



## JULY 2024 EDITION

### **The Voice of Business**

The Chamber is aware of the impact of Hurricane Beryl on our businesses earlier this month. The Chamber sent comments of support and requests to Pearland City Council related to ensuring the recovery process is easy for businesses.

Pearland City Council acted on two areas:

- Waived permit fees related to damage by the storm
- Extended the temporary sign ordinance for companies whose primary sign was damaged

The Chamber is also partnering with the Alvin-Manvel Area Chamber and Baytran for a conversation and coffee with Congressman Troy Nehls on August 20. The event is free but RSVP is needed.

[Click here to review comments by the Chamber to City Council](#)

[Click here to RSVP for the Conversation with Congressman Troy Nehls](#)

### **Employment Situation**

The June 2024 Houston Area Employment Situation that was released by Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast shows Pearland has the lowest unemployment percentages in the region (**4.1%, up from** last month's 3.4%). All 18 cities in the Houston region saw unemployment increase month over month. Brazoria County's unemployment is 4.9%. The Houston region's unemployment is currently 4.2%, while the national average is 4.0% (page 16 of the report). The report highlights that unemployment in the region increased primarily due to the closure of all 99 Cent Stores nationwide, resulting in significant retail job losses, and weaker-than-expected performance in sectors such as Leisure and Hospitality and Professional and Business 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 the most recent report reflects May's numbers. The total net collections increased compared to the previous May by \$336,728 and is 4.2% behind the city's adopted annual budget. The current period collections

compared to last year are up 1.5%. Page 2 of the report compares Pearland to other cities across the state.

[Click here for the report](#)

### **Pearland Innovation Hub**

We are excited to introduce our new Pearland Innovation Hub Navigator, Sonia Cacique. With a background in both education and entrepreneurship, Sonia will work with Pearland small business owners to help them access the tools, resources, continued learning and technical assistance PIH offers our members.

[Click here for the PIH Event Calendar](#)

[Click here to email Sonia](#)

### **Development in Pearland**

There have been new permits pulled according to the City of Pearland's Active Commercial Permits website with a new gas station going in at 1128 and Bailey.

The Chamber also held multiple Ribbon Cuttings in the month of July including:

- [South Park Funeral Home 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#)
- [Samira's Private Tutoring](#)
- [Chara Christian Dance Academy](#)

The Pearland Prosperity Plan identified Old Town Revitalization as a key area and a strategic study on this area will be taking place.

[Click here for Active Permits Map](#)

[Click here to learn more about the Old Town Revitalization Area](#)

### **Small Business Development Center**

The San Jacinto College Small Business Development Center has held an office at The Commerce Center since 2009. The SBDC Team provides free qualified and confidential advising, tools, resources and information for small businesses and startups to set them on the path to success.

[Click Here to meet the SBDC Team](#)

### **Chamber Report**

The Chamber luncheon schedule is packed for the remainder of the year!

- [August 15](#) – A focus on healthcare and mental health. The event will feature a keynote from Darreel Spink, Executive Director of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and a panel featuring local experts including Amber Dixon of Alvin ISD and Brazoria County Sheriff Bo Stallman.
- [September 19](#) – The State of Alvin ISD with Superintendent Carol Nelson
- [October 16](#) – The State of Brazoria County with Judge Matt Sebesta
- [November 14](#) – The Pearland Economic Development Corporation update with President Matt Buchanan.
- December 12 – We are holding this date for a state legislative update.

Also, Save the Date of October 29 for Taste of Pearland at the KC Hall in Pearland! We will have over 30 restaurants showcasing their amazing food and drinks.