

THE

Fall 2020

Stonecrest CONNECTION

A Publication Of The Stonecrest Homes Association For Our Property Owners.

Welcome... THE STONECREST CONNECTION!

We hope you've already noticed that our association newsletter has taken on a whole new look and format. In fact, it has an entirely new name! Instead of just being "the newsletter," it's now called "*The Stonecrest Connection*."

With so many progressive things happening in our subdivision, we thought it would be a good time to give our newsletter a bit of a make-over. Inside this first issue, you'll find important notices about exciting changes throughout the neighborhood, useful information that every homeowner should know, light-hearted feature articles, and even a fun activity page for the kids and young at heart.

You may be asking yourself, "Is the 'upgrade' worth the additional cost?" Well, the good news is, thanks to our sponsoring advertisers, there's no additional cost to the association. On the contrary, we actually make a few dollars as a result! Normally, the cost of printing and mailing our Spring and Fall newsletters would cost the association around \$600-\$650 each time. Now, with the support of our sponsoring advertisers, the total cost of postage and the upgraded printing (approximately \$1,050) is covered by these advertising revenues. Plus, we make about \$500 in additional income. So, when you combine the \$600-\$650 we'd normally pay for our newsletter with the profit of \$500, you'll see that we are ahead somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,100+ each time we send out a newsletter! ***So, please thank and support our newsletter sponsors!*** You'll see their ads scattered throughout this publication. They made this possible!

We hope you enjoy this new publication and will read it cover-to-cover. Who knows... it may become a quarterly publication! We always welcome ideas and suggestions! So, for now, enjoy *The Stonecrest Connection*!

*A Publication
of the Stonecrest
Board of Directors.*

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Sandy

From The President...

Expect the unexpected. I've heard this or a similar phrase many times throughout my life. Just a year ago, who would have expected that we all would be living life as we are now? Social distancing, wearing face masks nearly everywhere we go, avoiding crowded spaces, and unable to enjoy public events, sporting games, theater and live entertainment... it's all vastly different than it was just one year ago.

Many are calling it the "new normal" and some even say "it'll never be the same again." These changes in everyday life certainly weren't expected, but we learned to cope, evolve and adapt to these changes. Here in Stonecrest, we've seen several changes as a result... more people out walking with their families and pets, an increased amount of lawn care and landscaping (people just want to get outside and do something!), but more importantly, I've noticed a stronger sense of community. So if you take the "glass is half full" perspective, the necessary evolution and adaptation has brought some positive things to our community.

When I started serving on our HOA board five or six years ago, I had two things in mind that I wanted to see happen in our development. First of all, I wanted to see some basic upgrades to the physical appearance of the neighborhood. Secondly, and even more importantly, I wanted to help foster a sense of neighborhood "togetherness" and pride. We've all seen the new landscaping and lighting at the entrances and makeover of the "islands" and common areas. And even though it's very subjective and you can't measure it, I am sensing more Stonecrest community pride from residents with whom I come in contact. I'm hoping we can continue on this path and make our neighborhood friendlier, more beautiful, and stronger. Let's all make an extra effort to be kind to our neighbors, and lend a helping hand if needed. Remember, *"WE" are the neighborhood...* let's make it the best it can be.

And finally, please support the advertisers who made this inaugural issue of *The Stonecrest Connection* possible. The owners of every single business that is advertising in this issue *live right here in Stonecrest*. Let's all make an effort to support our neighbors!

David Sandy

President
Stonecrest Homes Association

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FREE FALL YARD WASTE PICKUP

It's time for our annual fall yard waste pickup. Now's the time to get rid of the fallen leaves and your properties looking great before winter! The date is Saturday, December 5, from 8am until noon. **NOTE: ALL ITEMS MUST BE CURBSIDE BEFORE 8am!**

HERE'S WHAT'S ALLOWED - *all waste must be in biodegradable bags or barrels that can be dumped, limbs & branches (must be bundled together no longer than 48" and 18" round.)*

HERE'S WHAT IS NOT ALLOWED - *yard waste in plastic bags, garbage/trash bags weighing over 75 pounds each, railroad ties. NOTE: limbs/branches not bundled will not be picked up.*

The logo for Modern Improvement features a stylized house with a red roof and blue siding on the left. To the right, the word 'Modern' is written in a large, red, cursive font with a blue outline, and 'IMPROVEMENT' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font below it.

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Here's Some Neighborhood Information You Should Know

POLITICAL SIGNS IN YARDS - Effective August 2018, Missouri state statutes were revised to state that homeowner associations can no longer ban political signs in yards. Because of this revision, a Stonecrest homeowner may display a candidate or ballot measure political sign in their own yard, but must remove when the election is complete.

REAL ESTATE SIGNS - Just as a reminder, it is okay to post a real estate "For Sale" sign in your own yard, but please refrain from posting real estate or directional signs in anyone else's yard or in our Stonecrest common areas.

RESTRICTION VIOLATIONS - Regarding potential violations of our homeowner restrictions, it is important to note that the board of directors does not police the neighborhood looking for violations. It is the homeowners' responsibility to report possible restriction violations to the board by filling out the Restriction Violations Form on our website ([please](#) use this form as opposed to calling the office or sending an email). Names of persons submitting reports are kept confidential and absolutely no anonymous reports will be addressed.

YARD WASTE AND LEAVES - Please note that it is a violation of St. Joseph city ordinances to blow or deposit leaves or other yard waste into a storm sewer opening. Failure to comply may result in a ticket and fine.

REPORTING A STREET POTHOLE OR DEFECT - Please remember that the Stonecrest Homes Association does not maintain the streets in our neighborhood. That's the responsibility of the City of St. Joseph. If you know of a pothole in your area, please report it to the city. Encourage your neighbors to do the same. Simply go to this city website and fill out the online form:

<http://www.stjoemo.info/index.aspx?NID=306>

Click on the REPORT A CONCERN button on that webpage and follow the online instructions. It's really that easy!

TREE LIMBS OVER STREETS & SIDEWALKS - Keep in mind that no tree in St. Joseph may have limbs or branches that hang over a city street or sidewalk any lower than 14 feet from the street/sidewalk surface. Property owners are responsible to trim and maintain their trees' branches so they are at least 14 feet above the surface of the street and/or sidewalk. If you have any questions or concerns, call the city at 816-271-4620.


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St. Joseph Performing Arts Association Brings Special Halloween Event To The Stonecrest Neighborhood

Here's a fun family Halloween event that'll take place right here in Stonecrest! Sponsored by the St. Joseph Performing Arts Association, this Arts On The Move two-hour event will feature a live local band and

magical entertainment by magicians Lance Rich and David Sandy. The event is free, however, donations will be accepted by the Performing Arts Association to help provide arts programming to the St. Joseph community. Bring your own lawn chairs and *please remember to respect social distancing at all times!* In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held the following day at the same time.



Stonecrest Neighborhood
Spooktacular
Halloween
Concert & Event
Saturday, October 31, 2020
3:00pm
Location: At the intersection of
Stonecrest Terrace & Eastwood Drive
Presented by the St. Joseph Performing Arts Association



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Brian & Ashley Lamia
Eric Bond
Jason & Hattie Shipley

YOU are our neighbors.

No matter who you **vote** for, your **skin** color, your **faith**, or who you

love, we will try to be **here** for you.

That's what community means.

Let's **be** neighbors.

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Easter Bunny appears in Stonecrest looking for eggs

It was early in the pandemic's "shelter at home" mandate when Easter Sunday hit. Kids were couped up in their homes with not a lot to keep them occupied. That's when the Stonecrest Virtual Easter Egg Hunt was announced.

Kids colored Easter eggs and posted them on their doors and front windows in hopes the Easter bunny would spot them Easter Sunday when he was chauffeured around the neighborhood looking for the colored eggs. Dozens of colorful eggs were found, and out of all of them posted, the Easter Bunny randomly drew a handful of winners (live on our Facebook page). The young artists received complimentary ice cream treats from Kris & Kates ice cream here in St. Joseph. Special thanks to Austin Evans of Kris & Kates for graciously donating the prizes!



Temperance Buntin poses with her colored Easter egg



Stonecrest entrances and common spaces get make-over

Most of you probably have already seen the big improvements to our entrances and common spaces (islands) throughout the neighborhood. The SHA board voted to have these areas completely renovated with new landscaping and live plants. In addition, new LED lighting was installed at the main Stonecrest entrance off Frederick as well as both the north and south Leonard Road entrances (thanks to Lance Rich and David Sandy for installing all of the lighting and transformers). The landscaping work was completed by Grass Roots Lawn & Landscaping here in St. Joseph. Things are looking good around the neighborhood!



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THE OFFICE UPDATE

Reported By Jane Hausman, Secretary



DUES: Annual home association dues collections for the June 2020/May 2021 year are coming in at a good pace. With just over 600 properties in the Stonecrest Homes Association over 550 properties have paid their dues. All dues became "past due" after July 30th, 2020. If you have not yet paid your \$65 annual dues, please do this. Payments can be mailed to the office or for your convenience, payment can also be made using PayPal on the SHA website at: www.stonecresthomesassoc.com.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: The office has increased the residential owners' email database by over 300 homes. This was achieved by property owners filling out the lower portion of the green dues payment postcard that was sent out in May and returning the portion requesting their email addresses. Thank you for doing this! This allows the office to send out notices of meetings, events, etc. that affect you. If you have not sent your email address to the office, please do so now on our website under "CONTACT US"!

RESTRICTION VIOLATIONS: Reporting of restriction violations have been down over the past year with 23 violation being reported on, personally investigated, and then addressed with the resident. Most violations involve trailers & boats on driveways, yard maintenance, and general appearance of the property. If a restriction violation is noticed by a resident, a Restriction Violation form can be filled out on the website and sent to the office.

CONSTRUCTION APPROVAL FORMS: If you are planning on doing a construction project(s), you need to go to the website and fill out the Construction Approval Form prior to starting your project. Once the form is received the project will be taken under advisement by the board and you will be notified of the results. This past year the board received 14 approval forms with 9 being approved, 1 not approved, and 4 only being inquiries into whether the property owner needed approval for a given project.

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 31, 2020 . . . PAA Halloween Concert & Event
 Monday, November 2, 2020 Quarterly Board Meeting
 Saturday, December 5, 2020 Fall Yard Waste Pickup
 Monday, February 1, 2021 Quarterly Board Meeting
 Monday, May 3, 2021 Quarterly Board Meeting
 Wednesday, May 26, 2021 Annual Membership Meeting
 Monday, August 2, 2021 Quarterly Board Meeting
 Monday, November 1, 2021 Quarterly Board Meeting

Mark these dates on your calendar now. Details on the location and times of these events may be found elsewhere in this or future issues of *The Stonecrest Connection*, or on our official Facebook page and website.

Welcome new members of the Board of Directors

We'd like to welcome our newest members of the Stonecrest Homes Association Board of Directors... Shaun Agnew and Jean Foster! Serving on the board is a volunteer commitment... so we appreciate these folks' giving of their time and talents!

Stay up to date with our online resources

If you haven't already done it, please join/like our official Stonecrest Homes Association Facebook page located here: <https://www.facebook.com/stonecresthomesassociation> . Also, for more information and resources about the neighborhood, check out our website (www.stonecresthomesassoc.com).

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Stonecrest KIDS' FUN PAGES

These 14 Stonecrest neighborhood streets are "hiding" in the Seek & Find puzzle. How many can you find?

Woodcrest	Northcrest
Tanglewood	Woodfield
Stonecrest	Southwood
Mockingbird	Bridal Wreath
Greenbriar	Edgewood
Leonard	Hummingbird
Eastwood	Meadowcrest

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Riddle #1

Which word becomes shorter when you add 2 letters to it?

ANSWER: The word "short."

Riddle #2

You're running a race and at the very end, you pass the person in 2nd place. What place did you finish the race in?

ANSWER: You finished in 2nd place.

Riddle #3

Kate's mother has three children: Snap, Crackle and _____?

ANSWER: Kate! It's Kate's mother.



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HALLOWEEN COLORING CONTEST

You could win great prizes by drawing or coloring your own Halloween-themed picture! Just draw (with pencil, crayons, markers or paint) on a regular 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper. Make sure it is a fall or Halloween theme. After you're done, scan it or take a photo with your phone and email us the picture at newsletter@stonecresthomesassoc.com. We'll pick a 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place... and those winners will receive some wonderful prizes! All photos will be posted on the official Stonecrest Facebook page, too! Deadline for entry is November 1, 2020! Enter today!



What's The 10 Differences Between Pic 1 & Pic 2?



LOST in STONECREST

Can you find your way out of Stonecrest and get to Interstate 29 in the maze on the right? See how fast you can!



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Important Neighborhood News Inside!

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