

Stonegate Email News of 8/31/07

Verizon Update

Stonegate continues to monitor the progress of Verizon's proposed cell phone antenna. As recently as last Tuesday, we believed that this would go before the City Council at its September 18 meeting. Now we learn that no action will be taken until October.

We've waited a long time. This delay is not good news and raises worries about further delaying tactics. If you're among Stonegate's many concerned citizens who don't understand why the City seems so indifferent on an issue which impacts both our safety and our pocketbooks, it looks like we will need your help.

At last Tuesday night's meeting, the Board discussed the possibility of a bus trip to the City Council Kiva. We can't tell you when until we see our issue on a City Council agenda. But Council meetings are scheduled for Tuesday evenings, October 2 and 16. You can track proposed agenda items through the City Council section of Scottsdale's website: <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/council.asp>. Our cell phone antenna will be on the Regular Agenda, not on the Consent Agenda.

If you're game for "storming the castle" on a date yet to be announced, please let us know.

Real Estate Signs

This year, the legislature passed a law which requires communities like ours to allow real estate signs. It does not provide exceptions for gated communities like Stonegate, whose streets are private. There's no sightseeing traffic through our streets, thus little to be gained from signage. But if a For Sale sign suddenly appeared in front of every house currently for sale or under contract, the look of our community would suffer. Homes for sale will often cluster, not spread themselves evenly. And clusters of For Sale signs can have a negative effect on prices. The new law does not consider that. But imperfect as it is, it still goes into effect on September 19.

Stonegate already provides substantial support for residents who want to sell their homes. Our Real Estate List is updated weekly and is available at the main gate and the Community Center. Our gate staff also hands out flyers provided by Realtors. The website, www.stonegate-scottsdale.com offers a homes section with photos, plus all the information the Realtors choose to provide. We supply uniform signage for Realtors offering open houses. We'll soon improve that with an innovative sign to be located at the subdivision entry, telling how many open houses are available in that subdivision.

Our Preferred Realtors (Phil Chadwick, Peggy Murphy, Pat Tom and Karen Weston) met to help us develop guidelines for dealing with the new law. They worry that some Realtors who dearly love seeing their names on signs will regard the promotional opportunity as more important than the look of the community.

Fortunately, the law does not require that we permit whatever signage the listing agent might want. Other communities have opted to provide the signage for Realtors who demand that signs be used. We will, too. Our signs will not carry Realtors' names, but will reference Stonegate's website as a source of more information.

At last Tuesday evening's meeting, the Board adopted a new Architectural Guideline, which is attached. If you're selling, or considering that possibility, we hope you'll read the Architectural Guideline and share it with your Realtor, along with your request not to use signage.

Pool Area Landscaping

Some landscaping has now been installed. It will show you the concept for what is to come -- a new look, a whole new feel to the area. The construction fencing is down, and while the project is not complete yet, it is far enough along that we hope you'll come take a look.

Attention Sharks

If your child swam with the Sharks during any part of this summer, you have a cool team shirt coming. Many swim team members got their shirts at the year-end pizza party. If your child didn't go to the party, we still want you to have the shirt. Please call Nora at (480) 391-9760 (ext.14) or just come by during office hours to pick the best size.

Labor Day

The Community Center will be closed on Saturday and Monday. Recreational facilities will keep normal hours. Monday and Tuesday tennis reservations will be write-ins.