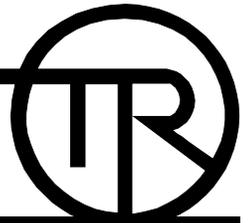


MESA MESSENGER



Newsletter of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Vol. 31 No. 9 Sept 2010

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

President's Message

Dave Waters, President, TRNA

Hello folks, It has been a busy summer and I hope everyone had fun.

You may have read in the Journal that the art project on Coors Blvd. was approved so love it or hate it, that will be something new to look at soon. There was a ribbon cutting event at the new trailhead for the Volcano trail. If you haven't seen this trail yet, it is a challenging bike ride or hike from the top of the escarpment up to Paseo Del Volcan all paved and safe with a parking lot on 81st street. Our mayor and Dan Lewis were present and it was a fun morning.

And now for the big news. As you know the Volcano Cliffs master plan will be presented to the City Council in September and there have been some changes since 2006, mainly open space. Rene Horvath has invested much of her time making sure that Taylor Ranch has had an input into this plan. In this economic environment it is very hard to get money for things that seem extravagant but just think of a view of the volcanoes surrounded by two story homes. I think the city planners have done an excellent job of incorporating most of the ideas of the 2006 plan, but the much of the open space has been lost, and that is a shame. The other issue for this new development is the impact it will have on Taylor Ranch. The lowest number I have seen is 12000 new homes up on the escarpment. That means many more commuters will increase traffic on Montañño and Paseo Del Norte. With no more river crossings possible, the future plans are for more mass transit solutions. There are great things to come. I hope you like riding the bus.

I guess the point I am trying to make is the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association is becoming a very important entity to represent us now and in the future.

Well that's about it for this month. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of summer, now that the children are back in school. You can reach me at president@trna.org ®

Beautification Update

Dee Hettick, Beautification Director

Mariposa Basin Park now has 4 new "mutt mitt" stations on the walking path. This should keep our walking path a little cleaner!

Thanks to everyone who comes to help with clean up on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 8:30am to 10:00am!! Love to meet more of you!! Please come and join us.

By the way, be on the look out for your recycling bags coupon. It should be included with your next water bill. It will be mixed in the ads they include in the bill, so be sure to not toss it. beautification@trna.org ®

Social Committee Update

Ken Newman, Director, Social Committee

The next Flea Market will be held at the Cross of Hope on Saturday, September 25, 8-1. For Reservations call 898-5447, e-mail: Juken1964@q.com, or send in the reservation form on page 6. A voter registration table will be available at the Flea Market.

Remember, this is how we finance our Scholarship Program for two (2) students each year. We use the proceeds from space rentals, TRNA tables, and food to fund these.

Also; the TRNA Board will be serving dinner at Project Share on August 27th (the food is being provided by the staff of Project Share). This is a prelude for all of us as the TRNA Board, in conjunction with Outback's, will be providing & serving food on September 24th. It is our chance to give back to those in need. By the way the TRNA President will be making the cookies for desert (200).

Project Share is a non-profit organization that provides a daily dinner meal for the needy. For more information on this organization you can contact Joell Ackerman, 1515 Yale Blvd, SE at 242-5677 or June Newman at 898-5447. ®

Land Use Update

Rene Horvath, Land Use Director, TRNA

1) Volcano Heights EPC hearing September 2nd: The original Volcano Heights Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2006, but was appealed to district court by the Volcano Cliffs property owners. The court remanded the plan back to the City for two reasons: 1) The plan needed to have an air quality analysis done for the area; 2) The development review of the 2006 plan did not follow the proper process.

The City has since revised the 2006 Plan. It is now called the Volcano Mesa Plan. It covers 3,532 acres of the mesa top. It is divided into three sector development plans: (1) Volcano Cliffs Sector Development Plan: where lots are individually owned by the Volcano Cliff property owners, located immediately above Taylor Ranch. (2) Volcano Heights Sector Development Plan: a mixed-use urban town center to provide approximately 20,000 jobs, at Unser and Paseo del Norte. (3) Volcano Trails sector plan: primarily a residential development with mixed densities and some commercial, located north of the three APS schools west of Universe Blvd. The projected population for the Volcano Mesa area, including Ventana Ranch and

Quail Ranch will be 107,000: 30,000 in the Volcano Mesa area, 75,000 for the Quail and Ventana Ranch areas.

The three plans are based on the original 2006 plan, but tailored to the goals and vision of the affected stake holders and property owners from each plan area. TRNA was involved in the 2006 Volcano Heights Plan. TRNA supported the preservation aspect of the 2006 plan. This included sensitive development around natural features, and preservation of buffer areas to protect the escarpment, arroyos, and view areas. TRNA also had concerns about traffic and drainage.

Changes made to the 2006 plan include elimination of the open space buffer along the escarpment and arroyos, and other natural features. When we inquired why the open space buffers were taken out, the reply was because Open Space has no money. These modifications of the 2006 plan benefit the property owners but the citizens of Albuquerque lose out. Members from TRNA have been trying to get the open space put back into the plan. TRNA is also concerned about the amount of traffic coming from the planned area which will have a huge impact on the Taylor Ranch area and our river crossings. The EPC will hold two public hearings to review the Volcano Mesa Plan. The first one is at **3:30 PM on Thursday September 2nd in the hearing room of the Planning department** at Plaza Del Sol, 600 2nd street. Give me a call if you would like to carpool or need further instruction to get there. We need people to go to the hearing.

2) MRCOG transportation meeting with TRNA, August 19th: The TRNA Board was interested in knowing more about the future traffic situation for the Taylor Ranch area. MRCOG (Mid Region Council of Governments) offered to do a presentation on August 19th, for TRNA on the Long Range Transportation Planning focusing on the Northwest region, which includes Rio Rancho. A meeting was quickly arranged for August 19th, at the Taylor Ranch Community Center. Three representatives from MRCOG gave the presentation. Members from TRNA, Sante Fe Village, and Sarah Westbrook from Councilor Lewis's office, attended the meeting. It turned out to be a very informative two hour presentation.

There are no plans to build new bridges. Bridges cost more and are more controversial to build than a transit system. Jurisdictions on either side of the river have not been interested in building a bridge in their communities. The focus is now on developing a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that uses buses on specifically dedicated

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lanes for quick travel time and rapid service.

One system, known as the BRT Guide-way System is being considered. It is used in other Countries. Regular buses can travel on special guide-way lanes, using a curb barrier to separate it from regular traffic. These buses can also travel on regular traffic lanes. MRCOG is thinking of locating the first BRT guideway system along Paseo from Unser to the Journal Center. A study is exploring this option.

The cost for something like the BRT is approximately \$50-75 million. In comparison, the Rail runner cost \$350 million to expand from Belen to Santa Fe, covering a much bigger service area. The proposed Paseo/ Jefferson I-25 interchange will cost approximately \$390 million to build, for just the interchange alone. In 2008, the voters supported a 1/ 8% gross receipt tax which formed the Rio Metro district. One half goes to the Rail Runner and the other half goes into Transit. Federal money is also used for roadways and transit facilities. Impact fees are used for roadways and trails. MRCOG said land use planning and transportation planning need to work together. Better policies on land use need to be put in place. Portland Oregon has tightened their control over land use planning, in order to develop a quality transit system for the city.

In order for the Volcano Heights plan to work, job creation and a BRT system will need to be in place. When asked why most of the job growth is still on the eastside of the river, MRCOG representatives thought perhaps it was because businesses want to locate where there is easy access to other companies and services. It is apparent to us that our existing roadways and river crossings are not capable of supporting any more growth.

3. Impact Fee moratorium extension – City Council: On August 16th City Council voted to approve the extension of the moratorium for the Impact fees. Two City Councilors did not support the extension, Councilor O’Malley, and Councilor Garduño. They said the Impact fees are necessary. Councilor Lewis and Councilor Trudy Jones sponsored the legislation to extend the moratorium for 12 months. Councilor Sanchez introduced an amendment to extend the moratorium for only for 6 months. The 6 month moratorium barely passed. The Chamber of Commerce, Home Builders, and members from the development community were there to support the moratorium. They said that the moratorium has helped the local economy with an increase in residential building permits which would provide gross receipt tax for the City. Three members of the League of Women Voters, three members on the TRNA Board, and Susan Johnson (who initially worked on the impacts fees) were

(Continued on page 4)

LISA W. ARNHART, DDS, PC

Family and Cosmetic Dentistry



A Taylor Ranch mom is celebrating the 4th anniversary of her dental office. Her practice emphasizes gentle, preventive care for the entire family and accepts most dental insurances. She is a Delta Dental Premier provider. Dr. Arnhart’s hours are Tuesday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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(Continued from page 3)

there to oppose the extension of the Moratorium. The League of Women Voters said that the impact fees have helped the community keep up with needed infrastructure and services. TRNA said that the development industry needs to pay their fair share otherwise the taxpayers are subsidizing the development. TRNA also brought up that the revised Volcano Heights plan lacks funding for open space. The City's impact fee implementation plan included impact fee funding to be used for Open Space, and drainage projects for the Volcano Mesa area. Also, the Capital Improvement projects will receive less funding this coming year, than in years past. This means even less money generated for open space, parks, trails, public safety, road projects, and drainage.

The City Councilors brought up that the City hired a Consultant to review the impact fee program. Some Councilors feel that the impact fees are too high, especially for the west side, and would like to see an overhaul of the impact fee system to make the fees more the same across the city. They say that the fees hinder growth on the Westside. The Financial analyst for the city said that even though there was some housing growth on the Westside, it was inconclusive whether it was due to the impact fee moratorium or other factors that were used to stimulate the economy. Note: the City is divided into different

service areas. Each service area has different infrastructure needs. The Westside has more infrastructure needs than older existing areas of town, therefore the impact fee are higher on the Westside to cover the costs. These fees cannot be transferred to other service areas except for open space and public safety. In 2004, the City hired professional Consultants to develop the impact fee system for the Albuquerque. Many Cities around the Country are using impact fees. The Business community, City department staff, and the Citizens of Albuquerque all participated to develop the current impact fee system. The current fee system may need tweaking to improve it, but not an overhaul. We will be hearing more about the impact fees in 6 months when the moratorium expires. Some Councilors said they would be willing to extend it another 6 months if necessary to jumpstart the housing/commercial development on the Westside. I find this very interesting especially when we don't have a transportation network to support any more growth on the Westside, or funds to buy open space before it is developed.

4. The Fly Way Art Project for the Open Space Visitor Center: City Council voted 5 to 4 to keep the funding for the "Fly Way" art project. There was a lot of discussion, by the City Councilors in regards to this project. Should this project be funded with the current problems the City is having with the general operating budget? Councilor Lewis felt it should not. Other Councilors felt that since the funding comes from the capital improvements budget, which is approved by the Albuquerque voters, then it should be used for what it was intended for. If the money is not used for the "Fly Way" then it will be used for another art project somewhere else in Albuquerque. Funding for Art cannot be transferred to the general operation budget. It also cannot be transferred to pay for repainting the Montano bridge tiles, which was another idea that came up. Several City Councilors said that art is subjective and not everyone likes every art project. They have had similar situations in their own districts. They rely on the selection committee which is made up of volunteers to select the art project. In this case the "Fly Way" met all the criteria the selection committee was looking for. One Councilor brought up that even the Vietnam Memorial had opposition in the beginning. Today it is an extremely popular Memorial. ®

Patrol Update

Fred van Berkel, Patrol Coordinator, TRNA

With the help of our trusty APD Liaison Pete Gelabert, we have some interesting crime statistics to report.

(Continued on page 5)

TRNA Flea Market
September 25th, 8:00 am—1:00 pm
Cross of Hope Church Parking Lot

It's that time of year! Clean out the closets, garage, shed, storage unit, etc. It's time for the semi-annual TRNA Scholarship Flea Market. As you are all aware, this is how you can give back and have some fun at the same time. This one activity pays for the scholarships we give out each year.

Space rental for members is \$6.00 and for non-members \$12.00. Just fill out the form below and mail it along with your check made payable to TRNA. A "space" is one parking space, so if you've got lots of "stuff" you'll probably want to rent at least two spaces. This has become a popular event with good crowds and lots of buyers, so get your space reserved quickly.

TRNA will have a space and will sell your donations for the scholarship fund. Please bring them to us that morning. Of course we will always be grateful if you wish to simply send a cash donation to probably the most worthwhile thing we do each year!

FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE! As always we will have light breakfast items such as chili dogs with jalapenos (if you have not had one for breakfast you don't know what you are missing) and a host of other TRNA favorites. We will also have a **voter registration table** at this Flea Market, so if any of your friends or neighbors haven't registered to vote yet, bring them over!

Many volunteers are needed to make this happen — people to help set up, work the food booth, man the TRNA tables. Call **June Newman at 898-5447 or email Juken1964@q.com**, if you are willing to help.

Once again we are indebted to Cross of Hope Church for allowing us to use their parking lot. For those who may not know, Cross of Hope is located on Taylor Ranch Road, between Montañó and Golf Course/ La Orilla, across from the Don Newton Taylor Ranch Community Center.

Call June Newman at 898-5447 or email Juken1964@q.com if you have any questions. The shady spaces will be reserved in the order in which your reservation is received, so complete and mail the following with your check right way!

Yes, I want to reserve space for the TRNA Flea Market on September 25th, 2009!

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

TRNA Member? _____

Spaces Needed? _____

Enclose your check (\$6.00/space for TRNA members, \$12.00/space for non-members) and mail to:

TRNA Rummage Sale

P. O. Box 66288

Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Membership Registration

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ E-mail address: _____

Active Participation Sustaining Member (Not able to work on committees at this time)

I'm interested in helping with the following:

- Beautification Board of Directors Crime Prevention/Patrol Education
- Environment Membership Newsletter Parks & Recreation
- Social Activities Transportation/Traffic Land Use Other _____

Pass this form to a neighbor! New Member rates for rest of this year:

Resident: \$9.00 (Thru Dec 2010) \$25.00 (Thru Dec 2011) \$39.00 (Thru Dec 2012)
 Business: \$25.00 (Thru Dec 2010) \$65.00 (Thru Dec 2011) \$100.00 (Thru Dec 2012)

Call Larry Walsh at 401-0965 if you have questions or need more information.

Please mail this form with your check made out to TRNA to:

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



TRNA Board of Directors and Other TRNA Contacts

President:	<i>Dave Waters</i>897-5771	president@trna.org
Vice-President:	<i>Hanna Sorrells</i>294-7042	vicepresident@trna.org
Secretary:	<i>Felix Franco</i>922-7176	secretary@trna.org
Treasurer:	<i>Ray Shortridge</i>604-3908	treasurer@trna.org
Director/Land Use:	<i>René Horvath</i>898-2114	land@trna.org
Director/Parks, Beautification:	<i>Dee Hettick</i>980-2587	beautification@trna.org
Director/Westside Coalition:	<i>Brett Lopez</i>836-7831	wscn@trna.org
Director/Education:	<i>Lily Andrews</i>270-5100	education@trna.org
Membership Director:	<i>Larry Walsh</i>401-0965	membership@trna.org
Social Committee Director:	<i>Ken Newman</i>898-5447	social@trna.org
Director:	<i>Derald McPherson</i>898-6489	director@trna.org
Crime Prevention Chair:	<i>Felix Franco</i>922-07176	crimeprevention@trna.org
Patrol Coordinator :	<i>Fred van Berkel</i>899-2738	patrol@trna.org
Historian:	<i>vacant</i>	historian@trna.org
Webmaster :	<i>Ceil van Berkel</i>899-2738	webmaster@trna.org
Newsletter editor:	<i>Ceil van Berkel</i>899-2738	editor@trna.org

Upcoming Events

Sept. 2—EPC-Volcano Mesa
 Sept. 8—Board Meeting
 Sept 18—Mariposa Park Cleanup
 Sept. 25—Flea Market



AARP Driver Safety Program

The AARP Driver Safety course will be offered once each month on a Saturday morning at the DN-TR Community Center. The dates of the next class is September 14th, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Cost for the class is \$12 per person for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. Please pay by check when you arrive at the class.

To reserve a place, please call the instructor, Mr. Dan Bravine, at 892-4827. ®



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Michael & Lily Andrews

Thank you for printing this newsletter
 each month!

Send your items of community interest to the Mesa Messenger! Submissions must be received by the 22nd of the month.

Newsletter Email Address: editor@trna.org

Web Site : <http://trna.org> - ID: member PW: 12trna3

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Our mission is to promote, protect, and improve the quality of life in Taylor Ranch"