

Desert Dwellers

Volume 5, Issue 4

December 2002

Traffic Flow: The Intersection of Rudasill Road and Genematas Drive

With 26 accidents in a span of 8 years, the intersection of Rudasill Road and Genematas Drive has landed on the Pima County High Accident List. If you've ever tried to make a left hand turn from Genematas to Rudasill, you know the nature of the problem. The numerous curves and dips make negotiating the intersection an adventure akin to driving the grand prix at Laguna Seca.

Pima County has begun the process of bringing the two roadways up to standard. At an Open House held on November 21st, two alternative plans, and variations on the plans were presented to the public. The purpose of the plans is to:

1. Eliminate the substandard horizontal curves on Rudasill Road at Genematas Drive.
2. Eliminate the substandard vertical curves on Rudasill Road.
3. Improve the poor sight distance from Genematas Drive to traffic approaching on Rudasill Road.
4. Improve the current hazardous turning conditions from Rudasill Road onto Genematas Drive.

Both alternatives eliminated the Y configuration on Genematas Drive and eliminated the dips on both Rudasill Road and Genematas Drive. Separate left-turn and right-turn lanes were provided for vehicles turning from Rudasill Road onto Genematas Drive. All alternatives require the acquisition of additional right-of-way, mainly for drainage purposes.

Alternative 1: Maintains a curved alignment on Rudasill Road and the Genematas Drive approach will intersect as a straight tee. Three major drainage pipe crossings are proposed.

Alternative 2: Straightens Rudasill Road and the Genematas Drive approach will intersect as a straight tee. There are three major drainage pipe crossings like in Alternative 1.

Alternative 2.1 Straightens Rudasill Road and the Genematas Drive approach will intersect as a straight tee. There are only two major drainage pipe crossings. A ditch along the north side of Rudasill Road is proposed as an option to one of the pipe crossings.

Alternative 2.2 Straightens Rudasill Road and the Genematas Drive approach will intersect as a straight tee. There are only two major drainage pipe crossings. However, one of the crossings has long pipes to eliminate the need for the open drainage ditch on the north side of Rudasill Road.

Although we all favor lowering the accident rate, other factors must be taken into consideration when evaluating the County's plans. If the roadways are straightened, will the traffic speed increase accordingly? How will the new alignment affect our neighbors who live in the immediate vicinity? The cost of the project as proposed by Pima County is purported to be in the one million dollar range. Does this include acquiring additional land, and possibly building sound barrier walls? Is this an expense that we, as taxpayers, want added to the County budget? What will be the affect on the flora and fauna of the area, such as the large adult saguaros? Can the roadway be made safer with a less aggressive program?

If you would like to comment on the plan or get more information, please contact Pima County at:

**Department of Transportation
201 North Stone, Third floor
Tucson, AZ 85701-1207**

Carol Anton, 740-6410.



**Oracle Foothills Neighborhood Association
Financial Statement
January 1, 2002 through December 9, 2002**

	Transactions 1/01-9/21/02	Current Transactions 9/22-12/09/02	Year to Date as of 12/09/2002
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Contributions Income	50		50
Membership Dues	3165	550	3715
2003 Dues	100		100
Total Income	3315	550	3865
Expense			
Annual Board Meeting		28	28
Insurance	402		402
Licenses and Permits	10		10
Monument Expense	34	65	99
Picnic		1121	1121
Postage	41		41
Printing and Reproduction	248	189	437
Rent	100		100
Website	180	80	259
Total Expense	1014	1483	2497
Net Revenue (Expense)	2301	(933)	1368
Beginning Cash	3051		5352
Ending Cash	5352		4419

CAUTION!

This is a busy time of year for everyone, including mail thieves.

MAIL THEFT

has occurred numerous times in our neighborhood.

Don't be a victim. Take your mail to the Post Office, and retrieve your incoming mail as soon as possible.

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Meet your new Officers

At the Annual Meeting in September, OFNA members elected a new Board of Directors. The Board then elected officers from among themselves at their first meeting. Let me introduce the officers for the 2002-2003 year:

**President ~ Jay DeAngeli
Vice President ~ Sandy Elder
Secretary ~ Liz Bernays
Treasurer ~ Roger Felty**

Other Board Members are: **John Battaile, Bill Broyles, Sig Eisner, Kim Peterson, Julie Roth, Tom Scarborough, Barbara Schuessler, Don Stier and Vera Uyehara.** All contact information is listed on page 8. Please feel free to contact the officers, or any board member, with your questions or concerns.

Please go to the OFNA website, www.ofna.org for minutes of the Annual Meeting.

A black starburst graphic with the text "OFNA Website" written in white, slanted across it.

New OFNA Member's Area Announced!!

By Don Stier, OFNA Web Page Administrator

Greetings from your **OFNA.org** webmaster! I'd like to share some details of recent changes to the OFNA web site, and invite all OFNA members to participate.

A new area of the web site is being developed which I hope will be of special interest to the OFNA community. I plan to add several new features to this area in the months ahead. Some parts of this area will be available to registered OFNA Members only. And hopefully, most of the content will have been submitted to the web site by your OFNA neighbors.

Neighborhood Directory: The first item we added to the member's area was a signup form for the upcoming Neighborhood Directory. Vera Uyehara is compiling an OFNA directory, which will be distributed in printed form. This directory will also appear on the web site, but can only be seen by registered OFNA members. Further, the online version will only list members who have agreed to be included in the online version when the signup form was submitted.

Neighborhood News: Are you planning a yard sale? Do you want to tell the neighborhood about an upcoming special event? Do you have something to sell, or a service to share? Or is there just some information you want pass along to your OFNA neighbors? The "news and announcements" section can help.

This is a *free* service, and any registered OFNA member may add items to this area. Items have been grouped into 4 categories: "Events", "Classified Ads", "Announcements", and "Services". To add an item, click the "*Submit a news item*" link.

Access to the Members-only features: I've used the phrase "registered OFNA member"; what does this mean? For some features, the web site only grants access to OFNA members. To determine whether you are in OFNA, you must first "sign in". You will see the sign-in page the first time you try to access a restricted feature.

The sign-in process uses your email address and a password. The web site uses your email address **ONLY** to validate that you are an OFNA member (it will not be shared or distributed). If the web site already has your email address in its list of OFNA members, then the first time you try to sign in, we will automatically email a password to you. Once you receive the password (it should take less than a minute), you can continue with the sign-in process. If we don't recognize the email address you use, we will need to verify that you are part of OFNA (this may take a day or 2 – sorry!) before assigning and sending you a password.

If you have any questions, please call me (292-1063) or send me email at **webmaster@ofna.org**, and I'll do my best to address your concerns. Additional information and terms of use may be found online at **<http://www.ofna.org/terms.cfm>**, or **<http://www.ofna.org/members/loginhelp.htm>**, or click the "Member Area" link on the web site.

Newsletter Notes ~ This newsletter is published 4 times annually. If you have comments, suggestions, criticisms, or would like to contribute an article, please contact: **Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107, ejdeangeli@earthlink.net**

WWW.OFNA.ORG

Harris' Hawks – Interesting Neighbors!

I think that one of the neatest things about our neighborhood is the diversity of wildlife which shares the neighborhood with us. When we moved into the Oracle Foothills area back in 1988, we began seeing all sorts of interesting creatures. From the ubiquitous doves, quail and rabbits to the less frequently seen species like raccoons, bobcats, foxes and Gila monsters, this is a pretty busy community!

Several years ago I was headed to work and as I was pulling out of my driveway onto Canyon View, I saw a group of seven dark colored hawks swooping through the arroyo across the street. While my undergraduate training was in Wildlife Biology, I was at a loss to identify these guys. I found their behavior confusing as well. I had always thought of hawks as solitary beings, and here was a whole gang of them out looking for breakfast. When I got back home that evening I pulled out my old Peterson's Guide and identified the birds as Harris' hawks. Their scientific name is *Parabuteo unicinctus*.

I'm sure that many of you have seen the hawks. While I haven't seen them yet this year, I suspect

they are close by. They are medium sized hawks, about 18-23 inches in length, with wingspans of around 40-47 inches. Adults weigh about two pounds. They are dark brown, with beautiful rust colored shoulder patches and leg feathers, and they have a white band on the end of their



tail. My research informed me that we are on the northern limit of the Harris' distribution. They are found from our neck of the woods south into central Chile and other parts of South America. In the United States, the largest population of Harris' occurs in Texas. According to what I have learned, they are year round residents and do not migrate.

Behaviorally, these guys are very interesting. As I mentioned above, I saw them hunting in a

group. From what I've been able to determine, they are the only hawks which display this kind of behavior. And the group behavior doesn't end with hunting. They also nest in social groups of up to seven birds. The female of the breeding pair builds the nest, which is just a platform of sticks in a small tree or saguaro. The breeding pair shares the responsibility of incubating the clutch of two to four eggs, with the occasional assistance of other members of the group. When the chicks hatch, the male parent and some group members bring food to the nest, while the female and her helpers stay with the nest and feed and nurture the chicks. After about 45 days, the chicks can fly and begin to leave the nest. They join the cooperative group about two months after birth. I haven't yet seen a nesting site in the neighborhood, but my guess is that there is one close by. A local hawk expert with whom I spoke told me that the Harris' hawks stay pretty close to home, and their hunting areas are relatively small in comparison to some other birds of prey. Has anyone seen a nest site in the 'hood?

There's another interesting behavior I observed and thought was

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pretty unusual, but which my reading informs me is pretty standard for Harris' Hawks. I saw a group of about five hawks sitting on a telephone pole and the wires around it. Two of the birds were perched on the shoulders of other birds! I thought this was kind of strange. It didn't seem to be part of a courtship ritual or some kind of reproductive behavior, and it certainly wasn't aggressive in nature. They were just sitting there. Evidently this is common practice with these guys. I don't know if they just want to be up close and personal, or if the bird on top just likes the view better from there. At any rate, it sure does catch

the eye.

Harris' are some of the most popular hawks among falconers. It is evidently one of the most adaptable and successful gamehawks in the world. The hawks which are used in falconry are most often born in captivity. They are evidently quite easy to train, and they get along well with their human handlers.

The Harris' hawk is just one example of the great variety of wildlife we have in the neighborhood. All these creatures combine with some nice open space with lots of native Sonoran desert vegetation to provide a great habitat for the wild things and us humans as well. Many of our furry

and feathered friends have adapted well to cohabitation with us, and our neighborhood, with its washes and other relatively undisturbed corridors, our plantings of trees and other shrubbery, and pretty dependable sources of water, is a pretty nice home for them. If we keep our eyes open, we can see all kinds of neat things around our homes. I'll try to do some investigation and write a line or two about some of these friends. How about spiny lizards? They sure keep my back yard interesting! Maybe they'll make for some interesting reading in the next newsletter.

Tom Scarborough

A Plea for all Dog Owners

In all my contacts with neighbors in Oracle Foothills, the most frequent complaint I hear is about dog owners who **do not pick up after their pets** as they are walking the neighborhood. As I'm sure you are all aware, Pima County Code requires that dogs be kept on a leash and that the owner immediately clean up solid waste left by the dog. Below is the relevant portion of the Pima County Code:

6.04.030

Dogs at large prohibited--Penalty--Exceptions. Dog waste removal required--Exceptions--Penalty.

A. The owner of a dog that is found at large upon the streets, sidewalks, alleys, or public property is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor pursuant to A.R.S. Section 24-365(A)(5).

B. The owner of a dog that is found at large upon the premises of the owner or upon the private premises of any other person is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor pursuant to A.R.S. Section 24-365(A)(5).

D. Penalty. A violation of any provision of this section is punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars, four months in jail, two years' probation, or any combination thereof. No judge may grant probation in lieu of, or otherwise suspend, the imposition of the minimum fine prescribed herein.

E. It shall be unlawful for the owner or person having custody of any dog to fail immediately to remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner any solid waste deposited by such dog on public property or deposited on private property without the consent of the person in control of the property.

F. Penalties. A person convicted of the offense prohibited by subsection (E) of this section is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, thirty days in jail, one year probation, or any combination thereof. No judge may grant probation in lieu of, or otherwise suspend, the imposition of the minimum fine prescribed herein.

Please be considerate of your neighbors. When you walk your dog, **carry a bag** for disposal of the waste. Dogs running loose will be reported to Animal Control.



Thank you for your cooperation!

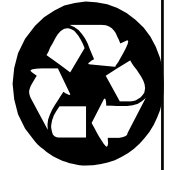
WWW.OFNA.ORG

For Faster News . . .

The neighborhood e-mail list is now available on the OFNA website. The list can only be accessed by those who are on it. If you'd like to be on the OFNA **neighborhood e-mail list**, please contact **Kitty Schwartz at K3952S@aol.com**. Also, if your e-mail address changes, please let Kitty know. This list has been a fast, effective tool to inform the neighbors of lost and found items, suspicious solicitors, vandalism and neighborhood events.

Cans for Charity

Please keep bringing your
aluminum cans



to Dick and Elisabeth Buchanan. They recycle them for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Your help is greatly appreciated! Just drop the bagged cans inside the front patio wall at

321 E. Yvon Drive

Trees ~ You Gotta Love 'em

By Julie Roth

Maintaining our neighborhood tree population by planting new ones and encouraging volunteers, which is even better, will benefit us all. Established desert trees in favorable sites will survive and grow with nothing more than rainfall. They cool us and delight our eyes. They breath for us and clean the air. But the desert trees in our neighborhood, mostly Palo verde, mesquite and acacia, would love to be loved some more.



Try singling out a volunteer Palo verde. Young trees can be pruned lightly and frequently to direct growth. Clear around it. Give it some water now and then,* nitrogen-based fertilizer in spring and summer and before we know it, there's a cooling air filter near by. Old trees should be relieved of more than one bunch of the parasite, mistletoe. They will die if there is an invasion of mistletoe. Keeping one bunch of the parasite will leave food for the elegant Phainopepla bird, who lives because of mistletoe. Have the older trees pruned now and then. Water once in awhile. Remove dead trees from the property as they can provide locale for undesirables. That's about all we have to do for the pleasure of their company.

**if not near irrigation, carry an old pail with a hole in it to the site. Set it down and let it seep out for a long slow drink.*

The next OFNA Board Meeting
will be held on

January 7, 2003 at 7 pm
5459 N. Agave Dr.

For information call
Jay DeAngeli, 690-1107

All are Welcome to attend!
A Representative from Pima County
will discuss the intersection of Rur-
dasill and Genematas

Lenihan Development Update

Chris Straub, County Attorney's Office, notified us that Steve Lenihan's appeal regarding use of the utility easement to develop his two vacant lots **has been dismissed**. In return, the County has agreed to drop his Court costs and the requirement that he revegetate the areas he initially bulldozed. The judgment stands that the utility easement running along the wash cannot be used for ingress or egress.

Mr. Lenihan may still be able to develop his lots, but he will have to look for access elsewhere.

For more information on this subject, contact Kitty Scwhartz (k3952S@aol.com) or Jay DeAngeli (ejdeangeli@earthlink.net, 690-1107)



*Chantilly Tea Room and
Gift Boutique*
IS NOW OPEN!

Chantilly Tea Room and Gift Boutique has now been open for business for a couple of months. Judging by the number of cars in the lot and alongside the roadway, business is very good indeed! The owners have been taken by surprise by the early success and were not prepared for the traffic problems the crowds have created. The Reads are aware of the hazardous situation and are working with OFNA to improve parking and traffic flow.

Chantilly Tea Room is located on the northeast corner of Oracle Road and Genematas Drive. For reservations or information, call Chantilly at **622-3303**.

Readers



What is a **Reader**? It is a person who enjoys reading a good book and eating a good meal. It is, also, the name of our **neighborhood book club** that meets once a month to discuss a pre-selected book over a delicious pot luck dinner that ties in with the theme of the book. The books that we've read so far this year are *The Power of One*, *John Adams*, *Barchester Towers*, *Desert Solitaire*, *The Poisonwood Bible*, *Winter Range*, *The Red Tent*, *Dear Theo*, *Caravans*, *Red Azalea*, and *Peel My Love Like an Onion*. The last two meetings have been enlivened by Vera Uyehara's slides from Afghanistan and Barbara Schuessler's flamenco dancing! You can pick and choose which books you'd like to read and which meetings you'd like to attend.

We meet the last Wednesday of each month, unless other arrangements are made, 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Any translation of the book is acceptable, video, audio, etc.

NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC THANKS!

We had a wonderful turnout at our annual picnic held on October 12th. THANKS to all of you who came and enjoyed a beautiful day, good food, and the fellowship of your neighbors. It was fun meeting new people and seeing familiar faces. The kids, as always, had a great time, with the jumping castle, water balloons, piñata, and lots of fun and interesting activities.

I especially want to thank:

- Jay DeAngeli, Don Peters, Richard Schwartz and Merrill Peterson for doing all the cooking
- Kitty Schwartz for the wonderful piñata, and tubs for drinks
- Becky Huddleston for the great tablecloths, plus lots of chips and dips, and help setting up and cleaning up
- Joan Scott for delicious iced tea and lemonade, as well as name tags
- Bill Broyles for garbage cans and bags, set-up and clean-up
- Terry, Brittany and Danielle Marimow and Vera Uyehara for the fabulous children's activities
- Reggie Smith for drinks and chips
- Kim Peterson and Kitty Schwartz for getting all the soda
- Sandy Elder for all the help setting up and cleaning up
- Don Peters for all the time spent helping Jay pre-

pare the barbecue area and put tarps on the sides of the tents

- Hal Fritts and Merrill Peterson for taking photos
- Sig and Nan Eisner for graciously allowing us to use their land, electricity and water
- Don Stier for lots of help setting up and cleaning up
- Barbara Schuessler for setup and cleanup help
- Dick Buchanan for getting the ice
- Kim Peterson, Don and Marie Peters, Stuart Hoenig and Barbara Peck for water balloons
- Suzanne Ellenbogen for obtaining the drinking water
- Jay DeAngeli for many hours invested in shopping, marinating chicken, setting up and cleaning up
- Everyone else who assisted in set-up and clean up
- Thanks, too, for all the delicious dishes everyone brought!

If I missed calling you out specifically, please forgive me, it is not intentional, and I do appreciate your help!

If you were unable to attend the picnic this year, please make plans to join us next fall. Once again, a very big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make this year's party such a success!

Carole DeAngeli
2002 OFNA Party Coordinator

OFNA MEMBERSHIP \$50 PER YEAR

SEND TO:

OFNA
Roger Felty
5575 N. Maria Dr.
Tucson AZ 85704

Name	_____
Address	_____
City, State, Zip	_____
Phone	_____
E-Mail, FAX,	_____

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Peace and Joy to All this Holiday Season!



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