



FALL
2011

SUGAR LAND TODAY

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET

Sugar Land City Council approved the fiscal year 2012 budget on Sept. 6, which totals \$182 million and will provide funding for services from Oct. 1, 2011 to Sept. 30, 2012. The budget includes all funds, a five-year financial plan and five-year capital improvements program.

The FY12 budget is based on the 2011 effective tax rate of 30.245 cents per \$100 valuation. The effective tax rate generates the same revenues collected from the same property taxpayers as collected the previous year. Some tax bills may increase or decrease depending on changes to individual property values; the fiscal year 2012 tax rate of 30.245 cents results in an average tax bill for 2011 that remains relatively unchanged.

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NEW GARBAGE, RECYCLE CARTS GET READY FOR ROLL OUT!

ENHANCED COLLECTION PROGRAM REDUCES FEES, STARTS DEC. 5

New garbage and recycling carts will be delivered to Sugar Land households beginning Oct. 10. The new carts are part of the City's enhanced solid waste and recycling program that will put less waste in the landfill and save residents \$800,000 per year.

Continued/11



Recognizing the possibility that Sugar Land might soon have to weigh the importance of street reconstruction with projects such as installing public art to memorialize Sugar Land Memorial Park, the City began planning for innovative ways to balance its “needs” and “wants.” With an increasing demand on the capital improvement program to meet both our infrastructure rehabilitation needs and quality of life enhancements, we realized it would be necessary to leverage future tax dollars in order to build new amenities in accordance with the high quality that residents and visitors have come to expect in Sugar Land.

Therefore, a strategic policy initiative was established in November 2008 to explore the creation of a non-profit foundation to supplement the City’s ability to fund such capital projects. After examining various foundation

models, from broad community foundations to narrow parks foundations, the City Council – guided by then-Councilmen Don Olson, Russell Jones and Michael Schiff – initiated the creation of the hybrid Sugar Land Legacy Foundation. Accordingly, the bylaws of this private 501(c)3 non-profit organization were approved in June 2010, the Board of Directors was appointed in October 2010 and the first donation was accepted in July 2011.

Led by eight of Fort Bend County’s long-time community leaders – Gene Reed, Bob Brown, Brent Leftwich, Herb Appel, Bill Jameson, Paul Likhari, John Null and Sunil Sharma – the Foundation’s focus is on the development of more diversified recreational, cultural and civic facilities in Sugar Land. Consistent with the City’s vision to partner with residents, community organizations, businesses and other government entities, the Legacy Foundation efforts are concentrated on “planned giving opportunities” that are not in competition with the fundraising efforts of Fort Bend County’s many charitable organizations.

Contributions to the Legacy Foundation support the City of Sugar Land’s acquisition, ownership, construction,

development, improvement, operation or maintenance of land and facilities – including capital projects and funds supporting activities for recreation, entertainment, sports, the arts or similar activities. While we continue to work with the Board and the City Council to define possible projects, we have already identified opportunities such as the Fort Bend Veterans Memorial at Sugar Land Memorial Park, an “Arts in Public Places” fund and the installation of a universally accessible playground at First Colony Athletic Park. The Foundation’s first donation was a \$6,500 contribution to the universally accessible playground.

I encourage individuals, corporations, trusts and other foundations interested in making sustainable, tax-deductible donations to visit the Foundation’s website at www.sugarlandlegacy.org or call 281-980-8981 to learn more about this organization. In partnership with the City and residents, the Sugar Land Legacy Foundation will significantly impact the future of our community and I am excited about the things that we will all accomplish together.



City Goals

- Safest City in America
- Responsible City Government
- Strong Local Economy
- Livable Neighborhoods
- Mobility for People
- Well Planned Community

City Council

James A. Thompson
Mayor

Thomas Abraham
At-Large Position One

Jacqueline Baly Chaumette
Mayor Pro Tem
At-Large Position Two

Donald L. Smithers
Single Member District One

Bridget R. Yeung
Single Member District Two

Amy L. Mitchell
Single Member District Three

Harish Jajoo
Single Member District Four

City Management

Allen Bogard
City Manager

Karen Daly
Assistant City Manager

Karen Glynn
Assistant City Manager

Steve Griffith
Assistant City Manager

Contributors

Briana Bachemin, Jennifer Brown, Joe Chesser, Heather Bluejacket, Anne Gaines, Glenda Gundermann, Mike Hobbs, Richard Mancilla, Jennifer May, Claudia Notestine, Jigna Patel, Kelly Penewitt, Teresa Preza, Mara Soloway, Keisha Seals, Colleen Spencer, Dawn Steph, Lauren Stockholm, Jimmy Vandever, Reena Varghese, Pat Walsh

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STATE OF THE CITY

Jan. 27, 2012

The public is invited to the Marriott Town Square on Friday, Jan. 27 to hear the State of the City presented by Mayor James Thompson and

City Manager Allen Bogard. The presentation will highlight the City’s accomplishments in 2011 and exciting projects on the horizon.

The event begins at 7:30 a.m. More information and online registration will be available on the City’s website, www.sugarlandtx.gov, in late December.

2011-2012

CITY COUNCIL



COUNCIL MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Baseball:** Approved the execution of a contract in the maximum amount of \$561,807.88 with American Seating Company for purchase and installation of seating for minor league baseball stadium.
- **Baseball:** Authorized execution of a contract in the maximum amount of \$1,358,000 with Murdlaw, Incorporated for purchase and installation of scoreboards for the minor league baseball stadium.
- **Engineering:** Authorized execution of a contract in the maximum amount of \$400,639.50 with Dannenbaum Engineering Company - Houston, LLC for final design for Sugar Creek Drainage Improvements Phase II.
- **Parks:** Approved execution of a contract in the maximum amount of \$654,374.55 with Boyer Incorporated for U.S. 59 Landscape Beautification Phase III, from State Highway 6 through University Boulevard intersection.
- **Utilities:** Authorized execution of a contract in the maximum amount of \$191,500 with Long and Son, Incorporated for River Park Water System Improvements.

For additional information about any of these subjects or past City Council agendas, go to www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on **Meetings**.



Sugar Land's 2011-2012 City Council from left to right:

BRIDGET R. YEUNG

Single Member District Two

THOMAS ABRAHAM

At-Large Position One

JACQUELINE BALY CHAUMETTE

Mayor Pro Tem,
At-Large Position Two

DONALD L. SMITHERS

Single Member District One

JAMES A. THOMPSON

Mayor

AMY L. MITCHELL

Single Member District Three

HARISH JAJOO

Single Member District Four

RELAX AT SLRA'S

GREEN SPACE



Sugar Land Regional Airport's new green space, located south of the T-hanger complex, provides an open area for recreation, relaxation and a place for visitors to catch a glimpse of airplane traffic.

The venue features a crushed granite walking trail, four seating areas, a covered deck, picnic tables with BBQ pits and beautifully landscaped surroundings.

Sugar Land's Award Winning Multi-Cultural Programs



Sugar Land received two prestigious awards for creative, innovative multicultural awareness programs-- the U.S. Conference of Mayors' City Livability Award and the International City Management Association's Community Sustainability Program Excellence Award.

Several initiatives contributed to the recent accolades:

- Following City Council's adoption of "Inclusive Community" as a guiding principle for Sugar Land's future, the City formed the City Manager's Multi-Cultural Advisory Team and an Employee Multi-Cultural Task Force to enhance the City's ability to meet the needs of residents of all cultures and ethnic backgrounds.
- Sugar Land hosted three "101" sessions that helped key City staff better understand the cultural history and unique communication and service needs of Sugar Land's Chinese, Asian-Indian and South Asian/Pakistani communities. Lessons learned formed the basis for development of an employee training curriculum.

- Communication tools were expanded to include a Police Department Chinese hotline, safety brochures printed in Asian languages and the integration of a translation tool with 37 languages for the City's website.

These educational opportunities and enhanced communication tools have led to a greater understanding among citizens and staff, resulting in more diverse participation on City task forces, boards and commissions, as well as increased Asian participation in special events that celebrate Sugar Land, Texan and American traditions.

By embracing a diverse, inclusive community, Sugar Land continues to further connect citizens with their government and enhance cross-cultural communications in the delivery of important public services.

SL 101 Applications Now Available

Want to learn more about city government? Sugar Land 101 allows citizens to familiarize themselves with the structure, function and purpose of city government and encourages residents to assume leadership roles in their community. The curriculum includes presentations by City department heads and field trips to several City facilities.

Enrollment for the 10-week program is limited. The application deadline is Oct. 31, and classes begin January 2012.

Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov for eligibility requirements, the class agenda and an online application. For more information, contact sl101@sugarlandtx.gov or 281-275-2329.

Sugar Land City Manager named '2011 MENTOR OF THE YEAR'



City Manager Allen Bogard, left, receives the Mentor of the Year award from Richardson City Manager and TCMA President Bill Keffler during the annual conference.

The Texas City Management Association named Sugar Land City Manager Allen Bogard Mentor of the Year, an award recognizing commitment to leadership development.

Under Bogard's leadership, succession planning and professional development have been organizational priorities. Successful internship and management assistant programs were created to recruit new talent, and the City established an Emerging Leader Academy (ELA) to provide growth opportunities for current employees. The ELA is a year-long self-assessment and learning program in which 10 employees are partnered with a department head who serves as a professional mentor.

"We are incredibly grateful for Allen's service to Sugar Land and also his dedication to ensure there will be a new generation of leaders to guide us into the future," said Mayor James Thompson.

Legacy Foundation Raises Money for Sugar Land Parks, Civic Facilities

The City recently launched the Sugar Land Legacy Foundation to accept large-scale charitable and planned donations to support the acquisition and development of parks and civic facilities in Sugar Land. Contributions to the Legacy Foundation will help the City finance capital projects for recreation, entertainment, sports and the arts.



The Foundation will also focus on planned giving opportunities that do not compete with the fundraising efforts of other charitable organizations in Fort Bend County. Examples of these projects include the "Fort Bend Veterans Memorial" at Sugar Land Memorial Park, art in public places, a universally accessible playground at the First Colony Athletic Park, a Legacy Fund to support future capital projects and more.

Corporations, foundations and individuals interested in providing tax-deductible contributions or "planned giving" opportunities such as bequests, gifts of cash or stocks, property or other charitable giving mechanisms should email the Sugar Land Legacy Foundation at info@sugarlandlegacy.org, call (281) 980-8981 or visit www.sugarlandlegacy.org.

SUGAR LAND REMEMBERS 9/11



CITY SALES TAXES TRENDING UP

The City's sales tax collections for fiscal year 2011 totaled \$39.12 million, which is 4.5 percent or \$1.7 million higher than budgeted for the year. Excluding one-time audit adjustments by the comptroller, monthly collections were higher than budgeted for all 12 months, great news for the City. The previous year was the first in the City's history to show a decline in sales tax collections due to the downturn in the economy.

Sugar Land did not experience a decline as early or as much as those of other Texas cities. Sugar Land's decrease came later and recovery came sooner.

Sales tax accounts for nearly half of the operating revenue of the City's general fund, which supports services such as fire and police protection, street repairs, traffic management, parks maintenance and recreation activities.

Sugar Land's solemn tribute on the 10th Anniversary of Sept. 11 included a bell ceremony for fallen first-responders, a 21-gun salute, remarks from a Sugar Land firefighter who participated in rescue efforts at Ground Zero and the dedication of two World Trade Center artifacts. Earlier that day, SLFD firefighters gathered for a "Stair Climb," an effort intended to honor the men who died by climbing the same number of stairs.

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS FY 2012 BUDGET

Continued from cover

The City achieved a reduction of \$1.1 million in personnel expenditures in the General Fund in FY 2011 with the elimination of 18 positions, approximately 6.2 percent of the non-public safety, general fund workforce. The reduction was accomplished without layoffs.

“The main priority for fiscal year 2011 was to work throughout the year to achieve structural balance between a decreased level of recurring revenues with our recurring expenditures as we prepared for fiscal year 2012,” said City Manager Allen Bogard. “Our efforts toward this priority have been successful.”

The fiscal year 2012 budget represents a 35.5 percent decrease from the current budget, largely from non-operating expenditures. Capital projects account for the majority of budget reductions. Expenditures for CIP projects decreased from a record \$145 million in fiscal year 2011 (from major projects such as the surface water treatment plant and the minor league baseball stadium) to \$35 million planned in fiscal year 2012.

The budget includes a surface water rate increase and user fee “cost of living” increases. Surface water rates

will increase to support the City’s mandated conversion to surface water. The City’s surface water treatment plant is currently under construction. Residential solid waste rates will decrease as a result of the change to automated waste collection. Rate changes will be effective Jan. 1.

The five-year Capital Improvement Program totals \$124.7 million, with first year funding of \$35 million included in the FY12 budget. However, more than \$51 million in projects requested were unable to be funded within forecasted debt and operating capacities.

FIGURE 1: FY 2012 EXPENDITURES: \$182M

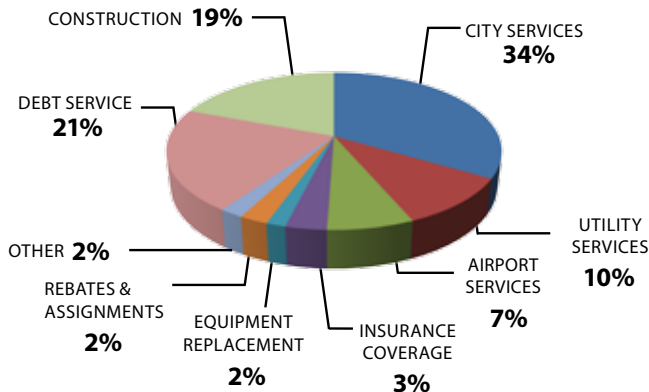
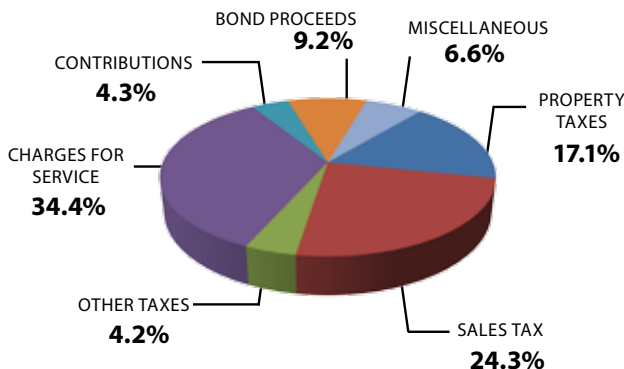


FIGURE 2: FY 2012 REVENUES: \$165M



Major capital improvement projects in 2012 include:

- rehabilitation improvements including drainage, facility renovations, park infrastructure, sidewalk, pavement, streetlights, landscaping and bridge rehabilitation;
- renovation of the Community Center to house the Seniors Center;
- land acquisition for the development of destination centers including an indoor concert venue and acquisition of parkland in Telfair;
- implementation of the Comprehensive Mobility Plan that addresses a broad range of transportation options intended to meet the community’s long-term mobility needs;
- planning for the next phase of the Brazos River Corridor, which will include a festival site and additional trails and parkland; and
- water plant upgrades for surface water conversion.

REDISTRICTING PLAN ADOPTED

City Council adopted a redistricting plan that reshapes single-member district boundaries to comply with federal law. The Plan has been sent to the Department of Justice for approval and is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year. The new boundaries will be in effect for

the 2012 election. The release of the 2010 U.S. Census triggered the need for a redistricting process, which ensures districts of substantially equal population have a maximum deviation no greater than 10 percent between the most populated and least populated council member district.

To review Sugar Land's redistricting plan, including maps and demographics, go to www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on the "Redistricting Information" icon.



A citizen Redistricting Advisory Committee was appointed to ensure compliance with federal law. Members included Chairman Russell Jones, Leon Anhaier, Himesh Gandhi, Paul Barnett, Jim Kij, Tommy Philips and Dawn Lin. A public hearing on the proposed plan was held on Sept. 6.

DEVELOPMENT

Sugar Land Skeeters Name First Manager

The Sugar Land Skeeters recently named former major league All-Star Gary Gaetti as the first manager in franchise history. The Skeeters will play their first opening game at StarTex Power Field in April 2012.

(From L to R: Skeeters VP/Business Development Chris Hill, Skeeters Manager Gary Gaetti, Skeeters President Matt O'Brien and Sugar Land Mayor James Thompson.)



Development Updates



Aerials provided by Johnson Development.

Imperial Redevelopment Update

City staff and Johnson Development presented an update on proposed traffic and circulation plans before a Planning & Zoning commission workshop Sept. 13. No public hearings have been set. The latest information on the proposed Imperial Sugar redevelopment plans is available on the City's website. Click on the Imperial Sugar link at www.sugarlandtx.gov for updates and an FAQ section.

For email updates, send your request to planning@sugarlandtx.gov.



Baseball Stadium Construction Update

Significant progress is being made on Sugar Land's StarTex Power Field. Stadium steel can be seen rising from the ground at the northeast corner of State Highway 6 and U.S. Highway 90A. For more information on the ballpark's progress, go to www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on the "Ballpark Updates" icon.

The stadium is expected to open in April 2012.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

For the third straight year, the Sugar Land Development Corporation (SLDC) and the Sugar Land 4B Corporation (SL4B) were awarded a “Certificate for Achievement of Economic Excellence” by the Texas Economic Development Council.

“Sugar Land actively uses its 4A and 4B sales tax funds for economic development projects that benefit our residents in numerous ways,” said Mayor James Thompson. “This reward reflects the exceptional efforts of Board members and City staff to move development forward in the City.”

Of the 680 economic development corporations eligible statewide, the SLDC and SL4B were two of 24 organizations in Texas that received recognition.

SAFETY



FIRE STATION #7 TO OPEN OCTOBER 15

Sugar Land will celebrate the grand opening of its new Fire Station #7 in Telfair during a public safety open house on Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fire Station #7, 1301 Chatham Avenue, will serve Telfair and New Territory in Sugar Land’s extraterritorial jurisdiction. The new facility is built to LEED standards and is designed to resist Category 3 hurricanes.

The 14,648-square-foot-facility includes two drive-through equipment bays, a kitchen/dining room, sleeping areas, an exercise room, a medical treatment room and a safe room for personnel to retreat during severe weather.

A piece of steel artifact from the World Trade Center presented to the City will be on display at the station.

Public Safety Open House Oct. 15

The City will host the 5th Annual Public Safety Open House on Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Sugar Land Fire Station #7, 1301 Chatham Avenue. Residents can learn more about the City’s public safety educational programs and raise funds for programs that support Sugar Land firefighters and police officers.

Booths will feature home security information, crime prevention and child safety tips, and a child identification card booth from the Sugar Land Police Department. Police department equipment, such as a stealth car and motorcycles, will also be on display.

Pan fire and portable fire extinguisher demonstrations will be held every half-hour, including a car extrication demo using the “Jaws of Life”. Residents can also tour Sugar Land’s new Fire Station 7.

Residents will have the opportunity to learn about volunteer opportunities with the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, Community Assistance Support Teams and the Citizens Emergency Response Teams.

The public safety event is sponsored by SLFD’s Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association.

For more information, call **(281) 275-2873**.



CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS, REPLACE SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES

Daylight savings time ends Nov. 6, so the Sugar Land Fire Department reminds citizens to replace the batteries in their smoke alarms when they turn their clocks back to ensure they are functioning properly. Smoke alarms should be installed on each level of the home and inside each sleeping area.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, smoke alarms play a vital role in reducing deaths and injuries from fire and have contributed

to a 50 percent decrease in fire deaths since the late 1970s.

The Sugar Land Fire Department offers free home safety surveys and smoke alarms to all residents. Firefighters will replace smoke alarms that don't work and install additional alarms when necessary.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for this **FREE** service, call **SLFD** at **281-275-2873**.

Be a Cautious, Smart Shopper Year-Round

Smart shoppers should always be aware of safety issues every time of year, but the Sugar Land Police Department wants to ensure citizens are not easy targets for thieves this holiday season, a time when crimes of opportunity tend to increase.

Residents are encouraged to follow these shopping safety tips during the holidays and throughout the year:

- Park in a well-lit area and lock car doors at all times.
- Do not leave valuables inside the car. If items must be left, lock them in the trunk or shield them from plain view before arriving at your destination.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Keep car keys in hand when exiting the store.
- Beware of strangers approaching you. During this time of year, "con-artists" may try to distract shoppers with the intention of taking their money and belongings.
- Call 911 immediately to report any suspicious activity.

For more shopping safety tips, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on the **Sugar Land Police Department**.

SUGAR LAND Monitors Union Pacific Plans for Double Tracking Along U.S. 90A Corridor

Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) has announced plans to build a second railroad track along the U.S. Highway 90A corridor to ease train congestion, improve safety and allow for two-way traffic through Sugar Land. UPRR has no immediate plans to add more trains in the corridor as a result of this project.

UPRR says the double tracks will reduce the need for trains to stop at sidings to pass each other, resulting in quicker train travel through Sugar Land and reduced wait times for drivers at crossings.

The City is working closely with UPRR to clearly understand the proposed project and influence a positive outcome for the City.

MANY CONVENIENT WAYS TO PAY MONTHLY UTILITY BILL

Sugar Land offers three easy and convenient electronic payment options for utility/solid waste customers. Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on "Treasury Management" under the **Departments** tab to select your option. **Go green** and sign up for e-Bill Notification to receive water bill statements via e-mail.

Pay Online

Click on "Water Payments" under the Online Services tab on the City's homepage and follow the instructions to register for online payments.

Pay by Direct Debit

Sign up for Automatic Bank Drafting online. Payments are automatically drafted at no cost each month on the Friday before the due date. Participants still receive monthly bills to monitor water usage.

Pay by Phone

To pay bills using the Automated Phone System, call **(281) 275-2750**, and press option 1. Be ready to enter the customer and location identification numbers found in the upper left hand corner of the water bill under the heading "Account Number."

Pay by Mail or in Person

Water bill payments can be mailed to **City of Sugar Land, P.O. Box 5029, Sugar Land, Texas, 77487** or deposited in any of the six drop box locations listed on the back of utility bills.

For payment and billing inquiries, call **(281) 275-2750**.

Water Conservation Encouraged During Drought Conditions

Long range weather forecasts predict the current severe drought situation to continue through the summer of 2012. Residents are encouraged to restrict outdoor water usage during these drought conditions.

Careful management and planning have prevented mandatory restrictions; however, voluntary conservation is crucial to delay the possible implementation of the City's Drought Contingency Plan.

Residents should water their lawns no more than twice a week from 8 p.m. to midnight. If grass springs up after being walked on, it does not need water. Other water-saving recommendations follow:

- Evaluate irrigation systems for water efficiencies by visiting www.sugarlandtx.gov/utilities/wiseguys.asp.
- Adjust lawn mower blades one notch higher to cut grass two to three inches tall. Grass clippings left on lawns and mulch covering bare grounds can save up to 100 gallons of water per week.
- Report outside leaks to Sugar Land Utilities at **281- 275-2450**.

For more information, go to:

www.sugarlandtx.gov and click **Utilities/Water Conservation Tips**.

Surface Water Rate to Increase - Supports New Water Plant



Residents will notice an increase in their water bills starting Jan. 1. Sugar Land's surface water fee will increase to \$1.42 per 1,000 gallons of metered water, 66 cents above the current rate. The increase is necessary to support surface water conversion and

meet the Fort Bend County Subsidence District's mandated 30 percent reduction of groundwater use by 2013. Water and wastewater rates remain unchanged.

The City's Utility and Surface Water funds are self-supporting through water rates and fees, not taxes. Rates are established to insure sufficient revenue to pay for services including debt payments for infrastructure.

The \$69 million surface water treatment plant, which is being built near Voss and Burney Roads, represents more than 10 years of planning and is Sugar Land's largest and most complicated capital improvement project. Construction on the surface water treatment plant is underway and is expected to be completed by mid 2013.

FEES AND RATES TO CHANGE IN JANUARY

The budget for fiscal year 2012 includes adjustments to fees and rates for services provided by the City. The fees and rates, approved by City Council in September, will be effective on Jan. 1. A summary of key changes is shown below:

Solid Waste Rates Down

Residential customers currently pay \$17.63 per month for twice weekly curbside recycling and refuse collection. Residents will begin receiving automated pickup in December; the new rate of \$16 per month will be reflected on January bills.

Surface Water Rates Up

City utility customers pay a separate rate for the mandated surface water conversion. The rate will increase from 76 cents to \$1.42 per 1,000 gallons beginning Jan. 1. Water and wastewater rates are not changing in an effort to minimize the impact to the overall utility bill while the city transitions to surface water.

An average residential utility bill for 11,000 gallons of water usage will increase by \$7.25 per month.

Each year, rates are adjusted to reflect increasing costs of providing utilities to customers. All expenses are paid through the fees charged to customers each month. No property tax or sales tax dollars support the utility system.

Other User Fees

Other user fees such as facility rental charges, permits and rental registration licenses will also increase 3 percent in January to offset inflationary expenses. The City did not increase fees in 2011.

For more information, go to www.sugarlandtx.gov.



NEW GREENWASTE: ENHANCED SERVICES LOWERS COSTS FOR RESIDENTS

Continued from cover

The City approved a 10-year contract with Republic Services at an initial rate of \$16, a decrease from the scheduled 2012 rate of \$18.62.

Residents will receive a 95-gallon grey garbage cart and a 65-gallon green recycling cart, unless different sizes were requested. The tentative cart delivery schedule for each neighborhood is available on the City's website at www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste. The delivery schedule will be updated periodically. Residents can use the carts as soon as they receive them.

The enhanced program provides automated garbage collection twice per week, automated recycling and green waste collection once per week, bulky waste collection once per month and an on-call collection service.

Current curbside recycling will be expanded to include all colors of glass bottles and jars. The new green waste program will ensure all grass clippings, leaves, brush and tree limbs are recycled into mulch or compost instead of sent to a landfill.

Service days will be posted on the City's website, e-mailed to homeowner associations and mailed to residents prior to implementation. Residents will receive a magnet in the mail that will detail their service days for the new program.

Residents can watch a video at www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste to learn more about the City's enhanced solid waste and recycling program or call **Republic Services** at **(713) 726-7307**.

PET ADOPTIONS

HUNTING FOR HOMES

Mega Adoption EVENT on Nov. 5



More than 100 cats and dogs from Sugar Land and surrounding cities in Fort Bend County will be available for adoption at the "Hunting for Homes" Mega Adoption event on Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monetary donations and pet supplies are requested for the event, including large pet crates, flea medication and cleaning supplies.

Make checks payable to **Fort Bend County Animal Services, 1210 Blume Road, Rosenberg, TX, 77471**. Be sure to include "Hunting for Homes" in the memo line. To learn more about the event, call **(281) 633-7590**.

BLACK CAT BLOWOUT

Don't Miss Out!



Looking for a loving, playful feline companion? Many black cats are often the last to be adopted

because of superstitions about their color, but they're just as cuddly, friendly and loyal as the rest of their kin.

Adopt a black cat or kitten at the Sugar Land Animal Shelter, 101 Gillingham Lane. New owners will pay the \$85 adoption fee which includes spay/ neutering, feline leukemia test, initial vaccinations and a microchip.

For information on pet adoptions, contact Sugar Land Animal Services at **(281) 275-2364**.

SL Commuter Transit: Convenient and Saves Money



If daily commutes take drivers away from Sugar Land, take advantage of Fort Bend County's weekday commuter transit services.

Trek Express

TREK Express provides direct service to the Greenway Plaza and Uptown/Galleria areas, and connects to METRO's West Bellfort Park and Ride, where riders can transfer to downtown Houston and other locations.

Fort Bend County Express

Fort Bend County Express takes riders directly to the Texas Medical Center. Both shuttle services pick up passengers from:

- The AMC Theater parking lot at 3301 Town Center Boulevard South
- University of Houston Sugar Land campus on University Boulevard at U.S. Highway 59

One-way trips to the Galleria or Greenway Plaza cost \$2.25, and trips to METRO's West Bellfort Park and Ride facility cost \$1. One-way trips to the Texas Medical Center cost \$3.50.

To purchase discounted ticket books online with a debit or credit card, go to www.sugarlandtx.gov/transportation and click on "Transit Services" to access Fort Bend County's Public Transportation web site.

Commute Solutions

The Houston-Galveston Area Council's "Commute Solutions" program provides carpool and vanpool services to Sugar Land residents. For more information, go to www.commuteshouston.org.

Demand Response

For \$1 per trip, Fort Bend County's Demand Response program provides curbside service within the County. Reservations are required. To schedule or cancel a ride, call **(866) 751-TRIP**.

MOBILITY



Dulles Avenue

A new underground storm sewer system is being installed on Dulles Avenue from Avenue E to U.S. Highway 90A. As construction continues, the southbound lanes will be closed and there will be two-way (one lane in each direction) traffic on the northbound side. Access to businesses and residences will remain open during construction.

The completed roadway, scheduled to be finished in 2013, will feature four lanes in each direction separated by medians, decorative traffic signals, street lighting and sidewalks. Landscaping will be added when the project is complete.

Lexington Boulevard

Work continues on the Lexington Boulevard extension project. The completed roadway from Oxbow Drive to University Boulevard (over Ditch H through Tract 5) will provide access

from the First Colony Mall/Town Square area to University Boulevard.

The first phase of the project from Oxbow Drive to the Fort Bend County LID 2 Levee at Ditch H is expected to be finished in September. Construction west of Ditch H, including a bridge over Ditch H, is scheduled to begin in 2012. The project is expected to be completed in late 2012 or early 2013.

University Boulevard South

A new 1.8-mile stretch of University Boulevard from Commonwealth Boulevard through Riverstone will eventually connect U.S. Highway 59 to State Highway 6. Completion is expected by the end of 2012.

Most of the underground storm sewer and water lines have been installed. Piers for three bridges are nearly complete.

Road pavement should begin soon on University from Commonwealth to Ditch H and from Ditch H to Elkins Road.

For City road project updates, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/engineering/services.

Sugar Land Halloween Town 2011



The fun and frights of Halloween Town will return to Sugar Land Town Square on Oct. 30, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. All little witches, superheroes, princesses and other creative characters are invited to bring their families, friends and pets for this evening of friendly surprises.



Festive Halloween characters will roam Town Square inviting children to participate in several activity stations and attractions provided by local organizations and businesses. The atmosphere provides a safe and fun alternative to trick-or-treating. Admission is free. Remember, no blood or gruesome horror elements, as Halloween Town is for friendly ghosts, goblins and ghouls.

Children and pets in their Halloween best are invited to enter

Halloween Town's costume contest in these categories:

Hurry, categories are limited to the first 30 contestants. Don't forget to sign up your child using the contest entry form at [www](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov).

sugarlandtx.gov. (Type "Halloween Town" in the search box, click on the first item and scroll down for the entry form.) For a printed form or more information, call (281) 275-2885.

Category	Check-In Time	Contest Time
3 years or under	4 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
4-7 years old	4:45 p.m.	5:15 p.m.
8-11 years old	5:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.
Adults	6:15 p.m.	6:45 p.m.
Pets	7:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.

IPRC GRAND OPENING A SLAM DUNK!



Mayor James Thompson and Houston's AcroDunk team kicked off the event with a slam dunk!

The City of Sugar Land celebrated the official grand opening of the Imperial Park Recreation Center on July 30.

The 17,000-square-foot facility, located at 234 Matlage Way, features a full gymnasium, an exercise room, two multipurpose rooms, a kitchen and a patio/garden area. The center offers a variety of leisure classes, monthly special events, sports tournaments and adult and children leagues. Many more activities are planned for the future.

The annual facility fee is \$10 for residents and \$46 for non-residents. Facility tours are given anytime during normal hours of operation. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (281) 275-2885 or visit www.imperialparkrecreationcenter.org.

Hours of Operation:

- Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Christmas Tree Lighting 2011

Celebrate the start of the holiday season with family and friends on Dec. 1 at the ninth annual Christmas Tree Lighting event at Sugar Land Town Square. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. with children's games and activities, performances from local musical groups and much more, all leading up to Santa's grand arrival at 7:30 p.m. and the lighting of the 40-foot Christmas tree. Admission and activities are free.



New Year's Eve 2012

Join us for Sugar Land's New Year's Eve celebration on Dec. 31. Energetic music from the area's hottest bands, street performers and state-of-the-art lighting effects will transform Town Square into a vibrant party atmosphere. The evening will be divided into two special celebrations:

- Children's Celebration: 7-9 p.m.
- Adults Celebration: 9:30 p.m. – 1 a.m.

For more information on these free events, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov or call Parks and Recreation at (281) 275-2885.

LEISURE CLASSES

Call **281-275-2885** for registration information. The annual facility usage fee is \$10 for residents and \$46 for nonresidents at the **Imperial Park Recreation Center, 234 Matlage Way**. Classes are held at the Rec Center unless otherwise noted. For a complete list of leisure classes, visit www.imperialparkrecreationcenter.org.

PAINTING 101

Imperial Park Recreation Center

When: Monday 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Price: \$65 per session
(4 classes per month)
\$10 supply fee paid
to instructor

CUPCAKE DECORATING

Imperial Park Recreation Center

When: Saturday 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Price: \$90 for 4 classes

TAEKWONDO 50+

Jenny Pless

**Imperial Park
Recreation Center**

When: Monday and Wednesday
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Price: \$40 for 4 weeks

YOGA FOR EVERYBODY

Ken Hainline, RYT

Imperial Park Recreation Center

When: Tuesday: 7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

First Colony Conference Center

When: Wednesday: 7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Thursday: 7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

281-265-0770 • www.y4eb.com

LATIN DANCE

Tanya Assar

Imperial Recreation Center

When: Saturday 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Price: \$60 for 4 weeks

ZUMBA

Cida Moore

**Imperial Park
Recreation Center**

When: Monday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Thursday 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Price: \$80 per month

RESTORE THE CORE MAT-BASED PILATES

Jessica Forray

Imperial Park Recreation Center

When: Thursday 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Price: \$60 for 4 weeks
\$60 equipment fee paid
to instructor

Kathy McDougall

When: Monday and Wednesdays
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Price: \$25 for 4 weeks



YOUTH PROGRAMS

YOUTH DEVELOPMENTAL VOLLEYBALL

Ages: Grades 1-6
When: Thursdays
6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. 12 weeks
Price: \$290 per participant
with ongoing proration

TUTORS R US

After School Enrichment Program

Program features interactive math/science activities, study skills and test taking techniques and more.

Imperial Park Recreation Center

When: Sept. 26 – Dec. 15
Monday – Thursday
3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Ages: Kindergarten – Grade 9

Price: \$125 per week
(10% discount for entire semester)

SPECIAL SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Want to visit Huntsville (Oct. 6) and Fayetteville (Nov. 2) to explore spectacular exhibits on Texas history? Want to join our book club, learn how to paint like a PRO, or brush up on your dance skills? For a list of senior Adventures and other events, go to www.sugarlandtx.gov/parks_recreation.



NOTES FOR SENIOR ADVENTURES

- One day adventure fees are due two weeks prior to the trip; overnight adventure fees are due one month in advance. Please pay fees by the due date to ensure participation.
- Trips may be cancelled if registrations are not received two weeks prior to the event.
- Transportation will be provided on a charter-style mini-bus or bus

Events are held at the Sugar Land Senior Center, 200 Maltage Way, unless otherwise noted. The center is open: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

* Class location will change in October due to renovations at the Sugar Land Community Center.

SENIOR PROGRAMS							
GENRE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
GAMES	Pool & Shuffleboard 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. *Table Tennis¹ 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mah Jong 10 a.m. Mah Jong 1 p.m.	Pool & Shuffleboard 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Party Bridge 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mah Jong 1 p.m. Rummikub 2 p.m.	Pool & Shuffleboard 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. *Table Tennis¹ 9 a.m. – Noon Cards & Dominoes 1 p.m. Mexican Train 3 p.m.	Pool & Shuffleboard 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Party Bridge 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mah Jong 1 p.m. 42 2 p.m.	Pool & Shuffleboard 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.		
	Art Class² 1 p.m.	Chinese Brush Painting² 3rd Tuesday of the Month 9:30 a.m. Art Class² 1 p.m. Quilting 9 a.m.	Crochet & Knitting 1 p.m.	Crafts 1 p.m.	Art with Lorrie² 9:30 a.m.		
ART	For more information on senior activities, registration, or to sign up for our newsletter <i>Sweet Notes</i> , call 281-275-2893 or e-mail seniors@sugarlandtx.gov .						
EXERCISE	Walking Club² 8 a.m. Tai Chi (beginner) 8:30 a.m. Yoga 9 a.m. *Line Dancing¹ 9 a.m. (Level I) 10 a.m. (Level III) 11 a.m. (Level IV)	Walking Club² 8 a.m. Salsa, Merengue and More 1:15 p.m. Yoga 3 p.m.	Walking Club² 8 a.m. Tai Chi 9 a.m. (intermediate) 10:30 a.m. (beginner) *Line Dancing¹ 10:30 a.m. (Level II) 1 p.m. (Level IV)	Walking Club² 8 a.m. Yoga 8:30 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. (Level V)	Walking Club² 8 a.m.		
	English as Second Language 10 a.m.	Beginning Chinese (Mandarin) 9:30 a.m.		Functional Spanish 1 p.m.			
LANGUAGE							
COMPUTER	Computer Buddy: call 281-275-2885 for an appointment						

KEY
Unless noted, all classes and programs are held at the Senior Center.

Drop-In
1 Sugar Land Community Center
2 Meet at First Colony Mall Food Court

Registration Required
1 Sugar Land Community Center
2 Fee for this class payable to the instructor
3 Fee for this class payable to Sugar Land Parks and Recreation



City of Sugar Land
 P.O. Box 110
 Sugar Land, TX 77487-0110

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calendar

	Date	Event	Time	Location
OCT	18, 25	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	11, 27	Planning & Zoning	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	15	Public Safety Open House	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Fire Station #7, Chatham Ave.
	30	Halloween Town	4 - 8 p.m.	SL Town Square
NOV	1, 15	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	5	Hunting for Homes: Mega Adoption Event	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Fort Bend County Fairgrounds
	8	Planning & Zoning	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	24, 25	City Offices Closed <i>Thursday solid waste collection on Friday; Friday collection on Saturday</i>		
DEC	1	Christmas Tree Lighting	5 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Sugar Land Town Square
	6, 20	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	13	Planning & Zoning	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	31	New Year's Festivities	7 p.m. - 1 a.m.	Sugar Land Town Square

For Town Square events, visit www.sugarlandtownsquare.com. Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov to confirm City events. The City periodically posts the latest Legal Notices for residents to view. The information includes various public hearings, bids, enacted ordinances and more. To sign up for Legal Notice e-mail updates, go to www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on "Legal Notices" under "Quick Links".

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS!



Amateur and professional photographers are invited to submit their favorite photos of Sugar Land for the City's 2012 calendar, the "Best of Sugar Land."

Photographs should reflect the vibrant community life and diversity that make Sugar Land such a unique and outstanding city, from its people to its beautiful parks, schools, businesses and neighborhoods.

The submission deadline is **Oct. 21**. E-mail high resolution photos to pubinfo@sugarlandtx.gov or mail them to the Sugar Land Communications Department, **2700 Town Center Blvd. North, Sugar Land, Texas, 77479**.

Please make sure to include a **name, contact information, dates** and **locations** of each photo submitted. Submissions will not be returned.

For more information, call **(281) 275-2216**.

STAY INFORMED ON SLTV 16



Tune into SLTV Channel 16 for City-related information! Programming includes City Council, County Commissioners and FBISD meetings, City and community bulletin boards with local real time weather and national newsfeeds, a bi-weekly newscast and informational videos about City services and programs.

SLTV 16 is available to Comcast subscribers within the city limits and is streamed live on the City's website at www.sugarlandtx.gov.