

Commonwealth Comments

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

March/April 2020

www.commonwealthcivic.com

The Commonwealth Board of Directors

Rajesh Walawalkar
President

C/O

Dave Bristow
Vice President

C/O

Jim Levermann
Treasurer

C/O

Sumita Ghosh
Member

C/O

Rajeev Somani
Member

C/O

Email the board:
cwslcares@gmail.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.

Transitioning to Electronic Newsletters



After much thoughtful discussion, the Commonwealth Board of Directors has decided to forego our printed bi-monthly newsletter and will begin producing a bi-monthly electronic version. This move will not only save us money on printing and postage, it will also allow for "breaking news" newsletters to be shared on a timely basis.

The newsletters will be posted on our newly redesigned Commonwealth Civic Association website.

We need to begin collecting email addresses immediately. If you do not want to be on the Email Alert List, we can certainly put you on only ONE of the email lists. You will receive an email each time a new newsletter is posted.

Please shoot an email to: news@commonwealthcivic.com stating your name, physical address AND which lists you wish to be added to: NEWSLETTER and/or EMAIL ALERT List. We would like to begin posting our electronic newsletters this summer, so collecting email addresses from each home is on our immediate to-do list.

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

News@CommonwealthCivic.com

COMMONWEALTH PIRANHAS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Commonwealth Piranhas Swim Team is excited to announce the opening of its 2020 swim season! Register now as the age groups full up quickly!

Swim team practice and meets are held at the Briarwood pool behind Commonwealth Elementary. After-school practices begin on April 28th, then shift to a morning schedule by age group after the end of the school year. The team competes on Monday nights during the month of June, and the season ends with a very exciting Southwest Houston Recreational Swim League All Stars Competition on July 10 (www.shrsl.org).

The Commonwealth Piranhas are a recreational competition swim team. All swimmers are required to demonstrate the ability to independently swim the length of the pool (25 yards) to be eligible for the team. We are also volunteer-based and have a few positions open for parents who would like to get more involved in the community.

Please visit our website www.cwp.swimtopia.com. For questions or additional information contact **Jean Konrady** at jmkonrady@gmail.com or **Constance Lagrone** at constance.lagrone@yahoo.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 our 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!

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.



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- 16 HOLLINFAIRE**
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- 4615 MOORLAND**
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- 4802 CAMBRIDGE**
Savings of \$9,500
- 4107 KIRKWALL**
Savings of \$6,135



Annual HOA Board Elections

The Commonwealth Civic Association Annual Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7 p.m.** in The Commonwealth Clubhouse. Two Director positions will be placed on the ballot this year.

Annual meeting notices (and a proxy ballot) will be mailed out in advance of the meeting. Residents in good standing with the HOA will be permitted a vote on each position. Proxies may be mailed in in advance or residents may vote in person on the evening of the election.

Board members will vote on board leadership positions at the first board meeting held after the Annual Meeting.

The two directors up for re-election are Sumita Ghosh and Rajeev Somani. If you are interested in being added to the ballot for resident consideration, please contact Heather (see listing on the left side of page one). She will explain the timeline for the deadline and the submission of resumes.

Expectations of Board members include but are not limited to:

- ❖ Attend a minimum of one monthly meeting (on the 4th Thursday of each month)
- ❖ Act as a liaison to one or more of the committees in the community
- ❖ Be assigned to oversee one or more aspects of the community. For example: landscape, parks, pools, tennis courts etc.
- ❖ Attend two or more meetings of the Modifications Committee in order to understand the role and operation of the committee
- ❖ Be available to volunteer at Community Events
- ❖ Be able to check and respond to community specific emails with the rest of the Board and Management Company at least every other day.

We hope all residents will make an attempt to attend the Annual Board Meeting. Association goals and objectives will be discussed in depth. Reports will be given.

This is a volunteer position.



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Virginia Mack

Give us a call.

We would love to work with you!

Landscape Improvements

The Commonwealth Civic Association is grateful to Fort Bend County Judge K. P. George and Commissioner Precinct 4 Ken DeMerchant, as well as the other Commissioners, for donating 30 trees to our Association.

The Association paid for the planting of these trees; all 30 have now been planted. We have also been trimming existing trees as needed as part of ongoing maintenance of our landscape.

The neighborhood monuments project has also been completed. We have added lights to 10 of our monuments that previously did not have lights and electrical outlets so that we can add decorative lights to the monuments as deemed desirable. This portion is a joint project between the City of Sugar Land and The Commonwealth Civic Association.

The Civic Association Board has also tested a treatment to kill the ball moss. Once the expenditure has been approved, our landscape company will begin treating for ball moss. Some of our residents may also need to treat for this infestation. Please see page 5 for the article.



*Thanks to Board Member
Jim Levermann for this information!*

The Census is Coming!!!!

How the Census will invite you to respond!

Most households will receive an invitation in the mail. You will have the option to respond online, by mail, or by phone.

It is expected that most areas of the country will respond online so we will probably receive a letter asking us to go online to complete the census questionnaire.

If assistance is required, operators will be available to those who ask.

On or before March 20, we should receive an invitation to respond. We may also receive a paper questionnaire. A reminder letter will be sent shortly thereafter.

If you haven't responded by later in the month, a reminder postcard will be sent, followed by a reminder letter AND another paper questionnaire.

Between April 20 & April 27 a final reminder postcard will be mailed to those who have not responded. A census taker will make a trip to your home, in person, if they do not receive your questionnaire.



What is that on my tree?

Ball moss is a flowering plant in the scientific genus of Tillandsia that is commonly found in the upper crown of the tree, especially in shade and relative higher humidity.

Ball moss and its' cousin Spanish Moss are two native Texan members of Bromliacea, also known as the pineapple family. These plants are classified as eplphytes because of the benign nature of their Interaction on their host. Ball moss photosynthesizes its own food and **does not** deprive its host of a significant amount of additional water. The prevalence of ball moss tends to increase in geographical areas with higher moisture and humidity such as lakes, rivers, and the sea. The seeds are easily disseminated by the wind and are born on conspicuous blue-violet spring time flowers. In fact, these flowers are evidence that ball moss is not a true moss and is, instead, classified as a flowering plant.

Tree species that have rough textured bark, such as live oak and cedar elm, are more prone to ball moss while species that shed bark, like pecan ,or smooth barked trees, like crape myrtle, are less prone. You might also notice it growing on non-living hosts like power lines and fence posts. Ball moss will take about 3 years to mature and flower and will bloom for the about the next 7 years.

It is critical that every household is included in the census. The information impacts not only our local community, it is important to our city and state, both financially AND politically.

The information helps determine how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries. - Businesses use the information to determine where to open places to shop and it helps determine where new roads, schools and emergency services are placed.

Please note:

ALL information provided to the 2020 Census is safe, secure and protected by federal law.

Your answers may be used ONLY to produce statistics - they cannot be used against you in any way!!!!

All responses are confidential.

We hope you have checked out our new HOA website. Please thank residents Madhura Kelkar and Rajeer Somani for the many, many man hours spent on its' creation.



Ecologically, ball moss is an important habitat for Insects and small animals and act like a mini buffet for feeding birds and other animals!

Total elimination of ball moss on a site **can be difficult** as the seeds are easily spread by wind; a neighboring property several hundred yards away could be a seed source. Usually ball moss does not need to be controlled due to the benign interaction it has on the host tree and because of its ecological importance.

In extreme cases where control is needed, you can hand pick each cluster of ball moss, prune away the dead branches that ball moss typically grows on, or use the following labelled materials: TC Tribaslc Copper Sulphate, Blue Shield, Basic Copper 53, Micro Flo Basic Copper 53, Micro Flo Copper 3 FL. It should be noted that there is evidence that a copper based herbicide and fungicide has been shown to cause damage to tender growth on oak trees. Follow all Instructions on the labelling on these products.

2020 POOL SEASON

It may seem a little early to you, but, pool season is just around the corner.

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). **Each pool tag allows 2 guests.**

Pool Schedule and Hours of Operation:

Knightsbridge

APRIL 4th – MAY 28th (Weekends Only)

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sundays 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

MEMORIAL DAY 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

POOL OPENS FOR DAILY USE ON MAY 29th

MAY 29th – 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

MAY 2nd – MAY 28th (Weekends Only)

Saturdays 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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

MEMORIAL DAY 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

POOL OPENS FOR DAILY USE ON MAY 29th

MAY 29th – 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.

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

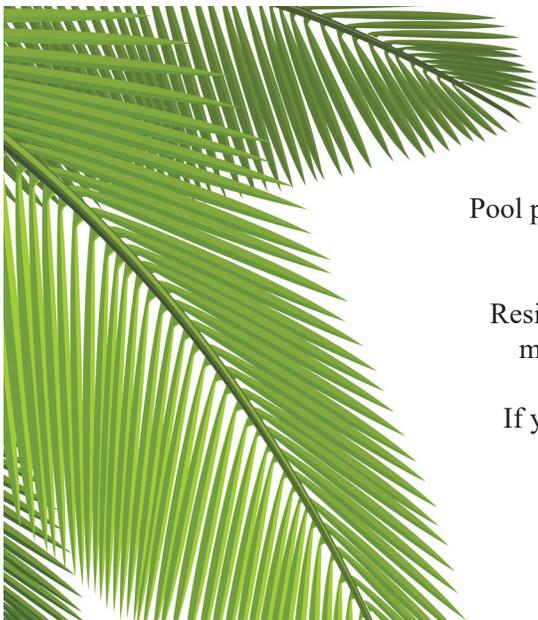
Did you know?????

The Commonwealth Pools are available to rent for private parties?

Pool parties can be booked through our community pool company,
A-Beautiful Pools.

Residents in good standing with the Homeowners' Association,
may book a party by visiting www.a-beautifulpools.com.

If you have any questions regarding a pool party reservation,
please don't hesitate to contact A-Beautiful Pools
at 281-376-6510.



Have You Signed Up for Tennis Yet?

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.

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.

Commonwealth Email 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.

The unwritten rule is that I send three emails for any event or issue. You should receive an announcement, a reminder and a final notification.

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 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.

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

Crest Management Company
P. O. Box 219320
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The Commonwealth Women's Club

The Commonwealth Women's Club is the oldest club/group in our community. This group has been active for decades. You don't know what you're missing! Give them a try.....



A Night Out on the Patio
Tuesday, April 7th
at the home of
Connie Buckingham,
34 Bradford Circle

Cinco de Mayo
Tuesday, May 5,
at the home of
Namita Asthana
4418 Castlewood



To receive full details and an evite, get on our email list.
Shoot an email to Monica Clancy: monicaclancy@strategicascnt.com

Enhancements Committee Update

Remodeling News!

As you may know, for the past several years, our Civic Association Board has been working with a committee of resident volunteers to determine which community enhancements will best benefit our homeowners.

Most recently, the Enhancements Committee has been hard at work developing a plan for updating the Clubhouse interior and making it better suited for a wide range of events.

This work should be completed in time for the Annual Meeting in May. The Enhancements Committee has also developed a plan for making the Briarwood Pool splash pad and one restroom accessible from the playground when the pool is closed. This work is already under way.

We very much appreciate our resident volunteers.