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## '74 Allstars

**By Kim Melchor**



### Rediscovering a Banner Year

Walking the familiar paths near the Denver Harbor baseball park, Leroy Cervantes thought he was just stretching his legs on an ordinary day. Instead, he stumbled upon a piece of neighborhood history—a crumpled white bundle tossed on a pile of rubble near an old concession stand.

“I wasn’t sure what it was at first,” Leroy recalled. “But when I folded some of it back and saw the letters, I recognized it. It was the banner.” He scooped it up, put it in his car to keep it safe, and brought it home.

That banner, faded but still proud, was from the 1974 Denver Harbor Little League All-Stars champions of District 25. For Leroy, the find was more than chance. It was personal. He had served as assistant coach of that very team 51 years ago.

### Glory Days

The summer of 1974 marked a milestone for Denver Harbor. For the first time, its Little League All-Star team clinched the district title, advancing farther than any local team had gone before. Under manager Arthur Gonzalez and assistant Leroy Cervantes, the boys beat Spring Branch, Lindale, and then Forest Cove in the championship.

Leroy smiles when he recalls walking into a ballpark with his team dressed in sharp, nearly new uniforms. A man in the bleachers called out, “I don’t know if they can play ball, but they sure look pretty.” Leroy laughs now, knowing those same boys went on to shower cars in the parking lot with home runs.

# Meet the New Principals in Our Neighborhood Schools'

Principals from Pugh, McReynolds, and Martinez share their stories, hopes, and plans for success.

By Kim Melchor

**Denver Harbor** is welcoming three new school leaders this year, each bringing a unique blend of experience, energy, and passion to the neighborhood. **Jeanette Cortez** is the new leader at **Pugh Elementary**, **Dr. Kenisha Spears Richardson** takes the helm at **McReynolds Middle**, and **Jaime Moretti Jr.** heads up **Raul C. Martinez Elementary**. All three spoke with La Voz about their personal journeys, their enthusiasm for new programs and community partnerships, and their plans to collaborate with families to help students succeed. These three leaders have also previously collaborated with each other; Richardson and Cortez were in the same apprentice principal program, and Moretti and Richardson worked together at the Sam Houston Math, Science, and Technology Center.

## Dr. Kenisha Spears Richardson — McReynolds Middle School



With **19 years of experience in Houston ISD**, Dr. Kenisha Richardson has served as a teacher development specialist, assistant principal, and one of the district's first principal apprentices. She has also led campuses to higher achievement, including a dramatic turnaround at Highland Heights Elementary, which had been rated an F for nine consecutive years before her team lifted it to an 87. Most recently, she served as principal of Marshall Elementary, where the school advanced from a solid B to an even stronger 85 rating. Richardson said she literally shed joyful tears when she received news of the results, because the work is so hard.

McReynolds is entering its second year as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) magnet school, with its first class of students already proving the power of hands-on learning in robotics and science. She has also expanded opportunities for high school credit, adding courses in Geometry, Spanish, and Information Technology alongside Algebra I. **"When students leave McReynolds, they'll be just two and a half credits shy of sophomore standing,"** she explained. **"When they get to high school, that will catapult them even further to entering a P-TECH campus, or being able to get those college credits while they're in high school, where it's cheaper."**

Richardson emphasizes, **"We're building a legacy."**

Outside of school, Richardson still finds time for sports and family.

A former college volleyball player, she recently returned to competitive play as a way to recharge. She also enjoys fantasy football and caring for her two dogs, but her greatest joy is her family, which now includes three grandchildren and a fourth on the way.

## Jaime Moretti Jr. — Raul C. Martinez Elementary School



Raised in Houston and educated in HISD schools, Principal Jamie Moretti Jr. built his career at Sam Houston High, spending ten years as a teacher and administrator. He later moved to Northline Elementary, where his team achieved a ten-point rating increase in just one year.

Like his colleagues at neighboring schools, Moretti is working with parents to re-establish a PTO after several years of inactivity.

# In The Community | En La Comunidad



## TOP ROW – Left to Right

Dicky Arevalo, Rogelio “Red” Saldana, Louie Loera, Ricky Fernandez, Rudy Rodriguez, Joe Gongora, Bobby Vela, Albert Vela, Louis Rodriguez, Jimmy Rodriguez, Richard “Duck” Mata, Billy, Harry McCoy, Fidel Garcia

## MIDDLE ROW – Left to Right

Frank Castro, Fernando Limas, Raymond Reynosa, Paul Castro, J. San ago, Michael Chapa, Danny Vela, Gilbert Reyna, Larry Castro, Earnest Mar nez, Michael Mata, Manuel Garcia, Dave “Bull” Arevalo

## FIRST ROW – Left to Right

Pilo Vasquez, Pete Gomez, JJ Fuentes, Pete DeLeon, Tim Phillips, Paul Salinas, Joe Garza, Daniel Lee

# On the Calendar | En el Calendario



**READY TOGETHER  
PRESENTS**

Denver Harbor Community  
**SMART WASTE  
SATURDAY:**  
Know Before You Throw!

**Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Denver Harbor  
Multi-Service Center  
6402 Market St**



## COMMUNITY EVENT WILL INCLUDE:

- Lunch for all registered attendees.
- Paper recycling service on site.
- Play Loteria (Mexican Bingo) for prizes!
- Make your own home composting bin.
- Emergency preparedness kits for your home!



Ready Together is a Leona's Kings and Queens, Coalition of Community Organizations & Verizon initiative to connect generations through education.

**verizon**



*Resurrection Catholic Church*

# FALL RAZAVAR

**HORACIO MATA**  
LOS CADETES

**LOS CABALLEROS DE CARNALITO**  
Española

**Zagrado**

**CODIGO**  
LOS MEXICANOS

**Elle magall**

**CELESTE Escobar**

*Evento Gratis y Familiar!*

**DOMINGO 12 DE OCTUBRE, 2025**  
10AM - 8PM  
915 ZOE ST. HOUSTON, TX 77020

# General & Special Elections: Fact Sheet

## Scan to View Sample Ballot



**YOUR VOTE MATTERS!**  
November 4, 2025 General and Special Elections  
Week of September 22, 2025

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
**MON., OCT 6**  
Last day to update voter registration status  
**EARLY VOTING**  
**MON., OCT 20 - SAT., OCT 25**  
7 AM - 7 PM  
**SUN., OCT 26**  
12 PM - 7 PM  
**MON., OCT 27 - FRI., OCT 31**  
7 AM - 7 PM  
**FRI., OCT 24**  
Ballot by mail application deadline.  
**ELECTION DAY**  
**TUES., NOV 4**  
7 AM - 7 PM

**VOTER OUTREACH COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

**OCT. 9**  
Bilingual (English/Spanish)  
Community Family Center  
7524 Avenue E, Houston, TX 77021  
8 AM

**OCT. 10**  
Bilingual (English/Vietnamese)  
BHSU  
1030 Bellaire Blvd, Suite 303, Houston, TX 77022  
10 AM

**OCT. 14**  
English  
Houston Area United League  
6262 Old Orange Rd, Houston, TX 77021  
6 PM

**OCT. 15**  
Bilingual (English/Chinese)  
Chinese Community Center  
3803 Town Park Dr, Houston, TX 77038  
10 PM

**OCT. 15**  
English  
Kingwood Branch Library  
4400 Barrs Lane Ln, Kingwood, TX 77339  
5 PM

Connect on social: @HarrisVotes | HarrisVotes.com | 713.755.6965

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS!**  
November 4, 2025 General and Special Elections  
Week of September 22, 2025

**NOVEMBER 4, 2025 GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

The following entities have contracted with HCCO to manage their elections.

Some non-contracting entities may also be holding elections.

Check your personalized sample ballot to see what contests apply to you.

**HARRISVOTES.COM**

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 18  
STATE OF TEXAS  
CITY OF BAYTOWN COUNCIL DISTRICT 1  
CITY OF BAYTOWN COUNCIL DISTRICT 3  
CITY OF BAYTOWN  
CITY OF BELLAIRE  
CITY OF HOUSTON  
CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE  
CITY OF MISSOURI CITY  
HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE DISTRICT I  
HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE DISTRICT II  
ALDINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT POSITION 5  
HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT POSITION 6  
HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT POSITION 7  
KLEIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NEW CANEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BAYTOWN CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION DISTRICT  
BAYTOWN FIRE CONTROL, PREVENTION, & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT  
FALLBROOK UTILITY DISTRICT  
FOUNTAINHEAD MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT  
GREEN TRAILS MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT  
HARRIS CO. FRESH WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO. 1A  
HARRIS CO. MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 033  
HARRIS CO. MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 086  
HARRIS CO. MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 130  
HARRIS CO. MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 189  
HARRIS CO. MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 304  
HARRIS CO. MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 630  
HARRIS CO. UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 016  
HARRIS CO. WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DIST. NO. 036  
HARRIS CO. WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DIST. NO. 074  
HARRIS CO. WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DIST. NO. 116  
HARRIS-FORT BEND COUNTIES MUNICIPAL UTILITY DIST. NO. 3  
HARRIS-WALLER COUNTIES MUNICIPAL UTILITY DIST. NO. 11  
LOUETTA ROAD UTILITY DISTRICT  
NORTHWEST PARK MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT  
RICE VILLAGE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
ST. GEORGE PLACE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OF HARRIS COUNTY  
THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP

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## DENVER HARBOR VOTING LOCATION

**¡TU VOTO CUENTA!**  
Elecciones Generales y Especiales - 4 de noviembre de 2025  
Semana del 22 de septiembre de 2025

**FECHAS IMPORTANTES**  
**LUNES, 6 DE OCTUBRE**  
Último día para actualizar el registro para votar  
**VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA**  
**LUNES, 20 DE OCTUBRE - SÁBADO, 25 DE OCTUBRE**  
7 AM - 7 PM  
**DOMINGO, 26 DE OCTUBRE**  
12 PM - 7 PM  
**LUNES, 27 DE OCTUBRE - VIERNES, 31 DE OCTUBRE**  
7 AM - 7 PM  
**VIERNES, 24 DE OCTUBRE**  
Fecha límite para la solicitud de voto por correo  
**DÍA DE LAS ELECCIONES**  
**MARTES, 4 DE NOVIEMBRE**  
7 AM - 7 PM

**REUNIONES COMUNITARIAS PARA VOTANTES**

**9 DE OCTUBRE**  
Bilingual (English/Spanish)  
Community Family Center  
7524 Avenue E, Houston, TX 77021  
8 AM

**10 DE OCTUBRE**  
Bilingual (English/Vietnamese)  
BHSU  
1030 Bellaire Blvd, Suite 303, Houston, TX 77022  
10 AM

**14 DE OCTUBRE**  
English  
Houston Area United League  
6262 Old Orange Rd, Houston, TX 77021  
6 PM

**15 DE OCTUBRE**  
Bilingual (English/Chinese)  
Chinese Community Center  
3803 Town Park Dr, Houston, TX 77038  
12:30 PM

**15 DE OCTUBRE**  
English  
Kingwood Branch Library  
4400 Barrs Lane Ln, Kingwood, TX 77339  
5 PM

Conéctese en las redes sociales: @HarrisVotes | HarrisVotes.com | 713.755.6965

**¡TU VOTO CUENTA!**  
Elecciones Generales y Especiales - 4 de noviembre de 2025  
Semana del 22 de septiembre de 2025

**ELECCIONES GENERALES Y ESPECIALES**  
**4 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2025**

Las siguientes entidades han contratado con HCCO para gestionar sus elecciones.

Algunas entidades no contratadas también pueden convocar elecciones.

Consulte su boleta de muestra personalizada para ver qué contiendas le corresponden.

**HARRISVOTES.COM**

REPRESENTANTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS, DISTRITO NÚM. 18  
ESTADO DE TEXAS  
CIUDAD DE BAYTOWN, MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO, DISTRITO NO. 1  
CIUDAD DE BAYTOWN, MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO, DISTRITO NO. 3  
CIUDAD DE BAYTOWN  
CIUDAD DE BELLAIRE  
CIUDAD DE HOUSTON  
CIUDAD DE JERSEY VILLAGE  
CIUDAD DE MISSOURI CITY  
DISTRITO I DEL HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE  
DISTRITO II DEL HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE  
DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE ALDINE  
DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS  
DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE HOUSTON, SÍNDICO, DISTRITO 5  
DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE HOUSTON, SÍNDICO, DISTRITO 6  
DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE HOUSTON, SÍNDICO, DISTRITO 7  
DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE KLEIN  
DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE NEW CANEY  
DISTRITO DE CONTROL Y PREVENCIÓN DE CRÍMENES DE BAYTOWN  
DISTRITO DE CONTROL DE INCENDIOS, PREVENCIÓN Y SERVICIOS MÉDICOS DE EMERGENCIA DE BAYTOWN  
DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS DE FALLBROOK  
DISTRITO MUNICIPAL DE SERVICIO PÚBLICO DE FOUNTAINHEAD  
DISTRITO MUNICIPAL DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS GREEN TRAILS  
DISTRITO DE SUMINISTRO DE AGUA DULCE NRO.1A DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS  
DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS MUNICIPALES DEL CONDADO HARRIS NRO. 33  
DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS MUNICIPALES DEL CONDADO HARRIS NRO. 86  
DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS MUNICIPALES DEL CONDADO HARRIS NRO. 130  
DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS MUNICIPALES NRO. 189 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS  
DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS MUNICIPALES DEL CONDADO HARRIS NRO. 304  
DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS MUNICIPALES DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS NRO. 630  
DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS DEL CONDADO HARRIS NRO. 16  
DISTRITO DE CONTROL Y MEJORAS DE AGUA NRO. 36 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS  
DISTRITO DE CONTROL Y MEJORAS DE AGUA NRO. 74 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS  
DISTRITO DE CONTROL Y MEJORAS DE AGUA NRO. 116 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS  
DISTRITO MUNICIPAL DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS NO. 3 DE LOS CONDADOS DE HARRIS-FORT BEND  
DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS MUNICIPALES NRO. 11 DE LOS CONDADOS DE HARRIS-WALLER  
DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS DE LOUETTA ROAD  
DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS MUNICIPALES DE NORTHWEST PARK  
DISTRITO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE RICE VILLAGE  
DISTRITO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE SAINT GEORGE PLACE DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS  
THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP

Conéctese en las redes sociales: @HarrisVotes | HarrisVotes.com | 713.755.6965

6402 Market Street  
Houston, TX 77020  
Site Specialist Contact: (832) 395-0892

Share



Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center

## Rediscovering a Banner Year

The Denver Harbor News headline of July 25, 1974, told it all:

***“LL All-Star Take Dist. Title, Aim at State Win.”***

For the neighborhood, it was a moment of pride. For the players, David Almendarez, Reginald Barnett, Frank Cardenas, Leroy Cervantes Jr., Benny Chavez, John Chomiak, John Cook, Mario Gonzales, Greg Gonzalez, Joe Martinez, Ray Melchor, Sonny Moreno, Mickey Ochoa, Tim Phillips, Carlton Rocio, Edward Suarez, Henry Torres, and Albert Villanueva.—it was the summer of their lives.

“We practiced them like any other team,” Leroy remembered.

***“But when we got into that tournament, something came out of those kids. They just had it.”***

He said,

***“It wasn’t a miracle. It was just those kids, and what they carried inside them. I was proud then, and I’m proud now.”***

Tournaments in those days were unforgiving. “Now they play double elimination,” Leroy explained. “But back then, it was one loss and you were out. No safety net.” After sweeping through the district, Denver Harbor moved on to the sectional playoffs. Their remarkable run ended there, with a tough loss to Pasadena that cut short their dream of reaching State.



## A Coincidental Discovery

Leroy never really left the game. After his years as a coach, he stayed involved in softball and later became a certified umpire. In fact, he was still certified last year, when he turned 89. Leroy hadn’t thought much about that banner in decades when he found it by accident, half-buried in trash. “No, I couldn’t leave it there,” he said. “That wasn’t right.”

He tucked the banner away for safekeeping, unsure what to do with it. Eventually, he decided to pass it on to Carolyn Lopez. Her father, Ralph Lopez, served as president of Denver Harbor Little League back in ‘74.



## More to come

This isn’t the end of the story. Next week, La Voz will share how some of the players from that 1974 championship team gathered at the old field to reunite, swap memories, and stand once again where they had played all those years ago. Check back with us in November!

Scan to see AARP Events & News in Houston, Texas



Early energy is already turning into plans for events, incentives, and teacher support. Moretti said, **“It’s a good feeling to be able to know that they want to come in.”** He adds, **“We want to do this together with the community and make sure that we are providing everything for students.”**

Outside of school, Moretti is a sports enthusiast — an Astros fan, basketball player, and former mariachi musician who performed for nearly 15 years. Today, most of his time is spent with his wife, a teacher in Humble ISD, and their two children, who are actively involved in soccer and gymnastics.

Moretti describes his proudest moments as those when students tell him directly that his support has made a difference. At Sam Houston, seniors shook his hand after graduation and said, **“If it wasn’t for you, I wouldn’t be here.”** Those moments, he said, **“remind me that the work we do is important, even if you don’t see it every day.”**

Looking to the future, Moretti said, **“We’re going to do what’s in our power to make sure that we get these kids in a good position to get to that next level.”**

## Jeanette Cortez — Pugh Elementary School



For Principal Jeanette Cortez, leading Pugh Elementary is both a professional and personal endeavor. A graduate of Houston ISD schools herself, Cortez is proud to now serve the community she grew up in, where her own nephew is a student, and her mother is an active volunteer. She began her career in elementary education but also served in middle and high schools. At Waltrip High, she stepped up as interim principal and helped raise the school’s rating from 69 to 89 in just ten months, earning six distinctions. Later, at Booker T. Washington High School, she and her team lifted the campus to a B rating and achieved 97% College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) points.

At Pugh, Cortez is building momentum around new initiatives. The school is preparing to become a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) campus, with plans to expand into agriculture. Cortez said that the school is working through partnerships to bring on digital art. **“We have the equipment, and we’re now just looking for the person.”**

Cortez is also excited about parental involvement. Just weeks into the school year, Pugh parents have already established a new PTO board, bringing energy back into the school community. **“We’re now rocking and rolling with coffee with the principal,”** she said. **“Parents are telling me it feels like they’re welcomed again.”**

Cortez describes her work as both a passion and a calling. Whether she is taking a long walk in Memorial Park or walking the campus halls with student data in hand, her focus is steady: building a school where every child feels seen and supported.

On a more personal level, Cortez speaks for many other educators when she says, **“We’re in this. This is not just a job. This is not just a career; this is our calling. God has called us to do this type of work.”**

**LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON**

# HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION?

**LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS MONDAY OCTOBER 6TH**

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS AT:  
teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP

OR SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR CAMERA!

## HOUSTON VOTERS GUIDE

Find everything you need to vote with confidence! See candidate platforms, ballot info, and helpful election resources, all in one trusted place.

**GET YOURS! VOTE**

**HOUSTONVOTERSGUIDE.ORG**



**LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON**

# ¿HAS VERIFICADO TU REGISTRO ELECTORAL?

**EL ÚLTIMO DÍA PARA REGISTRARSE PARA VOTAR ES EL 6 DE OCT**

VERIFICA EL ESTADO DE TU REGISTRO EN:  
teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP

o escanea el código QR con tu cámara

## HOUSTON VOTERS GUIDE

Encuentra todo lo que necesitas para votar con confianza: conoce las plataformas de los candidatos, la información de la boleta electoral y recursos útiles, todo en un sitio confiable.

**¡OBTÉN EL TUYO! VOTE**

**HOUSTONVOTERSGUIDE.ORG**

# On the Calendar | En el Calendario

FMBC PRESENTS

Love

Thy Neighborhood

Fall Festival

1 NOVEMBER, 2025

3:00PM - 7:00PM

623 KRESS ST. HOUSTON, TX 77020

JOIN US FOR GAMES, FOOD, VENDORS,  
PHOTO BOOTH, & PRAYER BOOTH

Unase a Nosotros

TRUNK OR TREAT

FIESTA DE LA

COMUNIDAD

DISFRUTA DE MÚSICA GRATIS, DULCES,  
MANUALIDADES,  
Y CONCURSO DE DISFRACES  
ESPELUZNANTES Y MUCHOS RECURSOS.

SÁBADO, 26 DE OCTUBRE DE 2024,  
DE 10 AM - 1 PM

Denver Harbor Multi-Service  
Center 6402 Mariet St.  
Houston Texas 77020

TRICK  
OR  
TREAT

Please join us for a

TRUNK OR TREAT

COMMUNITY

FESTIVAL

ENJOY FREE MUSIC, CANDY, ARTS &  
CRAFTS, SPOOKY COSTUME CONTEST  
AND LOT'S OF RESOURCES!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024,  
FROM 10 AM-1PM

Denver Harbor Multi-Service  
Center 6402 Mariet St.  
Houston Texas 77020

TRICK  
OR  
TREAT

HOUSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PRESENTS

YOUTH FLAG

FOOTBALL

PROGRAM

This Instructional Development Class focuses on teaching the fundamental skills of flag football while providing a safe environment to grow in the sport. Kids ages 9 - 14 will learn sport-specific skills, such as throwing, catching, flag pulling, defense, agility, and speed. In addition, they will learn motor skills development, fitness conditioning, and have opportunities for healthy competition. Equipment is provided to all participants. **FREE!**

AGES: 9 - 14 YEARS OLD

REGISTRATION: Sept. 15 - Oct. 12, 2025

DATES: SEPTEMBER 29, 2025 - OCTOBER 31, 2025

DAYS: 2 DAYS A WEEK

TIME: 6 PM. - 8 PM.

LOCATION: VARIOUS COMMUNITY CENTERS

ACTIVITY NUMBERS:

ONLINE REGISTRATION: <https://apm.activecommunities.com/houstonparks/Home>

INFORMATION: (832) 395-7326

GB-005.25



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**Please join Denver Harbor CARES and  
Denver Harbor Civic Club**



WITH THE  
HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
(HPD), HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
(HFD), PRECINCT 6 CONSTABLES  
OFFICE, AND HARRIS COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**FREE HOT DOGS - MUSIC - KIDS ZONE -  
GAMES - DOOR PRIZES AND SO MUCH MORE!**

DENVER HARBOR MULTISERVICE BLDG  
INSIDE GYM



# PRODUCTION

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Merida Publishing, LLC

La Voz is published monthly. The business address is 843 Kress Street Houston, TX 77020. Our phone number is 713-459-3605. The use, reproduction or distribution of this newspaper is strongly encouraged.

Por cualquier  
pregunta llama  
713-459-3605

# Word from the Editor

Hello Neighbors,

Thank you for your continued support!

Once again, I want to say that Denver Harbor is truly a community of family and friends.

This month's cover story highlights where I believe the spirit of Denver Harbor truly began — the first time the **Denver Harbor Little League All-Stars** won the Texas District 25 Championship over 50 years ago. Read about how the championship flag was rediscovered by Leroy Cervantes, one of the original All-Star coaches.

We're also excited to **welcome new principals to our Denver Harbor schools!**

As many of us know, **Lyons Avenue is long overdue for some improvements.** Starting in October, Ricky Campos and Joanna Galvan—recipients of a LISC grant—will begin a revitalization effort. Esteemed **muralist David Maldonado will create a new mural** at the corner of Lathrop and Lyons, adding fresh color and community pride to our neighborhood.

The true spirit of Denver Harbor also shines through in the story of two young brothers, the **Herrera Brothers, who took on the 50-Yard Challenge—cutting lawns for free for seniors and individuals with disabilities.** These inspiring young men plan to start their own business soon!

Finally, remember that **Early Voting begins October 20th** at the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center. Inside this issue, you'll find a **QR code from the League of Women Voters linking to their Voters Guide**, which includes information on local amendments and city council at-large races, along with a sample ballot.

Let's show up, get informed, and go out and vote!

With gratitude,

*Carolyn Lopez*

# EDITOR



**READ LA VOZ DE  
DENVER HARBOR ON  
YOUR MOBILE DEVICE**

Scan QR to explore past editions of  
La Voz de Denver Harbor

# Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month

## Shining a Light on Literacy: Dr. Gabriela Baeza Ventura's Vision for a Reading Renaissance

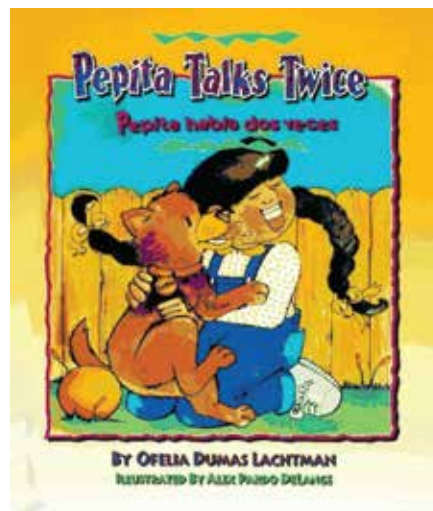
In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and Literacy Awareness Month, La Voz proudly highlights Dr. Gabriela Baeza Ventura, a leading advocate for Latino literature and cultural preservation. As the director of Arte Público Press and a University of Houston professor, Dr. Ventura has dedicated her career to ensuring that Latino stories are not just told but cherished.

Dr. Ventura emphasized that one of the most urgent missions is to revive a culture of reading within the Latino community. She passionately advocates for parents to read to their children, to share stories that reflect their heritage, and to create a home environment where books are treasured.

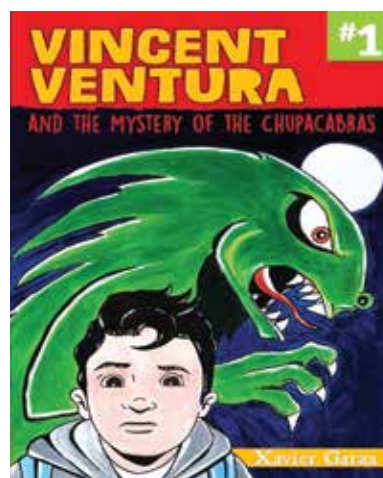
Her message is clear: by encouraging reading from a young age, we can foster a generation that sees literacy as a source of strength and identity. She also pointed out the importance of having physical spaces, libraries, where children and families can discover books that resonate with their own experiences.

In her words, it's about changing the culture back to one where literacy is a shared family value and a pillar of community life.

As part of our conversation, Dr. Ventura shared some of her favorite titles published by Arte Público Press, stories that reflect the richness and resilience of Latino experiences:

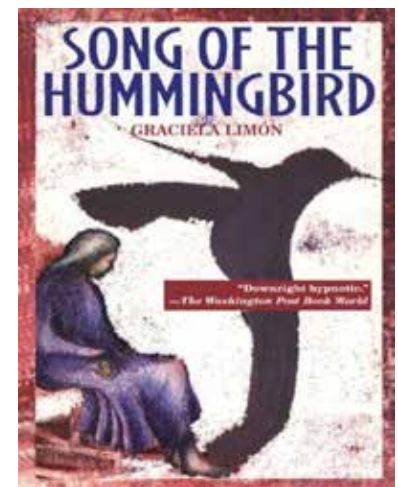


- **Pepita Talks Twice** by Ofelia Dumas Lachtman A children's book about a bilingual girl who decides she won't translate for her family anymore, only to realize the power and importance of being bilingual.



- **The Vincent Ventura Detective Series** by Xavier Garza A young adult series that reimagines folk tales and urban legends like La Llorona and the Donkey Lady in contemporary ways.

- **Song of the Hummingbird** by Graciela Limón An adult novel retelling the story of the Spanish conquest from the perspective of an Indigenous woman, offering a powerful counter-narrative to colonial history.



So as we celebrate this month, let's take Dr. Ventura's inspiration to heart: let's open a book, read to our kids, and help build a future where every child sees themselves as part of the story.



# Conozca a los Nuevos Directores en Nuestras Escuelas del Vecindario

Los directores de Pugh, McReynolds y Martinez comparten sus historias, esperanzas y planes para el éxito.

Por Kim Melchor

Denver Harbor da la bienvenida este año a tres nuevos líderes escolares, cada uno aportando una combinación única de experiencia, energía y pasión al vecindario. Jeanette Cortez es la nueva directora de Pugh Elementary, la Dra. Kenisha Spears Richardson asume el liderazgo en McReynolds Middle, y Jaime Moretti Jr. encabeza la primaria Raul C. Martinez. Los tres hablaron con La Voz sobre sus trayectorias personales, su entusiasmo por nuevos programas y asociaciones comunitarias, y sus planes de colaborar con las familias para ayudar a los estudiantes a tener éxito. Estos tres líderes también han colaborado previamente entre sí; Richardson y Cortez participaron en el mismo programa de aprendizaje para directores, y Moretti y Richardson trabajaron juntos en el Sam Houston Math, Science, and Technology Center.

## **Dra. Kenisha Spears Richardson — McReynolds Middle School**



Con 19 años de experiencia en Houston ISD, la Dra. Kenisha Richardson se ha desempeñado como especialista en desarrollo docente, subdirectora y una de las primeras aprendices de director en el distrito. También ha liderado escuelas hacia logros más altos, incluyendo una transformación en Highland Heights Elementary, que había recibido una calificación de F durante nueve años consecutivos antes de que su equipo la elevara a un 87. Más recientemente, fue directora de Marshall Elementary, donde la escuela avanzó de una B sólida a una calificación aún más fuerte de 85. Richardson dijo que literalmente lloró de alegría al recibir la noticia de los resultados, porque el trabajo es muy duro.

McReynolds entra en su segundo año como escuela magnet STEM (Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas), con su primera generación de estudiantes ya demostrando el poder del aprendizaje práctico en robótica y ciencias. También ha ampliado las oportunidades de créditos de preparatoria, agregando cursos en Geometría, Español y Tecnología de la Información junto con Álgebra I. “Cuando los estudiantes salgan de McReynolds, estarán a solo dos créditos y medio de ser considerados sophomores”, explicó. “Cuando lleguen a la preparatoria, eso los impulsará aún más para entrar en un campus P-TECH o poder obtener créditos universitarios mientras están en la preparatoria, donde es más económico.”

Richardson enfatiza: “Estamos construyendo un legado.”

Fuera de la escuela, Richardson aún encuentra tiempo para los deportes y la familia. Exjugadora universitaria de voleibol, recientemente regresó a la

competencia como una forma de recargar energías. También disfruta del fútbol de fantasía y de cuidar a sus dos perros, pero su mayor alegría es su familia, que ahora incluye tres nietos y un cuarto en camino.

## **Jaime Moretti Jr. — Raul C. Martinez Elementary School**



Criado en Houston y educado en las escuelas de HISD, el director Jaime Moretti Jr. construyó su carrera en Sam Houston High, donde pasó diez años como maestro y administrador. Luego se trasladó a Northline Elementary, donde su equipo logró un aumento de diez puntos en la calificación en solo un año.

Al igual que sus colegas en las escuelas vecinas, Moretti está trabajando con los padres para restablecer una PTO después de varios años de inactividad. El entusiasmo inicial ya se está convirtiendo en planes para eventos, incentivos y apoyo a los maestros. Moretti dijo: “Es una buena sensación poder saber que quieren participar.” Agregó:

# Honrando el Mes de la Herencia Hispana

## Encendiendo la Lectura: La visión de la Dra. Gabriela Baeza Ventura para un Futuro de Lectores

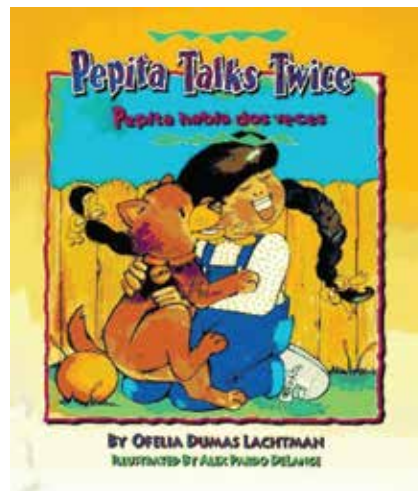
En este Mes de la Herencia Hispana y el Mes de la Lectura, La Voz se enorgullece en presentar a la Dra. Gabriela Baeza Ventura, una gran defensora de la literatura latina y de nuestra cultura. Ella es directora de Arte Público Press y profesora en la Universidad de Houston. Toda su carrera la ha dedicado a que las historias latinas se publiquen y se valoren.

La Dra. Ventura dice que una de las misiones más urgentes es regresar a la costumbre de leer dentro de la comunidad latina. Ella anima a los padres a leer a sus hijos, a compartir historias que hablen de nuestra herencia y a hacer del hogar un lugar donde los libros se cuiden y se disfruten. Su mensaje es claro: si los niños aprenden a leer desde pequeños, crecerán más fuertes y seguros de quiénes son.

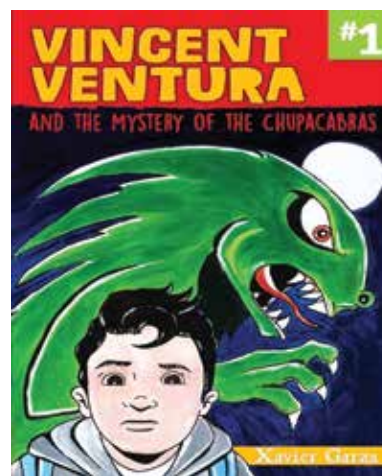
También habló de la importancia de tener espacios físicos, las bibliotecas, donde los niños y las familias puedan encontrar libros que hablen de sus propias experiencias.

Según ella, necesitamos volver a una cultura donde la lectura sea un valor familiar y parte de la vida de la comunidad.

Durante nuestra plática, la Dra. Ventura compartió algunos de sus libros favoritos publicados por Arte Público Press, historias que muestran la riqueza y la fuerza de la experiencia latina:

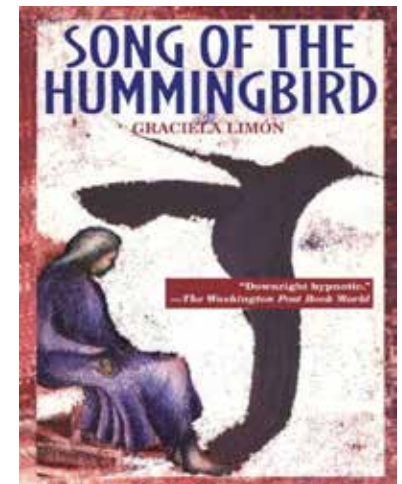


- **Pepita Talks Twice de Ofelia Dumas Lachtman** Un libro infantil sobre una niña bilingüe que decide no traducir más para su familia, pero aprende lo valioso que es ser bilingüe.



- **La Serie de Detectives Vincent Ventura de Xavier Garza** Una serie juvenil que vuelve a contar leyendas como La Llorona y la Dama del Burro de una forma moderna.

- **El Canto del Colibrí (Song of the Hummingbird) de Graciela Limón** Una novela para adultos que cuenta la historia de la conquista española desde los ojos de una mujer indígena.



Al celebrar este mes, sigamos el ejemplo de la Dra. Ventura: abramos un libro, leamos con nuestros hijos y ayudemos a crear un futuro donde cada niño pueda verse reflejado en las historias.



## La Voz de Denver Harbor Distribution Locations

Porras Bakery  
 One Stop9 Market @ Lathrop  
 Washateria 910 Market  
 JD Little Store 1145 Lathrop  
 Washateria 1103 Lathrop  
 Jo Co 1147 Lathrop  
 Chevron 850 Lathrop  
 Del-Sun 7200 Lyons  
 Mexican Food 7102 Lyons  
 Party Store 7236 Lyons  
 D.H. Tire Shop 6900 Lyons  
 Gift Store 6930 Lyons  
 Harbor Food Store 803 Tremper  
 J's Food Store 1143 Port  
 LNoe 800 Gazin  
 Quick Food Store 1103 Lathrop  
 Kress Food 846 Market  
 Washateria 7125 Lyons  
 Fiesta Store #9 700 Shotwell  
 DH Seniors 6402 Market  
 Andrade Enterprises 542 Lathrop  
 Moe's. Eagle pass @ Zoe  
 Dixie Maid 6800 Lyons  
 All in One 6715 Lathrop  
 Pron Insurance 6715 Lathrop  
 Washateria Lathrop  
 Montes Tire Store 6620 Lyons  
 Family Dollar Lyons  
 Washateria 661 Rouse  
 La Patrona Restaurant 6300 Lyons  
 Vargas Food Store Lyons@Woolworth  
 Tortilla 610 Lyons  
 Reyna's 6000 Lyons  
 Washateria 6004 Lyons  
 Lyons Cleaners 6000 Lyons  
 Matamoras Food Store 6800 Lyons  
 Smoke Shop 661@Lyons  
 Amigos Grocery 6300 Hillsboro@Kress  
 Little Store Woolworth@Wallisville  
 El Rincon Market 6830 Wallisville  
 El Patron 7334 Wallisville  
 Harbor Washateria 430 Harbor  
 Lathrop Store 403 Lathrop  
 Seven Seas 445 Lathrop  
 Elite Food 7434 Eagle Pass  
 Kress Food Store 6200 Market  
 Pemex Gas Station  
 Cliff Tuttle Library



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**Celebrating Denver Harbor-  
One Block at a Time!**



HELP SHAPE THE  
FUTURE OF  
**LYONS AVENUE!**



Over the past decades, Lyons Avenue has been neglected. Lyons Avenue has always served as a main road in our community, known for its culture, memories, and unity. Our mission for this project is to beautify and revitalize Lyons Avenue. Come join us to learn about our project and contribute your ideas! We'd love to hear from you!

**OCT. 8, 2025**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**1-3 PM**

**6200 Lyons Ave, Houston, TX 77020**  
**Cliff Tuttle Park**



# In The Community | En La Comunidad

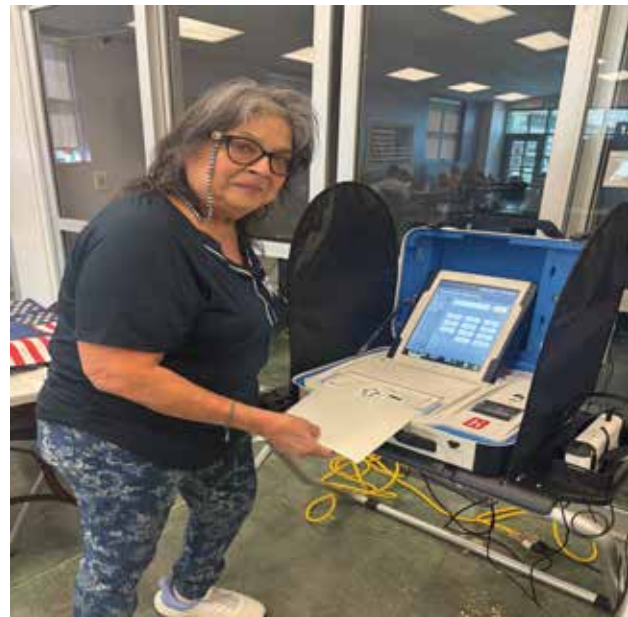
Herrera brothers are giving back to the community by cutting lawns for free as part of the 50-Yard Challenge. The brothers are offering their services to seniors and individuals with disabilities right here in Denver Harbor. Their hard work and generosity truly reflect the spirit of our neighborhood!



Community members from Denver Harbor, Fifth Ward, Settegast, and Galena Park came together for a Verizon-sponsored bus tour focused on addressing local environmental issues and sharing ideas for a healthier neighborhood.



Each year on October 14, family and friends gather at Ms. Padilla’s home on Alderson Street to celebrate her birthday — a cherished Denver Harbor tradition. The Senior Room at the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center and the Skate Park at Cliff Tuttle Park are both named in honor of Ms. Padilla and her late husband, Joe Padilla.



County Clerk Voting Machine Demonstration



Car Wash will have a mural done by esteemed muralist David Maldonado will create a new mural at the corner of Lathrop and Lyons, adding fresh color and community pride to our neighborhood.

“Queremos hacer esto juntos con la comunidad y asegurarnos de que estamos proporcionando todo para los estudiantes.”

Fuera de la escuela, Moretti es un entusiasta del deporte: fanático de los Astros, jugador de baloncesto y exmúsico de mariachi que actuó durante casi 15 años. Hoy en día, pasa la mayor parte de su tiempo con su esposa, maestra en Humble ISD, y sus dos hijos, que participan activamente en el fútbol y la gimnasia.

Moretti describe sus momentos más orgullosos como aquellos en los que los estudiantes le dicen directamente que su apoyo ha marcado la diferencia. En Sam Houston, los graduados le estrechaban la mano después de la ceremonia y decían: “Si no fuera por usted, no estaría aquí.” Esos momentos, dijo, “me recuerdan que el trabajo que hacemos es importante, incluso si no se ve todos los días.”

De cara al futuro, Moretti dijo: “Vamos a hacer lo que esté en nuestro poder para asegurarnos de que pongamos a estos niños en una buena posición para llegar al siguiente nivel.”

Jeanette Cortez — Pugh Elementary School



Para la directora Jeanette Cortez, liderar Pugh Elementary es tanto un esfuerzo profesional como personal. Graduada de las escuelas de HISD, Cortez ahora se enorgullece de servir a la comunidad donde creció, donde su propio sobrino es estudiante y su madre es una voluntaria activa. Comenzó su carrera en la educación primaria pero también trabajó en escuelas intermedias y secundarias. En Waltrip High, asumió el cargo de directora interina y ayudó a elevar la calificación de la escuela de 69 a 89 en solo diez meses, obteniendo seis distinciones. Más tarde, en Booker T. Washington High School, ella y su equipo elevaron la calificación del campus a una B y alcanzaron el 97% en puntos de Preparación Universitaria, Profesional y Militar (CCMR).

En Pugh, Cortez está generando impulso en torno a nuevas iniciativas. La escuela se prepara para convertirse en un campus STEAM (Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería, Artes y Matemáticas), con planes de expandirse hacia la agricultura. Cortez dijo que la escuela está

trabajando en asociaciones para incorporar arte digital. “Tenemos el equipo, y ahora estamos buscando a la persona.”

Cortez también está entusiasmada con la participación de los padres. A solo unas semanas del inicio del año escolar, los padres de Pugh ya han establecido una nueva PTO, trayendo energía de regreso a la comunidad escolar. “Ya estamos en marcha con café con la directora”, dijo. “Los padres me dicen que sienten que son bienvenidos de nuevo.”

Cortez describe su trabajo como una pasión y una vocación. Ya sea caminando por Memorial Park o recorriendo los pasillos con datos de los estudiantes en mano, su enfoque es constante: construir una escuela donde cada niño se sienta visto y apoyado.

A un nivel más personal, Cortez habla por muchos otros educadores cuando dice: “Estamos en esto. Esto no es solo un trabajo. Esto no es solo una carrera; esta es nuestra vocación. Dios nos ha llamado a hacer este tipo de trabajo.”

## CÓMO PREPARARSE PARA LA CORTE TESTAMENTARIA

¡Acompáñenos en un seminario GRATUITO e informativo sobre los procedimientos de los tribunales de sucesiones para testamentos, seguido de una sesión de preguntas y respuestas!

(Habrá desayuno y café)

Jueza  
Pamela Medina

Abogados de  
Lone Star Legal Aid

Rep. Ana  
Hernandez

Sábado,  
11 de octubre de 2025  
9:30AM – 11:30AM

Jacinto City Town Center  
1025 Oates Rd.  
Jacinto City, TX 77029

Confirme su asistencia antes del 8 de octubre llamando al (713) 675-8596 o enviando un correo a [District143.Hernandez@house.texas.gov](mailto:District143.Hernandez@house.texas.gov)

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR PROBATE COURT

Please join us for a FREE informative seminar on the probate courts' procedures for wills, followed by a Q&A session.

(Breakfast and Coffee will be provided)

Probate Judge  
Pamela Medina

Lone Star Legal Aid  
Attorneys

Rep. Ana  
Hernandez

Saturday,  
October 11, 2025  
9:30AM – 11:30AM

Jacinto City Town Center  
1025 Oates Rd.  
Jacinto City, TX 77029

RSVP by Oct 8<sup>th</sup> by calling (713) 675-8596 or emailing [District143.Hernandez@house.texas.gov](mailto:District143.Hernandez@house.texas.gov)

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budget that keeps core  
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**ADRIAN  
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**COMMISSIONER**  
HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2



POL. ADV. ADRIAN GARCIA CAMPAIGN