



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

Volunteer Fair Success

The first Wednesday of November saw over 600 of Eldorado's finest attend the 2018 Volunteer Fair. Twenty-four non-profit organizations had tables at the fair, ready to explain their social mission and the opportunities they offer. Organizations as varied as the Bienvenidos Food Bank in Santa Fe to the local Eldorado Snake Relocation Volunteers. All with the common theme of building a better society via dedicated volunteers.

The HOAMCO staff at ECIA worked together with the Eldorado Classes & Lectures group to create this event. We hope to continue



- ▶ Oversee kids programmings, such as Saturday morning tutoring via local retired educators, birdhouse building, or movie nights.
- ▶ Oversee EC&L marketing and advertisement - we will even train interested volunteers how to become webmasters or how to manage MailChimp campaigns.
- ▶ Manage future high school internship program placing students with the EC&L and other community organizations.

Special thanks for the tremendous success of the Volunteer Fair goes to Cheryl & John Shields, Todd Handy, Courteney Handy, and David Yard. [Pictured clockwise: Katrina Pederson and Beto Hurtado,



hosting this event on a yearly basis to inspire community involvement.

The tremendous turnout kicked off a series of annual larger events at the Community Center. There will be a Winter Solstice event on **Friday, December 21** at 6:30 am at the ECIA Labyrinth. **Saturday, March 2** will usher in the 2019 Garden Fair. Earth Day will bring a series of lectures on **Monday, April 22**. Cumulating with a Mid-Sumer Nights Music Festival on **Saturday, September 7**. We look forward to seeing everyone at these events.

Further information, including listings for the 2018 Volunteer Fair organizations, can be found at www.eldoradocandl.com - where anyone wanting to help organize events can also contact Eldorado Classes & Lectures. Help continue to deliver exciting and useful events locally in Eldorado by getting involved. We are looking to:

- ▶ Work with speakers to develop and schedule classes.
- ▶ Manage the day of events, setting up facilities, managing the public, and be community ambassadors.



Julie Navarro and Courteney Handy, and board members, Joseph Gutierrez, David McDonald and Bernardo Monserrat]

~Julie Navarro, General Manager

Open Discussion Group:

Talk informally with board members on the **2nd Thursday** of each month at 6 pm in the ECIA Classroom. Next meeting is **December 13**.

ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Room, Thursday, December 20, 7 PM



Share your
comments
with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below



Editorial Policy

The Vistas newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, opinionated, biased, or inappropriate. Factual and objective 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.

Publication dates and times may change depending on the ECIA Board meeting times.

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 Candidate Nomination Petitions

Board members are elected through the voting process which begins early January and culminates at the ECIA Annual Meeting on **May 6, 2019**. Two Board of Director positions are open for election, each with 3-year terms expiring on **May 2, 2022**. The Nomination Petition is now available online and at the ECIA office. The completed and signed Nomination Petition, a biographical and goals for the community statement not exceeding a total of 400 words, and photo must be submitted to the ECIA office no later than **5 pm, March 1, 2019**.

To be a candidate for election to the ECIA Board, the ECIA Bylaws require all of the following criteria be met: Petitioner must be a Lot Owner of record: (1) whose assessments are paid in full and posted to ECIA's receiving bank as of **March 1, 2019**; (2) whose rights and privileges are not suspended, and (3) who resides full-time in Eldorado.

Each Petitioner must present a Nomination Petition to the ECIA Office which contains at least twenty-five (25) valid signatures. To be valid, a signature must be of a Lot Owner of record whose 2018 assessments have been paid in full and posted to the receiving bank when signing the Petition and whose rights and privileges are not suspended as of the date of signature.

Nomination Petitions are available at www.eldoradosf.org under the "Resident Resources" tab

> "Forms and Applications," > "Board Nomination Petition" or at the ECIA office.

Petitioners should call the ECIA Office at **505-466-4248** if there are questions about the candidacy and Petition requirements.

~Election Committee

Join Committees and the Board

January 2019 is approaching, and it is time to consider being a part of the ECIA Board of Directors. There will be two positions open which will expire **May 2, 2022**. Serving on the board requires a dedication to the betterment of Eldorado and a willingness to give of your time, experience and expertise. Consider becoming a volunteer for your Eldorado HOA community. Board members attend a working meeting, the Board meetings, and other meetings as scheduled and needed. Committee meeting schedules vary so check the webpage or the VISTAS to find out when they meet. Several committees are looking for volunteers—Roads and Election to name a few. You can read the committee charters, agendas and minutes on the ECIA webpage to get more information. Get involved in your community Homeowners Association (HOA)!

Amenities

During this year, a couple of significant phenomena became evident to the Facilities and Grounds Committee. First, the usage of some of our amenities has declined. Some of our amenities (like basketball, handball, and volleyball courts) need an update or are showing signs of aging (e.g., the pool).

Beginning next year and for several years to follow, we can look forward to a much-improved maintenance effort on our existing amenities. We are initiating a major rehabilitation at the pool, we will be replacing the sand on the volleyball court, resurfacing the basketball court, adding new mulch at the Dog Park and our playgrounds, adding infield dirt and protective screening to our baseball field, and continuing our critter and weed abatement programs on the baseball/soccer complex.

We'll also address the future of the hike-bike trail surface between Av. Vista Grande and Herrada Rd. on Av. De Compadres. We are expecting the County to work with us in replacing the section of

the Av. Vista Grande hike-bike trail between Chusco Rd. and Av. Buena Ventura.

The second phenomenon is the realization that we are not as oriented to offering more amenities, including organized activities, to our families with children. You will be informed over the next few months of planned changes that have already been considered. You will also be invited to the **Thursday, January 10**, Facilities & Grounds "town hall" meeting at 7:30 pm, in the Rail Road building, at which time you will have an opportunity to express your thoughts on our existing amenities and future amenities and activities that should be considered over the next five to ten years. We hope that some of you might step up to volunteer your participation on our Facilities and Grounds committee. Happy Holidays.

~Nolan Zisman,

Facilities and Grounds Committee Chair



Recent Board Actions

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association met on **Thursday, November 29, 2018**. Members present were President *David McDonald*, Treasurer *Joseph Gutierrez*, Director *Elizabeth Maclaren*, Director *Bernardo Monserrat*. The following formal actions were reviewed and passed by the board:

- ▶ Motion to approve revised Facilities Rental Procedure.
- ▶ Motion to approve 2019 Election Procedures.
- ▶ Motion to approve 2019 Audit Engagement Letter.
- ▶ Motion to appoint *Pam Henline* to the Information Committee.
- ▶ Motion to appoint *Lee Chiacos* to the Information Committee.
- ▶ Motion to approve fee amount for 2019 Eldorado Studio Tour Gallery Rental.
- ▶ Motion to approve Open Forum Policy.
- ▶ Motion to accept the resignation of *Emily McCormick* from the ECIA Board.
- ▶ Motion to appoint *Elizabeth Maclaren* to ECIA Board for a term expiring in 2021.

▶ Motion to appoint *Bernardo Monserrat* to ECIA Board for a term expiring in 2021.

▶ Motion to approve storage of La Paz records at ECIA.

▶ Motion to approve storage of Santa Fe Search and Rescue equipment at ECIA.

Four residents spoke at the Open Forum on a variety of topics that the Board addressed briefly and referred them as appropriate for action.

The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors will be a Working session on **Monday, December 17**, at 6 pm, in the Community Center Railroad Room. On **Thursday, December 20**, at 7 pm, the board will conduct its regular meeting in the Railroad Room.

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.

2019 Assessments

As per the covenants, there is no assessment change in 2019, with the amount remaining at **\$525**. Your annual assessment is due by **March 1**, the date of record set by the board of directors. This date has been defined by the ECIA by-laws for the Board of Directors' annual election as the first business day of March. If your payment has been received in full, posted and cleared by the due date, you are a member in good standing and thereby eligible to vote. It is your responsibility to ensure that your payment is mailed in sufficient time to arrive on or before March 1. Please send your payment to **HOAMCO, P.O. Box 94346, Las Vegas, NV 89193-4346**. This is the association's bank's lockbox service address for payments only. Please do not mail or drop off your association payment for 2019 to the ECIA office. ECIA office personnel are not authorized to accept your payments. Any payments mailed or dropped off at the ECIA office will be returned to the homeowner.

Homeowners who do not pay the annual assessment in a timely fashion are subject to the ECIA collection policy. This policy is summarized here: accounts overdue will receive a first late notice in April and accrue interest at a 15% annual rate. Af-

ter **June 1**, if an account has not been brought current, a second late notice along with a recorded lien will be placed on properties and will include an additional lien fee—which will also bear interest. On **July 1**, outstanding accounts are forwarded to the ECIA attorney for collection. For each step, late notices are mailed to homeowners. If your mailing address has changed, please contact the ECIA office as soon as possible with updated contact information. For example, telephone number, email, mailing address, etc. For a complete description of this policy, please contact the ECIA office.

Any ECIA property owner who has not received a 2019 assessment notification, by mid-January, has questions about the amount owed, and/or who wishes consideration of unusual circumstances, should immediately contact ECIA General Manager *Julie Navarro* at **466-4248** or email her at jnavarro@hoamco.com. Otherwise, feel free to contact the ECIA Office Assistant, *Katrina Pederson* at Kpederson@hoamco.com and/or the Executive Assistant, *Anna Hansen*, at Ahansen@hoamco.com for immediate assistance.
~Julie Navarro, General Manager

ECIA OFFICE

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Director
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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:
Katherine Mortimer
Conservation: Tom Brendenberg
Election: Bette Knight
Facilities & Grounds:
Nolan Zisman
Finance: Sal Monaco
Information: Karen Logan
Roads: Russell Winslow
Stable: Amelia Adair

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library
14 Avenida Torreon; 466-READ
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofirerescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)

ECIA Governance

The Eldorado Community Improvement Association Inc. (ECIA) is a non-profit corporation is governed by the following legal documents:

1. The Articles of Incorporation of Eldorado Community Improvement Association Inc. (10/17/1994),
2. The Declaration of Covenants Eldorado Community Improvement Association Inc. (7/10/1972),
3. Exhibit A, Amended and Restated Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions for Eldorado at Santa Fe (10/1/1996) and,
4. The Fifth Amended and Restated Bylaws of Eldorado Community Improvement Association Inc. (5/7/2018).

These documents, which are available on the ECIA website at eldoradosf.org under the “Governing Documents” tab, charge the Board of Directors to “adopt rules and regulations, ensure that policies and procedures are developed and maintained, supervise committee chairs and employees, establish assessments, adopt an annual budget, and maintain the Common Properties,” among a range of other duties. This would be an overwhelming task, were it not for provisions in Article XI, Section 1 of the Bylaws which states that “The Board shall have the authority to appoint and dissolve standing and ad-hoc committees as deemed appropriate in carrying out their purposes and shall define the function, scope and responsibilities of these committees.”

Currently, there are 10 committees, staffed by qualified, dedicated volunteers, whose job it is to advise the Board and make recommendations in their areas of expertise as follows:

- ▶ **The Architecture Committee** ensures compliance with the Architectural Guidelines for all new construction and exterior home improvement projects.
- ▶ **The Conservation Committee** works with community volunteers to maintain and develop our Wilderness Area and Greenbelt trails.
- ▶ **The Election Committee** oversees the process of Board elections and approval by the Members of the Association By-Law Revisions every two years.
- ▶ **The Environmental Advisory Ad-hoc Committee** provides expertise in ascertaining the least toxic methods of effective pest management and environmentally friendly building and maintenance procedures.
- ▶ **The Facilities and Grounds Committee** ensures the safe and timely maintenance of existing facilities and development of new facilities, and hosts sub-committees dealing with the swimming pool and the dog park.

- ▶ **The Finance Committee** provides input into the budgetary and financial management of the Association.
- ▶ **The Information Committee** facilitates communication between the Board and the Members and publishes the monthly Vistas newsletter.
- ▶ **The Road Committee** evaluates the condition of the Eldorado roads quarterly and is the liaison with Santa Fe County who owns and maintains the roads.
- ▶ **The Stable Committee** coordinates the community of individual barn owners and the common stable areas.
- ▶ **The Technology Ad-hoc Committee** evaluates technological interfaces such as the website to ensure that they are current and effective. (This committee is in process).

The committees are an invaluable help to the Board in discharging its duties to the Members and ensuring that “the Association will promote the health, safety, and welfare of the residents within the above-described property.” as required by Article IV of The Articles of Incorporation. For more information on the various committees, please see the individual committee pages on the website under the “Board & Committees” tab. All committee charters contain the following language:

“Committee members are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous, professional manner when communicating with Board Members, fellow Committee Members, ECIA Staff, outside contractors, Eldorado residents and other members of the public, including in electronic communications and on social media.

Committee members who violate this policy by acting in an unprofessional, inappropriate or unacceptable manner will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to censure, removal as committee officer, or removal from the committee by a majority of the Board of Directors.”

To join a committee, Members In Good Standing should express their interest to the Committee Chair, along with a statement of qualifications, and attend the required number of meetings (it varies between committees). The committee will then vote on whether to recommend the potential member to the ECIA Board of Directors for appointment. The recommendation will be taken up and voted on at the next Board meeting.

We encourage all Members In Good Standing to become involved in the governance of our community by joining the various committees or running for the Board positions which open up each year.

~The ECIA Board of Directors

Open Board Position

Director *Emily McCormick* gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on **October 8, 2018**, and has been on maternity leave. We are sad to announce that she has decided not to return to the ECIA Board of Directors at this time to devote her full attention to being the mother of two girls under three years old. We will miss the youthful perspective and thoughtful insights she brought to the Board, and look forward to the time when she can become involved in the ECIA once again.

Anyone interested in applying for appointment to the ECIA Board of Directors should submit a candidate statement, short bio, resume and photo to *David McDonald* at d.mcdonald@eldoradosf.org or drop them off at the ECIA offices by **Tuesday, December 28**. We anticipate seating a new member at the Board meeting on **January 24, 2019**.

~David McDonald, President
ECIA Board of Directors

Savor Eldorado

Welcome to Savor Eldorado, where neighbors enjoy local music, art, book readings & each other, in private homes. The events in 2018 have been pure fun so far, with excellent attendance. Savor parties are great for newly arrived Eldoradoans! We raffle off one crisp \$100 bill every month! Would you like to be a guest or a host, read from your book, show your art, play music, or help with an event? Get in touch with Hope Kiah via the new website and stay tuned! savoredoradoro.org.

~Hope Kiah

GOT "BAD ROAD?"

Do you live on a road you feel needs an upgrade? Santa Fe County will soon be seeking a General Obligation Bond (GOB) in capital infrastructure projects. Past GOB's have included money for the improvement of Eldorado roads. The ECIA Road Committee is seeking input from residents for road improvements that could be included in the GOB. Please attend the Road Committee meeting on **December 5** from 6-8 pm. Thank you.

~Road Committee

December 2018 Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architecture Committee	Tues., Dec. 4, 18;	7-9 pm			F
Board Meeting	Thurs., Dec. 20	7-9 pm			RR
Board Working Session	Mon., Dec. 17	6-8 pm			RR
Community Open Disc.	Thurs., Dec. 13	6-7:30 pm			CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Dec. 4	7-9 pm			F
Election Committee	Wed., Dec. 12	2-4 pm			CFR
Environ. Ad Hoc	Tues., Dec. 4	3-5 pm			CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Dec. 5	3-5 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-0540	CR
Finance Committee	Tues., Dec. 11	9:30 am-noon	Sal Monaco	690-5125	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Dec. 18	7-9 pm			CR
Road Committee	Wed., Dec. 5	6-8 pm			RR
Stable Committee	Tues., TBA	7-9 pm	Amelia Adair	720-563-1018	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY

Community Garden	3rd Tuesday	6-7 pm			CFR
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.,	4-6 pm	Sue Daniel	(856) 220-7087	CFR
Healing Arts Practitioner	2nd Tues.,	4-5:30 pm	Laurie Sandman	(212) 69-2047	
Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tues.,	6-7 pm	Michael Landen	466-8896	CFR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Al Anon	Sat.,	11am-noon			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed.,	7-9 pm	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
Knitting Club	Tues.,	10am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Alt. Mon.,	10am-noon	Mavis Murphy	466-8189	RR
Overeaters Anon	Mon.,	7-8 pm	Barb	954-1533	LR
Spinning Group (Fiber)	1st & 3rd Thur.,	9:30-11:30 am	Ellen Higgins	970-201-4776	LR
Yin Yoga	Mon.,	5:30-6:45 pm	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Tue. & Fri.,	9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Wed. & Thurs.,	9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm	LR	Wed., 6:45-8:10 pm	CFR	
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm (Women Only)	CFR	Fri., 6-7 pm	RR	

** Check the ECIA website for the updated dates/times *** Abbreviations: CC=Community Center, CR=Classroom,

CFR=Conference Room, F=Foyer, LR=Living Room, RR=Railroad Room

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Adam & Kim's Christmas Trees

Opening the last week in November, at the north parking lot of La Tienda. The Eldorado-owned and operated business, Adam and Kim's Christmas Trees, will offer quality, fresh-cut Christmas trees from Oregon. Douglas fir, Grand Fir, and Noble Fir will be available in sizes from tabletop to 12' tall trees. A nationwide Christmas tree shortage has left us with a limited selection of large sizes, so be sure to visit us early to avoid disappointment. Wreaths, garland, and chili ristras will also be available. A portion of proceeds is donated to Eldorado Volunteer Fire & Rescue.

Facebook: [AdamKimsChristmasTrees](https://www.facebook.com/AdamKimsChristmasTrees) for more info.

Lifeguard Course—Become a Lifeguard for ECIA

Location: Genoveva Chavez Community Center.

When: December 19th-21st and continuing December 26 – 28. Classes begin at 7am and go to 4pm with an hour lunch break.

Attendance to ALL sessions is required for certification (recertification candidates may vary).

Prerequisites: EVERYONE MUST schedule their Pretest before Dec. 14, 2018. Participants must be a minimum of 15 yrs of age to enroll. Participants must be able to complete a Swimming Pretest to enroll. Swim 300 yds continuously performing freestyle, breast stroke or combination of both. You may use goggles. 2 minutes treading water with hands under the armpits. Timed brick retrieval 1 min 40 sec: begin at edge of pool, swim 20 yds, dive head or feet first to 10ft depth, retrieve 10lb brick, resurface, swim on back to the starting edge using only one's legs (both hands must hold the brick), exit the pool from edge (not using ladder or steps). Goggles are NOT allowed.

Cost: This class is FREE!! This includes the Lifeguarding Participants Manual, Adult and Pediatric CPR Masks, and Certification Fees of the American Red Cross.

For more information: and pretesting appointments please contact your instructor, Abby Smith, (505)955-4051, agsmith@ci.santa-fe.nm.us.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

After months of work with the Santa Fe County Senior Services, several of your neighbors have set up Eldorado Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The name says it all: If you, or maybe a relative, need a little help in day-to-day life, perhaps because you're a senior citizen, or handicapped in some way -- here are neighbors to lend a hand.

What sorts of help? Light housekeeping duties, things like rolling the trash and recycle bins from the back door to the street once every week or two. If you are a recycler, you might need someone to take those glass bottles to the Transfer Station. Elderly householders may need someone to change light-bulbs or replace smoke-alarm batteries, move heavy furniture or boxes, shovel snow this winter or help in the yard in summer.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors can help, for example, with an occasional trip to the grocery store, hardware store or the Vista Grande Public Library for a needed item or return a book. Pets are excellent, but if you can't take Fido out for a daily walk, one

of these Neighbors may be able to help. Sometimes, it's nice to have someone stop in to say "hi" to a neighbor living alone, or even help arrange for Meals on Wheels, special-needs transportation, or other senior services available.

If some of these little things loom large in your life, Esperanza Salazar at the Ken & Patty Adam Senior Center here in Eldorado is the person to contact. Her telephone number at the Senior Center is **466-1039**. You can e-mail her at emsalazar@santafecounty.gov.

"Now that the organization is rolling, our volunteers will need more folks who would like to spend a few hours each week simply being a good neighbor," says *Michael Landen*, the group's founder and coordinator. "There are some basic background checks, of course, and a little training, but the main qualification is a sincere urge to help here in Eldorado. Please call me at **466-8896** or e-mail mjlanden@q.com to volunteer."

~Bill Dunning

Los Voluntarios

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers have provided invaluable service to the Community of "Eldorado" for over 40 years. When AMREP, the New York-based oil and real estate development corporation that purchased the ranch lands on which Eldorado rests, their offices were near Albuquerque in Rio Rancho, which was also one of their projects. For the first years during the mid-1970s, when the only paved road was the original entrance at Hwy 285 and Avenida Amistad, AMREP tightly controlled management of their new project dubbed "Eldorado."

After a few years, AMREP allowed two residents to sit on the Board of Directors. Slowly over the years, committees formed and volunteers began to take responsibility for the operation of various functions. Today the committees are still managed by

volunteers and make it possible to keep our fees low. We owe a debt of gratitude to these community-minded neighbors.

From the very beginning, controversies have arisen to challenge these intrepid souls. Some have resigned in disgust, others have trudged on through the commercial development struggle, the Chicken War, the solar view-shed battles, and the RAP debacle.

In this column, we will spotlight volunteers who have contributed to the "Eldorado," as it's now known, that we know and love. We invite you to nominate individuals, especially those who have given long service, for inclusion so that their stories can be told to newer residents in the hope that we will continue this proud tradition. Please submit your suggestions to the information committee at chandy@hoamco.com.

~Lee Chiacos

The New Trail

The 4,000 acre Eldorado Preserve, adjacent to the residentially developed property, has several trails that residents have long enjoyed. Now there is a new four-and-a-half-mile loop that follows the eastern border and traverses the southerly arroyos. With only 600 feet of elevation gain and a shortcut arroyo at the halfway mark, it provides access to our pinon and juniper woodland, punctuated with ponderosa pine trees and many other plants.

It also provides expansive views of the Galisteo Basin to the west, the Manzano Mountains, Ortiz Mountain, Los Cerrillos, the Jemez Range, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the north, and on clear days, Mount Taylor over 100 miles away.

The trail was constructed by numerous volunteers from the conservation committee, other local residents, and students from the University of New Mexico. It was beautifully designed by consultant *Jan Willem Jensen* from Holland, along with conservation

committee members *John Parker* and *Tom Brimacombe*. It will be designated the 404 Trail, and it can be accessed to the east of the 401 trailhead. Signage will be placed soon, and maps will include it in the spring.

When hiking the trail be sure to have plenty of water and keep dogs under control.

Thank you to all the trailblazers who made this wonderful trail a reality.

~Lee Chiacos

Next Halloween

Look out for *Edgar* once again keeping an eye on the Preserve.





Evergreens and Javelinas

During the winter solstice, pagan cultures brought branches of decorated evergreen trees into their homes in recognition of the plants' ability to remain green during winter. The practice eventually grew into the contemporary Christmas Tree.

We in Eldorado are fortunate to live in an area filled with evergreens. Evergreens are aided in their winter survival by the waxy-like substance on their needles, which helps them resist freezing. Sap, which is present in both deciduous and evergreen trees, is the thick fluid that carries water and nutrients from the roots up to the tree to the glucose-manufacturing plants in the leaves or needles. Sap also carries water and glucose down to the roots. Because sap is temperature sensitive, its flow slows in the colder months.

Pinons and junipers, which keep their needles all year, evolved before deciduous trees – such as maples and oaks which drop their leaves in autumn. Male evergreens create pollen, females create seeds. Juniper seeds appear as berries, pinon seeds appear in cones. Many of our pinon pines (our official state tree!) died some years ago due to bark beetle infestation caused by drought. Junipers, however, survived – and are associated with powers of protection in Native American myth.

Juniper trees, a member of the cypress family, have the largest geographical range of any woody plant and can live up to 120 years! The male tree produces the pollen – which many of us are allergic to. Juniper allergy is common in late winter and early spring. In spring, the flowers appear on the male tree as small yellow blooms. The female flowers then grow to become berry-like cones, green at first but ripening after 18 months into a dark blue-purple color, dispersed primarily by birds. Some evergreen pines with soft long needles that can lose moisture (such as Bosnian pine and Van der Wolf Pine) can have difficulties in our area. They need to be in areas sheltered

from western winds.

Some residents in the Arroyo Hondo and Highway 285

area have seen javelina in their neighborhood. What are javelinas? Javelinas are pig-like creatures although much smaller than pigs, weighing only 30-60 pounds. A member of the Pecary family, they are sometimes called collared peccaries due to their whitish hair growth which resembles a collar. Javelinas have stout, grizzled bodies with coarse hair, tusks, and split hooves. Their eyesight is weak, but they have a superior sense of hearing and smell. Javelinas are primarily herbivores, with cacti as their main staple, and they tend to occupy areas with reliable water sources. Although territorial, using scent glands on their backs to mark boundaries and identify herd members, they are not dangerous but like any animal will defend themselves and their offspring. Bears, cougars, bobcats, and coyotes prey on javelinas.

Javelinas have difficulties in cold temperatures and snow. Seen most often in southeast Arizona, parts of Texas, they are rarely seen in NM north of Catron and Socorro Counties. How did one get to our area? Javelina may have been released for hunting purposes – they are a protected game species under the jurisdiction of NM Game and Fish – however, relocation would require NMG&F permission which is unlikely since it could conflict with hunting, trapping, and bear hibernation seasons. Perhaps someone kept javelina on their property, and it escaped. Most likely, javelinas were migrating north due to warming conditions and will probably head back south in the colder months.

~Julia Kinney, Bonnie Mahlum, Joseph Newman, Ann Wood, Cliff Wood



Recycling Carols

Lyrics by Chris Harrell, Eldorado 285 Recycles

► **You Better Recycle! (Tune: Santa Claus is Comin to Town)**

You better recycle! You better not waste! Don't be lazy during holidays!

Cause The Trash Monster is coming to town

He eats gift boxes and plastic bags, styrofoam, wrapping paper and tags

The Trash Monster is coming to town

He sees you when you're wasteful. He jumps with joy and glee
His Landfill Mountain's growing as far as you can see
So you better recycle! You better not waste! Don't be lazy during holidays,

Cause The Trash Monster is coming to town!

► **Landfills Filling (Tune: Chestnuts Roasting)**

Landfills filling up from town to town. Apathy is setting in.
Outa-sight, outa-mind, society's getting blind. We're burying ourselves in trash

We need solutions on the way to dig us out before we decay

It starts with me, and it starts with you to minimize what we consume

(Repeat song)

► **Compost Smells (Tune: Jingle Bells)**

Compost Smells! Compost Smells! Deep under the straw
O what a slimy rotting goo, a decomposing stew,

Oh! Compost Smells! Compost Smells! It's cooking up a brew
My happy jolly wiggler worms are casting as they chew!

► **We Plan for a Zero Waste Event (Tune: We Wish You a Merry Christmas)**

We plan for a Zero Waste Event (x3)

And a Sustainable New Year!

Good habits we bring to you and your kin

Good habits for a conference

And a sustainable new year (repeat song)



VISTAS

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Improvement Association
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Library News and Events

Vista Grande Public Library (VGPL) wants to thank all the shoppers who got an early start on those holiday gift and winter lists at the Fall Book Sale, as well as all the volunteers who devoted their time to making it a record-making success, earning over seven thousand dollars.

VGPL's end of the year Donor Appeal is drawing to a close. Please join your neighbors and contribute to your local library. Visit www.vglibrary.com to make a payment or visit the library with your check. The funds from the sale and the current Annual Appeal provide new materials, technology, programs and staff time to continue the free services offered all through the year. The library appreciates your generosity and support – it quite literally keeps the doors open.

Holiday schedule: Closed December 25 and 26; Open regular hours December 27 to 29. Closed January 1.

Events: (Note: Most events take place in the Meeting Room and have free admission unless noted otherwise.) Call 505-466-7323 and check the website for more information: www.vglibrary.org

Book Donation Day: Saturday, December 1 and January 5, from 9 to 11:30 am only. Donors are kindly asked to: bring only items in good condition; use boxes or bags you don't need to keep; bring large donations earlier in the morning. Please do not donate textbooks, manuals, dictionaries, encyclopedias, or VHS tapes.

Story Time for Toddlers and Preschoolers: Tuesday mornings at 11 am in the Children's section. Drop-ins always welcome. *Note: No Story Time on December 26 or January 3.*

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

Medicare Information Session: Wednesday, December 12, 10 to 11:30 am. Topic: what to do if you missed the Dec. 7 deadline for open enrollment.

A Christmas Carol Dramatic Reading: Sunday, December 23 and Tuesday, December 25, 6 pm. Library staff and volunteers join Upstart Readers of Santa Fe to present this seasonal classic. All ages welcome. High tea will be served.

Author Talk: Friday, January 4, 6:30 pm. Local author Debra Denker will present on her book *Weather Menders* and the subject of climate fiction.

Bird Talk: Saturday, January 12, 1 pm. Amy Gross will talk on Winter Birds and how to feed them.

Located at 14 Avenida Torreon, between El Dorado Community School and the Adams Senior Center.

~Tracey Mitchell, Vista Grande Public Library

ECIA News

► **General Manager's Monthly Report:** general manager *Julie Navarro* has begun posting her monthly report on eldoradosf.org. The October and November reports are available. If you are interested in knowing about the tasks performed by the ECIA staff, these reports will help you understand what is done every day around the Community Center. The first page of eldoradosf.org has a link or use the following for November. <https://bit.ly/2SqnG0g>.

► **Open Discussion Group:** This past summer, the board instituted a monthly informal meeting with residents which usually occurs on the second Thursday of the month from 6 to 7:30 pm. As per request, a summary of questions and answers is now posted on the ECIA website. The next meeting is **Decem-**

ber 13. To read the **November 8** session summary, go to <https://bit.ly/2DRFIL9>.

► **Budget Finalization:** The ECIA Board will vote on the 2019 Budget at the regular board meeting scheduled for **Thursday, December 20**. A community meeting to discuss and explain the budget will be held **Wednesday, December 12** at 6:30 pm in the Railroad building. As per the covenants, there will be no change in the assessment for 2019, which remains at **\$525** per lot. However, a significant, but anticipated expenditure from Replacement Reserves is expected for maintenance and repairs for the swimming pool. Please come to the community meeting if you have any concerns about the ECIA budget.

~Pam Henline