

Commonwealth Comments

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

July/August 2019

www.commonwealthcivic.com

The Commonwealth Board of Directors

Rajesh Walawalkar
President

CI/O

Dave Bristow
Vice President

CI/O

Sumita Ghosh
Member

CI/O

Courtney Hochhalter
Secretary

CI/O

Jim Levermann
Treasurer

CI/O

Email: 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.



**Our Annual July 4th
Parade and Picnic**

at *The Commonwealth Clubhouse & Knightsbridge Pool area*
10:30 - 2 p.m.

Parade Line-up 10:45 a.m.	Parade at 11:00 a.m.	Decorate your bikes and strollers!
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Food **FUN AND Fellowship** for the **ENTIRE** family!

This Annual event attracts over 500 residents. After the parade, join your friends and neighbors for lunch and a swim!

Help make this event a success!
Email CWJuly4@gmail.com to volunteer

Commonwealth Enhancement Committee

Director Courtney Hochhalter has reinvigorated our Enhancement Committee. They will be meeting over the next few months to discuss and prioritize community projects. This committee is resident driven. Committee members will decide if new projects are desirable, which amenities require updating and whether or not suggested ideas will enhance our property values/quality of life and whether or not the projects are cost effective. Recommendations will then be made to the Board.

The Committee will then break into smaller teams to research what each project involves, determine a reasonable timeline and estimated financial cost to the community.

A few ideas that have been tossed around are updating our Clubhouse Marquee to a digital screen, updates to the Knightsbridge Clubhouse, enhancing our tennis courts, security cameras and lighting, restrooms for the playground areas, and updates to our Commonwealth website.

If you have some ideas of your own and are interested in contributing time to this endeavor, we encourage you to become engaged by reaching out to Heather at Crest (281-579-0761) for the next meeting date where your input and suggestions will be welcomed.

Activity Directory

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

Commonwealth Chinese Club - CCC 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.
Commonwealth Social Club 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.
Mommy and Me Play Group 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.
Men's Golf Group Greg gregamack@gmail.com	The guys are always looking for players for last minute pairings on various golf courses in the area.
Special Events/Activities 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.
Tennis: Men's 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.
Tennis: Women's Jean 713-385-4097	Ladies time on the court! Play tennis with other Commonwealth women.
Yoga & Guided Meditation 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 Dave Bristow and let him know of your interest. The Association will help publicize your group and attempt to help you grow. dgbristow@windstream.net.



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

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.

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>	
POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY	9-1-1

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To have your outside modifications or new construction considered at the monthly meeting, your MDR application must be received in Crest Management's office on, or before, the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact Crest Management at 281-579-0761.

If you are willing to plan and organize a Back-to-School party for our young residents, please contact Sumita as soon as possible so a date can be secured and the party planning can commence!

news@commonwealthcivic.com

The Commonwealth HOA Annual Meeting

The Annual Commonwealth Civic Association meeting was held on Tuesday, May 21 at our Clubhouse. The meeting was called to order and a short while later, a quorum was confirmed.

Residents were welcomed by Board President, David Bristow and Heather Esteban, Community Manager (with Crest Management). Board member introductions were made.

The minutes from last year's meeting were approved and Directors' reports were given.

Chris Lukin, one of our First Colony LID #2 Directors, gave

an update on how we "weathered the storms" and assured residents that FCLID#2 is ready for hurricane season. The Commonwealth suffered no flooding during our most recent weather events and we can give credit to our levee system.

First Colony Levee Improvement District No. 2 was created in October of 1985. The District includes 615 acres of land within The Commonwealth. The District maintains a levee around the western, eastern and southern boundaries of the District to protect Commonwealth from the floodwaters of the Brazos River. The levee protecting the northern boundary of the District is maintained by Fort Bend County Levee Improvement District No. 2, which is a separate levee district. (This is an important distinction!)

-continues on page 4-

Susan M. Delclos, DMD, MDS, PA
 ORTHODONTIST 281-261-2504
 2869 Dulles Avenue (at Cartwright)



Henry Delclos, D.D.S.
 PEDIATRIC DENTIST 281-265-4177
 2225 Williams Trace Blvd., Ste. 106

Annual Meeting Continued -

The District also maintains the detention ponds and drainage channels within the District and has a large pumping station near Alcorn Lake at the back of Commonwealth to pump any flood waters collecting within the District into the Brazos River.

Our levee tops at 78 feet - the 500 year flood requirement is 74 feet. Please help us ensure that NO ONE drives on our levee. Not only does damage cost us money, it also puts our property at risk for flooding!

Our LID Operator had a representative in attendance. He was able to answer all resident concerns regarding our levees. The LID constantly monitors the weather during rain events and has historically been extremely forthcoming with regular reports that we share with residents by way of our Email Alert System.

The infrastructure is all 30 years old and maintenance and upgrading/replacing are being done regularly. We have a new pump that we hope will be on-line before the height of hurricane season. Our pumps utilize multiple energy sources which helps to keep us operating even when the power fails. Additionally, our equipment is weather protected as much as possible.

If you are not subscribed to our FCLID#2 email updates, you may visit the website and signup (www.FCLID2.com). On the website, you will find a lot of useful information (including the 20 Year Capital Improvement Plan and maps).

Remember that our streets act as a conveyer for water during 100 year storms, so please help all of us by keeping the gutters clear so that the water can enter the sewer system.

Flood insurance is not required in The Commonwealth, however, the City of Sugar Land strongly recommends it.

City of Sugar Land staff was on hand to address our group of residents. Once they had given their information, the Board members gave their reports:

Dave Bristow announced that federal law has changed and now HOAs are responsible for the upkeep of neighborhood mailboxes. We have completed painting those that are in bad shape. This is a long-term and very expensive undertaking, so if your mailbox needs maintenance, please send photos and the location to Crest Management.

He also pointed out that vandalism in our parks and playgrounds costs us money. If you see something, say something.

-continues on page 5-

We are proud of our community partnership with the ABC HOAs.
 We work together to bring you informational/educational programs to enhance the quality of life in our area.
 We have a history of working together on School, City and County issues. We appreciate resident participation.

Summer Pool Hours

You must have pool tags in order to use Commonwealth pools. You must be in good standing with the Association in order to get those tags!

We have pool rules for a reason. All attendees must abide by the posted rules. Disregard for our rules may result in removal from the pool area and loss of pool tags.

Knightsbridge

MAY 29th – AUGUST 11th

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 12th – OCTOBER 27th (Weekends only)

Saturday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Sunday 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 LABOR DAY 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Briarwood



MAY 29th – AUGUST 11th

Monday CLOSED
 Tuesday - Saturday 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 Sunday 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

AUGUST 12th - SEPTEMBER 2nd (Weekends only)

Saturday 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 Sunday 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 LABOR DAY 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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Dave also pointed out that we installed a new screen and projector in the Clubhouse for presentations, as well as a new diving board at the pool.

Sumita Ghosh encouraged residents to become involved with our Special Events/Activities Committee. The Association is happy to sponsor neighborhood events, however, volunteers are needed to help pull them together.

She also pointed out that our HOA offered several community educational opportunities over the past year. We had a flood preparation presentation, an afternoon on Air Bag Safety and several FBISD issues awareness meetings.

These meetings are announced via email and on our community Facebook page.

A report on Landscaping announced that we have a new landscaping company and they are currently restoring the beds, removing and replacing the Hawthorns and spending a great deal of time on remediation. Many of our trees have reached their maximum life expectancy.

Dave gave an update on the fibre replacement cables. He explained that the cables should shortly disappear with the exception of the area where enTouch has placed overhead electric cables. That area was unfortunately declared to be an aerial easement by our original developer and we cannot touch them. PS Lightwave, however, is (finally) burying their cables.

Courtney Hochhalter gave an exciting report on the revival of our Enhancement Committee. He listed several projects that the committee will be considering for Board approval. (They are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Judy Dae did not run for election to our HOA Board so an election was held. Please welcome Jim Levermann to the board. At a board meeting following the Annual Meeting officers were selected. Raj Walawalkar was elected President of the Board. Dave Bristow is Vice President, Courtney Hochhalter is Secretary and Jim Levermann will be Treasurer.

THANK YOU!

Once again, our residents have met the challenge. Indeed, you have surpassed our hopes!

We have around 3,000 registered voters in our neighborhood. We know that elected officials listen to those who vote.

AND YOU DID! For the first time, our Clubhouse was utilized as a voting location during early voting AND on election day.

Over 1,000 of you took advantage of the convenience of having a polling center in the neighborhood.

You rock!



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A Note on Deed Restrictions and Modifications

Deed Restrictions, CC&R's and Architectural Guidelines are common in the Houston area, and are certainly so in Sugar Land. Homeowners new to the area may be aware of them, but unfamiliar with the contents and need to consult the documents they signed at closing to realize what they have agreed to.

Consulting the HOA websites of surrounding developments, such as First Colony and Riverstone, will confirm that these Guidelines, when enforced, are a common tool for safeguarding property values.

Construction/permitting/inspection and regulations of and by the City of Sugar Land, are largely concerned with safety standards (construction, plumbing, air conditioning, electrical etc..) but also include items such as fences, added exterior buildings, roofing etc. External, as well as internal, modifications to residential properties which require City permitting, are explained in brochures available at City Hall or from our Modifications Committee.

The City relies on HOA's, to address the issue of architecture/ambiance etc., regarding specific subdivisions. Ultimately, it is the homeowner's responsibility to acquire and follow permitting requirements of the City as well as our Commonwealth Guidelines. Our Modifications Committee is made up of homeowners in good standing with the Association, who are volunteers, and there to help facilitate homeowner requests. Please contact Crest (281-579-0761) for further information.

Dave Kinzelman, MDR Committee Chair





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16 HOLLINFAIRE

Savings of \$9,400

Questions regarding the City of Sugar Land?

Please read through the information at SugarLandTx.gov. This site will tell you exactly what 3-1-1 can help you with. (i.e. broken sidewalks, trash service and recycling, even Animal Services info).

Congratulations to

Jim Levermann,
our newest HOA Board Member
Thank you Judy Dae for stepping up to fulfill an incomplete term!

The Commonwealth Clubhouse is available for rent, at reasonable rates, by members in good standing with the Association. Call Crest Management for more information. 281-579-0761

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.

They should be happy to accommodate you.

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

If you are not receiving regular email from The Commonwealth Civic Association, you are NOT on our Email Alert distribution list. This can be remedied by simply sending an email to: news@commonwealthcivic.com. Add your name and tell us which neighborhood you live in and we will add you to the list. Get important news quickly with our Email Alert system. We do NOT share your email address with any outside sources.

Newsletter, Website and Facebook - Sue Hauenstein, the write idea - news@commonwealthcivic.com

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SUMMER FUN NIGHTS

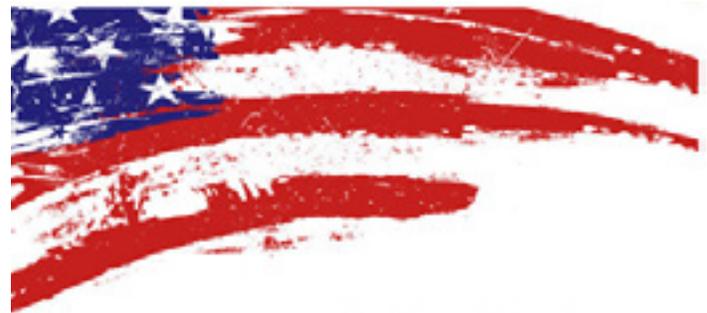
The Commonwealth HOA
will host Movie/Pool Nights this summer at
The Commonwealth Clubhouse
on
the second Friday of each month.
Join us on Friday, July 12 and Friday, August 9
for an evening of fun in the hood!

Volunteers are needed and appreciated!
Contact news@commonwealthcivic.com.

The Commonwealth Women's Club

**The Commonwealth Women's Club does not
meet during the summer months.
Watch for the fall kick off date in a future newsletter.
Better yet, get on their email distribution list.**

To get on our list, shoot an email to Monica Clancy:
monicaclancy@strategicascnt.com



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

In addition to The Commonwealth's Annual Parade and Picnic, the City of Sugar Land will host an event:

Thursday, July 4, 2019

4 - 10 p.m.

The Crown Festival Park, 18355 Southwest Frwy.

Details at: sugarlandtx.gov

*The Commonwealth Piranhas
won their first meet against
New Territory Torpedos
We will give a complete update
in September.*

