

**Bus Service Changes:
Montaño Circulator Eliminated**

The City of Albuquerque Transit Department has cut unproductive routes and made other adjustments based on ridership. Service cuts, effective June 30, will amount to about 6% of Transit's total bus operation budget.

According to the Transit Customer Service Center, at 843-9200, Route 92 (Taylor Ranch Commuter) and Route 94 (Unser Commuter) will not be affected. However, Route 27 (Montaño Circulator) will be eliminated.

Customer Service Specialists are available 843-9200 from 7 am - 7 pm weekdays and 8 am - 5 pm on Saturdays. Bus routes and schedules are available on buses and in some public buildings. Also available online at www.cabq.gov/transit.

(Portions excerpted from the Office of Community and Neighborhood Coordination *Neighborhood News*)

READER SURVEY:
What businesses or other entities do you want to see in the Shoppes at Montaño & Taylor Ranch Road?

A Little Goes A Long Way: Easy Ways to Get Involved

By Virginia Klebesadel, TRNA President

One of the things I've noticed since I've been associated with TRNA is that member involvement seems to increase when we are facing controversial issues, but otherwise involvement seems to center around a core group of members. One thing that I believe to be true is that the TRNA benefits by the ongoing involvement of all of its members.

How can you get involved?

- Read the Newsletter. We are trying to keep you apprised of what's happening in Taylor Ranch and surrounding area and the needs of the community. And let us know your opinions!
- Invite a Neighbor to Join. Each month, pass along the newsletter and encourage a neighbor to join.
- Contribute to the Newsletter. Call or write the board members or newsletter editor with items of concern or interest to the community. (E-mail address: TRNAnews@aol.com)
- Attend a Board Meeting. Planned for the 3rd Wednesday of each month, the meeting time and location is listed at the bottom of the newsletter front page.
- Expect to be called by the chairperson of the areas of interest you indicated on your application. The leaders need and appreciate your involvement. If you haven't been called but want to participate, give me a call.
- Volunteer some time. A lot of people volunteering a little time can make a major difference in the vitality of an organization.

Then there are the Unsung Heroes and Good Neighbors who see a job that needs to be done and just DO IT! I see good citizens all over the community cleaning up the environment by picking up trash, pulling weeds or otherwise improving our community. These people find satisfaction in living in a better environment because they did something about it.

Taylor Ranch is a great place to live; it is the mission of TRNA to Preserve, Protect and Improve the Quality of Life we enjoy here. Let's all get involved in some way to make that happen! ☺

◆◆ NOTICE ◆◆

Next TRNA Board Meeting – July 18 – 7:00 PM – Vaughan Co. Realtors – 4801 Montaño Road NW
(Across from the Fire Station)

**NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE
OUTLAWS SLAPP SUITS**

By Michael Cadigan, Attorney,
President, Coors Trail
Neighborhood Association

In recent years, developers had taken to intimidating neighborhood associations by filing "SLAPP" lawsuits against associations that dared oppose their projects.

SLAPP is an acronym for Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation. They are frivolous lawsuits brought by developers against community groups that oppose their projects. The lawsuits often allege that the neighbors have, by speaking at planning commission meetings or before city council, slandered the developer, or that they have intentionally interfered with the developer's contracts. Almost always, there are no facts to support the lawsuits but the threat of having to pay the cost of defending the case is enough to scare away opposition. The result was that free speech rights were being squelched.

But the days of the SLAPP suit are numbered in New Mexico. The Legislature passed, and the governor has signed, historic new legislation severely curtailing the ability of developers to bring SLAPP suits against neighbors.

The law provides that a person who in good faith participates in the process of government, such as Environmental Planning Commission meetings or City Council Meetings, is immune from lawsuits alleging that the person caused a proponent of a project economic damages as a result of the participation. The law provides that if a person is sued for such participation, he or she may file a special motion with the court to dismiss the case, which must be heard by the court on an expedited basis. In the event such a motion to

dismiss is filed, the burden of proof is on the developer to show by clear and convincing evidence that the person's participation in government process was not in good faith.

If the motion to dismiss the SLAPP suit is granted, the court must award the person who was sued his or her attorney fees, costs and expert witness fees associated with the case. If the person can show that the suit was brought for the purposes of harassment, the court may award damages to the person, or sanction the developer and its lawyer or both. Under the law, if the district court judge does not grant the motion to dismiss, the person is entitled to an immediate appeal to the Court of Appeals.

The law protects community members and groups only where their participation in government is "in good faith" or where there is an objectively reasonable basis for the opposition. What do these terms mean? The law doesn't give clear answers. But we can make educated guesses about what is *not* participation in "good faith." For instance if a person opposes a project for personal financial gain, under the cloak of neighborhood protection, the participation is probably not in good faith. Or if someone intentionally lies before a council or commission, his or her actions may not be in good faith. In all cases where a neighborhood association is honestly acting with a desire to protect the neighborhood or the community in general, the law will protect them.

This legislation grants clear protection for community groups and should render the threat of SLAPP suits almost non-existent as long as the opposition is in good faith. ☺



Summer Park Maintenance

The Parks Management Division appreciates and needs your help in keeping the parks green and keeping irrigation systems operating effectively. When grass is blue or gray it is stressed and when it is yellow it is deteriorating. Call during work hours at 857-8650 (Park Management) or after hours at 857-8250 (Public Works Dept. Water Dispatch) to report stressed or dying grass or broken park watering systems.

**Keepsake Ornament
Premiere
July 21**

Brownell's

8201 Golf Course Road NW
Petroglyph Plaza
Summer Sale Continues
890-3909

MONTAÑO LANDSCAPING

According to a recent article in the Albuquerque Journal, the Montañño landscaping will get going by the end of July. They will begin work on the east end of Montañño up to Taylor Ranch Road. They will then work from the west end at Unser toward Taylor Ranch Road. The entire project is expected to take 60 to 90 days.

City Council Redistricting Plan

After two vetoes, Mayor Baca signed the final redistricting bill which gives the West Side two districts. Taylor Ranch is now in District 5, bounded on the north by the Bernalillo/Sandoval County line, on the east by the Rio Grande, on the south by essentially Sequoia NW, and on the west by the western boundary of the City of Albuquerque.

HOUSE APPROVES WESTSIDE TRANSIT FUNDS

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved legislation that includes Congresswoman Heather Wilson's request for \$4.7 million to help pay for construction of the new Westside Transit Facility and to purchase new buses. Several other projects important to the Albuquerque area were also included in the funding bill.

The Westside facility is designed for the fueling, maintenance and deployment of 125 compressed natural gas powered vehicles, 35 paratransit and associated staff vehicles. A site for the facility has been identified, land has been acquired, and the design is approximately 60% complete with previous federal earmarks. (From <http://wilson.house.gov> News Center)



ANNOUNCING Ford Boost America! Program

Booster Seat Distribution Mid-July Event

Highway crashes are a leading killer of children annually, and research shows that the majority of the 20 million at-risk children who should ride in booster seats (generally kids aged 4-8 who are too big for infant seats, yet still too small for adult-sized safety belts alone), are not properly secured while riding in autos. *While 90% of New Mexico parents of children 12 or younger have heard of booster seats, 73% are unaware of proper usage, and only 20% use them.*

Boost America! is distributing one million booster seats, half through the United Way to income-qualified families and half through vouchers distributed by participating Ford Motor Company dealers and *Boost America!* partners and other organizations. If you are a Ford owner, contact your dealer for a booster seat voucher, redeemable at Toys-R-Us.

The Albuquerque distribution of booster seats to pre-selected families is scheduled for mid-July. Contact the very helpful staff at Easter Seals at 888-3811 for prescreening to receive a voucher for entry to the event and free booster seat(s). Call now!

For instruction and assistance on fitting, installation, and use of all child safety seats, contact the Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician at Easter Seals, 888-3811.

(excerpts from www.boostamerica.org)

KID'S SAFETY

Mary Wilson, Crime Prevention Specialist with APD, teaches safety. Fingerprinting available. 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 14, at Bound to Be Read. 828-3500.



HOW TO START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

From the APD Crime Prevention Office, 924-3600

1. You or a neighbor decides to host an initial Neighborhood Watch meeting.
2. Whoever is going to host the meeting calls the APD Crime Prevention Office at 924-3600 to provide their name, address, and phone number. After making the call the Crime Prevention Office will send a "starter packet" that will include an introductory letter, a How to Start a Neighborhood Watch brochure, and a list form to collect information from your neighbors.
3. The host goes up and down the block contacting the neighbors, giving them a brochure and getting their name, address, home and work phone number on the list form. (Note: At least 50% of the homes on the block must be represented at the Neighborhood Watch meeting to qualify for sign placement.)
4. The host then sends the completed list back to the Crime Prevention Office in a self-addressed envelope.
5. After the CP Office receives the list from the interested party, a Crime Prevention Specialist will contact the host to set up a date and time for the Neighborhood Watch meeting.
6. The CP Office will then mail out invitations to each person whose name appears on the list. Fliers will also be sent to the host to be given out to the neighbors as a "last minute" reminder.
7. At the meeting, the host provides chairs and simple refreshments.
8. The Crime Prevention Specialist will conduct the meeting and towards the end, facilitate the group's selection of a Block Captain who will function as the neighborhood leader and will serve as a contact person for the Albuquerque Police Department.
9. The CP Office will type the final neighborhood list and will send copies to the Block Captain for distribution to the neighbors. The Block Captain is responsible for contacting new neighbors and for providing updated information to the CP Office.
10. The block is now organized and may collectively purchase Neighborhoods Organized Against Crime (NOAC) Street Signs. The signs may be ordered (by the Block Captain only) through the Crime Prevention Office. The Block Captain may also join the Albuquerque Block Captains Association (ABCA). Once organized, the block can officially participate in the annual National Night Out celebration held the first Tuesday of August each year.

Items submitted to the newsletter may be edited due to space limitations.

Is Your Old Faithful Now Just Old?



Get a new faithful at the CU Auto Sale July 20 & 21!

- 100s of cars, trucks and SUVs
- 1995-2001 models available
- CU Loan Officers on site
- Get your loan pre-approved at **342-8888 ext. 21**



IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (TTY Users call through Relay NM 1-800-659-8331)

Abandoned Vehicles on Public Streets.....	768-2277	Neighborhood Crime Prevention	924-3600
Animal Control (Westside)	768-1935	Open Space or Bosque	873-6632
Burn/No-Burn Advisory	768-2876	Parks Mgmt. (Maint., Vandalism, Volunteers)	857-8650
City Council Hotline (Mtgs., agendas)	768-4777	Poison & Drug Information.....	272-2222
City Council Office.....	768-3100	Police (non-emergency)	242-COPS
City/County Information	768-2000	Police Substation - Westside.....	831-4705
Community and Neighborhood Coordination.....	924-3914	Police Telephone Reporting Unit.....	768-2030
Community Planning	924-3860	Police/ Fire/ Rescue (Emergency).....	911
Crime stoppers.....	843-7867	Pollution Hotline	247-2273
Dumping on Vacant Lots.....	924-3850	Pothole Repair	857-8025
Environmental Health Offices	768-2600	Recycling Information and Hotline.....	761-8176
Fire (Non-Emergency/Illegal Fireworks)	833-7300	Ridepool.....	243-7433
Garbage Collection Problems	761-8100	Sheriff's Department (non-emer.).....	768-4160
Gas Leaks (24 hrs, seven days a week)	246-7474	Sidewalk Obstructions	857-8685
Graffiti 24 Hour Hotline	768-4725	State Information	1-800-825-6639
Graffiti Removal Services	857-8055	State Police.....	841-9256
Housing Code Enforcement.....	764-3959	Suntran Information (Bus).....	843-9200
Inoperable Vehicles on Private Property	924-3850	Sunvan Information (Bus/handicapped)	764-6165
Keep Albuquerque Beautiful (KAB).....	761-8188	Wasted Water Hotline.....	768-3640
Large Item Pick-up	761-8113	Water & Sewer Emergencies	857-8250
Library (Information & Reference)	768-5140	Weed & Litter (Major streets and medians).....	857-8060
Mayor's/CAO Office	768-3000	Zoning Violations	924-3850

TRNA Board of Directors and Other Contacts

Virginia Klebesadel, President.....	898-9173	Jolene Wolfley, Director/Land Use & Transit.....	890-9414
Jerry Beck, Vice-President.....	890-5478	Tom Dietz, Director.....	899-9231
Sandy Sanzero, Secretary	890-7446	Dana Krill, Director.....	898-9117
Tom Knutilla, Treasurer	897-2751	Amanda Tatum, Youth Director	897-5071
Diana Manning, Director/Crime Prevention	898-6547	Debbie Tatum, Youth Advisor.....	897-5071
Peggy Minich, Director/Education.....	899-8590	Susan Sisson, Membership Chair	897-4684
Don Newton, Director/Governmental Affairs.....	898-2185		

TRNA Website Under Construction! Newsletter Online Address: TRNAnews@aol.com

Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc. Membership Application

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member* | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident | <input type="checkbox"/> Active (See interest areas below) | 07/01 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (Newsletter only) | |

Name: _____ Ph number: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____ E-mail address: _____

(For Newsletter and TRNA contact only. TRNA never shares its members' information with other parties.)

I'm interested in participating in the following areas:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Calling | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Rec. | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Voting /Voter Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

I'm enclosing my check made out to TRNA in the amount of:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <u>Resident:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 12.00 (one yr) | <input type="checkbox"/> 22.00 (two yrs) | <input type="checkbox"/> 30.00 (three yrs) |
| <u>Business:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 50.00 (one yr) | <input type="checkbox"/> 90.00 (two yrs) | <input type="checkbox"/> 125.00 (three yrs) |

*NEW RESIDENT MEMBERS PRORATED: \$12 (Jan-Mar) \$9 (Apr-Jun) \$6 (Jul-Sep) \$12 (Oct-Dec) (15 mos)

*NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS PRORATED: \$50 (Jan-Mar) \$40 (Apr-Jun) \$25 (Jul-Sep) \$25 (Oct-Dec) (15 mos)

Please mail application with check to: TRNA Membership, P. O. Box 66288, Albuquerque, NM 87193-6288

**Xtreme Reading Odyssey
Teen Program (Ages 12 - 18 only)
Thursday, July 26 @ 4 pm
Solar Activities with Telescopes
Call 897-8816**

SWIMMING PARTY
West Mesa Aquatic Center
July 21st, 6 - 9 pm
Kids ages 10 - 18
Free admission
City of ABQ Sports & Rec,
857-8649

Family Square Dance
July 20th, 7 - 9 pm
4-H Center Auditorium,
1500 Menaul NW (1 blk W of 12th)
Admission: \$1 (age 5 & under free)

**Fall Softball &
Flag Football**
Registration Begins
July 30!



Teams register at
City Sports Office,
10130 Lomas NE.
Call 291-6239 for more information.

**West Side Family YMCA
TEEN DANCE NIGHT
Friday, July 13th**

Jimmy Carter Middle School
8901 Bluewater NW
Y members \$5, Non-members \$7
NO drugs, alcohol, smoking, gang activity
**YES Character Counts! Fun &
Safe! COOL MUSIC!**

Shakespeare Festival

Free at Barnes & Noble

Shakespeare for Tots:

July 6 & 27

Shakespeare in the Café:

July 8 & 22

Southwest Repertory Theater Co.

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P.O. Box 66288
Albuquerque, NM 87193-6288

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