

Commonwealth Comments

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

September/October, 2005

www.commonwealthcivic.com



Fourth of July Parade & Picnic

If you weren't there, you were the only ones.....okay, so you weren't the *ONLY* ones not there, but you did miss a heck of a party!

Once again, hundreds of residents participated in our annual July 4th Parade & Picnic at the Clubhouse this summer. The parade was lots of fun and the picnic was a huge success. Over 600 hot dogs, 400 hamburgers and 1500 drinks were consumed. As you will observe in the photos throughout this edition of the newsletter, a good time was had by young and old alike!

Don't miss out next summer. Mark your calendar now. Same time, same place, next July 4th!

A SPECIAL THANKS to all of the wonderful volunteers without whom this event would not have been successful!

Surely You've Heard by Now

In a 2005 comparison of the nation's best places to live, Sugar Land ranked 46. *MONEY* magazine and *CNN/Money* spent months looking for Great American Towns — where people want to raise children and celebrate life's milestones.

Starting with more than 1,300 cities, including 77 Texas cities, the list was shortened to the 100 best — including Sugar Land!

Of course, we all know that The Commonwealth is the top neighborhood to live in! We have a beautiful community with plenty of well maintained amenities for our residents.

Our location is safe and wonderful.

Our schools are fantastic.

Our HOA is responsive and responsible!

And our neighbors are the best!

(Oh, and don't forget this fantastic newsletter!)

Police Reports Make a Difference

Crime is definitely down in The Commonwealth, however, it does occur. (See related blurb on page seven.) If you become a victim of criminal activity, please contact the Sugar Land Police Department. The officer will make a complete report.

According to one burglarized resident: "I honestly didn't think it would help to call the police and fill out a report. I felt a bit guilty for wasting the police officer's time. But now, I am very grateful that I did. The person who stole my property was caught and the police contacted me."

Police recovered some of the property and the detective let the resident know that the report was an important factor in the future sentencing of the perpetrator. Due to the existence of the report, the suspect could go to jail for six years. A police report CAN make a difference.

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Photos from the July
4th Parade and Picnic
are scattered through-
out this issue!

Association
Board of Directors

Tom Wooley
President
281-265-1734

Paula Stansell
Vice President
281-579-0761

Conrith Davis
Treasurer
713-443-9069

Open Position

Steve O'Hara
Director
281-265-4485

The Commonwealth Civic Association is very sad to say good bye to Director Jim McGregor who has (temporarily we hope) moved from The Commonwealth. Jim's wife Laura is a beloved teacher at Commonwealth so we will be seeing them around and are hoping they will be joining us again soon!

The Board of Directors will be discussing an appointment for the open position.

Just an FYI

We are pleased to be able to share that our friends in Avalon will be joining the City of Sugar Land by January, 2006. Annexation details are currently being discussed and should be finalized by December.

Per the City of Sugar Land:

The city implemented a water rate increase of 3% in March of 2005. Residents may not have noticed the impact until the June water bill. We had not been watering heavily until the "drought" we experienced earlier this summer. (OUCH!) Have no fear, August and September will probably be more than wet enough to lower those bills!

Clubhouse Rental

It's only September, but as you know, the holiday season is just around the corner. Rentals at the Commonwealth Clubhouse are very heavy during the holiday season so you may wish to start thinking about your holiday party dates now!

The Commonwealth Clubhouse is a beautiful facility and the rental rates are very reasonable.

For more information, contact Brenda at Crest Management Service (281-579-0761).

Note: No liquor may be served at our Clubhouse.

See What You've Been Missing



Dr. Anh Doan



Dr. Carey Patrick

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Association Nuts & Bolts

As the summer vacation season has ended, and kids are back in school, residents in The Commonwealth begin to think again about modifications or improvements to their houses and/or yards. We are in a busy period that will last through the fall and into the “pool season” next spring.

To facilitate the process, you should be aware of the requirements for improvements defined in the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for The Commonwealth - commonly referred to as the “Deed Restrictions”, the Architectural Control Guidelines (a condensed extract from the covenants), as well as the role of the Modifications Committee in the process.

Both the “Guidelines” and the “Covenants” can be found on the Commonwealth website (www.commonwealthcivic.com). These documents can be reviewed on-line to find applicable requirements for modifications you may be considering. Additionally, on the website you will find the two application forms—one specifically designed for pools, and another for all other modifications.

When preparing an application, one very important requirement is to include a copy of the plat (survey) with the proposed modification shown, to scale, in relation to the house/garage as well as to all building lines and easements. If you are applying for a swimming pool, the pool application form has been designed with a series of Yes/No check boxes that will guide you step-by-step through the process and help to ensure that your application is complete.

If you have questions, Crest Management can help by reviewing an application for completeness and notifying you if additional information is required.

The Modifications Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month. To be considered, applications should be submitted to Crest Management by the Tuesday prior to the Modifications meeting. As defined in the Covenants, approval must be obtained prior to the initiation of any modifications.

*submitted by Dan Lumpkin, Chairman
of the Modifications Committee*

Page three

Association Committees

Clubhouse & Pool Rentals

Crest Management 281-579-0761

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.



Family Fun, Parade Bicycles, & Roly the Clown with Friend!



Election Season Approaches

We are rapidly approaching that time of year! In reality, it will be **THOSE TIMES** of year! While 2006 is not a Presidential election year, there are several elections coming up. That's where voters may get confused.

There is a November 8, 2005 election. There will be a March primary (perhaps followed by a run-off), May elections (hopefully not followed by a run-off) and then the November elections.

For those who may have some trouble connecting the dots, I'll try to explain.

For the November 8, 2005 election the last day to register to vote is: October 11, 2005. Early voting is Octo-

ber 24-November 4. This is the constitutional amendment election.

The March 2006 primary is a partisan election. Republicans run against Republicans and Democrats square off against Democrats. The winner of each primary will campaign until November :)

In May 2006 the city of Sugar Land and Fort Bend ISD will hold Council and School Board elections.

In November 2006 we will vote for statewide offices as well as a few local offices. We will publish a complete list in a future newsletter.

We hope to be able to offer a Meet the Candidates Coffee in February. Watch the January newsletter for more details.

***Just once, let's really scare 'em:
EVERYBODY VOTE!***



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Commonwealth Specialist**

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Avenue
(next to CiCi's Pizza)



281-261-2504

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

2225 Williams Trace Blvd.,
Ste. 206

281-265-4177

National Night Out

Once again, numerous Commonwealth neighborhoods participated in National Night Out in August. Of the 130 block parties registered with the Sugar Land Police Department, 15 of them were Commonwealth groups. Many of our parties were not registered with the city.

Firefighters, police officers from several departments, constables and elected officials were spied moving from one party to the next.

If you do not know who your block captain is, contact Tom Wooley at 281-265-1734.

An active Neighborhood Watch program is the most important step in developing a safe neighborhood.



The 3900 block of St. Michaels Ct. gathered together for the evening.

Community Garage Sale

See details on page 11

LOST AND FOUND

It was reported to the web site co-ordinator, Paula Stansell, that a small kitten was found in the Sutton Forest area. It is guessed that the kitten is 3-4 months old and is suspected to be a Seal Point Siamese. The resident finding the kitten put out flyers and did everything she could think of to find the owner, to no avail.

If your kitten is missing, please email
commonwealthcivic@stansellweb.com

There is a lost and found section on our Commonwealth website:

www.commonwealthcivic.com

September Pool Hours

The **Knightsbridge Pool** will be open on the following dates:

September 3, 4, 5 & 17, 18
Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The **Briarwood Pool** will be open on the following dates:

September 3, 4, 5 & 10 & 11
Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Both pools will be open on **Labor Day**
(September 5)

10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Don't forget that pool tags are required for access to Commonwealth pools.





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Even the Knightsbridge Pool got into the spirit!



Fall Lawn and Landscape Tips

Finally, summer is over, but here comes fall like a screaming freight train. Temperatures are falling, precipitation is more prevalent and the Longhorns and Aggies are playing on Saturdays. Below are some tips to help you control normal disease and insects that are associated with this time of year.

- September is the beginning of Brown Patch season. Now is the time to apply a fungicide that is labeled to control this turf damaging fungus. Irrigation must be reduced from summer schedules. Lawns should only be watered on an as needed basis. It should be stated that if you begin to see Brown patch, reduce your water. Brown patch appears as a large brown patch and spreads outwardly. Brown Patch can ONLY be active in highly wa-

Even the SL Fire Department loves to attend the Fourth of July Parade and Picnic!



- tered areas. Rarely, if ever, will you see long term damaging effects from brown patch. This should be monitored, but take aggressive action only if you do not like the unsightly patches. Still, recovery will come in the spring.
- Lawns need to be fertilized to help them recover from the stress of summer and prepare them for winter. Now is a great time to fertilize, we will begin receiving consistent rainfall which allows homeowners to let mother nature water in our nutrients. A very even formulated fertilizer does wonders at this time of year such as 28-12-14.



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Bring this ad to Today's Vision Sugar Land. Offer expires September 30, 2005.

- Fall is also a good time to apply a pre-emergent herbicide to control winter weeds before they germinate. When you apply the above fertilizer you can also add in a pre-emergent weed control. It is very important that you read the label before applying as the chemicals have only a specified activity life. In other words, from the time you put it down you only have a certain number of days of control. Pre-emergent's work so that the moment a weed germinates it absorbs the chemical and dies. If this chemical is put down even shortly after the weed germinates it will be ineffective.
- Fall is a good time to mulch all beds. The benefits of mulch include, but are not limited to, moisture retention, aesthetic appeal, erosion control, as well as many other tremendous benefits.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs in October or November.
- Spray shrubs in November or December with dormant oil to control scale and other over-wintering insects. Scale is a big problem in our state and should be taken seriously. While it won't immediately kill a plant, over time it will severely damage a shrub or tree.

Performing these different tasks in your landscape will help you get a jumpstart on Winter. Work in your landscape starts six months out so if you are looking for that award winning lawn and landscape than now is the time to get ready for Spring.



*This information was provided by
Miles Rush, Branch Manager,
TruGreen Landcare Branch #6057*

Sugar Land 101

The City of Sugar Land is again offering residents a great opportunity to learn, serve and lead the City. The 10 week 2006 Spring program begins on February 2nd and concludes on April 18th.

Sugar Land 101 allows residents to familiarize themselves with the structure, function and purpose of City Government. It better equips and encourages residents to assume leadership roles within the community.

Eligible candidates must:

- Currently reside in Sugar Land
- Resident of Sugar Land at least one year
- A registered voter
- Not currently holding or running for elected office in any city, school district, county, state or federal election
- Willing to commit to attendance of sessions

*Enrollment is limited and diversity is sought in class makeup.
For more information contact the City Manager's Office at 281-275-2710 or visit www.sugarlandtx.gov*

Applications will be accepted through October 14, 2005.

Last year crime was up 139% in Fort Bend County
In District 4 (Commonwealth) crime went
DOWN!

If you're on the Commonwealth Email Alert, we'll keep you advised of local criminal activity provided to us by the SL Police Department. See page 3 for details.



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Memory Walk 2005

Fort Bend AWARE (Alzheimer's Women's Auxiliary for Resources and Education) is pleased to announce the date for Memory Walk 2005. The event will take place on Saturday, October 29 at 8 a.m. in front of the AMC First Colony 24 Theatre. This year's walk honors Caregivers of family and friends. Last year's memory walk drew over 1300 participants and raised over \$130,000. Money raised at the walk stays in our area to provide service to the clients and caregivers who are affected by Alzheimer's disease and for Alzheimer's research.

For more information about Memory Walk 2005 or AWARE, call 713-266-6400.

REMINDER!

It's **STILL** hurricane season. The season runs from June 1 through November 30. The highest probability for a hurricane strike along the Gulf Coast has historically been between August and October.

While we are sufficiently inland, the possibility exists that we would suffer street/flash flooding, high winds, a loss of electricity and other services should a hurricane target the Galveston area.

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Ken Rainey

Keep in mind that Highway 6 is a primary evacuation route and that thousands of evacuees would pass through Sugar Land in event of a disaster. That situation would directly impact residents.

Be sure that you have your emergency supplies on hand (food, water, batteries, a radio, a flashlight, first aid kit, etc.). You may obtain a complete list on the city of Sugar Land web site: www.sugarlandtx.gov.

Tree Tips

Even if you're new to the area, you know that the Houston weather can change in the blink of an eye. Tornadoes and hurricanes are no stranger to the Houston landscape.

One of the many important responsibilities of home ownership is maintaining the yard. Among the tasks falling to the homeowner with trees is the preservation of those trees.

Many of us delegate these jobs to professionals; some of us prefer to take care of the gardens ourselves. Whether you hire out or do-it-yourself, there are some things that need to be clear.

Trees should be pruned every two to three years. When trimming large trees, use safety ropes and harnesses to minimize danger to yourself. Carefully lower the trimmed (and tied) branches to someone on the ground. Small, interior branches, dying, rotting, limbs and unhealthy trees are dangerous if not removed. Regular trimmings allow the wind to pass through trees instead of blowing them over.



*Information provided by
Simpson's Tree Service 281-980-0095.
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Passport Information

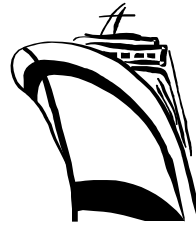
Travelers to and from the Caribbean, Bermuda, Panama, Mexico and Canada may be in for a shock next trip across the border. U.S. Passport regulations are becoming much stricter. (This will affect certain foreign nationals also.)

A valid U.S. passport is required to enter and leave most foreign countries. Only the U.S. Department of State has the authority to grant, issue or verify United States passports.

To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to appear at one of the 7,000 passport acceptance facilities located throughout the United States with two photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license. (The First Colony Post Office has a passport center.)

There are also 13 regional passport agencies, which serve customers who are traveling within 2 weeks (14 days), or who need foreign visas for travel. Appointments are required in such cases.

You'll need to apply in person if you are applying for a



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For more information on getting a new passport, visit www.travel.state.gov

You can renew by mail if: Your most recent passport is available to submit and it is not damaged; you received the passport within the past 15 years; you were over age 16 when it was issued; you still have the same name, or can legally document your name change.

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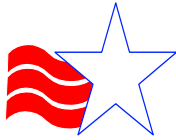
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Upcoming Meetings

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

Wishing all Commonwealth students a productive and successful school year!

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

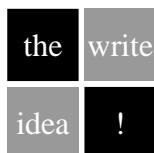
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Attention Advertisers!!!

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

Commonwealth Community Garage Sale

Saturday, October 15

Maps to registered homes will be available at 7:45 a.m. on the day of the sale. To sign up for the garage sale, email:

commonwealth@stansellweb.com

by Saturday, October 8.

Be sure to include your name, address and telephone number.

Participation is FREE!

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

Sponsored by the Commonwealth Civic Association

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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281-579-7062 (fax)

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Ten Year Anniversary The Commonwealth Women's Club

A woman's group supports a community in numerous ways. **The Commonwealth Women's Club** sponsors social activities, providing an opportunity for women with various interests to meet share ideas, as well as providing community service opportunities. In the Spring of 1995, a group of Commonwealth women organized The Commonwealth Women's Club and held its first "**Welcome Party**" in September of that year. Many of the original organizers have departed our community but the group still parties on today -- **10 years later!**

Details of the 10 Year Anniversary Celebration had not been finalized at publication date, however, there **WILL** be a **Champagne Social** held in September to celebrate the anniversary. The event will be held on one of the five Thursday evenings in September.

Whether you are one of the founding members or a resident who hasn't yet visited a Women's Club event, be sure to call Susan (281-980-3290) for details about this particular party or one of the upcoming meetings.

Anything could happen (the girls have been known to have costume parties, murder mystery dinners, pool parties and much more) -- You don't want to miss out on this!