



JUNE 2023 EDITION

Mayor Emeritus Tom Reid

The Pearland Chamber is still mourning the passing of Mayor Emeritus Tom Reid. Mayor Reid's vision for Pearland is seen through so much of our community. The data you see in this report is reflective of his desire to take Pearland from a small suburb of Houston to the 3rd largest city in the Houston region. The Chamber gives out the Mayor Emeritus Tom Reid Citizen of the Year award each year in honor of his legacy of civic leadership. Mayor Reid loved to call all of us special, but we all know he was the truly special one.

The community can pay their respects on Friday, June 30 at 4pm – 8pm at First Church in Pearland.

The Voice of Business

We reported earlier this month that the Pearland Chamber of Commerce recently participated in the City of Pearland's Workshop, which focused on discussing a potential increase in the Homestead Exemption for residents in Pearland. The workshop aimed to understand the potential impact of raising the homestead exemption from 2.5% to 20% on residents, businesses, and the city's budget. The Pearland Chamber of Commerce attended the workshop, with the goal of fostering proactive communication between City Council and the local business community regarding this matter. It was noted that while a potential homestead increase would offer modest savings for residents, it could pose a larger financial burden on businesses. On average, homeowners would only save approximately \$38 annually, whereas businesses could experience annual impacts ranging from \$197 to \$65,300. Following the discussions during the workshop, the City Council did not reach a consensus to proceed with an increase in the homestead exemption. The Pearland Chamber of Commerce acknowledges and appreciates the City Council's decision to hold the workshop, as it demonstrates their commitment to understanding the potential implications for local businesses.

For more detailed information on the workshop, including the City Council's presentation slides and the entire presentation, please refer to the provided resources:

[Click here for City Council Slide on Business Impact](#)

[Click here for Link to City Council Workshop](#)

Employment Situation

The May 2023 Houston Area Employment Situation that was released by Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast shows Pearland still one of the lowest unemployment percentages in the region (4.2% up from the last month's 3.6%). Brazoria County's unemployment is 4.6 which is up from last month's 4.1%. The largest job growth was seen in Trade, Transportation and Utilities with warehousing and transportation making large gains.

[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 is a great tool to evaluate the local economy. The report is always from two months prior, so in June, the city receives April's numbers. The total net collections decreased compared to the previous year by \$109,443 or -3.2% and 6.2% over the city's annual budget.

[Click Here for the report](#)

Alvin Community College

Alvin Community College received a \$350,000 Texas Talent Connection (TTC) grant from the Office of Governor Greg Abbott to support innovative education and workforce skills training programs. The grant supports the New Beginnings Project, a reentry program by Alvin Community College in partnership with Lee College, to assist second-chance individuals with classes that lead degrees and certifications. The Chamber believes this is another resource in our community to develop a talented workforce.

[Click here for ACC News Release](#)

Development in Pearland

The Pearland Economic Development Corporations Spring Newsletter highlighted the announcement of Brennan Investment Group's to build a 216,000 square foot distribution center in the Lower Kirby area. There is construction taking place at 288 and Beltway 8 for the Ivy Lofts. This will be a retail and a 335 multi-family complex and will be the Lower Kirby's first residential project.

[Click here for PEDC Spring Newsletter](#)

[Click here for PEDC LinkedIn post on the Ivy Lofts](#)

Chamber Report

The Pearland Chamber continues to provide resources for our members. Our newest publication, The Lineup, was released in June. This is a one-page summary of the lineup of activities for the Chamber. We are also hosting a training on July 13 for businesses to become better prepared for a Hurricane. This program is supported by Ready.gov and the first offered in the Houston region.

[Click here for information on the Disaster Preparation event](#)