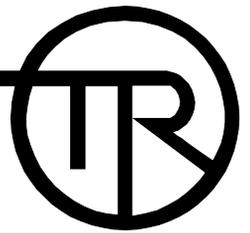


MESA MESSENGER



Newsletter of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Vol. 32 No. 5 May 2011

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

*Happy
Mother's
Day*



President's Message

Dave Waters, President, TRNA

How long would it take to clear a football field of hundreds of rock-sized objects? If they are Easter eggs and Taylor Ranch children are doing the cleaning, about twenty two seconds flat. I just came from the annual Easter egg hunt at Mariposa Park and it was packed. This event is and has been sponsored by the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association and is one of if not the largest Easter hunts in New Mexico. Ken and June Newman and all of their volunteers have put their heart and soul into this event and it shows. It will raise much of the money used to fund the scholarship fund. Great job guys.

At our last board meeting we selected our new officers. They are myself as President, Ray Shortridge as the Vice President, Lily Andrews as the Treasurer and Felix Franco continues as our Secretary. Derald McPherson is the current West Side Coalition representative, Ken Newman is the Social Chair and until we acquire a new volunteer I will act as the Parks and Beautification Chair. We also receive so much help from non board members like Fred and Ceil Vanberkel, without whose help, I don't know how we could operate, and other volunteers throughout the year. We also decided to focus on a few key issues this year including but not limited to crime prevention, increasing our membership, land use issues.

Since becoming president, I have received

several e-mails from our neighbors relating to issues of zoning enforcement. The best avenue for these problem resolutions is to call 311 and be directed to the proper city agency. It seems that when the call comes from an officer of the association, it carries more weight. That is why I keep harping on increasing our numbers. The more members we have, the stronger our influence on the city is. Felix signed up several new members at the Egg hunt on Saturday.

Fred tells me he has signed up several new patrollers to take the upcoming citizen patrol class. This came as a direct result of the door hangers that we distributed over the last month. There are many more to distribute.

If you want to cover your neighborhood, e-mail Fred at Patrol@TRNA.org

We had our park cleanup on the 15th and the Cub Scouts from Pack 121, Wolf Den did another great job. This is not just kids picking up trash but they are being taught about community service and given a very impressive talk before and after the job is done. I am so impressed with these youth organizations and how they instill good values on our children it gives me hope for our future.

I hope everyone had a happy Easter season and I will see you next month.

TRNA Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Ken Newman, Social Committee Director, TRNA

What a great day we had at this year's Easter Egg Hunt – in just a few seconds 5200 eggs were gone. Each age group, 3& under, 4-6, 7-8 & 9-10 also had some prizes in addition to the eggs. I think this may have been the biggest one yet – at least it sure seemed so. I know everyone had a good time and

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Board of Directors Meeting —Wednesday May 11th—6:30 pm—DN-TR Community Center

(Continued from page 1)

especially the kids. As we all know to put on an event of this size it takes a lot of people. Without volunteers, TRNA would not be what we are all about. This year it was no difference – I would like to thank all of our supporters and volunteers. Everyone from the egg fillers, to cooks, to running the games and just general help. I bet Brett Lopez does not care if he ever sees another hot dog – but



as always he was there to help. I would like to recognize some of the volunteers – I will probably forget someone so I will apologize ahead of time if I omit anyone. Thanks for the help and to our supporters: Ceil & Fred, Debbie & Vern Tatum, Paul & Audrey Swetman, Peggy Minich, Jane Webster, TRNA Board of Directors, DN TRCC, Tito & Pat Madrid from the Mayor's Office, Michelle Lujan-Grisham, County Commissioner, District 1, LBJ students, LaCueva HS, Volcano Vista HS, Optimist Juniors, Civitan Club, Rio Rancho Church of Christ (Dana & John) , Pete Gelibart – APD,



APD Westside, AFD HQ & Station 18, Hinkle Family Fun Center, Albertson's (Dan Szuch & Paul Otero), Cliff's Amusement Park,

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Smith's, Walgreen's, Dion's, DQ/OJ, Ell Photography, Chick-Fil-A, and Outback Steakhouse. Thanks to all of those who provided the cakes for the Cake Walk. I'm not sure who had the most fun at the cake walk; the kids or Rene', Rachel & Annie. What would an Easter Egg Hunt be without our characters: Easter Bunny – Sydney Lopez, Tweetie – Beth Vaughn, Sylvester – Katlyn



Swetman, and Sparky – Jonathan Rodriguez-Ramos. Thanks to McGruff and the Chick-Fil-A characters also. Again, Thanks to all from June & Ken – we could not have done this without you.

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America's Night Out—Update

Felix Franco, Crime Prevention Director

Call for Volunteers: America's Night Out Against Crime – 2011 TRNA event – Planning Sub Committee.

As a neighborhood watch block captain, I have witnessed firsthand how the involvement of community and Albuquerque Police interaction can make a huge impact to reduce crime and show a sign of real unity. We are really fortunate to have the North West Area Command, under the leadership of Commander Steve Warfield, which is fully concerned with the well-being and safety of the Taylor Ranch residents. Last fall, my local neighborhood made an effort to participate in "America's Night Out Against Crime," and it was a remarkable experience. In fact, neighbors were so excited that we immediately discussed how to make this event a much bigger event for all of Taylor Ranch residents -Perhaps holding the event at Mariposa Park?

We'd like to extend an invite to brainstorm, plan, and help organize America's Night Out on Tuesday, August 2, 2011. Keep in mind this is a nationwide event, and I fully believe that Taylor Ranch residents would support and participate at an association level. If you are a block captain, a citizen's patrol member, or interested in any way helping with this event, please contact Felix Franco at tel. 922-7176 or email secretary@trna.org. Stay tuned for more information regarding TRNA's Night Out Against Crime.

Land Use Update

René Horvath, Land Use Director, TRNA

1. Volcano Mesa Plan/ Volcano Cliffs Sector Development Plan/ LUPZ hearings/ City Council meeting scheduled May 2nd: The Volcano Cliffs Sector Development Plan was reviewed by the EPC on February 3rd. Since then it went to LUPZ (Land Use Planning and Zoning), who reviewed the plan at two different public hearings. One LUPZ hearing was conducted on March 30th and the other hearing was on April 13th. LUPZ is made up of 5 City Councilors who review Land Use Plans before sending the Plans to the full City Council.

Summary of the March 30th and April 13th hearing LUPZ hearings: TRNA, the National Park Service, and the Volcano Cliff Property Owners attended both LUPZ hearings. Overall the Volcano Cliffs Property owners were satisfied with the Plans. Other citizens who participated in the LUPZ hearing had problems with it. One citizen, who owned property near Paseo Del Norte and the escarpment, thought the zoning near their property was too intense for that area and should be reconsidered. Another citizen thought that the setback from the escarpment would not allow enough buffer along the escarpment to enjoy the open space.

The Park Service brought up that building heights need to be low along the escarpment in order to preserve the views, and to follow the Northwest Mesa Escarpment Plan. They also commented on how the blowing dust is affecting the escarpment. The blowing dust is a result of the land being disturbed by the development on the mesa top. The Park Service showed a picture of how blowing sand has accumulated at the bottom of the escarpment, pushing against residential block walls in Taylor Ranch.

TRNA backed up the Parks Service's concern of blowing sand, by showing pictures of the

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ceramic tile



block fences
stucco

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escarpment where the vegetation and boulders are being buried by blowing sand. Trash is also accumulating along the escarpment where it wasn't there a few years before. TRNA had pictures of the trash too. TRNA brought up that there needs to be a buffer along the rim of the escarpment, especially more buffer around Boca Negra Canyon. TRNA told the LUPZ committee that it was very disappointing that after working on this Plan for a year that hardly any money was put into the CIP budget for Open Space land acquisition, so that the buffer could be acquired. In regards to transportation TRNA pointed out that existing platted subdivisions need to be more pedestrian friendly by opening up pedestrian access to major streets to allow pedestrian travel to shopping areas and to bus stops. If the plan is going to say it is pedestrian friendly, then it needs to be designed to be pedestrian friendly. Jolene from Taylor Ranch brought up that certain Arroyos are very unique culturally and geologically and need to be preserved in their natural state. There also needs to be a limitation on how much fill dirt should be brought in to cover the mesa top in order to install utilities. More should be done about this in order to help preserve the natural landscape, which will also help hold the dust down. In addition, the language in the plan which allows rural development densities of 1 dwelling unit (du) per acre to go to 3 du's per acre if clustered, needs to be revised. Clustering three du's per acre would

not allow enough area on the one acre parcel to preserve the natural landscape, which negates the intended purpose of clustering.

Several Councilors had concerns over the comments made during public testimony. They questioned staff about the blowing dust problem, and inquired how the subdivisions could be made more pedestrian accessible. They expressed support for a buffer along the escarpment and a street edge to separate the development from the escarpment. They also said that Petroglyph National Monument is an investment that was made for all Albuquerque citizens and that it is very important to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources in that area.

The Volcano Cliffs Sector Development Plan will go to the full City Council, May 2nd, 5:00PM, in the City Council Chambers, One Civic Plaza.

If this news letter reaches you in time, before Monday, May 2nd, you can still send comments to the City Council. Comments can be e-mailed to Crystal Ortega cortega@cabq.gov at Council services. Traffic concerns, transportation planning and funding for open space land acquisition are still important.

2. Volcano Mesa Plan/Volcano Trails Sector Development Plan/ LUPZ hearing /May 11:

(Continued on page 5)

Open will hear the Volcano Trails Sector development Plan on Wednesday May 11th at 5:00pm in the Council Committee room, in the Albuquerque/ Bernalillo Government Building 9th floor, One Civic Plaza. This is the second sector plan of the Volcano Mesa Plan that is under review. The April newsletter has an article on the Volcano Mesa Trails Plan. Please see that article for more details.

3. A Chat with the Mayor: On March 31st, the Mayor organized a 5 minute chat with Westside constituents at the West Mesa Community Center. Constituents had 5 minutes to chat with the Mayor and his staff privately about any concerns they had about their community. Approximately 30 people attended. Some had concerns about water, Pat Hurley Park, why it is hard to attract retail shopping areas on the SW mesa, and concerns over the location of the Westside Stadium. I told Mayor Berry that I was with TRNA. We have been working on the Volcano Mesa Plan. I was concerned about how the development would affect the traffic in Taylor Ranch. Because there are no plans for additional bridges, we would be relying on bus service. Was the City really going to invest in a Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT)? Also our Volcanoes and Petroglyphs are very unique to the City. Albuquerque has been referred to as the City of Volcanoes. We have been asking for a buffer along the escarpment to protect the Petroglyphs, but the City did not allocate enough open space funds in the CIP budget to help purchase the buffer. Is the City at all interested in preserving this unique resource? Mayor Berry said he knows about the BRT system and has seen it in other cities. He is interested in doing a BRT system in Albuquerque. He also would like to get more jobs on the Westside which he thinks will help alleviate traffic. He agrees the Volcanoes and Petroglyphs are very important to the City. He said they have been working with Matt Schmaeder with the Open Space Department. He would have to check to see if there was any more money that could be allotted to Open Space. This was a very brief 5 minute discussion. But it helped to communicate our community concerns.

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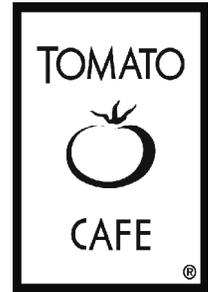
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West Side Coalition Update

Derald McPherson, WSCNA Director, TRNA

On April 6th, there was a WSCONA Board of Directors meeting held at Don Newton Community Center.

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Worrall. After a quorum was verified by the secretary, the meeting commenced. Minutes were accepted and the first speaker was called.

For the city, Mr. Tito Madrid came up and spoke about the city budget, employee wages and the vision of and for the city.

From the Mayor's office, the report was given about bonds for library, a fire station breaking ground, and



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(Continued from page 5)

the extension of Unser was planned to go to Paseo del Norte for better traffic movement.

From the county, Mr. Lenton Mallory reviewed the newsletter he distributed and updated the coalition on things happening at the county.

From the state, Mr. Oneill, Mr. Maestes, and Mr. Doyle discussed the state of New Mexico's budget and other issues of the state in the eyes of the House of Representative.

Senator Lopez spoke on redistricting for the Westside, since the largest growth of Albuquerque was happening on the Westside.

The major discussion was on the 98th Street and Central, Albuquerque Public Schools 220 Acres Land Purchase, which was addressed by Brad Winter (former city councilman) and several other gentlemen who represented the sellers of the land and the planners of what the sports complex would look like when finished showing what plans were done to address the issues of noise, traffic, and lights as it would effect the surrounding community.

Even though many neighbors are opposed to this complex, it has been planned by APS since 2005 and Mr. Winters assured everyone that the complex would be built.

Library Update

Ceil van Berkel, Chair Library Advisory Board

The proposed city library bonds, which will be on the ballot for voter approval in November, include three million dollars for materials (books, magazines, dvd's cd's, electronic books and databases) and five hundred thousand dollars for automation (software and hardware) for ABC Libraries (The Albuquerque/ Bernalillo County Library System). If the voters approve those bonds, the Libraries will be able to buy enough materials to avoid shorter loan periods and longer wait times for PC access and requested books.

Unfortunately the news is not as good for the operating budget for next year. The operating budget pays for salaries, contract labor, utilities, and the routine upkeep and maintenance of the facilities. The operating budget is funded by the city and county from their general funds. Bond money cannot be used for these expenses.

If we want to keep our libraries open, we need to ask our friends and relatives who live in Bernalillo County to urge *(Continued on page 8)*

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Mark Your Calendar!
TRNA RUMMAGE SALE
June 11th, 8:00 am—noon
Cross of Hope Church Parking Lot

It's time for the semi-annual **TRNA Scholarship Rummage Sale**. As you are all aware, this is how you can give back and have some fun at the same time. This one activity, held twice a year, pays for the scholarships we give out each year. Of course we will always be grateful if you wish to simply send a cash donation to our scholarship fund, probably the most worthwhile thing we do 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. The shady spaces will be reserved in the order in which your reservation is received.

TRNA will also have a space and will sell your donations with proceeds going to the scholarship fund. Please drop them off at the Cross of Hope parking lot that morning. If you wish to have them picked up before the 11th, please call Kenneth Newman at 898-5447.

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.

Call **June Newman at 898-5447** or **Kenneth Newman at 898-5447** if you are willing to help or have any questions.

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 Montano and Golf Course/ La Orilla, across from the Don Newton Taylor Ranch Community Center.**

Yes, I want to reserve space(s) for the TRNA Rummage Sale on June 11, 2011!

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
 Albuquerque, NM 87193

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if we want to keep our libraries open, we need to ask our friends and relatives who live in Bernalillo County to urge their County Commissioners and City Councilors to adequately fund ABC Libraries in their budgets for the coming fiscal year to avoid reducing hours at our libraries.

ABC Libraries narrowly missed cutting hours this year when the city increased the library operating budget just enough to hire temporary contract workers to fill the library positions which had been cut. (The Libraries have lost 40 filled positions over the past five years.)

This year the city may propose additional cuts to the libraries operating budget.. If this happens, it will mean that each library will have to shorten its hours, starting July 1st, the beginning of the fiscal year.

Because of a joint powers agreement, the city is only responsible for funding the operation of 14 of our 17 libraries. Bernalillo County should provide enough money to operate the 3 libraries located in the unincorporated area of the county.

But, for the past five years, the county has not been paying the full operating costs of the 3 libraries in the unincorporated areas. The county has only been willing to contribute a maximum of approximately 1.1 million dollars per year.. Operations costs have been consistently higher than that and the forecasted cost for these libraries for next fiscal year is almost 1.5 million dollars. If the County Commission would approve expending the full amount of

the operating expenses for those 3 libraries, up to 1.5 million dollars, that would help prevent reducing hours throughout the whole system. If the city administration would avoid further cuts to the operating budget for the Library System for FY 2012, that would also allow the hours to remain the same as they are now throughout the system.

Whenever you have a chance to talk with your Commissioner or Councilor, please tell them how important it is to you to avoid reducing hours at your library. (For more information see the Advisory Board's website, supportabclibraries.org).

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, May 5th, 2011: Bedtime Storytime

6:45-7:15pm Come in your jammies and bring your blankets!

Wednesday, May 18th, 2011: Personal Narrative Writing Workshop

10:30am—Noon: Tell a story from your life— make me like it! Join local writer, curator, and community arts teacher, Micaela Seidel for this FREE workshop.

Why do our own stories matter and how do we make others want to listen? In this workshop you will learn the basics of writing an intriguing personal narrative. Using your own stories, learn the basic craft elements that can help make your personal story engaging to others.



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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 _____

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

05/11

TRNA Board of Directors and Other TRNA Contacts

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| President: | <i>Dave Waters</i> | 897-5771 | president@trna.org |
| Vice-President: | <i>Ray Shortridge</i> | 604-3908 | vicepresident@trna.org |
| Secretary: | <i>Felix Franco</i> | 922-7176 | secretary@trna.org |
| Treasurer: | <i>Lily Andrews</i> | 270-5100 | treasurer@trna.org |
| Director/Land Use: | <i>René Horvath</i> | 898-2114 | land@trna.org |
| Director/Parks, Beautification: | <i>Vacant</i> | | beautification@trna.org |
| Director/Westside Coalition: | <i>Derald McPherson</i> | 898-6489 | wscn@trna.org |
| Director/Education: | <i>Vacant</i> | | |
| Membership Director: | <i>Larry Walsh</i> | 401-0965 | membership@trna.org |
| Social Committee Director: | <i>Ken Newman</i> | 898-5447 | social@trna.org |
| Crime Prevention Chair: | <i>Felix Franco</i> | 922-7176 | 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>Nancy Douglas</i> | 899-5672 | editor@trna.org |

Upcoming Events

- Jun. 2—Council Hearing
 Jun. 11— Flea Market
 Aug. 2 Tues.—Night Out



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Michael & Lily Andrews

*Thank you for printing this newsletter
 each month!*

AARP Driver Safety Program



The AARP Driver Safety course is usually offered once each month at the DN-TR Community Center . The complete class runs from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm on a Saturday. Cost for the class per person is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. Pay by check when you arrive at the class. To learn the next available date and reserve a place, please call the instructor, Mr. Dan Bravine, at 892-4827. ®

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: 99trna4

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