

Commonwealth Comments

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

November/December, 2005

www.commonwealthcivic.com

Good Times, Good Cheer, That Time of Year

13th Annual Home Holiday Decorating Contest

Don't forget to leave the lights on!

Judges will be driving through the neighborhood on Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11 between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Gift certificates will be awarded in the three categories on the left.

Winners will be announced at the Commonwealth Holiday Party to be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, December 12.

Each winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate.

School Holidays are coming up. We must drive even more carefully than usual.

Children can never be depended upon to exercise caution!

Fort Bend ISD breaks are:
November 21 - November 25 and
December 21 - January 2

Vote Nov. 8

Commonwealth will vote at the Clubhouse on November 8 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The ballot will contain 9 constitutional amendments.

Early voting begins October 24th but locations were not listed at the time of this printing. Please check the website.

Under 2002's Help America Vote Act, elections nationwide will be required by law to utilize electronic voting by January of 2006. Fort Bend County has decided to adopt the eSlate and it will be used during the November 8th constitutional amendment election.

Hart InterCivic's eSlate is an electronic voting system where the voter turns a Select Wheel and pushes a button to indicate his/her preference. The eSlate is connected via cable to the Judge's Booth Controller which provides vote activation and vote storage for up to twelve eSlates. A poll worker issues a four digit, randomly generated Access Code to the voter using the JBC. The voter enters the Access Code on the eSlate and votes using the select Wheel and Buttons. Once the ballot is cast, the votes are stored in redundant and physically separate areas of the eSlate System, including the

- continued on page 7 -



*includes 5 houses or more



SEASONS
Greetings



**Safety
Note**

Be aware that

"No Right Turn on Red during School Zone Hours"

has been posted at the traffic lights on Commonwealth Blvd. at Elkins. Officers will take action on infractions during those hours.

It's a child safety issue!

Association
Board of Directors

Tom Wooley
President
281-265-1734

Paula Stansell
Vice President
281-579-0761

Conrith Davis
Treasurer
713-443-9069

Steve O'Hara
Director
281-265-4485

Open Position

What do YOU think?

The Association has been approached about compiling a new resident directory for residents of The Commonwealth. About ten years ago a directory was published and it was updated several years later. (editors note: I STILL use mine!)

Participation in this project would be strictly voluntary. Residents would have to SEND the information to us in order to be included.

Note that only about 50% of the residents participated when we published previously.

We need to know what YOU think.

Publication costs of a directory would be offset by the sale of advertising in the directory. We believe that there are a good number of businesses that would be interested in taking out an ad.

Please tell us whether or not you would:

- utilize such a directory
- place your name, address, and phone number in the directory
- approve of using association funds to publish the directory
- Do you think that email addresses should be included?

Would you be willing to help put this directory together?

Note that while there will be a disclaimer stating that the directory is for the personal use of Commonwealth residents and NOT to be used for commercial purposes, we would be unable to police such use.

Email: commonwealth@stansellweb.com - or leave a message at 281--265-4556 by November 30, 2005.

New City of Sugar Land Ordinance

Residents must trim trees affecting public rights-of-way to ensure that traffic safety devices (i.e. stop signs, street signs, etc.) are visible from the road. The ordinance also ensures that large vehicles (fire trucks, ambulances, garbage trucks) are able to safely navigate our streets. On residential streets, tree overhangs must be **8 feet above the sidewalk surface** and **12 feet above the street surface**.

The City will begin enforcing this ordinance January 7, 2006.



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Association Nuts & Bolts

Deed Restrictions/Modifications/Architectural Changes corner

As The Commonwealth is becoming a more “mature” neighborhood, we face the inevitable fact that our fences are also “maturing”. Some of the original sections have fences that are 15 years or more. Added to that, winds during the recent hurricane Rita caused structural failures of some fences.

Unlike many parts of First Colony, the Commonwealth HOA doesn't own its fences. Each fence is owned by the homeowner. Thus, the responsibility for upkeep or replacement of fences also belongs to the homeowner. With that background, it is appropriate to remind all residents of the requirements when repairing or replacing fences.

Some of the basic requirements for fences are:

- All new or replacement fences must be approved by the Modifications Committee.
- Fences must be maintained in good condition.
- Replacement or repairs to fences must be made with similar materials and construction details.
- Wood fences must be #1 grade cedar pickets, 1”x 6” x 6’ tall.
- Replacement wood fences may use horizontal 1”x 6” treated pine “rot” or base boards. However, **the overall height must remain consistent with existing and adjacent fences.**
- Metal fences may be wrought iron, steel or aluminum. They may have alternative finishes for longevity (e.g., epoxy or powder coating), but the only permissible color is black.
- No fence may encroach beyond the front building line, or the front building line of an adjacent house.
- No chain link fencing will be permitted.

Further details that you need to be aware of pertaining to your fences can be found in Section 12 of the Architectural Control Guidelines and Article VII, Section 14 of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for the Commonwealth. These two documents address the homeowner's requirements to maintain fences, and specifications for repairing or replacing fences.

*This article submitted by Dan Lumpkin,
Chair of the Modifications and Deed Restrictions Committee*

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

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

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.

Dress Up Your Eyes for the Holidays



Planning a new look for the holiday season? Don't forget your eyes. We have the latest in designer frames and colored contacts so your eyes can celebrate the season in style.

281-261-2647

4725 Highway 6 South @ Austin Parkway/Dulles
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Visit us on-line at: www.visionsource-missouricity.com

Commonwealth Women's Club Celebrates It's 10th Annual Social Season

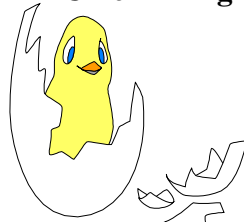
Annual Holiday Party

**Thursday,
December 8
7:00 p.m.**

Bring a wrapped gift or ornament valued at around \$15.00 for our traditional, hilarious white elephant gift exchange!

15 Leigh Court

It's a Chick Thing



**Thursday, January 26
7:00 p.m.**

Ladies Night Out at Berryhill Tamale & Taco. Eat or drink as much or as little as you like. A Dutch Treat evening!

**Thursday,
February 16
7:00 p.m.**

19 Treadington

Chocolate fountain and more...leave your diet at the door! Bring a chocolate dessert and the recipe on a card to share. Prizes awarded for the best recipes.

Death by Chocolate



**Thursday,
March 23
7:00 p.m.**

Bring a home decorative wrapped gift to exchange - approx. \$25.00 value.

14 Leigh Court



**Thursday,
May 4**

Annual season end outdoor party. Great drinks and dinner. Late nighters join us in the Jacuzzi.

4310 St. Michaels Ct.

Mark your calendar for these events!
Call Susan for more details on any of these get-togethers. 281-980-3290.



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Senior Center

Holiday Gala

Sugar Land Community Center

12 - 3 p.m.

Johnny Dyson Band

Thursday, December 8



It's that time of the year when we express our thanks for all that is good in our lives!

The Commonwealth Civic Association would like to thank our wonderful advertisers for their continued support!

THANK YOU!

You are invited to the senior citizen social event of the year... the Holiday Gala. Join us for a sit-down meal and dance. Admission to the event is free, but we do ask that all attendees bring canned food items for donation to the local food banks. **Reservations for residents begin Monday, November 7th.**

All reservations must be made by Friday, December 2nd at 6 p.m. No one will be admitted without a ticket or reservation.



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Current Listings

4411 St. Michaels Ct.
\$425,000
19 Seaton Ct.
\$274,900

Thank you Commonwealth for supporting our home remodelling seminar last month. Our presenters did a wonderful job and we had a great turnout!

The Virginia Mack Team



Happy Holidays!

Virginia Mack, ABR, CBR, CRS, GRI

Tennis Anyone?

Some Mental Toughness Tips Attitude and Adaptability

It's possible to become too analytical in the middle of a match, which will keep you from letting your strokes take their natural flow, but you don't want to shut down your analytical abilities, either. If you miss a shot you shouldn't have missed, you'll dwell on it less if you take a moment to figure out what you did wrong, then say to yourself, "Okay, I won't do that again."

It's usually a good idea to repeat the stroke right away with the correct motion. You might very well make the same error the next time the stroke comes up, but just go ahead and apply the same process. Eventually you will get it right, and in the meantime, a little extra optimism won't hurt.

Learn versatility. If you have only one playing style, and it's not working, your lack of strategic options also creates a shortage of mental safety valves. A key factor in psychological health in general is feeling empowered to choose different courses of action. If you have a Plan B, and C on the tennis court, the failure of Plan A is unlikely to cause despair. Tennis players often lose because at least a part of them secretly gives up. You won't give up while you have something else to try.

Learn to play every part of the court and hit every kind of shot with every kind of spin. You'll likely uncover a weakness in a seemingly invincible opponent. Variety makes the game more creative and interesting, too.

Look alert, energetic, confident, and happy. Looking so will actually help you be so to a significant extent, and it will keep you from giving encouragement to your opponent. If your opponent is at all prone to choking, your look of ready confidence on the verge of seeming defeat might keep just enough doubt in their mind to make them cave under the pressure of closing out the match.

Enjoy your community Tennis Courts and let me know where we can do better....."Tennis anyone."

Source: Dr. James Loehr's Mental Toughness Training
submitted by Conrith W. Davis, CWCA Board Member



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-Voting - continued from page 1-

eSlate, JBC and flash memory. Again, the Access Code is a randomly generated number and does not tie to the identity of the voter.

The votes are transmitted via a cable to the JBC, and are stored on the JBC and on a flash memory card (Mobile Ballot Box or MBB) inside the JBC. Then the MBB is physically transported to election headquarters for tabulation.

Voters with Disabilities: Visually impaired or literacy challenged voters may use the eSlate's integrated audio ballot reader to navigate through the ballot. The eSlate can also be used by voters with severe mobility impairments. With the eSlate, all voters can vote independently and privately. The eSlate's accessibility features have been judged superior in independent product reviews by a leading disability research organization.

There are 9 constitutional amendments on the ballot. We do not have enough free space in this issue to print each of the amendments.

In an effort to prepare our residents to understand the constitutional amendments, the following link is provided:

www.tlc.state.tx.us/pubsconamend/analyses05/analyses05.pdf



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281-242-EYES
281-242-3937



Wishing You a Happy Holiday Season

Share Your Holiday Food Drive

Wednesday, December 7 - Sugar Land Community Center - 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Bring canned goods, canned meats, dried beans and fruits, flour, rice, sugar, powdered and canned milk, baby formula, diapers and other non-perishable food items. Cash donations for checks made payable to the East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry are also accepted. All donations stay in Fort Bend County.

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Commonwealth Garage Sale a Success!

The Annual Commonwealth Garage Sale was held on Saturday, October 15 with 50 homeowners participating. A huge thank you to Paul Lott for organizing the Garage Sale. Ads were placed in the local papers as well as the Houston Chronicle.

Based on the popularity of this event and its success, there is another community garage sale planned for next fall.



Ads are available in The Commonwealth newsletter at very reasonable rates. If you are interested in placing an ad, please contact Sue at 281-265-4556 or newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com. The deadline for the January newsletter is December 1, 2005.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING EVENT IN THE PLAZA

Thursday, December 1, 2005

Feel the holiday spirit come alive for the entire community as Sugar Land hosts its 3rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event in the Plaza at Sugar Land Town Square. Be a part of our annual holiday Christmas Tree Lighting on the steps of City Hall.

Entertainment stages will be set up along City Walk Drive. Families can enjoy a winter wonderland made up of 30,000 pounds of real snow.

This is one event you will not want to miss. For more information, call (281) 276-6000.

For more information about this event, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at

(281) 275-2885.

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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 residents a safe and happy holiday season!

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

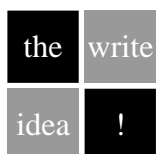
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Attention Advertisers!!!

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 \$55.00 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.

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.

Peace
On
Earth



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 Holiday Party

Monday, December 12

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

at The Commonwealth Clubhouse

Refreshments will be served

Always a success!
Always a great time!
Open to the entire neighborhood
Bring the whole family



Bring your children and your camera,
just in case a special someone stops
in!

