

# **Commonwealth** Comments

Election Day - May 3

The Commonwealth HOA has regularly produced Commonwealth Comments for almost 30 years. There are over 1100 homes in our community, however, we have only just over 700 who have signed up to be on our Email Distribution List.

> We share this newsletter only two ways. Via Email Alerts and On our Commonwealth website.

If you agree that this newsletter is a valuable source of reliable information, please encourage your neighbors to sign up to receive our emails.

We do our best to avoid overloading email boxes. We share neighborhood info, local information, and important weather details.

You need to know what your Civic Association is up to. Your home values depend on it!

Tell them to sign up at <u>news@commonwealthcivic.com</u> 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!

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

May/June 2025

www.CommonwealthCivic.com

### **Civic Association News**

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**, <u>separate from The Commonwealth Email Distribution List</u>.

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 <u>www.crest-management.com</u> and click Homeowner Login. Select Not Registered

#### 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.

Please visit the Crest Management website for: Exterior Modification Requests, Contacts, to Access Account information, poicies, pool tags, meeting dates, etc. <u>www.crest-management.com</u>

If you have questions or need help downloading a Modification Application from the website, reach out to Julie at Crest at 281-945-4663. juliem@crest-management.com.

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.

The current ACC Guidelines and the MDR application may be accessed via the Homeowner Portal on the Crest Management website: <u>www.crest-management.com/</u>

Select the "Exterior Modification Request" button under "Your HOA Management Solution" and follow the instructions.

Unapproved changes can be costly to the homeowner.

For timely approval, applications should be submitted on or before the 2nd Tuesday of the month.



### Spring **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

Register here: <u>csa.farmigo.com/join/harvestgreenvillagefarm/vegetableshare</u>

### FC L.I.D. #2 Update

The First Colony Levee Improvement District #2 (FCLID2) has completed construction of the bunkhouse addition to the pump station on Avondale.

We finally have an area for our flood fighters to rest and recuperate during a flood event. The additional room is small, but it will allow two workers a place to sleep, shower, wash muddy clothes, and eat. We also finally have restroom facilities for the workers during flood events. Prior to this, we had to bring in port-a-potties for days or weeks at a time. We made do with what we had but it was miserable. We have now made it tolerable to be on duty 12 hours and then 12 hours off. The command-and-control area now has separate sleeping quarters so we can run the flood fighting 24/7 without disturbing the workers who are resting.

The building came in just under budget and we were able to replace a few minor items on the exterior of the original building that had worn out over the past few years. A lot of effort went into matching existing materials, so the entire building looks new, if you are looking at it from the curb.

In other projects, we are still investigating materials to replace the failing bag walls along Alcorn Lake. The new walls will need to last a long time, so we are researching multiple options and looking at existing installations around FB County to see how they are holding up to the elements and time.

Because of the length of the shoreline, it will be expensive, so we want to make sure we get a quality product, and that it is appropriate for our community and our lake.



We are continuing our efforts through the Fort Bend Levee Coalition, to work with our Congressional representatives in Washington D.C. to force FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program to become much more transparent and to make flood insurance premiums understandable.

We still have homes just blocks apart that have vastly different premiums. In general, the premiums have gone up significantly for everyone over the past few years and we cannot get FEMA to explain the rational behind the increases in our neighborhood. We have written priority papers, and we meet with Congressional staff regularly. We also meet with FEMA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at flood conferences all around the country and the state. The new insurance rating system was apparently not meant for Fort Bend County and the quality of our Levees and flood control efforts.

Lastly, FCLID2 is ready for hurricane season and is much better prepared than when Hurricane Harvey struck Fort Bend County. We recommend that all our residents get ready and have a storm plan, especially if you have family members that may have health issues and need to get to facilities outside of the community. Our homes will be fine, but you never know what the surrounding roads will be like outside of the First Colony area. It's easy to drive out before the big storm, but much harder once it hits. If you stay, be sure to have enough provisions to last at least 72 hours. The Staff at FCLID2 will be here through the storm to protect our community.

Submitted by Ron Frerich, FCLID #2

## Hurricane season is right around the corner.....Be prepared.

Second Annual... Ready Fort Bend Expo May 3 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fort Bend County Fairgrounds - Building C.

A gathering of all things emergency preparedness covering many of the hazards and issues that can impact Fort Bend County.

Visit with a wide range of vendors that can assist you in being better prepared.

Bring the kiddos because there will be plenty of FREE activities just for them. (Touch-a-Truck, fire engines, hazmat truck, helicopters, and more.) Finger print and ID cards for your kids by the US Secret Service.... And it is all FREE!!

### Landscape Committee Update



**Baby Sage** 

Wow - Check Out Our Beautiful Landscaping!

Next time you are driving down Commonwealth Boulevard, slow down and take a moment to appreciate our beautiful landscaping! We continue to distinguish our neigborhood with attractive and increasingly native landscapes. The newest section is between Knightsbridge and Pendleton on the north side of Commonwealth Blvd.

The native plants are not only beautiful and hardy, but they provide nectar and pollen for our native wildlife: hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies.

One day last fall, many monarch butterflies were fluttering all around the mistflower. Mistflower is a native plant that blooms from late summer into late fall. These monarchs were travelling through Sugar Land on their way to Mexico

Submitted by Jamie Fairchild, Texas Master Naturalist

The Commonwealth is blessed with wonderful volunteers -Thanks for the photos Jamie!

Please note that the knockout roses were dying and have been cleaned out. The empty beds are resting and will be replanted

with some other colorful shrubs.

And a beautiful visitor

Indian

Shrub-



### Sugar Land Bond Project Tracker Launched

The city of Sugar Land recently launched a Bond Project Tracker, an interactive tool designed to provide up-to-date information on the projects approved by voters in the November 2024 bond election.

The Bond Project Tracker provides a comprehensive view of each bond project, including description, funding source, project phase, anticipated project schedule and more. A key feature of the tracker is the ability to see how much money has been spent and how much remains, both for individual projects and the overall bond program.

"The bond project tracker reflects our ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability," said Assistant City Engineer, Jonathan Braun. "Our goal is to provide an easy-to-use tool that keeps residents informed about the projects they invested in and entrusted us with, as we work to shape the future of Sugar Land."

Sugar Land voters approved five general obligation bond propositions totaling \$350 million on November 5, 2024. These bond projects will strengthen public safety, reconstruct streets, repair sidewalks, enhance mobility, improve drainage systems, modernize municipal facilities, and build a new animal shelter.

To access the Bond Project Tracker, sign up for email updates, and submit bond-related questions, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/2819/Bond-Project-Tracker

### 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

Sugar Land leadership is about to change. Early Voting is taking place NOW. The Election is Saturday, May 3 at our Clubhouse! PLEASE VOTE! See Sample Ballots on FortBendCountyTX.gov - Government/Elections



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

I've been advocating for the rehabilitation of the asphalt on Scenic Rivers Drive for some time, as I believe the current condition poses a safety risk. I'm pleased to inform you that the asphalt rehabilitation will take place this summer. The project involves milling the existing asphalt, addressing any subgrade issues, and applying a fresh layer of asphalt. The City of Sugar Land will cover the material costs, while Fort Bend County will provide the necessary equipment and labor to complete the work. The project is expected to be finished within 15 working days, and residents will receive notification approximately two weeks before construction begins.

As for the stoplight versus roundabout proposal at the intersection of Commonwealth and Austin Parkway, I have requested that the city arrange a follow-up meeting with residents at the Commonwealth Clubhouse in the coming weeks.

#### **Carol McCutcheon**

8 years of service as Sugar Land City Council Member District 4

Hurricane Season will be here SOON! The Civic Association encourages all residents to register for our Email Alerts at news@CommonwealthCivic.com AND to opt-in and register your property at: <u>www.Crest-Management.com</u>.



### **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 <u>www.commonwealthcivic.com/contact us</u>.

### **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 <u>heathere@crest-management.com</u>.



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 <u>HeatherE@crest-management.com</u> 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 *juliem@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) <u>HeatherE@</u> <u>crest-management.com</u> Assistant Property Manager Julie 281-945-4663 juliem@crest-management.com

Deed restriction and architectural matters; Clubhouse Scheduler/ Tennis Reservations

Account Representative - Tammy 281-945-4658 - <u>TammyA@Crest-Management.com</u>



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

### Election Day - Saturday, May 3, 2025 -Early Voting through Apr 29 <u>AT THE CLUBHOUSE</u>

On the Commonwealth ballot-in ballot order:

### **FBISD School Board**

Trustee Position 3 Vote for None or One



Angela Collins Afshi Charania Rick Garcia

Trustee Position 7 Vote for None or One

> Angie Wierzbicki Allison Drew Cheryl Anne Buford



### **City of Sugar Land - Mayoral**

Vote for None or One

Michelle Mikeska Sarwar Khan Naushad Kermally William Ferguson Alex J. Sowell Carol McCutcheon



### City of Sugar Land At Large Position One

Vote for None or One

George Kakkanatt Maggy Horgan Aqeel Virk Jim Vonderhaar Vohra, Muzaffar





### City of Sugar Land At Large Position Two

Vote for None or One



Rob Boettcher Ameer Malik

### **City of Sugar Land Position, District 4**

Vote for None or One

Sapana Patel Zeenat Mitha Rick Miller

### City of Sugar Land Special Election

### SUGAR LAND PROPOSITION A

Shall Section 4.06(b) of the City Charter be amended to extend the terms of the municipal court and associate judges from 2 years to 4 years?

For or Against





# School Board

In Texas, a school board, or board of trustees, is responsible for the governance and oversight of an Independent School District (ISD). They are elected by the community and are accountable for the district's performance and success. Their key duties include adopting the annual budget, setting a tax rate, hiring and evaluating the superintendent, and creating policies that guide the district's operations.

# City Council & Mayor

A city council is the legislative body of a city, responsible for making decisions and setting policy that affects the community. They pass laws and ordinances, negotiate and approve the city budget, and oversee city departments to ensure they are functioning effectively. They also represent the city's interests and interact with the public and other government officials

We need our residents to vote in this (<u>and every</u>) election. Elected officials <u>KNOW</u> which communities vote. Elected officials pay attention to neighborhoods with ACTIVE voters.

Voting regularly is in your own best interest! Please Vote on May 3! OR Vote early through April 29 (closed Sunday) **Research:** 



Google the Candidate Locate their website Check out their Facebook page

Shoot him/her an email if you have questions.

If you are unable to locate information on any given candidate, ask yourself how effective they will be once elected.

The Commonwealth has been extremely fortunate through the years. Our elective officials have been responsive to community concerns.



### City of Sugar Land Animal Services Announces Animal Services Manager Hiring



The City of Sugar Land, in March, announced several developments within its Animal Services division, including new leadership, a successful adoption initiative, and the much-anticipated reopening of shelter intake, which, in mid-April was again temporarily suspended.

Following recent restructuring within city administration, Captain Todd Zettlemoyer was appointed as Interim Animal Services Manager. Zettlemoyer has over 24 years of dedicated service to Sugar Land. Administration believes he is well-equipped to oversee shelter operations and guide the organization through this important transition.

In his new role, Captain Zettlemoyer will focus on hiring a permanent Animal Services Manager, restructuring shelter staffing to meet the evolving needs of animal care, and providing the leadership necessary to ensure continued excellence in operations. Understanding the deep connection between Sugar Land residents, volunteers, and the animals in the community, he is committed to fostering an environment of compassion, efficiency, and progress.

The city encourages the community to continue sharing, supporting, and adopting to help every pet find a loving family.



Visit <u>www.sugarlandtx.gov/Adoptions</u> to learn more about our available shelter pets.

# COMMONWEALTH CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2025 POOL SEASON

Pool tags will be issued to any homeowner that is in good standing with the Association. To obtain pool tags, go to www.crest-management.com and click request a pool tag/access device on the home page. Pool tags will be mailed to residents upon receipt and verification of the request form. There will be a \$20 expedite fee to pick up pool tags in person at Crest Management's office.

Pool tags will be checked by management personnel when entering the pool facility. If a tag is not in the resident's possession or cannot be verified, residents and/or others may be asked to leave the facilities. Only residents with a valid pool tag will be allowed into the pool.

#### **Pool Schedule and Hours of Operation**

#### Knightsbridge

#### APRIL 5th - MAY 29th

(Weekends only)	
Saturday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Memorial Day 5/26	10 a.m 8 p.m.

#### MAY 30<sup>th</sup> – AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup>

Monday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday - Saturday	10 a.m 8 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m 8 p.m.

#### AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup> – OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup>

 (Weekends only)

 Saturday
 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

 Sunday
 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

 Labor Day 9/1
 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.



#### N & A X7 01st

Briarwood

MAY 24th - MAY 31stSat-Sun, 5/24-5/2512 p.m. - 8 p.m.Mon, 5/2610 a.m. - 8 p.m.Tue-Thurs 5/27-5/29CLOSEDFri, 5/301 p.m. - 9 p.m.Sat, 5/3112 p.m. - 9 p.m.

#### JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> – JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday – Friday	1 p.m 9 p.m.
Saturday	12 p.m 9 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m 8 p.m.

#### JULY 1st - AUGUST 10th

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday – Saturday	12 p.m 9 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m 8 p.m.
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

#### AUGUST 11th - SEPTEMBER 1st

(Weekends only)	
Saturday	12 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Labor Day 9/1	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

The pool schedule and hours are subject to change based on staffing AND the FBISD school calendar. If you have any questions regarding obtaining pool tags you can contact Ronald with Crest Management at ronaldt@crest-management.com or 281-945-4663.

#### Verified - The SplashPad is OPEN!

To date, no information has been provided as to when the HOA will offer pool tags in person at our Clubhouse.

### **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: <u>commonwealthcivic.com</u>

The City of Sugar Land regulations require that your dog be leashed, <u>at all times while in</u> front of your home, or walking the <u>neighborhood</u>. 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: <u>news@commonwealthcivic.com</u>

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

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