



President’s Message

Ray Shortridge, President, TRNA

My letter this month shifts its focus from safeguarding the tens of millions of dollars that we Taylor Ranch residents have invested in our properties from the predations of developers (the Walmart project) to public safety issues.

Police Chief Schultz reports that we have a new commander at the Northwest Command Center – Joe Christman. Steve Warfield has been promoted to Deputy Chief, a well-earned recognition of his service to the department and the community. Commander Christman will attend our August 8th Board Meeting, so that you can meet him, hear his goals and plans for our area, and discuss your concerns.

Schultz also reports that there are several rings who are stealing wheels from SUV’s and trucks that have high scrap value alloy in the metal. So far this year, more than 250 thefts have been recorded, about two dozen in Taylor Ranch. The rings use power jacks to hoist up vehicles in driveways and remove all four wheels, typically between 2AM and 6AM. The approximately \$250 the thieves obtain from used tire shops and scrap dealers from a vehicle costs the vehicle owner approximately \$1,500 to replace. APD detectives routinely check with tire shops and scrap dealers, but the latter are moving to the reservations which are beyond APD’s jurisdiction.

Preventive Measures:

- Park the vehicle with high alloy wheels in the garage
- If that is not possible, check out any suspicious noises
- Do not assume that a motion detector security light will function – the thieves remove the bulbs from the lights.

To call the Police Department:

For crime in progress: 911

For suspected crime not in progress: 242.COPS (2677)

Fire Chief Breen reports that the department receives annually about 70,000 calls, about 62,000 are EMS, related. Why do we see multiple vehicles and crews at an incident? Breen says that the department has a goal of responding to the preponderance of calls within a few seconds. However, the city has contracted with private EMS firms to provide redundancy to ensure that EMS respondents arrive, so that these teams might be responding to an echo call, a just in case situation. Also, the private contractors transport victims to the hospitals, so that the department’s EMS vehicles and teams are quickly back in service to respond to incidents.

I hope you all enjoy the remainder of the summer. ®

APD and City to Celebrate National Night Out Tuesday, August 7th

Neighborhoods throughout Albuquerque are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the “29th Annual National Night Out” crime and drug prevention event. From 7:00—9:00 pm, residents throughout Albuquerque and across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. National Night Out is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; (4) Renew old acquaintances and establish new friendships by getting to know your neighbor; and (5) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Join forces, Taylor Ranch, and let’s “Give Crime and Drugs A Going Away Party.” ®

Social Committee Update

Ken Newman, TRNA Director

Our second Flea Market/ Rummage Sale of this year is scheduled for **September 22nd**, 7:30 am -12:00 noon at Cross of Hope church parking lot, as usual. For spaces, complete and mail the form in this newsletter. Or contact me at 974-5469 or Juken1964@q.com.

Also mark on your calendar: the date for our TRNA Annual Holiday Luncheon is **December 8th**. This will again be held at DNTR Community Center. More information in future newsletters. ®

Ladder Truck at West Side Fire Station 17

City Councilor Dan Lewis is pleased to announce that the West Side of Albuquerque now has a fully equipped, fully functional ladder truck at Fire Station 17. Communities impacted include those located south of Montano and west of the Rio Grande.

Ladder trucks are an essential tool when fighting fires as they enable fire fighters to control fires from above instead of entering the building. Ladder 17 will save first responders critical time when responding to fires on the west side.

Ladder 17 became operational on Saturday, July 14th, 2012, and represents a huge step forward for the west side. The truck is the result of an effort led by Councilors Dan Lewis and Ken Sanchez to ensure that funding for the fire fighter positions necessary to staff the ladder truck was included in the Fire Department's budget. Said Councilor Lewis, "I am so thankful to the City Council for supporting Ladder 17 and recognizing the paramount importance of the safety of the City's west side citizens." ®

TRNA Land Use Fund

Terri Spiak, TRNA Treasurer

The battle continues to prevent the "Big Box" retailer Wal-Mart from building at the corner of Coors and Montano. If you believe that we have enough "Big Box" stores in the neighborhood, WE NEED YOU! PLEASE CONTRIBUTE WHAT YOU CAN! No amount is too large or too small.

Remember, the Land Use Fund is a designated fund where

you can be certain 100% of your contribution will be used for land use advocacy and fund legal expenses vital to preserving our quality of life in Taylor Ranch. If you would like to donate to this fund, there is a link at www.trna.org for a form to be mailed to POB 66288, Albuquerque, NM 87193. Keep in mind, while we welcome your donation, as a 501(c)(4) Non-Profit, donations to TRNA are NOT tax deductible. Email me at treasurer@trna.org with any questions! ®

Albuquerque Public Schools Resume Classes August 13th

Hard to believe that the summer vacation is almost over for Albuquerque school children. As they all head back to their schools, be extra careful driving on the streets where they walk, catch the bus, or wait for rides. And make sure you slow down in those school zones! Every year a child is injured or killed while in a school crosswalk. Let's make this a year without incident. Parents, make sure your children know the importance of using designated crosswalks and are shown the safest way to get to school. ®

Library Update

Ceil van Berkel, Library Advisory Board

Taylor Ranch Library

5700 Bogart St. NW

Albuquerque, NM 87120

(One block west of Unser Blvd and two blocks south of Montano Road)

505-897-8816 taylorranch@cabq.gov

Lillian Richardson, Area Manager

Hours: Mon. – Thurs.: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Fri. – Sat.: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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

Thank you for your interest and support for our Taylor Ranch Library.

I have received requests from a few people asking for new furniture and other improvements for the TR Library. Renovations, such as new carpet, furniture, lighting fixtures, or an addition to the building for a program room, are funded through the state, county and/ or city Capital Improvements processes. This means asking our

(Library Update, cont'd from page 2)

state and county representatives to include the renovation in a library bond, or asking our city councilors to use some of their bond “set-aside” money for that purpose.

If you have attended programs at our Library, you know that staff must rearrange the children’s room and set up chairs whenever a special program is held there. It disrupts children's services and eats up staff time. The cost for such an addition, I believe, would be about \$400,000. If we ask Councilors Sanchez and Dan Lewis to use part of their set-aside funding for this project, they could coordinate with Library management to get an exact estimate for the renovation.

There are many projects needed in our community, so it is a matter of setting priorities for the many things we would like to see improved. Let your elected officials know your priorities. I hope improving our Library building is one of them.

In early August, the Bernalillo County Commission will be determining the amount of money to propose to voters for a Library Bond on the fall ballot. Let your County Commissioner know that our Library System needs an increase in bond money in order to buy the new materials for us all to use. A strong library builds a strong community.



The Hunger Games at Taylor Ranch Library!

**Saturday, August 11
10:30 am—12:30 pm**

Registration required!

Do you have what it takes to make it in the Hunger Games? Which Tribute and District will win the Gold? In the spirit of the Olympics and the hit book of the summer, we'll have hands-on disaster preparedness lessons from The Zombie Squad and then put those new skills to work in fun and competitive events. For ages 10+. Registration is required.



Join Us for Map Crafts!

**Wednesday, August 22
3:00—4:00 pm**

Maps can be super beautiful and cool. Let's recycle and make some fun things from old maps! For tweens, teens,

and adults. Materials provided.

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Albuquerque Public Library website and resources

Browse cabq.gov/library to discover all the other different free programs and activities being offered through your city’s public library system.

Check out **eResources!** Not sure what eResources are? We know it can be confusing! Generally, what we call eResources are collections and services paid for by the library and only available over the Internet.

Examples include databases full of magazine articles, one-on-one live homework help, study guides and practice tests, dictionaries, business and financial information, geographical maps, books & literature. There’s information on home projects and repairs, health & welfare, legal documents, automotive repair, music collections, and much more ... even genealogy research & resources, and learning another language.

Spend some time exploring our eResources. You may be surprised to find what we have to offer!



Petroglyph Barn Owls

Rowan Converse, Field & Research Technician,
Intern at Bosque School & Bosque Ecosystem
Monitoring Program (BEMP)

[TRNA Board member Dan Lewis, who serves as advisor to BEMP, asked Ms. Converse to report on an interesting study she did in our area.]

Barn owls (*Tyto alba*) are the most widespread species of owl in the world, found on every continent except Antarctica. They can adapt to many different habitats, from the subarctic to the rainforest to deserts like New Mexico. Because of their adaptability, barn owls will prey upon a variety of small animals, but they generally prefer rodents.

In 2010, a wildlife biology class from Bosque School discovered an active barn owl nest in Petroglyph National Monument. At the nest site, they noticed a number of pellets underneath the nest, from fairly intact fresh ones to a decomposing mat of older ones from years past. Pellets are made up of the indigestible material, such as hair and bones, from an owl's diet—they are not the same as scat, since they are regurgitated rather than voided. The wildlife class obtained a permit from the park to collect nearly two hundred pellets from the nest once the owlets had fledged, plus other assorted bones found nearby.

The pellets were heat sterilized using a microwave (not one that anyone used to cook with!), and then the bones were carefully separated from the pellets by students and put into envelopes, one per pellet. A year later, when I began working as an intern for BEMP, I picked up where the project had left off and started the long, careful process of identifying the species of rodents eaten by the owls from the skulls in the pellets. (Pictured are some of the skulls studied.)



A diet study like this one not only provides information on how very widespread species like barn owls adapt to their local environment, it also gives an idea of the concentration of different prey species within a given area. With many invasive species posing threats to native species in New Mexico, including rodents, this can be useful information for wildlife management agencies as

they make decisions on how to handle this growing problem.

In the study, I found that the vast majority (around 75%) of the Petroglyph barn owls' diet consisted of kangaroo rats (genus *Dipodomys*); the rest was divided among other common native rodents such as deer mice (*Peromyscus*) and ground squirrels (*Ammospermophilus*).

Kangaroo rats are a common desert rodent with a wide range throughout the southwestern US, and get their name from their stride—they hop along like kangaroos on their hind feet. They dig burrows under plants like sagebrush, where the roots will help maintain the burrow's structure. Kangaroo rats are so efficient at conserving water that they obtain all the water they need from the plants in their diet—they never need to drink!

I did not identify any invasive rodent species from the mandibles and craniums in the pellets, which would suggest a low population of invasive species if any such population is present at all. Barn owls tend to prey near-exclusively on one species to the exclusion of others; the abundance of kangaroo rats that can be guessed at based on the owls' overwhelming preference would indicate a fairly healthy desert ecosystem. If invasive rodents were becoming more common than native rodents, it would be more likely that the barn owls would prey upon them due to the relative convenience. To get a better picture, more studies would have to be performed. Unfortunately, the nest site the pellets were collected from was found to be abandoned in a follow-up visit in July last year. Another option apart from a diet study might involve setting lines of catch-and-release traps in different areas throughout the park. Currently, BEMP isn't planning on further research at Petroglyphs, but it's a possible direction for the future.

[Rowan attends Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where she is majoring in Biology and Environmental Studies. She has been working as a field and research technician for the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program for the past two summers. Her project for this summer is surveying the reintroduced otter population in northern New Mexico.]





Albuquerque Open Space Program

The Open Space Visitor Center manages approximately 18 acres of agricultural land for the benefit of wildlife. The farm rotates corn, sorghum, millet, and alfalfa that feed winter migratory birds and other local wildlife, including pollinators.

This facility offers the public information and resources on the Open Space Program. The Visitor Center has exhibits interpreting the amazing natural and cultural resources Open Space protects. It also features an art gallery, agricultural fields that draw a variety of wildlife, stunning views of the Sandia Mountains, and access to hiking trails within the Bosque.

When the Bosque burned near the Visitor Center several years ago, green cottonwood trees were transformed into charred wood and smoke. Gradually this area is changing into a living environment again. Luna Project, July 7—August 26th, invited artists to create and display works that respond to this cycle of destruction and creation using remnants and metaphors from the fire. It includes workshops and an art exhibit showcasing artists' works at this site. Stop by and view the exhibits at the Visitor Center.

PEAK — Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids — is a program developed by “Leave No Trace” organization, focusing on the philosophy that with skills, we can minimize the negative effects on our outdoor environment. Through this program’s hands-on activities, students learn principles and skills that correlate to the New Mexico Science Standards and Benchmarks. On August 5th, 1:00—4:00 pm, Open House for Teachers will be held to introduce them to this class program/ field trip opportunity. The Open House will share information about the variety of class field trips and program available to teachers and students at the Open Space Visitor Center.

The Open Space Visitor Center is located between Paseo del Norte and Montano at Bosque Meadows Road. You can view their list of activities through cabq.gov, or call 897-8856.

New APD NW Area Commander

Joe Christman has assumed command of Albuquerque Police Department’s Northwest area, continuing a long line of successful assignments with APD. Having moved here from the Chicago area in the 1980’s, he has been with APD for 19 years. In addition to 9 years in the Narcotics Division, he has served in Crisis Negotiations, worked extensively in tough neighborhoods in the southwestern part of the city, won the department’s Lifesaving Award in 2002 after he saved the life of a two year old boy.

Married with two children, he resides in the Corrales area, so he is only 10 minutes from his work and the area he commands. He plans to meet with each of the neighborhood associations within this area, in order to better understand the concerns and needs of our citizens in the northwest quadrant of Albuquerque.

August 8th, Commander Christman will attend the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association’s Board of Directors meeting at 6:30 pm at Don Newton—Taylor Ranch Community Center. Taylor Ranch residents interested in meeting Mr. Christman and hearing his plans for the NW area are welcome to attend.

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Mark Your Calendar!

TRNA SCHOLARSHIP RUMMAGE SALE

September 22, Saturday, 7:30 am—noon

Cross of Hope Church Parking Lot

Seems we just had one of these, right? We DID! In June. But it was so successful, we're scheduling our second one for September this year. Clean out the closets, garage, shed, storage unit, and start putting your sell items together. As you are probably aware, we hold this semi-annually, to fund the scholarships we give out each year.

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.

TRNA will have a space and will sell your donations if you are not able to attend. 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 **Ken Newman at 974-5469** or Juken1964@q.com 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 Montañño and Golf Course/La Orilla, across from the Don Newton Taylor Ranch Community Center.

Call Ken Newman at 974-5469 if you have any questions. The shady spaces will be reserved in the order in which your reservation is received, so complete and mail the following with your check right way!

Yes, I want to reserve space for the TRNA Rummage Sale on September 22, 2012!

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

Land Use Update

Rene Horvath, Land Use Director, TRNA

August will be a busy month for ZHE (Zoning Hearing Examiner) hearings, EPC (Environmental Planning Commission) hearings, and City Council hearings. Please see dates for upcoming hearings below:

1. August 6th City Council Meeting for Declaratory Ruling Appeal:

On August 6th the City's legal staff will present LUHO's (Land Use Hearing Officer) recommendation regarding TRNA's appeal of the declaratory ruling on the access requirements for a Big Box development. It is up to the City Council on whether or not to hear TRNA's appeal or to go along with the LUHO's recommendation. Our Attorney, Mr. O'Brien is asking that the City Council hear the appeal. The City Council meeting starts at 5:00pm in the City Council Chambers. No public comment will be taken at this meeting in regards to our appeal. If the City Council decides to hear the case, the appeal could possibly be heard two weeks later. We will keep you updated by e-mail.

2. August 23rd EPC hearing for Walmart/ 3:00pm in the basement of Planning dept/ Plaza Del Sol building/2nd street:

On May 17th the EPC voted to defer the Walmart case to August 23rd. The City Planning staff, and our attorney, recommended a deferral so that the results from TRNA's appeal of the declaratory ruling would be available for the EPC hearing. On August 23rd the EPC will evaluate the status of the declaratory ruling appeal and decide on how to proceed. They may either hear the case or defer the hearing to another date. We will keep you updated via e-mail and the TRNA signboards. This will be a very important hearing for everyone to attend once the EPC hearing date is confirmed. TRNA has a new website: www.againstthewal-abq.com which will be updated with information on important hearing dates. This site contains a petition opposing the Walmart at Coors and Montano, which we encourage you to sign.

3. August 7th ZHE (Zoning Hearing Examiner) hearing and August 9th for the expansion of the Taylor Ranch Storage facility/ Homestead Shopping Center:

Dan Rich, owner of the Homestead Shopping Center, requested a special exception to a conditional use to expand the Taylor Ranch Storage facility. There is one vacant lot left on the property for the expansion. Dan

proposed a three story storage facility on this lot. On July 12th, a facilitated meeting was held at the Taylor Ranch Community Center to discuss the proposed expansion. TRNA received comments about the proposal before and during the facilitated meeting. Overall, the residents thought that Dan did a very nice job on building the existing storage facility. There was no opposition to the proposed expansion. There was concern, however, over building a three story storage facility. They felt that this was out of scale for the shopping center and surrounding area. They also expressed they would still like to see the shopping center function as a neighborhood shopping center to provide neighborhood retail services. Dan said it has been difficult to find tenants for the vacant retail space, but he was still trying to fill those spaces. Dan decided the next morning that he would reduce the height to a two story rather than a three story facility. TRNA sent a letter to ZHE in support for the expansion with much appreciation for Dan's willingness to compromise on the height of the building. Note: The ZHE hearing was scheduled for July 17th. It was canceled due to a water line break at the Planning department which flooded the basement. The hearing is now set for **August 7th**. The EPC will review the amendment for the site plan for subdivision and site plan for building permit request on **August 9th**.

4. Oxbow Town Center apartments (affordable housing)/ Project# 1005357:

On July 25th, a facilitated meeting was held at the Taylor Ranch Community Center to discuss the proposed 224 unit apartment complex and 150 unit senior housing complex at the northwest corner of St. Joseph and Coors. The applicant is proposing a zone change from office buildings to affordable apartments. DBG Properties, LLC submitted an application for a \$15 million "Project Revenue Bond" for a term of 37 years, to be used for the development of the Oxbow Family Apartment Complex, which is a tax abatement program from the County. Over 100 residents from surrounding neighborhoods attended the meeting. Significant concerns were expressed by the residents on the proposed zone change. The concerns included the need for more jobs on the Westside, not more residents, adding more cars to the traffic congestion, increase in crime, and lowering of property values. By a show of hands, there was overwhelming opposition to the proposed project. It appears that the EPC hearing scheduled for August 9th will be deferred. The developer, Jim Rogers, said he plans to defer and to meet with the neighborhoods. Many thanks go to Dr. Joe Valles who researched and provided the meeting participants with the documentation on the requirements for a zone change.

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Home Services Program for Seniors

If you are 60 years of age or older, and in need of a variety of types of assistance, the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Department of Senior Affairs can help!

Call 764-6400 for information on how the Home Services Program can help you with:

Minor Home Repairs

Bathroom Safety Equipment

Wheel Chair Ramps & Steps ADA Compliant

Home Chores and/or Light Yard Work

No one will be refused assistance, however a donation will be requested at the time of service to offset the cost of supplies and materials.

They also provide a companion service, and are seeking volunteers to serve as companions to home-bound senior citizens. No special training is required, and some compensation may be available. Call the number listed above for additional information.

Celebrate New Mexico's Centennial

In an effort to participate and recognize the State of New Mexico's 100 years of statehood, Bernalillo County will launch two initiatives. A historical exhibit highlighting Bernalillo County's development will open with a reception on **Friday, August 3, from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Bernalillo County Commission Office, 10th floor of One Civic Plaza NW and at the County Clerk's office on the sixth floor. Enjoy music and refreshments.**



The exhibit will contain fascinating original maps, plats, other historical documents and photographs. The exhibit will run through October 31, 2012.

The county is also coordinating an on-line family history project. County residents can visit bernco.gov/history project from now through October 31, 2012 to provide a one page family history along with photographs to tell the story of their family. **Neighborhood histories are also welcome.** The compilation of histories can be viewed on-line as it progresses. At the end of the project, a book will be created and given to the state archives as the county's contribution to recognize New Mexico's centennial year. **For more information contact Cultural Services at 468-1279.**



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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 working on the following:

- Beautification Board of Directors Crime Prevention/Patrol Education
- Environment Land Use Membership Newsletter
- Parks & Recreation Social Activities Transportation/Traffic Other _____

Renewal and New Member Rates:

- Resident: \$9.00 (Thru Dec 2012) \$25.00 (Thru Dec 2013) \$39.00 (Thru Dec 2014)
- Business: \$25.00 (Thru Dec 2012) \$65.00 (Thru Dec 2013) \$100.00 (Thru Dec 2014)



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

8/2012

TRNA Board of Directors and Other TRNA Contacts

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| President: | <i>Ray Shortridge</i> | 604-3908 | president@trna.org |
| Vice-President: | <i>Jolene Wolfley</i> | | vicepresident@trna.org |
| Secretary: | <i>Dan Shaw</i> | 275-5984 | secretary@trna.org |
| Treasurer: | <i>Terri Spiak</i> | 879-4995 | treasurer@trna.org |
| Director/Land Use: | <i>René Horvath</i> | 898-2114 | land@trna.org |
| Director/Westside Coalition: | <i>Terri Spiak</i> | 879-4995 | wscn@trna.org |
| Director at Large : | <i>Hanna Sorrells</i> | 294-7042 | director@trna.org |
| Director/ Social Committee: | <i>Ken Newman</i> | 898-5447 | social@trna.org |
| Director at Large: | | | director.2@trna.org |
| Director at Large: | <i>Jane Webster</i> | 792-1087 | director.3@trna.org |
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| Patrol Coordinator : | <i>Fred van Berkel</i> | 899-2738 | patrol@trna.org |
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| Membership List Administrator: | <i>Carol Waters</i> | 897-5771 | memberdata@trna.org |

Upcoming Events

- Aug 6 — City Council Mtg
- Aug 7 — Zoning Hearing
- Aug 8 — TRNA Board Mtg
- Aug 23—EPC Walmart

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

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Michael & Lily Andrews

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