

# Commonwealth Comments

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

January/February 2020

[www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)

## The Commonwealth Board of Directors

Rajesh Walawalkar  
President

CIO

Dave Bristow  
Vice President

CIO

Sumita Ghosh  
Member

CIO

Rajeev Somani  
Member

CIO

Jim Levermann  
Treasurer

CIO

Email: [News@CommonwealthCivic.com](mailto:News@CommonwealthCivic.com)

## Crest Management Service

Heather Esteban  
Property Manager  
281-579-0761

(After Hours Emergency #  
713-935-7331)

Board Meetings are held at the  
Clubhouse at 6 p.m. on the  
fourth Thursday of each month.  
Please verify in the event the  
date must be rescheduled.

Modifications and Deed  
Restrictions Committee  
Meetings are held at the  
Clubhouse on the third  
Tuesday of each month -  
7 p.m.



## Happy New Year

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy and successful 2020

Your Commonwealth Civic Association Board of Directors

Raj, Dave, Sumita, Jim and Rajeev  
and the Crest Management Service Team



THANK YOU TO THE RESIDENTS WHO VOLUNTERED TO  
ASSIST WITH OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY.  
WE CAN'T DO IT ALL WITHOUT YOU!

*A successful Homeowner's Association relies on the involvement,  
support and cooperation of all of its' residents.*

*The Commonwealth HOA Board recognizes and acknowledges their  
appreciation for our resident volunteers. We would not be the  
community we are if not for those who give freely of their time.*

*It is the job of your board to maintain and  
increase the value of our homes.*

*We need volunteers for all of our neighborhood events and activities.*

*We depend on your input when making important decisions.*

*The neighbors count on each of us complying with the  
Modifications and Deed Restrictions agreement signed upon the  
purchase of a home in The Commonwealth.*

*If you haven't yet gotten involved, please consider making that a  
priority this year. Homes located in successful, active communities  
have a much higher value!*

# Activity Directory

**If you don't see an activity group that appeals to you, start one!**  
**The Association supports approved groups.**

<b>Commonwealth Chinese Club - CCC</b> Darcy at: 847-800-2889 or email her at: danli2013@gmail.com.	Uniting Chinese-speaking families, promoting community news, events and spirit, engaging non-English speakers in community activities and mingling at social/informative events.
<b>Commonwealth Social Club</b> news@commonwealthcivic.com	A group in need of a leader. Enjoy adult only nights out at various restaurants, game nights and socials in each other's homes.
<b>Mommy and Me Play Group</b> Blanca Barron blancabarron00@yahoo.com	For our youngest residents. Join other neighborhood moms and their small children for play dates at one of the area parks, or in each other's homes. Get on the notification email list.
<b>Men's Golf Group</b> Greg Mack gregmack@gmail.com	The guys are always looking for players for last minute pairings on various golf courses in the area.
<b>Special Events/Activities</b> news@commonwealthcivic.com	Our residents LOVE participating in fun activities. If you are interested in helping organize and oversee future community events, please let us know.
<b>Tennis: Men's</b> Dave Bristow dgbristow@windstream.net	If you are interested in playing tennis with other Commonwealth residents, this group is for you. BUT.....the group needs a leader! Let us know if you're interested.
<b>Tennis: Women's</b> Jean 713-385-4097	Ladies time on the court! Play tennis with other Commonwealth women.
<b>Yoga &amp; Guided Meditation</b> Varsha zestandzen1@gmail.com	Varsha offers free yoga classes in our Clubhouse every Tuesday at 9 a.m. Please bring your yoga mat and a towel. Feel free to drop in and enjoy!

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 Sumita Ghosh and let her know of your interest. The Association will help publicize your group and attempt to help you grow. dgbristow@windstream.net.

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.

The Commonwealth Landscape Committee  
(meets as needed)

Contact Crest Management  
for the next meeting time and date.

Clubhouse Rentals: Crest Management 281-579-0761

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

## Useful Phone Numbers

Police (Non-Emergency)	281-275-2020
Animal Control	281-275-2596
Fire Department	281-491-0852
Water & Streets	281-275-2750
Trash Collection	281-275-2772
Public Works	281-275-2450
Street Lights (Centerpoint)	713-207-2222
<i>when calling about street lights, relay pole #.</i>	
<b>POLICE &amp; FIRE EMERGENCY</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>

The Commonwealth Civic Association does not investigate, qualify, or certify this newsletter's advertisers.  
The business of each advertiser is independent of the Association.

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## Keep Your Personal Belongings SAFE!

Please remember -- When you park your car (whether at a restaurant, any retail establishment, the movie theater, a park, etc.):

Remove all items from your vehicle when you leave it. Never leave anything on the dashboard, on the seat or on the floor. Thieves are not discerning. If it's there, they'll take it!

Park in a well-lit area. LOCK your vehicle.

(Ladies - If you don't want to take your purse inside with you, put it in the trunk **BEFORE** you arrive. This also applies to briefcases and/or electronic devices.)

## Making Renovations?

If you are considering renovations to the outside of your home or to your property, save yourself time AND money by getting HOA approval **BEFORE** you begin the work.

All exterior modifications done to the home require approval **PRIOR** to doing any work. The most common projects that require approval include but are not limited to:

- New windows
- Fence/gate replacement or installation
- Driveway gate
- New roof
- Painting any portion of the exterior of the home
- Replacing the front door or garage doors
- Landscape lights (even solar power lights)
- Children's play structures
- Storage shed/outdoor building
- Any work done to concrete walkways, driveways and sidewalks
- Pool or hot tub
- Patio or deck
- Patio cover/gazebo/ pergola
- Room addition
- Outdoor kitchen
- Powerpoint presentation

We have a powerpoint presentation that was created for residents. If you would like a copy emailed to you, send your request to [news@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:news@commonwealthcivic.com).

## The Census is Coming!!!!

Residents will shortly receive an invitation, via the US Postal Service, to participate in the 2020 Census. Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Expect your paper invite between March 12 & March 20th. A reminder letter will follow. If you do not respond to that invite, you will receive a reminder postcard; a reminder letter with questionnaire and in late April, a final reminder postcard. If they do not hear from you, a census worker will attempt to follow up in person.

Responding to the census is your civic duty and affects the amount of funding our community receives, as well as our representation in government. The data gathered ensures public services: funding for schools, hospitals and fire departments. Funds are also used to plan new homes and businesses, and improve neighborhoods.

The law is clear - none of your personal information can be shared. Please participate -- your input is absolutely crucial.

## November Election Turnout -

**Precinct 4129** -- (that's US!) -

We have 5,967 registered voters - 820 of us voted! That's 13.74%. WE CAN DO BETTER!



Your next opportunity to vote will take place in March; there is a Primary Election. At that time you will need to request either a Democrat Party Ballot or a Republican Party Ballot. Polling location details in a future Email Alert!



We LIVE in this community, BELIEVE in the community and SUPPORT in the community!

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For Sale



3027 Silent Spring Dr \$618,000



3827 W Wisteria Cir \$435,000



3510 Riviera Ct. \$925,000



3555 Maranatha



6906 Overlook Hill



4011 Alcorn Bend

We survived the heat of the summer. Next up: Cold Temps

Residents are encouraged to prepare their homes to avoid damage to water pipes, sprinkler systems, and swimming pools as soon as freeze warnings are announced. The City does not turn off water at the meter to prevent frozen pipes.

The City of Sugar Land recommends these basic tips:

- Bring pets inside.
- If you must go outside, wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing.
- Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves. Wear a hat and cover your mouth with a scarf to reduce heat loss.
- Walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways.
- Always keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Make a family communication plan and discuss with your family.
- Make an emergency kit.

If travel is necessary, check traffic and road conditions on the City of Sugar Land's Intelligent Transportation System.



A HUGE Thank you to residents Madhura Kelkar and Rajeev Somani for their work building our new Community website. We hope to have it active by the time you receive this newsletter.

You will receive notification via our Email Alerts



List for less, Sell for More

**FULL SERVICE REAL ESTATE FOR AS LOW AS 1% LISTING FEE\***

\*Some restrictions apply  
\*Buyers Agent Commission Not Included

**UNDER CONTRACT**

**4107 KIRKWALL**

**List Price \$465,000**  
**3% Comm \$13,950**  
**B&A Comm \$6,975**  
**Savings of \$6,975!**

**ACTIVE**

**33 Beacon Hill**

**List Price \$2,800,000**  
**3% Comm \$84,000**  
**B&A Comm \$42,000**  
**Savings of \$42,000!**

**SOLD IN COMMONWEALTH 2019**

- 4318 SAINT MICHAELS**  
Savings of \$12,990
- 4615 MOORLAND**  
Savings of \$9,900
- 16 HOLLINFAIRE**  
Savings of \$9,400
- 4802 CAMBRIDGE**  
Savings of \$9,500

## The Future of Recycling

NextDoor | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram

The recycling market is changing. Historically, recycling programs around the country would use the sale of recycled materials to offset collection and processing costs. This allowed for the establishment of low-cost recycling programs.

Over the last two years, the recycling market has seen a significant decline in the value of recycled goods due to several factors, including:

- new international regulations
- stricter contamination rate standards
- poor recycling practices

In response, Sugar Land is increasing educational efforts in order to help the public better understand current market issues and the effect that the new regulations have on processing recycled material.

### What should you do?

Educational efforts will include social media posts and website content. Stay tuned as the city begins this effort, visit their website frequently, and follow us on social media.

### Rethinking Recycling Adapting to the New Status Quo

Visit the city website: [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov). Click on DocumentCenter, then View/22859/ICMA-Recycling-Webinar

## The City of Sugar Land is celebrating it's 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Sugar Land was incorporated in 1959, which means we are in our 60th year. The Sugar Land area has a rich history, one of the many things that make Sugar Land such a unique and special place.

Today, Sugar Land is one of the most diverse cities in one of the most diverse counties in the nation.

Look for events celebrating the anniversary in the coming months.



RE/MAX Fine Properties

**Referred by Virginia Mack**

"I am confident and pleased to recommend Glory and West Crafts. They have the same "Client-First" philosophy and will sell your home for TOP DOLLAR." - Virginia Mack

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glorycrafts@hotmail.com

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**ZILLOW RECOMMENDATIONS!**

**59 YEARS** | Combined Experience

**35 YEARS** | Sugar Land Residents

**Our Commonwealth Listings**

**We would love to work with you! Please, give us a call.**

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS!

Our new online system for reserving our tennis courts is up and running. If you are a tennis player, we encourage you and your family to sign up.

This step is being taken to ensure that only Commonwealth residents and their guests have access to our courts and encroachers are displaced.

The website URL:

**[www.sites.onlinecourtreservations.com/reservations](http://www.sites.onlinecourtreservations.com/reservations)**.

For residents to sign up as users, they must email Ashleigh at Crest with their Address and Member name. Both are required to validate their membership. (ashleigh.rutledge@crest-management.com)

Once membership is validated, we have a resident who is happy to guide and on-board new users.



At the November Board Meeting, the Board appointed **Rajeev Somani** to the board to fill a board vacancy. His term will expire in May.

### Meet The New Guy!

Rajeev moved into Commonwealth in 2015. At one of the board meetings he attended, there was a call for volunteers to join some of the HOA committees. Rajeev stepped up and joined the Modifications committee. He has been serving as part of ModCom for last couple of years and is actively working on technological improvements for ModCom as well as our website to better serve our community.

Please take a moment to thank Rajeev for serving when you meet him!



The Commonwealth Civic Association is the lucky recipient of a City of Sugar Land 4B Grant and will be using those funds to install lights to our ten existing monuments on Commonwealth Blvd.

Power outlets are also being installed.

(They will help with seasonal lighting.)

The cost of the installation will be shared with the City.

Another project being undertaken by the Association is the planting of 30 Live Oak Trees donated to our community by Fort Bend County.

We will begin planting the trees on January 6th.

## Commonwealth Alert List

A huge thank you to the hundreds of residents who bore with us as we upgraded our Email Alert System distribution address list.

It was a five-month project, however, we can be fairly certain that our list is now limited to Commonwealth residents and that all of our emergency information will be valid for those who receive these emails.

No system is perfect, however, it is the goal of our HOA to provide crucial information at times when the community needs it. By signing up for the emails, residents will be kept informed, to the best of our ability, if there is ever another emergency situation.

The goal this year is to increase participation in the Email Alert program.

In an ideal world, each household would sign up for the alerts. Unfortunately, for many reasons, there are people who do not wish to participate. This requires that we rely on residents to share information with neighbors who may not be on our list or may not "do email" (yes, they do exist!).

Please NOTE:

~ We do **NOT** ever share your email addresses.

~ We try very hard not to overwhelm you with emails.

We attempt to send out only information we feel is beneficial/meaningful to a majority of our residents. Most emails are sent in response to traffic or weather advisories. If there is a possibility of torrential rain or flooding, we let you know. If there is a Civic Association event, we give advance notice, a reminder and a last minute notification. We also attempt to share opportunities for city and county government involvement (i.e. committees, boards, classes, etc.)

We hope you are participating and will also consider joining our Facebook page (The Commonwealth HOA). We believe that we provide information you will be happy to receive. Shoot us an email with your home address:

**news@commonwealthcivic.com.**



**REMINDER -- Please put trash cans (and recycling bins) at the curb on the morning of trash pick up days but no earlier than 6 p.m. on the day prior to 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.**

**The HOA will pursue this offense - it does frustrate your neighbors.**

**The HOA will pursue this offense - it does frustrate your neighbors.**

Crest Management Company  
P. O. Box 219320  
Houston, TX. 77218-9320

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*Happy New Year!*



## The Commonwealth Women's Club

### **El Tiempo**

**Tuesday, January 14**

Get on our email invite list  
for full details or to RSVP for this  
tremendously **FUN** evening!  
Shoot an email to Monica at  
[MonicaClancy@strategicascent.com](mailto:MonicaClancy@strategicascent.com)

**Night Out - Girl Talk**  
**Mexican Food**

**The Bus Always Fills Up Fast!**



The **February 12** get-together will be  
"Bunco Fun".  
It's okay if you have no idea how to play;  
we'll teach you!



**Go Texan Day**  
will be the theme of our **MARCH 3RD** gathering.  
Join us for an evening of fun and friends!



To receive full details and an invite, get on our email list.  
Shoot an email to Monica Clancy: [monicaclancy@strategicascent.com](mailto:monicaclancy@strategicascent.com)