

Stonegate Sentinel

Vol. XXIX, No.1

Our Neighborhood Newsletter

February 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Doug Handlin

Greetings, neighbors of Stonegate Hill! Welcome to 2022! How did it get here so fast? There are many changes all around us and life seems to be moving faster than ever before. One of the changes that is top of mind for many in our small community is the new Microsoft Data Center that will be built directly next to Stonegate Hill.

Our Board members and Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Chair Mike Tavitas, actively worked with our District 6 Councilwoman Melissa Cabello Havrda to try and prevent Microsoft from being granted a variance to remove nearly 97% of the trees on their lot and construct a two-story 60-foot tall building that would tower over the homes on Luckenbach and our neighborhood.

This was the hot topic at the January 27th City Council Meeting. We had to decide which of two options we were willing to support. Option One was a single story 27-foot tall, inverted L-shaped structure that would necessitate a larger footprint and thus remove move trees. Option Two was a two story, 60-foot tall building that would parallel Luckenbach for over half its length. This eyesore would be the equivalent of a four story apartment building. This second option would have met the City's requirement to have 25% canopy coverage onsite.

Further negotiations with Microsoft resulted in them committing to plant 838 trees, a mix of both shade and ornamental. This is 375 more trees than required by the City and it will increase the site canopy coverage to 37%, a 50% increase over current City requirements. We selected Option One and asked that the City grant Microsoft's variance to cut down the trees to expand the data center's footprint and thereby limit the height of the building to one story instead of two. In addition, Microsoft has committed to pay the City \$1.4 million for the City's Tree Mitigation Fund.

So, what now?

The City of San Antonio Arborist Department is working with Microsoft to identify trees that should be kept. In fact, the Arborist Department Staff has surveyed the property and their Chief gave a presentation to City Council identifying the type of trees, bushes, etc. that are currently on this piece of property by numbers and categories. However, the footprint of the buildings will dictate which trees can and will be saved.

Fortunately, Microsoft plans to take into consideration saving as many of the precious trees as possible but we recognize that many of these will be gone. Hopefully, the new trees and bushes will grow, and Microsoft has been sensitive to what type of trees and bushes are best suited for this

region since they do have a professional on their staff.

Microsoft is also adding irrigation to ensure the new trees and bushes will not bake and wither under the hot Texas sun.

It was not our choice to have yet another huge building overshadow our beautiful community, but it could have been worse. Time will tell just how good a neighbor Microsoft really becomes.

Special thanks go to the following:

All Board members and friends and Activities Committee Chair, Susan Handlin and ACC Chair, Mike Tavitas.

STONEGATE HILL HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Doug Handlin 406-670-7501
doughandlin53@hotmail.com

Vice President

Jim Eckburg 210-256-6610
bpcr4477@att.net

Treasurer

Carol Sullivan 210-685-7501
casullivan1984@gmail.com

Secretary

Joan Lopez 210-684-2753
rllopez1@earthlink.net

Nominating Committee

Vacant

Stonegate Hill Website:
www.stonegatehill.com
Email address:
stonegatehill@gmail.com

Stonegate Sentinel

Vol. XXIX, No.1

Our Neighborhood Newsletter

February 2022

ANNUAL HOA MEETING

The Stonegate Hill Annual HOA Meeting will be held on **Thursday February 24 at Raba Elementary School from 6 to 8 pm.** It will also be via Zoom. Homeowners have been sent teleconference information and absentee ballots. The ballots for electing Board members may be mailed in or given to a homeowner attending the meeting. For quorum purposes 28 homeowners need to be present either in person or by proxy. Please attend or at a minimum, please vote by sending in your proxy ballot.

POOL CARD RECERTIFICATION

During the month of February all pool cards will need to be recertified. **All cards will be deactivated on February 7th.** Emails will be sent to all homeowners with instructions on how to reactive their pool cards.

COMMUNITY SAFETY REMINDER

While Stonegate Hill is a gated community, it is not removed and totally secure from crime, especially crimes of opportunity. If you leave your doors unlocked, anyone can walk in when you are gone and remove whatever the perpetrator wants. So, please lock your doors and turn on your alarm when you leave your home. The same is true about the vehicles that are parked in

the driveway. You should not leave them unlocked as opportunists roam the neighborhood testing vehicle doors to see if they are unlocked. And do not forget, most vehicles have garage door openers in them, and opportunists can always use them to open your garage door and remove items from your garage. Worst of all, they could gain entry to your house if you have not locked the door or put the alarm on. Remember to close your garage door when not home especially at night as it is an open opportunity for someone to steal from you.

Part of our ongoing community safety effort is the voluntary issuance of vehicle decals. These decals are placed on the exterior lower right-hand corners of each of your vehicles' rear windows. These decals help us identify and distinguish between resident and non-resident vehicles. This can be helpful in providing information to the police in the event of some problem. Each Board member has decals that they can give to you, free for the asking. We also will have decals available at the Annual HOA meeting on February 24. Please participate.

NEW GATE CODES

New quarterly gate codes are in effect. Old gate codes will be removed February 22.

Temporary gate codes are available for homeowner events or realtor open house events. Gate

openers do not need to be reprogrammed.

CONGRATUATIONS BATTLE OF THE BULBS WINNERS

Susan Handlin

Stonegate Hill was shining bright this year thanks to all who participated in our **Battle of the Bulbs** Holiday Lights Contest.

Residents enjoyed the holiday spirit as they drove through the community aglow with twinkling lights, inflatables, and brilliant displays on every street.

Each household had the opportunity to cast their vote. Winners were:

Best Traditional

Raul & Catalina Pena
9811 Kerrville

Most Lights

Daniella SantAngelo
4114 Cactus Oaks
outshined them all for the second year in a row

Most Inflatables

Nathan & Tabitha Lester
9927 Ramblin River

Best Theme

Arctic blast by
Daniel & Cheri Stine
4727 River Rock

Best Animated

A moving display by
the Aguilar family
4734 River Rock

Stonegate Sentinel

Vol. XXIX, No.1

Our Neighborhood Newsletter

February 2022

Thank you to everyone for your enthusiasm and participation.

WELCOME

Luis & Lauren Cardona
Ve & Lana Pichenevski
Jaymie Ward

FAREWELL

Dennis & Virginia Guevara
Warren & Tonia Rosebrough
Shaina & Jessica Schaaf

STONEGATE HILL'S BUNNY HOP

Susan Handlin

Hop on over to our Rancher Ridge Park on **Saturday, April 16th** for the **BUNNY HOP!** This free residents' Eggstravaganza will be from 10:00-11:30 am. The fun will include a balloon artist, treats, and of course the Egg Hunt! Do not forget to bring your camera to take pictures with the Easter Bunny. It will be a fun time for all ages! The Egg hunt will be divided into four divisions-Ages 1-3, 4-6, 7-10 and 11 up.

Donations of wrapped candy and filled and unfilled plastic eggs will also be needed.

Volunteers are needed to decorate, setup, hide eggs, run races and cleanup. To volunteer to be one of our Memory Makers, please contact Susan Handlin by emailing Lilyandguard@yahoo.com or calling 210-416-4483.

Together we make Stonegate Hill a Wonderful Place to Live!

GRADUATION NOTICE

Have a family member graduating from high school, college, or trade school? We would like to recognize them in the May *Stonegate Sentinel*. Please send graduate's name, school name and plans after graduation to stonegatehill@gmail.com by April 25th for publication in the May newsletter.

SWIM TEAM

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to having the swim team in Stonegate Hill this summer! The league is in the planning phases, and of course implementing measures to keep our swimmers safe, so I hope to have more information soon! The plan is to hold the season in May and June 2022 with a limited number of participants, and COVID-19 protocols in place to ensure swimmer safety. Please keep a look out for an email in the coming months once I have more information! Thank you!

Julie Xia, Stonegate Hill Swim Team Representative (210) 454-3983 juliekxia@yahoo.com

SPRING YARD SALE

This year's Spring Yard Sale will be Saturday, June 4th & Sunday June 5th.

WEBMASTER NEEDED

Stonegate Hill Homeowner Virginia Guevara, who created and maintained our community website, has moved. So, we are in desperate need of someone who can take over the website or create a new website for us. Please contact a Board member if you are interested.

HOA Committee Chairpersons

Activities:	Susan Handlin
ACC:	Mike Tavitias
Newsletter:	Volunteer Needed
Pet Registry:	Kathy Davis
Swim Team:	Julie Xia
Webmaster:	Volunteer Needed
Welcome:	Patty Meredith

Stonegate Hill HOA
Spectrum Assn Management
17319 San Pedro Suite 318
San Antonio, TX 78232

Hours: M-F 9 am to 5 pm
Phone: 210-494-0659
Fax: 210-494-0887

For Maintenance Emergencies
Call 210-494-0659 or
Email:
contact@spectrumam.com
Website:
www.spectrumam.com

Stonegate Sentinel

Vol. XXIX, No.1

Our Neighborhood Newsletter

February 2022

WILDLIFE CONCERNS

With Microsoft construction starting soon, there will be many wild animals visiting the neighborhood from the nearby wooded areas. They will be looking for a new home and moving their young. The Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Kendall County has a wealth of information on how to deal with wild animals. For even more information, please go to www.wildlifeline.org.

GOOGLE FIBER UPDATE

We are still on Google Fiber's list to install sometime in the first quarter 2022, but still have no firm date.

SAFFE OFFICER

Our neighborhood SAFFE (San Antonio Fear Free Environment) Officer is:
Justin Hatcher
7000 Culebra Road
Office 210-207-0807
Cell 210-414-2853
justin.hatcher@sanantonio.gov

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Stonegate Hill Board of Directors meetings will be held the second Monday of each month. Meetings will be from 6 to 8 p.m. via Zoom call or at location to be announced prior to the meeting.

The dates are posted on the SGH website (www.stonegatehill.com)

Guidelines for these meetings can be found on the Stonegate Hill website under HOA Documents.

PAYMENT OF HOMEOWNER DUES

First Quarter 2022 Assessments (Jan - Mar) of \$199.50 were due Jan 1st and were past due on Jan 31st. A late fee of \$20 was assessed if not paid by January 30, 2022. In addition, a \$20 late fee (plus interest) is applied to your account every month your account has a balance (which includes assessed late fees & interest until account is paid in full, or homeowner requests a payment plan.

Payments may be done online through your bank or you may go to www.spectrumam.com and log in to your homeowner account.

Payment may also be made by credit card or echeck/ACH. There will be a 3.5% fee for credit card payments or \$1.99 for echeck/ACH payment or download the Spectrum AM HOA.app at either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

If you find yourself in a past due payment situation, visit the Homeowner Help portal at www.spectrumam.com to request a payment plan. Late fees are **not**

assessed while on a payment plan and payments made as agreed upon.

Checks or money orders may be mailed to Spectrum Association Management, P. O. Box 299008 Lewisville TX 75029. Be sure to put your account number on the front of the check. There is no service fee.

NOTE: Spectrum Association Management accepts checks, money orders, cashier's checks or credit cards when conducting business at their office. No service fees are assessed if paid by check or money order/cashier's check.

SGH WEBSITE

Check the neighborhood website, www.stonegatehill.com, to find updated info on what is going on in the neighborhood.

Please refer to the website in between publications of the *Stonegate Sentinel* to see what is happening.

DATES OF INTEREST

Days to Display the U.S. Flag

President's Day.....Feb 21
Easter Sunday..... Apr 17
Mother's Day.....May 8

School Holidays

President's Day.....Feb 21
Spring Break.....Mar 14-18
Battle of Flowers.....Apr 8
Student Holiday.....Apr 15
Memorial Day..... May 30

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The *Stonegate Sentinel* is published four times per year, in February, May, August and November. Residents are encouraged to provide input for the *Stonegate Sentinel*.

See advertisements on page 6.

Please provide articles for the May 2022 newsletter via email to stonegatehill@gmail.com. Articles or ads received after April 25 may not make it into the newsletter. Please put SGH Newsletter in the title of emails.

Newsletter articles should be of interest to a majority of residents. Ads for services by residents under the age of 18 (lawn mowing, babysitting, etc.) may be submitted at no cost. Service ads by residents over 18 will be charged a fee of \$5, \$15, or \$30 per issue, depending on the size and whether it is personal or commercial business. **Money must be received before the ad will be included in the newsletter.**

Since this is a small newsletter, the content will be limited to what fits, and may be edited if necessary. The Board of Directors must approve all articles. Articles not used may be reserved for a later newsletter.

ADVERTISEMENTS

GRACIE'S BABYSITTING SERVICE

- High school student with years of babysitting experience
- First aid and CPR certified, and COVID-19 immunized
- Available to babysit only in the Stonegate Hill community
- Rates: \$10 per hour plus \$5 per additional child
- Phone: (210)-488-1106

Endorsed by your neighbors!



Professional Window Cleaner

James Sorick

(210) 382-9595

"Windows so clean, you'll think they are open"

Free Estimates

Life Insurance for peace of mind in these uncertain times.



Time to give it some thought.

Talk with someone who knows
your personal needs!

DHI - Doug Handlin Insurance

210-509-2277



Call **today** for a no obligation
personal review, and receive a
complimentary copy of
My Final Wishes Planner
while supplies last

