

Commonwealth Comments

An electronic newsletter for residents of *The Commonwealth*

Bridgewater, Commonwealth Estates, Commonwealth Park, Oxford, Sutton Forest, Sutton Park and Sweetwater XII

May/June 2024

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A couple of SCAM Alerts

AND HOA Contact Information

Commonwealth Annual Civic Association Meeting

Date Tuesday, May 21
Time 7:00 P.M.
Place - The Commonwealth Clubhouse
(Commonwealth Blvd. @ Knightsbridge)

On the Ballot: Two Director Positions on the ballot

Keep an eye open for Email Alert with more detail.

Sadly, we have recently had some of our plants stolen from the beds along Commonwealth. If you ever see plants being removed, or notice damage to our beds, report to Crest and/or SLPD.

If you see something, say something!

New Landscaping Along Commonwealth Boulevard

In The Commonwealth, as part of our commitment to continuously improving our neighborhood, landscaping improvements have been an ongoing effort for many years.

The next phase of this landscaping work is underway. It includes efforts to increase interest and aesthetics along Commonwealth Boulevard with the inclusion of more native plants.

Why does including more native plants matter, you may wonder. You may be thinking that natives are not as beautiful as exotics. Or, maybe you think that exotics are more resistant to insects. Let's chat about these ideas.

Why natives? Native plants are adapted to our local climate and soil because they have evolved here over millions of years. This is important because they will be more resilient in the face of our typical drought/flood and occasional freeze cycles that are normal for Houston. They will be comfortable growing and living in our clay soils. They will require less water, and less attention than non-natives. In other words, they will be more cost-effective for our community.

There are many beautiful native plants that will thrive in our area. There are a variety of species that will bloom throughout the year. We will be including an array of these in our new landscaping.

Not only are native plants adapted to our climate and soils, but the local pollinators are also adapted to our native plants. This means that our natives will provide the best quality pollen, nectar and food sources to our bees and butterflies who will in turn, pollinate and complete the plant's life cycle.

We will be including several areas of "pocket prairies." These will be no-mow areas where native wildflowers and grasses will grow. These areas will be "contained areas" away from the edges of the roadways, but very accessible to walk to and visit, where residents will be able to see the lovely flowers and native pollinators that will come to visit.

We are very excited about our next phase of the landscaping plan installation and look forward to providing our residents with beauty and an appreciation for our Texas natives!

Go Texan! Go native!



*Article by resident
Jamie Fairchild,
Certified Texas Master Naturalist
and Commonwealth Landscape
Committee Member.*

Please share this Commonwealth Comments with your CW neighbors who may not know it exists!

They will receive it automatically once they sign up on our Email Distribution List.

They can send their name, physical address and email address to: news@commonwealthcivic.com

The Commonwealth Website:
www.commonwealthcivic.com

The Crest Management Website:
www.crest-management.com/



THANK YOU TO THESE LADIES,
EACH OF THE SWIMMERS AND THEIR PARENTS
FOR HELPING TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL
SWIM SEASON.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS!

Piranhas Leadership

Jean Konrady, President
Melissa Schroer, Vice President/
Sponsorship
Lindsey Drouet, Treasurer

The Piranhas - since 1991

Commonwealth Votes!

Thank you for VOTING!

Our Precinct has had the highest number of voters
in recent elections!
We need you one more time before the biggie in
November.

The Primary Run-off Elections are coming.
Watch our Facebook page AND/OR
your Email Alert messages for details!

All Elections Affect YOU! Please give them your attention!

**Vote at The Commonwealth Clubhouse
for the May 28th election.
This year, there are no runoffs for any statewide
races. All contests are local.**

Elected Officials pay attention to those who vote!

Veggie Share



It's not too late to join the community Veggie Share.

Commonwealth receives delivery every Tuesday.
Delivery is free as long as we continue to have 10 people in our Veggie Share group.

Details are shared upon request.

To sign up, go to: www.harvie.farm/profile/harvest-green-village-farm

Our veggies come from Harvest Green. The Harvest Green Farm
is open daily from dawn to dusk and you are encouraged to visit.
They have events, community programs, farm tours and volunteer
opportunities you may attend.

Harvest Green Farm,
8939 Harlem Rd., Post Harvest Shed, Richmond, TX.

If you have questions, please reach out to
Sumita: SumitaSugar@gmail.com



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



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

The climate has become terribly unpredictable and our weather is constantly in flux.

Yes, it's mostly hot, Hot, **HOT!**

But the traditional hurricane season is quickly approaching and it will most definitely become wet, Wet, **WET.**

Be ready for hurricane season. Take action TODAY to be better prepared for when the worst happens. Understand your risk from hurricanes, and begin pre-season preparations now. Make sure you have multiple ways of receiving forecasts and alerts, and know what to do before, during, and after a storm.

Develop an evacuation plan

Now is the time to begin planning where you would go and how you would get there in the event of bad weather. You do not need to travel hundreds of miles. Your destination could be a friend or relative who lives in a well built home outside flood prone areas. Plan several routes. Be sure to account for your pets.

Assemble disaster supplies

You're going to need supplies not just to get through the storm but for the potentially lengthy and unpleasant aftermath. Have enough non-perishable food, water and medicine to last each person in your family a **minimum of 3 days** (store a longer than 3-day supply of water, if possible). Electricity and water could be out for weeks. You'll need extra cash, a battery-powered radio and flashlights. You may need a portable crank or solar-powered USB charger for your cell phones. And lastly, don't forget your pets!

Get an insurance checkup & document your possessions

Make sure you have enough insurance to repair or even replace your home and/or belongings. Remember, home and renters insurance doesn't cover flooding, so you'll need a separate policy for it. Flood insurance is available through your company, agent, or the National Flood Insurance Program at floodsmart.gov. **Act now, as flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period.**

Take the time now to document your possessions: photos, serial numbers, or anything else that you may need to provide your insurance company when filing a claim.

Create a communication plan

Take the time now to write down your hurricane plan, and share it with your family. Determine family meeting places, and make sure to include an out-of-town location in case of evacuation. Write down on paper a list of emergency contacts, and make sure to include utilities and other critical services — remember, the internet may not be accessible during or after a storm.

Strengthen Your Home

Trim trees. Install storm shutters, accordion shutters, and/or impact glass. Seal outside wall openings. Remember, the garage door is the most vulnerable part of the home, so it must be able to withstand hurricane-force winds. Many retrofits are not as costly or time consuming as you may think. If you're a renter, work with your landlord now to prepare for a storm.

And remember - *Now is the time to purchase the proper plywood, steel or aluminum panels to have on hand if you need to board up the windows and doors ahead of an approaching storm.*



We have traditionally been able to quickly share all information we receive on storms as they form, approach and pass through. Flooding has also been a major concern in the past. If you are not on our Email Distribution List, this should be reason enough to sign up.



Notifications and urgent/emergency alerts may include, but are not limited to, the following:

HazMat Incidents
Imminent Danger from Fire
Evacuation Notices
Bomb Threats

Natural Disasters
Terrorism Threats

Water Contamination Issues
Ongoing Power Outages
Ongoing Water or Sewer Interruptions
Current Road Closures

Take action TODAY to be better prepared for when the worst happens. Understand your risk from hurricanes, and begin pre-season preparations now. Make sure you understand how to interpret forecasts and alerts, and know what to do before, during, and after a storm. Even if you are already well-prepared and knowledgeable, there may be additional things you could do or learn to be even more prepared.

Find out today what types of wind and water hazards could happen where you live. Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Impacts from wind and water can be felt hundreds of miles inland, and significant impacts can occur regardless of the storm's strength. Know if you live in an area prone to flooding, if you live in an evacuation zone, and identify any structural weaknesses in your home.

Consider Your Threats

While hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property, tropical storms and tropical depressions also can be devastating. The primary hazards from tropical cyclones (which include tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes) are storm surge flooding, inland flooding from heavy rains, destructive winds, tornadoes, and high surf and rip currents.

Flooding from the extreme amounts of rain a hurricane can bring has also proven to be very deadly, both over an extended period of time as well as very short-term flash flooding. Homes and businesses could flood, and flooded roads could make travel and evacuations difficult, as well as being a potentially deadly hazard to those in vehicles or on foot. Floodwaters can also contain harmful bacteria, chemicals, wildlife and other dangerous objects. Extreme rain from hurricanes can even flood areas that aren't normally prone to flooding. Flooding can happen hundreds of miles inland, and can persist for several days after a storm.

Hurricane-force winds can cause damage to homes and other buildings, ranging from moderate to catastrophic depending on both wind speed and structural integrity. Wind damage can lead to large areas with power and communications outages, as well as uproot trees and make roads impassable due to debris. Signs, roofing material, and other items left outside can become flying missiles during hurricanes.

Hurricanes and tropical storms can also produce tornadoes. These tornadoes most often occur in thunderstorms embedded in rain bands well away from the center of the hurricane; however, they can also occur near the eyewall. Waves from distant storms can produce deadly rip currents and rough surf on beaches very far away. Good weather at the beach itself does NOT mean the ocean is safe. Even storms more than 1,000 miles away can cause impacts.

Determine if you live in a flood-prone area

Find out today the flood risk for your area and plan accordingly. If you don't live in a flood zone, that doesn't necessarily mean you're safe - extreme rain from hurricanes can bring floods even to areas that aren't prone to flooding.

Identify your home's structural risks

Find out if your home has any weaknesses that could prove deadly in a hurricane. Are your exterior doors and garage door hurricane proof? Do you have storm shutters? Some aspects of your home can be strengthened to help withstand hurricane impacts, and some can not. Mobile homes are especially vulnerable to hurricane-force winds, and basements are especially vulnerable to storm surge and flooding.

Basic **DISASTER** Supply List

To assemble your kit store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- ◇ Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- ◇ Food (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- ◇ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a ◇NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- ◇ Flashlight
- ◇ First aid kit
- ◇ Extra batteries
- ◇ Whistle (to signal for help)
- ◇ Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- ◇ Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- ◇ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- ◇ Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- ◇ Manual can opener (for food)
- ◇ Local maps
- ◇ Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

Additional Emergency Supplies

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- ◇ Soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- ◇ Prescription medications. About half of all Americans

- take a prescription medicine every day. An emergency can make it difficult for them to refill their prescription or to find an open pharmacy. Organize and protect your prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, and vitamins to prepare for an emergency.
- ◇ Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- ◇ Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- ◇ Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- ◇ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ◇ Cash or traveler's checks
- ◇ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- ◇ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- ◇ Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- ◇ Fire extinguisher
- ◇ Matches in a waterproof container
- ◇ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- ◇ Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- ◇ Paper and pencil
- ◇ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

You should know -

**The Commonwealth has not ever flooded.
The areas around us HAVE - including Sweetwater and Avalon.**

**We should give credit to our L.I.D. which has worked hard for decades to keep us dry and safe!
We have been lucky to have such committed L.I.D. Directors.**

That being said, ALWAYS be alert and prepared.....

If you have any information about the plant thefts along Commonwealth Blvd., please contact Sugar Land PD and/or Crest!!!!

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If you are interested in helping to organize our Annual July 4th Parade and Picnic, please shoot an email directed to either Sarah or Melissa on our website at:

www.commonwealthcivic.com/contact-us

Sugar Land Info

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 Memorial Day Ceremony Day to Salute Fallen Soldiers Memorial

In honor of the soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in active military service, the city of Sugar Land is hosting its Annual Memorial Day Ceremony.

For more information visit www.SugarLandTX.gov/SpecialEvents.

**Monday, May 27
at Sugar Land Memorial Park,
15300 University Boulevard**

Admission is free and open to all members of the public.

The event will begin at 10:30 a.m.

A Military vehicle exhibit presented by the Sixth Cavalry Historical Association will be on-site, as well as military associated vendor booths. A formal tribute will follow at 11 a.m. with words of remembrance by local dignitaries. The ceremony presenter and emcee will be Ret. Brigadier Gen. Dave Van Kleeck with guest speaker Major Gen. Anthony Woods, the commanding general of the Texas State Guard.

Patriotic musical tributes.

Patriotic coloring station for children

Food Trucks will be onsite with items available for purchase.

Limited handicap and public parking will be available.

Attendees are strongly encouraged to use the complimentary shuttle services available at Brazos River Park running continuously from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The program will acknowledge the names of veterans engraved inside the walls of the Remembrance Tower located at the park. Wreaths will be laid to honor the fallen at the Sugar Land Remembrance Tower, Veterans Memorial Eagle Plaza and the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument. A special memorial will also be presented during the program. The Houston Commemorative Air Force will perform a military flyover, and there will be a 21-gun salute by the Sugar Land Police Department Honor Guard. The ceremony will close with a patriotic song. A traditional flag observance led by local Boy Scout troops will occur at noon.

Fort Bend County Info

WWW.FORTBENDCOUNTYTX.GOV

Incorporated in 1959

Fort Bend County Judge:

KP George

Commissioner Precinct 3 (Commonwealth):

Andy Meyer

Fort Bend County Sheriff:

Eric Fagan

SCAM ALERT! - Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office (FBCSO) was recently informed of an ongoing federal jury duty scam targeting local residents.

Scammers have been contacting residents and impersonating personnel from the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office demanding immediate payment to avoid a warrant being issued for their arrest for citation fines. Scammers are also demanding payment for outstanding warrants, ongoing civil matters, and other violations.

Please be advised that scammers are calling from local and non-local phone numbers, and they have your information: full name, address, and possibly other personal information.

They are also using the FBCSO address (1840 Richmond Parkway, Richmond, TX) as well as FBCSO employee names to further validate the scam.

We absolutely CANNOT stress this enough:

The Sheriff's Office DOES NOT call anyone requesting money or payment of any kind, for ANY reason!

If you receive a call from someone stating they are with the FBCSO, we strongly urge you NOT to agree to make a payment, and NEVER give out any personal information, (social security number, drivers license, or date of birth).

Please protect yourself from fraud by refusing to make direct payment to the scammers and to confirm with whom you are speaking. Scammers are prone to using lies, threats, harassment, and intimidation to collect money. Take all measures to identify the company, the collector's full name, company address and phone number, website, and email address.

SCAM ALERT! - Jury Duty Scam

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office (FBCSO) was recently made aware of an ongoing jury duty scam targeting local residents. Scammers have been contacting residents and impersonating personnel from the Fort Bend County District Clerk's Office and the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office demanding immediate payment for fines that have been issued as a failure to report for jury duty service to avoid a warrant being issued for their arrest.

We would like to remind you that the Sheriff's Office DOES NOT call anyone requesting money or payment of any kind. If you receive a call from someone stating they are with the FBCSO, we strongly urge you to ask the caller detailed questions, NEVER agree to payment, and **NEVER give out any personal information i.e. SSN, DL, or DOB.**

Please protect yourself from falling victim to fraud by ensuring you conduct extensive research on who you are speaking with.

Fort Bend County 2024 Youth Leadership Program

Fort Bend County is now accepting applications for its 2024 Youth Leadership Program, aimed at fostering the next generation of leaders within our community.

The Youth Leadership Program is designed to engage high school students in a comprehensive curriculum focused on leadership development, community service, and civic engagement through a series of workshops and hands-on activities, participants will have the opportunity to enhance their leadership abilities, cultivate critical thinking skills, and explore various facets of public service.

The 2024 Youth Leadership Program will feature guest speakers, interactive sessions, and collaborative projects that encourage participants to address real-world challenges facing the county. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to connect with local leaders, mentors, and organizations dedicated to youth empowerment and community development.

Applications for the 2024 Youth Leadership Program are now open to high school students residing in Fort Bend County. Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their application by **May 30, 2024.**

Civic Association Board of Directors Information

The Commonwealth Board of Directors

President

Jim Levermann

Vice President

David Bristow

Treasurer

Melissa Harrington

Secretary

Jennifer Vance

Member At Large

Sarah McCoy

Board Member Liaisons

Clubhouse, Pool and Swim Team –
Jennifer Vance

Communications: (newsletter, website, eblasts and marquee) –
Sarah McCoy

Community Events and Clubs –
Sarah McCoy & Melissa Harrington

Enhancement Committee –
Melissa Harrington

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

Modifications Committee –
Dave Bristow

Playgrounds – Jim Levermann

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

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



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.

Additional 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

The 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.

CREST MANAGEMENT Company, Contact Information

P. O. Box 219320, Houston, TX. 77218

www.crest-management.com

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

Commonwealth Groups & Activities

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 Sarah McCoy or Melissa Harrington 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 Melissa Harrington or Sarah McCoy.

Reach Melissa and/or Sarah by visiting [www.commonwealthcivic.com/contact us](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com/contact-us).

Commonwealth Communications

Commonwealth Email Alert Sign Up:

Shoot an email to news@commonwealthcivic.com
Include your name and address
and we will add you!

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.

Please encourage your Commonwealth friends and neighbors to sign up for our Commonwealth Email Alerts. That is the only way to receive this newsletter and to ensure you are kept in The Commonwealth loop.

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

For those interested, we also have a Facebook Page - The Commonwealth HOA - where we post plenty of items of interest, not all of which is included in our emails.

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

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

NOTES and REMINDERS

Have something to celebrate?

Our beautifully decorated 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:
commonwealthcivic.com

The City of Sugar Land regulations require that your dog be leashed, at all times while in front of your home, or walking the neighborhood.

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.



*This newsletter is Underwritten by
The Commonwealth Civic Association*

REMINDER ==

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

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

www.commonwealthcivic.com

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

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

Crest Management 281-579-0761

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

A-BeautifulPools.com

Enjoy Your Summer

