

# Commonwealth Comments

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

May/June 2020

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

## The Commonwealth Board of Directors

Rajesh Walawalkar  
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*C/O*

Dave Bristow  
Vice President

*C/O*

Jim Levermann  
Treasurer

*C/O*

Sumita Ghosh  
Member

*C/O*

Rajeev Somani  
Member

*C/O*

news@  
commonwealthcivic.com

## Crest Management Service

Heather Esteban  
Property Manager  
281-579-0761

(After Hours Emergency #  
713-935-7331)

Board Meetings are held at the  
Clubhouse at 6 p.m. on the  
fourth Thursday of each month.  
Please verify in the event the  
date must be rescheduled.

Modifications and Deed  
Restrictions Committee  
Meetings are held at the  
Clubhouse on the third  
Tuesday of each month -  
7 p.m.

## Transitioning to Electronic Newsletters



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

A huge thank you to the residents who have already expressed an interest in being on that email list. It's a start! 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 will also notify everyone on our list when a new newsletter is posted.

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.

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

Please address any concerns to Heather at [heathere@crest-management.com](mailto:heathere@crest-management.com).

**Don't miss out!**

**Under normal circumstances, you will receive an Email Alert about once a month, however, during emergencies, we will be in touch regularly.**

**Sign up for both the email alert distribution list and our Commonwealth Comments bi-monthly newsletter.**

**We DO NOT share your email addresses with ANYONE. They are used for Commonwealth HOA communications ONLY.**

[News@CommonwealthCivic.com](mailto:News@CommonwealthCivic.com)

# Activity Directory

**If you don't see an activity group that appeals to you, start one!**  
**The Association supports 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@strategicascent.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 zestandzen1@gmail.com	Varsha offers free yoga classes in our Clubhouse every Tuesday at 9 a.m. Please bring your yoga mat and a towel. Feel free to drop in and enjoy!

To learn about working with the Association to start a group; anything from a book club to a bridge group, to a cooking class, contact Sumita Ghosh and let her know of your interest. The Association will help publicize your group and attempt to help you grow. [cwslcares@gmail.com](mailto:cwslcares@gmail.com)

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.

The Commonwealth Landscape Committee  
 (meets as needed)  
 Contact Crest Management  
 for the next meeting time and date.

Clubhouse Rentals: Crest Management 281-579-0761

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

## Useful Phone Numbers

Police (Non-Emergency)	281-275-2020
Animal Control	281-275-2596
Fire Department	281-491-0852
Water & Streets	281-275-2750
Trash Collection	281-275-2772
Public Works	281-275-2450
Street Lights (Centerpoint)	713-207-2222
<i>when calling about street lights, relay pole #.</i>	
<b>POLICE &amp; FIRE EMERGENCY</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>

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

# THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME?

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"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



## Annual HOA Meeting and Board Elections

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

That being said, at the time of this writing, we are still in quarantine with no definitive end in sight.

If you are on the Email Alert List, you will have received updating emails to let you know if and when any changes have been made.

Annual meeting notices (and a proxy ballot) will be mailed in time for the meeting (whenever that may happen) and the Board will meet to determine how to proceed with the business that needs to be addressed.

Residents in good standing with the HOA will be permitted a vote on each Director's position. Proxies may be mailed in advance or residents may vote in person on the evening of the election.

The two directors up for re-election are Sumita Ghosh and Rajeev Somani. Board members will vote on board leadership positions at the first board meeting held after the Annual Meeting.

Expectations of Board members include but are not limited to:

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

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





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\*Buyers Agent Commission Not Included*

**SOLD IN COMMONWEALTH 2019**

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4919 Keneshaw St  
**\$555,000**



31 Hollinfaire Ct  
**\$549,000**



15 Penny Green St  
**\$399,900**



10 Hollinfaire Ct  
**\$490,000**



4318 SAINT MICHAELS  
Savings of \$12,990



16 HOLLINFAIRE  
Savings of \$9,400



4615 MOORLAND  
Savings of \$9,900



4802 CAMBRIDGE  
Savings of \$9,500



4107 KIRKWALL  
Savings of \$6,135

## COMMONWEALTH PIRANHAS

We are heartbroken that due to the pandemic, our swim time was unable to practice or compete this swim season. We are always proud of our Commonwealth Piranhas Swim Team and know that they would have experienced an outstanding year if circumstances had allowed.

If you were signed up for this season, you have heard from the Swim Team Leaders regarding the season.

We thank the Swim Team officials, the registered swimmers and the volunteer parents for being a part of the team.

Please visit our website [www.cwp.swimtopia.com](http://www.cwp.swimtopia.com). For questions or additional information contact **Jean Konrady** at [jmkonrady@gmail.com](mailto:jmkonrady@gmail.com) or **Constance Lagrone** at [constance.lagrone@yahoo.com](mailto:constance.lagrone@yahoo.com).

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

## The Census is STILL Coming!!!!

The 2020 Census deadline was extended due to the pandemic.

In March each household received an invitation in the mail to share the requested information. You were offered the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. This invitation was followed up by mail several times if you did not comply.

If a response is not received, this summer a census taker will make a trip to your home to speak with you.

Information collected in this questionnaire determines how much money local governmental entities receive, helps establish where businesses open and how political districts are drawn. This information is critical to our future.

If assistance is required, in filling out the form, operators are available to those who ask. The number is on your questionnaire.

[www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)

# Commonwealth Proud

The recent Coronavirus pandemic was difficult for everyone. The uncertainty was disturbing to many, in a manner they had never before experienced. No one really had the answers. We didn't know how it really started, nor how it spread. There was no known cure and no absolute method of curing those who were stricken with the virus.

Retail and entertainment venues shut down, people lost their jobs, many lost their businesses.

While holidays are GREAT and being on vacation is everyone's favorite time of the year, being confined to your home (and ONLY your home) loses its attractiveness for most people after a short period of time. Moms and dads had to worry about juggling their work responsibilities with childcare and/or agonizing over how to pay the bills.

On top of all that, there was the school work! What child doesn't enjoy some down time? Who doesn't love a few days out of school. But weeks? Months? I'm guessing most of us were not prepared for taking on the role of educator.

There is no doubt that what began as fun times at home, soon became a battleground in many homes.

Admittedly, at the time of this writing, we don't know when or how this will end, but we do know that hundreds of millions of lives were upended.

That being said, please take a few moments to pat yourselves on the back. While the past couple of months were not easy,

we knew it would end. Eventually!

The residents of Commonwealth were remarkable throughout this quarantine.

We pulled together and will exit the other side as a community that supported one another during hard times.

Yes, there are always people who don't manage disaster and upheaval well, but for the most part, we can be very proud of the way we were there for each other.

Commonwealth has always been a united, compassionate community and this has been proven time and time again -- In the past, we have provided meals for LID contractors during the hurricane and support for neighbors after trees were uprooted and roofs were damaged. During this period of isolation, we did it again!

A huge thank you to Sumita Ghosh for volunteering to oversee our attempt at providing volunteers for those who were either medically or physically compromised or who for any reason were unable to visit the drug or grocery store.

Thanks to all of the residents who placed bears in their front windows for our Bear Hunt and decorated paper eggs for our Egg Hunt. Neighborhood children LOVED those "distractions"!

You are the reason The Commonwealth is such a wonderful place to live!.

## **DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, THE POOL OPENING DATE AND POOL SCHEDULE ARE UNKNOWN.**

### **ONCE OPENED, WE ARE HOPEFUL FOR THE SCHEDULE ON PAGE 6.**

Sadly, at this time our projected pool opening will have to wait until restrictions are lifted. Lifeguards must still be hired and trained and this cannot happen until life returns to "normal". Naturally, we are unable to open until we have enough lifeguards to be fully staffed for each shift and we are assured that the lifeguards have been well trained.

If lifeguards in training have to wear N95 masks, all industry experts and training agency medical advisors believe that we should not be operating or training lifeguards with that restriction in place.

We may be forced to open only one pool to start the season. The number of lifeguards that can be hired will also affect the pool hours.

If any government, CDC or other guidelines are placed on our facilities that are in addition to the current operating procedures, these guidelines and procedures could cause further delays.

**Keep an eye on the marquee and our Email Alerts for further information.**

# Proposed 2020 POOL SEASON

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 will incur a \$20 charge.

Pool tags **will be checked** by management personnel when entering the pool facility. If a tag is not in the resident's possession or cannot be verified, residents and/or others may be asked to leave the facilities. Only residents with a valid pool tag will be allowed into the pool (with exception of prearranged pool parties through the pool company). **Each pool tag allows 2 guests.**

## Proposed Pool Schedule and Hours of Operation:

### Knightsbridge

Through MAY 28th (Weekends Only)

Saturdays	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sundays	12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
MEMORIAL DAY	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

POOL OPENS FOR DAILY USE ON MAY 29th

MAY 29th – AUGUST 9th

Monday	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday - Saturday	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

AUGUST 10th – OCTOBER 31st (Weekends only)

Saturday	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
LABOR DAY	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

### Briarwood

Through MAY 28th (Weekends Only)

Saturdays	12 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
MEMORIAL DAY	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

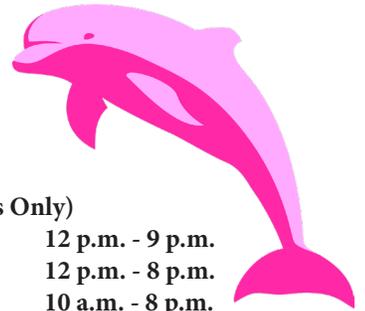
POOL OPENS FOR DAILY USE ON MAY 29th

MAY 29th – AUGUST 9th

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

AUGUST 10th - SEPTEMBER 7th (Weekends only)

Saturday	12 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
LABOR DAY	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.



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

## THE NEW ME! - POOL AND CLUBHOUSE UPGRADES

Once life hits the "new normal" and we are free to roam at will, we believe residents will be very happy with the upgrades to our Commonwealth Clubhouse and other amenities.

At the Briarwood pool, residents will notice increased lighting, ceiling fans, bathroom upgrades and bathroom access with key fob entry.

If you have children, you may most enjoy the splash pad access with key fob entry - even when the pool is closed.

At the Briarwood tennis courts, there is increased security and key fob access to the courts as well.

We believe residents will be extremely happy with the Clubhouse renovations and can't wait to unveil them to the

community.

The interior has been completely remodeled with new appliances, furniture, lighting and flooring. The bathroom and kitchen have received completely new upgrades, including new appliances and increased storage.

Open House Date to be announced!!!!

### Apologies to Residents Around the Briarwood Pool

To honor and support the daily sacrifices that our healthcare professionals have made and continue to make during the pandemic, the lighting in the Briarwood poolhouse was changed to blue for 2 hours a day.

The lights were problematic for surrounding neighbors, and we will be turned off on May 1, 2020. We apologize.

# Once The Quarantine Is Lifted --- The Tennis Courts Will Be Open

Our new online system for reserving our tennis courts is up and running. If you are a tennis player, we encourage you and your family to sign up.

This step is being taken to ensure that only Commonwealth residents and their guests have access to our courts and encroachers are displaced.

The website URL: [www.sites.onlinecourtreservations.com/reservations](http://www.sites.onlinecourtreservations.com/reservations).

For residents to sign up as users, they must email Ashleigh at Crest with their Address and Member name. Both are required to validate their membership. ([ashleigh.rutledge@crest-management.com](mailto:ashleigh.rutledge@crest-management.com))

Once membership is validated, we have a resident who is happy to guide and on-board new users.

## Is It Time To Replace Your Fence?

Every Residential Property must have a perimeter fence. All proposed replacement, relocation and/or changes from original as installed by builder/developer must have Modifications Committee approval.

All fences, gates, walls and hedges must be maintained in good condition.

This includes but is not limited to: trimming hedges; replacement of rotted, missing, broken or warped wooden pickets; repair or replacement of leaning fence sections; repairing/replacing metal fences where paint is faded, peeled and/or where rust has formed.

Minor repairs must be made with same materials and construction details used in original.

No chain link, chicken wire, or lattice type fence construction will be permitted on any lot.

Fences are not to be built or altered, in any form or fashion, to incorporate any artistic designs, cutouts, initials, symbols or other "decorative" elements.

No fence, wall or hedge may extend so as to encroach across the recorded front building line or the recorded front building

line of an adjacent house, and may never extend beyond the actual front building line.

No new fence shall extend beyond any side building line adjacent to a street.

Replacement of perimeter fences should align with and match overall height (6') of neighboring and adjacent fences.

Both neighbors sharing a lot line must concur as to a proposed fence, wall or hedge extension on their common lot line. If both neighbors do not concur as to a proposed fence, wall or hedge extension, the Modifications Committee will examine the effect the extension will have on both properties. If one party will suffer detrimentally from the extension (such as a existing site line will be blocked) the Modification Committee may reject the application. Lot line fence, wall or hedge extension must not obstruct neighbor's view or access to or use of their property.

Fence requests are subject to the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Commonwealth. Some neighborhoods have Supplemental Restrictions which may supercede these Architectural Control Guidelines.

**REMINDER -- Please put trash cans (and recycling bins) at the curb on the morning of trash pick up days no earlier than 6 p.m. on the day prior to pick up. This also applies to lawn debris. If your landscape company habitually leaves grass and tree cuttings in front of your home each week, ask them to start taking it with them.**

**The HOA will pursue this offense - it does frustrate your neighbors.**

**The HOA will pursue this offense - it does frustrate your neighbors.**

Crest Management Company  
P. O. Box 219320  
Houston, TX. 77218-9320

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## The Commonwealth Women's Club

The Commonwealth Women's Club is the oldest club/group in our community. This group has been active for decades.

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 the September End of Summer get-together.

The Women's Club meets monthly from September through May.

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



[monicaclancy@strategicascent.com](mailto:monicaclancy@strategicascent.com)

## YOGA

Breathing Exercises and Meditation

Due to the remodelling of the Clubhouse, Varsha is unable to host her (free) Yoga, Pranayam (breathing exercise) and Meditation classes there.

She is inviting residents to join her on-line each **Tuesday** morning  
9-10:15 a.m.

For the Zoom sign-in information and/or to have questions answered, email:

[zestandzen1@gmail.com](mailto:zestandzen1@gmail.com)

DE-STRESS



RELAX

Beneficial to your physical and emotional health!  
Varsha Pangarkar - Commonwealth Resident