

# 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](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

## Spotlight on EACA Studio Tour

This year's Eldorado Studio Tour features 102 artists in 68 open studios. The studios will be open on Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, from 10 AM to 5 PM; the Opening Reception is slated for Friday, May 19, 5-7 PM, at the Preview Gallery in the Max Coll Center, adjacent to the Vista Grande Public Library at 16 Avenida Torreon. The Opening Reception offers a chance to meet the artists and ask them about the inspiration for their work. If you cannot make it to that event, stop by the Preview Gallery on Saturday and Sunday from 9 AM to 5 PM to see an example of each artist's work and pick up a brochure and map. For additional information, go to [www.eldoradostudiotour.org](http://www.eldoradostudiotour.org).

Each year the tour features work by artists in many genres: painting, ceramics, photography, sculpture, wearable arts, recycled art, glass, and jewelry. Here is a sampling of just some of the tour's jewelry artists:

**Karla Hackman** works in sterling silver with 14- and 18-karat gold accents and gemstones. Her organic and architectural geometric forms are created using the art of lost-wax carving. Karla studies the botanical and organic forms throughout Eldorado and has even cast apple tree branches from her garden to integrate in her designs.

**Barrie Brown** creates jewelry with miniature landscapes made from glass but remarkably without the use of paint or brushes. She sifts finely crushed colored glass onto flat glass and kiln-fires it. Her favorite part of the process is the reveal of her after-kiln creation: "They're almost never exactly what I expected, but a great little surprise." Barrie's tiny landscapes are influenced by the skies and mountains around Eldorado.

**Rae Dollard** remembers stringing wooden beads at the age of 3 on the way to summer vacation in New Mexico. She hasn't stopped making jewelry since but does much more today as she creates her eclectic jewelry with a Southwestern and Asian influence using her own lamp worked beads, precious metals, and polymer. Rae looks out her window at the desert and mountains for a constant source of inspiration.

**Christina Keibler**, fiber artist and anthropologist, preserves details of beautiful fibers in silver bezel pendants with resin. She also creates miniature encaustic paintings in pendants protected in resin that look as though they contain tiny pieces of the earth, from oceans to forests.

**Stephanie Levy** is a clay artist specialized in making unique porcelain beads and jewelry. From her whimsical skeleton Day

of the Dead jewelry line to the ethnic, tribal jewelry with individual faces in her Everyday People line, her work has a primitive, folk art feeling. Moving to Eldorado a year ago, Stephanie finds it conducive to expanding the community of faces she uses in her work.



*ECIA Board Meeting,  
Community Center  
Railroad Bldg.  
Thurs.,  
May 18,  
7 PM*

Clockwise from top: Luminous Glass Landscapes by Barrie Brown; Unique Porcelain Jewelry by Stephanie Levy; Jewelry of Celebration by Rae Dollard; Wearable Art & Jewelry by Christina Keibler; and Sterling Silver with Gold and Gems by Karla Hackman.





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.

Brush Piles and Dead Vegetation on Lots

With summer just around the corner and the spring winds drying out any moisture left in our local grasses and vegetation, the potential for drought and wildfires should be a concern for all Eldorado residents. In fact, the ECIA is already receiving calls from residents concerned about the presence of dead weeds and debris on neighboring lots—dry brush that may have grown next to a structure or dead and downed wood collected in piles but not disposed of. Both of these situations are a visual nuisance as well as a fire hazard for the individual lot owner and the neighborhood at large.

So, the ECIA asks all residents to inspect their lots for any dead weeds (especially the tall weeds over septic fields) and dead vegetation that might be accu-

mulating around their homes. When such fuels are close to a structure, they can act as a ladder fuel, placing a resident's home at risk. If you have dead vegetation on your lot, we ask you to gather it up and then remove it from your lot, in order to safeguard your home from the devastating effect of a wildfire.

If you need another reason to act, the existence of such brush piles are likely to provide a home for rodents such as mice and pack rats. The elimination of these piles may help to lessen our problematic rodent populations in Eldorado.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter. For any questions, please call me at the ECIA at 466-4248 or email mark@eldoradosf.org.

—Mark Young, Compliance Coordinator

Taking the Slow Lane

Out here in Eldorado, we only have two-lane roads, so technically there isn't a "slow lane." But with the warm weather and the increase in the variety of activities by people, fauna, and flora alike, it is helpful to think of whatever lane you're driving in on our roads as the "slow lane."

Driving in the slow lane, here, means observing the posted speed limits and keeping an eye out for cyclists, walkers, and wildlife who might be along or crossing the road. The posted speed limits on most of our

paved roads is 35 or 40 MPH. The speed limit on the paved residential streets such as Herrada Road, as well as on the unpaved roads, is 25 MPH. Don't forget about the 15-MPH school zone on Avenida Vista Grande and Avenida Torreon in the morning and afternoon during the school year.

We all have busy schedules, places to go, and people to meet, but high-speed travel can be dangerous to all of us. So, with the arrival of spring, let's all commit to extending a courtesy to one another by observing the speed limit in our slow lane!

—Felicia Probert, Chair, Road Committee

SHAKE OFF THOSE WINTER BLUES!

Get Ready for 2017 Pool Season!

The Eldorado pool opens on Memorial Day weekend, May 27, 2017. Hours of operation are as follows:

- Monday–Friday: 7:30–10 AM, Lap Swim
Monday–Thursday: 10 AM to 8 PM, Rec. Swim
Friday: 10 AM to 9 PM, Rec. Swim
Saturday–Sunday: 8–10 AM, Lap Swim
Saturday–Sunday: 10 AM to 8 PM, Rec. Swim

Kelsea Pederson returns as Pool Manager, and she and her crew of lifeguards are anticipating a very warm season.

Upgrade work has been done to the shower rooms and lifeguard shack.

Pool passes can be obtained in the ECIA office beginning May 2, from 8 AM to 9 PM. For those who cannot get to the office during the week, the office will be open for three consecutive Saturdays: May 6, 13, and 20, from 11 AM to 3 PM. If you have a pool pass

from previous years, you will need to get a 2017 sticker. Everyone who gets a pool pass or sticker will be asked to read the pool rules and sign a statement agreeing to abide by the rules.

To be eligible for a pool pass, a lot owner must be a "Member in Good Standing," which means that all amounts owed the Association must be paid. Children 13 and over can be issued a pool pass. Each Member in Good Standing with a valid pool pass will be allowed to escort a maximum of three guests per day. The member will be asked to sign their guests in and will be responsible for them. As stated in the bylaws, members may delegate their pool rights to a tenant with a valid lease. The tenant must bring a copy of the lease to the office to obtain a pool pass.

Want to be a lifeguard? Pick up an application at the ECIA Office.

Have a fun and safe 2017 swim season!

—DiAna Gutierrez

## Message from the ECIA Board

At the time of this writing, the Board of Directors of your Eldorado Community Improvement Association was eagerly anticipating results of this year's board elections. We are pleased to have four highly qualified candidates, **David Cihon**, **Pam Henline**, **David McDonald**, and **Bartlett "Jody" Price**, running for the three available seats. Results will be announced at the Association's Annual Meeting, which will be held on May 1, 2017, at the church venue in La Tienda. See article below for further information.

The new Board will hold an organizational meeting a few days after the Annual Meeting, at which a

new slate of officers will be chosen. Results of the officer's election will be announced on the ECIA website and through a community e-blast.

The Board would also like to take this opportunity to thank **Todd Handy** and **Dag Ryen**, neither of whom is running for re-election, for their years of service to the Association.

The month of May will also mark the opening of another pool season at the ECIA Community Center. Be sure to stop by the ECIA office to get your pool pass renewed, or, if you are a new member, to register for your pool pass. Have a great summer, everyone!

—ECIA Board of Directors

## Recent Board Actions

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association met on Thursday, March 16, 2017. Members present were President **Dag Ryen**, Vice-President **Pam Henline**, Treasurer **Todd Handy**, Secretary **John Henriksen**, and Directors **Antone Forneris**, **Michael McDowell**, and **Joseph Gutierrez**. The following actions were taken:

- ▼ A motion was passed to approve a variance request for a shed at 7 Alcalde Road.
- ▼ A motion was passed to approve a contract with the landscaping company, Heads UP, for care of the Community Center grounds at \$16,000 per year.
- ▼ A motion was passed to approve the revised audit for 2016.
- ▼ A motion was approved to request HOAMCO action on recommendations in the Audit Management Letter.
- ▼ A motion was approved to appoint **Russell Winslow** to the Facilities and Grounds Committee.

The Board of Directors met again on April 20, 2017, with all current members present. The following actions were taken:

- ▼ A motion to table a variance request at 6 Moya Place for a carport sited 74 feet from the main structure was approved unanimously.
- ▼ A motion to enter into negotiations to contract Thad Porch as the ECIA auditor for 2017 was approved unanimously.
- ▼ A motion to prohibit alcoholic beverages and smoking at the ECIA pool, and to discontinue renting the pool for private, after-hours parties, ex-

cepting events scheduled before May 15, 2017, was approved unanimously.

- ▼ A motion to approve a variance request at 10 Vista Grande Drive for a 9-foot-tall greenhouse sited 35 feet from the main structure was passed unanimously.
- ▼ A motion adopting the recently revised Architecture Guidelines, following public comment and legal review, was approved unanimously.
- ▼ Motions naming new members to the Election Committee (**Jeanne Calzada**), Stable Committee (**Gretel Underwood**), and Conservation Committee (**Paul Butts**) were approved unanimously.

The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors will be on May 18, 2017, at 7 PM in the Railroad Room at the Community Center. Regular Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Community Center and are open to the public. An open forum and community announcements are normally included. Complete minutes and agendas are available at the ECIA office or on the website: [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org).

## ECIA Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association will be held on May 1 from 7 to 9 PM at the Eldorado Community Church in La Tienda.

This meeting is open to all ECIA members (anyone who owns a lot in Eldorado). The agenda includes reports from the Board President, the Treasurer, and all committee chairs. Then, an award will be presented to the Resident of the Year, followed by a community open forum. Finally, the results of the recent Board election will be announced.

### ECIA OFFICE

#1 La Hacienda Loop  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
466-4248, 466-4249  
[www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

**Dag Ryen**

[D.Ryen@eldoradosf.org](mailto:D.Ryen@eldoradosf.org)

Vice-President

**Pam Henline**

[P.Henline@eldoradosf.org](mailto:P.Henline@eldoradosf.org)

Secretary (Interim)

**John Henriksen**

[J.Henriksen@eldoradosf.org](mailto:J.Henriksen@eldoradosf.org)

Treasurer

**Todd Handy**

[T.Handy@eldoradosf.org](mailto:T.Handy@eldoradosf.org)

Director

**Antone Forneris**

[A.Forneris@eldoradosf.org](mailto:A.Forneris@eldoradosf.org)

Director

**Michael McDowell**

[M.McDowell@eldoradosf.org](mailto:M.McDowell@eldoradosf.org)

Director

**Joseph Gutierrez**

[J.Gutierrez@eldoradosf.org](mailto:J.Gutierrez@eldoradosf.org)

### 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**

### ECIA STAFF

General Manager

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466-4248

[gm@eldoradosf.org](mailto:gm@eldoradosf.org)

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**Mark Young**

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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

[eldoradofirerescue.org](http://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>.



Birdwatching.  
Photo: Daniel Schwen,  
Creative Commons license



American robin.  
Photo: Mr.TinDC, Flickr, Creative  
Commons license

## How to Identify a New Bird (in Eldorado or Elsewhere)?

**A**bove all, be curious and be observant. Below is a list of steps, mostly in order of the steps I take when trying to identify a new bird, or just any bird.

**1.** Watch the bird for as long as you can. Grab your binoculars if they are near. (Keep a pair close at hand or in your car.)

**2.** Make note of features of the bird (whatever you can see): (a) size and general shape; (b) prominent colors on body. (c) color of beak, eyes, and legs; (d) prominent markings (eye stripes, spots on chest, wing bars, markings on tail, crest on head); (e) location (soaring/flying, on ground, at feeder, in tree or bush); (f) movement (hopping, jumping, scratching in leaf litter, quick or slow movements, pattern of flight); (g) posture (tail cocked, hunched, wings spread). Learn to identify general groups of birds—warblers, flycatchers, hawks, owls, wrens—whose members all share certain similarities (from books or internet field guides). Consider your location in the U.S. and time of year. If you hear bird-song or calls, try to keep those sounds in your mind.

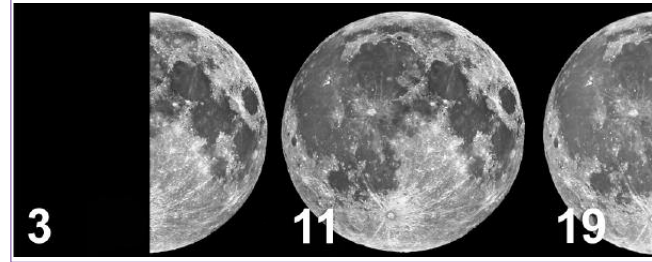
**3.** Consult a good-quality bird identification book. There are many, but I prefer *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*, by David Allen Sibley. The latest edition seems to be dated 2016. The first edition printing had problems with its colors, so look for the most recent—and there are always changes.

**4.** When you have found a likely bird, look at the range map to determine if the bird is seen in this area. Consult a local bird list to see if the bird has ever been identified around here. The Eldorado bird list is at <http://tinyurl.com/eldo-birds>.

**5.** Later, consult the Internet for more information. And if you have a recollection of the bird sounds, this is the place to compare sounds. Birds have regional dialects, and you might not hear the same voice, even if you are sure of the identification. I prefer the Cornell Lab of Ornithology site: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search/>.

On this site, you can enter a generic guess—for instance, sparrow—and a list of possibilities will appear. You can enter the exact name you found in the bird book. This same page allows you to browse by name or shape, and you will find a guide to help you with identification.

### MOON PHASES FOR MAY 20



Bird apps may be useful. I like the Cornell Merlin app for identifying a bird. This works for iPad, iPhone, and Androids (<http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/>). These apps are not fool-proof, so always be skeptical of what you find.

**6.** Birds are not always what they seem to be in the books and pictures. Plumage and size may change with the season. For many species, the males and females are quite different (sexually dimorphic, differing in size and/or plumage), and juveniles are different from adults (see gulls for juvenile differences over 3 or 4 years). Also, some species have subspecies. The Dark-eyed Junco has six subspecies which look quite different from one another, and three of these are common in Eldorado. The Red-tailed Hawk has both common morph forms and several subspecies.

Polymorphism is the occurrence of two or more clearly different forms of a species that occupy the same habitat at the same time.

**7.** Read your bird book. Study the front inside which shows parts of a bird, standing and flying. Actually read the introduction. Scan your book; if you find the local Curve-billed Thrasher, you should also look at the pages of other thrashers.

**8.** The bird world is not static. Climate changes and local variations in weather and food availability can affect where birds are found. Changes are made in names and classifications. This is especially true now that DNA studies are revealing more about bird species and relationships. Sometimes a single species is split (recently, Western Scrub Jay) and sometimes they are lumped (Dark-eyed Junco).

**9.** Don't jump to conclusions. Talk to other local birders. A photo you take might be helpful. If you are absolutely sure, you can say you have made an identification. But if there is *any* doubt, count this bird as a *possible* identification.

To gain skill, go on bird walks with experienced birders.

GOOD LUCK and have FUN!

—Pamela Henline



**Eldorado Spring Flea Market May 6, 2017**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 6, for the resumption of the Spring Eldorado flea market at the ECIA Community Center. This subdivision-wide event officially gets underway at 8 AM with vendors from Santa Fe, Pecos, and Espanola as well as subdivision locals. This is a family-friendly event with something for everyone! Vendor set-up begins at 7 AM; space fees are \$10 for Eldorado residents and \$15 for non-residents. The flea market concludes at noon. For more information see [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org) or call (505) 795-6993.

**Waterwise Gardening**

Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in May, Eldorado gardeners have a chance to shop a huge selection of plants for sale at WATERWISE Gardening, many of which are our exclusive introductions not available anywhere else. All are perfect for northern New Mexico gardens and landscapes. You'll find the best new and tried-and-true perennials, conifers, ornamental grasses, cacti, succulents and heirloom annuals and more. Open 9 AM-4 PM. More at [waterwisegardening.com](http://waterwisegardening.com).

**Lace 'em up!**

The Eldorado Adult basketball season is here, our 10th summer! Lace 'em, players, and c'mon out to the Community Center basketball court for fun and friendly pick-up hoops, Thursdays (through October) 6:15 pm-dusk.



# May Events

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

Email [gloria@eldoradosf.org](mailto:gloria@eldoradosf.org) with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd of the month for publication in the following month's Vistas. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. TYPE OF EVENT
2. Location
3. Date & Time
4. A Resource Person (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.

CC=Community Center, LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Rm, CR=Classroom, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

ECIA Annual Meeting	Mon., May 1, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	Cmty Church
Spring Flea Market	Sat., May 6, 7 am-12 pm		795-6993	Parking Lot

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Architecture Committee	Tues., May 9, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., May 23, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., May 15, 6-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., May 2, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., May 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., May 10, 2-4 pm	Bette Knight	466-4248	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., May 3, 4-6 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., May 15, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Mon., May 22, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Road Committee	TBA	Felicia Probert	466-1563	RR
Stable Committee	TBA	Pat Donahue	donahuemail@gmail.com	F

**MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY**

Cub Scout Troop 414	1st & 2nd Wed 6-7-pm	Will Scoberg	karlwscoberg@aol.com	CR
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 Thurs. 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	Mavis Murphy	466-8189	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

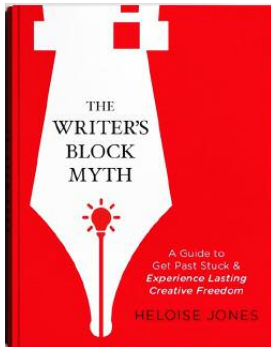
\* Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

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

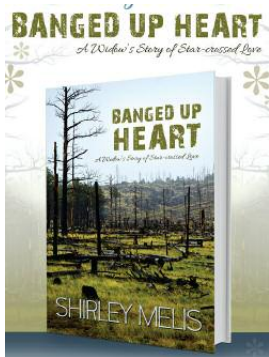
\*\*\* Reservations required

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

## Library News



Author talk, May 17, with Heloise Jones



Author talk, May 25, with Shirley Melis

Spring flowers mean it is time for the **Spring Book Sale!** Come stock up for summer reading at the library sale on May 11 to 13. Sale hours will be noon to 6 PM on Thursday and Friday, and 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday. Items for sale include new and gently used fiction and nonfiction for all ages, music CDs, audiobooks on CD and DVDs, as well as collectibles and gift items. Most items are priced \$3 or less. All money raised goes to support Vista Grande PublicLibrary.

**THE SPRING DONOR APPEAL** also begins this month. This is another opportunity to support your community library, which depends on donations and fundraisers for about 60% of its budget. Please consider giving through the website, by mail, or dropping off your check at the library.

Artists, note that exhibition space is available. Check out the details online or email [developmentchair@vglibrary.org](mailto:developmentchair@vglibrary.org).

**SUMMER READING:** Registration for the Summer Reading Programs starts this month. Forms and details about the programs are on the website ([www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org)) and at the main circulation desk. This year's Reading Contest Top Prize is a Bicycle donated by the Santa Fe Century!

**OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:** The following events take place in the meeting room to the right of the main entrance.

May 5 and June 9, 7 PM: **Family Movie Night.** Free admission and popcorn. Please be aware that space is limited.

May 6 and June 3, 9 to 11:30 AM: **Book Donation Day.** Bring gently used adult and children's books, DVDs, and audiobooks on CD (in bags or boxes that you don't need back). Please, no textbooks, law books, tapes, or badly damaged materials.

May 17, 7 PM: Local author **Heloise Jones**, writer of *The Writer's Block Myth: A Guide to Get Past Stuck & Experience Lasting Creative Freedom*, will share her tips about breaking away from the blank page.

May 18, 12:30 PM: **Physics for Everyone** lecture series. *Heat, Temperature and the Laws of Thermodynamics.* No prior knowledge required. Final lecture in the series.

May 18, 3:30 PM: **Maker Space Event on Paper Engineering** for teens and tweens with their parents. A maximum of 20 participants will be allowed. Advance signups are encouraged.

May 19, 7 PM: New Mexico film historian **Jeff Berg** returns to VGPL for a 90-minute presentation featuring clips of movies that were derived from books by New Mexican authors, including Tony Hillerman, Dorothy Hughes, Rudolfo Anaya, and Edward Abbey, among others.

May 25, 7 PM: **Author Talk** with Shirley Melis: *Banged Up Heart.*

May 27: Closed for Memorial Day Weekend

## Greenbelt Trail Restored

Neighborhood volunteers, aided by ECIA Conservation Committee members and ECIA staff, have restored the greenbelt trail between Avenida Torreon (across from the Senior Center) and Melado Drive. This trail is used by residents on Melado Drive to walk to the library, so it's been dubbed "Paseo de Biblioteca" by neighbor and committee member **John Reynolds**.

John and some of his neighbors have wanted to improve the greenbelt trails east of Avenida Torreon for several years. They were in very poor condition, choked with tree cholla, rutted or overgrown, and often crossing private lots. Dog walkers had long ago abandoned the trails for their pets' safety, and many in the neighborhood weren't even aware of the trails' existence.

To help get these trails "fixed," John approached the ECIA Conservation Committee with his concerns. The committee has a lot of experience improving trails, both in the Preserve and the greenbelts, and helped John and his neighbors create a plan for reopening "Paseo de Biblioteca." This plan was present-

ed to the ECIA Board, which offered suggestions and approved the project in January.

In February, the route for the restored trail was flagged by John with the help of other committee members to establish a path that will minimize erosion and respect private lots. Residents of all homes adjoining the project were then notified by mail in February and encouraged to provide their feedback and concerns.

In March, the path was refined and marked with pin flags, and then ECIA staff cleared the tread of the trail, removing cholla and ground cover on a path 4 to 5 feet wide. The staff did a great job minimizing damage to the land.

Volunteers met on March 25 to complete the trail with hand tools. Soil was compacted, erosion-control "rolling dips" were added, and cholla was removed to establish a "fall-zone" buffer on both sides of the trail. This buffer makes the trail safe for cyclists and dogs.

The completed trail is very nice. It's wide enough to walk side-by-side and meanders a bit. From Mel-

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Volunteers clearing trail.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP**

## Web Worms and Their Tent Nests

**U**gh! What are those creepy bagworm things high up in the trees? Are they dangerous? Will they harm the tree? Should we do anything about them?

Spring in Eldorado often brings the western tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma californicum*), and fall can bring webworms (*Hyphantria cunea*). These can appear in virtually any tree and shrub. The caterpillar tents typically begin in May. Beginning in late June, the caterpillars become moths, some with white, black, brown, or reddish patches and a wingspan of 1 to 1.5 inches. The moths populate and create new larvae throughout the summer, so new tents can appear and expand into the fall.

The caterpillars, which can grow to about 1 inch, have black or red heads and bodies colored from yellow to green. They eat new leaves on trees, primarily during the night, and spin nests made of silk. Since they need warmth to digest, they build their nest in a site to capture morning sun. In fact, in order to adjust their body temperature, the caterpillars may be seen moving to various locations within the tent's compartments as the day progresses. As they grow, the caterpillars expand their tent. Some tents end up enclosing several branches, and the tents become filled with leaf rubbles, discarded caterpillar casings, and worm droppings.

Here's the catch. To be sure, the tents are ugly (unless viewed through the lens of the caterpillars!), and we have more of them than in prior years due to our milder winters related to climate change. Empty tent remains can last through the winter, remaining unsightly even after rains. But the caterpillars cause very little damage to trees. Unless the tree is very young, densely infested on an annual basis, or otherwise weakened by illness or drought, the amount of leaves

the caterpillars ingest generally does not injure the tree's food supply. Even defoliated trees, unless heavily infested for repeated years, typically re-foliate after caterpillar attacks with no significant damage.

So what do we do about them? Nature would have us leave the tents alone. The caterpillars provide an important source of food for small mammals, various songbirds, bats, insect predators, and tiny wasps. The caterpillar droppings provide nutrients to the soil. And the caterpillars will eventually vanish, grown to moths or, quite possibly, meeting their demise by predators or by parasites such as a maggot that feeds on them, or through such diseases as a virus known as wilt and the fungus *Entomophthora*.

But if you do want to get rid of the tents for aesthetic reasons, you can tackle that one of several ways. One resident we spoke with recommends using a long stick or pole to poke open the tents so that the birds can easily get at the caterpillars. A tree expert we talked with said you can use a rake or long pole to destroy the tents by twirling the tent around and then drowning them in a spray of water. Or, pull the tents down and seal them in a garbage bag. You can also cut off the branches with the nests and destroy them. Dormant oil, if applied in the early spring while the trees are still dormant, can be effective. You can, of course, also use pesticides, which we don't recommend due to the harm they cause throughout the natural food chain (including danger to pets and humans). If a professional recommends that you do use pesticides, make sure the poison is specified for webworms, and be sure to note it is effective only in the early summer when the nests are small.

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



Western tent caterpillars, *Malacosoma californicum*

## Greenbelt Trail, cont.

do Drive to Torreon is a brisk 8-minute stroll, with no need to pull cholla out of your boots when you're done.

This trail project was neighborhood led, volunteer built, and great fun. If you're inspired to restore the greenbelt trails in your own neighborhood, the ECIA Conservation Committee would love to help you do the same. We meet once a month and sponsor several Trail Improvement Days in the Eldorado Preserve each year. Come out and join us.

—John Reynolds



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### ELDORADO/285RECYCLES

## Yard-Art with Recycled Wine Bottles

A bottle tree is a colorful addition to any yard, especially here in Eldorado where growing anything is sometimes really hard and discouraging. Start by saving all those wine bottles you'd normally take to the transfer station. I'm not a big wine drinker, so this took me a few months to completely fill in the "tree." Ask friends to save you their wine bottles.

You'll need an 8-foot post and some really long nails. The hardest part of this project is digging the hole for the post. Give yourself at least a week. Dig the hole on the east side of your home to get the morning sun. Hammer the nails at an angle, and slip the mouth of the bottle over the nail. As the post fills up, you can fill in with smaller bottles, like olive oil and beer bottles. Top it off with something interesting like a ceramic bird or a wooden ball. Grab a chair and enjoy your morning coffee watching the sun stream through the colored glass.

—DiAna Gutierrez




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