



FALL
2015

SUGAR LAND TODAY

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND

Cullinan Park

A Momentous Agreement

The addition of Cullinan Park to Sugar Land's ETJ almost doubles the City's green space, creating an oasis of natural habitat surrounded by an urban landscape. The nature preserve compares in size to New York City's Central Park, providing a huge new asset to the City of Sugar Land. See page 10 for more on this momentous agreement.

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DEAR RESIDENTS



The fiscal year 2016 budget and five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) place an emphasis on drainage as it continues to be a high priority for the City. The proposed five-year plan includes \$52.9 million for drainage improvements, with \$13 million in the first year for Lexington Boulevard and Highlands Section III, Sugar Creek and Covington Woods drainage improvements. These large, multi-year projects will address recurring problem areas with excessive street flooding that have existed for decades.

In addition, the Memorial Day record flood event highlighted issues needing immediate attention. Most parts of the City received more than

10 inches of rainfall in eight to ten hours. Even so, the City fared well; however, there were some houses that experienced structural flooding. City staff quickly began assessing locations to identify targeted areas where we need to make improvements. Due to our financial flexibility, we have been able to add in design work for flooding issues encountered this year along Lexington Boulevard and in the Highlands neighborhood.

In the coming year, spending on drainage improvements is equal to 37 percent of the total spent on drainage in the past 15 years. We have the capacity to take on these drainage projects and be flexible enough to add in additional work where it is most needed due to our aggressive economic development program. This allows us to pursue opportunities we otherwise might not be able to afford. The City's pro-business environment and entrepreneurial spirit are reflected in the fact that the City's assessed commercial valuation more than doubled

in the past 12 years—increasing by more than \$2 billion dollars. Additionally, Sugar Land now has more than 63,500 jobs located within the City. Many of these are high-paying jobs that match our strong, educated workforce. Of these impressive totals, since the creation of the Office of Economic Development in 1999, the City has been involved in the negotiation of agreements that are responsible for more than \$600 million in commercial valuation growth and the creation of more than 5,000 new jobs within the City.

By working diligently to expand our commercial tax base, we are able to relieve the tax burden on homeowners while still implementing these major projects. With this new capacity, we are taking care of residents in their neighborhoods and improving their safety, property values and quality of life.

—Allen Bogard
City Manager



CALL for PHOTOS

Sugar Land residents and visitors are encouraged to submit photos for the City's annual calendar. The calendar features color photos of friends and family at Sugar Land events, parks and places. Preference is given to photos that include people. High-resolution photos are required; smart phone photos are usually not high enough resolution for print. Entries must include the photographer's name, contact information and the location and date of each submitted photo. Entrants will be credited if their photo is used in the calendar.

Submitted photos may also be considered for the City's website and other City publications.

Please submit by Oct. 17. Send photos to pubinfo@sugarlandtx.gov.

Call 281-275-2296 for more information.

CITY GOALS

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

CITY COUNCIL

James A. Thompson
Mayor

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
Mayor Pro Tem
Single Member District Three

Harish Jajoo
Single Member District Four

CITY MANAGEMENT

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City Manager

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Sugar Land Today is published
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CITIZENS' ACADEMIES

The City of Sugar Land offers three citizens' academies to Sugar Land residents to learn about the roles of the fire department, police department and regional airport. Ideal candidates will share the information they have learned with others in the community. Participants must commit to attend all sessions of the program, be at least 18 years old and either live or work in Sugar Land. Each program may have additional qualifications.



Citizens' Fire Academy www.sugarlandtx.gov/CFA

Discover firsthand what it takes to be a firefighter and what services the Sugar Land Fire Department (SLFD) provides in this eight-week program. Students will take a ride in a fire truck, put out a fire with a portable extinguisher and learn the ins and outs of SLFD in this unique opportunity. Applications will be accepted Oct. 11 through Dec. 15. Classes begin Jan. 7.



Citizens' Airport Academy www.sugarlandtx.gov/CAA

The Citizens' Airport Academy offers residents a comprehensive overview of the Sugar Land Regional Airport (SLRA). Class members learn about the history of SLRA, the role of the airport in the City's organization, the scope of airport's operations, the economic impact on the region and the benefits provided to Sugar Land. Applications will be accepted Nov. 1 through Dec. 15. Classes begin Jan. 29.



Citizens' Police Academy www.sugarlandtx.gov/CPA

Find out what is involved in being a police officer and how the department operates in this 11-week program. Participants receive hands-on instruction in crime scene investigation, patrol procedures, firearms training and more. Applications will be accepted Nov. 1 through Dec. 15 for the spring 2016 class. The schedule has not been finalized yet. Check online for updates.

CITY SEEKS FEEDBACK ON SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Residents are encouraged to participate in a community satisfaction survey that will focus on the City's programs and services. Letters have been mailed to a random selection of 2,500 residents, and results will be used to evaluate and improve City services and programs.

The statistically valid survey will rate such areas as water and sewer service, street and sidewalk maintenance, public safety, parks and recreation, waste management and communications with residents. The survey focuses on quality-of-life areas such as the appearance of neighborhoods, mobility, entertainment opportunities and Sugar Land's overall appeal as a place to live.

TOWN HALL MEETING DISTRICTS 3 AND 4

Thursday, Oct. 8, 6-8 p.m.
First Colony Community Center • 3232 Austin Parkway



Amy Mitchell
Mayor Pro Tem
Single Member District Three



Harish Jajoo
Single Member District Four

Residents in Districts 3 and 4 are invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting. The event will begin with a meet and greet at 6 p.m. Council Members Amy Mitchell, District 3, and Harish Jajoo, District 4, will start the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Topics to be covered include crime prevention, parks bond election projects, the new Smart Financial Centre and other capital improvement projects. Afterward, a question-and-answer session with the council members is planned. If a resident does not know their council district, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/MyNeighborhood to locate council districts for specific addresses.

UPDATES TO CITY ROAD PROJECTS

Williams Trace Boulevard

Final engineering design for the reconstruction of Williams Trace Boulevard between Austin Parkway Boulevard and State Highway 6 is underway. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2016.

Approximately one mile of roadway and water main pipes will be replaced, new fire hydrants and storm drains will be added and ornamental traffic signals will be installed at the intersection of Williams Trace and Austin Parkway.

The Williams Trace project builds on plans for a connected network of hike and bike trails throughout the City. A 10-foot sidepath for pedestrian and bicycle use will be built along the east side of the roadway.

The new design for the street will ensure the long-term health of its tree canopy. The goal is to increase the health and longevity of the tree canopy.

The trees along Williams Trace were planted too close to each other years ago. The close proximity has become a problem as the trees have grown and matured. Not only does the density impact the health of the tree canopy, but the root system is damaging

streets and sidewalks. Lack of natural light prevents the growth of grass, which contributes to excessive silt entering storm drains that discharge into local waterways and contribute to lower oxygen levels that harm aquatic life.

University Boulevard

The \$5.3 million University Boulevard North, Phase 1 project began in August. This project is in the first of two phases. Phase 1 will extend University Boulevard across U.S. Highway 90A to approximately 1,000 feet north of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The project will include improvements to U.S. Highway 90A, a new traffic signal system at the intersection and a four-lane boulevard section with pedestrian accommodations. The completion of Phase 1 is anticipated by the spring of 2016.

LJ Parkway

The construction of a section of LJ Parkway that connects to Commonwealth began in July. A roundabout similar to one on Lexington Boulevard will connect the two roadways north of the CenterPoint easement. The project is located within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction and is a developer-led project.

State Highway 6 Expansion

City Council approved a \$500,000 design contract for the expansion of State Highway 6 from Brooks Street to Lexington Boulevard. Completion of the design is expected next year. Once construction is completed, the corridor will include four lanes in each direction and drainage improvements.

Providing connectivity between attractions such as Sugar Land Town Square, Constellation Field and others is important as Sugar Land continues to emerge as a destination for tourists. The project will improve mobility for residents and help support Sugar Land's expanding sales tax base.

The projected cost for the expansion is estimated at \$7.6 million. The City has applied for federal funding that will cover 80 percent of the project's cost. The remaining 20 percent would come from local funding, with 50 percent of that funding earmarked in Fort Bend County's 2013 mobility bond package.

SMART FINANCIAL CENTRE

Construction is approximately 20 percent complete on the City's new performing arts center. Foundation work and the east parking lot have been completed, structural steel has been installed and other site work is ongoing. The project remains on schedule to open in the fall of 2016.





MEMORIAL DAY'S RECORD FLOOD EVENT

Record rainfall in May devastated many Texas and Oklahoma communities. The Brazos River crested at a height of 50 feet, 20 feet above normal levels—reaching its highest levels in 20 years. Sugar Land received more than 10 inches of rainfall within 8 to 10 hours, and Oyster Creek rose approximately 6 feet. Another 2 inches of rain fell later.

The 100-year storm, which has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year, was reported citywide. Despite the magnitude of this storm, only a few homes experienced flooding. Thanks to years of preparation and capital improvement projects, Sugar Land avoided widespread flood waters that affected other communities.

City staff worked with other organizations to plan and prepare a coordinated response before, during and after this event. These included levee improvement districts, the Fort Bend County Drainage District (FBCDD), municipal utility districts and the Gulf Coast Water Authority.

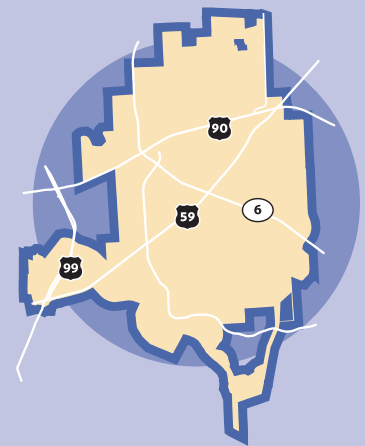
Important actions included:

- closing levee outfall structures to protect areas of Sugar Land from the backwater effects of the Brazos River; and
- releasing stored water from Oyster Creek into detention basins.

In 2011, the City and FBCDD jointly completed a major flood control project on Ditch H and Oyster Creek to improve drainage by constructing the Ditch H bypass structure. Due to this project, water levels in Oyster Creek were maintained below flood stages by diverting floodwaters through the bypass structure. Other recently completed infrastructure projects that provided flood relief include improvements to the Business Park regional detention ponds, Riverbend detention basins, the Jane Long Lake outlet and the Sugar Mill and Ragus Lakes neighborhood drainage improvement projects.

During and after the storm, City staff conducted an assessment of the city to identify areas impacted by floodwaters. A few homes experienced minor flooding. There was localized street flooding, but the City's drainage infrastructure functioned as designed and prevented major flooding.

(Pictured L-R): Alston Road near Barrington Place neighborhood, U.S. Highway 59 bridge over the Brazos River, U.S. Highway 59 Brazos River turnaround underpass



CIP STORY MAP

The City has developed a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) story map that provides a detailed description of ongoing construction projects. The story map is an interactive online tool for residents to gather information on the CIP projects currently underway in Sugar Land, including the project's location, scope, schedule, project manager, budget and photos.

By clicking on a particular project on the map, more information will pop up. The information is updated quarterly. Story map is posted on the City's website at www.sugarlandtx.gov/CIPMap.

LAND USE PLAN UPDATE



With more than 32 square miles of land in the city and nearly 20 square miles of land in its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), the City continues to experience growth. Having sound policies to guide land use decisions is critical to the City's continued success. For the last two years, the City and community have embarked on an extensive process to update the Land Use Plan.

The Plan documents policy direction and guidance for reaching the City's vision and making land use decisions. As part of updating the Plan, the City is considering what future generations will want in a community, what populations will need and what types of development, mix of land uses and amenities will help attract and retain businesses and residents while remaining competitive in a region that continues to experience growth.

In an effort to engage the community and gather input, the City developed a speaker and community roundtable discussion series called the Land Use Forum (www.sugarlandtx.gov/LandUseForum) in 2014. The forum's 200 participants were informed about land use topics and issues and the long-term implications of land use decisions.

"Most importantly, we wanted the community to be involved in defining our land use vision and goals and the steps to reach them," said Lisa Kocich-Meyer, director of planning. "We also wanted to hear from the community about what's important to consider for Sugar Land's future."

Through the process, residents expressed that a mix of land uses is important. The feedback provided was that there needs to be a mix of retail, destinations, housing options, employment areas and entertainment and recreational opportunities. This input formed the basis of the draft vision,

goals and policies that were then vetted through a citizen committee, City Council, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the public.

Through the update process, a specific vision and set of goals for land use were developed that align with the broader vision and goals established in the Comprehensive Plan. The updated Land Use Plan will also identify a recommended action plan of future efforts to implement the land use vision. The Plan will help ensure that Sugar Land remains a vibrant place to live, work, shop and play for decades to come.

The City invites public input on the draft land use policies through the City's Online Town Hall at www.sugarlandtx.gov/LandUsePlan. Also available are a video from the recent Sept. 2 public meeting overviewing the process, efforts to date and links to sign up for email updates or learn more about the Land Use Plan update.

DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATE PHASE 1 ADOPTED

City Council recently updated the Development Code, the first comprehensive review of the code since its original adoption in 1997. The updates focused on technical revisions and implementing several high-priority policy items that include details on vested rights, planned development districts, private residential streets and the implementation of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

The code now requires Planned Development (PD) zoning applications to be submitted as either suburban or urban. These designations provide criteria for staff, the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council to consider PD applications. The recent changes have no impact on density, site distances or size of developments, and nothing in the code changed to mandate more high-density urbanization.

As part of the process, staff worked with a consultant to review suggestions with the Planning and Zoning Commission before submitting a recommendation to City Council. The process included input from key stakeholders, including public review. The second phase of the project will begin in October and will focus on policy-related revisions based on direction from adopted master plans and other guiding documents, as well as policy issues identified by staff based on prior development review experiences.

The Development Code provides the basis for the review of projects submitted by developers. Examples include Sugar Land Town Square; the Imperial Market; and a mixed-use, entertainment-centered project envisioned around the Smart Financial Centre in Telfair. Explore the updated Development Code at www.sugarlandtx.gov/DevCode, or call the Planning Department at 281-275-2218 for additional information.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Imperial

Imperial contains 716 acres located north of U.S. Highway 90A and east of State Highway 6.

- Construction continues on townhomes at the intersection of Imperial Boulevard and Stadium Drive. This property will have 35 townhomes. Single-family houses in Silent Manor and Quiet Cove subdivisions on the east side of Stadium Drive are also under construction.
- Subdivision streets and utilities are being constructed for the 156-acre Crown Garden subdivision in the northern area of Imperial.
- The Imperial Lofts residential community adjacent to Constellation Field is open. There are 254 units.

Imperial Market

- Planning efforts are underway for the Imperial Market Planned Development at the site of the former Imperial Sugar Company. The City has been reviewing the proposed development plans, and a workshop was held with the Planning and Zoning Commission in August. There will be additional public meetings later this year.
- A few outlying buildings on the former 25-acre Imperial Sugar refinery site were demolished to prepare the property for development, including the proposed Imperial Market development, the Sugar Land Heritage Museum and a children's museum.

Telfair

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

- Construction continues on the Smart Financial Centre, the City's new live entertainment center (see page 4).
- The Telfair Lofts residential community is open. There are 317 units.
- Newland Communities recently submitted a Planned Development application for a Town Square-type development surrounding the Smart Financial Centre at University Boulevard and U.S. Highway 59. The developer envisions the Smart Financial Centre and surrounding plaza as a major focal point of what could be a vibrant office and entertainment destination with a mix of uses including multi-family residential. City staff is currently reviewing the proposed zoning application. Before any development can occur, the Planning and Zoning Commission will review and make a recommendation, and City Council must approve the zoning application and proposed plan. There is no timetable currently established; however, there will be opportunities for public input during the process.

DID YOU KNOW?

Initiatives and Referendums

Sugar Land's City Charter includes an initiative and referendum process that allows citizens to submit a petition to repeal all or part of an existing ordinance, and, if City Council fails to do so, hold an election to approve or reject the ordinance.

The power of the initiative and referendum does not apply to ordinances relating to:

- financial matters, including the budget, the levy of taxes or the issuance of bonds or debt instruments;
- the salaries of officers or employees;
- matters that are not legislative in character or that have been withdrawn or excluded by general law from the operative field of initiative or referendum; and
- matters where a state or federal law provides for an election and related election procedures.

In addition, the state law prohibits the use of the referendum process to amend zoning regulations. State law specifies procedural requirements for zoning that must be utilized to address changes to land-use regulations.

An initiative or referendum petition must be signed by people who were registered voters on the "Initial Petition Date," in a number equal to or greater than 30 percent of those voting in the last city election. Read more at www.sugarlandtx.gov/Referendums.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2015 BUDGET

City Council approved a \$237.67 million budget on Sept. 15 for fiscal year 2016 (FY16), which begins Oct. 1, 2015. Of the total, \$166.38 million is for city operations, \$11.17 million is for economic development and \$60.1 million is for capital projects.

The budget continues to provide services at current service levels, while directing resources from property tax revenues to implement needed drainage improvements. The City is committed to reinvesting in its infrastructure to ensure Sugar Land remains a premier community in which to live.

City Council also approved a fee ordinance that is effective Jan. 1, 2016. There are no increases to water, wastewater or surface water fees. Solid waste rates will increase 2.5 percent to \$17.23 in January.

Funding for capital projects in FY16 includes \$13.1 million for drainage improvements, including \$10.2 million for drainage work in Sugar Creek and Covington Woods. Street projects total \$9.8 million, wastewater projects total \$7.2 million and water projects total \$5.1 million. Municipal project funding of \$14.3 million includes airport funding for land acquisition and funding to complete the plaza and marquee sign adjacent to the Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land, both projects entirely funded without property taxes through airport revenues and a portion of sales tax designated solely for economic development. Funds are also set aside in the budget for shared parking with the University of Houston, pending approval of an agreement for use of university's land by its board of regents.

For the complete annual operating budget for FY16, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/Budget.

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

General Fund	\$75,989,344
Debt Service Funds	21,978,029
Utility Enterprise Funds	34,578,430
Airport Funds	14,017,932
Solid Waste Funds	5,470,023
Other Funds	14,344,401
Total City Operating Funds	\$166,378,159
Economic Development	11,174,992
Capital Projects	60,121,273
Total	\$237,674,424



The 2015 property tax rate of 31.595 cents was approved on Sept. 15. Maintaining the tax rate at the current level will allow the City to move forward with key drainage improvements at a faster schedule than would be possible otherwise and to complete parks bond projects without implementing the voter-approved up to one cent per year tax increase. In June 2015, City Council approved an increase to the residential homestead exemption from 7 to 8 percent. This increased exemption helps reduce the tax burden shouldered by residents. Tax bills will be sent to homeowners by Fort Bend County in November. More information on the City of Sugar Land's property taxes can be found at www.fortbendcountytexas.gov.

COUNCIL INCREASES HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION



When residents pay their 2015 property taxes, they will receive an 8 percent residential homestead exemption. City Council approved this measure in July to help offset rising residential property appraisals set by the Fort Bend Central Appraisal District.

The increased exemption represents an estimated citywide savings to residents of \$229,000 or \$11 per year on the average home value of \$350,000. The savings are based on the City's current tax rate of 31.595 cents.

"We remain most proud of the fact that we are consistently able to successfully deliver major projects and quality-of-life improvements while having one of the lowest tax rates in the state of Texas," said City Manager Allen Bogard. "It is this emphasis on value for tax dollars that may just be our greatest accomplishment of all."

In 2007, the homestead exemption was increased from 1 to 5 percent and then to 7 percent in 2008 in response to rising appraisals. There is a minimum exemption of \$5,000 per homeowner.

The use of the homestead exemption to manage residential tax bill growth allows City Council to target the tax breaks to homeowners in the City while maintaining revenue streams from commercial properties that would be lost if the tax rate were adjusted.



(Pictured L-R) Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Cullinan Park Board Director Dan Neale and Sugar Land Mayor James Thompson.



Anne Hamilton, president of the Cullinan Park Conservancy

Cullinan Park

An Oasis of Natural Beauty

Sugar Land has gained a regional gem in a momentous agreement between stakeholders. Cullinan Park is now part of Sugar Land's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), and is no longer in Houston's ETJ. Future plans include annexing the park fully into the City of Sugar Land, which is expected to be complete by early 2016. The addition of this nature preserve almost doubles the size of Sugar Land's park and green space.

Cullinan Park has long been considered a natural oasis in the region. The land will continue to be owned by the City of Houston and Houston Parks Board, but the maintenance and operation of the park will be managed by the City of Sugar Land.

At 754 acres, Cullinan Park is comparable in size to New York City's Central Park. The addition of this amenity to Sugar Land is a direct response to what residents have said is important to them. Years of public feedback supports the desire for green space, entertainment and cultural amenities and recreational destinations for residents and visitors.

Bringing the park into the city limits of Sugar Land satisfies a goal of the City's Comprehensive Plan, which documents the broad vision for Sugar Land's future and provides guidance for City actions. This annexation helps to fulfill the City's vision of having outstanding recreational opportunities within the City.

Once the park is annexed, improvements will include improving access to the property north of Sugar Land Regional Airport through nature trails and bridges, as well as the installation of a picnic pavilion and a children's nature area. The City of Sugar Land will develop the park for specific uses that follow deed restrictions related to creating a place of beauty and peacefulness, excluding active organized sports.

The non-profit Cullinan Park Conservancy has been the ambassador for Cullinan Park since 2010. The conservancy has committed an estimated \$10 million during a 10-year period to develop the park. The George Foundation awarded a \$1 million grant to the Cullinan Park Conservancy in June, and the Wortham Foundation awarded \$250,000 in September, affirming the regional importance of the park.

The park contains two large lakes, bottomland forests and forested wetlands with a rich variety of vegetation and wildlife. The park offers opportunities for photography, birding outings, star gazing, picnics and other events. Photos of the wildlife in Cullinan Park can be seen at <http://cullinanparkconservancy.org/visit/Photo-Library>.



SUGAR LAND PARKS RECEIVE MAJOR UPGRADES

The City is renovating Settlers Way Park, Mayfield Park and Lonnie Green Park. These park facilities have served the community and Sugar Land's children well but were in need of renovations due to the aging structures.

Settlers Way Park improvements are underway and will include a new restroom, a 6-foot concrete trail, new ornamental fencing, signage, site furnishings, landscaping and expansion of the parking lot in partnership with Settlers Way Elementary School. This project is expected to be complete sometime between late 2015 and early 2016.

Mayfield Park will be expanded in size and overhauled. Improvements will include a new adventure playground, basketball court, walking trail, lawn, pavilion, signage, new trees and other landscape improvements. Construction will begin on this project in 2016.

Improvements to Lonnie Green Park will also be made in late 2015 or early 2016. The upgrades will include revamping the existing playground, fencing, site furnishings, landscaping, irrigation, new signage, increased accessibility and expanded parking.

SCENIC SUGAR LAND GOLD AWARD

Scenic Texas recently awarded the City of Sugar Land the gold level Scenic City certification, moving up from the City's previous silver level certification. Scenic Texas took note of Sugar Land's dedication to cultural arts, urban beautification, landscaping and the preservation and expansion of green spaces and trees.

To achieve Scenic City certification, a city must have a strictly regulated and enforced sign code, a ban on new billboards and a landscaping and tree planting program. The amount of park and open space, landscaping and programs promoting trees is also taken into account.

Sugar Land's streetscape policy ensures that major roadways incorporate landscaping, including trees that not only screen large buildings but also expand the City's canopy to provide valuable shade and wildlife habitats. Targeted areas have included U.S. Highway 59, U.S. Highway 90A, Eldridge Road, University Boulevard and Dulles Avenue.

The City consults with a professional arborist to assist with the preservation of the City's tree canopy along public rights of way. Work is being done to preserve the canopy system, which has become overly dense. Thinning the canopy will preserve Sugar Land's tree system and is consistent with other preservation efforts throughout the City.

In observance of Arbor Day and Trees Across Texas, Sugar Land annually hosts tree planting activities. Past events have resulted in thousands of new saplings in Memorial Park.

HOME LANDSCAPING WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY, OCT. 17
8:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.**

**T.E. HARMAN CENTER
226 MATLAGE WAY**

**Just \$25 for the workshop
and a rain barrel!**

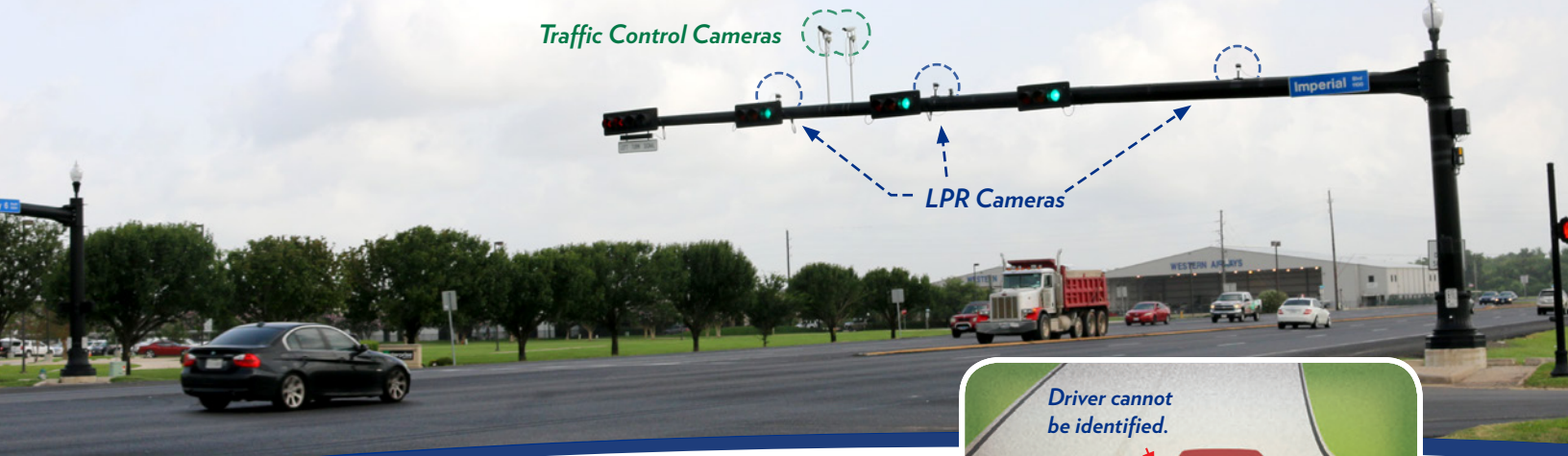
**For more information, call
the City's water conservation
manager at 281-275-2499.**

REPORT WATER LEAKS

The City of Sugar Land has more than 450 miles of underground water lines with 5,372 valves and almost 30,000 water meters. Maintaining this sprawling infrastructure is a constant job that keeps the City's 57 water operations professionals busy.

Assistance from residents is a great help and always welcome. Stopping the leaks reduces the City's number one source of water loss and keeps water rates as low as possible.

Residents are encouraged to call 281-275-2450 any time, day or night, to report a water leak. For more information on how the City handles water leaks, see www.sugarlandtx.gov/ReportLeaks.



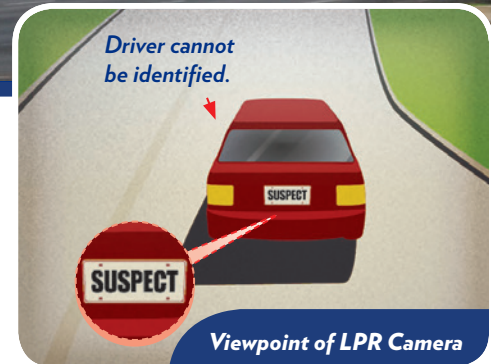
POLICE LAUNCH CRIME PREVENTION CAMERA PROGRAM

A network of crime prevention cameras at 27 locations north of U.S. Highway 90A is now operational. Performance reports presented to City Council on a quarterly basis will be used to consider expansion of the system into other areas of Sugar Land.

The license plate recognition (LPR) cameras are located at entrances and exits to the City to help identify, arrest and convict criminals. The system may also serve as a crime deterrent. If criminals know that cameras are in place, they may be less likely to commit crimes in Sugar Land.

The City's expanded use of LPR cameras at static locations throughout the City will help solve crimes after they occur by providing police officers a searchable database of license plates. The concept works as follows:

- A crime occurs.
- A witness provides a vehicle description.
- An authorized police staff member accesses the system and searches the database for the vehicle and its license plate number.



The cameras will record the exterior of vehicles for the purpose of capturing license plates. With the exception of emergency situations or special circumstances, there will be no live monitoring of the system.

License plate records will be retained for no more than 30 days, except when used as evidence as part of a criminal investigation. Information will not be shared with the general public, unless required by law for law enforcement matters. The use of the LPR system is consistent with privacy laws and the constitutional rights of individuals.

The Sugar Land Police Department has used LPR cameras for approximately six years at three locations in Sugar Land Town Square and the First Colony Mall area.

HOLIDAY SOLID WASTE & RECYCLE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Holiday Schedule

Solid waste and recycle collection will not occur on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. If a collection day falls on one of these holidays, service will be provided on the next business day. Solid waste and recycle collection will still occur on all other days of those weeks. For a detailed schedule, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/HolidaySchedule.

Bulky Waste and Christmas Trees

The City will provide residents an additional bulky waste collection following the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

In addition to the normal once-a-month collection of bulky waste, Christmas trees will be collected on the regular weekly green waste collection day. Ornaments tinsel and lights must be removed. All green waste, including Christmas trees, is recycled and made into mulch or compost at a composting facility.

Cooking Oil and Grease

This holiday season, many residents will find themselves needing to dispose of large amounts of cooking oil and grease. Putting oil or grease down a sink or other drain can clog pipes and cause damage to the sewer system. The City of Sugar Land operates a Cooking Oil Recycling Center at 111 Gillingham Lane. Residents are encouraged to utilize this convenient drop off location for their used liquid cooking oil and grease. The center is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 6-9 p.m.

Join Sugar Land police, firefighters and paramedics during National Night Out—a night out against crime. The goal of the event is for neighbors to get to know each other. Residents are encouraged to register their parties at www.sugarlandtx.gov/NNO. Police officers, public safety personnel and City officials will visit registered parties throughout the evening.

Follow the event on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SugarLandPD for live posts. For those participating in the event, use #SLNNO in your posts to be part of the action. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officers Harris Johnston at 281-275-2580 or Lauren Stockholm at 281-275-2956.

PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fire Station #5 | 5735 Commonwealth

Sugar Land's firefighters and police officers invite you to their annual Public Safety Open House. Meet representatives from the Fire Department, Police Department, Public Safety Dispatch, SWAT, Emergency Management Services and more. There will be fire safety demonstrations. Parents will be able to have a Child ID made for their kids.

There will be a raffle benefitting the Citizen's Fire Academy Alumni Association. All proceeds support a scholarship fund for firefighters and their children.

FREE SMOKE ALARM CHECK



Every house should have at least one smoke alarm. Three out of five fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms. This risk is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms. Sugar Land Fire-EMS provides up to two free smoke alarms to any Sugar Land resident in need. To receive an alarm, citizens must live in a privately owned home. Schedule a free smoke alarm check at www.sugarlandtx.gov/SmokeAlarms.



**adopt
happiness.**

Sugar Land Animal Services
101 Gillingham Lane • Sugar Land, TX 77478 • 281-275-A-DOG (2364)

CITY EVENTS AT TOWN SQUARE



Halloween Town

Sunday, Oct. 25, 4-8 p.m.

www.sugarlandtx.gov/HalloweenTown | 281-275-2885

The fun and frights of Halloween Town return to Sugar Land this year. Witches, superheroes, princesses and other creative characters are invited to this evening of friendly surprises. Pets, children and adults are encouraged to participate in a friendly costume competition. Space is limited, so please fill out a contest entry form, which can be found on the City's website at the link above.



iFest Live

Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

www.sugarlandtx.gov/iFest | 281-275-2236

Celebrate the wonderful cultural diversity in Sugar Land at the 10th annual iFest Live international festival. Fourteen countries will be showcased through art, interactive games and activities. Entertainment will feature dancing and music from local organizations and student groups. Area restaurants will offer international cuisine for purchase.



Christmas Tree Lighting

Thursday, Dec. 3, 5-8 p.m.

www.sugarlandtx.gov/TreeLighting | 281-275-2885

Mr. and Mrs. Claus and their elves are bringing holiday magic to town once again. Join the Christmas cheer and fun performances by dance groups and theatrical acts. Children and families will have the opportunity to take a picture with Santa and participate in games and activities. Food vendors will offer a variety of delicious treats for sale.



New Year's Eve

Thursday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.-1 a.m.

www.sugarlandtx.gov/NYE | 281-275-2885

What better way to kick off 2016 than to dance to live music! Enjoy extraordinary street performances and walk-around entertainment. The children's celebration includes a pre-midnight countdown with a fireworks finale. For those partying until midnight, a spectacular 3D show will leave a lasting impression. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. For additional parking, go to Mercer Stadium at 16403 Lexington Blvd., where there will be complimentary shuttle service to Town Square.

PARKS & RECREATION

FALL BASKETBALL

Imperial Park Recreation Center
234 Matlage Way
281-275-2893

tNBA Shooting Clinic

Sundays, Nov. 1-29
1:30-3 p.m. | Cost: \$125

The coach shares techniques that allow the player to find their rhythm and become a consistent shot maker. This shooting clinic for boys and girls who are ages 5-17 works on proper shooting techniques such as catch and shoot, shooting off the dribble and shooting on the move. Call 832-392-0749 or visit www.tnbabasketball.com for more information.

Rockets Holiday Camp

Monday-Wednesday,
Dec. 28-30
Noon-3 p.m. | Cost: \$105

The Rockets Holiday Camp is designed for boys and girls ages 5 to 16. Throughout the clinic, the participants will receive personal instruction in all areas of the game, including dribbling, shooting, passing, blocking and defense while learning good sportsmanship and the team concept. Register online at www.tnbabasketball.com or call 832-392-0749 for more information.

T.E. HARMAN CENTER

226 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
281-275-2893

Monster Mash

Thursday, Oct. 29
4-7 p.m.
T.E. Harman Center

Plan to get spooked at this monster party. Wearing a festive disguise will be a treat. Refreshments will be served. Register by Friday, Oct. 23.

Senior Holiday Gala

Thursday, Dec. 10
Noon-3 p.m.
Sugar Land Marriott Hotel

T.E. Harman members are invited to celebrate the holidays at this annual gala event. Reservations will begin for residents on Monday, Oct. 26 and non-members on Wednesday, Nov. 18. Tickets will be available for pick up starting Monday, Nov. 30. All tickets must be picked up no later than Friday, Dec. 4. Seating is limited.



Parks & Recreation Playbook

The fall playbook is available online at www.imperialparkrecreationcenter.org. Activities offered by the Parks and Recreation Department can be found in the playbook. It is a resource for City events and classes at the Imperial Park Recreation Center and the T.E. Harman Center for seniors. Download a copy today!



Winter Wonderland

Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Imperial Park Recreation Center
281-275-2885

Parents, leave the kids to Santa, and go grab some presents!

POSTAL CUSTOMER

CALENDAR

	Date	Event	Time	Location
OCTOBER	6	National Night Out	6-9 p.m.	Citywide
	6, 20, 27	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	8	Town Hall Meeting (Districts 3 and 4)	6-8 p.m.	First Colony Community Center
	10	Public Safety Open House	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Fire Station #5
	13, 22	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	14	Breast Cancer Awareness Activities (see senior center calendar for details)	9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	T.E. Harman Center
	25	Halloween Town	4-8 p.m.	Town Square
	29	Monster Mash	4-7 p.m.	T.E. Harman Center
NOVEMBER	1	Daylight Savings: fall back		
	3, 17, 24	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	7	iFest Live	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Town Square
	10	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	26	City offices closed*		
	27	City offices closed*		

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR:
THE JEWISH NEW YEAR



“Know Your Neighbor” is written by members of the City’s Multi-Cultural Advisory Team. These columns are intended to help residents get to know the customs and traditions of their neighbors.

New Year’s Eve brings to mind images of champagne corks popping, festive music loudly playing, people dancing, balloons and streamers filling the air. Most people think of celebrating with family and friends, toasting the year that has passed and looking forward to the year to come.

On the surface, the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, does not have much in common with the happenings of the last night of the calendar year. Observed in the fall, Rosh Hashanah is one of the most sacred and solemn days of the Jewish calendar. It is a time of reflection and renewal, of fellowship and introspection. It is not a raucous party; there are no balloons or confetti in sight. Nonetheless, there are some similarities between Rosh Hashanah and New Year’s Eve.

Rosh Hashanah is a time to come together with family and friends. Jews pray together at a house of worship and enjoy a festive holiday meal. Apples are dipped in honey to symbolize hope for a “sweet” new year.

During Rosh Hashanah, deeds of the past year are reflected upon, along with ways to do better in the future. Not totally unlike a New Year’s resolution, Jews set goals and make a promise to try to improve themselves in the upcoming year. It is understood that everyone makes mistakes, but all are thankful for the opportunity to do better in the coming year.

Both New Year’s Eve and Rosh Hashanah are opportunities to think about how one behaves and what to do differently to live fuller, happier, more meaningful lives. What has happened in the past need not determine one’s future. Instead, one can create a better self, a better community and a better world. Happy New Year, or as spoken in Hebrew, “L’shanah Tovah!”

*see p.12 for holiday solid waste schedule