

Commonwealth Comments

A newsletter for the residents of The Commonwealth:
Bridgewater, Commonwealth Estates, Commonwealth Park, Oxford, Sutton Forest, Sutton Park and Sweetwater XII

March/April, 2008

www.commonwealthcivic.com

It's a Strange, Strange, World

Let's face it folks, this is not the world we grew up in.

Our children, as well as ourselves, face issues and challenges that most of our parents never even dreamed of. Our world is no longer anything like Mayberry, or the community Wally and the Beav lived in. We are forced to lock our doors. We cannot let our children roam free, we must discourage them from talking to strangers and must watch them constantly on the internet to prevent predators from taking advantage of them.

Additionally, while Sugar Land is considered one of the safest cities in the nation, we, as adults, must still be vigilant in keeping our guard up.

This year, we will attempt to focus on safety: our personal safety, the safety of our children, and the safety of our community.

Maintaining the safety of our neighborhood is the mission of our city officials and Fort Bend law enforcement. There is, however, something **YOU** can do to help.

Commonwealth is far from a high crime neighborhood. We want to keep it this way. We have had a Neighborhood Watch Program for many, many years. Unfortunately due to the transient nature of our society, many of our block captains have left the community. We need to beef up our Neighborhood Watch Committee program.

OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

We need AREA Co-ordinators. Your job will be to work with the board of directors to organize our program. Quarterly meetings may be required.

We need block captains. This is not a major commitment. Meetings will be few and far between. We are hoping to structure our program to make effective use of the internet. Your only job will be to keep your immediate neighbors apprised of incidents/happenings in Commonwealth.

To volunteer or have questions answered, please contact Tom Wooley at tom.wooley@fluor.com or newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com.

To strengthen our internal controls and insure that only Commonwealth residents and their guest utilize our tennis courts, new locks will be installed on both the Knightsbridge and Briarwood Tennis Courts on **March 29, 2008.**

Residents will be able to exchange their old keys on March 29, 2008, from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. at the Knightsbridge Club House at no charge. For resident who currently do not have a key to the Tennis Courts a fee of \$15.00 dollars will be charged.

Additionally, if for some reason you can not pick up your new key on March 29, 2008, our management company, Crest Management will mail you a new key once you have contacted them.

Lastly, if you have any recommendations to improve our tennis facilities please email me at: codavis13@sprintpcs.com.



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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Board Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Clubhouse.

Association Information



Modifications & Deed Restrictions Committee
meets the third Tuesday of each month
- 7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse



Landscape Committee
meets once a month.
Contact Steve O'Hara at 281-265-4485
for the next meeting date and time.

Applications must be received in the Crest Management office on or before the 2nd Tuesday of each month to be considered at the monthly meeting. For more information contact Crest Management Service at 281-579-0761.

Tennis Committee
Conrith Davis
832-326-6202



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.



Welcome Committee
Gwen Dahlin
713-304-1048

Pool Rentals
Crest Management
281-570761



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



Clubhouse Rentals
Cindy O'Hara
281-265-4485

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

The Commonwealth Civic Association does not investigate, qualify, or certify this newsletter's advertisers. The business of each advertiser is independent of the Association.

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 281-265-4556.

Newsletter email address: newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com

Your Area Real Estate Expert

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leigh@mattsonrealtor.com

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Sugar Land, TX 77479



*Commonwealth
Resident*

- . Ready to make a change?*
- . How much is your house worth?*
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- . Job transfer/Relocation?*
- . Call for any Real Estate needs*

Thank you for your referrals!

Fort Bend Fit

Did you make a New Year's resolution to get fit but haven't started a fitness program yet? So many of us are in that position.

Next month we will have an article by Commonwealth resident, Terrie Hay, Head Coach of Fort Bend Fit and Shape UP Sugar Land Membership Director.

Who knew exercise could be so much fun?

Congratulations to all FBF Commonwealth Residents for their 2007/2008 marathon training accomplishments: Susan Airington, Donna Arnold, Tom Arnold, Shelley Bauer, Rosa Bryant, Melanie Carroll, Janet Clark, Mary Edmonds, Martha Eppes, Kathleen Fenelon, Kelly Gibson, Terrie Gorney, Charles Jessup, Paul Ling, Chris Lukin, Fran Magelssen, Scott Magelssen, Leigh Mattson, Jeanne Megna, Andy Ralph, Norma Reyna, Liz Ridling, Cindy Schmitz, Julie Warshauer, Bob Woods.

And You Thought Viruses Just Put You In Bed For A Few Days!

These days the buzz is all about computer viruses and bugs that take over your machine. There are mainly 3 kinds of infections that can hurt your computer.

A **worm** infects computers by copying itself onto each machine within a network. The worm finds shortcomings in the network security and exploits them to replicate and execute the attack.

Viruses spread from computer to computer attached to documents or executable files in order to gain access to a computer. One way that the virus may do this is by searching through the computer files, replicating, and attaching itself to other executable files or by copying itself in the computer memory and attacking files in the memory.

A **Trojan horse** tricks the user by pretending to be a file that the user wants to execute, for example a game or utility program.

Some of these attacks install backdoor access to the computer, allowing the virus's creator to gain access to personal information as well as files and programs installed on the infected computer.

There are certain steps you can take to defend your computer against attacks. Prevention is the best medicine. Stay alert about what you download, open and save on your computer. Do not open any email or attachment that is from a sender you do not know. You should delete the email immediately.

- article continues on page 11 -

Home Security Tips

CURB APPEAL

Placement of shrubbery and bushes is crucial to home security. Be sure to scope out your front door. Frame the entry to your home. A few well-placed shrubs and a swept walkway makes a great first impression and helps to keep you safe.

Be sure that your hedge does not provide coverage for someone who may be awaiting your return home. Keep bushes trimmed to a height that is welcoming to the eye, but not a hiding place for criminals.

Pay attention to items that could assist in access to second-floor windows or balconies.

Motion-detection lights are a great idea. They can help make your home less inviting to burglars. (Be sure that the lights are not aimed at your neighbor's home!)

DOORS

When selecting a wood door, be sure to choose a solid wood door instead of a composite one. Make sure door hinges are located inside so doors cannot be removed from the outside.

Take some time to research secure locks as well.

If you have sliding glass doors, be sure to install a device that secures both the sliding and stationary panels of the door by pinning them together where the frames overlap. This will make it difficult for someone to enter through the sliding doors.

WINDOWS

Crescent or "butterfly" latches can be pried open easily with a knife. Use a do-it-yourself nail or bolt window stops instead. Drill the hole for the stop at a slight downward angle to prevent a burglar from jiggling the pin out of the hole under pressure.

Windows that are never used -- unless they are a means of escape during a fire -- should be fastened permanently shut.

ALARM SYSTEMS

According to the FBI, homes equipped with centrally monitored alarm systems are 15 times less likely to be targets of break-ins.

The goal of a residential security system is to detect an intruder as early as possible, alert the home's occupants to his presence, and scare him away before he does any harm.

Alarm systems can be wired or wireless. A basic alarm system is a low-voltage electrical circuit with sensors installed on doors and windows. When the flow of electricity through a sensor is interrupted because the door or window is opened, a siren sounds or a light flashes. Many systems also include motion sensors. When something moves within the sensor's range, an alarm sounds. Some systems are monitored systems, meaning they send a signal to a central station where operators, in turn, notify police.

If you decide to install an alarm system, be sure to get bids from two or three reputable security companies. Ask your neighbors for references. Compare not only the installation charges, but also annual inspection costs and monthly fees (for monitored systems). Additionally, check with your insurance agent to see if you'll receive a discount for installing a certain type of system.)

INDOOR SAFETY

It's a good idea to have lights on in your home even when you are not there. There are night lights of all types available for purchase. Some will come on at dark and others can be controlled with timers.

GENERAL TIPS

Never hide your house key outside. It is better to leave an extra set of keys with a trusted neighbor.

If you work outside the home or are leaving for a few days, lower the volume of your telephone's ring so it can't be heard outside your house. (An unanswered telephone tells a burglar casing your house that no one's home.) AND..... be sure if you leave town, that you have someone pick up newspapers from the yard, and flyers that are left at your door.

Never enter your home if it appears to have been burglarized; call the police from a cell phone or neighbor's house.

Information gleaned from various internet sites

Ladies, No Time for the Gym?

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Pager 713-786-3678

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www.virginiamack.com
www.ftbendhomes.com

**Commonwealth Resident/
Commonwealth Specialist**

NEW LISTINGS
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(sold in 2 days!!)



Virginia knows how to sell Commonwealth.
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“Thank you for helping me be The Top Listing Agent for The Commonwealth Area for the last 13 years!”

My averages for the year (2007) - Listings sold for 99% of List Price, within 22 days AND for 2-4% higher!

I would love to help you sell your home for top dollar and quickly too.

CALL ME at 281-207-5200!!!

Virginia Mack, ABR, CBR, CRS, GRI



*provided this month by
Virginia Mack,
Re/Max Southwest*

Whether you are thinking about redecorating/upgrading your home, or putting it on the market this spring or summer, NOW is the time to take action.

For a small investment, your home will sell quicker and you can recognize a larger profit by simply adding a fresh coat of neutral light tan paint and new light tan carpet. They are the best ‘pay back’ upgrades a homeowner can make to aid in the quick sale of a home.

For optimum results, tan paint should have no hint of pink, blue, grey or yellow in it. Pay back can be **double to triple** the cost of doing the upgrade, as well as result in a decrease in number of days on the market.

If you can avoid doing so, do not lay tile next to tile, marble, or granite flooring. A better idea is to lay tile next to carpet or hardwood floors. Buyers in the price range of our community prefer real wood to laminates.

When putting your home on the market, the best idea is to combine both updates and upgrades:

Update: replace what is currently in the home (i.e. new carpet, paint, faucets, water heater, kitchen appliances, etc.)

Upgrade: replace current items with better quality items (laminated counter tops with granite; 8 inch tile with 12 or 18 inch tile, carpet with tile or hardwood floors) or add items such as a pool, spa, waterfall, sprinkler system, landscape lighting, etc.

AND hire professionals. You do get what you pay for. Always think about resale when you make an investment in your home!

Feel free to call me (281-207-5200) to talk about the best investments for the resale of your home!

Susan M. Delclos, DMD, MDS, PA
ORTHODONTIST

281-261-2504

2869 Dulles Avenue **281-265-4177**
(at Cartwright)

Henry Delclos, D.D.S.
PEDIATRIC DENTIST

2225 Williams Trace Blvd. Ste. 106



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mholden@garygreene.com

Cecilia Padilla
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cpadilla@garygreene.com



Big Band Bash



Saturday, April 5 - Safari Texas

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Tickets: \$50 Each

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j.gortney@yahoo.com

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**Neighborhood References
Available**

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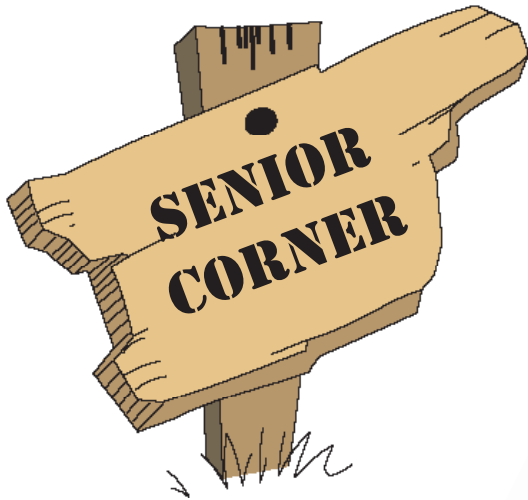
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**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday,
April 22, 23 & 24**

Tyler, Texas – Roses, Roses, Roses
Departs 7:30 a.m.

Includes – Caldwell zoo, Roseland Plantation, Dewberry Plantation, Bonner, Whitaker, McClendon House, Rose Museum and Garden, Camp Ford and Texas Parks and Wildlife’s Freshwater Hatchery.

\$350 single/\$300 double for residents

Includes transportation, all tours, hotel, two breakfasts, and 3 dinners, plus a small rose bush.

A \$100 deposit is due at registration.



**Wednesday, May 7
Port of Houston**

Port of Houston and lunch at the Monument Inn.
Departs 9:00 a.m.

Residents discount price is \$35.00.

Price includes transportation, tour and lunch.

Registration begins March 24; early registration for residents begins March 17.

Senior Ambassadors - Wanted!

The Parks and Recreation Department is seeking Senior Ambassadors to volunteer at the newly renovated Senior Center. We are looking for enthusiastic people to meet and greet visitors, teach classes, maintain the library and the information center - just to name a few things. Seniors interested can pick up an application at the Senior Center reception desk.

Friday, March 28

Holocaust Museum and Museum of Natural Science

Departs 8 a.m.

\$30.00 for residents/includes transportation & tours
(not lunch)

Wednesday, April 2

Galveston Port Tour

Departs 9:30 a.m.

\$20 for residents.

Includes transportation, tour but not lunch



Monday, May 5

Minor League Baseball

Round Rock Express vs. Las Vegas 51

Departs 8:00 a.m.

OR



San Antonio Missions vs. Corpus Christi Hooks

Departs 7:30 a.m.

Price is \$35 per game for Sugar Land residents. Includes transportation and game tickets.

Registration begins April 7; early registration for residents begins March 31.

Senior ID's

The Sugar Land Police and Parks and Recreation Departments have joined forces to provide Senior Citizens with an emergency ID card. These cards will have a photo ID with all your pertinent emergency information to keep with you at all times in your wallet. ID cards issued by the Center can be used anywhere in case of an emergency.

Seniors are required to have an ID on all senior trips. Senior ID's will be made the third Wednesday of each month from

10:00 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Sugar Land Senior Center.

**Sugar Land Parks & Recreation Dept.
200 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, TX 77478**

**For more information, email
seniors@sugarlandtx.gov**

or call the City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department at (281) 275-2885.

Knightsbridge Pool Schedule, Hours of Operation

May 3 through June 5

Mondays through Fridays **Closed** Saturdays and Sundays 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Exception: Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day) 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

June 6 through August 24

Mondays **Closed** Tuesdays through Saturdays 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sundays 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

August 25 through September 14

Mondays through Fridays **Closed** Saturdays and Sundays 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Exception: Monday, September 1 (Labor Day) 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Briarwood Pool Schedule, Hours of Operation

May 3 through June 5

Mondays through Fridays **Closed** Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sundays 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Exception: Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day) 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

June 6 through August 24

Mondays 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays **Closed**
Wednesdays through Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sundays 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

August 25 through September 7

Mondays through Fridays **Closed** Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sundays 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Exception: Monday, September 1 (Labor Day) 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

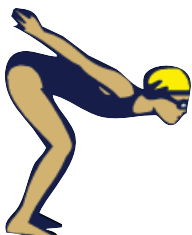


Children under the age of 10 MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult over the age of 18.

Pool patrons are responsible for being familiar with pool rules.

They are posted at each pool and at: www.commonwealthcivic.com

**Registration is
NOW OPEN**



FIRST COLONY PIRANHAS SWIM TEAM

In case you were unaware, The Commonwealth is the home of the First Colony Piranhas Swim Team! Registration for the well established team will take place on Tuesday, March 25th at the Commonwealth Clubhouse (corner of Knightsbridge & Commonwealth Blvd.) at 5pm.

Open registration will be open to returning swim team families that missed the March 20th early registration deadline, as well as families new to the Piranhas. Open registration is on a first come, first served basis. When age groups fill up, we will not be able to accept any more swimmers in that particular age group. FEES Registration fees for the Summer 2008 swim season are:

One Swimmer \$100 * 2nd Swimmer \$95 * 3rd Swimmer \$85.

Each additional Swimmer \$30 All Swimmers ages 15-18 \$30

**Commonwealth Civic Association
2008 Pool Registration Form**

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Daytime/Office _____

I _____ own or _____ rent my home. If renting, provide name and address of owner.

Name _____ Address _____

FAMILY MEMBERS REGISTERING FOR POOL ACCESS

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	AGE
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Number of Tags Needed _____

Number of Stickers Needed _____



Please note that EACH resident over the age of 2 years MUST have a pool tag to utilize either of the two pools located in The Commonwealth.

In an effort to save Association funds, we ask that you do not order new tags every year. Tags should be good for three years. You may order pool tags or stickers for your current tags by returning this form to:

**Crest Management Company
P. O. Box 219320, Houston, Texas 77218-9320**

or Fax the form to: 281-579-7062

Pool tags/stickers will be mailed in April, 2008. Forms received after April will take one week after being received in Crest's office to process. If you have questions, contact Crest Management Company at 281-579-0761.

Thomas P. Arnold, O.D.
Melissa C. Moeller, O.D.
and Associates

Therapeutic & Pediatric Optometrists

Mon.-Fri. 10:00 am - 6:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
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- ★ John: Broker Owner of Monarch Mortgage will guide you through the entire process, locate the best terms and attend closings to ensure a smooth transaction.

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Jim Hanks
 Investment Representative
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Edward Jones
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

- article continued from page 3 -

It is essential that you install anti-virus software and use it to scan your computer regularly. New viruses seem to appear each month and therefore your anti-virus software needs to be updated regularly to detect these viruses and protect your computer system. It is a good idea to scan external disks with anti-virus software before using any disk that has been used on another computer. This makes sure that the disk was not previously infected with a virus that may have been transferred to that disk.

The use of firewalls when you are connected to the Internet through DSL or cable connections helps protect your computer from viruses also. Firewalls are programs that sit between your computer and the Internet. Data that passes in between the computer and the Internet must pass through the firewall, which examines the data for security risks.

A safeguard that comes handy in a worst case situation is data backups. Regular data backups of your computer system and documents on external drives will help you in restoring your computer back to its original settings in case of an attack. Just like you take your car for periodic checkups and tunings, it is advisable to take your computer to a specialist to make sure that your machine is safe and not infected and it remains that way - protected from all sorts of attacks and viruses.

This information provided by Namita Asthana owner of Verum Solutions - 281.242.4186

Don't wait, call us today!

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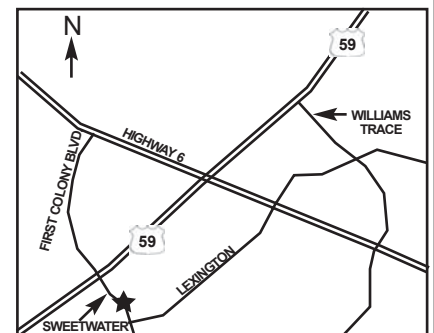
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Crest Management Service
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Houston, TX 77218-9320

Carolyn Bonds, Senior Mgr.
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281-579-7062 (fax)

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Hope you had a happy & safe
Spring Break!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pool Tag Registration Form
2008 Pool Hours

COMMONWEALTH EMAIL ALERT SYSTEM

If you are not yet a member of The Commonwealth Email Alert System, please give serious consideration to joining. In recent weeks we have distributed alerts on several issues (i.e. a stalker, child predator and car burglaries.)

Email alerts are generally limited to neighborhood and safety issues. We do not share your email with any other entity. No political email or jokes are circulated.

This is a very efficient and effective way of maintaining a community awareness and we strongly encourage our residents to join.

Signing up is quick and painless. Simply email your name and address to:

commonwealth@commonwealthcivic.com.

PLEASE NOTE

If you are on the Email Alert list and have not received a test email in the past week or two, please send a note to:

Paula Stansell at

commonwealth@commonwealthcivic.com

Many of our recent emails have been returned because the users have changed their email addresses. (This includes those who were required to change email addresses due to service provider changes.)