

# Commonwealth Comments

www.commonwealthcivic.com

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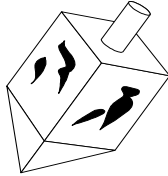
*Happy Holidays*



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

You're Invited to a Party!

## The Commonwealth Holiday Party



Refreshments  
will be served!

Fun for the  
entire family!



Always a Success!  
Always a Great Time!  
Always open to the Entire Neighborhood  
Don't Miss Out - Bring the whole family!

**Monday, December 15**  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
at The Commonwealth Clubhouse



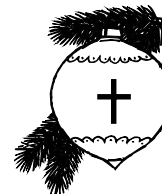
Bring your  
camera ~ just in  
case we have a  
special surprise  
visitor

Winners of the very popular Annual Home Decorating Contest will be announced.

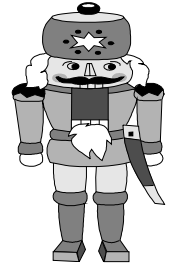
The Board of Directors of  
The Commonwealth Civic Association  
Wishes You and Your Family a  
**SAFE, HAPPY, PEACEFUL**  
Holiday Season



**KWANZAA**



**Vote November 4 - Fort Settlement Middle School**  
Fort Bend ISD Bond Referendum



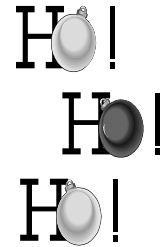
## For Our Annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Be sure to leave the lights on!  
Judging will take place on Friday and/or Saturday December 12th and 13th  
between 7 and 10 p.m.

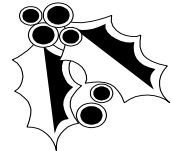
A \$100.00 gift certificate will be awarded in three categories:



\*\*Block includes 5 or more homes



Kids' Favorite



### 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.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.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 is important to the daily lives of Commonwealth residents.

If you are interested in being added to this list, please send an email to: [commonwealth@Stansellweb.com](mailto:commonwealth@Stansellweb.com) and please include contact information. (see note in circle on the right!)

We have recently experienced problems with some email servers rejecting our alerts.....PLEASE be sure that Paula has your contact information, just in case. We want to make sure that you receive all alerts.

**Fort Bend ISD Bond Election**  
**Tuesday, November 4**  
**This time we vote at**  
**Fort Settlement Middle School**



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## THE COMMONWEALTH WOMEN'S CLUB

invites all Commonwealth women to join them for a

### Holiday Ornament Exchange (White Elephant style)

Thursday, December 17 - 7 p.m.

This year's Holiday Ornament Exchange will also include a holiday gift donation to the Variety Club, The Children's Charity.



Please bring an unwrapped gift for a boy or a girl.

The Variety Club serves children in need. They sponsor many special programs and services that help enrich the lives of children throughout Houston and the surrounding area. Services range from furnishing school supplies to providing specially equipped mobility equipment, supplying funds for emergency food and shelter, specially designed toys and feeding equipment for the neonatal population and providing transportation in the form of Variety Club Sunshine Coaches.

Upcoming get-togethers:

February 26 - Wine Tasting (complete with prizes)

March 25 - Garden Party

April 22 - Luau Pool Party

Dues are very reasonable. Call Susan at 281-980-3290, for locations and more information about **THE COMMONWEALTH'S WOMEN'S CLUB.**



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11 Hessenford  
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32 Bradford Circle



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you a safe and happy  
holiday season!*

**Virginia Mack,** ABR, CBR, CRS, GRI

# Association Nuts & Bolts

*Deed Restrictions/Modifications/Architectural  
Changes corner*

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 re-work 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](http://www.commonwealth-civic.com).

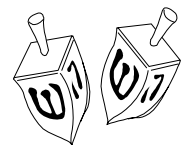
In order to preserve the natural setting and beauty of the Properties in The Commonwealth, to establish and preserve a harmonious and aesthetically pleasing design for The Commonwealth, and to protect and promote the value of the Properties, units and all improvements located therein, all residents are subject to the restrictions set forth in the Master Declaration and all supplemental amendments of this Association.

No construction, improvements, modifications, additions, or alterations to existing improvements shall be commenced or maintained by any Owner with respect to any other portion of the properties, including, without limitation, the construction or installation of sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, mail boxes, decks, patios, courtyards, swimming pools, tennis courts, greenhouses, playhouses, awnings, walls, fences, exterior lights, garages, guest or servant's quarters, or other buildings, nor shall any exterior addition to or change or alteration therein be made (including, painting or staining of any exterior surface), unless and until they shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the appropriate **Architectural Committee** as to the compliance of such plans.

Each homeowner agreed to this set of guidelines upon purchasing his/her property.

In the next issue we will begin a series of articles relating the guidelines of our Declaration. If there is any particular area of the restrictions that you would like to see highlighted, please send us an email:

[newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com)



# TODAY'S VISION



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[www.todaysvision.com](http://www.todaysvision.com)

# Building Brighter Futures

## The Fort Bend ISD Bond Referendum

On November 4, Fort Bend ISD is once again bringing forth a bond referendum for a vote.

The bond total has been cut by \$100 million. This was accomplished by removing one elementary school, computer technology upgrades, lowering the contingency fund and removing bus purchases and life cycle projects identified by the facilities study.

Passage of the bond referendum allows the school district to manage the rapid growth, support student achievement and maintain quality facilities.

### What's Included?

Construction of 1 high school, 2 middle schools, and 3 elementary schools. (\$160 million - approx.).

Safety and Security, Student Instruction, Instructional Technology, Student Transportation (\$45 million - approx)

Complete rebuild of 3 campuses, Heating and Cooling/Air Quality projects, Technology & Communications Infrastructure, Structural Integrity (\$95 million - approx.)

**Grand Total:** \$299,950,000

**Projected Tax Implications:** The Debt Service tax rate is currently \$0.17 per \$100 taxable value. Projected tax rate increase over the next 4 years is \$0.07 per \$100 taxable valuation.

### What if the Bond Fails?

The district would probably have to undertake a massive district-wide rezoning to lessen the overcrowding at the most critically overcrowded schools. More portable buildings would need to be purchased. Construction delays translate into higher construction costs and delaying critical maintenance and rebuild projects. Additionally, the district will have to spend additional funds in order to call another election in the near future.

The Commonwealth will vote at  
Fort Settlement Middle School

Vote  
November 4



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## Looking for QUICK CASH for the Holidays?

### Sign up for The Commonwealth Community Garage Sale!

This year's Community Garage Sale will  
take place on Friday and Saturday,  
**November 14 & 15**  
8 a.m. - noon each day.

Maps to registered homes will be available at  
7:45 a.m. each day at the Clubhouse.

If you wish to be included on the map, you  
must sign up by Tuesday, November 11.

Call Tina at 281-772-5019

Participation is FREE to Commonwealth residents.

The garage sale will be advertised in the  
Houston Chronicle, the Fort Bend Star and  
the Fort Bend SUN.

## The Fruit Market

A fresh, tasty fruit basket is a perfect way to  
show your love, your appreciation, or wish  
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## Illuminating News!

One can't help notice how much brighter certain areas of our community have become over the past month! The electrical improvement project included lights for the four entry signs, area lighting in the circle in front of the clubhouse, area lighting on the walkway to the clubhouse and area lighting on the Clubhouse patio. Also included were light poles at the Regents Park entrance, around the Knightsbridge fountains walkway, at the Clubhouse parking lot AND at the Briarwood pool parking lot.

We all look so much younger in the new light!



Think you can beat a traffic ticket because the officer transposed the letters in your name? Think again.

Sugar Land Municipal Court is teaming up with the Sugar Land Police Department to provide police officers with hand-held electronic ticket writers that will record information digitally and then send it on its way electronically to the court. Due to its wireless capabilities, the ticket can be in the court's computer system in a matter of minutes.

**There will be a meeting to organize our Neighborhood Crime Watch Program on Monday, January 19 at 7:00 PM in the Clubhouse.**  
**A representative from the Sugar Land Police will present information on the program.**

## Neighborhood Watch

**Neighborhood Watch Program Operates under Two Principles: Know Your Neighbors & Report Suspicious Activity**

The basic idea is for neighbors to watch out for each other. By looking after a neighbor's property as if it were your own, you will more likely contact the police if you observe something suspicious. Citizens act as extra "eyes and ears" for the police department so that calls to the police will be made when criminal activity is suspected.

Once your neighbors have agreed to participate in a Neighborhood Watch Program and the street is organized, officers will send crime information bulletins to your Neighborhood Watch group on an as-needed basis. This information is sent regarding crimes of a serious nature, or when a suspect's description is available. This information, coupled with the two basic principles of Crime Watch, can help citizens become a part of reducing the overall crime rate in the neighborhoods.

**For more information or questions about these services, contact the Sugar Land Police Crime Prevention Unit at 281-275-2575.**



## COMMONWEALTH, YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!

Our children are taught from a very early age that one person can make a difference. In elementary school, they hear stories about how our founding fathers put their lives on the line for freedom and the principles in which they believed. In middle school and high school, we encourage our kids to get involved in service organizations and underscore the importance of giving back to their community. Then somewhere along the way many adults, whether because of demanding schedules, disillusionment or just apathy, seem to give up and leave it to others to make a difference for them.

That's why it is so refreshing, as Mayor, to be able to work with citizens who take an active role in their neighborhoods and community. The residents of Commonwealth are known throughout the City as an informed, organized and proactive homeowners association. You can be proud of your reputation and grateful to the leaders within your association who understand the importance of providing forums for your voices to be heard and to stay informed on the latest developments impacting your area. Two new developments that Commonwealth residents weighed in on are the opening of University Boulevard and the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Commonwealth and Elkins.

### University Boulevard Expansion

The ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of University Boulevard took place on Monday, October 6. This opening is significant because of its immediate benefit to the residents of Commonwealth and Avalon, who may now access U.S. Hwy 59 without negotiating a series of stop signs and school zones, or having to do deal with the traffic at Sweetwater interchange at Hwy. 59. The flow of traffic will be reversed from its currently heavy pattern of east on Commonwealth/north on Elkins, improving commute time and providing a safer environment for our children.

This opening represents the first main segment of a regionally significant road, not only for Commonwealth, but for East Fort Bend County as well. Eventually, University will extend from Hwy 90, south (under a future Hwy 6 overpass) to the newly opened segment, and connect with Hwy 6 near FM 1092. Importantly, the City was able to secure third party funding to cover 80% of the cost of this project.



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**Commonwealth Resident**

### Commonwealth/Elkins Intersection

You may expect a traffic signal at the busy intersection of Commonwealth and Elkins by January of 2004. As some of you may be aware, Fort Bend County is overseeing this project, because this intersection lies outside of the City's boundaries. But the signal has been designed, the contract will be "put out for bid" this month, and the signal will be installed within 4 months. Improving the safety of this intersection was a key issue driven by the Commonwealth and Avalon Homeowner's Associations, FBISD (Fort Settlement Middle School) and strongly supported by the City and the County. In particular, I wish to thank County Commissioner James Patterson for his immediate and decisive actions on securing this traffic signal.

The new traffic signal will clearly improve the safety and traffic management of this school zone intersection. I am grateful to all of you who came forward to appeal for the installation of a traffic signal. Your voices were heard and you made a difference in your community.



So when your favorite 3<sup>rd</sup> grader is studying about Community in social studies, or your teen begins to expand his/her awareness of community involvement and service, I encourage you to cite these examples of how **YOU** made a tangible difference in your own neighborhood. After all, you are your children's best teacher, and the best way to teach is through example. I look forward to working together with the residents of Commonwealth on many important issues in the years ahead.

*This article was submitted by David G.  
Wallace, Mayor of Sugar Land*




**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**


*-continued on page eight-*

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**Susan Menapace Delclos, DMD, MDS, PA**  
*Orthodontist*  
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**281-261-2504**



**Henry Delclos, D.D.S., Pediatric Dentist**  
2225 Williams Trace Blvd., Ste 206  
**281-265-4177**

## Teen Band Night Another Success!

Once again, thanks to the efforts of Mary Westbrook and her volunteer assistant, Virginia Mack, over 120 Commonwealth teens spent a rockin' evening at the Clubhouse last month. Mary and Virginia are eagerly planning a Spring repeat. Local bands performing were: Stay At Home, HapHazard and The Skirts.



*Food, Fun, and  
lots of Music!!!*

*The Teens*



*The Skirts*



*The Organizers*



*Stay At Home*



*HapHazard*



## New Solid Waste Contract

Sugar Land has signed a new five-year contract with Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc. (BFI) for residential solid waste collection and recycling service levels. Major changes include:

- The monthly residential user fee increases from \$9.70 to \$10.70.
- The weight of a residential container and its contents is limited to 60 pounds.
- Re-usable residential receptacles must have a capacity of no less than 20 gallons but no more than 40 gallons.
- Refrigerators and freezers must have the doors removed before being placed at the curb for collection. This is a safety measure to ensure that children do not get trapped inside.
- Solid waste must be placed no farther than six feet from the curb for collection no later than 7 a.m. on the day of collection and **no earlier than 6 p.m.** the evening before. Reusable containers must be removed from the curb no later than 8 a.m. on the morning following collection.

*Trash collection days (Tuesday/Friday) for The Commonwealth have NOT changed. Recycling will still take place on Fridays.*

For questions, call the Public Works Department at (281) 275-2450 or e-mail [solidwaste@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:solidwaste@sugarlandtx.gov).

### Holiday Trash Schedule

**The City's Holiday Trash Schedule changes our Friday trash pick-up to the Saturday for Thanksgiving week, Christmas week and New Year's Weekend (November 29, December 27, and January 3.)**

## 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.*

### Board Meeting

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

### CAT Meeting

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

May You Have The  
**MERRIEST  
HOLIDAY**  
Ever

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

## 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 Mail to **Commonwealth Comments, 3909 St. Michaels Ct., Sugar Land, Texas 77479** and include a check for full payment. Ad rates begin at \$55.00 per issue.

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

## 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.

### 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: Debbie Glasscock (Commonwealth Elementary) at 281-980-4118; Sheryl Poole (Fort Settlement Middle School and Clements High School) at 281-491-4690; Mary Marwil (Elkins High School) at 281-265-0877.

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

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

The Commonwealth Civic Association does not investigate, qualify, or certify this newsletter's advertisers. The business of each advertiser is independent of the Association.

## Crest Management Service

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

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



**School District Bond Election**  
**Tuesday, November 4**  
**Vote at Fort Settlement M.S.**

### Association Board of Directors

**Tom Wooley**  
281-265-1734  
President

**Zelma Loeb**  
281-980-7741  
Vice President

**Paula Stansell**  
Treasurer  
281-579-0761

**Jim McGregor**  
281-980-1661  
Director

**Steve O'Hara**  
281-265-4485  
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

Modifications & Deed Restrictions  
*Dan Lumpkin* 281-265-6709

Tennis Committee  
*Cindy Facker* 281-207-5129

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

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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 (Centrepont)	713-207-2222
Newsletter	281-265-4556
<b>Police &amp; Fire Emergency</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>

Deadline for next  
Commonwealth Comments -  
December 1, 2003

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