

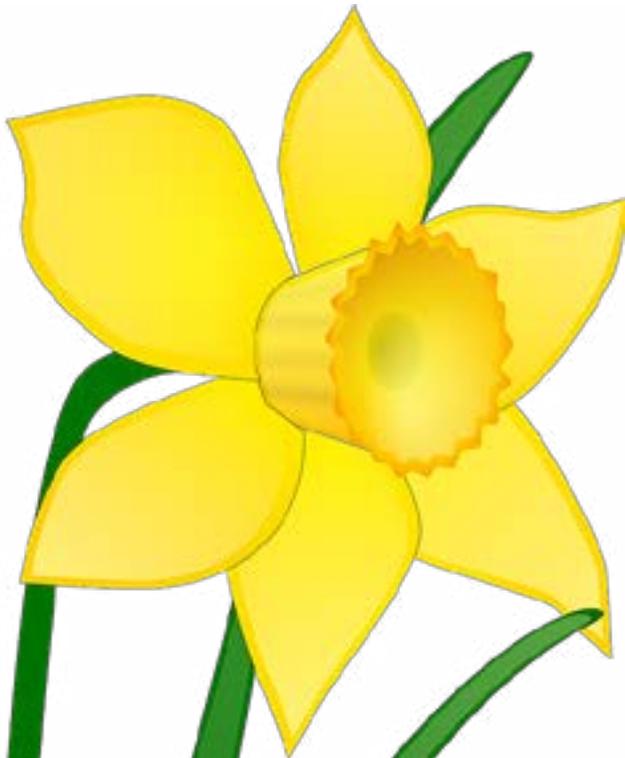
May/June 2021

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

We hope you enjoyed
our March Sno-Cone event!
We have scheduled our first 2021
Ice Cream Social
for May 1st
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Please Join Us!



Thank you to Constable Pct. 4, Nabil Shike, for bringing his officers AND his police cars.

The kids were delighted - we're not sure about the neighbors. :)

Shared Dreams was extremely happy with the generosity of our ABC community.

Thanks to those residents who contributed!

Thanks also to Judy Dae and the Chinese Club for providing crafts for the kids!

The Commonwealth HOA rocks!

The Commonwealth Board of Directors

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Member
Jim Levermann	Dave Bristow	Sumita Ghosh	Rajeev Somani	John Frenzel

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

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.

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 (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
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.
For more information, contact Heather at:
heatherE@crest-management.com or **281-945-4630**.

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

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

Katie | Assistant Manager | 281-945-4663 | 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
For accounting matters such as account information, account balances and payment information.

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

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The Commonwealth Website: www.commonwealthcivic.com

Crest Management Website: 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 an unacceptable color roof on your home and then have to replace it!

Still Need To Obtain Your 2021 Pool Tags?

Join The First Commonwealth Ice Cream Social of the year!

Saturday, May 1
11a.m. to 2 p.m.

Look for the Yummies cart at the Knightsbridge pool.

Bring your ID
Pick up your pool tags
Enjoy the pool!



Brought to you by
The Commonwealth Civic Association

Mask required while picking up pool tags!

This will be your only opportunity to pick up pool tags right here in the neighborhood!



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
• Firewood

Friday
Fundays
are
Coming!

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Proud Sponsors of the Piranhas Swim Team

GLORY & WEST CRAFTS



832-265-7355 (SELL)

glorycrafts@hotmail.com

FREE STAGING!!!



Over 131 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 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. (POOL TAGS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DURING THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON MAY 1 FROM 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.)

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 guests or pool parties
until further notice.

Commonwealth Trash Service

- § Automated garbage collection occurs twice per week
- § Automated recycling collection once per week
- § Green waste collection once per week
- § Bulky waste collection once per month and an on-call collection service
- § Every household is provided with a 95-gallon garbage cart and a 65-gallon recycling cart, unless a different size is requested.

Please contact Republic Services at 713-726-7307 to schedule the delivery of the garbage and recycle carts.

Please do not put your trash cans out before 5 p.m. the day before trash pick-up.

Trash cans should be placed where they cannot be returned to your property by 8 a.m. the day following pickup.

Commonwealth pick up days are
Tuesdays and Fridays

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

Homeowner Associations - So misunderstood

You signed on the dotted line when you purchased your home. You bought here because the neighborhood is beautiful and safe. And now you're angry because you're being told that hot pink is not a permissible color for a front door, or your fence does not meet the requirements or your yard must be maintained to certain standards. Mandatory dues and strong guidelines do rub some people the wrong way.

But, that IS why you bought your home here. You do like the way the neighborhood looks. And home values have been well protected for decades.

Did you know that more than 63 million people live within communities that are overseen by HOAs, according to the Community Associations Institute? That means 24 percent of U.S. homes are part of community associations.

What are the benefits of an HOA?

Our HOA provide access to multiple amenities: a gorgeous newly redecorated clubhouse, pools, tennis courts, walking trails and water features; as well as beautiful public area landscaping with lots of trees, plants and street lights.

When you purchase a property governed by an HOA, you enter into a legal contract with the Association. You agree to abide by the Association's regulations and pay its' dues. In exchange, you get a community guided by an HOA and the access to its facilities and perks.

A common theme with much of the unhappiness amongst some homeowners is either not understanding the regulations or ignoring them. It is always in your best interest to research the Guidelines before you begin outdoor

*The Commonwealth HOA Annual Meeting
will be held virtually May 25th!*

*Come learn more about where your dues
are going!*

*Meet the Board Members AND a couple of the
Management Staffmembers at Crest.*

*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 see recent Email Alerts for
deadlines.*

updates. All requirements are spelled out in our Covenants. If you have questions, contact Crest immediately and request clarification of the rules.

Lawsuits can not only be stressful, they can also be very expensive. As a homeowner in the Association, you pay twice: you pay your own attorney AND, the Association's legal fees are paid by homeowner dues.

If you are unsure what your HOA dues cover, be sure to call and ask - it's a fair question!

Who's in charge?

Timing is perfect. You can attend our virtual Annual Board Meeting in May to "meet" the Board Members and the staff staff at Crest Management. Learn about the financials including the reserve fund. Learn about the financial oversight provided by Board members. Find out how our Board (HOA) runs.

Find out how you can get involved and play a meaningful role in this Association. We encourage you to attend.

**If you have questions regarding The Commonwealth Civic Association's
Modifications and Deed Restriction guidelines, join and search out the website:**

www.crest-management.com

or reach out to Katie at Crest - 281.945.4663.

She is happy to answer your questions.

Living High on the Hog?????

A Brief Update on The Commonwealth Hog Situation

The FCLID#2 has completed its hog trapping activities for the moment and has removed the two traps. Our L.I.D. captured a total of 48 hogs which they believe is the entire herd that had been damaging our community and bedding down at Maranatha Farms. Last year, the Sugar Stone Perimeter Levee System installed hog fencing that runs from Sienna to Ditch H. This fencing keeps hogs out of our communities. A few hogs had been trapped inside the fence line and, of course, those few rapidly expanded to the 48 that were caught. (Another 20 or so were trapped by the City, for a total of 68 hogs.)

A month ago, the LID and our HOA board reps met, at the request of HOA President Jim Levermann, with Sugar Land Mayor, Joe Zimmerman, Councilwoman Carol McCutcheon, and some of the city staff to try to come up with a permanent solution. The Mayor has tasked the city staff to bring him a collaborative plan in three months.

There are still hogs coming into Avalon at Ditch H and into several other communities in the Sugar Land area. FCLID#2 wants to ensure that they remain fenced outside of our community. Hopefully, the City will come up with a plan to keep them out.

The two 35-year-old pumps that served us well during Hurricane Harvey are being replaced in May. They were ordered from the factory 6 months ago and bid requests were then sent out to get a general contractor to install them. The general contractor will begin work in May to pull the two old pumps and install two new ones in their place. This will require some minor re-wiring due to the pumps increased capacities and newer technology. Work should be completed by June 1st, the start of hurricane season. This will give us a total of **three new pumps**. Each one of the three pumps has more pumping capacity than our two old pumps combined. This is a significant improvement over our previous rainwater pumping capacities. The water levels in our lakes rose quite a bit during Hurricane Harvey. These new pumps should more than keep up with the rainfall in a future Harvey type rain event!

First Colony LID #2 - What Is It?

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 in the First Colony area of Sugar Land, Texas. The First Colony Levee Improvement District No.2 (FCLID2) protects \$200 million in property value.

The District maintains a levee around the western, eastern and southern boundaries of the District to protect the land in the District from the floodwaters of the Brazos River. 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 within the District and has 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. The District has contracted 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 are residents of the District. **The Board meets once a month at 12:00pm noon on the first Tuesday of each month inside the district at 4330 Knightsbridge Boulevard, Sugar Land, Texas 77479.** All meetings of the Board are open to the public, and the public is invited to attend.

Though no homes flooded within the 615-acre LID, during Hurricane Harvey, the district wants peace of mind for the next storms.

This was addressed by implementing dual generators to provide resilience from loss of fuel as well as implementing a generator control scheme causing the device to run if required, not just during power outages. Also installed was a recirculation line so the pumps can undergo annual testing and implemented an emergency operations strategy so the pump could be used during construction.

This project is expected to be completed shortly.

For FCLID 2 updates, please visit

www.fclid2.com/

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Commonwealth is Hurricane Ready...

Because we have a L.I.D. Board that takes the job seriously!

This month, we are highlighting our Levee Improvement Board so you know WHY we're feeling good!

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.

Debbie and Ron Frerich live in The Commonwealth Park Section III and moved here in 1989. We assume that, since they are still here, they LOVE The Commonwealth!

CC: Tell us a little about your Commonwealth involvement.

Ron has been on the Commonwealth Civic Association Board of Directors and both of us have served on the Modifications Committee for several years. All of our family members have volunteered for many community activities. We have planted seasonal flowers at the entrance to the subdivision for several years and have helped with the July 4th picnic by setting up, cooking, and clean up.

CC: Which schools did your children attend?

Our 3 children attended Austin Parkway and Commonwealth Elementary, First Colony Middle School, Lake Olympia and Fort Settlement Middle School and all three graduated from Clements High School.

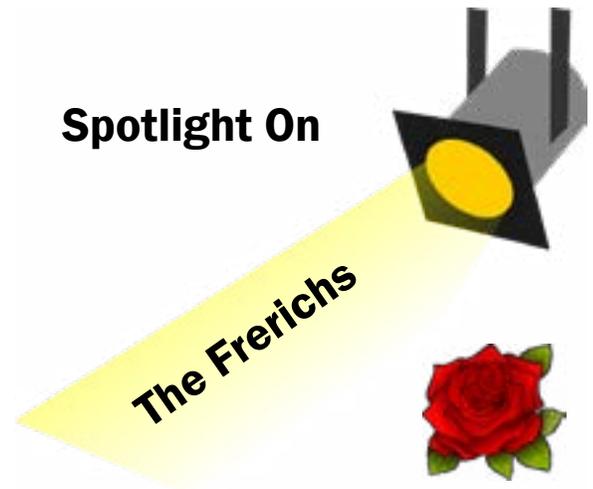
CC: What made you decide to buy in The Commonwealth?

We chose to live in The Commonwealth because of the quality of the homes and the beauty of the area. The schools were a very important factor in our choice. We feel this area provides an overall value that we enjoy and is what we desired when raising our family.

CC: What is the most noticeable change you've seen in CW/ Sugar Land during the time you've lived here?

When we moved to this area there was no Dulles Ave connecting to Hwy 6 and Hwy 6 was just two lanes. City Hall was a metal shack on Matlage Way. There was one Kroger and Randalls and very few restaurants in the area. Commonwealth was a random field and it was covered in bottomland wood.

Our home is located on an extremely quiet cul-de-sac, on a very large



lot near ponds and parks and walking trails.

CC: If you could change anything, what would it be?

We would like to see our neighborhood replace the fencing on the main thoroughfare and widen the public walks on them to make it nicer looking and safer. Continue to increase the landscaping and hardscape to keep up with the newer communities around us. "If you are not improving, you are dying." Landscape ages out. Hardscape wears out. It all needs replacing and additions.

We would like our neighborhood to stay high end and stand in line with the surrounding areas.



The Commonwealth Civic Association appreciates Debbie & Ron for years of community service and thanks them for agreeing to participate in this article. We will offer additional interviews as space permits.

While they haven't been here for decades, Zach Weimer and his wife have definitely jumped in with both feet. Zack and Katy Weimer and their beautiful, young family live in the Oxford section of The Commonwealth.

The Weimers ended up purchasing their home, in January of 2014, straight off of an overseas assignment.

Zach: We bought the house sight unseen and the worst time to buy, the market was crazy.

CC: Tell us a little about your Commonwealth involvement.

Zach: Katy has volunteered for a number of things such as neighborhood parties, movie nights, National Night Out, Camp Commonwealth, and 4th of July. Katy has also helped with the Knightsbridge park renovation in 2016 and the Clubhouse renovation in 2020.

In 2015, I applied for the open position, and was appointed to, the First Colony L.I.D. 2 Board of Directors by previous Fort Bend County Commissioner, Precinct 4, James Patterson.

As a Civil Engineer, I was naturally drawn to learning more about the levee system and feel honored to be able to help maintain this critical infrastructure for our neighborhood. The Board has accomplished a lot recently, especially working through our post-Harvey assessment needs, to be more prepared for similar events. The long term capital improvements plan will keep things in shape for years to come.

CC: Tell us about your FBISD involvement.

Zach: Currently 4 of our 5 kids are in FBISD schools.

We are both very active at Commonwealth Elementary, she is on the PTA and we both spend as much time as possible volunteering at the school. I am on the principal's campus advisory committee at Fort Settlement.

CC: What made you decide to buy in The Commonwealth?

We chose to move into Commonwealth because we knew some friends who live here and we heard great things about the school.

Spotlight On



CC: What is the most noticeable change you've seen in CW/Sugar Land during the time you've lived here?

Zach: The most noticeable change has definitely been the continued growth and development around us such as Avalon and Riverstone.

CC: What keeps you here?

Zach: We have stayed because of all the wonderful friends we have nearby.

CC: If you could change anything, what would it be?

Zach: I don't think there is much we would change, maybe for people to drive slower down Commonwealth Blvd and stop at the stop signs ;)our kids cross there a lot.



We regret that we were unable to connect with our female FCLID#2 Board member before the deadline. Chris Lukin is a valued LID board member and has made decades of contributions to our community. The Commonwealth Civic Association appreciates Chris & Stephen Lukin for years of community service.

(ALL) Elections are Important

**On Tuesday, May 25th
The Commonwealth Civic Association will be holding its' Annual Board Meeting.**

**This is your opportunity to be updated on all facets of our HOA.
Learn about upcoming projects, past expenditures, budget plans, modifications updates, City and County news, social events in the works and, most importantly, (virtually) meet our Board Members and find out how you can become involved in keeping this community a prime location to live.**

**Reminder that there is a Municipal Election on
Saturday, May 1
7 A.M. - 7 P.M.**

This Commonwealth ballot offers both City of Sugar Land, District 4 and Fort Bend ISD (2 positions) - Position 2 and Position 6.

We are currently represented by Carol McCutcheon (a resident of Colony Meadows) who is running for re-election. She has one opponent. He resides in Greatwood, as do two other councilmembers.

FBISD Trustee, Position 2 offers a full field of candidates. The incumbent opted not to run again. Commonwealth resident and former HOA Board Member, Judy Dae, is one of the four people running in this position.

Position 6 incumbent Addie Heyliger is running for re-election and has five challengers for that position.

Those serving on City Council and on the School Board have a direct impact on our everyday lives. They determine our tax rates, budget for needed items, plan for home growth, come up with local regulations, entice new businesses - for retail, commercial and entertainment purposes, and most importantly, make decisions that have a bearing on the future of our children.

Please do your research and vote accordingly.



The Commonwealth Clubhouse is a voting location, thanks to the efforts of Councilmember Carol McCutcheon and resident, Judy Dae, who worked on our behalf to bring back our neighborhood polling location.

FUTURE ELECTIONS

We have an election in November 2021!

**The party Primaries are held in March
(although there are currently rumors that they
may be put off until July -
We will try to stay on top of that.**

Municipal Election in May, 2022

This list does not mention any Special/Called Elections, nor run-off elections.

**Click on the buttons below to find
Non-partisan & Unbiased Candidate information.**

**Fort Bend Voters
Guide - Click Here**

**City of Sugar Land
Guide - Click Here**

The Pool Schedule Has Changed!

Pool hours have changed slightly since they were first published.

Keep an eye on the Commonwealth website where we will publish any further changes!!!!

Pool tags will be issued to any homeowner that is in good standing with the Association. 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.)

To obtain pool tags, go to www.crest-management.com and complete the pool registration form on the home page.

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.

REVISED Pool Schedule and Hours of Operation

Knightsbridge Pool

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

APRIL 3rd-MAY 28th	(Weekends only)
Saturday	10:00 A.M.-8 P.M.
Sunday	NOON - 8 P.M.

May 29th - AUGUST 8th	
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 9th - OCTOBER 31st	(Weekends only)
Saturday	10 P.M. - 8 P.M.
Sunday	12 P.M. - 8 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.

Briarwood Pool

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

MAY 1st -MAY 28TH	(Weekends only)
Saturday	12 p.m.- 8 p.m
Sunday	12 p.m.- 8 p.m.

MAY 29th- JULY 12th	
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday- Friday	1:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M.
Saturday	12:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Sunday	12:00 P.M.- 8:00 P.M.
Memorial Day	10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

JULY 13th - AUGUST 15th	(Weekends only)
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday- 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.

AUGUST 16th - SEPTEMBER 6th	(Weekends Only)
Saturday	12:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Sunday	12:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Labor Day	10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

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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.



FULL SERVICE REAL ESTATE FOR AS LOW AS 1% LISTING FEE*

*Some restrictions apply
*Buyer Agent Commission Not Included



Pending
19 Stratford Ct



Coming Soon
4826 Hillbrook

SOLD IN COMMONWEALTH



4811 Kirkcaldy Dr.
Savings of \$7,300



Your House
Saving you \$0,000



4818 Saint Michaels
Savings of \$27,990



16 Hollifern
Savings of \$8,400



4807 Saint Michaels
Savings of \$7,125



4818 Kesting
Savings of \$18,350



4815 Moorland
Savings of \$0,900



4817 Cambridge
Savings of \$9,500



4483 Hawthornville
Savings of \$6,945



26 Epping Forest
Savings of \$8,675



4187 Kirkcaldy Cr
Savings of \$4,125



4819 Kendall
Savings of \$4,775

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

THE COMMONWEALTH PIRANHAS

The Commonwealth Piranhas is off to a great start for 2021! Established in 1991, this is our 30th year of building community and teaching local kids to swim like Piranhas! We have 170 registered swimmers for this season, and most age groups are completely full. Our Board, Head Coach, and the Commonwealth HOA have been hard at work getting the pool, sponsors, merchandise, and schedules ready for this season.

Practices start after school at the Briarwood Pool on April 26th, then switch to the morning on June 4th when school is out. Due to COVID-19, all meets will be held at our home pool this year on Monday afternoons. It will still be an exciting time for our swimmers to beat their times, win ribbons, and hang out safely with friends.

A big THANK YOU to the HOA for their support with having the pools ready for our use. A HUGE shout-out to the Piranhas Board - their countless hours of service to the team make living in The Commonwealth community even better! Finally, we couldn't run the team without our sponsors - their support is much appreciated!

TEAM SPONSORS

Bradfield Dental	Glory Crafts Team Realty
Lemke Orthodontics	White Flower, LLC

Commonwealth Piranhas Board

- Jean Konrady – President
- Cristina Materon – VP
- Roberto Rodriguez – Treasurer
- Li Peng & Madhura Kelkar – Data
- Cinthia Yu – Volunteers
- Dawn Ramkissoon – Volunteers
- Melissa Schroer – Party Planner
- Katy Weimer – Merchandise

Linda Miller – Head Coach

Contact us at
gocommonwealthpiranhas@gmail.com

or click the graphic to visit our webpage for more information.



NOTES and 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

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.

Our HOA Board of Directors wishes to express their gratitude to Councilwoman Carol McCutcheon for stepping up to help arrange the recent "Hog Meeting" with the Sugar Land Mayor, Joe Zimmerman.

We appreciate Mrs. McCutcheon's efforts on behalf of our residents.

The Commonwealth Board of Directors wishes to thank former board member, Raj Walawalkar, for his years of service to the residents of The Commonwealth.

Raj resigned his position in February.

The Board appointed resident John Frenzel to serve in that position until the Annual Board Meeting to be held in May 2021.

The Commonwealth HOA supports the Piranhas Swim Team and very much appreciates those entities sponsoring the team

Go Piranhas!!

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.



Give Turtles a Brake!

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

I brake for turtles. Do you?

With the warmer weather, turtles are going to be on the move soon. They are most likely looking for a mate or the females are looking for a nesting site. It could be that they're just looking for a good meal. Whatever the reason, cars and turtles don't mix.

If you're like me and want to help turtles crossing roads, here are a few helpful hints:

- Safety first. Always be aware of other vehicles. Pull off the road and turn on your hazard flashers.
- If there's no traffic, it's best to let the turtle cross on its own.
- Don't put the turtle in your car and relocate it. Eastern box turtles, for example, only travel within about a 2-mile radius throughout their lives. They have a homing instinct and move about within their home territory. Removing them from their home will cause undo stress and shorten their lives.
- Always move the turtle in the same direction it was going, as far off the road as you can place it.
- Be gentle. Grasp the turtle's shell edge at about the mid-point of the body. If it's a snapping turtle, grasp the shell at the back of the body to protect yourself from a bite. In either case, you can then lift the turtle and place it on the side of the road. You can also place the turtle on a floor mat or piece of clothing and slide it.
- Once the turtle is safely placed on the side of the road out of danger, sanitize your hands. We've all gotten pretty good at that!

What should you do if you find an injured turtle? Believe it or not, turtles with damaged shells can recover but it's important to get help as quickly as possible. Call a local wildlife center first to make sure they will accept the animal and follow their instructions. Don't try to feed the turtle or give it water. Place it in a box and put it in a quiet area until you can get help.

Houston area wildlife centers:

Friends of Texas Wildlife
TWRC Wildlife Center
Wildlife Center of Texas

You can also check the Texas Parks & Wildlife website for individual rehabilitators.

[Texas Parks & Wildlife - Click Here](#)

Birds of a Feather

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Portions of Cheryl's note on Purple Martins.

Purple Martins prefer large, open areas where the nearest building is a minimum of 30 feet away and from 25 to 60 feet away from trees. Make sure your house is secure and doesn't spin around when it's windy out. The birds can become disoriented.

You may need to protect your Martin houses with predator guards. You can purchase owl and hawk guards. Predator baffles, or pole guards, will help keep snakes and raccoons from climbing the pole.

In late fall, you can take your Martin house down and put it back up when the Martins return in the spring. The other option is that you can leave it up but make sure you clean it well and block the entrances so other species of birds don't move in. Remove the blockages in spring when the Martins return.

Sometimes it takes a couple of years for them to discover your house. There are a couple of things you can do to increase your success. One website I checked suggested playing Purple Martin vocalizations near your Martin house very early in the morning. There are several recordings on YouTube. You can also place life-sized black decoys on your house. If you have a large house with several compartments, you can construct a fake nest in one of them. Don't forget to put green leaves on the top of the nest.

When coming back, the first Martins to arrive are referred to as the "Scouts" and they are the oldest birds. Older females arrive next followed by the younger birds. Martins will return to the same colony site where they resided the previous year. Once they arrive, nest-building will begin in 4 to 6 weeks. They use twigs, pine needles and straw. Once the nest is complete, they add a layer of green leaves. Ornithologists can only guess why they do this but think the leaves may act as an insecticide, may help keep the nest clean or help regulate the temperature and moisture levels.

TWRC Wildlife Center is gearing up for another busy year. Because of Covid-19 we've had to cut back on volunteers to work at our Center but we are in need of volunteers who would like to learn to rehabilitate wildlife in their homes. We train you and help you every step of the way. Rehabbing wildlife is the most rewarding thing you will ever do. www.twrcwildlifecenter.org 713.468.TWRC

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 cwsclcares@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: cwsclcares@gmail.com	Our residents LOVE participating in fun activities. If you are interested in helping organize and oversee future community events, please let us know.
Tennis: Men's Dave Bristow dgbristow@windstream.net	If you are interested in playing tennis with other Commonwealth residents, this group is for you. BUT.....the group needs a leader! Let us know if you're interested.
Tennis: Women's Jeanne 713-385-4097	Ladies time on the court! Play tennis with other Commonwealth women.
Yoga & Guided Meditation Varsha zestandzen1@gmail.com	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. cwsclcares@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

URGENT!

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE WILDLIFE!

**Feeding the ducks interferes with their migration.
(It makes them want to stay!!!)**

**And feeding deer and the other animals is
not healthy for them.**

Please take note:

**The winter storm did damage to our sprinkler system
even though the sprinkler systems were drained.
A damage assessment has been completed.
The repair work is underway.**

**Additionally, we did have damage to our landscape
and will be replacing and replanting throughout the
year. It will take some time, but we will get it done.**

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 future 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 evite!

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

Classy Ad Listings

Please support our neighborhood businesses!



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

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

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