

Commonwealth Comments

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

May/June, 2006

www.commonwealthcivic.com

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Commonwealth Civic Association Annual Meeting

The Commonwealth Civic Association's Annual Homeowner Meeting will be held in the Commonwealth Clubhouse on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is your opportunity to meet face-to-face with the Association Board of Directors and the management company, Crest Management Service.

Financial information will be presented, short and long term projects will be discussed, and committee reports will also be shared at this meeting. Come see how your association dues are utilized. As always, time is always set aside for questions and answers.

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

There will also be an election held at this meeting. Two positions are up for election. Board members whose terms are expiring this year are: Steve O'Hara and Virginia Mack who was recently appointed to fill a spot vacated when Jim McGregor moved from The Commonwealth.

Homeowners should be receiving, by mail, a proxy from the Association. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, please be sure to return your proxy to Crest Management Service by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 12. You may fax your proxy to Crest at 281-579-7062 or mail it to: Crest Management Service, P. O. Box 219320, Houston, Texas 77218-9320. **We must receive at least 115 proxies to validate the election** of the new board members.

Traffic Update!

Reconstruction of the interchanges at Highway 59 at Sweetwater and University Blvd. will soon have a big impact on most of our drivers. The changes at University are expected to begin in early June, weather permitting. Sweetwater is scheduled to follow in early July. The closure at Sweetwater (over U.S. 59) should last approximately two weeks. The bridge will be demolished and all traffic will be diverted to the frontage road while new lanes of U.S. 59 are completed. Traffic will not be able to cross 59 on University or Sweetwater during their respective construction times. For more information, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov.

16th Annual
July 4th Parade &
Picnic -
don't miss the fun!

*See back page of this
newsletter.*

Visit www.commonwealthcivic.com for more current information.

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

Virginia Mack
Director
281-207-5200

Commonwealth Email Alert

If you are not on the Commonwealth Email Alert distribution list (see page 3 for details), you are not receiving information that the Association considers to be important to residents. Occasionally, we have information that should not or cannot wait until the next newsletter is published.

A test email was sent out last week. If you believe that you are already on that list and did NOT receive a test email, your spam filter may be at fault. Many email servers classify email with multiple recipients as spam, and they are then returned to us.

If you change your email address, be sure to send the updated information to: **commonwealth@stansellweb.com**. Do not forget to include your name and contact information.

*The Commonwealth Email Alert System,
a service of The Commonwealth Civic Association.*

Vote at the Commonwealth Clubhouse - Saturday, May 13

The Commonwealth Neighborhood Watch Program is attempting to grow a strong presence in our community.

If you see suspicious activity in our neighborhood, please report it to the Sugar Land Police Department immediately (281-275-2500).

If your block does not have a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain and you are willing to participate in the program, please contact Tom Wooley at 281-265-1734.

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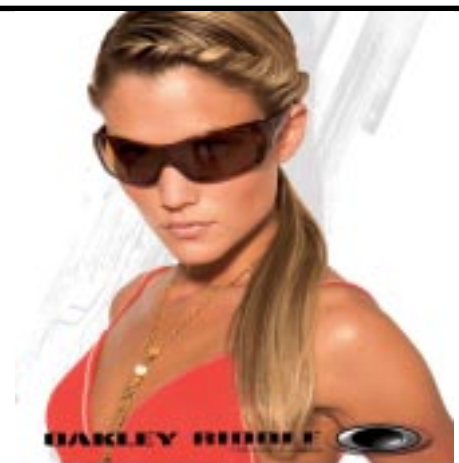
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Association Nuts & Bolts

Spring has sprung and the rains have begun. Well, maybe not.

At least not at the time of this writing!

But I fully expect that the rains will hit us any moment and we will all be faced with that thankless, never ending task of keeping the yard trimmed. The following information comes from the original community covenants and restrictions:

"Grass and weeds shall be kept mowed to prevent unsightly appearance, and all curbs, drives and walkways shall be kept edged. Dead or damaged trees, which might create a hazard to property or persons within a subdivision, shall be promptly removed or repaired, and if not removed by the Owner upon request, then the Association may remove or cause to be removed such trees at the Owner's expense and shall not be liable for damage caused by such removal.

Vacant lots shall not be used as dumping grounds for rubbish, trash, rubble, or soil." If you back up to one of our common areas, please refrain from tossing dead limbs and/or trash into these areas.

Please note also that corner lots may have no fence, wall, sign, hedge, or shrub planting which obstructs sight lines at elevations between two and six feet above the street, within 15 feet of the point formed by the intersection of the building set back lines of the lot.

Additionally, please note the following:

All playground equipment on a lot must be placed at the rear of the lot and must be placed behind a fence or otherwise screened from public view from any street abutting the lot.

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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.

Commonwealth Pool Hours

Pool Season is here!

Both Commonwealth pools kick off pool season on **Saturday, May 6.**

The pools will be open on May 6 & 7 and then again on the weekend of May 20 & 21.

Hours can be confusing, so please save this page for future reference.

Pre Summer Hours:

Knightsbridge:

noon until 8 p.m.

Briarwood:

10 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Saturdays & noon until 8 p.m. on Sundays.

Pool season begins full time on Friday, May 26.

Summer Hours are as follows:

The **Knightsbridge** pool will open at **noon each day** during the summer pool season and will **close at 9 p.m.** every day except **Sundays**, when it will close at **8 p.m.** The pool **will be closed every Monday** except for September 4.

The **Briarwood** pool will open each day at **10 a.m.** except on **Sundays** when it will open at **noon.** The pool will **close at 8 p.m. each evening.** The Briarwood pool **will be closed each Tuesday** during the summer.

Summer hours end at 8 p.m. on Sunday, August 27.



Fall Pool Hours are as follows:

Knightsbridge:

4 p.m. until 8 p.m. on August 29, 30, 31 and

September 1 AND noon - 8 p.m. on

Saturday, September 2 & Sunday, September 3.

The pool will be open on Labor Day, Monday, September 4 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The Knightsbridge Pool will then be open on the weekend of September 16 & 17 from noon until 8 p.m.

September 17 is the last day the Knightsbridge pool will be open for this pool season.

Briarwood:

Monday, August 28 the pool will be open from 4 - 8 p.m.

The pool will then be open on August 30, 31 and September 1 from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.

On Saturday, September 2, pool hours are 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Sunday, September 3, pool hours are noon - 8 p.m. and Monday, September 4 the pool will be open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The pool will then open again on Saturday, September 9 from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Sunday, September 10 from noon until 8 p.m.

September 10 is the last day the Briarwood pool will be open this season.

The Association will be revisiting the pool hours in August due to the later school start date. Check the next newsletter for an update!

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.

Swim Lessons will be offered by our pool company, Avant-Garde Aquatics. www.avantgardaquatics.com or see a lifeguard at the pool!

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Trash Pick Up

Please note that trash removal in Commonwealth takes place on Tuesdays and Fridays. City law requires that we not place trash at the curb before 6:00 p.m. the evening before trash pick up. The most common offenders are yard service companies which leave trash at the curb, often, several days before trash pick up.

Please be a good neighbor and instruct your yard service to place trash out of public view! Residents may then place trash at the curb at the appropriate time.

If there is an habitual offender in your area, you may contact the City of Sugar Land Public Works Department at 281-275-2450 to report the offending address.

Tennis Anyone?

Most tennis players are all too familiar with the difficulty of the mental half of tennis competition. The power of the mind is evident at every level, from Goran Ivanisevic or Jana Novotna at Wimbledon to an eight-year-old afraid to use any of her full strokes in her first tournament. Tennis is a gold mine for sports psychologists, and some players spend several hours each week just doing mental toughness exercises.

Here are five simple techniques you can try right away:

1. The best all-around mental repair tool is the simple phrase, "only the ball." It cures, at least temporarily,

most of the big pitfalls. Whether you're upset, angry, nervous, or just distracted, repeat this phrase to block out negative thoughts and return your focus to where it belongs, the ball.


2. Probably the hardest time to concentrate is when you're getting ready to return serve. Your opponent has the ball, so your mind seems to sense that this is an opportunity for a little time off. The next thing you know, your musings about which movie to watch tonight are rudely interrupted by a chunk of rubber and fuzz coming in at 90 m.p.h. A combination of three devices can help keep your mind on the job.

3. It is 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, 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.

4. 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, C, and D 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.


5. 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 her mind to make her cave under the pressure of closing out the match.

Enjoy your Tennis Courts. Anyone interested in helping set up a community tennis tournament, give me a call at 713-443-9069.



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Fort Bend ISD School Board Election

As my nine years on the school board comes to an end, I wanted to update the community on several important issues. There has been a great deal of controversy at the school district over the past year. While the storm has not yet trickled down into the classroom, we absolutely **must** pay attention to the next few elections and try to get our district refocused on academic achievement and student success.

The **MAJOR ISSUES** facing FBISD in the immediate future are, in my opinion:

Hiring a new Superintendent (and other key administrators).

Stopping the flow of resignations/retirements of good employees.

Rezoning the entire district.

(Naturally, this would include us.)

Passing another bond referendum.

Overcoming the tainted reputation the district has acquired, state-wide.

The next school board election will take place on May 13th.

There are two positions up for grabs.

Position 2 This is the position I hold. I have opted not to run for re-election. Listed below, in ballot order, are the four people who have declared for that position:

Hal Jay - Small Business Owner

James Walker - Accountant

Steven Dieu -

Asst. Attorney General

Sonal Bhuchar *-

Physical Therapist

Position 6, currently held by Bruce Bain, also has four candidates. (Mr. Bain is not re-running.)

Rodrigo Carreon - Electrician

Wayne Howard - Retired Teacher

Steve Smelley - Sales Manager

Liz Mitton -

Communications Consultant

Residents may vote for one candidate in each position. Commonwealth residents will vote at The Commonwealth Clubhouse on

Saturday, May 13,

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Voter apathy could cost this district greatly. Be sure to research these candidates and vote on May 13.

Commonwealth is currently zoned to three wonderful schools. We have great teachers and great students. Commonwealth also has over 2,500 registered voters. In the primary run-off we had a grand total of **147 voters** cast a vote. That is slightly over 5%. I know we can do better than that!

May can be a very busy month for most of us. To ensure that nothing prevents you from having your vote count, please consider voting during the early voting dates of May 1 - May 9.

You may vote at the FBISD administration building, First Colony Conference Center, Sugar Land City Hall, or several other convenient locations. See our web site for details.

Not only is the education of our children at stake, our property values are also at risk!

Please educate yourself on these candidates and VOTE in this upcoming election.

Also on the ballot:

CITY ELECTION

Note that Mayor David Wallace, Councilman Tom Abraham and Councilman Daniel Wong are also up for re-election, however, none of the three were opposed.

COUNTY BOND ELECTION

Also on the ballot is a \$130 million bond proposed by the county. The proposal includes a new jail, two new libraries and six other new county buildings. I was unable to locate detailed information on the County web site, however, you may find an article on:

<http://www.fortbendnow.com/news/853/county-officials-ask-voters-to-approve-130-million-bond-issue-for-jail-libraries-office-buildings>.

As an aside, there are several legislative positions coming up in the months ahead, PLEASE do your research and find a candidate that shares your views (especially on public education) and VOTE accordingly.

It has been an honor serving you for the past nine years. Thank you for your support.

Sue Hauenstein

* *Mrs. Bhuchar is a long-time Commonwealth resident.*

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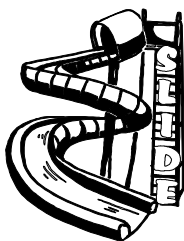
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Playground Safety Tips for Kids

The various Playgrounds within the Commonwealth community are great places for our families to have fun. To keep having fun without getting hurt, here are some important rules to remember:

- Play only on dry equipment. If surfaces are wet, you could slip and fall.
- Slide one person at a time. Wait until the person in front of you is on the ground and has moved away from the slide.
- Always slide sitting down and facing forward. NEVER slide down headfirst!
- Move away from the slide bottom as soon as you reach the ground.
- Don't climb over any guardrails. Guardrails are there to protect you.
- Climb stairs or steps slowly.
- Wear proper footwear. Don't go barefoot, or your foot could get a splinter or a cut.
- Hold onto the handrails.
- Avoid climbing or sliding on equipment support poles or beams.
- Swing sitting down, one person per swing.
- Wait until the swing stops before you get off.
- Only one person at a time should ride a spring rocker. Rock sitting down.
- Be careful when you walk in front of moving swings. You don't want to get hit accidentally!
- Don't get burned! If you're playing in the sun, use care. Wear sunscreen so your skin won't get burned. And remember that sun heats metals. A hot slide could burn your skin, too.



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

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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

**Fort Bend ISD
2006-2007 school year
begins on
Monday, August 21**

Vote

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

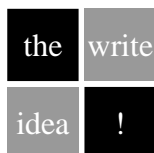
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Attention Advertisers!!!

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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Commonwealth Civic Association Annual Meeting Approaches

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**10:30 a.m. -
1:30 p.m.**

**Parade
starts at
11:00**

**Annual Commonwealth
Fourth of July Blowout
Tuesday, July 4
Parade and Picnic**

**A successful event of this size
depends on the assistance of
numerous volunteers.
We need people to help with the
parade, food preparation,
entertainment and logistics!**