

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

In Memoriam: Tom Willmott

Eldorado has lost one of its most valuable citizens with the passing of former ECIA Board President, **Tom Willmott**, earlier this year. Tom and his wife, **Kathy**, lived in Eldorado for ten years until Tom’s failing health led them to move closer to Santa Fe a little more than a year ago. He served as board president from 2009 to 2010 and served on the board of the Eldorado Area Water & Sanitation District. For many years after that, he was a diligent member of the ECIA Finance Committee. Through all his community service, Tom was respected for his reasoned approach and objectivity. Tom graduated from John Carroll Uni-

versity and got his master’s degree in engineering from Case University in Cleveland. His background in computer technology was put to good use in his volunteer roles with the ECIA. He was a likable colleague and a kind and considerate man. Our thoughts go out to his family; he will be missed.

~Dag Ryen



Photo courtesy of Cleveland.com

Safety Corridor

US 285, “The Highway” east of Eldorado, has had its share of traffic accidents. An active core group of local people believes something should be done about it. They hope to have the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) designate the stretch between Interstate 25 Exit 290 and Lamy as a Safety Corridor, and possibly also the Old Pecos Trail frontage road parallel to I-25. Dangerous roadways in the state that the NMDOT identifies as more hazardous get the designations, with posted signs. These signs warn motorists to be careful – and let them know that speeding fines are doubled in that area. Analysts have found that accidents go down by 18% after those signs appear.

There’s a lot of work involved, before the signs — and the fines — go up. Engineers hold local public hearings, as well as check

crash rates, traffic volume, and other factors, before making the designation. State Representative **Matthew McQueen** is asking for the backing of Santa Fe County Commissioner **Ed Moreno** and State Senator **Peter Wirth** to ask the NMDOT to determine if the nine-mile stretch should be a Safety Corridor. **David Yard**, a member of the ECIA Board of Directors, is also part of the group. “It may take another year or so before it happens,” he told *VISTAS*, noting that the County Commission will need to ask NMDOT to do the study. Public petitions are also available at Eldorado Tru-Value Hardware and Utopia in La Tienda and will be at other sites later in the spring.

~Bill Dunning

ECIA Annual Report Packet for Members

The annual report packet for members will be mailed by the end of March. Enclosed in your packet will be the ECIA Annual Report and a copy of the 2018 Proposed Bylaws Amendments. If your 2018 assessment is paid in full and posted to the receiving bank by March 1, you will be a member eligible to vote and will receive a ballot for the ECIA Board of Directors election as well as a Quorum Proxy Statement necessary to determine a quorum for the Annual Meeting. In 2018 the ballot will also include a section to vote on the

Proposed Bylaws Amendments. Read the instructions on the ballot, VOTE for the candidate(s) of your choosing, VOTE, yes or no, to adopt the Proposed Bylaws Amendments and place the ballot in the enclosed postage-paid security return envelope, along with your signed and dated Quorum Proxy Statement. Either mail or hand-deliver the provided return envelope to the ECIA office by **5:00 PM, Thursday, May 3**. All ballots received after this date and time will not be counted.

~Election Committee

ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Bldg. Wednesday, March 21, 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 emailed 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.

Board Election Forum – Meet Your Candidates

A candidate forum will be held on Thursday, **March 22, 7:00 PM.** at the railroad building. Candidates will be able to present views and ideas as related to a universal question. An informal meet-and-greet will immediately follow with the opportunity for members to mingle with candidates and to directly ask questions.

Candidates will be announced after the nomination petitions are verified on March 2. Look for further information on the Eldoradosf.org webpage. If there are addition candidates, a second candidate forum will be held Monday, **April 16, 7:00 PM.**

~Election Committee

Spring Safety Tips

Eldorado's record when it comes to safety is commendable. Serious incidents are few and far between, and we would like to keep it that way. Here are some reminders to make spring in Eldorado a carefree season.

- ▼ Drive defensively and observe all traffic laws. At four-way stops, come to a complete stop before proceeding. If two cars appear to arrive at the same time, grant right-of-way to the car on the right.
- ▼ Show extra caution when entering or exiting US 285, as it is a major federal highway and is used by many commercial vehicles.
- ▼ Don't tailgate. Respect the fact that some of our residents are cautious drivers for a reason.
- ▼ Be especially observant around the school, library, and senior center. Always be on the lookout for children and other pedestrians in the roadway.

- ▼ Keep Eldorado safe for our pets. Dogs should be on leash on the hike/bike trails and in the greenbelts. Dogs that are off leash are prone to rush at other dogs and are not under the owner's control.
 - ▼ Keep pets inside, especially at night, to prevent interaction with owls, bobcats, or coyotes.
 - ▼ Think about safety when doing your spring cleaning. Use extreme caution when running outdoor power tools such as mowers, chain saws, or trimmers. Use appropriate, well-anchored ladders for home inspection and fix-up.
 - ▼ Spring is the windiest season in Eldorado. Secure properly any object or implement that might cause damage if picked up by the wind.
- When it comes to safety, a little common sense goes a long way. And a little courtesy goes even further. Let's shoot for an accident and incident-free year in Eldorado.

Message from the Board

It's that time of year again as we have the 2018 ECIA board elections coming up. A year ago, I had finished getting enough valid signatures on my petition signed and had submitted it to the ECIA. When I started the process my first thought was, "how was I going to get 25 valid signatures?" In reality, it was an easy task. People in Eldorado were happy to sign and it ended up not being an obstacle. Instead, it was an opportunity for me to meet folks in Eldorado which was a great pleasure and a lot of fun.

We live in a great community and I discovered along the way how rewarding it is volunteering my time as a board member. I won't lie and tell you that it's all been easy. It hasn't. Eldorado, like most communities, has issues that we need to work on. With that said, the one thing I've learned is that we are better and stronger as a community if we are all involved and active.

At the time I'm writing this, we don't yet know how many folks are getting their petition signed to submit for this year's election. I am applauding all those who have decided to run.

What I can tell you is you will learn a lot and you enjoy serving your community, this is also true for all those who volunteer their time serving on our committees.

We need new people and ideas on our committees. The more diverse input we get in how we want Eldorado to be, the better we will be. Please contact Isabel Ugarte, our GM, if you are interested in getting more information about getting involved. **IT'S WORTH IT!**

Note: all articles by board members do not always represent the views of the entire board.

~Jody Price, Secretary



Temporary Wrap Up on R.A.P?

Last January Santa Fe County announced the suspension of its Recycled Asphalt Paving (RAP) project in Eldorado. The County's decision to halt its road surfacing efforts came after some lot owners voiced their opposition to the material's use. Used as a fractional element mixed with asphalt in hot and warm applications, the County had cold-applied a half-dozen roads with 100% RAP.

Santa Fe County has been given the RAP from the State's Department of Transportation and saw it as a cost-effective way to treat problematic roads in Eldorado that were no longer holding their surfaces after repeated gradings. However, some residents on roads receiving RAP treatment (Carlito, Chusco, Demora, Estambre, Glorieta, and Juego) saw the dark material as unaesthetic as well as toxic.

According to the County's announcement, additional work on the RAP project in Eldorado is suspended until the fall of 2018 at the earliest. However, those roads already surfaced with RAP will be further treated with a "fog seal" coat. Application of the fog seal requires warmer temperatures and won't happen until late spring or summer.

Along with suspension of the project, the County is withholding any pending decisions on deletions or requests for additions to the original list of roads designated to receive RAP. Such changes to the original list will be addressed before resuming the RAP project in Eldorado.

Questions regarding the RAP project may be directed to **Robert Martinez** at robmtz@santafecountynm.gov.

~Gershon Siegel

Recent Board Actions

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association met on Monday, February 19, 2018. Members present were President **John Henriksen**, Vice-President **Antone Forneris**, Treasurer **Joseph Gutierrez**, Secretary **Jody Price**, Director **Pam Henline**, Director **David McDonald** and Director **David Yard**. The following formal actions were reviewed and passed by the Board:

- ▼ Motion to approve January 18, 2018 Board Working Session Notes.
- ▼ Motion to approve the purchase of Asset Panda Software.
- ▼ Motion to approve ECIA Equine Burial Prohibition; Directors Henline and Yard abstained.
- ▼ Motion to approve the ECIA Investment Strategy.

▼ Motion to appoint Todd Handy to F&G Committee.

The Motion to recommend that the 2018 proposed bylaws amendments move to the membership for a vote was tabled until the March 1, Special Meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors.

The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors will be a Special Meeting scheduled for **March 1**, at 4:30 PM, in the Community Center classroom. Next, the Board will hold a Working session on **March 15**, at 4 PM, in the Community Center classroom. Finally, on **March 21**, at 7 PM, the Board will conduct its regular meeting in the railroad room at the Community Center. ECIA board meetings are open to the public. Complete minutes and agendas are available at the ECIA office or on the website: www.eldoradosf.org.

ECIA Needs You!

For this year's 4th of July, ECIA will be doing something a little different. We will have live music from Eldorado residents. Yes, you read that correctly. With the abundant amount of music talent seen here in Eldorado, it was only natural that these fantastic musicians should be seen, heard, and appreciated.

ECIA will be hosting auditions **Saturday, March 31, 12 to 4 PM**. Each band will get ten minutes to show just how amazing they are. Show your American spirit with your best renditions of 4th of July themed songs. Space is limited,

so book now with **Courteney Handy**, at chandy@hoamco.com or (505) 466-4248. If you are unable to attend, please send in a CD/DVD sample.

We are also looking for volunteers to help cleanup, participate in the parade, and help run the event. Please contact Courteney to get involved.

Let's make this 4th of July celebration the best Eldorado has ever seen.

~Courteney Handy, ECIA Community Relations Coordinator/Vistas Editor



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Architecture:
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Conservation: Jim Daniel

Election: Bette Knight

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Nolan Zisman

Finance: Sal Monaco

Information: Gershon Siegel

Roads: Felicia Probert

Stable: Amelia Adair

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library
466-READ

Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofireandrescue.org

County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)



Let the RTD 'Blue Bus' Serve Your Transportation Needs



Need to get into Santa Fe for work, medical appointments, school, or shopping? Perhaps you're looking to save on fuel costs, are a one-car household, or just prefer to leave the driving to someone else?

The **North Central Regional Transit District's RTD "Blue Bus" #280** Eldorado route provides Eldorado residents with free public transit into Santa Fe Monday through Friday. The service offers five roundtrips into town beginning at the RTD bus stop on the east side of the Agora Market where you can also park your car and hop on the bus.

Once the bus arrives in Santa Fe, there is a stop at the St. Vincent's Hospital allowing access to the hospital, and medical offices and facilities in the surrounding area. It then makes its way downtown with stops by Trader Joes, the State Capitol, Sheridan Street (one block from the Santa Fe Plaza), and the South Capitol complex of office buildings and Rail Runner Station providing train connections to Albuquerque. The South Capitol and Sheridan Street stop also provide connecting options to RTD buses that

can take you to Taos, Española, and points throughout northern New Mexico. At the South Capitol stop, outdoor enthusiasts can also connect to the RTD Mountain Trail bus that can take you to Ten Thousand Waves, the Santa Fe National Forest and Ski Santa Fe; there is a \$5.00 fare.

On a recent morning, we ran into Galisteo resident, **Bernie Gavron**, who was taking the bus from the Agora to his work at a dental office in Taos. He said he rides the bus to reduce the wear and tear on his car and because, as he says, "the RTD is the best thing ever invented!"

And don't forget the environment. Public transit supports sustainability. The shared rides of public transit reduce carbon from the air we breathe and the number of cars on our roads and highways. RTD buses are ADA accessible and provide bike racks so you can bring your bike and access trails and get you where you need to go to Santa Fe. For more information, visit www.Ride-theBlueBus.com or call **(866) 206-0754**.

~Jim Nagle, Public Information Officer, RTD

Eco Tips: Don't Idle

Avoid idling. Think about it — idling gets you 0 miles per gallon. The best way to warm up a vehicle is to drive it. No more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days is needed. Anything more simply wastes fuel and increases emissions.

Square Dancing Open House

March 2. 7 to 8 PM Max Coll.

March Haiku

Spring winds blow in trees,
earth will start to wake once
more:

soon, growing begins.

Library News and Events

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

Artist Exhibition: Martin J. Desht, March 1-30 in the Library Gallery. A Certain Peace: Acceptance and Defiance in Northern Ireland

Book Donation Days: Saturdays, March 3 and April 7, 9 to 11:30 AM only.

Family Movie Nights: Fridays, March 9 and April 13, 7 PM. Call 505-466-7323 for titles and ratings. Everyone is welcome, and admission is free.

Alzheimer's Café: 2 to 4 PM, Monday, March 12.

Medicare Information Program: Wednesday, March 14, 10:30 AM to 1 PM. "What to know about Medicare and hospitalizations BEFORE you go. What is covered with Part A and Part B, different status situations and what they mean for your coverage and out-of-pocket expenses." A certified benefits counselor from the New Mexico Dept. of Aging can answer your questions.

Physics for Everyone: with Robert Henderson: Thursday, March 29, 12:30 to 2 PM. Learn what electricity is and what causes magnetism. No previous knowledge of physics is required.

Story Time: meets Friday mornings at 11 AM. Stories and crafts for toddler and preschool ages.

All Ages Chess: Friday afternoons, 3 PM. All ages and skill levels are welcomed.

Eldorado Genealogy Group: meets the last Wednesday of each month, 6:30 to 8 PM.

In case of inclement weather, please call the library at 505-466-7323 or check the website at www.vglibrary.org to verify that the library is open or a program will be meeting that day. If no one can answer the phone, the recorded message is kept up-to-date with open hours, program information, and emergency closures.
~Tracey Mitchell, Vista Grande Public Library

El Dorado School Community Garden to Host Season Kickoff

Are you a gardener without a garden? Looking to meet new friends and have fun growing things? The El Dorado School Community Garden is holding its 2018 Season Kickoff Meeting & Garden Tour on Saturday, **March 31**, to introduce interested folks to the garden and sign up new members. The garden has thirty-nine raised and sunken beds available for rent, a perennial garden, a communal "Circle Garden" (where work and produce are shared by members), a school garden (run by teachers and students), a greenhouse, a picnic area, and more.

The Kickoff event will be held at the **Eldorado Senior Center**, 16 Avenida Torreon, from 10 to 11:30 AM. Refreshments will be served, and tours of the garden will follow the meeting. Stop by and see what this is all about! More information about the garden, as well as applications for membership, are also available on our website, www.eldoradoschoolcommunitygarden.org. For more information, contact **Susan Williams, Membership Co-Chair, 466-1528**.

Reminder!

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. Eldorado residents should always think of others when walking their dogs and remember to pick up and dispose of the animal waste properly at the Dogi-Pot stations, or any nearby garbage cans.

Also: All pets are prohibited on the tennis or basketball courts; pets must be on leashes at all locations except inside fence of dog park.

~ECIA Staff

Yoga – Moving, Stretching, Breathing, and Reducing Stress Levels

Ask yourself:

1. Am I moving enough throughout my day?
2. Am I stretching my limbs adequately to complete my daily tasks?"
3. Am I breathing deep into my belly and filling my lungs fully?
4. Am I managing my stress levels to enjoy both work & leisure time?

Out of the four areas indicated above, is there one that you might be in need of on a daily basis? Is there one (or possibly more) that calls out to you to add to your current lifestyle? A regular yoga practice brings awareness to all four of these areas and works on improving these capacities throughout one's lifespan.

It is particularly beneficial to come into yoga with a personal need, a point of focus, or intention with which to begin. You can initially place your attention there and then slowly reap the benefits over time of the various aspects of yoga. It is possible that you may not even know how engaging in a yoga practice can enrich your life.

~Mary Horst

March 2018 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 about both the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number. Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Architecture Committee	Tues., Mar. 13,	7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	F
Architecture Committee	Tues., Mar. 27,	7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	F
Board Work Session	Thurs., Mar. 15,	4-6 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Mar. 6,	7-9 pm	Jim Daniel (609)	941-4527	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Wed., Mar. 21,	7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Mar. 14,	2-4 pm	Bette Knight	466-4248	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Mar. 7,	3-5 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Tues., Mar. 13,	9:30-12 pm	Sal Monaco	690-5125	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Mar. 20,	7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Road Committee	TBA TBA	6-8 pm	Felicia Probert	466-1563	RR
Stable Committee	TBA	Amelia Adair	eldoradostables@gmail.com		F

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY

Community Garden	3rd Tuesday of month	6-7 pm			CFR
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.,	6:45-8:10 pm			CFR
AA	Thurs.,	6-7 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri.,	6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AI Anon	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
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	As scheduled	Mon., 10-12 noon	Mavis Murphy	466-8189	RR
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

** Check the ECIA website for the most accurate dates/times

*** Abbreviations: CC=Community Center CFR=Conference Room, F=Foyer, LR=Living Room, RR=Railroad Room

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Golden Eagle



Photo of the Golden Eagle by Rene Laubach

This large, beautiful raptor can be found over much of the western U.S. where the habitat is suitable. There is a golden color on the back of the GE's neck, and the rest of the bird is a dark brown color. Some buffy color may be seen on the underside of their tail. Some young birds may have slight light-colored patches on the underside of the tail and wings. The head is smallish, which helps to distinguish the GE from a juvenile Bald Eagle. Most sightings will be of the GE soaring on wings which span 72 to 86 inches. Length of the GE body is 27 to 33 inches. Females are larger than males.

GEs begin reproduction when 4 or 5 years old. A monogamous pair builds a large nest up to 6 feet wide and 2 feet deep, over several months and may augment and use the same nest over several years. The nests may be on cliffs, human structures, such as windmills, or other places where they have a wide view of their territory with their very sharp eyes. Their eyesight is estimated at 4 to 8 times stronger than that of the average human, and they can spot a rabbit almost 2 miles away. Their courtship display (sky-dancing), involves many dives and swoops and they may carry sticks or prey during this aerial play. The female lays 1 to 3 eggs which are incubated by her for about 43 days, and young birds usually fledge between 10 and 12 weeks. The new hatchlings are weak with

partially down and barely open eyes. Depending on the amount of food available, not all chicks survive.

GEs avoid forested areas and live in the semi-open country where they hunt mostly mammals—rabbits, ground squirrels, and prairie dogs. They have occasionally been seen taking larger animals such as swans, fish, deer, and domestic livestock. They will also eat carrion. They may hunt on the ground, flapping their wings, and pairs may hunt rabbits cooperatively during the breeding season. The Rough-legged Hawk, the Ferruginous Hawk, and the GE are the only American raptors to have legs feathered all the way to the toes. The GE is the emblem of Albania, Germany, Austria, Mexico, and Kazakhstan.

Most recorded deaths for GEs are from collisions with vehicles, wind turbines, and other structures, or from electrocution at power poles, (newer designs, where used, can greatly reduce this risk). The oldest recorded Golden Eagle was 31 years, eight months old when it was found in 2012 in Utah. It had been banded in the same state since 1980. Thanks to many internet sites including the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and expertise from Dale Stahlecker and Rene Laubach, who spotted a juvenile north of the NW corner of Eldorado, flying over the open country.

~Pam Henline

Brush Piles and Dead Vegetation on Lots

With the winter of 2017/ 2018 being such a dry winter, and the dry spring winds just around the corner (which will likely further remove moisture from the dead and downed wood, and vegetative debris), the potential for drought and wildfires this spring and summer should be a concern for all Eldorado residents.

While at the time of the writing of this article, Santa Fe County had not issued a burn ban, the Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) was receiving calls from concerned residents about their neighbors having dead weeds and debris growing right next to their homes.

The ECIA also received many calls from residents about their neighbors who had collected dead and down wood on their lot and rather than removing these volatile fuels from their lot, they instead, left large brush piles on their lots. These large brush piles are not only a visual nuisance but are a fire hazard for both the residents and the neighborhood at large.

Due to this ongoing safety issue, the ECIA asks that residents inspect their lots for any dead weeds (especially the

tall weeds over residents' septic fields), and dead vegetation which might be accumulating around their homes. When such fuels are close to their homes, these can act as a ladder fuel and make a resident's home more at risk. If you find that there is such dead vegetation on your lot, we ask that you do not create piles of dead grass or wood debris on the lot, but rather, you remove it from your lot to help safeguard your home from the devastating effect of a wildfire.

The existence of such brush piles is likely to provide a home for problem rodents such as mice and pack rats. The elimination of these piles may help to lessen our problematic rodent populations in Eldorado.

Additionally, should you want to get a free home wildfire assessment, residents can call the **Eldorado Fire Department** at **466-1204**. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter. For any questions, please call **Mark Young** at the ECIA at **466-4248**.

~Mark Young, ECIA Architecture and Covenant Compliance Coordinator

Examples of Dry and Volatile Weeds over two Eldorado Leach Fields in March 2017:





Giardia – The Visitor Nobody Likes!

FLORA AND FAUNA

We were concerned when our dog became ill. The poor guy had awful digestive problems. The vet confirmed that he had **Giardia** (also called giardiasis). We weren't sure where he picked it up. We've heard of other stories: A woman's dog got Giardia from drinking from a pond, some children got it from a daycare kiddie pool, someone found out their septic was faulty because their companion animal got sick, a friend's son got it from a restaurant buffet. We decided to try to help our neighbors know about this disease, and how to avoid it.

Giardia is a parasitic intestinal infection in both humans and animals which causes very uncomfortable digestive system problems including diarrhea, excessive gas, fatigue, stomach cramps, and nausea. Found in our area and throughout the United States, Giardia (sometimes also called "Beaver Fever" since some people think beavers spread it in lakes and streams), is one of the most common causes of waterborne diseases. Infections can occur throughout the year since Giardia can live longer in cold weather than other parasites.

The microscopic parasites Giardia lamblia are problematic because once outside the body, they are encased in hard shells called cysts which enable them to survive for months. Once ingested and inside the host (either animals or people), the cysts dissolve, and the parasites are released.

Since Giardia is passed through infected fecal matter, it's essential for people to clean up their dogs' waste. Infection usually occurs by ingesting contaminated water – from puddles, ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, wells, swimming pools, spas, and municipal water supplies. Ground and surface

water can become contaminated from agricultural runoff, wastewater discharge, faulty septic and animal feces. Dogs can get Giardia from eating contaminated grass, dirt, or water, or from rolling on contaminated ground and then licking their fur. Dog parks and daycare centers are at higher risk. Giardia can also be contracted through food if proper hygiene is not followed or if produce is washed in contaminated water. However, cooking food kills giardia.

Prevention is the key to avoiding Giardia: Wash hands often, purify wilderness water before drinking, keep your mouth closed when swimming, use bottled water, make sure companion animals have access to clean water and bring water to the dog park for your dog, and keep kiddie pools clean.

Treatment for infection involves a trip to the doctor or vet and medication. If the infection is bad, the home and yard may need to be disinfected as well. A solution of 3/4 cup of bleach to one gallon of water can be used to sanitize hard surfaces that can tolerate bleach. Let sit for 1-3 minutes then rinse well. Products to disinfect the yard can be applied via hose.

As our dog can attest, controlling a Giardia infection can be a time-intensive task. Bottom line: *it's out there*, be careful! For more information:

▼ www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/giardia-infection

▼ <https://draxe.com/giardiasis>

Archived Flora Fauna articles can be found at <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com/flora-fauna-group/>

Inside the Donation Bin

ELDORADO 285 RECYCLES / JANET SUNG, DARLING MAGAZINE

In January I looked at the walk-in closet, I share with my husband and felt guilty about the amount of clothing I'd accumulated. Although I do this every year, this year was different because I was still getting away with Capri's and T-shirts. The sweaters in my closet had not been worn yet, and I felt the need to donate. Acknowledging this, it seemed easy to drop off some clothing in one of those handy green donation bins in town. What many of us don't know is how easily that can equate to throwing our clothing away.

Here are the facts about textile waste:

According to the US EPA, textiles, as a category, have one of the lowest recycling rates of any reusable material. And when recycled, only 10% of those textiles are considered re-usable. That means about 90% are either sent to landfills or flood markets in developing countries. Each year in America alone, 10.5 million tons of clothing are sent to a landfill. That's 31,250 tons every day, 218,750 tons each week, and 875,000 tons each month. To clarify, that's a terrifying 62.5 million pounds of clothing a day headed to a landfill.

Donating to some government-run charities like The Salvation Army and Goodwill may not be the most effective way to recycle our clothes. Even though these charities stood as our nation's go-to textile recyclers since the early 20th century with bins for donations appearing as early as the 1940s, this system was established in a pre-consumerist America, before fast fashion reigned our wallets and our current waste crisis came to exist.

Over the past decade, the amount of clothing Americans purchase has tripled 400%. And between 1999 and 2009, the volume of textile trash rose by 40 percent. Because of this, the bins that initially started out as an effective recycling method have transformed charities into dumps that accept clothes of varying conditions in ever-increasing volumes.

While it will take some time to find a real solution to the entirety of the waste issue, we, as tenants of this environment, can do our part in alleviating the situation by collectively changing the direction in which we send our clothes. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>**

VISTAS

Eldorado Community Improvement Association
#1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
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>

Updated List of Birds of Eldorado

The updated "Birds of Eldorado" is now available at Eldoradosf.org

The new birds are:

- ▼ Cactus Wren
- ▼ Eastern Bluebird
- ▼ Golden Eagle
- ▼ Gray Catbird
- ▼ Barn Owl
- ▼ Lincoln's Sparrow
- ▼ Orange-crowned warbler
- ▼ Downy woodpecker
- ▼ Cassin's Finch



Free Well Water Testing

There will be four chances for Eldorado residents to get free well water testing at La Tienda. The dates are:

- ▼ Friday, March 9, 4-7 PM.
- ▼ Saturday, March 10, 9 AM-4 PM.
- ▼ Friday, March 16, 4-7 PM.
- ▼ Saturday, March 17, 9 AM-4 PM.

To participate, please make an appointment with **Alison Stargel** at: Alison.stargel@state.nm.us. For more information, please call Alison at (505) 827-0099 or check out the eldoradosf.org website.

~The New Mexico Department of Health

Donation Bin Continued from pg. 7

Instead of finding an easy fix to get rid of your old clothing, look for organizations that are honest in what they say they do with your donations. And only donate items that have the potential for a second life – no holes, no stains, no tears. Be considerate of the next person wearing your clothing.

You can always donate to local homeless or battered women's shelters. Donating to local organizations is safer because there is no middleman or complicated distribution process. You can always take the clothes to the front door and talk to someone directly.



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