

MESA MESSENGER

Newsletter of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.

January 2000

Message from the President...

Doug Goodfellow

My wife, who is a saint, by the way, is occasionally flummoxed by the way one thing reminds me of another with the two not having a relationship most people would recognize. Somebody talks about some news item or an event in their lives, like their brother getting married, and suddenly I'm discussing Pickett's Charge. "What in the world does Bill's brother getting married," my wife might ask, "have to do with Pickett's Change?" "Well," I might answer, "Pickett's Charge is one of those things which seemed like a good idea at the time, but which in retrospect was clearly a futile and costly effort in pursuit of an impossible goal. Much like marriage - -" And then I'm interrupted by a request to roll my sleeping bag out on the couch for the next few nights. Heavy sigh.

The reason I mention this is because two items cropped up in the local news during the past few weeks which, on the surface, might not seem related but I think are.

First, the City Council, I think it was the City Council anyway, voted down a "Living Wage" bill which would have required companies locating in Albuquerque and receiving tax abatements to pay their workers a preset wage. Presumably, the wage would be sufficient to keep an employee, and perhaps a small family supported by that employee, above the poverty line. The rationale in support of the bill was in part that it doesn't make sense to offer tax subsidies to poverty perpetuating businesses.

Second, teachers at Rio Grande High School want the concessions they made over a year ago rescinded. You might remember that the new principal at Rio Grande was given powers over transfer of teachers and a committee was created to come up with other reforms to address what I believe to be real problems of discipline and dropout at Rio Grande. Well, more than a year passed. The dropout rate at Rio Grande is over 11% per year, or about one out of three students dropping out before graduation by the time all the years are put together. And the committee which was supposed to come up with ideas and programs to improve the school has never even met. Never. Not once. As far as I know, not even for a coffee and doughnuts get to meet you kind of thing.

So, the teachers, understandably, have said, "Look, we offered these concessions in the hope of getting constructive change. If there is going to be no constructive change, we want to take back our concessions." What do our leaders on the school board have to say about this situation? Have they demanded answers of the principal and the committee as to why nothing's been done? Have they implemented a plan to make sure something is done? Are they at least upset that absolutely zilch has happened? Um, no.

School board member Aggie Lopez was asked her reaction. She said, and I think this is darned close to the quote in the paper if not exact, "Everything's fine at Rio Grande High School. There is only an image problem." An image problem! Maybe the answer, then, is to hire a public relations firm for the school to explain to the public why we shouldn't be distraught about dropout rates over 30%, never mind the discipline problems.

(Cont. on page 2)

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

It's time to start looking for Taylor Ranch residents to sit on the TRNA board. Positions are for two years, and require attending 1 meeting a month. The general meeting will be held in March and at that time we will need at least 6 interested individuals.

Speaking from a personal point of view, I have found great gratification in helping out my community. I have met hundreds of neighbors, and seen the difference that one can make in their community.

If you have a couple of hours a month to volunteer as a board member, please call one of the nominating committee members listed below.

Thank You!

Deborah Tatum 897-5071

Don Newton 898-2185

June Newman 898-5447

**TRNA General Meeting
Thursday
March 23, 2000
More info to follow!**

"Ancient Therapy For a Modern World"



BODYWISE MASSAGE

4801 Montañño Road NW 4686 Corrales Road
(505) 792-2124 (505) 792-1340
** \$5.00 OFF YOUR 1ST VISIT! **

(Cont. from page 1)

"Ignore that man behind the curtain!" (See there? I've related school board leadership to the Wizard of Oz's efforts to keep up a false illusion of competence and power! But maybe that's not such a stretch...)

What do the "Living Wage" bill and the teacher's concessions have to do with each other? A city attracts business in large measure by the virtue of the city's features, or assets. San Francisco has the Silicon Valley and all sorts of techies running around waiting to help e-commerce upstarts become millionaires. Seattle has Intel, Boeing, and highly skilled workers.

TRNA Contacts / Board of Directors

Doug Goodfellow.....	President	899-34
Christine Dillow.....	Vice-President/Newsletter	899-22
Dana Krill.....	Secretary	899-9117
Paul Kroll.....	Treasurer	899-1640
Don Newton.....	Director/Government Affairs	898-2185
Diana Manning.....	Crime Director	898-6547
Rick Lackey.....	Director	897-2259
Susan Malona.....	Director	897-2550
Bill Clement.....	Director	890-0515
Peggy Minich.....	Education Director	899-8590
Vacant.....	Director	

VACation Stampede!

Buy or Refinance a vehicle and lasso a VACation!

- Steer your carro over to our corral, then refinance it, or
- Pick out a new or used car, truck or RV and finance it at USNM
- Get your loan at 7.6%* fixed annual percentage rate (You herd right, only 7.6%!)
- Head out on the VACation trail

During January and February **buy or refinance** a car, truck, RV or covered wagon. With a U.S. New Mexico loan of \$14,000 or more, you will receive a **4 day, 3 night VACation!** Choose from over 100 fabulous VACation Getaways in the United States and Canada. Put the USNM brand on all your loans.

Call **342-8888** ext. 13 or stampede over to your favorite branch today!

*Rate may vary based on qualification. Offer expires February 29, 2000, and excludes vehicles currently financed or financed within the past 90 days at U.S. New Mexico Federal Credit Union. Vacation Getaways do not include transportation.



www.usnmfcu.org



4411 IRVING BLVD. NW • 3939 OSUNA RD. NE
2608 TENNESSEE ST. NE • 616 GOLD AVE. SW

While I initially supported the "Living Wage" bill, I changed my mind after reading about Rio Grande H.S. and Aggie Lopez's position on Rio Grande. After all, growth has to start somewhere, and Albuquerque has to sell business on Albuquerque's assets. Which, if our school board thinks that 1/3 dropout rates are merely an image difficulty, will continue to be a poorly educated workforce in 1 part most capable of low skill and mental labor. And what sort of company is going to locate here and hire that workforce for more than the barest minimum of wages?

Until the people who care about high quality education demand aggressive leadership on the part of our school board and others, we will continue to receive "go along and get along" passoffs of real problems. We will continue to have difficulty attracting high paying industry to Albuquerque. Albuquerque will continue to languish in real economic growth, and our children will continue after they graduate from high school or college, to move to Dallas or Denver or Phoenix to find their futures. So, at least for now, we'd better put off any thought of a "Living Wage" bill or we're likely to choke off even that small amount of business we're able to presently attract.

Is the relationship between the city council's failed bill and the teacher's concessions at Rio Grande H.S. at least a little bit more recognizable to you now? I hope so! If you like to discuss it with me some more, come by any late night during the next week or so. I'd love someone to talk to. . . I get awfully lonesome sleeping on the couch.

Here's hoping you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's too! ®

TRNA Scholarship Update

Here is a "timeline" for the two \$500 scholarships that TRNA will be awarding to Taylor Ranch high school seniors for post-secondary education:

• February •

- Information packets sent to area high school counselors and youth directors by February 1st.
- Scholarship Application in TRNA newsletter.

• March 17 •

- Deadline for submission of Completed Applications.

• April 11 •

- Award recipient recommendations to Board of Directors.

• April 14 •

- Recipients notified of scholarship award.

Please call Peggy Minich at 899-8590 if you are interested in helping with this or if you have any questions. Thanks! ®

Annual Holiday Party

Karen Newman-Lopez

Hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. We kicked off the holiday season with our annual TRNA Holiday Party. It was held at Carrabba's Italian Restaurant on Saturday, December 4. Members and their guests enjoyed a fine meal of Chicken Marsala or Spaghetti and Meatballs. Everyone seemed to have a good time.

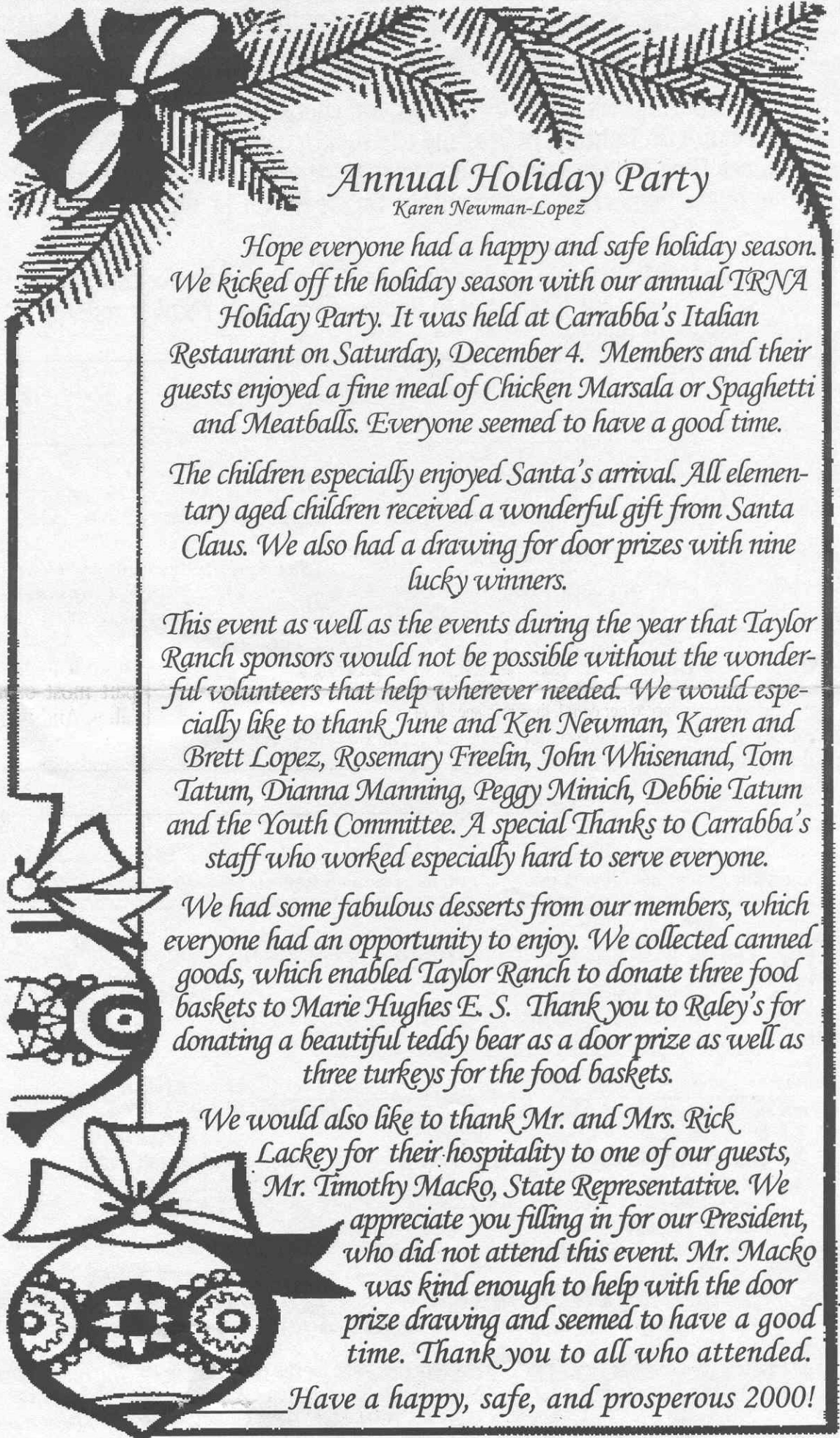
The children especially enjoyed Santa's arrival. All elementary aged children received a wonderful gift from Santa Claus. We also had a drawing for door prizes with nine lucky winners.

This event as well as the events during the year that Taylor Ranch sponsors would not be possible without the wonderful volunteers that help wherever needed. We would especially like to thank June and Ken Newman, Karen and Brett Lopez, Rosemary Freelin, John Whisenand, Tom Tatum, Dianna Manning, Peggy Minich, Debbie Tatum and the Youth Committee. A special Thanks to Carrabba's staff who worked especially hard to serve everyone.

We had some fabulous desserts from our members, which everyone had an opportunity to enjoy. We collected canned goods, which enabled Taylor Ranch to donate three food baskets to Marie Hughes E. S. Thank you to Raley's for donating a beautiful teddy bear as a door prize as well as three turkeys for the food baskets.

We would also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Rick Lackey for their hospitality to one of our guests, Mr. Timothy Macko, State Representative. We appreciate you filling in for our President, who did not attend this event. Mr. Macko was kind enough to help with the door prize drawing and seemed to have a good time. Thank you to all who attended.

Have a happy, safe, and prosperous 2000!



Does Your Neighborhood Group Need to Raise Some Money? Would You Like to Have Your House Number Painted on the Curb?

There are opportunities for youth groups and charities to raise some money and at the same time help the community firefighters, police, and emergency vehicle drivers. Having the house number at the curb often saves time for emergency personnel responding to calls. The work involves using stencils and painting house numbers on curbs within Taylor Ranch to identify addresses for easy detection at the street.

If your group is interested in raising funds in this manner, please contact our coordinator, Debbie Tatum at 897-5071. If you are interested in having your house number painted on the curb by one of these groups, please call Debbie.

TRNA Community Problem Report

Your name: _____ Your phone number: _____ Date: _____

May we give your phone number to the police? Yes No

Would you like to be contacted by a TRNA Director? Yes No Only if necessary 01/00

Location of problem (street, address, building, etc.): _____

Date(s) and time(s) of occurrence (days of week and time of day most often occurs): _____

Description or problem (be as specific as possible): _____

Return this form to any TRNA Director or mail to: Problem Report, TRNA, P.O. Box 66288, Albuquerque, NM 87193-6288



Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc. Membership Application



This is a: new membership
 renewal membership

Type of membership: Resident/Landowner
 Business

01/00

Name: _____ Phone number: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Subdivision Name: _____

We can always use your help! Please check off any areas of interest in which I can help the Association:

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Voting | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Calling | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Parties |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

I am enclosing a check made out to TRNA in the amount of:

Resident: \$12, 1-year \$22, 2-years \$30, 3-years

New resident memberships only: You may pro-rate your dues for the first year you join TRNA as follows:

\$12 if join Jan-Feb-Mar \$9 if join Apr-May-Jun \$6 if join Jul-Aug-Sep \$12 if join Oct-Nov-Dec

Business: \$50 1-year \$90 2-year \$125 3-year

New business memberships only: You may pro-rate your dues for the first year you join TRNA as follows:

\$50 if join Jan-Feb-Mar \$90 2-year if join Apr-May-Jun \$25 if join Jul-Aug-Sep \$50 if join Oct-Nov-Dec

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



Calendar of Events



West Side Family YMCA • 4701 Montano N.W.
(at Taylor Ranch Road) • Phone: 899-8417

(For more information, contact
Nakya Estrada at 899-8417
unless otherwise noted.)

Shorin-Ryu Karate

for Teens & Adults

Karate teaches skills and discipline,
increases self-esteem and
overall fitness.

Mondays 8 - 9pm

Fridays 6 - 7pm

Session: December 3 - 20, 1999

\$40.50 for six classes.

Pre-Register Monday thru Friday
7am to 6pm.

\$54 for eight classes.

Shorin-Ryu Karate

for Beginners

Who: All 7-12 Year Olds.

Beginners: Mon & Thurs from 6pm - 7pm

Advanced Mon & Thurs 7pm - 8pm

Session: February 3 - 28, 2000

\$36 for six classes.

AIKIDO for Teens/Adults

All 12+ year olds. Enjoy the beauty,
grace, and power of

this purely defensive and non-competi-
tive martial art. Aikido is a modern
Japanese art that utilizes holds, throws,

and joint locks to redirect attacks
through harmony and self-control. Learn

to control, contain, deflect, and re-direct

any attack without the use of great
physical strength. Open handed and
weapon techniques included.

Mon & Wed, 6:30 - 7:30pm and

Fri 6:30 to 8:00pm.

Session: February 7 - 28, 2000.

\$40.00 a session.

Active Older Adults One Day Van Trip to Pecos and Glorieta.

Tuesday, February 8, 2000.

Guided tour of the Civil War Battle of
Glorieta Pass. Also tour the historic
Greer Garson Ranch. Enjoy north-
ern New Mexico, ancient Pecos
pueblo, two Spanish Colonial
Missions and Santa Fe Trail Sites.
Depart 8:30am from the West Side
Family YMCA and return around
4:30pm. Call Helen Pederson for
more info. 899-8417.

Pre-School Gymnastics

Children ages 3 - 5.

Children are introduced to fundamen-
tal tumbling skills to help develop
balance, coordination, and self-
esteem.

Mondays 6:15pm - 7pm

Wednesdays 6:15pm - 7pm

Fridays 7:15pm - 8:15pm

Session: Weeks of Jan 10 thru Feb 2

School Age Gymnastics

Children ages 6 years & older.

Mondays 7:15pm - 8:15pm

Wednesdays 7:15 - 8:15pm

Fridays 6:15 - 8:15pm

Session: Weeks of Feb 7 - March 3.

Indoor Soccer

All K-3rd graders.

Two leagues: K-1st & 2nd-3rd grade.

Registration begins Feb 7 until full.

Practices begins week of March 13.

Includes Team Shirt.

All 4th - 8th graders.

Two leagues: 4-5 grade & 6-8 grade.

Registration begins Feb 7 until full.

Practices begin week of March 13.

Includes uniform.

Multi-Generational Hike

Who: For people of all ages and abili-
ties, who want to enjoy the outdoors,
make new friends.

Thursday, February 17, 2000

Corrales Heights Bike Trail (Easy
2-4 mile hike. Lunch at a local
restaurant.

Show up at West Side Family YMCA at
9:00am on the day of the hike.

Those meeting at YMCA will carpool to
the destination. Bring water and a trail
lunch or high energy snack. Due to
weather changes, come dressed in lay-
ers, with sunscreen and a hat.

YMCA Hiking Club's Saturday Hike

Saturday, February 12, 2000. Los
Lunas area. An easy 2-3 mile hike.

Show up at the Y by 9:00am on
day of the hike. Contact Helen
Pederson at 899-8417 for more info.

Benefit Breakfast at Weck's Restaurant

The West Side Family YMCA is spon-
soring a benefit breakfast to support it's
Invest in Youth Program. All ages are
welcome in meeting friends for a hearty
breakfast. Breakfast includes a break-
fast burrito and coffee for just \$5.50 (tax
included). All proceeds go to support the
Invest in Youth scholarship fund.

Sat. Feb 5 anytime between 6am-
12pm. Weck's Restaurant at 1620 Rio
Rancho Dr. (across Sara Rd from Intel)

THE YMCA MISSION: To put
Christian principles into practice
through programs that build healthy
body, mind, and spirit for all.

Memberships are \$30 year/person.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: The YMCA
excludes no one from membership or
programs because of an inability to pay.
Financial aid is available to those who
qualify.

**USEFUL
PHONE
NUMBERS**



Animal Control (West side)	.....768-1935
Burn/No-Burn Advisory	.....768-2876
City/County Information	.....768-2000
Community Planning	.....924-3860
Garbage Collection Problems	.....761-8100
Gas Leaks (days)	.....246-7474
Gas Leaks (nights & weekends)	.....880-7300
Graffiti Removal Services	.....857-8055
Los Volcanes Senior Center	.....836-8745
Office of Senior Affairs	.....764-6400
Pothole Hotline	.....768-4653
Ridepool	.....243-7433
Recycling Information	.....761-8100
State Information	.....1-800-825-6639
Wasted Water Hotline	.....768-3640
Water & Sewer Emergencies	.....857-8250
Weed & Litter Complaints	.....924-3850

**POLICE &
EMERGENCY
PHONE NUMBERS**



Crime Prevention Unit	.....924-3600
DWI Report Line	.....1-800-232-8394
DWI Safe Ride Home (year round)	.....242-RIDE
Emergency	.....911
Fire (non-emergency)	.....243-6601
Fire Marshal's Office	.....888-8124
National Fraud Info. Center	.....800-876-7060
Phone-in reports, copy of traffic report	..768-2030
Poison & Drug Information	.....272-2222
Police (non-emergency)	.....242-COPS
Police Substation (West side)	.....831-4705
Police Substation (Valley)	.....761-8800
Sheriff's Department (non-emergency)	..768-4160
State Police	.....841-9256
Urgent Care, Presbyterian @ Atrisco	....224-7575
Urgent Care, St. Joseph West Side Hospital	....893-2000
Urgent Care, Lovelace @ Coors	.....839-2300

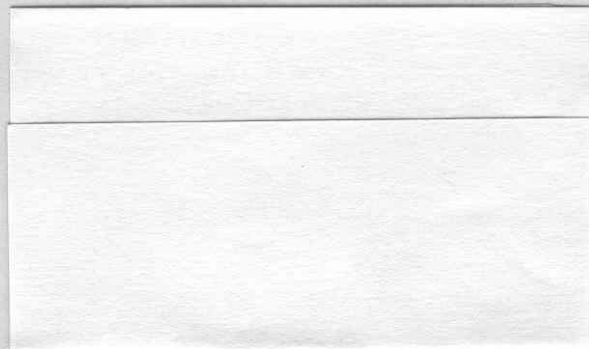
Please pass this on to your neighbor and suggest they join TRNA to receive their own copy of this newsletter. TRNA needs all our neighbor's support to keep improving our neighborhood, planning social events, watching zoning changes, assisting with community policing, and informing you of what's going on in and around your home in Taylor Ranch.



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

Address Correction Requested!

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Corrales, NM
Permit No. 49**



The expiration year of your membership is shown on the bottom line of your mailing label.
Please renew early for the next year to avoid missing an issue of the Mesa Messenger.