



SPRING
2015

SUGAR LAND TODAY

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND

FESTIVAL SITE & BRAZOS RIVER PARK PHASE II

Bond Projects Begin

Construction is underway on the voter-approved Brazos River Park Phase II and festival site. See the story on page 4.

SMART FINANCIAL CENTRE AT SUGAR LAND

Sugar Land's new performing arts center has been officially named Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land. See page 5 for more.

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RATE IN
20 YEARS

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PROTECT
YOURSELF

GET CONNECTED



DEAR RESIDENTS



Each year, the City Council establishes priorities that focus the work of the City Council and staff on the most important projects, ensuring Sugar Land remains an excellent city in which to live, work and play. One of the most important of these priorities is to be the “Safest City in America.”

I am so proud that Sugar Land consistently places in the top 20 safest cities in the nation and the state. This year we ranked as the third safest city in Texas and the safest city in the Gulf Coast region, a distinction based on an analysis of FBI crime statistics. In fact, our crime rate is the lowest it has been in 20 years. These accomplishments are the result of a concentrated effort to utilize cutting-edge technology and adjust our resources to not only ensure the

protection of our community, but also keep our public safety staff safe while on the job.

An example of this effort is new state-of-the-art software that allows our police officers to have real-time auto-vehicle location systems in their patrol cars. In other words, we will always know where each officer is located, meaning increased officer safety when responding to events like suspicious traffic stops. Additionally, we continue to make progress on outfitting our entire patrol division with sophisticated body cameras, providing officers with an enhanced documentation tool.

Recently, after collecting extensive public input, the Police Department began to work on a \$1.8 million project to install crime prevention cameras at 43 locations north of U.S. Highway 90A in Sugar Land. We will complete the installation of this new technology this year, creating a network of license plate recognitions cameras at major thoroughfares. Essentially, anyone driving through these areas will have their license plate recorded, with records retained in our system

for only 30 days, providing us with another investigative instrument to help track down criminals. Once all cameras are installed, we will evaluate them to ensure their effectiveness and consider expansion in other areas of the City.

As our City evolves, so do the needs to provide training for our public safety personnel. We continue to develop plans and designs for an advanced training center at the Sugar Land Regional Airport. We are excited to work toward providing our Police and Fire Departments with world-class training facilities to support their important role in our community.

We remain committed to our priority of Sugar Land becoming the “Safest City in America.” While rankings are one way to measure this accomplishment, I believe there is no better indication of our City’s success than our officers and firefighters having the resources they need to return home safely at the end of each workday – and that is the most important priority of all.

CITY GOALS

Safest City in America
Responsible City Government
Strong Local Economy
Great Place to Live
Building Community

CITY COUNCIL

James A. Thompson
Mayor

Harish Jajoo
Mayor Pro Tem
Single Member District Four

Himesh Gandhi
At-Large Position One

Joe R. Zimmerman
At-Large Position Two

Steve R. Porter
Single Member District One

Bridget R. Yeung
Single Member District Two

Amy L. Mitchell
Single Member District Three

CITY MANAGEMENT

Allen Bogard
City Manager

Steve Griffith
First Assistant City Manager

Jim Callaway
Assistant City Manager

Mike Goodrum
Assistant City Manager

SUGAR LAND TODAY

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Communications Director
Pat Pollicoff

Editor
Alexi Holford

Design
Austin M. Pennington

Contributors

Briana Bachemin, Dionne Bryant, Joe Chesser, Tanya Dannhaus, Cindy Dees, Glenda Gundermann, L.R. Heffernan, Stacie Henderson, Robin Hicks, Shashi Kumar, Lisa Kocich-Meyer, Doug Schomburg, Chris Steubing, Colleen Spencer and Dawn Steph

COMMENTS?

Email: pubinfo@sugarlandtx.gov
Phone: 281-275-2216

ELECTION CANCELED

DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBERS TO BE SWORN IN

The May election for district councilmembers has been canceled as incumbents had no opposition in each of the four district races. Councilmembers Steve Porter, District One; Bridget Yeung, District Two; Amy Mitchell, District Three; and Harish Jajoo, District Four, will be sworn into office during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 19.

For complete bios of the mayor and councilmembers, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/bios.



SUGAR LAND RECEIVES CLEAN AUDIT

A recent external audit of Sugar Land's financial records for fiscal year 2014 (Oct. 1, 2013-Sept. 30, 2014) received the highest level of assurance. Whitley Penn, LLP, served as the City's external audit firm. According to the audit report, known as the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the City of Sugar Land's economy continued to experience steady growth, as evidenced by an increase in net assets of \$25.2 million. Other economic highlights cited in the report follow:

- Net property values grew 5.7 percent to \$10.3 billion, an increase of \$557 million over fiscal year 2013 values. New development accounted for \$124 million of the increase, while existing property grew by \$433 million.
- New commercial construction permitted values totaled \$144 million, an increase of \$91.5 million from the prior year for taxable projects.
- A total of 1.27 million square feet of commercial space were permitted for construction during the year.
- The City ended the year even better than anticipated, with sales tax revenues totaling \$49.15 million compared to \$44.96 million in the prior year, a 9 percent increase.

The CAFR credited the City's financial management policy statements for establishing a framework for long-term decision-making to ensure financial resources are available to meet the present and future needs of citizens. Audit results typically include recommendations (known as management comments) for improvements to policies and procedures that will enhance the internal control structure of the City. There were no recommendations this year. The complete CAFR is available on the City's website at www.sugarlandtx.gov/budget.

LAND USE PLAN UPDATE

Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts on the City's draft vision and goals for the Land Use Plan at the City's Online Town Hall. The City's Land Use Plan, which documents the land use policies that guide development within the City, is being updated. Feedback from a Land Use Forum in early 2014 contributed to the creation of the draft vision and goals. The video presentations from the forum can be seen online. In December, the City held a public meeting to receive feedback on the draft of the Land Use Plan's vision and goals. Access the Online Town Hall, learn about upcoming public input opportunities and sign up for emails about the progress on the Land Use Plan project at www.sugarlandtx.gov/landuseplan.

TELECHECK SERVICES

RELOCATES TO SUGAR LAND

The Sugar Land Development Corporation recently approved an agreement for the relocation of First Data Corporation's TeleCheck Services division, a project that will bring \$10 million in investment and add 600 new jobs to Sugar Land during a 10 year period.

First Data will occupy approximately 90,000 square feet within the Sugar Creek on the Lake office building, 14141 Southwest Freeway. The Fortune 500 company decided to relocate its TeleCheck headquarters to Sugar Land after a comprehensive evaluation of other regional opportunities. The new facility became operational in March 2015.



FESTIVAL SITE & BRAZOS RIVER PARK PHASE II

BOND PROJECTS BEGIN

The City recently broke ground on the second phase of the Brazos River Park and an adjacent 52-acre festival site. This is the first of two propositions that voters approved in the bond election in November 2013. The second proposition is an extensive hike and bike trail project that will begin at a later date.



Pictured (L-R) are Joe Harper and Jon Harper, of Harper Brothers Construction; Sugar Land Director of Fiscal Services Jennifer Brown; Councilmembers Himesh Gandhi, Joe Zimmerman and Amy Mitchell; Mayor James Thompson; Councilmember Steve Porter; University of Houston Sugar Land Associate Vice Chancellor Richard Phillips; Sugar Land Project Manager Ed Orozco; Sugar Land City Manager Allen Bogard; Sugar Land Director of Parks and Recreation Jim Browne; and Sugar Land Assistant City Manager Mike Goodrum.

FESTIVAL SITE

The new festival site will be located on 52 acres adjacent to U.S. Highway 59 and the Brazos River. The land will be used to accommodate large-scale events such as the City's annual Fourth of July celebration, Cultural Kite Festival and other cultural and entertainment events.

"The creation of this project should enhance community pride, provide affordable entertainment alternatives for families and enhance economic growth in Sugar Land," said Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Joe Chesser.

The addition of a festival site is part of a larger effort to establish Sugar Land as a destination for events. This supports the expansion of City tourism efforts intended to provide new revenue streams that keep property taxes among the lowest in the state.

BRAZOS RIVER PARK PHASE II

The original master plan for the Brazos River Park was created in 1997 and identifies 3,600 acres along the Brazos River for land acquisition and park development. A bond election was held in 1999 that received overwhelming citizen support for the Brazos River Park development. The first phase of development of the Brazos River corridor was completed in 2007 with the opening of Sugar Land Memorial Park.





Brazos River Park Phase II is a 67-acre site that will be accessible from U.S. Highway 59 near the Brazos River turnaround. The work being done includes site grading; water lines and drainage infrastructure; installing electricity; parking lots; trails; an overlook plaza and roads.

A water tower will serve as a landmark for the entrance to the park. Trails will be accessible from the road that leads into the park. There will be trails that go around the open meadow areas, and picnic areas will be along the perimeter of the meadows. The open spaces and natural areas could be used for large group gatherings, field games and other recreational activities.

This section of the work on Brazos River Park will be ready for use by the fall of 2016, while additional work on Phase II will continue. When Phase II is complete, people of all interests, ages and abilities will have access to the recreational, cultural and leisure facilities of their choice.

SMART FINANCIAL CENTRE AT SUGAR LAND

Sugar Land's new live entertainment venue has been officially named Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land. City Council voted to approve the name of the facility, which was part of a five-year agreement negotiated between the City's private sector partner, ACE Theatrical Group, and Smart Financial Credit Union. The \$84 million venue will be known as the Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land and will be the first of its kind in the region.

Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land is located southeast of U.S. Highway 59 and University Boulevard. The live entertainment venue is designed to host a wide range of performances, including national music and comedy artists, children's and family entertainment, theatrically staged productions and cultural and performing arts attractions.



(Pictured L-R) Councilmembers Harish Jajoo and Steve Porter; David Anderson, CEO and president of ACE Theatrical Group; Mayor James Thompson; Gary Tuma, CEO and president of Smart Financial Credit Union; Councilmembers Joe Zimmerman and Bridget Yeung; City Manager Allen Bogard; and Councilmember Himesh Gandhi

Studies show this venue will promote capital investment, create new jobs, enhance educational opportunities, increase tourism and create unique destination activities attracting local and regional visitors. Additionally, the venue and surrounding plaza will be a major focal point of what is planned to be a vibrant, commercial district – an environment designed to be attractive to major corporations, residents and visitors.

A feasibility study conducted in 2012 shows the project – which has the potential of attracting more than 260,000 paid attendees in year one and growing to more than 300,000 by year five – will provide an annual benefit to the community of \$26.1 million or a return of \$572 million over 30 years.

Based on voters' approval of the financing tools in 2008 and the City's goal to create a financially feasible, operationally self-sustaining facility, the venue will be funded through a unique package of special funding sources. No general fund tax dollars will be spent on the project that is expected to create an iconic venue for the region.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

LOWEST CRIME RATE IN 20 YEARS

Part 1 crimes in Sugar Land decreased 12.75 percent in 2014, and the City's five-year trend shows an overall decrease of more than 26 percent. This placed Sugar Land's crime rate at a 20-year historic low. Part 1 crimes include assault, auto theft, burglary, homicide, theft, robbery and auto burglary.

Last year, Sugar Land was named the third safest city in Texas and the 19th safest city in the nation, a distinction based on an analysis of FBI crime statistics. The most recent Part 1 data shows Sugar Land's overall crime rate is nearly 45 percent and 35 percent below the state and national averages, respectively. The City's violent crime rate compares even better at more than 71 percent and 69 percent below the state and national averages, respectively.

Vehicle burglaries have long been a Sugar Land Police Department focus, one that resulted in a 38 percent decrease last year and a drop of more than 46 percent since 2010.

Criminal investigations in Sugar Land continue to yield positive results. More than 62 percent of violent crimes were cleared, compared to the state and national averages of 45 percent and 48 percent, respectively.

Sugar Land Police Chief Doug Brinkley credits a strong police presence, community partnerships, public education, a commitment to technology, training and departmental leadership for Sugar Land's low crime rate.

"Despite these strong results, we will remain proactive and continue our focus on past priorities," said Brinkley. "This will include continued resources such as a special impact team to address burglaries and educational efforts intended to ensure our citizens remain safe."

Priorities during 2015 will include:

- residential, commercial and vehicle burglaries;
- a focus on safe streets and intersections; and
- working toward the possible development of a public safety training facility.

"We are committed to providing exceptional public safety services and taking a leadership role in building community partnerships," said Brinkley. "It's important for us to stay connected to the community, which enables us to work together to create a safe environment to live and work."

BY THE NUMBERS

2013 2014

3,009 2,705

Adult Arrests



149 151

Officers



4:46 4:48

Emergency Response Time (minutes)*



703 681

Emergency Calls



32,384 35,169

Non-Emergency Calls



PART 1 CRIMES IN SUGAR LAND

Offense	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Homicide	0	2	0	1	1
Sexual Assault	10	5	4	4	5
Robbery	60	29	37	35	37
Aggravated Assault	75	52	66	57	54
Burglary	234	220	289	256	220
Theft	1553	1176	1217	1311	1133
Auto Theft	87	33	35	46	42
Total	2,019	1,517	1,648	1,710	1,492

EMPLOYEE AWARDS

ELEANOR MAY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



As a development review coordinator in the Planning Department, Eleanor May exhibits the virtues of a champion employee. May has worked for the City since 2003. In 2014, May filled the gap when the Planning Department was down two positions—a development review coordinator and a planner. For the four months without a second development review coordinator, May did the work of two. She then trained the new coordinator. Filling in where needed, May also assisted the planners

with many tasks, such as obtaining preliminary project information, helping customers determine which code regulations apply to them, gathering details on development proposals, reviewing building permits and more.

VICTOR PESCHKE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



The Sugar Land Fire Department recently awarded Victor Peschke with the first Firefighter of the Year award. Peschke joined the Sugar Land Fire Department in 2011. In preparation for the implementation of Sugar Land's new Fire-EMS program last year, Peschke took over his crew's roving responsibilities to allow them to study for their paramedic class. Roving requires moving heavy gear and supplies from one fire station to another.

MATT LEVAN POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Sergeant Matt Levan was selected by the Sugar Land Police Department as the 2014 Officer of the Year. Levan started his service with the City of Sugar Land 19 years ago. As a member of the Houston Metro Internet Crimes against Children Task Force, Levan has been invaluable in the apprehension of numerous child predators. It is his personal mission to protect the children in the community.

RISK MANAGEMENT AWARD

The City of Sugar Land's safety and loss prevention program was recently selected as one of four winners of the Risk Management Achievement Award from the Texas chapter of the Public Risk Management Association. Programs are evaluated on their innovative approach to address a current issue in the public sector, cost effectiveness and applicability for implementation by other entities.

The City's safety and loss prevention program includes a full force accident review board, safety committee, audits and inspection program, emergency evacuation drills, a defensive driving program, a drug and alcohol screening program and employee driving record checks. The City's insurance requirements are standardized and revised to reduce issues with contract processing.

The program's success resulted in a:

- 62 percent decrease in citywide worker's compensation costs during a three-year period,
- 63 percent decrease in lost City time during a five-year period,
- 91 percent decrease in worker's compensation costs for the Fire Department during a four-year period,
- consistent decrease in workers compensation claim costs for other departments, and
- 64 percent decrease in citywide auto liability costs during a three-year period.

Traditional risk management programs are about purchasing insurance and paying claims. The City's improved program takes a proactive approach by identifying risks, controlling costs, creating a safety culture and implementing policies and procedures all within budget.

UPDATE ON SUGAR CREEK DRAINAGE PROJECT

The City of Sugar Land, Sugar Creek Country Club and the Sugar Creek Homeowners Association are working together to implement an important project to prevent flooding and increase the safety of residents in Sugar Creek. A comprehensive drainage study of the Sugar Creek watershed in 2005 demonstrated the need to make major improvements to the overall drainage system in the subdivision. The objective of this important project is to divert stormwater from streets through storm drains to new detention basins. Residents will be notified of construction in their neighborhood via door hangers and other notices.

The project is being implemented in the following three phases:

- Phase I was completed in 2009. More detention ponds were added downstream on the Riverbend Golf Course.
- Phase II has begun, and will enlarge or otherwise improve drainage inlets and pipes in the western half of Sugar Creek. The locations of these improvements are identified in the exhibit below.
- Phase III focuses on the eastern side of Sugar Creek and is in the planning and design stage.

For questions or additional information, contact Gary Sanford with the Sugar Creek HOA at 281-491-8977 or Shashi Kumar, P.E., with City of Sugar Land at 281-275-2275 or skumar@sugarlandtx.gov.



The areas highlighted in yellow show the sections of Sugar Creek that will be under construction.



CITY CODE UPDATES

City of Sugar Land building code ordinances are updated every six years to ensure the most innovative code technologies for construction methods are being used. The process of updating the City's 2009 codes to the 2015 International Codes and the 2014 National Electrical Code is underway. A detailed analysis of significant code changes is being performed by City building officials with participation from local trade and design professionals.

Building codes establish the minimum requirements to safeguard the public's health, safety and general welfare. Buildings must meet the standards required for structural strength, exits, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards.

The City's six building inspectors perform an average of 1,630 inspections each month. This effort contributes to the City's high ratings from insurance service organizations, which helps keep property insurance rates down (www.sugarlandtx.gov/ISO). In addition, keeping homes and businesses up to code is one reason Sugar Land has such a low number of fires.

LAWN CARE

Sugar Land property owners are responsible for maintaining the grass and vegetation around their homes or businesses. On properties that are 2 acres or less, vegetation higher than 9 inches is in violation of city code. The code on high grass and weeds does not apply to trees, ornamental shrubbery, flowers and garden vegetables.

High grass and weeds are dangerous. Overgrown areas are perfect habitats for rats, mice, snakes and other small animals. Dried grasses, weeds and other growth can be a fire hazard. Also, a property that is not maintained often invites criminal activity.

Homeowners are expected to maintain their yards in an effort to keep Sugar Land neighborhoods safe and nuisance free. If there is a violation, a code enforcement officer can issue a notice to cut the grass, weeds and/or other vegetation. If the property owner does not take appropriate action, a fine can be imposed.

Residents who would like to report a possible code violation may submit a report online at www.sugarlandtx.gov/AskCity or call Code Enforcement at 281-275-2170.

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION: NOTE OF SURFACE WATER REPORTING VIOLATION (MINOR)

The City of Sugar Land water system PWS ID 07900005 has violated the monitoring and reporting requirements set by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Chapter 30, Section 290, Subchapter F. Public water systems are required to collect and submit chemical samples of water provided to their customers, and report the results of those samples to the TCEQ on a regular basis.

We failed to monitor and/or report the following constituents: Chlorine, Turbidity and Chlorite. This/These violation(s) occurred in the monitoring period(s): November 1, 2014 – November 30, 2014.

Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water is safe from chemical contamination. We did not complete all monitoring and/or reporting for chemical constituents, and therefore TCEQ cannot be sure of the safety of your drinking water during that time.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue: The City has resubmitted both SWMOR and the CLO2 MOR to the TCEQ via email and certified mail. Although the violation was for monitoring and reporting of the constituents above we did complete all daily monitoring and testing as required by the TCEQ, but because of an oversight on our part we failed to send in both monthly operating reports in the required amount of time (reports have to be postmarked and sent in by the 10th of the following month). The violations have been resolved at this time.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Assistant Director of Public Works Howard Christian at 281-275-2450.

2015

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Capital Improvement Program budget addresses the needs of the City. Uses of the funding include parks, streets, utilities, drainage and municipal improvements. To the right is a map of the projects to be worked on in the coming year, including some projects continuing from previous years. To find out more details on these projects, go to www.sugarlandtx.gov/cip. Click on the menu on the left, and select the type of project you are interested in learning more about. For any questions, call the Engineering Department at 281-275-2780.

FY15-FY19

Total CIP: \$322.1 million

Airport: \$2.5 million

Drainage: \$30.5 million

Municipal: \$89.5 million

Parks: \$35.3 million

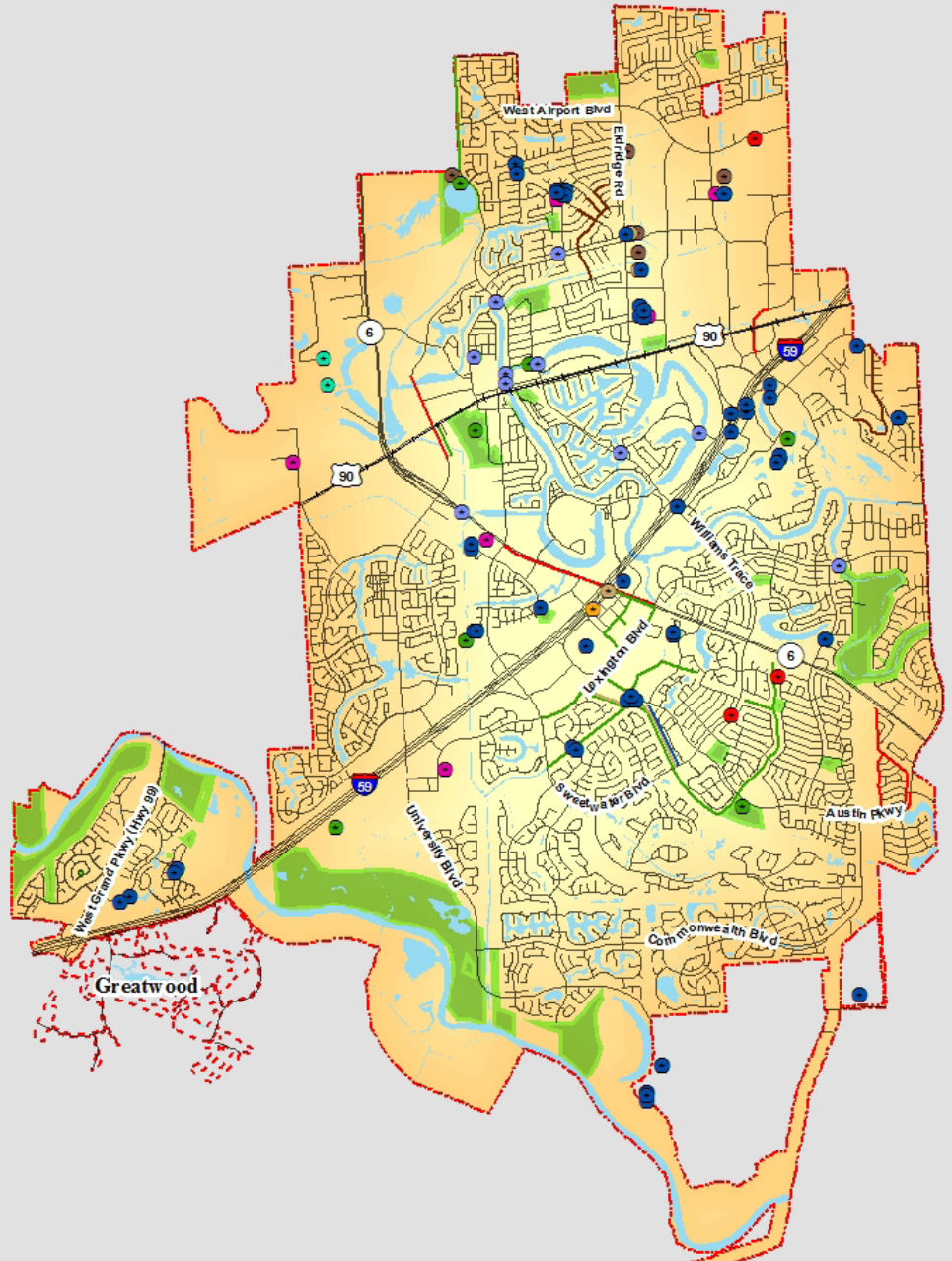
Streets: \$57.1 million

Traffic: \$6.8 million

Wastewater: \$64.3 million

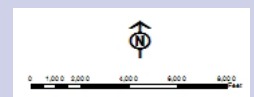
Water: \$22 million

Surface Water: \$14.1 million

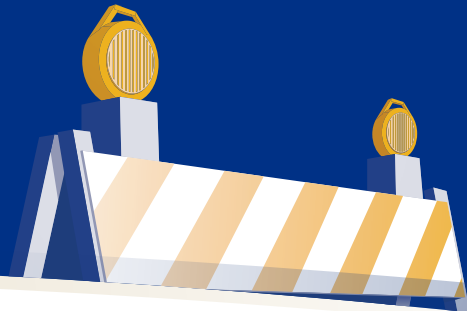


KEY

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|---------------|---------|
| Parks | Drainage | Traffic | Water | Airport |
| Streets | Municipal | Wastewater | Surface Water | |
| Streets Project Drainage Project Wastewater Project Water Project Parks Project | | | | |



DEVELOPMENT UPDATES



TELFAIR

Telfair includes more than 2,000 acres north and south of U.S. Highway 59 near University Boulevard.

- The City broke ground on its new live entertainment center venue, now named Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land, at Lexington near University Boulevard.
- Construction on the Telfair Lofts within Branford Place near University Boulevard is complete. Telfair Lofts features a total of 317 residential units. New residents are moving in.
- Construction is ongoing for several medical developments within the Telfair commercial area near U.S. Highway 59.
- Platting has begun for a new hotel site near the Chuy's Restaurant near U.S. Highway 90A and State Highway 6.

IMPERIAL

The Imperial development consists of 716 acres located north of U.S. Highway 90A and east of State Highway 6 and includes the former Imperial Sugar refinery.

- City Council approved the re-zoning of 156-acres in the Imperial Development from commercial to residential zoning with a maximum development of 335 single family homes.
- Construction continues on townhomes at the intersection of Imperial Boulevard and Stadium Drive and on single family houses in Silent Manor and Quiet Cove subdivisions on the east side of Stadium Drive.
- Initial planning efforts have begun for the development of the Imperial Historic District, the area where Imperial Sugar's former refinery was located.

RIVERSTONE

Riverstone is located on 2,170 acres in the southeast corner of the City's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), an area outside the City's corporate limits that is available for annexation in the future.

- Platting and construction of single family residential areas, including lots along LJ Parkway and University Boulevard, continues.
- Construction on residential units for the Retreat at Riverstone community on the north side of University Boulevard to the west of LJ Parkway has been completed.
- Trail and sidewalk construction is occurring along major streets.
- Planning is wrapping up on the land along the Brazos River that is going to be part of the Brazos River Park.

UPDATES TO CITY ROAD PROJECTS

CIP Road Reconstruction

As part of the City's ongoing street reconstruction Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects, City Council recently awarded two road reconstruction projects totaling approximately \$5.9 million. The first project, **Jenny Drive and Highlands Drive Paving Reconstruction**, includes about 15,300 square yards of concrete pavement reconstruction, 1,750 linear feet of new waterline installation and new inlets to address drainage issues. The second project, **Austin Parkway Paving Reconstruction**, includes about 12,400 square yards of concrete pavement reconstruction, 3,000 linear feet of new waterline as well as new inlets and stormwater pipes to enhance drainage capacity. Both projects are expected to be completed by fall 2016.

Lakefield Street Reconstruction

Street reconstruction on Lakefield Way and Great Lakes Avenue started in October 2014 and is scheduled to be finished in August.

State Highway 6 Expansion

The environmental assessment of this project on State Highway 6 from Brooks Street to Lexington Boulevard is being finalized. After the design phase, construction is anticipated to begin in 2016.

Williams Trace Improvements

Final design on Williams Trace improvements from State Highway 6 to Austin Parkway should start later this year with construction planned for fiscal year 2017.

PROTECT YOURSELF FIGHT THE BITE

Mosquito season is fast approaching. There are a number of ways residents can protect themselves against mosquito bites. The following are tips to avoid being bitten:

- Wear DEET to repel mosquitos and ticks.
- Avoid outside activity at dusk and dawn during mosquito season.
- Wear protective clothing.
- Drain standing water outside.
- Check that roof gutters are not clogged and can drain properly.
- Repair leaky plumbing and outside faucets.
- Stock ornamental ponds with mosquito-eating fish.

The City sprays for mosquitoes at least once a week during the months of May through October, mosquito season. The application of Kontrol 30-30, a broad-spectrum insecticide, will start in the evening at approximately 9 p.m. For more information on how the City controls the mosquito population, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/mosquitocontrol.

STOP LITTERING!

SPAY *and* NEUTER
YOUR PETS.



HOW TO HANDLE BABY BIRDS



Spring has sprung, and babies abound. If a baby bird is found on the ground, it can be tough to know whether to pick up the bird or leave it to fend for itself. In most cases, the best thing to do is not interfere. Young birds quickly outgrow the nest. At this stage, they are referred to as “fledglings.” They move around on the ground for 7-10 days and continue to be fed by the parents until they can fly. The parents typically will stay away from the bird as to not draw attention to it.

When to contact Animal Services:

- When the bird is not a songbird, such as owls, water birds, ducks and hawks
- If the bird is injured or sick
- If you are unsure of what to do
- If you put the bird back in the nest or create a nest, and the parents do not return within two hours

Animal Services can be contacted at 281-275-ADOG (2364).

SPRINKLER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE



As temperatures become warmer, make sure your automatic sprinkler system is ready for another season of efficient lawn and garden watering. Just a few simple steps will go a long way toward saving water, money and time.

Check your sprinkler system for the following:

- missing, broken or clogged sprinkler heads
- proper rotation and orientation of the sprinkler heads
- water seeping from a head, indicating a valve is not closing or a leak below ground
- water spraying in a fine mist or onto concrete
- the days and times are accurate
- loose or worn wires
- loose connection between moisture sensor and the controller
- when the last time the back flow prevention device was tested (once a year is recommended)

Find more ways to conserve water at www.sugarlandtx.gov/savewater.

PARKS & RECREATION

IMPERIAL PARK RECREATION CENTER

— 234 Matlage Way • Sugar Land, TX 77478 —

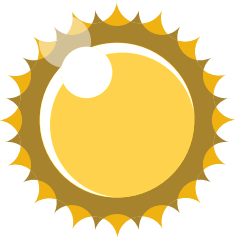
LEISURE CLASSES

The Imperial Park Recreation Center has leisure classes for all ages and skill levels. New classes are added all the time. For the most recent class schedule and open-play schedule, visit Parks and Recreation online at www.sugarlandtx.gov/parks. All classes taking place at the IPRC require an annual facility usage card (\$10 for residents and \$46 non-residents).

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Monday-Friday, June 8-Aug. 21

This 11-week summer camp for children ages 5 to 13 is full of fun, adventure and new friends. Each week will feature a new and exciting theme, a fieldtrip, a pizza party and pool days. Campers are asked to bring a lunch, wear weather appropriate clothing and bring a swimsuit. More details and a full schedule of events are online at www.sugarlandtx.gov/parks.



HOUSTON ROCKETS BASKETBALL CAMP

When: July 6-10, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. | Age: 5-16 years old | Cost: \$245
Info: www.thebasketballacademy.com or 832-392-0749



VOLLEYBALL CAMPS

For more information and to register for volleyball camps, call the IPRC at 281-275-2885.

Fundamentals

When: July 13-17, 9 a.m.–Noon | Fee: \$100

Advanced Volleyball Camp

When: July 13-17, 9 a.m.–Noon | Fee: \$100



PLAYBOOK

The spring playbook features activities offered by the Parks and Recreation Department as well as park and facility information. It is a resource for City events, pool hours and classes at the Imperial Park Recreation Center and the T.E. Harman Center for seniors. Playbooks are available at the IPRC or online at www.sugarlandtx.gov/parks.

EVENTS



Experience Water Celebration

Saturday, March 28, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land
13016 University Blvd.

The Experience Water Celebration is a special event featuring the Wyland Foundation's Mobile Learning Experience, a 1,000 square-foot mobile classroom with an array of science exhibits, computer models and interactive watershed and river models. For more information, call 281-275-2450 or go to www.sugarlandtx.gov/waterexperience.



EGGStravaganza

Saturday, March 28, Noon-3 p.m.

Eldridge Park | 2511 Eldridge Road



Hop on over to Eldridge Park and meet the Easter Bunny! Be sure to arrive in plenty of time for the not-so-traditional Egg Scrambles, in which kids search and scramble to collect as many eggs as possible. Each Scramble is broken down by age group.

A Texas-sized foam pit, carnival games, a petting zoo and the new A-maze-ing Hay Hop will provide kids with lots of fun. All activities are free and open to the public. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. For more information, call 281-275-2885 or go to www.sugarlandtx.gov/EGGStravaganza.



Earth Hour: Turn Out the Lights

Saturday, March 28, 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Join the City in its commitment to a sustainable community by turning out lights during Earth Hour. The City will participate by turning off non-essential lights at City Hall. The hope is to turn the inspiration of one hour into environmental awareness every hour. Learn more at www.earthhour.org.

Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 18, 1-5 p.m.

2700 Town Square Blvd. North

Environmental activities booths and performances at the Sugar Land Town Square Plaza include:

- Environmental Extravaganza Shows;
- reptile shows by Texas Snakes & More; and
- a poetry contest hosted by Keep Sugar Land Beautiful.

Paper shredding will take place at the City Hall parking lot.

For more information, call 281-275-2450 or go to www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste.



Art in the Park

Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.-Noon

Oyster Creek Park | 4033 State Highway 6 South

The City of Sugar Land will be displaying art in Oyster Creek Park as part of a collaborative project between the Houston Arts Alliance and the Texan-French Alliance for the Arts. Four Portable on Demand Art (PODA) displays in PODS® containers will be on display from April 29–May 27. These art displays will complement an Open the Door art piece that will also be installed at the park. At the opening ceremony, guests can meet the artists, view the artwork and learn more about other art initiatives within the community.



Saturday, May 16, 8 a.m.-Noon
Eldridge Park | 2511 Eldridge Road

This year, there will be more fish, more prizes and more giveaways at this free children's fishing tournament! Trophies will be awarded to the top finishers in each category. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on as well as fishing gear. Rods, reels and bait will be provided if needed. For more information, contact Tanya Dannhaus at 281-275-2890 or tdannhaus@sugarlandtx.gov.



Monday, May 25, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sugar Land Memorial Park
15300 University Blvd.

The community is invited to the City's annual Memorial Day ceremony to commemorate those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. Tributes from members of the community and patriotic performances will be part of the program. Prepaid postcards will be provided so that attendees can send a note of gratitude to soldiers stationed all over the world. The address of a soldier will be provided if a guest does not have one of their own. Free shuttle service will be provided at the University of Houston Sugar Land campus, 14000 University Blvd. For more information, call 281-275-2885 or go to www.sugarlandtx.gov/memorialday.



Tickets Now Available!

Calling all residents! Starting April 18, tickets will be provided to Sugar Land residents (ages 18 and older) and can be obtained at the Imperial Park Recreation Center, 234 Matlage Way, until June 21. Tickets can also be obtained at FanFest on Saturday, April 18, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Constellation Field, 1 Stadium Drive. Residents must provide their driver's license or water bill with a Sugar Land address as proof of residency. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 281-275-2885 or go to www.sugarlandtx.gov/July4.

**Skeeters
Opening Day!**
Thursday, April 23, 7.05 p.m.
Skeeters vs. Lancaster
Barnstormers

MUNICIPAL POOL OPENS

Sugar Land's municipal pool is staffed by well trained, certified lifeguards. Swim lessons taught by certified instructors are offered for all levels. Pricing for two-week sessions are \$60 per session for residents or \$75 per session for non-residents. Call 281-275-2885 for more information.

Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday-Monday, May 23-25
11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Weekends Only

Saturday and Sunday
May 30-31 and June 6-7
11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Summer Operations

June 9–Aug. 16
Tuesday–Friday: Noon–7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 11 a.m.–8 p.m.
(July 4: same hours)

Residents

Before 5 p.m.

\$1/ages 18 and under
\$2.25/ages 19 and older

After 5 p.m.

50 cents/ages 18 and under
\$1/ages 19 and older

Non-Residents

Before 5 p.m.

\$1.25/ages 18 and under
\$2.85/ages 19 and older

After 5 p.m.

65 cents/ages 18 and under
\$1.25 adults/ages 19 and older

POSTAL CUSTOMER

CALENDAR

	Date	Event	Time	Location
MARCH	26	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	28	Experience Water Celebration	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land
	28	EGGStravaganza	Noon-3 p.m.	Eldridge Park
	28	Earth Hour	8:30-9:30 p.m.	Everywhere
APRIL	3	Good Friday City offices closed Regular solid waste collection		
	7, 21, 28	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	14, 23	Planning and Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	18	Earth Day Celebration	1-5 p.m.	Town Square
	18	Fan Fest Star Spangled Spectacular free tickets available for residents, see page 15	11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Constellation Field
	23	Skeeters Opening Day	7:05 p.m.	Constellation Field
MAY	5, 19, 26	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	12, 28	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	15	Bike to Work/School Day	7:30 a.m.	Memorial Park
	16	Kids Fish	8 a.m.-Noon	Eldridge Park
	25	Memorial Day City offices closed Regular solid waste collection		
	25	Memorial Day Ceremony	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	SL Memorial Park

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR: NAVROZ



Navroz is a Persian word that translates to *New Day*. It marks the first day of spring and the beginning of the New Year in a number of cultures and communities around the world, several of which make their home in Sugar Land. Navroz is a time of renewal and rejuvenation in both a physical and spiritual sense. It is a time when the dead of winter gives way to the spring of life.

Navroz coincides in the solar calendar with the vernal equinox (the first day of spring) and takes place on or around March 21 each year. The day is observed in the Baha'i and Parsi communities, as well as amongst Shia Muslim communities in Iran, Iraq, Bahrain and Afghanistan. It is celebrated in wider circles in parts of the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Northwest China and the Balkans as well as by the Shia Ismaili community around the world.

Many Iranians and those with Persian roots have a table in their home and place upon it symbolic objects. This can include silver coins to represent wealth, sprouted wheat or beans for prosperity and painted eggshells for productivity. Amongst Ismaili Muslim communities, special prayers are recited in places of worship known as jamatkhana. There are two jamatkhans in Sugar Land: one on Corporate Drive and the other on First Colony Boulevard.

