

# REPORTER NEWS

Pearland Edition

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## Around Town

### JULY 13

**A DAY AT THE CAMPSITE**  
Delores Fenwick Center hosts from Nature Explorer Day themed "A Day at the Campsite" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 6760 Magnolia Parkway. For ages 6 to 14. Resident fee is \$32, or \$40 for non-residents. To register, visit [parks.pearlandtx.gov](https://parks.pearlandtx.gov) or call 281-412-8900.

**CELEBRATION OF HOUSTON**  
"TUTS: A Celebration of Houston Stories and Songs" produced by Theatre Under the Stars is 8:30 p.m. at Miller Outdoor Theatre, 6000 Hermann Park Drive, Houston, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. For information, visit [milleroutdoortheatre.com](https://milleroutdoortheatre.com).

**TASTE OF BRAZORIA COUNTY**  
Taste of Brazoria County features local restaurants at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds, 901 Downing St., Angleton, from 5 to 8 p.m. Proceeds benefit Brazoria County Association for Children's Habilitation. General admission tickets are \$25 and VIP tickets are \$50. Visit [tinyurl.com/TasteofBrazoriaCo](https://tinyurl.com/TasteofBrazoriaCo)

**MOVIE ON THE LAWN**  
Outdoor free screening of the film, "Beauty and the Beast" begins at 7 p.m. in the parking lot of Baybrook Mall, 500 Baybrook Mall, Friendswood. Blankets and lawn chairs recommended. Baybrook's Movies on the Lawn series is held Thursdays during the summer through Aug. 31. [Baybrookmall.com](https://Baybrookmall.com).

### JULY 14

**LOCAL WRITERS MEETUP**  
A local writer's group meets to hone and share creative writing skills and discuss projects at 6:30 p.m. at the Tom Reid Library, 3522 Liberty Drive. For information, call 281-652-1677.

### JULY 15

**WORLD SERIES TROPHY TOUR**  
The Houston Astros 2022 Championship Trophy Tour stops at the Pearland Town Center, 11200 Broadway St., from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Houston Methodist Pavilion. For information, visit [pearlandtowncenter.com](https://pearlandtowncenter.com).

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY**  
Pearland Market Days presents Christmas in July from 1 to 8 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 2320 Hatfield Road, featuring shopping, food trucks, holiday movies, face painting and outdoor yard games.

**SHARK CELEBRATION**  
Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson holds a Shark Celebration from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring shark experts, scavenger hunt, shark-themed craft, vendors, real shark specimens and more at 302 Medical Drive.

**HONEY EXPO**  
The 6th annual Honey Expo is open to the public with educational displays on beekeeping, extracting honey and more, food and vendors. Free event opens at 10 a.m. at the County Fairgrounds, 901 Downing Road, Angleton.

**SANTA ANNA FUNDRAISER**  
Brazoria Heritage Foundation hosts Santa Anna fundraising ball featuring dinner, silent and live auctions at Brazoria Civic Center Gym, 205 Nevada St. For information, visit [brazoriahf.org](https://brazoriahf.org).

### JULY 17

**NOVEL DISCUSSIONS BOOK CLUB**  
Novel Discussions, a club that discusses first novels from debut authors, meets at 6:30 p.m. to talk about "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus at the Tom Reid Library, 3522 Liberty Drive. For information, call 281-652-1677.

### JULY 18

**KARAOKE NIGHT**  
Melvin Knapp Center, 2424 South Park Ave., hosts karaoke night beginning at 4 p.m. for ages 18 and up. Membership at the Knapp Center is \$25 per year for Pearland residents and \$50 for non-residents. For information, call 281-652-1890.

### JULY 19

**BRAZORIA INDUSTRY UPDATE**  
The Economic Development Alliance for Brazoria County will hear its annual industry update its quarterly meeting scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ballroom of the Doris Williams Civic Center, 333 Highway 332 E. Lake Jackson. Admission is \$30 members or \$50 non-members.

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## Celebration of Freedom



The City of Pearland's Celebration of Freedom was a firecracking success last week thanks in no small part to the valiant efforts of city staff, first responders, volunteers, and sponsors. Photo courtesy of Pearland Parks and Recreation Department.

## New law stirs PISD funding concerns

By N. BRADFORD  
Reporter News Staff

A new state mandate going into effect this fall has stirred concern locally, from funding to the effect of more firearms in public schools.

Gov. Gregg Abbott on June 13 signed House Bill 3 into law, mandating that all Texas school districts provide at least one armed security guard at every campus. Critics say the new law is another unfunded mandate from the state, which is already asking school districts to do more with less.

"We want security at every school," Pearland ISD Trustee Crystal Carbone said during a June budget discussion. "I personally want an SRO (school resource officer) at every school. But that's going to cost us as a district \$3.5 million on top of the already projected deficit of \$12 million."

HB 3 increased the per-student safety al-

lotment by \$0.28 per student, and districts will receive \$15,000 per campus to implement safety measures — it's funding school districts say is not nearly enough to cover

**"I personally want an SRO at every school. But that's going to cost us as a district \$3.5 million on top of the already projected deficit of \$12 million."**

~Crystal Carbone, PISD Trustee

what is essentially an unfunded mandate, and school districts will have to dip into their own already stretched coffers.

A school board may claim an exception based on lack of funding or available person-

nel. Districts that ask for an exemption must develop an alternative plan that may include a school marshal or other armed staff member.

Two people addressed the Pearland school board in June regarding the law, expressing concern that schools are not the place for firearms.

University of Houston lecturer and former Pearland ISD teacher Cindy Dawson said she spent five years as a junior high math teacher and believes bringing guns to schools will put students at more risk, not less.

"I know what it's like to step into a hallway with an at-risk student and find another rifling through my desk," she told the board. "School campuses are dynamic and unpredictable. When teachers carry guns in schools, children are more likely to access those guns."

The law goes into effect on September 1 of this year.

## AISSD revenue increase brings hope

By N. BRADFORD  
Reporter News Staff

Like many Texas school districts, Alvin ISD administrators and trustees faced frustration as they tried to balance inflationary costs of operating schools with limited revenue.

"Through the budgeting process, we were in the middle of the legislative session --and we were hopeful the legislature would use

the \$33 billion surplus to support public education, as many times as they stated they were going to," Alvin ISD chief financial officer Daniel Combs said during the district's June budget discussion. "That has not come to fruition just yet."

A special session in Austin ended June 27 with no new laws, and Gov. Gregg Abbott immediately called another special session focused on property taxes.

With a new fiscal year beginning this month, Alvin ISD Trustees on June 13 approved a budget with anticipated revenues roughly \$20 million above last year. That budget included cost-of-living raises for staff.

Meanwhile, property values within the Alvin ISD have jumped by nearly a third, "but that does not generate extra revenue for our school district," Combs said.

"When local values go up and

more dollars and collected here, the state revenue is offset," he said.

The AISSD total tax rate, which will be calculated by the state, is expected to drop from \$1.37 per \$100 of valuation to \$1.29.

"A sizeable reduction is anticipated and hoped for in Alvin ISD," Combs said.

After values are available from the local appraisal district July 25, the board will certify a new tax rate Sept. 12.

## State of Healthcare event set July 20

By N. BRADFORD  
Reporter News Staff

Representatives from HCA Houston Healthcare Pearland, Kelsey-Seybold and Memorial Hermann will highlight the "State of Healthcare" event hosted by

the Pearland Chamber on Thursday, July 20.

The Chamber's monthly luncheon event begins with networking at 11:30 a.m. and is expected to end at 1 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn, 12101 Shadow Creek Parkway.

Keynote speakers are David

Wagner, CEO of HCA Houston Healthcare Pearland; Donald Aga, medical director for Kelsey-Seybold Clinic; and Noel Cardenas, senior vice president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Southeast and Pearland hospitals. Individual tickets are \$35 for

Chamber members, \$40 for prospective members, and tables of eight sponsorships begin at \$350.

For information, email [leslie.esqueda@pearlandchamber.org](mailto:leslie.esqueda@pearlandchamber.org) or call 281-485-3634. For more information or more Chamber events, visit [pearlandchamber.org](https://pearlandchamber.org).

## Drainage work still front and center

By N. BRADFORD  
Reporter News Staff

Drainage remains a priority in Pearland, where more than \$18.2 million in projects are expected to be complete before the end of the year.

These include Cowart's Creek Detention Pump Station Generator and drainage improvements in the West Lea and Willowcrest subdivisions, city staff said during a June 26 update.

Pearland now has approximately 322 miles of enclosed stormwater pipes, 145 miles of open ditch drainage and 326 detention areas, according to

assistant Public Works director Eric Hammond.

"If we were to connect all underground storm sewers end to end, it would span from City

**"If we were to connect all underground storm sewers end to end, it would span from City Hall to just inside the Oklahoma border"**

~Eric Hammond, Asst Public Works Director

Hall to just inside the Oklahoma border," he said.

The city recently purchased a CCTV truck to inspect all drainage every 10 years for obstruc-

tions, plus equipment used to clear drainage pipes.

"It's work we can't see," Mayor Kevin Cole said. "We're in the midst of storm season.

This work is critical."

Back in March of 2022, city crews noticed water pooling around a storage tank behind City Hall. A closer look re-

vealed roots obstructing the storm sewer.

"That root remains in our offices and serves as a reminder of what can happen when we defer maintenance or just work on a reactionary-based approach," Hammond said.

One issue found to be clogging drainage is litter from streets, he said, in addition to silt buildup.

Debuting soon will be a dashboard showing areas where drainage crews are working. Residents can still submit drainage related requests to engineering and public works.





