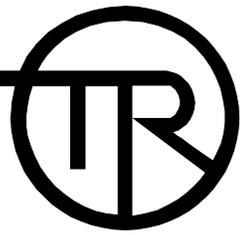


MESA MESSENGER



Newsletter of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Vol. 28 No. 2 Feb. 2007

"Our mission is to promote, preserve, and improve the quality of life in Taylor Ranch" ~ TRNA Bylaws

President's Message

Brett Lopez, President, TRNA

On my honor I will do my best to God and my Country. These words typify the ultimate Boy Scout, Donald C. Newton who passed away in January. Rest in Peace my friend.....Rest in Peace.

I know that Don would have wanted to carry on so here we go...A full slate of activities faces your board of directors in the coming months. They include; EPC hearings on the Coors Corridor Plan, Andalucia de La Luz (Rene is doing an incredible job) and the proposed commercial development at Coors and La Orilla. If anybody has a few minutes that they could lend us we would greatly appreciate it! Read more in the Land Use article.

I want to thank the membership for allowing us to purchase new equipment for our neighborhood functions it will make things a lot easier. On behalf of all those that have loaned equipment in the past thank you for your generosity.

I am also the Social Committee Chair this year and am in need of volunteers, groups included to stuff Easter Eggs, manage the games, sell tickets and help with food and beverage sales and a bunch of other stuff. If you or your group (any group) can lend a hand I would very grateful. I have already reserved the Mariposa Basin Park for the 7th of April and have been soliciting donations from vendors that I work with. We will be having train rides, jumpers, a bunch of games and a great time to be had by all. Let's hope the weather is good. I look forward to making this year a successful event as last year it was cancelled due to lack of volunteers. **We're not going to let that happen this year, are we?** I can be reached at 836-7831 I am waiting for your call.

It is time for our annual general meeting and I'm thinking the second Wednesday of March which, is our normal meeting date. We will be electing Board Members we have several vacancies and need to fill those positions. The time required on your part ranges from minimal to a lot. I would encourage anybody who has a couple of hours a month to donate to your neighborhood and likes to work

for the benefit of others and themselves to call me straight away. You will be amazed at the things we do for you, our members. There are some board members who will not be returning they are Ceil VanBerkel (contract and travel commitments) and David Freeman (moving to Washington DC). These individuals will be sorely missed. I wish to thank these individuals for their service and commitment to our neighborhood.

FREE MONEY! That's right. Free Money! If you are a Taylor Ranch resident and a high school senior you can win that's right I said win free money for college. Fill out the scholarship form in this month's newsletter and you could win \$500.00 for your college journey. If you don't think that's a lot, ask your parents about free money. They will tell you to apply...yesterday!

Please feel free to call or email me president@trna.org or 836-7831. I am here for you. Till Next Time, Brett ®

Thank you for your membership!

Please check your mailing label on page 6 to see when your membership expires. If it expires in December 2006, please renew now. Use the form on page 5 of this newsletter.

Your membership is important, both to you and to TRNA. Your membership fee brings you this newsletter every month and provides you with a forum for expressing your concerns. It provides the funding necessary for monitoring new construction plans, beautifying the community, enforcing zoning, maintaining the TRNA web page, providing college scholarships and increases TRNA's clout with government agencies.

If your membership expires in 2007 or later, than you do not need to renew at this time. **Thank you** for continuing to support your neighborhood association. ®

Happy Valentine's Day!



Beautification News

Don MacCornack, Director, Beautification

Well, the first park cleanup of the New Year was a blow out due to the recent snow storms. The park did suffer some damage from the snow and the damage has been reported to the City. Our City contact point with regards to the park management is Michelle Herrera. She has been a great help to TRNA with our park beautification project. Thank you Michelle.

Please consider helping with the park cleanup. It only takes an hour or so, once a month and you will feel great afterwards. I want to thank everyone who helped make the park beautification project a success last year.

Our next park cleanup is scheduled for February 17 at 9:00 am at the Mariposa Basin Park entrance. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. This park is used by many in our community, so we need to keep it beautiful. Please come out and make some new friends.

If anyone has any ideas for a park beautification project, please email me at beautification@trna.org ®

Land Use Update

René Horvath, Land Use Director, TRNA

We started January with the prospect of two big hearings. The first hearing was the County Commission hearing for La Orilla Plaza/ Wal Mart and the other was the Environmental Planning Commission hearing for Andalucia phase 4, at La Luz. What we didn't expect was the passing of long time fellow Board member Don Newton on Jan. 2, 2007. It took us all by surprise.

I remember when I first met Don in the late 1980's, when neighborhood and environmental groups worked on the Unser Blvd improvements to make it a four-lane parkway. Over the years, I saw Don at numerous community meetings. He was a strong supporter of the Coors Corridor Plan. We appreciated his commitment and involvement in community issues. We will miss him.

La Orilla Plaza: The La Orilla Plaza project was deferred by the County Commission. Brett Lopez, president of TRNA, along with the attorney for the Campbells went before the County Commissioners on January 23rd requesting a deferral. The County Commissioners granted a deferral as long as the applicant for the La Orilla project also agreed. The applicant agreed. The project is scheduled to be heard by the County Commissioners on **Tuesday, February 27th at 5:30** at the Vincent E. Griego Chambers. This is also where the City Council meets. Please contact either Brett or myself to keep up to date on the progress of this issue.

Andalucia at La Luz, phase four: The EPC deferred the Andalucia project again, at the January 18th hearing. The EPC had already deferred this project twice since November. At the December hearing it was determined that the subdivision did not comply with the view regulation of the Coors Corridor Plan. Consensus Planning, representing the applicant, asked for an exemption to the view requirements. The EPC at the December hearing told them they would have to prove a hardship if they wanted an exemption from the view requirements of the Coors Corridor Plan.

Consensus Planning argued at the January 18th EPC hearing that they could not excavate any deeper in this area to lower the building pad elevations due to land constraints and drainage issues.

TRNA maintained that the height of the buildings should be lower for both the two story and the one-story homes in order to help them comply with the view regulation contained in the Coors Corridor Plan. Earlier developments along Coors have been able to comply with the view regulations. We feel that this subdivision should also comply.

Several members of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association spoke at the EPC hearing. They expressed their unhappiness with the way the recent residential development near St. Pius was built right up to Coors Blvd. creating a tunnel effect with very high walls. Also mentioned was the fact that the whole Andalucia project consists of several hundred acres and that they had enough land to work with to insure that the view requirements were followed.

Dr. Valles, President of the Westside Coalition of Neighborhoods, also spoke. He told the EPC that the Coalition has always been a strong proponent of the Coors Corridor plan. View protection is a major part of the plan; it is for the benefit of the many not the few. The Coalition opposes any variance or exemption to the plan.

The EPC deferred the Andalucia subdivision for another 60 days. They felt a lot more could have been done in order to comply with the view regulations. They would not grant an exemption.

The other problem that members of Taylor Ranch and La Luz brought up is the perimeter wall along the east side of Coors Blvd. It was approved over a year ago, but not yet built. The wall height needs to be evaluated to insure that it is in compliance with the view regulations in the Coors Corridor Sector Development Plan.

Coors Corridor plan update: The EPC will be conduct-

(Land Use Continued from page 2)

ing a hearing on the new Coors Corridor Plan on **February 15th 2007**. Work on the new plan was initiated over a year ago to strengthen the existing plan. Some feel that there is nothing wrong with the existing plan; **it just needed the rules to be** interpreted correctly and to be enforced. We will be spending the next two weeks working on this. If you have any comments, please let us know.

Homestead Hills Shopping Center: Several TRNA Board members and neighbors came to the facilitated meeting, which was held January 8th to discuss the proposed storage units the owner wants to build in the vacant portion of the center. Dan Rich, the owner, delivered 70 fliers inviting people to come to the facilitated meeting, so he could hear the neighbor's comments. Approximately 10 neighbors attended the meeting, along with 5 Board members. The neighbors did not oppose the storage units, but preferred that neighborhood retail not be discouraged.

The storage facility will hold approximately 400 units. There will be an eight-foot perimeter wall, with a gate. There will be an on site live in manager. Dan agreed to abandon his plans for the storage of RVs and boats. So far the hours of operation are seven days a week 6am to 10pm. Dan has applied to the Zoning Hearing Examiner (ZHE) for a conditional use to obtain permission to build the storage units. The tentative hearing date before the ZHE is **February 20th 2007**. Brett Lopez, president of

TRNA, told the group that TRNA wishes to support the neighbors. If there are any comments please call either Brett or myself. My number is 898-2114. ☺

West Side Coalition of Neighborhood Assoc.'s Meeting—January 3, 2007

Walt Sala, TRNA Director, WSCNA Representative

The January meeting was primarily an opportunity for all elected officials to make a statement as to what they hope to accomplish in 2007 and to thank everyone for their support. It was general in nature without specifics at this time.

The APS will be having an election of board members, Robert Lucero, our west side board member is running for re-election. He is the only one who has spoken up for the West Side, please vote ... and let's keep Robert on the board, we need him. We need at least two board members for the West Side. We need to demand two to make it even with the other areas.

Captain Candelaria, the West Side commander, brought us up-to-date on what's happening with the APD West Side command. It seems like the only people who don't like the traffic cameras are the "red light" runners. They can't seem to understand that they are for their own good as well as for the rest of us. Death and destruction come to both, the runners as well as the innocent. Traffic control efforts

(WSC Continued on page 5)



Don Newton – In Memoriam

Don was the heart of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association. He had served on the board and held things together over the years, as membership waxed and waned. His sense of service and enthusiasm for our community was contagious and help inspire others to serve on the board of directors.

His experience with community action began here and grew when he was hired by the City of Albuquerque's Office of Neighborhood Coordination to help all neighborhood associations across the city function effectively for the good of their communities. He helped acquire the land for our Community Center and served as its first director. He was serving as interim manager of the Office of Neighborhood Coordination when he died. He will be greatly missed by all those working through neighborhood associations to improve their communities.

In the words of Dr. Joe Valles, President of the West Side Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, "Besides being a family man, a brother, a friend to many, a champion for neighborhoods, a pillar of the Office of Neighborhood Coordination...he was the heart and soul of the Taylor Ranch Community Center. Again, as I stated before, there are no words that can adequately describe the loss at this time...to the West Side...to the entire city. Our prayers are with Don's family."

Those who wish to donate in his memory to the TRNA scholarship fund may do so by sending a check made out to TRNA and mailed to P.O. Box 66288, Albuquerque, NM 87193-6288, ATTN: Don Newton Memorial Scholarship. ☺

2007 TRNA Scholarship Application

Application Deadline: March 1, 2007

Applicants for the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association's \$500 Scholarship must meet all four of the following criteria:

- 1) Reside within the boundaries of the Association (north/south boundaries: Paseo del Norte and Western Trail; east/west boundaries: Rio Grande and West Mesa Escarpment);
- 2) Submit this completed Scholarship Application form and two (2) letters of recommendation, postmarked no later than March 1, 2007, to the address at the bottom of this form;
- 3) Demonstrate community involvement and service through school-wide and extracurricular activities, church and/or other organizations; and
- 4) Enroll at a college, university, or post-secondary school for Fall 2007.

Scholarship awards will be presented to the school business office or bookstore of the selected students' choice. Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

Name _____ Soc. Sec. # _____ - _____ - _____

Street Address _____

Albuquerque, New Mexico, ZIP Code _____ Telephone Number _____

Is your family a member of TRNA? _____ Yes _____ No (Membership is not required)

High School _____ Cumulative GPA (including Fall 2006) _____

Please briefly describe your educational plans following your high school graduation: _____

Please describe your extra-curricular activities and community involvement: _____

(You may attach one additional page of description.)

Please provide TWO letters of recommendation to complete your application. Recommendation letters may be attached to this form or mailed separately, but must be postmarked by the March 1 deadline.

All information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I consent to the release of information concerning my application to the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Scholarship Committee.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send your application to: Scholarship Committee, Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 66288, Albuquerque, NM 87193-6288.

Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Membership Registration

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ E-mail address: _____

- I'm interested in the following:
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active Participation | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member (Newsletter Only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Calling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/ Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic |

Check your expiration date on the mailing label.

If membership does not expire this month then please pass this form on to a neighbor!

If it does expire this month, please renew now! Enclose a check made out to TRNA in the amount of:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Resident: <input type="checkbox"/> \$18.00 (Thru Dec 2007) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$34.00 (Thru Dec 2008) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$48.00 (Thru Dec 2009) |
| Business: <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 (Thru Dec 2007) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90.00 (Thru Dec 2008) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125.00 (Thru Dec 2009) |

Our mission is to Promote, Preserve, and Improve the quality of life in Taylor Ranch.

Call Susan at 897-4684 if you have questions or need more information.

Feb. 2006

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

TRNA Board of Directors and Other TRNA Contacts

President:	<i>Brett Lopez</i>839-4805	president@trna.org
Vice-President:	<i>Don MacCornack</i> 897-1593	vicepresident@trna.org
Secretary:	<i>Ceil van Berkel</i> 899-2738	secretary@trna.org
Treasurer:	<i>Hanna Sorrells</i> 294-7042	treasurer@trna.org
Director/ Zoning, Social.:	<i>Brett Lopez</i> 839-4805	zoning@trna.org
Director:	<i>vacant</i>	
Director:	<i>vacant</i>	government@trna.org
Director//Land Use:	<i>René Horvath</i>898-2114	land@trna.org
Director/WSC:	<i>Walter Sala:</i> 890-7035	wscn@trna.org
Director/Education:	<i>David Freeman</i>899-7681	education@trna.org
Director:	<i>vacant</i>	
Director:	<i>vacant</i>	
Historian:	<i>Fred van Berkel</i> 899-2738	historian@trna.org
Membership Chair:	<i>Susan Sisson</i> 897-4684	membership@trna.org
Web Site:	<i>vacant</i>	webmaster@trna.org
Newsletter: editor:	<i>Ceil van Berkel</i>899-2738	editor@trna.org

Directors Needed

The nominating committee seeks volunteers for the board of directors. The board meets on the 2nd Wed of the month from 6:30—8:30 at the TR Community Center. Be part of the action. Make a difference. Call Brett Lopez 839-4805. ®



(WSC Continued from page 3)

were rewarded with a 34% reduction of accidents that did not involve injuries.

The West Side area command is one of the largest geographical areas in ABQ, 80 square miles, and we have only some 90 police officers to cover this area. When asked why so few, the answer was: “no one wants to be a cop, pay is too low.” The question is why, when the state is rolling in money? I guess it’s the same reason that our teachers are paid so low also. It is time that we demand that the state, county and city officials realize that we are in the 21st century and we need to do those things that other states are doing better.

Another problem that was brought up was that the police are doing a good job, especially here on the West Side, but crime is still a big problem. Since 80% of crime is committed by repeat offenders, the question is why are these criminals out on the street?

There were 8,000 to 10,000 false alarms on the West Side. It takes one hour of police time to investigate. What a waste of time that could be used more effectively. There were 104,000 calls for police last year. The westside command is doing a good job in catching criminals, taggers, etc., better than other districts. The police need everyone’s help to making the westside a safer, better place to live, so if you see something strange, call the police. For a crime prevention assessment of your property, call 831-4705 and ask for a crime prevention specialist. ®

Newsletter Email Address: editor@trna.org

Web Site <http://trna.org/>

Send your items of community interest to the Mesa Messenger! Submissions must be received by the 22nd of the month. Digital media preferred (email) / Please include author and phone number / Include SASE for photo returns. TRNA reserves the right to edit or reject submissions. Copyrighted material requires written permission.

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Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 66288
Albuquerque, NM 87193-6288

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Permit # 734

Please check the membership expiration date on your mailing label. If it says “Membership expires December 2006”, your membership has already expired. Please renew today!



Annual General membership Meeting—March 14th

7:00—8:30 Taylor Ranch Community Center

Elections, budget, guest speakers, updates

Your vote is important! Your opinions Count!