

# Vistas

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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

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## Pool Update

The good news is, we won't have to replace our pool. According to recent studies of our pool infrastructure (initiated because of several closings in 2018), the heart of our pool and kiddie pool are in good shape. The studies\* evaluated the adult pool concrete shell in the ground including piping, plumbing, electrical, and drains embedded in or under the pool decking. A lot of work needs to be done to get the pools into condition to carry us forward for several years.

The pool studies' findings were:

- ▶ The bathhouse/changing rooms need to be updated. The roof and pipes leak, and there is mold on one wall.
- ▶ Plumbing and electrical needs to be brought up to code.
- ▶ The pool skimmers and much of the mechanical equipment needs to be replaced.
- ▶ The issues involving the handling of liquid waste are being addressed; the plan is to use as much pool "gray water" as we can to irrigate our landscaping.
- ▶ Drainage in and around pool needs to be improved.
- ▶ More bracing support is required for the steel shade structure. We plan to

add more structures and are looking into using solar panels on the roofs to help reduce the use of natural gas for heating.

- ▶ Additional new features will include a family changing room, an outdoor rinse shower; outdoor lockers and new storage facilities to pool equipment and accessories.

The plans for the repairs before our scheduled **May 25** opening: the men's and women's locker rooms, deck apron/skimers, drainage, septic system & backwash. After the pool closes in the fall, other repairs will ensue. The Vistas and the ECIA website will provide updates every month on the pool work as



it progresses. Pool plans have been submitted for permits. \*Names of companies doing studies are available at the ECIA office.

Lifeguards and a Pool Manager needed: Contact ECIA office 505.466.4248.

~Mike Bullock and Nolan Zisman

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**SATURDAY  
MARCH 2ND**  
**10 A.M. - 2 P.M.**  
 E.C.I.A. COMMUNITY CENTER

High desert gardening can be a challenge. We face high winds, intense sun, depleted soil, and limited water. Even if you are a newcomer or have a green thumb, you can create an enviable landscape.

Come learn from gardening experts and organizations how to master this environment and maximize its beauty.

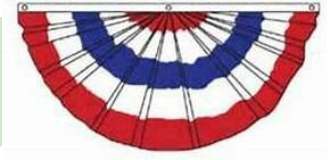


[www.eldoradocandl.com](http://www.eldoradocandl.com)

### 2019 Assessment Reminder:

Assessments are due **March 1**. Please mail your payment to HOAMCO, P.O. Box 94346, Las Vegas, NV. 89193-4346. This is the association bank's lock-box service. 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.

**ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Building, Thursday, February 24, 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 should be emailed to the editor, Courteney Handy at [chandy@hoamco.com](mailto: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 brought to the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation.

**Save Date: ECIA Candidate Forum**  
When: Monday, **March 25**, 7 to 9 pm  
Where: Railroad Building at ECIA Community Center

**Board Nomination Petitions**



**D**on't delay! Become a candidate for the ECIA Board of Directors. Two positions are open for election, each with three (3) year terms ending **May 2, 2022**. The process to become a candidate for the 2019 election is direct and straightforward. The Petition is available at the ECIA office or online at [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org) under the Resident Resources tab > Forms and Application >Board

Nomination Petition. A completed and signed petition with all required materials must be submitted to the ECIA office no later than 5 pm, **March 1**.

To vote and support the candidate of your choice, your 2019 Assessment must be paid in full and posted by the receiving bank by **March 1**.

~Election Committee

**Stable Members: Mike & Maureen**

**I**t's a snowy day in January. *Mike Ault* and *Maureen Maloney* are enjoying the birds at feeders outside their Eldorado home. Maureen remembers the sharp-shinned hawk she captured with her camera, then her pen.



Artist/Illustrator Maureen grew up in Iowa. Mike, a technology company-marketing expert, grew up in Boston. They met at a startup technology company in the Bay Area. They fell in love, married, quit their jobs, and spent three months touring Europe. They escaped the fast pace of the Bay Area for the tranquility of New Mexico, moving to Eldorado in 2016.

Maureen rides dressage (a kind of ballet on horseback that traces back to the days of

Xenophon). Their horse *Grigio* is equally adept at dressage and trail riding. *Odie*, a 30-something Arabian, shares the barn with Grigio.

Mike is working in a startup company while volunteering on the Board of a non-profit internet company, as well as the Eldorado Stable Committee.

The family is rounded out by *Zora*, a sweet, deaf dog that loves to eat. When asked about what they love about Eldorado, the response was immediate: "Art, nature, horses, and its proximity to Santa Fe makes Eldorado the perfect place for us." [Picture of Grigio and Maureen by Mike Ault]

~Dina Siegel

**Facilities & Grounds Town Hall**

**A** Facilities and Grounds Community Forum was held on **January 10**. The forum was led by *Nolan Zisman*, the Facilities & Grounds Committee Chair. 35 facilities and grounds enthusiasts attended. They learned about current facility plans and added their input on current and future amenities.

County Commissioner *Ed Moreno*, District 5, representing Eldorado, attended and reported that improvements for the Rail Trail are scheduled. Work to reinforce the bridge on Ave Vista Grande just west of the 285 traffic light is planned.

A significant concern is the status of the swimming pool, the changes needed and the opening on **May 25**.

The F&G is working from a 5-year plan. Some of the proposed work for 2019 includes installation of strategically placed security cameras, working on establishing dedicated pickleball courts, new play equipment at the ECIA Community Center,

improvement of the Hike/Bike trail on Ave Compadres, and ball field improvements. More information is available from the committee.

All attendees spoke of their ideas about use, improvements, and additions to ECIA amenities. Many ideas were expressed, and the meeting concluded with lots of enthusiasm about the future. A partial list of audience comments follows:

- ▶ Pool – have water polo, water basketball, a jump board, swimming lessons, and a hot tub.
- ▶ More events for kids and teenagers like fun runs and movies.
- ▶ Recreation room with pool table, ping pong table, and other games suitable for teens and adults.
- ▶ Par course fitness trail with signs.
- ▶ Frisbee golf and miniature golf.
- ▶ Safe access for horses and riders from the stables to the Community Preserve.

~Pam Henline



# Recent Board Actions

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association met on Thursday, **January 24**. Members present were President *David McDonald*, Vice-President *Elizabeth Maclaren*, and Treasurer *Joseph Gutierrez*. Secretary *Bernardo Monserrat* had an excused absence. The following formal actions were reviewed and passed by the Board:

- ▶ Motion to approve the Stable Collection Policy.
- ▶ Motion to approve the Conservation Committee Charter.
- ▶ Motion to approve the Final 2018 Financial Statements.
- ▶ Motion to appoint *Todd Handy* to the Board of Directors.
- ▶ Motion to accept the resignation of *Jody Price* from the Board of Directors.

Five residents spoke at the Open Forum on a variety of topics, including concerns about the number of resignations from the Board during 2018, the videotaping of the meeting, and the oversight by the Board Chair of not announcing that the meeting would be recorded. All Board and Committee meetings are either audio or video recorded.

The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors will be a Working Session on Monday, **February 18**, at 6 pm, in the Community Center Railroad Building. On Thursday, **February 21**, at 7 pm, the Board will conduct its regular meeting in the Railroad Building.

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](http://www.eldoradosf.org).  
~ECIA Board of Directors

# Getting Information about ECIA Governance

There are a variety of ways that members can access accurate, and factual information about what's going on with the Board and the various committees that govern the operation of the ECIA.

The best way is to come to meetings. Board and Committee meetings (except Executive Sessions of the Board) are open to members in good standing. Official Board Meetings and most Committee meetings have an Open Forum for comments from members. The various meeting times are listed in the Vistas Calendar, and agendas are posted on the website before the meeting. If you are unable to attend, the minutes of all meetings are posted on the website as soon as they are approved—generally after the next scheduled meeting. There are also Open Forums and Town Halls on a variety of topics throughout the year where members have an opportunity to hear and discuss issues that affect the community.

Another great way is to stay informed is to read the General Manager's Report that is posted on the

website every month. This report is a summary of reports on various committee activities, and projects being worked on by the ECIA/HOAMCO staff in addition to their regularly assigned duties.

If you sign up for the Email News Briefs, you will get timely notification of meetings, community events, classes and lectures, special Open Forums, pool closures, emergencies, and more. You can also get the Vistas via email and save a few trees. Look for a sign-up form in your 2019 Annual Report and return it to the office. Or you can go online and sign up at [eldoradosf.org](http://eldoradosf.org) - scroll down the home page to the block titled ECIA News Brief.

When you have a question about anything that is happening at the ECIA, you can always email me, any Board Member, or the General Manager, at the email addresses listed in the sidebar to the right of this page. Keep yourself well informed with reliable information about how your Eldorado Community Improvement Association is governed.

~David McDonald, ECIA Board President  
[D.Mcdonald@eldoradosf.org](mailto:D.Mcdonald@eldoradosf.org)

# Board Resignation and Vacancy

We are saddened to announce the resignation of ECIA Board member *Jody Price*. Jody has been on a 60-day leave of absence due to an increased time commitment at his job, which has now continued beyond the time allowed in the By-Laws for a leave. We will miss Jody's thoughtful consideration of issues, and diligent work as Board Vice President and Board Liaison to several committees.

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](mailto:D.Mcdonald@eldoradosf.org), or drop them off at the ECIA offices by Friday, **February 8**. We anticipate seating a new Member at the Board meeting on **February 21**, for a term ending on **May 4, 2020**.

~David McDonald, ECIA Board President

**ECIA OFFICE**  
#1 La Hacienda Loop  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
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[www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**President**  
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**Vice-President**  
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**Secretary**  
Bernardo Monserrat  
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**Treasurer**  
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[J.Gutierrez@eldoradosf.org](mailto:J.Gutierrez@eldoradosf.org)  
**Director**  
Todd Handy  
[T.Handy@eldoradosf.org](mailto:T.Handy@eldoradosf.org)  
**Director**  
Vacant  
**Director**  
Vacant

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**  
**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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**VISTAS NEWSLETTER**  
**Editor & Designer/Webmaster**  
Courteney Handy  
466-4248  
[Chandy@hoamco.com](mailto:Chandy@hoamco.com)

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES**  
**Vista Grande Public Library**  
14 Avenida Torreon; 466-READ  
**Fire and Rescue**  
466-1204  
[eldoradofirerescue.org](http://eldoradofirerescue.org)  
**County All Purpose**  
820-CNTY (2689)  
**Neighborhood Watch**  
Joe Loewy, 231-6462





# Introducing: Patty & Uriah

Please welcome *Patty Stevens*, one of our Facility Attendants. Patty first moved to Santa Fe in 1973 as Director of Sales and Catering for the newly built Hilton Inn. After moving to the Sheraton (now the Lodge), she eventually ended up in the Automotive Industry where she remained until 2011. However, she always called Santa Fe “home” and after retirement moved to Eldorado with her Airedales, *Winnie* and *Zoey*. As an evening and often Saturday Facility Attendant, you can meet Patty in the ECIA downstairs office. When not hanging out with the dogs, Patty plays bridge at the Santa Fe Bridge Center, where she serves on the Board of Directors.



Meet *Uriah Urioste*, one of ECIA’s Engineers. He has a wife and three kids. He brings six years experience in landscape design and two years of self-employed handyman experience. With this experience, he can execute and deliver excellent and long-lasting results. It is his sincere desire to excel and exceed expectations that are put before him.

~Julie Navarro, General Manager



## Legislative Town Hall

On **January 8**, 75-80 people attended a Town Hall Forum hosted by State Senator *Peter Wirth* (D-25), and State Representative *Matthew McQueen* (D-50) at the La Tienda Performance Space. They are hopeful for a productive 60-day legislative session working with the new NM Governor D- *Michelle Lujan Grisham*. Both are sensing a new cooperative spirit, which could include more non-partisan legislation. A large number of bills have been pre-filed.

**Some tasks to be addressed include:**

- ▶ Education, especially funding for early childhood development and preschools.
- ▶ A gradual increase in the minimum wage.
- ▶ Outlawing the coyote killing contest and a ban on trapping.
- ▶ Tax reform C (i.e., GRT, gas, automobiles, homes, and property, etc.).

- ▶ Water issues are being handled, especially in light of the ongoing lawsuit with Texas.
- ▶ Energy Policy which encourages solar and wind development and does not depend on the \$1.1 billion temporary surplus from oil and gas.
- ▶ Promote tourism for NM.

**Some concerns from the audience were:**

- ▶ Sale of Tesla cars in NM, gun control, should NM consider having a State Bank, status and provisions of the Health Security Act, concern over citizenship question on 2020 US Census, what is NM doing about global warming, and domestic violence handling and background checks for the safety of everyone.

To view a recording of the Legislative Town Hall, please go to the following website, <https://bit.ly/2RwIZB7>.

~Pam Henline

## Road Improvements

The Road Committee will be submitting a 2019 Legislature Capital Outlay Request for road improvements within the ECIA community. The committee has identified some roads for improvement but is asking for resident participation and sug-

gestions of roads for improvement. The committee will be holding an open forum on Wednesday, **February 13**, 5 to 7 pm in the Railroad Building at the ECIA Community Center.

~Russell Winslow, Road Committee Chair

**Open Discussion Group:**  
**Thursday, February 14** at 6 pm in the ECIA Classroom



# February 2019 Meetings

COMMITTEE MEETINGS						
Architecture Committee	Tuesday	Feb. 12, 26	7-9 pm	Katherine Mortimer		F
Board Meeting	Thursday	Feb. 21	7-9 pm	ECIA Board		RR
Board Working Session	Monday	Feb. 18	6-8 pm	ECIA Board		RR
Community Open Disc.	Thursday	Feb. 14	6-7:30 pm	ECIA Board		CR
Conservation Committee	Tuesday	Feb. 5	7-9 pm	Tom Bredenberg		F
Election Committee	Wednesday	Feb. 13	2-4 pm	Bette Knight		CFR
Environ. Ad Hoc	Tuesday	Feb. 5	3-5 pm	Karen Murry		CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wednesday	Feb. 6	10 am-12:30 pm	Nolan Zisman	pznzisman@aol.com	CR
Finance Committee	Tuesday	Feb. 12	9:30 am-noon	Sal Monaco	690-5125	CFR
Information Committee	Tuesday	Feb. 19	7-9 pm	Karen Logan		CR
Road Committee	Wednesday	Feb. 13	5-5:45 pm	Russell Winslow		RR
Stable Committee	Tuesday	TBA	7-9 pm	Amelia Adair	720-563-1018	CR
Town Hall Meeting on Roads	Wednesday	Feb. 13	5:45-7 pm	Russell Winslow		RR
MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS						
Eldorado Arts & Crafts		Feb. 5	10-noon	Mary Fredenburgh	466-1035	CFR
Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wednesday	Feb. 20	3-5 pm	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net	LR
Eldorado/285 Recycles	1st Monday	Feb. 4	4-6 pm	Sue Daniel	(856) 220-7087	CFR
Neighbors Helping Neighbors	1st Tuesday	Feb. 5	6-7 pm	Michael Landen	466-8896	CFR
WEEKLY MEETINGS						
Al Anonymous	Saturday		11 am-noon			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wednesday		7-9 pm	Karl Cordova	karl_cordova747@msn.com	CR,LR,RR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fridays	Feb. 7,21	1-4:30 pm	Shirley Davis	982-6179	LR
Eldorado Hikers	Tuesday		8:30 am-noon	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Knitting Club	Tuesday		10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Alt. Mondays	Feb. 11,25	10 am-noon	Mavis Murphy	466-8189	RR
Overeaters Anonymous	Monday		7-8 pm	Barb	954-1533	LR
Spinning Group (Fiber)	1st & 3rd Thursday-	Feb. 6,20	9:30-11:30 am			LR
Yin Yoga	Monday		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., & Thursdays		9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
AA Tues., 5:30-6:30 LR						
AA Thurs., 5:30-7:30 pm (Women Only) CFR	Friday 5:30-7:30 pm CR					

\*Starting in February, any groups who have not filled out the "ECIA Rental Application" will not be listed on the monthly Vistas Calendar.

\*\* Check the ECIA website for updated dates/times \*\*\* Abbreviations: CC=Community Center, CR=Classroom, CFR=Conference Room, F=Foyer, LR=Living Room, RR=Railroad Building

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.eldoradosf.org](http://www.eldoradosf.org)

## Astronomy

Calling all Amateur Astronomers! If you are an Eldorado at Santa Fe area amateur astronomer interested in forming or joining an interest group, please contact Sam Finn at [LSFinn@gmail.com](mailto:LSFinn@gmail.com). Likewise, if you know an amateur astronomer, I'd appreciate your drawing this opportunity to their attention.



~Sam Finn

## Food Drive

During the months of November and December, the ECIA community donated 500 pounds worth of food to The Food Depot. We here at ECIA want to thank the community for its donations.



~ECIA Staff

## Square Dance Club

Right here in Eldorado, square dance lessons are coming in February! Join us, the Eldorado Depot Dancers Square Dance Club for two open houses **Feb. 1 & Feb. 8** at the Max Coll Community Center 7 to 8 pm. Come to one or both, meet us, dance to some fundamental calls, converse, snack on some yummy food and have fun. Then stay till 9 pm and watch us dance.

Basic and mainstream lessons begin on Friday, **February 22**, 7 to 9 pm. For more info, email Janna at [jmillard371@gmail.com](mailto:jmillard371@gmail.com). Singles and couples are welcome. Please wear whatever feels comfortable.



~Lisa Lincoln



### 2nd Annual Poetry Reading at ECIA

The 2nd Annual Eldorado Poetry Reading will be held three Friday evenings in April. Submissions to read your own poetry is now being accepted. Pick up a form at the ECIA Community Center or go online at: [www.eldoradocandl.com](http://www.eldoradocandl.com).

## Sometimes Less is More

Of all the amenities we enjoy in our Eldorado community, none is more fundamental than the space we appreciate. The gently sloping southwest facing alluvial fan flows down from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and opens our prospect to the vast open sky. Prescient designers of our infrastructure sought to protect this openness by limiting signs, burying utilities and keeping house height down. They also decreed that the night sky would be unobstructed by outdoor lighting, which has allowed natural light to dominate our view. Sunrise

and sunset, millions of stars at night, the milky way from horizon to horizon, and the moon's phases remain uninhibited by intrusive ground lighting.

The night sky takes a little getting used to if you are coming from an urban environment, but soon one's eyes adjust, and the city lights we have accepted as normal begin to look out of place. Sometimes less is more.

~Lee Chiacos

## Los Voluntarios - Guy Monroe

In this column, we will spotlight volunteers who have contributed to Eldorado. 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 of volunteering. Please submit your suggestions to the Information Committee at [chandy@hoamco.com](mailto:chandy@hoamco.com) by the second Tuesday of the month.



Guy Monroe came to my place in Eldorado for a chat about his longtime residency in Eldorado, being a Fire Chief for the EL DORADO FIRE AND RESCUE Volunteer Fire Department, and being an owner of a passive solar home in our community. One of the first things he said to me was, "I don't want this to be about me."

He came to Eldorado in 1989 and moved into his south-facing adobe home.

Guy was a Fire Chief in Eldorado for 21 years and taught at the for the Indian School in Santa Fe. He was Principal for two and was their Safety Officer for 18 years. Now he enjoys spending time with his dog and volunteering at the dog park. He also enjoys old motorcycles and old trucks, and owns the 1949 Ford truck.

His pagers were on 24/7, and he could be headed to an accident with his fire department crew or responding to an emergency at the school at all hours. His trusty Harley Davidson motorcycle with flashing lights and siren took him there. He could leave work at any time to respond to emergencies in Eldorado due to the

flexibility of the school administration and their critical value towards their home community. He respects and admires the ethics of his Native associates for their understanding and humanitarian priorities.

Teaching at the Indian school was an education for Guy. He had a student who was very bright, and Guy thought the student should go to college on a scholarship.

When he spoke to the young Pueblo student about it, the boy responded that he couldn't leave his home for that long. Guy explained that in his culture, the community comes first, family comes second, and the individual comes third. If he went away for years and came back to his Pueblo, it would be hard for the community to accept him because he would have been gone too long. In modern America, this would not be the case, but it provides an insight into how an ancient way of life has survived into the 21st century in New Mexico.

Guy is a thoughtful observer of life. He offers this bit of wisdom, "It is a wise person who looks beyond his own private life at the greater world, a wiser person who identifies problems that need to be addressed, and a humble person to become part of the solution." Guy offers his time and skills to Eldorado now as he has for all his years here.

~Lee Chiacos

## Library News

Vista Grande Public Library (VGPL) can now display three-dimensional art pieces in a new display cabinet. Artists who are interested in exhibiting their work should visit the website page [www.vglibrary.org/art/](http://www.vglibrary.org/art/) for more information and the application form.



Call 505-466-7323 or check the website, [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org), for more information, particularly in regards to possible cancellations due to weather and road conditions. wise.

► **Book Donation Day:** Saturday, February 2 and March 2, from 9 to 11:30 am only. Donors are kindly asked to bring items in good condition; used boxes or bags; bring large donations earlier in the morning; and we will not accept 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 are always welcome.

► **All Ages Chess:** meets Friday afternoons, 3 pm. All skill levels are welcomed.

► **Family Movie Night:** Friday, February 8 and Friday, March 8, 7 pm. Call for movie titles and ratings.

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

► **Artist Reception:** Friday, March 1, 4 to 6 pm. *Roberta Parry* watercolors.

The VGPL is located at 14 Avenida Torreon, between El Dorado Community School and the Adams Senior Center.

~Tracey Mitchell, Vista Grande Public Library



## Tree Samaritans

The Tree Samaritans started in 2015 with two trees on Avenida Eldorado. The next year it grew to include all the paved roads in Eldorado, (25 miles and almost 700 trees). The Tree Samaritans are committed to highway beautification and safety with a focus on deciduous trees along the roadside. These trees are tough and resilient, even in semi-drought conditions, but they are also messy trees which sometimes block visibility from side roads. The Tree Samaritans try to trim and shape the trees and encourage them to grow straight up. Sometimes they must remove trees that obscure road signs or block the line of sight at corners.

The group works with the Santa Fe County Public Works Department, which owns the roadside right of way. They help the County by identifying problem trees, responding to resident concerns, and saving the County from having to issue work orders. They can often save trees from being cut down, by doing some judicious pruning. The County helps them in turn by instructing mower operators to avoid young trees and by picking up the brush piles from their trimmings. They also work closely with the ECIA Road Committee, which has responsibility for monitoring road conditions.

The group has two seasons of intensive work. The first is from **February 1 to April 15**. During this time, they do significant pruning before the sap begins to flow. In the fall, they go out again to re-trim the new growth and shape the younger trees. In just a few months the trees can grow three or four feet taller and must be re-trimmed continuously to prevent branches from overhanging the roadway and bike paths.

Their goal is to re-trim all 25 miles of roadside trees every year. They almost made it in 2018 with nine volunteers, but they hope more volunteers will join them to share the work and learn about tree pruning. An excellent place to start is the annual *Tree Pruning Workshop* given by *Tom Dominguez* from the Agricultural Extension Office on **February 5** from 5:30 to 7 pm at the Max Coll Community Center located at 16 Avenida Torreon.



The Tree Samaritans have grown from just one volunteer in 2015 to nine at the end of 2018, due in part to the Volunteer Fair in November 2018.

For the volunteers, the best part of this project is to see the fruits of their labor - the increasing number of green-leaved trees along the roadside. Best of all has been the support of community members, who often stop to acknowledge them or wave as they go by. They are also indebted to the ECIA Board for providing them with safety vests and cones to protect them on the roadside, and a small budget for tools. To become a Tree Samaritan, or even to trim the trees along the roadside in front of your property, contact *John Gervers* at 202-236-3940 or by email at [johngersers@gmail.com](mailto:johngersers@gmail.com).

## Oh No! We Have Mice

We heard them in the still of the night. Small scratching sounds, and scurrying noises, scampering rapidly from one room to another. Gnawing sounds that were remarkably loud. We had mice in the home! We knew mice were destructive - but we had never known how crazymaking their sounds could be.

In the winter months, mice are attracted to the shelter, warmth, and food sources. We had taken what we thought were proper precautions - removing thick shrubs near the door, repairing worn areas around windows, keeping the compost pile a reasonable distance away - but we still had mice in the house.

We tried setting traps, but the mice evaded them. We didn't want to use poisons, they are dangerous to have in a house especially with pets and children. Also, toxins can take a long time to work and causes the mice to die within the home's walls, creating a horrible smell. Finally, rodenticides pose a significant risk to non-target wildlife;



bobcats, coyotes, hawks, and owls who eat the poisoned mice can bleed to death. It was time to call a professional.

We learned that once mice have discovered how to get into your home, they will "tell" their friends to follow by leaving a

trail scented by urine. We learned that if you can stick a #2 pencil through a hole, a mouse can probably get through it and that it's smart to protect our cars because mice can get in them and destroy wires. We also learned that we should always use disposable gloves - maybe even a mask - and use disinfectant when handling dead mice or cleaning mouse droppings.

The best course was to find out where the mice were getting in. With the professional, we thoroughly checked the house for problem areas such as missing screens on vents, worn weather stripping around windows and doors, and tiny holes between vigas. We repaired where needed and thoroughly sealed additional holes with steel wool.

We learned that mice are enticed by food near the house: People food, pet food, bird food, compost, garbage, and even piles of edible materials such as cardboard. We relocated the birdfeeders a good distance from the house. Finally, we could sleep at night.

We love hearing from you! Contact us at [EldoradoFloraFau-na@yahoo.com](mailto:EldoradoFloraFau-na@yahoo.com).

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

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**MONDAY APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>**  
 FAIR 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.  
 LECTURES 10:30 A.M., 12, 1:30, & 7 P.M.  
 E.C.I.A. COMMUNITY CENTER

Surrounded by fragile ecosystems, our daily interactions with nature are more notable than most locals. Visitors are attracted by the rugged nature, but we are also more susceptible to global climate changes.

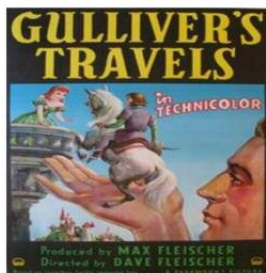
Come learn about your carbon footprint, opportunities to become more "green" in your life, FixIt clinics, and how to sustain our ecosystem.

Experts and organizations will be on hand to share their knowledge.



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**FRIDAY, FEB. 8**  
 7 PM TO 9 PM  
 ECIA COMMUNITY CENTER  
 RAILROAD BUILDING

**Gulliver's Travels** (1939, PG, 1h 17m): In this animated tale, a giant is shipwrecked on an island of people who are no bigger than a peanut.

Coming Soon:  
**Charade** (1963) Feb. 22  
**The Stranger** (1946) Mar. 8



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**FRIDAY, FEB. 22**  
 7 PM TO 9 PM  
 ECIA COMMUNITY CENTER  
 RAILROAD BUILDING

**Charade** (1963, G, 55m): An illicit romance and suspense ensue as a woman is pursued by men who want the fortune her murdered husband had stolen. Whom can she trust?

Coming Soon:  
**The Stranger** (1946) Mar. 8  
**Tarzan and the Green Goddess** (1936) Mar. 22



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