



It is with extreme sadness that we report **June Newman** passed away on August 22nd, after a long and heroic struggle with cancer. She was undoubtedly one of the biggest volunteers for TRNA for many, many years. She leaves a big hole that no one can fill. Several of our board members have included comments in their articles this month. We will be dedicating our October issue to her; and including comments from anyone wishing to do so (send to editor@trna.org). Meanwhile, I'm sure you share with me in sending sympathy to Ken and the rest of her family. She will be greatly missed. (*Rae Phillips, Editor*)

President's) Message

Jolene Wolfley, TRNA President

A few years ago I was a Cub Scout leader. The cub activity I was supposed to plan was to introduce the cub scouts to a community leader, like a city councilor or fire chief. I chose June Newman. I could think of no one better to represent what community leadership and service was all about. June came and talked and laughed with the cub scouts about why she does what she does. We then rolled out the candy and eggs, and the boys stuffed eggs for the TRNA Easter Egg Hunt at Mariposa Park.

It was with great sadness that I got a call from Ken Newman the morning of August 22nd. He said June had passed away in her sleep. "We lost a treasure" is the thought that kept rolling through my mind. We hope to honor and tell you more about June in next month's newsletter.

Over the past few years we have lost pioneers of TRNA: Don Newton, Fred Van Berkel, and now June Newman. We recently named our two scholarships in honor of Fred and Ceil Van Berkel and Ken and June Newman because they are stalwart examples of community service.

Taylor Ranch is what it is because people step up and say I will take my spare time and give back to our community. TRNA needs you now. We need two more Board members, in part because Rainey Perez has moved out of Taylor Ranch.

Rainey gave consistent support and great perspective to our causes. We have several more things we could do if you would volunteer with us. Please give it some thought and contact me at president@trna.org.

I would also like to recognize the strength of our community in dealing with the August 20th neighborhood lockdown as BCSO (Bernalillo County Swat Office) and others searched for a dangerous felon in our neighborhood. We have one of the lowest crime rates in the City and that event shocked us all. I know of mothers with small children who calmly harbored them while the suspect was apprehended just doors away. Some of you could not get into your homes and others could not get out. We have principals and teachers that kept our kids safe at school well past their normal work day. I would like to quote Principal Bachica at LBJ Middle School where 700 kids were on lockdown:

"I am very proud of my staff and am grateful for the support of district staff as well. The staff pitched in when necessary. APS police and district officials gave invaluable help. Lastly, your students deserve an A+. They executed the procedural responsibilities of the lockdown in an impeccable way and showed phenomenal cooperation and patience."

The neighborhood lockdown was a surprising and shocking event. Yet it ended up showing a strength of character that exists in the residents and students of Taylor Ranch. Rather than feeling unsafe, we should feel pride in how we handled the threat. We should be even more determined to keep crime out of our area. TRNA welcomes any who want to serve on the TRNA neighborhood patrol, contact safety@trna.org.

We met with Dodi Comacho the NW Area Commander at the August Board meeting. We expressed our appreciation for the police service in Taylor Ranch. She reiterated the low crime rate and the importance of our joint community policing efforts. We would like to participate in a police appreciation event on September 24th. You can be part of that by contacting me at president@trna.org.

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Land Use Update

Rene Horvath, Land Use Director

1. Coors Corridor Plan draft/ EPC August 14th hearing:

On August 14th the EPC reviewed for the second time the proposed 2014 draft/revision of the 1984 Coors Corridor Plan. There was another good showing of west side neighborhoods at the hearing. After listening to several hours of public testimony the EPC voted to defer the case for another 50 days. This time they instructed staff to provide a vision statement to go with the plan to explain the intent of the proposed draft. Here is a summary of the hearing:

a) Ladera NA and Vista Grande NA representatives expressed concern about extending the I-40 ramp further north from I-40 to St. Joseph's. They asked if an impact analysis had been done to determine the impacts to adjacent businesses and neighborhoods if the roadway is elevated. Adjacent store owners were unaware of this proposal, and are now concerned about the economic impacts to their business.

b) The Ladera representative mentioned that construction crews at West Bluff Shopping center were currently building the tower that will hold up the large controversial LED sign that many associations had opposed three years earlier. The construction manager said that the businesses needed the tall sign to let everyone know they exist below the existing I-40 ramp. Is this an indication that more towering signs will be

built if the ramp is extended further north?

c) A TRNA member expressed concern that the Coors/ Montano intersection wasn't big enough to handle the proposed grade separation, and that it would be a detriment to the community.

d) The Taylor Ranch President presented two ideas:

(1) The first idea is "congestion pricing" for the Montano bridge. Congestion pricing is used as a solution to reduce traffic congestion by influencing the time of day commuters travel to get to work and back by charging commuters a fee when they travel at peak traffic times. This has been done in Europe with good results.

(2) The second idea is to depress only the through lanes of Coors at the Coors/ Montano intersection, (like an underpass for those lanes)--the rest of the intersection would be kept, more or less, at grade level rather than having an elevated Coors go over Montano.

f) The Alban Hills NA president thought the justification used to provide exceptions and deviations to the design standards and view regulations were too lenient and unnecessary.

g) Two consultants from the development community supported changes to the view regulations. One of the consultants felt taller buildings should be allowed on the eastside of Coors if views of the mountains are already obscured.

h)The TRNA representative pointed out that because of the unique vistas of the volcanic escarpment, bosque, and mountain views the 1984 Coors Corridor plan designated Coors Boulevard as a limited access parkway. The plan was signed by the Mayor, City Councilors and County Commissioners in 1984. This explains why there are view regulations, a required 15 or 35 ft. landscaped buffer along the Corridor, pleasing architecture, requirements to follow the natural topography of the land, restricted signage, screening of rooftop equipment, etc..

In the last decade the neighborhoods have seen developments not in compliance with the 1984 plan. This has led to loss of views, a 15 ft. wall adjacent to Coors, not honoring the required landscape setbacks, or the Coors required ROW, placing houses and screen walls too close to the roadway. Some homes were built only 30 ft away from the roadway. There is now not enough ROW to add a transit lane proposed in the 2014 plan. Will the taxpayers be expected to pay for noise walls? We don't want a plan to justify this kind of development.

(Continued on page 3)

(Land Use continued from page 2)

i) A Taylor Ranch resident expressed that one of the reasons they moved to Taylor Ranch was because of the natural beauty of the area and that the Coors Corridor Plan protected the views and the natural beauty along the corridor. The Traffic engineers have told her at meetings that this new plan will still not solve the traffic congestion along Coors.

The EPC Commissioners commented: The plan lacks vision and the goals to promote that vision. What are we trying to accomplish? What are the details in the plan trying to create? Details need a vision. What do we want the Coors Corridor Plan to become? We need a stronger statement to identify with. They instructed the Planner to come up with a vision statement. **The EPC voted to continue the hearing on October 2nd at 3:30 pm. in the basement of the Planning Dept. Any new comments should be turned in before September 23rd.**

I want to thank everyone who showed up at the last two hearings. Everyone did such a fine job with their testimony demonstrating the commitment and care they have for their community. It has been impressive.

2. Volcano Plan amendments - Land Use Planning and Zoning (LUPZ) August 13 hearing: The land Use Planning and Zoning committee made up of several City Councilors heard the proposed amendments to the Volcano Mesa plan. The LUPZ hearing is a follow up to the EPC hearing last February. Property owners who are developing land on top of the mesa wanted amendments to include: 1) allowing residential court yard walls in the rural areas. 2) Allow two story homes in the rural areas - up to 75 % of the total building foot print. Right now it's 50 % of the building foot print. The homes will have to be clustered together to build a two story. Other amendments also included updating the roadway access maps to include what was agreed upon during the Volcano Heights Plan. TRNA's testimony focused on fugitive dust. The Planner had introduced language to help curb the fugitive dust.

A Taylor Ranch resident who had experienced flooding during the last September rain storm also attended the hearing. The TRNA representative and resident mentioned that the rains not only brought flooding to the neighborhoods below the escarpment but also a huge amount of sand sediment with it. The sand had been building up significantly on the escarpment for the last several years due to the land being disturbed on the mesa above. They explained that the fugitive dust is not only damaging the escarpment in the Taylor Ranch area but is also washing into the streets below the escarpment during huge rain storms, plugging the drainage inlets to the storm sewer system which then prevents storm flows from entering

the storm pipes. The resident had very good pictures to demonstrate the blowing dust during a wind storm and the sediment that buried the streets during the big rain storm, plugging the inlets in the streets. The single loaded streets below the escarpment provided the best buffer to the flooding and sediment. They provided the necessary drainage way for storm water to flow to storm sewer systems and arroyos. The single loaded streets are the best design feature to have adjacent to open space areas. The storm water which damaged the Taylor Ranch home last September came from a unfinished drainage pond in SAD 228 above the escarpment. The pond is now complete. The resident wants to make sure that the drainage ponds will always be maintained by the HOA of SAD 228. TRNA pointed out that if things are not designed correctly and receive City approval and then fail, many times it is the taxpayers that pay for the damages. The proposed amendment addressing the fugitive dust is to make sure that that the existing dust ordinance is enforced and to make sure that sediment plan is in place before a grading permit is issued. The final hearing for the amendments will go to City Council on September 15th.

3. Santolina Development/ County Planning Commission (CPC) July 30th hearing / next hearing is Wednesday October 1st /City Council Chambers/ 9:00am: The County Planning Commission held the fourth hearing on the proposed Santolina on July 30th. Many neighborhoods in the Southwest region of Albuquerque attended the hearing. While Santolina promotes a master plan that will provide jobs to the Westside, bring revenue to the County and says there will be no net cost to the taxpayers, the audience feels otherwise. The audience participants feel that "lack of Water" is still the biggest issue, and will hurt Albuquerque in the long run. Other comments included: a) the taxpayers will still have to be responsible to pay for new schools, public services, and maintenance costs for roads, parks, underground pipes etc. if approved. b) The transportation system on the Westside is very bad; I-40 is severely congested during rush hour. This will add to the traffic congestion. c) The jobs Santolina says it will provide will mainly be construction jobs which are only temporary. Most of the jobs will still be on the other side of the river. d) This is urban sprawl which is not helpful to the City.

The commissioners voted to defer the proposal for another 60 days to give the applicant time to revise the plan and address the issues. The audience was extremely disappointed when they learned that the ABCWUA wrote a letter stating that the Water Authority was capable of serving water to the master plan community once the request is approved by the County.

(Continued on page 4)

(Land Use continued from page 3)

While the CPC voted for a 60 day continuance, one of the commissioners wanted to know specifically where the water is coming from. It's a waste of time if there is no water. Other commissioners wanted more time to have issues addressed. **The next County Planning Commission (CPC) hearing is on October 1st in the City council Chambers at 9:00 am. Written comments are due to the County by September 29th.** Please check the County website at bernco/santolina for more details. Note: Western Albuquerque Land Holdings is proposing the Santolina master plan which includes 13,000 acres, in order to build 37,000 dwelling units for 95,000 people on the west mesa. It's located west of nine mile hill and south of I-40. There is more land not being proposed for approval yet, north of I-40.

4. La Orilla and Coors Blvd. Site: The amended site plan has been presented to several NA's by the developer. TRNA representatives have met with the developer and provided suggested revisions. It is TRNA's understanding that the amended site plan should be of equal or less intensive use than the plan previously approved by the County. Negotiations are still underway.

June Newman: *As I was writing this article I received a notice that June had passed away. I cannot express how sad I felt when I heard this. She was such a good friend to me and a true friend of Taylor Ranch. She had such energy and drive to tackle the things that were so very important to the Community. Whether it was to attend hearings to support legislation to restrict the use of LED signs or to stand on the street corner protesting Walmart, or to make arrangements to feed the needy, or organize the fun social events that drew the Community together; she did all this with such enthusiasm. I have always appreciated the time and effort she gave to organize the special events in Taylor Ranch, such as the Christmas and Easter parties, and the Taylor Ranch flea-market, all for the Community to enjoy. She had a great team of people, which is her husband Ken and their whole family, who helped her make these events so successful. I cannot thank her enough for her strong dedication to the good will of the Community and making Taylor Ranch a fun place to live. I will miss her so very much.*

Rene Horvath, Land Use Director, land@trna.org 898-2114

Police Oversight Agency

Ray Shortridge, TRNA Director

On July 17, 2014, the city's Independent Review Officer (IRO) released a memorandum "Analysis of questions posed to the POCTF" (Police Oversight Commission Task Force.) Part of

the memorandum offers the IRO's opinions about salient features of a police oversight agency. These opinions by the IRO warrant a rebuttal commentary.

1. "The current system works." [page 2, paragraph 4]

The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the current system does not work.

Albuquerque taxpayers have paid out millions of dollars in settlements to citizens who were subjected to violations of Albuquerque Police Department's (APD) standard operating procedures. More suits of this nature entailing millions more dollars are moving through the legal process.

APD officers have shot and killed more than twenty people in the last three years.

On April 10, 2014, the United States Department of Justice issued a finding that there is "reasonable cause to believe that APD engages in a pattern or practice of use of excessive force, including deadly force, in violation of the Fourth Amendment and Section 14141."

2. "...the primary purpose of the POB (Police Oversight Board) should be to review and make policy suggestions regarding systemic issue for the APD." [page 1, paragraph 1]

That approach clearly has not worked -- given that millions of dollars of taxpayers money has been spent in settlements, and millions more to settle lawsuits now in the judicial process.

Rather than busying itself with policy reviews, the POB should be engaged in supervising independent investigations of:

- all citizen complaints
- all use of force investigations, including but not limited to officer involved shootings
- all alleged abuses of authority
- all deaths or serious injury in police custody

3. "The proposed legislation would...make the IRO subservient to the volunteer board...the IRO would be a puppet completely controlled by the POB." [page 2, paragraph 2]

Currently, the IRO is dependent upon the city administration for its budget and operating authority and, in the IRO's language, is a "puppet" of the administration. That organizational structure has not provided effective oversight of APD, as section 1 above demonstrates, and should be changed.

The POB should be an independent agency. To ensure its independence, the agency's minimum budget should be a fixed rate, e.g. 1.5%, of the APD budget. The IRO should report to the POB.

(Continued on page 9)

Northwest APD Area Commander Meets with TRNA Board

Concerns about training new Cadets

Art Retberg, Crime Prevention Director

At TRNA's invitation, Commander Dodi Camacho spoke to the Board and answered questions at the August 13 Board meeting. We thank the Commander for attending and responding to questions from the Board.

One area of concern expressed by the Commander to the Board was funding for training new cadets to become sworn officers on the force. At our Board meeting Commander Camacho indicated they had been advised that the October training class for approximately 50 cadets was being put on hold due to lack of funding. This was a surprise to all of us. Our west side city councilors, Ken Sanchez and Dan Lewis, have stated several times at meetings of the West Side Coalition of Neighborhood Associations that they were in favor of, and would support funding for training and operating at a force level of about 1000 vs the past level of approximately 890 sworn officers who can respond to public safety calls.

On August 19 the Albuquerque Journal reported the same news with the story heading "Budget crunch will delay hiring of new officers, APD chief says."

Chief Eden spoke some months ago to the West Side Coalition (TRNA is a member) and explained his vision for new up-to-date recruiting methods using social media and other tools to get recruiting numbers up. Past recruiting efforts have not been very effective. In the ABQJ August 19 article Chief Eden stated that 20 people were expected to be in the October class. I was unable to get the link for this article from the Online Journal, but you should be able to access it if you are a subscriber.

The story has changed as of this morning, Thursday, August 21. Without getting into all the details presented in this morning's *Albuquerque Journal*, it appears that funding is available, or if not, our Councilors will make absolutely sure the money will be there! The front page headline reads "No Delay in APD Cadet Class," but if you read the article it seems that there may be a delay. There seems to be a lot of contradictory statements in the ABQJ article this morning, the day I am writing this piece. The link to the article is:

<http://www.abqjournal.com/449605/news/no-delay-in-apd-cadet-class-for-this-fall.html>

I do not want to editorialize. I suggest you read both articles if you can. Looking at the comments from the Mayor, Chief Eden and city councilors it is apparent that confusion exists in

our Albuquerque city government re whether or not an October cadet training class will be held. Remember that the number of cadets trained must exceed the number of officers retiring to get the force level up to the 1000 level. And the Chief is saying that a force level of 1000 actually means a sworn officer staff of 940.

I suspect that a lot of Neighborhood Associations will not be too pleased when they read "all the back and forth" between the administration, the Chief and councilors as to what a trained force of 1000 means. Three NW Area APD Commanders have told us that over the past few years the NW Command is understaffed for the area patrolled. You may wish to express to your elected councilor that they and the city need to "get on with the job" so we have the public safety we deserve as taxpayers!

The TRNA Board expressed, to Commander Camacho, its support of the APD officers who daily put their lives on the line to protect all of us. And we include the Albuquerque Fire Department personnel in that support. Eighty percent of their calls are not for fighting fires but for medical emergencies.

Reporting 311 Service Requests from your Smart Phone

Ray Shorridge, TRNA Director

The city of Albuquerque has a Smart Phone (Android and iPhone) app that you can use to report 311 issues, such as:

- graffiti
- noxious weeds
- potholes and other street problems
- abandoned vehicles
- barking dogs
- illegal dumps in storm drains
- zoning code violations

Here's how it works:

- launch the app on your Smart Phone
- take a picture of the issue
- describe it using a form on the app
- submit it to 311 from the Smart Phone.

The app records the GPS coordinates for the picture, so that the city's service crew knows precisely where to go to address the problem.

The city emails you a confirmation that contains the service request ticket number. When the issue is addressed, the city sends you another email telling you so.

Here's the link for further information and to download the app: cabq.gov/abq-apps/city-apps-listing/abq311.

Mark Your Calendar!

TRNA SCHOLARSHIP FLEA MARKET/RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, September 27, 7:00 am—1:00 pm

Cross of Hope Church Parking Lot

It's that time of year! Clean out the closets, garage, shed, storage unit, and start putting your sale items together. As you are probably aware, we hold this semi-annually, to fund two scholarships we award each year to deserving Taylor Ranch high school seniors.

OPTION 1: RENT SPACE TO SELL YOUR OWN GOODS!

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.

OPTION 2: DONATE YOUR GOODS TO THE TRNA SCHOLARSHIP TABLES!

TRNA will have spaces and will sell your donations to benefit our fund if you choose. 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.

Many volunteers are needed to make this happen — people to help set up, work the food booth, man the TRNA tables. Contact **Terri Spiak at 505-899-0898 or email secretary@trna.org for questions or 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 Montaño and Golf Course/La Orilla, across from the Don Newton Taylor Ranch Community Center. Let's be good neighbors and be sure the lot is clear and clean by 2:00 p.m.

Fill out the form below to secure space(s). Detach and mail.



Yes, I want to reserve space for the TRNA Rummage Sale on September 27, 2014!

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:

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Fri. – Sat.: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun.: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Back to School Suggestions

The new school year is in full swing, and here at **abcreads**, we like to celebrate by highlighting some of the many print and online resources available to help our students succeed. In addition to homework help, test prep, and research databases, we have a wealth of materials to help with the challenges of going back to school.

Sometimes students aren't the only ones who could use a little guidance. Our parents and teachers work just as hard, and we have resources for them, too!

Check out some of our lesser known gems:

For Students

Beyond Googling: In today's digital world, it's becoming increasingly important that we can find accurate, credible materials online. Our article databases provide access to high-quality periodicals and peer-reviewed journals that are great for older students. Check out our printable user guide with information and search strategies. UC Berkeley also has a good tutorial on how to evaluate a website.

Got a current events project? Opposing viewpoints and points of View are great places to start your research. They have a variety of primary sources and essays that show both sides of the issue.

If you need biographies in a pinch, we have databases of those, too.

For Parents

Is your child struggling with stress and time management? Or dealing with a bully? We have a books in our catalog geared towards both parents and students to help handle these important issues.

If you're looking for a free afterschool activity, we host a ton of events for children and teens. Do you have a struggling young reader? Read to the Dogs can help them improve their skills while give them a boost in confidence.

Need resources on life lessons or tricky situations? Check our online catalog for children's books on topics such as manners, respecting others, and handling friendships.

For Teachers

Our libraries regularly host classroom visits that introduce your students to the library with stories and crafts.

Do you work at a Title I school or work with special needs students? Thanks to the Thomason Transportation Program, you can get free transportation to and from the library.

Novelist K-8 Plus is an excellent website to turn to when you're looking for books for your classroom. Check out their professional toolbox for help finding Common Core content.

You can find all of these and more on our teacher and educator resources webpage.



Open Space for Teachers & Students

Transportation to Albuquerque's Open Spaces is available for all school-aged children. The "Get Into Open Space"

program provides rented bus service to attend Open Space Alliance and City of Albuquerque Open Space Division supported service learning projects.

Open Space depends on the citizens to support acquisition and participate in public land conservation. Educating the youngest members of the community about its virtues and nurturing their relationship with the environment is a high priority. Children are the future stewards of Open Space. If a relationship with the natural world is not encouraged, future stewardship of the land and water is uncertain.

Since 1996, the Open Space Division and the Open Space Alliance have worked together to provide programs for children and youth that engage them in the maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of our outdoor areas. Now, with generous funding from REI, we are able to expand the stewardship experience and provide transportation for the class to the program.

(continued on page 9)

(Open Space for Students, cont'd from page 8)

Projects

Trash Clean Up: This project is typically aimed at the very young, but is appropriate for any age. It teaches volunteers about the impacts of trash on our environment and has provided great opportunities to partner with REI and include the REI PEAK program.

• **Trail Maintenance:** This project engages the middle to high school age student and brings awareness to the importance of sustainable trail systems. Students build erosion control features from natural materials and close unofficial trails that contribute to erosion on our delicate desert landscape.

• **Tree Planting:** This project involves all ages. Students are taught about the life cycle of a cottonwood tree and how the world's largest riverside cottonwood forest is threatened by the interruption of the Rio Grande's natural flows.

Tour: An Open Space tour that includes a REI PEAK program which promotes stewardship of outdoor areas.

Project Outline

- Orientation to Open Space and its importance to our community and the environment;
- Background and History about the specific Open Space area they are working in;
- Importance of their contribution to the environment and how it will make a difference;
- Safety talk;
- Instructions on how to accomplish the project;
- Engagement of children and youth in outdoor activities;

Lessons Learned discussion of what the students gained from the experience and what Open Space staff learned from them.

Teachers awarded a Get Into Open Space allowance will schedule a date for the fieldtrip and receive a confirmation packet from the Open Space Division. The packet will include instructions for the fieldtrip and a post-evaluation form that will help us determine the impact the experience had on the students.

For more information, call Bill Pentler at (505) 452-5222.

Thank you for involving your students in the protection of our local public lands.

(Police Oversight Agency, cont'd from page 3)

4. "The members (of the POB) should be lay members. There should be no attorneys, no experts." (page 3, paragraph 1)

POB (and IRO) investigations occur within a complex area involving constitutional law, criminal law, human resources laws and procedures, labor contracts, and APD standard operating procedures. To navigate these technical areas, the composition of the POB should contain a mixture of people expert in these areas as well as lay members.

The Albuquerque City Council should brush away the recommendations of the incumbent IRO and enact legislation that:

1. Establishes that the oversight agency independently investigates:

- all citizen complaints
 - all use of force investigations, including but not limited to officer involved shootings
 - all alleged abuses of authority
- all deaths or serious injury in police custody

2. The agency is to be independent of the Mayor's Office and all administrative units of city government, the City Council, and the Chief of Police

3. To ensure independence and adequate resources to carry out its mission, the minimum budget for the agency is 1.5% of APD's budget.

Ed note: This above article is a copy of a letter sent to ABQ City Councilors from TRNA Board Member, Ray Shortridge.



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Seeking Solace

Dan Shaw, TRNA Vice President

A double rainbow stretches across Taylor Ranch. After a week of sad news, including the passing of longtime TRNA member and leader June Newman and half the neighborhood spending hours in lock down at mid-week, it is a simple joy to look up through the rain and see some beauty. The sadness still lingers but a patch of wonder and color helps it seem more bearable.

In the desert, rain is a blessing. So I never mind it, no matter how it alters my plans. And it seems that this August rain has come in enough abundance to change more than one weekend or after work plan. But for me, the rain also builds a plan. Today, so far 0.21 inches of rain has fallen in Taylor Ranch. I discover this simple fact through the National Weather Service website. Which in turn leads me to my real destination the United States Geological Survey's current streamflow site. There I discover the Rio Grande is flowing through Albuquerque at 290 cubic feet per second. Or in shorthand, 290 CFS. I know to be patient. Not too patient, so I will track the river's flow hoping it hits my somewhat arbitrary threshold of 500 CFS. For then I will be able to seek refuge on Taylor Ranch's eastern boundary.

It does not matter what calamity or its scope has befallen me in a given week. If the river is over 500 CFS I know I have an unparalleled opportunity to seek solace. I can drop my canoe into the Rio Grande at the Alameda bridge. At its northwest corner, there is even a boat ramp to facilitate my entry. My dog in the bow, me in the stern, and the Rio Grande running ahead of me through Albuquerque sets the world right.

The drinking water diversion dam, just below Alameda poses a significant hazard for a boater, particularly a solo one, so I lift my boat out of the water and skirt it around the dam. I drop it back in and then continue on my way. Canada geese are always present. Cormorants, mallards, and wood ducks are almost always guaranteed to be seen, though in numbers much fewer than the geese. In the spring and summer ducklings and goslings are often spotted. In winter bald eagles, down from the north for a few months, are often overhead or perched in cottonwoods.

I have paddled through Albuquerque in every month of the year. Sometimes my companions are my boisterous middle and high school students, but more often than not it is just a family member, friend or perhaps my dog. The solitude in such a place is amazing. There are several hundred thousand people within a few mile radius of my canoe, but most of the time it feels more like the backcountry than the heart of the state's largest city. Between bridges there are stretches where



the twists and turns of the river block out the view of the urban landscape.

Soon, when that river hits the magic 500 CFS point, my boat will be back in the water. I will dip my paddle into the river. As I push downstream a few gorgeous drops of that precious fluid will take the oh so short adventure of riding the paddle and then dripping back into the oneness of the river. I find it a peaceful way to think of life - up, out, an individual part of work and adventure, and then back into the flow. And it will at one of those moments, when my gaze falls upon drops of water rising out of the river and then falling back in that I will think of June Newman. I will remember and give thanks to her and the others I knew who have slipped away from us, yet helped to preserve a neighborhood worth living in while they had their time along the banks of the Rio Grande.

KUDOS TO OUR EDITOR

Lily Andrews, Newsletter Publisher

Many thanks goes out to our editor Rae Phillips, our volunteer editor, who does the TRNA newsletter each and every month. This task is not as easy as it sounds. Not only does Rae "prompt" our directors for articles each month, she searches out and writes articles that make our newsletter as interesting to our readers as she can. In addition to compiling articles sent to her, writing articles herself, inserting information on TRNA businesses that pay for business membership/advertising and organizing all of the data, she is also our photographer at TRNA events. She does an outstanding job compiling all this information, all to make it interesting for you our members! Thanks Rae for being there for us each month and for the countless hours donated to TRNA.

Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Membership Application or Renewal



Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ E-mail address: _____

I'm interested in helping in the following areas of participation:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <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"/> Land Use | <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"/> Other _____ |

Renewal Membership and New Member Rates.

- Resident: \$ 9.00 (Thru Dec 2014) \$25.00 (Thru Dec 2015) \$39.00 (Thru Dec 2016)
 Business: \$25.00 (Thru Dec 2014) \$65.00 (Thru Dec 2015) \$100.00 (Thru Dec 2016)

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

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

(Already a member? Give this to a neighbor & get them to join!)

September 2014

TRNA Board of Directors and Other TRNA Contacts

President:	<i>Jolene Wolfley</i>890-9414	president@trna.org
Vice-President:	<i>Dan Shaw</i> 275-5984	vicepresident@trna.org
Secretary:	<i>Terri Spiak</i> 505-879-4995	secretary@trna.org
Treasurer:	<i>Hanna Sorrels</i> 294-7042	treasurer@trna.org
Director/Land Use:	<i>René Horvath</i> 898-2114	land@trna.org
Director/Crime Prevention:	<i>Art Retberg</i>	crimeprevention@trna.org
Director at Large:	<i>vacant</i>	director.3@trna.org
Director at Large:	<i>Ray Shortridge</i>604-3908	director.2@trna.org
Westside Coalition:	wscn@trna.org
Social Committee:	<i>vacant</i>	social@trna.org
Patrol Coordinator :	<i>Kathi Ingley</i>	patrol@trna.org
Facebook Administrator:	<i>Wendy Dial</i>	facebook@trna.org
Webmaster :	<i>Ray Shortridge</i>604-3908	webmaster@trna.org
Newsletter Editor:	<i>Rae Phillips</i>899-1273	editor@trna.org
Newsletter Publisher:	<i>Lily Andrews</i> 888-7575	xtecsinc@msn.com
Membership List Admin:	<i>Deborah Salvato</i>	memberdata@trna.org

IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept 10 — Board Mtg
- Sept 15 — City Council hearing on Volcano Mesa Plan
- Sept 23 — Final comments due on Coors Corridor Plan
- Sept 24 — Special Event (see President's article)
- Oct 1 — Council Planning Comm. hearing on Santolina
- Oct 2 — EPC hearing on the Proposed Coors Corridor Plan

To submit articles for this newsletter, or to place an ad, contact editor@trna.org. The deadline is the 22nd of each month.

Join Us On Facebook! Or check out the Web Site: <http://trna.org> - ID: member PW: 826trna

INSIDE:

President's Message
Land Use Update
ABQ Reads

Open Space Youth
Rummage Sale Flyer
Seeking Solace

Opinion Letter
Meeting with NWAC
Honoring June Newman

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

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MESA MESSAGES

SUPPORT YOUR TRNA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

September 27, Sat — 7:00 am—1:00 pm

Cross of Hope Parking Lot

Across from DNTRCC

Call it a Rummage Sale, call it a Flea Market, call it anything you please, but come and enjoy the fellowship and lovely weather! Set up your own booth to sell items (see page 6 for details and application), or donate to TRNA's table. Come meet your neighbors, browse the tables, enjoy the food and help raise funds for this worthwhile program.

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