

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

Poetic Start to “Eldorado Classes & Lectures”

Over the course of two successive Friday evenings last month, nearly two dozen Eldorado poets waxed eloquently from their works in front of separate but equally appreciative audiences. Originally scheduled as a one-night event, an overwhelming response from community poets, excited to share their lyrical musings, necessitated adding a second evening. The two free events were the “coming out” productions organized by the recently formed Eldorado Classes & Lectures (EC&L).

With April designated as National Poetry Month, EC&L volunteers seized the opportunity to kick off its new project with “Eldorado’s First Annual Poetry Reading.” The evening wouldn’t have been as successful or smoothly run without the help of awarding-winning poet and teacher, **Marie Aragon**. More than a few of the parade of poets were students of Marie’s. As its title implies, EC&L plans to repeat the successful event for next year’s national poetry month.

In early May, EC&L welcomed New Mexican filmmaker, **Terry Nickelson**, who spoke and shared film clips on “Genocide: The Never Ending Scourge.” Nickelson’s other film credits include Discovery Channel’s “Outlaws and Lawmen of the Old West,” and “Refugees of the Rwandan Genocide,” a documentary commissioned by the United Nations. In a separate presentation the following day, Nickelson returned for a showing of “Chaplains Under Fire,” his film highlighting the controversy around chaplains in the military and how their presence impacts service men and women of different religious faiths.

The month of May also saw two talks by volunteers of Eldorado 285 Recycles called, “The Plastic Dilemma.” Offered at both morning and evening sessions to afford everyone the opportunity to attend, the group explained how the manufacture and distribution of all types of plastics have changed many aspects of daily living, exposing plastic’s convenience and its serious negative conse-

quences. Attendees learned about helpful information about the appropriate use, reduction, reuse and recycling of different types of plastics.

Later in the month will begin another cycle of the technology classes that over 200 residents have already attended. These classes include helpful instructions on using the iPhone/iPad (iOS), Internet Security, Cord Cutting, and the Apple Mac computer. The end of May sees two highly anticipated lectures on gardening in Eldorado. As well as a Web Design class geared toward artists’ needs on **June 11**.

Starting **June 2** from **10-noon**, EC&L premieres an ECIA Orientation series. Planned for a first Saturday of the month on a quarterly basis, all ECIA members, both newbies, and veterans are invited to attend. These sessions will offer an overview of living in an HOA. It is hoped such orientations will aid residents to become more familiar with the community’s amenities, covenants, organizational structure, and operations. The second part of the orientation will feature (on a rotating basis) a representative from one of ECIA’s eight standing committees who will present the purpose of the specific committee. Ample time will be available for questions and answers.

EC&L events will be held at the community center unless otherwise announced. Residents can view a calendar of upcoming EC&L events as well as register for them by going to www.eldoradocandl.com. All events are free. Pre-registration is urged as space is limited and those with tickets will be seated first. If you have a particular class, lecture, or event idea for EC&L, please email us at eldoradocandl@gmail.com. The volunteers of EC&L are wanting to build community and invite you to be a part of that effort.

~Gershon Siegel



ELDORADO
CLASSES & LECTURES

ECIA Board of Directors Election Results

The results were announced at the annual meeting of members on Monday, **May 7** as to who the new Board of Directors are. We welcome **Claudia Ahlstrom** and **Emily McCormick** to the board. The vote results are as follows: **Claudia Ahlstrom** 348, **Antone Forneris** 199, **Emily McCormick** 332

and **David Yard** 331. An organizational meeting was held **May 8**, following the annual meeting. Officers were chosen for the upcoming year along with board liaison assignments. Please look at eldoradosf.org for the board liaison assignments.

~Election Committee

ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Bldg. Wednesday, May 23, 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 **2nd Tuesday** 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.

Road Committee Meeting Draws "Rapped" Attention

Anticipating a larger than average audience, the road committee changed its usual conference room venue to the railroad building for its April meeting. Over 30 people were in attendance, perhaps spawned by the efforts of a group of residents calling themselves Citizens for a Better Eldorado (CBE). It was notable that most road committee meetings seldom attract more than a couple of interested visitors.

The CBE's formation came about in reaction to the use of Recycled Asphalt Paving (RAP) that Santa Fe County has laid down on a handful of problematic roads that become heavily rutted and muddy after rain or snow. Early into the RAP project last spring a vocal minority voiced upset over its application. Complaints have ranged from the material's rumored toxic contents, its dark color; residents not being consulted; debris embedded in the road surface.

Several residents also in attendance expressed support for improving their roads. They either lived on roads where the RAP has been applied and said it was better than the mud, or were looking forward to their roads being upgraded with the RAP.

During the two-and-a-half-hour meeting, several attendees became rather impassioned in their

anti-RAP statements. Committee chair **Felicia Probert** used just enough patience while exerting just enough control of the meeting so that by its end most attendees seemed pleased. An appreciation for the road committee's willingness to listen and inform was expressed by those with RAP concerns.

Both Probert and former ECIA Board President **John Henriksen** (also at the meeting as Board liaison) had just that morning met with County authorities, telling attendees that they had urged the County to admit there were some problems with the initial application of the RAP and to look for ways to improve the screening and processing of the RAP before applying it to any additional roads. County authorities said at that meeting that it was working on making RAP a better product through efforts to obtain a finer screen to filter out the larger chunks of debris.

Members of CBE told the road committee that it was going to have the RAP material tested for toxicity. Meanwhile, the County has put its RAP project on hold until at least the fall to work on higher priority, weather sensitive road maintenance projects.

For more information about the RAP project see: <https://tinyurl.com/y7b7kfb5>

~Gershon Siegel

Out(side) and About in Eldorado

Many of us moved to Eldorado for the lovely vistas and abundant open space. As members of the ECIA, we all own the open space and greenbelts, which total 987 acres (and the Community Preserve). When Simpson Ranch was sold to AMREP (American Realty and Petroleum Corp.) in 1972, the lots of Eldorado at Santa Fe were platted, and our greenbelts were laid out—mostly to provide drainage/floodplain areas. The greenbelts were acquired by the ECIA in transactions in 1988 and 1996 and are managed by the ECIA Board of Directors, with the ECIA Conservation Committee (CC) providing oversight, recommendations, and improvements. Our greenbelt trails and hike and bike paths together provide Eldorado's walkers miles of vehicle-free paths and link up with Santa Fe County's Rail Trail for those who commute to Santa Fe via bicycle. Recently the CC renovated Pueblo Canyon Park Loop Trail which can be accessed from the small parking lot at Ave Vista Grande and the Rail Trail and

loops back covering approximately 2.5 miles. This year, goats have been hired to graze/browse some of the greenbelts to mitigate the anticipated high fire danger. Greenbelt maps are available at the community center or online:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7fts7mn>

Our paved hike-bike trails of 14 miles provide another outdoor opportunity. The ECIA has a maintenance agreement with the county whereby the ECIA is responsible for routine care (crack filling, surface cover) and the county is responsible for replacement of the path when the condition falls below a certain level. (a commonly used scale - PASER). Hike-bike is for everyone, with common courtesy required for interactions between walkers/joggers, dog walkers, and dogs, bicyclers, other wheeled users, and children. No motorized vehicles allowed. Fast bicycle riders should ride on the road and obey traffic regulations.

CONTINUED ON PG. 8

Bylaws Amendments Adopted

The Fifth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association, Inc. are in effect as of **May 7**. All changes to the bylaws require a vote of the members. The adoption of the bylaws were by written

ballot and upon affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of the votes cast by members eligible to vote. There were 603 votes cast with 487 in the affirmative.

~Election Committee

Recent Board Actions

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association met on Wednesday, **April 25, 2018**. Members present were President **John Henriksen**, Vice-President **Antone Forneris**, Treasurer **Joseph Gutierrez**, Director **Pam Henline**, Director **David McDonald** and Director **David Yard**. Secretary **Jody Price** had an excused absence. The following formal actions were reviewed and unanimously passed by the Board:

- ▼ Motion to authorize the publication of the draft drone policy for public review.
- ▼ Motion to secure a contract from Heads Up to flush cut Tree #1, Tree #2 and Tree #3 located adjacent to the pool backwash area, to trim Tree #4 and #5 located near the pool house and to

come up with the plan for disposing of the dead material.

- ▼ Motion to approve Phase 1 of the multi-purpose field restoration project.
- ▼ Motion to authorize ECIA to sign a letter agreement to pave the aprons on the priority list.
- ▼ Motion for approval to enter into the contract with Moses Dunn, Farmer & Tuthill for collection services based on this firm's February 28, 2018 proposal.
- ▼ Motion to approve the appointment of Stephanie Levy and Debra Link to the Environmental Advisory Ad Hoc Committee.
- ▼ Motion to approve proposed changes to the Architectural Plan Submission Form for New Construction. **CONTINUED ON PG. 8**

Eldorado Stables Wants to “adopt a gardener”

Barn owners with clean manure seek gardeners who want compost!

- ▼ Contact the chair of the ECIA Stable Committee, **Amelia Adair, ameliaadair@msn.com**, to participate in “Adopt a Gardener.”
- ▼ Any ECIA resident is welcome to participate. You may also collect manure directly out of the dumpsters at any time.
- ▼ We'll connect gardeners needing manure to barn owners willing to muck onto tarps or containers provided by the gardener. Gardeners will coordinate with individual barn owners, and make arrangements to pick up their tarps or containers in front of that barn. Manure must be picked up at least weekly.
- ▼ Everyone is welcome at the stables. Just remember to respect posted stable rules, speed limits, closing gates and staying out of paddocks.
- ▼ Thank you for sharing and using this renewable resource!



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Conservation: John Reynolds
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
eldoradofirerescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)



Annual Eldorado Studio Tour

The Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association proudly presents the 27th annual Eldorado Studio Tour the weekend of **May 19-20**. Once again, the tour leads the pack of spring studio tours with the largest number of artists and artisan participants of any studio tour in New Mexico. The Eldorado Studio Tour features the work of approximately 99 artists showing and selling their art in their own studios. The artistry encompasses myriad styles, media and techniques—surely something to appeal to all visitors and art collectors. Eldoradoarts.org/studio.

▼ **Preview Gallery** – **May 19-20, 9 am - 5 pm**, at the Max Coll Center. One can meet and talk with the artists, ask them questions about their inspiration, immerse yourself in their work, and enjoy music and light refreshments. Brochures and a map to each artist's studio are also available.

▼ **Opening Reception** – Friday, **May 18, 5-7 pm**, 16 Avenida Torreon, at the Max Coll Center, adjacent to the Vista Grande Public Library.

▼ **Open Studios** take place **May 19-20**, from **10 am - 5 pm**. Artist genres encompass painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, glass, jewelry, paper and printmaking, photography, digital art, fiber and wearable art. Also included are woodworking, mixed media, and recycled art.



Meet and Greet

Meet **Jarratt Applewhite**, nonpartisan candidate for House District 50, **June 7** in the ECIA Railroad Room and share your concerns, issues and questions. Learn how political independence can revitalize our democracy. No fundraising, no tired stump speech, but drinks and snacks.

Eldorado Community Pool

Phone: 505-466-4249

Hours of Operation: Lap Swim: M-F 7:30-10 am, Sat-Sun 8-10 am.

Recreation Swim: Daily 10 am-8 pm; June and July Saturdays until 9:00 pm. 3 Lap Lanes offered open to 10 am and 6 pm to close, 2 lap lanes all day.

Pool will close at 5 pm on **July 4**

Pool will open Memorial day weekend: **May 26**.

Library News and Events

It is time for the VGPL Spring Book Sale! Come stock up for summer reading May 10 to 12. Sale hours will be 10 am to 6 pm on Thursday and Friday, and 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday. Items for sale include new and gently used fiction and nonfiction for all ages, music CDs, audiobooks on CD and DVDs, as well as collectibles and gift items. Most items are priced \$3 or less. All money raised goes to support Vista Grande Public Library.

New to Eldorado? Meet people and give some of your talents back to our community by serving on or chairing a library committee, or joining the Library Board. Send an email to president@vglibrary.org with your interests.

Registration for the Summer Reading Programs starts this month. The library is hosting a Summer Kickoff Party on Friday, June 1, starting with a free concert by Andy Mason at 11 am. There will be lots of giveaways and children can sign up for the Summer Reading Contest. Forms and details about the programs are on the website www.vglibrary.org, and at the main circulation desk.

Summer Fling Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction Fundraiser: Put this popular family-friendly event on your calendar! Sunday, August 12, 1 to 4:30 pm.

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

Family Movie Nights: Fridays, May 4 and June 8, 7 pm. Call 505-466-7323 for titles and rating. Everyone is welcome, and admission is free.

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

Master Gardeners Information Table: Saturday, May 12 and 19, 11 am to 1 pm. Master Gardeners will be inside the Main Library to answer questions from the community.

Alzheimer's Café: Monday, May 14, 2 to 4 pm.

Physics for Everyone: with Robert Henderson: Thursday, May 17, 12:30 to 2 pm. Heat, Temperature and the Laws of Thermodynamics.

Library Closed: Saturday, May 26.

Summer Reading Programs: Registration opens May 1. Kickoff Celebration on June 1 at 11 am.

Special Program: Saturday, June 9, at 1 pm. Vista Grande Public Library in cooperation with Pecos National Park presents Jeremy Moss: "The Archaeology of Pecos: Myth, Mystery, and Cultural Continuity."

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

All Ages Chess: meets 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.

~Tracey Mitchell, Vista Grande Public Library

May Haiku

Honor your mother:
birth and earth both need
your love
for they both love you.

Yoga for Men

Yoga is not just for women in stretchy pants. Men can benefit greatly from this ancient practice. They are as likely as women to be affected by stress, tension and mental anxiety which all take their toll on the body. Men might be nervous about attending a yoga class for fear of being unable to do the poses or feeling self-conscious of how they look. All the men out there who might be reading this, fear not, no one will be looking at you! Yoga is not competitive, egos are left at the door, along with any judgment. Many men like to exercise their muscles, to run, go hiking, cycling or bulking up at the gym. Although this has wonderful cardiovascular benefits, it serves to tighten muscles which limit the range of motion. Yoga lengthens muscles, helping to develop strength, balance, focus, and flexibility. There are many more benefits, but to discover these, you will need to come to a class and see for yourself. We offer classes for beginners on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, taught by Mary Horst and a gentle Yin class on Monday evening taught by myself. So guys, get over the fear of "stretchy pants" and step on to the mat, you'll be glad you did.

~Julia Cairns

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 Courtney at

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

~ECIA Staff

Lace 'em up!

The Eldorado Adult basketball season is here, our 11th summer! Lace 'em, players, and c'mon out to the Community Center basketball court for fun and friendly pick-up hoops, Thursdays, 6:15 pm–dusk.



May 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., May 8,	7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	F
Architecture Committee	Tues., May 22,	7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	F
Board Work Session	Thurs., May 17,	4-6 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., May 1,	7-9 pm	John Reynolds	466-4248	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Wed., May 23,	7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Election Committee	Wed., May 9,	2-4 pm	Bette Knight	466-4248	CFR
Environ. Ad Hoc	Tues., May 1,	3-5 pm		466-4248	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., May 2,	3-5 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-0540	CFR
Finance Committee	Tues., May 14,	9:30-12 pm	Sal Monaco	690-5125	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., May 15,	7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., 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
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
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month		Brad Cottingham	466-4655	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs.,	7-9 pm	santafesar.org		VGPL

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Mon.,	6:30-8:10 pm			CFR
AA	Tues.,	5:45-6:45 pm			LR
AA	Wed.,	6:45-8:10 pm			CFR
AA	Thurs.,	6-7 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri.,	6-7 pm			RR
AA	Sun.,	5:15-6:15 pm			La Tienda
Adult Basketball	Thurs.,	6:15-dusk			Basketball Court
Al Anon	Sat.,	11-12 pm			CFR
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



Red Flag Warning?

New Mexico residents and families that have recently moved to our community of Eldorado are now experiencing spring winds. The constant afternoon breeze of 15-20 mph with gusts over 25 mph results in some of us becoming early risers to walk the dog, spruce up the yard, or jog early. Winds like these that last for several hours are used by fire-weather forecasters to determine if a Red Flag Warning (RFW) is issued. An RFW exists because rapid or explosive fire growth is favored to any wildfire that develops. RFW relates to brush or outside fires only and is not fires with structures or buildings.

Fuel or vegetation dryness along with low relative humidity with the lack of precipitation for an extended period are all contributing factors that can sustain a wildfire, or drought. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's drought monitor map, (January 2018) over 93 percent of New Mexico is experiencing a drought. Santa Fe County, which includes Eldorado, is within the 60 percent that falls into the severe drought category. Also, weather factors of widely scattered thunderstorms with lightning, temperatures of over 75 degrees Fahrenheit can also increase the potential to trigger an RFW.



Local state and Federal government fire forecasters along with the United States National Weather Service, continuously monitor weather conditions mentioned above that could cause extreme fire behavior, and if those conditions are met or expected to be met an RFW is issued for 24 - 48 hours.

For fire departments and local land managers, an RFW means the use of fire for prescribed burns, or issuing burn permits and allowing campfires in affected areas are suspended.

For Eldorado homeowners, an RFW means a greater awareness of any outside activity that could cause sparks near dry vegetation or curtailing from burning outside. Early reporting of smoke or fire in the area for investigation is preferred as the blanket protection to our community.

If interested Eldorado Fire and Rescue can issue burn permits and perform a free wildfire home assessment. Stop any Saturday morning at Station 1, next to the Eldorado School from **8 am-noon** to learn more.

~Wendy Servey, District Chief of Eldorado Fire & Rescue

Visible Ducting and Conduits on Roofs

Over the past five years, the ECIA has noted an increase in the number of Eldorado homes that are installing the newer heating and air conditioning units that involve running exterior ducting from the roof, and at times down the exterior walls. While such systems do not require ECIA approval, we do ask residents to locate such main units in the least visible location of a roof (using the parapets as screening when possible) and in the least impactful location on exterior walls. This being said we are aware that roof and wall space can be limited, and we are aware that residents must locate such systems in locations that will not impact their performance.

While such systems can be more easily hidden during new home constructions, with many of these systems going onto existing homes, we have found that these units (and their associated ducting) are often white or silver and can be very visible to neighbors and from roadways. (A photo of such exterior ducting is pictured below.)

Because of the less than desirable impact of non-earth toned colored units and their ducting, the Eldorado Guidelines were updated in 2017, to require that all rooftop and ground-based heating, ventilation, and cooling units (exclusive of solar systems) and their associated ductwork, as well as other visible equipment and associated covers, should be earth-toned in color. This requirement in the Guidelines is detailed as follows:



4.9.1.2. Unless it can be demonstrated that it will interfere with their operation, rooftop and ground-based heating, ventilation, and cooling units (exclusive of solar systems) and their associated ductwork, as well as other visible equipment and associated covers, should be earth-toned in color, similar to the approved stucco colors of Eldorado.

At this time we are asking residents, with such systems on their roofs or walls, to ensure that their units and associated ducting (if visible to your neighbors) are painted in earth-toned color, similar to the color of their stucco.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

~Mark Young, ECIA Architecture and Covenant Compliance Coordinator



Buffalo Gourd and Centipedes

FLORA AND FAUNA

After moving to Eldorado a dozen years ago, we were surprised and frankly nervous the first time we saw a big, red desert centipede. The thing looked scary, like something from a horror movie. Experience has since taught us to avoid worrying. If we find one in the house, we move quickly to cover it with a glass, then scoop cardboard underneath and release the critter in the yard.

Desert centipedes can indeed be unnerving if you're new to the area. Growing to three (or more!) inches, reddish-brown, they move very quickly and can escape into the tiniest of cracks. Unlike millipedes, which are herbivores and have two pairs of legs per segment, centipedes feed on insects and have one pair of legs per segment. The rear segment resembles the head to confuse predators. The presence of centipedes in your home means they find sources of food, such as insects, in your house.

Centipedes are typically nocturnal and are consumed by many species including birds, mice, and snakes. Humans also eat centipedes! In China, they are skewered and grilled or deep fried. In Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia they are kept in liquor and used as medicine.

Centipedes can bite if a person or companion animal handles them. The bite is mildly poisonous and can sting and irritate but is not deadly.

So, what is the connection between centipedes and buffalo gourd? You've likely seen buffalo gourd (*Cucurbita foetidissima*) plants alongside our roads. Because the plant prefers disturbed, sandy soil, our roadsides, and pathways offer good growing

sites. Fascinatingly, the taproot can be as big as a human adult, weighing up to 150 pounds.

Buffalo gourds are perennials that grow low to the ground and can sprawl an area up to five feet in diameter. Their triangular leaves contain soft spines, and the stems are succulent. In the summer, buffalo gourd produces two-inch bright yellow flowers. The three-inch gourds that result from the flowers are green-striped, then ripen to yellow and finally a pale cream color.

Although the gourds are poisonous, the plant traditionally served many purposes. The stems and vines contain cucurbitacin, a foul-smelling chemical that attracts some insects but repels others. Early desert dwellers used the gourds, which contain saponin, in a mixture much like a detergent for cleaning clothing. Tewa used the ground root as a laxative. Cochiti Puebloans crushed the gourds, added water, and poured over squash plants to repel squash bugs. Santo Domingo Puebloans used buffalo gourd to rid their dwellings of bed bugs.

And the Sandians put bits of the leaves and stems in their dwellings to repel bugs... including repelling centipedes!

A reminder that our former Flora Fauna Yahoo email account is no longer active. Archived Flora Fauna articles can be found at <https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com/flora-fauna-group/>

Photo by Ann Wood

Living with Less Plastic

It's impossible to avoid plastic entirely, but there are effective ways to limit your exposure. Plastic is so commonplace in our world today that it's nearly impossible to imagine a life without it.

Avoid the worst plastic offenders:

If you check the bottom of any plastic container, you'll see a number (1 through 7) inside a triangle made of arrows. The worst plastics are:

#3 - Polyvinyl Chloride, an extremely toxic plastic that contains dangerous additives such as lead and phthalates and is used in plastic wrap, some squeeze bottles, peanut butter jars, and children's toys.

#6 - Polystyrene, which contains styrene, a toxin for the brain and nervous system, and is used in Styrofoam, disposable dishes, take-out containers, and plastic cutlery.

#7 - Polycarbonate/ Another category, which contains bisphenol A and is found in most metal food can liners, clear plastic sippy cups, sport drink bottles, juice, and ketchup containers.

Use non-plastic containers:

Carry a reusable water bottle and travel mug wherever you go. Pack your lunch in glass (Mason jars are wonderfully versa-

tile), stainless steel, stacking metal tiffins, cloth sandwich bags, a wooden Bento box, etc. Take reusables to the supermarket, farmers' market, or wherever you're shopping, and have them weighed before filling.

Never drink bottled water:

Buying bottled water in North America is absurd. Especially when you consider that bottled water is less regulated than tap water; it's usually just filtered tap water, it's exorbitantly expensive, it's a gross waste of resources to collect, bottle and ship it, and it results in unnecessary plastic waste that's usually not recycled.

Avoid frozen convenience foods:

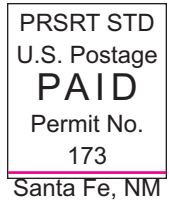
Convenience foods are among the worst culprits for excessive packaging waste. Frozen foods come wrapped in plastic and packaged in cardboard, which is often lined with plastic, too. There's not any way around it; it's a shopping habit that will have to go if you're serious about ditching plastic.

Change the culture: At a coffee shop? Ask the barista for a ceramic cup. Decline excess packaging at stores.

~TreeHugger.com/Living/Green Home/Eldorado 285 Recycles

VISTAS

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



Scan this code to get to our online video about Eldorado by Jack Arnold

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>

Out(side) Continued from pg. 2

Our largest outdoor venue and the hidden crown jewel of Eldorado (and perhaps the least used area) is the 4,094 acre Community Preserve (CP) which is located across Highway 285 from Eldorado, continuing across the Galisteo River at Cañoncito and south to Lamy. Access to the Preserve is via four parking areas. The first is across 285 “behind” Upper Crust Piza. The second and third are on the East side of Santa Fe County Road 51 (aka Ojo De La Vaca Road). The fourth parking area is also on County Road 51, across the Galisteo River and up the hill. Santa Fe County required AMREP to set aside a large portion of the hilly terrain as undeveloped, in exchange for allowing denser development on the flatter portions. In the 1980s, AMREP gave up plans to develop a few prime hilltop lots and deeded the whole preserve area to Eldorado, only for as long as it remained undeveloped and used exclusively by ECIA members

for recreational purposes. The conservation committee has zealously developed and marked trails in the CP and would be happy to show residents their work or to have new members come to the CC meetings and join in for trail maintenance. To reach a CC member, call the ECIA office for a reference (466-4248). Maps of the CP are available at the community center.

There is much open space at the community center which includes a dog park, large athletic field, swimming pool, horse-shoe pit, basketball court, tennis courts, volleyball court and a large playground area for children. Another even larger playground area is located at the corner of Vista Grande and Compadres.

So during our nice weather, get out and enjoy Eldorado.
 ~Pam Henline, Board Director

Board Actions Continued from pg. 3

- ▼ Motion to approve the appointment of Anne Salzmann to the Information Committee.
- ▼ Motion to approve the appointment of Mike Ault and Karla Lauritsen to the Stable Committee.

The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors will be a Working session on **May 17, at 4 pm**, in the Community Center

Classroom. On **May 23, 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.



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