



JANUARY 2024 EDITION

The Voice of Business

The Pearland Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Meet and Greet with newly elected City Councilmembers – Mona Chavarria and Chad Thumann. This event is February 1, 2024, at 5:15 and is a great opportunity to connect with our community stakeholders.

The Chamber is also planning Pearland Day in Austin on February 28-29.

[Click here for more information about the Meet and Greet](#)

[Click Here to email and receive more information on Pearland Day in Austin](#)

Employment Situation

The December 2023 Houston Area Employment Situation that was released by Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast shows Pearland still has one of the lowest unemployment percentages in the region (**3.5%, same as** last month's 3.5%). Brazoria County's unemployment is 4.0%, which is also the same as last month's 4.0%. The Houston region's unemployment is currently 4.4%, while the national average is 3.7% (page 16 of the report). The report shows growth in primary areas like Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Private Education and Health Services.

[Click Here for full employment report](#)

Sales Tax Update

The City of Pearland receives updates on sales tax collection from the state. Sales Tax collections are a great tool to evaluate the local economy. The report is always from two months prior, so in January, the city receives November's numbers. The total net collections increased compared to the previous year by \$128,915 or 3.6% and is 2.6% behind the city's adopted annual budget. Overall, the year-to-date collections for Pearland are up 3.6% compared to last year.

[Click Here for the report](#)

Development in Pearland

The Pearland Economic Development Corporation shared the groundbreaking of Stream Realty and their new distribution center in Pearland's Lower Kirby. According to the LinkedIn post, this will be a 24.4 acre parcel at the corner of Kirby Drive and North Spectrum Boulevard. Additionally, don't forget that the

Active Commercial Permit Map on the City's website is a great tool to use for new developments in Pearland.

[Click Here for the PEDC's LinkedIn Post on Stream Realty](#)

[Click Here for the Active Commercial Permit Map](#)

Spring Enrollment in Higher Education Institutions in Our Region

Alvin Community College's enrollment for Spring 2024 is currently 5,136 which is up from last Spring. Dual Enrollment continues to grow for ACC with 2,237 students enrolled at ACC and a local ISD. UHCL at Pearland is home to 1,180 students and is currently offering 89 classes. San Jacinto College's unduplicated enrollment across the system is 27,900. The South Campus, located off Beamer Rd, currently has 11,608 students enrolled which is up from last Spring.

[Click Here to learn more about Alvin ISD](#)

[Click Here to learn more about ACC](#)

[Click Here to learn more about UHCL at Pearland](#)

Pearland Innovation HUB

The Pearland Innovation HUB calendar is filled with some great events. The Pearland Chamber of Commerce encourages members to see what opportunities are available via this program.

[Click Here for the Pearland Innovation HUB Calendar](#)

Chamber Report

The Young Professionals of Pearland, presented by Spacio.us is hosting a Game Night on February 21. This program has been active for over a year and is a great opportunity to connect with individuals between the ages of 21-40. The Chamber, in partnership with the US Chamber Foundation, is hosting a Civic Bee to middle school students. This essay and live competition is intended to introduce citizenship skills to students. Our Annual Banquet and Meeting, presented by Neighbors Emergency Center, was held on January 25, 2024, with 523 in attendance. We are thankful for our sponsors and congratulate our award winners:

- Steve Friedman, Ambassador of the Year – Rigoberto "Rigo" Juarez
- Chairman's Award – Dr. Beth Lewis
- Business of the Year – HCA Houston Healthcare Pearland
- Business Hall of Fame – O'Day Rental and Hardware
- Citizen of the Year – Roy Castillo

[Click Here for more information on the YP of Pearland Game Night](#)