

March/April 2021

# Commonwealth Comments

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

*Underwritten by The Commonwealth Civic Association*

**It was a winter week of chaos but  
The Commonwealth survived in tact!  
We hope you didn't suffer any lasting damage!**

**Thanks to our Board of  
Directors for being on top of  
our community needs.**



**St. Patrick's Day**



## The Commonwealth Board of Directors

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Member
Jim Levermann	Dave Bristow	Sumita Ghosh	Rajeev Somani	Rajesh Walawalkar

To reach your Board Members by email, contact: [CWSLCares@gmail.com](mailto:CWSLCares@gmail.com)

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.

### Board Liaisons:

**Clubhouse, Pool and Swim Team** – Dave Bristow

**Communication** (newsletter, website, eblasts and marquee) – Sumita Ghosh

**Enhancement Committee** – Rajeev Somani

**Landscape** (including electrical, fountains and monuments) – Jim Levermann

**Modifications Committee** – Raj Walawalkar

**Playgrounds** – Jim Levermann

**Tennis Courts** (including tennis leagues and tennis court reservation system)- Sumita Ghosh



First Colony LID #2 meets

**the FIRST Tuesday of each month**

at the Commonwealth Clubhouse starting at noon.

[www.fclid2.com](http://www.fclid2.com)

For more information, call Ron at 281-265-0137.

**Modifications and Deed Restrictions Committee  
meets at the Clubhouse at 7 p.m. on the third  
Thursday of the month.**

### Crest Management Service

**Heather Esteban, Property Manager**

**281-945-4630** (After Hours Emergency # 713-935-7331)

### Commonwealth Communications

**Newsletter/Email Alerts/Facebook**

**the write idea: [news@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:news@commonwealthcivic.com)**

The Commonwealth Landscape Committee meets on an as needed basis.

Contact Crest Management for the next meeting time and date.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT :

CREST MANAGEMENT Company, P. O. Box 219320, Houston, TX. 77218

**Heather Esteban | Community Manager | 281-945-4630 | [HeatherE@crest-management.com](mailto:HeatherE@crest-management.com)**

**Katie | Assistant Manager | 281-945-4663 | [Katie@crest-management.com](mailto:Katie@crest-management.com)**

**Deed restriction and architectural matters and general community-related inquiries.**

**Clubhouse Scheduler/Tennis Reservations**

**Tammy | Account Representative | 281-945-4658 | [TammyA@Crest-Management.com](mailto:TammyA@Crest-Management.com)**

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

Please go to [www.Crest-Management.com](http://www.Crest-Management.com) for:

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

# 2

**The Commonwealth Website: [www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)**

**Crest Management Website: [www.crest-management.com](http://www.crest-management.com)**

Be sure to submit a Modifications Application and wait for an approval letter PRIOR to starting any modification projects in your yard or to the outside of your home.

Call Katie at Crest Management - 281.945.4663  
if you have any questions or need an application.

It can be very expensive to put the wrong color roof on your home and then have to replace it!



Spring is around the corner and many homeowners begin to consider remodeling/updating their homes.

Please remember that The Commonwealth  
is a Deed Restricted Community.



Make sure that your changes/updates follow the Guidelines.  
Homeowners agreed to these Guidelines when purchasing  
their homes. Not being in compliance can, at best, increase your  
headaches and at worst, bring about hefty legal fees.

Sugar Land residents and business owners are required by city ordinance to trim their trees if public rights of way are affected. Properly pruned trees ensure large vehicles such as fire trucks, ambulances and garbage trucks can safely navigate city streets with a clear view of traffic safety devices.

The Public Works Department will inspect trees every three years for compliance to the Tree Trimming Ordinance. (City of Sugar Land Code of Ordinances Part II, Chapter 3, Article 9, Div. 5 Vegetation, Sec. 3-164., Trees and objects in the visibility triangle or right of way.)

On another note.....

Our HOA is currently working on new Guidelines which we will publicize as soon as possible, however, it appears that residents are cutting down front yard trees without replacing them. There are now, and will be in the future, tree requirements for homeowners.

If your trees are growing too close to your foundation and you have concerns about the damage they may cause, you can install root barriers to keep the roots from growing under the slab.

We hope to have the updated Guidelines available to residents in the near future.

**If your property has a Centerpoint transformer, and it appears to be sinking, please report it to Centerpoint right away. (713) 659-2111. It takes time for them to schedule the work and we would prefer you not have service disruption for any longer than absolutely necessary.**



Every residential property must have a perimeter fence. Each of our “Neighborhoods” are subject to regulations promulgated by the original developer(s) and may be amended from time to time by the HOA Board.

All residential perimeter fences, whether of cedar or decorative metal, are required to have a finished height of 6 feet. Although “rot boards” were not originally installed by the developer(s), **if applied for, they may be approved.**

1”x6” or 2”x6” “rot boards may be used, however the required finished fence height remains at 6’. To accommodate the required 6’ finished height, 6’ cedar pickets must be trimmed by 6” to account for the rot board.

“Good Neighbor “ fencing as well as breezeway, swimming pool fences etc., as well as pedestrian and driveway gates are all addressed in our “Guidelines” document. This info is easily accessed through our website, our Management Company and or our Modifications Committee.

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

[www.crest-management.com](http://www.crest-management.com)

**Katie @ Crest Management: 281-945-4663**



THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME?

## GLORY & WEST CRAFTS



832-265-7355 (SELL)

glorycrafts@hotmail.com

**FREE STAGING!!!**



Over 126 5-Star Zillow Recommendations

63Years  
37 Years

Combined Experience  
Sugar Land Residents

We Sell Commonwealth



RE/MAX Fine Properties

“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

## Pool Tags

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](http://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 is not an option at this time due to COVID-19. **When the Crest Management office re-opens there will be a \$20 expedite fee to pick up pool tags in person from the office.**

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.

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***No guest or pool parties until further notice.***

The Fort Bend ISD Calendar  
for 2021-22 can be found on their webpage:



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

Click on Calendars

## The Commonwealth Clubhouse Renovation



Clubhouse renovations are complete.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, delivery of our new furniture has been delayed.

We hope to be able to post photos next edition!

And, when it's safe to gather, there will be an

Open House Celebration!

**SimpsonsTreeService.com ~ 281.980.0095**

Present this coupon and receive  
**\$50 OFF** All tree services over \$500\*\*  
**\$25 OFF** All tree services under \$500

- Tree Thinning and Removal
- FREE Estimates
- Free Wood

The Commonwealth HOA Annual Meeting will be held virtually May 18th! If you would like to be on the ballot to run as a Civic Association Director, start thinking about putting together a bio for submission and watch the Email Alert for deadlines.

## FCLID #2

Each new year brings new residents to our community. Many have never lived in a Homeowners' Association before; thus we try to include an article on HOA's occasionally. Additionally, MOST have never lived in a Levee Improvement District (L.I.D.)

We hope this short article will bring about a better understanding of what a L.I.D. is and what they do.

First Colony Levee Improvement District No. 2 of Fort Bend County, Texas (the "District") was created by an Order of the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas on October 7, 1985. The District includes 615 acres of land **within The Commonwealth** subdivision.

The District maintains a levee around the western, eastern and southern boundaries of the District. This is needed because of our proximity to the Brazos River. The levee protects the land in the District from the floodwaters of the Brazos. 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.

The District also maintains the detention ponds and drainage channels you see within our community. There is a large pumping station near Alcorn Lake in the southwest portion of the District to pump any flood waters collecting within the District into the Brazos River. During heavy periods of rain, and hurricane season, you may notice an increase of activity at the pumping station.

The L.I.D. #2 District contracts with The Commonwealth Civic Association, Inc. to mow and maintain the aesthetics of most of the detention and drainage areas within the District.

The District is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of three (3) individuals who live in The Commonwealth. The Board meets once a month at 12:00pm noon on the first Tuesday of each month in our Clubhouse at 4330 Knightsbridge Boulevard. All meetings of the Board are open to the public, and the public is invited to attend.

The current board includes Ron Frerich (30 year resident), Chris Lukin (30 year resident) and Zach Weimer (six year resident.). We are grateful for the time and effort they apply on behalf of our residents. (For the record, The Commonwealth has never had a flood incident!)

You may notice that the L.I.D. undertakes various projects to improve our drainage and beautify our ponds and channels. In January, work was performed to repair the side slope erosion at Alcorn Lake. Last year work was done in several areas down Commonwealth Blvd.

If you are really interested, you can learn more on the L.I.D. website at: [www.fclid2.com](http://www.fclid2.com). You will find plenty of information, including the Capital Improvement Plan, as well as the budget for 2021.

If you have questions about our L.I.D., there is a form on the website for you to fillout and send.



*Thank a  
L.I.D. Board Member  
Today!*

**Commonwealth  
Has Never Had Flooding Issues!**

Hurricane season is coming --  
Stock up on supplies now!

*Sugar Land's Boutique Brokerage*



*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*

**Sale Pending**



**31 Hollinfares**



**10 Hollinfares**

**COMING SOON**



**19 Stretford Ct**

**SOLD IN COMMONWEALTH**



**4403 Heatherwilde**  
Savings of \$6,945



**4318 Saint Michaels**  
Savings of \$12,990



**16 Hollinfares**  
Savings of \$9,400



**4310 Keating**  
Savings of \$10,358



**4615 Moorland**  
Savings of \$9,900



**4802 Cambridge**  
Savings of \$9,500



**26 Epping Forest**  
Savings of \$8,475



**4107 Kirkwall Cy**  
Savings of \$6,135



**4919 Keneshaw**  
Savings of \$8,175

*Call 281-744-9237 to find out how YOU can save THOUSANDS in Listing Fees!*

**Actions Have Consequences.....**

The FCLID#2 Operator, thus far in 2021, TWICE oversaw efforts to clean graffiti from our community.

The graffiti was extremely vulgar and offensive. It cost us (Commonwealth residents) about \$7200.00 to use cleaners and pressure washing to remove the spray paintings from the box culverts running under Avondale Street. These culverts are located near the pump station and allow water from Alcorn Lake to flow out the gates in our levee.

In January, they cleaned up some graffiti at the Briarwood Street box culverts that was also very offensive. That clean up cost the residents of the Commonwealth \$5100.00.

That is a total of **\$12,300.00** in clean up fees. This money comes from tax dollars that every resident in The Commonwealth pays.

We assume that the offenders are kids (not adults) living in our community so we would greatly appreciate it, if parents would explain to their children that clean up expenses come from the pockets of Commonwealth residents.

**6**

There is no acceptable excuse for defacing property in the Commonwealth (or anywhere else). This is a very expensive prank.

To help cut down on the vandalism, the Levee District has installed several cameras in and around the box culverts and placed small signs that inform the public that the cameras are up and running. These cameras will have the ability to record night and day.

We presently have cameras aimed at the pump station equipment to monitor the pumps and generators and the water levels, both inside and outside the levee to help us during flood events.

While these additional cameras will be used to monitor the box culverts for vandalism, they will have a side benefit of showing us water levels going through the culverts during a high-water level event. **Should any new vandalism occur, the video evidence will be turned over to the Sugar Land Police Department for prosecution.**

We recognize that kids are bored these days but this is simply not acceptable. Please make sure your children are aware that spray painting graffiti in our Community is a crime for which they may be prosecuted and that it costs everyone tax dollars to clean up.

# General Election Scheduled for May 1st

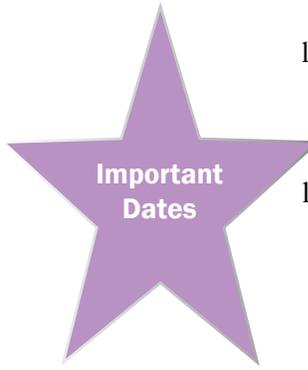
Sugar Land City Council and Fort Bend ISD both have candidates on the May 1, 2021 ballot.

Residents of The Commonwealth will be able to vote on the **City of Sugar Land** District 4 City Council position. We are currently represented by **Carol McCutcheon**, a resident of Colony Meadows.. She has held the position for four years. McCutcheon is being challenged by **Sakki Joseph**, a resident of Greatwood.

In **Fort Bend ISD**, there are two positions on the ballot.

Position 2, now held by Grayle James, who is not running, is being sought by **Judy Dae**, a resident of Commonwealth, and she is opposed by three other candidates: **Ashish Agrawal** (Riverstone), **Rehan Ahmed** (Richmond), and **Nadeem Naik** (Houston).

Position 6, now held by **Addie Heylinger** (Missouri City), **Stephanie Brown** (Missouri City), **Edtrina Moss** (Missouri City), **Allison Drew** (Riverstone), **Kristen Malone** (Quail Valley), **Rafat Jilani** (Sugar Land).



**Thursday, April 1-**  
last day to register to vote for May  
**Monday, April 19-**  
First day of early voting  
**Tuesday, April 20-**  
last day to apply for ballot by mail  
(received, not postmarked)  
**Tuesday, April 27-**  
last day of early voting  
**Saturday, May 1-**  
Election day  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



**At this time, The Commonwealth Clubhouse  
WILL be a voting location during Early  
Voting and on Election Day.  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed Sunday**

**It takes courage, a lot of time and a lot of money  
to run for office. Thank you Judy Dae for stepping up!**

**\*\*\*Please note that these are NON-PARTISAN races!\*\*\*  
Let's keep it that way!!!!**

## Please Show Consideration For Others

Our landscape company, our neighbors and our board members are finding and hearing about used masks, personal discards and dog waste being left in the public areas of The Commonwealth.

We all purchased our homes here because we were impressed with the way the homes and public areas were maintained.

Our HOA spent a significant amount of money to add the trash cans and dog waste stations throughout our neighborhoods. There is not excuse for people to "trash" our community property (or the yards of other residents).

**Please make use of these additions; dispose of your trash in these containers!**



## Commonwealth is Hurricane Ready!

We are expecting the arrival of two new pumps for our pump station around the middle of April; just in time for hurricane season! The L.I.D. went out for bids to get them installed and has awarded the contract. Work is expected to be completed by the end of May.

A new Alcorn Lake bank stabilization system is under construction and should be finished by time you read this. If it works as promised, the L.I.D. is inclined to put more in. This will look more natural than the old concrete bag walls and should hold up better also.

*Mother nature, bring it on!*

**2020 marked the 30th Anniversary of the existence of much of The Commonwealth community. In such a transient society, you might be surprised to know that many of your neighbors have lived here for 25 years or longer.**

**We decided to interview a few of them. We hope you enjoy their responses.**

Vicki and Reynolds Delgado moved into their Commonwealth home in October of 1988.

Because their house was the last one on Warwick, they were surrounded by woods with huge pecan trees. The next section, Sutton Park, was not to be built for more than two years. When the land was finally cleared for Sutton Park, Vicki still remembers feeling of the ground moving under her feet when a giant pecan tree was felled.

**CC: What was it that drew you to the area?**

Vicki: A friend had taken me to see her new home in Oxford, and I fell in love with the area. When I was named principal of Settlers Way Elementary, two miles from Oxford, my husband agreed the location would be a dream come true for us. Our children were in college by then, but they had grown up attending Fort Bend ISD schools.

The move to The Commonwealth was a smart move on our part, and we have never entertained any thoughts about moving anywhere else. Our property values have increased, we have never flooded, we feel safe, and we have wonderful neighbors.

## Spotlight On



**The Delgados**



Living in The Commonwealth has provided opportunities for rewarding volunteer work for me: the Fort Bend Alzheimers Association, Fort Bend ISD Education Foundation, and the Fort Bend Retired Teachers Association. I currently serve as Scholarship Chair for the AMIGA Association, which provides scholarships for needy Fort Bend Hispanic young women, and serve on the Board of Directors of the Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union, which serves employees of Fort Bend ISD.

**CC: What is the most noticeable change(s) you've seen in Sugar Land during your time here?**

Vicki: The biggest change I have noted over the last 30+ years is the growth that has taken place in Sugar Land. For years, I continued to see the sign "First Colony Mall Coming Soon" and, after years and years, wondered if it would ever actually be built. Obviously, it was, and the rest is history.

**Vicki has retired from FBISD but remains active and she continues to keep the Settlers Way Elementary faculty together as a family! We're glad that Vicki and Reynolds are here!**



**The Delgados**



# Crest Management - Community Partner!

As OUR Community Partner, Crest Management Company is continually working to provide the tools we need to live and play in our community. Moving forward, as an additional service to The Commonwealth, Crest is excited to introduce us to their latest and greatest feature, **Email Opt-In**.

Residents will receive official communication, assessment statements, and EMR and deed restriction letters, by email rather than mail, saving the association printing and postage costs.

Update your settings today by logging in and clicking the User icon next to your name. Check the box next to Email Opt-In and click Update Email Choices.

Not registered yet? Head over to [www.crest-management.com](http://www.crest-management.com) and click Homeowner Login. Select Not Registered

The Commonwealth Civic Association is very pro-active during times of urgency.

Over the past year, we have tried to ensure that our residents received timely and factual information regarding the pandemic.

During the harsh winter weather period, we attempted to keep you in the loop (at least, those who had electricity) regarding city and county efforts to restore power and provide essential services.

Now that vaccines are available, we have made every attempt to inform qualified residents of the various locations offering shots.

Additionally, we do our best to fill in the gaps between newsletters with our Email Alerts.

Hurricane Season is on its' way.

We believe that keeping you informed of potential storms and efforts of our local government entities is critical to resident safety and well-being.

By no means is every resident (or home) on our distribution list. You can help us out by sharing our emails with your Commonwealth friends and neighbors who may not be on our list.

Please help us reach new (and old) residents by suggesting that they register at:  
[news@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:news@commonwealthcivic.com)

Yet and continue through the form to request a temporary password. Here are all the other features you're missing out on:

- Community news and announcements
- Calendar for community events and clubhouse availability
- Access to governing documents, association financial records and meeting minutes
- Optional subscription to e-blasts for emergency alerts, lost and found, etc.
- Check your balance, print a statement, and pay online
- View current deed restriction violations and EMR history
- Submit online forms for EMRs, amenity access, etc.
- Receive notice of board meetings
- Submit service requests to your Crest Management team



**NOTE:** At this time, this option above **does not replace** the Email Alert Distribution List which is sent on an as-needed basis. Until it does, we strongly urge our residents to remain well informed by signing up for both services.

Additionally, we update our Commonwealth Facebook page with useful city, county and school district news on a daily basis. If you are on Facebook, we hope you will consider registering on our page: [The Commonwealth HOA](#).



Commonwealth Residents supports our Veterans!

For those who wish to participate, the

**Impact A Hero 5K Race**

is back

**Saturday, May 22  
at Constellation Field, Sugar Land**

More information will be shared on our Facebook page as registration details are revealed

# Pool Schedule - 2021

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](http://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 is not an option at this time due to COVID-19. When the Crest Management office re-opens there will be a \$20 expedite fee to pick up pool tags in person from the office.)

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. No guest or pool parties until further notice.

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## Pool Schedule and Hours of Operation

### Knightsbridge

**POOL OPENS FOR DAILY USE ON May 29th**

**APRIL 3rd-MAY 23rd (Weekends only)**  
**Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m-8p.m.**

**May 29th - AUGUST 15th**

**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 21st - OCTOBER 31st (Weekends only)**  
**Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

**Labor Day 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.**

### Briarwood

**POOL OPENS FOR DAILY USE ON May 29th**

**MAY 1st -MAY 23st (Weekends only)**  
**Saturday 12 p.m.- 8 p.m**  
**Sunday 12 p.m. -8 p.m.**

**MAY 29th- AUGUST15th**

**Monday CLOSED**  
**Tuesday- Saturday 12:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday 12:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.**

**AUGUST 21st- SEPTEMBER 6th (Weekends only)**  
**Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday 12:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.**

**Labor Day 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.**



**Please Note: The pool schedule and hours are subject to change based on staffing, local/state government phases of Open Texas AND the 2021-2022 FBISD school calendar.**

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

**Family  
Fun  
Friends**



**Swimming  
and  
Sun**

# Swim Team Registration

The Commonwealth Piranhas are excited to announce the opening of our 2021 swim season! Please read the information below about registration and season considerations for this year.

**COVID PROTOCOLS:** USA swimming and CDC recommendations – may change as situation changes

- Wear a mask while entering and leaving to avoid close contact at doors
- Wear masks on deck and when in close contact with coaches or other swimmers
- Enter from the main door parking lot, and Exit from the side door Splashpad toward the park to avoid close contact at doors
- Spread out on the pool deck area to store bags/towels/masks, etc.
- Parents or siblings should stay outside fenced area during swim practice, and wear a mask if they need to enter for any reason (there is seating and shade at the park)
- 10-minute transition between practices to limit contact
- Plan to have 4 kids per lane with a max of 20-25 swimmers per practice
- Swimmers will be asked to maintain distance from other swimmers during practice and on deck
- Our swim coaches will have assigned lanes/kids thus limiting contact with many different people in the pool
- Swimmers should have their own water bottles, goggles & caps, and are welcome to bring their own kickboard if desired. If we use team equipment, they will be sprayed down with approved material before reused
- We will communicate any known cases of COVID as they arise
- Sign waiver at time of registration – we will all do our best to prevent the spread of COVID
- New Season Start: Monday, April 26
- Morning practices: End of FBISD school year Monday, June 7
- First Meet: June 7 (all meets will be “virtual” where we send in our team’s times)
- All Stars: July 12-13 (may be in person)



## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 BOARD:

*Jean Konrady* - President  
*Cristina Materon* - VP  
*Roberto Rodriguez* - Treasurer  
*Linda Miller* - Head Coach  
*Li Peng* (looking for someone new) - Data  
*Cynthia Yu* - Volunteers  
*Dawn Ramkissoon* - Volunteers  
*Melissa Schroer* - Party/ Fun Friday planner  
*Katy Weimer* - Merchandise

## REGISTRATION:

If you are OK with the suggested COVID protocols to keep our families safe, your child can swim the length of the pool and commit to a minimum of 2 swim meets, you are ready to register for the Commonwealth Piranhas!!

As in previous years, we partner with the Commonwealth HOA for the use of Briarwood Pool. The homeowner fees of Commonwealth residents support the pools and facilities for our swim team. Commonwealth residents will thus receive priority in registration, followed by priority registration for our returning swimmers.

## Registration schedule:

- March 30 – April 3 COMMONWEALTH RESIDENTS - Returning and New Swimmers  
\*Names and addresses will be verified with the HOA
- April 4 – 8 RETURNING SWIMMERS and any siblings of returning swimmers who are new to the team.  
\*Returning swimmer information will be verified in the team database
- April 9 & After NEW SWIMMERS

## 2021 SEASON DATES:

- New Season Start: Monday, April 26
- Morning practices: End of FBISD school year Monday, June 7
- First Meet: June 7 (all meets will be “virtual” where we send in our team’s times)
- All Stars: July 12-13 (may be in person)

## Go Piranhas!

Please text  
Jean Konrady, Team President,  
[jmkonrady@gmail.com](mailto:jmkonrady@gmail.com)  
or call her at  
**832.535.9887**  
if you have any questions.

# Commonwealth Survived the freeze of 2021

and waiting for trash removal services afterwards!

**We can't wait to celebrate with you!**



# REMINDERS

Our beautifully redecorated Clubhouse will be available for rent by residents in good standing once pandemic restrictions are lifted.

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](http://commonwealthcivic.com)

To get on our Email Alert list please shoot an email to: [news@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:news@commonwealthcivic.com) stating your name, email address and physical address.

We do NOT share your email addresses with ANYONE except Crest Management!

An Email Alert is sent out each time a new edition of the newsletter is posted.

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. They should be happy to accommodate you. The HOA will pursue this offense - it does frustrate your neighbors.

## Hog Removal

Our L.I.D. has captured 42 hogs since setting up traps a month ago. They will attempt to catch any stragglers for another few weeks and then pack it up and leave. The levee access gates will be unlocked as soon as the traps have been removed.

L.I.D. cameras have not captured any further activity and the traps remaining for a few more weeks are an attempt to capture every one of them. As soon as the traps are gone, they will be mowing the levee and possibly running a roller over any damaged areas of grass. They will be spraying a different insecticide for fire ants that has been used in other Districts to great success. The fire ant poison that they have utilized has the side benefit of keeping the hogs away. The previous fire ant insecticide was organic and very slow to act; it did little to discourage grubs from invading the sod. The new pesticide, in addition to removing fire ants, seems to also remove the grubs that the hogs are rooting for. Other Districts have not had as much hog activity since they started using the new fire ant killer.

The west end of Avalon is still experiencing a "hog problem" it is believed that we are too far from that end for the hogs to travel into the Commonwealth. Riverstone also is still having issues but they are working on their problem now. We will give an update in a few months.

**Ron Frerich, FCLID #2**

Update  
on the  
Hog  
Situation

Since the above article on Hog Removal was submitted, our Homeowners' Association has met with the City of Sugar Land to discuss the hog situation. In the meeting was HOA Board President Jim Levermann and Vice President, David Bristow. Ron Frerich with FCLID #2 also attended. The gentlemen met with Joe Zimmerman, Mayor of Sugar Land, Carol McCutcheon, District 4 City Councilmember and several city staff members. Representatives from Avalon and Brazos Landing were also present.

The city appeared to be ill-informed regarding **the amount** of property and levee damage caused by hogs entering our area. The mayor did commit to meeting with the group again to discuss progress made.

Thank you Jim Levermann for organizing this meeting! We will keep residents informed.

## Activity Directory

**If you don't see an activity group that appeals to you, start one!**  
**The Association promotes 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 Women's Club</b> Monica Clancy, President monicaclancy@strategicascend.com	This group of Commonwealth Women meets monthly for Fun and Friendship! Get on our email list for meeting details.
<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> 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.
<b>Special Events/Activities</b> 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.
<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> Jeanne 713-385-4097	Ladies time on the court! Play tennis with other Commonwealth women.
<b>Yoga &amp; Guided Meditation</b> Varsha zestanden1@gmail.com	Will not be held at the Clubhouse until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Contact Varsha directly if you wish to join her elsewhere.

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](mailto:cwslcares@gmail.com)

**Please patronize our advertisers - They support our community!**

Clubhouse Rentals: Crest Management 281-579-0761

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

Questions regarding the City of Sugar Land?  
 Please read through the information at  
[www.SugarLandTx.gov](http://www.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).

[Click Here for  
 City of Sugar Land Cold  
 Weather Info](#)

**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR.  
 KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEASH AND  
 PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS!  
 REMEMBER ALSO - THERE IS A LEASH LAW IN SUGAR LAND.**



# IT'S JUST DUCKY - Part II - Mallards

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

- Continued from last month -

Mallard ducks are the most common ducks in North America. The male duck has a bright green head, yellow beak, a light-colored body and dark brown chest. The female is much less colorful and is light brown with dark brown mottling from the neck down.

Mallards begin pairing up in the fall but courtship can extend into early spring. Generally speaking, they are monogamous. I say "generally" because males will engage in "forced copulations." Several males will chase a female and then forcefully mate with her.

Mallards are omnivores with 2/3 of their diet consisting of plant matter and 1/3 animal protein. They eat small fish, snails, moths, flies, bugs, grass, seeds, grains and fruits. They are dabbling ducks, too, just like the Muscovy.

- Ducks eat gravel, small stones and sand. However, it's not because they're hungry. The rocks are stored in the gizzard and help break down food.
- Ducks have a field of vision of 340 degrees and can see up close and far away simultaneously. They also see in color.
- Ducks have no blood vessels or nerves in their feet so their feet don't feel the cold in icy waters.
- Ducks normally don't fly over 4,000 feet in the air when they migrate. However, they have the capability of flying much higher. A jet once struck a Mallard at 21,000

## THE INVADERS – NUTRIA

Often mistaken for a beaver or otter is an "invasive" animal called a nutria. Originally from South America, they were brought to the United States for their fur and were kept on fur farms. Nutria are large rodents weighing up to 20 pounds but are smaller than beavers. They multiply very rapidly having up to 3 litters every year. They have partially webbed hind feet to aid in swimming. Their eyes, ears and nostrils sit high on their heads so they are able to keep their heads above the waterline.

Nutria live in burrows that are connected by tunnels that are dug near rivers, canals and lakes causing erosion and flooding. They eat native wetland plants and will eat the entire plant—roots and all. Because the roots are eaten, the plants will not grow back. Additionally, with the root system gone, the soil is destabilized which causes erosion. In addition to wetland plants, nutria eat many agricultural plants like rice, corn, wheat, sugar, peanuts and more. They may even dine on your vegetable garden or newly planted grass.

Because of their burrowing behavior, flood-control and water-retaining levees are damaged. Not only are nutria bad for our environment, nutria are host to many diseases and parasites including tuberculosis, septicemia, tapeworm, liver flukes, and nematodes. According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, it can be a real health hazard for domestic animals, livestock and people to drink or swim in water that is contaminated with nutria feces and urine.

We did receive a report of nutria in The Commonwealth and the information was relayed to both our L.I.D. and the City of Sugar Land.

feet! This is the highest recorded flight of any duck.

- Preening is a method used to clean the feathers of dirt, dust and parasites. When they preen, they also spread a waxy oil on their feathers making them waterproof.
- Male ducks are drakes; females are hens and babies are ducklings.

Before you grab that loaf of bread to go feed the ducks, please choose a healthier option. Bread has little nutritional value. This applies to popcorn, chips, crackers, donuts and cereal as well. Ducks can fill up on these and not eat more nutritional foods. Uneaten bread can get moldy and cause ducks to get sick. It can also add to algae growth affecting water quality. Ducklings can get "angel wing" by eating too much bread. This is a condition causing the wings to point out and making it impossible for the ducks to fly. So, what are healthy alternatives to bread? Peas, cut up grapes, corn, rice, and cut up lettuce and other greens. Dry dog and cat food are good, too.

Many city parks and subdivision ponds and lakes forbid the feeding of ducks so make sure you check.

TWRC Wildlife Center is your source for information on Texas wildlife. Have questions? Call us, email us or check our website. [www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org)

713.468.TWRC |  
info@twrcwildlifecenter.org



# 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.

If you are looking for a way to meet some neighbors, connect with old friends, or just have a wonderful evening of fun, be sure to get on their email list so you will be notified of all get-togethers.

Under normal circumstances, the Women's Club meets monthly from September through May. They are currently trying virtual meet ups to get us all through the pandemic.

**Please join the email list to receive details on all future meetings and to get an invite!**



To get on their email list, shoot an email to Monica Clancy at [monicaclancy@strategicascent.com](mailto:monicaclancy@strategicascent.com)



## Classy Ad Listings

Please support our neighborhood businesses!

<b>Real Estate</b>		
<a href="#">The Fontenot Group @ Re/Max Fine Properties</a> <a href="#">4500 Highway 6, Sugar Land 77478</a>	<b>281-468-2233</b>	<b>Realtor - Sherrie Fontenot</b>
<b>Remodeling</b>		
<a href="#">Greystone Builders</a> P. O. Box 1868 Sugar Land 77487	<b>281-728-7360</b>	<b>Custom Building &amp; Remodeling</b>
<b>Your Business Here</b>		
<b>Let us know if you are interested!</b>		

<b>Useful Phone Numbers</b>	
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>



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