

Commonwealth Comments

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

March/April, 2005

www.commonwealthcivic.com

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March 13 - 17**
Drive cautiously!



Save the Date!

The Commonwealth Civic Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 16** at **7 p.m.** in The Commonwealth Clubhouse. The Association invites all interested residents to attend. The new Director will be introduced that evening. Financial information, long range plans, projects being planned by the Association, etc. will also be provided. Residents will have the opportunity to offer suggestions and ask questions of decision makers.

URGENT COMMONWEALTH VOTER INFORMATION

Please see page five for information on voting location!

Pool Season Begins Saturday, May 6

Join friends and neighbors at the Knightsbridge pool for pool season kick-off on Saturday, May 6, 2006.

The Pool Tag Application Form is available in this issue, as well as on our web site:

www.commonwealthcivic.com.

Pool hours will be posted in the next issue of Commonwealth Comments and on the web site.

www.commonwealthcivic.com

The Commonwealth Civic Association led the pack when it incorporated an internet web site into its communication efforts. Our web site has been in existence for several years under the watchful oversight of Commonwealth residents Paula and Charles Stansell. If you haven't checked out the web site yet, or have not visited recently, please stop by and note the resources available to visitors. You will find Association news, community information, important Association forms, useful links, previous newsletters, contact information and MUCH MORE! Book mark www.commonwealthcivic.com and visit often.

The Welcome Committee prepares and delivers Welcome Packets for new residents. If your business would like to add an item to the packet, please contact Gwen at 713-304-1048.

The Year In Review

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

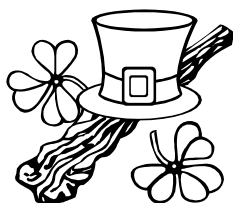
Board Member areas of responsibility:

Tom Wooley - As President, Tom oversees the business of the community. He attends many of the committee meetings, as well as various other neighborhood and city of Sugar Land meetings. Tom acts as a liaison to residents, contractors, service professionals/vendors and the board. Tom presides over the monthly Board of Directors meetings.

Paula Stansell - Paula oversees the communications area of our association including our email alert list. She developed and maintains the web site where residents can find the latest community news, useful information and helpful links. Paula attends city meetings and responds to email sent to the association by residents. She is the board liaison to both the welcome committee and the newsletter and presides over Association meetings when the President is not present.

Conrith Davis - If you see a well groomed gentleman on his hands and knees checking out the plumbing around the clubhouse, don't despair, it's just Conrith Davis doing his job. Conrith is responsible for seeing that our Pools and Tennis Courts are safe and well maintained. He also oversees the repair and maintenance of our beautiful Clubhouse.

Steve O'Hara - Steve O'Hara has achieved the designation of Master Gardener and his expertise in this area greatly benefits our residents. Steve works tirelessly monitoring our 100 acres of common green space. He works with the landscaper and the landscape committee to keep this very visible (and important) part of our community looking its best!



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4415 St. Michaels Ct.,
38 Burwick St.
19 Seaton Ct.

On average ALL my 2005 listings sold in less than 30 days and within 99% of list price. Burwick sold in 6 days for approx. \$100/sq. ft.)

**Bottom line: I am getting you more for your home AND quicker!
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Still #1 Listing Agent for The Commonwealth Area for the last 11 years.

Virginia Mack, ABR, CBR, CRS, GRI

Association Nuts and Bolts

Considering a pool?

This is the time of year when many residents begin to take a hard look at whether or not to add a pool to the back yard.

If you are considering the addition of a pool, make note of the following information:

You MUST:

√ obtain an application form from Crest Management (or from our web site: www.commonwealthcivic.com).

√ fill out the application form **completely** and return it to Crest Management. The form was designed to help you to address each requirement as you fill it out.

√ attach a copy of your plan with the pool and deck locations, along with dimensions indicated.

√ indicate on the plat: site access and all drain lines, as well as location of all pool equipment.

Backwash and drain lines must drain to the street and cannot discharge into the sanitary sewer. (This is a Commonwealth, as well as a City of Sugar Land requirement.)

Blueprint of pool MUST indicate schedule 40 PVC used for all plumbing and drain lines.

The pool and the deck must be at least 5 feet from the side and rear lot lines and should not encroach on any easements.

The pool and deck must be within building setback lines.

For more details, please see 9.0 in your Architectural Control Guidelines.

These guidelines are provided by the Modifications and Deed Restrictions Committee in an effort to assist residents and reduce the number of applications that are returned for lack of information. To be approved at the monthly meeting, Crest must have your application in the office by the second Tuesday of the month.

Non compliance with including the details required may result in a delay in the approval process and will preclude your pool from being completed in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, please call Crest Management at 281-579-0761 or Dan Lumpkin, MDR Committee Chairman, at 281-265-6709.

Association Committees

Clubhouse & Pool Rentals	
<i>Crest Management</i>	281-579-0761
Welcome Committee	
<i>Gwen Dahlin</i>	713-304-1048
Landscape Committee	
<i>Steve O'Hara</i>	281-265-4485
Modifications & Deed Restrictions	
<i>Dan Lumpkin</i>	281-265-6709
Tennis Committee	
<i>Conrith Davis</i>	713-443-9069
L.I.D. Representative	
<i>Mike Homeyer</i>	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.

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Commonwealth Resident

Fort Bend ISD Update

You may not have been keeping up with recent changes at FBISD, but we suggest that you do so.

The new board members (two elected in 2004 and two in 2005) have replaced Superintendent Betty Baitland with Acting Superintendent Manuela Pedraza. Dr. Baitland's retirement does not actually become effective until January, 2007, however, she is currently on leave. Dr. Pedraza has been with FBISD for ten years and has been Associate Superintendent of Human Resources during that time.

The board has not yet formulated a plan for replacing Dr. Baitland, however, it is expected that a national search will be conducted.

Under normal circumstances, the public's input would be requested before a search begins. Keep an eye on the local papers for information regarding public forums about the search for a permanent Superintendent.

Also recently departing the district are Associate Superintendent of Business and Finance, Charles Dupre and Associate Superintendent of Curriculum Dr. Holly Dale.

Mr. Dupre's position has not yet been filled. Dr. Dale has been replaced by Area Superintendent Susan Wey.

Aside from personnel concerns, the district will soon be dealing with rezoning and a new bond election.

You may wish to visit (and bookmark) Fort Bend ISD's web site: www.fortbendisd.com to keep up with happenings at the school district.

School district meetings can be viewed on-line.

**There is no school on
Friday - April 14.**

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OR
SKI**



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First Weekend of Pool Season

Saturday, May 6

Sunday, May 7

Pool Hours for the first weekend are:

Knightsbridge
noon - 8 p.m.

Briarwood
10 - 8 p.m. (Sat)
noon - 8 p.m. (Sun)

Pools Open for daily use on May 26

Primary Election March 7

Voting in the Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, March 7 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. For ballot information, visit:

www.co.fort-bend.tx.us

Then go to Elections (at the top of the page) where you can get both ballot and candidate information for either Primary.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COUNTY DID NOT ORDER ENOUGH VOTING MACHINES TO ALLOW EACH PARTY TO HOLD THEIR OWN PRIMARY. THEREFORE, SOME PRECINCTS WILL BE COMBINED FOR THIS PRIMARY.

IF YOU WISH TO VOTE IN THE **DEMOCRAT PRIMARY**, YOU MUST GO TO **CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL** TO VOTE.

IF YOU ARE VOTING IN THE **REPUBLICAN PRIMARY**, YOU MUST VOTE AT THE **COMMONWEALTH CLUBHOUSE**.

To see sample ballots for the March 7 primary, visit: at www.fortbendvotes.org.

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Commonwealth Civic Association 2006 Pool Tag Registration Form

Name: _____ **Home Phone:** _____
Address: _____ **Daytime or**
Work Phone: _____

I own or rent my home. *Check the appropriate box*

If renting, please provide the name and address of owner:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Family Members Registering For Pool Access

Name	Relationship	Age

**Providing stickers for your old pool tags, instead of new pool tags saves us money.
 If you still have your old tags, please request only one sticker per pool tag.
 Residents must be in good standing with the Association to receive the tags/stickers which will be mailed to
 the resident's home address.**

Number of stickers needed _____ **Number of pool tags needed** _____

I agree that all members of my family and my guests will abide by the pool rules.

Signature

Date

**Mail this form to: Crest Management Company
 P. O. Box 219320, Houston, Texas 77218-9320
 Or fax to: 281-579-7062**

City News

Dear Neighbors:

My name is Tom Abraham and I am your Sugar Land City Council Member At Large Position 1. I want to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy, Healthy New Year and update you on city issues.

Sugar Land is one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Texas for good reason. Most of our residents are like you. They want schools that excel, government that is responsive to their needs, and a family atmosphere that promotes the community at large.

As a Sugar Land City Councilman, I have been on the forefront of reducing your property taxes while improving the services and efficiency of the city government. We have one of the lowest tax rates in comparable cities and that affords you the opportunity to keep more of what you earn while expecting the most from each dollar.

Our airport is constantly expanding to serve your traveling needs. Additional towers were added this past year to facilitate improved access for you to other major cities. This will bring in more business to serve you and your family. In addition, work on the US 90 task force is expanding our major thoroughfare along with expansion of I-59 and Highway 6. This will benefit you when you need to travel to our neighboring city, Houston. Traffic and commuting times going to and from work have been constantly reduced.

Sugar Land has also been able to maintain a safe and sound water system and keep flooding to a minimum. You need not worry that your home will become flooded or that your drinking water will be come unsafe during these times. We are allocating 1 cent of every dollar to improvements in our water and drainage system and this has enabled you to feel secure that your investment in your home will remain safe.

Local law enforcement is constantly being improved and retrained for your safety. Reaccreditation, establishment of policy and procedure, operations, and support for you has resulted in Sugar Land being named one of the top 100 cities in the US for livability. Continued citizen input through the city council has been, and will continue to be,

welcomed so that the safety of you and your family will always be at the forefront of our concerns.

Lower taxes means increased disposable incomes for all of our citizens. We oversee a budget in the millions and we are still able to produce the lowest cost per \$100 of taxes collected. We have lowered our cost of doing business all the while increasing Senior and Disabled Citizens exemptions. We participate in the nearly ½ billion dollar highway construction projects which allows us to continue the services you expect at the cost you also deserve. I have continued to support a property tax cap that would allow us to continue to grow and also allow you, the citizen, to keep more of what you make.

Finally, Sugar Land will continue to grow and improve with your support. I sincerely appreciate the trust you have placed in me. If you have questions or concerns, I can be reached by phone at **281-275-2710** or by email at: **tabraham@sugarlandtx.gov**.

Sincerely,

Tom Abraham



The Commonwealth is fortunate to be located close enough to the city of Houston to enable us to easily partake of a multitude of cultural offerings. But did you realize that the Stafford Centre also has MUCH to offer? You may want to take a few minutes to peruse their web site and learn about the many different public events offered there: **www.staffordcentre.com**.

Resident safety is a prime consideration of The Commonwealth Civic Association. Homeowners are encouraged to consider painting the house number on the curb in front of your home.

Doing so allows for emergency personnel
(police, fire, ambulance)

to more clearly identify addresses and to avoid confusion in an emergency situation.

We're Proud to Welcome A New Team Member!



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A HUGE thank you to Melanie Carroll, who volunteered to completely redesign the Holiday decorations for The Commonwealth entry signs. The Association received numerous compliments on the new look. Melanie, a Commonwealth resident, owns Front Door Designs and obviously has a real knack for the profession!



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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

Happy St. Patrick's Day



Modifications to be considered at the monthly meeting must be received by Crest on or before the 2nd Tuesday 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

www.commonwealthcivic.com

Attention Advertisers!!!

This newsletter is published in January, March, May, July, September and November. The deadline for each issue is the first day of the previous month. Ads and payment must be received by that date. All Mail to Commonwealth Comments, 3909 St. Michaels Ct., Sugar Land, Texas 77479 and include a check for full payment. Ad rates begin at \$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

P.O. Box 219320
Houston, TX 77218-9320

Carolyn Bonds, Senior Manager
281-579-0761
281-579-7062 (fax)

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**Important Voting Information
Included in this issue**

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email: commonwealth@stansellweb.com



Commonwealth Women's Club

continues it 10th year Anniversary
and wishes to invite Commonwealth residents to join the fun!

If you haven't yet attended one of our meetings, you have already missed out on our *Ladies Night Out* and an evening of *Death by Chocolate!*
Don't miss out on our future events!

GIFT SHUFFLE

Thursday,
March 23
7:00 p.m.

Bring a decorative wrapped gift to
exchange -suggested value
around \$25.00.

14 Leigh Court



Paradise Pool Party

Thursday,
May 4
7:00 p.m.

Annual season end outdoor party.

4310 St. Michaels Ct.