Dear New Resident,

On behalf of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association, Inc. (ECIA) we would like to welcome you to our neighborhood. You made a great choice in selecting Eldorado as your new home. We are confident that your days and years ahead will be exciting and personally fulfilling.

Eldorado was once a ranch and was later developed as a Planned Unit Development by AMREP, consisting of over 2700 lots, approximately 6000 residents, a Community Center, swimming pool, stable area, tennis courts, recreation field, playgrounds, a 4000 acre hiking preserve, multi-use trails and a host of interesting residents.

We would like to remind you that our community is a Homeowner Association with annual assessments (currently $460.00 per year) that are due on the first day of March. Also, our community has mandatory Protective Covenants and Guidelines which help preserve the quality of life within our community.

We hope you will find the “Welcome Packet” both helpful and informative. If you have any questions, please contact us at (505) 466-4248 or visit our website at www.eldoradosf.org.

Sincerely,

John Henriksen
ECIA Board President
Bienvenidos!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA), we want to welcome you as new neighbors in Eldorado at Santa Fe and also as a member of the ECIA.

Eldorado is a unique community in Santa Fe County. Following a philosophy of “sitting gently on the land,” Eldorado’s character is defined by its open spaces, harmonious architecture and community spirit. We love our neighborhoods, our greenbelts, natural preserve and our community center.

Eldorado has long been a forward-looking community. Founded in 1970, Eldorado was an ambitious land development on a well-known ranch southeast of Santa Fe. Soon, the reliably sunny skies stimulated the passive solar energy movement that put Eldorado on the map.

As the governing structure of the homeowners association, the ECIA is responsible for managing the affairs of the association, which includes enforcing the building covenants, maintaining the common properties and amenities owned by the association, and guarding the association’s financial integrity.

The people who do the important work of the ECIA are dedicated volunteers, serving on 8 official committees – Architecture (covenant compliance), Conservation (greenbelts and preserve), Elections, Facilities and Grounds (common properties), Finance, Information (Vistas, website and marquees) Roads, and Stables. You are encouraged to learn about the ECIA and consider joining a committee.

Our professional staff is experienced, dedicated and attentive to the interests of Eldorado’s residents. We work to foster a spirit of neighborliness, collaboration and communication, through community participation, the “Vistas” newsletter, and our ever-improving website, www.eldoradosf.org.

We hope that you will find Eldorado a community that lets you live the life you want to live. And while we emphasize the importance of neighborliness and community, we also treasure the ability to enjoy the natural ambiance in peace and solitude.

We are happy that you have chosen to live and perhaps work in Eldorado and we hope to meet you at a community event soon.

Sincerely,

Your ECIA Board of Directors
Picture this land in the 1800’s – vast, uninhabited, with pristine vistas of the mountains. The only way to get to Eldorado was by foot, horseback or by covered wagon. Indian tribes abounded here, as archaeological explorations have proven. There were inhabited areas of Eldorado that time and weather have concealed, leaving very little trace of the first “Eldoradoans.” There is evidence of Spanish exploration of this entire region. Part of Eldorado’s 26,000 acres was included in portions of the Bishop Lamy Grant and of Canada de Los Alamos Grant. In more recent times, it was used for sheep, and later for cattle.

Today’s Community Center was yesterday’s ranch house. Built in 1952 by Mr. Gene West for Mr. and Mrs. Frank Teal and their children, it was one of the finest and most expensive homes in the Santa Fe area. Building the house must have been a feat, as the area was still relatively isolated and remote with no accessible road much less the modern highway we enjoy today. The Teals overcame that problem by flying in to the ranch by airplane. The Teal home, our present Clubhouse, has double adobe walls throughout. Only the best of materials were used in the construction of the home.

What is now called the classroom was a two-car garage and the original swimming pool, now filled with concrete, was in the patio area. Even though the Teals and later the Simpsons, were not able to dash into town for entertainment, they were not bored. An old railroad station was brought in from Kennedy, New Mexico (near Galisteo) to be the reception and game room for the “Big House” residents and their guests. The ranch hands were not allowed to use the facility.

The ranch was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Alva Simpson in 1954. It was purchased from them in 1972 by AMREP (American Real Estate and Petroleum) for development. Over the years, Eldorado has grown into a community of over 2,700 home sites. More information about Eldorado and the surroundings may be found in the public library or the book “Windmills and Dreams,” soon to be available for purchase at the ECIA office.
Welcome

Welcome to Eldorado at Santa Fe! We are very pleased that you have chosen to make our community your home. This booklet provides you with important information and governing documents which we hope will make your life in Eldorado more enjoyable. If you have any questions, you can contact the ECIA office at 505-466-4248, Monday through Friday from 8 to 5 to speak to any member of the staff who will be glad to help you. You can fax us at 505-466-4249 and visit our website at www.eldoradosf.org.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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<td>VISTA GRANDE PUBLIC LIBRARY</td>
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What is the ECIA?

The ECIA is the Eldorado Community Improvement Association, which is the long title chosen some years ago for the association of home and lot owners in the Eldorado at Santa Fe subdivision. Like any homeowners’ association, the ECIA manages our common properties and amenities, and enforces the Protective Covenants and Architectural Guidelines that control the development and appearance of individual houses and lots. All lot owners are members, and are required to pay an annual assessment to fund these activities, currently $460.00 per lot per year.

There are basically three sets of governing documents: The ECIA’s Corporate Bylaws, amended and adopted in 2013; the Covenants and Building Restrictions amended and adopted in 1996; and the Guidelines for Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions, revised and adopted in 2005. The Bylaws set up the ECIA as a corporation, the Covenants set basic standards for development, and the Guidelines provide rules for consistent interpretation of the Covenants. All are available on the ECIA website at http://www.eldoradosf.org, or in printed form at the ECIA office at the Community Center.

The Bylaws provide for a Board of Directors, currently seven members, each elected for a term of three years. Elections occur in March, with terms beginning at the end of the annual members’ meeting in May. Vacancies between elections are filled by vote of the remaining Board members. Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Community Center, and are open to all Association members.

The Association has a full-time staff of five: General Manager, Office Manager, Covenant Compliance Representative, Staff Assistant, and Facilities Manager. In the summer, the staff is augmented by several part-time maintenance workers, and up to a dozen swimming pool lifeguards. Office staff may be reached at 505-466-4248 during business hours.

The core of the ECIA is the volunteer members of its committees. These dedicated volunteers are the reason the ECIA can serve its members at a reasonable cost. All committee meetings are open to all Association members.
members, and each chair may nominate new committee members from those who have attended at least three meetings. The Board votes to approve new nominees. The committees are: Architecture, Finance, Conservation, Information, Roads, Stables, Election and Facilities & Grounds.

Eldorado is an unincorporated subdivision – albeit the largest in New Mexico and Santa Fe County is our local government. Traffic violations, animal control, noisy neighbors, and law enforcement in general are the responsibility of the Santa Fe County Sheriff’s Department, and road maintenance is the task of the County Public Works Department. Water and sanitation are the responsibility of the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District – a public utility. Fire and emergency services are provided by the volunteer Eldorado Fire and Rescue Service. The Santa Fe Public School district runs the community school. The Vista Grande Public Library is operated by its own Board of Directors, and must raise its own operating funds – the County has no public library system. The ECIA staff and Board members try to solve residents’ problems and answer questions on a neighbor-to-neighbor basis, and will refer questions and complaints outside its jurisdiction to other organizations as appropriate.

The ECIA Board adopted a formal policy in 2001 that the Association will not support any activities other than those directly sponsored by the ECIA. This allows the Association to keep annual assessments low, and allows members to support the organizations of their choice as individuals.

- Dan Drobnis, Vistas December 2005.
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Eldorado Community Improvement Association, Inc. (ECIA)

The ECIA is the cornerstone of the community and it was established by the developer and later turned over to the Association to provide a legal entity which would develop and administer common properties, community services, recreational facilities, etc., and to accept assignment of powers and projects. The collective goal of the ECIA is to maintain the quality of property and lifestyle envisioned by the developer and the residents.

When you purchased property in Eldorado, you automatically became a member of the ECIA. Additionally, you automatically accepted certain responsibilities such as paying the annual assessment which provides the operating and reserve funds to maintain the community, abiding by the Protective Covenants which help maintain the quality of life, and complying with all other Covenants.

The ECIA is the governing body of the Association. The Board of Directors consists of seven elected members of the community who serve for a three year term. Each year, all members in good standing cast their votes for candidates and the results are announced at the annual members’ meeting scheduled for the first Monday in May of each year.

The ECIA has several standing and ad-hoc committees which provide valuable services to the community. Committees are used extensively to assist the Board with gathering community information, developing conclusions and providing recommendations to the Board. The standing Committees are Finance, Architecture, Conservation, Information, Roads, Stables, Election and Facilities & Grounds. Committee meetings are listed in the Vistas newsletter and are open to all members. If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact the ECIA office for more information.

The day-to-day operations of the Association are performed by the ECIA staff. The ECIA employs a General Manager, Office Manager, Covenant Compliance Representative, Staff Assistant, Facilities Manager and various other part-time staff to assist with operations and maintenance. The ECIA offices are located inside the Community Center at 1 La Hacienda Loop.
AMENITIES AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Community Center
The Community Center and amenities are situated on a 28-acre parcel of land located at the northeast end of the community. The Community Center consists of the old ranch house building, a swimming pool, tennis courts, basketball courts, horseshoes, baseball field, volleyball, play grounds and dog park. All these areas are for the use of the members and their accompanied guests. Members must accompany their guests at all times. For the safety of our children, please note that parking is NOT allowed on Ave del Monte Alto along the baseball field.

The Community Center has various rooms which are available for the use of residents and their guests. These rooms may be reserved on a first come, first serve basis by calling the office and filling out an application. The policy and fees regarding renting the Community Center can be obtained from the ECIA office or on line at www.eldoradosf.org.

The Community Center is also used for various meetings including the monthly ECIA Board of Directors meeting and its various committees.

Community Preserve

One of the greatest amenities in Eldorado is the 4,094 acres of surrounding preserve, virtually at your doorstep. Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, nature study, picnicking and camping abound.

The topography of the area is varied and the flora is quite diverse. It includes open desert grassland, some recently grazed; heavily wooded ridges and mesas; steep walled canyons of pinkish granite and other rock formations, and chalky white, sandy or red limestone cliffs. The area is also crossed by numerous arroyos; some broad and sandy, others narrow and rocky.

Much of the vegetation consists of juniper and pinon woodlands, studded with abundant cholla and rabbit brush. Ponderosa pine and gambel oak grow in the deep canyons and higher ridges and mesas. Flowers, cacti and grasses, cottonwoods, alders, willows and other moisture-loving shrubs and trees flourish along the Galisteo Creek, and in some of the arroyos and canyons.
Stables

The Association owns a twenty three (23) acre stable area which is available to members for stabling their horses. Manure is available for gardening. For more information contact the ECIA office at 505-466-4248.

Greenbelts

Running throughout Eldorado are a number of areas known as “Green Belts” which may be used by all members for walking, hiking, or horseback riding. These provide the community with the wonderful open space and privacy which is cherished by all our members. Maps are available in the ECIA office.

Compadres Park

Compadres Park is a five-acre park located on Avenida de Compadres, approximately five hundred feet north of Avenida Vista Grande. Various recreational resources, such as a basketball court, swing set, and playground areas are available for your use.

Tennis Courts

There are two tennis courts located at the Community Center for your enjoyment on a first come basis. Regulation tennis shoes or deck shoes must be worn while on the courts.

Baseball Fields

The baseball field is located at the Community Center and are for the use of Eldorado residents and their guests. Residents using the fields should park at the Clubhouse and not along Avenida del Monte Alto.

Swimming Pool

The swimming pool is located at the Community Center and it is typically open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Pool hours will be announced in the Vistas newsletter. Lifeguards are on duty at all times. A kiddie pool is available for youngsters and they must always be accompanied by an adult. Pool passes are available at the ECIA office. All members thirteen years and older are required to have a pool pass.
ECIA Community Events

The ECIA and its committees sponsor a variety of community events throughout the year such as the Fourth of July parade. All members are encouraged to participate in these activities. If you are interested in any of these activities, please call the ECIA office for the name and phone number of the person to contact.

SERVICES

Fire Protection

Fire protection in Eldorado is the responsibility of the Eldorado Fire and Rescue Service which is a volunteer department made up of your neighbors and is administered by the County of Santa Fe. To report a fire, dial 911, identify the location and nature of the fire, your name, address and phone number. All members are reminded that because of the extreme risk of fires in Eldorado, no open burning is allowed in the community. During the winter months be sure the ashes from your fireplace fires are totally cold before disposing of them.

Emergency Medical Service

Eldorado Fire and Rescue Service provides emergency medical care with Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and a paramedic, two ambulances and one Rescue Vehicle.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed. If you would like to join as a firefighter, EMT or as part of the auxiliary, visit the main firehouse at 144 Ave Vista Grande for their business meeting on the first Wednesday of the month or on any Saturday morning.

Search & Rescue

There is a Santa Fe Search & Rescue unit based in Eldorado. This is also a volunteer organization that provides search and rescue services in conjunction with local government. If you are interested in joining, visit the website at www.santafesar.org.
Water

Most of Eldorado is serviced by Eldorado Area and Sanitation District (EAWSD) from its central water system under the authority of the Public Regulation Commission. For information concerning water, contact EAWSD at 505-466-1085 or to report an emergency call 505-466-4749. A portion of the lots in Eldorado are served by private wells and such wells are the responsibility of the owners.

Gas

Natural gas is provided to lot owners by the NM Gas Company (1-888-664-2726). If your home is hooked up to a propane tank there are a number of companies listed in the telephone book that provide propane gas.

Electric

Public Service Company of NM (PNM) provides this service and can be contacted at 1-888-342-5766.

Telephone

Century Link provides this service and can be contacted at 1-877-453-9407.

Cable Television & Satellite Service

Small dish type antennas of 39 inches or less are allowed on your property. Please check with the covenants for more specific information.

Trash and Recycling Collection

Waste Management provides this service for a fee. They can be contacted at: http://www.wastemanagement.com or (505) 473-0982. Trash is picked up weekly. Recyclables are collected every other week. Contact them for a list of materials and the day of the week your neighborhood is serviced.

Eldorado Convenience Center

The County of Santa Fe provides a public facility located about 2 miles south of the main Eldorado entrance on Hwy 285. Services include trash disposal, no-fee recycling, a Re-Use area, brush disposal, and several additional services.
Fee-for-service punch cards for trash disposal may be purchased at the Ken & Patty Adam Senior Center.

For more information: [http://www.santafecountynm.gov/publicworks/solidwaste or 505-992-3017](http://www.santafecountynm.gov/publicworks/solidwaste or 505-992-3017).


**US Mail**

Mail is delivered by the Post Office mail carrier to your residence. Eldorado's zip code is 87508. New residents are responsible for providing their own mailbox. Postal services are located at the following addresses:

- **Main Post Office**, 120 S. Federal Place, Downtown Santa Fe – 505-988-6354
- **Coronado Post Office**, 2071 S. Pacheco Street
- **Santa Fe Place Station**, Santa Fe Place Mall, Rodeo Road
- **QuikSend Mail Center**, Agora Shopping Center – 505-466-4604

**ECIA Newsletter**

The *Vistas* is the monthly community newsletter and it is mailed to each home owner around the first of the month. This newsletter provides important information regarding the ECIA and gives schedules for important community events.

**Newspapers**

- **The New Mexican**, 505-933-3303
- **Santa Fe Reporter**, 505-988-5541
- **Albuquerque Journal**, 1-800-577-8683

**Internet Access**

- **Comcast Cable**, 505-473-2091
- **Cyber Mesa**, 505-988-9200
- **Century Link**, 1-888-544-4495

In addition, the ECIA and the Vista Grande Public Library are “hotspots”. Log into their website for more information.
Police & Security

The Santa Fe County Sheriff’s Department provides police protection for the community.

Santa Fe County Sheriff, 505-428-3720, State Police, 505-827-9000
Statewide Road & Weather Conditions, 1-800-432-4269

Schools

Eldorado is part of the SF School District. The following public schools service our community:

El Dorado Community School, K-8th Grade, 505-466-2604
Capshaw Jr. High, 7th & 8th, 505-467-2000
Santa Fe High, 9th – 12th, 505-467-2000

Vista Grande Public Library

We are fortunate to have a regional library located here in Eldorado at 14 Ave Torreon. Contact 505-466-READ or visit their website at www.vglibrary.org for their hours of operation.

Ken & Patty Adam Senior Center

The Senior Center offers lunch for seniors for a small fee and transportation into Santa Fe is also available. The center also has fun, out-of-town day trips. Call 505-466-1039 for information.

Voter Registration

You can register to vote in the SF County Courthouse, 102 Grant Ave and at the NM Motor Vehicle Division, 2546 Camino Entrada, weekdays from 8-4. Call 505-476-1599 for registration requirements. Residents in the Eldorado precincts vote at the Patty Adam Senior Center located at 16 Avenida Torreon, 505-466-1039.

Neighborhood Watch Program

Residents are encouraged to form their own neighborhood group. It is a good way to meet your neighbors and to protect your property. Interested
residents should contact Marilyn Walker with Neighborhood Watch at 505-466-2553.

**Roads**

The roads in Eldorado were dedicated to SF County by the developer in 1972. SF County is responsible for the maintenance of most roads in Eldorado, including snow removal and grading. The County generally has a road grader stationed in Eldorado and will periodically grade the roads. If your road needs attention, call SF Public Works at 505-992-3010.

Generally, roads in SF County are dirt since the county has limited funds for paving. Accordingly, ECIA Board of Directors, realizing that some of the arterial roads in Eldorado should be paved, has worked in cooperation with the county to get these roads paved.

Speed limits within Eldorado are as posted. It is recommended that all residents be mindful of the rural atmosphere of Eldorado when driving and to be aware of pedestrians, cyclists and children. Motorized travel is permitted on established roads only. All terrain vehicles are not allowed in greenbelts or on the hike and bike trails, or on other people’s property. Use of these vehicles is allowed on county roads only if the user is state licensed.

**BUILDING RESTRICTIONS & GUIDELINES**

The major purpose of the building restrictions and guidelines is to enhance the quality of life of our members, to promote harmony within the community, and to ensure conformity within our community. As a member of the ECIA, you are obligated to comply with all the covenant requirements.

**What is the Architecture Committee?**

The Architecture Committee is composed of your neighbors, who volunteer their time and are committed to the maintenance of a good living environment for the residents of Eldorado. They welcome your comments and questions. The committee is advisory to the ECIA Board, which has final authority regarding the covenants and building restrictions. The committee meets every two weeks to review plans submitted by property owners for the construction or remodeling of structures of residential lots in Eldorado. Recommendations for approval or disapproval are then made to the ECIA Board.
What are your commitments?

By purchasing property in Eldorado it is assumed that you are motivated by the character of the natural environment and accept the principle that the community must preserve that character for the enjoyment of all property owners.

The covenants and building guidelines are legal documents that legally apply to your property and ensure that a pleasant living environment will be maintained for all, and your property values will be maintained. In a few cases legal action has been taken to assure adherence to protective covenants. In most cases landowners fully support our covenants.

How do you interface with the committee?

Proposed new construction, alteration of existing construction, and the addition of fences, garages, signs, walls, sheds, studios, and other structures must receive the written approval of the ECIA.

No residential lot shall be used in whole or in part for any commercial purpose except as otherwise specifically permitted. Nor shall any lot be used for storage of any property that will cause the lot to appear unclean or become a nuisance.

Use and occupancy of the premises shall be subject to zoning, building, health, sewage disposal and sanitation regulations of the State of NM and governmental agencies having jurisdiction.

Construction of any residence or other structure for human occupancy shall not be commenced until water is available at the site. We suggest that you discuss proposed construction with your immediate neighbors who might be directly affected. This will help ensure cordial relations in the future and may help to avoid complaints to the ECIA.

Before designing or committing to the construction or placement of any structure, obtain a permit application from the ECIA office at the Community Center. The application must be completed and returned with required plans before construction. Do not begin construction or placement of structure until the permit has been approved in writing.
PROTECTIVE COVENANTS

In addition to the Building Covenants which govern construction within the community, there are a number of Protective Covenants which help to preserve our quality of life. The ECIA has a Covenant Compliance Representative who tours the community and identifies specific violations of covenants. If you notice a violation and would like to report it to the staff, please call the ECIA office at 505-466-4248 or visit our website at www.eldoradosf.org. Some of the specific areas covered include the following.

Outside Lighting

All exterior lighting, including driveway and landscape lighting shall be shielded, directed downward and less than seventy-five watts. A fully shielded light fixture must use opaque material. Keeping outside lighting off, except when needed will be appreciated by those residents who enjoy the night sky.

Household Pets

No animals, birds or poultry shall be kept or maintained on any lot, except recognized household pets which may be kept in reasonable numbers as pets for the pleasure and use of the occupants but not for any commercial use or purpose.

When a dog is off its owner’s premises, it must be under leash control of the owner. The owner of a dog shall not allow it to run at large or create a nuisance on another’s property, including entering onto lots, driveways, walkways, places of recreation or parks. The term “nuisance” shall include defecation or urination.

If the animal is caught off your property, it may be taken to the Animal Shelter where a fine must be paid prior to release. Additionally, State law requires all dogs receive rabies vaccination.

Be considerate of your neighbors. Nothing is more annoying than having to listen to a dog barking constantly, day or night.
Storage & Screening of Vehicles

Recreational vehicles, campers, camper shells, vehicle accessories, horse and other trailers, boats and the like, when stored on a lot shall be located as to minimize their visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood and roads, and shall be obscured by screening in a reasonable manner. An example of placement and screening is to locate the item by the dwelling, plantings or a fence. Obscure means to make inconspicuous or unnoticeable, or to conceal physically; to hide or cover. No more than three (3) such vehicles shall be stored on any lot at one time. Please refer to Guidelines for specifics.

General Nuisance Clause

No lot shall be used in any way for the storage or dumping of trash or debris, nor for any purpose which may endanger the health of, or unreasonably disturb other members.

Water Conservation

Eldorado is located in a high desert environment and our annual rainfall is quite limited. It is highly likely that from time to time semi-drought or drought conditions will exist. Water conservation is vital to our community and we hope that you will support our community with its long term goal of water conservation. The Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District provides literature which gives members simple ways to save water and also explains the water alert stages within our community. In the summer months check with their website [www.eldoratowaterdistrict.com/news.htm](http://www.eldoratowaterdistrict.com/news.htm) for the most up-to-date information.

Plague

The bubonic plague, transmitted by fleas or infected animals has occasionally occurred in Eldorado. Regular vigilant dusting of animals is advised. Do not attempt to pick up sick or dead animals. Report them to Animal Control at 505-992-1626.

Coyotes, Owls & Gnats

Residents should be cautious about leaving cats and small dogs outside at night lest they become a meal for our resident wildlife.
Normally in June, Eldorado and surrounding areas experience a batch of biting black gnats commonly called “no-see-ums”. The insects last for about 4 weeks and disappear in the coolness of evening and for brief periods following rain. Some people react to the bites with severe itching and red swollen areas around the bite. Staying indoors or covering all areas of the body when outdoors will help, as will insect repellent.

Gardening Tips

Understand our basic habitat- dry, windy, limited water, alkaline soil and intense heat. Keeping these factors in mind, a colorful and water-wise garden is possible with correct site preparation and proper plant selection. Most of the nurseries in the area provide excellent literature regarding the use of xeriscape plants and methods which will reduce watering requirements and give you a colorful and diverse garden.

Know your personal site and varied growing opportunities, shade, sun exposure, wind and views. The north side is cooler and the best location for patios and drought tolerant plants. The south is hotter, best for drought tolerant deciduous trees and other hardy plants that tolerate full sun. The west side is the hottest in summer and you would be wise to plant shade trees here to cool the house.

Your lifestyle and how much time you can devote to your garden will determine what kind of plants and their location. Place high maintenance plants closest to the house. Place plants that need less care further out - sage, yucca or cactus are good choices. Consider the use of drip irrigation to efficiently and effectively manage the watering of your plants.

Eldorado soil must be improved for many plants to thrive. Early spring is a good time to add compost and natural nutrients. Home grown compost is ideal or you can buy compost at most local garden shops. The soil is low in phosphorous, the essential element for root development and flowers. Bone meal available from garden shops is a good source of this nutrient.
**Eldorado Neighborhood Watch**

“Building Community One Neighborhood at a Time”

Marilyn Walker, Chair

466-2553

[Lightwalker2@comcast.net](mailto:Lightwalker2@comcast.net)

Website:  [eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com](http://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com)

What is Neighborhood Watch?

Eldorado Neighborhood Watch, the largest NW group in the state with about 140 Block Captains, is a voluntary program organized and run by the residents of our community which employs the concept of ‘neighbor to neighbor’ communication. The Eldorado Community Improvement Association provides logistical and financial support to Neighborhood Watch as we work to improve our community by addressing issues related to home, personal, pet and auto security, animal control, wildlife awareness, weather and traffic safety. Neighbors are encouraged to take responsibility for home, personal, and pet safety by implementing crime-prevention and security measures and by reporting suspicious activity to the Santa Fe County Sheriff’s Office, State Police, Eldorado Security Patrol and Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch members are encouraged to serve as ‘eyes and ears’ for law enforcement, but never to directly intervene in possible criminal activity.

**Why do we need Neighborhood Watch in Eldorado?**

Although we are fortunate to have a low crime rate here in Eldorado, crime does exist and there may be a lag in response time for law enforcement should a problem arise. Being a part of Neighborhood Watch is a means for neighbors to be kept aware of security-related issues, to create a stronger sense of community and connection with our neighbors and to prevent crime.

**What is a Block Captain and what do they do?**

By encouraging neighborhood unity and cooperation block captains are the cornerstone of Neighborhood Watch. They share responsibility for looking out for the residents of a neighborhood by visiting with
neighbors, explaining the NW program, fostering communication among neighbors, and forwarding NW e-mail alerts to neighbors as well as suspicious activity reports to NW. The time involved is minimal.

**Who gets our personal information?**

The contact information gathered by block captains is for neighbors use only and only you and your neighbors have access to this information. Neither Neighborhood Watch central, the ECIA or any other entity is provided this information. Neighborhood Watch central communicates only with the block captain who forwards information to members.

**We had a Neighborhood Watch group but I’m not sure if we still do. What should I do?**

If there is a Neighborhood Watch sign on your street it is likely that there was a NW group there previously and we can help you reactivate your NW group. Contact Marilyn Walker, NW Chair, 505-466-2553, Lightwalker2@comcast.net Eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com

**I work or am not home during the day. Can I still be involved?**

Yes. Most residential burglaries occur during daytime working hours and those who are away during the day could have neighbors aware of their absence and keeping an eye on their home. Some block captains are employed and yet are able to spend the minimal time involved.

**Why get involved in Neighborhood Watch?**

A Neighborhood Watch group can help to create unity, cooperation and a sense of community as neighbors get acquainted and support one another. Help us to attain our goal of complete NW membership in Eldorado by joining NW and helping keep Eldorado safe.
Eldorado Community Improvement Association, Inc.
RESIDENT CONTACT SHEET

As a new homeowner with ECIA, we want to make sure you receive all the information that is sent from our offices. Please send us your updated information to include emergency contact phone numbers and email addresses. Information can be sent by mail, fax or email. Or drop by our offices and meet the staff.

Owner Information

Name of Owner(s): ____________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Property Address: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Home #: ___________ Cell: _____________ Work: _________________

Email Address: ____________________________________________

Tenant Information (if applicable) Please attach copy of lease agreement.

Name of Tenant: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Home #: ___________ Cell: _____________ Work: _________________

Email Address: ____________________________________________

Please return information to:
ECIA or by Fax: 505-466-4249 or by email: gm@eldoradosf.org
1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe NM 87508
ELDORADO at SANTA FE

The Eldorado Flora and Fauna Group Welcomes You to Eldorado!

Founded by Eldorado Neighborhood Watch, the Flora and Fauna Group’s Mission is: To encourage and educate residents on respectfully coexisting with local plants and wildlife, including preservation of native flora and fauna in light of our changing climate.

Like you, we are residents of this community, and we think it’s a beautiful place. We encourage you to learn about local plants and animals so that you can enjoy a healthy coexistence with them. Toward that end, we have included some of our articles from past issues of the Eldorado Vistas.

Some helpful websites include:
- Neighborhood Watch: www.EldoradoNeighbors.wordpress.com
- Coyote information: www.ProjectCoyote.org
- Mountain lion information: www.MountainLion.org
- NM Game and Fish: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/publications/documents/predator.pdf
- The Wildlife Center: www.TheWildlifeCenter.org
- Cactus information: www.CactusRescueProject.info/
- UNM Coop Extension: www.aces.nmsu.edu/CooperativeExtension/Garden.HTML
- Santa Fe Botanical Gardens: http://www.santafebotanicalgarden.org/
- Animal Control: www.SantaFeCountyNM.Gov/Sheriff/Animal_Control

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Splendor in the Grasses

Some visitors from the Midwest recently remarked, “Oh wow, all the colors and textures of your pretty neighborhood lawns and meadows look like an Andrew Wyeth painting!” They went on to tell us a lovely Native American (Ojibwe) story about how the mythological hero Nanabozho painted the grasses and flowers to provide more color, while frolicking bluebirds dipped in the paints and ended up creating the first rainbow. “Nanabozho really had fun painting Eldorado,” they said. They also pointed out that Native Americans had medicinal and dietary uses for many wild plants, including some grasses.

It’s true that Eldorado is blessed with a wide variety of wild grasses that produce a beautiful picture each season. Some of our local grasses include Six-Weeks and Sheep Fescue, Fluffgrass, Cheatgrass, Blue Grama, Indian Ricegrass, Needle-And-Thread Grass, Hairy Crabgrass, Foxtail Chess, Western Wheatgrass, Buffalo grass, Little Bluestem, and Purple Three Awn. Since Eldorado land was previously used for ranching, some of our “native” grasses weren’t here originally. But the natural combination of plants works very well in the community.

Much of the beneficial beauty of native grasses lies below ground. Native grasses tend to have very deep roots. This enables the plants to reach moisture, minerals, and nutrients far below topsoil, so that the grasses can prosper in our desert environment. As the large roots naturally decompose during their normal life cycle, soil fertility is improved. And most importantly in our windy environment, these deep roots hold down soil, preventing dust and erosion.

The grasses also provide food, habitat, and a protective environment for a number of our wildlife, such as quail and small mammals. In turn, these animals attract predators such as eagles, hawks, owls, and coyotes. The open ground within the grass plants provides nesting space for migratory songbirds, whose national populations have been declining as they lose their habitats. As naturalists say, a robust diversity of plants attracts a healthy diversity of animals.

To mow or not to mow?

Some property owners like the look of manicured, cultivated lawns, and they feel that mowing keeps down allergies as well as fire dangers. Eldorado neighbors who avoid mowing generally say they prefer our natural vistas, don’t like the noise and odors of mowing machines, and are concerned about the dust and erosion that mowed lawns can create. Additionally, since mowing eliminates the ability of grasses to create seeds, the plants eventually die off, which leaves the soil significantly unprotected.

If you have questions about managing the grasses on your property, we recommend contacting your favorite local nursery or county extension agent (471-4711).

References for this article are available upon request. We love hearing from you! Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com. –Reprinted from Vistas, October 2015

Termites in Eldorado?

Eldorado’s residents may be surprised to find out that there are termites in northern New Mexico and specifically in Eldorado. To find out more, we contacted Eldorado resident Ken Olds, who has extensive experience in pest management.

We have two types of termites here in Eldorado, the subterranean termite and the drywood termite. The subterranean termite, as the name implies, forms a nest in the soil. The drywood termite does not require soil for its nest.

Termites provide a valuable function in nature by breaking down dead wood. They also provide a source of food for a number of birds and other animals.

Termites feed on cellulose (wood, paper, cardboard, etc.). They are able to digest the cellulose because of bacteria in their gut that dissolves the cellulose into the sugars and starches they need as food. The subterranean termite will forage from its nest to find food sources. To do this, they may construct a mud tube, about the diameter of pencil, to cross a non-wood surface. These tubes provide a moist environment during foraging. The drywood termite will form its nest directly in some body of wood and does not construct mud tubes.

Termites have a caste society (different classes) with workers, soldiers, and reproductives. The workers are the foragers, providing food for the colony. The soldiers provide protection, and the reproductives consist primarily of the queen, whose function is to continually lay eggs and increase the colony size. In the spring, generally after a rainfall, new female and male reproductives are formed in the nest. Once these reproductives have developed wings, they leave the nest to search for a new nest location. A single nest can produce hundreds of these winged reproductives, which may be seen flying around the windows and doors of buildings. They are often confused with the reproductives of ants.

To minimize the chances of having termite problems, wood debris should be removed from the house perimeter, and firewood should be stored away from the house. If you are storing cardboard boxes (all cellulose-containing material), do not keep them directly on concrete surfaces. Cracks in concrete may allow the termites to enter the premises; and by raising the cardboard off the concrete, you can spot any mud tubes that would indicate termites feeding on the cellulose material. Residents are advised not to take termites lightly, and to get their homes checked, as an infestation can prove costly. –Reprinted from Vistas, February 2015
Snakes in Eldorado

Many people dislike snakes. Contrary to myths and superstitions, however, snakes are “good guys” in our environment. They eat the rodents that carry disease. And unlike warm-blooded rodents, cold-blooded snakes do not pass on the diseases—nature’s ecological immunity system!

We have a variety of snakes in Eldorado. Only two of them (prairie and western diamondback rattlesnakes) are venomous. Our most common non-venomous snakes include the western coach whip (often called red racer), bull snake, hog-nosed snake, and garter snake. In New Mexico, generally a snake with a very pointed tail and a round (not triangular) head is non-venomous. But without training, do not assume you know the difference, as some non-venomous snakes when under duress can mimic the appearance of venomous snakes. And sometimes rattlers lose their rattles.

As much as possible, it’s best to simply leave snakes alone. They will strike only when they feel threatened, and they already face many hazards from humans—including rodent poisons, chicken wire and netting, glue traps, road hazards, and hunting. Add to that the dangers they face from natural predators such as owls, roadrunners, coyotes, and other snakes. Our amazing and helpful snakes need all the assistance they can get.

As with other wild animals, common sense will help to keep encounters with snakes benign. Always keep pets on a leash and in your sight when walking or hiking. If you don’t want snakes on your property, the best prevention is to discourage their food source: rodents. Remove the temptations for rodents—bird seed, dog food, water features in your yard, and a habitat such as wood piles, tall grass, or stacks of rocks. Without a food source, the snakes will move on.

If you want a snake removed from your property, we encourage you not to call a commercial “pest control” company, as it is probably deadly for the animal and can be expensive for you. Instead, contact the Eldorado volunteer program; it’s free, fast, and humane. Organized by Eldorado resident Lyn deMartin, the Eldorado Snake Relocation Volunteers work with the New Mexico Wildlife Center, a non-profit facility that rehabilitates injured wildlife of all types. The Eldorado members are experienced in snake identification, behavior, and safe capture and relocation.

For help with an injured snake or for snake removal, do not try to capture or agitate the animal. Instead, keep it in your sight and call:

- Eldorado Snake Relocation Volunteers (Lyn deMartin) 505-603-0250 (cell)
- The New Mexico Wildlife Center. 505-753-9505 9 AM–4 PM, Monday–Friday
- Eldorado Neighborhood Watch (Marilyn Walker), 466-2553, every day 5–7 pm
- Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) 466-4248, Monday–Friday, 8 AM–5 PM
- Santa Fe County Animal Control 992-1626 or 428-3720

And about those rattlesnakes: Because they sense movement and body heat, if you see or hear a rattlesnake, stop and stand still. Slowly back away. If you are bitten, stay calm. Because the bitten limb will swell, remove rings, watches, tight clothing, and anything that could bind. If your dog is bit, keep the dog tethered to you while you remove or loosen any collar or harness, as swelling will occur. Walk to get help (e.g., call 911 and get to a trail head) or get to the hospital, preferably with someone else driving. Most vets keep anti-venom in stock, but it’s best to call ahead.

—Reprinted from Vistas, July 2015

Coexisting with Wildlife

We’ve heard people say, “The only good coyote—or snake—is a dead one.” This is an incredibly misinformed viewpoint!

A designated “keystone” animal, the average coyote eats 1,000+ rodents per year. Snakes likewise consume many rodents. With the prevalence of rodents in our community, some of which can carry diseases such as hantavirus and leptospirosis, the predators who consume rodents are a blessing to all of us. Their important contributions keep our ecosystem healthy as part of the central balance of nature. Coyotes, members of the Canis family (like our pet dogs), often mate for life, are devoted parents, and are highly communicative.

In general, coyotes are wary of people and will avoid us unless they are being fed by humans, are near a dog (especially a dog off leash), or protecting their own young. If, like some residents, you don’t want coyotes nearby, the national organization called Project Coyote recommends “hazing.” Hazing is a way of scaring (not hurting) the coyote away. Find out more at www.ProjectCoyote.org under Resources > Coyote Hazing Field Guide.

Eldorado is located in one of our state’s amazing wildlife corridors. Most residents appreciate our “nature preserve-like setting.” In fact, if we were to provide a motto for our community, it could be “Eldorado: A Wildlife Friendly Community.” However, because posted signs are outdated or in some cases nonexistent, residents may not be aware of ownership and guidelines regarding the open land (State Trust Land) at the far west end of Avenidas Eldorado and Vista Grande.

Although some of our community’s greenbelt trails go right up to the edge of the State Trust Land (STL), that land is leased to a rancher and is not open to the public except with a current recreational access permit and/or valid hunting license. Public access and use of the land is not encouraged. The fine for trespassing is $500. Contact 505-827-5724 for recreational permit information. Residents are encouraged to purchase a permit, as those funds provide much-needed revenue to support maintenance of the STL.

It’s important to note that even with a permit, dogs are to be leashed on State Trust Land. Cattle (when leased), leg-hold traps, and other hazards pose serious risks to trespassers and loose dogs.

With hunting season upon us, those who use the State Trust Land and those whose property is next to the STL will want to use additional caution. Posted signs from Eldorado provide limited information. Contact NM Game and Fish for additional details: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/enforcement/index.htm.

—Reprinted from Vistas, October 2014
Insects and Toxins

Several years ago, while jogging early on an autumn day, I was amazed to find a large number of “walking stick” insects. Since then, I’ve seen a few here and there, but never as many at one time. Walking sticks have always fascinated me. Closely resembling leafless twigs (hence their name), they are usually still during the daytime (blending into their surroundings) and more active at night when they feed on vegetation.

We have another remarkable insect here in Eldorado, the praying mantis. Our version is the Obscure Ground Mantid, which can grow up to several inches in length. Like walking sticks, mantids typically move slowly. However, since they carry their front legs close to their heads (resembling a position of prayer), they are able to quickly grab insects. Their favorite food? Ants!

Unlike walking sticks and the praying mantis, the termite can be exposed to the toxins and can track them into the home. Children and pets can also be damaged, harming their ability to survive or reproduce. A bird, for example, can pick up a granular pesticide when looking for seeds, or can consume a pesticide-infested insect or plant. The dead bird, then, is eaten by a bird of prey or a mammal which, in turn, is affected. Children and pets can also be exposed to the toxins and can track them into the home.

We should use any such poisons sparingly (if at all) and with extreme caution. Some non-toxic alternatives include sealing entrances (see article below) and removing food sources to prevent rodents, and using mulches and weed barriers to keep weeds at bay. Many other ideas can be found on the Internet.


—Reprinted from Vistas, May 2014
Wisdom from the Wildlife Center

We were saddened when a neighbor said, “I don’t care if the animals were here first. This is my property and I’ll put out poisons if I want to. It’s how I lived in my last state and it’s how I’ll do it here.”

In fact, all of our personal properties are connected in the community of Eldorado, one of New Mexico’s wonderful wildlife corridors. We humans are good at building neighborhoods in such spaces, desirable areas that are valued for natural beauty and serenity. We don’t always recognize that animals need to continue moving through their natural corridors. One of our responsibilities as residents is to be aware of this and to educate ourselves on native wildlife so that we can respectfully coexist with them. Toward that end, the Eldorado Flora and Fauna team recently visited with Katherine Eagleson, Executive Director of The Wildlife Center.

Located in Española, The Wildlife Center (TWC) works to conserve and restore native wildlife and their habitats through education, public awareness, strategic partnerships, and responsible wildlife rehabilitation. “We believe that when people experience wildlife, they will be compelled to understand it. When they understand it, they will value it. When they value it, they will protect it.” TWC contains a wildlife hospital and rehabilitation facility, educational space, and a “Wild Walk” of over 35 animals that could not be released into the wild for reasons such as permanent injuries.

“There is no wilderness nirvana,” said Katherine. “We at TWC do our best with the injured animals that are brought to us, but often relocation is not the best solution. Neighborhoods like Eldorado are fortunate in their abundance of native wildlife. As people infringe further and further into wildlife’s natural terrain, encounters will be more frequent. Education and respect are paramount. Learn how to live with the animals, how to avoid conflict with them.”

One of the issues relates to society’s dislike of predators. Wolves, coyotes, snakes, and other animals vilified by myth and popular culture are necessary for wildlife balance. Without top predators, communities experience an influx of rats, mice, skunks, and other less desirable animals. Animals, moreover, are attracted to humans’ yards, which have sources of water (irrigation, fountains, rain barrels) and food (bird food, gardens, compost piles).

Take, for example, the mountain lion. These animals are very rarely dangerous to humans and are typically simply passing through, generally not interested in bothering us. (See February 2014 Vistas for more information on mountain lions.) Educating ourselves on working with wildlife, on the importance of predators, and working with our yard designs will help us to better manage our community in a responsible and coexistent manner.

Learn more, including what to do if you find an animal that you believe needs help, at http://www.TheWildlifeCenter.org.

You can also directly help TWC with food donations. The animals require significant amounts of vegetables, including excess produce from trees and gardens as well as fruit tree trimmings, on a daily basis. Contact TWC for further information: 505-753-9505.

—Reprinted from Vistas, July 2014

Mountain Lions and Juniper

Mountain Lions—aka cougar, puma, or catamount—are featured in various Native American myths and spiritual beliefs, representing both positive and negative forces. European explorers, settlers, and ranchers, however, have been largely unvarying in their antagonism. Bounties, sport hunting, trophy collections, and killing contests have devastated mountain lion populations in every state. Continuing to lose most of their original ranges—like the wolf, jaguar, and grizzly—they survive now in only small populations.

It’s highly unlikely you would encounter a mountain lion, since they are shy and elusive, almost never seen by people. Still, we do live in mountain lion country; it’s a good idea to know some things about these magnificent animals.

First, do not confuse mountain lions with bobcats! (Don’t be surprised. Many people aren’t sure of the difference.) Mountain lions are more than twice the size of bobcats; a mature mountain lion can be 7 to 8 feet head to tail tip, whereas a mature bobcat is typically 3 feet. Mountain lions have long tails, bobcat tails are, well, bobbed. Although attacks on humans are extremely rare, mountain lions can conceivably pose a danger to people, but bobcats typically do not (but be wary on behalf of your unattended small pets).

Mountain lions are known for their beauty, strength, agility, and amazing ability to jump (look at those strong hind legs!). They don’t roar, but they make a variety of sounds: purr, chirp, snarl, growl, hiss, and scream. Most active from dusk to dawn, they are primarily dangerous when protecting their young or feeding on a kill.

For further information, including what to do if you meet a mountain lion, we recommend The Mountain Lion Foundation site (www.mountainlion.org/) and NM Game and Fish (www.wildlife.state.nm.us/publications/documents/predator.pdf).

Juniper Trees—Juniper trees, a member of the cypress family, have the largest geographical range of any woody plant worldwide and can live up to 120 years! The male tree produces the pollen to which so many of us are allergic. In spring, the flowers appear on the male tree as small yellow blossoms near the end of twigs; those blossoms release pollen, which is dispersed widely by our strong winds to pollinate the female tree.

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.

Juniper allergy, common in the spring, can cause itchy eyes, throat, runny nose, sneezing, sometimes fatigue and headaches, and other symptoms. Only your doctor can determine the cause of your allergy; if it’s juniper, you would be wise to begin the treatment recommended by your doctor before the pollen is in the air.

—Reprinted from Vistas, February 2014
We heard them in the still of the night. Small scratching sounds. Scurrying noises throughout the ceiling, scampering rapidly from one room to another. Gnawing sounds that were remarkably loud. We had mice in the home! We knew mice were destructive—chewing wires and wood, potentially carrying diseases—but we had never known how crazy-making their sounds could be.

In the winter months, mice are attracted to the shelter, warmth, and food sources that can be found around and inside our houses. We had taken what we thought were good precautions—removing thick shrubs near the door, repairing worn areas around windows, keeping the compost pile a good distance away—but we still had mice in the house.

Our cats evidently weren’t mousers or at least never had the chance to try their hunting skills, since the mice stayed within the walls and ceilings. We tried setting traps—the snap kind that kill instantly, not the glue kind that are so cruel—but the mice evaded them.

We didn’t want to use poisons; we think they are dangerous to have in a house, especially with pets and children around. Also, poisons can take a long time to work, which is not only inhumane but causes the mice to die within the house walls, creating a horrible smell. Finally, rodenticides pose a significant risk to non-target wildlife; bobcats, coyotes, hawks, and owls that 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—and maybe also 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, 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.

WINTERIZING THE GARDEN

In addition to taking steps to keep out unwanted rodent visitors during the winter months, there are some procedures we can take to help our plants get through the cold season. Thoroughly water shrubs before freezing temperatures arrive. After the ground freezes, cover the bases of perennials with a loose mulch of straw, leaves, or pine needles. Some of us like to protect young or thin hardwood trunks from winter sun damage by using tree wrap. To stop rodents from chewing the bark, install a cylinder around it. Bury the cylinder a couple inches in the ground, have it reach up to 2 feet above the anticipated snow line, and be sure to leave a few inches between the trunk and the cylinder.
A new neighbor, unfamiliar with our wildlife, recently saw a jackrabbit for the first time. “Wow! I wasn’t sure if it was a dog or something completely different,” he said. “Then I realized, it’s one of those things I’ve heard about, a jackrabbit!”

Most of us are familiar with the common New Mexico cottontail. But we may not be as accustomed to jackrabbits. Cottontail rabbits and jackrabbits are both from the order Lagamorpha; they are not rodents. But here’s the part that can be a surprise: despite the name, jackrabbits are not rabbits. They are, rather, hares.

Although rabbits and hares share many traits, there are a number of significant differences. Compared to rabbits, hares (“jackrabbits”) are longer (24–26 inches), faster (can run 35 MPH), and have larger home ranges. Unlike many rabbits, hares do not dig their own burrow, and they eat a slightly different diet (more hard foods such as bark, rinds, and twigs). Also unlike rabbits, young jackrabbits are born with eyes open, fully furred, and able to hop right away.

The misnomer jackrabbit came from early settlers, who called them “jackassrabbits” (due to their long ears, like a jackass). The name was later shortened to jackrabbits.

Chamisa: Our Eldorado landscape is painted bright yellow every year in late summer when the chamisa shrubs come into bloom. Chamisa, also called Rubber Rabbit Bush or Rabbit Brush, grows naturally along our roads and fields. The plant is also purposefully cultivated both for its beauty and for erosion control.

Chamisa, a member of the Aster family, can achieve a height of 3 to 4 feet. Its yellow (sometimes white) flowers provide nutrition for bees and butterflies. The plant grows well throughout Rocky Mountain high desert areas. Once established, it needs little water, making it an excellent xeric plant for Eldorado.

When in bloom, chamisa emits a pungent odor, which some people dislike, and its pollen can produce allergies, so it’s best to avoid direct contact. Chamisa are blooming somewhat erratically this year due to our unusual weather, but it’s still easy to spot the bright yellow flowers. These blooms were used as a traditional dye for Native American blankets and as a paint ingredient by early Spanish-Americans.

Wildcats in Eldorado

This is bobcat breeding season, and these big cats, as well as mountain lions, have been spotted in Eldorado. Bobcats are about two to three times the size of the average house cat. Named bobcats for their short bobbed tail, they are tan or grayish with black spots or streaks on legs and around the head. The short tail has a dark tip. By contrast, the mountain lion (also called cougar or panther) is large, averaging 130–160 pounds and is tan and has a very long tail. Mountain lions are more rare in our area (see photos on back page).

Bobcats are mainly nocturnal, but will hunt during the day. They are very efficient predators of small mammals, snakes, birds, and even deer. They will take cats and small dogs, so small pets need to be protected. Bobcats are able to jump 12 feet. They tend to lay in wait under bushes and then pounce on their prey.

Remember that wild bird food attracts small mammals and birds, which then attract bobcats and coyotes. Water and shelter will also attract them. So, feed your pets inside or remove uneaten pet food, and don’t leave pets’ water out at night if your pet is inside. To scare bobcats away if they are in your yard, make a lot of noise (bang on a pan) or spray with a hose. Never corner one, as they will fight. Back away and give them a chance to retreat. If necessary, open a gate to encourage them to leave. The objective is not to hurt them but to scare them off by making your yard undesirable.

Bobcats are beautiful wild creatures and we can co-exist with them. They are normally reclusive, so if you see one, treasure the moment. Like most wild animals, they can be dangerous, so treat them with respect. To learn more about wild animals in New Mexico, go to New Mexico Game and Fish, www.wildlife.state.nm.us, or call 1-800-476-8000.

—Ann Wood

Reprinted from Vistas, April 2011
Pronghorn Antelope

We in Eldorado are sometimes fortunate to see Pronghorn Antelope. Found in much of our state, Pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana*) are remarkably fast. They can maintain speeds of 30 MPH over long distances and can sprint up to 60 MPH.

The Apache, one of the few tribes that did not eat Pronghorn Antelope meat, had a legend that a beautiful young woman of the tribe became a Pronghorn. Her descendants run with the herd, so eating the meat could be the same as eating an ancestor.

The Blackfeet had a legend that the god Old Man created the Pronghorn in the Rockies, but the animal’s great speed caused it to fall on the mountain surface. Old Man then moved the Pronghorn to the prairie, where it thrived along with bison.

And thrive it did. Large Pronghorn herds—an estimated 40 million—roamed the American West. Even into the late 1800s, a train passenger described a herd of antelope that covered seventy miles. These amazing animals, like the bison, were driven to the brink of extinction due to massive slaughters.

The Pronghorn is North America’s only big game animal with branched horns, from which it gets its name. Their horns are not antlers but are true horns, derived from hairs. Pronghorns shed the hollow outer sheath each year in October and November and grow a new set by July.

Living an average of ten years, Pronghorns are herbivores, eating grasses, sagebrush, and other prairie plants. In some areas, Pronghorns migrate long distances between summer and winter feeding grounds, depending on food availability. They rarely jump over 3 feet, which means most fences interrupt their migrating patterns.

It’s important to remember it is never wise to feed wild animals, as it obviously draws them toward homes and can make them too comfortable around people. Many residents, for example, enjoy feeding birds, but it’s good to realize that bird feed also attracts other animals as well—mice, squirrels, and rabbits—and they in turn attract predators.

Coyotes, our native “song dogs,” are one of our most common predators. If, like some residents, you don’t want them nearby, the national organization called Project Coyote recommends “hazing.” Hazing is a way of scaring (not hurting) the coyote away. Find out more at [ProjectCoyote.org](http://ProjectCoyote.org) under Resources > Coyote Hazing Field Guide.

Reprinted from *Vistas*, November 2014

Pronghorn antelope sighted in Eldorado. Top: Along Avenida de Compadres (photo: Margo Jenkins); bottom in area greenbelt (photo: Ann Wood).

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Is Cholla Native Here?

Is cholla native here? This was a question posed to John Oberhauser recently. You know him as Obie—he’s Eldorado’s cactus guru. His answer was twofold. Some say that cholla came here from Texas with the cowboys and cattle drives over a hundred years ago. Others tell of cholla being consumed by the Native Americans long before the cattle drives. We know that the natives used cholla flower buds in tea.

There are two species of cholla in this area. Eldorado has a common species of cholla (Tree cholla), which we all have in our yards, while Santa Fe has a species of its own. Santa Fe cholla, found near the Old Fort Marcy area, is smaller than our species and is endangered.

Rodents, such as pack rats and ground squirrels, like to live under cholla and eat the roots. They are a threat to cholla but they tend not to totally kill the plants. If you look closely at the base of the plant, you will detect some signs of life. Global climate change is a factor that has taken a toll on their numbers as well.

According to Obie, the best way to propagate cholla is to break or cut pieces from the parent plant at the joints. Leave these to set until they form a scab at the break point, which takes around two weeks. When nicely scabbed, place it in the ground without water, because there are no roots to absorb it yet. Then, a month later, give the new plant some water. The best time to plant new cacti is in April and May.

Last spring, Obie and his friends planted a cactus garden at the ECIA. This spring they plan to expand it. At its completion, they think it will probably be the fourth biggest cactus garden in New Mexico. To learn more, visit Obie’s website at [cactusrescueproject.info](http://cactusrescueproject.info). To see cactus pictures and identifications, go to [obiescactus.info](http://obiescactus.info).

Reprinted from *Vistas*, March 2014
Good Dogs Make Good Neighbors

Dog owners may find it hard to believe that many people don’t want the affections of every dog they meet on our trails. On the other hand, some people believe that every dog is a threat. So how do we share the trails?

This brochure outlines a solution which is based on the county’s animal control ordinance and was adopted by the Eldorado Community Improvement Association’s board of directors. If you find a dog owner who doesn’t follow these rules, please explain the reasons for them. They are based on a spirit of cooperation and everyone should be given the opportunity to comply with them.

Working & Playing Together

Santa Fe County’s animal control ordinance requires owners to control their dogs at all times. Since Eldorado is located in Santa Fe County, residents must comply with this ordinance.

The county ordinance lays out these requirements for dog owners:

1. “It is unlawful for any owner to allow or permit any dog to run at large [and] be free of control beyond an enclosed lot or the premises or the vehicle of the owner.”
2. “Animals shall be restrained to prevent damage or harm to people and property.”
3. “When a dog is off its owner’s premises, it must be under leash, or under control of the owner.”
4. “Any animal trespassing upon public or private property shall be deemed . . . not to be under the immediate control of the owner.”
5. “It is unlawful for any owner to allow any of his animals to persistently or continuously bark, howl . . . or otherwise disturb the peace and quiet of the inhabitants of the county.

Violations of the ordinance are punishable by a fine not exceeding $500 and/or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months.

Responsible Dog Ownership Policy

Adopted by the ECIA Board
April 18, 2013
Eldorado’s Revised Responsible Dog Ownership Policy and Guidelines explains this in detail.

On Eldorado properties, owners must:

- Always keep their dog(s) under control.
- Never let their dog(s) approach another person without that person’s permission.
- Yield the right-of-way to other people they encounter on Eldorado’s trails and in its public areas.
- Use a leash or restrain your dog by hand when in the presence of other people.
- Always leash your dog in high use common properties which include:
  - ECIA Community Center
  - Athletic & sports fields
  - Compadres Park
  - All bike paths
  - All green belts
- Never allow dogs to trespass on private property.
- Do not allow your dog to bark or howl persistently or continuously.
- Always restrain pets from harassing wildlife.
- Pick up after dogs and dispose of pet waste properly.

Regardless of where they are walking, dogs must yield to pedestrians, equestrians and bicyclists. That means owners must call their dog to their side, step out of the oncoming person’s path and physically restrain the dog until the other person has passed.

In Eldorado’s community preserve, keep off-leash dogs within sight and close enough that they can be immediately called when approaching other people.

What to do if the rules are broken?
If you encounter a dog owner who does not follow these rules, please explain the reasons for them. These rules are based on a spirit of cooperation and everyone should be given the opportunity to comply with them. If the dog owner doesn’t comply, note where and when the problem occurred. Call the County’s animal control division (505-428-3720) or call the sheriff on weekends and after hours (505-992-1621).

Report all infractions to the ECIA office at 505-466-4248. Always call 911 if a dog threatens or causes physical harm to a person.

For more details on the Eldorado dog policy, visit eldoradosf.org.
The Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) provides free to its membership a 50 acre recreational area surrounding its Community Center Building. The above map indicates where individual activity areas are located relative to that building. Sports equipment can be borrowed, or a pool pass obtained, from the ECIA office inside.
YOUR LIBRARY provides these free services:

Books, DVDs, audio books, iPods with audio books, telescopes, and museum passes to NM State museums and cultural sites all available using a free library card

Wi-Fi 24/7 and public computers with internet access (no card required)

Magazines and local newspaper

Programs for children/adults
Art exhibitions
Meeting room

Check our website www.vglibrary.org for more information.

Consider volunteering - a great way to get to know your community
In addition to what you can take (free) to the Eldorado Convenience Center, the following items can be dropped off at La Tienda for reuse and recycling. Take items to Building B near the Gym and Las Chivas unless noted otherwise:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>What happens to it?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clean #5 plastics</td>
<td>All containers should be empty and clean. Taken to Whole Foods, then shipped to Preserve for manufacture into new products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine bottle corks</td>
<td>Taken to Whole Foods, then shipped to a company that makes trivets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothbrushes</td>
<td>All containers should be empty and clean. Shipped to TerraCycle for manufacture into new products through the Tom’s of Maine recycling program. Payment is donated to a local school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothpaste tubes &amp; caps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental floss containers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deodorant containers &amp; caps (non-aerosol only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair care packaging</td>
<td>All containers should be empty and clean. Shipped to TerraCycle for manufacture into new products through the Garnier recycling program. Payment is donated to a local school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin care packaging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosmetics packaging (non-aerosol only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pens &amp; markers</td>
<td>Taken to Eldorado Water (EAWSD). Payment supports third world water projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber bands</td>
<td>Reused by local newspaper carriers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic shoes</td>
<td>Good quality shoes are donated to a local charity for reuse. Others are taken to the local NIKE outlet, then ground into playground surface material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas lights (seasonal only)</td>
<td>Taken to Capital Metals. Payment supports our E/285 Recycles programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printer ink cartridges</td>
<td>Eldorado Computer Works recycles and donates proceeds to the El Dorado Community School.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✦ Drop off in box in Building A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers and related electronics</td>
<td>Workable computers are donated for reuse. Nonworking components are recycled using environmentally certified recyclers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✦ Drop off with Eldorado Computer Works in Building A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

August 5, 2015
**MIXED RECYCLING MATERIALS - RECICLAJE MIXTO**

All mixed paper materials including paper, paperback and books. Recyclables should be clean and dry.

- Corrugated cardboard should be flattened and bundled and placed NEXT to the blue "Mixed Recycling" bin for pickup.
- Cartón aplanado

- Junk mail; newspaper; paper bags; empty pizza boxes; shredded paper in clear bags; all other white or colored paper
- Correo de chatarra; periódicos; bolsas de papel; cajas de pizza vacías; papel picado en bolsas transparentes; todo el papel blanco o de color
- Magazines, telephone, hardback and paperback books
- Revistas, teléfono, tapa dura y libros de bolsillo

- Paperboard materials such as towel/tissue rolls, cereal boxes, tissue boxes, egg cartons, and beverage boxes
- Materiales de cartón, tales como rollos de toalla/loterio, cajas de cereales, cajas de pañuelos, cajas de huevos, y las cajas de bebidas

**CITY OF SANTA FE CURBSIDE PROGRAM**

Mixed containers including ALL plastic (regardless of #) and metal bottles, tubs, clamshells, packaging, cans and foil items and milk cartons/ juice pouches. Recyclables should be clean and dry.

- Plastic jars/tubs and clamshells with tops
- Tarros de plástico / tinas y almejas con las tapas

- All plastic bottles with caps
- Todas las botellas de plástico con tapas

- Milk/Juice Cartons/Pouches
- Leche / Jugo Cartones / Bolsas

- Aluminum containers and foil products
- Aluminio

- All glass bottles and jars should be placed into the "GLASS ONLY" blue bin separate from all other recyclable materials.
- Vidrio única.

**RETHINK YOUR WASTE SANTA FE...RECYCLE! Call 505-955-2200 or Visit: www.santafenm.gov/trash_and_recycling**

**CANNOT BE RECYCLED AT CURBSIDE! NO PUEDE SER RECICLADO EN LA ACERA!**

- Toys
- Juguetes

- Tires
- Neumáticos

- Green waste
- Residuos verdes

- Motor oil containers
- Botellas de aceite del motor

- Sharp/needles
- Apuntes / agujas

- Garden hoses
- Manguera de jardín

- Plastic bags
- Bolsas de plástico

- Electronics
- Electrónicos

- Clothing
- Ropa usada

- Styrofoam
- Espuma de poliestireno

- Trash
- Basura

**Additional recycling programs for any City resident are available at the Buckman Road Recycling and Transfer Station (BuRTT).**

- These recycling programs include:
  - Computer monitors, televisions, electronic wastes, etc.
  - Small appliances and scrap metal
  - Batteries and light bulbs
  - Oil, paint, pesticide and other hazardous materials
  - Green waste
  - Tires
  - Glass bottles/jars

The City of Santa Fe Environmental Services Division offers curbside trash and recycling collection on a weekly basis to residents within the city limits. Please stop by 1142 Siler Road if you need new or additional recycling bins.

For More Information Please Call 505-955-2200 or Visit: www.santafenm.gov/trash_and_recycling
RECYCLING IS FREE AT ALL SANTA FE COUNTY CONVENIENCE CENTERS!

All mixed paper materials including paper, cardboard and books. Recyclables should be clean and dry.

Junk mail; newspaper; paper bags; empty pizza boxes; shredded paper in clear bags; all other white or colored paper
Correos de chatarra; periódico; bolsas de papel; cajas de pizza vacías; papel picado en bolsas transparentes; todo el papel blanco o de color
Magazines, telephone, hardback and paperback books
Revistas, teléfono, tapa dura y libros de bolsillo

Paperboard materials such as towel/tissue rolls, cereal boxes, tissue boxes, egg cartons, and beverage boxes
Materiales de cartón, tales como rollos de toalla/tejido, cajas de cereales, cajas de huevos, y las cajas de bebidas

Mixed containers including ALL plastic (regardless of #) and metal bottles, tubs, clamshells, packaging, cans and foil items and milk cartons/juice pouches. Recyclables should be clean and dry.

Plastic jars/tubs and clamshells with tops and toys
Tarros de plástico/tinas y almejas con las tapas, y juguetes

Glass bottles and jars should be placed into the "GLASS ONLY" container and should always be separate from all other recyclable materials.
Vidrio único

RETHINK YOUR WASTE SANTA FE...RECYCLE! Call 505-992-3025 or www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works/solidwaste

CANNOT BE RECYCLED! NO PUEDEN SER RECICLADOS!

- Garden hoses
- Electronics
- Plastic bags
- Sharps/needles
- Trash
- Clothing
- Containers which held toxins such as paint, pesticides or motor oil
- Styrofoam
- Used paper towels

Santa Fe County Convenience Center
Additional Recycling Programs
- Green waste is accepted at the Jacona, Eldorado & Stanley Convenience Centers. One punch needed.
- Antifreeze and oil are accepted at the Nambe, Eldorado, San Marcos and Stanley Convenience Centers. Free-no punch needed.
- The Eldorado Convenience Center has a Reuse area. TVs are accepted at this reuse area. One punch needed.
- Fireplace ash is accepted at the La Cienega and Eldorado Convenience Centers. One punch needed.
- Small appliances and scrap metal are accepted at all convenience centers except Tesuque. Free-no punch needed.
- Glass, fluorescent bulbs, and small batteries are accepted at the Eldorado Convenience Center. Free-no punch needed.
- Tires are accepted at all convenience centers, up to 8 tires/month/ household. One punch needed.
- Rancho Viejo Convenience Center only has cardboard, mixed recycling and glass containers. Free-no punch needed.

Santa Fe County operates eight (8) convenience centers for residents to use. Punch cards are required to leave trash and some items outlined above. Residents are able to recycle all traditional recyclables at any convenience center with NO punch (free).

For More Information Please Call 505-992-3025 or visit www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works/solidwaste