

Commonwealth Comments

September/October 2023

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

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Are we done yet?

***Underwritten by
The Commonwealth
Civic Association***



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 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 Jennifer Vance or Sarah McCoy and let them know of your interest. The Association will help publicize your group and attempt to help you grow.

The Commonwealth has a Social Committee

To get involved with helping to schedule and organize events, please contact either 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.

Crest Management also offers an email opt-in.

Their email allows you to receive **OFFICIAL BUSINESS** communications from them via email. Signing up will save the Association printing and postage costs which helps keep annual dues down:

- ◇ Electronic HOA statements can come straight to your inbox
- ◇ Notifications and Violation Letters will arrive quicker

Crest Management Email List Sign Up:

1. Login at www.crest-management.com and click on the user icon by your name.
2. Select User Settings
3. Check the box next to Email Opt-in.
4. Click Update Email Choices

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

**WE SURVIVED THE
SUMMER OF 2023**

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Civic Association News

The Civic Association Board is investing in enhancing our landscaping along Commonwealth Blvd and really wants community input on the landscape plans.

This is your home, most likely your largest investment. Have a say in keeping home values high. Get involved.

Please consider joining the Landscape Committee to assist with future phases of our upgrades!



Commonwealth Veggie Co-op Update

The Commonwealth's partnership with the

HARVEST GREEN VILLAGE

FARM VEGGIE SHARE

has proven to be a GREAT success thus far.

We were invited to participate in the Fall Veggie share.

If we maintain our minimum # of members, pickup is available each week at our Clubhouse.

To JOIN —> Fill out the nonresident form on the website below

The farmers will know from the address you enter where your pick up location is:

<https://www.harvie.farm/profile/harvest-green-village-farm>

If you'd like to Tour the Farm, reservations can be made here —>

<https://hgvillegefarm.ticketleap.com/>

For questions about our Commonwealth pickup, email Jenna Ross at: jennagiarratano@hotmail.com

It sure was a HOT one!

We are very happy to say that we had very little damage to our landscaping this summer and both of our pools were well utilized!

Here's hoping for a cooler fall and a little rain to get us ready for a BEAUTIFUL SPRING!



Visit the
Crest Management
website for:

Exterior Modification Requests, Contacts, to Access Account
information, pool tags,
meeting dates, etc.



Questions or need help downloading a Modifications Application
from the website. ? Reach out to RONALD at Crest at 281-945-4663.

REMINDER

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

For timely approval, applications should be in the office of
Crest Management on or before the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Questions About Trash Pickup?

Visit the City of Sugar Land's website to learn more!
www.sugarlandtx.gov - Search for your area of concern on the site.
Or call 3-1-1.

**In the 1990s, The Commonwealth HOA began producing a PRINTED newsletter.
It was mailed to each residence on a monthly basis.
A few years ago, due to the increasing cost of printing and mailing the newsletter,
the Board decided to switch to an electronic version.
It is currently produced every other month.**

**Since we made the switch, we have had a large number of new people move into the community.
A great number of them are unaware of both the email alert system AND the newsletter.**

**We ask that you please share this edition of Commonwealth Comments
with a neighbor who may not be aware of its' existence!
The newsletter and the email are the major communications methods for the neighborhood.
If you are not on our email alert list, you miss out on a lot of helpful information.**



If you would like to advertise your business in our bi-monthly (electronic) newsletter,
6 issues annually, please send an email to news@commonwealthcivic.com and
we will share the rate information. Ads range from business card sized to half page.

We also offer Classy Ads (**for residents only**) which are merely a listing of your business
and a link to your business web page.

Simpson's Tree Service



Tree Trimming and Removal  **Free Estimates**

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

When Quality Counts... Call 281.980.0095
www.SimpsonsTreeService.com

Another Successful Parade & Picnic

Commonwealth volunteers are the best. A huge thank you to the team that organized and oversaw the event.

And many thanks to those on the Enhancements Committee for seeing that our new pool furniture was delivered in time!



National Night Out 2023

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August (Texas and select areas celebrate on the first Tuesday in October). Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more.

Prior to the pandemic, our community had wonderful participation in this event. Individual blocks/sections held gatherings ranging from driveway visits to backyard bar-b-ques, dessert parties and more.

This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, get to know each other and exchange contact information. We hope that you will find this undertaking helpful in creating that true sense of community most of us were looking for when we purchased our homes in The Commonwealth.

Please see the flyer on page 12 and reach out to Katy if you have any questions.



Neighborhood Walking Club



A Commonwealth neighbor has started a Walking Club for our community.

Start date - meet at 5:30 AM Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Interested parties can email: gumbylee@gmail.com.

* This will be a 1 mile loop (to begin with) and then we can add more mileage as needed. She is also considering Saturdays @ 7 or 8 AM.

Contact her to share your interest, suggestions, comments.

New Group Activity

MailBox Issues

If your mailbox is in need of maintenance or replacement, please contact Heather at Crest (281-579-0761) to make a report. You will need to provide the location of the mailbox cluster. It would also be helpful if you can include photos.

Please do so as soon as you are aware of the issue.

There is a lag time of at LEAST ONE MONTH from the time you report the mailbox needs until corrective action would begin.

Unfortunately, neither the HOA, nor Crest, have any control over mailbox keys. You must contact the Post Office for that.

Cluster Boxes: This is what we have in The Commonwealth. It is a centralized unit of individually locked compartments for the delivery and collection of mail. Cluster Box units or "community mailboxes" offer the greatest amount of fuel savings and carbon emission reductions because carriers can deliver mail to multiple customers during a single stop with less truck idle time.

Mailbox Keys

If the mailbox for a house, condo, apartment or other physical residence is owned and maintained by the US Postal Service® the keys will be available either from the owner, manager or prior resident of the property or from the local Post Office. If the keys were not turned in, you may have to request a lock change and pay a fee at your local Post Office.

Duplicate Keys

For a box not owned and maintained by the USPS, a duplicate key can be made at your expense by visiting a locksmith. If the box is owned and maintained by the USPS (additional keys, key duplication, or replacement) each key, a duplicate key can be obtained for a fee.

Note: There is no established fee; this charge is based on local costs.*

When you move out, leave the mailbox key(s) for the next resident. Any duplicate keys that you had made should also be left when you move out.

If you find a key in your mailbox when you retrieve your mail, it is likely for the parcel locker. The parcel locker is used for items that are too large for your individual box within the Cluster Box. This key has a tag that indicates the parcel locker that contains your item. Insert the key into the correct parcel locker, and you will be able to

retrieve your mail piece. The key will remain in the locker once you have inserted it.

If your key breaks or is lost, please contact your local Post Office facility for assistance.

Neither our (unpaid) HOA Board members nor Crest, monitors mailboxes on a regular basis. We need your cooperation in order to prevent loss of mail delivery when there is a problem.

Resource:

<https://faq.usps.com/s/article/Locked-Mailboxes-and-Mailbox-Keys>



Garage Sales

The Association continues to receive inquiries about our next Community-Wide Garage Sale.

The Commonwealth Civic Association permits Garage Sales organized and run with approval of the HOA. The Association is happy to help publicize and underwrite the cost of hosting a Community-Wide Garage Sale, however, it will require a resident volunteer to organize and oversee the operation. The HOA then permits signage throughout the neighborhood.

If you would like to help oversee the next Garage Sale, simply reach out to Sarah at : [commonwealthcivic.com/contact-us](mailto:sarah@commonwealthcivic.com)

Hog Update

Update from the City of Sugar Land on feral hog traps:

- The trap set along Scenic Rivers on 6/13/23 has successfully trapped 10 hogs to date.
- City staff continues to work with CenterPoint on an access agreement to install traps within their easement.
- A contract is in place for a third party trapping contractor starting in October.
- City staff received permission from UH to use their property to set a trap, south of campus in October.
- City staff will continue to provide updates as they become available, however wildlife control is outside the scope of normal service levels.

Thanks to Jim Levermann, HOA Board President for keeping us updated!

Sugar Land & Fort Bend County News

WWW.SUGARLANDTX.GOV

Incorporated in 1959

Mayor of Sugar Land:

Joe Zimmerman

City Councilmember for District 4 (Commonwealth):

Carol McCutcheon

At-Large Sugar Land Councilmembers:

William Ferguson

Jennifer Lane

At the quarterly meeting between the HOAs and the City of Sugar Land, Board President Jim Levermann and Vice President David Bristow heard reports from the Sugar Land Police Department, the Sugar Land Fire Department, a Right of Way update, Planning and Development Update, Development Services and an Economic Development Update.

There is always time for Q&A at the end of each meeting.

According to Forbes, Sugar Land was rated #10 in the Safest Cities in the US (with a population over 100,000).

Even though we have seen a slight increase in crime from May to June, we have seen a 16% decline in the second quarter of 2023 compared to 2022.

While the number of shoplifting incidents has increased by 39%, the good news is that there is an 85% decrease in theft of motor vehicle parts.

There has been a 21% decrease in Auto Thefts (from 2022 to 2023) - Most incidents occur in commercial areas (i.e. First Colony Mall).

The most stolen vehicles = Chevrolet Silverado.

60% of those apprehended go to jail.

Burglary of Motor Vehicles is down 50% from 2022-23.

3 out of 5 burglaries occur in homes -

2 out of 5 in apartment complexes.

There has been a 50% increase in robberies - generally in commercial areas.

SLPD has experienced a 92% increase in traffic stops - most of which turn up weapons and drugs.

In 2022 there were 49 juggings in Sugar Land.

Sugar Land responded to 70,931 calls for services in 2022.

This is a 4% decrease from the 74,299 calls in 2021.

Response times are reported each quarter and collated by fiscal year. SLPD's goal is to respond to 80% of priority calls within seven minutes: One minute for dispatch and six minutes for police response. SLPD reached 84% for 2022.

The three top locations for Burglary of a Motor Vehicle are Residential | Parking lots | Garages and Restaurants

2023 Priorities

Project Lifesaver (PLS) - 8-12 Sugar Land residents

• **Leverage Technology: Cell Phones in Patrol Cars**

• **Tickets • Evidence.com**

• **Sandra Bland Reporting • UAS**

• **Active Violence Incident Training**

• **Crisis Intervention Training**

• **Recruiting and Hiring**

• **Visual Presence, On-line Reporting, Extended Lobby Desk Officers, and Community Partnerships.**

Project Lifesaver

Project Lifesaver is a program for individuals with cognitive disabilities such as autism, dementia, Alzheimer's, or traumatic brain injury who have a history of wandering from home. Project Lifesaver International (PLI), is a non-profit that was established in 1999 that locates individuals gone wandering.

PLI has strategically designed methods and techniques for the specific use of recovering individuals with a cognitive condition. When applied by first responders these innovative strategies enable the most efficient rescue of an eloped client.

PLI provides first responders with a basic understanding of cognitive conditions, giving them the necessary tools needed to respond to an elopement and to assess and effectively manage the safe and comfortable return.

To enroll or learn more, visit www.fbcsoyana.com/

Fire & EMS

The Sugar Land Fire Department carefully watches and measures: Fire Response Times and EMS Response Times. Maintaining Service Levels and Critical Infrastructure are very important to the Department. They believe in investment in Citizen Engagement and Community Engagement and are always willing to partner with residents in this regard.

The Department is currently Adopting & Implementing International Fire Code 2021 | a Comprehensive Event Calendar | Best Practice Accreditation | Officer Development | a Community Driven Strategic Plan and more.

They have made a sizeable investment in technology and response times are good. Unfortunately, they do expect a 50% increase in structure fires in the future.

You can join Sugar Land Fire Department efforts by opening the QR code on this page and signing up.

Additionally, be sure to watch future email alerts for information on the Sugar Land Citizens Fire Academy.



Fort Bend County Resident Jury Scam

Identity thieves have been calling and threatening Fort Bend County residents for failing to report to jury service and demanding that they pay a fine or a warrant will be issued for their arrest. These thieves asked for confidential information and claim to be from the District Clerk's office or the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office.

The Fort Bend County District Clerk's Office WILL NEVER call any resident of Fort Bend County and request their social security number, credit card numbers or any other sensitive information. **DO NOT give out any sensitive information to anyone claiming to be from the Fort Bend County District Clerk's Office.**

The Fort Bend County District Clerk's Office, The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, nor any other law enforcement agency WILL EVER call any resident of Fort Bend County and instruct them to pay a fine over the phone in order to avoid a warrant being issued for their arrest.

If you receive one of these calls and or have been a victim please contact the **Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office at (281) 341-4686** to file a report.



STAY IN THE LOOP

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



Click on the blue envelope to see the City of Sugar Land's Sign Up Form

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

FortBendCountyTX.Gov -
e-notifications at the bottom of the page.

NOTES and REMINDERS

Have something to celebrate?

Our beautifully redecorated Clubhouse is available for rent by residents in good standing with The Commonwealth Homeowners Association.

If you are interested in scheduling a small gathering, please contact Crest Management.

281-579-0761

Be sure to check out The Commonwealth website where you will find documents, forms, a link to pay your dues, newsletters, local information and more!

Visit:
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.



The Commonwealth Civic Association does not investigate, qualify, or certify this newsletter's advertisers.

The business of each advertiser is independent of the 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: American Pools 281-916-0020
americanpool.com/locations/houston-pool-services

Commonwealth Pool Schedule and Hours of Operation

Knightsbridge

Through **OCTOBER 1st**
(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 **SEPTEMBER 4th**
(Weekends only)

Saturday 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Labor Day 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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

Briarwood Splash Pad

Both the splash pad and exterior pool restroom can be accessed by requesting a splash pad access card.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Access to the restroom during pool hours will be through the main pool entry gate.
- Access to the exterior restroom when the pool is closed can be obtained with this access card. The restroom will be accessible from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m.
- The splash pad will be open each year from **March 1st- October 31st from 8 a.m. until dusk.**
- The posted rules at the splash pad must be followed.
- If the restrooms need cleaning or attention, please contact Ronald with Crest Management (contact info below).

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

Pool Tags are required!

Commonwealth's Back To School Party



National Night Out



The Commonwealth

Sugarlandtx.gov

NNO aims to build tighter and safer communities by getting neighbors together and forging meaningful connections with our public safety departments. Are you interested in hosting a National Night Out Party at your house or local park? Please go to Sugarlandtx.gov to register your party, which includes a free host t-shirt and a visit from a safety officer. Traditionally NNO falls on the first Tuesday of October from 6-9pm but parties can be moved to weekends if desired. Please contact Katy Weimer at 832-520-5176 for neighborhood questions.

- Please bring:
Main dish
- Please bring:
Drinks
- Please bring:
Desserts
- Please bring:
Side dish
- Please bring:
Plates, forks, & napkins
- Please bring:
Tables & chairs
- Please bring:
Music and equipment
- Please bring:
Yard games
- Please bring:
Bounce house
- Please bring:
Patriotic decor

Please contact Katy Weimer at 832-520-5176 for questions you have regarding NNO activities in The Commonwealth.