

# Commonwealth Comments

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

January/February, 2005

www.commonwealthcivic.com

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## Happy New Year!

We hope you had a relaxing holiday season!



## And.....The Winners Are.....

We know you've waited all season to find out who the winners are. The following Holiday Decorating Contest Winners were announced at The Commonwealth holiday party on Monday, December 13 at the Clubhouse.



**Best Block**

**Browning Court**



**Kids' Favorite**

**62 Stalybridge**



**Best Overall**

**4906 Canterbury**



*Browning Court - Best Block*

*62 Stalybridge - Kids' Favorite*



*4906 Canterbury - Best Overall*

The holiday party was a great success, with over 75 residents in attendance. They were joined by none other than Santa Claus who spent some time visiting with neighborhood children.



Association  
Board of Directors

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

**Paula Stansell**  
Vice President  
281-579-0761

**Conrith Davis**  
Treasurer  
713-443-9069

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

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

## Dues are Due



**Civic Association dues are overdue if not received in the offices of Crest Management, P.O.Box 219320, Houston, Texas 77218-9320 by January 31, 2005. Interest begins to accrue on February 1, 2005.**

Homeowner Association dues allow us to preserve the quality of life we enjoy in our community. We are able to maintain our greenbelts, parks, playgrounds, pools, tennis courts, waterways and the wonderful sense of community; thus aiding to maintain our property values.

Homeowners are responsible for payment of this bill. If you think your mortgage company handles this payment for you, be sure to call and verify this information with them immediately. If you are leasing, read your lease agreement, responsibility for this bill may fall on you!

Believe it or not, dry rot could cost Commonwealth homeowners \$10,000 or more in repair work. As homeowners inspect the exteriors of their homes this spring, not only might they face a much needed paint job, but may also discover a problem not uncommon in the Houston area: dry rot in the wood around windows and doors. A couple of hints to homeowners:

Keep dirt and mulch 3" below weep holes and siding \*\*\* Adjust your grading to run water away from weep holes and low siding \*\*\* Do not just caulk up dry rot pieces because that may send the dry rot into other lumber \*\*\* Loose, dirty or poorly sloped gutters can cause dry rot in Facia, Sophets, Decking and Rafters \*\*\* Replace defective shingles \*\*\* Get rid of ants that can import dirt into a wall causing dry rot \*\*\*Caulk split wood and joints \*\*\*Do **NOT** let anyone pressure wash your house, it's not good for the wood. \*\*\*

We are looking for someone to organize and oversee the planning of our next community **Garage Sale.**

If you would like more information on what the job would entail, please contact Tom Wooley at 281-265-1734 or shoot an email to: [commonwealth@stansellweb.com](mailto:commonwealth@stansellweb.com)

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**Association Nuts & Bolts**

*Deed Restrictions/Modifications/Architectural  
Changes corner*

**Pools and Spas**

It's that time of the year when many of us start thinking about whether or not we wish to hassle with the expense and maintenance of a backyard pool. The Commonwealth has two beautiful and well maintained pools for the use of our residents, but some of us just can't think of anything finer than to relax in the privacy of our own backyards and soak up the sun, or play water games with the kids.

Mom wants a waterfall, the kids want a cave, and dad wants an outdoor kitchen. There are MANY guidelines that must be met before you begin outdoor modifications. If you don't have your own copy of the Architectural Guidelines, you may wish to visit [www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com) and read the guidelines on our web site. (See Home Improvements - ACC Guidelines). *The Pool and Spa application form now includes a checklist for homeowners*

All outdoor home modifications must be approved by the Modifications and Deed Restrictions Committee.

For the timeliest turn around, have your plans drawn up by a reputable professional and submit them to **Crest Management** by the **2nd Monday** of the month.

You can save yourself a lot of time and money by getting approval **BEFORE** you make the improvements.




**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  
*Conrith Davis*      713-443-9069

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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email: [virginiamack@ftbendhomes.com](mailto:virginiamack@ftbendhomes.com)

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

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**ORTHODONTIST**

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(next to CiCi's Pizza)  **281-261-2504**

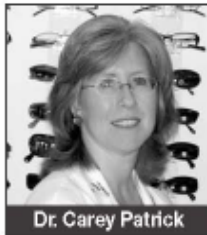
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## What is a Homeowner's Association?

Homeowner's Associations were created to maintain the common properties and provide services of benefit to the homeowners. Some of these services are lighting, mosquito control, landscape maintenance, and capital asset maintenance. The Association is governed by By-laws, Articles of Incorporation, and Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions. The bylaws dictate the terms, duties, and responsibilities of the Board. The Covenants and Restrictions outline the amount and manner of assessments, and the guidelines for deed restrictions and architectural control.

Homeowners automatically become members of the Association upon the purchase of property within the confines of the community. The Association is governed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors are elected by the property owners at annual meetings. We have five directors, each elected for a two year term (with staggered election dates).

Our Board of Directors hires a management company to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Association. Some of the duties of the management company include: attending board meetings, inspection and enforcement of deed restriction violations, billing and collection of yearly assessments, assistance with preparation of the budget, bill paying and record keeping, amenity inspections, bid solicitation and contract supervision.

The management company is directed by the Board of Directors and works within the guidelines of the Bylaws and Covenants and Restrictions. Our Association has worked with Crest Management Services for over ten years.

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




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## Commonwealth's Women's Club

If you haven't yet joined the Women's Club, take an hour or two to drop by on **January 20** for Ladies Night Out at Gringo's on Highway 59 near the Fountains. What a great time to meet some of the ladies who make up this wonderful neighborhood organization.

The **February 17** meeting is Fabulous Feathers and Fur Fun in February - who doesn't need some fun to beat the winter blues?

The Women's Club will celebrate their **10th Anniversary in 2005** - they must be doing something right to have survived that long!!!!!!



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**281-242-3937**



It is estimated that 29 million Americans have diabetes. Approximately one-third are unaware they have the disease until major complications develop, such as diabetic retinopathy, the major cause of blindness in people with diabetes. According to the American Academy of Optometry, only 50% to 60% of diabetics get recommended annual eye exams.

“Annual eye exams, including those with the Optomap® Retinal Exam, are vital for people of all ages to maintain vision and overall health, and detect eye disease early in order to prevent unnecessary vision loss,” said Dr. Arnold, Today's Vision, Sugar Land. “This is particularly true of people with diabetes, many of whom will unknowingly develop diabetic retinopathy, a condition that is the major cause of blindness in people with diabetes. Regular eye exams can detect retinopathy early and possibly prevent blindness.”

Dr. Arnold uses the Optos P200™ Non-mydratric Scanning Laser Ophthalmoscope, featuring the Optomap Retinal Exam, which captures and analyzes an image of virtually the entire retina (back of the eye). The Optomap technology does not require dilation, however the decision to dilate or not is a medical decision that should be made by your doctor. The exam allows doctors to detect and manage serious eye conditions - such as diabetic retinopathy, retinal detachments and macular degeneration – that could have otherwise gone undetected. The Optomap Retinal Exam is a simple, quick and non-invasive way to maintain good eye health.

### Facts About Diabetes and Eye Disease

*Diabetes is the leading cause of new cases of blindness among adults 20-74 years old.*

*Diabetic Retinopathy causes from 12,000 to 24,000 new cases of blindness each year.*

*This information was provided by Dr. Thomas Arnold of Today's Vision Sugar Land in support of National Diabetes Month in November.*

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## 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

### 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

"An Evening with  
Councilman Michael Schiff"  
Wednesday, February 23  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

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



## 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.



## Happy New Year!



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

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Another opportunity, for our residents to become aware and remain advised, provided by The Commonwealth Civic Association.

### Meet the Councilman

*An Evening with Michael Schiff*

**Commonwealth is represented on Sugar Land City Council by Michael Schiff. Councilman Schiff has indicated an interest in meeting periodically with his constituents to advise about goings on at city hall, planning, concerns, and possible upcoming issues. There will be time set aside for Q & A.**

*The Commonwealth Clubhouse*

**Wednesday, February 23**

**6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Sponsored by**

**The Commonwealth Civic Association,  
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