

LaVoz de Denver Harbor

Volume 2 Number 9
A Bi-Cultural Publication
May, 2026

FREE Gratis

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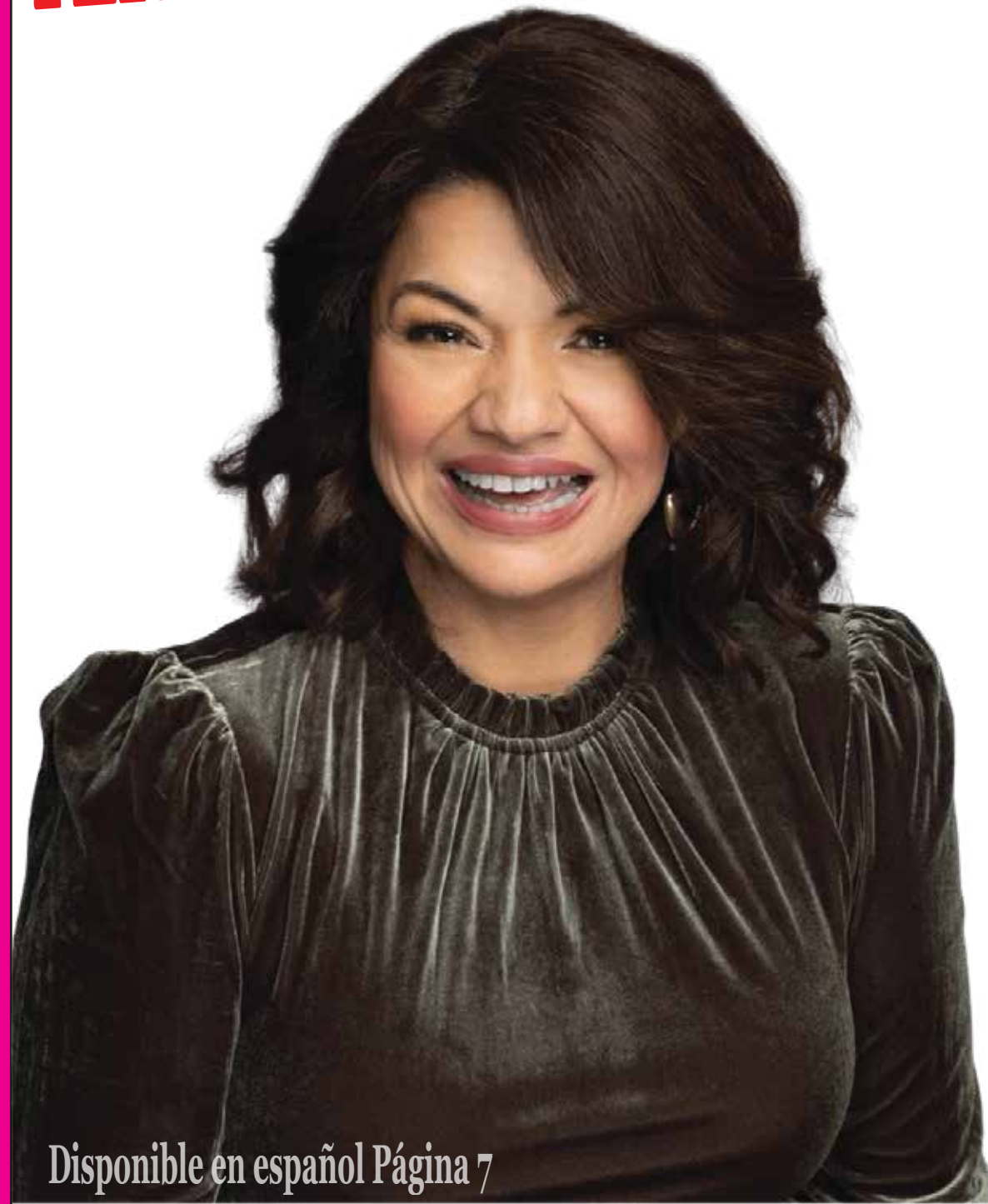
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12 month minimum agreement

Contrato mínimo de 12 meses



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La Voz de Denver Harbor

FRAUD!

AARP Texas Director Warns DH Seniors About Sophisticated Schemes

Written by Kim Melchor

Fraudsters are using artificial intelligence (AI) and cryptocurrency kiosks to steal money from Texas seniors, including those in Denver Harbor, according to the state director of AARP.

Lisa Rodriguez, who has worked with AARP for almost 16 years, said the scams are increasingly sophisticated. **Texans lost \$1.36 billion to fraud in 2025**. In an interview with La Voz, Rodriguez said,

“It’s only going to get worse with AI.”

Rodriguez explained that the thieves often claim that relatives have been arrested, or that victims face legal trouble for missing jury duty, or unpaid parking tickets. The scammers “mine” public records to make their calls more believable. They also spoof phone numbers—a technique that disguises their real number—to make it appear calls are coming from sheriff’s departments or other official agencies.

Rodriguez related that in a San Antonio case, a woman who missed jury duty received a call from what appeared to be the county sheriff. The scammers staged a fake Zoom call with what appeared to be a judge. The woman followed directions and deposited money at a cryptocurrency kiosk – a machine that looks like a regular ATM. People deposit cash that gets converted to cryptocurrency, which scammers can access quickly and anonymously.

Rodriguez said cryptocurrency requests are a red flag and that government agencies and legitimate attorneys never utilize them for payment. **AARP Texas is currently working on legislation to regulate these machines.**

Another red flag is urgency. **Scammers pressure victims to act immediately and discourage them from hanging up** to verify information with family or authorities.



Rodriguez advised people **not to answer calls from unknown numbers, even if the caller ID shows a local area code.**

She explained that when people answer and say “hello,” scammers may record their voices. Those recordings can be sold to fraudsters who use them in future AI-driven scams.

The emotional nature of these scams makes them effective. When people receive a call they suspect may be fraudulent, Rodriguez urges them to **Pause, Reflect, and Protect themselves.**

The emotional nature of these scams makes them effective.

When people receive a call they suspect may be fraudulent, Rodriguez urges them to Pause, Reflect, and Protect themselves. She urged seniors to take time to check if that person is truly in jeopardy. “And nine out of 10 times, they’re not.” She said recipients should hang up and call 311 or a non-emergency number to verify information. Recovery of lost funds is extremely difficult, making prevention critical.

Rodriguez encouraged victims to share their experiences. “People feel ashamed, and they don’t want to tell their stories,” Rodriguez said. “But here’s the thing: it’s so sophisticated that if we don’t tell these stories, only the fraudsters win, because they continue to scam and scam and scam.”

AARP offers free resources through its Fraud Watch Network. Residents can call the toll-free hotline at 877-908-3360 or visit www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud for information on current scams, including a heat map showing which schemes are active in Houston and other Texas cities.

“The more that we figure out what these scams are, the better we can be at tracking them,” Rodriguez said.

AARP Texas In collaboration with
HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT H

FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING

MAY 30TH
Free shredding!
Protect your personal information.
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Multi-Service Center
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Proteja su identidad.
Destrucción gratuita de documentos.
*Limite de tres cajas bancarias

SCAN ME
TXAARP@AARP.ORG

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**Por cualquier
pregunta llama
(713) 459-3605**

Word from the Editor

Neighbors,

Thank you for your continued support. We're excited to share that La Voz de Denver Harbor is expanding—beginning this month, we will be increasing our print distribution to 3,000 copies each month. We are also growing our reach into the McCarty and Wallisville areas near El Dorado.

Did you know that Denver Harbor is home to approximately 2,300 residents over the age of 65? This number does not include those between the ages of 55–64, highlighting the importance of accessible resources for our senior community.

Our cover story this month features **AARP Statewide Director Lisa Rodriguez**, who shares valuable insights on **fraud prevention**. Her interview was so informative that we will be continuing it in next month's issue.

We also highlight a new initiative from Denver Harbor CARES: 50+ Connect, a resource guide featuring QR codes that link to important community services, including local groups, AARP, MECA, METRO, and Precinct 2 transportation.

If you've noticed homes being demolished and rebuilt without proper permits, remember that you can report this anonymously by calling 311.

This is also the time of year to review your property tax exemptions. Filing for homestead, over-65, veteran, or disability exemptions can help reduce your tax burden. Be sure to check out our interview with Harris County Chief Appraiser Paul Bogard for more information.

Our new feature, "Mixing it with the Stars: Tejano Style," continues this month with an interview with Gary Hobbs, conducted by Ricky Campos. Special thanks to David "Bull" Arevalo for coordinating this exciting series.

Mark your calendars for May 30, when two community events will take place at the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Building: a paper shredding event sponsored by AARP and Councilman Castillo, and a community Lotería hosted by Denver Harbor CARES.

Finally, don't forget that May 26 is the runoff election for statewide races, District Clerk, and Republican Congressional District 9. For more information, visit HarrisVotes.com or call 713-755-6965.

Thank you for staying connected and engaged with your community.

EDITOR



Carolyn Lopez

Meet Our Writers | Conozca Nuestros Escritores

Kim Melchor, Writer

Kim Melchor is a Houston-based writer with strong ties to the Denver Harbor neighborhood. Her background is in engineering and technical writing, and she previously worked as a reporter for the Humble Tribune. Her work focuses on neighborhood storytelling, with a particular interest in education and the ways local systems and decisions affect everyday life.

Kim Melchor es una escritora radicada en Houston con fuertes lazos con el vecindario de Denver Harbor. Su formación es en ingeniería y redacción técnica, y anteriormente trabajó como reportera para el Humble Tribune. Su trabajo se centra en contar historias de vecindarios, con un interés particular en la educación y en las formas en que los sistemas y decisiones locales afectan la vida cotidiana.

Jessica Campos, Community Activist

Jessica Campos is a resident of Denver Harbor, Houston, a mother of three public school students, and a community education advocate focused on educational equity and community empowerment. Her work is guided by grassroots organizing and direct experience, supporting families as they navigate public systems.

Jessica Campos es residente de Denver Harbor, Houston, madre de tres estudiantes de escuelas públicas y defensora comunitaria de la educación, enfocada en la equidad educativa y el fortalecimiento de la comunidad. Su trabajo está guiado por la organización comunitaria de base y su experiencia directa, acompañando a familias navegando por los sistemas públicos.

Ricky Campos, Writer & Poet

Ricky Campos has been a proud Denver Harbor resident since the 1950s. A writer and poet focused on cultural history, she has long been active in community organizing and volunteer work. Her latest project, Celebrating Denver Harbor, One Block at a Time, aims to revitalize Lyons Avenue while honoring the neighborhood's heritage.

Ricky Campos ha sido una orgullosa residente de Denver Harbor desde la década de 1950. Escritora y poeta enfocada en la historia cultural, ha participado activamente durante años en la organización comunitaria y el voluntariado. Su proyecto más reciente, Celebrating Denver Harbor, One Block at a Time, busca revitalizar la avenida Lyons mientras honra la herencia del vecindario.

Pick Up La Voz de Denver Harbor at The Following Locations

Porras Bakery
 One Stop9 Market @ Lathrop
 Washeria 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

Mixin' It Up with The Stars



Tejano Style!



Brought to you monthly by Dave "Bull" Arevalo and DJ Gabe



Gary Hobbs Musical Family Influence

Written by Ricky Campos

A last minute booking led **Gary Hobbs** to perform at a **Denver Harbor Little League Queen Coronation Dance at the Astro Village in 1994**. Managed by Joe Rios talent agency in San Antonio a scheduled engagement had fallen through and a following call led the group to Denver Harbor's Little League event. The group for the Little League event had previously cancelled thus hailing Gary Hobbs as saving the day. Gary remembers a good crowd, lively dancing and meeting David "Bull" Arevalo with whom he later became close friends and began a long standing friendship.

When Gary Hobbs speaks about his musical background you can hear the pride in his voice. His mother was very influential in his love of music. He relates that she had sung with trios and mariachi groups near the border. At eight years of age his mother had him focus on learning to play the piano. He played for about six years balancing music and sports. Raised without a father he credits his mother and grandparents for the musical environment and values. As a teen, he began listening to pop music via KKYX/am in San Antonio. His teacher at the time Ms Herrera agreed to help him learn popular songs if he continued formal studies.

His musical goals were inspired by his mother's love of music. He emphasizes her humility and love of singing whether on a small or large stage. He attributes his drive and stage presence to her example. He says in a lot of ways she gave him that extra push. I kinda lived her life. His mother had hoped to train in opera in New York after high school in the 1950s but lacked resources. The support from women in his life like his mother and wife have been especially important. He says that he never wants to disappoint women in his life.

On **May 19th Gary will celebrate his 43rd year in Tejano music** citing his continuous music creations and work. Also he has always had a consistent work ethic. His values of consistency were inspired by his grandfather's 53 years of service as a mechanic at Wickstrom Chevrolet and his mothers long service in payroll and the school district.

Gary says he prefers live performances with initial nerves fading within the first 30 seconds. On stage he can recall 50 to 60 songs, adjusting to band support as needed. Gary loves music in general, can listen and can hear a little bit of everything. He of course loves tejano, music in Spanish and from Mexico.

The recent loss of his 93 year old mother deepens his reflections on purpose and legacy. He remains eclectic in taste, disciplined on stage and devoted to family values that have guided his musical character.

HCAD Chief Appraiser Discusses Property Exemptions at DH Cares Event

Written by Kim Melchor



Adam Bogard, the new Chief Appraiser for HCAD, recently **answered questions for Denver Harbor residents about property values, exemptions, and the protest process**. Bogard has led the district since January 1, 2026. According to event organizers, Bogard and his staff **"are dedicated to public service, especially being able to help the community."**

The session focused on exemptions, including homestead, over 65, veteran, and disability. These types of exemptions can help homeowners with property values and resultant taxes.

One resident asked what would happen if a mansion were built next door to their home. Bogard explained that neighboring additions could affect their property's value, but exemptions could provide some protection. It's worth noting that Texas law limits annual increases in appraised value to 10% for properties with a homestead exemption.

Answering other concerns, property owners with boundary questions were advised to file a protest. The deadline is April 30 each year, but cases with "show cause" reasons may be filed up to 2 years later. Protests can be filed online at www.hcad.org.

When mailing a protest, Bogard recommended asking the post office to stamp the letter with the date. Forms postmarked on or before the deadline will be accepted even if they arrive later.

The session also covered the settlement forms that must be completed after a property value reevaluation. The forms are available online, and instructional videos are available on the HCAD website.

Bogard initially joined the appraisal district in 2004 as a trainee and has held the positions of residential appraiser, residential field supervisor, manager of industrial valuation, associate chief appraiser, and deputy chief appraiser. HCAD is a political subdivision of the State of Texas and was established to appraise property for ad valorem tax purposes. The appraisal district in Harris County is the largest in Texas, and one of the largest in the United States, with more than 500 taxing units.

Event organizers urged residents to take advantage of exemptions to save money on property taxes. Property owners with questions can contact HCAD customer service at 713-957-7800 or at www.hcad.org.

¡FRAUDE!

Directora de AARP Texas advierte a adultos mayores de DH sobre esquemas sofisticados

Escrito por Kim Melchor

Los estafadores están usando inteligencia artificial (IA) y quioscos de criptomonedas para robar dinero a adultos mayores de Texas, incluidos los de Denver Harbor, según la directora estatal de AARP.

Lisa Rodríguez, quien ha trabajado con AARP durante casi 16 años, dijo que las estafas son cada vez más sofisticadas. Los texanos perdieron \$1.36 mil millones por fraude en 2025. En una entrevista con La Voz, Rodríguez dijo: "Solo va a empeorar con la IA".

Rodríguez explicó que los ladrones a menudo afirman que los familiares han sido arrestados, o que las víctimas enfrentan problemas legales por faltar al deber de jurado o por multas de estacionamiento sin pagar. Los estafadores "extraen" registros públicos para hacer que sus llamadas sean más creíbles. También falsifican números telefónicos—una técnica que disfraza su número real—para hacer que parezca que las llamadas provienen de departamentos del sheriff u otras agencias oficiales.

Rodríguez relató que en un caso en San Antonio, una mujer que faltó al deber de jurado recibió una llamada de lo que parecía ser el sheriff del condado. Los estafadores organizaron una videollamada falsa de Zoom con lo que parecía ser un juez. La mujer siguió las instrucciones y depositó dinero en un quiosco de criptomonedas—una máquina que se parece a un cajero automático regular. Las personas depositan efectivo que se convierte en criptomonedas, a las que los estafadores pueden acceder rápida y anónimamente.

Rodríguez dijo que las solicitudes de criptomonedas son una señal de alerta y que las agencias gubernamentales y los abogados legítimos nunca las utilizan para el pago.



AARP Texas está trabajando actualmente en legislación para regular estas máquinas.

Otra señal de alerta es la urgencia. Los estafadores presionan a las víctimas para que actúen de inmediato y les desalientan de colgar para verificar información con familiares o autoridades.

Rodríguez aconsejó a las personas no contestar llamadas de números desconocidos, incluso si el identificador de llamadas muestra un código de área local.

Explicó que cuando las personas contestan y dicen "hola", los estafadores pueden grabar sus voces. Esas grabaciones se pueden vender a defraudadores que las usan en futuras estafas impulsadas por IA.

La naturaleza emocional de estas estafas las hace efectivas. Cuando las personas reciben una llamada que sospechan puede ser fraudulenta, Rodríguez les insta a Pausar, Reflexionar y Protegerse. Instó a los adultos mayores a tomarse el tiempo para verificar si esa persona realmente está en peligro. "Y nueve de cada 10 veces, no lo están".

Dijo que los destinatarios deben colgar y llamar al 311 o a un número de no emergencia para verificar la información. La recuperación de fondos perdidos es extremadamente difícil, lo que hace que la prevención sea crítica.

Rodríguez alentó a las víctimas a compartir sus experiencias. "Las personas se sienten avergonzadas y no quieren contar sus historias", dijo Rodríguez. "Pero aquí está la cuestión: es tan sofisticado que si no contamos estas historias, solo ganan los estafadores, porque continúan estafando y estafando".

AARP ofrece recursos gratuitos a través de su Red de Vigilancia contra el Fraude. Los residentes pueden llamar a la línea gratuita al 877-908-3360 o visitar www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud para obtener información sobre estafas actuales, incluido un mapa de calor que muestra qué esquemas están activos en Houston y otras ciudades de Texas.

"Cuanto más descubramos cuáles son estas estafas, mejor podremos rastrearlas", dijo Rodríguez.



In The Community | En La Comunidad



Iglesia Palabra Vida

¿Buscas un lugar para conectarte, adorar y vivir una experiencia llena de fe en Denver Harbor? Te invitamos a visitar Iglesia Palabra Viva, ubicada en 709 Zoe St., Houston, TX 77028, una iglesia de habla hispana arraigada en la comunidad.

Esta congregación en crecimiento ofrece un ambiente acogedor para individuos y familias. Es conocida por su música en vivo vibrante—con guitarra, batería, teclado y voces llenas de energía—que crea un ambiente dinámico y espiritual en cada servicio.



ABOVE: Houston Police Chief Noe Diaz meets with residents at the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center to discuss community concerns and public safety.

ARRIBA: El jefe de policía de Houston, Noe Diaz, se reúne con residentes en el Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center para dialogar sobre las preocupaciones de la comunidad y la seguridad pública.



ABOVE: Residents gathered for a community meeting with representatives from the Harris County Appraisal District and the Harris County Tax Office to discuss property appraisals, tax-related concerns, and resources available to homeowners.

Our community extends its heartfelt condolences to Tejano legend Ram Herrera and his family on the passing of his brother, Manuel Herrera Jr..

Manuel is remembered as a beloved father, brother, and friend whose life touched many. His memory will continue to live on through the love of his family and the community that surrounds them.

Rest in peace.

Nuestra comunidad extiende sus más sinceras condolencias al ícono de la música tejana Ram Herrera y a su familia por el fallecimiento de su hermano, Manuel Herrera Jr..

Manuel será recordado como un padre, hermano y amigo querido, cuya vida dejó una huella en muchos. Su memoria vivirá siempre a través del amor de su familia y de la comunidad que lo rodea.

Descanse en paz.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Manuel Herrera, Jr.

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS,
ALWAYS IN OUR LIVES.

Memorial Visitation

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026
12:00 PM TILL 4:00 PM

CARING FUNERAL HOME
901 DREXEL
SAN ANTONIO, TX. 78239

YOUR LIFE WAS A BLESSING,
YOUR MEMORY A TREASURE
YOU ARE LOVED BEYOND WORDS
AND MISSED BEYOND MEASURE.

Upcoming Events | Eventos Próximos

HOUSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SUMMER Enrichment PROGRAM

Keep your child active during the summer by registering him or her for HPAR's 2026 Summer Enrichment Program! They'll keep active every day by participating in activities like crafts, health and nutrition, fun fitness, nature exploration, recycling awareness, instructional sports, and STEM education!

Registration is required and begins on April 1, 2026, for this fun-filled program.

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Fee: \$30 per week per child
 Fee exemptions available for qualified persons.
Times: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, Mon - Fri
Camp Dates: June 8 - August 1, 2026
Registration: Online registration required
<https://houstonparks.org>
www.houstonparks.org
Registration: 5-Week Day Camp, 5-Week Program
Locations: Select HPAR Community Centers
 (See website for site locations)
Information: 832-395-7296, 832-395-7125, 832-395-7133, 832-395-7135

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SUNDAY, MAY 17TH

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

LA CASITA DE COLORES
 7515 AVENUE J, HOUSTON, TX 77012
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STOCK UP FOR YOUR SUMMER READING

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Questions
 Please reach out to Hillary Lambert at hillary@magnoliaparkarts.org

DENVER HARBOR

EL VERANO LOTERIA

GRAND PRIZE - LARGE TV GIVEAWAY - PORRAS GIFT CARDS

LOTERIA GAMES - REFRESHMENTS - PRIZES

DATE: MAY 30, 2026
TIME: 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
LOCATION: DENVER HARBOR MULTI-SERVICE CENTER, 6402 MARKET ST. HOUSTON TX, 77020

TIER II SUBCONTRACTOR CAREER FAIR

05.14.2026
 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Felix L Baldree Community Center
 13828 Corpus Christi
 Houston, TX 77015

REGISTER NOW

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DOMINGO EL 17 DE MAYO

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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¿Preguntas? Escríbenos a hillary@magnoliaparkarts.org

Citas disponibles

Se estará atendiendo a todas las personas con cita del **lunes 4 al viernes 15 de mayo:**

Galena Park
 1302 Keene St, Galena Park, TX 77547

Consulado Sobre Ruedas 1
 Pasaporte, matrícula consular, copia certificada del acta de nacimiento y credencial para votar (INE).

Consulado Sobre Ruedas 2
 Doble Nacionalidad (Registro Civil/ Registro de nacimiento)

Agenda por: **WhatsApp +1 (424)309-0009**

También puedes hacer tu cita en: citas.sre.gov.mx

Mi Consulado

Relaciones Exteriores
 Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

México
 Consulado General de México en Houston

<https://consulmex.sre.gov.mx/houston/>

Community Resources | Recursos Comunitarios

CITY PERMITS

PEOPLE ARE BUYING AND TEARING DOWN HOUSES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. A CITY PERMIT IS NECESSARY.



IF YOU SEE NO PERMIT, CALL 311 TO REPORT. YOUR REPORT CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

CALL 311  TO REPORT

FOR PERMIT INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE OR CALL 311:




Houston Public Library Calendar of Events Linking YOU to the World							May 2026	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
CLOSED	Bad Art Club! @11am LEGO Club! @4pm	Kids Craft! @4pm	Kids STEM! @4pm	Senior Social Hour! @2pm	Open Lab: Job Help! @2pm	Toddler Playtime! @11am Saturdays @ HPL! @2PM	1	2
CLOSED	Bad Art Club! @11am LEGO Club! @4pm	Kids Craft! @4pm	Kids STEM! @4PM	Senior Social Hour! @2pm	Open Lab: Job Help! @2pm	Toddler Playtime! @11am Saturdays @ HPL! @2PM	3	4
CLOSED	Bad Art Club! @11am LEGO Club! @4pm	Kids Craft! @4pm	Kids STEM! @4PM	Senior Social Hour! @2pm	Open Lab: Job Help! @2pm	Toddler Playtime! @11am Saturdays @ HPL! @2PM	5	6
CLOSED	Bad Art Club! @11am LEGO Club! @4pm	Kids Craft! @4pm	Kids STEM! @4PM	Senior Social Hour! @2pm	Open Lab: Job Help! @2pm	Toddler Playtime! @11am Saturdays @ HPL! @2PM	7	8
CLOSED	Bad Art Club! @11am LEGO Club! @4pm	Kids Craft! @4pm	Kids STEM! @4PM	Senior Social Hour! @2pm	Open Lab: Job Help! @2pm	CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY	9	10
CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY	CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY	Kids Craft! @4pm	Kids STEM! @4PM	Senior Social Hour! @2pm	Open Lab: Job Help! @2pm		11	12
CLOSED							13	14
							15	16
							17	18
							19	20
							21	22
							23	24
							25	26
							27	28
							29	30
CLOSED							31	

TUTTLE NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY
702 Kress St. Houston, TX 77020
832-393-2100
M.10-6; Tu.10-6; W.12-8; Th.10-6; F.1-5; Sa.10-5; Su. Closed

All events are free and open to the public.
Events are subject to change without notice. Please contact the library location to confirm the date and time of an event. Please visit www.houstonlibrary.org/events for more information.
If you have a special physical or communication need that may impact your participation in any of these activities, please contact the library staff prior to the program to discuss accommodations. We cannot ensure the availability of appropriate accommodations without prior notification of need.




VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES



Every eligible voter has the right to cast their vote. It is understood that disabilities come in many forms and not all are visible. You are never required to prove your disability to vote in a way that is convenient for you. There are many resources available for voters with auditory, visual, and mobility impairments who may need assistance when it comes to a voting in-person. These include:

- Curbside voting
- American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters
- Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)
- Tactile Sign Language interpreters
- Accessible Voting Machines (the screen has high contrast options, as well as the ability to increase the type size)



CURBSIDE VOTING

Curbside voting is available to voters who cannot physically enter the polling location on their own.


- Every voting location has a curbside buzzer set-up in the parking lot, near the entrance of the facility
- Ring this buzzer to alert the election workers inside
- A portable voting machine is brought to the vehicle

MAIL BALLOTS


A voter must meet one or more of the following criteria to vote by mail:

- 65 years or older on Election Day;
- You are sick or disabled;
- Will be outside of Harris County during the Early Voting period and on Election Day;
- You are expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day;
- You are confined to jail, but otherwise eligible to vote

Scan here to access the mail ballot application, which you will need to print and mail in, or call 713.755.6965 to request an application to be sent to you in the mail.



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT




The Harris County Clerk's Office Elections Department has an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) team that inspects all voting locations to ensure they are fully accessible to all voters. Temporary ramps and van accessible parking spots are some of the many things the team implements before Early Voting and Election Day.


If you have any ADA questions or concerns, please contact our ADA coordinators at ADA@vote.hctx.net or call 713.755.6965.

To check your voter registration status, look up polling locations, access your sample ballot, and find more information, visit HarrisVotes.com.

VOTING RESOURCES




ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT



FOR MORE INFORMATION

1 2 3 4

Connect @HarrisVotes



HarrisVotes.com
713.755.6965



HYM Little Free Library Update

Bringing books, resources, and community directly to our neighborhoods



Written by Jessica Campos



Our Little Free Libraries continue to do what they were always meant to do, move through the hands of the community. Following our most recent installation at Porras Prontito Restaurant, the library didn't stay full for long. Within two weeks, it was completely emptied. Books were picked up, taken home, and put into real lives. And just as quickly, someone from the community stepped in and refilled it. That's the Unity in Community. That's the purpose. It's proof that when access exists, people respond.

We're continuing that momentum with our next round of installations at Park Place Elementary, Las Perras Cafe, and Doña Maria's. Each location was chosen with intention, placing books where families, students, and everyday community life intersect. At the same time, the work is growing beyond just libraries.

The Houston Young Monarchs Builders Alliance has officially evolved into The Common Good, reflecting a bigger vision. While Little Free Libraries remain at the heart of the work, the focus is expanding into broader community-driven projects that respond to real needs. Through partnerships with leaders across Houston, the work is reaching further, covering more ground, and building stronger connections. There is also movement toward becoming an official nonprofit, which will allow for even greater impact and sustainability as the work continues to grow.

Workshops are still held every third Sunday of the month, where ideas turn into something real, something you can place in your neighborhood and watch come to life. The next build will take place on May 17. This has never been just about placing boxes of books, it's about creating access, building presence, and strengthening community ownership in a way that lasts.

Featured Book: Voices of the Revolution, Volume 2

When asked which of his books means the most to him, Johnny Torres doesn't hesitate. *Voices of the Revolution, Volume 2* stands out. He describes it as the most personal, a collection shaped by people he knew closely, many of whom wrote pieces specifically for that book rather than contributing something they had already written. It carries a different kind of weight, something he says is hard to explain but easy to feel.



“It just feels different,” he shared. “More real... like something you can't recreate.”

That feeling is what defines the book. It represents a moment in time, a collection of voices, relationships, and lived experiences that came together in a way that can't be reproduced. It's not just a collection of writing, it's a reflection of community, memory, and truth captured as it was happening. That is what makes it belong in our Little Free Libraries, because just like the work we are doing, it centers real people, real stories, and the kind of knowledge that lives beyond classrooms and institutions.

They Tried to Bury These Stories, He Brought Them Back

He found the truth in dark silence and refused to let it stay there.

Some stories are told. Others are found. For Johnny Torres, his story began not with someone explaining the past, but with him uncovering it on his own. As a child, he came across boxes in his grandmother's garage filled with old belongings and newspaper clippings from the 1970s, stories about his family's fight against police brutality and the killing of his uncle, Joe Campos Torres. No one walked him through it. No one explained what it meant. But he saw it, and that was enough.

That moment stayed with him. His grandparents, Joe Luna and Margaret Torres, were at the center of that fight. They organized, protested, and pushed forward at a time when they were often outnumbered. But what stayed with Johnny most was not just their strength, it was what they didn't have. As he shared, they didn't have time to slow down or even hug each other. They were too busy surviving and continuing the fight. That kind of life doesn't leave space to process pain or to heal.

Johnny chose a different role in that story. Where they kept moving, he chose to document. Where their voices risked fading, he chose to write. What started as personal writing grew into something deeper as he began to notice patterns around him, police brutality, abuse of power, and cycles that continued repeating. Writing became more than expression. It became a responsibility.

That responsibility led him to create *Voices of the Revolution*, an anthology series that brings together voices from people actively working in their communities. These are not random submissions. They are voices of organizers, activists, and individuals doing real work. As Johnny explained, he chose people who were actually doing something. He challenges them not only to describe the problems, but to think about solutions, to write about what comes next. The result is not just poetry, but a living record of voices that might not exist anywhere else.

Among his work, Volume Two stands out to him the most. Many of the contributors wrote specifically for that collection, and many were people he knew personally. He describes it as something that feels more real, more lived. That connection is what makes the work resonate. These are not distant stories, they are personal, raw, and rooted in real experiences.

His work doesn't stay on shelves. It moves through the community. A signed copy of his book, *Resurrecting El Barrio*, has been placed in the Little Free Library in front of Porras, where it now waits for the next reader. Johnny has made a habit of leaving books behind in spaces like these, quietly and without recognition. As he said, he likes doing things like that in secret. It's not about attention. It's about making sure the message reaches someone who needs it.

Johnny Torres is not waiting for recognition. He is making sure the stories are written, the voices are preserved, and the history is not lost. In spaces like our Little Free Libraries, where books are shared and passed on, his work becomes part of something larger than himself. If you come across his book, take the time to read it. These are voices that might not be written anywhere else. And now, they're here forever.

A Library for Every Stage

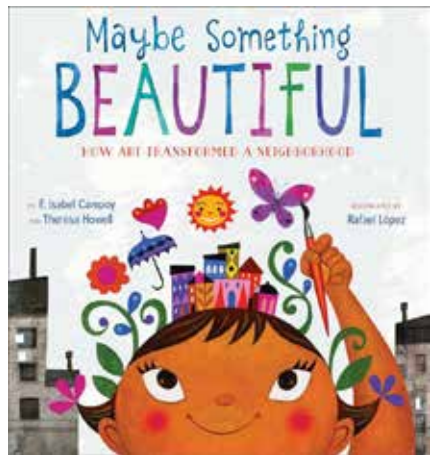
Bringing books, resources, and community directly to our neighborhoods



For Little Readers

Maybe Something Beautiful by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell

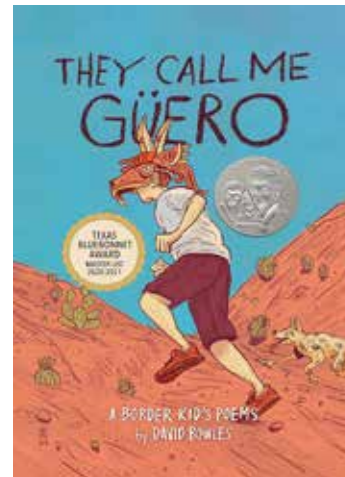
This story follows a young girl who uses art to bring color and hope to her neighborhood. It's simple, visual, and powerful, showing kids that even small actions can transform a community. It's about creativity, pride, and seeing beauty where others might not.



For Curious Middle Readers

They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems by David Bowles

This book is written in short poems that are easy to read but hit deep. It follows a Mexican American boy growing up between cultures, dealing with identity, language, and belonging. It's real, relatable, and perfect for kids starting to understand who they are and where they fit.



Where to Find Our Little Libraries

Denver Harbor

- 5301 Palmer St
- 1013 Majestic St
- Blackshear Elementary School (on campus), 2900 Holman St
- Emancipation Economic Development Council (in front of school), 2900 Holman St
- Porras Prontilto Restaurant, 5002 Navigation Blvd

Fifth Ward

- 3309 Charleston St
- 3228 Milburn St
- Progressive Fifth Ward Community Garden, 1705 Yates St
- Ewing Apartments (on-site), Houston Housing Authority



Stop by. Take a book. Leave a book. Let's keep the stories moving!



Tasador en Jefe de HCAD Habla sobre Exenciones de Propiedad en Evento de DH Cares

Escrito Por Kim Melchor



Adam Bogard, el nuevo Tasador en Jefe de HCAD, respondió recientemente preguntas de residentes de Denver Harbor sobre valores de propiedad, exenciones y el proceso de protesta. Bogard ha dirigido el distrito desde el 1 de enero de 2026. Según los organizadores del evento, Bogard y su personal "están dedicados al servicio público, especialmente para poder ayudar a la comunidad".

La sesión se enfocó en las exenciones, incluyendo la de residencia principal (homestead), mayores de 65 años, veteranos e incapacidad. Estos tipos de exenciones pueden ayudar a los propietarios con los valores de propiedad y los impuestos resultantes.

Un residente preguntó qué sucedería si se construyera una mansión al lado de su casa. Bogard explicó que las adiciones vecinas podrían afectar el valor de su propiedad, pero las exenciones podrían brindar cierta protección. Vale la pena señalar que la ley de Texas limita los aumentos anuales en el valor tasado al 10% para propiedades con exención de residencia principal.

Respondiendo a otras preocupaciones, se aconsejó a los propietarios con preguntas sobre límites de propiedad que presentaran una protesta. La fecha límite es el 30 de abril de cada año, pero los casos con razones de "show cause" pueden presentarse hasta 2 años después. Las protestas se pueden presentar en línea en www.hcad.org.

Al enviar una protesta por correo, Bogard recomendó pedir a la oficina postal que selle la carta con la fecha. Los formularios con matasellos en o antes de la fecha límite serán aceptados incluso si llegan después.

La sesión también cubrió los formularios de acuerdo (settlement forms) que deben completarse después de una reevaluación del valor de la propiedad. Los formularios están disponibles en línea, y hay videos instructivos disponibles en el sitio web de HCAD.

Bogard se unió inicialmente al distrito de tasación en 2004 como aprendiz y ha ocupado los puestos de tasador residencial, supervisor de campo residencial, gerente de valuación industrial, tasador en jefe asociado y tasador en jefe adjunto. HCAD es una subdivisión política del Estado de Texas y fue establecida para tasar propiedades con fines de impuestos ad valorem. El distrito de tasación en el Condado de Harris es el más grande de Texas y uno de los más grandes de los Estados Unidos, con más de 500 unidades fiscales.

Los organizadores del evento instaron a los residentes a aprovechar las exenciones para ahorrar dinero en impuestos a la propiedad. Los propietarios con preguntas pueden comunicarse con el servicio al cliente de HCAD al 713-957-7800 o en www.hcad.org.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS 50+

ABOUT US

Denver Harbor Cares is a non-partisan, non-profit organization founded and run by community residents who have lived in the neighborhood for most of their lives. Our primary goal is to increase neighborhood participation in government by emphasizing voting. We believe that higher civic participation and voting turnout will bring back attention to our Denver Harbor neighborhood & surrounding areas. By embracing a culture of family and friends, we strive to lift our voices.



PLACES & PROGRAMS:

AARP EVENTS  

AARP provides our communities with events and programs for everyone's interests. There is no need to be a member of the organization to register; however, you must reserve your spot online to attend. The QR code will send you to the AARP Events page. Filter through your preferences and choose the event you're most interested in! MECA also has amazing community events. Website: <https://www.meca-houston.org/>

DENVER HARBOR CARES 


Denver Harbor Cares is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization educating community members about the importance of voting and civic engagement. We provide various voting information for you to feel prepared on Election Day. We have also served our community as a resource hub with many events and flyers. The QR code on the left leads you to our calendar, sign up for the newsletter too!

DENVER HARBOR CIVIC CLUB 

Denver Harbor Civic Club is for everyone in Denver Harbor and the neighboring communities. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the DH Multi-Service Center. Discuss various topics, complaints, suggestions, and events, this is a space for open communication. The QR code will take you to the Facebook community page. Don't hesitate to add community events and comments!

DENVER HARBOR SENIOR CITIZENS 

Denver Harbor Senior Citizens is located in the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center, they provide free lunch, health and wellness classes, exercise classes, games, arts and crafts, parties, special events, and resources for those 60 years or older. They meet Monday through Friday. The QR code sends you to the Denver Harbor Center. Drop by their office to sign up with them!


METRO & PRECINCT 2 TRANSPORTATION 

METRO offers METROLift, Vanpool, Curb2Curb Route 377, local bus, park-and-ride, free travel training, and IAH Downtown Direct #500. For any questions on Metro, call their customer service, (713) 635 - 4000. Precinct 2 also provides us with two programs: Access2Rides (ages 18-64 with disabilities) and the Transportation Voucher Program (ages 65+ or 18-with disabilities). For any questions on Precinct 2 Transportation efforts, contact 713-274-2124.









CLIFF TUTTLE EVENTS 

The Houston Public Library has many programs being offered, for all ages. They welcome everyone in the community to check out a book or stop by an event. As of now, we are working with the Tuttle Neighborhood Library, Pleasantville Neighborhood Library, and Hester House. The QR code lets you see their calendar of events and filter through your preferences. You are able to reserve your spot through the same QR code.



FOR ANY QUESTIONS: CAROLYN LOPEZ
 **713 - 299 - 4049**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

-  www.denverharborcares.org 
-  general@denverharborcares.org 
-  6402 Market St, Houston, TX 77020 
-  **COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER** 
- <https://lavozdedenverharbor.com>

¿A Dónde Se Han Ido los Estudiantes de Denver Harbor?

Mientras las familias dejan las escuelas públicas por opciones chárter, privadas y educación en casa, ¿qué significa esto para el futuro de nuestra comunidad?

Escrito por Jessica Campos



En febrero, hablamos sobre lo que ocurrió con las escuelas de vecindario en Denver Harbor. Analizamos los números: escuelas con baja inscripción, salones vacíos y el impacto de la toma de control del estado y los cambios bajo el Nuevo Sistema Educativo. Las familias se vieron obligadas a tomar decisiones difíciles.

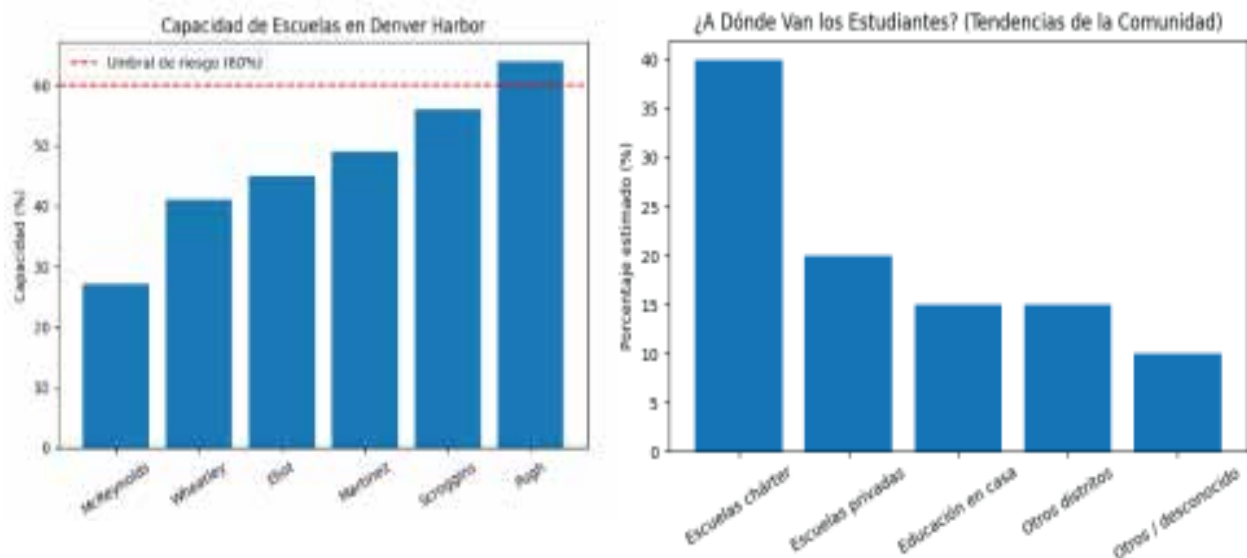
Ahora, solo unos meses después, necesitamos hacernos una pregunta diferente: ¿a dónde van nuestros estudiantes? Porque no desaparecieron.

Dejado afuera de las oficinas de HISD después de las protestas por la toma de control estatal y la transformación de las bibliotecas escolares, este mensaje ahora lleva una pregunta diferente: ¿a dónde están yendo realmente nuestros estudiantes?

En Denver Harbor, cada vez más familias están haciendo cambios. Algunas están moviendo a sus hijos a escuelas chárter. Otras están probando escuelas privadas. Y cada vez más, familias están sacando a sus hijos completamente del sistema y optando por la educación en casa, no porque lo planearon, sino porque sintieron que tenían que proteger y cuidar a sus hijos.

Cuando las escuelas se sienten inestables, cuando los maestros cambian constantemente, cuando el apoyo no está presente, las familias reaccionan. Se adaptan. Eso es lo que esta comunidad siempre ha hecho. Pero esas decisiones individuales se están acumulando.

A medida que baja la inscripción, las escuelas son clasificadas como de baja capacidad. Cuando eso sucede, corren el riesgo de cerrar, fusionarse o ser entregadas a organizaciones externas. Los datos muestran que varias escuelas en nuestra comunidad ya están por debajo del nivel recomendado.



Izquierda: Capacidad de escuelas (con línea roja de riesgo)

Derecha: A dónde se están yendo los estudiantes

Pie de foto: Los niveles de capacidad escolar y las tendencias de la comunidad muestran tanto la disminución en la inscripción como hacia dónde se están moviendo las familias.

Así que, incluso cuando irse es la decisión correcta para un niño, crea un impacto mayor para toda la comunidad.

Esto no se trata de culpar a los padres. Cada familia está haciendo lo que cree mejor para su hijo. Algunos se han quedado. Otros se han ido. Algunos están tratando de equilibrar ambas cosas, manteniéndose en la educación pública mientras buscan otras opciones. Pero lo que estamos viendo, claramente, es un cambio.

Las familias no solo están cambiando de una escuela a otra. Están saliendo del sistema por completo.

Y eso plantea preguntas más grandes. ¿Qué pasará con la educación pública en Denver Harbor si esto continúa? ¿Qué pasará con las familias que no pueden irse? ¿Qué pasará con las escuelas que se quedan?

Al mismo tiempo, se están llevando a cabo conversaciones en todo Houston ISD sobre escuelas que podrían ser administradas por organizaciones externas y sobre la expansión del acceso a la educación privada mediante vales. Estos cambios pueden no estar centrados en nuestro vecindario hoy, pero van a definir las opciones del mañana.

¿A Dónde Se Han Ido los Estudiantes de Denver Harbor?

Mientras las familias dejan las escuelas públicas por opciones chárter, privadas y educación en casa, ¿qué significa esto para el futuro de nuestra comunidad?



Espacio comunitario en Denver Harbor, reflejando cómo el aprendizaje y el apoyo también ocurren fuera del salón de clases, especialmente en momentos de cambio.

La educación nunca ha pertenecido únicamente a las escuelas.

En Denver Harbor, el aprendizaje siempre ha ido más allá del salón de clases—a través de familias, vecinos y espacios comunitarios. Siempre hemos sabido llenar los vacíos cuando los sistemas fallan.

Este momento exige más de nosotros. Nos exige mantenernos involucrados, incluso cuando es más fácil alejarnos. Nos exige trabajar entre generaciones, compartir conocimiento e incluir a nuestros hijos en la comprensión de lo que está ocurriendo a su alrededor.

No son solo el futuro. Están viviendo esto con nosotros, ahora mismo.

Hay muchas maneras de involucrarse. El primer paso es simplemente prestar atención. Eso puede significar hacer preguntas, mantenerse informado o presentarse cuando sea posible. No tiene que ser todo, pero tiene que ser algo.

Se están tomando decisiones sobre nuestra comunidad todos los días, lo sepamos o no. Si no estamos presentes, si no estamos informados, si no estamos haciendo preguntas, entonces no formamos parte de esas decisiones.

Siempre hemos sido una comunidad que se presenta y se apoya mutuamente.

Este momento es diferente. Lo que está ocurriendo ahora no es temporal. Nuestras escuelas están cambiando. Si no somos parte de ese cambio, esas decisiones serán tomadas por personas que no viven aquí.

Lo que está en juego no es solo una escuela. Es el futuro de la educación en Denver Harbor.



Scan to see AARP Events & News in Houston, Texas

DENVER HARBOR, I'M ON YOUR SIDE.

- Reduced property taxes for seniors and people with disabilities
- Stronger emergency response to chemical plant leaks and less toxic pollution along the Ship Channel
- More than five million feet of ditch and drainage maintenance to protect neighborhoods from flooding

**That's the responsible,
trustworthy leadership
you deserve.**



POL. ADV. ADRIAN GARCIA CAMPAIGN

