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# Regional Focus

Your Monthly Newsletter from the Houston-Galveston Area Council  
Dec. 2024

□ 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! □



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**Officials Voted to the 2025 H-GAC Board of Directors**

## ***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](https://h-gac.com/live).

For more information about the H-GAC Board of Directors, visit [h-gac.com/board-of-directors](https://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](http://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.*

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## □ 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!



# CLIMATE CORNER

*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. [EPA GHG Reduction Programs and Strategies](#): An excellent resource that provides strategies to help communities tackle GHG emissions.
2. [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](https://h-gac.com/climate-pollution-reduction-grant-program)



## Livable Centers Graphics now Available!

H-GAC has developed and made available a [series of graphics](#) 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, [contact Livable Centers staff](#).

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# Upcoming Events

Learn how you can be involved in your community!

DEC 12

**GREENS BAYOU WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP**  
*Hybrid Meeting*

Join H-GAC and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the first meeting of the Greens Bayou Watershed Partnership!

5-7 P.M.  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

**NORTH HOUSTON DISTRICT**  
16945 NORTHCHASE DR.  
HOUSTON 77060

**ZOOM**

**GREENS BAYOU**  
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

**H-GAC**  
Houston-Galveston  
Area Council

For more information or to register:  
[greensbayoupartnership.weebly.com](http://greensbayoupartnership.weebly.com)

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](http://www.greensbayoupartnership.weebly.com) or by contacting [Rachel Windham](#) and [Cornell Evans, Jr.](#)

DEC 14

# COOLVolunteers

## PLANT COOLTrees

Join us  
FOR A



# Tree GIVEAWAY & Planting

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024

9 a.m. - Noon | Beechnut Street, Alief Super Neighborhood

Sponsored by:



SIGN UP TODAY!



\*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 [Green Futures corporate sustainability partnership](#).

DEC 17

TUESDAY,  
DEC

17

AT 10 A.M.

# H-GAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



Attend In Person:



Houston-Galveston Area Council  
3555 Timmons Ln.  
Houston, TX 77027  
Second-Floor Conference Rooms ABC

Watch Online:



H-GAC.COM/LIVE



DEC 20



## TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL MEETING

9:30 A.M. | FRIDAY, DEC 20

Attend In Person:



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

Watch Online:



H-GAC.COM/LIVE



JAN 10



**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**& STATE OF THE REGION**

**JAN 10, 2025**  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**THE BRIAR CLUB**  
2603 TIMMONS LANE  
HOUSTON, TX 77027

**REGISTER HERE**

**MORE INFORMATION**  
cynthia.jones@h-gac.com  
713-993-4591

**PRESENTED BY:**  
HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

**H-GAC**  
Houston-Galveston Area Council

Enjoy your coffee, then join us for lunch at  
**H-GAC's Annual Meeting & State of the Region!**

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**JAN 14**

# CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM

## *Basin Steering Committee*

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HYBRID MEETING:  
10 A.M. TO 12 P.M.  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

[h-gac.com/clean-rivers-program/committees](https://h-gac.com/clean-rivers-program/committees)

The agenda for the Clean Rivers Program [Basin Steering Committee](#) 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](#).

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**JAN 28**



# BRINGING BACK MAIN STREET ROUNDTABLE

Save  
the  
Date:

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

In-Person

Time, location, and topic 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](#).

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**FEB 21**



# **PARKS & NATURAL AREAS AWARDS CELEBRATION**

**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**

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**FEB 27**



# ELECTION LAW WORKSHOP SERIES



## Part Two: #Election Time The Election Process Unveiled

February 27, 2025 | 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
3555 Timmons, Houston, TX 77027  
2nd Floor Conference Rooms

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**MAR 29**



# TRASH BASH® 2025

**SAVE the DATE!**

 **SATURDAY, MARCH 29**


**"Clean It Like You Mean It!"®**  
Learn more at [www.trashbash.org](http://www.trashbash.org)

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