

Commonwealth Comments

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

July/August 2020

www.commonwealthcivic.com

The Commonwealth Board of Directors

Jim Levermann
President

C/O

Dave Bristow
Vice President

C/O

Sumita Ghosh
Treasurer

C/O

Rajeev Somani
Secretary

C/O

Rajesh Walawalkar
Member

C/O

**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.

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

Please verify in the event the
dates must be rescheduled.

End of An Era

Sadly for many of us, this is our final printed letter. Beginning with our September/October edition, the Commonwealth newsletters will be posted on our website to be viewed electronically - at your leisure. (www.commonwealthcivic.com)

To recap, in an effort to save money on printing and postage, and bring you information on a more timely basis, we will be replacing our printed publications and joining the 21st century of on-line news. Going paperless will also enable us to provide longer articles with more pertinent information as needed. (**Editors Note:** I have been producing this newsletter [monthly and then bi-monthly] for 25 years and will miss being able to hold the pages of each edition in my hands.)

The newsletters will continue to be produced on a bi-monthly basis with publication of "breaking news" (anything urgent/important) going out via our Email Alerts, posted on the Commonwealthcivic website and posted on our Facebook page.

We have used our email alerts extensively during hurricanes, other major weather events and, of course, most recently during the Coronavirus pandemic. They are also shared when there is any community event or issue at hand.

A huge thank you to the residents who have already registered for the electronic newsletter notifications. It's a start! This newsletter and our Email Alerts are the most dependable (and consistent) methods of keeping up with The Commonwealth's latest news. Both serve a purpose and if you are not on both lists, you will definitely miss out on a lot of information that we share, not only from our HOA, but also from the city and the county. We will also notify everyone on our list when a new newsletter is posted.

We NEVER share your email addresses.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have not yet registered to receive the electronic newsletters (and/or the Email Alerts) it is not too late.....

To register, shoot an email to: News@CommonwealthCivic.com stating your name, physical address AND the lists you wish to be added to:

NEWSLETTER and/or EMAIL ALERT List.

Please address any concerns to Heather at
heathere@crest-management.com

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 Women's Club Monica Clancy, President monicaclancy@strategicascent.com	This group of Commonwealth Women meets monthly for Fun and Friendship! Get on the email list for meeting details.
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 cwslcares@gmail.com	This group is in need of a leader! The guys are always looking for players for last minute pairings on various golf courses in the area. Let us know if interested.
Special Events/Activities To volunteer: cwslcares@gmail.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 Jeanne 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 but be sure to get on her email list.

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. cwslcares@gmail.com

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>	
POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY	9-1-1

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



West & Glory Crafts

832-265-7355 (SELL)

glorycrafts@hotmail.com

FREE STAGING!!!



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35 Years | Sugar Land Residents

We Sell Commonwealth

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"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

While the market has recently slowed down, we still have clients wanting to buy in your area.

Give us a call. We are happy to come by and talk. We would love to work with you!

Another First for The Commonwealth!

On Tuesday, May 16th, our Board of Directors and our Management Company joined together with residents for our first virtual Annual Meeting. Those of us who have lived here for decades can attest that this we have never been forced to host a meeting in this manner.

All Board Members were present on the call. President Rajeev Walawalkar; Vice President David Bristow, Treasurer Jim Levermann, as well as both Sumita Ghosh and Rajeev Somani.

Heather Esteban began the meeting and announced a quorum. Rajeev Walawalkar welcomed the residents and each board member then proceeded to give a brief report on their area of responsibility.

Most of the accomplishments mentioned have previously been noted in past newsletters, however, I feel it is quite noteworthy to mention the following:

§ Earlier this spring, the County donated 30 trees to our community. All 30 have been planted.

§ Lights and electrical outlets have been added to 10 of our neighborhood's monuments.

§ The ball moss hanging on many of our common area trees has been addressed as best it could be. (If there are trees in the public areas near you, please take photos and send them to Crest.)

§ While pool season was delayed due to the pandemic, there were improvements to the Briarwood pool as well as bathroom upgrades, including electronic key fob entry.

§ There is also increased security at the Briarwood tennis courts.

§ The majority of the work on our Clubhouse renovations had been completed, however, there was a delay on the arrival of the new furniture. We are told it will be beautiful and that there will be some sort of Open House once the facility is ready.

Sadly, our Piranhas Swim Team members were denied a swim season this year. We know they are disappointed but we hope next year will bring great success to the swimmers.

We are all hopeful that the "new normal" will take place soon. Please contact FBISD for the latest news on back to school dates and procedures.

Another adventure for all of us.....



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4310 Keating
\$524,900



33 Beacon Hill
\$2,880,000



15 Penny Green St
\$384,900



10 Hollinfaire Ct
\$475,000

SOLD IN COMMONWEALTH 2019



4318 SAINT MICHAELS
Savings of \$12,990



16 HOLLINFAIRE
Savings of \$9,400



4615 MOORLAND
Savings of \$9,900



4802 CAMBRIDGE
Savings of \$9,500



4107 KIRKWALL
Savings of \$6,135



4919 Keneshaw
Savings of \$8,175

A New Advertising Opportunity

Advertising opportunities still exist in our Commonwealth newsletters! Our (very) reasonable advertising rates have not changed, but we are trying something new to help out our **resident business owners/managers**.

If you have a business that you would like to have included in the Commonwealth Comments, please consider purchasing one of our "ClassyAds". (Limited in Number)

This is simply a business listing and will run in each edition. It will include the name of your business, address, type of business, phone number and a hot link to your website.

These ads will run \$75 for the year. (That is six listings.)

Example:

Greystone Builders P. O. Box 1868 Sugar Land 77487	281- 265-0137	Custom Building & Remodeling
the write idea P. O. Box 1381, Richmond 77406	832-449-3936	Desktop Publishing

news@commonwealthcivic.com

Recognizing that residents have been stressed and distracted during the quarantine, the federal government extended the deadline for filling in the 2020 census form. Please take 10 minutes to fill the form out. Visit www.my2020census.gov.

Reminder -- *Census takers WILL be sent to homes that do not submit the census form.*

FORT BEND COUNTS 2020

HOW THE CENSUS BENEFITS YOUR COMMUNITY

- Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.
- Businesses use Census Bureau data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, and these create jobs.
- Local government officials use the census to ensure public safety and plan new schools and hospitals.

COUNT EVERY ONE

<https://www.fortbendcounts.gov/our-county/2020-census>

Parks and Playgrounds and Tennis Courts

As if it wasn't tough enough to home school the kids (things have changed since we were in school, right?), to assist in keeping the kids safe and healthy, all parks and playgrounds were deemed off-limits, museums and entertainment centers were closed, and, well, there was basically very little to do to keep us all busy.

In mid-June, the city of Sugar Land re-opened their parks and playgrounds, and the Commonwealth Civic Association followed suit.

Signs have been mounted in our parks and around the playgrounds to emphasize that the danger of exposure to COVID-19 still exists and that the parks and playgrounds are not sanitized.

COVID-19 WARNING

- The danger of exposure to the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 exists.
- Parks and playgrounds are not sanitized
- By entering the park/playground area, you take responsibility for your own protection and for disinfecting your hands and anything you touch in the park/playground area.
- Do not enter the park/playground area if you have been sick in the past two weeks.
- Maintain at least 6 feet between you and other people who are not a part of your household.
- All other park/playground rules must still be adhered to.
- All City, County and State orders must be adhered to.

Our parks, playgrounds and tennis courts are here for the enjoyment of our residents. Sadly the virus has made this more challenging than ever. Residents utilizing these amenities are accepting the risk assigned to using public equipment that has not been disinfected. Please take every precaution.

If you opt to visit the parks, playgrounds, tennis courts or pools, be sure to carry sanitizing gel and wipes and use them often.

Our pool company requires each adult to bring a signed copy of a special waiver before they can use our pools this summer. The waiver must be presented each time you visit the pool. You may find links to the waiver in previous email alerts as well as on our website: www.commonwealthcivic.com. Download the waiver, sign it and bring it with you. (You might want to upload a copy of your signed waiver to your cell phone so it's always available!)



Ladies' Tennis

Commonwealth Cool Chix WHLTA level C ladies tennis team is looking for additional players this fall.

If you are interested or have any questions please call Jeanne Megna at 713-385-4097.



New Board Positions

Each year, at the first meeting after the HOA Annual Meeting, our Board of Directors decides on new officers. Board Officers for the new year (through May, 2021) are as follows:

President – Jim Levermann
Vice President – Dave Bristow
Treasurer – Sumita Ghosh
Secretary – Rajeev Somani
Director – Raj Walawalkar

Board Liaisons:

Modifications Committee –	Raj Walawalkar
Playgrounds and Tennis (including tennis leagues and tennis court reservation system) –	Jim Levermann
Clubhouse, Pool and Swim Team –	Dave Bristow
Enhancement Committee –	Rajeev Somani
Communication (newsletter, website, eblasts and marquee) –	Sumita Ghosh
Landscape (including electrical, fountains and monuments) –	Jim Levermann

Proposed 2020 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 complete the pool registration form on the home page. Pool tags will be mailed to residents upon receipt and verification of the request form. Registration and pick up of pool tags in person at Crest Management's office will incur a \$20 charge.

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 (with exception of prearranged pool parties through the pool company). **This year no guests will be permitted in our pools.**

Proposed Pool Schedule and Hours of Operation:

**OUR POOL AREAS DO NOT
HAVE WIFI CAPABILITY!**

Knightsbridge

Through AUGUST 9th

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 10th - OCTOBER 31st (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

Through AUGUST 9th

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

AUGUST 10th - SEPTEMBER 7th (Weekends only)

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

Please be sure to visit www.commonwealthcivic.com to download the required **POOL WAIVER** --

Each adult **MUST** have a copy of the signed waiver with him/her **EACH** time the pool is visited.

If you have any questions regarding obtaining pool tags you can contact Crest Management at 281-579-0761.

**Be a good neighbor!
Please pick up after
your dog and dispose of properly!**



In the front of everyone's home is a water meter that lives inside a plastic meter box.

During rain events when water ponds in the streets, sometimes the lids on top of the meter box float away and are lost.

If you are missing your meter lid call 311 or 281-275-2900. You can also download the city's MySugarLand App and make a service request.

A Great Security Tool!

RAIDS Online

BAIR Analytics's has a public crime map, RAIDS Online, which connects law enforcement with the community to reduce crime and improve public safety. For details, visit: <http://www.raidsonline.com/>

We are fortunate to live in a very safe and secure neighborhood. The Sugar Land Police Department takes very good care of us and responds accordingly. We want to keep it this way!!!! It takes all of us.

If you see something, SAY something.

Our police department does NOT mind residents calling in if they see something suspicious in the hood.

Keep the phone number handy
281-275-2020 -- Emergency 9-1-1

Be Considerate - Safety is a Shared Responsibility

While the temperatures have risen and one can likely cook an egg on the sidewalk during the day, our early mornings and evenings do often allow for people to get outside and take a walk, a jog or a bike ride.

Take Steps to Avoid Injury or Death While Walking

We must accept that we are vulnerable when walking through the neighborhood, crossing busy streets and negotiating traffic. And we all are pedestrians from time to time, so it's important to pay attention to what is going on around us.

Every age group is vulnerable, though 10- to 14-year-olds and 50- to 69-year-olds suffer more traffic fatalities.

Whenever possible, walk on the sidewalk facing traffic. Follow the rules of the road, obeying all traffic signs and signals and cross streets in the marked areas. Make sure you can see oncoming traffic. Look left, right and left again before crossing the street, making eye contact with drivers of oncoming vehicles to make sure they see you.

Stay alert – avoid cell phone use and wearing earbuds.

Wear bright and/or reflective clothing, and use a flashlight if you walk at night.

Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways or backing up in parking lots. If you are walking with children, please keep them at your side when crossing the street.

Distracted walking incidents are on the rise, and everyone with a cell phone is at risk. We are losing focus on our surroundings and putting our safety at risk. The solution: Stop using phones while walking, and not just in crosswalks and intersections. Over half of distracted walking injuries occur in our own homes, proving that we need to stay aware of our surroundings whether indoors or out.

When driving your vehicle, obey all traffic laws, especially posted speed limits. Watch for pedestrians and bikers at all times and be extra cautious when backing up, especially when backing down the driveway.

Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, making eye contact to indicate that you see them. Never pass vehicles stopped at stop signs. Please stay alert. We can never assume that young children will follow the rules, especially when they are in a group.

You, also, must accept responsibility for the safety of others. If you are bicycling.

Follow the Rules of the Road and ride with the flow of traffic, not against it. Your movement is more predictable and visible to motorists, especially at intersections and driveways. Ride in a straight line, not in and out of cars, and use hand signals when turning and stopping.

Obey traffic signs, signals, and lane markings and yield to traffic when appropriate, including pedestrians.

Don't Ride on the Sidewalk. While it may seem like a safer option, motorists are simply not looking for bicyclists on the sidewalk, especially those riding against the direction of traffic. At every driveway and intersection, you will be at greater risk of being hit by a motorist than if you were riding on the road with traffic.

Pedestrians will thank you for riding on the road as well.

Be Predictable and Visible. Try not to be hesitant or do things that motorists and other travelers may not be expecting. Make sure everyone can see you, knows where you are and where you are going.

If riding in the dark, use headlights, taillights, and reflectors and wear reflective materials and brightly colored clothing. **Do not wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while bicycling. And please yell out well in advance, to warn walkers if you are about to pass them.**

Watch for "stuff" on the road or trail that might make you fall or swerve. Rocks, trash, storm grates, wet leaves, potholes, gravel, railroad tracks, and even wet pavement markings can all send you flying.

Always watch for parked cars, doors opening, and cars pulling in and out of driveways and turning traffic.

At every intersection and driveway, keep a careful eye out for motorists turning right in front of you-- you may be going faster than they think. Also, look for motorists turning left across your path. Drivers are looking for gaps in traffic and may not be paying attention to anything other than other motor vehicles.

We do want you and your family to explore the neighborhood, but we want you to do it safely and courteously.

Enjoy!

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

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What *ARE* Those Things????

If you are new to this region, the Feral Hog may be something you are unfamiliar with. Depending on their size, they can be quite unnerving!

At one time, around 300 years ago, these animals provided the settlers cured meat and lard. In the 1930s, European wild hogs, "Russian boars," were first imported and introduced into Texas by ranchers and sportsmen for sport hunting. Because of this crossbreeding, there are very few, if any, true European hogs remaining in Texas.

Feral hogs are unprotected, exotic, non-game animals. Therefore, they may be taken by any means or methods at any time of year. There are no seasons or bag limits, however **a hunting license and landowner permission are required to hunt them.**

For local residents they are merely an expensive irritant. The hogs roam around at night looking for food and can do enormous harm to our lawns and gardens.

They look the same as a domestic hog. They can reach a shoulder height of 36 inches and weigh from 100 to over 400 pounds. They have relatively poor eyesight but have keen

senses of hearing and smell.

Foods include grasses, forbs, roots and tubers, browse, mast (acorns), fruits, bulbs and mushrooms. Animal matter includes invertebrates (insects, snails, earthworms, etc.), reptiles, amphibians, and carrion (dead animals), as well as live mammals and birds if given the opportunity. Feral hogs are especially fond of acorns and domestic agricultural crops such as corn, milo, rice, wheat, soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, watermelons and cantaloupe. Feral hogs feed primarily at night and during twilight hours, but will also feed during daylight in cold or wet weather. There are traps out for them.

NOTE: Javelinas are smaller, have an unnoticeable tail, only one dew claw on the hind foot, a scent gland near the base of the tail, a grizzled-grayish coat with a white band of hair around the shoulder or "collar," and are more social or herd-like animals.

If you experience hog damage, please take photos and make a report to the City of Sugar Land. Send the photos, your name and address to: KKETCHUM@sugarlandtx.gov

Kathryn Ketchum, Animal Services Manager
Animal Services, Environmental and Neighborhood Services
City of Sugar Land
101-B Gillingham Lane, Sugar Land, Texas 77478
281-275-2364