



Regional Focus

Houston-Galveston Area Council Newsletter | May 2023



Hurricane Preparation Week: Now through May 6

Hurricane Season begins June 1, making now a great time to make a plan, build your kit, and know where to go and how you'll get there during an evacuation. H-GAC offers instructions and preparedness documents, including a comprehensive zip-zone map created with the collaboration of our partnering counties and communities, showing evacuation areas by zip code and evacuation pathways for residents in those areas.

[View our Hurricane Season resources and documents](#)

2023 Trash Bash:

More than 40 tons of trash removed from our waterways

Nearly 2,500 volunteers came together on March 25 to clean more than 108 miles of shoreline at this year's River, Lakes, Bays, N' Bayous Trash Bash®. Volunteers were spread across 14 locations collecting **40.51 tons of trash**, **0.38 tons of recyclables**, and **219 illegally dumped tires**. Afterwards, volunteers enjoyed picnics and educational exhibits and games at each of the 14 locations to learn about the common sources of water pollution.



Click video above to learn more about this year's event.

Since the inception of the annual event in 1994, more than 119,000 volunteers have removed 2,451 tons of trash and 12,184 tires from waterways in the Galveston Bay watershed. To see a breakdown of litter removed by location and the cumulative results from the past 29 years, visit the [Trash Bash website](#).

We look forward to more volunteers next year as we celebrate the event's 30 year anniversary and "Clean It Like You Mean It!"®.

2023 Regional Broadband Summit



H-GAC Hosts First Regional Broadband Summit

H-GAC recently hosted a Broadband Summit bringing together local elected and appointed officials, various engineering firms and internet service providers, and stakeholders to learn about expanding broadband access. During the height of the recent pandemic, when students were required to attend school remotely, the impact of the broadband divide was underscored by access to education and instruction, and resulting learning loss.

At the Broad Band Summit, attendees learned about opportunities to help expand broadband connectivity and promote digital inclusion through presentations, discussions, and best practices shared by the Federal Communications Commission, the National Telecommunications & Information Administration, and the Texas Broadband Development Office.

Using lessons learned and information shared at the conference, H-GAC is creating a strategy to continue its work to help local governments and communities bridge the great broadband divide.

[Join our broadband mailing list](#)
to receive information about upcoming events, data trends, and more!

#HGAContheMove

Brazoria County Leaders Discuss their County and Communities with H-GAC

Leaders from H-GAC recently hosted a pop-up event in Brazoria County where nearly 30 elected officials and community leaders gathered to share the great things about their communities as well as their concerns.



Brazoria County identified top three shared concerns:

- Railroads, with particular emphasis on blocked crossings for extended periods of time
- Mental health and access to care
- Drainage infrastructure related to flooding and new development

H-GAC will return to Brazoria County this fall for a more in-depth conversation addressing shared concerns.



Our next pop-up event will be in Liberty County (see below). Look for future pop-up event dates, including when we'll be coming to your county, in future editions of the *Regional Focus*, and don't forget to share it with others who also should be in the know!



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

Bringing the Conversation to Liberty County

Wednesday, May 24
8:30 – 11:30 AM



Jack Hartel Building
318 San Jacinto St.
Liberty, TX 77575

H-GAC is bringing the conversation to Liberty County. At this pop-up event, you will have the opportunity to meet with members of our leadership team, learn more about our programs and services, and share with us your community's needs. Let's discuss how we can work together to help Liberty County thrive!

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Parker at laura.parker@h-gac.com

RSVP Here



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MAY 1

Swap Cars for Handle Bars!

Commute Solutions' Inaugural Bike Month Challenge "Cycles" through May 31

BIKE MONTH CHALLENGE

Commute Solutions

May 1-31 2023

Ride your bike anywhere, anytime

Win great prizes

Free to join

Everyone can take part



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Register now at
lovetoride.net/bikethegulf



H-GAC's Bike Month Challenge starts May 1 and ends May 31, 2023. The month-long challenge encourages people to embrace all the benefits riding a bike can bring, such as supercharging physical and mental health, reducing stress and anxiety, and positively impacting the environment. Everyone is invited to rediscover the joy of biking with support from H-GAC Commute Solutions and Love to Ride.

Register for the challenge at: lovetoride.net/bikethegulf

MAY 4

Solid Waste Workshop Series: Composting



[H-GAC's Solid Waste Workshop Series](#) continues with a composting workshop:

10 a.m. to noon | Thursday, May 4

Brazoria Environmental Education Station @ 583 County Road 443, Angleton

You'll learn how to compost and set up a pilot composting program from a local government perspective.

Presenters include:

- Ellen Pedisch, Master Composter, Brazoria County Master Gardeners
- Steve Stelzer, City of Houston

Presentations will be inside, followed by a walking tour of the Master Gardeners Association facility. Appropriate shoes for a garden tour are recommended.

Registration is required; space is limited | For more information, contact: [Erin Livingston](#)

MAY 4

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting (hybrid)

1:30 to 3:30 p.m. | Thursday, May 4

H-GAC 2nd Floor Conference Room @ 3555 Timmons, Houston
and on Zoom

The NRAC serves as a forum to advise the H-GAC board and local decision-makers on policy issues affecting natural resources in the 13-county Houston-Galveston region.



Registration:

- Requested to [attend in person](#)
- Required to [attend online](#)

For more information, contact: [Rachel Windham](#)

May 12

2023 Texas Municipal League (TML) Region 14 Spring Meeting & Workshop



9 a.m. | Friday, May 12

Historic P.A. Smith Hotel @ 111 Railroad St., Navasota

Hosted by:

TML Region 14 President Beverly Gaines, Mayor Pro Tem of Webster
Vice President Pattie Pederson, Council Member of Navasota

The day starts with breakfast before embarking on tours of the recently restored P.A. Smith Hotel and Navasota's revitalized downtown. Afterward will be the workshop session and lunch with keynote speaker, Gena Norris owner and CEO of CForce Water, followed by a performance by Kickstart Kids. Lastly, busses will take attendees to the CForce water bottling facility on the outskirts of Navasota for a tour of the facility.

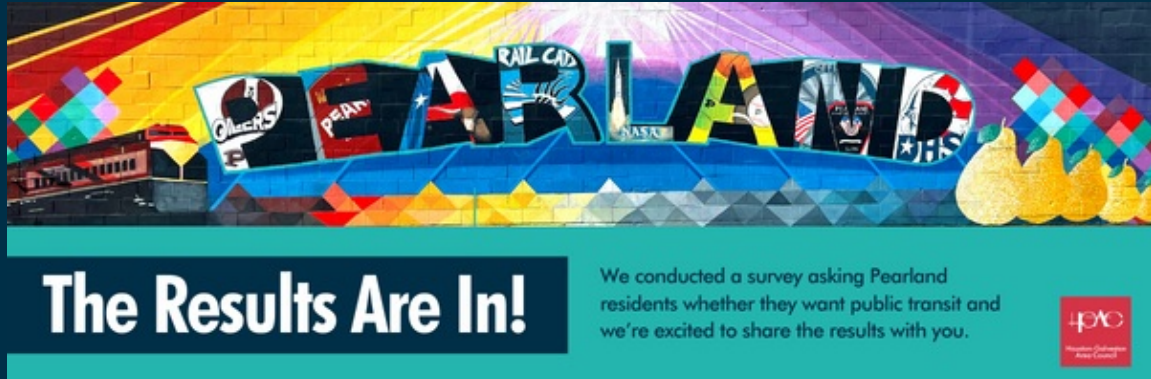
Register online to secure your spot for the spring luncheon

- Breakfast, lunch, and bus tour included in registration fee
- Dress comfortably for this interactive workshop!
- Cancellations after 5 p.m., Monday, May 8, are subject to billing

For questions, including lodging options, contact:
Cynthia Jones: Cynthia.Jones@h-gac.com | 713-993-4591

May 16, 18 & 23

Pearland Public Meeting to Reveal Transit Survey Results



Last fall, the H-GAC surveyed Pearland residents to gauge their interest in public transit. Now, the results are in! If you live or work in Pearland, we want your input on how to move forward.

H-GAC will be hosting three identical public meetings in Pearland to share the study and its progress with the community and reveal the survey results. We invite you to join us for one of the meetings below and ask that you and RSVP using the links provided.

6 - 7:30 p.m. | May 16

West Pearland Public Library
11801 Shadow Creek Pkwy.

[Click to Register for May 16](#)

1:30 - 3 p.m. | May 18

Zoom Virtual Meeting

[Click to Register for May 18](#)

6 - 7:30 p.m. | May 23

Pearland City Hall
3519 Liberty Dr.

[Click to Register for May 23](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how you can help shape the future of Pearland!

Learn more at: engage.h-gac.com/pearlandtransitneeds

May 18

Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable Field Trip



11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Thursday, May 18

Meet at Community Center @ 1904 Naplechase Crest Dr., Spring

Attendees will enjoy a tour of [Cypress Creek Park at Timber Lane](#), including the community center, fire lookout tower, Herman Little Park, and Mercer-Timber Lane Park.

Register by May 11 for lunch and on-site transportation during the tours

- Lunch will be provided, and tours will take place from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact [Andrea Tantillo](#)

May 23

Bacteria Implementation Group Spring Meeting (hybrid)

1 - 3 p.m. | Tuesday, May 23

Topics will include the BIG Implementation Plan revisions and Total Maximum Daily Load updates.

Registration:

- Requested to [attend in person](#)
- Required to [attend online](#)

For more information or to submit public comment,
contact [Steven Johnston](#)



May 31

Basin Steering Committee Meeting (online only)



1:30 to 3:30 p.m. | Wednesday, May 31
Online only; [registration](#) required

The meeting will include updates to Fiscal Years 2024/2025 Work Plan and Budget and other presentations about the 2023 Basin Highlights Report, Targeted Bacteria Monitoring project, the Underserved Community Equity Tool, TMDL and Watershed Protection Plan updates, Trash Bash, and Coastal Communities.

For more information, contact [Todd Running](#) or [Jean Wright](#)

June 28

2023 Newly Elected Officials Workshop *For current and in-coming local government officials*



8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Wednesday, June 28
H-GAC 2nd Floor Conference Room @ 3555 Timmons, Houston

Are you or do you know someone running for mayor, city council, or another elected position?
Share this important information with them!

H-GAC's Newly Elected Officials Workshop will provide an opportunity to learn how to effectively perform as a public servant in local government from the experts.

Watch for the June issue of Regional Focus for registration information!
Breakfast and lunch included in the registration fee of \$55.00

For more information, contact: [Sandra Leiva](#)

July 25

SAVE THE DATE: Bringing Back Main Street Roundtable

9:30 a.m. to noon | Tuesday, July 25
Bay City; location to be announced



The Bringing Back Main Street initiative offers local communities a place to share best practices and engage in a regional dialogue about revitalizing and supporting vibrant downtown spaces. Each quarter,

community leaders gather for a roundtable on topics ranging from small business support to sidewalk infrastructure.

For more information, contact [Andrea Tantillo](#)



Home to more than 7 million people, the Houston-Galveston region is one of the fastest-growing and most diverse regions in the country. Making sure the region remains one of the nation's leading places to live, work, and prosper doesn't just happen - it takes planning and partnerships.

If you are looking for a career where you can help make a difference in urban, suburban, and rural communities, H-GAC has exciting opportunities for you.

For more information, to learn about our internships, or to apply for a job, visit [the careers page on H-GAC's website](#) or click below to apply for one of our featured positions.



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