

# Commonwealth Comments

An electronic newsletter for residents of  
The Commonwealth:

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



*Get Involved -  
Volunteer*

## **Inside This Issue**

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Share**

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Party**

**UPDATES:  
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L.I.D. Update  
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Tennis Court Update**

*Wishing you a safe, healthy peaceful holiday season!!!!!!*

**November/December 2024**

## Fall/Winter Veggie Share

Thanksgiving is considered the penultimate week for the local farmers. Given our climate, it's when the most food can be harvested.

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: [rsvpsugarland@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpsugarland@gmail.com)

To sign up, go to: [www.harvie.farm/profile/harvest-green-village-farm](http://www.harvie.farm/profile/harvest-green-village-farm)



The Commonwealth Civic Association Board of Directors was thrilled with the work done by our Landscape Company after the hurricane. They all performed above and beyond as they helped us return our community to its' previous state. We recently provided a much appreciated Thank you Bar-B-Q Luncheon for the 20 workers.

### Questions About Trash Pickup?

Visit the City of Sugar Land's website to learn more!

[www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov)

Search for your area of concern on the site.

Or call 3-1-1.

### 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, policies, pool tags, meeting dates, etc.



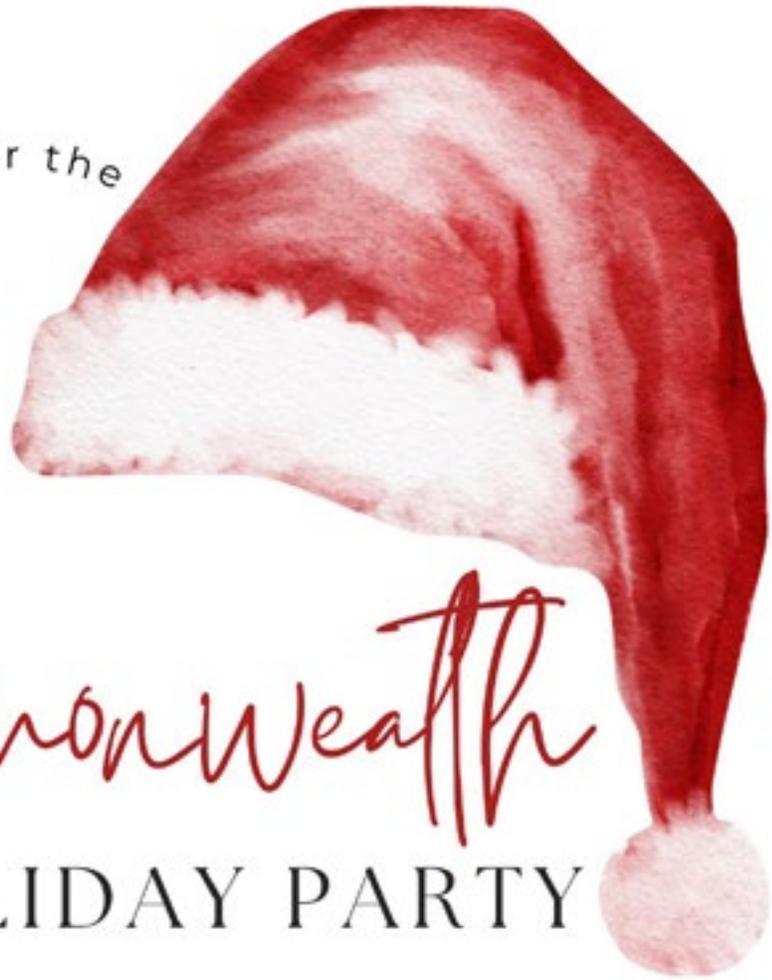
**REMINDER** – Avoid receiving a legal notification from the HOA.

Residents who suffered fence damage during the hurricane this summer are reminded to submit an application that will be promptly reviewed by our Modifications Committee and get those fences repaired.



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

Please Join us for the



Commonwealth  
HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 21



6:00-8:30 PM

Bundle up because there will be  
SNOW, an outdoor movie,  
pictures with Santa, cookies,  
hot cocoa and more!

Commonwealth Clubhouse

## Under Construction

### Tennis Court Refurbishing

A group of Commonwealth residents have been planning the replacement of the tennis court lighting with LED lighting and the resurfacing of the courts. At the next couple of board meetings they will be presenting the information gathered.

These projects should be executed in 2025. The LED lighting update will be very quick, but the resurfacing projects will require two and a half to three months for each of the courts.

We will take one set of courts out of service for resurfacing and then move on to the other courts once the first courts are back in service.

The board always welcomes and appreciates the active participation of residents in the planning for amenity improvements. These projects are part of the board's effort to keep Commonwealth competitive with surrounding developments.

### Taking Care of The Clubhouse

In the past few years we have redone our Briarwood and Knightsbridge pool areas. They look great!

Like a home, the needs appear to be on-going. The clubhouse leveling project has been completed. We will be reworking the sidewalk in front of the clubhouse to match the level of the clubhouse entry.



We are currently doing a thorough study of needs and expect that we will be resurfacing, putting in new lights.

As always, we are being very cost conscious and are currently awaiting three bids on the work.

Watch your email alerts for updates on progress.

### Our Fountains

Residents will notice that our fountain features have been turned off for a while. The issue revolves around the water level, not the fountain mechanisms. We are hoping for more rain this Fall but definitely by Spring!

As long as the water is low, we will have to keep our fountains turned off. Apologies to those who enjoy them so much.

We will be needing volunteers to help us with our Open House in December (see page 3). Watch your Email Alerts for sign up opportunities. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!

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](mailto:news@commonwealthcivic.com)

Sign up for our Email Alert Distribution Lists for local alerts (City, County and more!)

The Commonwealth Website:  
[www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)

The Crest Management Website:  
[www.crest-management.com/](http://www.crest-management.com/)

Different Information Is Provided via each of these email addresses! To be kept informed on the latest HOA info, please sign up for both.

## Landscape Update - Jamie Fairchild, Texas Master Naturalist

### It's Leave the Leaves Month!

It's that time of year when the leaves start to fall, the leaf blowers fire up, and bags upon bags of leaves are left curbside for green waste pickup. It is wonderful that our city has a green waste pickup program, and that residents are using it. Yay!! However, as noted by the city communication last March, we are starting to drown in green waste. What to do?

Well, here's a great idea – leave the leaves!! Don't bag them up. Those leaves are golden. Use a mulching blade on your mower (or make sure your lawn service uses one – I do!). The leaves are FREE organic fertilizer for your grass. It doesn't get any easier than that to fertilize. No extra fertilizer needed.

If you have too many leaves for mulching the grass, blow them into your flowerbeds. Once again, FREE fertilizer and mulch in one. The leaves will insulate your plants, just like they do in nature. The leaves will break down naturally and

provide organic fertilizer for your plants, just like they do in nature. The leaves will hold in moisture, just like mulch.

But...here is what is even BETTER: the leaves will provide habitat for overwintering butterflies, native bees, beneficial insects, toads and lizards. We all know that monarch butterflies migrate, but the majority of butterflies do not.

Have you ever pondered where they go in the cold months? They are snuggly waiting for spring under the leaves.

Did you know that we have at least 1100 species of native bees in Texas? NOT European honey bees – NATIVE bees. These bees are the primary pollinators of our native plants. Most are solitary bees and do not defend nests, thus are docile and rarely sting. Seventy percent of native bees nest in the ground.

So, do your pocketbook and our native pollinators a favor – **Leave the Leaves!**

## FC L.I.D. 2 Update - Ron Frerich

The First Colony Levee Improvement District #2 (FCLID2) has multiple projects in the works. After our experiences with several high-water events, including Hurricane Harvey, we saw the need for a location to house our flood-fighting crews. (They work 12 hours on and 12 hours off and for various reasons are unable to leave the community.) Sleeping on cots in the control center with no place to shower and clean up was not working. We recently started construction of sleeping quarters that are being added onto the side of the exiting pump station control center. This will provide a bedroom, with a full bath, laundry closet and kitchenette. It will be shared by the two crews. We will also now have restroom facilities for the control center instead of bringing in porta-potties. This new construction was badly needed to properly conduct the flood-fighting mission of our LID.

We have also recently completed installation of an additional irrigation area on the levee just north of the Pump Station. We already had one irrigation area for the levee immediately adjacent to the pump station and outfall facility that has been working well. Irrigation is needed because droughts cause severe shrinkage cracks in the fill dirt that our levees are made of. The irrigation eliminates those cracks and has the side benefit of keeping the Bermuda grass green. The system that we have installed is a commercial system with many safety controls added to prevent accidental damage to the levee should a valve malfunction. We are requesting bids to do other sections of the levee as funds permit.

Lastly, we are still spending many hours each month working towards getting more fair and reasonable pricing on flood insurance premiums for our residents. We are working within the Fort Bend Levee Coalition (FBLC) to talk to Senators and Congressmen for legislation favorable to our cause. Additionally, we are speaking to FEMA on a regular basis to get them to clean up their latest Risk Rating 2.0 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). We are also working with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at the Galveston District to help us in this task. They have conducted several inspections of our facilities over the years and are very aware of the quality of our system. We requested that the USACE, Galveston District, provide us with an evaluation report that we can send to FEMA which is expected to lower our residents' Flood Insurance premiums, significantly. They have been working on this evaluation for a while and it is expected to still be several months out. Once they have signed off, it will

[WWW.SUGARLANDTX.GOV](http://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*

## Mosquitoes Test Positive for West Nile Virus in New Territory

The city of Sugar Land has confirmed the presence of West Nile virus at two mosquito traps located in the New Territory subdivision.

The mosquitoes were trapped recently, and Sugar Land was notified that at least one mosquito in each trap tested positive for West Nile.

The city has increased mosquito treatment in surrounding areas 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 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](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/fightthebite).

# MICROTRANSIT SERVICE PILOT COMING SOON!

Sugar Land Explores Another Resident Identified Trailblazing Mobility Project

Sugar Land City Council recently approved an agreement with Fort Bend County to help fund a Microtransit Pilot Program with \$1.5 million from voter-approved 2023 mobility bonds.

Sugar Land's microtransit service will be the first of its kind in the Texas Gulf Coast region.

The city's citizen-led Mobility Master Plan identifies the need for more transit options in Sugar Land. The plan includes extensive public input from Sugar Land residents.

"Our residents continue to identify mobility as one of their top priorities," said City Engineer Jessie Li. "This was reaffirmed in our most recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey. This Microtransit Pilot Program is one example of how we are answering the community's call for a new, bold direction for mobility investments in Sugar Land."

Fort Bend County's mobility bond funds will be combined with a \$3.5 million Federal grant received through the H-GAC Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Commuter and Transit Services Pilot Program to help fund an on-demand, shared public transit service using smaller vehicles (vans/minivans) to operate within a designated zone in Sugar Land. The fleet will feature electric vehicles, including at least one hybrid electric option that is wheelchair accessible.

The microtransit service will complement the existing transit services offered by Fort Bend Transit with on-demand, day-of rides and connections to their commuter park and ride lots located in Sugar Land. Fares will be around \$2 per trip.

Residents within the pilot program area will be able to book rides to many popular destinations within the service area zone, such as the regional airport, Constellation Field, Smart Financial Center, the Methodist Hospital, First Colony Mall, St. Lukes Hospital, two commuter park & ride lots, libraries, the University of Houston Sugar Land campus, parks, and a variety of shopping and dining spots.

"This public transit pilot program was identified by our resident as a way to connect people to jobs, schools, shopping, and other essential services," said Transportation and Mobility Manager Melanie Beaman. "If successful, we envision expanding the program throughout the Sugar Land and will pursue additional Federal funding, public-private partnerships and other subsidies so that fares remain low for passengers."

The Federal grant funds cover 80 percent of the total cost to operate the service for three years. Additional funding was requested from Fort Bend County during the 2023 Mobility Bond in order to provide the required 20 percent local match over the course of the three-year-long pilot.

The pilot project is another example of Sugar Land's commitment to being relentless in looking for opportunities to partner with state and Federal funding sources to reduce the financial impact to residents while also delivering mobility projects that support quality of life, economic development and tourism.

To learn more, visit [www.sugarlandtx.gov/2792/Microtransit-Pilot-Project](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/2792/Microtransit-Pilot-Project)

**This article is for awareness purposes only!  
It appears we are slightly outside  
of the pilot area.**

**Editor's Note:**

**It does not appear that  
The Commonwealth is within the pilot  
program area. Please look for updates in  
future CW Emails.**



The Talyard Brewing Co. located at 1033 Imperial Blvd, near Constellation Field introduces the city's membership into the Brew City Program.

Recognized as an Official Brew City by the Texas Craft Brewers Guild, Sugar Land welcomes visitors to discover why everything is sweeter in Sugar Land.

To learn more about upcoming community events, visit [www.sugarlandtx.gov/specialevents](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/specialevents). For local breweries and attractions in Sugar Land, visit [VisitSugarLandTX.com](http://VisitSugarLandTX.com).

## Election Outcomes

For those of us who just couldn't stay up late enough to watch all of the election results on November 5th, these are the local races that most affect those of us in The Commonwealth/Sugar Land/Fort Bend area:

### Legislative:

Senator - Ted Cruz (R)  
United States Rep (Congress Dist. 22) - Troy Nehls (R)  
State Senator (District 17) - Joan Huffman (R)  
State Representative (District 85)- Stan Kitzman (R)

### Law Enforcement:

Sheriff - Eric Fagan (D)  
County Tax Assessor-Collector - Carmen Turner (D)

### County Government:

County Commissioner (Pct. 3) - Andy Meyers (R)  
County Constable (Pct. 3) - Ali Sheikhan (R)

Please note that these are **UNOFFICIAL** results. The Elections Office is still counting and verifying.

You may find a full list on our HOA website: [commonwealthcivic.com](http://commonwealthcivic.com)

Check [fortbendcountytexas.gov](http://fortbendcountytexas.gov) for all counts.

## Fort Bend County Info

[WWW.FORTBENDCOUNTYTX.GOV](http://WWW.FORTBENDCOUNTYTX.GOV)

Incorporated in 1959

## STAY IN THE LOOP

Fort Bend County also has an alert system. Check out the County website to see all it has to offer.

### Fort Bend County Judge:

*KP George*

### Commissioner Precinct 3 (Commonwealth):

*Andy Meyer*

### Fort Bend County Sheriff:

*Eric Fagan*

[FortBendCountyTX.Gov](http://FortBendCountyTX.Gov) -

*e-notifications at the bottom of the page.*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.crest-management.com)

**Heather Esteban,**  
**Property Manager**  
**281-945-4630**

(After Hours Emergency  
713-935-7331)

[HeatherE@  
crest-management.com](mailto:HeatherE@crest-management.com)

**Ronald**  
**Assistant Manager**  
**281-945-4663**

[ronalddt@crest-management.com](mailto:ronalddt@crest-management.com)

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

**Tammy - Account Representative**

281-945-4658 - [TammyA@Crest-Management.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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](mailto:heathere@crest-management.com).

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For information on advertising in this newsletter contact: [news@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:news@commonwealthcivic.com)

## 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](http://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

# 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](http://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.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)

Layout & Design of the Newsletter/Email Alerts/Facebook by the write idea: [news@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto: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](http://A-BeautifulPools.com)

This newsletter is Underwritten by  
The Commonwealth Civic Association

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Graphic Credits: Pixabay & Dreamstime

*Wishing you  
the magic of the  
season!*



**Merry  
Christmas**



**Happy Chanukah to those  
who celebrate!**



*From Your Commonwealth Board*