



**Oro Valley Vista**  
Published by the  
Town of Oro Valley

## Postal Customer

### Reduce Auto Theft Through Free VIN Etching

Vehicle theft can be thwarted if you take a few minutes to have the Oro Valley Police etch your vehicle's identification number on to your car's windows. According to Crime Prevention Officer Mike Shuh, VIN etching is an important anti-theft step that you can take along with locking your car doors and installing steering wheel locking devices and GPS locators.



In the event that your automobile is sold for parts or is used as part of a quick-sale scam effort, VIN etching will either slow down the perpetrators or force them to abandon their efforts. Even U.S. Customs officials at the border are on the lookout for vehicles that have had their glass replaced or which show signs of having had their windows buffed to remove the VIN etching. This means that there is a greater chance of locating your stolen vehicle and capturing the thieves.

Free VIN etching will be available at:



**March 13**, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the Rancho Vistoso Substation, 1171 N. Rancho Vistoso Blvd.  
Phone Officer Carmen Trevizo for an appointment at 229-5084.



**March 21 and April 3**—8 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Oracle/Magee Substation, 8001 N. Oracle.  
Phone Officer Mike Shuh for an appointment at 229-2902

### First Avenue Next Road Due for Facelift

Oro Valley's next major road widening project will expand First Avenue from the CDO Wash north to Tangerine Road. The improvements include a roadway that will be 4 lanes wide with a landscaped median, a multi-use path and a bike lane, similar to other arterial roads in the Town. In addition, traffic signals will be installed at both First and Naranja as well as First and Palisades. Tangelo, on the west side of First Avenue, will be aligned with Palisades on the east.

At the present time, utility companies are either moving or installing their lines along the First Avenue right-of-way. Bids will be solicited in March, 2006, for the reconstruction work, and construction should begin before summer and will take about one year to complete. When it's finished, First Avenue will more closely resemble Rancho Vistoso Blvd. to the north.

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### Critters abound in Oro Valley

#### *--Learning to live and share the desert southwest--*

Whether you're a newcomer or long-time resident in Oro Valley, you can't help but notice the abundance of wildlife that populates our area. These desert dwellers include quail, roadrunners, rabbits, coyotes, javelina, bobcats, snakes and even an occasional mountain lion.

For the most part, we live in harmony with these critters, but there are occasions when natural phenomena like famine or drought or rains may change the behavior of animals. In these cases, it's good to know what to do and who to call.

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum suggests two approaches—either you can avoid attracting the creatures or you can use physical barriers to keep them out. To avoid animals—don't feed them. This means that pet dishes and garbage should not be left outside. Even birdseed spilled from a feeder is an attraction to some animals.

Pay attention to what you plant—animals often avoid strong-smelling and very spiny plants. You'll probably have the best results if you avoid exotic plants and put in native species. And be sure not to over water your desert plants or they'll turn into a tender and tasty animal treat.

The chance that you'll encounter a mountain lion is small, but you may spot one between dusk and dawn. If you do, do not approach the lion—always give a lion a way to escape. Stay calm and speak loudly and firmly. Do not run away since lions have an instinct to give chase. You may back away slowly, but do not crouch or turn your back. Appear large by raising your arms or opening your jacket. Throwing stones or branches is a good way to scare off the animal.

Prevention is always the best defense. Keep your pets indoors or on a leash. Roaming pets are easy prey for coyotes or mountain lions. In an emergency, call 911.

For more information, contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department at 388-4446 or sign up for a free "Living With Urban Wildlife Class" to be held on Sunday, April 9, at 2 p.m. at Tohono Chul Park, 7366 N. Paseo del Norte. Register by calling 628-5376, ext. 4446.



### A Sampling of Upcoming Library Programs

- Celebrate **Earth Day** on Saturday, April 1, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, at the Oro Valley Public Library, 1305 W. Naranja. The festival will include educational/interactive booths provided by community partners and Town of Oro Valley departments. The library will be collecting the following items during the month of April for recycling: Used Greeting cards (pictures only) for recycling by St. Jude's Ranch for Children, used eyeglasses for recycling through the Lions Club Recycle for Sight Program, and used books, magazines, videos, CDs, and DVDs for resale by the Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library's new Book Shoppe.
- On Thursday, March 30, you can get together with **jazz and swing** music fans to promote this unique American genre. Come to play, hear music, and/or talk to musicians, both amateur and professional. Oro Valley Public Library Program Room, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM.
- The newly redesigned Teen Zone will feature the classic movie "**Star Wars**" on Saturday, March 18, from 2:30–4:30 p.m. *All Oro Valley Public Library programs are free of charge unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call 229-5300.*

**Town Graduates Largest Planning Institute Class Ever**

On February 1, 2006, thirty-six local citizens graduated from the Town's "Citizen Planning Institute"—the largest graduating class in the history of the seven-year old program. Citizens who enroll in the Institute each Fall attend more than 22 hours of classes covering topics from basic planning law to annexation, public hearings, town history, zoning and general plans.



Volunteers who serve on the Town's many boards, commissions and task forces are required to complete the class, but many of the citizen-graduates simply enrolled to increase their knowledge of local government and municipal planning. And the best part of the program is that there are no grades, no tests, no papers—just interesting classes led by local experts. Congratulations to the new graduates! [Enrollment for the next session will be open in October, 2006].

**And they're off! Second Arizona Distance Classic races through Oro Valley**



For the second year, runners from across the country gathered in Oro Valley on March 12 to run a half-marathon (13+ miles), a 5 kilometer race or a 1 kilometer "senior stroll" through beautiful Rancho Vistoso. Participants of all ages were cheered on by teams at water and spirit stations as the race started and ended at Ventana Medical Systems on Innovation Park Drive. Local businesses and clubs turned out to support the race, and funds were raised for designated charities including the American Cancer Society's Northwest Relay for Life.

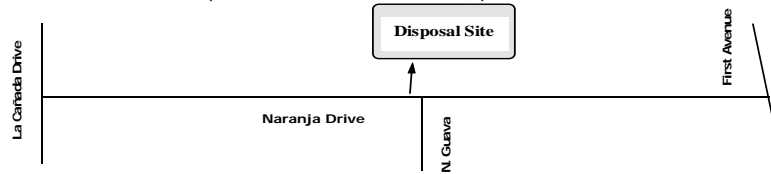
**Town Website Nears Re-Launch Date—Here's How You Can Help**

After 6 months of hard work by over 30 staff members, the Town's redesigned website is almost ready for launch. In the mean time, you can help. In early April, you'll be able to visit the "sneak preview" version by clicking on the link at [www.townoforovalley.com](http://www.townoforovalley.com). Then, submit your comments or suggestions to the Town Webmaster. While the "sneak preview" version is being tested, the Town's existing site will continue to operate as usual. Even when the redesigned site is finally launched, it will still be located at the same web address. Let us know what type of information you need and whether the redesigned site is easy for you to navigate through.



**Safely Dispose of Hazardous Household Waste**

Bring your household hazardous waste products for free disposal by the Town of Oro Valley in cooperation with the City of Tucson and Pima County. On Saturday, March 18, you may drop off your products at the Naranja Town Site from 8 a.m. and 12 noon. The Naranja Town Site is located on Naranja Drive between First Avenue and La Cañada. You will be able to safely dispose of: auto and cleaning fluids, medications, batteries, paint and hobby products, pesticides, lawn and garden products, pool chemicals, solvents and other items labeled "poison, caution, toxic, danger or warning." Please—no commercial waste, gas cylinders or explosives, ammunition, or infectious products. For more information, phone 229-4713.



**Translating Planning Terms**

City planning professionals have their own language for the types of issues that they deal with on a daily basis. A brief primer on planning terms will help you to understand how each of these affects you and the development of Oro Valley:

**General Plan**—the guiding policy document that provides direction for the community by anticipating growth and development for the next 20 years.

**Zoning Code**—the official land use regulations that establish zoning districts, rules for land use in those districts and administrative procedures. The Zoning Code is part of the Town's Municipal Code.

**Planning and Zoning Commission**—a 7-member body appointed by the Town Council to advise the Council on planning and zoning policies, proposed developments and planning regulations.

**Development Review Board**—a 7-member body appointed by the Town Council that studies and makes recommendations regarding the architectural design and layout of proposed developments.

**Board of Adjustment**—a 5-member quasi-judicial body that hears and decides appeals for variances and interpretations of the Zoning Code.

**Variance**—a ruling by the Board of Adjustment that provides relief from a land use regulation due to particular hardship or the peculiar nature of a property.

For more information, contact the Planning and Zoning Division at 229-4800

**Changes To Fire and Ambulance Service Explained**



For many years, fire and emergency services in Oro Valley have been split, meaning that two different organizations were providing services in different parts of the community. Broadly speaking, Golder Ranch Fire District provided fire and emergency service to the northern portion of the Town (generally north of Tangerine Road) while a private company, Rural Metro, provided services on a subscription basis to the southern portion of the Town.

This split service was the natural outgrowth of a rapidly expanding community that did not have its own fire department. The Town of Oro Valley did, however, adopt service standards that apply equally to both providers.

Nevertheless, there were inherent differences between the two providers. Since Golder Ranch is a special district, it has the ability to levy a property tax to fund its activities. The tax is based upon the assessed value of the property and applies to all properties in the district.

On the other hand, Rural Metro is a subscription service, meaning that property owners could choose whether or not to participate. Generally speaking, the subscription rate is based upon the square footage of a structure.

After many months of discussions, Golder Ranch Fire District and Rural Metro have proposed an agreement that will bring services together for the entire community.

Under the proposed agreement, Golder Ranch would provide fire services to the entire Town, and Rural Metro—through its Southwest Ambulance Division—would provide medical transport services for the entire Town.

Once the agreement is signed, Golder Ranch will begin the process of annexing portions of the Rural Metro area into the district. The state requirements for annexation are extensive, and it may take up to 7 years for the annexation process to be completed, but the annexation will proceed in three phases.

In the mean time, Rural Metro subscribers in the areas that may be annexed will continue to receive services from Rural Metro or Golder Ranch—whichever provider has the most appropriate and closest department.

If a homeowner has paid Rural Metro for an annual subscription, and if the homeowner's property should be part of an annexed area during the subscription year, a prorated amount of the subscription fee will be refunded to the property owner once the annexation is complete.

Rural Metro has also agreed to adjust its subscription rates so that property owners will pay an amount that is comparable to the Golder Ranch Fire District's tax rate. Property owners who choose not to subscribe to Rural Metro will be billed separately for any emergency service that they request. Normal 911 response will continue to include an ambulance and fire truck.

- For questions about fire service and the annexation process, contact Captain John Sullivan at Golder Ranch Fire District, 825-9001.

- For questions about Southwest Ambulance, contact Josh Weiss at 602-739-0546

