

## **The NEW Commonwealth Comments**

To recap, in an effort to save money on printing and postage, and bring you information on a more timely basis, the printed Commonwealth Comments is now published on-line. Going paperless will also enable us to provide longer articles with more pertinent information as needed.

The newsletters will continue to be produced on a bi-monthly basis with publication of "breaking news" (anything urgent/important) going out via our Email Alerts. We will also post on the <a href="www.Commonwealthcivic.com">www.Commonwealthcivic.com</a> website and on our Facebook page when determined appropriate.

In the past, we have used our email alerts extensively during hurricanes, other major weather events and, of course, most recently during the Coronavirus pandemic, as well as to cover neighborhood news and issues.

For the past six months, we have been collecting resident email addresses so that we can keep you informed. You were asked to sign up for one or both: the Email Alerts and the electronic newsletters. A huge thank you to the residents who have already registered.

Most residents wish to be kept aware of all aspects of life in our neighborhood, our city AND our county. We will, therefore, merge these lists and all residents who expressed an interest over the past six months will now automatically receive all communications from the HOA.

We try not to overuse our list. Each email address will be notified when the Commonwealth Comments is posted on our website. We NEVER share your email addresses.

You may unsubscribe at any time by sending an email to: news@commonwealthcivic.com and asking for removal.

Please continue to share our email alerts with residents who may **not** already be registered. They can register by shooting an email to:

News@CommonwealthCivic.com stating their names and physical address. as well as the email addresses they wish to add to our list.

Please address any concerns to Heather at heather@crest-management.com.

#### Please patronize our advertisers - They support our community!

Crest Management Service Heather Esteban, Property Manager 281-945-4630 (After Hours Emergency # 713-935-7331)

#### The Commonwealth Board of Directors

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Member	Member
Jim Levermann	Dave Bristow	Sumita Ghosh	Rajeev Somani	Rajesh Walawalkar

#### www.commonwealthcivic.com

news@commonwealthcivic.com

Board Meetings are held at the Clubhouse at 6 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Please verify in the event the date must be rescheduled.



## iii 261-744-9237 to jina out now 100 can save THOOSANDS in Listing Fee

## **Deed Restrictions**

Deed Restrictions are one of the few, maybe the most important "tools", that the Board has, in maintaining and enhancing our property values and the ambiance of our neighborhoods.

Deed Restrictions, CC&R's and architectural guidelines are common in the Houston area, and certainly so in Sugar Land. Homeowners new to the area may not recognize this, but have only to consult the documents signed at closing, to realize what they agreed to.

Consulting the websites of surrounding developments like First Colony, will confirm this as a common tool (when enforced) for safeguarding property values. After all, the overall look of the community is what drew homeowners to the area.

Construction/permitting/inspection and regulations, of and by the City of Sugar Land, are largely concerned with safety standards, construction, plumbing, air conditioning, electrical etc., but also include items like fences, added exterior buildings, roofing etc.

External, as well as internal modifications, to residential properties which require City

permitting, are explained in brochures available at City Hall or from our Modifications Committee.

The City relies on HOA's, to address the issue of architecture/ambiance etc., regarding specific subdivisions. Ultimately, it is the homeowner's responsibility to acquire and follow permitting requirements of the City as well as our Commonwealth Guidelines.

Our Modifications Committee is made up of homeowners in good standing with the Association, who are volunteers, and there to help facilitate homeowner requests.

Raj Walawalkar is the HOA Boardmember Liaison to the Modifications/Deed Restrictions (MDR) Committee (chaired by long-time resident Dave Kinzelman).

It is to the benefit of our residents to get approval BEFORE beginning to make outdoor updates/modifications. You can save yourself a great deal of heartache and money if you do so.

If you have any questions regarding the process of getting your changes approved, please reach out to Brionna - 281-945-4663 | **Brionna@crest-management.com** 

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## THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME?

## **GLORY & WEST CRAFTS**



832-265-7355 (SELL)

glorycrafts@hotmail.com

FREE STAGING!!!



Over 110 5-Star Zillow Recommendations

61 Years 36 Years **Combined Experience Sugar Land Residents** 

We Sell Commonwealth

SENNEX.

"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

**RE/MAX Fine Properties** 

## Feral Hogs Are Causing Damage in The Commonwealth

If you are on The Commonwealth Email Alert List, this is not news to you. We have shared multiple emails regarding the hog problem.

If you are not on our list, this is one of the reasons you should be!

There has been a recent rise in feral hog activity in the Commonwealth, Avalon and Brazos Landing communities. There is understandable concern regarding the safety issues posed by the feral hogs as well as the increasing costs to address the damaged landscaping.

Several Commonwealth residents have awoken to see front and side yards dug up and severely damaged. This damage is caused by feral hogs entering our neighborhood, for the most part, via gates left open by residents enjoying our levees. (Gate locations can be found on page 4). They attack our yards looking for food. The damage occurs mainly during the late evening and early morning hours. This can cost individual residents thousands of dollars.

Damage is also occurring in our common areas. Replanting costs come from our HOA dues, thus some of us are paying

for hog damage twice.

It is imperative that residents utilizing those gates ensure that the gates are closed AND latched after passing through them. If you are out and about and notice an open gate, please help us out by rectifying that. For your own safety, do NOT approach the hogs, and, please keep your dogs leashed!

The City currently has two drop traps in the area. One is at Ditch H and University Blvd. The other is on Kinder Morgan property near Commonwealth and Scenic Rivers. These traps are regularly baited and monitored daily to track hog activity. In recent weeks, they have trapped over 20 hogs.

City staff is also looking at additional opportunities to track and trap hogs given the challenges associated with the trapping and dispatching of the hogs on private property. HOAs and residents should also continue to report damage.

If you notice open gates, please close and latch them!

- article continues on page 4 -





Sadly, our spiders may be as close as you get to a CREEPY Halloween this year!



Feral Hogs continued from page 3

Any sightings or damage should be reported to Animal Services as soon possible to better determine migratory patterns. You can reach City of Sugar Land Animal Services at 281-275-2364.

If you suffer hog damage to your property, please take photos and be prepared to send them, along with your name and address, to Sugar Land Animal Control.



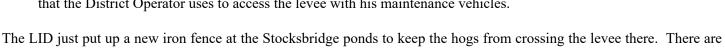


## Where ARE Those Gates?

Our LID Representatives are doing their best, but residents need to help out.

There are gates at every "pocket park" in the community that backs up to the levee. These exist so folks who don't live against the Levee, can access it.

- 1. Bratton Street this is also a gas pipeline easement between 3827 Bratton and 3915 Bratton.
- 2. At the end of Alcorn bayou, where it empties into Maranatha Farms. (Walking access from Burbury Street, between Avondale and Cambridge.)
- 3. In the back of the "wetlands" on the corner of Pendleton Street and Yorkshire Street. That one is hard for the homeowners to access because you have to march through all that underbrush to get to it. It's rarely, if ever used.
- 4. Avondale Drive that is also a gas pipeline easement crossing.
- 5 Just south of the pump Station on Avondale Drive that is also near a gas pipeline easement. It sort of lines up with the Bridgewater Trail that circles the Alcorn Lake. Its also next to the double gate that the District Operator uses to access the levee with his maintenance vehicles.



two new gates there. Additionally, they put a new fence up at the park on Avondale and a new fence up near the pump station

All of the gates are self-closing. That does not mean they never break. Residents damage them, wind storms damage them, and time simply causes them to fail.

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on Avondale.

If you notice open gates, please close and latch them!

Thanks to Ron Frerich, LID Representative for sharing this information.

#### **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:**

**CREST MANAGEMENT Company** 

Heather Esteban | Community Manager | 281-945-4630 HeatherE@crest-management.com

Brionna | Assistant Manager | 281-945-4663 |
Brionna@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.

Be sure to submit a Modifications Application and wait for an approval letter <u>PRIOR</u> to starting any modification projects in your yard or to the outside of your home.

Call Brionna at Crest Management (281-945-4663)

if you have any questions or need an application. It is very expensive to put the wrong color roof on your home and then have to replace it!

## Mayor's Youth Advisory Council

Applications for the 2020-2021 Class are open

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council aims to empower youth from various backgrounds to become active members in their community by providing an overview of the complexity and variety of opportunities to have an everlasting effect on the future of their city through local government public service.

Applications open on September 1, 2020.



## **Mold Removal**

One of the reasons residents opt to purchase a home in The Commonwealth is the beauty of our neighborhood. Our board takes great pride in representing your best interests in regard to maintaining your home's value. This means that they are responsible for holding residents to the deed restrictions which you agreed to when you purchased your home.

In order to make sure that all Guidelines are adhered to, the community management company inspects all areas on a regular basis.

If they detect violations, a letter is issued and mailed to the homeowner. Non-compliance can result in costly legal action.

One of the most common exterior home violations issued in The Commonwealth is for the appearance of mold on homes.

Removing the mold yourself need not be expensive and if done as the mold appears, it is not time consuming.

To remove mold and mildew from your house:

Mix up a solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water and spray in a pump up sprayer. Allow to remain on for 10-20 minutes, then rinse using a garden hose.

How do you remove mold from siding?

70% water, 30% white vinegar makes a great all-purpose vinyl siding cleaner that removes light mold and mildew stains. For a stronger solution, mix together one-third cup powdered laundry detergent, two-thirds cup powdered household cleaner, one quart liquid laundry bleach and one gallon of water.

Please help us keep Association legal fees down and keep our neighborhood beautiful by taking care of these issues as they arise.

Your neighbors thank you!



## **End of the 2020 POOL SEASON**

Pool tags are issued to any homeowner that is in good standing with the Civic Association.

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

Pool tags are mailed to residents upon receipt and verification of the request form.

Pool tags will be checked by pool management personnel when entering the pool facility.

If a tag is not in the resident's possession or cannot be verified, residents and/or others may be asked to leave the facilities. Only residents with a valid pool tag will be allowed into the pool (with exception of prearranged pool parties through the pool company). Due to the pandemic, residents MUST follow additional rules and regulations regarding use of this amenity.

#### **Pool Schedule and Hours of Operation:**

Knightsbridge Briarwood

AUGUST 10th – OCTOBER 31st	(Weekends only)	<b>AUGUST 10th - SEPTEMBER 7th</b>	(Weekends only)
Saturday	10 a.m 8 p.m.	Saturday	12 p.m 9 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m 8 p.m.	Sunday	12 p.m 8 p.m.
LABOR DAY	10 a.m 8 p.m.	LABOR DAY	10 a.m 8 p.m

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

Our beautifully redecorated Clubhouse is available for rent by residents in good standing.

CDC Guidelines must be followed.

If you are interested in scheduling a small gathering for the upcoming holiday season, please contact Crest Management.

281-579-0761

Have you checked out our redesigned website?

We have a great website
You can find
documents, forms,
a link to pay your
dues, newsletters, local
information and more!

Visit: commonwealthcivic.com To get on our lists Newsletter and/or Email Alerts,
please shoot an email to:
news@commonwealthcivic.
com stating your name,
physical address AND which
lists you wish to be added to:
NEWSLETTER and/or EMAIL
ALERT List.

We do NOT share your email addresses with ANYONE except Crest Management!

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

They should be happy to accommodate you.

The HOA will pursue this offense - it <u>does</u> frustrate your neighbors.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR. KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEASH AND PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS!

Newsletter, Alerts and Facebook - Sue Hauenstein, the write idea - news@commonwealthcivic.com

## **Activity Directory**

If you don't see an activity group that appeals to you, start one! The Association supports 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 cwslcares@gmail.com	This group is in need of a leader! The guys are always looking for players for last minute pairings on various golf courses in the area. Let us know if interested.		
Special Events/Activities To volunteer: cwslcares@gmail.com	Our residents LOVE participating in fun activities. If you are interested in helping organize and oversee future community events, please let us know.		
Tennis: Men's  Dave Bristow  dgbristow@windstream.net	If you are interested in playing tennis with other Commonwealth residents, this group is for you. BUTthe 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	Varsha offers free yoga classes in our Clubhouse every Tuesday at 9 a.m. Please bring your yoga mat and a towel. Feel free to drop in and enjoy!		

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

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

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.

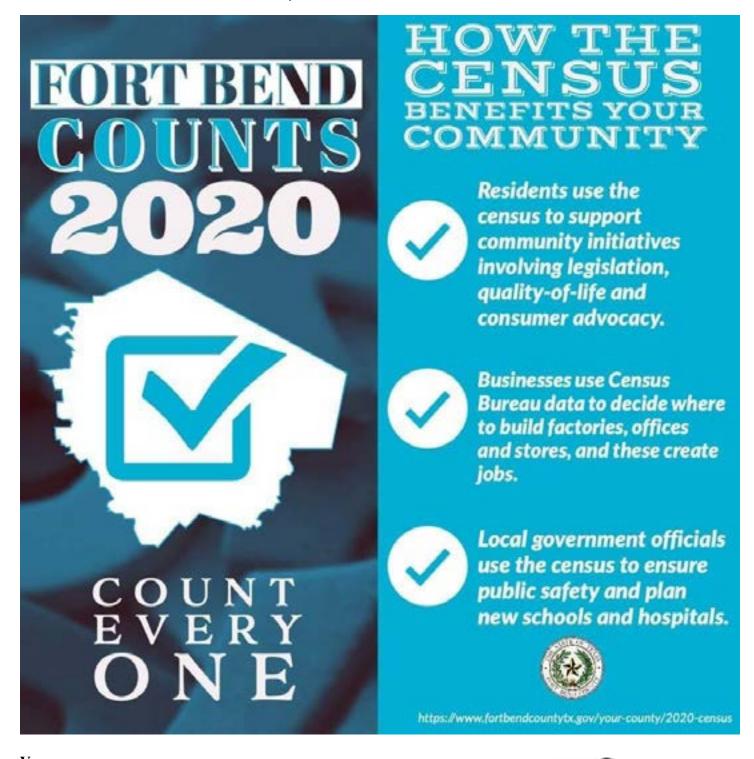
The Commonwealth Landscape Committee (meets as needed)
Contact Crest Management for the next meeting time and date.

Clubhouse Rentals: Crest Management 281-579-0761
Pool Rentals: A-Beautiful Pools 281-376-6510

<b>Useful Phone Numbers</b>				
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			
when calling about street lights, relay pole #.				
POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY	9-1-1			



## Due to the Pandemic, the Census Deadline was extended



You may visit the 2020 Census page by clicking on the graphic above. Please take the 10 minutes required to fill out this form.



It is not terribly intrusive and a great deal depends on the information collected.

It is used for planning purposes, including where our tax dollars are spent and where new hospitals and retail are built.

Your personal information remains confidential. It is not shared with anyone outside of the Census.



If you do not submit a completed form, a census taker will knock on your door. Complying now saves you time and money (they are paid with tax dollars).



## It's Hurricane Season, y'all!

If you are new to the Gulf Coast region, we're glad you're here. We want to take a moment to share a little information about our annual HURRICANE SEASON.

Yes, the entire experience can be frightening, however, keep in mind, while we do often suffer from the high winds and rain, we are dozens of miles inland from the coast.

With a little preparation, you, your family and your property can be ready to hunker down and survive a hurricane.

Because we are a pass through area for coastal communities, it is advisable that you plan ahead, purchase necessities well in advance and keep your vehicles gassed up.) Please stay off of the roads during these emergencies.

#### **Coastal Storms & Hurricanes**

Hurricane season began on June 1 and extends through Nov. 30. Hurricane activity is typically more intense during August and September. The majority of injuries and death are caused by people remaining in unsafe locations during a storm. Hurricanes could bring high winds and flooding, so you need to protect yourself from both the wind and the water. Be prepared.

#### When a Hurricane Watch is issued:

Monitor radio and TV broadcasts for information regarding the storm's progress.

Refill prescriptions for your family and pets, ensuring at least a two-week supply.

Get cash, since ATMs and banks may run out of money before the storm or not be operational following the storm. Review your plans. Know what you will do should the storm hit Sugar Land and share it with the family.

#### When a Hurricane Warning is issued:

Monitor radio and TV broadcasts for storm advisories and evacuation announcements.

Gather belongings in case of an evacuation order.

Reminder - Gather Supplies - Make An Emergency Plan

- Review Important Docs -

### **Personal/Family Preparation**

#### **Evacuating or Sheltering-in-Place**

Pack the basic supplies for each person in a portable container or backpack. You'll need them whether you stay (shelter-in-place) or go (evacuate).

Spend some time to evaluate your personal or family needs for a disaster and modify the list below as needed.

Food and Water: 3-day supply of food that needs no cooking | 1 gallon of water per day for each person | Manual can opener | Baby items (e.g. baby food, formula, bottles) | Pet Supplies | First Aid, Medication, Hygiene First-aid kit | Prescription and backup medications | Hand sanitizer, wipes | Toilet paper, paper towels, garbage bags | Dental care, hearing and vision products | Soaps, personal supplies, diapers | Sunscreen, insect repellent | Face masks to filter air (N-95 rating) | Communication | Lighting | Document Bag Items | Battery-powered radio with extra batteries or crank radio (emergency alert radio is best) | Extra cell phone battery and car charger | Flashlights with extra batteries | Matches and lighter | Whistle | Reading and sun glasses

Pet Supplies: 3-day supply of food, water and bowls | Medications and pet first-aid kit | Vaccination records Crate or carrier (may be required in shelters or where you spend the night) | Leash and toys | Photo, in case pet gets lost | Cat litter and box

#### First Aid Kit

It is a good idea to keep your first-aid kit portable so you can take it with you if you evacuate, or use if you stay and shelter in place. Some of these items have a shelf life, so many people choose to use them day-to-day; just make sure you replenish when supplies run low! Make sure your first aid kit contains these items:

2 compress dressings (5 x 9 inches) | 25 band-aids (different sizes) | First-aid tape | Antibiotic ointment | Hydrocortisone ointment | Aspirin and ibuprofen | Instant cold pack |
2 pair of medical gloves (non-latex) | Oral thermometer, scissors, tweezers | 2 roller bandages (different widths) |
2 elastic bandages | 10 sterile gauze pads (different sizes) |
2 triangular bandages (for making slings)
First aid instruction booklet

Emergency Documents - make copies of your important documents and keeping them in a waterproof bag, ready to grab-and-go if needed. Include the following items:

List continues on page 10



Current photo IDs, driver licenses, birth records, Social Security cards, passports | Photos of family members in case you get separated | Health insurance and prescription cards | Medical records, medications and dosages | Phone numbers (family, friends, doctors) | Bank account information | Wills | Insurance documents | (homeowner, renter, flood, life) | Property deeds, leases, mortgages | Vehicle titles, insurance, leases, loan documents | Inventory of household possessions and their value | Backup computer files (on a CD, DVD, USB drive)

Copies of important keys Utility bills (to prove where you live) Special Medical Needs (for people with access and functional needs).

The links following this article have much more information on items you may want to consider taking with you should we be told to evacuate (Items for sheltering in place AND items for evacuating by car.)

It's always wise to do the following as soon as a hurricane threatens the area:

Fill your gas tank, check your spare tire Take cash, checkbook and credit cards Call your family emergency contact Charge your mobile phone

Be sure you have a family emergency plan - know what you will do IF there is a wind or flood threat. Discuss this with all members of the household. Make sure each child knows where you will go should you get separated from them. Give each person an assignment on what he/she needs to take responsibility for if you end up leaving the house. (i.e. take your backpack or put the dog on a leash and grab dog food and dishes and meet us in the car.)

Another TIP: Designate one family member or friend OUT of the area as the family contact person. Be sure you let him/her know exactly what is going on and what your plan is in case you do actually get separated from your family. And have your children memorize the name and telephone number of that person.

It really sounds much worse than it will be under normal circumstances, but this is 2020 -- and like a good cub scout, we need to be prepared for anything that can happen!



# More Information Than You Were Expecting

Fort Bend County Emergency Management

American Red Cross

National Flood Insurance Program

Build an Emergency Kit

Ready.gov - Hurricanes

BuildAKit
Sugar Land's Emergency Preparedness Guide



WE KNOW YOU
JUST DID, BUT,
IT'S TIME TO



**AGAIN** 

Due to the pandemic, City and School Board elections were delayed and added to the General Election Ballot - and the time is approaching quickly.

**Election Day is Tuesday, November 3** (Yes, our Clubhouse is a polling location)

Early Voting will take place from Tuesday, October 13 --> Friday, October 30

You must have photo ID Your name and address must match the voter roles

You must be registered to vote by Monday, October 5
You must request your Ballot By Mail by
October 23.
Mail it right away or deliver to the Rosenberg
Elections Office

We will share a non-partisan/unbiased Voters' Guide before early voting begins!

Fort Bend Voters Vote Anywhere in Fort Bend County!

# The Commonwealth Women's Club

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

If you are looking for a way to meet some neighbors, connect with old friends, or just have a wonderful evening of fun, be sure to get on their email list so you will be notified of the September End of Summer get-together.

Under normal circumstances, the Women's Club meets monthly from September through May. Time will tell.....



To receive full details and an evite, get on our email list.

Shoot an email to

Monica Clancy:



monicaclancy@strategicascent.com





## Classy Ad Listings



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	281-265-0137	Custom Building & Remodeling
Restaurant		
Off the Vine Bistro 2865 Dulles @ Cartwright	281-242-4186	Namita & Manish Asthana Owners



#### Breathing Exercises and Meditation

For multiple reasons,
Varsha is unable to host her (free) Yoga,
Pranayam (breathing exercise) and
Meditation classes at the Clubhouse.

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

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

zestandzen1@gmail.com







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



### The Commonwealth HOA supports its residents!

In an attempt to help out our **resident business owners/ managers**, the Board of Directors of The Commonwealth Civic Association is offering a limited number of **Classy Ads** in the newsletter.

If you have a business that you would like to have included in the Commonwealth Comments, shoot an email to: news@commonwealthcivic.com.

This ad will include the name of your business, address, type of business, phone number and a hot link to your website.

The ads run \$75 for the year. (That is six listings.)



#### RESIDENTS:

Do you have an idea for stories or information you'd like to see included in our newsletters?

Please let us know at: news@commonwealthcivic.com

