails become muddy and are easily damaged. Bicyclists and horseback riders are requested not to use the greenbelt or Preserve trails under such conditions (see article, page 5).

At the behest of the Conservation Committee, the ECIA Board has recently adopted a set of trail standards that will apply when greenbelt trails are upgraded. At this time, there is only a two-mile segment in Pueblo Canyon Park that has been upgraded, and a shorter segment near the library will be improved by volunteers this summer. Making improvements to the greenbelt trails will be a time-consuming process. Consideration for the natural habitat and for the serenity of the neighbors will be paramount. Maps of the greenbelts and hike/bike paths are also available at the office.

With spring just around the corner, it is a good time for ECIA members to become familiar with the community's trail system and enjoy some healthy hiking, biking, or jogging.

-Dag Ryen, ECIA President

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

Assessment Reminder

Assessments are overdue after March 1.



Love nature? Want to serve your community by maintaining trails? Email Mark Young, mark@eldoradosf.org, for more information.



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.

Responsible Dog Ownership Practices

When spring arrives and temperatures rise, many Eldorado residents will start allowing their dogs to remain outside of the house, in fenced enclosures, for longer periods during the day. While this isn't always problematic, without proper supervision many dogs will bark and howl for more than 15 to 20 minutes and, as such, will be in violation of both the Eldorado Covenants as well as Santa Fe County Animal Control Ordinance No. 1991-6. This ordinance is detailed as follows:

Santa Fe County Animal Control Ordinance 1991-6

5-5 ANIMAL DISTURBING THE PEACE

A. It is unlawful for any owner to allow any of his animals to persistently or continuously bark, howl or make noise common to their species or otherwise disturb the peace and quiet of the inhabitants of the County, or to keep or maintain on his premises any animal in such a manner as to disturb others by noxious or offensive odors, or otherwise endanger the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the County.

Out of respect for your neighbors, we urge all dog owners to keep this ordinance in mind when they let their dogs outside, and to be vigilant in preventing their dogs from barking excessively at any time of day. Should you encounter such excessive barking incidents, we ask you to let the ECIA know, in addition to calling Santa Fe Animal Control at 428-3720 and filing a report on the problem dog. The ECIA will also send a letter to the owner of the problem dog asking for their cooperation in preventing further excessive barking incidents.

On another dog-related matter, it is all too common for Eldorado dog owners to fail to pick up their

dogs' solid waste. Such irresponsible dog ownership is a violation of both the Eldorado Responsible Dog Ownership Policy and Section 5-6 of the Santa Fe Animal Control Ordinance. This ordinance details the county's policies regarding animal nuisances on sidewalks, public parks, and other open spaces. Relevant portions of this ordinance are detailed as follows:

It is unlawful for the owners of any animal to permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care or control, any such animal to commit any nuisance upon a sidewalk or in a public park . . . or upon any private property other than that of the animal owner. When an animal defecates in a public place, the owner must remove the feces and dispose of it in a sanitary manner.

Eldorado residents should always think of others when walking their dogs, and remember to bring a plastic bag for proper pickup and disposal of animal wastes. To aid residents in cleaning up after their dogs, the ECIA has installed many Dogi-Pot stations, which include bags and a disposal bucket (see photo, facing page). Such cleanups are especially important in public areas such as the ECIA Dog Park and common grounds and at Compadres Park, all of which are heavily used by dog owners and children alike. Cleaning up after your pet is part of being a good neighbor and will help to keep Eldorado a beautiful and enjoyable place to live.

For further information on responsible pet ownership, please refer to the Eldorado Responsible Dog Ownership Policy at <http://eldoradosf.org/index.php/Governing-Documents/responsible-dog-ownership-policy.html> or contact me at the ECIA.

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

Board Election Forum, Meet Your Candidates

A Candidate Forum will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 7-9 PM at the Railroad Building. Candidates will present their views and ideas as related to a universal question. An informal meet-and-greet will immediately follow, with opportunity for ECIA members to mingle with candidates and to directly ask questions.

Check eldoradosf.org for information on the candidates who have filed Nomination Petitions and are running for the Board of Directors election. At the time of this writing, the candidates have not yet been verified and announced.

The Annual Meeting Packet for Members will be

mailed at the end of March 2017. If your 2017 assessment is current, all fees paid and current, and you are a Member In Good Standing and eligible to vote, you will also receive in this packet a ballot for the ECIA Board of Directors election and a Quorum Proxy Statement necessary to determine a quorum for the Annual Meeting. Read the instructions on the ballot, vote for the candidate(s) of your choosing, place the ballot in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope, along with your signed and dated Quorum Proxy Statement, and either mail or hand deliver the provided return envelope to the ECIA office by 5 PM, April 27.

-Election Committee

Message from the ECIA President

Winter is a time for preparation at the ECIA. We are working closely with our auditor to prepare the audit for 2016. We are laying the groundwork for the important Board election that is coming up next month. We are preparing for maintenance work on the hike/bike trails that was delayed last year. And we are preparing for the popular pool season. All these tasks require the time and effort of our excellent volunteers, particularly those involved in committees, such as Finance, Election, and Facilities & Grounds. Through their involvement, we should be all set for another great spring and summer in Eldorado.

This year's election is particularly important. Terms will expire for three of the seven Board seats. Hopefully, there will be four or five caring individuals who have submitted nomination petitions so that the community has real and viable choices. A forum to get to know the candidates is scheduled for March 14, from 7 to 9 PM, in the Railroad Building at the Community Center.

On a personal note, one of the things that has buoyed me in my nearly four years as Association president has been the passion shown by many Eldorado residents. Sometimes these passions clash, and the ECIA gets caught in the middle. But on the whole, passion is a good thing. It shows that our members truly care about the community, care about its quality and values. Meeting those individuals who show an interest in the future of Eldorado has been one of the key rewards of serving on the ECIA Board.

As we muddle through the winds and changeable weather of the coming weeks, perhaps we can all make a special effort to demonstrate how much we enjoy living in this corner of the magnificent high desert. Let's clean up our properties as much as possible. Let's keep outside lighting at a minimum so our neighbors can enjoy the brilliant night skies. And let's remember to wave or say hi to our neighbors. This is how we can build a shared passion for Eldorado going forward.

President, ECIA Board of Directors

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on February 16, 2017. Board members present were President **Dag Ryen**, Vice-President **Pam Henline**, Secretary **John Henriksen**, and directors **Antone Forneris** and **Michael McDowell**. The following actions were taken:

- ▼ The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. **Joseph Gutierrez** to the Board seat recently vacated by resigning member **David Yard**. Mr. Gutierrez is a long-time resident of Eldorado with extensive financial and management experience with Santa Fe County.
- ▼ A consent agenda was approved, including three variance requests. A request was approved for an existing structure built 7 feet into the 20-foot setback at 2 Jacinto Court. A request was approved for a new small accessory building 9 feet in height at 40 Carissa Road. A request was approved for a fence that encroaches 9 feet into the 20-foot setback at 106 Monte Alto Road to connect with an existing fence.
- ▼ A motion to approve the updated Election Committee Election Procedure was adopted unanimously
- ▼ A motion to approve Mr. **Cecil Rich** as a new member of the Conservation Committee was adopted unanimously.
- ▼ A motion to allow various variances relating to the installation of above-ground cisterns at 10 Quedo Road was withdrawn pending further refinement of screening plans.

The next regular meeting of the ECIA Board will be held on March 16, 2017, at 7 PM in the Railroad Building at the ECIA Community Center. Complete minutes and agendas of all ECIA Board meetings are available at the ECIA office or on the website www.eldoradosf.org.



Dogi-Pot station on hike/bike trail (see story on p. 2).

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Director
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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
eldoradofirerescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)

Changes Near You?

Have any of your neighbors submitted architectural modification plans to the ECIA for approval? What changes to the built landscape are being considered near you? Check out the Architecture Committee agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/Arch-agenda> or the ECIA Board agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lkxxdmw>.



Haiku

Spring's eternity
brings again each year
anew
with a flower's smile

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Meeting

Eldorado Neighbor to Neighbor is holding another meeting, on March 7, 6–7 PM at the Community Center. This group focuses 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. Contact **Michael Landen** at 466-8896 or mjlanden@q.com for more information.

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.

NEW SPACE, NEW CALLER!

Square Dance Free Open Houses! Fridays, 7–8 PM, March 10, 17, and 31. Drop by and check it out! Lessons begin April 7! NEW SPACE! Community Room next to the Senior Center (16 Avenida Torreon). NEW CALLER! **Lisa Lincoln** (Eldorado Children's Theatre and Teen Players director). Contemporary music; singles and couples welcome. No experience necessary, casual dress, all ages welcome! Children ages 9 and up welcome too! The fun place to spend Friday evenings! 505-660-6043, squaredancesantafe.org.

Come Grow at School Community Garden

Calling all gardeners and wannabe gardeners: The 2017 season kickoff meeting for the El Dorado School Community Garden will take place Saturday, March 11, 9:30–10:30 AM at the ECIA Community Center. Please join us to sign up, get information and, weather permitting, tour the garden.

Now entering its 9th season, the garden is run by an enthusiastic group of volunteers—comprised of expert and brand new gardeners, Eldorado long-timers and newcomers, and Eldorado school teachers and students—who tend a 1.5-acre, all-organic garden located behind the school soccer field.

Two membership options are available: sign up for a 4x8 ft. individual bed, and/or join the 2,500 sq. ft. communal or circle garden, in which a group of gardeners plan and tend the garden and collectively share harvests. Because we start the garden in early spring on a windswept, dry savanna that appears incapable of sustaining anything, the summer bounty always seems miraculous; last year, the circle garden grew beans, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, a large variety of greens, okra, peas, peppers, potatoes, squashes, tomatoes, radishes, rhubarb, herbs, and flowers.

There is a one-time new member fee as well as annual fees, all of which go toward supporting the garden and its infrastructure. In return, members receive rich, amended soil, drip irrigation, fencing and as much “critter proofing” as we can manage, plus the use of garden tools, garden education, and perhaps most importantly, lots of fun and social interaction.

Join us at ECIA on March 11 to learn about growing vegetables—and community. For more information and membership forms, contact eldogardeninfo@eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.org and visit our Facebook page.

—Carol Robles

MOON PHASES FOR MARCH 2017



PROTECT OUR NIGHT SKY

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

Yoga for Positive Change

Recent events in our body politic seem to be generating a sense of collective anxiety. During stressful times, I find myself turning more and more to my yoga practice. Of course, this is not of great benefit to anyone but myself, yet without cultivating an inner peace, how then can we move off our yoga mats to help others? With constant alerts of controversial “breaking news,” it is difficult to prevent our minds from reacting, often in an angry, frustrated way that serves only to speed up our heart rate, deplete our adrenals, and prepare us for “flight or fight.” By simply pausing, taking time to breathe, allowing our minds and bodies to slow down, we can change our mindset. Yoga helps us do this; it brings us into the present moment, which, after all, is all we have. The one hour spent in a yoga class is a gift to yourself and possibly the most important hour spent in your day. From this quiet and mindful place, I guarantee you will feel empowered to thoughtfully move towards action, not reaction. Action that is born of a quiet mind, a stronger body, and a greater spiritual awareness grounds us in the present moment for whatever might arise. This is the essence of yoga.

Namaste, Julia Cairns



Eldorado's Community Garden

March Events

Avoid Use of Wet Trails!

In mid-January, 2017, the ECIA Preserve had a lot of rain and snow, transforming the usually dry trails into a very muddy mess (see photos below). While this is not normally a problem, unfortunately someone decided to ride their horse on the 201 trail while it was still very wet, causing a lot of damage to the trail.

When such damp and muddy conditions exist in the Preserve, we ask all equestrians, hikers, and bikers to refrain from using the trails until they dry out. Typically, the trails in the Preserve to avoid during such wet periods are the 201, 202, and 301 trails; still, other trails may appear soft and muddy upon inspection.

Your respect of these "fragile when wet" trails will help to prevent further erosion and the need for ECIA trail volunteers to spend future springtime hours repairing the damage. When your favorite trail is wet, use an alternative, dry trail until your preferred trail has had a chance to dry out.

—Mark Young



Answers to Word Scramble on Back Page

1: tin, aluminum, paper, books, plastic; 2: glass; 3: ECC; 4: corks, pens, dental items; 5: Agora; 6: ECC; 7: LaTienda; 8: styrofoam; 9: refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle; 10: trash

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., Mar. 14, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., Mar. 27, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Mar. 13, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Mar. 7, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Mar. 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Mar. 8, 2-4 pm	Kathie Graham	466-2133	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Mar. 1, 4-6 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., Mar. 13, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., Mar. 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., 3:00 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
Interval Training	Wed., 9 am	Susan Kayar	204-8290	Max Coll CC
Interval Training	Fri., 8:30 am	Susan Kayar	204-8290	Max Coll CC
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., 9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Wed., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/ Gentle Stretch	Thurs., 9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Tues., 9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	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

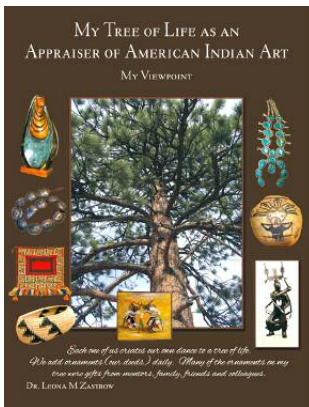
**For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

*** Reservations required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org



Mixed media and monoprints by Sande Anderson on view in March.



Author talk, Dr. Leona Zastrow, March 7.

Library News

Winter weather sometimes leaves the roads and the VGPL parking lot dangerously slick. At those times, the library may close for the safety of volunteers and patrons. During the week, the library staff will close if the Santa Fe Public Schools have a snow day. If the library does close, it will be listed on the website www.vglibrary.org and on the phone message recording. When in doubt, please call 505-466-7323 or check online.

Children's Programs: *After School Reading Club* meets on Wednesday afternoons from 3 to 4:30 PM. This program is for students in grades K–4, and parents need to register their children. *Story Time* for toddlers and preschoolers meets on Friday mornings at 11:30 AM. The *Wags and Words* dogs have a few openings for children to come read to them. This is an ideal opportunity for beginning and struggling readers to gain confidence and skills. Parents can call or come by the library to learn more about signing up their children for the program.

Board Members Needed! Do you have previous board or committee chair experience? Might fundraising be fun for you? Do you want to help ensure the future of VGPL? If you answer yes to some of these questions, a place on the library board might be right for you.

Most board members spend about 10 hours or so a month on board activities, ranging from meetings

to developing policies to coordinating fundraising activities, such as the book sale this month. Your participation in this role would be of great value to our local library. If you would be interested in exploring board membership, please contact the Nominating Committee chair, **Judy Spain**, at jespain@aol.com or 505-954-1241.

IMPORTANT DATES:

▼ **Book Donation Days:** Saturdays, March 4 and April 1, 9 to 11:30 AM only.

▼ **Art Exhibition:** Sande Anderson's "Harmony," mixed media and monoprints influenced by Santa Fe, on view March 2–30. **Meet the Artist:** Friday, March 3, 5–7 PM. Open to the public; light refreshments served.

▼ **Author Talks:** Dr. Leona M. Zastrow, *My Tree of Life as an Appraiser of American Indian Art: My Viewpoint*. March 7 at 7 PM.

Local author, **David Dutton**, *Paid in Sunsets: A Park Ranger's Story*. Wednesday, March 15 at 7 PM.

▼ **Physics for Everyone:** Thursday, March 16, 1–2:30 PM: Atomic and Nuclear Physics (What is radioactivity and how do nuclear power plants create energy?). No previous knowledge of physics required.

▼ **Family Movie Nights:** Fridays, March 10 and April 14, 7 PM. Call the library at 466-7323 for the titles. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

—Tracey Mitchell

Neighborhood Watch: Keeping Our Neighborhoods Safe

Having a safe place to live is important to all of us. And it is just as important to realize that doing so is up to every one of us. Yes, we have the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department serving us; we have the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service, and the ECIA to keep our amenities and walkways safe to use and more. But we also have a very important volunteer group: **Neighborhood Watch**.

Neighborhood Watch is a volunteer program begun by the police in 1972. The goal is to increase awareness of how to keep individual homes and residents safer from crime by increasing neighborhood awareness and citizen participation in reporting suspicious activities and actual crime experienced. Since the program began, neighborhoods all over the United States have become part of this important work. Eldorado has a very active Neighborhood Watch Program. All of us need to know about it and to participate. It takes every one of us to create safe, friendly neighborhoods. Eldorado has the largest Neighborhood Watch in New Mexico, a program of which we all can be proud. But there is more we can do and we need you to do it.

Neighborhood Watch is simply about neighbors knowing neighbors, about knowing who drives through your streets and who is away from home. It is about knowing what to do if you see a suspicious car next door or someone you do not recognize looking at your mailbox or your neighbor's. It is about knowing how to report persons you do not know who knock on your door saying they are selling something, collecting names for petitions, or offering you home maintenance services, and other similar schemes. It is about knowing what to do to keep your home looking occupied when you are away and safer from illegal entry when you are away or at home.

Neighborhood Watch is about kindness and neighborliness—about not only looking after yourself and your property but also about helping your nearest neighbors stay safer as well. It's about lending a hand to bring in papers and the mail when a neighbor is away, about driving your car in and out of their driveway in the snow when the neighbor is away so the home looks occupied. It is your calling the non-emergency police and sheriff's numbers to report what you



CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE >>



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Going to Bat for Bats

Ever seen a bat in Eldorado? Chances are slim! We've got bats, and that's great news for our environment, but these nocturnal animals tend to remain out of view during the day, perhaps in trees, portals, or eaves. We wanted to find out more about our valuable bat population, so we consulted professional wildlife biologist **Justin Stevenson**, who, along with his wife, **Holly**, owns RD Wildlife Management and Consulting.

The only mammals that fly, bats have furred bodies and extraordinary wings made of a double membrane stretched across their arms and fingers. Famous for poor vision (which is not necessarily true depending on the species) and a stellar echolocation ability (biological sonar), most bats use a combination of vision and reflected sound to navigate and hunt.

Eldorado is home to quite a few of the 30 unique bat species in New Mexico. The most common include Pallid, Big Brown, Little Brown, Hoary, Townsend's Big-Eared, and Mexico (or Brazilian) Free-Tailed, the latter made famous by the evening Bat Flights at Carlsbad Caverns. Species can be differentiated by size (from 3 to 5 inches, with a wingspan of 9 to 15 inches), coloring (mahogany, brown, gray, creamy pale or reddish brown), and ear size (very small to enormous).

All bats devour significant quantities of insects. Generally, small bats enjoy tiny bugs such as mosquitoes, whereas larger bats eat centipedes, moths, and crop pests. Bats consume hundreds of thousands of tons of destructive insects annually; if bats were removed from the environment, our crops and plants would be enormously affected.

Neighborhood Watch, *cont.*

feel is suspicious so everyone on your street and in Eldorado can be safer. It is even about keeping an eye out for those who may live alone and checking to see if that neighbor is okay or needs any help.

Eldorado's Neighborhood Watch Program is all volunteer. We have a volunteer coordinator, **Marilyn Walker**, who receives safety information and alerts from such entities as the Sheriff and the Police. Our coordinator provides training to volunteer block captains who in turn provide this information to you. Such information includes not only reports of crime or suspicious activities but also personal safety tips, tips for making your home safer, how to report crimes, and important numbers to call. Being a block captain is simple and requires very little time. The captains gather email addresses from neighbors and then emails each when any alerts are received. Also,

Some bat species are solitary, others cluster in colonies. Females typically have one or two pups during the maternity season, early April through the end of August. It's important to avoid blocking ("excluding") females from their pups during that time.

Despite myths, bats pose extremely little risk to humans. Young bats learning to fly may occasionally end up indoors or in places where they are more visible, and the idea of bats "flying into your hair" is a myth related to bats' attraction to bugs such as mosquitoes that are, in turn, attracted to humans. The only true risk is rabies, which is extremely rare among bats. There is zero chance of contracting rabies from a bat if you don't touch or handle it! Also, always keep your pets' vaccinations up to date, and don't let them hunt wild animals.

Bat guano is an amazing fertilizer; however, heavy accumulations of bat (and bird) droppings in a moist environment can produce spores known to cause histoplasmosis. Small accumulations of bat guano outdoors in New Mexico pose little risk to human health. Larger accumulations in attics or buildings can be mitigated using proper safety equipment and techniques.

Bat houses, an environmental asset, are typically positioned 12 feet or higher to protect bats from predators. A house with three to five chambers is best so that the adults and pups can move around as the sun warms the various rooms. Because bat populations are threatened by pesticides, habitat destruction, and hunting/vandalism, the more we can do to help them help us, the better. As Justin says, "The best thing for the bats is the best thing for you."

Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com. Find archived articles at <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com/flora-fauna-group/>.

safety tips and critical phone numbers you should keep handy are often copied and given to each home on the block. Once a year, captains try to organize a simple get-together—a pot-luck dinner or brunch—on their street so everyone gets to know who their neighbors are. Eldorado is a very large development. We have 140 block captains right now. However, that only gives us half the coverage we need to be sure every street here has coverage.

The Neighborhood Watch Program wants you to know that you are needed. You are needed to just be a good neighbor to those closest to you. Involving yourself in Neighborhood Watch helps you do so. Volunteer block captains and back-up captains are also needed. You can volunteer or find out who your block captain is, or just ask for more information by contacting Marilyn Walker at lightwalker2@comcast.net.

Choose to get informed and choose to help today.
—The Eldorado Neighborhood Watch Program



Big-eared Townsend fleder-maus. Photo: US government



Newborn lesser short-nosed fruit bat. Photo: Wikipedia

VISTAS

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www.eldoradosf.org

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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>

Eldorado/285 Recycles

Test your recycling IQ in this word scramble. Sixteen words are hidden vertically and horizontally (no diagonals). Words may cross each other.

KEY

1. Recycle these in the Mixed container: five things
2. Recycle this separately at Eldorado Convenience Center
3. Location for reusable furniture, household goods (abbrev.)
4. Recycle these at La Tienda: three items
5. Plastic bag recycle location
6. Recycle light bulb location (abbrev.)
7. Recycle athletic shoes location
8. Not recyclable
9. Four R's of recycling
10. Deposit broken hose

C	X	D	C	Q	W	E	R	P	A	P	E	R
O	A	E	B	E	B	C	G	H	L	E	P	Z
R	C	N	K	T	O	C	P	O	U	N	L	L
K	S	T	Y	R	O	F	O	A	M	S	A	R
S	A	A	L	A	K	M	B	T	I	N	S	R
U	G	L	A	S	S	D	P	O	N	T	T	E
A	Q	I	A	H	C	M	V	D	U	R	I	F
L	A	T	I	E	N	D	A	K	M	E	C	U
J	K	E	L	C	Y	I	M	Z	J	D	K	S
W	F	M	B	C	Y	J	W	R	E	U	S	E
T	X	S	D	N	H	R	E	C	Y	C	L	E
D	E	G	B	A	G	O	R	A	I	E	E	Q

Answers on p. 5.
 Brought to you by Eldorado/285 Recycles.



**WANT FRESH VEGETABLES?
 JOIN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN!
 (SEE PAGE 4)**