

Desert Dwellers

Volume 15, Issue 50

October 2012

A Message from the President (of OFNA, that is!)

Greetings to all OFNA-ians

As we begin another year I wish to thank all those who have contributed their time and energy so that this most real "neighborhood" can continue to exist. It is most gratifying to be part of a neighborhood that really is a "hood" of neighbors. I was impressed, again, at the annual meeting by the number of faces I recognized from previous activities, the number of new members present, the conversations that engulfed everyone, groups of 2, 3, 4, engrossed in dialogue; the room buzzed and laughter created a warm glow even early on a Saturday morning.

On a more serious note, Jay tells me the roads problem is about to be addressed. Work will already have begun by the time you receive this! Many thanks for his persistence before the powers that be.

The other serious problem, security, is one we can all have a role in controlling. Homeless in the washes will continue to be a problem. More serious is the problem of landscaping or other service trucks in the neighborhood; some of them might not be what they appear to be. Break-ins can be severely restricted if we communicate with our immediate neighbors, those within eye sight of our homes. Let your neighbors know if you are to be absent, et them know your absence patterns, so they can be alert to visitors when you are not there. Any parked vehicle should draw your attention. The best cover for a thief is a service appearance, his best assistant is neighbors that don't care or don't know. A call to 911 protects you as well as your neighbor. The next truck may be parked in your drive.

As the weather cools and outdoors becomes more hospitable, join us at the annual picnic for some of the best food and friends in Tucson.

Ron Kuykendall

Inside this Edition

- It's Picnic Time! page 2
- Comings and Goings, page 3
- Crime update, page 4
- New OFNA Board, page 5
- Streets & Medical Marijuana, page 6
- Real Estate News, page 7

Happy Autumn!

The autumnal equinox recently ushered in the official beginning of Fall. Seasonal changes are subtle in the Sonoran Desert, but we are feeling the cooling, seeing migrations in action, watching a few leaves turn and noticing the shorter days.

The monsoon was officially over on September 30th. Neighborhood rain gauges recorded 7.65" of rain for the monsoon period. Amazingly, over 3" of that was received in one huge storm on July 15th. Residents who have lived in Oracle Foothills for over 50 years declared it the most rain they had ever seen here at one time.

Tucson averages 12" of rain per year, half of which we hope to get during the monsoon. So, it looks like this was a good monsoon year. Official airport readings can vary considerably from those in our neighborhood.

Neighborhood Picnic



DATE: Sunday, October 28

TIME: 1 pm to Dark

PLACE: Yvon Dr. Wash, next to 220

BRING: Potluck Dish

OFNA will provide everything else.

NOTE THE CHANGE TO SUNDAY!

Our chefs will be barbecuing delicious chicken, brats and baby-back ribs.

Come and enjoy the day with your neighbors!



There will be a jumping castle, a piñata and other fun activities for the kids.



To help you make an informed decision in this election year, some local candidates will be on hand for an **informal** meet and greet. There will be no speeches or formal introductions.

Everyone Welcome!

Comings and Goings

Welcome to Our New Neighbors

- Dean and Becky Siler, 5441 N. Agave
- David and Carol Dean, 340 E. Yvon
- Aaron Lancaster & Family, 586 E. Canyon View Dr.
- Brian and Shoshana Galvez, 5711 N. Lady Ln.
- Nick and Cindy Genematas, 325 E. Canyon View Dr.
- Oscar Trujillo, 5585 N. Maria
- Lori Williamson, 5231 N. Genematas

Goodbye and Good Wishes to Longtime Neighbors who have Moved

- Roger Felty and Suzanne Ellenbogen
- Bob and Pat Rosa
- Bob Roth
- Elizabeth Chanik
- Candace and Frank Bonnett
- Steve and Betty Oren
- Maureen Sullivan and Kate Rooney
- Jeannine Dillahunty
- Carmen Rodriguez

Sadly, we have lost several neighbors who have passed away. They will all be missed in Oracle Foothills.

- Lynn Maricich
- Bill Freedman
- Dennis Wasko
- Richard Yeager
- Royce Arrowsmith
- Tip and Katherine Jackson
- Ricardo Munoz
- George and Patricia Genematas

Did I miss anyone? If so, I apologize. Please send along any additions or corrections.



Harris' Antelope Ground Squirrel

This busy little rodent is one of the more common residents of Oracle Foothills. You will see him scurrying about even in the hottest weather, sometimes laying flat on his stomach on a cool patio to dump some heat from his body. Or climbing to the top of a barrel cactus, seemingly impervious to the spines, to feast on the ripe, yellow fruit. Other foods include fruit and seeds of prickly pear and cholla cactus, mesquite beans, insects and even an occasional mouse. Often these little ground squirrels are mistaken for chipmunks, which do not live in our area. Predators include coyotes, bobcats, snakes, hawks and domestic cats. These ground squirrels live in underground burrows that they dig under a shrub such as creosote or jojoba.

OFNA Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2012

Balance Forward (9/1/11)	\$10,302
Income	4,995
Expenses	4,417
Current Balance (8/31/12)	\$10,880

Detailed financial reports are available at the Annual Meeting. Members may receive a copy at any time by requesting it from the Treasurer, ejdeangeli@comcast.net, 690-1107.

Weekly Neighborhood Update

If you want to receive weekly neighborhood updates via e-mail, drop a note to:

caroledeangeli@earthlink.net

All residents are welcome to be on the list.

CRIME

Burglaries continue to be the most prevalent crime in ours and surrounding neighborhoods. These take place almost exclusively during the daytime, when no one is home. There have been some instances of larceny from a motor vehicle. Solicitors, scam artists, mail thieves, copper thieves and mailbox bashers have also been active. It is incumbent upon all of us to help reduce crime by using common-sense precautions and security measures, and by being vigilant and aware of who is in the neighborhood.



For up-to-date crime activity in our area or anywhere in Tucson, go to **CRIMEREPORTS.COM**. You can sign up to receive regular reports for our neighborhood. I also have crime activity listed on our website's CRIME page. I also report weekly about criminal activity in the Saturday Update by e-mail.

We have an active **Neighborhood Watch** in our area. Neighborhood Watch is free and open to all residents. Static cling **window stickers are available to all NW members**. We still are looking for more people willing to be Block Leaders as there are areas of the neighborhood not covered by any of our current Block Leaders. If you are interested in knowing who your Block Leader is, or in acting as the Block Leader for your section of the Neighborhood, contact:

Area Leader Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107, caroledeangeli@earthlink.net

**You are urged to call 911 any time you observe suspicious or criminal activity.
Please also report any incidents to Carole or to your Block Leader.**

OFNA Board of Directors and Officers

President Ron Kuykendall
Vice President Susan Berger
Secretary-Treasurer Jay DeAngeli

Board Members

Mark Andersen
Robert Bolton
Delann DeBenedetti
George Grimm
Roxie Lopez
Carolyn Redmore
Leo Roop
Tom Scarborough
Mary Jo Schwartz

Sincere thanks to outgoing Board members, Angelo Dellacona and Karl Oxnam. Your service and work on behalf of the neighborhood are greatly appreciated!

Thank You, Members!

Many thanks to all those who continue to support the Neighborhood Association through your dues. Dues are \$45 per household per year, and are always voluntary. If you have any questions about dues or membership, please contact the Membership Chairman:

Jay DeAngeli
ejdeangeli@comcast.net
520-690-1107

Do you have magazines you would like to donate to a good cause?

Altrusa is a women's service organization that focuses on literacy. As a service project, its members collect **gently used magazines** and redistribute them to clinics, shelters, assisted living facilities, etc., places often short of good reading material.

If any neighbors would like to recycle old reading materials by donating them to Altrusa, Mary Jo Schwartz would be more than happy to pick up the magazines.

Contact Mary Jo at mjoschwartz@gmail.com or 887-8506



OFNA is ONLINE

Be sure to visit our website, www.ofna.org, and explore all the information available there. You will find links to the Recommendations List, the latest meeting minutes, and up-to-date crime reports. We have new pages for the Book Club (Reaters Revised) and for Real Estate.



And, look for Oracle Foothills Neighborhood Association on FACEBOOK.

STREETS

Be honest. You never thought you would see it. The streets of Oracle Foothills being repaved???

You're not alone, neither did anyone else. But,

thanks to the persistence of many, the squeaky wheel is getting the grease. By the time you read this, prep work will have begun. Surveyors located all the sewer manholes and the water shut-off valves, which were then painted in bright colors. The roadsides are now being trimmed of overhanging vegetation. The next step will be to repair the roadside edges, which, in many areas, have huge drop-offs. Southern Arizona Paving will then proceed to apply 1.5" of structural overlay paving to all of our public streets. Yes, it would have been nice to have 3" or even 2" of paving, but, we are the only neighborhood which is getting every street paved. The largest chunk of money in the County's recent road preservation program is being spent right here.

There are many people to thank. Supervisor Ann Day's office has been a big supporter of our efforts. Former supervisor-candidate Mike Hellon got the ball rolling with his Save Our Streets Coalition. Neighbors like you sent in petitions and wrote letters. The Neighborhood Association has been very active in pursuing this solution, including writing letters, attending meetings, and calling on a regular basis. No one has worked harder than Jay DeAngeli, and for that we say THANK YOU!



When Pigs Fly . . .

Medical Marijuana

After the approval of medical marijuana by the people of Arizona a couple of years ago, you may not have given it much thought. Recently, however, a situation in our neighborhood brought medical marijuana to the forefront of our consciousness. After a neighbor called 911 to report suspicious activity at a rental house on Genematas, Pima County Sheriff's deputies and detectives discovered that the renters were using the house to grow marijuana. As both renters had medical marijuana cards issued by the state, which allowed them to grow, there were no charges brought. But, Pima County zoning laws require that those who are allowed to grow do so in their personal residence. There are further restrictions on the number of plants that can be grown and the space allowed to grow them. The renters in the above case admitted that they didn't actually live in the house, but just used it to smoke and grow marijuana. As a result, the home's owner was cited for violations of the zoning laws.

When the law was passed, the intent was that people with medical marijuana cards would obtain the pot from licensed dispensaries, which would have to meet strict zoning guidelines. The state law requires that, if there is a dispensary within 25 miles, MM card holders must use the dispensary. However, Governor Brewer is fighting the licensing of dispensaries, meaning that none have so far been licensed. Therefore, individuals are being licensed to grow their own marijuana. As of this writing, over 30,000 medical marijuana cards have been issued by the state, and over 25,000 of these people have been approved to grown their own.

Neighbors in Oracle Foothills are not, necessarily, disapproving of medical marijuana, but most object to otherwise vacant or rental houses being used solely as grow houses. The possession and use of marijuana is still illegal under federal law, and in many states, making it in high demand by criminals, and attracting them to places where it is grown or stored. Home invasions by gangs looking for drugs and money are a common occurrence. It's certainly not a desirable situation for a residential neighborhood.

If you are interested in learning more about Arizona's medical marijuana program, go to:

www.azdhs.gov/medicalmarijuana

Real Estate News

Here, as of press time, are the latest real estate listings and sales in the neighborhood. The OFNA Website now also has a Real Estate page, which will be continually up-to-date: ofna.org/realestate

ADDRESS	STATUS	PRICE
215 E. Yvon Dr.	Active	\$299,000
5711 N. Williams Dr.	Active	\$299,000
5251 N. Maria Dr.	Active	\$300,000
655 E. Canyon View Dr.	Active	\$339,750
218 E. Yvon Dr.	Active	\$330,000
640 E. Agave Dr.	Active	\$289,000
5605 N. Genematas Dr.	Active	\$340,000
5713 N. Genematas Dr.	Active	\$399,900
5320 N. Maria Dr.	Active	\$400,000
642 E. Placita Cerro Amistoso	Active	\$495,000
5775 N. 1st Ave.	Active	\$519,000
5431 N. Agave Dr.	Active	\$575,000
5704 N. Williams Dr.	Active	\$695,000
320 E. Canyon View Dr.	Closed	\$235,000
5585 N. Maria Dr.	Closed	\$325,000
5545 N. Maria Dr.	Closed	\$190,500
340 E. Yvon Dr.	Closed	\$360,000
5441 N. Agave Dr.	Closed	\$237,000
586 E. Canyon View Dr.	Closed	\$285,000
660 E. Agave Dr.	Closed	\$285,250
126 E. Rudasill Rd.	Closed	\$310,000
560 E. Agave Dr.	Closed	\$245,000
5711 N. Lady Ln.	Closed	\$318,000

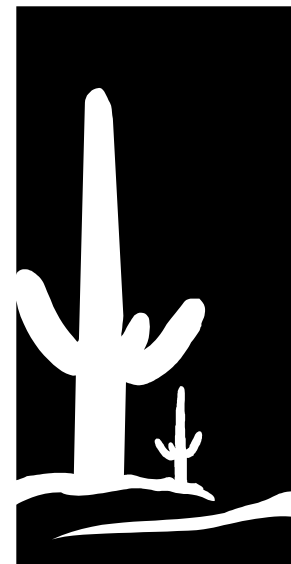
Many thanks to Pamela Remington, Long Real Estate, for providing the data.

Need Paper Copies?

Minutes of the recent Annual Meeting and Board Meeting are now posted on the OFNA website. Also posted there are the latest **Recommendations List**, a **MAP** of Oracle Foothills, **membership form**, and more. All are printable.

For those of you who do not have access to the internet, I am happy to provide any of these documents to you in hardcopy form.

Just call **Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107**



In addition to the listings in MLS, there is one **FSBO** in the neighborhood:

**5540 N. Genematas Dr.
\$395,000**

**Call 240-6792
No Realtors, please.**

(see the ad on the OFNA Classified Ads page)

ORACLE FOOTHILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 35783
Tucson, AZ 85740

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson, AZ
Permit No. 792

'13 OFNA MEMBERSHIP \$45 PER YEAR

Date: _____

SEND TO:

OFNA
P.O. Box 35783
Tucson, AZ
85740-5783

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

OFNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Ron Kuykendall
372 E. Rudasill Rd.
887-8142
rlkuykens@comcast.net

Delann Debenedetti
245 E. Canyon View Dr.
887-6143
cdb6550@comcast.net

Vice President

Susan Berger
60 E. Yvon Dr.
690-2570
susanberger@gmail.com

George Grimm
431 E. Yvon Dr.
888-0621
george@gwgrimm.com

Secretary /Treasurer

Jay DeAngeli
5459 N. Agave Dr.
690-1107
ejdeangeli@comcast.net

Roxie Lopez
300 E. Canyon View Dr.
624-7771
roxielopez9110@msn.com

Board Members

Mark Andersen
345 E. Canyon View Dr.
887-2296
mark@markmarie.com

Carolyn Redmore
5646 N. Genematas Dr.
319-1319
cdredmore@aol.com

Robert Bolton
5420 N. Maria Dr.
887-7919
babs7919@comcast.net

Leo Roop
5625 N. Genematas Dr.
887-7990
leoroop@comcast.net

Tom Scarborough
610 E. Canyon View Dr.
887-6047
scar7227@q.com

Mary Jo Schwartz
5702 N. Genematas Dr.
887-8506
mjoschwartz@gmail.com

Standing Committees and Task Assignments

Hospitality

Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107
caroledeangeli@earthlink.net

Membership

Jay DeAngeli

Newsletter Editor

Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107
caroledeangeli@earthlink.net

Neighborhood Watch

Carole DeAngeli, Area Leader

Website Administrator

Carole DeAngeli