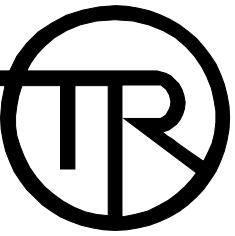


MESA MESSENGER



Newsletter of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.

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

Vol. 31 No. 5 May 2010



Happy
Mother's
Day!

New Officers Elected

At the April Board of Directors meeting, the following directors were elected to a one year term as officers of the board:

President: Dave Waters

Vice-President: Hanna Sorrels

Secretary: Felix Franco

Treasurer: Ray Shortridge

Congratulations and thank you for your service! ☺

President's Message

Dave Waters, President, TRNA

As the new President of TRNA I am fulfilling a promise I made to myself several years ago to become involved with our community and give a little time back. I was honored to be nominated and proud to serve. Since moving to Taylor Ranch I have met many good people willing to give their time and effort to improve and protect our neighborhoods. My hat is off to all those who serve on the board and the volunteers who work so hard for a better Taylor Ranch.

It has been our goal to represent Taylor Ranch at the West side, City and County levels. The Wal-Mart at La Orilla and Coors, maintenance of the Parks and open spaces within Taylor Ranch, zoning issues and adherence to the Coors corridor plan are just a few of the things that our board has dealt with lately. The next big issue will be those bright LED signs that businesses want to put up on Coors. The board voted unanimously to oppose this type of sign.

One of our members was asked recently just who we represent, how many homes are in Taylor Ranch and how

many members we have in TRNA? Well, we have over 7000 homes here and I feel far too few members. I think that is a problem and I ask all of you to talk to your neighbors to see if we can get our membership up.. Please e-mail me at president@TRNA.org with any ideas on how we can increase our membership.

We still have a lot of property crime in our area and one of the tasks we perform is the citizen patrol. I think it helps fight crime and we always need more volunteers. It is also fun to meet our neighbors and be seen on the streets.

I guess the next big event is the rummage sale in May. I hope to see many of you there. It helps support our number one cause, scholarships for our young ones. Every little bit helps.

I hope we all have a very good summer and again if anyone wants to contact me please e-mail to president@TRNA.org. ☺

Social Committee Report

Ken Newman, Social Committee Director, TRNA

This years Easter Egg Hunt was great. The weather could not have been better and the turnout was outstanding. We know the children enjoyed it, as a matter of fact one age group cleared the field of eggs in 22 seconds.

Without all of the volunteers we could not do this and as always we had great support. We would like to thank our characters (Easter Bunny, Tweetie, Sylvester and Sparky), Sydney Lopez, Beth Vaughn, Mimi Aledo-Sanchez, and Josh Espinoza. Also we would like to express our thanks to APD NW Command (McRuff) and AFD Station 18 for their support. Thanks to LBJ Junior Honor Society and the Junior Optimist Club for helping with the games. Thanks to Tito and Patricia Madrid for helping roll out the eggs and Michelle Lujan-Grisham for her help serving food. We would like to recognize Albertsons, Smith's, Walgreen's, Dairy Queen./ Orange Julius, Uncle Cliff's and Explora for their generous donations to this event.

Again, without the support of the TRNA Board and all of our volunteers this event would not have been so

(Continued on page 2)

Board of Directors Meeting —Wednesday, May 15th—6:30 pm—DN-TR Community Center

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successful. Taylor Ranch you have out done yourselves again! social@trna.org ®

Beautification News

Dee Hettick, Director, Beautification

Mariposa Basin Park clean-up is scheduled as usual on the 3rd Saturday of the month, May 15th at 8:30 am. Meet near the gate leading into the children's playground area and duck pond. We provide garbage bags.

Many thanks to those who have worked in the past to keep our park beautiful. Join this special group of generous folk working to improve the quality of life for us all. beautificaton@trna.org ®

Land Use Update

Rene Horvath, Land Use Director, TRNA

I. CVS pharmacy: TRNA recently learned that CVS Pharmacy is planning to open a new pharmacy at the old Whiskey Grill Restaurant site, on the northwest corner of Coors and Montano. The building was originally built by

Eckard's Pharmacy in the early 2000's. Eckerd's never occupied the building. It later turned into the Whiskey Grill Restaurant in 2007. Whiskey Grill closed in early 2009. Last month TRNA received a call from a City facilitator to see if there was interest in having a facilitated meeting to discuss a variance proposal from CVS Pharmacy. The applicant for CVS was seeking a variance to allow a drive-up pharmacy window on the north side of the building next to the apartments. The City's regulations require a 75 foot set back from residential property for a drive up service window. CVS was requesting a 25 foot variance from the set back because they were only 50 feet away from the apartments. TRNA agreed to schedule a facilitated meeting, but the meeting was canceled when the applicant decided to seek an administrative amendment for the drive-up service window. It appears that in 2003, the Development Review Board approved Eckerd's site development plan with a drive-up service window, which was never utilized. To obtain an administrative amendment they had to contact the apartment owners to make sure they had no objections. The applicant said they would mitigate their close proximity by positioning the drive-up speakers away from the apartments. They would

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LISA W. ARNHART, DDS, PC



A Taylor Ranch mom is celebrating the 4th anniversary of her dental office. Her practice emphasizes gentle, preventive care for the entire family and accepts most dental insurances. She is a Delta Dental Premier provider. Dr. Arnhart's hours are Tuesday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm.

DIAL 89-SMILE (897-6453)

8521 Golf Course Rd NW, Suite 116, Albuquerque, NM 87114

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Please bring your coupon to redeem offer.



(Continued from page 2)

also add insulation to the canopy area to absorb the speaker noise. Landscape would be added to buffer the apartments. In addition; the Planner told the applicant that they would have to improve the landscaping on the entire site, based on the original site plan.

During this time several residents had expressed some concern over what changes would be done to the building since they like the looks of the building as it is now. TRNA received a picture of the proposed building elevation from the agent working for the applicant. Some of the residents had a chance to see the pictures and made a few comments which were sent to the Planner. Comments from TRNA: (1) The white stucco CVS pharmacy is planning to use, should match the white stucco color of the existing shopping center. (2) The signage seems excessive. It should be toned down. (3) Maintain the natural color of the existing stones (4) Please keep the existing windows that are there now. (5) Do not block views with unnecessary towers. (6) The south side of the building facing Montano will look plain once the small businesses leave. After reviewing the comments the Planner told me that the stucco color would closely match the color of the existing buildings in the shopping center. The windows on the east side of the building facing Coors will remain. Most windows will have an opaque window covering. The windows for the small businesses will be taken out since they will be leaving. Just a few windows on the south side will remain. The stone work will stay as it is. There will not be any freestanding signs on the site. The planner calculated that the building mounted signs are about 15% of the façade, which complies with regulations. The tower elements are allowed to be 26 ft. high. There was no objection from the apartments so the applicant will receive the administrative amendment. CVS also plans to sell package liquor.

Taylor Ranch residents had mixed feelings about the CVS Pharmacy. Some residents had hoped that the site would continue to be used as a restaurant; because that site has the best views in town. Others feel it is too close to Walgreen's. It would have been more beneficial to Taylor Ranch if CVS reuse the old Walgreen's site at Montano and Taylor Ranch road making it easier to access on foot or vehicle. Others were happy that the vacant building would soon be reused. It will be better for the residents to not have to walk across Coors to get to a Pharmacy. All the comments I received made good points and suggestions. I appreciate everyone for taking the time to give me their opinions.

Taylor Ranch Self Storage

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www.taylorranchselfstorage.com

2. West Bluff Shopping Center Controversy over LED signs: In the last few years there has been a growing conflict between the Neighborhood Associations in the West Bluff Neighborhood area and the owner of the West Bluff Shopping Center over a proposed LED sign. The owner of the West Bluff Shopping Center wants to put up two big 125 sq. ft. LED signs on one tall 52 ft. bell tower attached to the Starbucks coffee shop adjacent to the Coors frontage road. (Note: There are no height restrictions on bell towers in the zoning code. The size of the sign is determined by how big the side of the building is. Adding the tower to an existing building increases the size of the sign.) The West Bluff Shopping Center is located at I-40 and Coors and has Wal-Mart and Home Depot as two of their tenants, along with several small retail and restaurant businesses. The developer justifies his sign request by saying that his shopping center has a unique circumstance because the new Coors/I-40 interchange ramp put his shopping center into a hole and adversely affects the tenant's business.

In the last few years, LED signs have recently been installed along Coors Blvd. TRNA usually provides comments to tone down the signage when a new

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development goes up in our area. The Coors Corridor Plan even prohibits signs that are flashy, animated, and distracting to motorists. Last year, the Code Enforcement Director explained to Westside residents at a District 5 meeting that the LED signs, or electronic display panels are a new technology and that there are no regulations to prohibit them. He has already told several owners of LED signs along Coors to reprogram them so they are not bright and flashy. Code Enforcement mentioned that the owners would usually comply for a few weeks until they reprogram the signs to be flashy and animated again. Unfortunately, lawyers for the West Bluff Shopping Center argued that they should be allowed to use the new technology to advertise their shopping center because the City has already allowed businesses along Coors to use LED signs.

Last year, on February 19th 2009, the EPC approved the LED signage for the West Bluff Shopping Center. Vista Grande NA, West Mesa NA, Grande Heights NA and Westside Coalition appealed the EPC decision. The appeal ultimately went to City Council. City Council remanded it back to the EPC. A few weeks ago, on April 8th 2010 the EPC heard the Neighborhood's appeal but voted to uphold their original decision, based on the City Council's findings. The approval gives special exception to allow two LED signs to be attached to a bell-tower at a higher than normal height. Fortunately, Mr. Shine, who is one of the EPC commissioners that lives here on the Westside, did not support the approval of the LED signs. He agreed with the neighborhoods that these signs set a bad precedence, pointing out that using the bell tower to mount the signs on was a way to get around the height issue, and increase the size of the sign. He felt that the proposed LED signs do not comply with the Coors Corridor Plan, interferes with the views of the mountains, and distract motorists, making this a major safety issue. He also felt there were better options that could address the signage for the shopping center. The West Bluff Neighborhoods are planning to appeal the EPC decision, once again.

For more information email land@trna.org. @

West Side Coalition of Neighborhood Associations Report—April 2010

Larry Walsh, WSCN Director, TRNA

The Westside Coalition of Neighborhood Associations held its monthly meeting on April 7. Among those present were Antonio Sandoval from Congressman Heinrich's office, Bernadette Miera from Bernalillo County, Tito Madrid representing the mayor's office, State



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Representative Tom Anderson, State Senator Sander Rue, and State Auditor Hector Balderas.

Councilor Dan Lewis (District 5) is interested in ideas to help the budget situation. The city has endured 19 months of declining revenues, and long-term solutions are needed.

The Wal-Mart (La Orilla and Coors) lawsuit is over and the store is going to be built. The special use permit issued in the early 90's was the problem and there was discussion on how to prevent similar situations in the future.

Councilor Ken Sanchez (District 3) stated that our current budget crisis is the biggest in history, with a \$25-30 million shortfall. The good news from District 3 is that a new UNM Clinic facility has broken ground, CVS Pharmacy is now open, there is a new library to be constructed at Unser and Central, and Fortuna Road is getting more lanes.

There were several reports on the state of education. State Auditor Hector Balderas reported that APS financial statements "seem" to be accurate. Some of his concerns

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are the tracking of APS capital projects, activity funds, and tracking of federal funds.

Senator Sander Rue reported that 55 to 60 percent of the state's budget goes to education. Although the state's budget has been reduced by 20 percent, appropriation to education has not changed. He is concerned that non-recurring federal funds are being used for recurring education costs, which could lead to catastrophe.

This is my last article reporting on the Coalition. This month Brett Lopez takes over the beat! You can contact him at wscn@trna.org

Crime Prevention Update

Fred van Berkell, Patrol Coordinator, TRNA

The TRNA Civilian patrol members are the eyes and ears of the Albuquerque Police Department in Taylor Ranch. We patrol from the river to Unser; from Calle Norteña to Western Trail/ Namaste. We work in two-person teams, one of whom must be certified by APD.

TRNA provides:

- Magnetic signs for the sides of your patrol vehicle identifying the patrol
- Revolving orange light for top of vehicle
- Other equipment for use while on patrol Monthly patrol calendar and patrol member list
- A partner, so you never patrol alone
- Information from APD, including the schedule of certification classes

What TRNA expects of patrollers:

- At least two hours patrolling per month
- They are enthusiastic about working to lower the crime rate in Taylor Ranch
- They plan to attend an APD certification class, when one is available
- They have fun and get to know fellow patrollers and their community
- They patrol in their own vehicles or the vehicles of their partners
- If they drive their own vehicles, they have a valid driver's license and auto insurance
- They patrol at your own risk
- They call 242-COPS or 911 if they see anything or anyone suspicious (eyes & ears!)
- They report any graffiti to 311
- They do not carry a weapon and do not confront anyone
- They do not enter private property



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- They take care of the provided equipment:

For more information or to join this elite team, contact:
patrol@trna.org

OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER—MAY

- CORONADO AT 500: May 15th and May 29th, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
- Making Paints with Minerals Workshop: Saturday, May 22nd, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
- Star Party: Saturn Rising, Saturday, May 22nd, 6:00 pm
- Traditional Gardens: Sunday, May 23rd, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- BOSQUE WILD: Guided Nature Walk: First Sundays – May 2nd, 7:30 – 9:00 AM
- IN THE GALLERY : Pollination May 2nd – June 2010, Public Opening Reception May 8th 1-4 pm.
Pollination describes a process in nature, yet it also plays a role in facilitating the diffusion of creative ideas among New Mexico's artists.
- Sunday Matinee NEW!!: Sunday, May 30th, free and fun for the family? Every FOURTH Sunday
- YOGA WITH A VIEW: Wednesday Evenings, 5:30 pm; Sunday Mornings, 9:00 am

(Continued on page 7)

Mark Your Calendar!
TRNA RUMMAGE SALE
May 15, 8:00 am—noon
Cross of Hope Church Parking Lot

It's time for the semi-annual **TRNA Scholarship Rummage Sale**. As you are all aware, this is how you can give back and have some fun at the same time. This one activity, held twice a year, pays for the scholarships we give out each year. Of course we will always be grateful if you wish to simply send a cash donation to our scholarship fund, probably the most worthwhile thing we do each year! Here is a photo of the students who were awarded scholarships this year, **Hayden Schaap** and **Patrick Gozur**, with Jane Webster, our former Education Director.



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. The shady spaces will be reserved in the order in which your reservation is received.

TRNA will also have a space and will sell your donations with proceeds going to the scholarship fund. Please drop them off at the Cross of Hope parking lot that morning. If you wish to have them picked up before the 15th, please call René Horvath at 898-2114.

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.

Call **June Newman at 898-5447** if you are willing to help or have any questions.

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 Montano and Golf Course/ La Orilla, across from the Don Newton Taylor Ranch Community Center.**

Yes, I want to reserve space(s) for the TRNA Rummage Sale on May 15, 2009!

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:

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

Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Membership Registration

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____ E-mail address: _____

Active Participation Sustaining Member (Not able to work on committees at this time)

I'm interested in helping with the following:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <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"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Check your label to see if it is time to renew. If not, pass this form on to a neighbor!

Enclose a check made out to TRNA in the amount of:

Resident: \$18.00 (Thru Dec 2010) \$34.00 (Thru Dec 2011) \$48.00 (Thru Dec 2012)

Business: \$50.00 (Thru Dec 2010) \$90.00 (Thru Dec 2011) \$125.00 (Thru Dec 2012)

Call Larry Walsh at 401-0965 if you have questions or need more information.



05/10

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:	Dave Waters	897-5771	president@trna.org
Vice-President:	Hanna Sorrells	294-7042	vicepresident@trna.org
Secretary:	Felix Franco	922-7176	secretary@trna.org
Treasurer:	Ray Shortridge	688-4057	treasurer@trna.org
Director/Land Use:	René Horvath.	898-2114	land@trna.org
Director/Parks, Beautification:	Dee Hettick.	980-2587	beautification@trna.org
Director/Westside Coalition:	Brett Lopez.	836-7831	wscn@trna.org
Director/Education:	Lily Andrews	270-5100	education@trna.org
Membership Director:	Larry Walsh.	401-0965	membership@trna.org
Social Committee Director:	Ken Newman.	898-5447	social@trna.org
Director:	Derald McPherson	898-6489	director@trna.org
Patrol Coordinator :	Fred van Berkel.	899-2738	patrol@trna.org
Historian:	vacant.		historian@trna.org
Webmaster :	Ceil van Berkel.	899-2738	webmaster@trna.org
Newsletter editor:	Ceil van Berkel.	899-2738	editor@trna.org

New Password for TRNA.ORG

The **members only** section of the website is available to you, our members. We print the ID and Password at the bottom of this page each month. ID: **member** PW: **12trna3**. This is a new password as of May 1st. Technical issues prevented changing the password last month. ®

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For information on programs contact:

OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER (between Montaño & Paseo del Norte, at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd)
 6500 Coors Blvd NW
 505-897-8831 openspace@cabq.gov
www.cabq.gov/openspace ®

AARP Driver Safety Program

The AARP Driver Safety course will be offered once each month at the DN-TR Community Center. The next class date will be June 5th.

The complete class will run from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm on these Saturday mornings. Cost for the class per person is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. Please pay by check when you arrive at the class. To re-

serve a place, please call the instructor, Mr. Dan Bravine, at 892-4827. ®

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Michael & Lily Andrews

*Thank you for printing this newsletter
each month!*

Send your items of community interest to the Mesa Messenger! Submissions must be received by the 22nd of the month.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message
Social Committee Report
Beautification News
Land Use Update

WSCNA Report
Crime Prevention Update
Rummage Sale Registration Form

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

Return Service Requested

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TRNA Rummage Sale

Where: Cross of Hope Church Parking Lot
When: Saturday May 15th
8:00am - noon

Food & Bargains for all ages! (See p.6)

All proceeds used for TRNA Scholarships for graduating HS seniors.

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