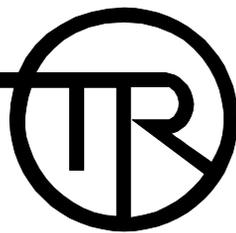


MESA MESSENGER



Newsletter of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Vol. 34 No. 1 January 2013

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

President’s Message

Ray Shortridge, President, TRNA

The year 2012 is about gone, without a Mayan calendar cataclysm, which is only one of the positives that TRNA has experienced this year. While we continue to challenge the current application for a Walmart store at Coors and Montano, TRNA has supported several land use projects in the area that businesses proposed that will increase their capacity to provide services to our members and add to employment on the west side.

We are delighted to accept membership dues for 2013. A registration form is part of this newsletter, and available on line at our website: www.trna.org

Also, keep in mind that the general membership meeting is being scheduled for March. The details will be forthcoming. If you have an interest in serving on the TRNA board or one of the committees, let me know. Similarly, if you see a need that TRNA is not currently addressing, let me know and we can talk about it.

I wish all of our members happy holidays and a safe new year.



Nicely decorated display table at Holiday Luncheon

Happy New Year!

Membership Renewal Time

Editor, TRNA Mesa Messenger

Please check the date on your mailing label on the back page. If it says “Membership Expires December 2012,” your membership has expired and we ask you to please renew your membership this week. Consider a multi-year renewal: it saves you a little money and saves us labor!

You might also consider giving a neighbor a gift subscription for one year. Just let us know that it is a gift when you send in your check and the registration form for your neighbor. Your membership keeps TRNA a strong force for good in the community. To those who’ve already renewed, thank you for your continued membership & support!



Social Committee Update

Ken Newman, Director, TRNA

Hope everyone had pleasant holidays. Thanks to all who attended the Holiday Luncheon – we had a really big turnout. It was nice to see everyone and get a chance to visit with our neighbors. Of course there are people I have to thank for all their help: June, Audrey, Jane, Karen, Anni, Rene’, Rachel, Peggy, Gail, Ron and Brett. Also thanks to everyone who helped cleanup and the entire Don Newton TRCC Staff.

Special thanks goes to Outback Steakhouse (George & Jessica) for once again providing an excellent meal. We heard nothing but compliments for it. Also the dessert table was beautiful; thanks to you all who brought desserts.

You outdid yourselves with donations – we collected enough non-perishable food items that we were able to deliver 10 food baskets to Maries Hughes on Dec 19th for them to distribute. Also 10 turkeys from Albertsons and 10 pies from Village Inn completed the baskets. Again, thanks to all.





Images from the
Holiday Luncheon
December 8, 2012
12 noon – 2 pm
Don Newton-Taylor
Ranch Community
Center



Land Use Update

Rene Horvath, Land Use Director

1. LUHO Hearing/ Walmart appeal: The Land Use Hearing Officer – LUHO, began his review of Silver Leaf's appeal beginning at 9:00 A.M. on December 21st. The hearing was conducted in the City Council Chambers. Approximately 75 people were in attendance. The hearing ended around 4:15 P.M. Silver Leaf hired an additional attorney to help Michelle Henri present their case. The new attorney questioned whether TRNA has 'standing' to be involved in this appeal. Our Attorney responded that TRNA does have 'standing'. The Hearing Officer agreed.

Silver Leaf's appeal focused on the historic access for the site being Learning Road. Silver Leaf claimed that the intersection of Learning and Coors was the main access to their site. The applicant mentioned they had expended \$2 million on infrastructure, such as local roads, in order to develop their property. TRNA's Attorney argued that while Learning road provides full access, it is not the full and primary access needed for an Large Retail Facility (LRF). The Traffic Impact Study (TIS) lists other access points, such as Mirandela Street, as the primary access for the commercial component of the property. The traffic generated by Walmart would have to use a narrow local road through a residential/ apartment zone to get to the Learning/Coors traffic signal. Bosque School students and La Luz residents also rely on that signal for access. The Big Box ordinance discourages cut through traffic through residential zones. City Council adopted the Big Box ordinance for a reason. The intent of the Big Box ordinance is to protect the quality of life within surrounding residential areas, and support efficient traffic flows.

They used developments like Hotel Circle at Lomas/ Eubank, and Unser Crossing at Unser/ Central, which are designated Community Activity Centers just like the Coors/ Montano site, as examples of Big Box or Large Retail Facility projects that were approved since the 2007 Big Box ordinance was adopted. Both those examples used local roads to access signalized intersections on major roadways. Representatives of Silver Leaf relied on feedback from City staff to determine their development strategy. They had previously met with the Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) at a Project Review Team (PRT) meeting, where the ZEO mentioned they had adequate access. As a result of TRNA's Declaratory Ruling appeal, the City Council decided that the ZEO's interpretation was not binding, and that the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) should not use it to come to their decision. Silver Leaf's attorney felt

the rules had been changed in the middle of the game because the ZEO's opinion was not utilized. Our Attorney said that the ZEO is not in charge of interpreting the zoning code, but is delegated the duty to enforce it. It may give its opinions but it is not the final word. To require that the EPC must reach the same conclusion as a ZEO official who did not hear any opposing arguments or public testimony at a PRT meeting would deprive TRNA and the public of a fair hearing. The EPC at the October 18th hearing had reached its decision after a total of 24 hours of public testimony, with substantial written material and cross examination of witnesses.

The LUHO asked Silver Leaf if they had considered sticking with the approved 2005 site development plan. He thought there was nothing preventing them from developing their property as previously approved. The LUHO also asked about traffic volume. The 2011 Traffic Impact Study reported that there were 5,000 less traffic trips being generated per day from the current LRF proposal than those generated in the 2005 TIS for the same site. The LUHO couldn't understand how traffic volumes could drop. Upon cross examination of the City's Traffic Engineer, our Attorney clarified for the record, that the LRF proposal actually increased daily traffic volume in the 2011 TIS. He also revealed that predictions on the use/intensity of the surrounding/ adjacent buildings on the site dropped substantially from those shown in the 2005 TIS. This explained why the overall traffic volume in the 2011 TIS decreased. The City Traffic Engineer agreed that the traffic counts were based on assumptions or predictions of certain types of retail uses which would potentially be built around the LRF (Walmart). Those assumptions are not set in stone and could be changed up or down based on current predictions of land use.

In conclusion, the Land Use Hearing officer asked if he could take more time to review the case rather than the 15 days allotted to make his recommendation to the City Council. Due to the holidays and Silver Leaf submitting extra material into the record, which was already over 7,000 pages long, **everyone agreed to January 30th as the date for the LUHO to complete his review.** It will be at least a month before we hear the results.

2. Volcano Heights/ December 6 EPC hearing: EPC held its final hearing for the Volcano Heights plan. This lasted only 3 hours - 3:30pm to 7:30pm. The Volcano Heights is the Town Center portion of the Volcano Mesa plan. TRNA generally supported the plan and submitted comments to the EPC and attended the hearing. TRNA's

(continued page 4)

(Land Use continued from page 3)

comments included: Support for designing a street edge that separates the houses from the Monument's open space area, rock out crops, parks etc. rather than backing houses up to these areas; Making sure the plan is pedestrian friendly and transit friendly by supporting smaller block sizes, making sure neighborhoods connect to one another, no gated communities etc; Not to water down the building height bonus system which would allow building heights in the urban area to go higher than 40 ft. in exchange for rock outcroppings, open space, parks etc. The development community was mostly supportive but a few testified that they wanted fewer restrictions on the building heights and on the water harvesting requirements. The EPC ultimately approved the plan as presented. It will now go to Land Use Hearing & Zoning (LUHZ) Committee.

As you can see 2012 has been a very busy year for all of us. I want to thank everyone for taking time to come to meetings, hearings, rallies, writing letters, testifying, and contributing to the Land Use Fund. Your time and commitment make your community a better place to live. Thank you and have a Happy New Year!



APD Announces New Service

Albuquerque Police Department encourages all residents to use a free online system that will help keep track of valuable --- and invaluable --- personal property. ReportIt is a free, secure online service allowing citizens to record serial numbers and upload images for phones, electronics, and other valuables. Should those items ever be stolen, Albuquerque Police Department says having the information will go a long way in accurately and quickly identifying your property. Citizens can access the site at reportit.leadsonline.com.

The ReportIt service is a part of LeadsOnline, the online system that works with police across the country to track and recover stolen property. The Albuquerque Police Department uses LeadsOnline to help track and recover stolen property ---- everything from jewelry to sporting equipment to electronics, computers, cameras, and other items such as designer clothing, collectibles, and other items with invaluable personal worth. The system allows detectives to search for the items using a variety of parameters, including item descriptions and serial numbers. When an item is sold to a pawn or secondhand shop, the product information is entered in the LeadsOnline database and is immediately viewable by participating law enforcement agencies across the country.

Albuquerque Police Department recently began using LeadsOnline and has reported many successes using the online investigation system. Using LeadsOnline, police have recovered thousands of dollars in stolen property for Albuquerque and surrounding residents. Recently, the LeadsOnline system helped detectives recover nine guns that were stolen from a local gun shop.

Other recovered items have included valuable jewelry, camera, construction equipment, iPods, tools, computers and GPS units. With information provided by LeadsOnline, police track down thieves, develop leads in numerous cases and make arrests.

Citizens can store an unlimited number of serial numbers, item descriptions, pictures, and scans of receipts so items may be more easily identified in the event of theft. This record may also come in handy when filing claims with insurance providers in the event of loss. Citizens wanting to participate in Report It can register

Commander Joe Christman
Northwest Area Command
Cell [\(505\) 250-2660](tel:5052502660)
jchristman@cabq.gov



Taylor Ranch Self Storage



890-7400

- 5x5 to 10x40
- Dust Reduction Doors
- On-Site Manager
- Individually Alarmed Units
- 24 Hr. Video Surveillance
- Climate Controlled

MOVE IN SPECIALS!

6971 Taylor Ranch Rd NW
(Behind Homestead Hills Shopping Center
and Across From LBJ Middle School)

www.taylorranchselfstorage.com

Taylor Ranch—Our Small Town

Terri Spiak, TRNA Treasurer

Small towns can be wonderful and they can be a hazard. Everyone knows everything about everyone else and that cannot always be a good thing. There is a certain comfort about going home to visit and yet, as one who moved away a long time ago, going home is never the same.

Here in Taylor Ranch, my family found a small town within this city of half a million people. I don't know everyone, but I'm constantly surprised by how many people I do know. Around my two or three block area, I've come to know many of my neighbors. What a great group of folks! There is always someone saying a friendly hello. From the early morning dog walkers, to the neighbor exercising daily on her 3-wheeler, or the mothers walking kids to school, you are all my wonderful neighbors.

We've helped each other when in need, checked in on each other when we notice someone's been absent, and watched one another's children, given a lift here and there. Cheered each other on when life takes a turn and someone moves on. Of all the places I've lived since my hometown, this place feels most like home.

Adding it up, I've come up with at least 16 different neighbors I could borrow a cup of sugar or an egg from (in a pinch)! That's just in two blocks! And here's the best part: Every one of them knows I'm good for the same. I love my neighbors. It might sound silly, but it's true. And I truly love this neighborhood. I hope you do too. And if you ever need a cup of sugar, just give me a call!

®

Paseo del Norte & I-25 Update

City Councilor Dan Lewis

Thank you so much for your support of this very important project. Once complete, these improvements will greatly benefit west side commuters and the City of Albuquerque as a whole. I wanted to include the preliminary schedule for construction that our office has received. Once started, the project will take 18-24 months to complete.

1. Finish preliminary design in December 2012.
2. Hold public meetings on preliminary design in January and February of 2012.
3. File for environmental categorical exclusion in March of 2013.
4. Call for Bids in Late spring 2013.

5. Let Bid in early summer of 2013.

6. Initiate construction in late summer or early fall of 2013.

®

City Economic Development

City Councilor Dan Lewis, newly elected President of the City Council, has announced a series of steps to ensure that the City is doing all that it can to promote economic development and create jobs in the City of Albuquerque. "We've got incredible community resources in Albuquerque, and in the past I don't think we've done as good a job as we could have in actively listening to them" said Councilor Lewis. "I want to make sure that the City Council proactively reaches out to the community and that we're all working towards the same goal – bringing more jobs and opportunities to Albuquerque. We need to prioritize economic development discussions. By opening that communication line, we will be able to better understand what we can do as a City Council to ensure the success of the City of Albuquerque."

As a part of that effort, Council President Lewis has asked the Administration to provide the Council a monthly economic development report from the Chief Administrative Officer, the Economic Development Department and/or the City Planning Department at the first Council meeting of every month beginning in January, 2013. The Council will dedicate time at the second meeting of the month to discuss economic development issues with various groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, Albuquerque Economic Development, and the University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research. Organizations such as these, that have their fingers on the pulse of Albuquerque's economy, will have an opportunity to present their thoughts and suggestions to the City Council about how to make Albuquerque a better and more competitive place to do business.

The Council President also asked for more frequent reports to the Council by the City's recently created Small Business Advisory Commission. In addition to reviewing legislation from a small business perspective, the Commission also reviews City rules and regulations and makes recommendations for changes that will make it easier to do business with and in the City.

"I know that economic development is one of the Mayor's priorities, and I'm looking forward to working side-by-side with the Administration."

®

2013 TRNA Scholarship Application

Application Deadline: March 1, 2013

Applicants for the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association's \$750 Scholarship must meet all four of the following criteria:

- 1) Reside within the boundaries of the Association: north/south boundaries: Paseo del Norte and Western Trail; east/west boundaries: Rio Grande (river) and West Mesa Escarpment;
- 2) Submit this completed Scholarship Application form and two (2) letters of recommendation, postmarked no later than March 1, 2013, to the address at the bottom of this form;
- 3) Demonstrate community involvement and service through school-wide and extracurricular activities, church and/or other organizations; and
- 4) Enroll at a college, university, or post-secondary school for Fall 2013.

Scholarship awards will be presented to the school business office or bookstore of the selected students' choice. Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

Name _____

Street Address _____

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87120 Telephone Number(s) _____

Is your family a member of TRNA? _____ Yes _____ No (Membership is not required)

High School _____ Cumulative GPA (including Fall 2012) _____

Please briefly describe your educational plans following your high school graduation: _____

Please describe your extra-curricular activities and community involvement: _____

(You may attach one additional page of description.)

Please provide TWO letters of recommendation to complete your application. Recommendation letters may be attached to this form or mailed separately, but must be postmarked by the March 1 deadline.

All information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I consent to the release of information concerning my application to the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Scholarship Committee.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send your application to: Scholarship Committee, Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 66288, Albuquerque, NM 87193-6288.

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.

Just a Few of the January 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. beginning January 8th

Stories, songs, poems and games.

Baby Storytime

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. beginning January 12th

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

Lego Club

First & third Sunday each month, 2 p.m.—3:30 pm

Love Legos? Come build with friends! Every meeting, we will have a new inspiration and some creations will be displayed at the library! Legos provided! All ages welcome.



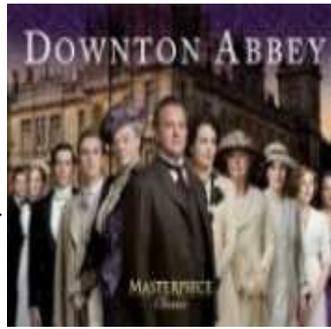
SOUTHWEST HANDYMAN SERVICES, LLC

Michael Fernandez
(505)263-4873

Home & Yard Maintenance
Small Remodels & Repairs,
Painting, Fences, Etc.

Licensed & Bonded P.O. Box 67992
abqfish@aol.com Albuquerque, NM 87193

Saturday, Jan 5, 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Fan Crafts and



More — Season Three of Downton Abbey is about to start and we know the anticipation is unbearable! Join in the mutual love for all things British and 1920's as we make a few fan crafts and more! For Downton Abbey fans of all ages.

Downton Days: Mad For Tea! Saturday, Jan 9, 10:30 a.m.—noon,

Come join us as we learn all about tea and the rituals that go with it. Learn how tea was discovered, how afternoon tea came about, how tea is processed, and how you can create your own tea ritual. We'll join a Certified Tea Specialist for two tastings and learn how professional tea tasters evaluate tea. Please bring a porcelain or glass cup or mug for the tastings (no paper cups!). Registration is required.

Reading Group

Second Saturday of each month, 2 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

New members welcome! January's book: *INES OF MY SOUL* by Isobel Allende.

Balloon Bracelets? Wed, Jan 23, 4:00—5:00 p.m.

Join us for this easy but stylish bracelet-making party! So many possibilities! Ages 10-100.



Animal Adoption

Saturday, Jan 12, 10:30 a.m.—3 p.m.

Animal Humane will be visiting us with their mobile adoption unit in the parking lot. Find your forever friend!

Author Talk: Jesus Vazquez Mendoza

Saturday, Jan 19, 1:00—2:00 p.m.

Join Jesus Vazquez Mendoza for this forty-minute, bilingual presentation of poetry and photography and as he describes the journey of writing his book [Rafagas](#).

Based on visual content, Rafagas undertakes a poetic and photographic journey that spans the streets of Paris, Route 66, and the borderlands between Mexico and the United States. The author holds a PhD from the University of Kansas and has worked for over 12 years in Hispanic media.

KEEP THIS GUY OUT OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!



JOIN THE TAYLOR RANCH CITIZEN PATROL

Organized by the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association

There will be an APD "Citizens on Patrol" class

January 26th from 8 -noon

No Charge

Location: APD NW Substation (Across from Cibola High school)

Call 899-2738 to register

Questions: call Patrol Coordinator at **899-2738** or email **patrol@trna.org**

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 Membership and New Member Rates:

- Resident: \$18.00 (Thru Dec 2013) \$34.00 (Thru Dec 2014) \$48.00 (Thru Dec 2015)
 Business: \$50.00 (Thru Dec 2013) \$90.00 (Thru Dec 2014) \$125.00 (Thru Dec 2015)



Please mail this form with your check made out to TRNA to:

TRNA Membership, P. O. Box 66288, Albuquerque, NM 87193-6288

1/2013

TRNA Board of Directors and Other TRNA Contacts

President:	<i>Ray Shortridge</i>	604-3908	president@trna.org
Vice-President:	<i>Jolene Woffley</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 Hornath</i>	898-2114	land@trna.org
Director/Westside Coalition:	<i>Ray Shortridge</i>	604-3908	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>		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
Facebook Administrator:	<i>Wendy Dial</i>		facebook@trna.org
Webmaster :	<i>Ceil van Berkel</i>	899-2738	webmaster@trna.org
Newsletter Editor:	<i>Rae Phillips</i>	899-1273	editor@trna.org
Historian:	<i>vacant</i>		historian@trna.org
Membership List Administrator:	<i>Carol Waters</i>	897-5771	memberdata@trna.org

Upcoming Events

- Jan 1 — New Year's Day
- Jan 4 — School Resumes
- Jan 9 — Board Meeting

Advertise in the Mesa Messenger

Business Members, take your message to TRNA!

For as little as \$10/issue you can advertise with just your business card. A quarter page cost \$25, third page \$33, half page \$50, and full page \$100. Ads are accepted for a minimum of three months; however, ad copy may change, if desired. Those prepaid for more than 6 months receive a 30% discount.

If you know of any business in Taylor Ranch that isn't yet a business member and might be interested, please pass this newsletter on to them. Contact editor@trna.org to submit ad or for additional information.



Copiers * Printers * Fax
505-888-7575

4310 Paseo del Norte NE, Suite D
Albuquerque, NM 87113

xtecsinc@msn.com

Michael & Lily Andrews

They print this newsletter free for us each month!

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

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

President's Message
New APD Resource
Land Use Update

Library Update
Small Town Taylor Ranch
Scholarship Application

Paseo del Norte/I-25
City Council Pres. Dan Lewis

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

Return Service Requested

**PRSTD STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albuquerque, NM
Permit # 734**



Look at the mailing label above the fold on this page.

If it says Membership Expires December 2012!!

then it is time for you to renew your membership. Please fill out the renewal form on p. 9 and mail it in with your check. Save money with a multiple year membership. If it doesn't expire in 2012, then pass your newsletter on to a neighbor to get them to join!

Happy New Year!

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