

Desert Dwellers

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Wildcat Subdivisions in Oracle Foothills

For several years now, land prices have been soaring in Tucson and especially in the Catalina foothills. As buildable property becomes more scarce, the prices will continue to rise, and every conceivable means will be used to create more lots for expensive homes. Oracle Foothills Estates has, for over 50 years, been a rural refuge in the middle of increasing urban sprawl, where residents could enjoy the benefits of quiet, peace, privacy, space and natural surroundings while having city conveniences nearby.

Only Pima County zoning laws control the size of lots in Oracle Foothills Estates. Our zoning is CR-1, with minimum lot size of 36,000 square feet (approximately .83 of an acre). When existing bare land or homes with large properties sell, they are being snapped up by developers who immediately carve up the land to create the greatest number of lots on which a house may be placed. These developers do not care what survey contortions they have to go through, what crazy lot shapes they have to create, or how their actions impact their neighbors or the neighborhood.

Two extreme examples of this scenario are occurring now on Lady Lane where a house with a large piece of land sold not long ago. Two developers are in the process of dividing lots that were formerly associated with 5707 N. Lady Lane. Because of the lay of the land, falling steeply into a wash, these developers are planning to put houses on

small plots at the top of the ridge, connecting to the majority of the property at the bottom of the wash with a thin 'suspender', thus meeting the letter of the zoning law, but in the process creating high density housing in Oracle Foothills. The new houses will, of necessity, be placed 10' from the property lines on the sides, 20' from the next house. These houses will most likely require 2 stories to accommodate the necessary square footage on the small building envelope. Thus the condo-look for the neighborhood. Not exactly what the Genematas family had in mind for Oracle Foothills.

Upon being challenged in past situations, specifically in Oracle Foothills, Pima County has required a developer to re-survey his property to make it conform with the spirit of the zoning laws. There is no guarantee that this will happen again. Currently, two neighbors of the above-mentioned lots on Lady Lane are contacting Pima County to protest the odd-ball surveys that will create high density housing around them.

The Oracle Foothills neighborhood is very upset with this opportunistic approach to property development and is working to prevent the issuance of building permits for these lots with highly irregular surveys. More information will be provided at the Annual Meeting, including how you can get involved and make your voice heard.

Two Big Events

**COMING
SOON!**

- **ANNUAL MEETING ~ Saturday, September 16, 9:30am, Dove of Peace Lutheran Church, 665 W. Roller Coaster Rd. (Please note the new location. See page 2 for details)**
- **NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC ~ Saturday, October 28, noon, in the wash next to 220 E. Yvon Drive (see page 3 for more information)**

YOU are important to the success of these and all neighborhood events. Please join your neighbors in working to make Oracle Foothills a better place to live!

**Oracle Foothills
Neighborhood Association
and
Neighborhood Watch
ANNUAL MEETING**



**NEW
LOCATION!!**

**Saturday, September 16th
9:30 am to Noon
Dove of Peace Lutheran Church
665 W. Roller Coaster Rd.
West Meeting Room**
This church is the neighborhood polling place.
From Oracle, go west on Roller Coaster approxi-
mately half a block.

Our guest speaker this year will be Ann Day, Pima County Supervisor for District 1. Ann will be first on the agenda at 9:30.

Your neighborhood association works hard for you all year. In return we're asking for just a couple hours of your time. Please come and meet your Board of Directors, find out what's been happening in the neighborhood and what the future might bring. This meeting is mandated by our By-Laws and is our one chance to meet with all of you. The new Board of Directors will be elected for the upcoming year. Also, this year, in accordance with the requirements of Neighborhood Watch, this meeting will serve as the annual gathering of all Neighborhood Watch participants.

**EVERY resident of Oracle Foothills is invited and encouraged to attend.
Your help is needed to make Oracle Foothills the very best place to live.**

Coffee, sweets, registration and conversation start at 8:30.

**Every *member in good standing* who is in attendance will receive
a drawing ticket for some terrific prizes.**

*Hope to see you there!
Call 690-1107 for information or directions.*

Come Party with your Neighbors at the 8th Annual

OFNA Picnic!

EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT IS INVITED!



Saturday,

October 28th

Noon to Dark

In the wash on the south side of Yvon Drive, next to 220 E. Yvon (The Chocolate House). It will be an afternoon of food, fun, music, games, and friendly conversation.

Bring a dish to share

Our crew of chefs will be serving up delicious barbequed **chicken** and **hot dogs**

Utensils, Paper Products and Soft Drinks and Ice will be provided
You may bring your own beer or wine

There'll be lots of fun activities for the kids, including a piñata and a jumping castle!

For more information, or to volunteer to help, contact
Jay & Carole DeAngeli, 690-1107



The “NEIGHBORHOOD” Idea in Neighborhood Watch

By Liz Sherwood

The Neighborhood Watch program in Oracle Foothills has been in place for almost a year now, and with 177 members and 25 Block Leaders, we can all think of it as a success. But this past year’s success story is just a beginning. During the next year and in the years to come, each of us can make a difference in the safety of our neighborhood, and in the pleasure we all feel when we look around at the many blessings conferred on us because we are privileged to live in Oracle Foothills. If we pause and reflect for a few minutes, we can see some simple things we can do to help maintain and mature our intentions to be good neighbors!

Before you stop and think about what you can contribute, it might be a good idea to spend a few minutes and reflect on the efforts of people who have helped make our neighborhood a place to be proud of. Most of us have probably lived in places that didn’t have a significant number of caring people willing to volunteer time and effort on behalf of their neighbors. One of the biggest blessings we’ve enjoyed over the years is the ongoing efforts of so many caring people. Let’s look at some of the rewards we’re enjoying today, all provided by volunteers:

- ◆ Weekly email news report with helpful pointers to good service people, to recent suspicious activities or break-ins, and to other items of interest;
- ◆ Yearly annual picnic with food, games, entertainment and the chance to meet neighbors; organized, funded, and manned by OFNA and neighbors;
- ◆ Stained glass art work created, donated and installed

- ◆ at a neighborhood entrance by a neighbor;
- ◆ “Reaters”, an open-to-all neighborhood “Reading and Eating” group, where fun and food are enjoyed by all;
- ◆ Oracle Foothills Neighborhood Association, created and maintained by neighbors to support and enhance our living experience;
- ◆ Triangle Park, designed and developed by creative neighbors, donated plants and labor, and contributions from neighbors and OFNA;
- ◆ Neighborhood Watch program started in response to concern about neighborhood break-ins, and implemented by dozens of caring neighbors.

This list is by no means complete, but it’s sufficient to remind us of the benefits we all enjoy because of the efforts of others. We are fortunate to have a wide variety of interesting, talented, creative, and caring neighbors. When we reflect on this abundance, it becomes easier to resolve to make a new effort, no matter how small, to promote safety in our neighborhood and pleasant relations with each other. From the point of view of Neighborhood Watch, this means taking the time to introduce yourself to your closest neighbors if you don’t know them; getting acquainted with the kinds of service people they may employ so you might recognize unauthorized strangers; and realizing that it is appropriate to call 911 whenever you see anything potentially criminal or dangerous in the neighborhood. Get acquainted with your Block Leader and ask for help and advice if you aren’t sure what actions you might take.

LEADERSHIP CHANGE: I have asked **John Barbee** to take over the duties of **Area Leader of Neighborhood Watch**, effective **September 16th, 2006**. This past year as Area Leader has been a challenging and rewarding one for me, thanks to all of the wonderful neighbors who have helped make the program a success, and especially to those who have volunteered to be Block Leaders. I will continue to be a Block Leader, with my husband, Glenn Sherwood. John is an efficient, caring, and organized individual who will bring some new ideas and energy to Neighborhood Watch.

John Barbee can be contacted at:

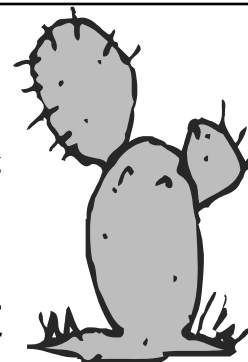
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Desert Gardening

Fall is the best time to plant in Tucson, and that time is arriving soon. The value and benefits of gardening with native and other desert plants are numerous, including attracting wildlife, reducing water consumption and retaining and enhancing the natural look of the desert. Below are some resources for researching and locating desert plants in Tucson.



Desert Survivors

www.desertsurvivors.org
1020 W Starr Pass Blvd
Tucson, AZ 85713
(520) 791-9309

Arizona Native Plant Society

Box 41206, Sun Station
Tucson, AZ 85717
<http://AZNPS.org>

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

www.tucsoncactus.org/html/
cactus_rescue.shtml
P. O. Box 64759
Tucson AZ 85728-4759
TCSS@tucsoncactus.org

Tucson Botanical Gardens

2150 North Alvernon Way
Tucson, Arizona 85712
Phone: 520-326-9686
www.tucsonbotanical.org/

Recommended Reading List for Water-Conserving Landscapes

Arizona Department of Water Resources. **Xeriscape: Landscaping with Style in the Arizona Desert.** Phoenix, AZ: 2000.

Arizona Game and Fish Department. **Landscaping for Desert Wildlife.** Phoenix, AZ: 1992.

Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA). **Landscaping Plants for the Arizona Desert.** Phoenix, AZ: 2004.

Arizona Native Plant Society (ANPS).

Desert Accent Plants

Desert Bird Gardening

Desert Butterfly Gardening

Desert Groundcovers and Vines

Desert Grasses

Desert Shrubs

Desert Trees

Desert Wildflowers

Brookbank, George. **Desert Landscaping.** Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press. 1992.

Brookbank, George. **The Desert Gardener's Calendar: Your Month-by-Month Guide.** Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press. 1999.

Cromell, Cathy, Ed. **Desert Landscaping for Beginners.** Phoenix, AZ: Arizona Master Gardener Press, 2001.

Duffield, M. and Warren D. Jones. **Plants for Dry Climates.** 2nd Edition. Tucson, AZ: H.P. Books. 1992.

Johnson, Eric A. **Pruning, Planting and Care.** Tucson, AZ: Ironwood Press. 1997.

Johnson, Eric A. and Scott Millard. **The Low-Water Flower Gardener.** Tucson, AZ: Ironwood Press. 1993.

McPherson, E. Gregory and Charles Sacamano. **Southwestern Landscaping that Saves Energy and Water.** Tucson, AZ: College of Agriculture, University of Arizona. 1989.

McPherson, E. Gregory and Gary C. Woodard. "Cooling the Urban Heat Island with Water-and-Energy Efficient Landscapes" in the **Arizona Review.** Tucson, AZ: College of Business and Public Administration, University of Arizona. Spring 1990.

Mielke, Judy. **Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes.** Austin, TX: University of Texas Press. 1993.

Miller, George O. **Landscaping with Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest.** Stillwater, MN: Voyageur Press. 1991.

Park & Co. **Landscape Watering by the Numbers.** Phoenix, AZ. 2001.

Perry, Robert. **Landscape Plants for Western Regions.** Claremont, CA: Land Design Publishing Co. 1992.

Perry, Robert. **Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes.** San Dimas, CA: Land Design Publishing Co. 1981.

Phillips, Judith. **Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants.** Santa Fe, NM: Museum of New Mexico Press. 1987.

Shuler, Carol. **Low Water Use Plants for California and the Southwest.** Tucson, AZ: Fisher Books. 1993.

Sunset Magazine. **Waterwise Gardening.** Menlo Park, CA: Lane Publishing. 1989.

Sunset Magazine. **New Western Garden Book.** 6th Edition. Menlo Park, CA: Lane Publishing Co. 1995.

Walters, J.E. and Balbir Backhaus. **Shade and Color with Water Conserving Plants.** Portland, OR: Timber Press. 1992.

CANDIDATES FOR 2006-2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Amalong: Happily married to Stephanie and the proud father of Juliana (7) and Hunter (5). I am an Arizona Native, as was my father, grandfather & great grandfather. I am CEO of 2 aircraft flight schools (airplane and helicopter) at Tucson International Airport, CEO of a traffic patrol company for 12 years in Tucson, CEO of Velocity Air Inc, (aircraft charter, maintenance, avionics, fuel & hangars). I am a commercial pilot and certified aircraft inspector for airplanes and helicopters. We are fairly new to the neighborhood (Nov 2005) but have really enjoyed the area.

John Barbee: (Incumbent Board Member) My wife, Lori, and our children, Erik and Janelle, have lived in Arizona for 12 years, but only in the Oracle Foothills for the past 2 ½. We absolutely love the neighborhood. Actually, our son, Erik, has been in the Navy for 4 years, and has only visited. Our daughter, Janelle, is starting her senior year at the U of A. I am a charter member of the Neighborhood Watch program and have agreed to take over the roll as the Area Leader this year. I have served on the board for 1 year and am willing to extend that service for another year.

Jay DeAngeli: (Incumbent Board Member, current President) During my 33-year career with AT&T, I worked as project manager on numerous large telecommunications projects, both in the U.S. and overseas. Our travels and working assignments took us to Asia, Africa and Europe. After retiring, I was active in home building and remodeling in Reno. My wife Carole and I moved to Oracle Foothills in 1995, coming from the high desert foothills of Reno, Nevada (my birthplace). We have been very active in our neighborhood association and plan to continue our efforts. Some of the activities with which I have been involved include: publication of the quarterly newsletter; continuation of our annual picnic; the ongoing maintenance of a safe, clean and attractive neighborhood; promotion of open communication among the neighbors. I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors for another year.

Sig Eisner: (Incumbent Board Member, current Vice President) Sig has been a resident of the Oracle Foothills neighborhood since 1995. He was educated at the Universities of Arizona, California (Berkeley) and Columbia and spent over 30 years as a member of the English Department at the University of Arizona. For over 55 years he has been married to Nan Eisner. He and Nan are the parents of six and the grandparents of 12.

Gene Isaak: (Incumbent Board Member) I am a 37 year resident of the neighborhood. I have degrees from the U of N. Dakota and NYU Law Schools. I have practiced law all those years in Tucson and am still practicing. We raised two children here and although they are now on their own they visit us often, each with one grandchild. We enjoy the neighborhood because it is relatively close in but the lots are big enough to allow privacy. I am interested in keeping this a safe neighbor-

hood and in getting the streets repaved.

Sharon Laird: (Incumbent Board Member) It has been my pleasure to serve on the Board for 2 years. I moved back to Tucson in 2003, but I was here from 1969 to 1975 - lived on the golf course at OVCC, which was way out! I'm a U of A graduate. My adult children are all Arizona residents. My husband, Frank, is a retired anesthesiologist. We lived in Phoenix where I was a Realtor. We prefer Tucson - smaller, higher & much cooler. We appreciate the mountains, desert plants & its wildlife - we have a lot! I am impressed with our various functions - Neighborhood Watch, annual trimming, attempted road maintenance and the PICNIC. Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.

Scott Odom: (Incumbent Board Member, current Treasurer) I was born and raised in Phoenix, where I learned to tolerate and even enjoy the extremes of the desert. My fondness for Tucson grew during undergraduate studies at the University of Arizona. In addition to providing a fun academic environment, the University is the venue in which I first met my lovely wife, Ashley. In May of 2000, I received a bachelor's degree from the college of business with majors in Finance, Accounting, and Entrepreneurship. After graduation, I worked as an auditor in the Phoenix office of KPMG, a large public accounting firm. In August 2001, I was able to break away from work just long enough to marry sweet little Ashley. And after two years with KPMG and the attainment of my CPA certificate, I made the surprisingly easy decision to leave public accounting. With Ashley working as a technology consultant, our options were wide open in regard to geographic location. After mulling things over, we narrowed our choice down to either Denver or Tucson. Of course, you all know which town won out in the end. A large part of our decision was based on this wonderful neighborhood. The characteristics of (1) natural desert and (2) heterogeneity of homes were both present here, and we were supremely excited that a home fitting our needs and our budget was actually available in such a setting. The rest, as they say, is history. Since moving to Tucson, Ashley has shifted careers and is now a 7th grade math teacher at Flowing Wells Junior High. I am currently the Vice President - Finance at Vantage West Credit Union. Ashley and I have sincerely enjoyed our first few years in the 'hood. Most of all, we love the wildlife sightings and the peaceful surroundings. As a board member, conserving and protecting the special habitat within our neighborhood would be at the top of my agenda.

Carolyn Denison Redmore: (Incumbent Board Member) After making the decision to locate full time to Tucson from St. Louis, Mo., my husband, Derek, and I were pleased to find this neighborhood with its low key eclectic ambiance, amazing desert habitat, and awesome views. As a newcomer, I especially would enjoy serving on the OFNA board for the oppor-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

tunity it would give me to become acquainted with our neighbors. But, also, it would be satisfying to work with others in identifying and serving the needs of the neighborhood. If elected to the board I would draw on my experience as a psychologist in assessing issues and developing/implementing/evaluating action plans. More specifically, I am interested in outreach to newcomers and ongoing neighborhood assistance. I hail originally from the Cajun and rice lands of south Louisiana; Derek, a chemist, from the Wolds of Lincolnshire, England. We have two treasured grown children, a son in St. Louis and daughter in Arlington, Va. It will be a pleasure to serve on the OFNA board another year.

Tom Scarborough: (Incumbent Board Member, current Secretary) My wife Harriet and I moved into the Oracle Foothills neighborhood in November of 1988. I was teaching high school biology and physical science at the time. Since then, I have completed a thirty year career in public education, including seventeen years as a classroom teacher and thirteen as a building administrator, the last ten of which were spent as principal of Cholla High School. I completed my B.S. in Wildlife Biology in 1969, and after a couple of years of military service I returned to Tucson and the University of Arizona to obtain my teaching certificate. I completed my M.Ed. in 1979 and my Ph.D. in 1986. I retired from TUSD in 2002. I continue to work part-time for TUSD in administrator training. I have served as a volunteer facilitator in the YWCA's "Time to Talk" anti-racism program for the past three years. I have very much enjoyed living in our neighborhood, and I appreciate the work that former and current board members have done to make this such a nice place to live. One of my goals upon retirement was to become more involved in community service, and what better place to begin than in our own neighbor-

hood? If elected, I will be proud to continue serving on the board, and will work hard to contribute to the good of our neighborhood.

Barbara Schuessler: (Incumbent Board Member) I moved to this wonderful neighborhood four years ago and have a strong interest in the preservation of the natural desert landscape and its wildlife. The beauty of our desert and the integrity that has been maintained in our neighborhood is something I would like to continue to focus on and would love to contribute to our sense of community by serving on the OFNA board of directors. Being involved with Reaters has allowed me to meet many wonderful neighbors and to participate in great discussions and to get to know my neighborhood better. I teach flamenco dance at Creative Dance Arts and have my own video business. Growing up in El Paso, I first came to Tucson in 1968 to go to school at the U. of A. Leaving in 1974, but returning to the magnificent Catalina mountains in 1980, Tucson has been my home ever since. I have a B. A. from the U. of A.

Richard Schwartz: (Incumbent Board Member) I am a 52-year-old native Tucsonan and a gemologist.

Greg Smith: I have been a resident of the Oracle Foothills for seven years and cannot think of a better place to live. I have an extensive background in software engineering, but switched careers over a year ago to free up time to pursue educational goals. I am a Realtor (R), GRI, with Realty Executives. I recently completed my Bachelors in Business Management and am pursuing an MBA at the University of Arizona. I would like to join the OFNA board and contribute to keeping our neighborhood safe and to the preservation of our unique environment. My wife, Kelly, and I look forward to raising a family in this wonderful neighborhood!



OFNA FAQ's

For those of you who are new to the neighborhood, or as a reminder to long-term residents, here are some important facts about your neighborhood association:

- ◆ The fiscal year runs from September 1st to August 31st. Dues that you pay now will put you in good standing through August of 2007.
- ◆ Membership is \$50 per year per household. Membership is voluntary.
- ◆ If you do not know the status of your membership, please contact Scott Odom, the Treasurer and Membership Chairman
- ◆ In August each year, OFNA mails a reminder about membership dues, including a self-addressed envelope for easy payment.
- ◆ OFNA is duly incorporated in the State of Arizona. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws are available to all residents.
- ◆ OFNA owns no real property, pays no management fees and enforces no CCR's.
- ◆ All meetings are open to the public. Notice is given in the newsletter, in e-mail messages and by signs posted at all neighborhood entrances.
- ◆ The area represented by OFNA includes *roughly* the area encompassed by First Avenue on the east, Oracle Road on the west, Rudasill Road on the north and the southern side of Yvon Drive and Genematas Drive on the south. The Catalina Foothills Lodge and any other businesses along Oracle are not included.
- ◆ All members are eligible to run for the Board of Directors. Officers are elected by the board at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting.
- ◆ The Board of Directors consists of a minimum of seven and a maximum of fifteen directors.

ORACLE FOOTHILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 35783
Tucson, AZ 85740

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