

Vistas



IN THIS ISSUE

Board Actions2-3
 Jumpin' Right In3
 In the Community4-5
 Galisteo Basin Preserve ..6
 Eldorado Classes8

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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



Photo By: Amanita Thorpe

The Goats Are Coming

The ECIA Board, aided by the Conservation Committee, is pleased to announce the return of the goats who graze the brush and weeds along some of our greenbelts. The primary reason for this activity is to mitigate fire danger during this very dry year.

The areas where grazing will occur include the Gallina Park: from the clubhouse to the Compadres Children's Park, the Pueblo Canon Park: west of rail trail, east of Avenida De Compadres, west of power lines in the larger sections of that park, and if time allows, in both Los Alamos Parks: west of Avenida Torreon to Rail Trail. Greenbelt maps are available at the ECIA office or on

the Eldorado website www.eldoradosf.org at http://www.eldoradosf.org/images/home_owners/greenbelt_map_2014.pdf.

Ms. **Amanita Thorpe's** herd of goats will be supervised at all times, and all efforts will be made to prevent them from straying onto private property. **If you do not want goats to possibly stray onto your property**, please contact the ECIA office (466-4248) to obtain yellow tape to mark your property's boundary with the greenbelt or contact the office about any concerns.

The goats will be arriving in April, subject to good weather, and will be grazing for approximately one month.

~Pam Henline

Library Trail Restoration 2018

Neighbors: The ECIA Conservation Committee is sponsoring a greenbelt trail restoration/repair project in 2018 on the trail that connects the Senior Center to the Monte Alto Road (map on the next page).

This trail will match the section that was restored in 2016 between Avenida Torreon and Melado Drive. Work will be done to correct erosion problems and to widen the trail to allow folks to walk side-by-side. The brush will also be cleared to reduce the fire danger, and Cholla removed to keep Cholla burrs off the trail.

Our original intent was to improve the trails that access the

Senior Center Library and Eldorado School but this is County property, and the County has not responded to our requests for trail improvement that we submitted over two years ago.

The old trail encroached on private land, and we have made every effort to reroute to the trail to ECIA land only. The areas where the reroutes will go are flagged with red flags, while areas where there will be no change, are not flagged. We have found and flagged some lot markers to aid us, but in case we have erred, we would appreciate those whose property neighbors the trail inform us of any problems. **Continued on next page.**

ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Bldg. Wednesday, April 25, 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, Courtney Handy at her office at ECIA or emailed to chandy@hoamco.com. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message

Mission Statement

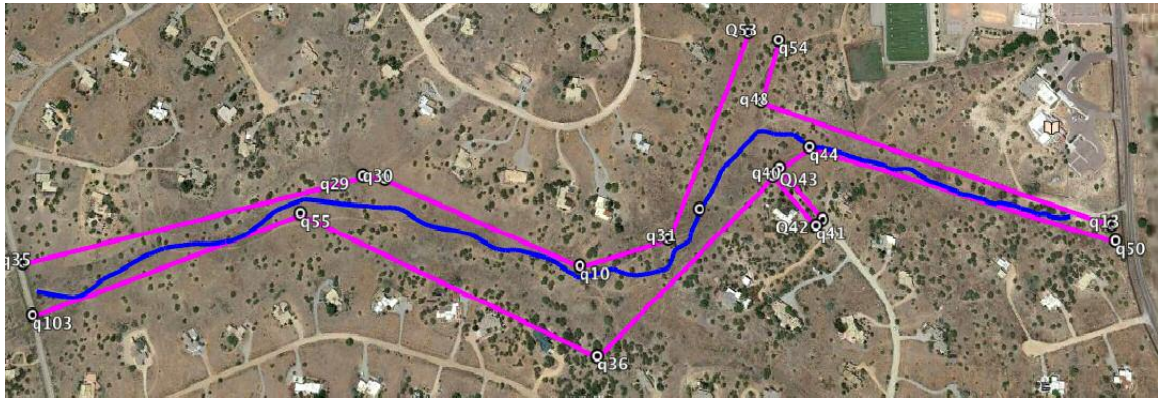
The mission of Vistas, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

Trail Restoration Continued from Pg. 1

Note: If you do know where your lot markers are, it would be of great help to us if you would flag them (using ribbon or painters tape). The re-

stored trail should not infringe on any private lots and we'd appreciate your help to ensure that.

~ECIA Conservation Committee



Second Candidate Forum

A second candidate forum will be held on Monday, **April 16**, 7-9 pm in the ECIA Railroad Building. Come and get to know your candidates and hear their views on a variety of

subjects. Members can submit questions by sending them to GM Isabel Ugarte at iugarte@hoamco.com no later than noon on Monday, **April 9th**.



Message from the Board

On **November 20, 2017**, the board approved the creation of an Ad-Hoc Environmental Advisory Committee to review the ECIA Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy. Antone Forneris and I are the board liaisons to the committee whose charge is to develop environmentally sound guidelines for pesticide use, maintenance, and new construction, and to set up procedures for an ongoing review of all ECIA practices that impact the environment.

The current policy was adopted almost 20 years ago and was in need of updating and strengthening, so the committee will be developing a more detailed, comprehensive IPM policy. In the meantime, we are recommending an extensive review and community notification policy to the board to ensure that residents are aware of the details of any proposed pesticide application well in advance.

In conjunction with the facilities and grounds committee, the Environmental Advisory Committee is in the process of reviewing the proposed tree removal around the pool to see if there is an

alternative to using an herbicide to kill the roots. The board has requested a new proposal to only cut down the tangle of three trees at the pool backwash and to not treat the roots until the backwash system has been evaluated for repair or replacement. The committees will be meeting together at 3:00 pm on **April 4** to further discuss the issue.

The committee would like to see the ECIA become an environmental stewardship role model for residents by developing policies that promote responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices.

The committee meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 3:00 pm in the Conference Room at the ECIA offices - our next meeting is April 3rd. We welcome residents to attend and are currently looking for additional committee members. Applicants must be members in good standing and current on all assessments.

~David McDonald, Board Liaison to the Environmental Advisory Committee

Reminder—Ballots Due May 3

Ballots must be returned via mail or hand delivered to the ECIA office no later than 5:00 pm on **Thursday, May 3**. Check your annual report packet for your election materials (ballot, quorum proxy statement, and return security envelope). If you have paid your 2018 assessment on or before March 1st, then you will have these materials enclosed with your annual

report. VOTE for the candidate(s) of your choice; VOTE to adopt or not adopt the 2018 Proposed Bylaws Amendments; sign and date your quorum proxy statement, and place all in the postage-paid return security envelope to participate in the election process.

~Election Committee

Recent Board Actions

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association met on Wednesday, March 21, 2018. Members present were President **John Henriksen**, Vice-President **Antone Forneris**, Treasurer **Joseph Gutierrez**, Secretary **Jody Price**, Director **Pam Henline**, and Director **David Yard**. Director **David McDonald** had an excused absence. The following formal actions were reviewed and unanimously passed by the board:

▼ Motion to approve the ECIA contracting with **Amanita Thorp**, owner of New Mexico Film Animals LLC, Horned Locust GoatScaping, to use her goats for browsing/grazing in some of Eldorado's greenbelts in order to reduce the

danger of wildfires in these areas.

▼ Motion to accept the 2018 ECIA Audit as prepared by Porch & Associates.

The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors will be a special meeting on **April 3**, at 6 pm, in the Community Center Classroom. Next the board will conduct its working session on **April 19**, at 4 pm, in the Community Center Classroom. Finally, on **April 25**, at 7 pm, the board will conduct its regular meeting in the Railroad Room at the Community Center.

The 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

Jumpin' Right In

As you might be shocked to learn, our pool amenity is probably in the area of 280 years old—in dog years, that is. It's been around since 1977. In mid-2017, the ECIA Board established an ad hoc group of regular pool users, working with the facilities and grounds committee (F&G), with the explicit purpose of providing an evaluation of our existing pool facilities and guidance on where we might want to go with it from here. Members of this group include **Jean Crawford**, **Mike Schneider**, **Martha Jackson Deutsch**, **Ted Freedman**, and **Mary Ellen Donat**. Their F&G liaison is **Russell Winslow** as seen below:



One of the concerns is the well-being of the pool's infrastructure. If it is in significant decline, either a major rehabilitation or a replacement would be in order. In either of those two scenarios, all pool appurtenances would have to comply with existing standards. If the pool needs to be replaced, we'll want to build a new facility that will meet the requirements and visions of the next generation or two of pool users. Even if the pool is found not to be in significant decline, we need to provide the proper levels of maintenance and operation to ensure we continue in operation, without mid-season interruptions, for the next several years.

The Pool ad hoc group was tasked with three major undertakings:

1. Determine the best vendor to do a structural engineering study of the pool and environs to provide an objective "comfort level" about the remaining life of the pool;
2. Provide an in-depth (pardon the pun) evaluation of pool operations, designed to improve the pool experience going forward; and,
3. Identify the most basic work needed to be performed to open the pool on time and keep the pool open during the 2018 pool season. **Continued on Page 8.**

ECIA OFFICE

#1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87508
466-4248, Fax: 466-4249
www.eldoradosf.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

John Henriksen
J.Henriksen@eldoradosf.org

Vice-President

Antone Forneris
A.Forneris@eldoradosf.org

Secretary

Barrett "Jody" Price
J.Price@eldoradosf.org

Treasurer

Joseph Gutierrez
J.Gutierrez@eldoradosf.org

Director

Pam Henline
P.Henline@eldoradosf.org

Director

David McDonald
D.McDonald@eldoradosf.org

Director

David Yard
D.Yard@eldoradosf.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:

Katherine Mortimer

Conservation: John Reynolds

Election: Bette Knight

Facilities & Grounds:

Nolan Zisman

Finance: Sal Monaco

Information: Gershon Siegel

Roads: Felicia Probert

Stable: Amelia Adair

ECIA STAFF

General Manager

Isabel Ugarte
466-4248
IUgarte@hoamco.com

Architecture & Covenant

Compliance Coordinator

Mark Young
466-4248
mark@eldoradosf.org

VISTAS NEWSLETTER

Editor & Designer/Webmaster

Courteney Handy
466-4248
chandy@hoamco.com

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Fire and Rescue

466-1204
eldoradofirerescue.org

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)



Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinics for Dogs



With the warm temperatures, it will not be long before dormant creatures return to our landscape, including rattlesnakes. To help protect our canine friends, the Central New Mexico Brittany Club (CNMBC) is hosting, for the fifth consecutive year, our annual Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinics for Dogs on Saturday, **April 21** on the grounds of the ECIA Community Center and Sunday, on the West Mesa, Rio Rancho. **Terry** and **Janet Chandler**, of Las Cruces, will again conduct these clinics, held on the hour, beginning at 8 am.

Checking with staff at both the Eldorado Animal Clinic and Cedarwood Veterinary Clinic, dogs with rattlesnake bites in 2017 were about the same as in 2016. Cameron Veterinary Clinic staff reported that there were more than last year. Recall that all of these clinics reported an increase in 2016 over 2015 rattlesnake incidents.

Two participants from Eldorado, who attended with their dogs in 2017, reported that they had run-ins with their dogs and rattlers after the clinic. **Claire Bruno** and her dog, Aspen came

across two rattlers within ten days. The first in the Eldorado Community Preserve and the second in Galisteo Basin Preserve. Aspen demonstrated the same avoidance behavior as she did during the clinic. This alerted Claire to the presence of the rattlesnakes, keeping both hikes safe for all. As Claire said, Aspen "swept" the area of rattlers.

Felice Cohen wrote that her dog Brodie saw a rattlesnake last summer on their portal and jumped back, way back, which alerted her to the viper's presence. County Animal Control arrived and hauled the four-footer away. Felice is bringing her new rescue dog, Riley, to this year's clinic.

For information on these clinics, including registration, go to CNMBC's webpage:

http://www.centralnewmexicobrittanyclub.com/CNM-BC_Hosted_Rattlesnake_Avoidance_Clinics.html.

Additional questions? Contact **Tom Mauter**, Clinic Coordinator, 466-6511. Picture by: Tom Mauter.

~Tom Mauter, Clinic Coordinator

Beginners Cactus Class

The Cactus Rescue Project will be giving a beginners class on cactus and cactus gardening on **April 21** at 9:00 am at the ECIA Community Cactus Garden. Come out and learn about cactus and cactus gardening at the 3rd largest cactus garden in NM. For more info contact Obie at jwo1959@aol.com.

Library News and Events

Come celebrate World Migratory Bird Day at the library on Saturday, April 21, from 12 to 3 pm. The Vista Grande Public Library (VGPL) is hosting talks and activities suitable for all ages, all free of charge. Learn about local bird species, ask questions of experts and make crafts. A live raptor from a local raptor center will be here. Carol Beidleman from Environment of the Americas will give demonstrations on bird banding. Dawn Graber of Wild Birds Unlimited will give a talk in the Meeting Room. Other groups will have tables set up, including Eldorado Flora & Fauna, Al Hockwalt and Karen Nein from Birdhouse Whimzee, artist Judy Boyd, and local bird walk guide Amy Gross.

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

Artist Exhibition: April 3 to 28, Judy Boyd Watercolor Exhibition: Migratory Birds. Meet the Artist: April 21 from 12-3 inside the Library.

Family Movie Nights: Fridays, April 13 and May 4, 7 pm. Call 505-466-7323 for titles and ratings. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

Alzheimer's Café: Monday, April 9, 2 to 4 pm.

Medicare Information Session: Wednesday, April 11, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. A certified Medicare Benefits Counselor from the NM Dept. of Aging will be available to provide help and answer your questions.

Physics for Everyone: with Robert Henderson: Thursday, April 19, 12:30 to 2 pm. Learn all about electricity and magnetism.

Special Movie Night: Friday, April 27, 7 pm. Jeff Berg presents "Movies Made by New Mexicans II."

Spring Book Sale: May 10 and 11, 10 am to 6 pm. May 12, 10 am to 4 pm. Volunteers are needed!

Summer Reading Programs: Registration opens May 1. Kickoff Celebration on June 1. More details coming soon!

~Tracey Mitchell, Vista Grande Public Library

Eldorado Spring Flea Market 2018

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **May 5th** for the Eldorado Spring Flea Market at the ECIA Community Center. This subdivision wide event opens at 8 am with vendors from Santa Fe, Pecos and Espanola as well as subdivision residents. There will be a wide variety of merchandise, including hand-made apparel, purses, jewelry, art and collectibles, semi-precious gem stones, tools, electronic games, toys, glassware, books and furniture. Every year is different! This is a family friendly event with something for everyone. Vendor set-up begins at 6:30 am with space fees set at \$10 for Eldorado residents and \$15 for non-residents. The flea market concludes at noon. Clean out your garage, rent a space, and come out to exchange your unwanted "treasures" for those of your neighbors. Great fun for all. For more information go to www.eldoradosf.org or call 505-577-8130. Proceeds benefits Boy Scout troop 414.

~ Boy Scout Troop 414

April Haiku

Flowers and fools month:

why do we have both of these?

Two kinds of beauty.

Santa Fe Century Bike Ride

The annual Santa Fe Century (SFC) bike ride will be held on Sunday, May 20. While most Eldorado residents are familiar with the large number of riders (2,500) on US 285 and related roads, this year the event also includes a 20 mile out and back ride on the Santa Fe Rail Trail. The Rail Trail event could see as many as 100-200 riders, although the SFC can give you a more reliable update on the number in early May.

Because of the potentially large number of riders, the two-way traffic, and the speed, Eldorado residents would be well advised not to use the Rail Trail on May 20, especially those who walk their dogs or listen to 'ear buds'. Both situations are an accident waiting to happen.

~Judith and Fred Warner

Lifeguards Needed!

The ECIA is looking for certified lifeguards for summer pool duty. Applicants must present their Social Security card, driver's license and Red Cross certification. To apply, obtain an application at the ECIA office or call 466-4248.

~ECIA Staff

4th of July Volunteers Needed

The ECIA is looking for groups, volunteers, and individuals interested in helping with the 4th of July parade. ECIA needs you. Please contact Courteney at

chandy@hoamco.com or 466-4248 ext. 12 to get involved.

~ECIA Staff

Square Dance Lessons

Beginner square dance lessons will be starting in Eldorado this spring! Fun, contemporary, singles and couples welcome. Call 988-2888 for further information.

~Square Dancers

April 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 5th 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., Apr. 10,	7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	F
Architecture Committee	Tues., Apr. 24,	7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	F
Board Work Session	Thurs., Apr. 19,	4-6 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Apr. 3,	7-9 pm	John Reynolds	466-4248	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Wed., Apr. 25,	7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., Apr. 11,	9:30-11:30 am	Bette Knight	466-4248	CFR
Environ. Ad Hoc	Tues., Apr. 3,	3-5 pm		466-4248	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Apr. 4,	3-5 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Tues., Apr. 16,	9:30-12 pm	Sal Monaco	690-5125	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Apr. 17,	7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., Apr. 9,	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
EAWS&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs.,	7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	EAWS&SD
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 up-to-date dates/times

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Fighting to Save the Galisteo Basin Preserve

Late last month, The Santa Fe New Mexican published a front-page story and editorial urging community members, government officials, and donors to rally in defense of the Galisteo Basin Preserve (GBP). Citing the preserve's extraordinary cultural, ecological, scenic and recreational values, the article and editorial served as a call-to-action for the community to ensure this well-loved, actively-used open space and trails network is permanently protected.

Hobbled by a deep and protracted recession, Commonweal Conservancy's vision to forge a new model of environmentally responsible development and large-scale land conservation proved impossible to achieve. Burdened by pre-recession debt totaling more than \$5.4 million, Los Alamos National Bank (LANB) launched a foreclosure suit last year that threatens the loss of more than 10 miles of publicly-accessible trails, and large lot residential development within the interior of the GBP open space.

Over the past year, Commonweal has attempted to negotiate a settlement agreement with LANB that would allow the organization to pay off a measurable portion of the organization's debt in exchange for a release of its promissory notes. If an agreement could be reached, Commonweal has been poised to launch a fundraising campaign that would leverage donations from major donors, Santa Fe County and members of the greater Santa Fe community to relinquish the bank's claims.

To date, unfortunately, those negotiations have proven unsuccessful.

If LANB's foreclosure runs its course, the bank will take title to approximately 3,500 acres of partially developable, partially conserved property west of the GBP trailheads this summer. A subsequent sale of the property could result in the development of 12-14 large estates within the interior of the preserve, and public trail access could be restricted. By developing GBP's interior land, miles of new roads could be constructed, wildlife corridors fragmented, and a significant portion of a beloved community recreation and open space resource lost.

Despite the challenges and uncertainty that have dogged the organization since the start of the recession, Commonweal remains deeply committed to the GBP's permanent protection. If an agreement can be reached to settle LANB's claims in the month ahead, open space and trails enthusiasts in Santa Fe and surrounding communities will be invited to help support the preserve's permanent protection through Commonweal's anticipated fundraising campaign. As the organization presses forward in its efforts, know the support of Eldorado residents and members of the larger Galisteo Basin community is strongly felt and appreciated.

~Ted Harrison, Commonweal Conservancy

Summer RV Courtesy

With summer just around the corner and with Santa Fe being a major summer tourist destination, Eldorado residents are frequently visited by family and friends who often arrive in their RV's and end up parking in their driveways and on their lots. When this occurs, we often hear from neighbors who are concerned that their next-door neighbor has purchased an RV and has not submitted a screening plan for it.

While the ECIA covenants do not address visiting RV's on a lot, they do address RV's on a lot under Article II, Section 13 of the covenants. This section is detailed as follows:

Section 13. Storage and Screening of Vehicles and their Accessories. a) Recreational vehicles, such as motor homes, RVs, campers, camper shells, vehicle accessories, trailers, horse trailers, airplanes, boats and the like, when stored on a lot shall be located so as to minimize their visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood and roads, and shall be obscured by screening in a reasonable manner, for example by the dwelling house and/or with plantings or fencing. No more than three such vehicles shall be stored outside on any lot at any time. No more than one additional vehicle shall be parked temporarily on a lot for a period not to exceed three weeks. This paragraph shall be applicable to recreational vehicle accessories, such as camper shells and the like.

With this being the case, three weeks can be a long time for a neighbor to have to look at an unscreened RV, owned by

a non-resident. Because of this, we encourage residents not to allow their visitors to park their RV's on their lot for more than a couple weeks and encourage them to park in the area that least impacts your neighbors. Additionally, we encourage all residents to notify their neighbors, as well as the ECIA, when a visiting RV is going to be on their lot.

Please include the anticipated date of arrival and departure dates of the RV, as well as where it will be parked on the lot. This small gesture will likely result in much happier neighbors and will help eliminate extra work for the ECIA staff as we will then know what RV's are owned by visitors and not lot owners. To notify the ECIA, please call us at 466-4248, or e-mail us at myoung@hoamco.com with visiting RV information. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter this summer.

~Mark Young, ECIA Architecture and Covenant Compliance Coordinator





Spiders

FLORA AND FAUNA

Many people react strongly to spiders. Some shriek in fear when they see one. Others are convinced it's bad luck to kill them. Many of us think they're incredibly interesting. It's fascinating to watch big Orb Weavers spin their magic and build nests, Wolf Spiders on an agile hunt, quick Wall Jumpers and clever Crab Spiders. It's great that spiders don't carry diseases, and they rid our homes of flies and mosquitoes.

We especially appreciate our tarantulas, gentle giants of the spider world, harmless to humans. In the fall – especially in September around here – you will find male tarantulas “migrating.” That means they are leaving their burrows to seek out a mate. Drivers need to be careful to avoid them!

Although all spiders can bite if cornered or handled, spider bites are rare; often “spider bites” are in fact rashes, thorn wounds, infections, or bites from other insects. There are only two local spiders considered dangerous: Widows (brown and black) and Recluses.

The Western Black Widow is glossy black, with a red hourglass on its abdomen. The Brown Widow can be cream to dark brown and has an orange or yellow hourglass. The female Widow is the dangerous one. Like all spiders, they are



not aggressive but will bite if threatened. Bites feel like a pinprick followed by pain, burning, swelling, and redness.

There are several species of Recluse Spiders in the Southwest. Often called fiddleback or violin (due to the violin-shaped mark on their back), Recluses are tan or brown. Again, they won't bite unless you handle or startle them. Bites cause a mild stinging followed by strong pain and redness that can turn into a dark ulcer.

Widow and Recluse bites are rarely fatal. But if you think you've been bitten by one, don't delay in seeking emergency treatment.

Common-sense precautions are to avoid spider bites as well as other hazards: Dust and vacuum homes regularly, keep debris to a minimum, never stack wood near homes, always wear gloves when working outside. And keep a close eye on your children and companion animals.

For a great opportunity to see many of our local species, visit the Harrell House Bug Museum in the DeVargas Mall.

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

Photos By: Julia Kinney

Bath Water Reuse

There are lots of reasons we have chosen Eldorado as a great place to live. A cheap, endless supply of water isn't one of them. In our home, when we shower or bathe, we pump our water into four 5-gallon containers which are then carried outside to water our plants and trees. 3-gallon containers have the advantage of being easier to carry and to store. A third option is to run a longer hose to an outside rain barrel.

Please note, “greywater” should not be used on plants/trees bearing fruits or vegetables used for human consumption.

The sump pump we chose is from Amazon (part number B000HOT3YI) and attached six feet of an old garden hose. Cost \$57. It will pump the water out down to about a quarter of an inch.

You may choose the cheaper route and purchase a pond pump such as Amazon part number B071D9P1SF (\$16) along with tubing such as Amazon part number LPpvc075-010ft (\$19). The downside is the pump will only suck the water down only to about an inch and a half.

To use, simply place the pump in the bathtub water. Put the hose in the container and then plug in the pump. When the container is almost full, you can kink the hose to move it to the next container without dripping. Unplug the pump when the water in the bathtub is so low that the pump starts sucking in air.

We don't have a problem with the sump pump scratching the bottom of the tub, but if this is a concern, you can get self-adhesive rubber feet from the hardware store. If you choose to use a pond pump suction may be an issue; you may need to slit two or more of the rubber feet if they grip the tub too strongly. Instead of removing the plug from the outlet to turn the pump off, you may choose to use an in-line switch like Amazon part number B01894YMX4 or a combination switch/receptacle like Amazon part number B00880BCQ0.

We store our pump/hose under the bathroom sink in a dishpan, so we don't cause water stains on the cabinet floor.

Of course, you do not want to reuse bathwater used by a person with an infectious disease. If you choose an external rain barrel, you are supposed to distribute the water within 24 hours. Read the finer points of New Mexico Greywater Law at : <https://www.env.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2073NMACIntegratedapprovedAL-2014.pdf>.

If you want to get more sophisticated about gray water reuse, there are good ideas in the New Mexico Gray Water Guide at <http://www.ose.state.nm.us/WUC/PDF/NewMexGWGuide.pdf>.

~Mark Wright-Johnson

VISTAS

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#1 La Hacienda Loop
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Sheriff: 428-3720
Crime Stoppers: 955-5050
Neighborhood Watch:
<https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>

Eldorado Classes and Lectures

The Eldorado Classes and Lectures will be hosting a poetry reading at the Community Center Classroom, **April 20** from 6:30-9 pm. Poets

from Eldorado will be reading their work. Space is limited, so come early.
~Eldorado Lectures and Classes

Information Committee

The ECIA Information Committee is looking for new members. If you have an hour or two each month, please consider volunteering for the ECIA Information Committee. By joining, you will be “in the know” about the happenings in our community. Join the committee today and stop by at our next meeting, **April 17**.

~The Information Committee

Jumpin’ Right In Continued from pg. 3

These undertakings are now in progress, and we look forward to the implementation of the findings. It is not expected that any work recommended by the pool consultant will be started until after the 2018 pool season, nor during pool seasons in the next two or three years. To ensure there will be ample funding to cover the unknown future costs of keeping the pool open, the board decided to incorporate a reserve account which, over the next four years, will help defray whatever costs we may encounter. The first chunk of this reserve fund will be taken out of this year's assessment and the rest over the next three years.

As you use the pool this coming season, you may wish to follow the example of our Pool ad hoc group—it's safer to jump in than dive in.

~Nolan Zisman, Facilities and Grounds Chair



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