

Commonwealth Comments

A newsletter for the residents of The Commonwealth:

Bridgewater, Commonwealth Estates, Commonwealth Park, Oxford, Sutton Forest, Sutton Park and Sweetwater XII

May/June, 2008

www.commonwealthcivic.com

2008 Annual Meeting

The Commonwealth Civic Association's Annual Homeowner Meeting will be held in the Commonwealth Clubhouse on **Tuesday, May 20 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. Learn how your Association dues are utilized. As always, time is set aside for questions and answers. This is YOUR Association, be sure you know what is happening in your community and your city!

There will also be an election held at this meeting. Two positions are up for election. Board members whose terms expire in May are: **Steve O'Hara and Virginia Mack.**

Homeowners will 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 16.** 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.

Please Note:

Renovations to the fences at both Commonwealth pools will take place during pool season.

There will be, due to safety factors, closures at the pools. The closures will alternate so that, at least, one pool will be open to residents.

Visit www.commonwealthcivic.com for pool schedule.

Live Long and Prosper

Doctors are working hard these days to lengthen and preserve our quality of life and to lengthen life. They can't help us if we don't help ourselves! Choosing our foods wisely, getting enough sleep, and daily exercise are the key to helping ourselves.

Commonwealth resident, **Terrie Gorney** is helping people in Fort Bend County take fitness to a new level. In this article Terrie shares with us how she got there!

Have you noticed those crazy people wearing FBF shirts running down Commonwealth Blvd. on Saturday mornings? They are all members of Fort Bend Fit. FBF is officially a marathon/half marathon training program. Unofficially, FBF is a fun way to get fit. The program is run by volunteers – all members from the Fort Bend area. Many members come back year after year just for the camaraderie and social activities. We like to say that Fort Bend Fit means friends and family - and I really believe that.

In January 1999, Jeanne Megan and I decided that we were going to run a marathon for our "big thing" in Y2K. We trained ourselves by looking at the suggested plan in the Houston Chronicle each week and then changing it to fit our schedule. Then I started, as Jeanne said, "opening up my big mouth and telling everyone that we were going to run the Houston Marathon." That made us have to participate whether we were ready or not. Many of our Commonwealth neighbors got a "pool" together and bet against us completing the marathon. Knowing that bet got us across the finish line of our first Houston Marathon in January 2000.....barely. We were both hurting badly and kind of ill, but we made it and were very proud of our accomplishment. (A marathon is 26.2 miles long.) We made it with 6 minutes to spare before the finish line closed.

Jeanne and I wore our medals and finishers shirts every day for a week. We didn't win the race, but we won the bet – even if the money didn't flow our way. What did flow our way was a sense of accomplishment that will never go away, along with the knowledge that we could have

- continued on page 7 -

Commonwealth Civic Association Board of Directors

Steve O'Hara
President
281-265-4485

Conrith Davis
Vice President
832-326-6202

Virginia Mack
Secretary
281-207-5200

Tom Wooley
Director
281-265-1734

Mark Thompson
Director
281-313-4337

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

Your 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



Welcome Committee
Gwen Dahlin
713-304-1048

Pool Rentals
Crest Management
281-579-0761



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



Clubhouse Rentals
Cindy O'Hara
281-265-4485

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.

Sign up by sending an email to: commonwealth@stansellweb.com. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

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

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

Tennis: Can Enhance Your Mind & Body

Cut Calories, Lower Blood Pressure

Playing tennis on a regular basis can help maintain or improve balance, mobility, agility, strength and fitness. It also helps burn calories. According to Cleveland Clinic Heart Center exercise physiologist and avid tennis player Gordon Blackburn, Ph.D., research shows that three hours of moderate aerobic exercise every week can cut the risk of developing heart disease by 50 percent. "Playing tennis at a moderate to vigorous intensity on a regular basis," says Dr. Blackburn, "is a good way to get your aerobic exercise. You'll exercise your muscles and burn calories. Tennis can even help lower your blood pressure. All of that helps reduce your risk of developing heart disease or of having a cardiovascular event, such as a heart attack or stroke."

A 135-pound woman playing an hour of tennis can burn 330 calories during doubles and 420 calories during singles, says Dr. Blackburn. An average-sized man playing an hour of tennis can burn about 425 calories during doubles and 600 calories during singles. In fact, says Dr. Blackburn, you'll burn more calories playing three hours of tennis per week than you will doing three hours of light weightlifting, bowling or golfing.

"If you complement the tennis with other aerobic activities such as brisk walking or cycling, so that you are getting some sort of aerobic exercise most days of the week," says Dr. Blackburn, "you can make an even bigger impact on improving heart health." For instance, numerous recent studies, says Dr. Blackburn, have documented the physiologic benefits of walking on a regular basis and at a moderate intensity.

Stretching

Whether you're a former tennis player ready to take up the sport again, or you're taking it up for the first time, pre-play stretching is one of the most important precautions you can take to minimize the risk of muscle or limb injury. Stretching prepares the body for physical activity by warming the muscles and joints. The process takes only a few minutes. Stretching does not guarantee that you won't be injured during play, but the evidence shows that it can help significantly reduce the risk.

For those of you thinking, "Dude, this body don't bend," stretching exercises are not designed to contort the limbs, inflict pain or serve as a tryout for Cirque de Soleil. The objective is to ready the muscles and joints for the stretching and extending you'll do as play begins and progresses.*

To keep tennis safe and healthy, always keep these tips in mind:

- Get the body's muscles and joints properly warmed up by stretching
- Use water or healthy sports drinks to keep the body properly hydrated before, during and after play. This is particularly important when playing in hot, humid weather, or for longer than an hour per session.
- If you injure yourself or experience chest pain, stop playing immediately and contact your physician.

Play within your means Get Your Game On...Safely

Dr. Blackburn encourages anyone who can to take up tennis, but certain individuals, he says, need to check with a physician before doing so. If you are interested in playing tennis, check the list below to see if any of the criteria describe or relate to your health status. If so, you'll want to discuss your intentions with your doctor.

- Chest discomfort or pain during physical activity
- Current inactive lifestyle, by choice or because of a medical condition
 - Rheumatoid arthritis
 - Heart disease
- Recent surgery (within past year)
 - Pacemaker
 - High or low blood pressure
 - Osteoporosis
- Regular dizziness or loss of consciousness
 - Vision problems
 - Joint replacement
- History of chronic joint pain or discomfort that worsens during physical activity

Also, if you are under a physician's care for any reason, or taking medications to help manage a condition, be sure to discuss with your physician your interest in tennis before heading off to the courts.

Fun...and For All

One of the greatest aspects of tennis is that playing it can be fun. True, it can be challenging, especially if you're just learning, but it also is a sport in which lessons, practice and persistence pay off quickly. Tennis offers a great diversion from life's stresses as well as a great opportunity to socialize, particularly if you join a local tennis league or club or frequent public courts. Tennis is invigorating, and, once you get the hang of it, tremendously satisfying. It also makes a great family activity.

-article continues on page 4-

-Tennis article continued-

Contrary to what you might think, tennis is not a sport played and enjoyed only by the young. In fact, 11.3 million adults aged 25 and up played tennis at least once last year. And as Venus and Serena Williams have so brilliantly reminded everyone, tennis is a sport for women just as much as it is for men.

Enjoy your two tennis facilities at Knightsbridge and Briarwood. We continue to make improvements to our venues and welcome any recommendations you may have to make them better.

*Submitted by Conrith W. Davis
Board Member*

Susan M. Delclos, DMD, MDS, PA 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	

Landscape Update

It's that time of year again!

Flowers are blooming, trees are flush with new leaves, and the temperatures are climbing on a daily basis. Yes, another hot and humid Texas summer is approaching and to give your landscape the best chance for survival it is the time to prepare.

A few summertime landscape suggestions:

Grass: Mow your lawn as high as possible and mow often. Ideally, try not to cut more than one third of the grass blade length when mowing. Do not bag your clippings – leave them on the lawn to decompose. This not only helps improve the turf but reduces trash going to the landfills. If not already done, have the blade on your mower sharpened which will result in a better cut. Control weeds and water as needed and your lawn should respond quickly.

Fire ants: There are several products labeled for control of fire ants in Texas. These include Logic and Amdro two proven baits that should be applied twice a year. If the first application is Logic, apply Amdro the second application.

-continued-

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4803 Burbury Street
(5/3-1/3 det. with huge wooded
culdesac lot \$495,000)

4506 Heatherwilde Street
(4/3-1/2 det. backing to wooded
park \$395,000)



Call Virginia today! Virginia knows how to sell Commonwealth.

This is the time to list your home for the summer.

There isn't much competition in The Commonwealth area this year and there are a lot of buyers currently looking for a home. Call me for assistance on getting your home ready for the market. If you're ready - call me to get things started - 281-207-5200 . I will help you sell your home for top dollar and quickly!

Virginia Mack, ABR, CBR, CRS, GRI

There is also a fairly new product named Top Choice that advertises year round control of fire ants when used at label rates. We have had excellent results from all of these products.

Mulch: Now is the time of year for mulch applications. A good 2" application of mulch will help with moisture retention and weed control. Also, if a good quality ground hardwood mulch is used, it will continue to decompose and add nutrients to the soil in the beds over time. Don't apply more than 2" around the plants and trees, this is unhealthy to the plants. The mulch should be partially decomposed when purchased. Avoid using bark chips or "chipper trash". Those products take forever to break down and actually remove nutrients from the beds as they are decomposing.

This article was provided by Steve O'Hara - Landscape Committee Chair with input from Stan Johnson at Native Land Designs. Native Land Designs provides landscape maintenance for the Commonwealth.)

Sugar Land Construction Update

- Construction of Hwy 90A from Hwy 59 to Ulrich: TXDOT will be wrapping up their part of the project by the end of June. It remains to be seen if TXDOT will have any money to contribute to the Landscaping projects. The agreement that the City/TXDOT had was a 50/50 split on the \$700,000 landscaping project of Highway 6/Hwy 90 intersection and Hwy 90A from Ulrich to Hwy 6. As a part of TXDOT's state-wide scale back, TXDOT has indicated that they will not be participating in the landscaping effort. It is also assumed that this will be the case for Phase II Landscaping (Ulrich to Hwy 59). The City is currently assessing options with regards to how best to fund / implement the Landscaping Master Plan for the Hwy 90A Corridor.

- On a more positive note, four settings of the "original palm trees" that were a part of the landscape before the construction have now been replanted. I would like to thank Parks / Recreation, Public Works, Engineering, City Manager's for their respective efforts to preserve these trees.

- Imperial Redevelopment/Tract 3 Project is making progress on several fronts. Cherokee/Southern Land Co. have started the environmental abatement of the refinery site. Another public planning session was held in April with a number of local citizens, members of City Council, Planning/Zoning, and City Staff attending. Detail plans for residential, commercial, mixed use, and public spaces are progressing.

- Wayside Horns have been implemented along highway 90. Local residents have remarked at how much reduction there has been in the noise from the train horns. City Council will

be holding a workshop in the future to assess the success of the horns; future efforts to reduce train noise.

- The City continues to work on a vision for developing the 1000 acres along Hwy 59 / University of Houston Sugar Land Campus area. As recommended by the blue ribbon taskforce, the City is developing plans to create a cultural/entertainment district that includes a 6500+ Seat Performing Arts Center, a Sports Complex, Museums, Cultural Arts Center, and outdoor plaza for public events.

- The reconstruction of Main Street project is scheduled for bidding in April; with the contract awarded in May. Construction should begin in June and conclude in September. Several traffic-calming features are being included in the project. The construction of a pedestrian bridge over Oyster Creek will also be a part of this project. A meeting with the residents in the Main Street area will be held prior to the construction.

Please see the City Website, www.sugarlandtx.gov for all that is happening in Sugar Land.

This information was provided by District 1 Sugar Land City Councilman Dennis Parmer

Don't forget

MOTHER'S DAY
SUNDAY, MAY 11

Another reason to have Nancy & John Benevides assist you in purchasing a new home...



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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.

Deed Restrictions Are Good Medicine

Have you ever questioned the existence of homeowner associations? For many people, the HOA can be the only thing that protects the value of their homes and the quality of their community.

The local HOA sets and collects the fees required to maintain community operations. These fees keep up community assets: the Clubhouse, tennis courts, swimming pools, and landscaping in the public areas.

One of the most important duties of the HOA is to enforce the deed restrictions. Deed restrictions are legally binding rules, filed with the real property records, which provide for building, maintaining and using the homes in our community. They control how homes look and what can be done in the community.

If you take a moment to remember why you purchased your home in The Commonwealth, you will note that, while you may have loved the floorplan and the location, you gave serious consideration to the community before you bought. You bought a lifestyle and surroundings which are much larger than the parameters of your own property; encompassing everything from the community's entries and recreation areas to the way the other homes in the community look - and you assumed it would stay that way!

Like a home, a community can be well maintained or it can be allowed to fall apart. Many communities do not continue to look as nice as they were when they were new. Most communities in the greater Houston area, have reasonable, strong deed restrictions in place. The crucial factor is the willingness of the association's elected board of directors to enforce the existing rules.

People have differing views of what is attractive and without deed restrictions you have a good chance of your community looking dramatically different from the way it did when you first bought your home. Imagine a vivid assortment of day glow blue, purple or pink houses down your street. (Don't think it couldn't happen HERE!) People can amaze you with what they believe is acceptable in a community and that can differ dramatically from what the majority of the community believes.

How would you feel about a portable toilet cleaning company keeping its toilets and cleaning them on the driveway next door? How about a semi-tractor trailer truck parked across the street? Extreme? Yes, but it all happens and the only way we can preserve the lifestyle we thought we were buying is to enforce the deed restrictions.

Without deed restrictions, people would leave garbage in their yards permanently, never maintain the exterior of their homes, park motor homes in the street for years and make every bizarre and structurally unsound modeling project you can imagine.

The association, acting through its board of directors, can control the appearance of the community by taking deed restrictions seriously and vigorously enforcing any infraction of those restrictions.

Failure to enforce community rules is like allowing a bacterial infection to go unchecked. At first it may appear to be a small problem, but it soon spreads and becomes very serious. Enforcing deed restrictions can be unpleasant, but it is necessary for the health and vitality of our community.

Information in this article was taken from a commentary written by W. Austin Barsalow, Barsalow & Associates, P.C. -- Thanks to resident Bettie Dudley for suggesting a reprint!

Spring Cleaning?

Help support the Rainbow Room by donating your new or very gently used items to our June tag sale! We will be offering several boutiques of items and are in need of the following categories of items:

Clothing, Mens, Womens, Kids; Formal Wear; Shoes; Handbags & Accessories; Retro/Vintage Items; Home & Garden; Seasonal Decorator Items; Sports/Hobby Equipment; Media (Music/Movies/Games); Books

All donations are tax deductible.

Donations can be taken to the Rainbow Room at 1110 Avenue G in Rosenberg, or, to arrange pickup, please email us at dreamcatchersaux@yahoo.com.

Presented by the Dream Catchers Auxiliary to the Fort Bend Community Partners

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completed this endurance event a little smarter by following a real, tested, tried and true, running plan.

The morning after our first marathon, Jeanne asked me if I would do it again and I immediately said 'yes'. She said she would too – but if I ran around telling people again she would kick me in my sore @\$%#. She wasn't kidding. She made me promise that we would join a running club – she heard there was one in Houston. We were lucky because USAFIT started a chapter basically down the street from us. We joined Fort Bend Fit along with our friend, Deloris Starr, and began a running career. That was in July 2000. Our next marathon was 45 minutes faster than the first and we finished laughing - surrounded by the friends we had made in Fort Bend Fit.

Jeanne has completed seven marathons, seven half marathons, and four 50K (31 miles) endurance races. She has been an Assistant Coach and in charge of FBF administration for six years. After barely crawling over the finish line in 2000, I have completed 27 marathons including qualifying for and running the Boston marathon, eight 50Ks, two 50 mile races, and a 100 mile race in February 2007. Commonwealth resident **Andy Ralph** ran the 100 mile race with me (but way ahead of me) and completed it in under 24 hours - earning a special distinction. There are a lot of Commonwealth residents in FBF. **Dr. Tom Arnold** has many marathons under his belt including the infamous Chicago Marathon of last fall. The race was halted because of the heat and many people were not allowed to finish the event. Lucky for Tom he had trained in the heat and humidity of Sugar Land and a hot day couldn't slow him down. He has his medal to show for all that training! **Rosa Bryant** is an Assistant Coach for one of the pace groups. She has completed multiple marathons and 50Ks and has encouraged so many new members.

The FBF program is really simple. Come out on Saturday mornings and run or walk with your friends (550 members – you will have friends and people of your own pace and ability), listen to an informative seminar, and then follow a training program from the website during the week. Everyone in the program doesn't go after a marathon goal. Some join for the half marathon or just to exercise with a fun group of people. There is a big walking group and I think they have the most fun of everyone. There is a policy of "no man left behind" so someone is always there for you.

FBF is currently "unofficial" right now which means that there are no seminars on Saturdays and the atmosphere is much more relaxed as we welcome new members. The group always meets in the parking lot of Velocity Sports at the corner of Hwy 6 and Dulles. Start time is 7 a.m. until July when the official season begins. There is no fee before

July.

If you made that New Year's resolution to get fit, now is the time to come out and join Fort Bend Fit members. Get off the couch and get a training base started. All you need is a pair of shoes, comfortable clothing and a bottle of water. Do not be intimidated as FBF members come in all shapes and sizes and from all backgrounds. You will be welcomed. I can honestly say that Fort Bend Fit changed my life and the support from the group is overwhelming – on and off the route.

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 Magelsen, Scott Magelssen, Leigh Mattson, Jeanne Megna, Andy Ralph, Norma Reyna, Liz Ridling, Cindy Schmitz, Julie Warshauer, Bob Woods.

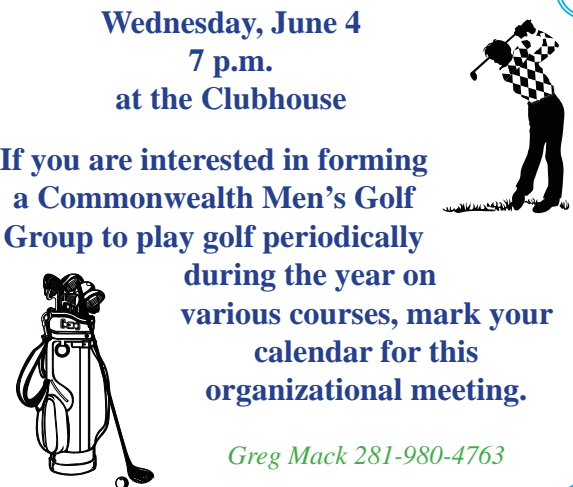


Terrie Gorney, Head Coach of Fort Bend Fit and Shape UP Sugar Land Membership Director (left), and Nicole Volek, President of Shape UP Sugar Land (far right) present Governor Rick Perry with a Shape Up Sugar Land shirt. Fort Bend Fit and The City of Sugar Land were recipients of the Fittest Organization and the Fittest City in the State of Texas for 2007. Sugar Land has retained this title for four consecutive years. For more information on how to get fit in Sugar Land, www.fortbendfit.org and www.shapeupsugarland.org.

Wednesday, June 4
7 p.m.
at the Clubhouse

If you are interested in forming a Commonwealth Men's Golf Group to play golf periodically during the year on various courses, mark your calendar for this organizational meeting.

Greg Mack 281-980-4763



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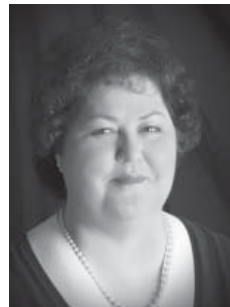
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Senior Ambassadors - Wanted!

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.



<p>Senior Splash Days Fri May 30 & Wed June 4 11-2 p.m. City Park Pool</p>	<p>Senior Swim Class Tues-Friday - June 10 -20 or July 8 - 18 10-10:45 am City Park Pool Never learned to swim? Been a while since you've been in the water? Resident price \$45.00</p>
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Galveston Island Musicals



Thursday, June 26
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ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

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Casino Night
Tuesday June 24
5-9 p.m.

For more information, email seniors@sugarlandtx.gov
or call the City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department at (281) 275-2885.

Security Tips

Spring weather has come to the Sugar Land area and with the nicer weather we need to be reminded of a few prevention tips that could save us a lot of frustration and time. As we have this nicer weather, we start to go out and about more to the parks, stores, etc. We also begin to start doing yard maintenance again.

With these thoughts in mind, please be mindful of a few tips to help ensure the safeguarding of your property.

At Home:

1. Keep doors and windows locked when not at home.
2. Keep garage door closed at all times, even when outside working in the yard. It is very easy to become distracted and not notice someone walking into your open garage.
3. Do not keep yard equipment lying in the yard, when not in use or you are not present.
4. Make a list of all serial numbers on all home electronics, yard equipment, etc. in a safe place (i.e. bank deposit box, safe).
5. Engrave all personal property with a personal identification number. Engravers are available through the police department's crime prevention unit.

Vehicle:

1. Avoid taking valuables with you knowing you will have to leave them in your vehicle (i.e. going to park, stores, etc.)
2. Keep all valuables out of plain sight in your vehicle.
3. Secure all doors and windows on your vehicle including sun-roofs.

These tips were provided by the Sugar Land Police Department



Keeping the House Cooler

Turning the thermostat to 80 degrees is not the only way to reduce summer cooling bills:

Make sure your ceiling fan is turned for summer -- you should feel the air blown downward. Even mild air movement can make you feel several degrees cooler.

Use portable fans in various rooms to help circulate air.

Shade your outdoor air conditioning unit.

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A unit operating in the shade uses less electricity.
but be sure you do not block air flow.

Change air filters monthly.

Consider switching to a programmable thermostat to enable your unit to adjust when no one is at home.

Close curtains/blinds to reflect heat on south and west facing windows during the day.

Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents; they produce the same light but use a fifth of the energy and heat.

Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.

Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.

Caulking and weather stripping will keep cool air in during the summer.

Repair holes or separated joints in your ducts and add insulation around the ducts where necessary.

Be sure your fireplace damper is tightly closed.

A 10 year old air conditioner is only half as efficient as a new one.

Visit the Department of Energy's Energy Savers web site:
<http://www.doe.gov/>

Please note if you are on the Email Alert List and your email address has changed, you need to contact Paula Stansell and advise of your new email.

commonwealth@stansellweb.com

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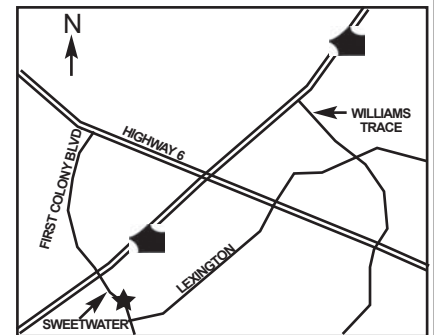
**Showroom Hours:
Monday - Saturday
10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

4767 Sweetwater Blvd. at Lexington

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Commonwealth Women's Club

End of Year Pool Party!

**Always a favorite, this party ends the long hustle
and bustle of the school year.**

Kick back and relax

(with the beloved Margarita Machine)



Hostess: Alison Simmons

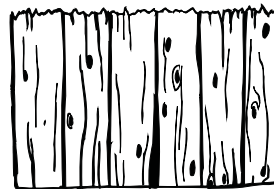
19 Tredington

7 p.m - 10:00 p.m.

281-494-8022

**We try very hard not to change our dates,
however, we must be considerate of unexpected
events that our hostess might face.
Please verify that the date has not changed.**

Don't Fence Me In!



Time to replace your fence?
Don't make an expensive mistake.
Be sure to get your replacement
fence approved by the
Modifications Committee.

Our Declarations were in existence prior to any home building in The Commonwealth. Residents are expected to comply with the restrictions and requirements specified in that document. This includes the requirement to file an application for approval to the MC for all improvements, conditions or restrictions specified in the Declaration.

- The need for approval includes any painting, staining, or varnishing of wood fences.
- No fence, wall, or hedge may extend so as to encroach across the front building line of the house.
- The maximum height for fences is 6 feet - chain link fences are not permitted. Wood must be #1 grade cedar.
- See guidelines for info on wrought iron fences.

All guidelines are available on our web site:

www.commonwealthcivic.com

Decisions, Decisions

Which webmail is better – Windows Live Hotmail, Yahoo or Gmail?

More than 500 million people use webmail as their primary personal email; chances are you do too.

These three applications – **Windows Live Hotmail, Gmail and Yahoo** mail - along with **AOL** mail, make up the vast majority of the approx.. 500 million users around the world. Most of us still using these platforms realize that they require page refreshes for every click. New applications, along with Gmail, use a technology called Ajax and offer a much richer user interface, resembling Outlook or Mac mail. When these new webmail clients are performing well, their speed and ease of use is easily as good as a desktop client.

Gmail: Gmail groups emails in a thread into a single line in the inbox. Some users love this, others don't. The best Gmail feature probably is the ability to tag emails for better organization and search. None of the other webmail services offer this. Gmail also has integrated Gtalk and continues to add other functionality as well (such as integration with Documents & Spreadsheets). Gmail is consistently fast, offers the most storage and free POP-in and POP-out, meaning you can use Gmail to access your other email accounts, or access Gmail from any other email client you use. It's a near-perfect piece of software, and has only occasional hiccups.

Windows Live Hotmail: The new Windows Live Hotmail will be a welcome change to Microsoft's 228 million

webmail users, but it falls short of the Yahoo and Gmail offerings. They offer 2 GB of storage, better than Yahoo, but there are no POP-in or POP-out features at all. If you want to access your account outside of the web site, you have to do it via Outlook or Outlook Express. It remains the slowest among the three in tests performed on the three, according to third party testing.

Yahoo Mail: Yahoo Mail is very good, allowing users to access other email accounts (POP-in), but only offering POP-out access for an additional fee. This is probably due to the legacy (older) users who are already paying for this feature - Yahoo may not want to give up this revenue stream! Storage is on the low side - only 1 GB, which is less than half of what Gmail offers. Still, Yahoo Mail has recently been running very fast and offers an intuitive, Outlook-like interface. Yahoo Mail also provides excellent Instant Messaging and RSS integration.

(www.techcrunch.com offers a chart that compares the services on a technical feature-by-feature basis.)

Namita Asthana, a resident of Commonwealth, is the owner of Verum Solutions, a provider of IT services small businesses and home PC users. For questions related to this article, or to ask about Verum's IT and PC services, Namita can be reached at namita@verumsolutions.com or at 281-242-4186.

If you have changed your email address in the past year and have not yet advised the association, please email:



Please remember that neither trash bags nor trash cans may be placed at curbside until AFTER 6 p.m. on Monday & Thursday evenings.

The empty trash cans must be placed out of sight on the same day they are emptied.

Annual Garage Sale

As a service to residents, The Commonwealth Civic Association hosts an annual Garage Sale, traditionally in October- but we need an event organizer. If you are willing to co-ordinate this event, please contact Crest Management (281-579-0761) and leave your name and contact information.

Your Area Real Estate Expert

Leigh Mattson

Direct: 713-823-6843

leigh@mattsonrealtor.com

*RE/MAX HERITAGE
4675 Sweetwater Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479*



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

Commonwealth Resident

Thank you for your referrals!

Crest Management Service
P.O. Box 219320
Houston, TX 77218-9320

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

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Inside This Issue

HOA Annual Meeting

Fitness & Health

Deed Restriction Information

Construction Update

Energy Saving Tips

Realty Check

Women's Club End of Year Bash

Security Tips



18th Annual Parade and Picnic

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
parade begins at 11
line up at 10:45

After the parade, join your neighbors for the
best burgers in Sugar Land.

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!

Celebrate with
Friends and
Neighbors at The
Commonwealth
Clubhouse!

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

