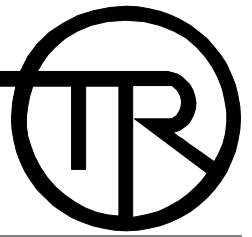


MESA MESSENGER



Newsletter of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Vol. 33 No. 10 October 2012

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

President’s Message

Ray Shortridge, President, TRNA

I am pleased to note two important positive developments in the land use area. First, the city council favorably acted on most of the points we raised in an appeal from the EPC and directed the EPC to schedule a hearing on the matter. Rene Horvath will cover this in greater detail in her article, but I urge you all to attend the EPC hearing Thursday, October 18 at 1PM.

Second, the developer applying for rezoning on the NW corner of Coors and St. Joseph, to accommodate a residential complex, has withdrawn the proposal from the EPC. Our position on the project that given the need for jobs on the West Side, it was inappropriate to rezone a property from commercial to residential.

The APD Northwest District Commander, Joe Christman, reports that the department has apprehended what it believes to be most of the gangs that were stealing wheels from pickup trucks and SUV’s. However, Christman recommends keeping vehicles in the garage overnight – “find someplace else to store that few hundred dollars worth of stuff that fills up your garage in order to protect the tens of thousands of dollars you’ve invested in your vehicles.”

Correction to Sept. President’s Report:

Regarding your vehicle registration, the original needs to be in the vehicle. Keep in a secure location. A copy may be kept in the glove box. The main point is not have any paperwork in your vehicle that has your social security number or date of birth.

Social Committee Update

Ken Newman, Director, TRNA

Our TRNA Flea Market (second one of the year) was held on Saturday, September 22 at the Cross of Hope. What a great turnout and thanks to all of the participants that helped this cause that benefits our Scholarship Program. Thanks to the following for all their help: June Newman,

Ron Probst, Rene’ and Joe Horvath, Rae and Dub Phillips, Steve & Terri Spiak and daughter Caitlin, Anni de Steiguer, Margie Newton, and Rainy Perez. Also thanks to *Albertson’s* and *Starbucks* for their donations and continued support to Taylor Ranch – Let’s support them! These could not be done without everyone’s help. Also thanks to Dan Rich of the Taylor Ranch Storage for the donations, and of course we could not do these events without the hospitality of the Cross of Hope staff.

Our **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** this year will be 12:00 – 2:00 on Saturday, December 8 at the Don Newton Taylor Ranch Community Center. Lunch will be served 12:00 to 12:30 pm. The menu will again be provided by *Outbacks* and consist of Chicken, Ribs and Salmon, garlic mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad and rolls. Bring a dessert to share with our fellow members. AGAIN, please bring non-perishable food items for the baskets we make up for the some of the needy families in Taylor Ranch (Albertsons will provide the turkeys for the baskets).

This is **FREE to TRNA Members Only**. Reply on the form in this newsletter and identify your preferences, then mail to June or Ken Newman, 6301 Kearney Trail, Abq, NM 87120, NLT November 21, 2012. (Questions? Contact me at 898-5447 or 974-5469 or Juken1964@q.com)

FREE TO ATTENDEES ... **TERROR RANCH HAUNTED HOUSE** will be open at the Don Newton Taylor Ranch Community Center on Saturdays – October 6, 13, 20 and 27th from dusk til 9:00 PM. It's positively **SPOOKY!**

October 18th, 1:00 pm
EPC WALMART HEARING
Convention Center, Ballroom A
Come show your support!

TAKING THE BIG BOX ISSUE TO THE PEOPLE ...

TAYLOR RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

What You Can Do to Help! Go to www.againstthewal-abq.com

Top Ten Ways You Can Help:

Sign the petition and we will get this to the elected officials responsible for approving the site.

Bookmark this site and check consistently and frequently to become educated on the issues and spread the word.

Write a letter to the editor for newsletters, neighborhood papers, TV websites or the ABQ Journal.

Go to our Facebook site and let us hear from you.

Write to your elected officials. Even if they are unable to discuss this, their staff will collect the responses.

Write your opposition to ABQ Mayor R.J. Berry; we are his constituents and he should know how we feel.

Join us in our demonstrations and marches — numbers do count. Check this site for details.

Speak up in your own neighborhood meetings and circles of friends. Speak to other parents about the crime attributed to Wal-Mart's — here and nationally. Word of mouth is still the best communication.

Every battle takes money — donating on this site using the "Donate" button on the website will allow us to continue to pay all the expenses to continue the fight. We need any financial support you can give — \$25 to \$1,000 or more. Please contribute even a small amount.

Stay with us until the fight is over and we win. Wal-Mart fatigue is what they are counting on.

THIS PROPOSED PROJECT WILL AFFECT THE BOSQUE!

We need to promote a better use for this important land resource. Once a development is built, there will be no turning back. Fight for a true "village concept" development with a pedestrian-friendly design that doesn't harm the Bosque, Rio Grande, or existing nearby neighborhood shopping centers. A "Big Box" large retail facility will not meet the vision or goals that many of the neighbors and city residents are fighting for.

The objective of the website is to educate you on the facts. Too often the people at WalMart tell elected officials and the public what "the opposition" is saying. You need to hear it from us directly. We are not against development and certainly not jobs.

The site is already in the process of building an 8,000 sq.ft. Credit Union and 240 multi-family residences with garages. We are against building a Big Box on that site because of:

Disregard of the city's approved Big Box Ordinances

Transgression of land use laws

Increased traffic at the city's 2nd busiest intersection and 4th most dangerous for wrecks

Proximity to a designated Bosque State Park (Wal-Mart back door just yards away)

Proximity to the Bosque School (adjacent to their property)

Crime rates for the two nearest Wal-Mart's — 1,127 serviced police calls in Y2011!

Harm to small retailers across the street

DONATE TODAY!! The back of this Walmart will be adjacent (within 20 years) to the designated Bosque State Park entrance Featuring hand-carved tree statues honoring the firemen who fought the Bosque fire in 2004, and a Viet Nam memorial.

The site is on the edge of the Bosque, a riparian riverside forest, and abuts multiple state parks and open space which requires even greater adherence to the standards and regulations than offered. More than 122 vertebrate species have been identified. Any threat to the Bosque is a threat to the quality of life in ABQ. The Bosque is our Central Park.



To: Potential Donors to Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association (TRNA) "Land Use Fund"
 From: Terri Spiak, Treasurer, TRNA
 Re: Land Use Fund Information

Thank you for considering a contribution to the TRNA Land Use Fund. Contributions can be made in two ways:

1. Form filled out with payment by check and mailed to:

Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association Attention: Land Use Fund
 P. O. Box 66288
 Albuquerque, NM 87193-6288

2. Go online to www.againstthewal-abq.com and click on "Donate" to pay by credit card or Pay Pal.

PLEASE NOTE: TRNA is a 501(c)(4) Non-Profit Corporation and is categorized as an "Other-Social Welfare Organization" in the rules of IRS. As such, donations made to TRNA are NOT deductible on personal income tax returns as a charitable donation. (Publication 557, IRS website: "A community association devoted to preserving the community's traditions, architecture, and appearance by representing it before the local legislature and administrative agencies in zoning, traffic, and parking matters.")

Monies received by TRNA for the Land Use Fund will be used first for the purpose of land advocacy issues relating to the development of the property at the southeast corner of the Coors/Montano intersection. After this issue reaches a final decision, any remaining funds will be retained by the TRNA in the Land Use Fund for future land use advocacy issues within the TRNA boundary area with decisions regarding the use of said funds at the discretion of the Board of Directors of TRNA.

TRNA, organized 33 years ago, is one of the largest geographic neighborhood associations. It is bordered on the south by Western Trail, on the east by the Rio Grande River, on the north by Paseo del Norte and the western boundary is the Petroglyph escarpment. TRNA represents the residents of Taylor Ranch to City, County, and State Governments, and the organization is recognized by the City of Albuquerque through the Neighborhood Recognition Ordinance, which allows the association to obtain notifications of impending issues that may affect the life of Taylor Ranch residents. Your support of the land use effort will continue to promote, protect, and improve the quality of life in Taylor Ranch!

Donor Name(s): _____ Date _____

Address: _____

City/State/zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email address: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Comments: _____

Land Use Update

Rene Horvath, Land Use Director, TRNA

1. Final hearing on the Declaratory Ruling appeal-September 5th City Council meeting: As most of you know the City Council approved the findings for the Declaratory Ruling on September 5th. We could not move forward until this issue regarding the access requirements for a Big Box development was resolved. TRNA's attorney asked for a declaratory ruling last February to clear up the statement made by the ZEO at the January 19th EPC hearing. During the hearing, the ZEO told the EPC that the site had access for the proposed Big Box project. In response to our request for a declaratory ruling, the ZEO said the EPC will determine whether the proposal meets all the requirements in the LRF (Large Retail Facility) regulations, but even if the requirements are not met, the EPC had the authority to approve it. The City Council adopted a total of seventeen findings. Four of them addressed the ZEO's statements. A summary of the four findings follows:


Finding #14: The EPC case should proceed and the EPC should recognize that the ZEO has not made any statements, including her testimony at the January 19th hearing, that are binding on the EPC.

Finding #15: The Council finds that the ZEO erred in her declaratory ruling- to make an exception to the regulations of the LRF." The Planning Commission is charged with interpreting the Zoning Code in reaching its decisions. The language of the Zoning Code imposes mandatory requirements; the EPC may not waive such requirements.

Finding #16: The ZEO is not prohibited from issuing a declaratory ruling with respect to issues that are currently pending before a board or commission. The ZEO is not obligated to provide a declaratory ruling in such a case and should exercise discretion.

Finding #17: The City Council finds that the issue of site access will be an important issue if there is an appeal of the EPC case. The City Council requests, but does not order, that the EPC adopt findings that fully explain its determination of this issue.

2. Walmart-EPC Hearing/October 18th/1:00pm/Convention Center -Ballroom A: Its official, the EPC decided on a new date for the Walmart hearing. The EPC hearing is now scheduled for Thursday, October 18th at 1:00pm, in the Convention Center. The EPC hearing was originally set for September 25th, but was postponed after it was discovered that it fell on the Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur. Notices were sent out to notify the membership

about this change. This is the second EPC hearing for the Walmart project. The EPC Commission will decide whether to approve an amendment to allow a big box development at the Coors/ Montano site. This will be our final opportunity to make our case before the EPC. We are encouraging everyone to attend the **October 18th hearing.** Over 700 participants attended the last hearing in January. We need even more for this hearing. I know some of you work, so please plan to come after work or consider taking the afternoon off. This is a very important hearing and we need your support and participation. Any questions please give me a call. 

Neighborhood Support

Terry Spiak, TRNA Treasurer

Yesterday a lot of members from TRNA worked together at the Flea Market. We had fun telling stories, jokes, talking to passers-by, and in the process we raised money for the two scholarships that TRNA will award in March, 2013. We set aside the time, showed up, worked hard, and went home exhausted but happy. The final numbers aren't in yet, but it looks like we've come close to meeting our goal.

Now it's time to buckle down and get ready for a very serious time of preparation for the EPC meeting to be held on October 18. This is the "BIGGIE". The lawyer is working hard, and a lot of citizens are setting aside the time to attend this meeting. We need donations to meet the challenge of funding this important fight to send the message to the EPC that the proposed Wal-Mart "Big Box" plan does not meet the requirements for the corner property at Coors/Montano. It's hard to ask for money. We need it, and we need it now. Some of our neighbors don't even know this fight is still continuing. Members need to spread the word, direct friends and neighbors to www.againstthewal-abq.com and www.trna.org. Or give them this copy of the newsletter! We need your help! Enclosed is a form to mail in your donation, or you can use a credit card at the website.

Finally, I ask you to think about the impact of your financial decisions in the little and the big ways you spend your family's hard-earned money. Personal decisions have collective impact. For example, the choice to eat supper at one of our neighborhood restaurants means we can continue to enjoy a variety of choices close to home. Take a look as you drive the neighborhood. We have a lot of great places to shop! If we don't patronize our local establishments, who will? When I visit businesses, I ask questions so I can learn more about where my money

(continued page 5)

(continued from page 4)

goes. Active support of our area businesses impacts quality of life in Taylor Ranch. Some are corporate, some are locally-owned but all of them bring employment and convenience to our neighborhood. We need to support our area businesses.

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 Montaña 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 Database: (you'll need your library card number and pin to login at <http://libguides.cabq.gov/resources>): **Live Homework Help™ from Tutor.com**

An innovative after-school program that connects students to expert tutors in math, science, social studies and English. Resources for adult learners includes ProofPoint for reviewing business documents and resumes. Available daily from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

October Programs:

Special Events:

Taylor Ranch Lego Club: Sunday, October 7th, 3:00pm - 4:30pm. Love Legos? Come to Taylor Ranch Library on the first and third Sunday of every month and build with friends! Every meeting, we will have a new inspiration and some creations will be displayed at the library! Legos provided!

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. Stories, songs, poems and games. Same content at both programs.

Baby Storytime: Fridays, 10:30 a.m. A lap-sit-story-time 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. 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, audiobooks 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 G.O. Bond question B for Library materials 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 G.O. Bond Question #1 for Library Materials** also passes, then ABC Libraries will receive another **\$1.3 million** 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 both library bonds this fall** and 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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www.taylorranchselfstorage.com



Petroglyph National Monument Needs Helping Hands

Dan Shaw, TRNA Secretary


Peter Piper might have picked a peck of pickled peppers. But for sure, people pecked a preponderance of Petroglyphs perched on what is now Taylor Ranch's western boundary. For hundreds of years people traveled to the volcanic escarpment to etch images into rock. Native people and then Spaniards hammered petroglyphs into barely yielding basalt. In time, as Albuquerque grew and west-side population increased the escarpment and its tens of thousands of petroglyphs and other archaeological features were recognized for their great cultural and historical significance. The ancient treasures and the open space surrounding them were set aside by the work of citizens and government leaders. Today, Petroglyph National Monument (www.nps.gov/petr) is a central part of the identity and amenities of Taylor Ranch. However, there is concern about the management of Petroglyph National Monument that is attracting national attention.

The concerns have to do with the consequences of having multiple agencies, in this case the City of Albuquerque and the federal National Park Service, both having responsibility for care, protection, and management of the Monument. This is because about two thirds of the land of the Monument still belongs to the City and is jointly managed by the City's Open Space Division (<http://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space>) and the National Park Service. As with any relationship there are complications.

A national organization, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) (www.peer.org), identified a lack of full authority for National Park staff to enforce protection regulations such as dumping of trash, off-road vehicle use, and vandalism within the City owned portions of the monument. PEER has started a petition and is urging the City of Albuquerque and Mayor Richard Berry to permit the Park Service staff to enforce all regulations across the entire monument. In its 6 June 2012 news release PEER stated:

Under a five-year Cooperative Management Agreement, NPS and the City specify the delegation of their respective responsibilities for the monument. The City, however, refuses to allow NPS rangers to patrol or enforce Park Service rules on City lands, which constitute the bulk of the monument. Due to City service cutbacks, most of the Petroglyph is left unpatrolled. In a July 25, 2011 letter to PEER, NPS Intermountain Regional Director John Wessels stated –

“However, the NPS currently has no agreement with the City of Albuquerque that holistically authorizes NPS to enforce the entirety of 36 CFR Part 2 on lands owned by the city....We would welcome such an agreement and we have, in the past, proposed such an agreement with the City, but the City has not acceded to this proposal.”

The process of creating Petroglyph took decades and involved neighborhood efforts, a Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs citizen group, and the cooperation of both Federal and City of Albuquerque elected and appointed officials. Many partners invested considerable effort and public funds to create the Monument. It is important to many of us that officials continue to work together for the benefit of the community's investment, the Monument, and what is to many a sacred landscape. 

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www.sandiasunrooms.com

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 _____ Soc. Sec. # _____ - _____ - _____

Street Address _____

Albuquerque, New Mexico, ZIP Code _____ 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.

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Sept 22nd TRNA Rummage Sale at Cross of Hope Parking Lot was lots of fun for a very worthy cause — TRNA'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND!



THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE IT A BIG SUCCESS!



Special thanks to Ken and June Newman for continuing their many years of being in charge of this event.



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

10/2012

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 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:		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

- Oct. 10—Board Meeting
- Oct. 18—Walmart Hearing
- Oct. 20—Early Voting Begins

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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xtecsinc@msn.com

Michael & Lily Andrews

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

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Rummage Sale was a big success!



See more photos on page 8

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