

President's Message

Brett Lopez, President, TRNA



Happy Valentines Day! As we boldly march into spring and await the warming winds of seasonal change there are a couple of events fast approaching that I would like to draw your attention to. First, *you* are sponsoring a middle school dance on the 16th at the Don New-

ton - Taylor Ranch Community Center. It would be awesome if you stopped by and saw what *you* are doing! I say *you* because without your membership support we could not put on events like this. (You did remember to renew your membership, yeah?). Secondly, with spring coming so is Easter. To that I say "Help". As always our events revolve around the generous support of volunteers to make this, our largest fundraiser for the entire year a reality. Much of the ground work is already in place but we still need egg fillers, food servers, someone willing to hang out at the fire station with all those firemen (girls) and those willing to follow-up on solicitation letters which will be going out as you read this. I wish to thank Rosemary Freelin and Chic-Fil-A for jumping in without reservation. All you need to do is call 836-7831 and you're in, at whatever level you wish to participate. More to come on that.

Our annual general meeting as required by our by-laws will be on March 11th at 7:00pm. Speaking will be Michael Cadigan and APD Commander Candelaria or his designate to bring us up to speed on issues that concern TRNA. Bring your questions and be prepared for answers. I urge each and every member to attend, this is important, as we will be electing Board Members, ratifying our budget and other items that are or should be of concern to you. After all it is your neighborhood.

As my term limits are fast approaching and I cannot be elected president again for at least one year. You need to know that I will remain on the board if I am reelected and be a board member at large taking care of the zoning chair

position and filling in where needed. Additionally, I have thrown my hat into the arena for Presidency of the West Side Coalition of Neighborhood Associations. This coalition represents 26 Neighborhood Associations on the West Side and works diligently to enhance the quality of life for all of us "westsiders" north to south.

I think that's it gang. I hope the crocus start blooming soon. Brett ®

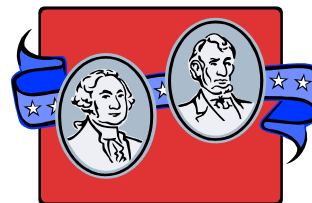
Mariposa Basin Park Cleanup

Don MacCornack, Director, Beautification

Saturday morning, January 19th, and the sun was bright, the wind was calm and no park cleanup volunteers. I presume you were all at the Civilian Patrol training and that is why you could not be at the park.

A few years ago your Neighborhood Association Board decided that a clean park was important to the community and that our members would agree and would come out to help work in the park once a month. Maybe we were wrong. I know we all are busy and lots of things compete for our time, but if the condition of the park is important to you please email your comments to myself or Brett Lopez. Perhaps you know of a youth group that would be willing help with the monthly park cleanup or have some other suggestions for keeping the park clean for the use of our children. Maybe the Board needs to consider using our limited resources on projects other than park cleanup.

I am scheduling another park cleanup for February 16th at 9:00 am. If you think TRNA should work to keep Mariposa Basin Park in good shape for use by our children, I hope to see you there on the 16th. ®



Happy Presidents' Day!

Land Use Update

René Horvath, Land Use Director, TRNA

1. **Vista de La Luz:** The Developer for the Vista de La Luz neighborhood shopping center, which was just approved by the EPC last October, wanted a zone change from beer and wine to full service liquor for this property. Vista de La Luz is located on the west side of Coors Blvd., between San Antonio Arroyo and Sevilla Ave. A facilitated meeting was held Jan. 3, 2008 to explain that the Developer, Mr. McNanny, wanted the zone change to allow "Jinja", an up scale Asian restaurant that serves mixed drinks, to use a portion of the shopping center space. Jinja is interested in adding a restaurant on the Westside. There are several owners of the Jinja restaurant; Gene Hackman is one of them. Two Jinja restaurants already exist, one in Santa Fe, and the other in Albuquerque, on Paseo del Norte next to Trader Joe's. Several residents from Taylor Ranch, La Luz, and La Luz del Sol attended the facilitated meeting. Overall, the residents were favorable to having Jinja come to the Westside. But there was some skepticism since this site was intended to be a neighborhood friendly shopping center and was not designed for a more intensive use such as a full service liquor restaurant. The following concerns were raised at the meeting: the amount of traffic it would draw; was there an adequate number of parking spaces; and was Jinja seriously committed to

coming to this site or would they back out after the zone change. After the facilitated meeting, the Developer and the owner of Jinja, met with the La Luz del Sol residents to express Jinja's commitment to locate on this site.

TRNA submitted our comments on the proposal prior to the January 17th EPC hearing based on comments received from the Board and TR members. TRNA was willing to support the zone change if the following conditions were met: a strong commitment from Jinja to locate on the site; support by the nearby residents; and that the parking was adequate. Attached to the letter were comments from a Taylor Ranch resident who questioned whether there were enough parking spaces. He felt that the parking calculations provided at the facilitated meeting were incorrect. Much of the discussion during the Jan.17th EPC hearing was based on TRNA's letter. The EPC questioned the Agent and Developer extensively on each issue brought up in the letter. The end results were: "Yes", Jinja was planning to come to this site; they will not be building any other full service liquor establishment on the site; the nearby neighbors support the zone change; the parking may overflow at first, due to the new restaurant's grand opening, but will ultimately settle down. During the evening hours, restaurant patrons will be able to use

(Continued on page 4)

BUY A VIP WASH PASS FOR SOMEONE ELSE AND GET A FREE CAR WASH FOR YOU

The VIP Wash Pass is plastic and looks like this



**5801B Coors Road NW
(At Montano and Coors)
Albuquerque, NM**

VIP Wash Pass

\$40

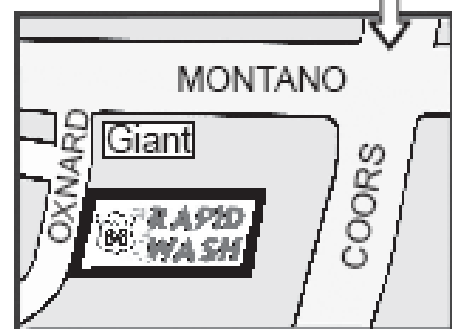
The amount credited on the card shows up here

Offer details:

- *Available during the published month of this newsletter
- *Bring this coupon to identify yourself as a TRNA member.
- *Purchase a VIP Wash Pass first - then wash your car for free.
- *Come by during office hours when attendant is on duty, or call 980-7482 and a VIP Pass can be mailed to you. (except emergencies, Office Hours 10am - 4pm, 7 days a week)

It's located right next to the Giant gas station on Montano

VIP Price	---	\$\$ Credit on Wash Pass
\$35	-----	\$40
\$50	-----	\$60
\$65	-----	\$80
\$80	-----	\$100



The VIP Wash Pass is a great gift because it can be used 24 hours a day. You swipe it like a credit card, in a drive-through lane, without getting out of your car. You save up to 20% on the purchase, and get a **FREE** carwash!

West Side Coalition of Neighborhood Assoc.'s Meeting—Jan. 8, 2008

Walt Sala, Director, WSC

A good source of information is the West Side Coalition website <http://abqwestside.org>

State Representative Tom Anderson indicated that the county is still trying to get two new 10 passenger buses for after-school programs. A temporary modular building will be used for a Senior Activity Center and will be replaced by brick and mortar building later. He feels that a salary should be paid the State Reps and Senators as other states do, but feels that it would be voted down. It is too bad we don't treat our representatives as the professionals that they are, who deal with the burden of running the state. Also mentioned that the Rail Runner is bankrupting the state transportation budget. He would like to see, if possible, a program to be developed for educating and getting dentists here in New Mexico.

State Senator Bernadette Sanchez has been appointed to the state finance committee, which will be working on bills for health reform, educational funding, ethics reform, limiting contributions, roads, and local projects. Dr. Joe suggested that dental care be included in health care.

Councilor Ken Sanchez suggested that a special police and fire unit be established at Route 66 Casio and Hotel, as now it takes a lot of time for a police or fire response and time is taken away from their regular area. Suggested that the police dept change retirement time to 25 years so we can keep the more experienced officers on the force, as well as increasing police pay in keeping with what other cities pay, so we don't lose officers to other cities. He is drafting a law that will keep unauthorized sales people from calling on homes in ABQ. He said that the city collects the school impact fees, sending them to the state. However the county commissioners who should also be collecting these impact fees for schools covered by APD don't collect these fees but expect APS to furnish services.

Jason Marks, PRC, indicated that here is a low-income heating assistance program. You can get more information on www.nmprc.state.us or www.jasonmarks.com.

Councilor Michael Cadigan indicated that he is looking for volunteers for the Arts Board and Open Space Board. A new upscale restaurant is opening on Coors, Jinja, owned, in part, by Gene Hackman. During the new city budget session coming up, he will be in charge,. He is especially concerned with public safety, police and

fire salaries. He indicated that some social services provided by ABQ are not good and need to be eliminated.

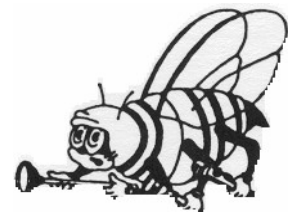
State Representative Moe Maestes, House District 16, had a "West ABQ Day" reception in Santa Fe on Wednesday, January 23rd, 5:30 to 7pm, at the Hilton of Santa Fe, Ortiz Room. He invited all to come to help him get school funding, money for West Side, health care, ethics reform, etc.

Congresswoman Heather Wilson invites everyone to a schedule of round tables discussions regarding a proposed Alternative Minimum Tax proposal. Give your input. For information and location contact 346-6781, www.house.gov/wilson, heather@mail.house.gov

A question: "Why is our School Board creating criminals, drug pushers, drug users?" How you ask? By offering only fine arts, college prep course in high school, when some students, for what-so-ever reason ,can't make the academic scene. Some students may not want or be ready to go college, and if their schools offer only college prep courses, they will drop out of school, or just be there physically. As drop outs, they will only be able to do low paying jobs, or turn to crime. Why not offer a choice?: College Prep, Fine Arts, or a Technical/ Shop course. Those who choose tech/ shop would take courses in electrical, plumbing, carpenter, auto mechanics, etc. so they can be prepared to get jobs in those fields, rather than drop out, and take a low paying job or join a gang and turn to crime or drugs. This has a proven record in many, many cities. Why not here where it is badly needed. Why must our School Board keep their heads in the sand or dreamland, lets be practical.. It is time that we as citizens of New Mexico started to tell our legislatures that we want practical solutions to our problems. Call, write or email your Representatives. It is time for change. For more information email wesehs@earthlink.net ®

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(Land Use, Continued from page 2)

parking in front of other businesses located in the center after they are closed.

Once the EPC felt satisfied with the answers, they voted to approve the zone change request. It now looks like the Westside will have a new Jinja restaurant.

2. Volcano Heights Sector Development Plan: On January 17th the EPC also heard the Volcano Cliff Property Owners proposed amendments to the Sector Development plan. The Volcano Cliff Property Owners submitted a 157 page proposal containing changes they wanted to make to the plan approved in September 2006. The changes mainly focused on the portion of the development that contained large lots. These lots were intended to buffer the National Monument from the more intensive development. The proposal included: reducing the large lot sizes to allow more residential density; allowing up to 75% grading on each lot; less restrictive design elements; etc. The Planner evaluated each amendment, and recommended denial saying that all these changes would alter the intent of the Volcano Heights Sector Development Plan, and conflicted with the goals and policies of other higher-ranking plans. A consultant that worked on the plan, and who is a Taylor Ranch resident, testified that the intent of the large lot portion of the plan was to provide a buffer between the Monument and the more intensive suburban/urban type of development. The large lot area of the plan dealt more with the preservation of the unique character of the mesa top. The design elements were to accomplish the plan's intent to preserve views, the natural landscape, and the openness of the area. The intensive development areas of the existing plan are located along major roadways that are suited for public transit. The approved plan already allows for 12,000 housing units. A Park Service Representative and a TRNA representative also gave testimony, supporting the design elements of the Volcano Heights Plan, urging support to give the September 2006 plan a chance to work. After hearing public testimony, the EPC voted unanimously to support the Planners recommendations for denial.

3. Concealment for WTF (wireless telecommunication facility): On January 7th, the City Council voted to approve Councilor Harris's legislation on the concealment of Cell towers. A TRNA representative was there to support the legislation. The Council also approved TRNA's effort to extend the setback of cell towers from the residential property line from the existing 85 ft. to 100ft. When the planner was asked what was the greatest complaint residents had with cell towers, she responded

that residents usually complain that the towers are too close to their homes. Councilor O'Malley made the motion to extend the minimum setback to 100 feet. Councilor Cadigan seconded the motion. It was then approved by the City Council. All new cell towers will now be concealed and setback a minimum of 100 ft. from residential property lines.

Have you Renewed for 2008?

If so, thank you. Your membership is important. It provides funding for the activities of TRNA, including the monitoring of land use issues, scholarships for high school students, production and mailing of the newsletter, teen dances, assistance to the community center, and much more. Even more important, it gives TRNA a strong voice. The more members we have, the more our opinions are listened to and the more volunteers we can count on to help improve the quality of life in Taylor Ranch. If you're not sure when your membership expires, just check the expiration date on the mailing label on page 8.



Call an Enrolled Agent

An enrolled agent (EA) can be a real lifesaver at tax time. Unlike other tax preparers, enrolled agents are federally licensed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. They specialize in taxation and go through strict testing and application procedures and continuing education to achieve the unmatched expertise they offer you today. So, before you get in over your head, put an enrolled agent on your side.

KATHY FALTER, E.A.
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March General Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars for the March General Membership Meeting.

Tuesday, March 11th

7:00 pm

Don Newton—Taylor Ranch Community Center.

Invited speakers, including Councilor Cadigan and an APD representative, as well as the election of directors, the approval of the budget for next year, refreshments, and door prizes will make for an interesting and informative evening. We need your vote on both the budget and the directors to keep our Association alive! Please come...to meet your neighbors, learn about what's happening in the neighborhood, raise issues of concern, and do your part to improve the quality of life in Taylor Ranch. See you there! ☺

Election of Directors

Election of Directors will take place at the March General Membership Meeting. Board members whose terms are expiring this year are René Horvath, Brett Lopez, and Hanna Sorrells. Alice Demi was appointed by the Board to fill a vacant term which expires in 2009, her position must be ratified by the membership. Patsy Rippo, Walt Sala, Gary Gudell, and Don MacCornack continue in office until 2009. Three additional board members are required by the TRNA bylaws. We need at least 3 nominees for these positions. Directors must be available to attend board meetings at the Community Center on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and be willing to assist with the work of the association. If you are willing to serve yourself, or if you know of someone who would be a good nominee, please email president@trna.org or call Brett Lopez at 836-7831. ☺

Crime Alert

To: Westside Area Community Residents

From: Westside Area Command, Crime Prevention Unit

Date: January 2008

Alert: A Rash of Auto Burglaries has occurred at 9371 Coors Blvd NW. This location is a strip mall with several businesses. Some of the businesses at the strip mall are the Target Department Store, Movies West, Big 5 Sporting Goods and Hometown Buffet. The Auto Burglaries have expanded to other parking lots in the area. This includes the River Point Sports & Wellness located at 9190 Coors Blvd NW.
Days with the highest incidents: Thursdays
Times of Occurrences: 3:00pm to 10:00pm

Method of Operation: The suspect has been seen walking between the cars parked in the parking lots and looking inside the vehicles. The suspect is looking for valuables in plain site.

A purse was taken from the River Point Sports & Wellness parking lot. The suspect will break the car window nearest to the valuables. This makes a quick get a way from the victims vehicle. The suspect will get into a vehicle driven by a female and leave the area as quickly as possible.

Suspect Person Description: Witnesses described a Hispanic male, approximately 20 years old, 5' 5" tall, thin, dark hair, wearing a dark sweater with a hood and wearing jeans. A female accomplice was seen driving the vehicle. There is no additional information on the female suspect.

Suspect Vehicle Description: Witnesses have described a Silver Dodge Durango that was driven by the female suspect.

Auto Burglary Tip: Never leave a purse, wallet, laptop computers, or anything of value in plain site. Please store valuables in the trunk, underneath of the seat, or cargo area.

If you see any suspicious vehicles or people hanging around at the listed location, please call 242-COPS. If you have information on the individuals involved regarding the burglaries you can also call Crime Stoppers at 843-STOP. You can remain anonymous and a reward is offered for information that leads to an arrest. ☺

Crime Prevention Update

Gary Gudell, APD Liaison Director, TRNA

The new year started out great. The crime prevention class on January 19th proved successful. We had a good response to our request for volunteers.

All those who became certified should begin to think of someone who would be an assistant on patrol. Remember it takes two in a car while on patrol, and one must be certified.

We will have a meeting probably before you receive this News Letter. I will be in touch with you via phone or e-mail. The meeting will be to set a schedule for the remainder of Jan and Feb.

Thanks to you Guy's and Gal's who so willingly volunteered for our patrol!

If you have any questions feel free to call me. Gary Gudell, 710-5191. ☺

2008 TRNA Scholarship Application

Application Deadline: March 1, 2008

Applicants for the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association's \$500 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 and West Mesa Escarpment);
- 2) Submit this completed Scholarship Application form and two (2) letters of recommendation, postmarked no later than March 1, 2008, 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 2008.

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 _____ Soc. Sec. # _____ - _____ - _____

Street Address _____

Albuquerque, New Mexico, ZIP Code _____ Telephone Number _____

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

High School _____ Cumulative GPA (including Fall 2007) _____

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.

Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Membership Registration

Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____ **E-mail address:** _____

- I'm interested in the following:**
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active Participation | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member (Newsletter Only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Calling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/ Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

If membership is current, then please pass this form on to a neighbor who is not a member!
To renew or join: Enclose a check made out to TRNA in the amount of:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Resident: <input type="checkbox"/> \$18.00 (Thru Dec 2008) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$34.00 (Thru Dec 2009) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$48.00 (Thru Dec 2010) |
| Business: <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 (Thru Dec 2008) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90.00 (Thru Dec 2009) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125.00 (Thru Dec 2010) |

Memberships are for the calendar year.

Call Patsy Rippo , 306-2244, if you have questions or need more information.

Our mission is to
Promote, Preserve, and
Improve the quality of
life in Taylor Ranch.

Feb. 08

TRNA Board of Directors and Other TRNA Contacts

President:	Brett Lopez.....839-4805	president@trna.org
Vice-President:	Don MacCornack..... 897-1593	vicepresident@trna.org
Secretary:	Alice Demi..... 899-0027	secretary@trna.org
Treasurer:	Hanna Sorrells 294-7042	treasurer@trna.org
Director/ Zoning, Social.:	Brett Lopez 839-4805	zoning@trna.org
Director/Police Liaison:	Gary Gudell710-5191	police@trna.org
Director/Gov Affairs:	vacant.....	government@trna.org
Director//Land Use:	René Horvath.....898-2114	land@trna.org
Director/Westside Coalition:	Walter Sala: 890-7035	wscn@trna.org
Director/Education:	vacant	education@trna.org
Director/Membership:	Patsy Rippo 306-2244	membership@trna.org
Director:	Vacant.....	
Historian:	Fred van Berkel 899-2738	historian@trna.org
Web Site:	Ceil van Berkel.....899-2738	webmaster@trna.org
Newsletter editor:	Ceil van Berkel.....899-2738	editor@trna.org
Associate editor:	Rae Phillips..... 899-1273	editor@trna.org

Dates to Remember

- February 16: Teen Dance
- March 11: General Membership Meeting
- March 22: Easter Egg Hunt

Newsletter Committee

Many thanks to the members of our newsletter committee.

- Lily and Michael Andrews, who donate the printing of this newsletter each month.
- Jenifer Russin, who folds, labels, and mails it.
- Rae Phillips and Ceil van Berkel, who edit it.
- TRNA board members who write the articles.

TRNA WEBSITE

Remember to check out
TRNA.ORG from time to time.



Valentine's Day Teen Dance

TRNA is sponsoring a Teen Dance on Saturday, February 16th at the Community Center from 7:00 pm—9:00 pm. Admission is \$2 per person and a food donation. We could use some help with decorating, chaperoning, and selling food. If you can lend a hand, email president@trna.org or call Brett Lopez at 836-7831. ®

Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Flea Market

Plans are underway for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Mariposa Basin Park on March 22nd and the spring flea market in early May. Volunteers are needed to help at both events. Interested in keeping these traditions alive? Email or call Brett Lopez, president@trna.org, 836-7831. ®

Newsletter Email Address: editor@trna.org

Web Site <http://trna.org/>

Send your items of community interest to the Mesa Messenger! Submissions must be received **by the 22nd of the month.** Digital media preferred (email) / Please include author and phone number / Include SASE for photo returns. TRNA reserves the right to edit or reject submissions. Copyrighted material requires written permission.

Inside This Issue:

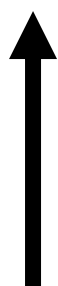
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Does your mailing label say Membership Expired December 2007?
If so, Please renew today! Use form on page 7.
Note: A Multi-year renewal saves you money in the long run and helps our volunteers maintain the membership database more easily.



Many thanks to our members who have already renewed!

