

Commonwealth Comments

March/April, 2002

www.commonwealth-civic.com

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Civic Association Election to be held in May

At the Civic Association **Annual Meeting on May 16**, two Directors will be elected to a two-year term. An announcement of the meeting and a voting proxy will be mailed to every homeowner about April 22. If you would like to be a candidate for a Director's position and you would like your name mentioned in the letter as a candidate, please submit your name by April 15 to Carolyn Bonds at Crest Management.

Every attempt has been made to have this newsletter delivered prior to the March 12 primary election. Commonwealth's precinct number has changed. We are no longer #4102. Our new Precinct number is 4129. Although we will vote at **Commonwealth Elementary School** in March, we vote at **Fort Settlement Middle School** in May.

Please VOTE!!!!

With a strong turnout Commonwealth **CAN** and **WILL** make a difference!



Meet the Candidate Coffee



Mark your calendars now for Commonwealth's Meet the Candidates Coffee. We have reserved the clubhouse for Wednesday, **April 17** at 7:30 p.m. for an informal **Meet the Candidates** evening. Candidates with an opponent in the May election will be introduced at 7:30 p.m. and will speak about their community involvement and why they have decided to run for office. You may pick up their literature and then spend some time mingling and speaking with each individual candidate at your leisure. Get **your** questions answered!!!!

Turnout for our candidate coffees has always been very good. Candidates for Mayor, City Council and School Board will be invited to attend. These elected officials have a direct impact upon our lives here in Sugar Land and upon the education of our children in Fort Bend ISD. It always helps to be able to put a name with a face. Please support our efforts and stop by to educate yourself on where the candidates stand on various issues.

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



For up-do-date Civic Association information:

www.commonwealth-civic.com

the write

idea !

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

CAT Meeting

Third Thursday of February, March, June, October & November
7:00 p.m.
at the Clubhouse

Board Meeting

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

Children & Safety First

As many of you may know, one of our Commonwealth children was involved in a bicycle/car accident on his way to school last month. The child suffered some injuries but is alright. However, next time, the child may not be quite so fortunate.

Traffic on Commonwealth Blvd. is very heavy in the mornings and is bound to increase when Commonwealth eventually joins University Blvd and then continues on to Highway 59. We have two schools in our community. We **MUST** be pro-active. Drivers tend to go far too fast when traversing this street.

Please take some time to discuss pedestrian and bike safety with your children. Explain that sometimes drivers **DO NOT** follow the law and **DO** put them in danger. Crossing any intersection is risky at the best of times but when drivers are in a hurry to get to school or work, they tend to be easily distracted and impatient. Please advise your children **NOT** to ASSUME that the car will come to a complete stop or that the driver will notice him/her waiting to cross the street. While the child may have the right of way, that won't help him if he's injured (or worse). (This does not apply to only elementary school children. The child involved in this accident is in middle school.)

As you drive through neighborhood streets in the morning and in the afternoon **PLEASE** keep in mind that children **Don't ALWAYS** do as they are expected to do. Sometimes they are not paying attention, sometimes they just don't know any better.

As adults/drivers, the responsibility remains ours to be ever diligent around our youngsters. **STOP** means **STOP** and the speed is posted at 20 miles per hour for good reason. Don't let the next accident involve you!!!

Commonwealth Alert

In an effort to be proactive in keeping our residents abreast of events that directly impact our community, The Commonwealth Civic Association maintains a web page, updated by residents Paula and Charles Stansell, and overseen by the Association. (You can visit the web page at www.commonwealth-civic.com) .In order to be even more effective, the Association has initiated a Commonwealth **e-mail Alert** available to all residents who wish to sign up.

It is important to note that the Association will **NOT** be sharing these email addresses with any commercial ventures and **NO ADVERTISING** (or jokes!!!) will be forwarded. This email network is **STRICTLY** for alerting/providing information for our residents regarding matters that the Association feels important to the daily lives of Commonwealth residents.

If you wish to be added to this list, please email: commonwealth@Stansellweb.com



Pool Tags Registration

Pool tags are required by anyone using the two Commonwealth pools.

Residents must complete a pool tag registration form listing each member of the family. (One form per family.) This MUST be done EACH year!!!!

Forms are to be mailed or faxed to Crest Management for processing. The form is available on our web site at www.commonwealth-civic.com. If it is more convenient, you may pick up a form from the box (to the left of the door, on the brick wall) outside the clubhouse. Crest Management will begin mailing tags the week of April 6. It will generally take two weeks for Crest Management to process and mail your pool tags.

Avoid disappointment, get those forms in !!!!

Pool hours will be posted on our web site and at the pool display boards. They will also be posted in the next newsletter.

CAT Committee Meets

Our first Commonwealth Action Team (CAT) meeting was held on February 21. The purpose of CAT is to provide community input to the Commonwealth Civic Association Board of Directors and to increase community involvement. Subjects discussed during the meeting included forming a teen activity group, adding an early swim time, adding more community benches, adding more street lights, replacing mail boxes, adding more police patrols, and expanding one of the community pools for better use by the swim team. Police patrols and street lights will require working with the City of Sugar Land. Mail box replacement will require working with the US Postal Service. Commonwealth capital improvements will require information on cost and benefit and approval by the Board of Directors. The first meeting was very positive and a good start to making improvements to our community.

Members present at the first meeting were Deborah Treadway, Gizela Palumbo, Robin Facett, Mark Thompson, Mary Westbrook, Malcolm Reitz, and Tom Wooley.

WOOD DOOR

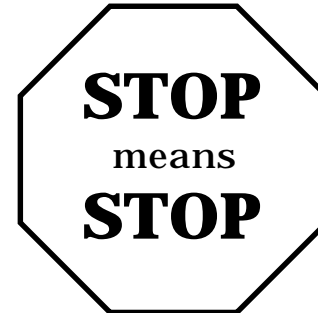
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New FBISD Superintendent Named

At the January 28th Fort Bend ISD School Board meeting, the board voted unanimously to hire Dr. Betty Baitland as the new Superintendent of Fort Bend ISD effective July 1, 2002. Dr. Baitland had been acting as the Interim Superintendent since the retirement of Dr. Don Hooper. She began her teaching career as an English teacher at Dulles High School and has moved through the ranks to become the **first woman** to serve as superintendent of FBISD, the state's tenth largest public school district. All three of Dr. Baitland's children are graduates of FBISD. "Over the past 25 years, many of us on the Board have known Dr. Baitland as a teacher, principal, and area superintendent," said Board President Jane Clarke. "We truly believe that her history with this district, her professionalism, and her commitment to this community and its children make Dr. Baitland an excellent choice for Superintendent."

What's a LID?


If you're laughing, you're a product of the 60's and 70's! The LID is our Levee Improvement District and it is charged with maintaining and improving our levee system. We have three LID Board members. They are currently Mike Homeyer, Ron Frerich, and Chris Lukin.

Our LID board has provided us with the following information as a reminder about the acceptable uses of our levee and detention pond system.

1. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic are allowed throughout our levee system.
2. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the levee or in any of the detention areas of The Commonwealth community. "Four wheelers" and motorcycles are especially damaging to our levee and over time could lead to levee failure and flood damage to our homes. The levees are fenced and gated. Signs are posted at the gates to the levee restricting motorized vehicles. If you see any vehicles on the levee other than maintenance tractors, please call the Sugar Land Police Department at 281-275-2500. The First Colony LID #2 will press charges.
3. Horses are not allowed on the levee as the damage from their hooves also causes maintenance problems for our levee. The stable owner across the levee from The Commonwealth has been asked to keep his horses off the levee.
4. Canoes and small boats are allowed on the ponds in The Commonwealth, however absolutely no motorized boats whatsoever are allowed. Also, the canoes, kayaks, small boats must be launched by hand. No vehicles or trailers are allowed off the street to launch a boat.
5. Fishing is allowed in the ponds. We would request that you keep fishing hooks and line well away from the fountains in the ponds at Stocksbridge and Knightsbridge. The monofilament line and hooks will damage or even destroy the water pumps in the fountains.
6. Swimming is NOT allowed in any of the ponds and signs have been posted.

First Colony LID #2 is managed by ECO Resources and you can report damage and other problems to them at 281- 265-1774.

article continued on page 5



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Currently the First Colony Levee Improvement District #2 is installing another \$100,000.00 worth of “bagwalls” on the Commonwealth Blvd. detention ponds. Since the community Civic Association is upgrading the landscaping on the boulevard, FCLID #2 is working towards completion of the bagwalls in this area before moving on to other areas of the community.

It is anticipated that the next phase of “the bulkheading” will occur in January to February 2003 and we will again be spending approximately \$100,000.00

*This article submitted by Ron Frerich,
LID Director*

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. **Please note changes and additions.**

1. Obtain application from Crest Management (or www.commonwealth-civic.com)
2. Fill out application **completely** and return to Crest Management.
3. Attach a copy of your plan with the pool and deck location and dimensions indicated.
4. Indicate on plat: site access and all drain lines as well as location of all pool equipment.
5. Backwash and drain lines must drain to the street.
6. Blueprint of pool must indicate schedule 40 PVC used for all drain lines.
7. Pool and deck must be at least 5 feet from side and rear lot lines and should not encroach on any easements.
8. Pool and deck must be within building setback lines.
9. See 9.0 in your Architectural Control Guidelines for more details.

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

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Remember - If you are painting your home this Spring, you must get color approval from the Civic Association. Call Crest Management at 281-579-0761

While deed restrictions permit political yard signs up during campaign season, the City requires that the signs be placed 11 feet from the curb!!!!

Political signs are NOT permitted in the right of way or greenbelt areas.

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City of Sugar Land Update

In a move that is sure to please the younger set, the City of Sugar Land is currently working on a plan to convert the covered pavilion at City Park into an outdoor skate area for skateboards and in-line skating. City staff is also looking for areas around the city for a BMX bike trail.

In a recent move to improve communication between citizens and council members, City Council now permits residents to address Council at the beginning of each meeting for up to three minutes on any posted agenda item. Only the first 10 people to sign up will have an opportunity to speak unless the majority of Council agrees to allow for additional speakers. City Council Meetings are scheduled to take place at 5:30 p.m. on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday of each month.

The City of Sugar Land's web site permits viewing of the City Council and Planning & Zoning meetings or checking out particular agenda items.

Interested residents may find out what action, if any, was taken on any City or Boards and Commissions agenda item by visiting the City of Sugar Land web site:

www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us

The extension of Commonwealth Boulevard to Highway 59 will begin shortly. It is expected to take approximately 1 year to complete.

"If I can be of service or if you have a question, please contact me at 281-265-1304 or email at:

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

*This information was submitted by
Council Member Karyn Dean*

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May Election Update

City and School Board Elections will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2002.

Sugar Land City Council Reps up for re-election are Jimmy Thompson and Karyn Dean, both At-Large Councilmembers. The Mayoral position (Dean Hrbacek) is also up. School Board Members up for re-election are: Jane Clarke, Cynthia Knox and Arthur Pace.

At the time of this writing, we do not have the names of other possible candidates, Check for updates on our web page:

www.commonwealth-civic.com

Links to candidate websites are provided where available.

Important Info for Residents With Children Approaching Driving Age!!!!

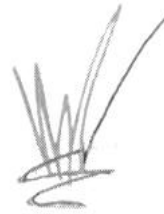
If you are a driver under the age of 18 and just received your license, you may want to know more about the graduate law, a new state traffic law that **took effect Jan. 1.**

The law states that **no driver under 18 may operate a vehicle between midnight and 5 a.m. during the first six months of receiving their license**, unless the driver is going to or from work, to or from a school function or to or from a medical emergency. In addition, **the driver may not, at any time, operate a vehicle with more than one passenger who is under the age of 21**, unless the passengers are family members.

Texas legislators enacted the new law to help curb the number of deaths and injuries suffered by teenagers involved in motor vehicle crashes.

For more information about this law, please contact the Sugar Land Police Department Traffic Unit at (281) 275-2523.

*This information was provided by the
Sugar Land Police Department*



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Board Briefs

The Commonwealth HOA has recently expanded Crest's duties. They will now have people do extended inspections, both for landscape maintenance and capital asset conditions.

We will have one person who will walk the property looking at sidewalks, fences, pool areas, tennis courts, etc. She will report any problems she sees. We also have a man with a landscape background who will inspect our greenscape, including bushes, trees, beds, etc.

A taskforce was formed to review the wild pig situation that occasionally arises in the back areas of The Commonwealth. The City of Sugar Land, the county, and animal control worked with the LID and the homeowners on the task force to come up with a multi-prong action plan. As a result, the LID and the Homeowners Association have partnered to build a fence on LID property along Avondale to deter pigs from coming from undeveloped areas into the community.

A big thank you goes to our LID directors, (Ron Frerich, Mike Homeyer and Chris Lukin) the city and county. A special thanks goes to David Wallace, City Council Rep, for coordinating the taskforce.

At our last November 29th Board Meeting, residents addressed the board concerning the landscaping and maintenance of the common areas and assets of the community.

Also at that meeting, 3 bids for amenity inspections were reviewed and discussed. The board accepted the bid from Crest. It was also agreed to have Alec Electric perform a night inspection for lighting.

The Board approved the replacement of dead and/or missing shrubs. TruGreen will take care of this task on an on-going basis.

The Crest Management Contract was reviewed and extended for another 2 years. The board also agreed to sign a contract with the Levy District for mowing the LID property when we mow Commonwealth Civic Association areas.

The Avant Garde Pool contract was accepted for the 2002 swim season. Board reviewed repairs proposed by Avant Garde and has taken them under advisement.

Natural Graphics has been selected to design the Commonwealth logo and to construct three entry monuments.

*This information was submitted by
Paula Stansell, Director*

Special Interest Groups

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 would like more information about this group, please contact Susan at 281-980-3290 or 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: Louisa Chiasson (Commonwealth Elementary School, Lake Olympia Middle School) at 281-565-6849, Cathy Graves (Clements High School) at 281-265-7940, Mary Marwil (Elkins High School) at 281-265-0877 or Kathie Waldheim (Fort Settlement Middle School) at 281-265-2739.

If information about your group is incorrect or outdated, please advise Sue at 281-265-4556

If you wish to publicize a Commonwealth-based special interest group, give us a call.

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Crest Management Service

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Director

Association Information

Clubhouse & Pool Rentals
Crest Management 281-579-0761

Neighborhood Watch
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Maura Ritchie 281-980-6347
Roseann Pisano

Landscape Committee
Steve O'Hara 281-265-4485

Modifications & Deed Restrictions
Open

Tennis Committee
Nancy Facker

L.I.D. Representative
Mike Homeyer 281-980-3794

Important Phone Numbers

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Crest Management | 281-579-0761 |
| Police (Non-Emergency) | 281-275-2500 |
| Animal Control | 281-275-2596 |
| 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 | 281-265-4556 |
| Police & Fire Emergency | 9-1-1 |

Submission deadline
for next
Commonwealth
Comments —
April 1, 2002