

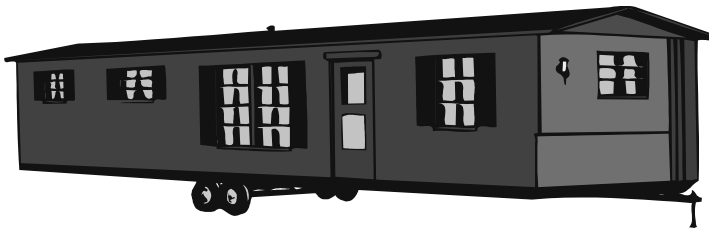
# Desert Dwellers

Volume 8, Issue 1

April 2005

## And a Trailer Moves Out

Faithful readers of this rag will remember the story we told you 7 long years ago about a trailer house moving into our neighborhood disguised as a modular home. At that time and all through the ensuing years, perhaps no issue has aroused the ire and agitation of our neighbors as this one has. The residence became a blight upon the neighborhood, with trash accumulating, maintenance non-existent, dilapidation setting in, vicious dogs in residence, frequent criminal activity and a total lack of concern for the neighborhood by all those living on the property.



OFNA took an active role in working to prevent the presence of the trailer, to change the zoning laws to disallow more similar installations and to clean up the property when it became such an eyesore. We know that many of you felt that nothing was being done, but that was never true.

Finally we have a positive outcome to report

to you. Late last fall, the residents moved out and subsequently sold the property to another Oracle Foothills resident. The new owner has in turn sold the trailer. By the time you

read this, or shortly thereafter, the trailer will be leaving Oracle Foothills the way it came—rolling down the road on its own wheels.

After removal of the units, the owner plans to build a high-quality custom home on the property. He has a personal interest in seeing that the neighborhood is well served. He has also agreed to allow OFNA to install an entrance monument on the corner of Agave and 1st Ave.

We are grateful for the support of many Oracle Foothills residents over the years, and for your patience and understanding of a difficult situation. For those of you waiting for someone to take care of this problem before joining OFNA, it's your move . . .

---

## OFNA DATES TO REMEMBER

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b><u>August 29:</u></b>    | Board Meeting, 7 pm, 155 E. Yvon Dr.            |
| <b><u>September 17:</u></b> | Annual Meeting, 9 am, St. Phillips in the Hills |
| <b><u>October 29:</u></b>   | Neighborhood Picnic, 12 pm, 220 E. Yvon Dr.     |



## REATERS

### The Neighborhood Book Club

**April 27:** Kitty Schwartz will host and her selection is *Desert Flower* by Waris Dirie. The menu will be oasis food.

**May 25:** Margie McConnell will host and her choice is *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner; menu to come.

**June 29:** Kim Peterson will host and the book is *Seven Years in Tibet* by Heinrich Harrer. Merrill and I will prepare momos, a special Tibetan recipe. Everyone else can bring sides, appetizers, desserts with a vaguely oriental theme, or not, as you wish. I have the DVD of the movie based on this book and will host a movie night Saturday, June 25 at 7 pm.

**July** is up for grabs.

**August** will be hosted by Susan Ishmael; all details to come.

**September 28:** Carole DeAngeli will be our hostess and her selection is *The Way the Crow Flies* by Ann-Marie MacDonald. Menu to come.

If you would like to join these fun and stimulating evenings, contact Kim Peterson, [kpeterson@comcast.net](mailto:kpeterson@comcast.net), 888-5199

## Welcome all you Newcomers!

New neighbors are discovering the secret of Oracle Foothills, and OFNA welcomes you to become an active part of this charming and interesting little enclave. Some of our newcomers are:

**Jonny & Bente Jensen, Yvon Dr.**

**Kirk Phaneuf and family, Canyon View Dr.**

**Gary and Carmen Rodriguez, Lady Ln.**

**Diana and Oscar Turner, Genematas Dr.**

**Stacy and Bridget Weaks, Yvon Dr.**

I know there are others, but I have not yet learned who you are. I hope to meet all of you soon. Please know that you have helpful and friendly neighbors around you, and many resources at your disposal. OFNA can be of help in many ways. Please don't hesitate to contact any board member, whose names are listed on the back.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

It may be Tucson's best kept secret. There is a place to safely dispose of those unfinished cans of paint, old pool chemicals, gas cans, batteries, pesticides, used automobile oil and dirty antifreeze, solvents, and other things that will pollute our ground water or could blow up the trash lady and her truck. And it's quick, easy, and free! You don't even have to get out of your car.

I was wondering what to do with a full shelf of unmatched paints and suspect cans of camping fuel, when I remembered that the county and city jointly have collection sites to defuse such hazardous household products. The man in charge, Darryn, met me with a cart and a

smile, took the yucky stuff off my hands, and explained that serviceable paints are recycled--mixed into 5 gallons buckets for reuse by the public and charities. Presto. I was done.

Darryn and his colleagues are open every Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon, and if you get your car's emissions tested at the northwest site (Business Center Drive) near Prince Road and I-10, you literally drive past the gate (just north of the new, big Aufmuth Motors building).

The collection site phone is **888-6947** and official address is **2440 West Sweetwater Dr.** The website is [www.deq.co.pima.az.us](http://www.deq.co.pima.az.us). They also host

a drop off spot the first Saturday of each month from 8-noon at the "park & ride" lot one block west of Oracle and Ina.

And if you ask, Darryn will teach you the secret handshake offered by guys and gals suited up to handle hazardous material. The whole deal took 3 minutes and I was much relieved to be rid of the noxious stuff. I think I'll make it an annual trip when I go to get my car's emissions test. I can use the shelf space.

*Bill Broyles*

## Surprise, surprise!

Take a walk around our neighborhood at this time of year (No! It's not too hot!) and you will be astonished at the beauty springing forth in the form of cactus flowers. Often hidden under trees or shrubbery, these glorious flowers are difficult to see when cruising by in a car, thoughts of the day filling your mind. For the past several weeks, the normally inconspicuous hedgehog cacti have been strutting their fabulous huge pink blooms, but they will soon be



*Echinocereus engelmannii*

gone for another year. In their place is the colorful palette of prickly pear blooms, from lemon yellow, through the oranges and to the reds; and the cholla's small but abundant, brilliant blossoms, also in a wide array of hues. Already, the saguaros are beginning their bloom ~ a seemingly tiny flower for such a huge plant. And it's not just cactus brightening our humble streets. What has been more marvelous that the ocotillo blooms this year? Giant green wands waving their bright red flags ~ so hard to imagine when the entire plant looks like a collection of dead sticks. Soon the palo verde trees will be a shocking mass of tiny yellow flowers atop those green trunks. Yellow paperflower, brittlebush, desert zinnia, globemallow, creosote and lupine have all added their colors to this wonderful blooming spring in Oracle Foothills. Who says the desert has no color??

*Carole DeAngeli*

### Meet Your Neighbors

## RICHMOND JOHNSON

From the bright lights of Broadway and Hollywood to the dark streets of Oracle Foothills, Richmond Johnson has seen and done it all ~ if you're talking about the performing arts, that is. Richmond has spent virtually his entire life involved in every aspect of performing ~ singing, acting, dancing, producing, directing, designing, writing and teaching. How did he get from there to here?

Richmond was born in Madison, Wisconsin (and remains to this day a rabid Green Bay Packers FAN), but began spending time in Tucson as a child with his grandmother who had built a winter home here around 1900. Elizabeth Hopkins Johnson became active in Tucson civic affairs and was instrumental in the effort to preserve the giant Saguaros. Tucson became Richmond's home for two different periods when he attended school here, for 3rd grade, and then 7th and 8th grades. Richmond's love of performing began in his early years, with writing and performing his own plays. Later, his parents and sister also moved to Tucson and he visited often over the years.

As a young husband and father in Madison, Richmond worked in the machine tool industry, but never strayed far from the theater, making appearances with local companies. After a job transfer to Pittsburgh, PA with its strong performing arts scene, Richmond could no longer stay away from his first love. With his wife's encouragement, he left the machine tool business and began studying, singing and performing full time. Classically trained, Richmond feels most comfortable in Shakespeare and Broadway musicals, and has appeared in productions of *Julius Caesar*, *The Tempest*, *Hamlet* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, as well as *Shenandoah*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Music Man* and many others.



Richmond's career spans the gamut from Broadway to Off Broadway and Off-Off Broadway, from regional productions to Hollywood and L.A., a total of several hundred productions. But eventually retirement lured him to the bucolic central coast of California where he developed and ran an Arabian horse and cattle ranch. About a year and a half ago, Richmond came looking for a house in Tucson, for property smaller than his ranch, but large enough for some space and privacy. That search brought him to Oracle Foothills where he bought the home of Ron and Jeanne Fast on Agave Drive. Although shocked at the changes that have taken place in Tucson, Richmond is nevertheless thrilled with his choice of neighborhoods. He loves the uniqueness of every house, the winding roads, large lots, the feel of the country with the nearness of the city.

Being in Tucson gives Richmond the opportunity to see at least one of his daughters more often ~ Kimberly, the youngest, who lives and teaches kindergarten in the small community of Bonita, located in the foothills of the Galeros Mountains between Safford and Willcox. Kristen, the middle daughter, lives in Portola Valley, CA, while Julia, the eldest, is in Madison, WI. Richmond is the grandfather of six.

When he finally gets his house the way he wants it, Richmond hopes to spend time writing, and recording a CD of his favorite songs.

Welcome to the neighborhood, Richmond! We are lucky that you found us!

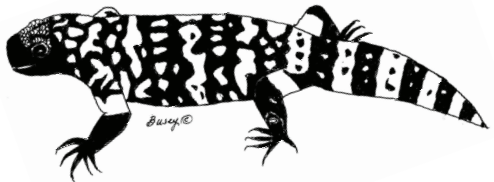
*Carole DeAngeli*

## T-SHIRT UPDATE

Here's the latest on the OFNA T-Shirts. In March, 50 shirts were printed with the **Gila Monster** design. Previously-taken orders were filled and the remainder made available for general purchase. At this printing, **only 3 XL shirts remain**. The price is \$10 each for 100% cotton, white, short-sleeved shirts, printed front and back. You can see the design below and at our website:

<http://www.ofna.org/tshirt.htm>

Should there be sufficient interest in more shirts, we will consider placing another order. Please notify **Jay DeAngeli**, 690-1107, [ejdeangeli@earthlink.net](mailto:ejdeangeli@earthlink.net), if you would like order a shirt, or if you would like to see the shirt in person.



ORACLE FOOTHILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
Tucson, Arizona

### Stained Glass Mural design:

We still do not have enough orders to print the Stained Glass Mural Design, which requires 50 firm orders to print.

## OFNA Financial Statement

11/30/04—3/31/05

Beginning Cash	\$8031
Total Income	532
Total Expense	1324
Ending Cash	\$7239

*Complete details are available to all members from the Treasurer, Scott Odom.*

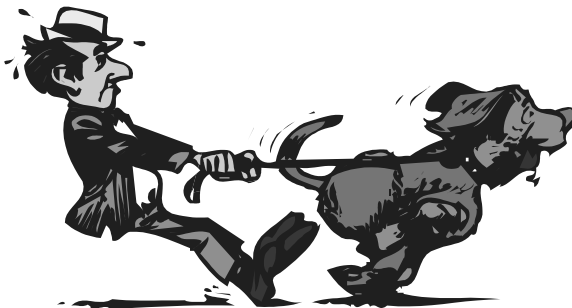
## The Future of the Foothills

An open symposium to discuss the future of the Foothills was held on February 19th and was attended by two of OFNA's directors. The discussion was led by a mixed group of civic, business and academic leaders. With growth being inevitable, the main thrust of the discussion was the eventuality of annexation to the City of Tucson. The consensus of the panel, but not the audience, was that annexation would benefit all involved. Water and transportation needs topped the list of critical issues that will have to be addressed as the population of the foothills continues to expand.

The Symposium was sponsored by a consortium of foothills neighborhood and homeowners' associations. Discussions of this subject will become more numerous in the near future.

## Dog Owners

Once again I have been asked to remind you that if you walk your dog, please carry a plastic bag and pick up after your dog. Your consideration for your neighbors will be greatly appreciated!!



## Protect Your Mail, Your Identity, Your Money, Your Medications . . .

The levels of mail and identity theft are increasing at a rapid rate. The thieves who abscond with your mail are looking for checks, credit card numbers, Social Security numbers and other personal information they can use to benefit themselves, as well as prescription drugs, which are increasingly delivered through the mail

We have had recent incidents of mail theft here in Oracle Foothills in which outgoing mail was taken from a mailbox, checks were stolen and a new account opened. The obvious way to eliminate this type of theft is to take your outgoing mail directly to the post office. Even the remote blue USPS boxes are not immune to theft.

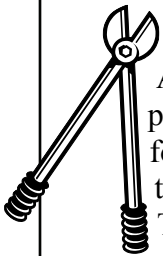
Incoming mail is more problematic. Most of us have standard mailboxes, located at some distance from our homes, not always visible by ourselves or others. Mail is delivered during the day when many of us are not at home, and it cannot be retrieved immediately. Several residents have chosen to install locking mailboxes. These boxes secure your incoming mail only. They are quite expensive, from about \$150 up, and they are available locally and from numerous vendors online. These boxes are approved by the Postmaster General. The mail is placed in a slot, and then falls down into a hopper which must be opened with a key.



Be aware of the dangers, and protect yourself from becoming a victim.

*Carole DeAngeli*

## CHOP CHOP

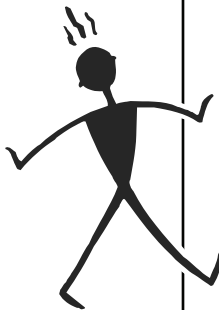


On a sunny, cool (no kidding) day in April, six OFNA volunteers armed with loppers, clippers, saws, shovels, gloves, pitchforks and energy tackled the voracious vegetation overhanging the neighborhood streets.

The goal was to make the streets safer for walkers, bikers and drivers, widening the driving lanes and shoulders and increasing sight lines. Private property was respected in all cases, and trimming was confined to county right-of-way at road's edge.

With the help of a great dump trailer the debris was consolidated into four large piles, which were then picked up by Pima County Transportation Department.

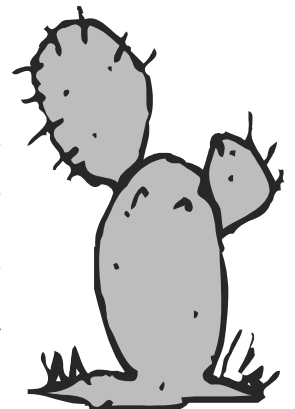
Thanks go to **Tom Scarborough, Debbie and Steve Wilson, Bill Broyles, Carole and Jay DeAngeli**, as well as **Martin Flanigan** for the use of his trailer, and **Jerry Hedyati** of Pima County who arranged for the debris removal.



## New Life

A small group of volunteers recently cleaned out the non-native, invasive Bunny's Ears prickly pear that had taken over the **adobe brick planting circle at the head of Nina Drive**.

This area is now available for planting some native desert vegetation which requires no ongoing maintenance, i.e. saguaro, barrel cactus, cholla or native prickly pear (Engelmann's, Santa Rita). If you live in the vicinity, or even if you don't, and would like to contribute a plant and/or help with the transplanting, please contact **Becky Spencer, raspencer@aol.com, 888-0767**.



**'06 OFNA MEMBERSHIP \$50 PER YEAR**

**SEND TO:**

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

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail, FAX, \_\_\_\_\_

# OFNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

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

5575 N. Maria Dr.  
888-8151  
workn2ride@earthlink.net

Barbara Schuessler  
440 E. Yvon Dr.  
407-2196  
b.schuessler@worldnet.att.net

### Vice President

Sig Eisner  
220 E. Yvon Dr.  
293-6433 fax: 293-6420  
sigeisner@comcast.net

Becky Huddleston  
5601 N. Maria Dr.  
888-2183  
huddles24@msn.com

Liz Sherwood  
5702 N. Genematas Dr.  
888-9279  
Liz@sherwoodarts.com

### Secretary

Tom Scarborough  
610 E. Canyon View Dr.  
887-6047  
tscar1@mindspring.com

Gene Isaak  
425 E. Yvon Dr.  
887-6321  
geisaak@comcast.net

Joni Kalis  
5830 N. Genematas Dr.  
888-6697  
margaux@dakotacom.net

### Standing Committees and Task Assignments

### Treasurer

Scott Odom  
5250 N. Maria Dr.  
888-9187  
odoscott@yahoo.com

Sharon Laird  
155 E. Yvon Dr.  
887-0635  
sbrule28@juno.com

### Hospitality

Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107

### Membership

Scott Odum

### Newsletter Editor

Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107

### Board Members

Bill Broyles  
5501 N. Maria Dr  
292-1487  
bibroyles@aol.com

Kim Peterson  
433 E. Yvon Dr.  
888-5199  
kpeterson@comcast.net

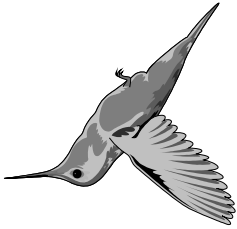
### Parliamentarian

Kim Peterson

Roger Felty

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

### Web Page Administrator



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

ORACLE FOOTHILLS  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 35783  
TUCSON, AZ 85740