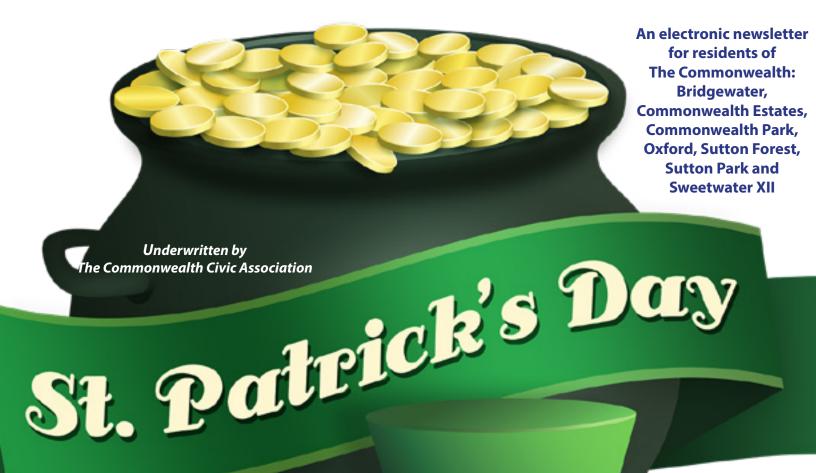


**Inside this issue** 

Piranhas Swim Team Registration Information General Election - May 6, 2023 Sugar Land Announces Community Events Pool Hours and Pool Tag Info



## **Board 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.

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

www.crest-management.com

**Clubhouse, Pool and Swim Team** 

**Communications:** (newsletter,

website, eblasts and marquee) -

**Community Events and Clubs –** 

Jennifer Vance & Sarah McCoy

– Jennifer Vance

Sarah McCoy

## The Commonwealth Board of Directors

President Jim Levermann

Vice President David Bristow

Treasurer John Frenzel

Secretary Jennifer Vance

Member At Large Sarah McCoy

To send an email to any board member, click the envelope below.



### **Board Member Liaisons**

Enhancement Committee – John Frenzel

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

Modifications Committee – Dave Bristow

### 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 ronaldt@crest-management.com 281-945-4663

Our 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.

**Playgrounds** – Jim Levermann

**Tennis Courts** (tennis leagues & tennis court reservation system)-Jim Levermann

To reach a Board Member, click on the envelope.



## **CREST MANAGEMENT** Company,Contact Information P. O. Box 219320, Houston, TX. 77218

Heather Esteban, Property Manager 281-945-4630 (After Hours Emergency 713-935-7331) HeatherE@ crest-management.com Ronald Assistant Manager 281-945-4663 ronaldt@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



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 Jennifer Vance or Sarah McCoy 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 Jennifer Vance or Sarah McCoy Yoga & Guided Meditation <u>zestandzen1@gmail.com</u> To find out where and when, contact Varsha. She hopes to restart classes AT the Clubhouse in the near future!

## Reach Jennifer or Sarah by visiting www.commonwealthcivic.com/contact us.

To be best informed, please sign up for both the Email Alert Distribution AND the Crest Management Email List.

## **Commonwealth Email Alert Sign Up:**

Shoot an email to news@commonwealthcivic.com Include your name and address.

Please encourage your Commonwealth friends and neighbors to sign up for our Commonwealth Email Alerts. That is the only way to receive this newsletter.

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.

For those interested, we also have a Facebook Page: The Commonwealth HOA where we post plenty of items of interest.

# 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

Address any concerns to Heather at <u>heather@crest-management.com</u>.

## Our HOA Board Election will take place at the Annual Meeting in May. Keep your eyes open for your ballot in the mail.

HOANEWS The Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 16. If you wish your name to appear on the ballot, please submit your name, address and a brief bio to HeatherE@crest-management.com by 5 p.m. on Monday, May 15th.





## REMINDER

If you are planning improvements/renovations to the outside of your home, please <u>do not forget</u> to submit your MDR application BEFORE beginning the work. Unapproved changes can be costly to the homeowner.

For timely approval, applications should be in the office of Crest Management on or before the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Questions? Reach out to Crest at 281-579-0761.

Sugar Land City Council recently approved an agreement for a citywide fiberoptic network that will enable Internet speeds that are among the fastest in the nation.

SiFi Networks will fund, build and operate Sugar Land FiberCity(r). The network will enable all residents and businesses in Sugar Land to access fast, affordable and reliable fiber service up to 10 GBps of speed.

"Faster Internet options and choice are important to our community," said Director of Information Technology, Data and Security Steve Budny. "This is an example of how we've engaged the private sector to improve the quality of life for our citizens. Not only is the project funded through private investment, but there are zero costs to the city and taxpayers for the build out."

The network also ensures underserved areas in the city have equal access to broadband infrastructure.

SiFi has agreed to pay Sugar Land for each connection and quarterly fees for using the city's right of way. The project's cost is completely funded through private investment at no cost to the city.

> The build-out should require no more than 48 months. SiFi will work with the city and the community to minimize any disruptions resulting from construction-related activities.



## **Commonwealth Swim Team Registration**

The Commonwealth Piranhas are excited to announce the opening of our 2023 swim season!

Commonwealth residents receive priority in registration, followed by priority registration for our returning swimmers.

The Commonwealth Piranhas is a recreational, competition swim team. This is a great opportunity for our community to build great young swimmers, as well as allow the kiddos to have a wonderful summer experience! Swimmers should be able to make the majority of practices and participate in at least 3 swim meets.

Our youngest swimmers (6 & Under – usually 4 is a great age to start) are required to demonstrate the ability to, at minimum, independently swim the length of the pool in any form. Their skills should progressively increase. For example, 7&8 year olds should have a good knowledge of freestyle and hopefully some instruction in backstroke as they will be learning all four strokes. The 9&10 year olds will be swimming all four strokes. Our other age groups are 11&12, 13&14 and 15 & Up (until 18). The age group is the swimmer's age on May 31st.

Swim team practices and home meets are held at the Briarwood pool behind Commonwealth Elementary. After-school practices begin during the week of April 24th, and then shift to a morning schedule by age group after the end of the school year.

We practice every day Monday - Friday! The season ends on June 30th this year.

Please visit our website <u>www.cwp.swimtopia.com</u> for registration, meet details, and last year's practice schedule (it will be similar this year).

For questions, please email our team president, Jean Konrady at gocommonwealthpiranhas@gmail.com.



Classy Ad -Commonwealth Resident



Custom Building & Remodeling:

<u>Greystone Builders</u> <u>P. O. Box 1868</u> <u>Sugar Land 77487</u> <u>281-728-7360</u>

# The Commonwealth Website: www.commonwealthcivic.com

For information on advertising in this newsletter contact:news@commonwealthcivic.com

If you have a business and would like to support our summer swim team, please contact **Melissa Schroer** for sponsorship information: **melissaschroer@yahoo.com or 770-826-8352.** 

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR PIRANHAS 2023 BOARD:

Jean Konrady - President Melissa Schroer - VP Lindsey Drouet - Treasurer Roberto Rodriguez - Outgoing Treasurer Melissa Johnson - Secretary and Fun Friday Planner Sarah Parkinson | Casey Flatt | Esra Yilmaz -Volunteer Coordinators Katy Weimer - Merchandise Helen Nguyen - Concessions



# CW 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** and click request a pool tag/access device on the home page.

## Pool tags will be mailed to residents upon receipt and verification of the request form.

# There will be a \$20 expedite fee to pick up pool tags in person at Crest Management's 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.





Commonwealth Pools are available to residents for Pool Parties. Contact American Pool for rental rates and availability.

# The Commonwealth Women's Club

The next scheduled Women's Club get-together is tentatively set for:

ξ

Monday, Apríl 17

7 P.M. at the home of Connie Buckingham,

36 Bradford Wircle

The cost is \$10 and an appetizer or dessert for 10 people to share.

Please get on the email distribution list by contacting Namita with your name, home address and email address <u>asthana.namita@gmail.com</u>





Crest Management WILL be scheduling an on-site pool tag pick up day before the April 1 pool openings. Watch your Email Alerts for details on time & date.



## **Congratulations!**

to long-time Commonwealth resident

Robbin Mallett on her re-election as Board President of the Cullinan Park Conservancy and to long-time resident

Keith Borgfeldt to the position of Vice President

The Commonwealth is well-represented in Sugar Land!

If you haven't visited this park, you're missing out. Enjoy some family time, enjoy nature AND get your steps in! Visit

**Cullinan Park** 12414 Hwy 6, Sugar Land, TX 77498

www.https://cullinanparkconservancy.org/





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# Sugar Land News

## 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 Jennifer Lane

## Sugar Land's New Budget Game Puts Citizens in Driver's Seat of City's Budget

Sugar Land launched a new digital budget simulator to give residents a chance to tell the city how they would organize Sugar Land's budget based on priorities they value most.

The new digital budget simulator tool takes transparency to the next level by showing how much it costs resident-facing departments to provide services and how a department's budget impacts the level of services the city can provide. While this is only a partial look at the city's general fund, it gives residents a great idea of what it takes to balance the city's wallet.

Residents will be able to "influence" the city's budget and adjust budget lines for things like the Office of Emergency Management, Public Works and Parks and Recreation by decreasing or increasing department budgets by 5 or 10 percent while also learning about the service-level impacts that result from those increases and decreases.

Users also have the option to maintain the current budget and service levels.

This simulator is purely for educational purposes and is not being used to influence budget decisions in the real world. The data gathered from the new tool will ultimately be used



alongside other data points to allow the city's budget department to fully gauge resident priorities.

For more information, visit w w w . s u g a r l a n d t x . g o v / BudgetInfluencer.

## General Election Scheduled for May 6th

The City of Sugar Land has changed its' charter. Mayor and Council now have three-year terms which are staggered in such a way that 2023 is an "off" year. There will be NO City of Sugar Land Council elections in 2023.

Residents of The Commonwealth will, however, be able to vote in the Fort Bend ISD Trustee and Bond Elections! There are three positions on the ballot this May.

Commonwealth voters are asked to vote on three Trustee positions.

Positions 1, 4 & 5 are on the ballot: (These are <u>non-partisan</u> positions!) Vote for one in each position.

### Pos. 1

Angie Hanan (I) Oscar Saenz **Pos. 4** 

Pos. 4 Shirley Rose (I) Cheryl Buford Denetta Williams (I) Rolly U. DeMeza Allison Drew Angel Hicks Sonya Jones

Pos. 5

## **FBISD Bond Referendum**

Fort Bend ISD voters will get to decide on the largest bond in the district's history this May.

Fort Bend ISD's board of trustees voted to call an election for a nearly \$1.26 billion bond.

The \$1.18 billion **Proposition A** encompasses construction, security and transportation upgrades, along with a \$19.2 million transportation facility. **Proposition B** would cover nearly \$52.5 million for technology updates, and the \$22.9 million **Proposition C** would fund a new district natatorium.

The bond election will be held during the 2023 general election on May 6.

We will share additional information by way of our Email Distribution, closer to the election.

Please do your research and make a plan to V O T E!

## New Program Incentivizes Residents to Enhance Single-Family Homes

Sugar Land City Council recently approved **Great Homes**, a new residential reinvestment initiative that empowers Sugar Land homeowners to invest in their community by preserving, protecting and enhancing their neighborhoods.

Great Homes includes the Great Homes Design program and the Great Homes Update program.

The Great Homes Design program provides Sugar Land homeowners and homeowners associations with a creative, reenvisioned exterior home design at a cost exclusive to Sugar Land residents. Under the Design program, a \$500 rebate may be available for homeowners who substantially implement at least one qualifying exterior improvement on their home within six months of receiving a design through the program.

The Great Homes Update Program is a reimbursement incentive encouraging rehabilitation and refurbishments of the exterior of single-family houses. Through the Update program, homeowners may be eligible for a reimbursement of up to \$10,000 for a portion of their exterior home improvement costs.

Eligibility requirements for both programs must be met to qualify for program participation and reimbursement. Applications for the programs will be available starting Feb. 15 at SugarLandEcoDev.com/Great-Homes.

"This is an incredible opportunity for residents who own single-family homes to update their homes and invest in the community they already call home," Jonathan Soriano, Sugar Land community development program strategist, said. "Investing in older homes and neighborhoods is vital to pushing Sugar Land to the next stage of its success and provides the chance for residents to finally do those home improvements they've been putting off."

More than 70 percent of single-family homes in Sugar Land were built before 2000. The Great Homes program is an integral step in ensuring Sugar Land keeps pace with new housing options within the region. All single-family homeowners with properties within the Sugar Land city limits are potentially eligible and encouraged to participate in the program.

## Great Homes is a one-year pilot program funded with existing one-time sales tax capacity available in the general fund and will be re-evaluated in 2024. This initiative is just one example of Sugar Land's commitment to trailblazing and evolving our community to build a life for our residents that is better than they can even imagine.

For more information and to apply for the Great Homes program, visit <u>www.SugarLandEcoDev.com/Great-Homes</u>.

## Be aware that you MUST obtain approval from the HOA's Modifications Committee

## BEFORE

beginning changes/modifications to the exterior of your home or property.

## **Inquiring Minds Want to Know:**

Fiber-optic internet is different from broadband in several ways.

### **FIBEROPTIC**

- Lines run from major cable to the consumer's household
- Uses light to transmit data

### BROADBAND

- Uses a dedicated line to provide internet access to a house, which is then transmitted over Wi-Fi or directly via an ethernet cable
- Uses copper lines to transmit data

# **NOTIFY ME**

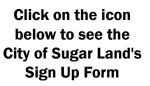
Commonwealth residents are very lucky to live in a community that offers numerous opportunities to stay informed on happenings in Fort Bend County.

Each entity offers multiple email distribution lists to inform and educate residents.

We have **TWO here IN The Commonwealth:** Our Email Alerts and Crest Management's Opt-In for your personal account.

Fort Bend also has an alert system. Check out the County website to see all it has to offer.

The City of Sugar Land's email notification service is called "Notify Me". You can easily sign up for various topic-based notifications and receive them directly to your inbox. These notifications are free of advertising, and subscription information is not made available to third parties. Those who sign up for the information service may unsubscribe at any time.





**The Future is Almost HERE!** The Imperial Sugar site was the start of what would become Sugar Land and once played a vital role in our city's economy. Imperial Sugar created jobs, and then homes and as it grew this economic engine was the corner stone of our community, our "company town", for generations. Today, Sugar Land is still a "company town" serving as a major employment hub in the Houston region with over 70,000 jobs. And although the Imperial Sugar site is no longer operational, the resolve to preserve and honor the City's history is as strong as ever.

Watch for details on the redevelopment of the Char House on the Imperial Sugar site as plans are finalized. There are some pretty exciting recommendations for the area. Under consideration: develop a walkable, mixed-use project comprised of experiential retail, dynamic entertainment, unique food and beverage, top-notch fitness, multi-family and single-family residential, commercial office space, outdoor parks and more. Watch our Email Alerts for information as it becomes available.

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 <u>www.commonwealthcivic.com</u>

Layout & Design of the Newsletter/Email Alerts/Facebook by the write idea: news@commonwealthcivic.com The Commonwealth Civic Association

Please patronize our advertisers. They support our community!

## **City of Sugar Land Announces 2023 Community Events**

The Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce a 2023 lineup for the entire community to enjoy.

The events are designed to specifically enhance quality of life, bring the community together, create a positive public impact for Sugar Land residents and businesses, foster community pride and expand arts throughout the community.

### **Spring Events:**

Sugar Gala at Imperial Park Recreation Center Chess Fest at Sugar Land Town Square International Art and Kite Festival at Brazos River Park Parks Event Series: Party at the Plaza at Smart Financial Centre Plaza Memorial Day Ceremony at Sugar Land Memorial Park

#### **Summer Events:**

Food Truck Friday at Sugar Land Memorial Park Red White and Boom at The Crown Festival Park Bikes & Brews at Brazos River Park

### **Fall Events:**

Fall Fest at Sugar Land Town Square Parks Event Series: Yappy Hour at Pawm Springs Dog Park IPRC'S Haunted House at Imperial Park Recreation Center

### Winter Events

Parks Event Series: Movie Night at Oyster Creek Park Christmas Tree Lighting at Sugar Land Town Square Senior Holiday Gala at Houston Marriott Sugar Land

For more information about events or to become an event sponsor, contact Sugar Land Parks and Recreation at (281) 275-2825, or visit <u>www.SugarLandTX.gov/SpecialEvents</u>.

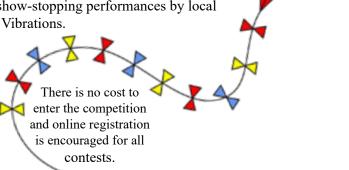
## International Art & Kite Festival

Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Crown Festival Park, 18355 Southwest Freeway.

Kite enthusiasts will decorate the sky with splashes of color, unique kite shapes and exceptional kiteflying skills. The main stage will feature upbeat cultural dance performances with entertainment acts to include the rhythmic beats of DRUM percussion ensemble, show-stopping performances by local dance groups and the freshest sound in steel drum music, Steel Vibrations.

Non-stop children's activities will be featured in the Kids Zone with inflatables and a stage for kid friendly entertainment. Trackless train rides will continuously depart from the Kids Zone, which will also feature strolling characters. Booths from local vendors abound at the Champion Energy Artisan Market. A variety of food trucks will be on location with an assortment of food choices and desserts available for purchase. A Beer Garden will feature complementary springtime beer from Saint Arnold Brewing Company and Texas Leaguer Brewing.

Throughout the event, attendees can participate in the Chalk Art & Kite Flying competitions. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded for each category. Additionally, attendees can represent their heritage by hosting a free booth representing their culture or country of origin or



by participating in the Cultural Fashion Show! Country Booths will be strategically located throughout the festival representing Asia, the United States, India, etc. Show off traditional attire by signing up to be in the Fashion Show that will take place on the Cultural Stage. **General festival admission is free.** 

Free shuttles will be provided from University of Houston-Sugar Land.



# NOTES and REMINDERS



### Have something to celebrate?

Our beautifully redecorated 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: <u>commonwealthcivic.com</u>

The City of Sugar Land regulations require that your dog be leashed, <u>at all times while in</u> front of your home, or walking the <u>neighborhood</u>. 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. 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 <u>ANYONE</u> except Crest Management!

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



## REMINDER ---



Trash cans and recycling bins may not be at the curb prior to 5 p.m. on the 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 <u>does</u> frustrate your neighbors.

Useful Phone N	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
when calling about street lights, relay pole #.	
CITY OF SUGAR LAND	3-1-1
POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY	9-1-1



Crest Management 281-579-0761 Pool Rentals: American Pools 281-916-0020 Graphic Credits: Pixabay & Dreamstime



## **Classy Ads** are businesses owned by Comonwealth residents

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

# Commonwealth Pool Schedule and Hours of Operation

### Knightsbridge

APRIL 1 - M	AY 26	(WEEKENDS ONLY- Saturday/Sunday)	MAY 26th
			Friday 5/2
Saturday	10 a.	m 8 p.m.	Sat-Sun, 5
Sunday	12 p.	m 8 p.m.	Mon, 5/29
_	-	-	Tues, 5/30
			Wed. 5/31

### Briarwood

MAY 26th - MAY 31st

 Friday 5/26
 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

 Sat-Sun, 5/27-5/28
 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

 Mon, 5/29
 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

 Tues, 5/30
 CLOSED

 Wed, 5/31
 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

## **POOL OPENS FOR DAILY USE ON May 26th**

## MAY 26th - AUGUST 6th

### JUNE 1ST - AUGUST 6th

Monday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	CLOSED	Tuesday – Friday	1 p.m 9 p.m.
Wednesday - Saturday	10 a.m 8 p.m.	Saturday	12 p.m 9 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m 8 p.m.	Sunday	12 p.m 8 p.m.
(Tuesday) July 4th	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.		
but will be closed on Wed, J	uly 5th for cleaning!		
AUGUST 7th – OCTOBER 1st		AUGUST 7th - SEPTEMBER 4th	
AUGUST 7th – OCTOBER 1st	t	AUGUST 7th - SEPTE	MBER 4th
AUGUST 7th – OCTOBER 1st (Weekends only)	ł	AUGUST 7th - SEPTE (Weekends only)	MBER 4th
	t 10 a.m 8 p.m.		MBER 4th 12 p.m. – 9 p.m.
(Weekends only)		(Weekends only)	

The pool schedule and hours are subject to change based on staffing AND the FBISD school calendar. If you have any questions regarding obtaining pool tags you can contact Ronald with Crest Management at ronaldt@crest-management.com or 281-945-4663.

## **Briarwood Splash Pad News!**

The splash pad located next to the Briarwood pool has been recently gated to separate it from the pool so that Commonwealth residents can use the splash pad outside of the pool season. A door was also added on the side of the pool building to allow access to the restroom for families at the park or splash pad. Both the splash pad and exterior pool restroom can be accessed by requesting a splash pad access card.

### PLEASE NOTE:

• Access to the restroom during pool hours will be through the main pool entry gate.

• Access to the exterior restroom when the pool is closed can be obtained with this access card. The restroom will be accessible from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m.

• The splash pad will be open each year from March 1st- October 31st from 8 a.m. until dusk.

The posted rules at the splash pad must be followed.

• If the restrooms need cleaning or attention, please contact Ronald with Crest Management (contact info below).

Please be sure to read our blurb on page 6 of this newsletter regarding obtaining pool tags!

If you have any questions regarding obtaining an access card you can contact Ronald with Crest Management at ronaldt@crest-management.com or 281-945-4663.

## Pool Tags for 2023

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See page 6 for info on obtaining pool tags!