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

Visit our dedicated 50th Anniversary website for upcoming activities, news and historical features. Go to www.sugarlandtx.gov.

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

Few other cities have experienced the dramatic growth and accomplishments seen in Sugar Land. The population jumped from 24,529 in 1990 to today's 79,732. In just a decade the City has seen a 100 percent job growth, now with 41,000 jobs in the City.

Sugar Land has been consistently ranked as one of the safest, most diverse and most livable cities in which to live.

The Mayors


Bill Little (1961-1964)

C.E. Madden (1968-1972)

Roy Corrades, Sr. (1972-1981)

Walter M. Means (1981-1986)

Lee Duigan (1986-1996)

Dean A. Rubacek (1996-2002)

David G. Wallace (2002-2008)

James A. Thompson (2008 to present)

Interested in hearing about your City’s history and seeing some remarkable historic photos? The 50th Anniversary Speakers Bureau is now scheduling its fascinating presentation about our city’s past. You can arrange for this 40-minute presentation to your group by visiting our website at www.sugarlandtx.gov or by contacting the City’s Bureau Manager at 281-275-2216.

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And if you’d like to see Sugar Land’s historic sites up close and personal, you will want to go on one of the monthly Historic Walking Tours, scheduled for the first Saturday of each month in 2009, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. (Rain date will be the following Sat.) The tours are guided by a knowledgeable local historian. All walkers are urged to bring plenty of water and sun protection. For more information, or to reserve a place, call 281-275-2216.
Celebrating 50 Years
City of Sugar Land
Timeline
1959-2009

1959
Sugar Land
is founded by
James Milbin
as a place
for veterans
in 1958.

1959
Sugar Land
is incorporated.

1960s
Sugar Land
begins to
grow. New
homes and
businesses are
developed.

1968
Highway 59
is extended.

1970
Sugar Creek
Ranch is
acquired for
development.

1972
Sugar Land
first annexes
Green Valley
and Venetian
Estates.

1974
The Imperial
Estates
development
begins.

1975
Sugar Land
High School
opens.

1978
Sugar
Land
annexes
First Colony. It
is one of the
largest development
of subdivisions in
the U.S.

1980
First Colony
annexes Sugar
Land.

1981
Sugar Land
High opens –
the first of 16
new schools in
Fort Bend ISD.

1984
Sugar Land
extends
Highway 90.

1985
Sugar Land
extends
Highway 59.

1986
Sugar
Land
annexes
Sugar Creek
Cattle Ranch.

1990
Sugar
Land
annexes
the 1,200
acres
of Sugar Land
Express, taking
its name to
Sugar
Land.

1991
Sugar
Land
annexes
Federal
River
tract.

1996
Sugar
Land
annexes
Sugar Creek
State Park
lands. The film
Sugar Land
opened.

1998
Sugar
Land
annexes
First Colony
next
decade.

2000
Sugar
Land
annexes
Sugar
Land
Municipal
Airport.

2004
Sugar
Land
annexes
Sugar
Land
hospitals.

2008
Sugar
Land
annexes
Sugar
Land
neighborhood
clinics, office
buildings, the
University of
Houston, and the
city that's going
to be out there.
You can see how
prophetic that was,
because if you drive
out Hwy 59, you'll
see hospitals,
which would have
come in between
Sugar Land and
Richmond.

2009
Sugar
Land
annexes
Sugar
Land
industries.

2010
Sugar
Land
annexes
Sugar
Land
corporations, Fluor,
Unocal and others.

Our council meetings started out fairly short. Then, as we annexed new areas and people began moving in, things got a little hectic for a while and some of our council meetings went to midnight.

We had one office space and one other room. The Imperial company donated desks and chairs, and the Lions Club donated tables and chairs for the council table.

It is now a commitment for the City, a promise of inclusion that our children will pass instead of account vouchers, cleaning streets, and answering citizens' calls on our hot line. And we were ended up with 241 acres for the university and another 432 acres of park land for the city.