



AUGUST 2026 EDITION

The Voice of Business

As the voice of business in the region, the Pearland Chamber continues to create opportunities for our members to engage directly with government and the leaders making decisions that impact our community.

September will provide several opportunities to stay informed and engaged. On September 3, the Chamber, in partnership with the Northern Brazoria County Chamber of Commerce, will host the Brazoria County Judge Candidate Forum and Candidate Information Fair. The event will connect the community with candidates on the November ballot and include a moderated forum with candidates for Brazoria County Judge. On September 10, our Knowledge Series will feature a Conversation with Rushi Patel, followed by Meet the Leaders: A Reception with Elected Officials on September 23.

[Click Here for Information on the Brazoria County Judge Candidate Forum](#)

[Click Here to Register for the Conversation with Rushi Patel](#)

[Click Here to Register for the Elected Officials Reception](#)

Employment Situation

The July 2026 Houston Area Employment Situation report, released by Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast, shows Pearland's unemployment rate at 4.9%, remaining below Brazoria County at 5.4% and slightly ahead of the Houston MSA at 4.7%. The Houston unemployment rate decreased slightly from June but remains above the Texas rate of 4.4% and the national rate of 4.2%.

Regionally, the Houston MSA lost 25,000 jobs in July; however, much of the decline reflects normal summer employment patterns, with Government accounting for 23,600 of those losses, largely due to public education. Private-sector employment declined by only 1,400 jobs, while seasonally adjusted employment actually increased by 600. Over the past year, Houston has added 50,300 jobs, or 1.5%, with seven of eleven major sectors showing growth. Professional and Business Services led the region with 17,700 new jobs, followed by Construction with 13,100 and Private Education and Health Services with 9,800.

Connecting employers and job seekers remains an important part of the Chamber's workforce efforts. The 5th Annual WorkInPearland Community Job Fair, in partnership with the Pearland Economic Development Corporation, will take place September 16, providing local employers an opportunity to connect directly with prospective employees and giving job seekers access to businesses hiring throughout the region.

[Click Here for the Employment Report](#)

[Click Here for the WorkInPearland Community Job Fair](#)

Sales Tax Update

The City of Pearland receives updates on sales tax collection from the state. This is the most recent report available to the Pearland Chamber. Sales Tax collections are a great tool to evaluate the local economy. The report is always from two months prior, so the most recent report reflects March's numbers. The total net collections for the month-to-month comparison increased to the previous **May by \$482,837** and is 6.9% ahead of the city's YTD adopted annual budget. The current period collections compared to last year are up 11.4%. Page 2 of the report compares Pearland to other cities across the state.

[Click Here to Access the Report](#)

Development in Pearland

The Pearland Economic Development Corporation recently highlighted a significant expansion by Applied Optoelectronics, Inc. (AOI) in the Lower Kirby District. AOI has begun construction on two adjacent properties that will add nearly 400,000 square feet of manufacturing capacity in Pearland. The expansion will support increased production of the company's 800G and 1.6T optical transceivers, technology that plays an important role in the high-speed data infrastructure supporting artificial intelligence.

PEDC also highlighted the expansion through its social media channels as an example of Pearland's ability to support advanced manufacturing and technology companies through strong infrastructure and access to talent. AOI's continued investment reinforces Lower Kirby's growing role as an employment and innovation center within the Houston region while creating opportunities for additional high-quality jobs in Pearland.

The Chamber also **had 6 Ribbon Cuttings in the month of July**. Ribbon Cuttings are a great opportunity to meet new members and learn about their company:

- [Scott Williamson - Terminix Attic, Air & Pest Solutions](#)
- [KWC Partners LLC](#)
- [FACE FOUNDRIE](#)
- [Graze Craze Pearland](#)
- [Solis Mammography at HCA Houston Healthcare Pearland](#)
- [Luxz Painting & Construction Services](#)

[Click Here to Read the Full AOI Announcement from PEDC](#)

[Click Here to See PEDC's Social Media Update](#)

Pearland Innovation Hub

The Pearland Innovation Hub continues to support Pearland entrepreneurs, startups, and small businesses through free membership, technical assistance, educational opportunities, and connections to resources. The Hub also continues 1 Million Cups Pearland every Wednesday morning, providing entrepreneurs an opportunity to share ideas, receive feedback, and build relationships within the local business community.

[Click Here for More Information on the Pearland Innovation Hub](#)

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The San Jacinto College Small Business Development Center continues to provide entrepreneurs and small business owners with advising, training, and resources designed to help businesses start, grow, and navigate new opportunities. The SBDC remains an important partner and resource for Pearland's small business community.

[Click Here to Learn More About the SBDC](#)

Chamber Report

The Chamber has a full calendar ahead as we move into the fall. Our September 17 Monthly Membership Luncheon will feature Dr. Dawn Buckingham, Commissioner with the Texas General Land Office, providing members an opportunity to hear about the agency and issues impacting communities and businesses across Texas. The luncheon will take place from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn Pearland.

On October 1, Taste of Pearland, presented by the [Hilton Garden Inn Pearland](#), returns from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the KC Hall. One of the Chamber's signature events, Taste of Pearland celebrates the diversity of Pearland's food scene by bringing together local restaurants, coffee shops, eateries, and other culinary businesses for an evening of food, drinks, and community. The event traditionally welcomes hundreds of attendees and gives participating businesses an opportunity to showcase what makes Pearland's culinary community special.

[Click Here to Register for the General Land Office Luncheon](#)

[Click Here to Register for Taste of Pearland](#)