

Desert Dwellers

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Friendly Village Wash

The Friendly Village Wash is the major wash running through Oracle Foothills Estates. At the southern boundary of our neighborhood, south of Yvon Drive, the wash crosses from Pima County into the City of Tucson. From that point until it crosses Stone Loop Road, the property in the wash and the surrounding area is owned by RST Limited, the owner of the existing apartment complex adjacent to the wash. In early 2002, the owner petitioned the US Corps of Engineers for permission "to channelize and realign approximately 1600 linear feet of Friendly Village Wash for development of Phase II of the Riverstone Apartments." What this means is that the wash would be bulldozed and forced to the extreme east into a concrete ditch that would be topped with a chain link fence. During the Corps' public comment period, the OFNA Board, many individual residents of Oracle Foothills, residents of the Hillcrest neighborhood to our south, the Pima Trails Association and the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department all wrote letters in protest of this project. Also, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommended denial of the request. A public hearing on the project was also requested by many of the letters.

There had been no further word on the project until we recently learned that the request for a public hearing has been denied by the Corps of Engineers. "It has been determined at this time that no valid interest would be served by a public hearing for the Riverstone Apartments, Phase II, because no new information that would affect our permit decision would be presented." The Corps' Project Manager, Robert J. Dummer, has stated that these types of permits are never denied. That certainly makes the citizenry feel all warm and fuzzy about the bureaucracy that is allegedly serving and protecting us. If mutilating a beautiful natural wash, wildlife habitat and conservation area are not valid reasons for denial, then such reasons apparently do not exist. On November 7th, the Project Manager informed us that a decision on the application should be made within the next 60 days.

Whether the property owner has the right to develop the property under a 1986 Development Plan with the City of Tucson is a matter of dispute. Attorneys for some adjacent property owners are questioning the validity of the development plan, and the City of Tucson attorneys office has also indicated that the plan has expired. If the plan has expired, the owner would presumably have to reapply for the right to develop the property, meeting all current codes and zoning requirements.

If you have questions about this project, would like to see maps, or read any of the correspondence, please contact me. Comment to public officials can be made to: **Ann Day, Pima County Supervisor, District 1, 130 W. Congress St., 11th Floor, Tucson, AZ 85701, 740-2738; Kathleen Dunbar, Tucson City Council Ward 3, Northside Council Office, 1510 E. Grant Rd., Tucson, AZ 85719, 791-4711.**

The OFNA Board is strongly opposed to this project, and we would very much appreciate the involvement and assistance of those neighbors who are most directly affected, in leading the opposition, in determining the status of the project and keeping the neighborhood informed.

Jay DeAngeli



**Warmest Wishes for a Very Happy Holiday Season
and May all Good Things come your way in 2004!**

Holiday Giving

The holidays are a wonderful time to be thinking about giving. Many of you may have already targeted your philanthropic activities. If you haven't, here are a few suggestions from neighbors!

- ◆ Looking to sort out to make room for holiday company? Save landfill space and help **St. Vincent de Paul** serve more needy families by donating your gently-used furniture, clothing, holiday decorations, bicycles and tools. **Call 622-2821 for pickup.**
- ◆ Want to make space on the bookshelves for some new tomes? The **Friends of the Tucson-Pima**

Public Library would welcome your previously read books for their semi-annual book sales that support library programming. Drop them off at any branch. Woods Memorial is right down the street on First Avenue.

- ◆ Want to stave off boredom in January? **Hopi Foundation's torture treatment center** hosts a storytelling event with the incomparable Joanne Greenberg, author of "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden." Tickets for this fabulous fundraiser on January 10th would make a wonderful holiday gift. Email Marge Pellegrino on Yvon for more information or tickets: margepell@earthlink.net She'll deliver!

Marge Pellegrino

Neighborhood **WHITE ELEPHANT SALE**

(AKA: Yard Sale)

ONE DAY ONLY!

Saturday, January 24, 2004 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

This is a golden opportunity to recycle (or purchase) those rare paperback books, your underutilized high-tech electronic and sports equipment, tools, vintage clothing, etc., etc., etc.

WHY?

1. Have fun!
2. Participate in a "semi-organized" neighborhood event.
3. Jump start your spring cleaning.

This sale will be held in your yard or driveway, with your tables. You keep all the proceeds.

Directional signs from Oracle Road, North First Avenue and Rudasill Rd. to the various participants' yards/driveways will be provided. If interested in participating, please contact:

**Kim Peterson, kpeterson@comcast.net, 888-5199 or
Kitty Schwartz, k3952s@aol.com, 888-8288.**

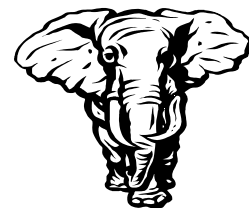
Remember: "One person's junk is another person's treasure,"

OR

"Why do we need this anyway?"

OR

"Look what I found....an Antiques Roadshow treasure!"





Thanks to All . . .

who helped make this year's Neighborhood Picnic a huge success! Wasn't that the best picnic ever? Thanks so much to **all of you who came** and brought delicious dishes to share, and helped make the day so memorable. And especially thanks to **Jay and Carole** who were the glue of the picnic committee...Jay, I don't think I've ever heard more raves about your chicken than I did on Saturday; and Carole, your advice and guidance kept our planning committee on course. Also, the plant ID game was such a hit with the kids...let's do it again next year!

And of course, a big thanks to **Becky Foreman** and **Barbara Schuessler** for their very fine performances and for being the first to add this wonderful new element to the picnic tradition. You were both awesome!

Thanks, too, to **Kitty** and **Richard Schwartz** for the piñata, "esponja Roberto pantalones cuadrado". With great skill and deftness, Richard wins the stuffed toys they award to the kids, playing on the grab-toy machines you see in Walmart and other stores around town throughout the year. I find his ability awe-inspiring...heck, I can't even get the grabber-thingie near anything before the time runs out!

Thanks are due as well to **Sig** and **Nan Eisner** who so graciously host the picnic on their property each year. They also allow us the use of their electricity, which, this year, was no doubt substantial owing to the addition of sound to the day's festivities. And as if all this were not enough, Nan always contributes something yummy to share at the buffet table. You are both so dear...thank you so much!

And so many helped in every way possible before, during, and after the picnic:

Kitty and **Richard Schwartz** whose duties included decorating, cooking, greeting, setting up, and much more (see the pi-

ñata com-ments above), **Roger Felty**, who hauled and set up the dance floor and **Barbara Schuessler's** gorgeous photo display (thanks again for that amazing piece of work and the beauty it added to the day Barbara), **Merrill Peterson**, who kept the tunes coming and helped in so many other ways as well, (wait till you see the pictures he (and others) took—check out the website later this week), **Terry Marimow** and her daughters **Brittany** and **Danielle** for all their hard work with the kid's activities (the kids love you, for sure!), **Matt Johns**, **Bill Broyles**, **Scott** and **Ashley Odom**, **Karen Tempkin** and **Travis Wheeler**, **Jacki** and **Sandy Elder**, and **Marie** and **Ken Ratcliffe**, all of whom helped tirelessly with set up and clean up and everything in between that needed a helping hand, **Martin Lachaine** and **Joan Scott** who passed out the piñata prizes, **Bill Broyles** and **Joan Scott** for iced tea, drinking water and garbage cans, **Karl** and **Malaica Oxnam** who kept us all cool with their contribution of ice, **Suzanne Ellenbogen** and **Reggie Smith** who brought the water, soda and chips, and **Mark** and **Margaret Sitter**, who, among other things, helped with plant identification and kept my naughty dog Emily out of the food area....

Now I know I have left out the names of others who contributed in some way, and if I did, I am very sorry, but I am a bear of very little brain and only left you out due to my own feeble mind and not because your efforts were not worthy of gratitude and acknowledgement. So thank you to you, too.

Finally, (I hate to say 'last but not least', but there it is...) a big thank you to **Becky Huddleston**, the chairwoman of this year's picnic committee, who worked tirelessly and graciously to pull this event together, as well as contributing so much in the way of ideas, décor, prizes and so much more. Becky, it was a pleasure to work with you and Barbara...somehow the whole experience was more fun than effort, and the results were amazing! Here's
Kim Peterson

Stronger than Ever

Recently OFNA mailed a reminder to all who had not joined the association for the 2004 year. We were overwhelmed with the positive response! Many thanks to all of you who joined and showed your support for the neighborhood and for OFNA. Membership in OFNA is now at its highest level ever. You are encouraged to participate in all activities and to offer your input and suggestions for the neighborhood association's direction and future. If you have questions about the status of your membership, please contact **Jay DeAngeli, 690-1107** or **Roger Felty, 888-8151**

New Mailing Address: OFNA now has a post office box! When mailing checks or other correspondence, you no longer need to be concerned about mail sitting in a streetside mail box. OFNA's new address is:

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

WWW.OFNA.ORG

'04 OFNA MEMBERSHIP \$50 PER YEAR

SEND TO:

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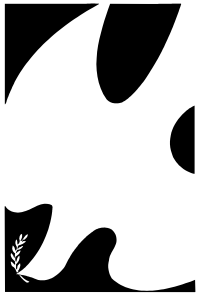
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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