

Vistas

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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Eldorado Holiday Lighting and Decorating Tips

With the holiday season upon us, many Eldorado residents will soon be decorating their homes as part of their family celebrations. While exterior holiday lighting is allowed in Eldorado, we do want to remind all residents that Eldorado does have guidelines for exterior lighting as part of the *Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions*. These guidelines are detailed on page 15 of the Guidelines and were updated with the 2017 Guidelines to include Section 5.4.9, which allows for Christmas Holiday Lighting from **Thanksgiving to January 15th** and is detailed as follows:

5.4.9. The ECIA Board of Directors will determine the length of time when Holiday Lighting may be displayed. Note: Christmas lighting may be displayed from Thanksgiving through January 15th.

Some key points that residents should remember when planning their exterior decorating include:

- ▼ Please avoid using any bright-colored spot lights or unshielded bulbs over 75 watts.
- ▼ Be sure that any larger lights (such as colored spot lights) are downward shielded and are not just a bare bulb shining out towards your neighbors.
- ▼ Be sure that if you are illuminating any outdoor features, your lighting is not shining up in the air, but rather more towards the base, as all lighting should be directed downward.
- ▼ Consider putting a timer on exterior lights that will turn off your lights at a reasonable hour, so as to save energy and



- not bother your neighbors in the late evening hours.
 - ▼ Consider creative and reflective Decorating! Not everything is about strands of lights. Reflective ornaments, ribbons, wreaths, garland and tinsel can be very attractive and use no electricity.
 - ▼ Consider using energy efficient LED holiday lights, wherever possible. They are now available at most stores that sell Holiday lighting, are energy efficient and durable.
- If you do have any questions at all regarding exterior or holiday lighting, feel free to call me at 466-4248 or email me at mark@eldoradosf.org. Wishing you and your entire family a most enjoyable holiday season!

~Mark Young, ECIA Architecture and Covenant Compliance Coordinator

Join the ECIA Board of Directors

January 2018 is approaching and it is time to consider being a part of the ECIA Board of Directors. There will be two positions open which will expire May, 2021. Serving on the Board requires a dedication to the betterment of Eldorado and a willingness to give of your time, experience, and expertise. Consider becoming a volunteer for the Eldorado community. You have the opportunity to attend the Board Working Session and Regular-Board Meetings each month.

Get involved in your community Homeowners Association (HOA)!

- ▼ **Bylaws Open Forum** for members is Tues. Jan. 16, at 6 pm in the Railroad Room at ECIA.
- ▼ Members will be able to view online or pick up the **Proposed Draft of the Bylaws and Amendments** at the ECIA office late December.
- ▼ The **Nomination Petition** goes online early January.

ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Bldg. Monday, Dec. 18, 7 PM

Share your
comments

with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below

Editorial Policy

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

DEADLINE: Newsletter deadline is the 5th day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the Editor, Courteney Handy at her office at ECIA or e-mailed to chandy@hoamco.com 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.



ECIA: OUR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



Dog Park Renovations

Erosion at the original entrance to the Eldorado Dog Park had caused drainage problems. A study indicated the depth and length of erosion, created by water run-off from the parking lot, resulting in ice formation and pooling at the entrance ramp and gate area to the park. This was the source of many complaints by dog owners as it created a safety issue that could not be corrected.

After studies and suggestions by the Dog Park ad hoc. Committee, several plans were discussed with the Facilities and Grounds Committee (F&G Committee), who then decided to make some changes to the park. The entrance is now relocated to the south side of the park, adjacent to the walking path, close to the swimming pool. That is the most level/flat location for an entrance. With the new entrance constructed, the old entrance was closed off.

An entrance from the outer fence from the parking lot, with a path to the new dog park entrance, is under construction. This will aid the safety of ingress into the dog park, having minimal mingling with the pool entrance. Solar lights were installed around the new entrance, for safer entry in the early mornings and evenings. Metal gates were also installed.

The F&G Committee also considered the option of new fencing around the dog park, as many of the fence posts and rails had deteriorated. After consideration and unofficial surveys were made, the decision was reached to install new posts and rails where needed. A far more financially prudent option.

In the complete plan presented to the F&G Committee, by the Dog Park ad hoc. Committee, the following projects are still in process of completion:

- ▼ Small wood chips will be installed as ground cover in the dog park, at a minimum of twice a year.
- ▼ High berms will be constructed to help the drainage from the parking lot to divert water from the old entrance into the dog park, and reinforcement constructed around the water faucet.
- ▼ The two roofs of the existing shelters in the dog park will be lowered and extended to improve protection from rain, snow, and sun throughout the year.
- ▼ Watering outlets in the ground from former usages of this area will be removed, as they have been tripped over and are a hazard to both animals and humans.

~Dog Park ad hoc. Committee

Windmills and Dreams

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDINGS

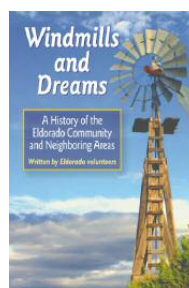
Did you ever wonder about the main building and the 'Railroad Building' (RR) at the Community Center? History and a well known architect are part of the mix. (The following excerpts come from *Windmills and Dreams*, available at the Community Center.)

Frank Teal, and his wife, **Carolyn**, decided to sell their ranch in Socorro and move with their two boys to the Onderdonk ranch. They hired architect **William Lumpkins** to design their new dream home, which is now the Eldorado clubhouse. They moved into their new house in Spring of 1954 and lived there until they sold the ranch to Alva Simpson in 1956 for "\$12.50 an acre."

Their son **Dusty** described various aspects of the house:

"The bricks on the floor, I think they came from the prison. The adobes were made here. I remember taking the forms off them. The whole house is adobe. The floors in the living room were hardwood floors. The front entranceway was an open portal. There was a swimming pool, but it was more of a mud pool (later filled in). The Eldorado classroom was our three-car garage.

Dusty also spoke about the RR building. My dad had it hauled over from near Cerrillos, and it was already called Kennedy and I asked my dad where that name came from. We always called it Kennedy. We always said, 'We are going over to Kennedy to build a bunk.' Back in those days, these little stations were just named after guys that worked on the railroad that were kind of well known. That's probably where the name came from. Dad had an office in there, and he had a model railroad and a little shop." **CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE >>**





Message from the Board: Pam Henline

I have been on the ECIA Board since 2013, serving as a director and a Vice President and have lived here since 1999, making me a “long-timer.” I hope my experience here in our incredibly beautiful community helps bring balance and perspective to our Board. Being on the ECIA Board is a privilege and a responsibility. It is the duty of Board members to assure that the Association is run efficiently, using the assessments paid by each lot owner responsibly and in a way to enhance the value of all of our property. Quality amenities and enforcement of the architectural standards keep the community strong, good looking, a great place to live and help to maintain the value of each individual property. Remember, every owner of a home or lot in Eldorado at Santa Fe is a member of the ECIA and has a part in how our Association is run. The operations, meetings, paperwork and decisions should be open and transparent to the community.

Speaking of RUNNING – there are two open positions to be filled in 2018. Being on the Board is a challenging and interesting learning experience, akin to operating a business with \$1.5 million in annual revenue. If you can make the time, are interested in seeing all of our assessment money used wisely, and enjoy serving your community, please consider running. There is always room for new faces and viewpoints--and I especially would like to see some additional feminine perspectives! Feel free to contact me about getting petitions signed, etc. – it is not at all intimidating.

The end of the year approaches along with a big holiday season for many families. I hope that everyone has a chance to relax and reflect on our great life here and that everyone has a successful and peaceful new year here in Eldorado and everywhere. HAPPY HOLIDAYS! For more info on Pam, read @ eldoradosf.org
~Pam Henline

Recent Board Actions:

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association met on Monday, November 20, 2017. Members present were President **John Henriksen**, Vice-President **Antone Forneris**, Treasurer **Joseph Gutierrez**, Secretary **Michael McDowell** and Directors **Pam Henline**, **David McDonald**, and **Jody Price**. The following formal actions were taken by the Board:

- ▼ Motion to authorize full-time hourly staff to have the day after Thanksgiving (11/24/17) and the day after Christmas (12/26/17) as paid days off passed unanimously.
- ▼ Motion to approve the ECIA Records Retention, Destruction and Management Policy passed unanimously.

- ▼ Motion to approve the formation of an Ad-Hoc Environmental Advisory Committee and the appointment of its members passed unanimously.
- ▼ Motion to approve the Board’s request that HOAMCO provide a monthly statement documenting all activity for all ECIA accounts at Alliance Bank passed unanimously.
- ▼ Motion to approve the Board’s request that HOAMCO provide copies of all agreements with third parties or subcontractors having authorization to write checks against ECIA accounts passed unanimously.
- ▼ Motion to appoint David Sorkin to the Finance Committee passed unanimously.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Windmills continued from pg. 2

The original location of the Kennedy rail station was important because that was where the NMC (New Mexico Central line) tied in with the ATSF’s (Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe) main line and exchanged cattle, beans and passengers between 1903 and 1955 while the route was in operation. There was a depot and a section house there. There is a plaque located near the entrance door to the RR building. The

building is original and historic except for the new windows that were added some years ago. This era of ranching ended when Simpson later sold the property to AMREP in 1969 for \$3.2 million.

The second edition of *Windmills and Dreams* is now available. **Copies are available at the Community Center for \$15.**

~Summarized by Pam Henline



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Election: **Bette Knight**
Facilities & Grounds:
Lee Onstott (acting chair)
Finance: **Sal Monaco**
Information: **Gershon Siegel**
Roads: **Felicia Probert**
Stable: **Open**

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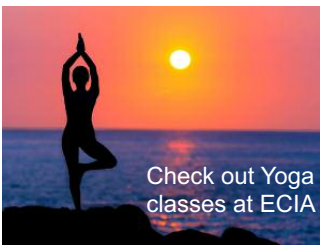
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Vista Grande Library
466-READ
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofireandrescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)

Eldorado Station adds Holiday Music

Starting the day after Thanksgiving, Eldorado radio listeners will now be able to enjoy a variety of holiday music without commercial interruption. **ELDORADIO 1660 AM**, low-power "neighborhood radio," introduces a touch of seasonal music beginning annually on "Black Friday," —a traditional opening of year-end festivities. Each day, the local station adds a little more Christmas and Hanukkah favorites, classical tributes to the season and carols from around the world. For more information check out eldoradosf.org



Trees available Nov. 25 @ La Tienda



Check out Yoga classes at ECIA

December Haiku

Cold weather outside;
inside, warm pinon fire
burns:
love fuels inner joy.

Adam & Kim's Christmas Trees

Opening **Saturday Nov. 25**, at the north parking lot of La Tienda. The Eldorado-owned and operated business, *Adam and Kim's Christmas Trees*, will offer quality, fresh-cut Christmas trees from Oregon. Douglas fir, Grand Fir, and Noble Fir will be available in sizes from tabletop to tall trees. Wreaths, garland, and chili ristras will also be available. A portion of proceeds is donated to El Dorado Volunteer Fire & Rescue. For more info check out: **AdamKimsChristmasTrees** on Facebook.

Eldorado Arts & Crafts News

The Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association (EACA) is looking forward to the New Year with exciting opportunities for Eldorado area artists. In early January we will be accepting applications for the **27th Annual Eldorado Studio Tour to be held on May 19–20, 2018**, with an opening reception on May 18. Application packets will be sent to current members via email at the beginning of the year. New members are also encouraged to join and participate in the largest studio tour in New Mexico.

To obtain an application, after the beginning of January, contact eldoradoarts@gmail.com applications are due by Jan. 22. More details are available at www.eldoradoarts.org.

Also in January, the EACA general members' meeting is being held on **January 25 from 7 - 9 pm** at the Eldorado Community Center. This is the group's annual business meeting where the EACA board is elected for 2018. Newly joined members, or those thinking about joining, are encouraged to attend and meet other Eldorado area artists.

Library News and Events

Thank you to everyone who shopped and volunteered at the Fall Book Sale last month. The money raised from the sale and the current Annual Appeal will provide new materials, technology, programs, and staff time to continue the free services offered all year! Please consider supporting your local library when planning your charitable giving. It's easy to donate online on our website. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Children's Programs: Registration has begun for the Winter Session of the *After School Reading Club*. The session will begin Jan. 31 and will meet on Wednesday afternoons through April. Parents of children in grades K - 4 can get registration forms at the circulation desk, or print one from the website to return to the library. Space is limited, so early signups are recommended.

Events: (Note: Most events take place in the Meeting Room and are free of charge, unless noted otherwise.)

Art Exhibition: Eldorado artist Bill Todino shows December 1- 30 in the Library Gallery. "New Mexico in Black and White" features 14 original archival photographs taken throughout the state.

Book Donation Day: First Saturday of the month: December 2 and January 6, from 9-11:30 am only.

Story Time for Toddlers and Preschoolers: Friday mornings at 11 am in the Children's section. **NO** Story Time on December 22 or 29.

All Ages Chess: Friday afternoons from 3 - 5 pm. All ages and skill levels are welcomed. Children under 12 must be registered by a parent. Not meeting Dec. 22.

Heloise Jones' Writing Workshop: Wednesday, December 6. 6:30 pm.

Author Talk: Susan Kayar. Friday, December 8, 1 pm. The author of *Operation Second Starfish: A Tale of Submarine Rescue, Science, and Friendship*, will speak on her book.

Physics for Everyone with Robert Henderson: Cosmology. Thursday, December 21, 12:30 pm.

Medicare Signup Information Sessions: Monday, December 4, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm. A certified benefits counselor for Medicare from the New Mexico Department of Aging will be available. No appointment needed.

Holiday Schedule: Closed December 22, 23 and 30. Open Regular hours December 26 to 29.

~Tracy Mitchell

Community Yoga @ ECIA

Five weekly classes are offered for Eldorado residents by the two "Eldorado Yoga for Every Body" certified instructors – Mary Horst and Julia Cairns.

There are three different class styles and ability levels offered: Yin Yoga, Gentle Stretch/Slow Flow, and Vinyasa Flow. The Yin class is scheduled from 5:30 – 6:45 pm on Monday evenings. Yin is a more slow-paced practice in which the postures are held for longer periods of time with emphasis on the connective tissues of the body (tendons, fascia, and ligaments). The aim of Yin is to increase circulation in the joints and to improve flexibility. Beginners – Intermediate level students benefit from incorporating Yin into their yoga routines. The Gentle Stretch/Slow Flow class meets on Wednesday & Thursday morn-



Kid chess @ the Library

ings from 9:00 -10:15am and is targeted for learning and practicing the basic yoga postures, stretching the body, and activating breath work techniques. Finally, the Vinyasa Flow class meets on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00-10:15 am and is an active sequencing of postures for those familiar to yoga. For more information, go to

eldoradoyogaforeverybody.com



Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale.
Save the date!

Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale

The artists of the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association had such a fun time last December with our impromptu “pop-up” Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale that we’ve decided to do it again this year. The date for this year’s pop-up show is **Saturday, December 16, from 10 AM to 4 PM.** The event will be held at the Agora shopping center in three different store-fronts. There will be approximately 30-35 of your favorite artists showing their work. Check with us at www.eldoradoarts.org late November for more details. Be on the lookout for our postcards and signs. What a great opportunity to finish up your holiday shopping with beautiful hand crafted art created by local artists! The restaurant, *Arable* will be open all day as well.

December 2017 Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email chandy@hoamco.com 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!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS****

Architecture Committee	Tues., Dec. 12, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architecture Committee	Tues., Dec. 26, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Session	Thurs., Dec. 14, 4-6 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Budget Meeting Open Forum	Wed., Dec. 6, 6:30 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Conservation Committee	Tues., (No Dec) Jan. 2, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Mon., Dec. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Dec. 13, 2-4 pm	Bette Knight	466-4248	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Dec. 6, 3-5 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Mon., Dec. 11, 9:30-11:30 am	Sal Monaco	690-5125	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Dec. 19, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	FR
Road Committee	TBA	Felicia Probert	466-1563	RR
Stable Committee	TBA	Bonnie Mamp	eldoradostables@gmail.com	F

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY

Cub Scout Den 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 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	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 karl_cordova747@msn.com	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., 3:30-4:30pm	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		466-1039 Sr Center
Spinning Group (Fiber)	1st & 3rd Thurs., 9:30-11:30 am	Ellen Higgins	970-201-4776 LR
Square Dancing	Fri., 6:30-9 pm	Connie Walters	466-4226 Max Coll CC
Yin Yoga	Mon., 5:30-6:45 pm	Julia Cairns	466-1935 CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Tues., 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	Fri., 9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935 CR
Yoga for Healing	Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:45 am	Maureen O'Brien	216-0807 Sr Center
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 **** Check the ECIA website for the most accurate dates/times

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org



5 Steps Toward Going “Zero waste” in the Kitchen

FROM ELDORADO 285/ RECYCLES

Shop with reusable containers

Prevent waste from entering your home, and then you won't have to deal with it. Refusing packaging also makes a public statement and educates people about zero waste. Take along reusable produce bags for small items that can't be kept loose. Some organic cotton mesh bags with a drawstring can easily be laundered.

Buy groceries in bulk

“Bulk” means bought in reusable containers, since that's what many alternative bulk stores do. It means literally buying large quantities of food in order to minimize the amount of overall packaging. It's much cheaper that way, saves gas on trips to the store, and you rarely run out.

Set up a good backyard compost system

Composting is the best way to deal with organic household waste, since the waste doesn't need to get shipped anywhere and gets converted to rich soil. Within a month of warm weather, you will have a fresh load of soil.

Make certain things from scratch to avoid packaging

Some might scoff at the idea of making the following foods from scratch on a regular basis, but once it becomes part of a routine and you become comfortable with the recipes, it can be very quick, and even

save time by not having to run out to the store.

- ▼ **Yogurt:** Make it in glass jars. It takes a few minutes to mix, then can be left for hours.
- ▼ **Bread:** Most bread recipes require about 10 minutes of upfront work, then minimal attention sporadically throughout the day. Some, like no-knead slow-rise bread, can be left completely alone all day long.
- ▼ **Canned fruits and vegetables:** These take a lot of work, but it all happens in the summer and fall, as produce reaches its peak. If you can afford to spend a few days canning, you'll thank yourself months later – not only for saving money, but also for the fabulous fresh taste.
- ▼ **Cereal:** Make large batches of granola and store in jars, instead of buying boxes of cereal with cardboard boxes and non-recyclable plastic bags.

Ditch the Disposables

There's no need to keep paper towels, paper napkins, garbage liners, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, and disposable plates or cups in the kitchen. Though it may seem strange at first, you will always find reusable alternatives when the need arises. It's better just to get rid of those 'tempting' items and make do without. It makes for a lot less stuff in the trashcan.

~Treehugger.com

Meet the New Vistas Editor

Meet the new *Community Relations Coordinator and Vistas Editor*, **Courteney Handy**. She has been working with HOAMCO/Eldorado since March 2016. She will be receiving her Bachelors in Fine Arts with a focus in Creative Writing December 2017. Her creativity and strong background in writing will be a great asset to the production of the *Vistas*.

Courteney grew up in Eldorado after moving from Aurora, Colorado sixteen years ago. Her favorite past times and hobbies include: writing horror stories, dramas, and comedies as well as reading everything she can get herhands on. She has been playing piano for the past sixteen years, which gives her great joy.

“When receiving the position of ‘Community Relations Coordinator,’ I was ecstatic,” Courteney says. “This position is something that I have dreamt about. I am excited to share the skills I gained in college and put them to use as a writer, events planner, networker, and an ambassador for ECIA. My goal is to promote ECIA amenities and to bring the community together through events, activities, fun, bonding, and uniqueness that could make Eldorado a place for all residents to enjoy.”



Come by the ECIA office to meet Courteney.

~Isabel Ugarte, ECIA General Manager



Woodrats (Pack Rats) and Badgers

FROM FLORA AND FAUNA

When I lived in the Midwest and taught high school biology, I showed students a video of desert animals. There was a scene showing a cute, furry woodrat trotting along its tunnel, carrying a shiny children’s toy in its mouth. “Pack rats collect various materials, including bits of cactus, to deposit in or build their nests,” said the commentator. “And they are especially fond of small, bright, shiny objects.” How cute, I thought.

Now I live in Eldorado and have a different view of woodrats. Rats deposited cactus pieces on top of the tarp covering our compost pile, and in the pile too. And they’ve dug holes in our yard. Clever, really, to have a nest right by a steady supply of fresh food, but what a destructive nuisance. Woodrats can get into everything, including squeezing into very tiny openings, from roofs to car engines, stealing their treasures, damaging electrical wiring and causing expensive repairs.

There are many species of **desert woodrats** (also called pack rats or trade rats). Two species of the genus *Neotoma* are typically found in Eldorado. Bushy tailed rats can be 18 inches long and 8 inches tall, desert woodrats can be up to 15 inches long and 5 inches tall. Elusive creatures, they are primarily nocturnal and wary of humans. Rats have poor eyesight, relying more on their hearing and excellent senses of smell, taste, and touch. Feeding on spiny cactus, yucca pods, bark, berries, pinion nuts, seeds and any other vegetation, they make nests – typically at the base of cactus or trees – covered with insulation made of cactus, leaves and sticks. Cactus pieces, which they use as a source of water, helps insulate the nest from extreme temperatures and aids in protection from predators such as coyotes, snakes, owls, bobcats and badgers. Sometimes using vacated ground squirrel or kangaroo rat holes, woodrats like to “decorate”

their nests with shiny objects. Extremely sociable, they take care of each other, sleep together, and work in groups with an “alpha” for foraging.

The best prevention includes common sense; remove sources of food such as birdseed. Store and dispose refuse and garbage securely. If you must eradicate them, use humane quick-kill traps baited with prunes, raisins or peanut butter.

More residents are reporting seeing **badgers** in Eldorado. These large mammals, over two feet long, have a distinguishing white stripe down their pointed snout and short legs which give them a “waddle” when scurrying. Their 12-inch wide burrow entrances are elliptical with a nearby pile of excavated dirt. If you see a badger in your yard, consider yourself lucky! Suffering more at the hands of humans than other predators, badgers are a real boon to our area. They rip into woodrats nests with impunity. They also eat mice, gophers, and – one of its favorite prey – rattlesnakes. They typically don’t stay in one area for long; each den is occupied only a few days as the badger travels to other areas in search of food. Archived articles can be found at <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com/flora-fauna-group/>



Photo by Ann V. Wood

The Adobe Buffalo

Our community has been graced with a new and monumental piece of public art, the Adobe Buffalo, located near the ATM machine at La Tienda. This imposing sculpture is the creation of Florida-based artist, Karen Windchild, who hopes to install similar sculptures in various places across the western United States. Windchild spent hundreds of hours adding adobe coating to a large metal frame to produce the buffalo, which stands nine feet tall. Several volunteers from Eldorado and the surrounding area pitched in to complete the work, which has been installed on land provided by the owners of La Tienda.

The American bison, which is the proper name for the beast that roamed the midwestern plains, was once plentiful in eastern New Mexico. The animal rarely ventured west of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, but an occasional bison may have grazed in Eldorado grasslands.

The new sculpture is a fitting tribute to local natural history and to current efforts to protect the Eldorado landscape.

~Dag Ryen



Photo by Dag Ryen

VISTAS

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

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

Board Actions Continued from pg. 2

The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors will be a Working session on **December 14, 2017, at 6 PM**, in the Community Center Classroom. On **December 18, 2017, at 7 PM**, the Board will conduct its regular meeting in the Railroad Room at the Community Center.

Regular Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month 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.



ECIA Holiday Hours

The ECIA office will be **closed December 25 and 26**, but will reopen Wednesday, December 27, 2017.

The ECIA office will also be **closed January 1**, but will reopen Tuesday January 2, 2018.



HELP ECIA GO GREEN! SAVE ON PAPER AND MAILING COSTS by opting out of receiving a mailed copy of **Vistas**. To sign up, email chandy@hoamco.com. You 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.