

# Stonegate Email News of 2009-02-17

This time, everything except election news. The Nomination and Election Committee meets this afternoon and we'll give you the unofficial count tomorrow.

## Some Very Important Stuff;

**MusicFest is set for Sunday, March 8 at 1PM.** It features several Stonegate residents, mostly professional musicians, who have offered to share their music with their neighbors. It's free, of course. Come an hour early and bring a picnic lunch. *Please see the attached flyer for details and a list of performers.*

**Brush and Bulk collection changes.** For a long time, the city collected in Stonegate on Friday, late. Now we're first on Monday morning. So when Monday, March 9 rolls around, please make sure your items for pick-up are curbside on Sunday night. And mention it to your neighbors, in case they don't read Stonegate Email News or check Channel 22 or look at the bulletin boards.

**The date for Spring Fling is changed to Sunday, April 19,** 11AM to 3PM. We will have a bunch of bouncy rides including Airborne Adventure, puffyglove boxing, the baby bouncer and the climbing wall. Of course we'll have music and picnic food. And Joseph Odhiambo will be here to lead the children in games, and set twirling basketballs atop tiny fingers. It's a great place to have lunch with your neighbors, meet new Stonegate friends, and make play dates.

**Trash cans.** We're seeing more and more trash cans stored beside the garage. They need to be completely out of sight. It's an easy thing to do. Everyone knows that it's required by the Association -- and really just simple good manners. Please help. The Association doesn't want to expend its limited funds and staff time sending trash can letters.

**The Stonegate Current Events Discussion Group** will meet tomorrow, Wednesday, February 18 at 4PM. The topic is *Obama, the First 30 Days*. Everyone is welcome.

**The Stonegate Movie Discussion Group** will meet again next Monday, February 23, to discuss *The Secrets*, now playing at the Camelview. Everyone is welcome.

**Venomous Reptiles of Arizona** is a lecture by Randall Babb, a renowned expert from Arizona Game and Fish, sponsored by Mayo's Desert Docents and Volunteer Services at noon on Monday, February 23, at Mayo's Ashton B. Taylor Auditorium. Everyone is welcome. No charge. *Please see the attached flyer for details.*

## Spring Gardening Hints;

**The freeze is gone.** After February 15, there is little chance of frost. So now is the time to trim. That's especially true for your flowering plants: bougainvillea, oleander, lantana

and Mexican bird of paradise. Trim now and you won't have to cut into that fabulous color later on.

**Serious green.** Walk your neighborhood and you will see some lawns that are a fabulous hunter green, solid from edge to edge, and others that are blotchy and weak. Lack of fertilizer isn't the only problem for winter lawns in Stonegate, but it is one of the most conspicuous and easiest to resolve. If you haven't fed the lawn recently, this is a good time to give the winter grass one last shot. It'll set up you for a smooth transition back to summer grass when April rolls around.

**Got weeds in your gravel areas?** Tired of losing the battle to keep weeds out of your lawn? There is a simple solution to your problem: pre-emergent herbicide. It's generally sprayed twice a year, around the time of the equinox – which means you have about a month to book it. If you have a gardener, talk to him about this. For do-it-yourselfers, this may not be something you can handle on your own. The chemicals are toxic, expensive, and sensitive. But they will keep weeds and crab grass at bay. And buying the service sure beats forever trying to extract sprouted weeds from your granite or river rock. To find companies which offer this service, go to msn yellow pages or dexknows.com and enter *weed control* in the search engine.

### **Maintenance Hints;**

**Gates.** Arizona is very tough on wood. Without some sort of sealer or stain, the slats in your side yard gate will age quickly. Even with your best efforts, they won't last forever. The Community Association requires that you maintain the gate in good condition.

**Walls.** They'll tell you when it's time to repaint. Of course, if you see chips and missing plaster at the bottom, they definitely need patching and painting. But before they get that bad, you can easily spot the need for paint: Take a look during or just after a rain. If your walls look splotchy and uneven, the paint is no longer doing its job of protecting what's underneath. That's the best time to get out the roller and the paint tray. And as Huck Finn and his pals discovered long ago, it can be fun to paint.