



# TRNA NEWSLETTER

## President's Message

"Pass out the muskets." That was my comment to a fellow attender at the [November] West Region Citizens Advisory Council (WRCAC) meeting. About 100 people attended this meeting with the State School Board. Actually, it was more of a workshop. After some opening comments by the President of the State Board and members of the WRCAC, attendess broke up into small groups according to a colored dot on the agenda received at the door. Each group was given about an hour to address an assigned question. The ultimate goal was to assemble a list of suggestions for the State Board.

My group's question was, "who decideds what"? I will spare you the gory details and try to get to the bottom line (you knew I'd find a way to slip that in). I believe our group decided that parents have the ultimate responsibility for the education of their children. I also think our group decided many parents are frustrated in their attempt [to provide education]. Their frustration did not seem to lie with their abilities or their children's potential. but rather with the behemoth commonly called APS. At times I felt as though I was in a candle-lit room in 1770 Boston (hence the reference to the muskets).

So how does this problem get fixed? While nearly everyone agrees the PTA is a great organization, many would say it may not be the best vehilce for addressing these frustrations. Part of the reason is the T of PTA are subject to the behemoth and may be somewhat hesitant to take on the beast. No one faults them for this.

At the end of the discussion, I saw an opportunity (with a great lead-in by a member of our state legislature) to put in a plug for TRNA. We are the perfect organization to help parents address some of these frustrations. We would be happy to provide more forums like this for discussion, and to provide a conduit between parents and administation. We have generally great relationships with members of the APS administration. And, we have a committee whose sole task is to address education issues. I would urge any of you who feel any twinge of frustration and would like to get some relief, please call Lori Apt, Education Committee Chair, 897-9059. She will see to it that you can work through your frustration.

And now a special bulletin concerning the long-awaited Montano Bridge: there ain't one yet. Sure, we have a "pro bridge" Mayor and City Councillor, but let's remember, the "proof of the concrete is in the pouring."

God bless your family, have a great holiday season, and see you in 1994.

*Dave Otto*

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# December 1993



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Teen Dance, 7:00 p.m., LBJ Mid School	4 Recycling, 8:30- 11:00, Bob Hume, 896- 6228
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 TRNA Annual Christmas Party, 5:00-7:00 p.m., LBJ Mid School
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26	27	28 Board of Directors Monthly Meeting, Dave Otto, 897-7733	29	30	31	Happy New Year!

## TRNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Otto	President.....	897-7733
Don Newton	Vice President, Governmental Affairs Committee ...	898-2185
Teresa Chavez	Secretary, Social Activities Committee .....	899-9330
Thom Wright	Treasurer .....	897-0476
Lori Apt	Education Committee.....	897-9059
Bill Ghormley	Nothing Much.....	898-1264
John Hemler	Public Relations Committee, Youth Committee .....	897-3763
Bob Hume	Environmental Committee.....	898-6228
Steve Murtha	Membership Committee.....	898-7330
Maria Martin	Social Activities Committee .....	??? - ????
Debbie Tatum	Social Activities Committee .....	??? - ????

## Social Activities Committee

Happy Holidays! By the time this newsletter arrives at your home, the Annual TRNA Christmas Party will probably be over. We hope that everyone had a wonderful time, and that all the children were happy to see Santa.

The *Social Activities Committee* begins planning the party three-four months in advance. We argue over what will be served, what kind of gifts Santa will give out, how we will decorate, and just about everything else. Why? Because the five of us that make up the Committee want to make living in Taylor Ranch a little bit better, for our children and ourselves. We're all happy to live in this neighborhood and we want to make our 7,000 or so neighbors feel like we have a small-town atmosphere.

That's why I would like to recognize the members of our Committee and say THANK YOU to all of them:

■ **TERESA CHAVEZ** is Committee Chair. She really does go beyond the call of duty. Teresa is always helping in TRNA events. She flips burgers, creates great signs, buys soda pop on sale and most importantly makes the Committee a priority in her busy life.

■ **SABRINA GOODFELLOW** has been on the Committee since I talked her into it at last year's Christmas Party. She is so creative and has done a lot of our computer work. What would be do without you, Sabrina?

■ **BRENDA SCHNEIDER** has been a faithful Committee member for several years now. She is always willing to lend a hand wherever it is needed. No job is too big for Brenda, and she has great parties, too.

■ **DEBBIE TATUM** is back, and we sure are glad to have her helping us out. Anyone who knows Debbie knows that she is a real worker. She knows the ins and outs of the Committee and always helps us make decisions.

■ **MARIA MARTIN**. I'm the one who will be recruiting you at this year's party.

Thanks to all those who aren't on the Committee but have helped us out with all our different functions throughout the year. We could never have done it without you.

I hope you all have a happy holiday and a happy New Year!

*Maria Martin*

## Plant of the Month- Buffalo Gourd

Ten years ago I collected a few three-inch round buffalo gourds from a vine growing in my neighborhood. At the time I wanted to paint and decorate them for Christmas ornaments. Unfortunately I never got around to it and ended up burying several of the discolored gourds next to my house in the backyard. The following year a vine appeared. To my satisfaction, I soon realized it was a buffalo gourd plant. The vine now spreads to about eight feet in diameter. Its leaves are huge and triangular. The flowers are big, yellow trumpets, reminding me of pumpkin flowers. I am very excited about my buffalo gourd vine. I have always wanted to grow this vine ever since seeing them grow along the road-sides here on the west side.

I figure the reason for my success in getting the buffalo gourd started and maintained was because of the rain water coming off the roof of our

house. These plants don't need a lot of water since they are drought tolerant. But, they do tend to grow in low-lying areas where rain water accumulates. That's why they grow along side roadways where rain water runoff is enough for the plants to thrive.

I had been looking forward for my plant to produce the small round gourds. A few years ago it did start to produce fruit on one stem, but has not produced any since. I called Plants of the Southwest, and they thought that the plant may not be getting enough sunlight. This is probably the reason, since I do have a tree that is getting bigger now, and it does partially shade the vine during a portion of the day. They seem to need plenty of sun in order to grow and produce. I did think about transplanting it, but I hear that the roots are huge, going down about four feet deep, making it difficult to transplant and survive.

I should mention that this plant does have an odd smell, which has been described as a hamburger smell, or the smell of stinky socks. I don't always notice this smell, but do notice when the kids or the dogs run through the vine.

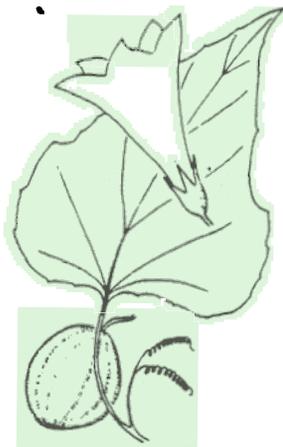
Buffalo gourd is a perennial. While it does die back during the cold months, it will come back each summer. It is long-lived, up to 60 years. I have read that the gourds were cooked and eaten by the Indians. They boiled and ground the seeds into a pasty mush.

My vine does attract attention. Friends and neighbors frequently inquire about the vine. It does have a fascinating look about it.

Dried gourds can be used to make very attractive decorations. I have been to many arts and crafts fairs and have met artists who have decorated gourds with beautiful Southwest designs. The gourds are used in decorating wreaths or as Christmas tree ornaments. These uniquely designed gourds are what prompted by to collect a few in the first place.

Have a happy holiday season!

*Rene Horvath*



**Buffalo Gourd**

## **TRNA Meetings**

All TRNA meetings, including Board of Directors meetings, are open to all members of the Association. If you are interested in becoming involved, you are encouraged to contact the Association President, Directors or committee Chairs, to verify the time and place of meetings. Their names and phone numbers are listed on **Page 2** of this newsletter.

Any TRNA member who wishes to address the Board of Directors may do so during the Public Forum which is a part of each BOD meeting. Members who would like to speak should contact **President Dave Otto, 897-7733**, at least five working days prior to the scheduled meeting. *BOD meetings are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.*

## Membership Committee

**IT'S** a wonderful life!!!

And for most of us at this special and hectic time of year, it is! We're all mighty grateful for the opportunities to slow our busy lives down a wee bit, and bask in the frelections of warm holiday get-togethers and family reunions. Suffice it to say that even though there's a trade-off involved (first playing Santa Claus and then paying Santa Claus), life wouldn't be the same without some observance of this merry time of the year.

But the holiday a year do not make! Between all the beehive Yule busy-ness, there's the matter of eleven other months throughout the year. Here in Taylor Ranch, your Association membership is providing you with lots more than a swell Christmas party (free!). We/you have an important ongoing agenda for the upcoming year, not the least of which is to ensure that we still maintain an effective presence at City Hall, when it comes to west side/TR concerns. Don't forget that your Association is continuing the fight to finally get our Montano Bridge built, and is constantly monitoring the development growth of our bustling neighborhood. How do you think we might get our own community/senior citizen center or even our own police substation?

These things won't happen by themselves. They can only come about through your Association exhibiting strength through the numbers of members we can cite to the Powers That Be...the ultimate decision makers. Our influence and clout is measured directly by our membership. And our voice will be heard, if you care. This holiday season, give a gift that will mean a difference. Renew your membership for 1994, and give a neighbor a membership, too!

Yes, it's a wonderful life. Let's keep it that way!!! We appreciated your membership.

Happy holidays!

*Steve Murtha*



*Give A  
TRNA  
Membership  
To Yourself and  
Your Neighbors*

# TRNA BUSINESS MEMBERS

*Our Business Members support TRNA--Please support them*

Albertson's  
 Apple Blossoms Florist  
 B&D Trophies  
 Blake's Lottaburger  
 Centex Homes  
 Comet Cleaners  
 First National Bank in Albuquerque  
 Fred VanBerkel, General Contractors  
 Jaybird Computing

Keller's Farm Stores  
 Nora Pomeroy, Century 21 Realtor  
 Oppel-Jenkins Group  
 Riverside Animal Hospital  
 Ruth Coon & Company, Realtors  
 Sivage-Thomas Homes  
 Taylor Ranch Baptist Church  
 Travel Trends

# Thank You



**Delly Rooney & Sons** for  
 help with this newsletter. It  
 wouldn't get done without  
 you!

# RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP Before the Rush

Use the Form on the Back Page  
 Fill It out and Mail **TODAY**

## METRO 100 REALTORS

**STEVE MURTHA**  
 ASSOCIATE BROKER



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 Office (505) 828-1000  
 Mobile 1-252-6375  
 Residence (505) 898-7330  
 6767 Academy Road N.E. Albuquerque, NM 87109

Office Hours  
 by Appointment

Telephone  
 836-1280

### Daniel J. Farley, D.D.S., P.A.



General Dentistry



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Lori Apt  
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# 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 _____      |   |   |

Resident Membership:

1 year - \$12; 2 years - \$22; 3 years - \$30

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to TRNA

Send to: TRNA • PO Box 75157 • 5300 Sequoia Road NW • Albuquerque, NM 87094

Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 75157  
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