ICE CREAM SOCIAL & SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT VISTA GRANDE PUBLIC LIBRARY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017, 1 TO 4 PM, ECIA COMMUNITY CENTER

This annual summer event will be packed with delicious food, live entertainment, and family fun! Café Fina will be making gluten-free apple and mixed fruit crisps again. Gallons and gallons of ice cream will be on hand to top the crisps or to create sundaes and root beer floats; and fresh, sweet watermelon will also tempt event-goers. The Silent Auction, another event highlight, will have a wide array of great items to bid on: beautiful baskets, gift certificates for services and dining, books, local jewelry, artwork, food and wine.

This year Connie Long and Fast Patsy, winner of the NM Best Country Album, will be playing their unique style of cover and original country and Americana rock under the bandstand, and two-step dance lessons are planned for the band’s breaks. The kid tents will have lots of fun activities, including Legos and crafts. The Flora and Fauna and Cactus Recovery Garden groups will be on hand to demonstrate and chat, and Eldorado 285 Recycles will help make this a zero-waste event. Best of all, everyone can enjoy the good company of neighbors and friends while supporting the local non-profit library.

Admission wristbands are good for unlimited ice cream and the chance to bid on items in the silent auction, plus family entertainment and activities. The price for adult admission is $8, and for children ages 6–11, $5. Or purchase a family ticket, which includes two adults and your children (under 18), for only $20. Children 5 and under are free. Entertainment/Auction Only tickets will also be available for $5, if preferred. Wristbands are on sale on the library website, www.vglibrary.org (click the Donate Now! button), at the gate, and will be sold at the event. Cash, local checks with identification, Visa/MasterCard, Discover, and American Express will be accepted.

VGPL is an independent, non-profit organization. This means that while the library receives partial funding from Santa Fe County and grants, over 50% of the budget comes from direct community support. Fundraisers like this one pay for programming, new books and materials, staffing, and other operations that make southeastern Santa Fe’s community library what it is. Summer Fling is a major fundraiser supporting access to library resources for everyone in our area.

During our emergency closure, books and media may be returned to the outdoor drop box. Summer Fling Silent Auction donations may be dropped off at the library meeting room between 10 and 1 on weekdays. The library appreciates the public’s patience during this closure and directs the public to continue leaving emails, phone messages, and visiting the website for updates.

—Tracey Mitchell

NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTOR JODY PRICE

One of our newly elected 2017 Board members is Jody Price. He, his wife, Amy, and their cats arrived in Eldorado three years ago from New Jersey. But Jody was originally from Albuquerque and spent time in this area until the 1970s. Jody works in the IT healthcare field and is a musician. He composes and is a guitar player. Locally, he has been heard at Upper Crust and other venues. He is looking to become more involved in the Santa Fe music scene.

Jody ran for a Board position because he likes and wants to be active in the Eldorado community. His goal is to improve communications between the Board and the community. Jody is the Board liaison to the Information Committee.

—Marilyn Farrell

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Meet Your Architecture Committee

In the first half of 2017, Eldorado became the hottest real estate market in New Mexico and one of the more sizzling in the entire country. Good schools are a factor in attracting young families, while reasonably priced community amenities appeal to everyone. Clubhouse facilities, athletic courts, pools, a dog park, a 4,094-acre nature preserve, neighborhood parks, and miles of trails make the ECIA one of the nation’s best homeowner associations.

A key element to Eldorado’s current real estate success is its maintenance of the architectural guidelines that add cohesion to our neighborhoods. In this regard, the Architecture Committee works hard to advise, assist, and provide recommendations to residents building or renovating—everything from restuccoing and painting to undertaking major construction. The Committee ultimately protects the real estate investments of all Eldoradoans.

The volunteers of the Architecture Committee review all plans for construction, addition, or remodeling of structures covered under the Covenants and Guidelines. Meeting twice a month at 7 PM on the second and fourth Tuesdays in the foyer of the ECIA (check for holiday calendar changes), the meetings are open for any resident to attend. Feel free to come learn more about this committee and, if you are interested, in how to join.

As always, a special thanks goes to the current and past Architecture Committee volunteers, as well as to all the resident volunteers who put in thousands of free hours of work a year to ensure Eldorado remains an area you are proud to call home.

Eldorado Preserve Trail 201 Erosion Control Project

Last winter’s storms caused a lot of erosion on the Eldorado Preserve and, in particular, began to undercut the popular 201 trail. Without intervention, it’s likely that the arroyo will widen and destroy a significant section of this trail.

To slow the erosion, the Conservation Committee sponsored several workdays in June. Several volunteers participated, and we wish to express our thanks to all of them.

With the guidance of Jan-Willem Jansen of Eco-tone Landscape Planning, volunteers spread a “layer cake” of cardboard, horse manure, and straw on the ground above the erosion “head-cuts.” This mixture is intended to encourage the growth of foliage to help hold the soil in place. You can see a video of the project on YouTube at https://youtu.be/jdUvyQJRIls.

Large stones were also placed to slow the erosion from below, and a section of the trail close to the arroyo edge was rerouted up the hill to lessen the danger to walkers from the undercut bank which could collapse.

As you might imagine, the opportunity to shovel horse manure is one that must be experienced to fully appreciate, but everyone had fun and has the satisfaction of helping improve the health of our preserve.

Many newcomers to Eldorado think that our preserve and greenbelts are in a “natural” state, but in actuality they are only slowly recovering from a hundred

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 >>>

Members of the Architecture Committee, June 2017: Front, left to right: Robert Miller, Jolene Petrowski, and Casey Cronin. Back, left to right: Mark Young (staff liaison), Steve Taratula, David McDonald (Board liaison), Gary Moran (co-chair), Nina Harrison, and Katherine Mortimer (chair).
Message from Board Director Mike McDowell

I am relatively new to your ECIA governing Board, having been appointed to fill a vacancy last November. A little bit about our family: I am a retired public power utility executive. My wife is a retired educator and a talented artist. We found Eldorado while looking for a home in Santa Fe—what a great community to live in!

Let’s visit about ECIA roads and traffic. Santa Fe County owns and is responsible for our roads. This responsibility includes maintenance as well as traffic regulation and enforcement. All road users, motorists and bicyclists alike, are required to obey traffic regulations. These include observing speed limits and stop signs. Posted speed limits and stop signs are not implemented arbitrarily. As a former member of a state transportation commission, I can tell you that all states have manuals prepared by traffic management professionals establishing guidelines on traffic regulations.

ECIA is fortunate to have a Roads Committee made up of volunteers that interfaces with the county traffic managers and the local sheriff on road maintenance and traffic regulations. This relationship assists the county in understanding residents’ concerns and interests.

We are lucky to live in a semi-rural setting with minimal significant traffic issues. However, Board members do receive concerns from residents about excessive speed and the running of stop signs. These concerns are passed on to the county for enforcement.

ECIA volunteers give of their time and effort to make our home a better place. We’d love to have you participate on one of the many ECIA volunteer advisory committees.

Finally, ECIA is nearing the beginning of the 2018 budget cycle. Although there will be public forums to discuss 2018 budgeting, don’t hesitate to pass on ideas and/or concerns. The ECIA staff and Board would welcome your thoughts and suggestions for making this great place even better.

—Mike McDowell, ECIA Board Director

Recent Board Actions

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association met on Monday July 24, 2017. Members present were President John Henriksen, Vice-President Antone Forneris, Treasurer Joseph Gutierrez, Secretary Michael McDonald, and Directors Pam Henline, David McDonald, and Jody Price. The following formal actions were taken by the Board:

- A motion to recognize the resignation of Pat Dohahue from the ECIA Stable Committee passed unanimously.
- A motion to appoint Amelia Adaire as new member of the ECIA Stable Committee passed unanimously.
- The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors will be a working session on August 16, 2017, at 6 PM, in the Community Center Classroom. On August 21, 2017, at 7 PM, the Board will conduct its regular meeting in the Railroad Room at the Community Center.
- Regular Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at the Community Center and are open to the public. An open forum and community announcements are normally included. Complete minutes and agendas are available at the ECIA office or on the website: www.eldoradosf.org.

Pesticide Policy Review

The ECIA Board is reviewing its current pesticide policy (first put into effect on September 15, 1998), to assess its continued relevance and suitability. This policy states:

1. The ECIA will use the least toxic materials for pest control, as cost allows, by employing principles of integrated pest management (IPM). Basic IPM principles include (a) prevention of pest problems; (b) monitoring of pest problems; and (c) using non-chemical means to control pests whenever possible.
2. The ECIA will use the least toxic materials for maintaining its community property and facilities, as cost allows.
3. The ECIA will, whenever possible, notify Eldorado residents when pesticides or other toxic chemicals will be used or have been used by the ECIA.
Volunteers Sought for Finance Committee:
The ECIA Finance Committee is actively seeking new members. This committee provides advice to the ECIA Board concerning financial operations and budget administration; they develop annual budgets, review capital expenditures, make forecasts, review expenditures and investments, and assist in developing financial policies and procedures. More information about the committee can be found at http://eldoradosf.org/Committes/finance-committeee.html. Contact Sal Monaco at salmonaco@yahoo.com or 505-690-5125.

Household Fire Extinguisher Collection
El Dorado Fire and Rescue will be collecting old, unwanted fire extinguishers at their annual barbecue at ECIA on September 17. Fire extinguishers should not be put in the regular trash or taken to the Eldorado Convenience Center, as they are considered hazardous waste. They will be hauled to Buckman Road Recycling and Transfer Station (BuRRT) at the end of the day as a service to residents.

Cut Your WM Trash Bill by $5
The most recent bill from Waste Management to Eldorado residents who have their trash collected by WM may have a $5 charge show as “Administrative charge.” This is most likely a charge for the homeowner receiving a paper bill in the mail. Customers can sign up for e-mail billing to eliminate this fee. Call 505 892-1200.

August Rose Clinic
On August 5, from 9 AM to noon, the Santa Fe Master Gardeners (SFMG) are holding a Rose Clinic at Harvey Cornell Rose Park, 1315 Galisteo St. Learn how to get roses ready for winter and then work in the rose garden. Instruction is from 9:00 to 9:30 AM, and feeding the garden is scheduled from 9:30 until noon. Bring a small handheld shovel, gloves, and wear long sleeve clothing.

Native Plant ID
On August 5, from 9 to 11 AM (or longer), at the Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve, 27283 West Frontage Road, the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association and the Santa Fe Botanical Garden are co-sponsoring a basic introduction to the identification of wetlands and upland native plants.

August Compost Clinic
Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at the County Fairgrounds (3229 Rodeo Road) are on offer on Saturday, August 12, from 9 to 11 AM. Attend a 30-minute lecture on “Worms Eat My Garbage: Using Red Worms to Compost Your Food Scraps,” followed by hands-on work. Bring hats, gloves, sturdy shoes, water and a pitchfork, if you have one.

How to Plan a Fall Vegetable Garden with Cool Season Crops
On Sunday, August 13, from noon to 2 PM, at the Master Gardener Vegetable Gardens at the County Fairgrounds (3229 Rodeo Rd), learn how to put your garden to bed and plan for all fall gardening, with tips on extending your growing season, things to consider while the summer winds down, and how to winterize your garden.

Northern NM Grass ID
On Saturday, September 2, from 9 to 11 AM (or longer), at the Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve (27283 West Frontage Road), the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association and the Santa Fe Botanical Garden are offering an introduction to grass species identification, with emphasis on northern New Mexican species. Bring a hand lens or magnifying glass, if you have one.

The Bobcat Inn
Did you know there is a 5-room bed-and-breakfast just around the corner? The Bobcat Inn is located at 442 Old Las Vegas Highway right next to the old Bobcat Bite, and they are currently offering Eldorado residents a 5% neighborhood discount (certain restrictions apply) for our friends and family who need a place to stay while visiting. Whether you don't have room or you just like your space, this is a great alternative to hosting visitors at your place.

Under new management as of spring of 2016, Ryan and Jessica Miller are poised to further position the Bobcat Inn into one of the “must-experience” retreats in Santa Fe. Make the Bobcat Inn your guest’s destination for delicious food, a great view, and a comfortable stay. Call today to take a tour. (505) 988-9239.

Yoga: Being “in the moment”
What does it mean to “live in the moment”? Have you tried it? It is not easy; our minds constantly take us back to the past or hurtling into the future. Unless you practice meditation regularly, there are few, if any, times during the day that we stop all activities, sit down, and simply give ourselves a mental break. Our minds are always busy, especially in these times of constant contact. Practicing yoga is an excellent way to learn how to let go of our thoughts and simply “be” for an hour or so. By focusing our awareness on our breath and the movement of our bodies in harmony with each inhale and exhale, we begin to notice that our thoughts become further apart and our breathing slows down, creating a feeling of great well-being and mental relaxation. With enough practice, just by stepping onto your mat, you will send signals to your mind and body that nothing else is as important as this very moment, right now. You are on a mental vacation!

Julia Cairns and Mary Horst teach yoga classes every week day at the Eldorado Community Center.
MOVIE NITE AT THE POOL

Bringt your pool pass and enjoy a movie in the lovely summer night air at the ECIA pool. Friday, August 11, 8 PM: “Moana,” an animated Disney film set in ancient Polynesia.

**M O V I E N I T E AT T H E P O O L (“M o a n a”) Fri., Aug. 11, 8 pm**

Kelsae Pederson 466-2511 Pool
Foxtail: Pretty, and Pretty Dangerous

Foxtail, those attractive grasses with bushy spikes that look like a fox’s tail, can bring dangers to mammals, especially domestic cats and dogs. Not all foxtails are a problem, but the kind that are common here, *Hordeum jubatum* (also known as wild barley), can be nasty, especially when it is hot and the plants are dry.

Foxtails typically grow where soil has been disturbed, along roadsides, new construction sites, and deeply mowed lawns. Foxtail barbs, small hooks located in the hardened spikelet tips of the plant, burrow into objects the way fishhooks do. The barbs can be carried in the wind and cling to an animal’s fur, mouth, eyes, ears, and genitals. Movement causes the barbs to burrow in, infiltrating the fur, skin, and even internal organs. Burrowed barbs can cause infection and significant health problems, including deafness, loss of vision, lung and even brain difficulties.

Most native animals have shorter fur, which avoids the problem. But domestic animals, especially those with longer fur, can more easily fall victim to the barbs. Eldoradoans should learn to recognize foxtails and remove them from their property. Avoid walking your companion animals in areas with foxtails. After walking, give your animal a thorough brushing. Check armpits, paws (especially between the toes), ear canals, and nostrils. Watch to see if your dog or cat limps or shakes its head frequently, scratches its ear repeatedly, licks its feet often, or has redness in its eyes or discharge from the nose or frequent sneezing. Embedded foxtails can necessitate a trip to the vet and can cost hundreds of dollars to remove. For this and other reasons (native predators, infectious diseases, traffic dangers), it is best to keep your companion animals from running on their own; keep dogs on a leash and cats indoors.

PROTECTING OUR WILDLIFE: Have you noticed the wildlife sign on Vista Grande near Agora and La Tienda? Eldorado resident and wildlife advocate Joe Newman created it to remind motorists to be aware of wildlife, especially during “peak” seasons (coyote pupping season April–July, snakes crossing roads April–September, tarantulas in the fall, pronghorns, etc.). We applaud Joe’s contribution toward protecting our diverse and wonderful wildlife!

Please note: The Eldorado Flora Fauna email address is no longer valid. Archived articles can be found at https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com/flora-fauna-group/.

Recycling Know-How

Cans and newspapers are easy to recycle but what in the world are we supposed to do with batteries?

RECYCLING BATTERIES

Reduce: First, cut down on batteries. Use the sun! Buy solar-powered equipment.

The energy needed to manufacture a battery is on average 50 times greater than the energy it gives out. So it makes sense, cost and energy-wise, to use rechargeable batteries whenever possible.

Recycle: The U.S. is relatively ahead of the game for the recycling of batteries. The Battery Act of 1996 was enacted to phase out the use of mercury in batteries and provide for the efficient and cost-effective collection and recycling or proper disposal of used nickel-cadmium batteries, small sealed lead-acid batteries, and certain other batteries.

Why recycle batteries? While the exact chemical makeup of different battery types varies, most contain heavy metals that are a cause for environmental concern. When disposed of incorrectly, these heavy metals may leak into the ground when the battery casing corrodes. They can contribute to soil and water pollution and endanger wildlife. Cadmium, for example, can be toxic to aquatic invertebrates and can accumulate in fish, which makes them unfit for human consumption. Some batteries, such as button cell batteries, also contain mercury, which has similarly hazardous properties. Mercury is no longer being used in the manufacture of non-rechargeable batteries, except in some button cells where it is a functional component.

Rechargeable and certain non-rechargeable batteries (e.g., hearing-aid button batteries and cell phones) can be dropped off at the Eldorado Convenience Center and at BuRRT (Buckman Road Recycling & Transfer Station). You can also drop off rechargeables and cell phones—but not button batteries—at Batteries Plus on St. Michaels, Best Buy on Zafarano, and Home Depot on Cerrillos. Please note: Our cheapest and most commonly used batteries are the non-rechargeable ones labeled “Alkaline” or “Heavy Duty.” These are usually sizes AAA, AA, C, D and 9V. These are not toxic, are not accepted for recycling locally, and can be safely disposed of in our local landfill.

–Adapted from Reduce, Reuse, Recycle by N. Scott/SFSWMA/Eldorado 285 Recycles
Roads Upgraded with Recycled Asphalt Pavement

In late spring, the Santa Fe County Road Department began applying a maintenance treatment of recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) to certain roads in Eldorado. RAP is reclaimed ground-up pavement from other road improvement projects (also referred to as “millings”). It is made of base-course material with some residual asphalt and can be used to improve road surfaces similar to the application of gravel or base course. The material being used in Eldorado was recycled from the resurfacing of the I-25/St. Francis interchange. Santa Fe County was selected by NMDOT to receive the donated RAP for use in improving county roads. There is no cost to the county or the taxpayers for the material itself. The work is being done by the county road crew, so the labor and equipment costs are covered by the normal road maintenance budget.

When residents contact the Road Committee to report muddy conditions on their roads, they often request that the county apply some base course. Because there has been no funding for this since 2007 or 2008, the county has applied road mix, a combination of gravel and sand, to harden things—a temporary solution at best. The donation of the millings presents a cost-effective opportunity to upgrade some of the roads that have drivability problems when wet.

The County Public Works staff, with input from the ECIA Roads Committee, selected 33 roads (15.18 miles) in Eldorado to be upgraded with the RAP (see www.eldoradosf.org for an alphabetic list of these roads). These are roads with a history of significant rutting and poor drivability during periods of prolonged rain or snow. Before work begins on a road, the county puts a message board on the road several days in advance of work, to advise affected residents.

After identifying where utility lines or cable are located, the road crew grades the surface to reestablish the crown, regrade the bar ditches, and clean out the culverts. Proper drainage is required to maintain a good road surface. If the bar ditches have filled in or culverts are plugged, water will back up or flow across the road surfaces, causing erosion. The bar ditches must be cleaned out to the “flow line” of the culverts to ensure a positive water flow within the ditch. Clogged culverts are cleaned out using the county’s hydro-excavation truck. When prep work is complete, the millings are put down in layers with a road grader, followed by water and rolling to pack them down. The millings are applied to the center of the road first and then worked out to the edge of the road surface as additional layers are added. The road may appear to be narrower at first when the millings haven’t been applied all the way to the edge of the driving surface. The standard width for the drivable road surface on residential roads is 20 feet.

Work is expected to continue throughout the summer and fall. Residents interested in seeing what the final surface looks like can drive by Carlito or Estambre roads for a closer look.

–Felicia Probert

Erosion Control Project, CONT. FROM PAGE 2

years of overgrazing, deforestation, and other abuses. As a result, many areas are heavily eroded and others are overrun with invasive plant species. Even the native plants are under pressure; junipers and tree cholla were once rare in our area but now choke out the piñons and native grasses.

With our stewardship, we can help our land heal. The Conservation Committee sponsors workdays in our preserve and greenbelts several times a year to do just that. We’d love for you to come and join us.

–John Reynolds

Volunteers working on erosion control features.
Stabilizing the Stables

To own a home in Eldorado is to have access to an array of amenities that contribute mightily to a satisfying quality of life—our swimming pools, the community center, tennis courts, hike and bike trails, greenbelts and wilderness preserve, all of which are open to all residents.

Unlike these amenities, the Eldorado stables are restricted to those residents who also happen to own one of 36 barns on the property. This exclusivity, along with ECIA’s rather complex relationship with barn owners, has generated some tension over the years.

The special status that barn owners have enjoyed throughout Eldorado’s existence can be traced back to the original developer’s efforts to present the subdivision as “semi-rural.” Attracting an equestrian community seemed like a logical way of achieving that goal, but the situation has proved somewhat problematic.

Part of that problem has to do with who is responsible for paying the expenses attendant with keeping horses. The barn owners have carried the majority of that load. But there are a few gray areas, such as manure removal, where the community at large has borne some of those costs.

To eliminate such gray areas, our current Board is proposing revisions to the Stable Amenity Funding Guidelines. According to ECIA President John Henriksen, the Board is working on a number of such initiatives. In the past, the ECIA has used operational funds to pay property taxes for stable owners, as well as for water, manure removal services, and fly predator services. The barn owners then reimburse the ECIA.

This forces the ECIA to collect those monies from the horse owners by sending out invoices several times a year for various expenses. The Board now believes it is in the larger community’s best interest to stop using its operational funds to pay these costs “up front.” The Board is now supporting a policy change that will require stable owners to begin paying money into a fund.

Said Henriksen, “The revised policy carries out the ECIA Board’s fiduciary responsibility to all Eldorado residents—to act solely in the best interests of the Association and its members in managing the monies, properties, and the affairs of the Association.”

— Gershon Siegel

Meet Regina Lucero, Office Assistant

Regina was the working force behind the very successful Eldorado 2017 4th of July celebration. What made the event a true success was her drive, creativity, hard work, and dedication. She reached out to ECIA’s vendors and local businesses in search of sponsorships, and the response was overwhelmingly positive.

Regina started working at Eldorado in June 2016. She was recently promoted to Office Assistant due to her hard work and dedication to the ECIA community.

Born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Regina has lived in Santa Fe for over 42 years. Married to her husband Jose for 30 years, they have between them a beautiful blended family of 6 children and 11 grandchildren. Regina loves spending time with her family, and some of her favorite hobbies include cooking, crafts, and helping underprivileged children.

Please come by the ECIA office and meet Regina! —Isabel Ugarte, General Manager