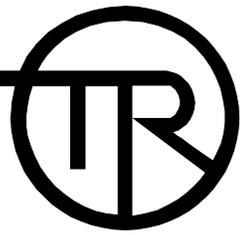


MESA MESSENGER



Newsletter of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Vol. 31 No. 9 Sept 2008

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

President's Message

Patsy Rippo, President, TRNA

Hello My Friends,

As I mentioned last month, one of the classes I was just about to take was the Community Emergency Response team (CERT). Well, I've now completed that class (it was a great one week class) as well as the CPA class offered by the APD.

And as a reminder, the Citizen Patrol Academy (CPA) was also a terrific class worth taking. The contacts are Officer Gerald Sandoval, CPA Coordinator, at 505-343-5009 (GSandoval@cabq.gov) and Ernest Maestas at 505-833-7248 (EMaestas@cabq.gov).

I know I am repeating myself but I have to give Rene' Horvath recognition yet again. She continues to do such a wonderful job of staying on top of developments in Taylor Ranch and keeping the Board of Directors thoroughly up to date.

With the end of summer comes the start of school. Please be aware of more children out and about and the flashing yellow school zone lights where the speed limit is 15 mph.

Please remember ... "our mission is to promote, preserve and improve the quality of life in Taylor Ranch." The larger our membership, the more successful our mission will be. Don't be shy, ask a friend or neighbor to join.

Feel free to contact me with your ideas or concerns at 306-2244, or president@trna.org. Patsy Rippo ®

Beautification News

Don MacCornack, Director, Beautification

The park was in great shape when we arrived Saturday, August 16th. The word must be out that Taylor Ranch cares about our park. Thank you Taylor Ranch neighbors!

Our Clean Team volunteers willingly give up some of their precious free time to improve our park and our neighborhood. The August Community heroes are Juanita

Coulter, Rae Phillips, Ray Shortridge, Carol Waters, Dave Waters, and Lynn MacCornack.

We will be meeting next week with the City to discuss additional parking lot lighting and a security gate at the entrance.

Our next park cleanup is scheduled for September 20th at 8:30 am. Our cleanups last about 90 minutes. Please plan to come out and make some new friends.

If anyone has any questions regarding the park, please email me at beautification@trna.org. ®

Crime Prevention Update

Gary Guddell, Director, APD Liaison

Our Civilian Patrol is working well. There were 240 calls for service the month of June. We are hoping the amount is lower for July. Taylor Ranch is the largest area in Albuquerque, and we have only 26 Certified people who patrol. You do not need to be certified to patrol as a co-pilot. To be certified, you need to take a four-hour class.

A patrol must have one certified and a second party in the patrol vehicle. Each patrol is only 2 hours.

I urge all to try and garage their cars. A woman had all 4 tires slashed while her car was in her driveway sometime between the hours of 9 pm and 9 am in Taylor Ranch.

You can volunteer to be a co-pilot without the class. We need your help! If we have enough people to patrol it would be only 2 hours a month.

Call me for more information, 710-5191. Thanks. ®

Citizen Patrol Flyer

Enclosed is a flyer soliciting Westsiders to join the Taylor Ranch Citizen Patrol. Pass it on to neighbor who may not belong to TRNA. If you have a place of business or know of one willing to post the flyer, it would be greatly appreciated. Only through efforts such as this will we keep Taylor Ranch a safe environment for ourselves and our local businesses. ®

District 4 Meeting with Cadigan

Rae Phillips, Coeditor

What a turnout we had for the District 5 meeting held Thursday, August 14th, 6:30 pm at the Don Newton-Taylor Ranch Community Center; the room was filled to capacity & then some! It just shows how involved and informed the residents in the district are, and their desire to seek answers to issues that concern us. It is also a surprise to see how many of our government officials will attend and speak openly about their departments and its developments and issues. The meeting was started by Cadigan's assistant, Mimi Aledo, as Cadigan was stuck in traffic (nothing new for the westsiders!).

Aledo introduced Amy Landau, attorney for the Campbell's who own the property in NW corner of La Orilla & Coors. Landau spoke briefly about the current status, and brought everyone up to date [on what we've been reporting each month in Rene Horvath's Land Use Update].

Next to speak was Steve Warfield, APD Area Commander of the newly established 6th area covering the northwest quadrant. He stated there have been tremendous improvements made in response time and that whenever he gets a complaint of any kind, he is "committed to put assets into resolving the complaint within 6 to 24 hrs." Warfield also praised the efforts of the Taylor Ranch Citizen Patrol, under the direction of Gary Guddell, and said they were making a tremendous difference.

Michael Cadigan arrived and ran down a list of activities/situations/ issues impacting our district. Good news: Santa Fe Village has re-formed their neighborhood association. Quaker Heights is finally getting the \$250K to fix their drainage problems. A Small Business Assistance Center is being created for ABQ. City administration is working on reduction of gas consumption. Special legislation is asking for funding for a number of parks for completion and improvements.

Blowing dusts issues are being addressed but continue to be a problem. The Coors/Montano SE corner is the 'poster child' for this. It is hoped to have in place in the next few months a law requiring future developers to post a bond to cover dust control if development not done in specific time.

Cadigan also mentioned that the city is looking for people to serve on various city boards, i.e., Public Safety Tax Advisory Board, Arts Board, Recycling Task Force, and others. Contact Mimi Aledo in his office for more information.

Rapid Ride Blue Line's new major transfer turnaround is under construction at Ellison & Coors By-Pass, in Cottonwood Mall area. The present major rapid ride at Montano Plaza will continue.

The City Council will be taking up the issue of Impact Fees. Southwest Councilman wants to lower the fees in order to increase commercial development, but it will impact all of the Westside. Cadigan doesn't feel they should be given more breaks. Less impact fees, less money for road infrastructure even though more commercial means more traffic. He is excited to see more offices versus retail development, and encourages more to provide higher level jobs on the Westside to impact the 'across the river' commute.

It was pointed out that many of the traffic bottlenecks that will forever plague the Westside are due to sections of roadways between residential developments belonging to the county, and their attitude is one of "it's of no benefit to the county" to improve/widen these major arteries. Cadigan suggested we all contact the chairman of the County Commission, Alan Armijo, and remind him that **we are all also county residents**; and that we will hold them accountable. Presently they "fly under the radar and get things they want ... rely on people to ignore what they are doing."

Jay Hart, Director of Parks & Recreation, spoke on many issues related to our city parks. Existing dog parks are overcrowded; need to locate more. Not enough soccer fields for all the groups seeking to use them. This will be relieved some with joint developments (city, APS, YMCA) going on west of the escarpment. As these will be lighted fields, residents have been assured it will not impact them. Synthetic turfs are being used in some locations. Ladera Golf Course improvements are almost finished. A drinking fountain in being installed at the skate park.

There have been many complaints about lack of restrooms at the parks. Hart explained that these were designed to be "neighborhood" parks, serving nearby residents (close enough to run home for restroom facilities). Due to lack of parks with soccer & baseball playing fields, however, these are now attracting people from farther away. The difficulty of maintaining permanent restrooms would be an issue; they would also become a target for graffiti and other criminal activities. Mariposa Park does have portable toilets. This will continue to be discussed/addressed.

Hart also said they appreciate citizens calling in sighting of running water in roadways & medians, etc. They are now able to dispatch someone immediately to deal with it.

(District 5 Meeting cont'd page 6)

Education News

Jane Webster, TRNA Education Director

As our Taylor Ranch neighborhood schools open for the 2008-2009 school year, please remember to watch for children in the neighborhood. As the saying goes, if a society is judged by how well it cares for its children, then let Taylor Ranch be a shining example of a caring community. Encourage your children to be safe at all times by reviewing your house rules and how you expect them to conduct themselves when they are on their way to and from school and when you are not at home to supervise.

TRNA welcomes Elsy Fierro, the new principal at Marie Hughes Elementary School and her staff back to Taylor Ranch. We also welcome returning principals, Marcie Johnson, from LBJ Middle School and Deborah Henwood from Chamiza Elementary. The TRNA Board of Directors wishes each of you and all your employees a great school year.

Parents, let's get the school year started off right. Remember to ask your students daily about their experiences. Find out if they need your help to complete their homework or need more school supplies. Our

schools do not have some important supplies and need help to make sure your child has access to them. It's important to find out what is happening during the school day so that you can have a meaningful dialog with your student. Sometimes as parents we will ask our children about how their day went and we get a meaningless answer. Don't let them off the hook that easily! Ask simple follow up questions so you feel that you know what the school day is like for your student. "How was the guest speaker?" "Did you finish your lab in science today?" "How was the bus ride/ walk home?" If you are picking up a strange vibe or are unsure about something, email, write a note or phone the school to leave a message for the teacher to get back to you.

LBJ, where I teach, has a new system this year called yourhomework.com to look up assignments. It's not up to speed just yet, but watch for it soon. LBJ teachers will also be emailing grades using a program called Grade Machine. There are a lot of exciting changes in our schools. Stay informed and get involved by joining the PTA/ PTSA so you know what's happening in our Taylor Ranch schools. If you want me to mention an activity in the newsletter you can contact me at education@trna.org. ☺



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www.bosqueschool.org

A View of
Bosque

Sunday,
October 19,
2008

Tours at
2:00 & 3:30
Information
Session at 2:45
Bosque School Campus

Admission Test Dates

November 15, 2008
 December 6, 2008
 January 10, 2009
 January 24, 2009
 January 31, 2009
 9:00 - 11:00 am

To register, call Suzie Castilleja
at Bosque School, 898-6388

Land Use Update

Rene' Horvath, TRNA Land Use Director

La Orilla/ Wal-Mart appeals: Four appeals were filed with the County on July 30th: Alban Hills NA, Rio Oeste HO, Taylor Ranch NA, and the Campbell's (property owners). All appealed the County Zoning Administrator's July 15th decision to approve the La Orilla/ Wal-Mart site plan. The Zoning Administrator's decision included three minor conditions: (1) Lighting shall be site specific to prevent fugitive light. (2) Noise levels, including loading docks, trash disposal, vehicle idling, shall comply with the Bernalillo County Noise ordinance. (3) Screened trash compacter, and pallet storage shall be relocated to west side of building, away from existing residents. According to the Zoning Administrator's findings, he treated the site plan as if it was already a done deal and there was nothing more he could do, but give notification and a public hearing, and place a few conditions on the site plan. In our appeals we pointed out that Judge Huling's decision had reversed the Zoning Administrator's previous decision in approving the 2006 site plan. We also pointed out that the County did not follow their own County ordinances in approving the 1994 Special Use permit, nor consult with the neighborhoods in the development of the site plan. **The next hearing will be Oct.1st, before the County Planning Commission, who will hear all four appeals. The hearing begins at 9:am in the City Council Chambers.** We don't know where we are listed on the agenda yet. If you are interested in writing letters or attending the hearing please contact me.

Senior Independent Living Facility: There have been two facilitated meetings held this summer to address the changes made to the initial site plan. This makes a total of five meetings on this project. TRNA and La Luz had supported the zone change and the initial site plan for the Senior Housing for the Coors and Western Trails site. The site plan then changed. At the July 3rd meeting several neighborhood representatives questioned the changes made and brought up their concerns. Mr. Kavan the developer for the Senior Facility wanted to work with the neighborhoods and invited the new commercial developer Scott Withington to the next facilitated meeting for discussion. Scott Withington has done renovation projects within the City, such as projects at 10th and Tijeras, the old United Way building, and the Beecham building on Menaul. At the August 11th facilitated meeting, both Developers and Tierra West were there to discuss the design standards brought up at the last meeting. They were interested in what the neighbors had to say and were agreeable to using the same mission style architectural theme for both the commercial and senior

facility, and to provide a nice view corridor of the mountains for the senior residents dining at the dining hall. There will be pedestrian trails around the Senior facility and commercial area and along the main street that separates the commercial buildings from the Senior building. There was concern over the number of potential drive through businesses which included: 1 bank, 2 fast food restaurants, and a potential pharmacy with a drive through. The Planner has concerns about this also. Too many drive through businesses are not good for a pedestrian friendly village concept. Russell Brito, the planner, received the plans shortly before the August 21st EPC hearing, and did not have time to review them before the hearing. **It's been deferred to the September 18th hearing.**

Riverside Church: The Riverside Church at the end of La Orilla, near the Corrales Drain wants to expand the size of their existing building. First they want to build a 5600 sq. ft. Chapel attached to the north end of their existing building and later add another 5100 sq. ft. addition for classrooms at the south end. The EPC hearing was held August 21st. The focus of the discussion was over the parking lot encroaching upon the 100 ft buffer area, next to the Corrales Drain. The Coors Corridor plan states that a 100ft. buffer along the Bosque shall be maintained in its natural state. The TRNA board had taken a vote to have the project comply with the Coors Corridor plan to maintain the 100-foot buffer and height restrictions for view preservation. The Albuquerque Water Control Authority commented that a sewer line easement was in a portion of the buffer and that a ponding area could not be constructed over the easement. Open Space also sent a memo stating concern over the buffer area being overly used for development. Other areas of discussion was building height, dressing up the existing building, traffic at the intersection of Coors and La Orilla, and restricting light poles to 16 ft. in height. Tierra West asked for a 30-day deferral to work on some of these issues.

Cell Tower Appeals: The City planner denied three cell tower requests. One tower was in Taylor Ranch. The planner denied the requests because they did not comply with the City's new regulations. T- Mobile appealed. The hearing was July 10th. The Land Use Hearing Officer upheld the planner's decision to deny the cell tower request. On August 4th, City Council also upheld the Planners decision.

[Ed note: This successful resolution only came about due to Rene's tenacity and TRNA drawing this to others attention. Cuddo's Rene!]

(Land Use Update cont'd page 5)

(Land Use Update cont'd from page 4)

Self-storage/ outside vehicles storage/ Western Trails and Unser: There is a request for a zone map amendment from SU-1 for Neighborhood Commercial to SU-1 for Neighborhood Commercial to include self-storage units with direct access and outside storage of cars, recreational vehicles, and boats. A facilitated meeting will be held at the Taylor Ranch Community Center, August 27th at 4:30 pm, to give us more information. By the time you receive this news letter the meeting will have occurred. If you are interested in this project please contact me. The applicant would like to go to EPC Sept. 18th.

Rene' Horvath, 898-2114. ☎

Back to School Safety Tips

Conrad Candelaria, SW Area APD Commander

- Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and, if possible, with intersections that have crossing guards.
- Walk the route with your child beforehand. Tell him or her to stay away from parks, vacant lots, fields and other places where there are not many people around.
- Teach your child never to talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your children do not know well or do not trust.
- Be sure your child walks to and from school with a sibling, friend, or neighbor.
- Teach your kids -- whether walking, biking, or riding the bus to school -- to obey all traffic signals, signs and traffic officers. Remind them to be extra careful in bad weather.
- When driving kids, deliver and pick them up as close to the school as possible. Do not leave until they are in the schoolyard or building.
- If your child bikes to school make sure he wears a helmet that meets one of the safety standards. Research indicates that a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent.
- If your child rides a scooter to school, make sure she wears sturdy shoes, a helmet, kneepads and elbow pads. Children under age 12 should not ride motorized scooters, according to recent recommendations from the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Make sure parents and younger children walk the route

to and from school, pointing out landmarks and safe places to go if they are being followed or need help. Make a map with your children showing acceptable routes to school, using main roads and avoiding shortcuts or isolated areas. If your children take a bus, visit the bus stop with them and make sure they know which bus to take.

- Teach children to arrive at the bus stop early, stay out of the street, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street, watch for cars and avoid the driver's blind spot.
- Remind your children to stay seated at all times and keep their heads and arms inside the bus while riding. When exiting the bus, children should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, exit from the front using the handrail to avoid falls and cross the street at least 10 feet (or 10 giant steps) in front of the bus.
- Tell your child not to bend down in front of the bus to tie shoes or pick up objects, as the driver may not see him before starting to move.
- Be sure that your child knows his or her home phone number and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult and how to call 911 for emergencies. ☎

Digitech Office Equipment

Since April 2005, Digitech has printed the Mesa Messenger for free. Their printing donations have saved TRNA over \$6600, not counting other miscellaneous printing jobs done for us.

Owners Lily & Michael Andrews say that "we are proud to support TRNA by printing this newsletter."

They offer a full line of Kyocera, Mita & Copystar copiers, printers, faxes and wide format machines; rent, sale or lease. Not only do they provide outstanding service, but do so at great prices. We highly recommend Digitech for your office equipment needs.

Thank you, Lily & Michael, for your dedication to our/your neighborhood.

(District 5 Meeting cont'd from page 2)

Michael Riordan, Department of Municipal Development, spoke next. Presently \$12-13 mil in construction projects in place. He went on to expound on a list of improvement projects recently completed. Roadway development issues are always ongoing, and involved the policy that the developer is responsible for widening/improving roadways when their developments go into place, so these are not city's responsibility. He went over the list of roadways due for widening, both those currently underway and those planned.

Mathew Conrad, with Zoning & Code Enforcement, said all issues should be reported through 311. Most common were weeds, inoperative vehicles, RV's, illegal signage. They are going to court more frequently; recently took 12 Westside developers to court for signage. They try to maintain a 72 hour response time to complaint calls from residents. **Important for us to note: a new ordinance prevents vehicle parking on front lawns or any place other than improved parking surface.** Direct contact for Conrad: 924-3454, mattconrad@cabq.gov.

Jason Marks, Enforcement of Public Regulation Commission, discussed ongoing issues within his jurisdiction. He stated he "keeps a skeptical eye on Quest, PNM, insurance companies, taxis, large corporations." It's his job to take them to court if need be to put more money back into the infrastructures & improvements, especially in rural areas. He is also pressing for more renewable energy laws, energy efficiency laws, and wind & solar power; recently voted on rule requiring 20% of renewable energy must be solar. When asked why no nuclear development, Marks said we are too small a state to consider it. ®

RUMMAGE SALE
Saturday, October 18, 2007
8:00 am until noon
Cross of Hope Parking Lot

Here's your chance to do some fall cleaning and make some extra money at the same time! Clear out the closets, garage, shed, storage unit, and bring them to the semi-annual TRNA Rummage Sale to benefit our Scholarship Fund. As many of you may be aware, this is how you can give back, AND have some fun at the same time. This one activity is what pays for the scholarships we give out each year to worthy high school graduates for college education.

Space rental for TRNA members is \$6, and for non-members \$12. 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 much "stuff" you'll probably want to rent at least two spaces. This has become a very popular Taylor Ranch community event, with good crowds and lots of buyers, so get your space reserved quickly.

There will be a TRNA space as well, for which we will be receiving donations of items that we can sell. You can either bring your items to our space early that morning, or call Brett Lopez, 836-7831, to pick them up. Of course we will also be very grateful if you simply want to send a cash donation for this very worthwhile cause.

As always, we will have plenty of food & snacks available for sale ... including Brett's special breakfast of chili dog with jalapenos (hey, don't knock it 'til you've tried it), donuts, coffee, soft drinks, and more.

Many volunteers will be needed to make this happen, so if you can help — with food service, set up, or working the TRNA booth, picking up items, or anything else — please contact Brett at BLopez401K@aol.com or 836-7831.

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, 1/2 block north of Montano, across from the Don Newton-Taylor Ranch Community Center.

Rummage Sale Space Reservation

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

TRNA Member? _____

Spaces Needed? _____

\$6/space for TRNA members, \$12/space for others, check made payable to TRNA and sent to:

TRNA Rummage
P. O. Box 66288
Albuquerque, NM 87193

Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Membership Registration

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ E-mail address: _____

- I'm interested in the following:
- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Calling | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/ Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Check your expiration date on the mailing label.

If membership does not expire this month then please pass this form on to a neighbor!

09/08

If it does expire this month, please renew now! Enclose a check made out to TRNA in the amount of:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Resident: <input type="checkbox"/> \$9.00 (Thru Dec 2008) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 (Thru Dec 2009) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$39.00 (Thru Dec 2010) |
| Business: <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 (Thru Dec 2008) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85.00 (Thru Dec 2009) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 (Thru Dec 2010) |



Call Patsy Rippo at 306-2244 if you have questions or need more information.

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

TRNA Board of Directors and Other TRNA Contacts

President:	<i>Patsy Rippo</i>	306-2244	president@trna.org
Vice-President:	<i>Brett Lopez</i>	836-7831	vicepresident@trna.org
Secretary:	<i>Alice Demi</i>	899-0027	secretary@trna.org
Treasurer:	<i>Don MacCornack</i>	897-1593	treasurer@trna.org
Director/ Zoning, Social.:	<i>Brett Lopez</i>	839-4805	zoning@trna.org
Director/Police Liaison:	<i>Gary Gudell</i>	710-5191	police@trna.org
Director//Land Use:	<i>René Horvath</i>	898-2114	land@trna.org
Director/Westside Coalition:	<i>Walter Sala</i>	890-7035	wscn@trna.org
Director/Education:	<i>Jane Webster</i>	792-1087	education@trna.org
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Director:	<i>Dave Waters</i>	412-5141	director2@trna.org
Director:	<i>Hanna Sorrells</i>	294-7042	director1@trna.org
Director:	<i>Vacant</i>		
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Newsletter editors:	<i>Ceil van Berkel</i>	899-2738	editor@trna.org
	<i>Rae Phillips</i>	899-1273	editor@trna.org

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Sept 10 - 6:30 pm - TRNA Board Meeting
- Sept 18 - EPC Hearing
- Sept 20 - Basin Park Cleanup
- Oct 1 - County Planning Commission hearing on La Orilla-Wal-Mart appeals
- Oct 18 - TRNA Rummage Sale, Cross of Hope

New Library Board Member

Rae Phillips, Coeditor

Ceil van Berkel, TRNA Webmaster and Coeditor, was recently appointed to the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Library Board, after responding to Walt Sala's report in last month's Mesa Messenger. Walt had stated he was withdrawing from this board and asking for a Westsider to volunteer. Our congratulations to her on her new position, and our thanks for all her continuing volunteer efforts on our behalf.

350-0773

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Send your items of community interest to the Mesa Messenger! Submissions must be received by the 22nd of the month. Digital media preferred (email) / Please include author and phone number / Include SASE for photo returns. TRNA reserves the right to edit or reject submissions. Copyrighted material requires written permission.

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DISTRICT 5 MEETING

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Mark Your Calendar to Join Us!

TRNA RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, October 18th

CROSS OF HOPE CHURCH parking lot

8:00 a.m. — Noon

Food & Beverages available

If you have items to sell, reserve your space now . If you have items to donate, please bring them that morning to the TRNA table. See article and form inside for more details.

Benefits TRNA Scholarship Fund

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