



AUGUST 2023 EDITION

The Voice of Business

The Chamber is monitoring multiple ballot measures this November. The State of Texas will have 14 separate ballot measures. Our organization will be working to educate businesses on each of the issues. Ballot measures range from property tax cuts to the Texas University Fund. The Texas Association of Business has put together a short document explaining each ballot measure.

Pearland ISD Board of Trustees called for a Voter Approved Tax Rate Election (VATRE) to be placed on the November ballot. The Pearland Chamber of Commerce will continue to provide information and ensure individuals are educated on the topic.

[Click Here for the summary of the 14 ballot measures](#)

[Click Here for Pearland ISD Superintendent Berger's presentation on the VATRE](#)

Employment Situation

The July 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 (**4.5%, up from** last month's 4.2%). Brazoria County's unemployment is 5.0%, which is up from last month's 4.7%. The report reminds us that July is typically a month with job losses but July 2021 and 2022 saw gains related to the pandemic after-effects. Leisure and Hospitality continue to see job losses after a record June, but Healthcare and Social Services added 4,800 jobs, which is the best July on record.

[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 August, the city receives June's numbers. The total net collections increased compared to the previous year by \$193,245 or 4.8% but is 1.5% behind the city's amended annual budget. Overall, the year-to-date collections for Pearland are up 6.4% compared to last year.

[Click Here for the report](#)

Pearland Innovation HUB

The Pearland Innovation HUB has relocated to their new location at the FranchiCzar HQ - Spacio. They are having an open house on September 27. Additionally, they are always seeking individuals who are looking for coaching.

[Click Here for the link to RSVP to Open House](#)

Development in Pearland

Millar, Inc. debuted its new headquarters and manufacturing facility in Pearland. The state-of-the-art 56,000-square-foot facility is located on a five-acre site on N. Spectrum Boulevard in Pearland's Lower Kirby District and is home to approximately 140 employees and Millar's research and development and manufacturing capabilities. Kelsey-Seybold Clinic held a ribbon cutting for the expansion of their Pearland clinic. The expansion added 27,000 square feet of clinic space.

[Click Here for the PEDC's press release on Millar, Inc.](#)

[Click Here for the Kelsey-Seybold press release](#)

Enrollment in Education Institutions in Our Region

Our two largest school districts began their school year in August. Pearland ISD's enrollment is currently 20,660. The district is the largest employer in Pearland, with approximately 2,750 full-time employees. Alvin ISD's enrollment is currently 29,313. The district opened up Nichols Mark Elementary and reopened Harby Junior High this fall. Alvin Community College's enrollment for Fall 2022 is currently 5,322. Dual Enrollment continues to grow for ACC with 2,335 students enrolled at ACC and a local ISD. University of Houston-Clear Lake's enrollment is currently at 8,139. They have 6,100 undergraduates and 2,039 graduate students. UHCL at Pearland is home to approximately 550 students (included in the 8139-enrollment total). San Jacinto College's enrollment across the system is 36,187. The South Campus, located off Beamer Rd, currently has 10,580 students enrolled.

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

[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](#)

Chamber Report

The Chamber was honored to win the national Chamber of the Year Award earlier this month. This is the most prestigious award in the chamber industry. Our next Chamber luncheon is a workforce update and features Commissioner Aaron Demerson of the Texas Workforce Commission. Lastly, Taste of Pearland is set for October 24. Tickets begin at \$15 and will feature over 30 restaurants.

[Click here to learn more about Chamber of the Year award](#)

[Click Here to register for the September luncheon.](#)

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