

Regional Focus

Your Monthly Newsletter from the Houston-Galveston Area Council

h-gac.com

□ December is here, and we're celebrating the holiday season with a spotlight on incredible destinations and events across our 13 counties in Texas!

In this month's *What's Happening at H-GAC*, we're visiting the **Brookwood Community** in Waller County—a one-of-a-kind residential and vocational haven for adults with disabilities. □ Discover its inspiring story, holiday happenings, and the magic this community brings to our region.

Plus, don't miss a sneak peek at the exciting events H-GAC has planned this month, including workshops, meetings, and more. Whether you're looking for holiday fun or opportunities to engage with your community, we've got you covered.

☐ Watch now and plan your December adventures! ☐



Delegates to represent cities and school districts' interests.

H-GAC is pleased to announce the appointment of new delegates to its 2025 board of directors following recent city and independent school district (I.S.D.) caucus meetings. The board plays a crucial role in leading collaborative efforts to address regional challenges and advance programs that benefit the diverse communities within the H-GAC 13-county region.

All representatives were elected from H-GAC's General Assembly, which includes delegates from member general law cities, home rule cities, and school districts. The H-GAC General Assembly consists of delegates from all H-GAC member governments, and are elected officials of commissioner's courts, city councils, or independent school districts' board of trustees, which they represent.

The H-GAC Board of Directors is comprised of 37 local elected officials representing 13 counties, 111 cities, and 11 school districts, and promotes collaborative efforts among local governments. The board's focus spans a wide range of programs, including transportation planning, rural 9-1-1 services, workforce development, aging and disability resources, and disaster and recovery programs.

Monthly board meetings, crucial for open dialogue and decision-making, are open to the public and are streamed online at h-gac.com/live.

For more information about the H-GAC Board of Directors, visit h-gac.com/board-of-directors.



Elected to represent home rule cities, Councilmember Ross Gordon of Bellaire (center-left) and Mayor Pro-Tem Johnnie Simpson, Jr. of Dickinson (center-right) will serve as voting members of the H-GAC Board of Directors.

Mayor Don Davis of Manvel (left) and Councilmember and Mayor Pro-Tem Joe Compian of La Marque (right) will serve as their alternates. Home rule cities have populations of more than 5,000 residents and operate under their charters.



Representing the interests of general law cities, Councilmember and Mayor Pro-Tem Joe Garcia of Pattison (center-left) and Councilmember Nancy Arnold of Waller (center-right) have been elected voting members of the H-GAC Board.

Their alternates are Councilmember and Mayor Pro-Tem Teresa Vazquez Evans of Kemah (left) and Councilmember Susan Schwartz of Bunker Hill (right). General law cities operate according to specific state statutes that define their power and duties. To access the schedule of upcoming board meetings and other H-GAC events, visit

h-gac.com/calendar.



Elected to represent the interests of school districts on the 2025 H-GAC Board is Huntsville I.S.D Board Trustee Rissie Owens.

☐ Text-to-911 Saves Lives! ☐

A recent rescue and arrest in Brazoria County highlights the lifesaving impact of the Text-to-911 system in the Gulf Coast Regional 9-1-1 Emergency Communication District. This system serves Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Liberty, Matagorda, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties.

☐ In this case, a quick-thinking text to 911 led deputies to rescue a woman allegedly being held against her will.

Learn more about this story and how to text 911 effectively:

☐ Click here to read the full story from ABC13 i GCRECD Text-to-911 Tips

Remember, in emergencies where you can't call, text for help!



Exploring air quality, its regional impacts, and ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Resilience 101: What Every Local Government Needs to Know

Local governments are on the frontlines of addressing environmental challenges that impact public safety, infrastructure, and community well-being. Understanding the basics of environmental resilience can help leaders prepare for long-term shifts in weather patterns, temperatures, and resource availability.

These shifts are driven by increased greenhouse gases (GHG)—like carbon dioxide and methane—resulting from activities, such as transportation, industrial production, and energy use. As these gases accumulate, they contribute to warming temperatures and extreme weather events.

Why does this matter for local governments?

From heavier rainfall and flooding to extended droughts, these changes directly affect essential services, local economies, and public health. Local leaders can proactively strengthen community resilience by understanding these risks. Solutions may include updating infrastructure, adopting sustainable energy practices, and conserving natural

resources.

With informed planning, local governments can better protect residents and the environment, ensuring stronger and more adaptable communities for the future.

If you'd like to explore this topic further, the following resources can help!

- 1. <u>EPA GHG Reduction Programs and Strategies</u>: An excellent resource that provides strategies to help communities tackle GHG emissions.
- H-GAC GHG Inventory Summary by County: H-GAC and its partners are
 preparing high-level summaries and detailed GHG inventories for each county. This
 data can help policymakers and residents understand where emissions are
 generated in our region.

>>If you are interested in accessing the detailed system, contact: Pharr
Andrews.

Learn about our Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program and how H-GAC is working to help improve our region's air quality:

h-gac.com/climate-pollution-reduction-grant-program



Livable Centers Graphics now Available!

H-GAC has developed and made available a <u>series of graphics</u> to help partner agencies and communities better understand the core elements of the Livable Centers program. These elements—traffic calming measures, multimodal transportation options, and placemaking features—are essential to creating vibrant, accessible Livable Centers and are consistently recommended across studies.

Local member governments looking for quick wins and best practices are encouraged to use these graphics as part of their initiatives.

For more information or to request high-resolution copies of the graphics, <u>contact Livable</u> Centers staff.



DEC 12



H-GAC, in partnership with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, is hosting the first meeting of the Greens Bayou Watershed Partnership. Participation will allow stakeholders to be directly involved in developing a watershed protection plan outlining locally supported, voluntary strategies to improve water quality by reducing sources of pollution in Greens Bayou and its tributaries.

More information including meeting registration links is available at www.greensbayoupartnership.weebly.com or by contacting Rachel Windham and Cornell Evans, Jr.

DEC 14



*The physical address nearest to the location is 13555 Beechnut St, Houston, TX 77083.

The Texas A&M Forest Service, H-GAC, and other partners invite area residents to a tree give-a-way and tree planting in the Alief Super Neighborhood, 13555 Beechnut St., Houston, TX 77083 (closest physical address).

Registration is required.

Volunteers will plant 300 trees along Beechnut Street, and area residents can participate in a free tree give-a-way on a first come, first served basis.

Trees improve air circulation, act as natural windbreaks, and provide a community-wide cooling effect. This project is part of the ongoing <u>Green Futures corporate sustainability partnership</u>.



DEC 20





JAN 14



The agenda for the Clean Rivers Program <u>Basin Steering Committee</u> meeting will include discussions on the 2026/27 Clean Rivers Program scope of work and budget as well as the theme for the upcoming Basin Highlights Report. We will also hear updates on current total maximum daily load projects and watershed protection plan developments in the region.

Registration is required to attend online and requested if you plan to attend in person. Click here for in-person registration, or here if you plan to attend online.

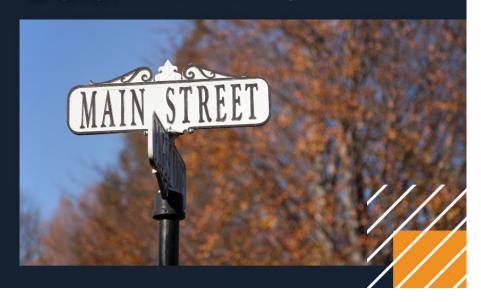
For more information, contact Todd Running or Jenny Oakley.





Save the Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 In-Person

Time, location, and topic to be announced.



The <u>Bringing Back Main Street</u> 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.

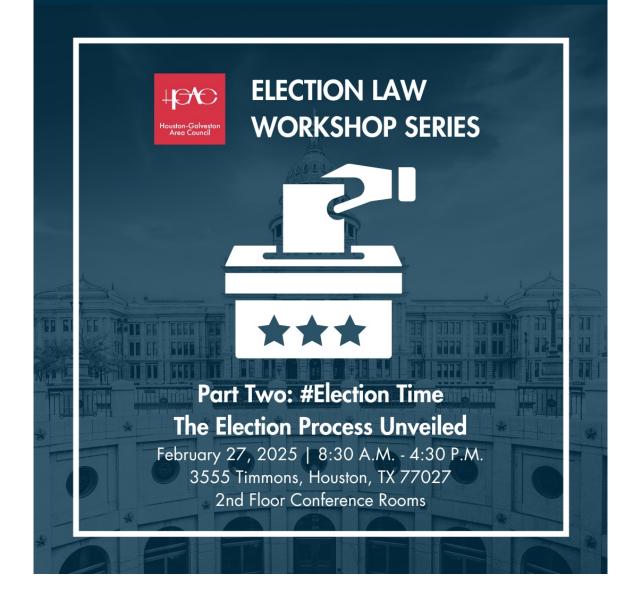
For more information, contact **Andrea Tantillo**.



SAVE THE DATE 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday, February 21, 2025

Houston-Galveston Area Council 3555 Timmons Ln., Houston, 77027 2nd Floor Conference Rooms A, B & C

FEB 27



MAR 29



RASH BASH®



Was this newsletter forwarded to you?

Sign up to receive the Regional Focus monthly in your inbox!

Yes! Sign me up!

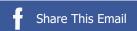
Let's get social!

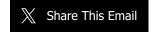
@HouGalvAreaCOG













Houston-Galveston Area Council | P.O. Box 22777 | Houston, TX 77227-2777 US



Try email marketing for free today!