

City Hall in Town Center



Sugar Land CIVICS



Airport Academy class members receive safety tips before heading out to the airport's runway



Sugar Land's Imperial Sugar Factory closed in 2003

Civic Minded Citizens Get Involved in Government

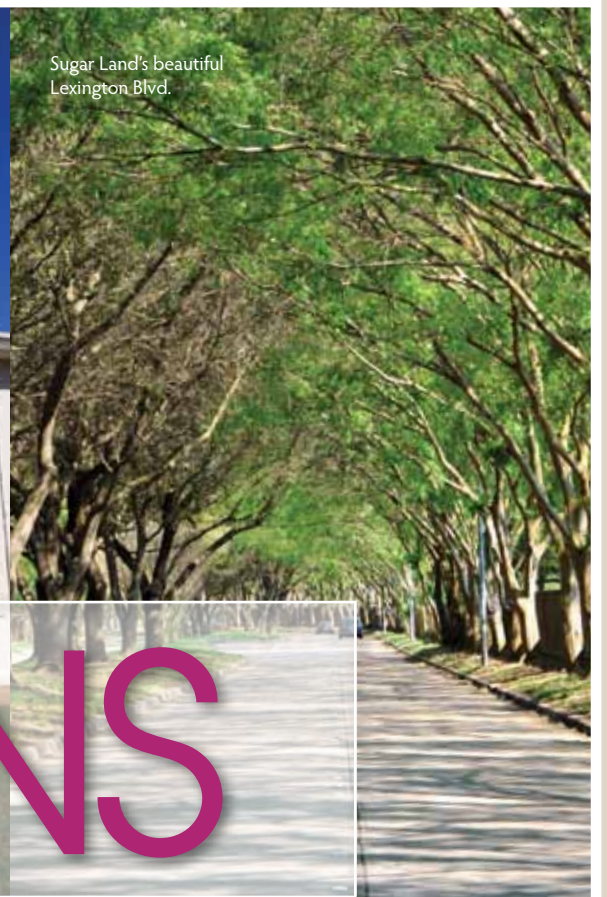
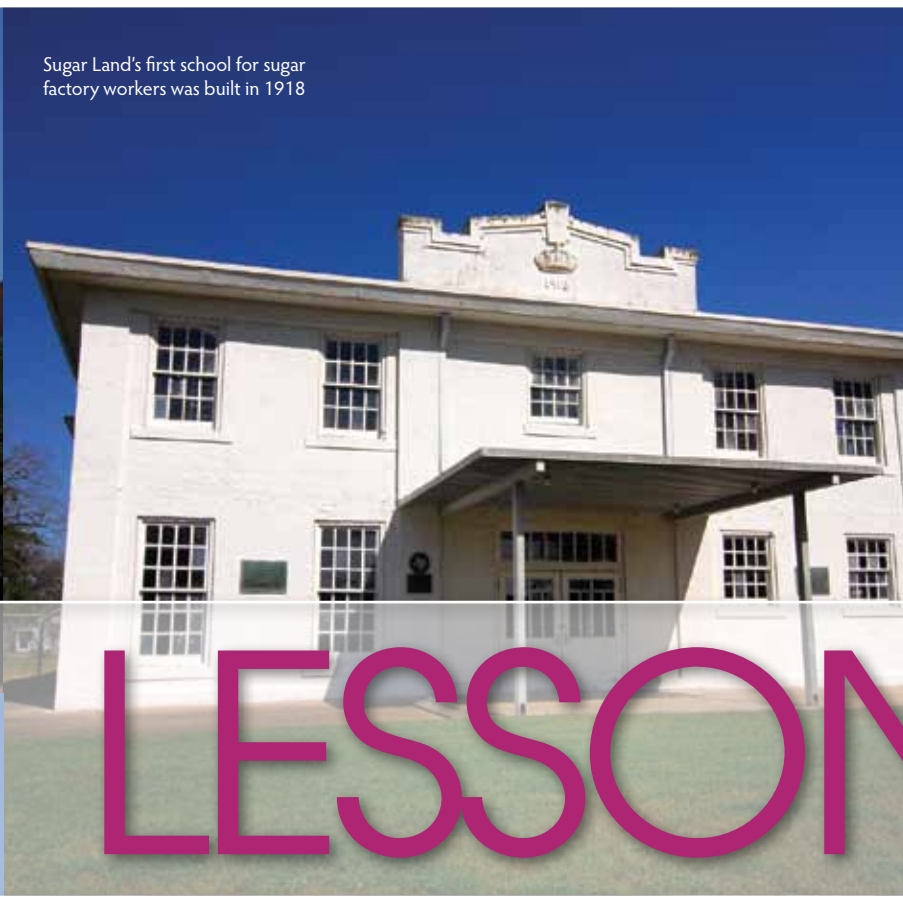
Written by Katherine Goldberg

Taking an active interest in the Sugar Land community she so loves is important to Lauren Arnold, a mom of two who is proud of the fact her children are fifth-generation Sugar Landers. Wanting to learn more about her hometown and how the city works, she decided to participate in the Sugar Land Citizen Involvement

Program, taking all of the classes offered and discovering just how much goes into the day-to-day operations of a community. "The classes show a different side of Sugar Land," she says. "It is very interesting to know how the city works and how the different departments work. I've gained a lot of knowledge and know some

Sugar Land's first school for sugar factory workers was built in 1918

Sugar Land's beautiful Lexington Blvd.



LESSONS

Citizens learn to take an active role in fire safety with the Fire Academy



Sugar Land Police Academy members travel in specially marked vehicles, providing patrol support to the SLPD



of what is really going on throughout the city.” By creating an atmosphere where residents work to serve the community and each other, Sugar Land has built a unique and innovative structure for delivering services and educating the public about city functions and responsibilities. The program actively seeks to involve citizens through education and volunteer participation in four main classes, strengthening the bond between residents and government.

Sugar Land 101

The Sugar Land 101 starter course lets participants hold a mock city council meeting. This course allows Sugar Land residents a

peek into the often relied upon, but not often understood, worlds of the municipal airport, fire and police departments, water treatment plant, and traffic operation center. Along with the opportunity to meet city leaders and department heads, the SL 101 course lets members hold a mock city council meeting. It is a great way for residents who are interested in local government to get their feet wet and get a full picture of what is involved in running our great city.

Sugar Land Citizens Police Academy

Whether you want to reenact an episode of CSI, or you just want

The Airport Academy's most recent class



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to figure out why you keep getting those speeding tickets, the Citizen's Police Academy is an arresting experience with some of Sugar Land's finest. Members of this academy learn what goes into life on the front lines of citizen protection. The course includes lessons on firearms training, patrol procedures, crime scene investigation, traffic laws and stops, and self-defense training.

Sugar Land Citizens Fire Academy

If the world of Sugar Land's bravest interests you, the Fire Academy might be a hot topic of interest. Participants in this course learn about all of the great things that our Sugar Land Fire Services provide. Far beyond fighting fires, residents can learn about the department's terrorism training and readiness and life saving techniques, and they even get to don the full protective gear that firefighters wear.

The fire department is very involved in community services that educate citizens about safety practices, fire prevention, and emergency readiness. Participants in this course learn about ways they can help the fire department educate Sugar Land residents, so that we can all pitch in to increase safety in our area.

Sugar Land Airport Academy

If watching the planes fly overhead at Cullinan Park is more your speed, you might enjoy the Airport Academy. This unique learning experience provides residents with a full scope of information about the airport. The course covers topics from aviation operations to the airport's role in our local economy, and even serves up a little history. With the Sugar Land airport recently ranked as the number one fixed base of operation airport in America, the inside access is really top-flight.

Taking an Active Role Your Community

If you are looking to get more involved in our city, look no further than the many opportunities that are offered for residents of Sugar Land. By being active participants in our local services, we can all be better aware of the needs of the city and the ways that we can help make a difference.

“They are wonderful classes that teach you more about the community,” says Sugar Land resident Chandy Chowdhury, who has taken all but one of the Citizen Involvement courses. By the end of each class, participants know a lot about how they can get involved as volunteers. Chowdhury turned what she learned from the Airport Academy into a great volunteer opportunity as a tour guide at Sugar Land Airport’s open house.

Many rewarding moments can be found through Sugar Land’s Citizen Involvement Program. Courses are offered at varying times throughout the year, and are free and open to residents who apply and meet entrance requirements. Visit sugarlandtx.gov. If you know of a great way to get involved in the Sugar Land community, email editor@sugarlandmagazine.com. SLM

KATHERINE GOLDBERG is a freelance writer and Sugar Land newcomer who loves learning and writing about her new hometown.

Sugar Land 101’s most recent class of graduates



Become a Team Player

Consider these Sugar Land volunteer options

Community Assistance Support Team

Volunteers assist the Sugar Land Police Department with:

- ✓ Patrol duties and support
- ✓ Emergency response
- ✓ Fingerprinting of citizens
- ✓ Child safety seat inspection
- ✓ Victim services

Community Emergency Response Team

Volunteers assist the Sugar Land Fire Department with:

- ✓ Disaster preparedness
- ✓ Fire suppression
- ✓ Health and medical concerns
- ✓ Triage
- ✓ Search and rescue





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