



WINTER  
2010

# SUGAR LAND TODAY

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND

## New Recreation Center Center OPENING 2011

Early in 2011, Sugar Land residents will be able to enjoy more than 17,000 square feet of new recreation space.

Imperial Park Recreation Center is under construction at 234 Matlage Way, next door to Sugar Land's Community Center and Senior Center in Imperial Park. The facility will sport numerous amenities.

- A large, multi-use gymnasium includes a full-size basketball court with bleachers and scoreboards.
- A group exercise room has "shock absorbent" flooring and a glass wall with views into the park.
- Spacious bathrooms have showers and lockers for convenience.
- Vending machines will contain healthy snacks.

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## Agreements Bring Stadium One Step Closer

*With City Council's approval of formal agreements with Opening Day Partners (ODP) and Johnson Development, the construction and operation of a professional minor league baseball stadium northeast of State Highway 6 and U.S. Highway 90A in Sugar Land is one step closer.*

The approved development agreement with ODP defines:

- Project specifications, timelines and processes for the construction of a stadium (including completion of the stadium by April 1, 2012),
- Locations for stadium improvements, including parking,
- Financial responsibilities, and
- ODP ownership of an independent minor league baseball team in the Atlantic League Professional Baseball Association.

Continued/6



Sugar Land's professional minor league baseball stadium will be located northeast of State Highway 6 and U.S. Highway 90A, as approximated by the dotted oval. A proposed design is shown in the inset.



Recently I was given the opportunity to visit with the Rotary Club of Fort Bend on a variety of topics from baseball to the budget. During my visit, I was overwhelmed with the respect Rotary members expressed for the City of Sugar Land and our employees.

Throughout the year, many more of you shared your appreciation – whether at the recent City Hall Open House, through comments submitted during our “Think Gig” initiative in March, or in unsolicited emails complimenting staff for a job well done. I am humbled by your words and recognize the level of trust this community has in City employees is extremely unique.

As City Manager, I can assure you that recognition is not something our 600+ employees strive for as they work to embody our “CHAMPS” values. And while I could not recommend pay increases this year, I am confident I speak on behalf of the City Council when I say they are quite worthy of public recognition for

their many accomplishments, including the following in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010:

- Annexation of RiverPark,
- Completion of updates to the City’s Development Code, Building Code and Design Standards,
- Recognition of Sugar Land Regional Airport as the #1 fixed-base operator (FBO) in the Americas for the second straight year,
- Enhancements to Police Department visibility and ongoing successes in Intelligence Led Policing,
- Development of Partners Against Crime program with emphasis on direct communications with citizens,
- Conclusion of a year-long 50th Anniversary celebration with the unveiling of a commemorative sculpture paid for by community donations;
- Completion of multiple drainage improvement projects,
- Expansion of special events programming to include a New Year’s Eve celebration and kite festival,
- Continued business recruitment and expansion successes,
- Completion of intersection and corridor improvements – including the triple left turn at SH6/US59,
- Selection of a minor league baseball partner and site,
- Continued successful financial management of the City as evidenced by meeting our budgets, receiving a AAA bond rating from Fitch and completing a very favorable bond refunding, and
- Achievement for a second straight year of less-than-budgeted health care cost increases through the work of an employee wellness committee – ensuring not only the lowest rate increase since 2005 but also that the benefits burden for City employees would remain LESS than in private sector organizations with over 500 employees.

We continue to ask employees to accomplish more with fewer resources and staff, and we will do so again in FY11 – during which, despite opening a seventh fire station and the City’s first recreation center, we will reduce our workforce by 20 net positions.

It is my privilege to serve alongside each employee, and I thank you for the opportunity to recognize our championship workforce. I hope you will join with me in applauding their hard work, dedication to public service and commitment to this community.



## 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**  
Mayor Pro Tem  
At-Large Position One

**Jacqueline Baly Chaumette**  
At-Large Position Two

**Donald L. Smithers**  
Single Member District One

**Donald G. Olson**  
Single Member District Two

**Russell C. Jones**  
Single Member District Three

**Michael S. Schiff**  
Single Member District Four

## City Management

**Allen Bogard**  
City Manager

**Karen Glynn**  
Assistant City Manager

**Karen Daly**  
Assistant City Manager

**Steve Griffith**  
Assistant City Manager

## Contributors

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# State of the City on Jan. 14, 2011

The public is invited to the Marriott Town Square on Friday, Jan. 14, 2011 to hear the State of the City presented by Mayor James Thompson and City Manager Allen Bogard. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. More information and online registration will be available in late December.

# The City and the Texas Legislature



closely monitors legislative sessions and works with lawmakers to ensure the best interests of the City and its citizens are served. Some of the major issues that will be monitored are:

- **Municipal Authority:** oppose legislation that could erode local government authority or adversely impact cities.
- **Prison Property Acquisition:** encourage relocation of the Central Prison Unit to allow business development around the Sugar Land Regional Airport.
- **Unfunded Mandates:** oppose legislation that would require city expenditures without state revenue sources.

The 82nd Texas Legislature will be gavelled into session in January 2011, as it is every two years. The City of Sugar Land



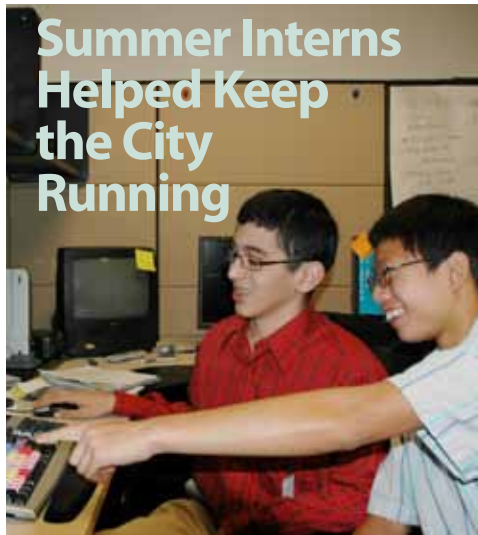
On Sept. 22, the City of Sugar Land opened the doors to City Hall for its first Open House and Mobility Summit. An estimated 150 attendees met City staff and leadership, learned about services and significant projects, including road construction, Imperial redevelopment and minor league baseball. The Mobility Summit informed attendees about the City's Comprehensive Mobility Plan (see page 10) and gathered input on long-range mobility concerns.

## COUNCIL MEETING ACTIVITIES



- **Communications:** Amended the Policy governing the use of the Municipal Channel to allow consideration of meeting and event notices from governmental agencies and property associations within Sugar Land with no fees.
- **Engineering:** Authorized execution of a Contract in the maximum amount of \$350,000 with Halff Associates, Incorporated for Integrated Stormwater Management Model Phase II Project.
- **Public Safety:** Authorized execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and Cost Reimbursement Agreement by and between the City of Sugar Land and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for Joint Terrorism Task Force.
- **Parks & Recreation:** Amended Chapter Two of the Code of Ordinances by increasing the number of members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

### Summer Interns Helped Keep the City Running



High school and college students got a feel for city government this past summer through an 8-week partnership with the Texas Workforce Solutions and United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Houston (UCP). Two students associated with UCP and 16 others from the area participated.

The two organizations provided the funding and the City of Sugar Land provided the work in various departments.

"The City was pleased to participate in such a successful program. Each student worked very hard and learned how a government provides services. Our staff were sorry to see the program end," said Mary House, Human Resources director.

### City Hall Services Have Expanded Hours



Sugar Land residents can now access several City services located in City Hall an extra hour per day Monday through Thursday. Payments and Permits (Treasury and Building Services departments) and the City Secretary's office, which are all located on the first floor, are now open to serve residents from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Friday's hours remain at 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Global Select New Name for Sugar Land Regional Airport's FBO

Named the number one fixed base operator (FBO) in the Americas for the last two years by Aviation International News, Sugar Land Regional Airport is rebranding its internationally recognized FBO as Global Select.

"Launching the new name allows us to market the FBO independently from the City's airport to the industry and reach more of the corporate and international clientele we want to attract and currently serve," said Phillip Savko, director of aviation for Sugar Land Regional Airport. "We are truly the 'Luxury Gateway to Houston' with our beautiful facility and top-notch amenities setting us apart. This new campaign will help us spread awareness throughout the industry."

Under its new name, Global Select will continue to offer the same red-carpet, VIP service it has always provided. Some of its standard services include: aircraft ground services; concierge-style customer service; onsite U.S. Customs services; gourmet catering; NATA Safety 1st certified line service crew; 24-hour service available; quick turn service available; GPU and LAV Service; Shell-branded fuels; and complimentary coffee, newspapers and ice. With more than half a million square feet of apron for aircraft parking, Global Select is able to provide safe ramp operations for even the largest business aircraft.

Global Select at SLRA offers clients a beautiful 20,000-square-foot, ranch-style terminal with superior amenities not typically found at other FBOs, including multiple full-service conference rooms available for complimentary use by fly-in customers; a private executive lounge; crew cars; two onsite rental car agencies; and a professional crew suite, complete with a flight planning office, state-of-the-art media room with free videos, exercise room, quiet/snooze rooms, kitchen and shower facilities, WSI Pilot brief, Wi-Fi and a private office.

# Sugar Land Municipal Court Updates

Individuals who receive a traffic citation in Sugar Land have options to take care of the ticket, including:

1. Choosing to request to take a driving safety course to have the ticket dismissed and not appear on their permanent driving record;

2. Choosing to apply for deferred disposition, available to eligible defendants, for 150 days upon certain conditions, and upon compliance the charge will not appear on the defendant's driving record;

3. Choosing to submit a waiver and plea form to simply pay the fine; and

4. Choosing to submit a waiver and plea form and requesting additional time to pay the fine.

The court also has options for court appearances for juveniles and violations that may be dismissed at the court window when certain documents are presented. The defendant can decide on an option without appearing in court. See the court's web page ([www.sugarlandtx.gov/municipal\\_court](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/municipal_court)) for more information.

In cases where a defendant

chooses to have a jury trial or judge trial, the court works to preserve this right. The right to a trial by jury is guaranteed in the U.S. and Texas constitutions and is a fundamental safeguard of each American's civil liberties.

*'We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union...'*

*The U.S. Constitution*

Each ticket issued sets out an appearance date. At the time of the first court appearance date, the defendant is advised of their rights and the charges pending against them, and enters a plea on the case, which will determine if the case proceeds further. A plea of not guilty will result in the case being set for trial by jury or by judge. If the defendant is found not guilty, no fine or court costs are owed and no conviction is reported on the defendant's record. If the defendant is found guilty, a fine and court costs will be imposed and a conviction is recorded.

A jury of six members selected from a pool comprised of Sugar Land registered voters is required to hear each jury case. The municipal court's presiding judge reminds each

jury panel that, "Ours is a participatory democracy. As jurors, you are expected to be the voice of the people in hearing and deciding the cases to be tried here. If the voice of the people is ever silenced in our courtrooms, then the other freedoms that we enjoy will disappear."

*'...government of the people, by the people, and for the people...'*

*Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address*

Some people dread jury duty and see it as a burden that should be avoided. The court recognizes that while jury service can be inconvenient, citizen participation is necessary if the right to trial by jury is to be preserved.

Every effort will be made to see that your time on jury duty will be as brief and pleasant as possible. Sugar Land now provides complimentary Wi-Fi in the municipal court lobby and jury room.

The court administers trial services ensuring court accessibility during service hours, openness of proceedings, clarity of procedures and respect for individuals appearing before the court.



At an October City Council meeting, Mayor James Thompson inducted City board and commission members. The City benefits from engaging residents' participation through their interests, judgment and commitment to connecting with City government. For more information, visit [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov) and click on City Government, then on Boards and Commissions.

# Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Approved

In September, City Council took the final step in the budget process and approved the FY 2011 budget that totals \$282.2 million and includes \$144.98 million for capital improvement projects. (Sugar Land's fiscal year begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30.)

The budget includes revenues of \$270.56 million (see figure 1). Like many communities, Sugar Land experienced a decline in revenues compared to budget estimates during the last year. The main impact has been in sales tax and interest income; while property valuation has grown, it is only due to value added from the 2009 annexation of River Park. The City reduced the operating budget for FY11 to offset these reduced revenue streams. One strategy is the elimination of budgeted positions that will be achieved without layoffs. City Council approved the elimination of the first 11 vacant positions on October 19. In addition, City employees will not receive salary increases this year. Service levels will not be impacted by the operating budget reductions.

The budget does include some limited new and/or expanded services. Even with the additions, the operating budget is a 0.4 percent decrease from FY10. Additions include:

- A new recreation center, opening in early 2011. The recreation center was funded from General Obligation Bonds and is the final project from the

1999 voter-approved bond package.

- Fire Station #7, opening in summer 2011 in Telfair. The station is partially funded through an agreement with New Territory and will serve Telfair and New Territory.
- A City-operated Convention & Visitors Bureau to promote the City as a destination center. The program is funded from restricted-use hotel occupancy taxes.

City Council also approved the 2010 tax rate of 30 cents per \$100 value — the same tax rate that has been in place since 2007. As a result, tax bills should see little change from last year, but the actual impact will depend on individual property value changes.

More than half of the FY11 budget is dedicated to capital improvements (see figure 2). Major projects in FY11 include:

- The surface water treatment plant and transmission lines, which will help the City reach its mandated 30 percent reduction in groundwater usage by 2013.
- A minor league baseball stadium and parking, which is intended to spur economic growth and establish Sugar Land as a destination for entertainment. The stadium and related infrastructure are funded through the City's economic development sales tax.

Figure 1: FY11 Revenues – \$270.56M

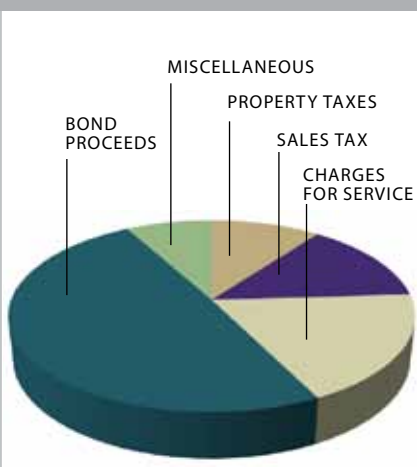
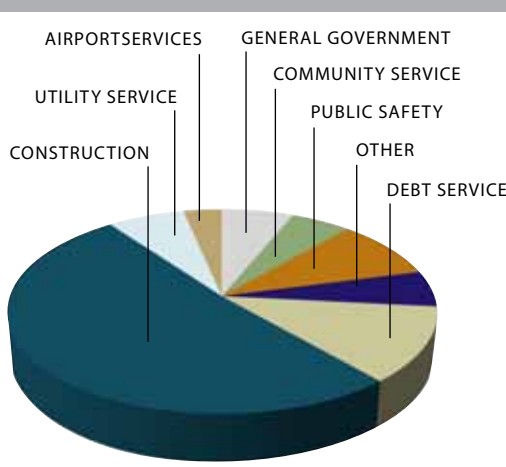


Figure 2: FY11 Expenditures – \$282.23M



## Art is in the Air

As part of Sugar Land Regional Airport's ongoing efforts to feature the work of local artists in regularly changing exhibits, the current display highlights Art League of Fort Bend members. The collection contains pieces by Matt Adams, Margaret Colvin, Jane Honovich, Larry Larrinaga, Ann McBride, Eileen McClellan, Lorena Morales, Crystal Owens, John Painter, Donna Villarreal and Donald Walker.

Drop by to look or to purchase the artwork that is for sale.

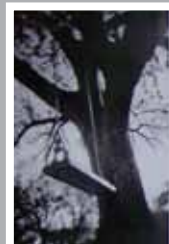
The previous exhibit featured members of the Visual Arts Alliance of Houston.

For more information, visit

[www.artleaguefortbend.org](http://www.artleaguefortbend.org)

and

[www.visualartsalliance.org](http://www.visualartsalliance.org)



## Fitness Opportunities are Shaping Up

Sugar Land City Council recently awarded a contract to Shape Up Sugar Land to develop a new robust, interactive website that will highlight fitness and wellness activities for Sugar Land residents. The website, [www.susl.org](http://www.susl.org), is scheduled for re-launch on Jan. 1, 2011.

The new website will be a result of the Mayor's Fitness Council, which was recently awarded a Phase II grant from the Texas Department of State Health Services to increase fitness opportunities in Sugar Land.

In addition to the website, look for additional activities and programs in 2011 that will help keep Sugar Land fit and healthy.

## Sugar Land Awarded Scenic City Certification

Sugar Land's high aesthetic standards were recognized in September with the Texas Scenic City "Silver" Certification from the Scenic City Program. Fourteen cities were the first to be recognized for implementing high-quality scenic standards for public



roadways and public spaces that have been proven to enhance economic development, improve quality of life and foster a sense of place. More information on the Scenic City Certification Program is available at [www.sceniccitycertification.org](http://www.sceniccitycertification.org).

Accepting the award for Sugar Land are (l-r) Regina Morales, Economic Development Director, Karen Glynn, Assistant City Manager, and Tim Neeley, Economic Development Manager.

## Baseball Stadium

*Continued from cover*

The stadium lease agreement with ODP includes the following terms:

- A 25-year net lease includes ODP's first right to negotiate renewal terms of lease.
- ODP will operate the stadium and offsite parking for all events.
- Permitted stadium uses will include baseball games, conventions, concerts, movies, meetings, festivals and fundraising galas.

- ODP will retain all revenues from stadium activities.
- The City will receive annual rent payments of \$80,000 plus an additional participation rent.
- ODP will be responsible for stadium repairs and maintenance.

An agreement with Johnson Development conveys approximately 21 acres of land for the construction of a stadium and offsite parking. The City also agreed to purchase an additional five acres of land from Johnson Development for onsite

parking. The developer will build necessary water/wastewater infrastructure to serve the stadium site.

Studies have confirmed that a proposed minor league baseball stadium at this site will not negatively impact the quality of life — noise, lighting, traffic and public safety — in existing neighborhoods.

"We are excited that minor league baseball in Sugar Land is generating so much enthusiasm," said Mayor James Thompson. "A city must keep redefining itself. With this project, we've done something that will continue

to impact future generations. I look forward to seeing the first pitch thrown during the 2012 baseball season."

The \$30-million stadium will be funded with a portion of sales tax revenues that may only be used for economic development purposes. No general fund tax dollars will be spent on the stadium. In addition to the stadium serving as a community amenity, a conservative cost-benefit analysis shows the project will provide an annual benefit to the community of conservatively \$7.7 million, or a return of \$169 million over 30 years.

## Public Infrastructure Plan Review and Inspection Fee

The City of Sugar Land recently adopted a new fee to cover expenses for review and inspection of engineering design plans for construction of development projects.

The Public Infrastructure Plan Review and Inspection Fee is a

1 percent fee assessed to the development community when the installation of public infrastructure is required to support its development. Examples of public infrastructure may include water and wastewater lines, drainage improvements (such as culverts, pipes and ditches), paving improvements for roads and sidewalk improvements.

Prior to adopting the fee in August 2010, the City was not reimbursed for time spent reviewing and inspecting public improvements associated with development. With large scale development, these reviews and inspections are often complex and time consuming.

No permit fees are assessed for installing infrastructure, so the new fee recoups the cost the City bears for performing the required review and inspections to ensure that all specifications and standards are met through the development process.

Recouping 1 percent of the total cost of of public improvements construction is expected to cover costs that support the continued development in Sugar Land.

# Ongoing Sugar Mill Drainage Improvements



A pilot channel to improve drainage for Sugar Mill and enhance aesthetics is underway.

Improvements are well underway that will improve drainage conditions to alleviate flooding conditions in the Sugar Mill subdivision. The improvements are a result of a comprehensive study of the Sugar Mill drainage system completed in October 2007 that gathered extensive public input from Sugar Mill residents and their homeowners association (HOA).

Ranking high among the

recommended projects for inclusion in the City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) was Sugar Mill Phase II improvements that target Sections 2 and 3 of Sugar Mill, where both structural (house) and street ponding problems have been documented in past rain events.

Most of Sugar Mill drains into Ditch A-22 and ultimately into Oyster Creek. Relief storm sewers are being installed

along Greenbelt Drive that would outfall into Ditch A-22 to alleviate flooding problems within these sections. In addition, Ditch A-22 is being regraded to confine low flow during smaller rain events within a pilot channel and to provide positive drainage. This in turn would minimize nuisance from water ponding, one of the HOA's concerns. Although the project's main objective is to improve drainage conditions, design features have been incorporated to improve channel aesthetics, including the use of articulated concrete blocks that would allow vegetation to grow through the channel bottom. This would provide the appearance of a natural channel, while minimizing bank erosion.

Construction of these improvements began in June 2010 and is expected to be completed by December 2010. Although construction-related nuisance is expected, measures have been taken to minimize disruption to the residents during construction. Sidewalks and streets damaged during construction will be restored along with re-establishment of turf along the banks of Ditch A-22 upon the completion of construction. Once complete, the project is expected to have a positive impact on Sugar Mill Drainage and improve aesthetics along Ditch A-22.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

### Money Management International (MMI)

located its headquarters and consolidated numerous operations in Sugar Land, bringing with it more than 350 jobs and \$3 million in capital investment. Since September, the company occupies approximately 87,000 square feet in the newly renovated Lake Corporate Center at 14141 Southwest Freeway. MMI and its family of local agencies make up the largest nonprofit, full-service credit counseling agency in the U.S.

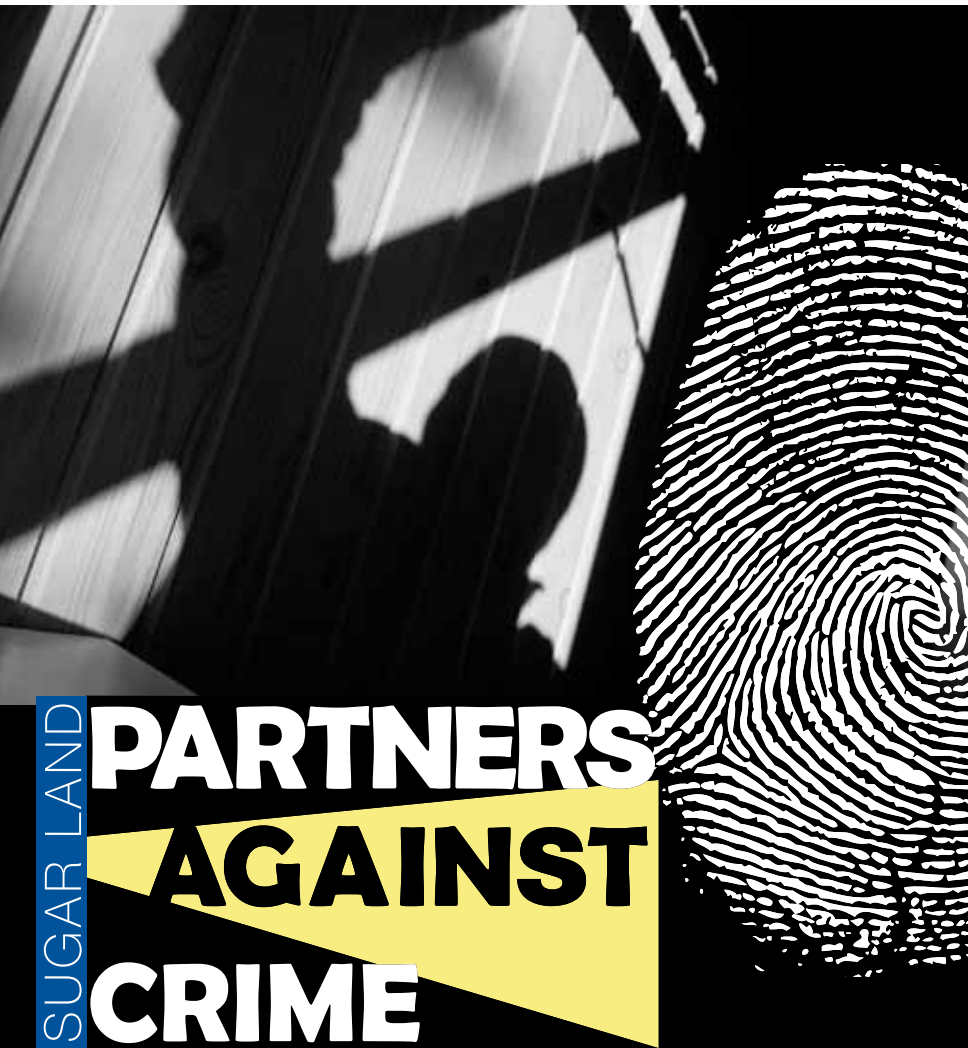
**Accredo Packaging Inc.** will expand its manufacturing facility in Sugar Land, with planned 171,000-square-foot expansion of its manufacturing facility in the Sugar Land Business Park. The expansion is being designed for LEED® Silver certification and will add more than \$9 million in real property investment, \$22 million in personal property, \$1 million in new inventory value and a minimum of 100 new jobs.

Its present facility, which received LEED® Silver certification, was the first of its kind in the U.S. to produce the latest in high performance packaging solutions. The plant uses the latest in advanced equipment and production methods, minimizing waste, pollution and carbon emissions, while utilizing 100 percent wind-generated electrical power. The facility recently received regional recognition as a finalist in the Houston Business Journal's 2010 Landmark Awards.

### Continental Poly Bags

is also expanding its Sugar Land operations with the construction of a planned 60,000-square-foot office/warehouse facility at a separate 7.5-acre site near the northeast corner of Gillingham Lane and Jess Pirtle Boulevard. The new facility would house all warehousing and distribution operations, allowing the company to expand the manufacturing operations at the Industrial Boulevard facility.

The new facility will bring the community more than \$2.5 million in real property investment, \$750,000 in inventory value and 30 jobs.



# SUGAR LAND PARTNERS AGAINST CRIME

Sugar Land Police are seeing an increase in overnight, residential burglaries of vehicles.

Residents are leaving valuables such as iPods, cell phones and GPS devices in plain view in vehicles, creating easy targets for criminals.

It's a "smash and grab" crime that occurs quickly and is often difficult for police officers to prevent. SLPD is utilizing several tools to prevent this crime, including targeted patrols, surveillance, cameras and volunteer citizen patrols.

SLPD needs residents to partner with it against crime. Many recent arrests have been the result of alert citizens who immediately call 911 to report suspicious activity, including people and vehicles that seem out of place.

One answer to helping prevent this type of crime is simple — do not leave valuables in vehicles. The following tips can help prevent vehicle burglaries:

- Keep vehicles locked at all times.
- When parked overnight, remove all valuables from vehicles.
- If personal property must be left in a car, lock it in the trunk. Unfortunately, this option does not exist for pickup trucks or SUVs. Thieves are aware that there is no secure place to store items in these types of vehicles.
- Before leaving a vehicle, take a second to look inside and make sure nothing is visible that could attract a thief.

## Fire Safety Tips

### Plan Your Escape from Fire

House fires can occur quickly — too quickly for you to stop and think. Plan your escape today so you won't waste valuable time in a real fire emergency.

"Develop a fire escape plan, and practice it with your whole family," said Michael McLemore, a captain with SLFD. "Real fires are hot, smoky and dark. You won't have time to think. Not being properly prepared to immediately exit your home may cost you your life."

If caught in a fire, do not spend time getting dressed or trying to gather valuables.

"Everyone should know two ways out of each room and where to meet outside," said McLemore. "Getting out of the house is each family member's first priority. And, once you are outside, stay out."

Smoke or flames often block primary exits, so plan a second way out of each room. Ensure young children awaken to smoke alarms. Place wireless interconnected smoke alarms throughout the home, and alert adults if smoke is detected in or near a child's room.

### Heating Safety

SLFD recommends the following heating safety tips:

- **Space heaters need space** — keep them at least three feet from anything that can burn. Turn off space heaters when leaving home or going to sleep. Look for models with an automatic shutoff feature and certification by a testing laboratory.
- **Rely on professionals** to install or inspect any new fixed heater. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when turning a heating device on or off. Make sure any fueled heating device is adequately ventilated, especially gas-fueled devices.
- **Fireplaces or wood stoves should have chimneys inspected** annually and, if necessary, cleaned of creosote buildup. Use only seasoned hardwood, and never burn trash. Keep sparks and embers inside the fireplace with fire screens of heat-tempered glass or sturdy metal.



## Smoke Alarm SAFETY

There's an easy way to ensure your smoke alarms are operating and have fresh batteries: whenever you change your clocks, change your batteries. When daylight savings time ends on Nov. 7, let that be your reminder to change your smoke alarm batteries and test the alarms, too, in November.

281.275.

# 2020

Non-Emergency

# 911

Emergency



1200 Highway 6 South  
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Construction of the City of Sugar Land's newest fire station will soon be underway. Fire Station #7 will be located on 1.7 acres at 1301 Chatham Avenue, at the corner of New Territory Blvd. in Telfair. It will serve the Telfair subdivision and New Territory in Sugar Land's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Substantial completion is anticipated for June 2011.

The facility will be approximately 14,648 square feet and capable of accommodating fire apparatus and an ambulance. It will have two

drive-through equipment bays with maintenance and repair space and gear storage. Living quarters include a kitchen/dining room, training room,

# FIRE STATION # 7 TO BE BUILT IN TELFAIR

exercise room, offices, sleeping rooms and bathrooms. The station has been designed to resist Category 3 hurricanes.

Sustainability is an important consideration for the station, and LEED® certification is being pursued through the use of plumbing fixtures with low flow rates, recycled and regional materials, and management of construction waste materials.

The new fire station is necessary to meet the fire emergency needs resulting from the area's growth and expansion. The proposed construction is in accordance with the strategic partnership agreement between the City and all New Territory municipal utility districts.



Attending a groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 7 were (l-r) Assistant City Manager Karen Daly, Assistant Public Works Director Mike Leech, City Manager Allen Bogard, City Engineer Chris Steubing, Councilmember Russell Jones, Councilmember Donald L. Smithers, Councilmember Jacqueline Baly Chaumette, Mayor James A. Thompson, Councilmember Donald G. Olson, Councilmember Thomas Abraham, Fire Chief Juan Adame, Assistant City Manager Steve Griffith, Engineer Idahosa Igbinoba, Assistant Fire Chief Clay Fenwick, Senior Project Manager David Gaines and Fire Capt. Brian Holcombe.

## Your Input is Vital to Comprehensive Mobility Plan

The City of Sugar Land continues to develop its first-ever Comprehensive Mobility Plan, which will define the City's preferred long-range transportation system. The project will contemplate various transportation modes including rail, park and rides, circulators or trolleys, air travel and those for pedestrians and bicycles.

The project's first phase involves

establishing the City's mobility goals. The City developed draft goals based on public input and presented them for consideration at the Mobility Summit in September. Approximately 75 members of the public attended and gave their input on a variety of Sugar Land's long-term transportation needs.

The City would like to get your opinion

on these goals and learn your vision for mobility in Sugar Land. Attend our public meetings tentatively scheduled for Jan. 12 and Feb. 23, 2011. (Check [www.sugarlandmobility.com](http://www.sugarlandmobility.com) to confirm the dates.)

Thanks for shaping the future of mobility in Sugar Land!

## US 59 AND SH 6 IMPROVEMENTS



Looking north at US 59 crossing over SH 6.

Improvements along US Highway 59 and State Highway 6 are part of a three-phase construction project to improve the north and southbound SH 6 approaches to US 59. The lane shifts that occur as drivers approach US 59 on SH 6 from both the north and south will be straightened. Also, capacity will be added to all of the SH 6 turn lanes that access the US 59 frontage roads. The first phase — installation of the triple left turn — has been completed.

Phase II is currently underway and includes the straightening of the through lanes and adding storage capacity to the turn lanes. Due to the amount of traffic at this intersection, work is currently being completed at night. Phase II has two construction components: improvements to the medians followed by the driveways and outside lanes. The medians are complete and the contractor is currently working on the driveways and outside lane improvements. Phase II is expected to be complete mid-November 2010.

The final phase is in preliminary design. This phase will expand SH 6 to an 8-lane roadway section from First Colony/Brooks Street to Lexington Boulevard.

## Town Center Mobility Project Lands \$4 Million

The City of Sugar Land has been awarded state and federal grants totaling \$4 million for a project intended to provide safe, convenient access for pedestrians and bicyclists within the Town Center business district, eventually connecting to a larger hike and bike trail system throughout the city.

The Texas Department of Transportation's Transportation Enhancement program and the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program will each provide approximately \$2 million for the following improvements:

- Sidewalks and paths will be expanded to improve access between popular

locations such as Sugar Land Town Square, First Colony Mall and the AMC Theatre.

- Ten-foot-wide paths for bicyclists and pedestrians will be added on the north and southbound frontage roads along U.S. Highway 59 from Williams Trace Boulevard to Bullhead Slough (aka Ditch H).
- Striped crosswalks will be built at paths that intersect streets and driveways.
- Special enhancements, including illumination and pedestrian barriers, will be added at State Highway 6 and

Sweetwater Boulevard to provide a safe passage under US 59.

The improvements will connect to Sugar Land's existing and planned hike and bike trail network and will ultimately provide pedestrian and bicycle access to the Town Center area from many areas around town.

The improvements were originally identified in a study performed in 2007 by the City and the Houston-Galveston Area Council to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and mobility in the City's center.

Construction could begin as early as late 2011.

Utility (water, wastewater and surface water) and solid waste rate increases will be effective in 2011, as recommended in the FY 2011 budget.

New utility rates are effective for bills after January 1, 2011. The City water and wastewater system is self-supporting. Each year, rates are adjusted to reflect increasing costs of providing water 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.

## Utility Rates TO INCREASE

Most of the utility rate increase is needed to support construction of a surface water treatment plant, which is required to meet a legislative mandate to reduce the amount of water pumped from underground wells. The City must reduce groundwater usage 30 percent by 2013. All participants in the City's groundwater reduction plan will pay increased fees beginning January 1, 2011 as the City gears up for construction of the surface water treatment plant. City utility customers see this as a line item on their utility bill for Surface Water.

An average home that consumes 11,000 gallons of water per month with a winter average of 6,700 gallons will see an increase of about \$4.37 per month starting on the January bill.

Residential customers are billed monthly service charges plus a volumetric charge per 1,000 gallons for wastewater; the volumetric charge is reset in April based on the average of each customer's water volume billed in February and March. As a result, customers may see a change in the amount billed for wastewater on their April bill. By controlling water usage during this time period, customers can manage the amount they are billed for wastewater through the rest of the year.

Solid waste rates will increase on March 1, 2011, based on an increase in the City's contractual cost of service. The total amount will be \$17.63 per month, an increase of 93 cents.

# Check for Leaks to Reduce Your Water Use

Want to potentially lower your water bill and save water? Focus on where water is being wasted inside your home.

Leaks are a major source of water loss and contribute to higher water bills. A small leak in the toilet or faucet can go unnoticed but will increasingly waste more and more water. Taking a few minutes to canvas the house for leaks will reduce your water use and save money over time.

Leaking toilets are the #1 water waster because they often go undetected. To check a toilet for leaks: Add several drops of dark food coloring to the tank of all your toilets. Wait 10-15 minutes and check the water in the bowl. If it is tinted, you have a leaking toilet!

Usually, a new flapper may be all you need.

Leaking faucets are usually easy to detect. Don't forget to check infrequently used faucets, such as those in guest bathrooms. Take time to assure that no faucets in your home are leaking.

Most household leaks are easily fixed. A local home improvement store can help with instructions and demonstrations on replacing washers and toilet parts. If you are uncomfortable trying to fix-it-yourself, hiring a plumber will be cheaper over time than paying for water you are not using.

For more ways to reduce your water use, contact the Utilities Department at 281-275-2450.

## Be Storm



## Friendly

### Residential Car Washing

Drivers enjoy having a nice clean car. However, washing your car on a paved surface allows the soapy water and dirt to quickly enter nearby storm drains and flow untreated into City waterways like Oyster Creek. This contaminated runoff can cause significant harm to aquatic plant life, fish and other animals.

Although the best alternative to reducing this pollution is to wash your car at a certified car wash facility, taking these simple steps can help minimize pollution from home.

- Wash your vehicle on the lawn or over a landscaped area to absorb the liquid and limit runoff from your property.
- Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle. Not only do you reduce water runoff, but you help conserve water.
- Empty the dirty wash water onto a landscaped or other porous area.
- Use biodegradable soap, which can be identified by manufacturers' labels.

### Mark a Difference

The City of Sugar Land and Keep Sugar Land Beautiful (KSLB) are always looking for volunteers to help mark storm drains with educational messages intended to encourage residents to help reduce the harmful effects of pollutants entering City storm drains.

To volunteer, please contact KSLB at **281-313-5752** or visit **www.kslb.org**

## Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Send your bare Christmas tree back to the earth as mulch!

Christmas trees that are not flocked and are free of all ornaments, tinsel, trimmings, metal tree stands and plastic sacks can be recycled through these options provided by the City of Sugar Land:

- Curbside Tree Collection will occur on Wednesday, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5 and Saturday, Jan. 8. Christmas tree pick-up will begin at 7 a.m. Trees set out on any other collection day or not meeting the recycling requirements will go to the landfill and not be recycled.



- Drop-off sites for Christmas trees will be available at Lost Creek Park, 3703 Lost Creek Boulevard, and Eldridge Park, 2511 Eldridge Road, between Dec. 27 and Jan. 9. Trees dropped off at the collection sites that do not meet recycling requirements may contaminate the other trees and will be considered illegal dumping. Flocked trees cannot be recycled and must be disposed of with normal household garbage. Collected trees will be taken to a composting facility and ground into mulch.

For more information, call 281-275-2450 or e-mail [solidwaste@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:solidwaste@sugarlandtx.gov).

## Decorative Traffic Signal Assemblies Will be Made in Sugar Land

With the increased number of decorative traffic signals in Sugar Land and the need to quickly replace damaged poles and bases, the City sought to find a local solution. Fortunately for the City, a local company, KW Industries, was willing to take on the task of designing a new base and pole that met all of the City's design requirements. KW Industries has been awarded a contract to supply the City with decorative traffic signal poles and bases.

The City will be using this new source at three intersections where the current span wire installation is reaching its useful life. New traffic signals will be constructed at the intersections of State Highway 6 at Williams Trace Boulevard, State Highway 6 at Settlers Way Boulevard and State Highway 6 at Frost Pass. The project is estimated to be completed by February 2011 and will result in a more uniform appearance that is truly "made in Sugar Land."

### RECREATION



Side view of the new Imperial Park Recreation Center.

## Recreation Center Opening

*Continued from cover*

- A multi-purpose room will be divisible for different events and have audio visual support systems, tables and seating, and a food prep area with refrigerator and sink. The room will also have access to a hardscape patio and garden area.

"The Parks and Recreation Department is looking forward to opening the City's first municipal recreation center and continuing to elevate Sugar Land's exceptional quality of life," said Jim Browne, Parks and Recreation director.

## Calling All Leisure Instructors

Are you interested in teaching a leisure class or activity at the new Imperial Park Recreation Center? The program coordinator wants to hear from you. Call 281-615-5105 or email [kdaddeo@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:kdaddeo@sugarlandtx.gov).

# Leisure Classes

Call 281-275-2885 for registration information.  
Nonresidents: add 25% to all fees.

## TENNIS LESSONS

**City Park Tennis Courts**  
Fort Bend Tennis Services

(281) 980-4219

## FIT HAVING FUN

Nicida Merafat

**Sugar Land Community Center**

**When:** Monday & Thursday  
5:30 p.m.

**Ages:** 16 & up

**Price:** \$40 for 4 weeks

## YOGA FOR EVERYBODY

Ken Hainline, RYT

**First Colony Conference Center**

**When:** Tuesday & Thursday 7:15 p.m.

## TAI CHI

Jason Leung

**Sugar Land Community Center**

**When:** Wednesday 3-5:30 p.m.

**Ages:** 18 & up

**Price:** \$20 per year

(832) 567-2509 Call Jason

## ZUMBA GOLD

Linda King

**Sugar Land Community Center**

**When:** Monday and Wednesday

1 p.m.

**Ages:** 50 & up

**Price:** \$50 for 4 weeks,  
\$10 for one class

## JAZZERCISE LITE

**Sugar Land Community Center**

**When:** Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
9 a.m.

(281) 545-1023

[www.pearftbendjazz.com](http://www.pearftbendjazz.com)

## TAI CHI

Skip Jarret, C.I.

**Sugar Land Community Center**

**When:** Wednesday 7 p.m.

**Ages:** 12 - Adult

**Price:** \$7 per class

## EFFORTLESS YOGA

Nicida Merafat

**Sugar Land Community Center**

**When:** Monday & Thursday 6:30 p.m.

**Ages:** 16 & up

**Price:** \$40 for 4 weeks

**Sugar Land Community Center**

**When:** Wednesday 5:45 p.m.

**Ages:** 18+

**Price:** \$45 per six-week series

(281) 265-0770 Call Ken

[www.y4eb.com](http://www.y4eb.com)

For one price you can attend as many classes as you would like each week. Please bring a yoga mat to class.

## PLAY AND MUSIC CLASSES

Erin Mahaffey

Nov. 9 – Dec. 15

**Eldridge Park Meeting Room**

**When:** Tuesday

10 – 10:45 a.m. (10 mos – 2 yrs)

11 – 11:45 a.m. (6 mos – 1 yr)

Wednesday

9:45 – 10:30 a.m. (2 – 3 yrs)

10:45 – 11:30 a.m. (6 mos – 4 yrs)

11:45 a.m. – 12:130 p.m. (3 – 4 yrs)

**Price:** \$70 for 6 weeks,  
40% discount for siblings

(832) 319-4065 Call Erin

[www.spudlings.com](http://www.spudlings.com)

## ZUMBA

Cida Moore

**Eldridge Park Meeting Room**

**When:** Monday 6:30 p.m.

Thursday 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 11 a.m.

**Ages:** 16 & up

**Price:** \$80 for 10 weeks, \$10 for one class

## JAZZERCISE

**First Colony Community Center**

**When:** Monday and Wednesday  
8:15 & 9:30 a.m.; 4:30 & 5:40 p.m.

Tuesday  
4:30, 5:40 & 6:40 p.m.

Thursday  
8:15, 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.; 4:30, 5:40 & 6:15 p.m.

Friday  
8:15 & 9:30 a.m.; 4:30 & 5:40 p.m.

Saturday  
8 & 9 a.m.

**Sugar Land Community Center**

**When:** Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
8:15 a.m.

(281) 545-1023

[www.pearftbendjazz.com](http://www.pearftbendjazz.com)

## KARATE

Jan. 19 – Mar. 11, 2011

**Eldridge Park**

**When:** Wednesdays

6 – 7 p.m. New Students (5 – 12 yrs)

7 – 8 p.m. Advanced (5 – 12 yrs)

8 – 9 p.m. Teens and Adults (13 – 70 yrs)

**Price:** \$45 per session

Uniform required (\$30); can be purchased from instructor.

## CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING

Dao Troung

Call for dates.

**Lost Creek Meeting Room**

**When:** Every other Thursday

9:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**Ages:** 16 & up

**Price:** Resident discount price,  
\$60 for 6 weeks.

A supply fee is paid to the instructor.

## DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Sue Williams

Certified ACBL Director and Teacher

**First Colony Community Center**

**When:** Tuesdays

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays  
1 – 4:30 p.m.

**Price:** \$4 per game

(281) 980-9588

# Special Senior Activities and Additional Leisure Classes

Send your e-mail address to [seniors@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:seniors@sugarlandtx.gov) to receive information on additional activities and programs.

Events are free and held at Senior Center, 200 Matlage Way, unless otherwise noted. The center is open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information on senior activities or to sign up for the "Sweet Notes" call 281-275-2893 or e-mail [seniors@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:seniors@sugarlandtx.gov).

**Tuesday, Nov. 9**

**Senior Safety: Smoke Alarms & a Safety Trivia Game**  
10 a.m.

**Wednesday, Nov. 10**

**Turkey Pot Luck**  
Sugar Land Community Center  
12 noon  
RSVP by Friday, Nov. 5.

**Wednesday, Nov. 10**

**Driver's Safety**  
Sponsored by AARP Chapter #4075 and the City of Sugar Land  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
**\$14** Regular Price  
**\$12** AARP member discount  
Open to anyone with a valid driver's license. NOT certified for ticket dismissal. To reserve, call Curtis Cook at **713-553-7255**.

**Wednesday & Thursday, Nov. 17 & 18**

**Paragon Casino**

Depart at 7:30 a.m.  
\$54 Double occupancy per person  
\$63 Single occupancy  
\$43 Resident discount double occupancy  
\$53 Single occupancy  
Price includes transportation,  
\$10 meal voucher,  
\$20 cash play and hotel room

**Monday, Nov. 22 - Dec. 20**

**Beginning Painting: Fire Extinguisher Box**  
1 p.m.

A supply fee (\$5 per week) and a canvas fee (\$6) for this class are payable to the instructor, Heather Roy.

**Tuesday, Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**

**Beginning Painting: Wagon Wheel**

A supply fee (\$5 per week) and a canvas fee (\$6) for this class are payable to the instructor, Heather Roy.

**Thursday, Dec. 9**

**Senior Holiday Gala**

Noon - 3 p.m.  
Early registration for residents begins Monday, Nov. 8  
Registration begins Thursday, Nov. 18  
Registration ends Wednesday, Nov. 24  
Space is limited

**Tuesday, Dec. 14**

**Senior Safety: Carbon Monoxide & Poisoning Prevention**  
10 a.m.

## CELEBRATING AND CARING DURING THE HOLIDAYS

For more information on these events, visit [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov) or call Parks and Recreation at

**281-275-2885.**

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

The City of Sugar Land invites you to energetic and vibrant New Year's Eve festivities in Town Square on Friday, Dec. 31. This party will have entertainment never before seen in Sugar Land, lively music and state-of-the-art lighting effects.

The evening will be divided into two special celebrations:

- Children's Celebration: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
  - Adults' Celebration: 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.
- Responsible adults 21 years and older will be able to purchase alcohol from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

### FOOD DRIVE

The Share Your Holiday Food Drive will once again help feed hundreds of families this holiday season. Requested items include baby formula, diapers and nonperishable food items (e.g., canned goods, canned meats, dried beans and fruits, flour, rice, sugar and powdered and canned milk).

Make your donations from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10 at the Sugar Land Senior Center, 200 Matlage Way.

### TREE LIGHTING

Celebrate with family, friends and neighbors on Thursday, Dec. 2 at the eighth annual Christmas Tree Lighting at Town Square. Entertainment and activities will start at 5 p.m. This year's main stage will feature talent from local schools, various up-and-coming area bands and much more, all leading up to Santa's surprise grand arrival at 7:30 p.m. Come enjoy the festivities and see what Santa has planned!

Come join the pool sharks at the Senior Center.



SENIOR PROGRAMS

GENRE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
GAMES	<p><b>Pool</b> 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Table Tennis<sup>1</sup></b> 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>Mah Jong</b> 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>Mah Jong</b> 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Pool</b> 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Party Bridge</b> 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Mah Jong</b> 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Rummikub</b> 2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Pool</b> 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Table Tennis<sup>1</sup></b> 8 a.m. – Noon</p> <p><b>Cards &amp; Dominoes</b> 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Mexican Train</b> 3 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Pool</b> 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Mah Jong</b> 12:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>42</b> 2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Pool</b> 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</p>	
ART	<p><b>Art Class<sup>2</sup></b> 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Chinese Brush Painting<sup>1,2</sup></b> 3rd Tuesday of the Month 9:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Art Class<sup>1,2</sup></b> 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>China Painting<sup>2</sup></b> 1 – 3 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Needle Arts</b> 1 – 3 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Crafts</b> 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Fine Art with Annette</b> 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.</p>	
EXERCISE	<p><b>Walking Club<sup>2</sup></b> 8 a.m.</p> <p><b>Yoga</b> 9 a.m.</p> <p><b>Line Dancing<sup>1</sup></b> 9 a.m. (beginners) 10 a.m. (intermediate)</p> <p><b>Sit &amp; Be Fit</b> 11:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Zumba<sup>1,3</sup></b> 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Walking Club<sup>2</sup></b> 8 a.m.</p> <p><b>Jazzercise<sup>1,2</sup></b> 9 a.m.</p> <p><b>Salsa, Merengue and More</b> 11:15 a.m.</p> <p><b>Wii</b> 1 – 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>Yoga</b> 3 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Walking Club<sup>2</sup></b> 8 a.m.</p> <p><b>Tai Chi</b> 9 a.m. (intermediate) 10:30 a.m. (beginner)</p> <p><b>Zumba<sup>1,3</sup></b> 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Line Dancing<sup>1</sup></b> 1 p.m. (intermediate 2)</p>	<p><b>Walking Club<sup>2</sup></b> 8 a.m.</p> <p><b>Yoga</b> 8:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Jazzercise<sup>1,2</sup></b> 9 a.m.</p> <p><b>Sit &amp; Be Fit</b> 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>Line Dancing</b> 10 a.m. (advanced 1) 10:30 a.m. (level 2)<sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>Wii</b> 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Walking Club<sup>2</sup></b> 8 a.m.</p> <p><b>Jazzercise<sup>1,2</sup></b> 9 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Walking Club<sup>2</sup></b> 8 a.m.</p>
LANGUAGE	<p><b>English as Second Language</b> 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Learn to Speak Chinese</b> 9 a.m. (beginner) 10 a.m. (intermediate)</p>	<p><b>English as Second Language</b> 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Functional Spanish</b> 1 p.m.</p>		
COMPUTER	<p><b>Computer Buddy:</b> call 281-275-2885 for an appointment</p>					

**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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 SUGAR LAND, TX.  
 Permit No. 8

**POSTAL CUSTOMER**



**calendar**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>NOV</b>	9	Planning and Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	16	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	25-26	Thanksgiving holiday; City offices closed; Thursday solid waste collection on Friday; Friday collection on Saturday		
<b>DECEMBER</b>	2	Christmas Tree Lighting	5 p.m.	Town Square
	7, 21, 28	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	9	Senior Holiday Gala	Noon-3 p.m.	Community Center
	10	Share Your Holiday Food Drive	7 a.m.-6 p.m.	Senior Center
	14	Planning and Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	24	Christmas Eve; City offices closed		
	31	New Year's Eve festivities	7 p.m.-1 a.m.	Town Square
<b>JANUARY</b>	1	New Year's Day; No solid waste collection		
	4, 18, 25	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	11, 27	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	14	State of the City	7:30 a.m.	Marriott Town Square
	17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day; City offices closed; Regular solid waste collection occurs		
<b>FEB</b>	1, 15, 22	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	8, 24	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall

For Town Square events, visit [www.sugarlandtownsquare.com](http://www.sugarlandtownsquare.com).  
 Visit [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov) to confirm City events.