

President's Message

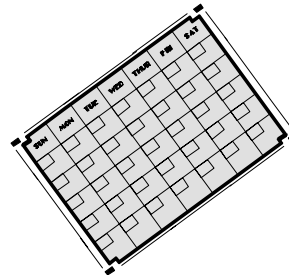
Ceil van Berkel, President TRNA

1996 will be a challenging year on the westside.

- The Montañño Bridge is under construction, but Los Ranchos still has an appeal pending before the State Supreme Court.
- The City Planning Department has adopted a policy of encouraging urban densities on the westside. This means that City planners are supporting the rezoning of R1 residential lots to SU for apartments and townhouses. They support densities of over 20 dwellings per acre, rather than densities of 2-5 dwellings per acre. By doing this they hope to increase the use of public transportation, prevent urban sprawl, and promote infill within the city borders. If you are concerned about the effects of this policy on our schools, roads, and quality of life, contact Councilor Armijo and Mayor Chavez.
- Planners for the Albuquerque Public Schools are of the opinion that the westside is experiencing steady growth, rather than a boom, and so do not foresee the need for a new westside middle school in the immediate future.
- Construction of the final phase of the Mariposa Basin Park is being held up while groups supporting little league and soccer attempt to redesign the park to devote more space to their sports.
- State funding for our new community center may result from the current State Legislature session, or it may be a casualty of tight budgets.
- Many of our medians are ugly.
- Graffiti continues to be a problem.

Would you like to work these issues (or others) on behalf of yourself and your neighbors? Call Dave Otto (897-7733) and volunteer to run for the Board of Directors of the TRNA. You must be a member of the association, be willing to serve a two year term, be able to attend one board meeting a month, and be willing to work to improve the quality of life in Taylor Ranch. Elections will be held at our General Meeting on March 26th, place TBD.

Help your neighborhood meet the challenges of 1996! Renew your membership; offer to serve on a committee; accept a nomination to the Board of Directors. We need you! ®



Now is the time...

to renew your membership in Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association!

TRNA provides numerous benefits for yourself and your community. Help continue to improve our neighborhood and build our community.

Please take the time now to fill out the form on the back of this newsletter and send it in with your membership dues.

Important Dates:

13 Feb.	7 pm	TRNA Board Meeting
19 Feb.	all day	President's Day, City offices closed
23 Feb.	9 pm	Mesa Messenger Mar. deadline
1 Mar.	11:30 am	APD exhibits, "The Force" APD band at 1:30 pm.
13 Mar.	7 pm	TRNA Board Meeting
26 Mar.	TBD	TRNA General Membership Meeting, place TBD.
27 Apr.	TBD	All Americans Bike Day @ Unser
27 Apr.	TBD	Keep ABQ Beautiful Bag-A-Thon
23 Jun.	TBD	Arts in the Parks @ Mariposa Basin

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Editor's Note

Michael Skroch,
Director TRNA,



Editor Mesa Messenger

There are many steps to editing a newsletter. Many of you may have noticed I forgot the one called "proofreading" in the last issue. Luckily there is no outstanding bounty for these errors or I would be a poor man. Also my apologies to Debbie Tatum and Tom Tatum who really are not "Debbie & Tom." It was the hustle and haste during the season rather than holiday cheer that caused these errors and the combined Dec/Jan issue.

Now that we're past the holiday rush, please take a few moments to fill out the membership form in this issue and send it in with a check to renew your membership. TRNA performs many beneficial functions and activities for you and your neighbors.

There hasn't been interest in non-business classified ads since they were suggested a few months ago. However, we will continue to accept this type (for

sale, wanted, garage sale, etc.) at the rates shown in the fine print below. ®

Government Affairs



Bob Woody, Director TRNA

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Banks have appealed the EPC's decision to allow 11 townhomes at the Windmill Manor on lots 1-3. They, along with the TRNA, are requesting a maximum of five townhomes. The appeal was heard on January 24th and was directed to the City Council for a decision at a future meeting. ®

Eye on Education

Rexanna Jones, Secretary TRNA

On February 6, 1996, there will be a General Obligations Bond and Mil Levy Election. In 1993, voters approved a two-mil levy for a three-year period, which runs out during the 1995-96 school year. Voters

also approved a General Obligations Bonds issue. This election will be a chance for voters to approve the issuance of an additional \$67.5 million of General Obligations Bonds and to continue the two-mil levy for another three years. Each school will have a list of how the schools in our community will benefit from the passage of the bonds and mil levy.

Although voters approved a two-mil levy in 1993, the residential levy was reduced this year to 1.72 mils or about \$1.72 per thousand dollars of net taxable value due to reappraisal of property at a rate exceeding the rate of inflation. Re-approval of the levy back to two mils or \$2.00 per thousand dollars of taxable value will mean an increase of 28 cents per thousand dollars of taxable value. In real terms, the impact on a home with a value of \$100,000 (taxable value of \$33,333) will be 76 cents per month.

TRNA Education Committee urges your support and a YES vote on the bonds and mil levy on February 6th. Cast your ballot at Marie Huges Elementary School on February 6th, or at Chamiza Elementary school for early voting prior to the election day. ®

Mesa Messenger is published just about monthly by the *Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.* (TRNA) and is distributed to paid **TRNA** members. Membership information may be found on the last page of this newsletter. **Deadline for articles** and advertisement is the fourth Friday of each month prior to the month of publication; however, it is appreciated if they are turned in earlier. *Mesa Messenger* is distributed by the 15th in the month of publication, usually earlier.

Articles should be submitted to the editor, Michael Skroch, 899-4471 voice & fax, and may be mailed to the **TRNA** post office box. Articles are accepted typed on paper but are preferred on a DOS disk as a text, Word, or WP file. Macintosh Word and text files on 1.44 Mb disks are also accepted. Call the editor about graphic file formats or images to be scanned.

Non-business text-only classified ads such as for-sale, wanted, garage sale, etc. are offered to our

paid members at \$5 for up to 50 words, \$0.10 per word extra, tax included. For timely insertion, call the editor. Please advertise early.

Business advertisement is accepted from any business members or resident members who own or operate a business within the borders of **TRNA**. Business ad rates, payable in advance, are \$10/mo. business card, \$25/mo. 1/4 page, \$50/mo. 1/2 page, \$33/mo. 1/3 page and \$100/mo. full page plus tax. There is a minimum run of three months and there is a 30 percent discount for runs of 6 months or more. *Mesa Messenger* editor and **TRNA** board reserve the right to refuse any ad or article.



Ad copy in the following sizes only: Full page at 7.5" wide x 9.5" long. Half page at 7.5"x4.75" (3 col.) or 5"x7" (2 col.). Third page at 7.5"x3.2" (3 col.) or 5"x4.75" (2 col.) or 2.5"x9.5" (1 col.). Quarter page at 7.5"x2.5" (3 col.) or 5"x3.5" (2 col.) or 2.5"x7.5" (1 col.). Business card at 3.5"x2".

The editor can help design or lay out your ad and can take camera-ready copy. To place a business ad, please call Michael Skroch.


Many thanks to our newsletter production and distribution staff:

Roger Suppona	Dorothy & Fred Manville
Thom Wright	Sheryl Kearby
Katie Tucker	Tom Eggert
Delly Rooney	

TRNA, Inc. is recognized by the Albuquerque Office of Neighborhood Coordination under the Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance (O-92.) It is also a member of the *Westside Coalition of Neighborhood Associations* and also the *League of Neighborhoods*. **TRNA** provides no endorsement of products, events or vendors which advertise in *Mesa Messenger*.

 TRNA Contacts 			
Board of Directors			
Name	Office	Chair/Activity	Phone
Ceil van Berkel.....	President.....		897-2541
Dave Otto	Vice President.....	PR.....	897-7733
Rexanna Jones	Secretary.....	Education	899-0642
George Havins.....	Treasurer		899-4522
Terri Clarke	Director	Environmental	899-1803
Richard Farris	Director	Crime Prevention.....	898-2632
Rosemary Freelin	Director	Parks & Rec, Social	899-2450
Michael Skroch.....	Director	Newsletter, Editor	899-4471
Debbie Tatum.....	Director	Youth.....	897-5071
Bob Woody.....	Director	Government Affairs.....	899-3391
Thom Wright.....	Director	Membership	897-0476
Other Committee Chairs and Helpers			
Name	Chair/Activity	Phone	
Monica Cordova.....	Youth Committee Chair	899-8501	

team and K-9 team members who will be present.

Exhibits will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Plan to attend since “*The Force*” is so much in demand they usually only visit a community school once every five years. 



Reprinted from
ONC's Neighborhood
News

In addition to the personal-contact “street cons” perpetrated upon senior citizens and others by professional con-artists, telephone and mail fraud and cons have expanded rapidly.

Further, fraud efforts communicated through computer networks are now becoming common.

Effective December 31, 1995, the Federal Trade Commission has implemented a stronger set of regulation to control telephone fraud. State attorneys general can seek a nation-wide injunction against a company.

Telemarketers are not allowed to call you before 8 a.m. and after 9 p.m. Telemarketers must tell consumers at the beginning of a call that this is a sales call, the nature of the product or service being offered and, in the case of a prize promotion, that no purchase is necessary to win.

Before asking consumers for money, telemarketers must disclose cost and other information, like the terms and conditions of a refund. In the case of prize contests, the odds of winning must be disclosed and for investments, risk and profitability. Telemarketers cannot debit a caller's checking account unless they have received written approval or a taped authorization.

For more information, call Richard Leonard, APD Neighborhood Crime Prevention, 764-1090. **ONC**

Environmental Committee

Terri Clarke, Director TRNA

Pruning Simplified

Information for this article was provided courtesy of Ronland Nursery, Inc.

Rule #1: Prune when the plant is dormant (January, February). Pruning sealer is a good idea on cuts larger than an inch.

Exception to rule #1: Spring-flowering shrubs (lilac, forsythia, and the like) should be pruned immediately after bloom. Because these shrubs bloom on the *previous* season's growth, pruning in winter would cut off the upcoming flowers.

Rule #2: Prune to thin and shape. Cut out dead wood and branches that cross and rub against another and branches that grow back toward the center of the plant. This lets in sunlight and allows air to circulate freely.

Exception to rule #2: Prune fruits and berries for highest yield. Thin out deadwood, crossing and inward growing branches as above. Ask your nurseryman or extension agent about



the idiosyncrasies of different fruits and berries. For example, raspberries produce only on year-old canes, which should be cut to the ground right after fruiting.

Rule #3: Choose the direction of the new growth. By making your cut above a bud that faces the direction you want the new growth to go, you can further shape the plant just as you want. Be patient though... these things take time.



“THE FORCE” to perform in Taylor Ranch

Rexanna Jones, Secretary TRNA

On March 1, 1996, DARE officer Danny Lucero has arranged for the popular Albuquerque Police Department rock band “*The Force*” to perform in Taylor Ranch. The concert will begin at 2:30 p.m. on the field at Marie Huges Elementary.

Prior to the band's show, various **APD** exhibits will be available for the public to visit, including SWAT

West Side Family YMCA Activities



Call Anne at 899-8417 for more information. The YMCA is located at 4701 Montañó Rd. NW (at Taylor Ranch Rd.) YMCA membership fees may also apply.

Indoor Soccer: For youth in K through 3rd grade. Registration Jan 29-Feb 26. Practices begin week of Feb 26. Eight games week of Mar 15 to May 11. \$43.

Dance: A creative movement and dance class for boys and girls that teaches the fundamentals of dance while focusing on fun. Mom & Dad can join the fun. Ages 4-6, 6-6:45 p.m., ages 7 and older 7-7:45 p.m. Tuesdays at the West Side YMCA. Feb 6-27, Mar 5-26 at \$15/mo, Apr 9-May 14 at \$22.50/mo (6 weeks).

Tumbling & Gymnastics: Two age groups. Ages 3-5, 6-6:45 p.m. Wed or 10:30-11:15 Thur. Ages 6-8, 6:50-7:35 p.m. Weds Dates: Weds Feb 28-Apr 24, Thurs Feb 29-Apr 25. \$30.

Shorin-Ryu Karate: Ages 5 and up. Mon. and Thur. 6-7 p.m. beginners, 7-8 p.m. intermediates. at YMCA, enrolls monthly. Sessions Feb 5-29, Mar 4-28, Apr 1-29. Instructor Bryan Gross, 2nd degree Black Belt. \$30/mo.

Volunteer at the YMCA: Kids need attention. Parents need support. Teens need something to do. And we want our community to be a healthy place to live and work. If you want to solve these problems close to home or better yet, prevent them – then do something good. Volunteer at the West Side YMCA. For more information or volunteer opportunities, please stop by or call 899-8417.

Hiking Club: Twice a month groups gather at 9:00 a.m. at the Westside Y to carpool to nearby scenic locations. Saturday family hikes,

Thursday multi-generational hikes. Call for details. Feb 10: Tomé Hill, Mar 9: Rinconada Canyon to Volcanoes, Apr 13: Bandalier, May 11: Jemez Falls to Battleship Rock. Feb 15: Piedra Marcadas, Mar 21: Rio Puerco, Apr 18: Embudo Trail, May 16: Pino Trial (from Elena Gallegos).

Memories: A wonderful class for individuals and families who want to learn how to preserve their history. JoAnn Smith will teach you a systematic way to record your life's stories. Four 3-hour sessions Feb 23, Mar 1, 8 & 15. \$24. ®

Youth Committee News

by *Rebekah Zachritz and Dana Krill*

Officers

The committee elected three new officers. We are proud to announce that Monica Cordova is our new president, Natalie Solomon is our new vice-president, and Courtney Silecchia is our new secretary. These girls have been on the committee for a while now and know the responsibilities of a good leader. Congratulations, we know you will work hard.

Movie Night

Saturday, January 13, 1996, the committee sponsored a movie night at Lyndon B. Johnson Middle School. Dumb and Dumber was the movie. We had a small turn out, but over all it seemed everyone had fun.

Valentine's Dance

The Youth Committee will be sponsoring a Valentine's Dance. The dance will be held at LBJ from 7:00 through 9:30 pm on Saturday, February 10. It will be \$3.00 admission and

will be extra for refreshments. COME JOIN THE FUN!!!!

Special Thanks

The Taylor Ranch Youth Committee would like to give special thanks to the following for all they have done for us: Ron Chapman and Debbie Tatum for helping lead the meeting discussions, Ron and Regina Chapman for letting us hold meetings at their home, and Lyndon B. Johnson Middle School staff for letting us hold many of our events there. Thank you for your support, your help is greatly appreciated. ®

1996 Invest in Youth Campaign

The Westside YMCA here in Taylor Ranch is conducting a scholarship fundraising campaign during the month of February. All proceeds will be used for westside children whose families cannot afford to pay for day care, recreational programs, classes or summer camp. If you wish to contribute, send your pledge into the Y at the following address or call Anne Lightsey at 899-8417:

Westside Family YMCA
4701 Montañó NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Include your check made out to YMCA or indicate your pledge and if you'd like to be billed monthly or quarterly. ®

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Phone: 897-1404

Northdale Shopping Ctr.
4th Street & Osuna
Phone: 344-7701



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 Comet Cleaners
 Dr. David Greif, Chiropractic Physician
 Dr. Walters, Chiropractor
 EduCare of NM
 Edward D. Jones & Co. Investments
 First Security Bank
 Fred van Berkle, Gen. Contractors
 Health Clubs of America
 HomeTown Buffet
 One Stop Business Shop
 Sunwest Bank
 Travel Trends
 US NM Federal Credit Union



TRNA Q&A

Have a question about something existing or happening in Taylor Ranch or about where to find resources in our area? Have the answer to questions listed here? Then send in your questions and comments and share them with other TRNA members. Send to:

*Mesa Messenger ♦ Michael Skroch
 PO Box 75157
 Albuquerque, NM 87194*

Q: This is a big one. Could there be some sort of task force to look at painting (restuccoing?) all of the backyard walls that face the main streets like Montañó, Dellyne, Golden, Valle Vista and others?

It would be ideal if they could all start out as one basic brown color and then when the graffiti bandits trash them, covering them over would be so simple having one dye lot of paint. If you are a new comer to the neighborhood (or a prospective buyer) it is unsightly, and presents our nice neighborhood

unfavorably. That, plus employ our own teenagers in the summer to maintain the fence-to-street areas along those same streets. - *Kay Admire*

A: Although this is an ideal goal, there is no money for such a "big one" project. The City has no money and TRNA has no money for this type of thing. Providing a new coat of paint or stucco for entire lengths of the street would be quite costly. Once builders move out of the area, it is the duty of the neighbors to provide upkeep for their wall and the curb-to-sidewalk area behind their wall when it faces a street. The city provides a graffiti hotline to have the mess covered. TRNA also has volunteers that aggressively cover up graffiti. If a solution comes to mind, please contact a TRNA board member.

More TRNA Q&A next month! 



Letter to the President

This letter was received by the TRNA and is reproduced with following reply from the President of TRNA

November 20, 1995

From: Dennis F. Armijo

To: Cecil (sic) VanBerkel, President Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Re: Mariposa Basin Park

Dear Mr. (sic) VanBerkel

I am a member of TRNA. I was very distraught in reading the November 1995 issue of the Mesa Messenger. I am a parent of three little leaguers in Petroglyph Little League and also a Board of Member (sic) of Petroglyph Little League. I attended the Board meeting regarding Mariposa Basin Park and left with the understanding that the City would await community input before making any determinations regarding the basketball and volleyball court or an additional baseball field. However, unlike the City, your organization took it upon itself to decide for the rest of the community to oppose the addition of another little league field.

It is my understanding that TRNA is a neighborhood association which operates for the benefit of our community. I was unaware that two or three people comprising your board would act as dictators to tell the neighborhood what they want without any input from the community. Due to your irresponsible act in opposition of little league fields, you have basically cut

Kathryn x ad

Other information about the issue as provided by the TRNA Board:

- ◆ For any changes to the current approved development plan, the City must notify surrounding homeowners, give them the opportunity for input and have each of them approve all changes to the development plan. The original sessions with surrounding homeowners began in 1989. Changes for more little league fields would start this process again and cause more delays to take place.
- ◆ The City originally planned to put an adult softball complex in the park. It was TRNA and the surrounding neighbors who fought to have the Basin become a Little League field.


off 250 families from participating in a summer sport that keeps our kids off the street. Due to your unilateral act, 250 children will not be able to play little league next year. Instead, we will have basketball courts that no one will utilize just like the horseshoe pits as well as a volleyball court. Shall I send you the names and addresses of the 250 families and children you will disappoint, so you can explain to them why their input was not considered or even requested?

I am not complaining as to the results of your decision, but terribly disappointed on the mechanics or lack thereof, for making the decision. If you had received community input in opposition to the addition of three little league field (sic), I would not complain because the result would have been from the community.

When I joined your organization, I thought it was to benefit the community but not benefit a chosen few. Therefore, I hereby resign as a member from the TRNA, Inc. and will encourage others to do so as well, and hopefully someone someday can form an organization that will speak for the community instead of for themselves. As my last act as a member of your organization, I request that this letter be placed in your next newsletter. However, after seeing how your

organization operates, I sincerely doubt that it will be done.

Very truly yours,



DENNIS F. ARMILJO

TRNA President's Response

January 12, 1996

Dear Mr. Armijo,

I was very sorry to receive your letter dated November 20, 1995, expressing your displeasure with the TRNA Board's recommendation to the City to proceed with Phase 3 of Mariposa Basin Park as planned.

As you recall, TRNA's board was instrumental in obtaining \$25,000 from Smith's to compensate Petroglyph Little League for the construction costs caused by Smith's building sooner than expected on the site where parents had constructed fields. We have supported shared use of soccer/baseball fields at public parks. We continue to be supportive of Little League fields in the neighborhood. We would be happy to work with you to identify and acquire space for additional little league fields. Some board members are of the opinion that there might be space available at or near Chamiza Elementary.

As to the need to solicit community input before making our recommendation, there have been many public meetings held over the years during Phase 1, 2, and in preparation for Phase 3 of the Mariposa Basin Park. During these meetings we have heard parents express the need for soccer fields, baseball fields, playgrounds, space for informal activity, and safe parking for large events such as concerts. Also, over the years, there have been complaints that the City is spending the money allocated for Mariposa Basin Park on planning activities rather than building. A recommendation to stop the

construction and go back for additional input would have resulted in spending still more of the Park funds on planning activities.

As a result of this past public input, out of a desire to be fair to elements of the community who desire space for other activities, and in the hope that planning would stop and building would start, the eleven members of the board voted to recommend to the City that Phase 3 be completed as planned.

I am sorry that you have canceled your membership. I will forward your cancellation to your membership chair to see if we owe you a refund of dues. I will also consult the Board about printing your letter in our next newsletter. I believe we would want to print our reply as well, and that might take too much space. We may simply summarize the controversy.

I hope you will reconsider and rejoin the Association. I believe we can accomplish much more work together than we can separately.

Sincerely,

Ceil van Berkel
President, TRNA

