

COMMONWEALTH COMMENTS

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March/April 2022

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

The Commonwealth Board of Directors

President
Sumita Ghosh

Vice President
Jim Levermann

Treasurer
John Frenzel

Secretary
Dave Bristow

Member
Position Open

To reach your Board Members by email, write:
CWSLCares@gmail.com

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

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.

Modifications and Deed Restrictions Committee meets at the Clubhouse at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. For more information, contact Katie@crest-management.com | 281-945-4663

The Commonwealth 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.

The Commonwealth Website:
www.commonwealthcivic.com

Crest Management Website:
www.crest-management.com

Please go to the Crest Management website for: Exterior Modification Requests, Contacts, to Access Account information, pool tags, meeting dates, etc.

Board Liaisons:

Clubhouse, Marquee, Pool and Swim Team – Dave Bristow
Communication (newsletter, website, eblasts and marquee) – Sumita Ghosh
Enhancement Committee – John Frenzel
Landscape (including electrical, fountains and sprinklers) – Jim Levermann
Modifications Committee – Jim Levermann and Dave Bristow
Playgrounds – Jim Levermann
Tennis Courts (tennis leagues & tennis court reservation system)- Sumita Ghosh



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

Heather Esteban,
Property Manager
281-945-4630
(After Hours Emergency
713-935-7331)
HeatherE@crest-management.com

Katie
Assistant Manager
281-945-4663
Katie@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.

Activity Directory

If you don't see an activity group that appeals to you, start one!
The Association promotes 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 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




Classy Ad Listings

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The Commonwealth Piranhas Swim Team is gearing up for the 2022 Swim Season!

The Team is looking for dedicated parents to form part of the Piranhas Board as they start to plan for the upcoming season. Specifically, we need parents to fill the positions of Volunteer Coordinator(s) and Vice President.

Please email Team President, Jean Konrady, at gocommonwealthpiranhas@gmail.com if you are interested in helping to organize the team or if you have any questions about what these positions entail.

Contact Information:

Email or text Jean Konrady

Email:

gocommonwealthpiranhas@gmail.com.

Text: 832.535.9887

For families already looking forward to our 2022 season, priority registration for residents of The Commonwealth will begin at the end of March. GO Piranhas!

Registration Information:

Residents of The Commonwealth have priority registration beginning on Tuesday, March 1. Put the date in your calendars to secure your spot on the summer swim team! (Addresses will be verified with the HOA)

For new swimmers to be part of the team, your child must be able to make it across the length of the pool (ages 6 and Under). New swimmers over 8 years old should have knowledge of all four strokes, and be able to swim them to some degree. Email us if you have specific questions about your swimmer.

Season Dates You Need To Know:

Practices start April 25th after school (subject to change)

- Meet 1: May 23 - Home Meet (just our team)
- Meet 2: May 31 (Tuesday)
- Meet 3: June 6
- Meet 4: June 13
- Meet 5: June 20
- Meet of Champions: June 27
- ALL STARS: June 30 - (may be July 1 - still TBD)

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glorycrafts@hotmail.com



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We are Proud to sponsor the Commonwealth Piranhas Swim Team!



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Re/Max Fine Properties for 2021**



The Commonwealth Women's Club



To get on their email list,
shoot an email to Monica Clancy at
monicaclancy@strategicascent.com

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 future get-togethers.

Unfortunately due to COVID, the women's club was forced to curtail their gatherings. They are cautiously working on their plans for 2022. Be sure to get on the email list to remain current on the socializing status!

Save The Date
Thursday, March 24th
7-8 P.M.
The Commonwealth Clubhouse,
4330 Knightsbridge Blvd.

In effort to ensure that our residents know who represents them, your Civic Association Board has invited Commonwealth's Elected Officials, old and new, to visit at our first

Open House 2022

Please stop by and say hello!

**We will be sharing a list of the confirmed
Elected Officials in an Email Alert
before March 24!**

**There will be light refreshments
and nibbles.**

**This event is underwritten by The Commonwealth Civic Association.
An extension of Commonwealth Votes!**

City of Sugar Land News

REMINDER ----

There will be a temporary change in the way we treat your water.

The city will temporarily convert the disinfectant used in the water treatment process from chloramine to free chlorine. The duration of the free chlorine conversion will be approximately 30 days and will begin on March 1, 2022. The city will return to chloramine disinfection on March 29, 2022.

What to expect during the temporary change

Generally, there are no noticeable changes in water quality as a result of this temporary conversion. However, some individuals may notice taste and odor changes and a slight discoloration to the water, primarily during the transition period. Noticeable water quality changes associated with conversions are normally short-lived and are not public health risks.

Is the water safe during this change?

The water will be safe for people and animals to drink, for cooking and bathing, watering the garden, and for all other common uses.

However, people and businesses that normally take special precautions to remove chloramines from tap water, such as

dialysis centers, medical facilities, and aquatic pet owners, should confirm whether pretreatment adjustments are necessary during the temporary switch from chloramines to free chlorine.

At the conclusion of the conversion period, which will occur on March 29, the city of Sugar Land will convert its disinfection process back to chloramines.

Why is this necessary?

Sugar Land's main water system currently uses chloramines (a combination of free chlorine and ammonia) to disinfect its drinking water supply prior to customer distribution. This is a reliable disinfection process that has been recommended by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for systems treating surface water such as the city's main water system.

It is standard industry practice to periodically convert chloramines back to free chlorine to improve and maintain the highest water quality standards. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the TCEQ support this process as a necessary and effective measure for maintaining water quality.

The city will implement directional flushing, combined with routine water quality monitoring to maintain the highest water quality for customers during the conversion.

LID Update - Submitted by Ron Frerich, LID Director

The weeks-long levee raising project on the FCLID2 Levee is nearing completion. There are just a couple of days left of bringing in select fill to raise the level. Once all the fill has been installed and compacted, the engineer for FCLID2 will send out surveyors on the entire project to ensure that the entire levee height is at or above the 500-year flood level. If the level meets this requirement, then the contractor will be heading back out to cover the levee with the temporarily stored topsoil. After the topsoil has been replaced and smoothed, the grass maintenance contractor for the District will go out and spray hydro-mulch grass seed across all the new earthworks. This should ensure a quick start to the grass growing season. The project should be completed by the end of February, if the weather cooperates. We may have a few minor touch ups to do, especially around the fencing and gates, that could stretch into March, but we should have a nice stand of grass before the summer starts.

6 Our Levee, except for the roadway crossing at Commonwealth Blvd. into Avalon, will be at the 500-year flood protection level. For our Levee to be totally protected from the 500-year flood event,

we would need to raise the roadway where Commonwealth Blvd. crosses over into Avalon on the west end of our community. That project, while a very short portion of the levee system, would need to be investigated and solutions considered for a future date. The work performed to date is a significant improvement over the 100-year flood event that we previously maintained. The original levee construction cost several millions of dollars and it took about 20 years to pay off those construction loans. This current project was about \$300,000.00 and the funds were paid for via the normal budgeting process of the District in accordance with its capital improvement budget, requiring no bond sales or increases in property taxes.

The residents of the Commonwealth were protected from flooding during Hurricane Harvey and several other flood events prior to and after Harvey. Significant improvements to our entire flood protection system have made us many times safer from a future "Hurricane Harvey" event or even a much larger flood event. Many back-up systems and other protections have been added.



The Commonwealth HOA sends regular updates on weather conditions during emergency situations. Be sure to sign up for these updates:

news@commonwealthcivic.com

You need to include your name and home address!

Home Sweet Home

The HOA's electronic newsletter is posted on-line around the first of each month. It includes information that our Board has deemed important for residents to know about.

At the same time, we create Email Alerts on an as-needed basis. Our email alerts provide information that was not available at the time our newsletter was created. They are also used to share changes and updates on events and issues that are of interest to our residents.

Our Email Alerts are especially helpful during emergencies. We have used our emails extensively during hurricanes, flooding situations and, of course, most recently during the Coronavirus pandemic. We use them to keep you apprised of these events as they happen.

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 important news that we share, not only from our HOA, but also from the city and the county. We notify all registered residents via the Email Alert when a new newsletter is posted.

Additionally

Crest Management offers an email opt-in that allows you to receive OFFICIAL business communications from them via email.

Signing up will save the Association printing and postage costs which helps keep our annual dues down:

- ◇ **Electronic HOA statements can come straight to your inbox**
- ◇ **Notifications and Violation Letters will arrive quicker**

To sign up for the Crest Management Email List:

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



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

TO BE BEST INFORMED, PLEASE
 SIGN UP FOR BOTH THE EMAIL ALERT DISTRIBUTION
 AND
 THE CREST MANAGEMENT EMAIL LIST.

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Your Dues At Work!

Modifications & Deed Restrictions Committee

Please note that there is an **URGENT** need for **VOLUNTEERS** for Commonwealth's Modifications & Deed Restrictions Committee.

This extremely important committee holds regularly scheduled monthly meetings where important decisions are made with respect to maintaining the value of our homes.
(For most of us, the largest investment we will ever make!)

Contact Heather Esteban, Community Manager,
HeatherE@crest-management.com
281-945-4630 to learn more or sign up!

Modifications & Deed Restriction Applications

Our Mod Comm (Modifications & Deed Restrictions Committee) is asking that residents visit the Crest Management website (www.Crest-Management.com) to download the on-line Exterior Modification Approval Request Forms.

This will make everything much easier for them and for YOU!
The forms are on the home page.

Please allow two weeks for a response. The Committee receives approximately 35 applications every month and each requires a detailed review.
Every effort is made to expediate emergency requests!

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

For more information regarding The Commonwealth Civic Association's Modifications and Deed Restriction guidelines, join and search out the website: www.Crest-Management.com

Deed Restrictions help keep our home values up!

They are one of the most important tools our Board has to help maintain and enhance our property values. The HOA strongly recommends that you get approval **BEFORE** beginning a project.

This includes your yard and re-painting! There are, of course, some exceptions.

You may certainly put a tarp on the roof after you suffer storm damage, but please do not replace the roof without MDR Committee approval.
And, you may stand the fence back up if it falls, but a new fence requires approval from the HOA.
Incorrect repairs can be extremely costly.

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Your HOA dues at work. Our HOA regularly maintains, updates, and enhances our pools. Your dues also go to paying for lifeguards, insurance, required chemicals and safety devices.

Community Garage Sale

**Seeking Commonwealth Resident
to organize and oversee a Community-wide
Garage Sale this Spring.**

This is a much requested community event, but it just can't happen without a resident volunteer. Whether you just moved in or are considering a down-size, we're guessing that you have plenty of items in your home that you'd like to get rid of! If you are interested but have reservations, please shoot an email to: CWSLCares@gmail.com.

If you attended our Annual Commonwealth Holiday Party at the Clubhouse, you've seen how beautiful our Clubhouse is looking these days.

The Commonwealth Clubhouse is available for rent, at reasonable rates, by members in good standing with the Association. Learn more about reserving and renting the property by visiting:

commonwealthcivic.com/the-clubhouse

or call Crest Management for more information. 281-579-0761

Volunteers Make Our Events Happen

The Commonwealth Civic Association Board is happy to help publicize and underwrite the expenses of our Community Events, but, they can't do it alone. It takes volunteers to organize and oversee all events. We need residents to step up and participate. Past events:

**Spring Fling
Wine events
Movie Nights
Lectures**

**July 4th Parade and Picnic
Pot Luck Suppers
Adult Gatherings
Game Nights**

And much more

These events help make Commonwealth a desirable place to live.

Many of the organizers of these past events have retired or moved on. If you have some ideas and would like to help pull off community gatherings, be sure to let us know. Some of these events take mountains of people to pull off but they are a great way to meet the neighbors and have some fun while you're at it!

The more volunteers we have step up, the more we can offer at future events.

Please email CWSLCares@gmail.com to volunteer and make suggestions for future events.



Attention Tennis Players

The 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 was 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.

RESIDENTS:

Do you have an idea for stories or information you'd like to see included in our newsletters?

Please let us know at: news@commonwealthcivic.com

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***Does not include Buyer's Agent Commission**



Commonwealth pick up days are
Tuesdays and Fridays

**Recycling: Friday Green Waste: Tuesday
Bulky Waste: Fourth Monday of the month**



Is It Time To Replace or Repair Your Fence?

Spring is on its' way. The Commonwealth has been the recipient of some pretty strong winds and dangerous storms over the past two-three years. Please take a look at your perimeter fencing to ensure that it is still looking good and holding together.

Please remember that you **MUST** comply with The Commonwealth MDR (Modifications and Deed Restrictions) when doing any work to the outside of your home. Not being aware of these restrictions can result in very costly mistakes and legal action on the part of the HOA. You can read the deed restrictions regarding fencing on the Crest Management website.

And, truthfully, you will end up paying twice. You will have to pay YOUR attorney and the HOA (via annual dues) will have to pay theirs.

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"If you need to replace pickets, choose western red cedar pickets with as few knots as possible, not cedar stained or pine pickets."

HELP WANTED!

PLAN AHEAD for Summer Jobs for You, Your Teen, or Young Adult!

Lifeguard at Community Area Pools,
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From Your
Commonwealth Board of Directors

11

NOTES and REMINDERS

Our beautifully redecorated Clubhouse will soon be 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

To get on our Email Alert list please shoot an email to: 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 5 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.

The Kids are out again, please exercise an overabundance of caution when driving near our pools, parks and playgrounds!

We are still receiving complaints about residents' dogs being unleashed in the community. Please note that City of Sugar Land regulations require that your dog be leashed at all times. 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 the new dogwaste disposal stations throughout the community.

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>	
CITY OF SUGAR LAND	3-1-1
POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY	9-1-1

Clubhouse Rentals: Crest Management 281-579-0761

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

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**Happy
Spring!**

(If it ever arrives!!!!)