

Stonegate Email News of 2009-11-16

Community meeting tomorrow

Let's talk about vehicles. Let's share ideas about reasonable parking rules in Stonegate. About motorcycles, motor homes, go-peds and trailers full of jet skis. About speeding and noise and safety. Let's put together a plan that will work for everyone.

To start us out, the Rules and Regulations Committee has drafted a comprehensive set of Vehicle/Equipment Control Rules and Regulations. Please read the Public Comment Draft on our website, www.stonegate-scottsdale.com. Look for the button that says vehicles on the right side of the front page.

The meeting is **Tuesday, November 17 at 7PM** at the Stonegate Community Center.

If you can't come, please submit your ideas and opinions in writing. Drop it off in person, at the drop-off box in the outbound lane at Main Gate, or just click reply to this email. In any case, we will see that your ideas promptly reach the Rules and Regulations Committee.

Wild animal alert.

In the past month, we have had two reported mountain lion sightings in Stonegate. Neither report involved behavior by the cat that might lead Game and Fish people to start investigating or tracking. The reports are not confirmed. That said, however, we thought you should know.

Before we go any farther, we need to remember that there have always been bobcats here. Bobcats and mountain lions are entirely different animals. Bobcats are smaller, though they always seem much bigger than their official 15 to 35 pound size range. Actually, Stonegate bobcats tend to be very large because they are so well fed. They have short tails and spots - which fade and may be hard to see in the older animals. The bobcats control Stonegate's rabbits. As long as they are uninjured and healthy, they are not inherently dangerous. To the best of our knowledge, in all of Stonegate's history, not once has one of these cats (and there are several) taken a pet from a back yard or attacked a human. That doesn't mean you should act stupidly. These are wild animals with claws and teeth. Don't approach them, taunt them, run from them or corner them.

The wildlife people want you to scare away any bobcat who might visit your yard. That's not easy. The cats have seen a lot of strange, noisy human behavior and tend to back off just a bit and wait for you to go get your camera. **The bobcat picture shown above was taken last Friday** by Javier Alexandro, our Landscape Supervisor. If you want the bobcat to leave and not return, get a garden hose with a spray nozzle and shoot cold water at him.

A mountain lion (AKA cougar, panther or puma) is much less common. A mountain lion sighting here is rare, but we have confirmed visits from one cat in the past decade, with a second very probable. This is a larger cat, 60 to 140 pounds, looking for larger prey. He is dangerous. Something human-size is right in his ballpark. He's solitary and always on the move. If he's here today, he'll be somewhere else tomorrow.

For a thorough list of what to do and not do if confronted by a mountain lion (with additional links), try <http://users.frii.com/mytymyk/lions/onguard.htm>

If you see a cat which you believe is a mountain lion, please, call AZ Game and Fish at 602-942-3000, Stonegate Community Center at 480-391-9760 and/or Scottsdale Police at 480-312-5000. If you remember where the animal might have left tracks or scat, go back later and put a box or bucket over it to mark and preserve it. It's probably best to mark that bucket or box: *Do not move. For AZ Game and Fish.* A photo of any tracks would be helpful. Your foot in the picture will serve as a ruler.

Interesting links: Arizona Game and Fish:

http://www.azgfd.com/w_c/urban_lion.shtml

http://www.azgfd.gov/h_f/game_lion.shtml

<http://www.azgfd.gov/video/MountainLions.shtml>

Also: <http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cougar>