

Commonwealth Comments

May/June, 2001

www.commonwealth-civic.com

Inside This Issue

Election Update
Page 2

Dealer's Choice:
Louis Garvin
Page 4

Swim Team
Information
Page 8

**HAVE A
SAFE AND
HAPPY
MEMORIAL
DAY
HOLIDAY**

the write
idea !

Commonwealth Comments,
3909 St. Michaels Ct.
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
Tel: 281-265-4556

email:
newsletter@commonwealth-
civic.com



On Your Mark, Get Ready!

Be sure to GO!! This year The Commonwealth will celebrate the 11th Annual July 4th Bicycle Parade and Community Party!!! The fun will include food, games, prizes and Rolly, the Clown and his "World's Smallest Bicycle".

Residents are encouraged to decorate bicycles in red, white and blue for the parade. We will gather in front of the Commonwealth Clubhouse around 10:45 a.m. The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. The parade route will cross Commonwealth Blvd., proceed down St. Ives, left on Warwick Drive, right on Heatherwilde, left on Castlewood, right on St. Michaels, as far as Knightsbridge, and down Knightsbridge to the Clubhouse.

If you have younger children who would rather ride, decorate a wagon and bring them along. A shorter course will be available for the wagons and younger bike riders. After the parade be sure to stick around for some delicious food from the grill, as well as games, prizes, great music by a DJ, awards for the best decorated bicycles/wagons and entertainment by Rolly the Clown. Over 500 residents are expected to attend this ever popular event. Don't miss out!



WANTED:

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Eager residents with big hearts.
Yes, this means **YOU**.

It is impossible to hold an event such as our July 4th Celebration without volunteer assistance. Many volunteers are needed to ensure that we have a successful day. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Tom Wooley at 281-265-1734.

The Commonwealth Garage Sale

As expected, the Community Garage Sale was very successful. We had over 40 homes listed and attendees seemed to appreciate the precise maps with addresses. Approximately 500 garage sale "value enthusiasts" responded to this year's garage sales. We are eager to receive feedback from the participants to ensure that we get better each year. Please email your comments/ideas to: commonwealthdirectors@yahoo.com

For up-do-date Civic Association information:
www.commonwealth-civic.com

Community Awareness Corner

Upcoming Meetings

Landscape Committee Meeting

Meets once a month. Call Steve O'Hara at 281-265-4485 for the next meeting date and time.

Modifications Committee Meeting

Third Tuesday of each month - 7 p.m. at the Clubhouse

Board Meeting

Fourth Thursday of each month - 6 p.m. at the Clubhouse

They're Baaack!!!

May Elections

The Commonwealth Civic Association will hold an election for three Director positions at the Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 22. Residents should receive a voting proxy by the first week of May. Proxies must be signed and received at the Crest Management Office **by 5 p.m. on May 17** in order to be included in the count on May 22. The proxy may be mailed or faxed to Crest Management. Proxies will **NOT** be accepted at the meeting on May 22. Candidates declaring at the time of printing are: Tom Wooley and Zelma Loeb (incumbents), and Paula Stansell and Domodar Battu.

City Election - May 5

There are several Sugar Land City Council positions up for re-election this year. Only one, however, is being contested, the seat currently being held by Mike Siwierka, who has opted not to run again.. Two candidates have filed for this position.

Dr. Syed Azeemuddin, a physician, is seeking his first term on Sugar Land City Council. Dr. Azeemuddin, his wife and three daughters have been Sugar Land residents since 1986. Dr. Azeemuddin is active in local and community groups.

The other candidate in this race is Mr. David G. Wallace, married and father of two daughters, a resident of Sugar Land for over 8 years. Mr. Wallace has been very active in local organizations and community groups. He is a member of numerous philanthropic and civic organizations.

The winner in this particular contest will represent The Commonwealth area in City affairs.

School Board Election - May 5

Two positions are up for grabs in the Fort Bend ISD School Board election.

In school board elections, candidates must reside in prescribed areas of the district, however, residents in every area of the district may vote for one candidate in each position.

In position 7, incumbent Steve Smelley faces Roscoe Jones.

Mr. Jones has been a teacher at both the middle and high school levels. He has two children who have graduated from Fort Bend schools. Mr. Jones lives in Missouri City.

Mr. Smelley has served on the board for the past four years. He resides in Lake Colony, is married, and the father of two children in FBISD schools.

Rita Drabek, currently holding Position 3, will not be running for re-election to the board.

Candidates for Position 3 are:

Chris Houvouras, a Pharmacist with St. Lukes Episcopal Hospital, living in Settlers Grove. She is married to the band director at Christa McAuliff Middle School and is the mother of two daughters.

Naomi Lam is a Commercial Real Estate Syndicator and a former certified public accountant. Mrs. Lam is married and has two grown sons. She is a resident of Sweetwater.

Pam Vollmar, is an Electrical Design Specialist with Fluor Daniel, currently living in New Territory. She is married and has three children attending Fort Bend schools. Pam

Your Vote Makes A Difference

has been an active participant in her community, as well as her church.

Residents were able to meet each of the candidates at the Candidates' Coffee held at the Clubhouse on April 19th

For additional election information, check out our website at:

www.commonwealth-civic.com

Commonwealth Project Update

A major landscape project was recently completed on the West End of Commonwealth. This is the section that for years was behind the barricades and did not have any upgrades provided by the developer. Recent improvements include a complete irrigation system, 50 new trees and over 3000 new plants. Thanks to Steve O'Hara and the Landscape Committee for organizing this effort.

The Clubhouse has received a nice facelift with a complete exterior paint job.

Class Act(s)

We are hoping to keep the community apprised of the "happenings" at each of our area schools in this section.

As you probably know, next year Commonwealth students will be zoned to Fort Settlement, the new middle school located in Avalon. Watch for an interview with Dr. Vicki Johnston, Principal, in the July issue of Commonwealth Comments!

If you are involved in Commonwealth Elementary, Clements High School or Elkins High School and know of an upcoming event that our residents may be interested in attending/supporting, please be sure to email us at: newsletter@commonwealth-civic.com

Remember that we need SIGNIFICANT lead time and plan well in advance.

This year, Fort Bend ISD High School Graduation ceremonies will take place on two dates: Clements students will graduate at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, June 2 - Elkins students will graduate at 4:15 p.m. on Sunday, June 3.

Commonwealth Patriotism

You may have noticed the fact that many of your neighbors' front yards sport American Flags on national holidays. These flags are provided, as a fundraiser, by BSA Troop 294, a Commonwealth based Boy Scout troop. The boys will deliver the flags on four holidays throughout the year. The flags are unfurled by the time most of us arise and they mysteriously and discreetly disappear at nightfall. The subscription price is a very reasonable \$20.00 a year. If you would like to participate in this patriotic undertaking, you may call Victor Harris at 281-494-9216 for an application or you may download one on the Commonwealth Civic Association webpage.

Memorial Day, May 28, is the first flag holiday for this program year. Please mail your payment and application before May 17, or drop it off at Victor's residence at 26 Dartmoor, so the troop can have your flag ready on Memorial Day.

Mail Box Accessibility

Don't forget!!!!

The Commonwealth is home to an official U.S. Postal Service mailbox. It is located in the parking lot at the Clubhouse.

There is daily mail pick-up.

Attention Advertisers!!!

This newsletter is published in March, May, July, September and November. The deadline for each issue is the first day of the previous month. Ads must be received by that date. All Ads must be mailed to Commonwealth Comments, 3909 St. Michaels Ct., Sugar Land, Texas 77479 and must include a check for full payment.

If you have any questions, call Sue at 281-265-4556.

**Mother's Day
Sunday,
May 13**

**Memorial Day
Monday,
May 28**

**Flag Day
Thursday,
June 14**

**Father's Day
Sunday,
June 17**

**Independence
Day
Wednesday,
July 4**

Dealer's Choice

*This month
Commonwealth
Comments
features
resident
Louis Garvin,
President &
CEO of the
Fort Bend
Chamber of
Commerce*

*Dealer's Choice
is a section that
will be dedicated
to residents who
are truly "givers"
in our commu-
nity.*

*If you have a
friend, or neigh-
bor who is active
in a community
wide volunteer
endeavor, please
let us know at:
newsletter@com-
m o n w e a l t h -
civic.com*

For those who may not know it, **Louis Garvin**, President & CEO of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, is a dynamo with a capital 'D'. Louis, his wife Dru and their two children, are eleven year residents of The Commonwealth.

Louis has always enjoyed community involvement. During his tenure, many moons ago, as President of Texas Commerce Bank Sugar Land, Louis was encouraged to be very involved in the community. His involvement included time as President of the Exchange Club, the American Heart Association and involvement in several other organizations. Louis quickly discovered that as much as he loved undertaking worthwhile projects, he LOVED getting out and meeting people in the community. During this time period, Louis became heavily involved in the Fort Bend Chamber. He immediately saw real value in the Chamber's work. He headed the Leadership program, Special Events and Luncheon Committee, and became Chairman of the Board. Shortly thereafter, Louis became Executive Director, as a salaried employee. For the first little while, the job offered community involvement, in and of itself, but as he became more comfortable and knowledgeable in his role as the Chamber leader, Louis was able to incorporate more community service into his role. Louis served on the Fort Bend Senior Citizens Board for many years, but his current passions are **Fort Bend Literacy Council Volunteers (FBLC)** and the **Sugar Land Cultural Arts Foundation**.

The ability to read is one of the most important factors making a tremendous difference in peoples' lives and contributions to society. Learning to read gives one options. Most of us tend to take the ability to read for granted, however, a growing number of people in society cannot do so. Illiterate people are a true liability to society in the areas of crime, social services, health care, etc. as it impairs their ability to obtain financial stability. While in many cases illiteracy is a case of people who just "got through the system", a growing number of our illiterates are foreign immigrants. A person who cannot read will never be able to reach his/her potential. Louis says that there are wonderful success stories coming from the efforts of the volunteers at the Fort Bend Literacy Council. Some will make you cry.

FBLC is a growing organization. Growing in respect to the number of tutors receiving training, as well as the number of people awaiting service. In their new home, on Emily Court off of Dairy Ashford, the council is able to serve ten to twenty times more people.

Louis is also very active in the Sugar Land Cultural Arts Foundation, a relatively new group that is continuing and consolidating the efforts of previous years with respect to restoring the Lakeview Auditorium located in old Sugar Land. The building was constructed in 1918 and used to be the

The Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce serves its members and the community as the voice and advocate for business in Fort Bend County. Membership is open to businesses large and small. The Chamber offers monthly luncheons with speakers that educate, motivate, and/or entertain. Every effort is made to keep members apprised of legislative issues that affect business. There are opportunities for members to meet and mingle at bi-weekly Network Nites. There are Divisions (committees) in the areas of: Economic Development, Education, Government Relations, and more.

The Chamber offers a wonderful 9 month Leadership Class that will begin this fall. Applications are being taken at this time.

www.fortbendchamber.org

heartbeat of the community. **EVERYTHING** happened there. The volunteers see their mission as creating a center for the performing arts in Sugar Land, as well as preserving history. As Louis points out, the wonderful thing about this particular endeavor is the partnership between the City of Sugar Land, FBISD, the business community and residents. This is not something one sees everyday. The Foundation has been very busy soliciting support from residents and businesses, not only in the form of normal funding, but also in soliciting grants.

At this time, the focus is on restoring the building, a bigger challenge than originally thought (a/c, lighting, stage restoration, seating, etc.) however, the efforts will not die upon completion of the restoration. The Foundation will then busy themselves with encouraging and promoting the performance of artistic and cultural events at the center.

Sugar Land is very lucky to have Louis Garvin, and we are very happy he chose to live in The Commonwealth.

If you would like to be a part of this very gratifying program to impact the opportunities in the life of another human being, either financially, or with your time as a tutor, call the **Fort Bend Literacy Council** at 281-240-8181 or visit their web site at: www.ftbendliteracy.org

To get involved in the **Sugar Land Cultural Arts Foundation**, contact Louis at the Chamber, 281-491-0800, or Bridget Yeung at 281-277-0012.

NUTS & BOLTS

It is the responsibility of the homeowner who intends to make an exterior modification to first submit a modification application and have it approved before the work begins. This protects the homeowner from potential expensive rework to meet the civic association guidelines. In addition, the homeowner is required to apply for, and meet, all city building requirements. Modification Application forms are available from Crest Management or from our web page, www.commonwealth-civic.com.

Considering having a pool installed?

If you are considering having a pool installed, please CUT AND SAVE the following information. The MDR committee has put together this information to assist anyone submitting an application for a pool.. This is provided in an effort to reduce the number of applications that are returned for lack of information.

Send a completed MDR improvement form to Crest Management. Attach a copy of your plan with the pool location and pool dimensions indicated. Your pool, including a deck, should not encroach on any easements. Your pool and deck must be at least 5 feet from the side and rear lot lines. Site access and drain lines must be indicated and specify where backwash and drain lines will drain to. Schedule 40 PVC must be used for all drain lines. You must include a construction date. The location of all pool equipment must be indicated.

A deposit, if needed, must be received by Crest Management before authorization for building can be given.

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Yes, We Have Piranhas In The Neighborhood

The First Colony Piranhas Swim Team has begun registering swimmers for the summer season. The swim team is open to all children between 4 and 18 years of age. The only requirement is that swimmers be able to swim the length of the pool and that parents must participate in some volunteer capacity. Practices are held at the Knightsbridge pool after school from May 7th until after the school year ends. At that time, practices are switched to the morning hours. Meets are held every Monday. Our home meet pool is the Aquatic Center pool on Austin Parkway. For more information contact Beth Grover, President, at 281-265-2586.



Wine & Music 2001 Is On Its Way....

The fight against illiteracy continues...

The annual Wine and Music event benefiting The Literacy Council of Fort Bend County is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. at the George Memorial Library. This is a wonderful evening of wine, music, deluxe gourmet treats, entertainment, and an auction. Some new and exciting vineyards will be represented. The perfect musical venue will accompany and compliment the food and drink.

For more information call 281-240-8181



Attention Wrought Iron Fence Owners

If you have a wrought iron fence on your property, it belongs to you and it must be maintained by you. A recent survey indicates that most of these fences need either painting, or repair, or both. Beginning June 1, Crest Management will begin sending notices to homeowners requiring fence repairs. Homeowners can save the Association the expense of sending out notices by completing the necessary repairs before May 1. Thank you!

Ads in Commonwealth Comments are available at very reasonable rates. If you, or someone you know, would like to advertise, call Sue at 281-265-4556.

A person is *not* handicapped
A person is *not* disabled
A person *has* a disability

A handicap has been defined as an obstacle which society imposes on a person with a disability. Handicapped is not a term to describe human beings. A disability has been defined as a body function that works differently.

People with disabilities are people, first and foremost!

No one is wheelchair bound.. There are people who use wheelchairs. People are not "bound" by their wheelchairs, they are free to go wherever they want! No one "suffers from" or "is afflicted with" or is a "victim of" anything.

History tells us it takes at least one generation between the time an idea is born and the time it is actually incorporated into our society. Perhaps we will change that truism.

It begins with us!

excerpted from the Family to Family Network brochure via The Arc of Fort Bend County newsletter.

March Recap of Sugar Land Activities

SUGAR LAND POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

The Sugar Land Police Department is the only municipal police agency in the Houston metropolitan area that carries the honor of National Accreditation. The Department joins the ranks of only 21 other Texas law enforcement agencies and more than 500 law enforcement agencies in the United States who have gained this recognition. Safe City is an ongoing goal for Sugar Land, and the city's police force moves the bar just a little higher with their outstanding achievement.

SUGAR LAND LEADS THE REGION

The 2000 Census figures available from the U.S. Census Bureau ranks Sugar Land as the fastest growing city in the Houston metropolitan area and number one in growth among the state's top 45 cities. The City's population jumped from 24,529 in 1990 to 63,328 today - a 158 per cent increase. Sugar Land is known not only as an economically diverse community with the numerous businesses and industries based here, but as being diverse in its population as well.

SUGAR LAND CITY COUNCIL GOES LIVE

Residents may now view the Sugar Land City Council meetings virtually real-time. The live broadcast is made possible with streaming video. This process allows a video to be downloaded from the Internet to a computer and begin playing almost immediately. With streaming video, viewers do not have to download the entire file before they begin viewing the document. Depending on a viewer's bandwidth, the live stream is delayed approximately 10-40 seconds. In addition to a com-

Susan Menapace Delclos, DMD, MDS, PA
Orthodontist
Henry Delclos, D.D.S.
Pediatric Dentist

2869 Dulles Avenue (next to CiCi's Pizza)

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Commonwealth Residents



puter, individuals will need Real Player or Media Player to view City Council meetings over the Internet. Both software applications are available for download on Sugar Land's home page — www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us.

HAVE A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT?

Residents have the chance to speak their piece about sidewalks, streets, parks and other capital improvement projects in their neighborhoods. Just go to the City's web site at www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us and click on "Input Needed" on the home page. Fill out the form and send it to City Hall. All ideas from residents will be considered in the planning process. Your input makes the difference in assuring that all potential projects are brought to the attention of city staff.

*This information was provided by
Karyn Dean,
City Council Member
At Large-Position 2*

kdean@council.ci.sugar-land.tx.us

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Moms In Common

Open to all Commonwealth residents, this babysitting cooperative is a great way to meet other moms in our area. We offer social and educational activities as well as exchange babysitting time among the members. Call Donna (281-265-2663)

The Commonwealth Babysitting Co-op

The Commonwealth Babysitting Co-op is open to all Commonwealth residents. We meet monthly, swap babysitting time, organize social activities throughout the year, and are currently organizing a Saturday night sitting swap. We are recruiting new members, so please call Brenda at 281-980-3150 or Cornelia at 281-491-4595 if you are interested.

The Commonwealth Women's Club

The Commonwealth Women's Club is open to all women residing in The Commonwealth. The club's purpose is to stimulate civic, philanthropic, educational, and cultural interest in the community, as well as foster a cordial welcome to new residents. Volunteer outreach is available to those who are interested. If you are interested in this group, or would like more information, please contact Donna at 281-265-7108.

Hispanic Club

If you speak Spanish and are interested in joining this informal group, contact Lucy at 281-265-2610, for information, date and location.

Moms in Touch

Moms in Touch is a group of mothers who meet for one hour each week to pray for their children and the school they attend. If you are interested in joining us, please contact JoLynn Gill (Lake Olympia Middle School) at 281-565-3823; Louisa Chiasson (Commonwealth Elementary School) at 281-565-6849, Cathy Graves (Clements High School) at 281-265-7940 or Mary Marwil (Elkins High School) at 281-265-0877.



Sugar Land Police Department's Annual Report Brings Good News



There were 56,930 calls for service dispatched during 2000. The proportional rate of police calls to fire calls has remained consistent as the number of total calls has increased.

There was nearly a seven percent (7%) increase in the number of activities dispatched when comparing 2000 to 1999.

Sugar Land Police Officers, while working with an ever increasing number of calls for service, have been able to respond to priority one calls well below the division's goal of less than five (5) minutes.

The City experienced a decrease of seven percent (7%) in the number of Part 1 Crimes in 2000 compared to 1999. The decrease is due to a 49% decrease in robberies and a 10% decrease in thefts. There was an increase in the number of assaults and burglaries. (Part 1 Crimes are defined as homicide, sexual assault, robbery, assault, burglary, theft and auto theft).

During 2000, 77% (825 cases) of Part 1 Crimes committed in the City's business areas were related to theft. Of those theft cases, 42% (343 cases) were related to shoplifting. Over 50% (470 cases) of the Part 1 Crimes committed in residential areas were theft-related. Of the 470 theft cases, 46% (218 cases) were property taken from parked automobiles.

Consistent with speeding being the primary cause of collisions, officers have steadily increased their enforcement for speeding violations.

The City's crime index per 1,000 population in the residential areas of the City experienced a 14% percent decrease in 2000 period compared 1999.

The City experienced a total of 303 violent crimes in 2000. This is a decrease of three incidents when compared to 1999. Note: Assaults account for more than 87% of all violent crimes. Over 78% of the assaults are classified as simple assaults, this means that no weapons were used or serious injury occurred.

The City experienced an eight percent (8%) decrease in the number of non-violent crimes occurring during 2000 compared to 1999. The decrease is due in large part to a 21% decrease in reported thefts in the residential areas (470 in 2000 from 597 in 1999). There was also, a two percent decrease in thefts in the business areas (825 in 2000 from 845 in 1999). A ten percent (10%) increase in residential burglaries also occurred, with the majority involving no forced entry. (open/unlocked doors and garages). Auto theft decreased 29% (24 in 2000 from 34 in 1999) in residential areas and 37% (46 in 2000 from 73 in 1999) in the business areas.

The City has experienced an eight percent (8%) increase in minor accidents when comparing 2000 to 1999.

The City has experienced an increase of four percent (4%) in the number of major accidents when comparing 2000 to 1999.

Four (4) out of the five (5) top accident locations occurred on U.S. 59 during 2000. A large volume of traffic and motorists driving too fast for the congested conditions on the freeway are contributing factors to U.S. 59 having the highest incidence of collisions in the City.

**Failure to control speed
continues to be the most common cause of collisions in Sugar Land.**

Don't Forget

**City and School
Board Elec-
tions
Saturday, May
5**

VOTE!!!!

**Commonwealth
Civic Associa-
tion Board of
Directors
Election
Tuesday, May
22**

**Pools Open
(limited basis)
May 5**

Crest Management Service

16360 Park Ten Place,
Suite 310,
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Carolyn Bonds, Senior Manager
281-579-0761
281-579-7062 (fax)



Newsletter email address:

newsletter@commonwealth-civic.com

Association Board of Directors

Tom Wooley
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President

Zelma Loeb
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Vice President

Jim McGregor
281-980-1661
Secretary/Treasurer

Steve O'Hara
281-265-4556
Director

Association Information

Clubhouse & Pool Rentals
Crest Management 281-579-0761

Neighborhood Watch
Nancy Castellvi 281-265-2769

Welcome Committee
Maura Ritchie 281-980-6347
Roseann Pisano

Landscape Committee
Steve O'Hara 281-265-4485

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| Fire Department | 281-491-0852 |
| Water & Street | 281-275-2750 |
| Trash Collection | 281-275-2772 |
| Recycling Coordinator | 281-275-2770 |
| Street Lights (HL&P) | 281-342-5441 |
| Newsletter | 281-365-4556 |
| Police & Fire Emergency | 9-1-1 |

Deadline for
next
Commonwealth
Comments ~
June 1, 2001