



Commonwealth Comments

Happy New Year

**Do you have new neighbors?
Please tell them about our email distribution list.
Sign up at news@commonwealthcivic.com
It's the best way to keep up with what's happening in
The Commonwealth.**

**We also have a Facebook page that is restricted to residents.
Timely info can be found there!
"The Commonwealth HOA"**

The next election affecting Commonwealth residents
will take place in May 2025.
Included on the ballot will be Mayor of Sugar Land, two
City Council At Large positions and two positions on the
Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees.

These are non-partisan elections!

**An electronic newsletter for residents of The Commonwealth:
Bridgewater, Commonwealth Estates, Commonwealth Park,
Oxford, Sutton Forest, Sutton Park and
Sweetwater XII**

www.CommonwealthCivic.com

NEWS

Update on the Commonwealth
Blvd./Austin Parkway
Interchange:
Meeting will take place at the
Commonwealth Clubhouse to on
January 8, 2025
See notice on page 8.

Progress on The Commonwealth
Tennis Courts
Page 2

L.I.D. Progress Report
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Landscape Committee Update
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Sugar Land Update
by Carol McCutcheon
City Councilmember, Dist. 4
Page 8

Photos From our Holiday Event
Page 2

January/February 2025

Civic Association News

WINTER 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: rsvpsugarland@gmail.com

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



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.

www.crest-management.com

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

Our Community Events do have an impact!

One new resident family, driving by our Holiday Party, was thrilled to see all of the activity.
They stopped to comment that they KNEW they had chosen the right neighborhood!

We would love to see YOU at the next event!

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

Shoot an email to:

news@commonwealthcivic.com

Include your name, physical address and your email address.

WE DO NOT SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFO WITH ANYONE!

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.

Commonwealth Tennis

The tennis courts are heavily used year round and are an important amenity for our neighborhood. Our existing courts were cheaply built and are showing their age so it is time to move on replacing them.

The tennis court resurfacing project will take the Briarwood and Knightsbridge tennis courts out of service for about two months while a contractor lays new concrete surfaces and installs new LED lighting on them. (There will be advance notice given via email alerts and on our Facebook page.)

Committed volunteer residents found contractors and obtained three bids for the work. The Board will shortly be considering a bid for roughly \$436,000. All three bids were in the same price range.

The new tennis court surfaces should be good for decades.

On behalf of our Commonwealth residents, many thanks to all
of those who worked hard to ensure that our
2024 Holiday Party was a success!
Here are a couple of photo reminders of the event.



Watch
future
newsletter
and
email alerts
for YOUR
opportunities
to join the
fun!



The Commonwealth HOA



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wishing you happiness
and health in 2025!

Jim, Dave, Melissa, Sarah &
Jennifer

FC L.I.D. 2 Update

Our L.I.D. Board is the best!!! They have taken great care of us for decades. The Commonwealth has never flooded.

Last month, our L.I.D. added motorized gate closers to our interior Sluice gates. These are the backup gates to the Flap gates on the exterior of the Levee that automatically shut when the river comes up. With the push of a button the heavy gates will close in just a few minutes.

For many years we had crank handles and then we upgraded to heavy duty drills to close the gates. Hand cranks took an unbearably long time to close the gates and wore out the personnel. The corded drills made the work easier and faster. The permanently mounted motors allow us to open and shut the 4 gates in just a few minutes. We can still close them manually with the drills or hand cranks if the motors should malfunction.

The Board is still seeking bids to add irrigation to the remaining sections of our levee, so the summer months don't burn our grass and cause shrinkage cracks in the soil. As soon the bid process is finalized, construction should begin (this summer).

Our bunkhouse addition is slightly ahead of schedule and slightly **under budget** and should be completed in April. As noted in the last newsletter, we have needed this space and the ability to have a restroom. (Until now, we have had to bring in port-a-potties for each threat). We will end up with a much better Command Center. Our workers have 12 hours on and 12 hours off during these flood events and cannot leave during that time. We will finally have a place for them to sleep and clean up during their shifts.

The Board has been spending many hours working with our Federal contacts to get our flood insurance premiums down to a level that more closely reflects the quality of our levee system and the true actuarial costs of our location.

It is their opinion that FEMA does not have our correct data in their system. It is believed that FEMA knows this but red tape is preventing them from changing the data to reflect what is on the ground. It is something that will take even more letters and phone calls to every Senator and Congressman we can contact, to get a change, and working closely with the US Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA. We attend many conferences where USACE and FEMA reps are present to make our case, and they all know that Fort Bend County is head and shoulders above the many, many levees across the United States.

Article submitted by Ron Frerich, FCLID #2

Landscape Committee Update

Natives in our Neighborhood - Berries for Birds!

Our most recent landscaping installation along Commonwealth Boulevard includes a number of native plants. One of those plants is the Yaupon Holly, and yes, it is just as cheerful as it sounds!

The Yaupon Holly is a small tree or large shrub, typically about 25 feet tall at maturity. The female plants sport bright red berries which persist throughout the winter, until, of course, they are gobbled up by birds! It is a very attractive evergreen plant to have in your landscape.

The scientific name is **Ilex vomitoria**. If you think that name sounds oddly disgusting – you are right! Native Americans made a tea out of the leaves and twigs, ceremoniously drank large quantities, and then vomited. The name stuck, even though the vomiting was actually induced by other ingredients in the tea. Many Southerners drank the tea of the yaupon holly through the 20th century and some still enjoy it today.

What I love most about my yaupons is that they feed the birds. Every winter, a flock of cedar waxwings visit my yaupon bushes. They noisily descend upon my bushes over the course of a few days and clean off the berries. It is a spectacle of beauty that I enjoy immensely. Other local species of birds that enjoy the berries are bluebirds, finches, jays, mockingbirds, and robins.

So, as you traverse Commonwealth Blvd., take a look at our lovely landscaping and you just may see some berry-eating birds in action.

By Jamie Fairchild, Texas Master Naturalist



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.

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For information on advertising in this newsletter
contact: news@commonwealthcivic.com

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

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

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

Deed restriction and architectural matters; Clubhouse Scheduler/ Tennis Reservations

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

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

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*

An Update From Carol McCutcheon, **Sugar Land City Council Member District 4**

Dear Commonwealth residents:

One of the areas where I have not been satisfied with the city's service level is on sidewalk repair. Since the usual wait time is up to 24 months, I pushed for a significant amount of additional funding for this area. As a result, **\$11,375,000** for sidewalk repair was included in Proposition B in the November bond election. Since that proposition passed, as did the others, we will now have a robust 5-year sidewalk repair program. If you would like to report a needed sidewalk repair, please call **311** or email 311@sugarlandtx.gov.

The five approved propositions are:

- o \$144.5 million for public safety projects including phase three of the public safety training facility that enables the Police and Fire-EMS Departments to conduct critical trainings within city limits.
- o \$118 million for major street reconstruction projects, sidewalk rehabilitation, and modernization of the city's mobility network.
- o \$35 million for drainage projects that focus on stormwater management systems, flood control measures, and drainage infrastructure.
- o \$40.5 million for the rehabilitation and modernization of existing city facilities and the construction of a new field maintenance facility.
- o \$12 million in supplemental funds for the design and construction of a new animal shelter that meets industry standards and increased anticipated animal intake numbers from the city's growth.

On December 12, the city hosted a meeting on the Austin Pkwy/Commonwealth Blvd Intersection Improvement Project. The city presented two main options, a traffic light with dedicated turn lanes and a roundabout. A traffic light would be less expensive and quicker to install and would improve mobility to a B grade. A roundabout would be more expensive and take longer, but would improve mobility to an A. The higher cost and longer timeframe would primarily be due to right-of-way acquisition costs and relocation of the natural gas pipeline. Also, there is concern about proximity to the residential easement. A resident pointed out that the pipeline did not need to be relocated for the LJ Pkwy/Commonwealth Blvd roundabout and asked why it would need to be relocated for a roundabout at Austin Pkwy/Commonwealth. I pointed out that, since the developer would pay 50% of the design and construction costs, while Fort Bend County would pay up to \$1 million, it seemed that the cost for a roundabout was overweighted in the benefit/cost ratio.

As a result, the city is having a follow up meeting on Wednesday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Hope to see you there! If you would like a copy of last month's presentation, please email me at cmccutcheon@sugarlandtx.gov.

Best wishes for 2025!

*Submitted by Carol McCutcheon,
Sugar Land City Council Member District 4*

**The Austin Parkway/Commonwealth Intersection Improvement Information meeting
for Commonwealth and Austin Park HOAs has been confirmed:**

Wednesday, Jan. 8th at 6:30 p.m.
Commonwealth Clubhouse - 4330 Knightsbridge Lane

Hosted by The Commonwealth HOA, in  conjunction with The City of Sugar Land.

Sugar Land Civic Arts Division Unveils "Reading is Art" Little Libraries

The City of Sugar Land Civic Arts Division is proud to announce the official launch of its **"The Art of Reading"** campaign, an initiative that merges art and literacy to enrich our community. This unique project features five beautifully designed little libraries, each painted by talented local artists, to inspire imagination, encourage reading, and enhance public spaces.

These stunning libraries were crafted by an extraordinary group of local artists: Micah Salinas, Premo, W3r3on3, Ohnohedent, and Wade Indeed. Each artist has brought their creative vision to life, making every library a unique masterpiece that reflects the themes of imagination, community, and a love for reading.

A Campaign to Inspire Literacy and Community

The "The Art of Reading" campaign is about more than just aesthetics—it addresses a growing need to foster literacy and unite communities. According to recent literacy data, less than 50% of U.S. adults read above an 8th-grade level. Coupled with the decline in regular reading habits due to the rise of technology, this initiative provides a creative and accessible solution to rekindle a passion for reading.

Through this initiative, Sugar Land hopes to inspire book clubs, lifelong readers, and a stronger sense of community.

The "Reading is Art" Little Libraries will continue through February 7, 2025. Residents are encouraged to visit these libraries, explore the artwork, and borrow or contribute books.

Bringing Art and Education to Life

To further engage residents, each artist has created a video component showcasing their work, offering art lessons, and providing a behind-the-scenes look into their design process. These virtual elements allow the community to connect with the artists and gain inspiration for their own creative pursuits.

For more information on Civic Arts projects, visit us at

www.sugarlandtx.gov/CivicArts.



The artist-painted libraries will be located at:

- ~ Dulles High School ~ Brazos River Park
- ~ Clements High School ~ Kempner High
- ~ School Stadium Drive Roundabout

Plug And Play and Sugar Land Announce New Location

Plug and Play, the world's leading innovation platform, took the stage alongside the City of Sugar Land Economic Development and Tourism team at the 2024 Silicon Valley Summit in Silicon Valley to announce the opening of its new flagship Houston-Metro location in Sugar Land. This marks Plug and Play's fourth location in the state and includes a non-compete radius of 60 miles from the city limits, underscoring its strategic commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

Plug and Play, known for accelerating over 2,700 startups globally last year, aims to drive innovation by connecting entrepreneurs, corporations, investors, universities and governments worldwide. With more than 60 locations globally and over 550 corporate partners, including Dell Technologies, Daikin, Microsoft, LG Chem, Shell, and Mercedes, Plug and Play has a proven track record of fostering successful ventures. Their portfolio includes companies like PayPal, Dropbox, LendingClub, and Course Hero, with 8% of the portfolio valued at over \$100 million.

The agreement facilitated by the Sugar Land Office of Economic Development and Tourism outlines plans for a new Plug and Play office in Sugar Land Town Square, a hub known for its business-friendly atmosphere.

Leasing and hiring spans December and January, with an official launch in February or March, featuring approximately 15 startups announced on Selection Day. Plug and Play will hire four full-time equivalent (FTE) employees and accelerate two startup batches per year, focusing on Smart Cities, which include sectors such as energy, health, transportation, and mobility. Additionally, one Sugar Land City representative will serve as a board member, helping to set the program's goals and mission.

This location will help fuel Texas' innovation ecosystem, providing entrepreneurs with the tools and networks they need to drive real-world impact and contribute to the state's technological and economic growth.

This partnership marks a significant milestone for Sugar Land as it continues to grow as a hub for innovation and technology. The city and Plug and Play are committed to creating extraordinary experiences, delivering unparalleled customer service, and fostering an environment where the right talent can thrive.



Fort Bend County Info

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.

FortBendCountyTX.Gov -

e-notifications at the bottom of the page.

FREE Property Fraud Alert in Fort Bend County

On behalf of Fort Bend County Clerk Laura Richard and her staff, we are pleased to promote the **free** notification service to the citizens of Fort Bend County. This program allows homeowners to sign up online to be sent an alert when documents are recorded in Official Public Records of Fort Bend County containing your name.

Subscribers to this service will be notified by a method of their choosing when the name they have submitted to Property Fraud Alert is found on a document recorded in the Fort Bend County Clerk's Official Public Records department, thus allowing them to respond to a possible fraudulent document in a timely fashion.

The cost incurred for this service is absorbed into the yearly budget of the County Clerk's Office. All information provided by subscriber, such as email address and/or cell phone number, is held at the highest level of security protection, and is not nor will ever be sold or disclosed to any entity. The purpose of this information is for alert notification only.

To view the Property Fraud Alert Flyer for Fort Bend County click this button:



**Click
Here**

Fort Bend County Judge:

KP George

Commissioner Precinct 3 (Commonwealth):

Andy Meyer

Fort Bend County Sheriff:

Eric Fagan

App Provides the most recent Information about Fort Bend County

myFBC is a one-stop source to find information about Fort Bend County

From viewing live feeds from Commissioner's Court, to finding the nearest animal shelter, or looking up public records to getting notified of emergency alerts, you have the County right at your fingertips.

Want to learn more about the Elections?

Our app shows residents in which precinct they are located, who their elected officials are, and real-time data on wait times at their nearest polling locations!

Found a lost dog or need to report a pothole on your street? myFBC allows users to submit requests, so you can rest assured your neighborhood is as taken care of as you are.

**Click HERE to
Check it out!**

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

Emergency Alerts

HINTS FROM READY.GOV

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.

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
when calling about street lights, relay pole #.	
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

This newsletter is Underwritten by
The Commonwealth Civic Association