

THE MESA MESSENGER



TAYLOR RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.

November 1992

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Congratulations to TRNA's Youth Committee, which won first place in the recent Neighborhood Fest's competition for Community Projects. Julie Niemeyer and Stacy Simpson were on hand at the awards banquet to receive the award, along with adult advisor John Hemler. Our parade in Summer Festival '91 won second place in the Communications category.

There hasn't been much about Unser Boulevard in the papers recently, but that doesn't mean it's dead. The second phase of the Unser South portion is well along in design, and the City is hoping to get construction under way in January. In the mean time, it has occurred to some of us that the length of noise wall to be built will be an inviting target for graffiti artists, so why don't we get there first? As a result, a subcommittee of the Citizens Advisory Committee is now working with the One Percent for the Arts Council to plan artwork for the project. One benefit is that we will include a small park in Phase II, which will be located just north of the present intersection of Atrisco and Western Trail (this is TRNA territory). One committee member volunteered his couch to be covered with tile and put on a pedestal, but we're not thinking of that kind of "art." Murals, mosaics, and colored tiles were more what we had in mind.

Better Late Than Never Department: TRNA has been asked by the City to delay our opening festivities for the Mariposa Basin park until Spring of some year. It seems they are concerned about the impact of organized activities on the young grass. Maybe we can plan a disorganized activity...

Speaking of festivities, planning is well under way for our annual **Christmas Party**, which will be held on **Friday, December 11**, in the **BRAND NEW Johnson Middle School**. Yep, we get a chance to look at the new school before the students do. The Party is free to our members, another one of the benefits of participating in TRNA, but you need to make reservations soon so we can be sure to have enough smoked turkey for everybody, and enough goodies for Santa to hand out to the kids. There is a reservation form in this newsletter.

And speaking of participating in TRNA, its time again for our annual membership drive. It has been difficult to get people to join TRNA this year, since we have not had a major crisis, such as the sudden appearance of disposable apartment buildings. Yet our work still goes on, to improve our neighborhood with new parks, better schools and plans for landscaping. It takes a lot of concerned people to create these things, and to get them in Taylor Ranch instead of the Northeast Heights,

and without a strong membership many of the things we take for granted would not exist. While the free Christmas Party and the City's best newsletter are nice, the **REAL** benefits of membership are new parks, and better streets, and a new middle school, and a voice at City Hall, and organized graffiti cover-up, and much more. You can help us help our neighborhood by renewing your membership **NOW**, and by encouraging your neighbors to join, too. Without your help, TRNA will become just another association that used to be active, instead of a major force that makes Taylor Ranch A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE.

Bill Ghormley

Please take the time to renew your membership to the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association today. Simply fill out the application on the last page of this newsletter and mail it to the address indicated on the application. Your support is needed and appreciated.

Inside This Issue

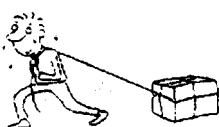
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Students on the Move

by Bill Ghormley

It was previously reported that Johnson Middle School will move into its new, permanent home over the Thanksgiving weekend. However, Principal Ruthie Owens has determined that there will not be enough time to make the move then. So, she has worked out a schedule for making the move over the Christmas holidays. Here is a blow-by-blow description of this moving experience:



- Dec 1** Principal and Assistant move into new building
- Dec 2** Furniture and equipment delivery begins
- Dec 7** Start setting up media center
- Dec 15** Students walk from temporary school to new building and get tour; last day of classes for 1992 (temporary LBJ ONLY; Johnson students at Taft will be in classes through Dec 18)
- Dec 16** Teachers pack for move - 18
- Dec 19** Christmas Holiday; movers - Jan 4 move boxes, furniture, etc.
- Jan 5** Registration
- Jan 5-7** Teachers unpack and prepare classrooms
- Jan 8** First day of classes in new building

We had thought that a lot of community help would be needed to make the move, but with this revised schedule, nearly all of the hard work will be done by contract movers. However, the media center will need a lot of help

getting organized (books unpacked, cataloged and shelved). Ms. Owens thinks that with the assistance of a few volunteers, the job may get done in six weeks. If you can help during this time, call and let her know at 898-1492. ■

\$chool Dollar\$

by Bill Ghormley

The School Board recently decided to hold a special election in February, 1993, to ask voters to approve a new mill levy for schools. With a levy for schools on the ballot in the November election, many people may be wondering just why we need to spend any more on schools. Maybe we can answer this question.

Albuquerque Public Schools, and all the other school districts in New Mexico, have two kinds of funds: capital, and maintenance and operations (M&O). Capital funds are used to acquire land, build facilities, and purchase equipment; new schools are built with capital funds. M&O funds are used to keep schools going. Repairs, painting, employee salaries, and grass mowing are all paid with M&O funds.

All districts in New Mexico receive funding from the State, based upon the district's enrollment. Using a complex formula, each district receives money on a per-student basis. The formula takes into account that the smaller districts need more money per student, because of the cost of providing buildings, equipment, etc. It also takes into account that large districts need more per student, because they have to accommo-

date many more students. However, the state legislature has put a limitation on the amount of funding any one district can receive, which means that as APS enrollment goes UP, the amount of money it receives per student goes DOWN. When combined with the fact that education is getting an increasingly smaller portion of the State's budget, APS just isn't getting enough money to provide the kind of education we want our children to have.

A study of the current needs of APS, conducted by PARENTS as well as APS staff, has found an immediate need for \$300 million in the district. This is the amount of money to build the new schools, and repair the existing schools, that we need RIGHT NOW. If we add in the money for the things we need, but can get by without for a while, the total is over \$500 million. And this doesn't add any new teachers, or improve their salaries, or reimburse them for the money they spend out of their own pockets for supplies, books and the other things they need to do their jobs.

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THE MESA MESSENGER

Published Monthly by the
Taylor Ranch Neighborhood
Association.

Layout, Design, &
Editing Kelley Fugelso
Mailing Labels Roger Suppona
Production Crew ... Donna Hannon,
Floyd Heckman, Delly Rooney,
Peggy Minich, Kenneth
Rooney, Eugene Rooney

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(continued from page 2)

What happened to the levy the voters approved two years ago? The funding approved in February, 1991 allowed APS to continue to collect money approved previously, and was enough to allow APS to operate at the same level—no new schools, no salary increases, no computers in classrooms, just status quo. Two years later, it's no longer enough to hold the district at status quo.

What happens if the voters do not approve the mill levy? This happened in Chicago, and the school district ended ALL extracurricular activities, including sports. This could happen in Albuquerque, too.

What will the mill levy cost? APS

is asking for 4 mills, or four dollars for each \$1000 of assessed property value. For a homeowner with a \$80,000 house, this means an increase in property taxes of \$320 per year. The current rate for Albu-

querque residents is 4.553 mills; most communities in New Mexico are taxed at 11-12 mills. Even though the tax rate will nearly double, it could be a lot worse, when compared with our neighbors. ■

WANTED: CRIME PREVENTION CHAIR

Wayne Morris, who has chaired the Crime Prevention Committee for almost two years, has resigned because of too many other conflicting activities. He plans to stay involved, but to a lesser degree. Other current members of the Committee cannot take over the chairmanship because they also have too many tasks. Hence, the Committee is looking for someone who would be willing to take the chairmanship through at least the rest of the TRNA fiscal year (until April). If anyone is interested in getting involved and either chairing or co-chairing this important committee, contact **John Hemler**, 897-3763, for more details. We really need you!

COMMITTEE NEWS



by John Hemler

October has been a busy month for the Youth Committee, with award presentations, dance planning and implementation, and graffiti paintouts keeping the Committee members very, very busy.

Award. On October 16, at the second annual Neighborhood Fest banquet at the Marriot, the Youth Committee received a singular award. The County Commissioner presented a plaque to **Julie Niemeyer** (Committee Chair) and **Stacy Simpson** (Vice-Chair) proclaiming the Youth Committee as the "Best Overall Single Neighborhood Project, 1991." This project won out over 23 other neighbor-

hood projects citywide and was commended for its efforts in planning and carrying out social activities for Taylor Ranch youth, as well as for its efforts in other community activities such as graffiti paintout and helping in the execution of the Taylor Ranch Annual Summer Festival.

Teen Dance. On October 23, the Committee held a teen dance in the Marie Hughes Elementary School cafeteria. It was the most successful Youth Committee social event to date, with over 100 Taylor Ranch teenagers in attendance. Music was furnished by **Mark Pringle**, a Taylor Ranch resident and owner of Tuxedo Junction, which provides music for pri-

vate parties, wedding receptions, etc. (Thanks Mark!). Much planning and preparation for the dance was carried out by the Committee and their advisors. A costume contest and dance contest brought out a number of entries, and everyone had a great time!

Graffiti Paintout. Members of the Youth Committee assisted the Crime Prevention Committee several times in October in painting out graffiti around the Taylor Ranch neighborhood. Their major project was painting out graffiti in the arroyo behind Marie Hughes on October 24.

The Youth Committee's next social event will probably be a Valentine dance in February. Hopefully, it can be held in the new LBJ Middle School. ■

COMMITTEE NEWS (continued)

Environmental Committee

by Bob Hume

Recycling. The TRNA/City of Albuquerque recycling program has ended. The City will begin the curb-side recycling program November 30. TRNA will cease recycling activity for the balance of the year. If we are able to line up trucks, we will continue aluminum recycling the first of next year.

The City recycling program is scheduled to pick up materials in our neighborhood on the first and third Friday of each month. Special clear plastic recycling bags will be issued for use with recycled materials only. Recyclable materials will be placed out on the curb side with regular refuse. Materials which can be recycled include:

- newsprint - Anything that comes with the newspaper is acceptable. Phone books, magazines, catalogs, and junk mail materials are not acceptable. To prepare these materials, please bag them or tie them into manageable bundles. Place them under your clear plastic bag of other recyclable materials.
 - cardboard - Corrugated cardboard is acceptable. The pasteboard containers such as cereal boxes, detergent boxes, and beer containers are not acceptable. To prepare, flatten and tie into bundles, then place under your newspapers.
 - plastic - Plastic bottles that contain a 1 or 2 in the triangular recycling symbol. Do not include antifreeze, chemical, or oil bottles. No food tubs with the mouth larger than the base. No plastic bags. To prepare, remove tops, rinse, flatten out, and put inside the recycling bag.
 - tin cans - Any tin food cans. Do not include aerosol cans or containers used for flammable or hazardous materials. To prepare, rinse, flatten, and put inside the recycling bag.
- Save aluminum for your friendly neighborhood association. I have heard rumors concerning glass, but at this point, I don't have any positive information. For now, glass is not accepted. Although glass is not included, the City is taking tin cans. This is a major improvement.
- Bus Service.** I have noticed a minor increase in bus utilization on the Paseo del Norte express route. Fall and spring are the best times to ride the bus. Get started now before winter arrives. Since the two cent has tax initiative failed to pass the City Council this time around, we will have to make do with the same level of service.
- Median Project.** A presentation of the median landscaping master plan was made October 17 to the Boards of Directors of all neighborhood associations in the TRNA area. Members of some of our constituent boards made the meeting and response was positive. The master plan will be completed soon and we will present it to the memberships of all neighborhood associations. After we finalize the plan, it will go to City authorities for approval. At that point, we will begin on actual landscaping. The magnitude of projects attempted will be limited only by our level of resources. Expect to see activity this spring.

Wildflower of the Month

by René Horvath



Winterfat

While driving along New Mexico roads, you may have noticed a white, wooly, 3-foot tall, shrub called Winterfat. This is the time of year that this plant is most noticeable. Its white fluffy seed heads are prominent from September to December. This shrub typically is found growing between Canada and Mexico west of the Rocky Mountains. It is an excellent forage plant for livestock and wildlife during the fall and winter months, hence its name Winterfat. Birds love it too.

Winterfat needs little water. It can survive on as little as 4 inches, but does much better with 8 to 15 inches of annual participation. I have seen this shrub on Albuquerque's westside on top of the mesa and on its escarp-

(continued on page 5)

COMMITTEE NEWS (continued)

Environmental Committee (continued from page 3)

ment. Now is the best time to try to identify the plant while its branches are covered with soft, wooly, white hairs. Otherwise, it will be inconspicuous from April to August. The foliage is a light bluish-green with small, narrow leaves covering much of the stem.

Winterfat can make a nice ornamental plant used in landscapes particularly in hot, dry locations. Now that the holidays are coming, Winterfat can be used creatively in dried flower arrangements or in Christmas wreaths contrasting nicely with red chili peppers. Just spray it with hair spray to help hold it together. Happy Holidays!



by Teresa Chavez

The Christmas Party will soon be here! Please send in your reservation by mail or call 899-9330 (See page 9 of this newsletter for reservation form.). You must have a reservation to attend. This year's holiday party will be something extra special because it will be held at the new Johnson Middle School. This will give everyone a chance to get a "sneak preview" of our beautiful new school. A special thanks goes out to **Ruthie Owens**, Principal of LBJ, who has graciously allowed us to use the

school even before it officially opens to the students.

This year's party will be catered by Taylor Ranch's very own "Skoozi" deli. They will be preparing a traditional holiday feast consisting of smoked turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed veggies, roll, and butter. Don't forget about the great desserts that are provided by all of your neighbors—Delicious!

We need your help!!! The Social Committee is in need of a "few good men/women" to help decorate and set up for the Christmas party. If you think you'd be able to help for a couple of hours on the afternoon of December 11, please call Teresa at 899-9330.

THE MESSENGER CLASSIFIED

If you would like to advertise in the *Mesa Messenger* classified ad section, call Kelley Fugelso, 899-1419. The price is \$2 per issue for 3 lines. You may advertise such things as garage sales, items for sale, items wanted, etc. We can not include any political ads. If you want to include an advertisement for a business, you must be a TRNA business member and the cost is \$20 for three issues (3.5" x 2" space). Business ads are included in the Business Section (pages 5-6).



Andrea's Home Services

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897-1792

TRNA Business Members

*Our Business Members Support TRNA...
Please Support them.*

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Apple Blossoms Florist

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Blake's Lottaburger

Centex Homes

Comet Cleaners

First National Bank in Albuquerque

Fred Van Berkel, General Contractors

Keller's Farm Stores

Nora Pomeroy, Century 21 Realtor

Oppel-Jenkins Group

Ruth Coon & Company Realtors

Sivage-Thomas Homes

Taylor Ranch Baptist Church

Travel Trends

THE BUSINESS SECTION

Any business wishing to advertise in the TRNA Business Section must be a TRNA Business Member. All Business Members are listed for no charge in each issue of *The Mesa Messenger* (see previous page). The price for advertising in the Business Section is \$20 for three issues. You must provide "camera-ready" artwork (such as a business card), and you are restricted to a space 3.5" by 2". If you would like to become a TRNA Business Member, contact Dave Otto at 897-7733. If you would like to advertise in the TRNA Business Section, call Kelley Fugelso at 899-1419.

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TRNA Board Information



TRNA Officers*, Directors†, and Committee Chairs



★† Bill Ghormley	President	898-1264
★† Don Newton	Vice President	
	Governmental Affairs Committee	898-2185
★† Dave Otto	Treasurer	
	Membership Committee	897-7733
★† Kelley Fugelso	Secretary	
	Newsletter Committee	899-1419
† Louis Martinez	Education Committee	898-7015
† Robert Hume	Environmental Committee	898-6228
† John Hemler	Public Affairs Committee	897-3763
† Leroy Strafford	Parks & Recreation Committee	897-2584
† Teresa Chavez	Social Committee	899-9330
† Mark Pringle	899-1314
Julie Neimeyer	Youth Committee	898-5744

TRNA Public Forum



Anyone wishing to address the T R N A Board of Directors may do so at the regular monthly meeting of the Board, which normally takes place the fourth Tuesday of each month at the temporary LBJ Middle School (previously the Marie Hughes Satellite). The first 15 minutes of this meeting is set aside for public forum. If you would like to use this time to address the Board, please call Bill Ghormley (898-1264) at least 5 working day in advance of the meeting. ■

TRNA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**November 1 - December 12
1992**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3 1992 General Election	Nov. 4 6:30 pm- Newsletter Committee, Kelley Fugelso, 899-1419	Nov. 5 7:00 pm- Social Committee, Teresa Chavez, 899-9330	Nov. 6	Nov. 7
Nov. 8 2:00pm- Youth Committee Meeting, John Hemler, 897-3763	Nov. 9	Nov. 10	Nov. 11	Nov. 12	Nov. 13	Nov. 14
Nov. 15	Nov. 16	Nov. 17	Nov. 18 7:00 pm- Environmental Committee, Bob Hume, 898-6228	Nov. 19	Nov. 20	Nov. 21
Nov. 22	Nov. 23 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting, Bill Ghormley, 898-1264	Nov. 24	Nov. 25	Nov. 26 	Nov. 27	Nov. 28
Nov. 29	Nov. 30	Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5
Dec. 6	Dec. 7	Dec. 8 6:30 pm- Newsletter Committee, Kelley Fugelso, 899-1419	Dec. 9	Dec. 10	Dec. 11 TRNA Christmas Party	Dec. 12



SEASONS GREETINGS

Gather ye friends and neighbors once again for the annual Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Christmas Party.

This years party will be on Friday, December 11, 1992 at 6 p.m. at the new Lyndon B. Johnson Middle School located at 6811 Taylor Ranch Drive NW. TRNA members are invited at no cost while guests will be \$4.00 per person. Your reservation slip is provided below to help us determine attendance.

Don't forget to bring your favorite holiday dessert and tell the kids Santa will be there to hear all their Christmas wishes!

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!

_____ PHONE #: _____

NUMBER OF ADULTS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN

AGES OF CHILDREN _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

NUMBER OF GUESTS:





Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Membership Application

New Membership Membership Renewal Date: _____

Names: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

Areas of Interest in which I will help the Association:

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

Comments _____

Signature: _____

Resident Membership One Year: \$12.00 (2 years: \$22; 3 years: \$30)

Please make check payable to TRNA

Send to: TRNA • PO Box 75157 • 3200 Coors Road NW, #G • Albuquerque, NM 87120-1629



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