

Commonwealth Comments

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

May/June, 2005

www.commonwealthcivic.com

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VOTE

at the
Commonwealth
Clubhouse
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
on
Saturday, May 7

School Board Election

-
Your schools - Your
children - Your taxes!



Commonwealth Civic Association Annual Meeting

The Commonwealth Civic Association **Annual Meeting** will be held at the **Commonwealth Clubhouse on Tuesday, May 17**. At the meeting residents will have the opportunity to receive the Association's most recent financial information, hear committee status reports, speak with a representative from the Management Company, elect three Directors.....and more! Time is always set aside for questions and answers.

This is YOUR association, be sure that you know what's going on!

HOA Candidate Information

At the time this newsletter was produced, there were four people running for the three elected positions on The Commonwealth Homeowners Association Board of Directors.

For the benefit of our residents, each candidate submitted a brief biography. The bios are in alphabetical order:

Conrith Davis, Current Director

Conrith oversees the clubhouse and pool areas. He opens and inspects the clubhouse when there are rentals. He also monitors repairs to the structures throughout our community, including pools, clubhouse, playgrounds, etc.

Shawn Owens, Candidate

Residency: 7 1/2 years
Family: Husband David and three children: Andrew 13, James 10, and Shannon 8.
Community Involvement:
First Colony Piranhas (primarily made up of Commonwealth children) since 1998, serving as President in 2004 and 2005.
Commonwealth Elementary - various positions, including Campus-based Leadership

Team - Williams Trace Baptist Church - various positions including Co-Chair of Capital Campaign Wyldlife (Offshoot of YoungLife) - program for Middle School Kids - girls' leader. David - Past President of First Colony Little League - being his wife counts for something!!

Other: Loves Commonwealth and loves Sugar Land!!

Paula Stansell, Current Director

Residency: Paula has been a resident of Commonwealth since 1989.

Community Involvement - Paula got involved as the Chair of the Finance Committee and then served on the board for 4 years when The Commonwealth was transitioning from developer control to homeowner control. She was also on the board when we were annexed into the city of Sugar Land. She took a few years off but returned to continue serving the community. Paula oversees the communications area. She developed and maintains the web site and responds to emails sent in by residents to commonwealth@stansellweb.com.

Bios continue on page 10

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

Levee Update

There are some projects that just never seem to end. Our levee district must surely feel that way some days.

In an effort to maintain our levees and improve the beauty of our community, our Levee Improvement District (LID) is always looking out for Commonwealth's best interests. In that vein, work is continuing on the Knightsbridge walkway. Recently an inflatable caufer dam was installed and the water has been drained to complete the work.

Additionally, approximately \$100,000 was budgeted to complete the bagging operation along Alcorn Lake. This area is the last of the planned bagging for our area. The project was scheduled to be completed by the end of April.

Your Spam Filter is Working!

If you are on the email alert list, please be sure to add us to your address book. Many email servers classify email with multiple recipients as spam and they are being returned to us!

Association Business Update

As per normal procedure Crest management presented the current financials, collections, and deed restriction violations information to the board. The attorneys presented a status report.

The Board is currently working with the landscape company on a plan to enhance Commonwealth Blvd in front of the fences.

The Board reviewed the landscape contract and will continue negotiations. Tennis court fence repair bid was re-

Be sure to take a stroll through Commonwealth - enjoy our beautiful pathways and waterways and take a second to appreciate the work of the volunteers who give their time to increase the quality of our lives and the value of our properties.

-article continued on page 3-



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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

viewed and the Board approved repairs. The city of Sugar Land requested that the Association trim the trees along Commonwealth Blvd. This was approved by the Board. The board discussed planting trees to replace dead trees what were removed around the Knightsbridge lake.

The board will check into reported sidewalk repairs needed at the Knightsbridge pool/playground area.

Home Security Update

We want to thank Officer Ron Foster, Crime Prevention Officer for District 4, Sugar Land Police Department for joining us last month. Officer Foster talked about the increase in crime in Fort Bend County (up 139%), but noted that it is down in District 4 (by 28%). Officer Foster credits the local crime watch program. When a neighborhood has an active crime watch program, criminals are more apt to move on to a community that doesn't have one.

Officer Foster noted that if a neighborhood has an active program, homeowners are able to get a 20% discount on home insurance. He also offered to do free home security inspections for members of the community. Officer Foster also gave many common sense tips on making your home a less likely target. We will discuss those in future issues of the newsletter.

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.

SUSAN M. DELCLOS, DMD, MDS, PA

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281-261-2504

Henry Delclos, D.D.S.,
Pediatric Dentist

2225 Williams Trace Blvd.,
Ste. 206

281-265-4177



2005 Pool Operation Schedule



Knightsbridge Pool

Pre-Season (Weekends in May)

May 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22

Saturdays	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sundays	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Summer Season (Full Time Hours)

May 27-August 14

Memorial Day - May 30th

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Closed May 31 & July 5

Monday	closed
Tuesday	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Thursday	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Post-Season

(Weekends in August after 14th)

August 20, 21, 27, 28

Saturday	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Post-Season

(Weekdays after August 14th)

August 15 - September 2

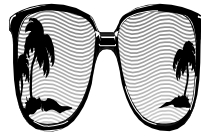
Monday	closed
Tuesday	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Post-Season

(Weekends in September)

September 3, 4, 5, 17, 18

Saturday	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Labor Day (5th)	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Briarwood Pool

Pre-Season (Weekends in May)

May 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22

Saturdays	10:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sundays	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Summer Season (Full Time Hours)

May 27-August 14

Monday	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	closed
Wednesday	10:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	10:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Post-Season

(Weekends in August after 14th)

August 20, 21, 27, 28

Saturday	10:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
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August 15 - September 2

Monday	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	closed
Wednesday	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Post-Season

(Weekends in September)

September 3, 4, 5, 10, 11

Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Labor Day (5th)	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Pool tags are required for access to either of the Commonwealth Pools. If you do not have your pool tags, you may download the application form at the Commonwealth web site. For more information, see page 7.

Spring Gardening Tip

During the spring grass begins to green up and start growing again. With this new activity comes problems stemming from months of dormancy. Weeds are very problematic during the spring. You will see broadleaf weeds popping up, clover, thistle, dandelion, etc. These weeds are easily controlled through a post-emergent chemical spray. The products necessary for this are available at Home Depot and Lowes, or can be obtained through residential spray companies such as Trugreen Chemlawn.

Along with weeds you will see brown patch (St. Augustine) rear its ugly head. The weather conditions during spring are very conducive to this disease. Brown Patch is a disease that becomes a problem during wet conditions. Brown patch will not kill the grass very quickly, for the most part it is an aesthetic issue and can be controlled through a granular chemical that can be purchased at any hardware store or warehouse.

Once you have controlled the weeds and diseases it is time to fertilize. As your grass comes out of dormancy it is starving for some much needed nutrients. This is when you apply your spring fertilizer. By applying the fertilizer you are ensuring a healthier lawn that will be fuller and stronger against future weeds or disease. Once the grass is growing like crazy you should start mowing. Mowing should be done as often as possible, this means no less than once a week. The rule of thumb is you want to cut no more than 1/3 of the leaf blade. The reason for this, once you remove more than 1/3 of the blade you damage the plant and create a big mess through excessive clippings. Additionally when you remove that much leaf tissue you will see your lawn brown out. This browning is happens because all of the green has been cut off and all that is left is the stem.

This is a very important time for your lawn, what you do to it now is going to determine how your lawn does during the summer.

This information submitted by Steve O'Hara, Commonwealth Civic Association Board Member and was written by Miles Rush, Branch Manager, TruGreen Landscape

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Volunteers needed for our Annual Fourth of July Blowout Monday, July 4

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If you would like to participate, please contact
Tom Wooley at 281-265-1734



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Tennis Court Etiquette?

Most Commonwealth residents know the right things to do, this is just a gentle reminder.

Show respect and courtesy

To your opponents, partner and others on or near the courts. Keep your voice down and confined to your court as much as possible so as not to disrupt players on other courts.

Do not walk onto another court during a game

Wait for the players to finish the game, or minimally the point, before walking onto their court of play.

Do not retrieve your ball from the other court

It is common courtesy not to disrupt players on court during a match. Under no circumstances should you run over onto another players court in the middle of a game to retrieve your ball.

Always wear proper tennis shoes

Black soled shoes leaves marks on the courts that are difficult to get off.

Use the tennis courts for tennis

A great deal of money goes into maintaining our two tennis locations, bicycles or rollerblading is prohibited.

Close the gate behind you

Whether you're coming onto the courts, or leaving, it is common courtesy to close the gate behind you. This will keep the balls inside the confines of the gate and the balls won't roll outside the courts.

Pick up after yourself

Don't leave empty soda cans or old tennis balls out on the court when you leave.

Monitor children on the courts at all times

Everyone who plays tennis wants to encourage kids to play the game as well, but kids must also follow the above listed rules.

Have fun!

The Commonwealth Homeowners Association Board is committed to maintaining our tennis courts in good order at all times. The objective of playing tennis, aside from being good aerobic exercise s to have FUN. Enjoy your tennis courts!

*This article submitted by Conrith W. Davis,
Commonwealth Civic Association Board
Member*

Not included on page 12 due to a lack of space:

Representing The Commonwealth:

Texas State Board of Education Member

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Ms. Cynthia Thornton

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Pool and Clubhouse Information

Pool tags are required by everyone using either of the Commonwealth pools. If you have not yet requested your 2005 pool tags, you may visit our web site: www.commonwealthcivic.com (Click forms, under Covenants and Forms to access the application form.) You may also call Crest Management (281-579-0761) to begin the process.

As graduations approach and pool season gets underway, the number of Commonwealth Clubhouse and pool rental requests increase. If you are interested in hosting a party this summer, at the Clubhouse or the pool, you may wish to consider calling Crest Management immediately to reserve your preferred time and date.

Swim Lessons Offered

Avant-Garde Aquatics is looking forward to managing the Commonwealth Community for the 2005 swim season. If you have any questions or concerns during the year, call us. These are your facilities and we want you to have a safe and fun

experience. Please visit our website for more information about our company and programs:

www.avantgardeaquatics.com

Swim Lessons:

Classes will begin at your neighborhood pool in June. We offer classes for infants, children, and adults. Private and group swim lessons are available. Visit our website, pick up a schedule from the pool, or call our office to find out more information.

Pool Maintenance:

As a full service company Avant-Garde Aquatics is also in charge of repairs and maintenance. We encourage you to evaluate your pools, please visit our website and fill out a comment form. We dedicate ourselves to the highest standard of quality, and we want to hear your observations of the pool.

Pool Party Information:

Our lifeguards will assist you with entertainment for your guests! Contact Crest Management at 281-579-0716 in order to book your pool party. More information will be available at the pool once pool season begins.

Summer Jobs:

Avant-Garde Aquatics offers a variety of Red Cross Classes to enhance your skills. Make extra money and work as a babysitter, lifeguard, or swim instructor.

Please visit the Avant-Garde website to view a full schedule, description of classes, and registration forms!

THANK YOU THANK YOU

A huge thank you to the residents who attended our Home Safety and Security Meeting in April. We think you received a great deal of helpful information.

Thank you to our underwriters **Virginia Mack** (ReMax Southwest) for the coffee and to **Bill & Deborah Treadway** (Treadway and Associates) for the cookies. We eat well because of our underwriters!

AND of course, a big thank you to **The Commonwealth Civic Association** for hosting the evening!



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Saturday, May 7
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Election

Visit www.commonwealthcivic.com for more current information.

National Night Out

The annual **National Night Out** is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, August 2. All Commonwealth residents are urged to gather in front yards, back yards, driveways or homes and get to know each other.

Commonwealth's participation is very high every year. Get together are arranged by blocks and range from informal chatter to bar-b-q's or ice cream parties.

More information next issue!

First Day of School

As you begin to plan your summer vacations, keep in mind that the board of trustees for FBISD has announced a school start date of **Wednesday, August 17**. Keep in mind that band and athletic practices often begin two weeks prior to the start date. Plan your vacation time accordingly.

You may view the full calendar by visiting:

www.fortbendisid.com

CANDIDATES' COFFEE

Nine of the twelve candidates running for positions on the Fort Bend ISD School Board attended our Candidates' Coffee last month.

Introductions were made and the candidates then mingled with attending residents.

Refreshments were provided by Virginia Mack of ReMax Southwest and Cynthia Liska of ReMax Heritage.

We will have another coffee for the primary in March.

Out and About with Commonwealth Residents



The Farewell

Commonwealth students performing for Gala attendees

Commonwealth was well represented at the Fort Bend Education Foundation Gala held in March.

Commonwealth Elementary, under the guidance of music teacher Laura McGregor, was the featured student entertainment at the Gala.



Don't we all wish we were still THIS flexible?



Kevin Sabouni and friends



Commonwealth Music Teacher Extraordinaire Laura McGregor and her husband Jim relax after the performance. Jim is on The Commonwealth Civic Association Board.



Sonal & Dr. Subodh Bhuchar enjoyed the fun-filled event.



The Fort Bend Chamber's Leader and Chief Louis Garvin & his wife Dru shared a table with AutoArch's Lina & Michael Sabouni.

Commonwealth residents Terrie Gorney Hay, Pat Houck, Terry McCutcheon, Tammy Noe, Rosemary Sutton and Sue Hauenstein were amongst those on the Gala planning committee.



Education Foundation Board Member Lina Sabouni with Karl and FBISD School Board Trustee Sue Hauenstein.



Glenda Rayborn displays the puppy she provided for the Live Auction.

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The Virginia Mack Team

Virginia Mack, ABR, CBR, CRS, GRI

HDA Board of Directors Bios

Paula Stansell continued from page 1

Paula also works as a liaison to the welcome committee, the newsletter and the City of Sugar Land.

Personal: Paula works for Houston Community College Southwest in Contract Training and Continuing Education and is also the Republican Precinct Chair for Precinct 4129, which includes The Commonwealth.

Tom Wooley, Current Director

Residency: Tom has lived in the Commonwealth since 1990.

Community Involvement: He has been a Director for 8 years and served as Board President for 7 years. Before becoming a Director he was involved with the Landscape Committee. As board president, Tom oversees the business of the community. He attends many of the committee meetings, like landscape and CAT, as well as neighborhood and city meetings. He works as a liaison to residents, contractors, service professionals, and the board. He also presides over the monthly board meetings.

FBISD Election

On Saturday, May 7 Fort Bend ISD residents will have the opportunity to vote on three positions. Position 1, currently held by Jane Clarke is wide open. Mrs. Clarke, who has been on the board for 12 years, will be moving out of the district and is unable to run. There are three people running in that position: Bob Broxson, Stan Magee and Larry Danna.

Position Four is currently held by Mrs. Cynthia Knox who has served FBISD for nine years. Mrs. Knox is challenged by Rodrigo Carreon, Wayne Howard and Upendra Sahu.

Position Five is currently held by Mr. Arthur Pace who has served for ten years. Mr. Pace is being challenged by Laurie Caldwell, Cynthia Lenton-Gary, Noel Pinnock, and Tasleem Siddiqui.

Voters will vote for one candidate for each position.

**Have a Safe and Happy
Memorial Day Weekend**



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

Fourth of July Parade & Picnic Monday, July 4

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 (Centrepoint)	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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Commonwealth's Legislative Contacts

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City Council Member(s):

District 4 City Councilmember:
Michael Schiff
mschiff@sugarlandtx.gov

At Large Member(s)
Tom Abraham -
tabraham@sugarlandtx.gov
Daniel Wong -
dwong@sugarlandtx.gov

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County Commissioner Precinct 4:

James Patterson
compct4@co.fort-bend.tx.us
281-980-2235
12919 Dairy Ashford
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Fort Bend ISD Board Members:

The Commonwealth is represented by **ALL** 7 FBISD
Board Members:

**Bruce Bain, Ken Bryant, Jane Clarke, Sue
Hauenstein, Cynthia Knox, Arthur Pace, Lisa
Rickert.**

Contact information for each trustee is available at:
www.fortbendisd.com.
(Sue Hauenstein resides in The Commonwealth)

Texas House District 26:

Representative **Charlie Howard**
281-565-9500
13401 Southwest Fwy., Sugar Land, TX 77478

Senate District 17

Senator Kyle Janek **713-272-8929**
7777 Southwest Fwy., Suite 102, Houston, TX 77074

Congressional District 22

Congressman Tom DeLay
281-240-3700
10701 Corporate Dr., Suite 118, Stafford, TX 77477