

President’s Message

Ray Shortridge, President, TRNA

The Association’s initiative to 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) is updated elsewhere in this newsletter. This month, I’ll continue to address public safety issues, focusing on protecting your non-real estate property.

First, an update on the truck/ SUV wheel theft situation I wrote about last month. Our new Northwest Area Commander, Joe Christman, reports that APD has arrested at least one more ring of thieves and closed down several shops that recycle the tires and metal. However, with the return to the thief from one vehicle being about \$275, continue to watch your vehicles closely. Remember, your replacement cost is about \$1,500.

The second point also relates to automobiles. Pete Gelabert, Crime Prevention Specialist at the NW Area Command, provided these auto burglary crime prevention tips:

The victim provides the opportunity by leaving the vehicle unlocked or the window open, with property left in plain view. The preferred property is cash/ loose change left in the console or ashtray, CD’s, wallets or purses, cell phones, radar detectors, radios, speakers, laptops/ other personal computing devices. Tip: lock the vehicle and hid valuables.

Most burglaries occur at night while the vehicle is parked outside the residence or in parking lots while the owners are at work, in class, or shopping. Tip: park in a garage/ lot supervised by an attendant or a well-lit area. Take valuables with you or lock them in the trunk out of sight.

General tips:

- Close all windows, including vent or wing windows and sunroofs.
- Vehicle alarms - Buy an alarm and use it! Remember criminals are looking for the easy target.

- Vehicle Registration - Black out the address on your registration and photocopy it. Keep the copy, not the original, in your car. You must have the registration available to present to a police officer upon request.
- Do not attach personal information to your keys - If your keys are stolen, having your personal information or vehicle license number attached only compounds the problem. A criminal now may have access to your home, automobile or office.
- Mail - Do not leave outgoing or incoming mail in your car, especially where visible. This has your name and address on it.
- Garage Door Opener - Avoid leaving this in your car, if possible, and hide it if not.
- Park Safely! Park in a well-lit area whenever you can. At home, park in your garage if you have one. Lock your car and all garage doors.

Notify Police: Report anyone that is seen trying door handles, looking in cars or loitering in the parking lot to APD 242-COPS. **If the burglary is in progress Call 911.** The call taker will ask you who you are and where you are calling from. Then they will ask you to describe the suspect (race, sex, height, weight and clothing description).



Join us!
TRNA Rummage Sale
Saturday, Sept. 22nd
8:00 am—Noon
Cross of Hope Church
parking lot

Patrol Update

Fred van Berkel, Patrol Coordinator for TRNA

Here are the latest crime statistics. I did not include traffic incidents (accidents, speeding) on the map. There were 65 traffic incidents, mostly on Coors or Montano, and they aren't exactly crimes.

If you look at the map of police incidents reported between July 15 and Aug 15, 2012, you can see we are not quite a "crime free neighborhood". (Hint: we always need new patrollers!!) Check it out to see your closest victimized neighbor.

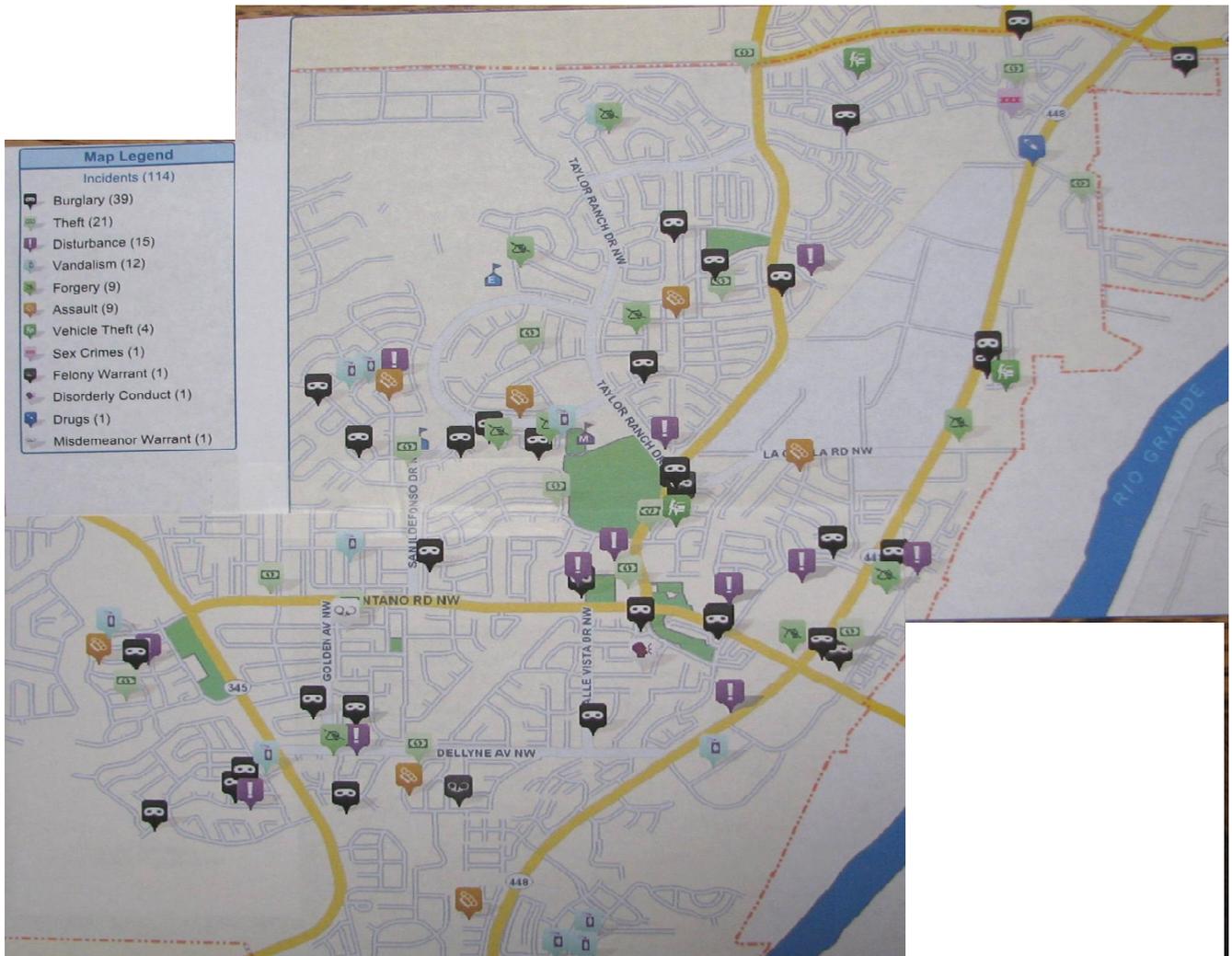
In summary: 8 assaults, 7 residential burglaries, 32 vehicle burglaries (latest "in-thing" is stealing tires and rims), 1 disorderly conduct, 1 felony warrant, 9 forgeries reported, 1 Misdemeanor warrant, 1 sex crime (prostitution), 23 thefts, 11 acts of vandalism, and 4 auto thefts. Altogether (not counting traffic incidents) 114 CRIMES in 32 days.

There should be a training course for new patrollers offered by the city in the fall. As soon as I get the info, I'll let you know. Thank you patrollers for your time given to our community and be safe.

Fred van Berkel, Civilian Patrol Coordinator (patrol@trna.org).



Taylor Ranch Police Incidents July 15 – Aug 15, 2012



Land Use Update

Rene Horvath, Land Use Director, TRNA

1. Walmart-EPC hearing / September 25th - 3:00pm / location to be determined: It looks like the final Walmart EPC hearing will take place on **September 25th**. It has been deferred three times since January 19th. Once by the applicant and two times because of TRNA's appeal of the City's Declaratory Ruling. The EPC met on August 23rd to determine the final date for the next Walmart- EPC hearing. The City Planning Department had originally recommended September 20th. One of the Commissioners noted that the appeal of the City's Declaratory Ruling was still being reviewed by the City Council on September 5th. The Planning department cannot move forward with the EPC hearing until the declaratory ruling is finalized. Two of the EPC Commissioners also said they would be out of town on September 20th. Our Attorney Mr. O'Brien, TRNA, the Westside Coalition President Jerry Worrall, and Ron Bohannon gave input about the date, time and place for the next hearing. After evaluating several dates in September or October, the only date that seemed to work for everyone was **Tuesday September 25th at 3:00pm**.

The City Council Chambers was proposed for the location, but it is currently being remodeled to allow wheelchairs, and it only holds 240 seats. It was pointed out that over 700 participants attended the January 19th EPC hearing. The EPC staff is looking into whether they can use the Convention Center again. We will update everyone on the location once it's confirmed. Please check the TRNA website, e-mails and sign boards. For now please mark the date down on your calendar for Tuesday September 25th, 3:00pm. We urge everyone to attend the EPC hearing.

2. Declaratory Ruling appeal/ City Council hearing / September 5th: City Council will review the appeal of the declaratory ruling on **September 5th**. Hopefully, this will be the final review. On August 6th, the City Council had just return from a month long break in July. They had to decide whether to hear TRNA's appeal based on the Land Use Hearing Officer's (LUHO's) recommendation, but they could not garner enough votes to either approve or reject LUHO's recommendation on the declaratory ruling appeal. Councilor Harris was absent that evening and Councilor Garduno and Councilor Lewis had recused themselves. Councilor Garduno was advised to recuse himself for showing up at the Big Box rally and Councilor Lewis said he had received campaign contributions in the past from the engineer who works for Walmart. Councilor Sanchez said he received campaign donations from the Daskalos family years ago, but was not going to recuse

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himself after the City's legal attorney said that campaign contributions don't require anyone to recuse themselves. He questioned whether it was necessary for the other two councilors to recuse themselves. In the end it was determined that City Council will have to hear the appeal, since there was not enough votes (5 was needed) to accept or reject LUHO's recommendation. Therefore, the City Council heard TRNA's appeal two weeks later on **August 20th**.

This time all Councilors decided to hear the case because it focused on the Big Box Ordinance which affects all City Council districts, not just a site specific decision on the Walmart case. Our Attorney, Mr. O'Brien, presented the appeal. He explained that at the January 19th hearing the ZEO (Zoning Enforcement Officer) made a statement that the Coors / Montano site had access for the proposed LRF (Large Retail Facility). Several EPC members had indicated that they were relying on the ZEO's interpretation of whether the site had adequate access for an LRF. TRNA requested a declaratory ruling from the ZEO.

(Continued page 4)

(Land Use, cont'd from page 3)

The ZEO's declaratory ruling said that the EPC will have to decide whether the site has access for an LRF, but even if it doesn't comply with the Big Box ordinance access requirements, the EPC can approve it anyway. Mr. O'Brien told the Council that the ZEO's statement weakens mandatory language in all citywide ordinances including the Big Box Ordinance. That's why TRNA appealed the ZEO's declaratory ruling. That's why 37 Coalitions and Neighborhood Associations joined the appeal. There were approximately 35 neighborhood representatives in the audience that night. The ZEO's ruling affects all neighborhoods within all districts of the City. While LUHO had agreed that the mandatory language in the zoning code cannot be waived, LUHO made some erroneous statements about the definition of a LRF which only confused the issue again. Overall, TRNA wants a clean slate so that the EPC can do its job without relying on erroneous interpretations of the access requirements of the Big Box ordinance. The City Council agreed that the EPC should determine the case but decided to have their legal staff write up findings before they take a vote on the other matters. City Council will continue the hearing at the **September 5th** City Council meeting.

3. August 7th ZHE hearing and August 9th EPC hearing for the expansion of the Taylor Ranch Self Storage facility/ Homestead Hills Shopping Center: TRNA attended both the ZHE and EPC hearings which fell on the same week, to support the special exception to a conditional use to allow the expansion of the storage facility and an amendment to the site plan for subdivision and a building permit for a two story storage unit/ retail building. The plan was originally proposed as three story building on the last remaining vacant lot in the center of the Homestead Hills Shopping Center. Several Taylor Ranch residents had expressed that they were not in favor of the three story building height. The owner agreed to reduce the height to two stories. TRNA then agreed to support the plan. The EPC approved the plan contingent on the ZHE decision.

4. Withdrawn - Oxbow Town Center apartments (affordable housing)/ Project# 1005357: On August 22nd we received an e-mail notice that the multi-family Oxbow Town Center project has been withdrawn. Area residents had shown strong opposition to the proposal at the facilitated meeting in July.

5. Volcano Heights Sector Development Plan/ October 4th EPC hearing: This is the Town Center portion of the Volcano Mesa Plan. It will be a Major

Activity Center for the region, located around the Unser and Paseo Del Norte intersection. Gateway Planning Group was hired by the City to develop the 2012 plan. The final public meeting was held at the Taylor Ranch Community Center on August 21st. They gave a presentation on the traffic projections for the surrounding bridge crossings for the year 2035. They obtained this information from MRCOG who does long range traffic forecasts. They said that the traffic projections are based on the population growth for the NW region of the Albuquerque / Rio Rancho area. The Town Center is designed to be an urban setting with tall buildings, mass transit, and pedestrian friendly design. The challenge is to address many issues pertaining to transportation, jobs for the Westside, and preservation. The EPC hearing is scheduled for October 4th. You can download the August 2012 Draft Plan and its appendices, including the traffic study report, here: <http://www.cabq.gov/planning/residents/sector-development-plans/volcano-mesa-area-sector-development-plans/volcano-heights-sector/> The Project Manager is Mikaela Renz-Whitmore. She can be contacted at: mrenz@cabq.gov or 924-3932.

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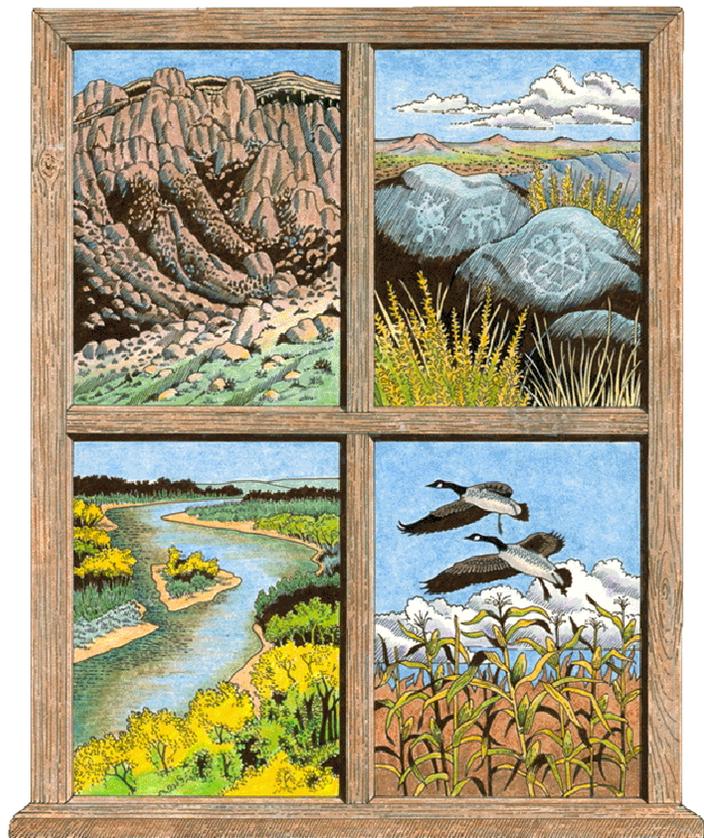
www.taylorranchselfstorage.com

Albuquerque Open Space Program

The Open Space Visitor Center offers the public information and resources on the Open Space Program. There you can view exhibits interpreting the amazing natural and cultural resources Open Space protects. It also features an art gallery, stunning views of the Sandia Mountains, and access to hiking trails within the Bosque. Additionally, this facility manages approximately 18 acres of agricultural land for the benefit of wildlife.

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. Teachers were given an opportunity to learn about this program last month, including information about field trips. If any teacher or parent would like to know more, contact the Visitor Center at 897-8856.

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.



Protect our Bosque



TRNA Land Use Fund

website: againstthewal-abq.com

We now have a website dedicated to the fight against Walmart building at Coors & Montano, so check it out! There is a list of things each individual can do to help, including the ways you can contribute to our Land Use Fund. **WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS NOW!**

Due to the ongoing involvement of our attorney at all the recent and future hearings, our funds are quickly being depleted. Won't you please consider making a donation today? On the above website, click on the “Donate” button and the form will come up for you to fill out. Now it is as simple as providing your credit card information and the amount you wish to donate. Or you can also mail your check to: TRNA Land Use Fund, P. O. Box 66288, Albuquerque 87193.

While Walmart and its developers are determined to build at this busy Westside intersection, TRNA and its Westside allies are equally determined to prevent it. There are many details on where we are in this fight, links to articles, and more info on the website. (Also see Rene's Land Use Update article on page 3 explaining the latest and pending hearings that will continue to require our attorney's time & involvement, and hence expenses.)

We have also taken this fight to FACEBOOK! Just type in “No BigBoxWalmart at Coors and Montano” and there you can make comments and share with others.

[Please keep in mind that your donation is NOT tax deductible, due to TRNA's 501(c)(4) non-profit status.]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: September 25, Tuesday, 3:00 pm, for the EPC Hearing. Location to be determined (watch the website for more details).

Mark Your Calendar!

TRNA SCHOLARSHIP RUMMAGE SALE

September 22, Saturday, 8:00 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 Saturday, 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

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 Montañero 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.

Featured Databases: (you'll need your library card number and pin to login at <http://libguides.cabq.gov/eresources>): **These databases are available in the Automotive LibGuide.**

- **Chilton Library:** Repair, maintenance and specification tables provide critical data on thousands of domestic and imported models of cars and light trucks from 1940 onward.
- **Auto Repair Reference Center:** Look up maintenance and repair information by year, make and model. You can also take your Auto IQ, get "Care & Repair Tips" and troubleshoot common problems.
- **Kelley Blue Book:** a trusted source for automotive pricing information since 1926.
- **NADAGuides.com, published by National Automobile Dealers Association:** Contains pricing and other information for new and used cars (including classic and exotic cars), trucks, vans and SUVs, boats, motorcycles, RVs, personal watercraft, ATVs, snowmobiles, and trailers.

*(See also the **Small Engine Repair Reference Center** for information on ATVs, Generators and other small engines, Marine/ Boat motors, Motorcycles, Outdoor Power Equipment, Personal Water Craft, Snow Machines/ Snow Mobiles, and Tractors.)*

September Programs/Special Events:

Let's Make Shadow Puppets! Wednesday, September 12th, 3:30pm - 4:30pm. Whether you put on a play or just admire them in your home, shadow puppets are beautiful and fun objects to make.

Gizmo Garage @ Taylor Ranch: Tuesday, September 18th, 4:30pm - 6:00pm. Want to read eBooks? Listen to eAudiobooks? Don't know where to start? Drop in to our Gizmo Garage for hands-on experience with the Kindle, Nook, Sony eReader, and iPod Touch. For those needing

help checking out, downloading, and transferring to devices, please bring your library card, device and/or laptop.

Weekly Events:

A Good Yarn! Fridays @ 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. If you enjoy knitting, crocheting or other needle craft, join our drop-in stitch group. All ages and skill levels welcome. A skilled knitter will be on hand for instruction and questions. Feel free to come when you can and leave as needed.

Family Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. (Will start **September 4**.) Stories, songs, poems and games. Same content at both programs.

Baby Storytime: Fridays, 10:30 a.m. (Will start **September 7**.)

A lap-sit-storytime for ages 0-2. Stories, learning games, songs, puppets, movement activities and fun for everyone!

Music and Movement: Last Wednesday of the month, 10:15 a.m. (Will start **September 26**.) Theatre and rhythmic movement for ages 0-5.

Funding Update: All Library materials are funded through bonds: city, state and county. Materials includes books in both paper and all the various electronic formats, magazine subscriptions, all reference materials, audio books on CDs and in digital format, movies on DVDs, and database subscriptions.

On the ballot in November there will be two Library Bond questions, one from the State and one from the County. State Library Bond B will propose \$9,830,000 to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal and public libraries throughout the state. If this passes, ABC Libraries will receive approximately \$872,600.00 to purchase new materials over a two-year period. If the County Library Bond also passes, then ABC Libraries will receive the full amount of that bond for purchasing new materials over two years also.

ABC Libraries purchasing budget is much smaller per resident than any other comparable library system in our region. This is why our loan period for books is only 3 weeks, why we wait so long for popular items, and why we don't always find what we need in our Library. Please make sure to vote yes on library bonds this fall and to encourage your friends and relatives to do so also. This funding is desperately needed by ABC Libraries.

To learn more about how our library is funded, visit <http://SupportABCLibraries.org>, where you can also sign up to receive email updates about current library funding activities.

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Former Taylor Ranch Resident

Honored by the City of Albuquerque

On August 1st the City issued a proclamation to recognize Elmer Neuman, a retired government scientist, for his work on an ordinance that prohibits the sale of potentially allergenic trees in Albuquerque. The award was presented to him, by Doug Lutz from the Mayor's Office and Larry Caudill, a former City Environmental Health Department botanist. This all began in the 90's when Elmer Neuman was suffering from severe allergies during hay-fever season. Through research, Elmer learned that several US Cities including Tucson passed ordinances restricting the sale of certain allergen-producing plants. Elmer began working with the City of Albuquerque to do the same here. Larry Caudill from the City worked with Elmer to develop a similar ordinance which was approved by City Council in 1994. The ordinance also requires the City to announce the pollen counts every day. Elmer, who is now 97 years old, lives with his wife at an assisted living center in Albuquerque. *(Neuman seen receiving award.)*



Paseo & I-25 Reconstruction Project

Website: paseoi25.com

Check out this website if you are interested in the current status of the reconstruction of the I-25 and Paseo del Norte interchange. There are conceptual drawings and images depicting what the changes will be and how it will look. There have been a number of public hearings on this, including one held at Don Newton-Taylor Ranch Community Center on August 29th.

This proposed reconstruction project is expected to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety and air quality in one of New Mexico's busiest transportation corridors that includes six major improvements:

1. A free-flow ramp to improve the eastbound-to-southbound traffic movement in the morning peak travel time (7-9 a.m.)
2. A flyover ramp to improve the northbound-to-westbound traffic movement in the evening peak travel time (4:30-6:30 p.m.)
3. An overpass at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Paseo Del Norte Boulevard to improve east/west access and local traffic flow
4. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements to provide a critical bike system link across I-25 and to connect existing paths in the area
5. Improved freeway access for traffic originating from the area east of the Paseo Del Norte/I-25 interchange
6. I-25 mainline improvements between the Alameda Boulevard and Jefferson Street Interchanges for safety and traffic flow.

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**

9/2012

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: | <i>vacant</i> | | director.2@trna.org |
| Director at Large: | <i>Jane Webster</i> | 792-1087 | director.3@trna.org |
| Crime Prevention Chair: | <i>vacant</i> | | crimeprevention@trna.org |
| Patrol Coordinator : | <i>Fred van Berkel</i> | 899-2738 | patrol@trna.org |
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| Historian: | <i>vacant</i> | | historian@trna.org |
| Membership List Administrator: | <i>Carol Waters</i> | 897-5771 | memberdata@trna.org |

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 12—Board Meeting
- Sept. 22—Rummage Sale
- Sept. 25— Walmart Hearing

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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Two important dates ...

Saturday, Sept. 22nd — TRNA Rummage Sale

Tuesday, Sept. 25th — Walmart/EPC Hearing

Read details in this issue!

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