

Commonwealth Comments

An electronic newsletter for residents of The Commonwealth:

Bridgewater, Commonwealth Estates, Commonwealth Park, Oxford, Sutton Forest, Sutton Park and Sweetwater XII

September/October

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And More.....

Moms Survived Summer Social

scheduled for September 12th at the clubhouse

Flyer not provided.

Please watch the marquee at the Knightsbridge Clubhouse for details.

Please share this Commonwealth Comments with your CW neighbors who may not know it exists!

They will receive it automatically once they sign up on our Email Distribution List.

**They can send their names, physical addresses and email addresses to:
news@commonwealthcivic.com**

As OUR Community Partner, Crest Management Company is continually working to provide the tools we need to live and play in our community. Crest has introduced us to their latest and greatest feature, **Email Opt-In**.

Residents will receive official communication, assessment statements, and EMR and deed restriction letters, by email rather than mail, saving the association printing and postage costs.

Update your settings today by logging in and clicking the User icon next to your name. Check the box next to Email Opt-In and click Update Email Choices.

Not registered yet? Head over to www.crest-management.com and click Homeowner Login. Select Not Registered

Questions About Trash Pickup?

Visit the City of Sugar Land's website to learn more!
www.sugarlandtx.gov - Search for your area of concern on the site.
Or call 3-1-1.

Fall Veggie Share



Consider joining the community Veggie Share (from Harvest Green).

Commonwealth receives delivery every Tuesday.
Delivery is free as long as we continue to have 10 people in our Veggie Share group.

Details are shared upon request: Sumita at: sumitasugarland@gmail.com

To sign up, go to: www.harvie.farm/profile/harvest-green-village-farm



The Kids are back in school. Please drive accordingly!



If you have questions or need help downloading a Modification Application from the website reach out to RONALD at Crest at 281-945-4663.

REMINDER

If you are planning improvements/renovations to the outside of your home, please do not forget to submit your MDR application BEFORE beginning the work.

Unapproved changes can be costly to the homeowner.

For timely approval, applications should be in the office of Crest Management on or before the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Please visit the Crest Management website for:

Exterior Modification Requests, Contacts, to Access Account information, poicies, pool tags, meeting dates, etc.



Sign up for our Email Alert Distribution List for local alerts.

The Commonwealth Website:
www.commonwealthcivic.com

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The Crest Management Website:
www.crest-management.com/

IT NEVER SEEMS TO END!

It Never Seems To End and, as we mentioned last issue, The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Brazos River Bridge Project has begun. Traffic will (often) be a nightmare as TXDOT closes lanes for road work for the next **THREE YEARS**.

This means that if you support businesses in Richmond/Rosenberg (on the other side of the Brazos River) or if you visit friends or family over there, you will face traffic woes for years to come.

This is even more frustrating because road work is also being done on Highway 90 around New Territory, meaning that no matter which way you choose to cross the river, you will face challenges. That project, given the cooperation of the weather, should take less than a year.

About this Project

The City will share lane closure notifications as they are received from TxDOT. On-site digital message boards will also be used to provide updates. Residents are asked to be mindful of work crews, expect traffic delays, and when possible, avoid the area to prevent traffic congestion.

Project updates will be available on TxDOT's project website.
For real-time traffic conditions around this area, visit its.sugarlandtx.gov.

You may sign up for TxDOT and/or City of Sugar Land notifications for the road closures and our Facebook page. (The Commonwealth HOA) will post notifications as we receive the information.



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

At this point, forecasters have revised their expectations for this hurricane season.

While they really can't KNOW what is coming, they now believe our weather pattern will be calmer than originally projected.

We do our best to stay on top of weather impacting our area, and sharing information with you via both Facebook and email, however, you can do your part by watching the weather reports on a regular basis and having preparations available at your home. (i.e. food that requires no refrigeration, water for drinking and also for flushing toilets, enough medications for a few days to a week in stock, and pet food.

It also helps to pack patience and a sense of humor.



FIRE ANTS 101

In the 1930s fire ants were accidentally introduced to the USA from South America. They made their way to Texas in 1956. From 1957 to 1982, the imported red fire ants moved west at a rate of 20 to 30 miles per year. They have slowed but now cover the eastern two-thirds of the state.

Fire ant mounds are not necessary for their survival, and in extremely hot and/or dry climates they'll move deeper into the ground and you won't see a mound.

Red imported fire ant colonies are made up of several types of adults, or castes. There are winged males, reproductives, workers (wingless, sterile females) and one or more mated queens. The reproductives live in the mound until they make their mating flight. The males die after mating. Fewer than 10% of the females survive. The surviving females are now queens and the sperm from mating is stored in their bodies. They will look for a suitable nesting site, shed their wings, and begin digging a chamber to start a new colony.

The queen's sole purpose is to lay eggs and they can lay both fertilized and unfertilized eggs with the sperm stored in her body since mating. The unfertilized eggs develop into winged males and fertilized eggs will develop into either fertile winged females or sterile female worker ants. Fire ant queens can live up to 7 years and produce up to 1,000 eggs per day. There are single queen colonies called monogyne colonies and multiple queen colonies called polygynes.

Colonies are made up of 100,000 to 500,000 worker ants, and several hundred winged reproductives. The worker ants are responsible for the construction and maintenance of the nest, caring for the brood and queen, foraging for food, protecting the colony, and disposing of the waste. They're always working! As the workers age, they have fewer responsibilities. Fire ant workers generally live 4 to 6 weeks.

Fire ants are hard to get rid of. They are tough and resilient and their mounds are very durable, primarily because the colonies are so large.

Watch Your Step -- Fire Ant Stings

When it bites, the red fire ant will attach itself to your skin with clamp-like mandibles. It will then use its abdominal stinger to inject its alkaloid venom into the victim. It will sting repeatedly until its brushed away or killed. The stings cause a burning sensation. Next comes an itchy welt and then a blister. Often times, the little blisters are filled with a pus-like fluid. This is actually dead tissue. **Try not to scratch the sting and don't try to squeeze out the fluid.** It can lead to infection and scarring.

To relieve the discomfort, you can ice the area, take an antihistamine and use a hydrocortisone cream to relieve the itching. Although rare, some may experience an allergic reaction to the stings. Seek medical attention if you get hives, cramping in your gut with nausea and diarrhea, dizziness, tightening in your chest or swelling of the tongue.

Getting rid of them can be a challenge.

If you attempt to eliminate a colony incorrectly, they'll divide and start a new colony. Their tunnels go deep into the ground, can extend up to 8 feet in all directions and have multiple entrances and exits. They can even survive floods.

There were clumps of floating fire ants during and after Hurricane Harvey in 2017. These temporary structures had up to 100,000 ants and the ants survived the ride until a permanent home was found.

Here are some things you can try:

- Boiling water, according to Texas A&M, it works about 60% of the time. The problem is that the boiling water will probably not reach the queen who is deep underground.
- Drench the mound with liquid insecticide.
- Try putting bait around the mound. Products like Amdro work well. The worker ants will carry the bait to the others in the mound and will even take it to the queen.
- You can treat a large area using a broadcast spreader.
- Call a professional. They have access to more potent and effective insecticides than what's sold over the counter.

Is there anything good to be said about red fire ants? They can reduce tick, chigger, flea larvae and hatching cockroach populations. That's about it.

My only advice—watch your step because they're here to stay.



adapted from an article by Cheryl Conley

Sugar Land Info

WWW.SUGARLANDTX.GOV

Incorporated in 1959

Mayor of Sugar Land:

Joe Zimmerman

City Councilmember for District 4 (Commonwealth):

Carol McCutcheon

At-Large Sugar Land Councilmembers: *William Ferguson and Jennifer Lane*

City Council Calls Bond Election

Sugar Land City Council called a \$350 million bond election for Nov. 5 to address public safety, streets, mobility and sidewalks, drainage, municipal facilities, and the planned animal shelter.



City Council's vote during a special meeting on Aug. 15 provides voters a choice to consider funding up to \$350 million for proposed capital projects over the next five to seven years, which equates to approximately \$300 million in project costs in 2024 dollars. If voters approve the projects, the bonds will require a tax rate increase of no more than 5 cents, spread out over the next five to seven years. This equates to an incremental monthly cost to the average homeowner of approximately \$5 each year – or about \$20 per month by 2030, excluding property revaluation. All projects are anticipated to be completed or under construction in the next five to seven years.

Bond projects were identified through years of public feedback including the most recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey, sentiment surveys and community meetings - as well as various master plans and City Council input.

Comprehensive community engagement and education will be conducted prior to the election. This will take place at community meetings, HOA meetings and special events. For more information including a complete project listing, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/SLBond2024.

Legends Do Live, Microsoft Showcase Future of Sugar Land Education at Demo Day Events 2024

The Sugar Land Civic Arts Division will partner with Legends Do Live, a 501c3 organization, and Reading With A Rapper (RWAR) for Demo Day on Sept. 14, at 10 a.m., at Sugar Land City Hall, 2700 Town Center Blvd. North. The event will be held in collaboration with Microsoft and Visit Sugar Land.

As a proud graduate of Hightower High School, co-founder Jarren Small has deep ties to the Fort Bend area, making this event particularly significant for the local community. Small, alongside other educational leaders and artists within the Legends Do Live organization—many of whom are also Fort Bend ISD graduates and teachers—is actively involved in transforming education in the district. RWAR will use this opportunity to demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of its educational approach.

During the event, RWAR will not only showcase how

its curriculum is transforming the way students engage with literature through culture but will also present a “demo” of their new platform, RWAR+. This new offering is designed to enhance the educational experience by integrating technology and culture in a way that resonates with today's youth.

Microsoft, a key collaborator, will have products and devices on-site, allowing attendees to explore the latest in educational technology and see firsthand how these tools can be integrated into RWAR's curriculum.

Sugar Land Civic Arts Division Manager Sha Davis is excited about the event.

The event is open to the public, and all are invited to experience the future of education at this groundbreaking Demo Day of RWAR+.

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“By fostering creativity and critical thinking skills through its innovative curriculum, RWAR is empowering the next generation of innovators, which will fuel economic growth and innovation in Sugar Land for years to come.” added Sugar Land Senior Marketing Manager Jordan Cutler.

RSVP for the event at www.eventbrite.com/e/reading-with-a-rapper-presents-demo-day-x-sugar-land-city-hall-takeover-tickets-1000101218667.

Mosquitos Test Positive for West Nile Virus

The city of Sugar Land has confirmed the presence of West Nile virus at a mosquito trap located near the intersection of Mason Road and Oakwood Lane.

The mosquitoes were trapped last week, and Sugar Land was notified late yesterday that at least one mosquito in the trap tested positive for West Nile.

The city will continue citywide spraying twice per week and is working closely with the Texas Department of State Health Services to trap and test mosquitos for the presence of the West Nile virus. The traps supplement the city's larvicide and mosquito spraying operations.

Humans can contract West Nile virus from a mosquito bite. Infected mosquitoes get the virus from feeding on infected birds. The virus can cause serious illness or death.

Dr. Joe Anzaldua, the city's medical director and health authority, urges residents to take precautions to reduce West Nile exposure.

“Residents should use insect repellent whenever they are outdoors and avoid going outside at dusk and dawn when mosquitos are most active,” said Anzaldua, who added that the city of Sugar Land has a comprehensive monitoring and testing program intended to keep the public safe. “People over 50 years old and those with compromised immune systems are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill if infected with the virus. If people have symptoms that cause them concern, they should contact their healthcare provider immediately.”

There are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent West Nile virus infection. The uncommon, if not rare neuro-invasive illness, also known as West Nile Encephalitis may include symptoms such as a stiff neck, vision problems, body tremors, mental confusion, memory loss and seizures. The milder, more common form of the illness is West Nile Fever. Symptoms may include fever, headache, muscle and bone aches, nausea and drowsiness. People with the milder form of the illness typically recover on their own, although symptoms may last for several weeks. Up to 80 percent of people infected with West Nile virus will have no symptoms and will recover on their own. Anyone with questions or concerns should contact their doctor.

The Texas Department of State Health Services recommends practicing the "Four Ds" as precautionary measures.



- * Use insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- * Dress in long sleeves and long pants when you are outside.
- * Stay indoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- * Drain standing water where mosquitoes breed. Common breeding sites include old tires, flowerpots and clogged rain gutters.

It's also important for residents to eliminate standing water around their homes, an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

For more information, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/fightthebite.

Fort Bend County Info

WWW.FORTBENDCOUNTYTX.GOV

Incorporated in 1959

Fort Bend County Judge:

KP George

Commissioner Precinct 3 (Commonwealth):

Andy Meyer

Fort Bend County Sheriff:

Eric Fagan

Fort Bend County Launches New Mobility Projects Dashboard

Fort Bend County Commissioner Dexter L. McCoy is excited to announce a new dashboard created to keep residents up to date about the mobility bond projects happening across Fort Bend County.

These projects include enhancing roadways, installing traffic circles and lights, and expanding sidewalks.

Residents can easily access detailed information such as project locations, scope of work, funding sources, and project statuses, all at their fingertips, from a phone or computer. They can view the information on an interactive map or in list form.

The dashboard can be accessed at <http://fbctx.gov/mobility>.

GARDENING NOTE

Believe it or not, Dandelions are actually good for your lawn. Their wide-spreading root system helps loosen hard-packed soil, aerating the soil and reducing erosion and have a long tap root that takes nutrients from deep within the soil (helping other plants).

Every part of the dandelion is safe for us to eat; the roots, stems, leaves and flower. They are part of the sunflower family and are related to lettuce, endive, and chicory. They are very nutritious and provide calcium, magnesium, iron, and vitamins A, C, and K. Dandelion is also found in traditional medicines, supplements and herbal teas where they support blood sugar levels and boost skin, liver and heart health. The Chinese and Indians have grown dandelions for centuries to

treat liver and digestive disorders. (Bees and other pollinators love dandelions.)

The leaves are often used in salads but you can also saute, steam, or boil them, or add chopped leaves to your dips. The buds can be eaten fresh but are better when cooked or pickled. The roots are best after drying them out and are often used to make tea and coffee. Use the flowers in salads or pull them apart and use as a garnish. Steep them in boiling water for about ten minutes and you'll have dandelion tea.

With a little research, you will find recipes for dandelion wine, tea, cookies, cakes, syrups and more.

Learn to Prepare for

Thunderstorms & Lightning
Extreme Heat
Severe Weather

Flooding
Build an Emergency Supply Kit
Tips for Older Adults

Make a Family Plan Now
Make a Plan Now
Emergency Alerts

HINTS FROM READY.GOV

Civic Association Board of Directors Information

The Commonwealth Board of Directors

President
Jim Levermann

Vice President
David Bristow

Treasurer
Jennifer Vance

Secretary
Sarah McCoy

Member At Large
Melissa Harrington

Board Member Liaisons

Clubhouse, Pool and Swim Team –
Jennifer Vance

Communications: (newsletter, website, eblasts and marquee) –
Sarah McCoy

Community Events and Clubs –
Sarah McCoy & Melissa Harrington

Enhancement Committee –
Melissa Harrington

Landscape (including electrical, fountains and sprinklers) – Jim Levermann

Modifications Committee –
Dave Bristow

Playgrounds – Jim Levermann

Tennis Courts (tennis leagues & tennis court reservation system)-
Jim Levermann

To send an email
to any board
member, click
the envelope.



Board Meetings are held at
The Clubhouse at 6 p.m. on the
fourth Thursday of each month.

For more information, contact
Heather at
HeatherE@crest-management.com or 281-945-4630.

Additional Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Modifications and Deed Restrictions Committee
meets at the Clubhouse at 7 p.m.
on the third Tuesday of the month.

For more information, contact
ronalddt@crest-management.com 281-945-4663

The Landscape Committee
meets on an as-needed basis.
Contact Crest Management for the next meeting time and date.

First Colony LID #2
meets the FIRST Tuesday of each month at the
Commonwealth Clubhouse starting at noon.
www.fclid2.com
For more information, call Ron at 281-265-0137.

CREST MANAGEMENT Company, Contact Information
P. O. Box 219320, Houston, TX. 77218
www.crest-management.com

Heather Esteban,
Property Manager
281-945-4630
(After Hours Emergency
713-935-7331)
[HeatherE@](mailto:HeatherE@crest-management.com)
crest-management.com

Ronald
Assistant Manager
281-945-4663
ronalddt@crest-management.com

**Deed restriction and architectural
matters; Clubhouse Scheduler/
Tennis Reservations**

Tammy - Account Representative
281-945-4658 - TammyA@Crest-Management.com

For accounting matters such as account information,
account balances and payment information

Commonwealth Groups & Activities

We love options!

To learn about working with the Association to start a group; anything from a book club to a bridge group, to a cooking class, contact

Sarah McCoy or Melissa Harrington and let them know of your interest.

The Association will help publicize your group and attempt to help you grow.

The Commonwealth has a Social Committee

To get involved with helping to schedule and organize events, please contact either
Melissa Harrington or Sarah McCoy.

Reach Melissa and/or Sarah by visiting [www.commonwealthcivic.com/contact us](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com/contact-us).

Commonwealth Communications

Commonwealth Email Alert Sign Up:

Shoot an email to
news@commonwealthcivic.com
Include your name and address
and we will add you!

The email alert is the way this Association shares
emergency weather information with residents.
We do not want anyone to miss out on important
warnings.

Please encourage your Commonwealth friends
and neighbors to sign up for our
Commonwealth Email Alerts.
That is the only way to receive this newsletter and
to ensure you are kept in The Commonwealth loop.

Crest Management also offers an email opt-in.

Their email allows you to receive **OFFICIAL BUSINESS**
communications from them via email.
Signing up will save the Association printing and postage
costs which helps keep annual dues down:

- ◇ Electronic HOA statements can come straight to your
inbox
- ◇ Notifications and Violation Letters will arrive quicker

Crest Management Email List Sign Up:

1. Login at www.crest-management.com and click on
the user icon by your name.
2. Select User Settings
3. Check the box next to Email Opt-in.
4. Click Update Email Choices

To be best informed, please sign up for **both** the Email Alert Distribution List
AND the Crest Management Email List.

For those interested, we also have a Facebook Page - The Commonwealth HOA -
where we post plenty of items of interest, not all of which is included in our emails.

Address any concerns to Heather at
heathere@crest-management.com.

NOTES and REMINDERS

Have something to celebrate?

Our beautifully decorated Clubhouse is available for rent by residents in good standing with The Commonwealth Homeowners Association.

If you are interested in scheduling a small gathering, please contact Crest Management.

281-579-0761

Be sure to check out The Commonwealth website where you will find documents, forms, a link to pay your dues, newsletters, local information and more!

Visit:
commonwealthcivic.com

The City of Sugar Land regulations require that your dog be leashed, at all times while in front of your home, or walking the neighborhood.

Your dog may not actually BE a threat to others, however, perception is reality!

AND -- we continue to ask that you pick up after your dog. We have dogwaste disposal stations throughout the community, please use them.



*This newsletter is Underwritten by
The Commonwealth Civic Association*

REMINDER ==

Trash cans and recycling bins may not be at the curb prior to 5 p.m. on the day before pick up.

This also applies to lawn debris. If your landscape company habitually leaves grass and tree cuttings in front of your home each week, ask them to start taking it with them.

They should be happy to accommodate you.
The HOA will pursue this offense - it does frustrate your neighbors.

Commonwealth Comments is the official newsletter/communication of The Commonwealth Civic Association.

Commonwealth Comments is published bi-monthly.

If you have content suggestions, please contact:

news@commonwealthcivic.com

The Board's Communications Liaison is *Sarah McCoy*
Sarah can be reached using the form on our Contact page on
www.commonwealthcivic.com

Layout & Design of the Newsletter/Email Alerts/Facebook
by the write idea: news@commonwealthcivic.com



Useful Phone Numbers

Police (Non-Emergency)	281-275-2020
Animal Control	281-275-2596
Fire Department	281-491-0852
Water & Streets	281-275-2750
Solid Waste Collection	713-726-7307
Public Works	281-275-2450
Street Lights (Centerpoint)	713-207-2222
<i>when calling about street lights, relay pole #.</i>	
CITY OF SUGAR LAND	3-1-1
POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY	9-1-1

Crest Management 281-579-0761

Pool Rentals: A-Beautiful Pools 281-376-6510

A-BeautifulPools.com



Happy Fall