



SEPTEMBER 2024 EDITION

The Voice of Business

The Pearland Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Alvin ISD Bond for November 2024, recognizing its critical role in addressing the district's growth and enhancing educational facilities. The Board of Directors unanimously approved supporting the bond at their August 23 meeting, and the Chamber encourages all members and their employees to actively support and vote in favor of the bond to further strengthen our community's future. Please use the link below for more information.

Though not advocacy, we do want to highlight the success of our Work In Pearland Job Fair held on September 18. We had over 600 folks come through the door searching for careers and employees. The website www.workinpearland.com is live 24/7 and currently has 300+ jobs and 3500 job seekers.

Our annual Elected Officials Meet and Greet was held on September 25 from 6pm to 7:30pm at the University of Houston-Clear Lake at Pearland. This annual event is an excellent opportunity to connect business with our elected officials. We are thankful for the 35+ elected officials who attended. Thank you to our sponsors: A&A Cleaning, Binkley & Barfield/DCCM, Comcast Business, Community Health Network, University of Houston-Clear Lake at Pearland, and Vaughan Interest Inc.

[Click here to learn more about the Alvin ISD Bond](#)

Employment Situation

The August 2024 Houston Area Employment Situation, released by Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast, reports that Pearland continues to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the region at **4.0%**, up slightly from last month's **3.9%**. Brazoria County's unemployment rate is at **4.7%**. Across the Houston region, the unemployment rate is currently **4.4%**, which is above the national average of **4.3%**. The report attributes the regional increase in unemployment to seasonal job losses in sectors like Government, Private Education and Health Services, and Professional and Business Services, with additional impact from **Hurricane Beryl** earlier in the year

[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 July's numbers. The total net collections increased compared to the previous July

by \$380,363 and is .4% behind the city's adopted annual budget. The current period collections compared to last year are down .9%. Page 2 of the report compares Pearland to other cities across the state.

[Click here for the report](#)

Pearland Innovation Hub

Pearland Innovation Hub (PIH) launched their brand-new online platform, which is designed to supercharge your small business journey. The program has already grown to over 100 businesses.

Features of the platform include:

- **Continued Learning Webinars:** Sharpen your skills and stay ahead of the curve with informative online workshops delivered by industry experts.
- **Grants Database:** Discover funding opportunities perfectly suited for your business needs.
- **Exclusive 1:1 Technical Assistance:** Get paired with vetted professionals for 10 hours of tailored advice. Need a website revamp? A marketing guru? Our technical assistance program has you covered

Also, save the date for the upcoming State of Entrepreneurship featuring Ed Thompson chatting about his entrepreneurship journey.

[Click Here to become a member of the Pearland Innovation Hub](#)

Enrollment in Education Institutions in Our Region

Our two largest school districts began their school year in August. Pearland ISD's enrollment is currently 20,865. The district is the largest employer in Pearland, with approximately 2,750 full-time employees. Alvin ISD's enrollment is currently 30,080. The district opened three new campuses this Fall. Alvin Community College's enrollment for Fall 2024 is currently 5,939 which is an increase of 7.6%. University of Houston-Clear Lake's total enrollment is 8201 (6147 undergrads and 2054 graduate students). From that total, Pearland has 630 students, included in the 8201 total. San Jacinto College's enrollment across the system is 31,644. The South Campus, located off Beamer Rd, currently has 12,189 students enrolled.

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

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

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

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

[Click Here to learn more about San Jacinto College](#)

Development in Pearland

The Pearland Economic Development Corporation's Summer 2024 Newsletter was recently released. The report highlights the new Stewart Development on Highway 35 and the expansion of Brask Neela.

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

- [Solid Foundation Psychiatry](#)
- [Vitality Wellness Clinic](#)
- [Barcenas Mexican Restaurant](#)
- [J's Empire](#)
- [The Rustic Brush](#)
- [4 Amigos Mexican Restaurant](#)
- [The Fitzpatrick Group](#)

The Old Town Revitalization Plan is still underway. This is a unique opportunity to help shape the future of our community, and your feedback is invaluable. Please take a moment to complete the survey and share your thoughts on the vision for this area. We also encourage you to forward this survey to others within your company or organization who may have valuable insights to contribute.

[Click Here for the PEDC Newsletter](#)

[Click Here for Survey](#)

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!

- [October 17](#) – 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.

We are excited to introduce **Influence by the Chamber**, a new initiative designed to amplify your business's visibility through the power of our community influence. As leaders in the business community, we leverage our extensive social media reach and strong local connections to showcase and promote businesses like yours. Best of all, this program is completely free to participate in!

[Click here to submit your business to be influenced](#)