

Stonegate Email News of 11-20-07

The Stonegate open house and town meeting last weekend were a big success. At meeting time, more than 60 interested residents came together on the Community Center patio to discuss current issues with President Mike Flamer and Executive Director Larry Paprocki. Verizon was, of course, the number one topic. The city's lease has been submitted to Verizon. We hope to see it on the City Council agenda after the holidays. We are still planning a trip to the City Hall Kiva when it is on the agenda. We will keep you posted. One resident spoke in opposition to the antenna, but most were strongly in favor of doing everything we can to provide good cellular coverage in this area. Other topics for discussion included the recreational area enhancements, turf to desert landscape conversions, water conservation and solar power. One resident suggested adding water conservation tips to Stonegate Email News, and we hope to start next time.

Have you considered running for the Stonegate Board of Directors? On October 31, we sent you a solicitation to run, asking that applications be filed by 5PM on Thursday, November 29. Four seats are available. If you can see yourself in a service/leadership role here in Stonegate, please consider becoming a board candidate. If you need answers to questions about board membership, or another copy of the application form, call the Community Center at (480) 391-9760. We'll put you in touch with the Nomination and Election Committee.

The Stonegate Holiday Party for Adults will be Thursday, December 6, 5:30 to 8:30PM. The chefs from Arizona Culinary Institute will prepare the same delicious menu as last year. And the staff and volunteers will pour holiday spirits, so that your evening with your Stonegate neighbors will be festive and fun.

The Stonegate Children's Holiday Party will be Saturday, December 8, 11AM – 1:30PM. Last year, Stonegate Preferred Realtor Peggy Murphy took over both the funding and the organization of the party, adding some delightful innovations. This was always a fun event for getting pictures with Santa and meeting other Stonegate children to arrange play dates. Peggy added an arts and crafts table where children could make a beaded bracelet for mommy. She also upgraded the food, emphasizing fresh fruits, juice and wholesome sweets. This time she's adding an elf to interact with children waiting for lap space with Santa. And a caricature artist will create charming impressions of your children, on a first-come basis, of course. This year's plan is the most ambitious Children's Holiday Party ever. If you're a parent – we hope we just made your child's holiday fun list. And if you're interested in volunteering to help with this party, we'd love to hear from you. Call Nora at (480) 391-9760.

Stonegate Stepping Out has corrected the caroling times. They are:

Tuesday, December 11, 6 – 8PM in Belcourt and Reserve

Wednesday, December 12, 6 – 8PM in Timarron and Heritage Court

Thursday, December 13 6-8PM in Saddleback, Tradewinds and Stonecreek.

Ralna English, Ann Fitzpatrick and the Stepping Out organizers hope you'll join in. The kids are certainly welcome, too. The Stepping Out gang hopes to set new records at

collecting food for Scottsdale's Vista del Camino Food Bank. Last week's Email News offered a list of foods they hope to receive, but basically they take anything non-perishable and not past its marked expiration date. Call Ann at (480)946-2255 to join the singing or sign up to donate food. In the meanwhile, a box is also being set up here at the Community Center for your donations.

The Community Center will be closed throughout the Thanksgiving holiday. It will reopen Monday at 8:30AM. Recreational facilities will keep normal hours. Tennis reservations will be on a write-in basis for Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The court sign up sheets will be posted tomorrow (Wednesday) afternoon.