



JULY 2023 EDITION

The Voice of Business

The Chamber continues to maintain relationships with our elected officials. Our Governmental Relations Committee, which meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 9:30am, hosted State Senator Mayes Middleton, State Representative Ed Thompson, and State Representative Cody Vasut for a conversation on the recent property tax legislation. The legislation will limit increases on appraised value for commercial properties and **increases the franchise tax to nearly \$2.5 million.**

The Chamber also seeks feedback from our members. We are interested in three key areas: AI/Chat GPT, Employee Retention Credit (ERC), and internships. Please take a moment to complete these surveys.

[Click here for Texas Tribune article on the passing of the legislation](#)

[Click here for AI and ERC Survey](#)

[Click here for Interns in business survey](#)

Employment Situation

The June 2023 Houston Area Employment Situation that was released by Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast shows Pearland still one the lowest unemployment percentage in the region (**4.2% same** as last month's 4.2%). Brazoria County's unemployment is 4.7 which is up from last month's 4.6%. The report spends time discussing the massive layoffs in leisure and hospitality which contrast with the normal June trends in this area. This is the first time since records began in 1990 that Leisure and Hospitality saw job loss.

[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 July, the city receives May's numbers. The total net collections increased compared to the previous year by \$334,915 or 9.9% but is 0.5% behind the city's amended annual budget. This report always highlights the importance of shopping locally with Wal-Mart and Home Depot being the two largest sales tax procedures in Pearland.

[Click Here for the report](#)

Development in Pearland

The City of Pearland's Community Development released their 3rd quarter report. The report shows an overall decrease in single-family homes compared to the previous quarter and last year. The increase in construction costs and borrowing rates seems to be the driving cause for the slowdown. 43 commercial permits were issued including five projects valued at over \$1,000,000 (see page 10). Also, OpenCounter is a great tool for Pearland businesses to independently research the development process in Pearland. This tool also has a ZoningCheck option to ensure your project is allowed within that area.

[Click here for 3rd Quarter Report](#)

[Click here for more information on OpenCounter](#)

Chamber Report

The Pearland Chamber's Mid-Year Report was released earlier this week. This is a snapshot of our organization's activities for the first half of 2023. The Summer Big Book showcased our upper-level investors and their current programs. We announced in June that the Pearland Chamber is a finalist for Chamber of the Year via the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). This is the most prestigious and competitive recognition in the Chamber industry. The entire team thanks our members for their support of our strategic direction and we will provide an update on the results of the competition on August 2.

[Click here for the Pearland Chamber Mid-Year Report](#)

[Click here for the Summer Big Book](#)

[Click here for the Chamber of the Year Finalist Press Release](#)