

# Plano

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# Moving a house

Historic Wylie home to be relocated, restored **12**



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WYLIE

# Preserving history

Stone family house to be relocated ahead of planned subdivision

By MEREDITH SHAMBURGER  
mshamburger@neighborsgo.com

A historic house in Wylie is being moved — and restored. Developers, city officials and the Wylie Historical Society have been working together to preserve Stonehaven, the Stone family house, ahead of the planned Stone Ranch Development. Officials are looking at turning the structure into a meeting place and museum for the historical society.

“We are very, very excited,” City Planner Renae Ollie said. “And it seems like the Council was very excited to keep that house.”

## Family home

Stonehaven was built in 1912 by William Stone when he married Charlotte Howard. Stone used techniques from architectural pattern books and his study of Frank Lloyd Wright to design the house, which is in the style of a 20th century bungalow. The house has been a recorded Texas Historic Landmark since 1992.

The 38 acres of land at the intersection of South Ballard Avenue and Alanis Drive were originally issued to the Stone family in 1850. The land — and Stonehaven, once it was built — has remained in the family since that time.

Wylie has numerous historic buildings, many of which are within the downtown historic district. But Wylie Historical Society President Jon Lewis



Staff photos by ASHLEY LANDIS/DMN

Jim Douglas of Plano-based Douglas Properties, Inc., speaks to the Wylie City Council during a public hearing on the Stone Ranch development, which includes the historic Stonehaven house, on Feb. 10 in the Council Chambers at the Wylie Municipal Complex.

Because Alanis Drive is going to be widened, Stonehaven must be moved north about 400 feet to the north, across from Wylie Fire Station No. 1, according to developer Jim Douglas.

said several historic buildings were damaged or destroyed. Charlotte Stoekle, the house's owner, and the city have been eager to preserve the house.

Wylie has a shorter list of historic properties than other area communities, Lewis said.

“What’s left is what we have.”

## Proposed subdivision

Plano-based Douglas Properties is developing Stone Ranch with Stoekle. Proposals call for 145 lots on the 38 acres just south of downtown Wylie. The development is expected to incorporate the site's history and the historic house in its overall theme.

Stone Ranch will be surrounded by similar single-family homes in the

Westwind Meadows Subdivision to the north and the Southplace Estates to the east.

Because Alanis Drive is going to be widened, Stonehaven must be moved north about 400 feet to the north, across from Wylie Fire Station No. 1, according to developer Jim Douglas.

The land it will sit on will be legally separated from the subdivision, but developers plan to incorporate it into a planned 1.87-acre park that will sit at the entrance to the subdivision. In addition to a hiking trail, developers plan to put in 10 parking spots that could be used by park-goers and people visiting Stonehaven.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Robert Diaz noted in a discussion about the house that a separate plat is



The historic Stonehaven house at the intersection of South Ballard Avenue and Alanis Drive in Wylie. Developers, city officials and the Wylie Historical Society have been working together to preserve the Stone family house ahead of the planned Stone Ranch Development. The development is expected to incorporate the site's history and the historic house in its overall theme.



**Above right:** Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue (center), and members of the Wylie City Council listen to speakers, including Wylie Planning and Zoning Director Renae Ollie, **(above left)** during a public hearing on the Stone Ranch development. The council voted to move forward with the development and move the Stonehaven house.

needed because otherwise voters would have to approve giving the house to the

city in a referendum.

Stone Ranch's future homeowners

association will be responsible for maintaining the park, according to

Douglas. The arrangement is similar to other subdivisions in the city. Officials are still working to finalize who will be responsible for maintaining Stonehaven.

Wylie's parks and recreation board approved a conceptual plan for the parkland dedication on Feb. 9, and the City Council approved a rezoning of the site the next day.

## A new purpose

Stonehaven presents a particular opportunity, city officials have said.

“The house portion of the parkland dedication for this project is very unique, and it will probably take some additional meetings to work out the details,” Diaz said.

Lewis says the city is looking at whether the home can be used by the Historical Society as both a museum and

a meeting place. The Historical Society would stage the house to a particular period of history. In addition to holding meetings at the house, Lewis said it would be open to the public and students at times to help them learn about the past.

“It's something that we can utilize as a group,” he said.

City staff and developers have worked out an agreement to have Douglas Properties move the house, and that could include restoration work when the relocation happens, Ollie said.

“The hope is that they're going to restore it, putting in some new wiring and plumbing so that its already ready for the Wylie Historical Society to occupy,” she said.

Plano neighborsgo editor Meredith Shamburger can be reached at 214-977-8292.



## ABOUT THE HOUSE

Stonehaven is a bungalow designed by William Stone for his wife, Charlotte, on the eve of their marriage. Stone used techniques from architectural pattern books and his study of Frank Lloyd Wright to design the house, which sits today at the intersection of South Ballard Avenue and Alanis Drive. The house is a recorded Texas Historic Landmark.