

# THE MESA MESSENGER



TAYLOR RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.

March 1993



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

At long last our Middle School Initiative anti-gang program is up and running—or at least crawling. Along with Johnson Middle School and other neighborhood associations, we are offering a dozen after-school courses to keep kids active, learning, and —we hope!—out of the clutches of gangs. Our courses range from poetry, taught by TRNA Director Leroy Stradford, to computers and chess. One of the most popular courses has been clay crafts, with so many students registering for it that we thought we would not be able to accomodate them all. Also popular has been calligraphy, the art of *beautiful writing*. Some courses will last the rest of the school year, while some only run for four weeks; a few are one-time. And there may still be a few surprises in the next couple of months. Soon, we will be announcing the parenting courses we promised, and we will be starting to plan for next school year. If your middle school youth would like to get involved, there is still time. And if you would like to be involved, too, there are plenty of opportunities to teach courses, to take them, or to plan them. For more information, call **Ruthie Owens** at LBJ, 898-1492, **Teresa Chavez**, 899-9330, **Lori Apt**, 897-9059, or **Bill Ghormley**, 898-1264.

Have you heard about the alu-

minum pirates? No, they're not thieving robots. They are selfish people who go throught neighborhoods on recycling day, picking up aluminum left at the curb before the City trucks get there. They not only steal revenue from the City, they leave trash and other recyclable materials scattered around the neighborhood for someone else to clean up. And it's happening in Taylor Ranch. To help deal with this, **Bob Hume** and the **Environmental Committee** are starting up our recycling program again. Look for details in this issue of *The Mesa Messenger* and on our signboards.

It's election time again. Our quarterly General Membership Meeting will be March 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Johnson Middle School, and a part of that meeting is the election of Directors. Because of resignations and people just getting tired of having fun all the time, we have several vancancies on the Board. The official list of nominees is printed inside this issue, but we will also take nominations from the floor. If you are looking for a chance to help your neighborhood, and get a lot of phone calls from strange people, er, strangers, consider running for a directorship.

With the legislative session wrapping up in Sante Fe the week before our general meeting, we thought it might be interesting to hear from our legislators about

what *really* happened at the capital. We have invited **Martin Chavez**, **Paul Barber**, and **Joe Carraro** to talk to us about the past session and to answer questions. There are a lot of issues of impact in this year's session—like gay rights, DWI and health insurance, so bring your questions and ideas and let everyone know what you think.

Graffiti-wise, this has been a busy year. Our painter-outers have been busy covering over the unsightly damage, and have just about run out of paint. The Board has increased the Crime Prevention Committee's budget, and they don't have enough. If you have some paint, either brown or gray, left from a household project, we can put it to good use. So, call John Hemler, and volunteer some painting time, or some paint. Or both. And we take cash, too. Fighting graffiti is just another way we can keep Taylor Ranch a great place to live.

*Bill Ghormley*

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# COMMITTEE NEWS

## Crime Prevention Committee



by John Hemler

### Graffiti Worsens In Taylor Ranch

During the last two months, Taylor Ranch residents have been subjected to an increasing amount of graffiti. The graffiti, which ranges from swastikas on church property to gang turf symbols on curbs, has spared no part of Taylor Ranch. Some of the graffiti appears to be coming from gangs outside of Taylor Ranch, but most of it is from vandals living in the area.

Since 1987, when graffiti first began to show up in quantities, the TRNA Board has had a policy of removing graffiti as soon as possible, preferably within 72 hours after it is seen or reported. Countless volunteers and gallons of paint have been used. As a result, up until now, we have had a city-wide reputation for our effectiveness in keeping our community relatively graffiti-free. In 1991, we even received an award from

the City Beautification Committee.

With the recent increase in graffiti, however, many homeowners in Taylor Ranch seem to have adopted an attitude of apathy or "so what." To test this premise, we recently deliberately left graffiti on a section of Homestead from Mojave to Taylor Ranch Road. For almost two weeks, the graffiti on this section continued to increase, but no residents along the section did anything to remove graffiti on their back walls and no one reported the graffiti. Finally, one of our volunteers who lives in the general area called and we subsequently removed all of the graffiti.

Neighbors—I don't know how you feel about it, but I feel affronted and personally assaulted when these gang(sters) and hoodlums hit my walls with their filth. And I do something about it—I paint over it immediately. I also feel the same way about our whole community—and do something about it. We have many volunteers who also do something about it. Now, we as a community need to do it together. Here are ways you can get involved (and get your neighbors involved):

call us—we will!

3. Be alert for these hoodlums. If you see spray cans or paint on hands (graffitiers are usually under 21), make a note of such things as license plates and identifying marks and report it to us.
4. Volunteer to be an "area graffiti buster," even if it is only for your immediate neighborhood or just your street block. We will try to provide you with paint.
5. Donate paint to TRNA. We prefer gray, white or adobe, but will take any color.
6. Send money to TRNA (and get your neighbors to do so) specifically marked for "graffiti-busting." Since our fiscal year began last April, the TRNA graffiti budget has had to be doubled and we have already spent over \$500 on paint.

The TRNA mission is to "promote, preserve, and protect the quality of life in Taylor Ranch." Please help us carry out this mission. Thanks. John Hemler, 897-3763. ■

**Next month:** Information about the new City Anti-Graffiti ordinance due to go into effect on April 1.

1. Check your outside back wall periodically for graffiti. If you find graffiti, get ride of it. If you are physically unable to eliminate it, call us. Your outside walls are **your** property, not City property.
2. Check your neighbors' walls also and let them know about it. If they don't eliminate it,

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# COMMITTEE NEWS (cont'd)

## Environmental Committee

by Bob Hume

### Recycling

**Aluminum.** The TRNA Environmental Committee will renew aluminum collections on March 12, the second Saturday of the month. For March, we will collect aluminum only. We will transport our collection to the highest bidder ourselves. In future months, we will collect on the first Saturday of the month to coordinate with a City glass collection program. As before, revenues from this program are dedicated to median landscaping. René Horvath discusses our first major project in this area in the "Street Landscaping" section.

**Glass.** The City is setting up a glass collection program. The program is tentatively set to start the first Saturday in May. If the owner agrees, glass will be collected at the southeast corner of the Walgreen's parking lot. When I first was approached about this, my response was "Why don't you collect glass as part of the curbside program?" The problem is that with current equipment, glass breakage would contaminate the rest of the recyclable material—particularly paper and cardboard. Given their existing equipment, they would have to run two trucks for each collection run or start a separate collection for glass. They chose monthly collection at several sites around the City because it is significantly less expensive.

**Bus Service.** I have no idea how bus ridership has fared during the winter months. When it got real cold this winter I abandoned the buses. However, as you all know, the City is proposing a two cent a gallon gas tax to improve bus service, build bike trails, and repair roads. If we can ensure that the funds generated by this tax are earmarked for the proposed services, it deserves our support.

### Median Project

The Environmental Committee did not meet during the winter so no progress has been made on the median project. We have picked up where we left off in October and will develop a neighborhood plan to coordinate median landscaping of our streets.

## Street Landscaping

by René Horvath

Spring is here again and many of us will be out cleaning up our yards. For some people, this may include cleaning up the street strips behind their homes. The street strips I'm talking about are the dirt areas between the roadway and the homeowner's back wall and sidewalk. Before you go out to remove all the vegetation from the area, look to see what is growing. What at first may seem to be only a mass of weeds may actually include some very desirable native wildflowers and ornamental native grasses. It would be to your advantage to leave them in place.

The Environmental Committee

(continued on page 4)



**Social Committee**



by Teresa Chavez



It won't be long now until the great Easter Bunny hops his way into Taylor Ranch for our annual Easter Party. We have moved the egg hunt to our newest and biggest park—the Mariposa. For those of you who have not been to the new park located on the west side of Taylor Ranch, just off Kachina, it is wonderful! We will have plenty of room for the egg hunt, games, and yes, even parking! The City will be considering having a park dedication ceremony along with the Easter Party.

We are still in need of volunteers to make cakes, work at the concession stand, sell tickets for games, and monitor the games. It takes 25-30 volunteers the day of the party, so please consider giving a few hours of your time. Without your help, we won't be able to put on this great event for our neighborhood children. Call Teresa at 899-9330 to join together and do your part.

**Mark you calendars now for Saturday, April 10, 11:00 a.m.**

# COMMITTEE NEWS (cont'd)

## Environmental Committee

(continued from page 3)



of TRNA has been working on a plan to landscape our medians and major street areas with drought tolerant and native plants.

Through research and observation, the Committee has found that once a piece of land has been stripped of vegetation, it not only allows the soil to be blown away during wind storms, but also the plants

that usually come up first are tumbleweeds, goatheads, and other undesirable plants. Eventually, the wildflowers and native grasses will return and slowly fill the disturbed areas crowding out the tumbleweeds. Incidentally, tumbleweeds are not native to America; also called Russian thistle, they originally come from Eurasia.

With the cooperation of homeowners, the Environmental Committee will landscape these street strips along major roadways with a wildflower mix that is native to the Westside. Once these plants take hold, they will not only beautify our community of Taylor Ranch but will also keep the soil intact. They will also replace the undesirable plants and conserve water by surviving on the

amount of annual rainfall we get. Albuquerque's weed and litter ordinance promotes the use of native plants for the same reasons I have just mentioned. If you have any questions, suggestions, or want to help, you can call me, René, at 898-2114.



## Wild Flower of the Month

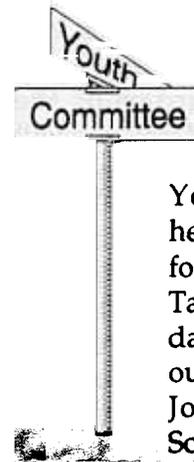
by René Horvath

Last year I wrote about the Desert Willow, a small, deciduous tree that is native to New Mexico. This month I would like to introduce you

to another native tree called the New Mexico Privet—also called the Desert Olive Tree. The New Mexico Privet is also a small deciduous tree growing up to a height of 15 to 20 feet. It can be used as a tree or a shrub depending on the way it is pruned. Both trees are very drought tolerant. The New Mexico Privet needs a little more water, surviving on 10-20 inches of rainfall per year, than the Desert Willow at 8-15 inches per year.

The New Mexico Privet is an attractive tree with small apple green colored leaves. The leaves turn a lovely yellow gold in the fall. Small clusters of yellow fragrant flowers appear around this time of year before the tree leafs out. Both male and female trees are needed for small blue-black

berries to form. Song birds will rapidly gobble the berries that are produced. For bird lovers, this tree would be nice to have in the yard. ■



by John Hemler

The TRNA Youth Committee held its Winter Dance for the teen (12-18) of Taylor Ranch on Friday, February 19 at our new, Lyndon B. Johnson Middle School. Over 150 teens attended the dance

and appeared to enjoy themselves very much. Mike Lovato, county Parks and Recreation, provided the music. Our thanks go out to Principal Ruthie Owens and her staff and teachers for facilitating and helping to monitor this affair. We also want to thank all of the chaperones for their efforts.

Because of the great turnout and because of popular demand, the Youth Committee, at its February 21 meeting, decided to hold a Spring dance. The tentative date selected is April 2.

At its February 21 meeting, the Youth Committee also voted to assist the TRNA Social Affairs Committee in the Annual Easter Party on April 10. ■

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



## FIRST ANNUAL TAYLOR RANCH GOLF TOURNAMENT

by *Louis Martinez*

This is a reminder to sign up for the First Annual Taylor Ranch Golf Tournament-Scholarship Fund Raiser. All the money raised will go to the Education Committee Scholarship Fund. We hope to have enough entrants to award at least two scholarships for college-bound students. We are receiving excellent support from local businesses who have already donated over \$200 in prizes and money. The prizes that will be awarded include gift certificates at Dion's Pizza, Hastings, Walgreens, Merle Norman Cosmetics, The Business Shop, and many others. Albertson's, Chris 'N Dads Baseball and Sports Cards, LRL Sciences Inc., and Luevano and Associates have made contributions

of food, money, and four AM/FM radios.

Please sign up as soon as possible if you intend to play, as we must confirm the number of entrants to the Ladera Golf Course. Don't forget—Friday, March 26, 1993, 8:30 a.m. at Ladera Golf Course for the First Annual Taylor Ranch Golf Tournament. The cost is just \$30 which includes green fee, 1/2 cart rental (mandatory). Thank you in advance for your support of our education efforts! ■

## TRNA Board of Directors News



As mentioned in Bill Ghormley's report on page 1, election of TRNA Board members will be held at the March Quarterly

General Membership Meeting at LBJ Middle School on March 25. There are seven Board positions up for election. The official list of nominees for these positions are:

- Lori Apt
- Bob Hume
- Steve Murtha
- Don Newton
- Dave Otto
- Leroy Stradford
- Thom Wright

If you are intested in becoming active in your neighborhood, it is not too late! Nominations for the Board will be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Please plan on attending this meeting so that you have a say as to who represents your neighborhood concerns and needs. ■

## THE MESSENGER CLASSIFIED

If you would like to advertise in the *Mesa Messenger* classified ad section, call Kelley Fugelso, 899-1419. The price is \$3 per issue. You may advertise such things as garage sales, items for sale, items wanted, etc.

We can not include any political ads. If you want to include an advertisement for a business, you must be a TRNA business member.

Business ads are included in the Business Section (page 7).

### Drapes and Blinds

**Drapes.** Pinch-pleated patio panel and valence, 96"x84". White with blue and beige flicks. \$35. Traverse rod \$25. Call Janis at 898-8414.

**Blinds.** Oak mini-blinds. 35"x59". Can

### Furniture

**Sturdy, wood block furniture.** Four pieces: couch, chair, coffee table, and end table. Couch and chair have burgundy cushions. Excellent condition. \$300. 899-1419.

# TRNA Business Members

*Our Business Members Support TRNA..  
Please Support them.*

*Albertsons  
Apple Blossoms Florist  
B & D Trophies  
Blake's Lottaburger  
Centex Homes  
Comet Cleaners  
First National Bank in Albuquerque  
Fred Van Berkel, General Contractors  
Jaybird Computing*

*Keller's Farm Stores  
Steve Murtha, Hooten/Stahl Realtor  
Nora Pomeroy, Century 21 Realtor  
Oppel-Jenkins Group  
Riverside Animal Hospital  
Ruth Coon & Company Realtors  
Sivage-Thomas Homes  
Taylor Ranch Baptist Church  
Travel Trends*

# TRNA Board Information



## TRNA Officers\*, Directors†, and Committee Chairs



- ★† Bill Ghormley ..... President ..... 898-1264
- ★† Don Newton ..... Vice President  
Governmental Affairs Committee ..... 898-2185
- ★† Dave Otto ..... Treasurer  
Membership Committee ..... 897-7733
- ★† Kelley Fugelso ..... Secretary  
Newsletter Committee ..... 899-1419
- † Louis Martinez ..... Education Committee ..... 898-7015
- † Robert Hume ..... Environmental Committee ..... 898-6228
- † John Hemler ..... Public Affairs Committee ..... 897-3763
- † Leroy Strafford ..... Parks & Recreation Committee ..... 897-2584
- † Teresa Chavez ..... Social Committee ..... 899-9330
- † Mark Pringle ..... 899-1314
- Julie Neimeyer ..... Youth Committee ..... 898-5744

## TRNA Public Forum

Anyone wishing to address the TRNA Board of Directors



may do so at the regular monthly meeting of the Board, which normally takes place the fourth Tuesday of each month at LBJ Middle School. The first 15 minutes of this meeting is set aside for public forum. If you would like to use this time to address the Board, please call Bill Ghormley (898-1264) at least 5 working day in advance of the meeting. ■

# THE BUSINESS SECTION

Any business wishing to advertise in the TRNA Business Section must be a TRNA Business Member. All Business Members are listed for no charge in each issue of *The Mesa Messenger* (see previous page). The prices for advertising in the Business Section are: \$20 for three issues for a 3.5" by 2" space; \$80 for three issues for a 7" by 4" space. You must provide "camera-ready" artwork (such as a business card). If you would like to become a TRNA Business Member, contact Dave Otto at 897-7733. If you would like to advertise in the TRNA Business Section, call Kelley Fugelso at 899-1419.

**I live in Taylor Ranch  
I specialize in Taylor Ranch  
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Kelley Fugelso  
Owner

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# TRNA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 28 — April 10  
1993

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 28	March 1	March 2	March 3	March 4	March 5	March 6
March 7 6:30 pm- Newsletter Committee, Kelley Fugelso, 899-1419	March 8	March 9 7:00 pm- Social Committee, Teresa Chavez, 899-9330	March 10	March 11	March 12	March 13 Aluminum Recycling, Walgreens parking lot, Bob Hume, 898-6228
March 14	March 15	March 16	March 17 7:00 pm- Environmental Committee, Bob Hume, 898-6228	March 18	March 19	March 20
March 21 2:00pm- Youth Committee Meeting, John Hemler, 897-3763	March 22	March 23 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting, Bill Ghormley, 898-1264	March 24	March 25 7:00pm TRNA General Membership Meeting (including Board of Directors election), Bill Ghormley, 898-1264	March 26 <b>FIRST ANNUAL Taylor Ranch Golf TOURNAMENT</b>	March 27
March 28	March 29	March 30	March 31	April 1	April 2	April 3
April 4	April 5 6:30 pm- Newsletter Committee, Kelley Fugelso, 899-1419	April 6	April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10 11:00 AM TRNA ANNUAL EASTER PARTY/ EGG HUNT