

# Commonwealth Comments

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

July/August, 2007

www.commonwealthcivic.com

## July Fourth Extravaganza

Don't forget to join us for our annual July 4th Parade and Picnic!  
Commonwealth's 17th Annual

### Fourth of July Parade and Picnic

Wednesday, July 4

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

Parade begins at 11:00 a.m.

Line up at 10:45 a.m.

The Commonwealth parade consists  
of walkers, decorated bicycles,  
strollers, and wagons.

After the parade, join your neighbors for the best burgers in town!

Call Mark Thompson at 281-281-313-4337  
if you have 2 to 4 hours to help with the  
Commonwealth July 4th Parade.



## Annual Meeting Highlights

The Commonwealth Annual Homeowners' Association Meeting was held at the Clubhouse on Tuesday, May 15.

Tom Wooley, President, welcomed the residents introduced the board members in attendance and explained their areas of responsibility.

Virginia Mack updates the marquee and edits this newsletter. She serves as the Association's representative to the City of Sugar Land.

Mark Thompson took Paula Stansell's place on the board when she was appointed to the City of Sugar Land's Planning and Zoning Commission. Mark deals with special projects and drainage issues.

Conrith Davis is responsible for oversight of our tennis courts, pool contracts and maintenance and Commonwealth signage.

Steve O'Hara oversees landscaping of our common areas. He was out of town for this meeting.

*(continued on page two)*

Visit [www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com) for more current information.

Roley the Clown  
D.J.  
Face Painters  
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Students can earn  
YES hours by work-  
ing this event.  
Call Laura Glasscock at  
281-980-4118 for details.

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Call Virginia today! As you can see, Virginia knows how to sell Commonwealth.

*"Life without liberty is like a body without spirit"* Kahil Gibran

**Have a safe and happy July 4th holiday!**

**The Virginia Mack Team**

**Virginia Mack,** ABR, CBR, CRS, GRI

*Annual Meeting continued*

Also introduced were Carolyn Bonds and Steven Johnson of Crest Management Services, Ron Frerich, who is one of our Levee Improvement District Board Members, and Charles and Paula Stansell who maintain our community web site and our email alert list.

The minutes from the 2006 annual meeting were read and approved. Mr. Wooley gave the Directors' Report. He announced that residents may now pay their assessments with a credit card (plus a 3% fee). Assessments are currently \$675.00 per year.

He mentioned that too many vehicles are being left in our pool parking lots overnight. Signs will be posted and cars will be towed if in violation.

It was reported that landscaping of the areas along fences backing up to Commonwealth Blvd. will continue this year.

With respect to community social events, it was stated that we would continue with our two main social events. There will be a July 4th Parade and Picnic (volunteers are needed) and in December the Association will, once again, host a Holiday Open House. There are also plans to hold a Community Garage Sale in the Fall.

Residents were urged to obtain prior approval on home modifications/changes in order to prevent costly errors. The Modifications Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month - forms must be received by Crest by the second Tuesday of the month to assure they are

**Commonwealth Civic Association Board of Directors**

Tom Wooley  
President  
281-265-1734

Conrith Davis  
Vice President  
832-326-6202

Virginia Mack  
Secretary  
281-207-5200

Steve O'Hara  
Director  
281-265-4485

Mark Thompson  
Director  
281-313-4337

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ORTHODONTIST

**281-261-2504**

**2869 Dulles Avenue**  
(at Cartwright)

**281-265-4177**

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

**2225 Williams Trace Blvd. Ste. 106**

discussed by the committee at the monthly meeting.

Conrith Davis talked about playground improvements and enhancements made over the past year. He also mentioned that there are new benches and new windscreens at our tennis courts. We have contracted with a new pool company, Miller Aquatics.

Discussions are being held regarding a possible resident tennis tournament and the installation of cameras in our pool/tennis court areas for security purposes.

Ron Frerich offered a Levee District Update (LID #2). While the LID reduced our tax last year by 6 cents, home values have risen and Commonwealth is appraised at \$100 million more than 10 years ago. Ron reminded residents that the LID contributes to the Association for mowing and upkeep of the levee areas. All of our detention ponds belong to the LID and they continually do maintenance and remove dead trees from the areas. The levees are in fine shape, however, he also mentioned that the county is redoing FEMA maps and they will determine whether or not it will be necessary to make any changes in levee height in order to maintain our designation as a "non-flood plain" area. It is possible, however, not probable.

If it is determined that changes are necessary, it is expected that Avalon and First Colony will share the expenses involved.

Ron also brought to the attention of residents that the city is looking at using some of our levees as a part of the new hike and bike trails being developed. The LID has some concerns as to how detrimental this usage will be to our levees. The city has stated that they will maintain the paths themselves, however, not the levees.

Our LID Directors will be keeping an eye on both of these issues and will keep us updated through this newsletter.

Carolyn Bonds gave the Financial Report. She noted that our financial records are audited every other year and that the results of the most recent audit will be presented at the next board meeting. She did note that we were able to add \$100,000 to our capital reserves this year. Note: This fund is utilized for necessary major hardscape repairs (i.e. roof repairs or replacement for our buildings) under normal conditions or in an emergency situation.

After all reports were completed, questions were taken from the residents. Subjects raised and *responses given* were:

The amount of algae forming on the **duck ponds** was mentioned. *The situation is being watched by the Association and options were to be discussed at the next board meeting.*

*(continued on page four)*

### Board Meeting

Fourth Thursday of  
each month - 6 p.m.  
at the Clubhouse

### Landscape Committee Meeting

Meets once a month.  
Call Steve O'Hara at 281-265-4485  
for the next meeting date and time.

**Thomas P. Arnold, O.D.**  
**Melissa C. Moeller, O.D.**  
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Mon.-Fri. 10:00 am - 6:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

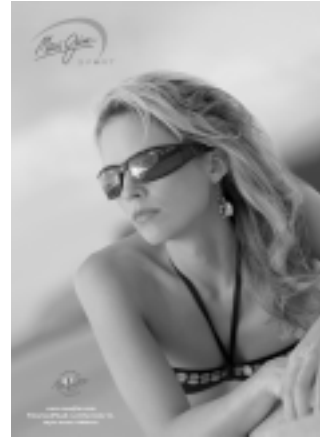
15309 Southwest Freeway

(Williams Trace @ Hwy 59, next to Conn's)

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A resident asked if mullions are required on window replacements. *The Board replied that mullions are required to maintain the harmonious appearance of the windows in our community. There are limited exceptions such as at the rear of the home. A modification applications is required for window replacement which will make sure that the new windows meet all requirements.*

Residents appreciate the **landscape improvements** along Commonwealth Blvd. and would like to see it expedited. *These upgrades are quite expensive and must be done in stages. It is anticipated that this year's budget will allow for landscaping up to Commonwealth and Trent or Pendleton.*

A resident wondered why it was necessary to "hide" the fences rather than replace them. *Fences are the responsibility of the homeowner, not the homeowners' Association. Homeowners are expected to replace/repair and maintain their own fences.*

Concern about **motorized traffic on the levee** was raised and it was requested that the Association post signs stating that motorized vehicles are not permitted on the levees. *The Association is amenable but reiterated that enforcement would be difficult. It would be very hard to catch violators.*

It was mentioned that many of our **pine trees** are be-

coming eyesores. *The Association is attempting to replace the pine trees in the common areas as they begin to show signs of illness.*

**A successful Neighborhood Watch Program prevents crime -**

**The Commonwealth Civic Association Board of Directors is attempting to beef up our program. We need block captains. Please consider volunteering for this rewarding (undemanding) position.**



If you notice that a Commonwealth street light is not working, please report the pole number (located at eye level on the pole) to **Centrepoint at 713-207-2222.**

If you notice that one of the decorative lights is not working, please notify Crest Management.

Additionally, if you see the Association's underground sprinklers shooting straight up, working ineffectively, or otherwise operating improperly, please notify Crest so that we can save \$\$\$\$.

We certainly do not want to water the sidewalks.

## FREE INVESTMENT REVIEWS

**Jim Hanks**

Investment Representative  
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Ken Rainey

## Park Smart!

With all the kids home for the summer and company coming, traffic in our neighborhood will increase for the next few months.

Be sure that you consider the driving challenge faced by your neighbors **AND especially emergency vehicles**, when cars are parked on both sides of the street. If a fire truck or ambulance is unable to navigate past your home due to cars on both sides of the street, lives are endangered.

## May Election

Michael Schiff, Sugar Land City Council Representative for District 4 (Commonwealth), was unchallenged and, thus, re-elected to his position in the May election. Fort Bend ISD incumbents Lisa Rickert and Ken Bryant were replaced by Bob Broxson and David Reitz.

The Fort Bend Mobility Bond Referendum passed.

Commonwealth (Precinct 4129) has over 2600 registered voters. 344 ballots (13.2%) were cast. We can do better!



Pool Tags are required to use the Commonwealth pools. If you do not have 2007 pool tags (or stickers), you may download the application form at:

[www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com).

## HAWKINS TREE & LANDSCAPE SERVICES

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• **For information on swim lessons, speak with a lifeguard at either of our pools.**

# National Night Out Tuesday, August 7

On Tuesday, August 7 residents of Sugar Land will be joining people in communities across the country in fighting crime by getting to know their neighbors.

National Night Out was founded to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and to send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

It's ALWAYS a good idea to know who your neighbors are, who to contact if you see suspicious activity at a neighbor's home, or water seeping out the front door while they are at work! This is the perfect time to exchange contact information.

How do people celebrate National Night Out? The traditional way is to sit in the front yard with porch lights on and visit with neighbors. In the Commonwealth, residents host block parties, cookouts, ice cream socials, dessert parties, pool parties, and more! Local elected officials make the rounds and visit with registered parties. Police officers, the constables, firemen and sheriff

department officers also stop to chat with groups they run across.

Volunteer to hold your block's get-together - and don't forget to register your party with the city of Sugar Land by visiting their website: [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov).

The Mattson Family (Sutton Park) has shared photos from their neighborhood event.



*The Mattsons rented a moon walk for the kids and provided yummy food for all.*

*In past years, the fire department and law officers have visited with residents.*



*The Mattson Family extends an invitation to all Sutton Park residents to stop by and visit again this year!*

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**Commonwealth  
Resident**

- Ready for a change?
- How much is your house worth?
- Looking for a larger or smaller home?
- Job transfer/Relocation?
- Call for any Real Estate needs

*Thank you for your referrals!*

## Modifications Committee Meeting

Third Tuesday of each month -  
7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse

*Modifications to be considered at the monthly meeting must be received by Crest on or before the 2nd Tuesday of each month.*

If you have a few hours available each month (and the third Tuesday evening of each month) and have an interest in reviewing modification applications, please contact Cindy at 281-265-4485.

# Grand Opening of Our New Showroom!!

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## 10th Anniversary Sale

# 20% OFF List Price

Must present Coupon.  
 Not to be combined with any other coupons or discounts.  
 Expires July 31, 2007.

After our Parade and Picnic, don't miss the City of Sugar Land's 22nd Annual Red, White and Blue Fest

The Mike Mancy Band and 100 acres of food and activities for the entire family.

Participate in the Faces of America Parade followed by the Patriotic Pet contest where pets in their finest patriotic garb compete for the title of most patriotic pet.



## Oyster Creek Park 4033 State Highway 6 South

Celebrate Independence Day with the largest fireworks display in Fort Bend County from 5 to 10 p.m.

The 20-minute fireworks display will begin at 9:30 p.m.

A shuttle service will be provided from Mercer Stadium, 16403 Lexington Blvd. to Oyster Creek Park from 4:30-11 p.m.

If conditions permit, parking will also be available on the easement at Oyster Creek Park, 4033 State Highway 6 South.

For more information or to volunteer, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (281) 275-2885.

# 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 Valinda Weibel at 281-265-3157.

## 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; Kim Newby (Fort Settlement Middle School) at 281-778-9218 ; Kathy Waldheim (Clements High School) at 281-565-2739 ; or Jo-Lynn Gill (Elkins High School) at 281-565-3823 .

**If information about your group is incorrect or outdated, please email: [newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com).**

*If you are interested in publicizing a Commonwealth-based special interest group, please contact us.*

# Commonwealth Women's Club

Held on May 24th, the end of year Commonwealth Women's Club Pool Party was a huge success. Over 20 women met in the home of Nancy Benevides for a Fiesta of Fun!

The organization does not meet during the summer but will reconvene in September for a Champagne Social.

Whether you are new to the community or have been here for years, come let down your hair with other Commonwealth women. Make some new friends and enjoy another way to share news and ideas in a social setting six times each year.

Check our next newsletter for time, date and location for the Champagne Social!



*Girls Just Wanna' Have Fun!*

## Association Committees

Clubhouse Rentals  
Cindy O'Hara  
281-265-4485

Landscape Committee  
Steve O'Hara  
281-265-4485

Modifications & Deed Restrictions  
Crest Management Service  
281-579-0761

Pool Rentals  
Miller Aquatics  
713-776-3739

Tennis Committee  
Conrith Davis  
713-443-9069

Welcome Committee  
Gwen Dahlin  
713-304-1048

L.I.D. Representative  
Ron Frerich  
281-265-0137

[www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)

### 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
<b>Police &amp; Fire Emergency</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>

### 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. Mail to **Commonwealth Comments, 3909 St. Michaels Ct., Sugar Land, Texas 77479** and include a check for full payment. Ad rates begin at \$65.00 per issue.

If you have any questions, call Sue at  
281-265-6681.

Newsletter email address:  
[newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com)



Sue Hauenstein  
**the write idea**  
281-265-6681

## 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](http://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](mailto:commonwealth@stansellweb.com)- please include your name and contact information.



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  
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Carolyn Bonds, Senior Manager  
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**Commonwealth's Annual  
July 4th Parade and Picnic**  
See page one for details!

A newsletter for the neighborhoods of The Commonwealth:  
BRIDGEWATER, COMMONWEALTH ESTATES, COMMONWEALTH PARK, OXFORD, SUTTON  
FOREST, SUTTON PARK AND SWEETWATER XII

**Post-Holiday  
BLOWOUT**

*Annual Event!*

## I Survived the Summer Back-To-School Coffee

No Agenda!

See some old friends  
Make some new ones!

Mark your calendar TODAY!

Mindless chatter

Bring a neighbor

No RSVP required

Tell us what you did this summer  
or discuss the latest book you've  
read.

**New to The Commonwealth?** Please join us - we can recommend  
doctors, dentists, restaurants, shops, organizations and more!

**at the Clubhouse                      10:30 a.m. - noon**  
**Friday, September 21**

*If you have any questions, please email Sue at: [newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com).*