

Commonwealth Comments

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

September/October, 2017

www.commonwealthcivic.com

The Commonwealth Board of Directors

Dave Bristow
President
281-980-3150

CI/O

Bob Beskow
Vice President
832-671-9426

CI/O

David Cao
Treasurer
281-701-8070

CI/O

Steve O'Hara
Secretary
281-265-4485

CI/O

Courtney Hochalter
Member

Crest Management Service

Heather Esteban
Property Manager
281-579-0761

Board Meetings are held at the Clubhouse at 6 p.m. on the third 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.

Changes At The Top

After decades of deep involvement in The Commonwealth Civic Association, Virginia Mack has retired from her board duties. Her last board meeting was in August. As a strong leader in this community, Virginia will be missed. She will, however, remain in The Commonwealth and will be available to assist as she is able.

Virginia has served as Board President for the past few years and has served as Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Virginia's greatest asset was her ability to get residents involved in our groups and committees. She is also a member of the Commonwealth Women's Club. We thank her for her support and commitment to strengthening our community. We are successful because of our board members' dedication to The Commonwealth.

At the August meeting, the board appointed Courtney Hochalter to finish Virginia Mack's term.

Annual Meeting Highlights

The following is a recap of information at our Annual Meeting held at the Clubhouse in May.

- **Board Member Election-** Incumbents Dave Bristow, David Cao and Bob Bestow were unanimously re-elected to another two year term. (Thank you for volunteering to run again and devoting your time and expertise to our community for another two years.)

- **Landscaping update-** Over 30 trees were planted throughout the community. Old trees, and those at the end of their lifecycles, were replaced. New trees were planted in some areas that never had trees but, it was determined, needed them. There was more landscaping added along the oldest parts of fencing along Commonwealth Blvd. to partially hide the old wooden fences - many of which need replacing. This year we will be working on revamping our irrigation system by moving rain sensors that, because of tree growth, are now located under trees and those sprinklers that are not working properly.

- **Architectural Control Guidelines-** Our document has been revised and is posted on our website for residents to review before updating or remodeling Commonwealth property. You may view it at www.commonwealthcivic.com, on the Guidelines and Forms page. Please take the time to review the new updated guidelines before starting modifications to the outside of your home.

-continued on page 3 -

Activity Directory

If you don't see an activity group that appeals to you, start one!
The Association supports approved groups.

BLOCK CAPTAINS

We are always looking for Block Captains for our Neighborhood Watch Program. Contact Leigh Mattson at:

Leigh@mattsonrealtor.com or
Sue at news@commonwealthcivic.com

Commonwealth Chinese Club - CCC

Uniting Chinese-speaking families, promoting community news, events and spirit, engaging non-English speakers in community activities and mingling at social/informative events. If interested, contact Darcy at: 847-800-2889 or email her at: danli2013@gmail.com.

Commonwealth Social Club

The Social Club has a great time during* its' monthly outings. This adults only group is for empty nesters (couples and singles) interested in meeting others who share a passion for ball games, nights on the town, card games, dinner parties, theatre, travel wine tastings, Super Bowl Watching parties or a few hours of quiet conversation.

Contact Virginia at: virginiamack@ftbendhomes.com
for more information and to get on the email list.

Mommy and Me Play Group

Blanca has wonderful activities planned and the kids have a great time, as do their moms. This is a great time to join other neighborhood moms and their small children for play dates at one of the area parks, or in each other's homes.

Contact Blanca Barron at blancabarron00@yahoo.com or give her a call for more information: 713-885-7664.

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 Virginia and let her know of your interest. The Association will help publicize your group and attempt to help you grow. VirginiaMack@ftbendhomes.com or 281-207-5200.

Golf

Men's Golf Group

The Commonwealth Men's Golf Group always accepts players for last minute pairings on various golf courses in the area. If you want to be added to the list, contact Greg at gregmack@gmail.com.

Special Events

Katy Weimer (aggiekaty@hotmail.com) and Lacie McClanahan (laciemcc@aol.com) have some great Special Events ideas for the year ahead. If you are interested in helping these ladies organize and oversee future events, please let them know.

Tennis

Men's Tennis

If you are interested in playing tennis with other Commonwealth residents, this group is for you. BUT....the group needs a leader! Please contact Virginia Mack at 281-207-5200 if interested.

Women's Tennis

If you are interested in playing tennis with other Commonwealth women, call Jean at 713-385-4097.

The Commonwealth Clubhouse is available for rent, at reasonable rates, by members in good standing with the Association.

Call Crest Management for more information.
281-579-0761

REMINDER -- Please put trash cans (and recycling bins) at the curb ONLY on the mornings of trash pick up days. 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.

HOA Newsletter - Sue Hauenstein
281-265-4556
news@commonwealthcivic.com

*You can place a business card sized ad for \$75.00 per issue.
No long term commitment. Give us a call!*

If you are not receiving regular emails from The Commonwealth Civic Association, you are NOT on our Email Alert distribution list. This can be remedied by simply sending an email to: news@commonwealthcivic.com. Add your name and tell us which neighborhood you live in and we will add you to the list. Get important news quickly with our Email Alert system. We do NOT share your email address with any outside sources.

- **Commonwealth Piranhas Swim Team-** We are very proud of our swim team. There were 187 Commonwealth children swimming this year and they captured first place in Division 4.
- **Special Events Committee-** Katy Weimer and Lacy McClanahan lead a fabulous team of residents and are throwing some fantastic parties and events in our community throughout the year. The Special Events Committee has had a successful year!
- **Knightsbridge Pool Renovation-** Resurfacing of both the pool and the deck, re-coping, and bathroom renovation will begin in October. We are purchasing new pool furniture to give the area a more resort like feel. More details on pool changes in a future newsletter.

Just FYI

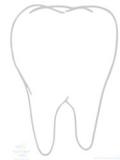
The HOA received dozens of phone calls regarding cables that were run throughout parts of our neighborhood before the Independence Day holiday.

Our Association was given no prior notification that these cables were coming! Phone calls to the city were not returned.

Our understanding is that the cables are there so that FBISD can better communicate with campuses, but we do not know why they are hanging so low.

If and when we learn anything, we will share in an email alert.

Susan M. Delclos, DMD, MDS, PA
 ORTHODONTIST 281-261-2504
 2869 Dulles Avenue (at Cartwright)



Henry Delclos, D.D.S.
 PEDIATRIC DENTIST 281-265-4177
 2225 Williams Trace Blvd., Ste. 106

A HUGE thank you to residents living in the Briarwood Pool area for their patience all summer regarding traffic on swim meet days!!!!

Commitment. Service. Results

**#1 Listing Agent for Commonwealth
 18 of the past 23 years.**



I specialize in The Commonwealth and can advise you on the updates that will bring you the highest return when it's time to sell your home.

If you want comps on your home, let me know!
 I'd love to help you!

It's not too late in the year to list your home. Let's talk!
 Give me a call.



Virginia Mack, ABR, CBR, CRS, GRI
281-207-5200 Direct Line



Each office is independently owned and operated

14905 Southwest Freeway,
 Sugar Land 77478
 VirginiaMack@ftbendhomes.com

Commonwealth Specialist
www.FtBendHomes.com

IMPACTING YOU

Modifications/Deed Restrictions

The Modifications Committee has completed its periodic review of, and revisions to, our "ACC Guidelines" document. The resulting updated version has been reviewed and approved by the Association Board and filed with the county by our attorney. This document is available on the Commonwealth website, from Crest Management, and the Modifications Committee.

Generally, the numerous updates appearing in the newly revised document were made to clarify and simplify the existing Guidelines, however, **significant** changes have been made in the section regarding "Landscaping". The guidelines for landscaping have been changed little over the years, and were largely dictated by the original developer through our Deed Restrictions and CC&R's.

In our early years, all of the builder installed landscaping was new, or at least young. Over the years, like everything else, trees, shrubs, and other plants require maintenance and replacement. One area addressed in particular is the density of the plantings in front of houses with a view towards hiding the slab. In many cases, homeowners have removed dead shrubs and have not replaced them so that the front view of the house looks barren. In some cases, the trees planted in the yard have grown to the point where they shade the planting beds and so shrubs that are more shade tolerant than the shrubs planted by the builder are required. Landscaping has a lot to do with the "look" of a home and our neighborhood, as well as our neighborhood's curb appeal.

The new ACC Guidelines can be downloaded from the Commonwealth website (www.commonwealthcivic.com). Please submit an exterior modification request form for any outside work you want to do on your home. Just because you see something on another home does not mean that it complies with the current ACC Guidelines. The same applies to like-for-like replacements.

-continues-



If you are on Facebook, please join our Commonwealth HOA Facebook page. We post frequently, sharing information that we feel is of interest to our residents.
One more way to stay connected!

Updated Regularly With Timely Info



**Simpson's
Tree Service**
Tree Trimming
Tree Removal

Mention this ad and receive
\$50 OFF All services over \$500
OR
\$25 OFF All services under \$500

When Quality Counts...
Call 281.980.0095
or Text your pictures to
832.275.3823

Please read the applicable guidelines and provide all of the information and materials specified on the exterior modification request form so that it may be processed at the next Modifications Committee meeting.

Incomplete modification request forms will be denied with a request for additional information.

Exterior modification request forms should be delivered to Crest Management by the end of the day on the second Tuesday of the month.

If you would like to join the Special Events Committee, you are welcome to attend their third Friday of the month coffees at the Clubhouse at 8:15 a.m.

Neighborhood Night Out

This year's National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, October 3. On this evening, we encourage our residents to host block parties and get to know the neighbors on their block. If you have a block captain, you should be aware of it. If you do not think you have one, please consider volunteering for this position. We don't ask much of our Block Captains. **For more information, contact Leigh (713-823-6843) or Sue at news@commonwealthcivic.com.**

Your gathering can be as simple as sitting in the driveway and visiting or be more active, such as grilling burgers and dogs. It's entirely up to you.

Block Captains (BC) arrange the annual NNO get-together and simply share information they may receive from the Association with the people living closest to them. We ask that BCs maintain a contact list in case of emergency. Take the time to meet the people on your assigned block and collect names, phone numbers and email addresses. Know who lives in the homes and what vehicles they drive.

July 4th Parade and Picnic

This year's Independence Day event drew between 600 & 700 residents who enjoyed some delicious grilled burgers and dogs. Many also participated in the parade. There are some photos on the back page of this newsletter.

Thanks to Board Member David Cao for organizing and overseeing this annual celebration. David could not have pulled off this successful event without the help of our wonderful and generous residents.

Please visit our website to see the names of those who donated time and resources to our parade and picnic.

www.commonwealthcivic.com



The Commonwealth Piranhas had a fantastic, fun, and competitive summer season with 287 registered swimmers. The team was undefeated in all Division 4 meets. The team also won the division's Meet of Champions 10 & Under session and was runner-up in the 11 & Up session. The Piranhas were well represented at the SHRSL All-Stars meet with multiple qualifiers in individual and relay events.



GILLEN Pest Control.com

Outsmarting Bugs for Over 50 Years!

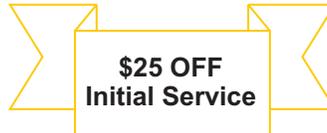
281-342-6969

Residential & Commercial Pest Control • Lawns • Trees

- Roaches
- Ants
- Spiders
- Fleas/Ticks
- Bees/Wasp
- Termites
- Lawn/Trees
- Fertilization
- Deep Root Feeding
- Insect Control
- Fungus Control



Gary Gillen



Cannot be combined with other offers.

TPC Lic #58

Family Owned and Operated Since 1963

Terri Kurkjian & Associates

Fort Bend Home Specialists

"We LIVE in the community, SUPPORT the community, & BELIEVE in the community"

For Sale



3851 Sundance Hill Lane
\$899,900



6303 Cool Water Court
\$414,000



3814 Hogan Court
\$599,900



Terri K - 713-582-7911
TerriKurkjian@me.com



4911 Glen Hollow St.



38 Bradford Circle



10 Dartmoor Ct.



Leigh Mattson -713-823-6843
Leigh@MattsonRealtor.com

Office: 281-265-5533
www.terrihomes.com

RE/MAX 2016 Rankings
#3 in Houston #10 in Texas
each office independently owned and operated





Chinese Club Ice Cream Social - in June



July 4 Picnic



Commonwealth Community Fun



Summer Movie Nights



End of School Year Party

Voted Sugar Land's Best Realtor, Nancy Benevides



- ❖ Top Commonwealth Listing Realtor
- ❖ Nancy's homes sell for more per sq ft on average than any others sold in Commonwealth!
- ❖ Houston Association Ranked by ALL previous clients 4.97 out of 5 Stars!
- ❖ Top 25 Residential Real Estate Team -*Houston Bus Journal*
- ❖ 5 Star Realtor TX Monthly Magazine-5 years in a row!

713-203-9975

44+ Million SOLD in 2016



4834 Durham Ln
\$450,000



4823 Keneshaw
\$549,000

Sold Listings



4211 Canterbury
\$498,900



4607 S Hampton
\$625,000



4823 Andover St
\$435,000



4711 Castlewood
\$450,000



31 Burwick
\$615,000



5006 Berkshire
\$435,000



4803 Burbury St
\$634,500



4415 Saint Michaels
\$639,000



5315 Avondale
\$465,000



4310 Saint Michaels
\$889,000

Best Curb Appeal Winner

4323 St Michaels- The Kornegay Family



Association Information

Landscape Committee (meets as needed)
Contact Steve O'Hara 281-265-4485
for the next meeting time and date.

Clubhouse Rentals
Crest Management 281-579-0761

Pool Rentals
A-Beautiful Pools 281-376-6510

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
281-579-0761

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 (Centrepoint)	713-207-2222
<i>when calling about street lights, relay pole #.</i>	
POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY	9-1-1



Always needed-
always appreciated!

To be considered at the monthly meeting, MDR applications must be received in Crest Management's office, on or before, the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact Crest Management at 281-579-0761.

Newsletter, Website and Facebook:
Sue Hauenstein news@commonwealthcivic.com
The Commonwealth Civic Association does not investigate, qualify, or certify this newsletter's advertisers. The business of each advertiser is independent of the Association.

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
HOUSTON
PERMIT NO. 6270

The Commonwealth Women's Club

The **Commonwealth Women's Club** is open to all Commonwealth women. The group meets monthly during the school year. Some of these women have been meeting for decades and some have only recently joined the club. Members would love to have you join them for the 2017-2018 season.

Make some new friends or reconnect with old ones and enjoy a relaxing evening with the ladies!

Start the year off with a
Trip to Spain
Tapas and Spanish Wine

Wednesday, September 20 at 7 p.m.
36 Bradford Circle
at the home of Connie Buckingham

"Is It Chili Yet?" - Wednesday, October 11

To receive details about each month's event, be sure to get on the email distribution list. Contact Monica at **Monicaclancy@clancylearning.com** or call 713-775-4236 (cell).

Health and Fitness



Yoga & Meditation For All

The Commonwealth Clubhouse
Tuesdays from 9-10 a.m.

Free YOGA class -Yoga, Pranayam (Breath work),
and Guided Meditation.

Inviting you all to the Commonwealth clubhouse
every Tuesday at 9 a.m. (sharp).
Just bring your yoga mat and towel!

This class is taught by resident
Varsha Pangarkar,
a certified yoga instructor practicing for over 20 years

Email zestandzen1@gmail.com
for more information and
to be added to the distribution list.