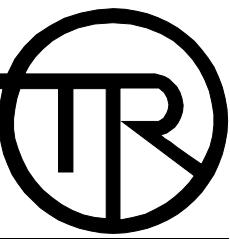


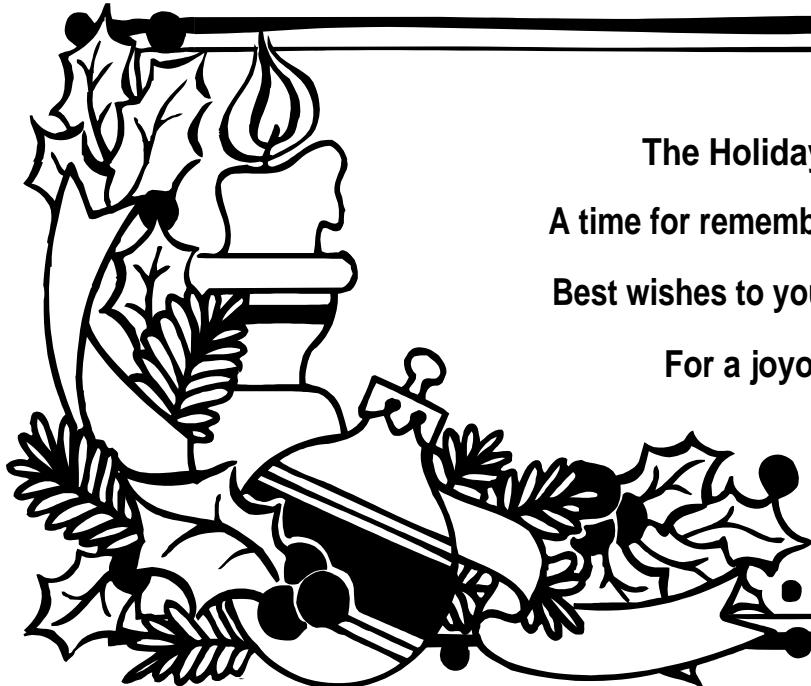
MESA MESSENGER



Newsletter of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Vol. 31 No. 12 Dec. 2010

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



The Holidays are here again...

A time for remembering friends, new and old

Best wishes to you and all those close to you

For a joyous holiday season and a

New year of

Peace and happiness.

President's Message

Dave Waters, President, TRNA

Hello everyone, it is good to be back in Albuquerque. Carol and I spent most of October back on the east coast to experience the fall colors and found a better display right here at home when we returned. What a beautiful fall we have had.

Much has been going on in Taylor Ranch this month. The city is trying to finalize the regulations for those bright LED signs we see popping up everywhere. City officials approved a large tower with the LED sign at the I-40 and Coors intersection. This sign will be over 40 feet high and advertise for the stores down by the Walmart. Our neighborhood association has opposed this sign along with the West Side Coalition of NA's and Western Bluffs NA. Also, the new CVS pharmacy wanted to install an LED sign on the corner of Montaño and Coors. Although the city approved this sign, we voted to appeal their ruling. I must say that the CVS attorney and representatives were very willing to compromise before the appeal is heard. I think because of the work that René Horvath and Jolene

Wolfley did, we were able to obtain a very favorable solution. CVS will get a sign on Coors but can never have an active element and it will be smaller with some nice landscaping. For this concession we will withdraw the appeal. I think when the CVS representatives saw all of us at the meeting they realized that we have a strong community and feel deeply about how it looks.

The big issue is still the Volcano Cliffs master plan, the results of which will affect us in a major way. Just think of the associated traffic and view implications and how you will be affected.

Your board members have been busy attending meetings and hearings with the city and, as we found out during the hearing on the LED sign regulations, there is power in numbers. We need some way to get more people to show up at these hearings so it doesn't always look like the same two or three people are interested in the outcome. René Horvath will post the hearing times in her Land Use updates in the Mesa Messenger and I hope many of us can help out by just attending and/or giving the councilors your personal input. For more information, email president@trna.org. ☺

Beautification Update

Dee Hettick, Beautification Director

Thanks to everyone who came out to help in Saturday's clean up of Mariposa Basin Park, on November 20th. It was a beautiful day with a huge flock of ducks that hung out in the ponds. We had a great turn out of volunteers. Most of the volunteers were young people that did a wonderful job picking up the trash in the park. Many thanks to Cub Scout Pack # 106, and to the First Baptist Church West Albuquerque Youth Group, where each group had at least a dozen volunteers to help in the clean up effort. Both groups said they came because they noticed the message on the TRNA signs. Also many thanks to Paula Mortensen, a long time member and volunteer for TRNA, who also dedicated her time on Saturday in cleaning up the park. And many thanks to June and her sign crew for posting the message on the TRNA message board. Overall we had 28 volunteers.

Our next clean up day at Mariposa Basin Park will be Saturday, December 18th, starting at 9:00 am. We meet near the gate leading into the children's playground area. TRNA provides garbage bags. Come join us. For more information, contact beautification@trna.org

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Land Use Update

René Horvath, Land Use Director, TRNA

1. Volcano Mesa Plan: On November 4th the EPC held their second hearing on the Volcano Mesa Plans. The hearing lasted ten and a half hours. Jolene Wolfley, Bruce Owens, the Gnasis, Dee Hettick, and a gentleman from Staghorn Dr., were able to attend the hearing to represent Taylor Ranch. Taylor Ranch expressed the importance of preserving the open space buffers, natural arroyos, views, volcanic outcrops, and concerns over the amount of traffic impacting Taylor Ranch and the river crossings. Jolene pointed out that public places in the original plan are being sacrificed in the new plan, and that densities are being increased in areas that were previously reserved for more sensitive development. A representative from the League of Women Voters urged the commission to consider the public's interest in the new plans by preserving an open space buffer around the Petroglyphs. Kirt Anschuetz an Anthropologist, lives near Paradise Hills. He was concerned that the Town Center development plan is too intense. He also talked about the importance of preserving the natural arroyos because they played an important role as pathways for the ancient cultures that lived in the area. Bruce Huckell, a Professor at the UNM Anthropology Dept. discovered the 10,500 year old Folsom site on the mesa top, in 1997. Ancient spear points and bison bones were discovered at this site. He expressed how the mesa is full of archeological sites. He suggested that there be consideration given to preserving some of these sites which could be used for educational purposes. School children in the area would benefit from learning about these ancient sites. Research of the archeological sites needs to be considered in these plans.

Mr. Edwards, a property owner in the Town Center area, supported keeping the Town Center a Major Activity Center which would allow building heights to be 6 stories. He said that the area around Unser and Paseo del Norte will be the center of Albuquerque some day, making it an appropriate spot for a Major Activity Center. The Volcano Cliff Property Owners said they support the Volcano Mesa Plans and were interested in pursuing SADs (Special Assessment Districts) in order to develop their land. They would also be interested in selling the buffer land for fair market value but the city needs to buy it. They did not want a map of the open space land that needed to be purchased put into the Volcano Mesa Plan because it would lower their property values and would be considered a taking by the landowners. Susan Biernacki from the City's Treasury Dept. explained the SAD process to the EPC.

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SADs are publicly funded development plans which are reimbursed thru property tax assessments. In order for the property owners to receive funding to develop their land through an SAD, the property owners would all have to agree to go through the SAD process and they would have to agree to pay off a lien that will be placed on their property before receiving the funding. If a property owner misses two consecutive payments, the City would foreclose on that property.

The EPC discussed having the Open Space Department come up with a map of the lands that need to be acquired but they agreed not to include it in the Sector Plans. EPC Commissioner, Mr. Shine questioned whether the Town Center should be a Major Activity Center. He feels that it is too intense for the mesa area. He feels that a Community Activity Center is more appropriate because it is less intense and the buildings will be no higher than three stories. The EPC voted to approve their recommendations for the Amendment to the West Side Strategic Plan. It will go to City Council. It still needs to be determined whether the Town Center will be a Major Activity Center or a Community Activity center. The LUPZ committee (Land Use Planning and Zoning) will review it first, and then it

will go to City Council. No date has been set. The three Volcano Mesa Sector Development Plans will be heard again on February 3rd 2011. Mr. Shine arranged to have the EPC Commission go on a tour of the mesa top in early January so they can see the mesa before February's hearing. Mr. Shine is an EPC commissioner who lives on the west side. He has been very helpful in addressing west side residents concerns when he reviews west side plans.

2. LED Signage regulations: City Council reviewed the reports that came from the LED signage task force. There was a majority report from all the members on the task force and a minority report from the community representatives on the task force. Three residents from Taylor Ranch attended the hearing. They supported the minority report and explained how the LED signs are being approved in residential areas without notification. The signs are too bright and flashy, and don't comply with current sign regulations or the Coors Corridor Plan. Code enforcement has not been able to get control of the situation. Dave Waters, president of TRNA, explained that the LED signs negatively affect his vision at night because of his cataracts. After listening to public testimony, City Council

(Continued on page 4)

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Youth Group Meets at 5:00 PM

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(Continued from page 3)

expressed concerns that the LED signs may be a bigger problem than they had realized. Some suggested a moratorium. Other Councilors said they could not consider a moratorium at this meeting because they were only required to review the task force reports. In the end they approved both reports. Councilor Lewis told the TRNA representatives that he would be working with Councilor Benton on the signage regulations to address the issues that were brought up. Overall, I think we made significant progress at the City Council meeting. The task force will continue working on the LED signage regulations. Note: TRNA did a good job responding to the City's Electronic Sign Survey last September. There were 39 respondents from TRNA who participated in the survey. The Four Hills Neighborhood Association came in with 38 responses. TRNA and Four Hills had the highest amount of responses the City received from all the Neighborhoods. The results are included in the report.

3. CVS sign agreement: TRNA and CVS are working together to negotiate an agreement on the CVS sign. ZHE had granted the variance to allow a monument sign at Coors and Montano saying the high grade differential created a hardship for CVS making it hard to see the signs on the building. TRNA appealed the ZHE decision maintaining the CVS site does not have a hardship because the elevation grade makes the building mounted signs even more visible from the roadways. A CVS representative called TRNA a week before the appeal hearing to see if something could be worked out. TRNA and CVS met at the Community Center. We agreed to work out a compromise. CVS agreed to improve the design of the monument sign by making it a bit smaller, add stonework to it, move it further north of the intersection, and to construct

it into the side of slope. No electronic LED display will be allowed on the monument sign. They also agreed to remove some of the signage from the building and make sure that it complies with the Coors Corridor Plan. CVS said they would also compensate TRNA for the cost of our appeal. We are currently working on a covenant agreement with CVS. TRNA is planning to withdraw the appeal upon execution of this covenant agreement. For more information contact land@trna.org. ☺

TRNA on Patrol

Fred van Berkel, Patrol Coordinator, TRNA

My trusty APD liaison Pete Gelabert provided us with the Taylor Ranch calls for service from APD for the last 2 months. Compare:

	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
Assaults	29	45
Residential Burglary	10	5
Auto Burglary	7	17
Auto Theft	3	4
Traffic-related	83	78
Sex Offences	0	4
Drug Busts	0	1

A further breakdown of the numbers indicates that the busiest days of the week and time of day for calls were:

	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
Day of Week	Monday	Friday
Time of Day	8 am	5 pm

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But to be honest, there is no statistically significant busiest day of the week. As far as time of day is concerned, most calls are usually made between 7 and 8 am and 3 and 5 pm.

Pete told us that as a neighborhood we are doing all right. Compared with other neighborhoods. The police were called for 435 incidents in TR over the two months in question.

We still have a long way to go to reach ZERO. Are there any volunteers out there to help patrol the neighborhood in an effort to nudge those numbers down? Call 899-2738 or email patrol@trna.org ®

Welcome to Our New Editor

Ceil van Berkel, Editor

Welcome to our new newsletter editor, Nancy Douglas, who will take over the Mesa Messenger in January, 2011.

Nancy and her family moved to Albuquerque a year ago and settled in Taylor Ranch. The family enjoys living in Taylor Ranch because the people are friendly and watchful of each other and the location provides easy access to practically everything. They love having the West Mesa and Mariposa Basin Park nearby to walk their dogs, and Nancy reports that she has already met many wonderful neighbors.

Since most of her career had been in the technological field, she decided to update her Microsoft skills at UNM in last spring and then became Microsoft certified. Although she's only been a member of TRNA since August, she decided to take on the challenge of volunteering to become TRNA's newsletter editor when she read that the Mesa Messenger would end if no one stepped forward. She had been looking for a volunteer position which would use her skills and feels this will be a perfect fit. She looks forward to being part of TRNA and meeting more of its members.

Welcome, Nancy, and thank you for taking on this important job. ®

Does Your Membership Expire this Month?

Please look at the expiration notice at the top of the mailing label on the back page. If it says "Membership Expires December 2010", then it's time for you to renew your membership. Please mail your check in today, or bring it to the Holiday Lunch on December 4th.

And while you're renewing, consider giving your neighbors a gift membership in TRNA this year.



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Taylor Ranch Self Storage	890-7400
West Mesa Christian Church	898-9226





2011 TRNA Scholarship Application

Application Deadline: March 1, 2011

Applicants for the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association's \$750 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 (river) and West Mesa Escarpment);
- 2) Submit this completed Scholarship Application Form and two (2) letters of recommendation, postmarked no later than March 1, 2011, to the address at the bottom of this form;
- 3) Demonstrate community involvement and service, whether through school and extracurricular activities or other service organizations; and
- 4) Enroll at a college, university, or post-secondary school for Fall 2011.

Scholarship awards will be presented to the school business office or bookstore of the schools in which the selected students are enrolled.

Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Street Address _____ ZIP Code _____

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

High School _____ Cumulative GPA (including Fall 2010) _____

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

Please describe your extra-curricular activities, stressing community service:

(You may attach one additional page of description.)

Please also provide TWO letters of recommendation to complete your application. Recommendation letters may be attached to this form or mailed separately, but all must be postmarked by the March 1 deadline. Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

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 completed 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: _____

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

I'm interested in helping with the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Beautification	<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Crime Prevention/Patrol	<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"/> Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Renewal Rates:

Resident: \$18.00 (Thru Dec 2011) \$34.00 (Thru Dec 2012) \$48.00 (Thru Dec 2013)

Business: \$50.00 (Thru Dec 2011) \$90.00 (Thru Dec 2012) \$125.00 (Thru Dec 2013)

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

12/10

TRNA Board of Directors and Other TRNA Contacts

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

Upcoming Events

Dec. 4 — Holiday Lunch
 Dec. 8 — Board mtg.
 Dec. 20 — Mariposa Park Clean-up



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Michael & Lily Andrews

Thank you for printing this newsletter
 each month!

Happy Holidays

to you and your family

from the Taylor Ranch

Neighborhood Association

Board of Directors

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

**INSIDE THIS
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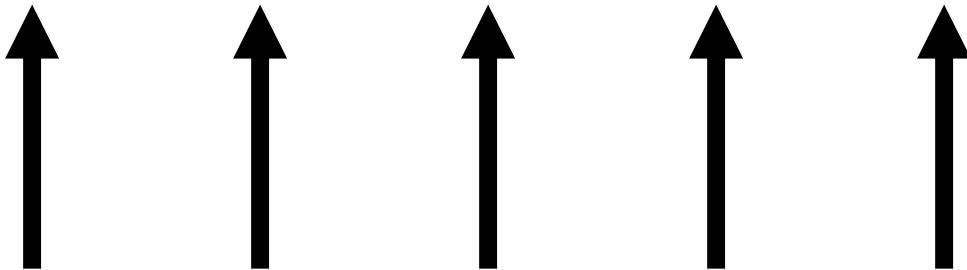
TRNA on Patrol
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Remember, Holiday Luncheon December 4th!

(for those who sent in reservations !)

TR-DN Community Center at Noon



Bring dessert to share and non-perishable food or toiletries for Holiday Baskets

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