



MESSENGER

TAYLOR RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1994

President's Message

By the time you read this, the old Christmas Tree will be mulch for medians and lawns. The only remembrance of the hustle and bustle of the holidays will be the January credit card bill. Hey, a thought just struck me. It's only a few short months until the next *Board of Directors* elections. There will be several (5 to be exact) Board seats up for election in March.

Several of the current Board members have indicated that they will not seek re-election (self-imposed term limits, having babies and such). Once again, some poor Board member (likely the one who misses the January meeting) will be assigned the task of calling members to catch them at a weak moment and agree to run for Board election. I'm just kidding. Serving on the TRNA Board is really not that bad. Just ask **DEBBIE TATUM**. After serving for several years as the Social Affairs Committee Chair, she left the Board because she was committed. I mean, moved to Belen. Well, as soon as she moved back to Taylor Ranch she immediately became active again. In December she was appointed to the Board to replace **LEROY STRADFORD**. We appreciate all Leroy's hard work on the Summer Festival and the Parks and Recreation Committee, and welcome back Debbie to the Board. If you have ever had the desire (even a twinge) to become more active in your neighborhood, I encourage you to contact **DON NEWTON** or myself about running for the Board in March 1994.

Sometimes we think our lives here in Taylor Ranch are cut off from the rest of the world. Now for a reality check. TRNA has recently received several reports of **GANG** activity (yes, I mean exactly that) in and around (namely the Mariposa Basin) LBJ Middle School. These are not just reports from some student who was bumped in the hall, but from students, parents and other members of the community. Now, I am not suggesting that we have a L.A.- or New York-sized problem here, but we have to face the truth. I encourage you to look elsewhere in this newsletter for related stories and opportunities for involvement. If you think this is a problem for APS or APD, I would suggest that's what the citizens of L.A. and New York thought several years ago.

Look inside this newsletter for an article giving an update on all the recent Montaña Bridge bologna. God bless your family and see you in next month's newsletter.

Dave Otto

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Board of Directors Nominations

Five positions on the TRNA Board of Directors will be open at the end of our year, March 31. Elections for these positions will be held during our Annual General Membership Meeting on March 24. A Nominating Committee has arrived at a list of five ~~nats~~ members who have agreed to run for these positions:

- Jerome Romero
- Maria Martin
- Debbie Tatum
- Cil VanBerkel
- Robert Wright

Thanks to the ~~idiots~~ members of the committee who helped ~~coerce blackmail~~ find the nominees: **KATHLEEN HUME, DEBBIE TATUM, LORI APT, TERESA CHAVEZ, ROGER SUPPONA, PAULA HENSLEY and STEVE SADDORIS.** Nominations for Directors will also be accepted from the floor at the General Meeting. This meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 24, at Johnson Middle School.

TRNA Bylaws Amendment

The following amendment to TRNA's bylaws has been approved by the Board of Directors for submission to our membership:

Article VIII, Section 1: All chairmen shall be responsible for:
 ...g. Submitting articles to the newsletter.

New text is indicated by underline, and deleted text is indicated by strike-out.

TRNA members will vote on adoption of this bylaw change at our Annual General Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 24, 1994. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. at Johnson Middle School.

Thanks to the Bylaw Review Committee for reviewing our bylaws and recommending this amendment. Members of the committee were: **PATRICIA SADDORIS, ALLEN MARTIN and MARIA MARTIN.**

Art Teachers Needed

The Chaparral Elementary School PTA is looking for voluteers interested in teach art to children. If you would like to help, please call **ANITA TORRES** at 831-2488.

TRNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAVE OTTO	PRESIDENT.....	897-7733
DON NEWTON	VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.....	898-2185
TERESA CHAVEZ	SECRETARY, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE.....	899-9330
THOM WRIGHT	TREASURER	897-0476
LORI APT	EDUCATION COMMITTEE.....	897-9059
BILL GHORMLEY	CURATOR OF ART	898-1264
JOHN HEMLER	PUBLIC RELATIONS, YOUTH COMMITTEE.....	897-3763
BOB HUME	ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE.....	898-6228
STEVE MURTHA	MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	898-7330
MARIA MARTIN	SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE.....	???-????

Plant of the Month: Cottonwood



COTTONWOOD

POPULUS FREMONTII



I think the most majestic tree in New Mexico is the cottonwood. Its huge twisted branches and trunk give it a character all its own. I was so impressed with these trees when I moved to Albuquerque from Roswell in 1966. There were a few of them growing in Roswell, but nothing compared to the proliferation in Albuquerque. I enjoy the turning of the leaves during the Autumn months. the splendid yellow-orange leaves are truly inspirational. This is what prompted me to write about the cottonwood.

The cottonwood tree is native to New Mexico. they grow around stream beds or where there is plenty of ground water available. This is why we find them plentiful along the river valley areas. Cottonwood trees are good for erosion control along waterways. They will grow to a height of 40 to 100 feet, with a width of 50 to 100 feet. They make perfect shade trees. They're great for city parks and areas where there is lots of space. The average city lot may be too small to accommodate such a huge tree and its accompanying root system.

You may have notice in the Spring the white fluffy cotton blowing in the wind. It is the female cottonwood tree that produces this cotton which harbors the seeds for germination. The male tree does not produce the cotton.

There are other places in the Southwest where the cottonwood grows naturally, such as Nevada, southwest Utah, California and Arizona. According to the Rio Grande Nature Center, the Rio Grande River valley is the last region that contains a continuous cottonwood forest. So what we refer to as the "bosque" is indeed one of the last remaining cottonwood forests in the West.

But even our bosque is threatened. There are several reasons for this. The main reason is that these trees rely on flood waters to carry their seeds away and deposit them on sand bars where the seeds can germinate. The seeds will then extend tap roots to the underground water supply. The seedlings will continue to grow as long as the sand bar is not disturbed. The Rio Grande is now a channelized river with flood control levees on each side. This prevents the river flowing in its normal meandering manner and flooding low land areas. It is this meandering that allows cottonwood seedlings to take root and grow long enough to establish another generation of cottonwoods. When a river is channelized, sandbars will form but are destroyed by the next Spring's high water flows, which carries off any cottonwood seedlings which may have sprouted. Thus, new generations of cottonwood trees can never really take a foothold long enough to survive. As a consequence, our existing trees are getting old and dying, and are not being replaced.

Another problem plaguing our cottonwood forest is the competition from introduced species such as the Russian olive and the tamarish (salt cedar) tree. Such trees were introduced to our waterway systems in 1935-40 as a way to prevent soil erosion. I suppose that back then these trees were considered great erosion control measures because they are fast-growing. But this plan has backfired because now the cottonwood trees are losing ground in competing for valuable space to grow.

According to the Nature Center there will be a bosque symposium this February to help figure out how to address some of these problems.

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Plant of the Month (continued)

sponsored study of the bosque in which several problems were identified and solutions recommended. Hopefully the agencies which manage the Rio Grande resources can successfully work together, utilizing the recommendations of this report, to revitalize the bosque for future generations of New Mexicans.

René Horvath

Gang Warfare

The TRNA Education Committee is forming a task force to join together with the local schools and communities to stand up against the gang and behavior problems that some of our youths are threatening us with. This will be a community project and all are welcome to become involved. This problem is becoming overwhelming in our schools and if allowed to continue will interfere with the education of our children. The property damage is getting worse and we need to take control of our community **NOW** while we still can. Please get involved with this because apathy is what the gangs feed on. We have a right to a peaceful and safe environment for our families!

Call 897-9059 and volunteer your help.

Lori Apt

Social Activities Committee

It's not too early to start thinking about the upcoming Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association's Easter Egg Hunt and Children's Party. Before you know it, Spring will be here! Didn't we just celebrate Christmas?!

The Social Activities Committee has already started planning for the big event, which last year attracted approximately 600 children from the area. Every year we learn from the previous year and we hope to have all the "kinks" ironed out. Rather than having one large hunt all at once with the different age groups divided, we will have four egg hunts for the various ages running one after the other. This way, parents will be able to watch each child in his/her own age-appropriate egg hunt. This will also give us more room to spread the kids around so we don't have a back-up and some kids left behind without any eggs.

This year's Egg Hunt and games will be held on Saturday, April 2, at the park on the south end of the Taylor Ranch Branch Library. The Mariposa Park is being used for soccer this time of the year, so we changed the location. Please think about ways in which you might be able to contribute to this event; we need plenty of help. We need people to bake cakes, cookies or other goodies for the cake walk; we need help soliciting donations of candy, prizes, food and cash to run the games and concession stand; and we also will need help stuffing the 3,000 plastic eggs with surprises.

Debbie Tatum

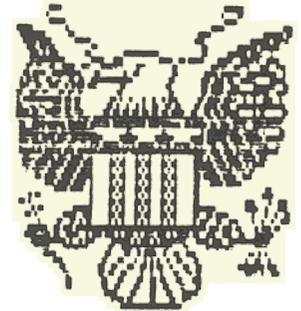
Montaño Bridge Update

OK, here is the Montaño Bridge Update I promised you on the first page message. The New Mexico Supreme Court has agreed to a hearing as to whether Los Ranchos is entitled to a hearing in District Court. As far as I can tell, if the Court says "no" (good for us) the contracts can be let and the bridge can be started. We don't even want to think about the alternative.

Recently, a group of 20+ neighborhood associations (both west and east side) have had some meetings and sponsored a MONTAÑO BRIDGE RALLY (the first of many) on Sunday, February 13. We are hope the tremendous crowd showed the folks in Los Ranchos that Albuquerque is serious about this bridge.

Dave Otto

SUMMER FESTIVAL '94



May 21, 1994

SPONSORED BY
THE TAYLOR RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EVENT	LOCATION	NOTES
Parade	Taylor Ranch Drive	Theme "Spirit" call Debbie Tatum at 897-5071 for more information.
Flea Market	To be announced	Call Teresa Chavez at 899-9330.
Fun & Games	Mariposa Basin	Tethered balloon Moon bounce Children's games
Drill Team competition	Mariposa Basin	Call Dave Otto at 897-7733

Living in
the Heights
..and Depths

As a real estate professional who has been promoting properties of private owners and large developers alike for the last ten years here in Taylor Ranch, it's always been easy to tailor one's sales pitch around the many amenities that our neighborhood has offered. Extolling the virtues of cleaner air, lower land and housing prices, and a lot less traffic have made it easy to sell not only property but the community as well. It appears, though, that we're now emulating our esteemed brother, the "Heights," in more than just a positive fashion of late. With the magnet of increased employment opportunities and expanding commercial and shopping developments, our inability to get a city-wide consensus on the rampant sprawl is now starting to choke us on the roads, in our schools, and soon in the air.

As the cornerstone of the west side community, it's our responsibility to Albuquerque and our own neighborhood to be heard, seen and felt at every level of the decision-making process. Coors Road is the nightmare that Tramway Boulevard has become. Irving, Golf Course Road, Taylor Ranch Road and Montañó Road are bearing the brunt of the indecision that prevents affirmative action on Unser, Paseo and, of course, the Montañó Bridge. Like it or not, we're smack dab in the middle of an emerging problem that has less to do with growth than our leaders' ability to deal with that growth, for the local and the greater good of our community.

Downtown, we've got a new mayor and what we hope is a more worldly view of ours and the rest of Albuquerque's problems and progress. The decision-makers who will impact our community, however, can only gauge our concern on a consistent basis, who and how many we are that they can see and hear. If you're reading this article, you're a member and supporter of your Neighborhood Association, part of a group that comprises slightly more than two percent of all the residents of the area. Like me, you're not just passing through every morning and evening on your way to somewhere else. If we're interested in seeing traffic lightened, schools less crowded, and crime abated in Taylor Ranch, we must get the other 98 percent of us involved through membership in this Association. Every month's newsletter contains a blank membership application that we hope you will pass on to a neighbor or friend. A small monthly investment of \$1.00 will pay you an your neighbors big dividends later. Let's not shoulder that burden of growthitis alone. We're all in this one together, sink or swim. Taylor Ranch appreciates yours and your neighbor's membership!

Steve Murtha

New
Editor
Needed

The April '94 *Mesa Messenger* will be my last. So, TRNA will be in need of a newsletter editor. You do not need a fancy computer, nor be a graphics artist, nor have an advanced degree in English to qualify; these may even hinder more than they help! In fact, I did my first few editions of the newsletter (fifty or sixty years ago) on an old-fashioned typewriter, and Scotch-taped the results together. Graphics were non-existent, since I could not draw (still can't), and did not have a copy machine to ~~steal~~ borrow them from books, magazines, etc. Lack of experience is not an excuse! (I didn't have any when I started.)

If you have a desire for adventure, some spare time, and don't mind ODD phone calls from strangers, please consider becoming newsletter editor. You can call me at 898-1264, or any Board member. It's the best way to help your neighborhood you will ever find.

Bill Ghormley

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