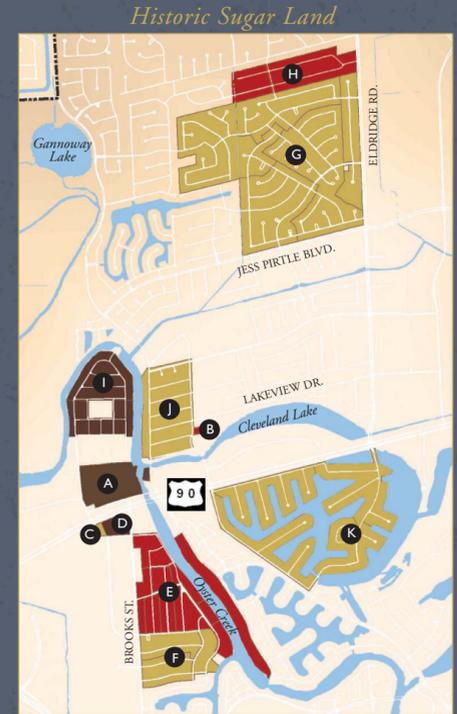


## 50th Anniversary Speakers Bureau

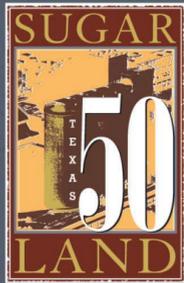
Interested in hearing about your City's history and seeing some remarkable historic photos? The 50th Anniversary Speakers Bureau is now scheduling its fascinating presentation about our city's past. You can arrange for this 40-minute presentation to your organization or school by e-mailing [tdannhaus@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:tdannhaus@sugarlandtx.gov) or calling 281-275-2216.

## Walking Tour of Historic Sugar Land

And if you'd like to see Sugar Land's historic sites up close and personal, you will want to go on one of the monthly Historic Walking Tours, scheduled for the first Saturday of each month in 2009, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. (Rain date will be the following Sat.) The tours are guided by a knowledgeable local historian. All walkers are urged to bring plenty of water and sun protection. For more information, or to reserve a place, call 281-275-2216.



- A IMPERIAL REFINERY
- B LAKEVIEW AUDITORIUM
- C PALMS THEATRE
- D SUGAR LAND SHOPPING CENTER
- E BELKNAP (THE FLATS)
- F BROOKSIDE
- G COVINGTON WOODS
- H IMPERIAL ESTATES
- I MAYFIELD PARK
- J THE HILL
- K VENETIAN ESTATES



Sugar Land, a company town for over 50 years, became a city with the swearing in of Mayor T. E. Harman and the first five aldermen December 29, 1959. The first City Council meeting was held on January 19, 1960. Sugar Land's population was 2,259.

The young city got off to a good start: the Imperial Sugar Company and its affiliate corporation Sugarland Industries had already put in streets, sewage system, electric and gas lines and levees. Now that developers would be constructing homes and businesses, one of the first orders of business for the new City Council was to establish building codes.

Check out our dedicated 50th Anniversary web site for upcoming activities, news and historical features. Go to [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov).

Few other cities have experienced the dramatic growth and accomplishments seen in Sugar Land. The population jumped from 24,529 in 1990 to today's 79,732. In just a decade the City has seen a 100 percent job growth, now with 41,000 jobs in the City. Sugar Land has been consistently ranked as one of the safest, most diverse and most livable cities in which to live.

## Celebrating 50 Years City of Sugar Land

1959-2009



### The Mayors

- T.E. HARMAN** (1959-1961; 1964-1968)
- BILL LITTLE** (1961-1964)
- C.E. McFADDEN** (1968-1972)
- ROY CORDES, SR.** (1972-1981)
- WALTER McMEANS** (1981-1986)
- LEE DUGGAN** (1986-1996)
- DEAN A. HRBACEK** (1996-2002)
- DAVID G. WALLACE** (2002-2008)
- JAMES A. THOMPSON** (2008 to present)

[www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov)



## Celebrating 50 Years City of Sugar Land

1959-2009



# Celebrating 50 Years City of Sugar Land Timeline

1959-2009

**1959**

Sugar Land is granted its city charter and elects its first mayor and city council.



**1960s**

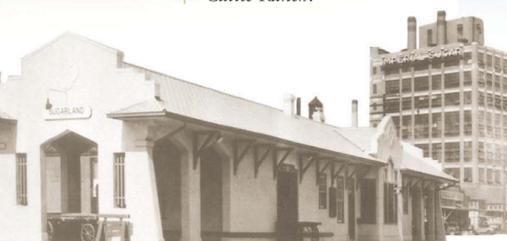
John Foster Dulles High School opens in 1961.

Planned communities Imperial Estates and Venetian Estates are developed.



**1967**

206.6 acres acquired for the extension of the U.S. Highway 59.



**1968**

Sugar Creek begins development; the 1,200 acres was the former Imperial Cattle Ranch.



**1972**

Sugarland Industries sells 7,500 acres to Gerald Hines Interests for the development of First Colony. It is one of the largest land sales in Texas history.



**1974**

A portion of the 1974 movie, *The Sugarland Express*, takes place in Sugar Land. The film was the first theatrical feature film directed by Steven Spielberg.



**1975**

Sugar Land Junior High opens – the first of 16 new Fort Bend ISD schools in the next decade.



**1977**



Development begins for First Colony, a new master-planned community with extensive greenbelts.



**1980s**

Sugar Land begins attracting major corporations Fluor, Schlumberger, Unocal and others.



**1984**

Sugar Land Community Center completed.



**1985**

City's form of government is changed from "mayor-council" to "council-manager" form of government.



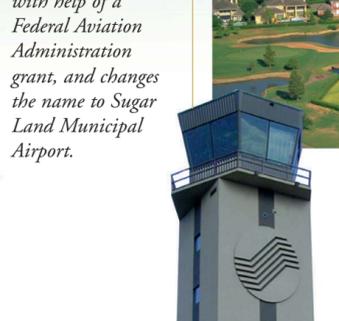
**1990s**

Sugar Land is one of fastest-growing communities in the nation.



**1990**

Sugar Land purchases Hull Field for \$18.5 million with help of a Federal Aviation Administration grant, and changes the name to Sugar Land Municipal Airport.



**1995**

State-of-the-art air traffic control tower opens at Sugar Land Regional Airport.



**1996**

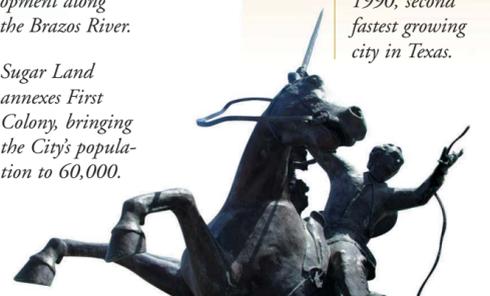
First Colony Mall opens.



**1997**

Texas Legislature deeds 660 acres for a university and park development along the Brazos River.

Sugar Land annexes First Colony, bringing the City's population to 60,000.



**2000**

U.S. Census shows Sugar Land grows 158 percent since 1990, second fastest growing city in Texas.



**2001**

University of Houston System at Sugar Land opens.



**2002**

Imperial Sugar refinery closes.



**2004**

The new City Hall opens.



**2005**

Annexation of Avalon.



**2006**

New state-of-the-art terminal at Sugar Land Regional Airport opens. SLRA is recognized as region's premier corporate aviation facility.

MONEY Magazine and CNN/Money rank Sugar Land the third best place to live in America.



Sugar Land partners with the Houston Museum of Natural Science to bring a satellite museum to the city (opens October 2009).

**2007**

Sugar Land named America's Fifth Safest City.



**2008**

Sugar Land designated first "Community of Respect" by Anti-Defamation League.



Major highway expansion project completed, adding nearly 100 new lane miles in the city to U.S. 59, U.S. 90A and SH 6.

**2009**

SLRA rated as top FBO Airport in the Americas; Sugar Land rated best small city for start-up businesses.

**BILL LITTLE** (Sugar Land's second mayor, 1961-1964), remembers the first City Hall "We had one office space and one other room. The Imperial company donated desks and chairs, and the Lions Club donated tables and chairs for the council table."

**ROY CORDES, SR.** (mayor, 1972-1981) remembers City Council meetings "Our council meetings started out fairly short. Then, as we annexed new areas and people began moving in, things got a little hectic for a while and some of the council meetings went to midnight."

**WALTER McMEANS** (mayor, 1981- 1986) on annexing "We started annexing down the corridor of Southwest Freeway, Hwy 59. Now, if we had not annexed down Hwy 59, Houston would have come in between Sugar Land and Richmond. You can see how prophetic that was, because if you drive out Hwy 59, you'll see hospitals, clinics, office buildings, the University of Houston, and the park that's going to be out there."

**LEE DUGGAN** (mayor, 1986-1996) on Officer Ronald Slockett "I got a call on the 4th of July, two or three o'clock in the morning, that we had an officer down. Of course it hurts when we lose any of them, but of all the police officers Ron was one of my closest friends. Used to come by my office and we would drink coffee. Later, we built a neighborhood park, the Ron Slockett Memorial Park."

**DEAN HRBACKER** (mayor, 1996-2002) on the University of Houston and Brazos Park "I had the opportunity of working with Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby who was UH Chancellor and felt the university should serve its customers wherever they are living. We went to the state legislature, and he testified about his vision of bringing education to communities. We ended up with 241 acres for the university and another 432 acres of park land for the city."

**DAVID WALLACE** (mayor, 2002-2008) on the city's diversity "We cannot see the Anti-Defamation League's acknowledgment of Sugar Land as a Community of Respect as a one-time event. It is now a commitment for the City, a promise of inclusion that our children will pass to their children. There is so much to learn about other cultures right here in Sugar Land, and -once again- our children are leading the way. They love learning about other people's traditions, clothes, foods, dances."

**JAMES THOMPSON** (mayor, 2008 - present) on Hurricane Ike "Our employees handled jobs far outside their normal day-to-day responsibilities, wielding chain saws instead of account vouchers, cleaning streets, and answering citizens' calls on our hot line. And we were just as proud of our citizens, neighbors helping neighbors and the hundreds of civic minded volunteers."