

Commonwealth Comments

A newsletter for the residents of The Commonwealth:

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

Hog Wild!

Fort Bend County, we've got a problem!

If you live in the Sutton Park/Sutton Forest or Bridgewater areas of The Commonwealth, you may be painfully aware of the damage that feral hogs are causing.

They are spotted frequently throughout The Commonwealth. Early this year an enormous hog was seen running down St. Michaels Ct. in Commonwealth Park.

Feral hogs are unprotected, exotic, non-game animals. It is estimated that there are over one million in Texas.

Like any wild animal, feral hogs have the potential to be dangerous in the right circumstances; however, in the natural state, feral hogs will prefer to **run and escape danger**.

Feral hogs like to eat grasses, forbs, roots, tubers, acorns, fruits, bulbs, mushrooms and small invertebrates like insects, snails and earthworms. They also will feed on reptiles, amphibians and carrion (dead animals).

They have few natural predators as an adult, but smaller piglets are often eaten by alligators, coyotes, owls, bobcats and mountain lions. A female hog can have two litters a year and in ideal conditions three, but one litter is more common. They can have up to 12 piglets -- again six to eight being the average. There are currently no birth control, oxicans or repellents registered for the control of feral hogs. The cool weather causes them to be more active.

It is believed that most of the hogs are entering our area via the levee. Some people, in an effort to allow deer into our neighborhood, area leaving the levee gates open. By doing so, you are enabling the hogs to come through also.

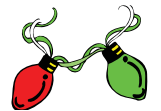
The county began setting traps at the end of October in an attempt to control the feral hog population. If you come across one of the traps, please do NOT approach it. Your scent near that trap or on the trap will make it ineffective. If you see an animal in one of the traps call Animal Control immediately at 281-275-2364. Additionally, call this number if your yard suffers feral hog damage.

The factual information included in this article is taken from the city of Sugar Land's Animal Control Department.



Damage done to a yard on Warwick Dr. This has happened multiple times to several homes!

Reminder



Holiday decorations must be removed within 30 days of the holiday!



Steve O'Hara
President
281-265-4485

Mark Thompson
Vice President
281-313-4337

Virginia Mack
Secretary
281-207-5200

Tom Wooley
Director
281-265-1734

Dave Kinzelman
Director
281-980-8416

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

www.commonwealthcivic.com

The Commonwealth
Civic Association
Annual Meeting
is held in May.



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

Leigh Mattson

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Commonwealth Resident



Dues are **OVER**due

If Crest Management did not receive your Homeowner Association dues by January 1, your dues are overdue. Dues are considered late if they are not received by January 31 and interest will begin to accrue.

Interest and legal fees add up very quickly and can be quite shocking to the homeowner.

Association membership dues are used to maintain and improve our community. The greatest expense for the Association is the landscaping of our common areas.

These beautifully landscaped areas are a big bonus for our community. We require water to keep our green areas green and we pay for the electricity to run our street lights. Well-lit streets provide a measure of security for our residents.

Administrative expenses include the expense of our management service, including office supplies, insurance, the newsletter and legal expenses.

Our Management Company handles the day-to-day operations of the Association. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving and returning phone calls from residents, oversight and solicitation of vendors, payment of invoices, attending board meetings, and locating and advising residents of deed restriction violations.

Dues are also used to maintain and repair our two swimming pools, tennis courts, and playgrounds. Our Board of Directors annually discusses pool usage and determines which hours the pools should be open (based on the previous year's usage) to minimize expenses and maximize availability to residents.

Additionally, a portion of our dues are placed in a reserve account for future replacement of physical assets such as the clubhouse, pools, and tennis courts.

Rest assured that The Commonwealth Civic Association Board of Directors takes their responsibility for oversight very seriously. Residents are encouraged to attend the annual meeting held each May where an overview is given and discussion is held regarding future needs of the Association.

If you have any questions about the annual dues, contact Crest Management Service at 281-579-0761.

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



The Association wishes to thank
Paula and Charles Stansell
for another year of excellent service to the civic
organization. The Stansells maintain the
Commonwealth website and the email
alert list and we appreciate their efforts.
www.commonwealthcivic.com

**PRIMARY
Election in
March!!!!
Educate yourself
on the candidates
and the issues!**

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Commonwealth Residents**

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or repair* at **First Tire & Automotive.**

*Excludes tires and state inspections. Available on purchases up to \$500.

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281-343-5666
2015 Southwest Fwy.
Greatwood

281-980-2666
2303 Williams Trace
First Colony

281-313-2886
960 Eldridge
Sugar Land

When you begin your Spring Cleaning, please keep in mind that the Friends of First Colony Library would be thrilled to receive your books for their monthly fundraising sale(s). Drop by the library for more information.

*Association
Information*

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

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

Applications must be
received in Crest
Management's 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.

Clubhouse Rentals
Cindy O'Hara
281-265-4485

Tennis Committee
Conrith Davis
832-326-6202

Pool Rentals
Greater Houston Pool
Management
713-771-POOL

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

Newsletter
Sue Hauenstein
281-265-4556
newsletter@
commonwealthcivic.com

Maui Jim

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

15337 Southwest Fwy.
Sugar Land, TX 77478
Williams Trace @ Hwy 59

281-242-2020

www.2020sugarland.com



TODAY'S VISION

THE ONE TO SEE



If you are planning to make major renovations to the exterior of your home this spring (pool, patio, driveway enlargement, fence replacement, painting, etc.), please be sure to review The Commonwealth HOA Guidelines **BEFORE** you begin the project. The guidelines can be found at: www.commonwealthcivic.com.

It can be very frustrating (not to mention expensive) to replace work that does not meet the specifications in the guidelines.



Save the Date!!!!

Commonwealth is hosting its SECOND CPR/First Aid class for residents at the Clubhouse on **Saturday, March 27th** 10:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Class size is limited
\$30.00 per person

Perfect for teens, babysitters, lifeguards, pool owners, parents and grandparents!

Reserve your spot by emailing:
Leigh@mattsonrealtor.com



Thanks to Lei Clay
for decorating the Commonwealth
entrances for the holidays!
Great Job Lei!

Thanks to all who
contributed to the success of
our annual Holiday Party.
We hope Santa's reading our newsletter
because we couldn't do it without him!!!!

The board members of
The Commonwealth Civic Association
**Wish you a prosperous &
healthy new year**

Steve, Mark, Virginia, Tom and David

Are You Thinking About Selling Your Commonwealth Home in 2010?

Commonwealth is one of the top selling neighborhoods in Fort Bend and your home needs to be marketed by a top producing neighbor that consistently sells 1 million + a month by implementing:

- Professional pictures by area photographer.
- Virtual tours on All listings.
- Listing your home on 50+ websites.
- Easy accessibility to Nancy by cell/email and will answer you within 24 hours.
- Color fliers in outdoor signage, your home will be restocked every week.
- Buyer's assistant available to show your home quickly.
- Pre-approval on all sign calls w/in the hour by Nancy's team.
- Public and broker's open houses to get your home SOLD quickly.



RECENTLY SOLD IN COMMONWEALTH
4110 Wickford Circle



RE/MAX
Southwest

Nancy Benevides - 713-203-9975
nancybenevides@yahoo.com

❁ ❁ *Women's Club Holiday Party* ❁ ❁





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14905 Southwest Freeway
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
Office: 281-207-5200
RE/MAX Southwest: 281-491-1776 ext. 5200
www.virginiamak.com
www.ftbendhomes.com

**Commonwealth Resident/
Commonwealth Specialist**

CURRENT LISTINGS

**3807 St Michaels Ct.
19 Thetford St.**

**SOLD
5002 Berkshire Ct.**



Call Virginia today! Virginia knows how to sell Commonwealth.

Happy New Year!

If you are planning to sell your home in 2010 and need assistance, or have questions on what upgrades/updates give the biggest “bang for your buck”, give me a call!

If you are Buying, remember to call me **FIRST** so, I can help save you money & time!

Virginia Mack, ABR, CBR, CRS, GRI

Halloween Party Hi-Jinx.....

Girls Just Wanna' Have Fun!



Women's Club Calendar

February 10

Be My Valentine Martini Party



March 10

Cooking with Panda

April 14

Mexican Fiesta



May 12

**Sleepless in Sugar Land
(Pajama Party!)**

Winter Landscape Tips

Many people see the fall and winter as a time to close down the garden and wait until the spring to start up gardening activities again. However, there are plenty of things you can be doing through the fall and winter months to continue enjoying the pleasures of gardening.

Winter is an important period in the gardening season, more so than you'd think. While winter is in full swing, compost is continuing to decompose and get ready for use for the spring. Additionally, winter is a great time to grow cover crops which will help improve the soil for the next season.

There are also plenty of plants that you can grow during the fall and winter, both indoors and out. Also, you can strategically plan a winter garden so that you can enjoy color and attractive plants all year long.

The following plants, shrubs, and trees grow all year long but have particularly interesting features for winter or features that appear during this time. Plants with unusual fruit, bark, and shapes are perfect picks for adding interest to your winter landscape. Enjoy!!!

Evergreen Trees and Shrubs

	Special Fall/Winter Interest
Boxwood	Broadleaf evergreen, interesting shape
Douglas-Fir	Unique Cones
Juniper	Interesting colors, shapes, and berries depending on the cultivar
Scotch Pine	Orange Bark

Plants/Trees with Unusual Shapes or Colors

Bald Cypress	Attractive deciduous conifer
Bamboo	Interesting shapes and colors available
Ornamental Pear	Different varieties available with attractive bark, fruits, leaves, and fruits
River Birch	White, peeling bark
Weeping Willow	Yellow, drooping branches

Plants/Trees with Interesting Fruits, Berries, Seeds

American Holly	Females have attractive berries
Pyracantha (Firethorn)	Orange/red berries, evergreen foliage

Groundcovers

English Ivy	Good groundcover for general purpose landscaping
Vinca (Common Periwinkle)	Good overall groundcover with flowers.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
NATIVE LAND DESIGN**



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 (Centerpoint)
713-207-2222

Police & Fire Emergency
9-1-1



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.

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

Feral Hogs-Hog Wild! Wild Over Gardening Women Gone Wild! Wild About First Aid!

The Commonwealth Women's Club

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. The Commonwealth Women's Club provides an opportunity for women with various interests to meet and share ideas in a social setting.

The meeting calendar is set months in advance and we try to honor these dates, however, we must be considerate of any unexpected changes that our hostesses might have. Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of the month, however, the date tends to be flexible floating somewhat due to school and social activities.

Please call to verify date, time & location.

In January we met to celebrate new beginnings with dinner in a local restaurant.



It's not too late to plan to join us in February.

Be My Valentine Martini Party on February 10 @ 7 p.m.
at the home of Violet Cairnes-14 Leigh Court

Questions? Contact Louise @ 281-980-0081



See calendar of events and photos inside!!!!