

Commonwealth Comments

November/December, 2002

www.commonwealth-civic.com

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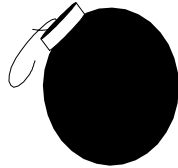
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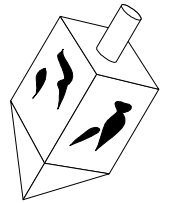


Commonwealth Comments,
3909 St. Michaels Ct.
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
Tel: 281-265-4556
email:
newsletter@commonwealth-civic.com

Annual Commonwealth Holiday Party



Always a success!
Always a good time!
Always open to the entire neighborhood!
Don't miss the fun! Bring the entire family.



Monday, December 16

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. - at the Commonwealth Clubhouse

Bring your camera just in case a special surprise visitor stops by~
Refreshments will be served.

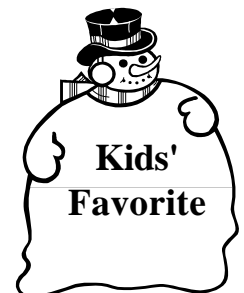
Winners of the annual Home Decorating Contest will be announced
Could be you or someone you know!!!

Please join us!!!

Annual Home Holiday Decorating Contest

Leave the lights on!
Judging will take place on Friday, December 13 and/or Saturday, December 14
between 7 and 10 p.m.

A \$100.00 gift certificate will be awarded in
three categories:



For up-to-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 - 7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

Modifications to be considered at the monthly meeting must be received by Crest on or before the 2nd Monday of each month.

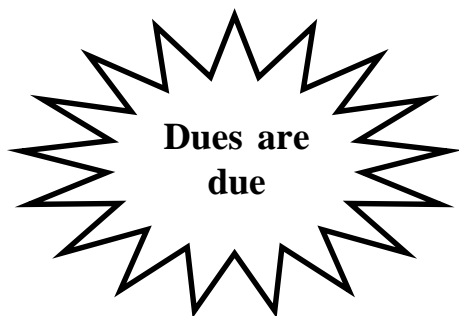
CAT Meeting

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

Association News



Civic Association dues are considered overdue if not received in the office of Crest Management by January 31, 2003. Interest begins to accrue on February 1, 2003.

Budget information will be available in the next newsletter.

Vandalism in Commonwealth on Uprise

Yes folks, it DOES happen here and yes it can be our own precious little angels. It has been reported that the incidences of vandalism within our community have increased of late. The focus of the vandalism reported to us has been the area along St. Michaels Ct. between Tredington and Leigh Ct. Someone (or a group of people) have been intentionally breaking off wooden fence pickets and throwing large amounts of broken glass into the streets. If you have any knowledge about who is committing these offenses, please call the Sugar Land Police at 281-275-2500.

Teen Band Night Info



As was mentioned last issue, our first Teen Band Night was a huge success thanks to the endeavors of Mary Westbrook. Mary arranged for two bands, the location, the food, the publicity and chaperones for the event. (She had arranged for two Sugar Land Police Officers in addition to parents.) Mary used our email alert to advise all registered residents about the festivities. The two bands were Haphazard and Dissonance. Each band had its own style. Mary said the kids found the evening exciting and fun.

Mary wishes to express her appreciation to the Commonwealth Civic Association for supporting her idea and providing a clean, wholesome evening for our teens to have fun together right here in our neighborhood.

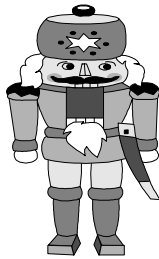
Mary has rested and is ready to arrange for another band night in March. If you want to help her make a difference for our kids, give her a call at 281-980-3511.

Commonwealth Alert

Join Commonwealth's email alert list ~
You can get more information by visiting
the Association's web page at:

www.commonwealth-civic.com

Replacement of our entry monuments is underway. The association is hoping for an official "unveiling" before the holidays.



With the third year of road construction behind us, the U.S. Highway 59 expansion project is well underway, and the end is in sight. By the spring of 2003, drivers are expected to enjoy a total of eight continuous northbound and southbound main lanes from Highway 6 to southwest Houston.

Also: U.S. 59 main lanes over Highway 90A should be completed by Spring, 2003.

Under design: Highway 59 from Highway 6 to the Grand Parkway.

William Treadway
Deborah Treadway
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www.treadwayrealtygroup.com

KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY 2415 Town Center Drive, Suite 200
Sugar Land, TX 77478
An Independent Member Broker

Attention Advertisers!!!

This newsletter is published in January, March, May, July, September and November. The deadline for each issue is the first day of the previous month. Ads and payment 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. Ad rates begin at \$50.00 per issue.

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

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281-261-6862 HO.
832-758-1266 CELL

The Commonwealth Women's Club

invites all Commonwealth women to join them.
Mark your calendars now for this year's events.

Holiday Ornament Exchange
Thursday, December 19 - 7 p.m.



Pajama Party
Thursday, February 27 - 7 p.m.

Spring Fling
Thursday, March 27 - 7 p.m.

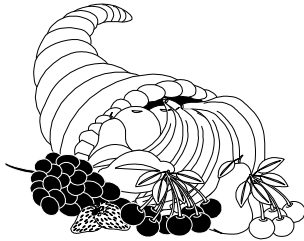


Luau Pool Party
Thursday, April 24 - 7 p.m.

For more information on the Women's Club or more info on any of the above mentioned activities, contact Susan at 281-980-3290 or Donna at 281-265-7108.

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.



Don't forget that campaign signs must be removed within 10 days of the election. Holiday decorations must be removed within 30 days of the holiday.



Reminder: Basketball Nets, Storm Windows and Doors, and Birdhouses

Per our Architectural Control Guidelines, basketball goals must be mounted on the garage or placed on the side of the driveway, as far to the rear of the property as possible. If the backboard is mounted onto the roof by use of a mounting structure, the mounting structure must be painted to match the roof shingle color. The basketball goal backboard, net and post must be maintained in usable condition and kept in acceptable appearance. Basketball goals not maintained, will be required to be removed. Only one basketball goal is permitted per lot. Portable goals that are commercially manufactured are allowed and may be placed without ACC application if they meet all of the above guidelines.

The frames of storm windows and storm doors must be of a color compatible with the exterior house colors and/or general use and appearance of the house. All storm doors must be a full glass door. No front screen doors are allowed.

Birdhouses are permitted to a height of fourteen (14) feet. If mounted on a pole, they must be unobtrusive and painted white or to match the trim color of the house. Birdhouses must be situated in the rear of the house and not closer than five (5) feet to any property line. The birdhouse and mounting structure must be maintained.

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VIRGINIA MACK, ABR, CBR, CRS, GRI

SEASONS Greetings

As the holiday season approaches, so do the opportunities to be taken advantage of. No one wants to become a crime victim. Robbery, assault, burglary and theft are crimes that plague citizens especially around the holidays. Take a few minutes to learn how you can have a safe and secure holiday shopping trip. This information is taken from a brochure provided by the Sugar Land Police Department.

Plan your shopping trip carefully. Know where you are going and the route(s) you will use. Choose well lit, well traveled routes.

Let someone know what time you will be returning.

Avoid shopping alone if at all possible.



Keep your car doors locked at all times.

Never allow your fuel tank to become less than half full.

Do not stop to help strangers. Go to a telephone and call the police to assist them. Sugar Land Police Non-Emergency Number: 281-275-2500

Avoid confrontation with strangers.



Park in a well-lit area.

Place all packages and electronic items in the trunk - out of sight.

Avoid parking near vans or other vehicles with covered cargo areas.

Look for suspicious persons before you get out of your car. Stay in your car until you are ready to head for your destination.



Never leave the store with your arms full of packages. Use a shopping cart.

Have your key in hand, ready to unlock your car door.

If you feel unsafe, ask store security to assist you to your vehicle.

Frequently check your rear mirror to see if you are being followed. If you are being followed, DO NOT go home. Drive to the nearest police station, fire station or other place of safety.

If you have a cell phone, you can call the police department. Try to get a good description of the vehicle that his following you, including the vehicle's make, color and license plate number if possible.

Avoid carrying large handbags. If you carry a purse, don't wrap the strap around your shoulder, neck or wrist. If your purse is grabbed a strong strap will not yield easily and you may be injured.

When you shop and carry a purse, place it in your shopping bag.

Never leave a purse on a store counter or in a grocery shopping cart -- even for a moment.

Avoid carrying cash and carry only those credit cards you will be using; leave the other cards at home.



Happy Shopping

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Ballet-Pointe-Tap-Jazz-Hip Hop
Musical Theater**

It's not too late to register for fall classes.
Classes offered for ages 2 1/2 to Adult

For information contact

281-980-1886

Director - Carolyn Kinard Reese
15510-J Lexington Blvd.

(In First Colony Between Hwy. 6 & Williams Trace)

Photo by Nesossi Photography

City of Sugar Land Redistricting Update

Sugar Land City Council is currently studying a proposal for redistricting based on Census 2000 numbers. Lines have been redrawn to accommodate the 158% increase in population between 1990 and 2000. The current number of districts (four single member districts plus two at large positions) will not change. The new proposal does not affect The Commonwealth which will remain in district four currently represented by Councilman Michael Schiff.

The city is expected to vote on the proposal within the next few weeks.

Winter Landscape Tips

The winter months are a good time for tidying up in the landscape. Pruning trees while dormant minimizes shock and gets them ready for spring. Deep feeding trees this time of year is also beneficial. Transplanting shrubs and trees while dormant is less stressful for them. It is a great time for most planting for the same reason.



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Orthodontist

2869 Dulles Avenue (next to CiCi's Pizza)

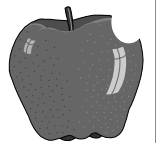
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Commonwealth Residents



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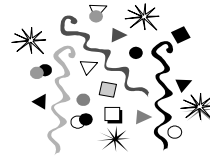
Mon.-Fri. 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

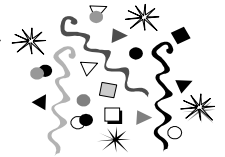
15309 Southwest Freeway (Williams Trace @ Hwy. 59)

Sugar Land, Texas 77478

281-242-3937



**Celebrating our
10th Anniversary**



www.todaysvision.com

The Commonwealth clubhouse is available for rent at very reasonable rates to residents in good standing with the association. The calendar tends to book up around the holidays, so if you are interested in hosting a party or event at the clubhouse, be sure to call Crest Management for date availability and rates as soon as possible.

281-579-0761

www.commonwealth-civic.com



Eagle Eye Alert -- CONTEST

The Commonwealth webmaster has hidden the new entry monument's griffin head in four locations on our web site. The Civic Association challenges Commonwealth Comments readers to visit our web site at www.commonwealth-civic.com and attempt to locate the four locations.

You must locate ALL FOUR hidden graphics and if you are one of the first three residents to email the webmaster with location details, you will be declared a winner!

The prize is a \$25.00 gift certificate for the AMC movie theater in First Colony. You can see the entire monument on the site but only the griffin head has been hidden!

Qualifications: Winners must be one of the first three to email the webmaster (determined by time and date of email). Winners must be over 18 years of age and in good standing with the Association.

-Winter Landscape Tips continued from page six-

If there are plants in your landscape that seem to be unhealthy for no apparent reason, or have yellowing leaves, a soil sample may reveal deficiencies that can be corrected. Many times, the culprit is a pH that is too alkaline. We have seen this with Red Oak trees, azaleas, gardenias and other acid loving plants. Most plants do well with a pH in the 5.5-6.5 range. Azaleas like a 4.5-5.0 range. If the pH is out of balance, the plants cannot assimilate available nutrients. In other words, all the fertilizing in the world won't help if the soil is out of balance. But a soil test is the only way to tell you what your soil needs. For a good website about soil samples, go to <http://aggie-turf.tamu.edu/soilsample/soilsample1.html> for more info.

Generally speaking, the soil for landscape planting needs improving. This is usually done prior to planting by adding soil amendments such as prepared soil or composted mulch and tilling this into the existing soil. This improves the drainage while providing a better growing medium for the plants.

Seasonal plants to plant right now include Pansies, Calendulas, Snapdragons, Sweet Allyssum, Dianthus, Dusty Miller, Ornamental Cabbage and Kale, and for an extra touch of class (and expense) Cyclamen and Primrose!! Choose healthy, well-rooted plants that look good before you buy them. Life is too short to use ugly plants!! Enjoy!!

This information was provided by Commonwealth resident, Britton Stein, owner of Crenshaw Landscapes 281-980-2733



Vision Source!

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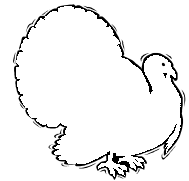
Open Mon - Sat
Many Insurance
Plans Accepted

Mention this ad for 30% off on all children's frames thru 12/31/02



With the increase in vehicular traffic experienced during the holiday season, we ask that residents be particularly sensitive to parking issues.

As you can imagine, larger vehicles such as Suburbans and full sized vans or trucks may have difficulty backing into the street under normal circumstances when cars are parked in the street. If your guests park directly behind the neighbors' driveway, it can be impossible. To avoid the possibility of damage to vehicles, we ask that you please try to stay



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 are interested in this group, or would like more information, please contact Susan at 281-980-3290 or Donna at 281-265-7108. (See related article on page three.)

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: Kathy Galvan (Commonwealth Elementary) 281-565-7696; Louisa Chiasson (Clements High School) 281-565-6849; Mary Marwil (Elkins High School) at 281-265-0877 or Kathie Waldheim (Fort Settlement Middle School) at 281-265-2739.

If you are interested in publicizing a Commonwealth-based special interest group,
give us a call.

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

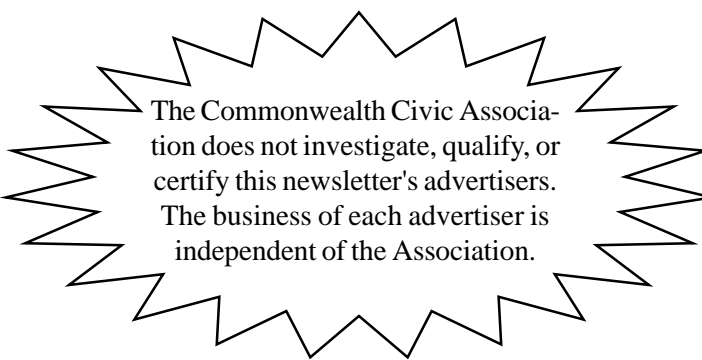
School District News

Commonwealth Elementary School is nearing the end of a library fundraiser. Interested parties may purchase a bookplate to be placed in a book of their choice in the school library for a mere \$10.00 donation. The book may be dedicated to anyone the purchaser desires. Children love checking out a book with their own name in the front of the book and they also enjoy donating a book in memory of or in celebration of grandparents or other family members. If you would like to purchase a bookplate, contact Kathy or Cheryl in the library at 281-634-5135.

The new addition at **Clements High School** is progressing on schedule. The project is expected to be fully completed by the end of the school year. However, if it continues at the current pace, it is possible that the science labs could be operational for students in the late spring.

Elkins High School was named a Blue Ribbon School earlier this year and has been approached by the TEA regarding the possibility of another commendation.

In November, the FBISD Board of Trustees is expected to approve a **bond referendum** to be held in February, 2003. At press time, the amount of the bond referendum had not been determined. A large committee of parents and community members has been meeting with administrators for months to hammer out the details. The original recommendation included major maintenance and repair items, the rebuilding or remodelling of three older campuses and the construction of: one high school, one middle school and four elementary schools as well as a campus request list.



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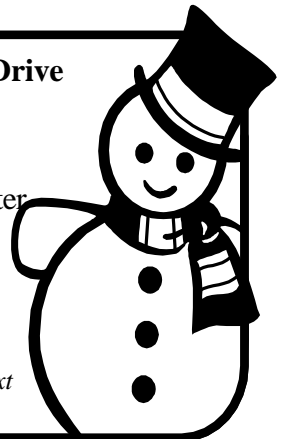
Share Your Holiday Food Drive

Wednesday, December 11

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sugar Land Community Center
226 Matlage Way

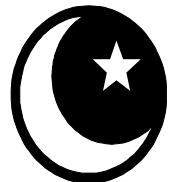
How about purchasing extra non-perishable food items to donate as you shop over the next few weeks?



The Board of Directors

Wishes you a safe and happy holiday season

PEACE ON EARTH



Crest Management Service

16360 Park Ten Place,
Suite 310,
Houston, Texas 77084

Carolyn Bonds, Senior Manager
281-579-0761
281-579-7062 (fax)



Association Board of Directors

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Zelma Loeb
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Crest Management 281-579-0761

Neighborhood Watch
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Welcome Committee
Maura Ritchie 281-980-6347
Roseann Pisano

Landscape Committee
Steve O'Hara 281-265-4485

Modifications & Deed Restrictions
Dan Lumpkin 281-265-6709

Tennis Committee
Cindy Facker 281-207-5129

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

Newsletter email address:
newsletter@commonwealth-civic.com or
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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
ECO Resources	281-240-1700
Newsletter	281-265-4556
Police & Fire Emergency	9-1-1

**Deadline for
next
Comments ~
December 1**

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