

Commonwealth Comments

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

July/August, 2005

www.commonwealthcivic.com

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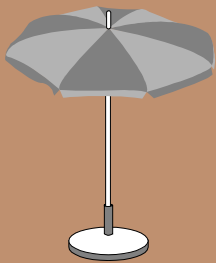
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Visit

www.commonwealthcivic.com

*for more current
Association
information.*

Annual Meeting Report

The Commonwealth Civic Association Annual Meeting was held in The Commonwealth Clubhouse on Tuesday, May 17. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

The first order of business was the approval of minutes from last year's annual meeting. Tom Wooley, President of the Association, introduced board members in attendance: Conrith Davis, Jim McGregor and Paula Stansell. He explained each director's area of responsibility.

Jim McGregor revealed that the Association had just installed a bench outside of the clubhouse. The bench is dedicated to the memory of Faye Becker who was heavily involved in the Association before her untimely death two years ago. (See additional article on page nine.) Jim also advised that the Modifications Form required from residents making home improvements (which include painting/solar shades/etc.) are now available on line at www.commonwealthcivic.com.

Tom Wooley explained that there would be new landscaping on both sides of Commonwealth Blvd. in an effort to camouflage the fences. The Association expects to budget approximately \$100,000 per year for the next several years to complete the new landscape project. The first phase scheduled is the section between St. Michaels Ct. and Knightsbridge.

An update was provided on the walls around the Knightsbridge retention areas. The fountains are currently being repaired. This project is expected to be completed by the time the newsletter is published. (The L.I.D. has spent approximately \$150,000 to shore up our water reserves.)

Conrith Davis reported that the Association is making improvements in the pool area, and the sign in front of the Clubhouse will be updated to improve drive by reading ease! They are also giving consideration to a Tennis Tournament.

Paula Stansell encouraged all in attendance to be sure they are on our Email Alert List. Our email alert is the fastest way to get current Commonwealth information. The Alert List is growing, but there are still many residents who have not yet signed up. She assured residents that she does not overwhelm them with email. To the contrary, she sends out only information the Association feels is necessary or important to residents. The list is NOT shared with anyone outside of the Association. Paula also reiterated the importance of our votes in local elections and reminded residents that we vote at The Commonwealth Clubhouse each election day.

Modifications Committee Chair Dan Lumpkin and newsletter editor Sue Hauenstein were introduced and appreciation expressed for the services they provide to the community.

Annual Meeting notes continue on page 2

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

Annual Meeting Notes - *continued from page 1*

During the question and answer period Tom Wooley acknowledged that, due to the inclement weather, we have lost pecan trees around our lakes. The board has not yet discussed whether or not to replace the trees. One of the challenges facing the Association is that not all of these areas are irrigated and this presents a real hardship for new landscape projects.

When questioned about the increase in landscape maintenance fees along the boulevards when the new hedges are planted, it was explained that the cost of trimming the hedges every three months is no more expensive than cutting the grass 42 times per year in the areas affected.

There was discussion regarding how one determines whether the fences bordering common areas need replacing or not. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to repair and maintain those fences and many times homeowners do not agree with the Association on a time frame. It was suggested that residents could contact neighbors and try to arrange a "group" deal for those people who participate in the fence replacement.

Residents are concerned about the fact that runners (and children) do not necessarily mix with dogs and asked the Association to look into signs for the levee reminding people about the need for leashes when walking dogs. There are currently signs posted to remind residents that the levees are for foot traffic and pedal bikes only. No motorized vehicles.

It was also asked that residents be reminded not to dump leaves and hedge trimmings onto the levees. These items present a danger to joggers and wheeled vehicles (strollers and bicycles).

Before closing, Tom Wooley reminded everyone present about our annual social (July 4th Parade and Picnic, Community Garage Sale, Neighborhood Night Out, etc.) and educational events (various speakers/programs and Meet the Candidates Nights) and encouraged resident participation. (The newsletter gives advance notice of these events.)

The meeting was adjourned before 9 p.m.

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At The Commonwealth Annual Civic Association Meeting

Directors Conrith Davis
Tom Wooley and
Paula Stansell

were re-elected to two year terms.

CONGRATULATIONS to each of you!!!!

Association Committees

Clubhouse & Pool Rentals

Crest Management 281-579-0761

Neighborhood Watch

Nancy Castellvi 281-265-2769

Welcome Committee

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.

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-
please include your name and contact
information.

Left to right:
Conrith Davis
Paula Stansell
and
Tom Wooley



Carolyn Bonds,
Crest Management
Service visits
with resident Carey
Snyder at the
Annual Meeting.



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Pediatric Dentist

2225 Williams Trace Blvd.,
Ste. 206

281-265-4177

Identity Theft

Identity theft has become a serious problem in the United States. The following tips are meant to help you avoid becoming a victim of this life changing crime.

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal identifying information without your permission. The information may include your name, address, driver's license number, Social Security number, mother's maiden name, birth date, or financial information such as your bank account, credit card, or PIN number.

To keep criminals from obtaining this information, **ALWAYS** shred the following documents:

- credit card applications that you receive in the mail.
- bank statements
- checks you don't need (used AND unused)
- billing statements
- any correspondence that includes your personal information.

Minimize the amount of personal information you carry in your purse or wallet.

Keep all personal information in a secure place in your home.

Do not have your driver's license number or social security number printed on your checks.

Be sure to cut up old credit cards and discard the pieces in multiple waste baskets.

Identity theft is a federal crime and should be reported to local law enforcement.

Check all bank statements carefully for unauthorized activity.

Be alert for the warning signs:

- bills from credit account you did not open.
- unauthorized charges on your credit cards, long distance bills, or bank accounts.
- a collection agency begins calling about charges you did not incur.
- checks disappear from your check book.
- you are turned down by a credit card, loan, mortgage, or other form of credit due to unauthorized debts on your credit report.

If you become a victim:

- file a police report and keep a copy of the report.
- contact the three primary credit reporting bureaus to have a security alert or freeze placed on your report.
- request a copy of your credit report and review it carefully.
- report unauthorized charges and accounts to the appropriate credit issuers and credit bureaus immediately by

phone AND in writing.

-if your purse/wallet is stolen, immediately cancel your credit and debit cards and get replacements. Put a stop payment on all lost or stolen checks.

If ANYONE calls to request your personal information under some pretext, do NOT give out your information - you have no way to really know who is on the other end of the phone!

It is always a good idea to order a copy of your credit report at least once a year from each of the three major reporting agencies:

Experian (888-397-3742)

Equifax (800-685-1111)

and Trans Union (800-888-4213)

This information is taken from a brochure issued by the Attorney General of Texas

We have recently had reports of thefts from cars (parked in garages) in The Commonwealth. Be sure to lock your cars and your garages each day!

If you were on the Commonwealth Email Alert List you would have received notification of these crimes!

Sign up today.
See page 3 for details.



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"I Survived the Summer"

Back-to-School Coffee

Annual Event!

Friday, August 26

10:00 a.m. - Noon

at the Commonwealth Clubhouse

Mark Your Calendar!

**Two Hours of Adult Time -- no "I'm bored"
No diapers - No college kids coming home at dawn!**

**See some old friends
Make some new ones!**

Bring a neighbor!



**No Agenda!
Mindless chatter, or discuss the latest
book you've read.**

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

Please notify Crest Management (281-579-0761) to report Association sprinklers that are going awry - shooting straight up, working ineffectively or improperly. We do not need to be watering our sidewalks!

CONGRATULATIONS to all Commonwealth graduates. We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you well in your future endeavors.



National Night Out -- August 2

On Tuesday, August 2, neighborhoods throughout the nation will celebrate the 21st Annual National Night Out crime and drug prevention event.

From 7 - 10 p.m. on August 2nd residents are asked to turn on their outside lights and spend the evening with their neighbors and public safety officials. Many residents and neighborhoods will be hosting a variety of special events such as block parties and cookouts. Police and fire personnel and city officials will be visiting the various parties throughout the city.

Last year Sugar Land received national recognition from the National Association of Town Watch for its NNO participation. We came in fourth place in a category of competing U.S. cities with a population between 50,000 and 99,999 citizens.

Block captains are asked to organize the block party. If you do not have a block captain, take that initial step and invite the neighbors over for a couple of hours. Commonwealth residents have been known to visit in the driveway, grill in the back yard, swim in the pool or have ice cream sundaes in the kitchen. It's your call!

If you want to register your party with the city of Sugar Land, simply go to the city's homepage at: www.sugarlandtx.gov, click on National Night Out, complete the form and click "send". You will be automatically registered. If you prefer, you may contact Officer Todd Zettlemoyer at 281-275-2578. The Mayor, City Council members and other city officials will be visiting as many parties as possible in their respective districts.

Special Event for Seniors!
(Senior Citizens, that is!)

To kick off National Night Out, the City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a **sock hop for seniors from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Mon., Aug. 1**. A broom decorating contest will also be held to help "sweep out" crime.

Tickets are **\$3 per person or \$5 per couple** if purchased before the event. They can be obtained at the Parks and Recreation Department located at 220 Matlage Way. Tickets may also be purchased at the door \$4 per person and \$7 per couple.

The dance will be held **at the Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlage Way**. Music will be provided by **Elvis** and light refreshments will be served. Come out and have a good time and help kick off National Night Out 2005.



For more information, please contact Officer Todd Zettlemoyer at 281-275-2578.



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If you are a resident who enjoys walking/jogging/biking through the neighborhood, you can help provide a service to homeowners.

If you notice problems in the common areas, please notify Crest Management (281-579-0761) immediately. If everyone expects someone else to make the report, it may never get done!



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If you notice graffiti on the levee or common area side of a resident's fencing, please take a moment to notify the resident. If the resident doesn't approach his/her home from that direction, they may never know the problem exists.

Graffiti incidents should be reported to the police by the homeowner.

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Fire Department asks for Driver Co-operation

Texas law requires drivers to yield the right-of-way to police cars, fire trucks, ambulances and other emergency vehicles that are sounding sirens or flashing lights.

Sugar Land Fire Capt. Mike McLemore, public education specialist states. "One of the most important rules of the road is to properly yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles."

The Sugar Land Fire Department provides the following driving tips:

- Remain calm, safely drive your vehicle to the right edge of the roadway and stop.
- If you are in the left lane, pull over into the right lane and wait for the traffic in this lane to move over.
- If you cannot move to the right because of stopped vehicles, simply move as far to the right as possible, stop and leave a clear path for the emergency vehicle.
- Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed.
- If an emergency vehicle approaches while your vehicle is stopped at an intersection, do not move unless you can move to the right without blocking the intersection.
- Once the emergency vehicle has passed, you may not follow within 500 ft. of the vehicle.

Swimmers - Sip, Shade, and Snack.

School's out, the temperature is rising, and, your Commonwealth community pools are open for your enjoyment. Summer often means a change to workout schedules, with more being done in the morning hours, and much of that being done outside. While workouts include a warm-up

and a cool-down, the cool-down in summer does not always do enough to keep you from having some heat related slow-downs to performance. Keep the 3 "S's" in mind while enjoying your pools this summer, but pay particular attention during those very hot days.

Sip

It is vital to your performance to be fully hydrated. The increased heat and humidity of summer can lead to increased sweating, resulting in more water loss. To compensate, you should increase your fluid intake daily and keep a water bottle close by during your workout.

If you swim over 60 minutes, most experts recommend a sports drink over plain water. There are several that advise using a sports drink for all exercise related hydration needs, since the flavor will often encourage you to drink more often.

Snack

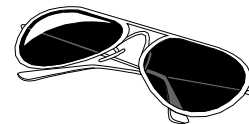
Sometimes, when you are hot, you just don't feel like eating. But if you are swimming for a long period of time, you need food! If you don't take in enough, you will feel tired and out of energy. You might find that eating small snacks throughout the day is easier than three main meals. You might like to add some frozen bananas, frozen juice cubes, cold (refrigerated) fruits and vegetables, and other items that will both supply fuel and help cool your body.

Shade

As you know, that big burning globe in the sky can do serious damage to your skin. It also raises your body temperature, leading to an increase in water loss and calories burned. You should apply a sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30, using it as directed on the package. It should block both UVA and UVB rays, or at least diminish their effects on your skin. Look for a "sport" brand that is sweat and water resistant. Don't forget to protect your eyes by using shaded or mirrored goggles - check the label for UVA and UVB ratings. Swimming early in the day or late in the evening also helps you avoid the sun's most potent rays.

Lastly, take care of yourself this summer. Stay cool, and remember to sip, snack, and shade.

*This article was submitted by Conrith W. Davis,
Commonwealth Board Member
Source: www.swimming.about.com*



Sugar Land City Update

Sugar Land City Council has recently amended the city's solicitation ordinance. The ordinance now provides background checks of applicants and substantial penalties for violations of the ordinance. The amendments are a direct result of community feedback regarding unwanted door-to-door solicitations. Additional new provisions:

- ~Licenses will not be issued to persons convicted of certain misdemeanors or felonies during the past five years.
- ~Individuals 14 years of age or older must hold a City license to solicit an occupant of a residential dwelling.
- ~Hours of solicitation are confined to 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- ~It is an offense to solicit a residence listed on the City's "No Solicitation" registry.

Additionally, the Sugar Land Police Department states that if a solicitor makes a resident uncomfortable, they should avoid opening the door and contact the Sugar Land Police Department. An officer will be dispatched to verify that the person is legitimate.

To be placed on the City's "**No Solicitation Registry**", call 281-275-2277.

Mall Expansion

City council has approved a 120,000 square foot expansion to First Colony Mall.

The open air expansion will be a two phased project. Phase 1 includes 40,000 sq feet of restaurants. It will offer an outdoor plaza enhanced with lush landscaping and water elements. Benches under trees will provide quiet seating areas. A highlight of the addition will be a bayou

that runs throughout the plaza. All four restaurants will feature outdoor terraces for diners to enjoy.

Phase 2 of the expansion will include 80,000 square feet of retail, scheduled to open in August, 2006. The expansion project will include:

- ~three parking garages
- ~additional surface parking and ~infrastructure to serve the development (i.e. traffic signal)

The expansion project will contribute to Sugar Land's economic growth (sales taxes) and generate new jobs.

In Memory of Faye Becker

Faye and Cal Becker were one of the first families to move to The Commonwealth in 1988. Faye loved to be involved, and when the opportunity to serve on The Commonwealth Modifications Committee opened up, she jumped at it. Faye became the first Chairperson of the Committee and continued to be Chairperson until she passed away in 2001 as the result of a tragic accident. She was an outstanding Chairperson because she under-

stood the importance of maintaining the community deed restrictions in a fair and consistent manner. The Commonwealth is greatly indebted to her many years of service.

In honor of Faye, the community recently installed a beautiful bench on the patio outside the community clubhouse. The bench was a surprise for Faye's family.

Last Mothers Day, Cal, Faye's husband of 52 years, was escorted to see Faye's bench for the first time. Cal was very excited and almost speechless. The first thing he did was sit on the bench and talk about Faye. It was only a matter of hours before other members of Faye's family throughout the United States had heard about the bench. Unfortunately Cal did not get to visit the bench many times as he passed away 8 days after his first visit.

Whenever you see Faye's bench, please remember her many years of devotion to the Commonwealth Community. Many thanks to Jim McGregor for organizing this special project.

*Article submitted by Tom Wooley -
photo by Jim McGregor*



Enjoying the bench dedicated to the memory of Faye Becker, are: sitting (left to right): Gwen Dahlin and Dan Lumpkin. Standing (left to right): Bettie Dudley, Victor Harris, Suzanne Hanks, Darrell Haun and Cindy O'Hara.

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Congratulations!



Long time Commonwealth resident Vicki Gassen is shown with Superintendent Dr. Betty Baitland at the Fort Bend ISD Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet.

Vicki was acknowledged as
Lakeview Elementary School's
Teacher of the Year.

Vicki is an English as a Second Language teacher at Lakeview where she has been for the past 13 years.

Congratulations Vicki!

Yes, it seems that the children just got out for the summer, but the new school year is just around the corner!

Please remember that having vehicles parked on both sides of the street is perilous for children - and not too safe for the vehicles either!!!! School busses, moving vans, waste removal trucks, lawn service trucks, etc. are very large and may have difficulty passing through our narrow streets. Please help out by taking note of available space on the streets. Park considerately. Park smart - do not park directly across from another vehicle.

Whenever possible, park in your garage or driveway. This also discourages vandalism!

If you see street lights that are not illuminated at night, please contact Centrepont at 713-207-2222 to report the pole number. Pole numbers are inscribed on the metal plate attached to the pole at eye level. Problems with the decorative lights should be reported to Crest Management (281-579-0761).



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

Have a Safe and Relaxing Summer!

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 |
| Police & Fire Emergency | 9-1-1 |

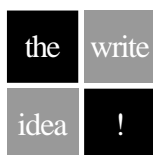
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Attention Advertisers!!!

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 \$60.00 per issue.

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

Newsletter email address:
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.

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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**I Survived The Summer
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Details page 5

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Hope to see you at Commonwealth's
**ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY
PARADE AND PICNIC**
Monday, July 4

**Parade starts at 11 a.m.
Line up begins at 10:45 a.m.**

The parade consists of walkers, decorated bicycles, strollers, and wagons.

Get creative. Every participant is recognized with a medal.

After the parade, join your neighbors for the best burgers in town!

Questions? Contact Tom Wooley at 281-265-1734.