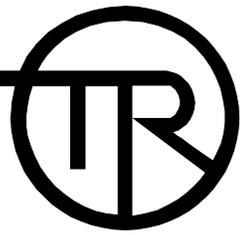


MESA MESSENGER



Newsletter of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Vol. 28 No. 8 August 2007

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

2007 Membership Drive

Ceil van Berkel, Member, TRNA

Board Member Patsy Rippo, our membership chairman, is spearheading a special membership drive. In June we mailed 3176 newsletters to residents of Taylor Ranch. Another bulk mailing will go out next week to around 3500 more homes. Patsy obtained the mailing labels and paid for the paper and postage.

Lily and Michael Andrews, owners of Digital Office Equipment, donated the printing, and Russin Reporting, owned by Jenifer Russin, did most of the preparation for the bulk mailings (folding, stapling, labeling) and the bulk mailings themselves (sorting, counting, placing in properly labeled trays and carting them down to the Main Post Office). Others who helped with the preparation were Ceil and Fred van Berkel and Rae Phillips.

So far we have signed up 14 new members as a result of the first mailing, and applications are still coming in! Join the drive and ask your neighbors to sign up! The form is on page 5 of this newsletter. ®

Beautification News

Don MacCornack, TRNA Director, Beautification

On July 21st TRNA held its monthly Mariposa Park cleanup. These awesome individuals are willing to give up some of their precious free time to improve our park. The July heroes are Lynn MacCornack and Rae Phillips. Park users have commented that the park is looking great, so the efforts of the park cleanup are not going unnoticed.

Our next park cleanup is scheduled for **August 18 at 8:30 am** at the Mariposa Basin Park entrance. Trash bags will be provided. This park is our "Central Park" and is used by many in our community, so we need to keep it beautiful. Please come out and make some new friends, and remember: **"Don't Trash the Ranch!"**

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

Land Use Update

René Horvath, Land Use Director, TRNA

La Cuentista/ Volcano Heights: Several guests attended our last Board meeting to discuss the Volcano Heights Sector Development Plan in regards to grading and preservation of the natural landscape. We conducted this discussion because residents brought up concerns that there appeared to be a lot more grading than should be occurring on top of the mesa to build subdivisions, and questioned why the open space buffer area was recently bulldozed. The Volcano Heights Plan was approved in September 2006, and promoted development that would blend with the natural landscape with a minimal amount of grading. The La Cuentista development is a subdivision within the Volcano Heights Sector Development plan. Ms. Pavich, the developer for La Cuentista, came to our Board meeting to address these concerns. She explained her plans for La Cuentista, the grading issues, and her involvement with the National Park Service and City Open Space Department. Representatives of each of these organizations were present at the meeting. A representative from the City's hydrology department was also present. Ms. Pavich explained that the grading or movement of dirt on her property is to bring in utilities and to address drainage requirements by the City. She had to put in ponding areas to catch rainwater from her development and from other areas of the mesa before it flows down the escarpment. PNM also ran electrical lines from Calle Nortena to her development, which disturbed the Open Space buffer. Her intention is to bring dirt fill into the area to avoid blasting the lava rock to install utilities. She plans to work with the National Park Service and Open Space department to restore the buffer land to a natural state and to work out a trail system along the escarpment. The discussion was very informative and brought out the difficulty of developing on lava rock. TRNA is looking into what more can be done to reduce the grading to preserve more of the natural landscape, and to make sure the plan is being followed.

(Land Use cont'd page 3)

Board of Directors' Meeting —August 8th —6:30-8:30 pm—TR Community Center

Crime Prevention Update

Gary Gudell, APD Liaison Director, TRNA

For those who take the time to read our newsletter.

Crime in our fair city just doesn't disappear by itself. The statistics that I receive are frightening!! Civilian Patrol is a great tool for keeping our streets crime and drug free. With as many homes that we have in Taylor Ranch it shouldn't be difficult to create a civilian patrol! Those interested in protecting their HOMES and CHILDREN Now is the time to think about joining up! The Police are doing their best, but they need our help.

There was a recent robbery in our area. The home owner went away for a number of weeks. A neighbor was engaged as a house sitter. House sitters don't spend 24 hours a day in your house. The responsibility of protecting your home is yours!! Make sure you have enough lights around the perimeter, use timers inside to give the house a lived in look. Check all your locks. If you go away give a neighbor or a friend a telephone number where you can be reached in an emergency.

Talk to your friends and neighbors. It isn't so difficult to get people interested in doing something for their neighborhood!

Call or email me if you have any good ideas about how to keep Taylor Ranch special! To report anything suspicious call West Side Prevention @ 839-6400. ®

West Side Coalition of Neighborhood Assoc.'s Meeting—July 11, 2007

Walt Sala, TRNA Director, WSCNA Representative

Joan and James Jones received awards from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Joan was recognized with the President's Volunteer Service Award and James for President's Call to Service Award. Both are also reserve deputies with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department.

NM football team of the SW Conference consists of 65% of West Sider's and is 1st in the nation of semi-pro teams.

We are right back to the problem of lack of playing fields on the West Side, seems like it was approved in 2005 but nobody from the administration is doing anything about it. Maybe they are waiting for the kids to join gangs, get sent to jail, then there won't be any need for the parks and playing fields. And the money can be spent on beautifying the city. I guess it is a matter of priorities. What's more important?

Jeff Armijo, CNM board member, indicated that the NW campus will be expanded, and a new campus will be built on the SW side. There are over 25,000 students attending CNM, and this will be increased shortly when UNM will request that freshmen, who are not capable of handling university studies, should attend CNM the first year, so as to be able to handle the more demanding studies at UNM.

Captain Candelaria, commander of the West Side APD, said drug abatement will be one of the priorities. He indicated that the red light cameras are doing what they were supposed to do, stop the red light runners, reduce the accidents. He believes that security at the schools is important, and should be handled by school security. They should be armed but trained. Retired police officers would do well in this situation.

Robert Lucero, Sheriff White and State Sen. Linda Lopez discussed the problem of school security. It was a lively discussion. Robert Lucero made it plain that he wanted the Sheriff's and APD officers to be responsible for school safety. Sheriff White felt that this should be handled by school security people, and he could not, in good conscience, devote any deputies, since he already is short of deputies as is the APD. His and APD's main job is the welfare of the community.

Sheriff White also indicated that each High School has a full time Resource Police Officer, which Robert Lucero seemed to have overlooked. Robert Lucero said that the school district couldn't afford a full time security force as this was not funded by the state, but had to come out of the education budget, also that counselors and nurses were not funded.

The question was raised why not? It seems like New Mexico has a surplus of money, which many states do not have but they have a very much better education system. This surplus includes over a billion dollars in gas and oil revenue. What better use of this money than funding security, counselors and school nurses? It would seem that the state likes to be near the bottom of the education list, could it be that some of our state politicians have no use for education, after all why have a educated public who might vote them out of office.

Senator Lopez stated that the task force has not come up with a solution as yet. She was in favor of arming the security people in the high schools, but was not convinced that this was the answer for the elementary and junior high schools. She would like more information on this subject.

(WSCNA cont'd page 3)

Land Use Update cont'd from page 1

Katherine Trujillo/ zone change request O-1 to R-1:

Ms. Trujillo has applied for a zone change to change the current zoning from O-1, which is office development, to R-1, which is residential development. The property is located south of Boca Negra State Park, between Mojave Street and Boca Negra Arroyo, and is east of Petroglyph Shadows subdivision. She would like to get the zoning changed before purchasing the property. Ms. Trujillo has proposed developing 20 to 24 lots on the available 4.23 acres. Ms. Trujillo has hired Tierra West to do the site engineering and she wants to follow the existing topography of the land. The price of the homes will be approximately \$250,000. She is proposing to build single story homes, which will be approximately 2,200 sq.ft. A facilitated meeting took place July 5th at the TR Community Center to review her proposal. Several local residents attended the meeting, along with a National Park Service representative, and representatives from TRNA. Residents living near the property supported the zone change because they felt offices would attract too much traffic. They also felt that 20 to 24 lots on 4 acres are too many lots and the number should be reduced. The National Park Service (NPS) would like all development that borders the Monument to follow the Northwest Mesa Escarpment Plan, which would restrict the height of residential homes to 15 feet. The NPS would like development to blend in better with the natural landscape and preserve views. TRNA representatives questioned the zone change request. They mentioned that the existing neighborhood scale office zoning would integrate nicely with the existing residential, and usually has hours of operation on weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00pm. Office zoning is much less intensive than commercial and provides a place for needed jobs for Westside residents. If a zone change does take place, then there should be a site plan to address the issues that were brought up at the meeting. An EPC evaluation of the site plan is preferred. This could be accomplished by designating the property SU-1 for residential uses, rather than R-1, in order for the proposed site plan to be heard before the EPC. There was consensus by the group in requiring a site plan to address issues that were brought up at the meeting. It should be noted, that the Westside Strategic Plan (WSSP) was amended by the City Council. The amendment enacted a policy that discourages zone map amendments that would allow changing commercial or office zoning to residential. The reason City Council amended the WSSP was due to the school capacity issues and transportation issues. Maintaining commercial and office space zoning helps to provide space for more jobs on the Westside which helps

alleviate traffic at the river crossing during the rush hour. There are no future bridges being planned. **The EPC Hearing for this zone change request is August 16th.**

Andalucia Wall: TRNA decided to approve the changes to the wall design. The new wall design is lower and will alternate between a solid wall, and a wall that has railing on the upper half. The City approved the initial wall design over one and a half years ago. They followed the City's wall ordinance without taking into account the Coors Corridor Plan view requirements. While the new wall design may not be in total compliance with the view requirements of the Coors Corridor Plan, it is an improvement. La Luz representatives also think the new design is an improvement. **The Andalucia Phase 4 EPC Hearing will be in September.**

Esperia/ Vista De La Luz: A facilitated meeting is being arranged for this project. It is a continuation of the Esperia/ Vista de la Luz development. The residential portion of the project was approved last year and is being developed now. The commercial portion of the project is seeking approval from the EPC. The commercial portion will have an office building and a row of small shops. The property is located on the Westside of Coors Blvd., between the San Antonio Arroyo and La Luz del Sol town homes. The commercial development will need to comply with the design standards that were already approved when the site plan went before EPC last year. **The EPC hearing is August 16.**

If you want more info or would like to help with any of these issues, please contact me. Rene Horvath, 898-2114

West Side Coalition Update cont'd from page 2

Sheriff White and Captain Candelaria said that they would not want security people unarmed. What is an unarmed security person to do when confronted by an armed maniac in school, talk him into giving up his gun? Not a very viable solution.

Rep. Tom Anderson spoke of re-stripping Paradise Blvd. to four lanes but there is some work that needs to be done first. He mentioned that the night three partially built homes were set on fire, it took the fire department 20 min. to respond! Also, he said that the county was getting out of the child care business and was trying to work it out.

Each of you as a member of TRNA and a caring citizen of New Mexico can make a difference, call, write or email your concerns to your elected officials.

Walt Sala, 890-7035, or wscn@trna.org.

Councilor Cadigan's District 5 Meeting

The summer District 5 meeting was held Thursday, June 28th, 6:30 pm at the Open Space Visitor Center. City Councilor Michael Cadigan went over the status of capital expenditures for this year and the plans in the future operating budget. The original fiscal 2007 budget for District 5 was \$1.25 million, but after council negotiations, an additional \$8.91 million was added. Then he opened up the meeting for comments and questions from the 40 or so people in attendance, including several from TRNA.

A number of major projects are either underway or planned to start in the near future. The Ventana Ranch Regional Park has been a number of years in the planning, with hopes to start construction in the next year or so. A Far NW Community Center, in cooperation with the YMCA, is planned for Volcano Heights near the new high school that's presently under construction. It will include an indoor pool, which will be used by the area schools as well. The land for the YMCA project – slated for completion in 2010 -- was provided by APS, and the funding acquired through the work of U.S. Representative Heather Wilson.

A number one priority is the roadway improvements to Paseo del Norte in the Jefferson/I-25 area. The DOT design is in place, and will enable drivers to go (on Paseo) from Eagle Ranch Road to I-25 without stopping. The extension of Paseo past Golf Course Rd to Universe is now completed. Some attending the meeting asked how come the nice 4-lane roadway going up the hill became a narrow 2-lane once on top. It was explained that this area is slated for major commercial development, and the developers will be responsible for the expansion of the roadway as they develop the sites.

Fire Station 21, across from Cibola HS, received additional funds for a Paramedic/ Rescue Squad. It will be housed in a portable building to begin with, until a permanent structure can be provided. The majority of fire department calls on the west side are medical emergencies, so this will be a big help.

Funding for the Taylor Ranch Library will include the addition of a full-time children's librarian, new computers & related equipment, shade improvements to the grounds, and increased video collections. Cadigan said it would be a number of years before we can expect another library to be built on the west side. Other future funded projects include the addition of a soccer field to Chamisa Elementary School, and a Petroglyph Nat'l Monument trails management plan.

Major funding is going to the Police Department in fiscal 2008. Cadigan explained that even though APD says they have 1100 officers with 600 of them on the streets, in reality there's more like only 400 actively "out there." The department is heavy on admin, with more than half the officers taking calls for service. They just simply do not have enough officers; and because other cities pay more, recruitment has been difficult. The new budget provides for raises and recruiting incentives. Also funded is a "Party Patrol" whose main focus will be to enforce underage drinking laws and noise control.

Several present or planned developments – both residential & commercial -- were discussed. [Our TRNA members are kept informed with these issues through Rene Horvath in our newsletter each month.] Also a hot topic was the issue over the red light cameras, the latest method to alert people to their existence (rumble strips in the pavement), and the costs of the fines.

Other issues of concern expressed by Councilor Cadigan: (1) A "waste of city funds" for a project that would "shrink-wrap" city vehicles with scenes for "beautification" purposes. (2) Present tax structure allowing for site development changes without changing the tax base is creating a revenue hole for the city. Basically it's "public subsidy of private development." (3) The problem with our Open Space program is the city is "always reacting instead of pre-planning. The system is there, but the mayor hasn't authorized the dollars."

When asked what was planned for Paseo to Unser access route, Cadigan said it would be a large scale "Uptown" type of commercial development. By pushing for more job-producing development, it is hoped it will relieve the strain on existing roadways (with the present need to get to the other side of the river for work).

So many of the on-going problems with development are due to "the Planning Dept letting the ball drop." Understaffed and unable to stay ahead of the rapid development of our city, we're "always in a reaction mode." A big part of Cadigan's assistant, Mimi Aledo's, day is spent reviewing plans and working with this department. Cadigan mentioned that a New Economic Development Commissioner has just been brought on board. As several people present pointed out, the biggest concern about all this out-of-control city-wide development is where will the water come from? There are presently no plans for any type of moratorium or controls to discourage this on-going growth.

We are certainly fortunate to have Councilor Cadigan, and his assistant Mimi Aledo, working on our behalf!

Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Membership Registration

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ E-mail address: _____

- I'm interested in the following:
- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <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"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/ Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Check your expiration date on the mailing label.

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

08/07

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

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Resident: <input type="checkbox"/> \$9.00 (Thru Dec 2007) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 (Thru Dec 2008) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$39.00 (Thru Dec 2009) |
| Business: <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 (Thru Dec 2007) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85.00 (Thru Dec 2008) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 (Thru Dec 2009) |



Call Patsy Rippo at 306-2244 if you have questions or need more information.

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
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Associate Editor:	<i>Rae Phillips</i>899-1273	editor@trna.org

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Aug 8 - TRNA Board Meeting
6:30 pm, Community Center
- Aug 16 - EPC Hearing
- Aug 18 - Mariposa Basin Park
Cleanup, 8:30 am

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

West Side Bus Line Expanded

Anyone notice that we now have the “Blue Line” of Rapid Ride just off Coors and Montano? It’s bus line # 790, and will take you just about anywhere in town. Starting at Montano Plaza Drive (between Raley’s plaza and Defined Fitness), it runs south down Coors with stops at Dellyne, St. Joseph Dr/ Ladera, Sequoia. Then onto I-40 and off at Rio Grande Blvd to Old Town. It continues into downtown (Lomas & 4th), then on to UNM Hospital and Central. During the week, it runs every 15 minutes. Saturdays, every 20 minutes; and Sundays every 33 minutes. It’s a real bargain at \$1 for adults, 35 cents for students & seniors, and children under 5 ride free.

Attention Cibola High School Families

Sophomores attending Cibola High School during the 2007-2008 academic school year and who reside in the Volcano Vista High School attendance area will be given a one-time option at the time of spring pre-registration to choose to remain at Cibola High School or attend Volcano Vista High School.

It is anticipated that students choosing to remain at CHS for their Junior and Senior years will be held responsible for their own transportation to the school.

For more information, you can contact Toby H. Herrera, Director, APS Student Service Center, 855-9041.

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Membership Drive Success
West Side Coalition News
Beautification News

Crime Prevention
Land Use Update
District 5 Meeting

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President's Message

Brett Lopez, President, TRNA

It's hard to believe, but school is almost back in session. For those of you who have children in area schools: Congratulations, you made it through another summer!

I forgot to mention last month those that gave of their time to help at the semi-annual flea market held in June. Hannah Sorrells and George Keck, thank you! I look forward to working closely with you at the next one, which will be held sometime in September. Ceil van Berkel and Sydney Lopez proved again that they are always there when needed.

By the time you read this we will have had a "Back to School" dance for the Mid-School crowd. The August 4th event is our way of sending the kids back to school on a high note. This idea was brought to my attention by June Newman.

That's about it for the dog days of summer! 'Til next time,

Brett, 839-4805



HAVE FUN ... KEEP COOL ... STAY SAFE!