

Commonwealth Comments

An electronic newsletter for residents of *The Commonwealth*

Bridgewater, Commonwealth Estates, Commonwealth Park, Oxford, Sutton Forest, Sutton Park and Sweetwater XII

July/August

Inside this issue



Inside This Issue

July 4th Has Arrived
Veggie Share Continues
Feral Hog Damage
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BIKE/SCOOTER DECORATING STARTS AT 10AM

SCOOTERS, STROLLERS AND WAGONS ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE.

THIS YEAR'S PARADE ROUTE WILL BE A LITTLE SHORTER. WE WERE UNABLE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO CROSS STREETS.

THERE WILL BE LOTS OF INFLATABLES INCLUDING WATER SLIDES (FOR BIGS AND LITTLE), INFLATABLE GAGA PITS, BASKETBALL SHOOTING GAME AND LARGE YARD GAMES LIKE CONNECT 4 AND BAG TOSS

HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS AND ICE CREAM PER USUAL AND ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE THE SAME AS IN YEARS PAST.



Please share this Commonwealth Comments with your CW neighbors who may not know it exists!

They will receive it automatically once they sign up on our Email Distribution List.

They can send their name, physical address and email address to: news@commonwealthcivic.com



Please visit the Crest Management website for:

Exterior Modification Requests, Contacts, to Access Account information, policies, pool tags, meeting dates, etc.





Wishing out team members a fabulous summer!

Thank you parents of helping the success of our team.

The Piranhas - since 1991

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: sumitasugarland@gmail.com

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



Sadly, there has been a resurgence of landscape damage in our community.

We need residents to ensure that our levee gates are kept secured.
That's where many of the hogs enter the neighborhoods.

The damage they cause is paid for with resident HOA dues.
You can help us manage required funds by helping to keep those gates locked!

**Please report sightings to Sugar Land Animal Services at 281-275-2364.
Please be prepared to provide a physical address and photos if you have them.**

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.

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

Sign up for our Email Alert Distribution List for local alerts.

The Commonwealth Website:
www.commonwealthcivic.com

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The Crest Management Website:
www.crest-management.com/



TRAFFIC HEADACHES HAVE BEGUN



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Brazos River Bridge Project will be implementing Hwy 59/69 road closures for the next **THREE YEARS. (Yes, three years.)** This means that if you support businesses in Richmond/Rosenberg (on the other side of the Brazos River) or if you visit friends or family over there, you will face traffic woes for years to come.

This becomes even more frustrating because road work is also being done on Highway 90 around New Territory, meaning that no matter which way you choose to cross the river, you will face challenges.

About this Project

The construction will require alternative lane closures of the IH 69 main lanes and frontage roads over the Brazos River. The City will share lane closure notifications as they are received from TxDOT. On-site digital message boards will also be used to provide updates. Residents are asked to be mindful of work crews, expect traffic delays, and when possible, avoid the area to prevent traffic congestion.



To protect the safety of the general public from further erosion of the Brazos River bank, TxDOT permanently closed the Brazos River Turnaround in July 2016 and will begin construction to extend the limits of the IH 69 bridge over the Brazos River. This extension will relocate the abutment, the point where the bridge ends, away from the threat of future erosion.

The City is also implementing projects to restrict future erosion. Last November, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) announced the approval of approximately \$38M to the City and Fort Bend County for Brazos River erosion protection at several locations within the city limits, including at the IH 69 bridge.

Project updates will be available on TxDOT's project website.
For real-time traffic conditions around this area, visit its.sugarlandtx.gov.

You may sign up for TxDOT and/or City of Sugar Land notifications for the road closures and our Facebook page (The Commonwealth HOA) will post notifications as we receive the information.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

You should know -

The Commonwealth has not ever flooded. The areas around us HAVE - including Sweetwater and Avalon.

That being said, **ALWAYS** be alert and prepared..... Visit www.noaa.gov/hurricane-prep for prep information.

Residents can find policies on Bid Solicitation; Display of Religious Items; Swimming Pool Enclosures (and much more) on the Commonwealth Community page on the crest-management.com website under the Governing Documents tab and Policy/Resolution link.

Basic **DISASTER** Supply List

Just in case you didn't pay attention last month, we are repeating the Hurricane Preparedness Supply List!

To assemble your kit store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- ◇ Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- ◇ Food (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- ◇ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- ◇ Flashlight
- ◇ First aid kit
- ◇ Extra batteries
- ◇ Whistle (to signal for help)
- ◇ Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- ◇ Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- ◇ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- ◇ Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- ◇ Manual can opener (for food)
- ◇ Local maps
- ◇ Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

Additional Emergency Supplies

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- ◇ Soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- ◇ Prescription medications. About half of all Americans

- take a prescription medicine every day. An emergency can make it difficult for them to refill their prescription or to find an open pharmacy. Organize and protect your prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, and vitamins to prepare for an emergency.
- ◇ Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- ◇ Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- ◇ Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- ◇ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ◇ Cash or traveler's checks
- ◇ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- ◇ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- ◇ Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- ◇ Fire extinguisher
- ◇ Matches in a waterproof container
- ◇ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- ◇ Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- ◇ Paper and pencil
- ◇ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

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*



Just keep reminding yourself that progress is GOOD!

The University Boulevard widening project has also begun. The project is expected to be completed in March 2025.

During construction, University Blvd. will be reduced to one lane in both directions from New Territory Blvd. to Lexington Ave. Residents are asked to be mindful of work crews, expect traffic delays, and when possible, avoid the area to prevent traffic congestion.

The voter-approved project will include a new southbound and northbound lane from New Territory Boulevard to just south of Lexington Boulevard and intersection improvements along the corridor.

The improvements will include additional turn lane capacity at Lexington Boulevard, a double left turn at Wescott Avenue and median improvements at Branford Place and the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land to address community concerns, improve safety and enhance the flow of traffic.

Planning for Future Capital Projects

Sugar Land City Council identified an opportunity for residents to consider projects for a future bond election.

A choice to consider future projects.

An upcoming bond election will provide residents a choice to consider funding up to \$350 million for proposed capital projects over the next 5-7 years, which equates to approximately \$300 million in project costs in 2024 dollars.

Projects would be funded with a potential tax rate increase of no more than 5 cents, which is equivalent to an incremental monthly cost to the average resident of less than \$5 per month annually – or approximately \$20 per month by 2030.

Potential projects include resident priorities that focus on public safety, streets, traffic and sidewalks, drainage, municipal facilities, and an expanded scope for the planned animal shelter.

Residents identified the potential projects through years of public feedback including the most recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey, as well as sentiment surveys, community meetings, various master plans and City Council input.

The bond propositions and costs to be included in a November election are expected to be finalized at a future meeting when formal action is expected to be taken to call the election. City Council must adopt an ordinance calling a bond election by Monday, August 19, 2024.

Comprehensive community engagement and education will be conducted prior to the election.

This will take place at community meetings, HOA meetings, and special events.

Sugar Land to Celebrate the Fourth of July with a Boom

The city of Sugar Land's Red, White and Boom Celebration is scheduled for Thursday, July 4, from 5-9 p.m., at The Crown Festival Park, 18355 Southwest Freeway. Fireworks will close out the event at approximately 9 p.m.

Attendees will enjoy an evening full of patriotic fun with activities for all ages and a main stage area featuring a variety of local talent.

Live entertainment and activities will take place throughout the event, including a children's zone with photo opportunities, face painting, children's entertainment, airbrush art, trackless trains, rock walls, interactive inflatables along with a variety of information stations. Food and drink options will be available at concession areas.

This event is free and open to the public, and no tickets will be required.

Gates will open promptly at 4 p.m. Limited parking will be available at the festival site. Once on-site parking is full, only off-site parking will be available from the University of Houston-Sugar Land, 14000 University Blvd., and the Smart Financial Centre, 18111 Lexington Blvd, where shuttles will operate during the event. Those attending the event are encouraged to use the free shuttles to avoid traffic delays. All shuttle traffic will halt for the launching of fireworks from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Once all parking lots are full, access to the event will be closed.



A clear view of the fireworks show will be available via livestream on Sugar Land Parks and Recreation's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SugarLandParks.

For more information about the event or to inquire about event sponsorships, contact Sugar Land Parks & Recreation at 281-275-2825 or visit www.SugarLandTX.gov/RedWhiteandBoom.

For event updates, follow Sugar Land Parks and Recreation on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @SugarLandParks.

Meredith Riede, Sugar Land City Attorney Named Best in Texas

The Texas City Attorneys Association recently recognized City Attorney Meredith Riede with the Galen Sparks Award for Outstanding Public Service.

The award annually recognizes the top attorney in Texas for significant and distinguished career achievements in the field of municipal law.

Riede was appointed city attorney in 2014 after a national search. She was hired by Sugar Land as an assistant city attorney in 2000 after serving as the City's legal intern for three years.

[Read More Here](#)

Brian Butscher APWA, Sugar Land Public Works Director Tapped for Regional Leadership Role

Members of the southeast branch of the Texas American Public Works Association elected Sugar Land Executive Director of Public Works Brian Butscher as the chapter's president.

The association focuses on professional growth, knowledge sharing and building meaningful connections that strengthen Public Works – efforts intended to keep communities safe and improve quality of life.

Butscher was named public works director in 2021 after serving as deputy director since 2020.

[Read More Here](#)

Fort Bend County Info

WWW.FORTBENDCOUNTYTX.GOV

Incorporated in 1959



Fort Bend County Judge:

KP George

Commissioner Precinct 3 (Commonwealth):

Andy Meyer

Fort Bend County Sheriff:

Eric Fagan

Fort Bend County receives AAA credit rating for first time in history

Fitch Rating's upgrade recognizes superior financial leadership by commissioners court

Fitch Ratings upgraded Fort Bend County's credit rating from AA+ to the highest level of AAA. This upgrade reflects the county's strong fiscal management and financial policies, along with a robust economic base, despite the challenges posed by recent economic conditions.

Fort Bend County remains committed to fiscal responsibility and transparency, ensuring that taxpayer funds are used efficiently to support essential services and infrastructure projects. This credit rating upgrade positions the county favorably in the municipal bond market, potentially lowering borrowing costs and saving taxpayer dollars across the board.

Fort Bend County is home to over 900,000 people and is one of the fastest growing counties and most ethnically diverse counties in the United States.

Fort Bend County Launches New Mobility Projects Dashboard

Fort Bend County Commissioner Dexter L. McCoy is excited to announce a new dashboard created to keep residents up to date about the mobility bond projects happening across Fort Bend County.

These projects include enhancing roadways, installing traffic circles and lights, and expanding sidewalks.

Residents can easily access detailed information such as project locations, scope of work, funding sources, and project statuses, all at their fingertips, from a phone or computer. They can view the information on an interactive map or in list form.

The dashboard can be accessed at <http://fbctx.gov/mobility>.



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
Make a Plan Now
Emergency Alerts

HINTS FROM READY.GOV

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

Heather Esteban,
Property Manager
281-945-4630

(After Hours Emergency
713-935-7331)

[HeatherE@
crest-management.com](mailto:HeatherE@crest-management.com)

Ronald
Assistant Manager
281-945-4663

ronalddt@crest-management.com

**Deed restriction and architectural
matters; Clubhouse Scheduler/
Tennis Reservations**

Tammy - Account Representative

281-945-4658 - TammyA@Crest-Management.com

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

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.

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.



*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:

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
<i>when calling about street lights, relay pole #.</i>	
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

Graphic Credits: Pixabay & Dreamstime

Enjoy Your Summer

