

# Commonwealth Comments

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

March/April, 2004

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

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Don't Forget

**VOTE**  
**TUESDAY,**  
**MARCH 9**  
at Commonwealth  
Clubhouse

## VOTE March 9th - 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Our next election will take place on **Tuesday, March 9th**. This is the local **Primary Election**. The general election will be held in November. Commonwealth voters will cast their votes at **The Commonwealth Clubhouse** (corner of Knightsbridge and Commonwealth Blvd.), 7 a.m. - 7 p.m..

Contested races at stake are:

**Congressional District #22**  
**County Sheriff**  
**Tax Assessor-Collector**  
**Constable Precinct 4**  
**Precinct Chair**

See our web site for additional election information.  
[www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)

...and be sure to come back Tuesday evening for your party caucus. Ask for details when you vote or contact Paula Stansell at: [stansell\\_p@hotmail.com](mailto:stansell_p@hotmail.com)

Yes, we're talking about voting in the Primary Election on Tuesday, March 9th, but you won't be finished just yet!

City and School Board elections are going to take place on Saturday, May 15. City Officials and School Board Trustees are the elected positions that truly have the most impact on your daily life. These are very important elections. The winning candidates are responsible for influencing city regulations, writing policies, overseeing the budgets, and setting the tax rates. Please join us and meet the candidates running for these offices!

## MEET THE CANDIDATES COFFEE

Commonwealth  
Web Site Contest

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**  
**7 P.M.**

**THE COMMONWEALTH CLUBHOUSE**

Beginning on Monday, April 5th, residents may comb the Commonwealth Web Site ([www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)) searching for "The Question of the Week". A new question will be posted each Monday in April. At the end of the fourth week, send an email to: [commonwealth@stansellweb.com](mailto:commonwealth@stansellweb.com) with the answer to all 4 of the questions. Each correct entry will be entered into the drawing. (Only one entry per household, please!) The winning household will be drawn at the annual meeting to be held in May.

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

Association  
Board of Directors

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

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

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

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

## Volunteer Opportunities

It takes more than a healthy budget to make a GREAT community. It takes the combined efforts of a lot of community volunteers serving on committees to ensure that everything is "taken care of". There are numerous committees here in Commonwealth, offering a multitude of opportunities to become involved in the success of our community (and to have some fun as well). Whether you are willing to commit to a few hours a week, or a few hours a year, there IS a place for you. Committee chairs and their telephone numbers are listed on page three of this newsletter. If you see an area in which you may wish to become involved, please give the committee chair, or one of our Association Board of Directors, a call and ask how you can help out. None of these committees require a tremendous time commitment. The following is a brief overview of each committee.

Clubhouse: The Clubhouse Committee needs volunteers to ensure that the Clubhouse is always in its best condition. We need 'inspectors' to be sure that our Clubhouse is pristine before and after each rental.

Neighborhood Watch: We need people in every section to assist the Association in receiving and disbursing criminal activity information. Part of the reason we have not yet been heavily targeted by criminals is because we have so many alert residents.

Welcome Committee: This committee of volunteers delivers our Welcome Packet to new residents. The packet is put together by Maura Ritchie and Gwen Dahlin and is full of information useful to those who are new to the area.

Landscape Committee: The Landscape Committee contributes personal opinion and recommendations on The Commonwealth's beautiful public areas. Extra sets of eyes, especially those of neighborhood walkers, are always valuable. Let the Committee Chair know if there is a concern about the landscape in any given area.

Modifications & Deed Restriction: This is a committee of dedicated volunteers who become familiar with the Deed Restrictions in our Covenants. They review all applications for modifications/changes/improvements to the outside of homes in The Commonwealth.

Tennis Committee: If you play tennis on a regular basis, consider yourself a member of this committee. Cindy relies on the input of our tennis players to help keep an eye on our tennis courts.

Social Committee: While, at this time, there is not an official committee for social activities, we need volunteers for EVERY Civic Association sponsored event (i.e. Holiday party, July 4th Parade and Picnic, teen parties, etc.).



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## Association Nuts & Bolts

*Deed Restrictions/Modifications/Architectural Changes corner*

### If Spring is In The Air - Then It's Time to Paint and Repair

Probably the most important job of Association is the maintenance and upkeep of the Association property. Well planned maintenance and upkeep maintain and increase property values. When prospective homeowners enter The Commonwealth, "curb appeal" sets the stage as to whether or not they will even want to consider purchasing a property in the area. Maintenance and upkeep of homes is up to individual homeowners. Please become familiar with our Deed Restrictions and be sure to submit the required paperwork before beginning your improvements.

Color changes must be approved by the Modifications Committee (MC). (shutters, doors, etc.)

Exterior painting must be approved by the MC unless using the same color.

Exterior brick **cannot** be painted.

Siding and trim should generally stay within the earth tone family. No primary colors (i.e. blues, reds, greens, yellows) are allowed.

Extremely bold colors or pastels are prohibited.

Front doors may be stained, a natural wood color, or painted the same color as the house trim. Other colors may be approved on a case by case basis.

Vinyl siding and aluminum are not permitted for either siding or trim.

## Association Committees

Clubhouse & Pool Rentals  
*Crest Management* 281-579-0761

Neighborhood Watch  
*Nancy Castellvi* 281-265-2769

Welcome Committee  
*Maura Ritchie* 281-980-6347  
*Gwen Dahlin* 713-304-1048

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

## Commonwealth Alert

Be sure to sign up for our  
Email Alert system.




This is a service of The Commonwealth  
Civic Association in conjunction with  
residents Paula and Charles Stansell,  
who oversee the Association's web page:  
[www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com).

**NOTE:** The Association will **NOT** be  
sharing these email addresses with any  
commercial venture and

**NO ADVERTISING** (or jokes!)  
will be forwarded to residents.

This email network is **STRICTLY** for  
alerting/providing information regarding  
timely matters that the Association feels  
are important to our residents.


You may sign up by sending an email to:  
[commonwealth@stansellweb.com](mailto:commonwealth@stansellweb.com)  
please include your name and contact  
information.



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Fax: (281) 265-7370  
Direct: (713) 854-3632  
Toll Free: (800) TEXAS99  
E-Mail: [liska@fash.net](mailto:liska@fash.net)



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**Dr. Carey A. Patrick, O.D.**  
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**GUCCI**



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## State of the City: Sugar Land in 2004

Following is part of a brief summary of Sugar Land's accomplishments in 2003, captured under the heading of each of the 13 goals of the City's Comprehensive Plan. To view the Comprehensive Plan in its entirety, visit the City's Web site at [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov). The conclusion of the article will appear in next month's Commonwealth Comments.

### 1. Safe and Beautiful City

Public safety entities allocated resources and collaborated with other agencies to ensure the highest level of safety. The Sugar Land Police and Fire Departments each added personnel, upgraded equipment and completed specialized training. Though population increased, crime is down and response time to 911 calls has decreased. The Mayor's Advisory Council broke new ground in improving police and community relations. A report was presented to City Council with recommendations to enhance the connection between the community and police.

### 2. Economically Sustainable City

Sugar Land has been successful in promoting a vibrant economy while maintaining a competitive tax rate. Our tax rate (32.886 cents) is one of the lowest in the state. New commercial construction totaled \$75.7 million and *Money Magazine* ranked Sugar Land 17<sup>th</sup> among its hottest places to live in America. Town Square's development is on target, the Sugar Land Marriott opened in October, and City Hall will relocate to Town Square in Fall of 2004. In 2003, the Texas Energy Center was established, receiving an earmark of \$31 million from the State. The TxEC is a cluster of research organizations, energy companies and leading universities with the common goal of finding solutions to pressing U.S. energy needs. This public-private sector effort will provide significant new economic development in Texas and will secure Sugar Land's future as an energy hub.

### 3. Effective Land Use

Council approved Newland Communities development agreement for the 2,000-acre area between US Highway 59 and US Highway 90A. The result will be a master-planned community with a state-of-the-art research and development business park dedicated for the TxEC. Currently, the City is updating its overall Land Use Plan, which is a map that guides future land use decisions.

### 4. Redevelopment

The City is dedicated to redeveloping declining areas, to keep in harmony with the balance of the surrounding community. Working together with such organizations as the Fort Bend Corp, the City continues to leverage productive public/private partnerships.

## 5. Transportation and Mobility

The state completed its main lane expansion of US Hwy 59, which now includes a total of eight continuous northbound and southbound main lanes from State Highway 6 to southwest Houston. Capacity was improved at all major intersections under the freeway. Highway signs featuring the design of the City's seal are pre-wired to accommodate future technology, the extension of University Boulevard was completed in 2003, and completion of the US 59/US 90A interchange is expected in early 2004.

## 6. Infrastructure

The City is considering options for a surface water plant for the City of Sugar Land, as well as for a regional plant concept, to meet the growing needs of the City and its extraterritorial jurisdiction areas.

This report will be continued next month



*Article was submitted by Sugar Land Mayor David G. Wallace*

*To the left: Mayor Wallace recently visited with Commonwealth residents: Patrice & Britton Stein, Charles Stansell and Conrith Davis.*

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## Fort Bend ISD Update

Due to rapid growth in the school district, FBISD is forced to rezone annually to help relieve overcrowded campus conditions. At this time, none of the proposed rezoning affects the schools to which Commonwealth students are zoned (Commonwealth Elementary, Fort Settlement Middle School, or Clements High School.) It is unlikely this fact will change during the current year's process, but may in the future. This newsletter will make every attempt to bring you information as it is known.

It is well documented that there is a critical budget shortfall in the funding of public education in the state of Texas. Due to its prudent financial practices, FBISD has been fortunate enough to manage its available funds in such a way as to avoid the inevitability of cutting academic/co-curricular programs/activities to date. The district is currently entering the budget process and it is not yet known if any programs will be cut in the upcoming year. Budget workshops are open to the public and notice of these meetings are posted at the front door of each campus, the administration building and on the web page.

*Swim Season Is  
Just Around The  
Corner*

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**B=Briarwood  
K= Knightsbridge**

**Pool Hours can  
also be found at the  
Commonwealth  
Web Site.**

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

May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 K 12noon-8pm
2 K 12noon-8pm	3	4	5	6	7	8 B 10am-8pm
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22 B 12noon-8pm K 10am-9pm	23 B 4pm-8pm	24 K 4pm-8pm	25 B 4pm-8pm K 4pm-8pm	26 B 4pm-8pm K 4pm-8pm	27 B 4pm-8pm K 4pm-8pm	28 B 10am-8pm K 10am-9pm
29 B 12noon-8pm K 10am-9pm	30 B 4pm-8pm	31 K 4pm-8pm				

September						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 B 4pm-8pm K 4pm-8pm	2 B 4pm-8pm K 4pm-8pm	3 B 4pm-8pm K 4pm-8pm	4 B 10am-8pm K 12noon-9pm
5 B 12noon-8pm K 12noon-8pm	6 B 10am-8pm K 12noon-8pm	7	8	9	10	11 B 10am-8pm K 12noon-9pm
12 B 12noon-8pm K 12noon-8pm	13	14	15	16	17	18 K 10am-9pm
19 K 10am-9pm	20	21	22	23	24	25 B 10am-8pm
26 B 12noon-8pm	27	28	29	30		

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

## Water Conservation Tips-from The City of Sugar Land

- Use water-saving devices such as low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Repair all leaks. If the water meter is moving even though all faucets are off, the house most likely has a leak somewhere.
- Operate the washing machine and dishwasher only when fully loaded.
- Use the proper water level or load size selection on washing machines.
- Water lawns during the coolest part of the day.
- Use mulch around shrubs and plants to reduce evaporation.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clear driveways, steps and sidewalks.
- Take shorter showers or consider installing low-flow showerheads.
- Use the dishwasher to wash (full loads) of dishes. The dishwasher generally uses less water than hand washing.
- Turn off the water while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Avoid using the garbage disposal. Instead, dispose of food scraps in the garbage.
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation wherever possible.
- Mow as infrequently as possible, and set the mower on its highest setting. Cutting the grass too short causes stress during the heat of summer, forcing the roots to work harder and use more water. Remove weeds from the lawn. Weeds rob lawns of moisture and nutrients.
- Cover the pool. This significantly reduces evaporation, and the need to refill it.
- Water lawns in the early morning or in the late evening. Avoid watering during the heat of the day since this is when evaporation is at its peak. Do not water when it is windy or when there is a chance of rain. Only water the yard. Concrete sidewalks and gutters don't grow. This may require adjusting sprinklers or watering some areas by hand. Water the lawn no more than every three to five days. Watering it more often is not beneficial; in fact, it may actually harm a lawn.

The Welcome Committee is currently accepting items to include in the Welcome Packets given to new residents. If you would like more information call Maura @ 281-980-6347



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**Residents will be required to bring a current Commonwealth Civic Association Pool Tag to visit the Knightsbridge or Briarwood Pool.**

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Crest Management will mail pool Tags to residents after receiving a completed pool tag registration form. One registration form is required per family. Forms are to be mailed or faxed to Crest Management for processing. Additional forms are available on our web site, [www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com) or you may pick up a form outside the clubhouse (on the corner of Knightsbridge and Commonwealth Blvd.).

If Crest Management receives your form by April 1, your tags (or stickers) will be included in the first mail out in mid April. It will generally take two weeks for Crest Management to process and mail your pool tags. The pools will be open on a limited basis beginning May 1. Pool hours will be posted on our web site and at the pool display boards. Children under the age of 12 will require adult supervision and they will not require a pool tag. Residents must be current on assessments to receive pool tags or stickers.

**Providing stickers instead of new tags saves the Association money. If you have your old pool tags, please request only one sticker per tag. The stickers are easily applied to your old tags.**

If you have any questions, please contact Crest Management at 281-579-0762. The fax number for Crest is 281-579-7062.

# Commonwealth Civic Association 2004 Pool Registration Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME OR  
OFFICE PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_ own my home / I \_\_\_ rent my home - If renting, provide the name and address of the owner:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

### FAMILY MEMBERS REGISTERING FOR POOL ACCESS

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	AGE
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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*Please request only one sticker per tag to add to your old tags.  
Providing stickers instead of new tags will save us money.  
Residents must be current on assessments to receive the tags.  
Pool tags/stickers will be mailed to the resident's home address.*

**Number of stickers needed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of tags needed:** \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all members of my family and all of my guests will follow all of the pool rules.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail or Fax Form to:  
Crest Management Service - 16360 Park Ten Place, #310, Houston, TX, 77084.  
Fax #: 281-579-7062*

Pool tags/stickers will be available in April, 2004. Registration forms received after april will take approximately one week to process once crest Management receives the form.

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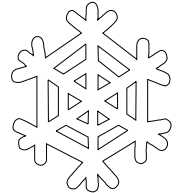


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**281-242-EYES**

**281-242-3937**



## 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

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**  
(MARCH 17)

**HAPPY PASSOVER**  
(APRIL 5)

**MAY YOU HAVE A BLESSED EASTER**  
(APRIL 11)

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

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

## 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.

Newsletter email address:  
[newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com)



Sue Hauenstein  
**the write idea**  
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.



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Next Meet The  
Candidates Coffee  
- Wednesday,  
April 21!

A world of resources at your fingertips:  
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## Commonwealth's Meet The Candidates Coffee



*Tax Assessor/Collector Candidate  
Michael Gutierrez*



*Resident Michael Sabouni (left) visits with  
Constable Candidate Troy Nehls' representative  
Trevor Nehls, Ken Dexter, and Mike Garza, Jr.  
Candidate for Constable.*



*Residents Cheryl Gaul (left) and  
Conrith Davis (right) visit with  
Candidate/Constable Hal Werlein and  
Tax Assessor/Collector Candidate  
Ken Dexter*



*Michael Sabouni greets  
State Representative  
Charlie Howard*



*Precinct Chair Candidate Paula Stansell (rear-right)  
and Tax Assess/Collector Candidate Patsy Schultz  
(front-center) visit with residents.*



*The Coffee was successful  
despite the bad weather that  
kept many residents home.*