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Denver Harbor Park Upgrades



When David Arevalo tells people he is from Denver Harbor, he often hears negative feedback. The second annual reunion he hosted on June 13 at his home was, in part, his answer to that.

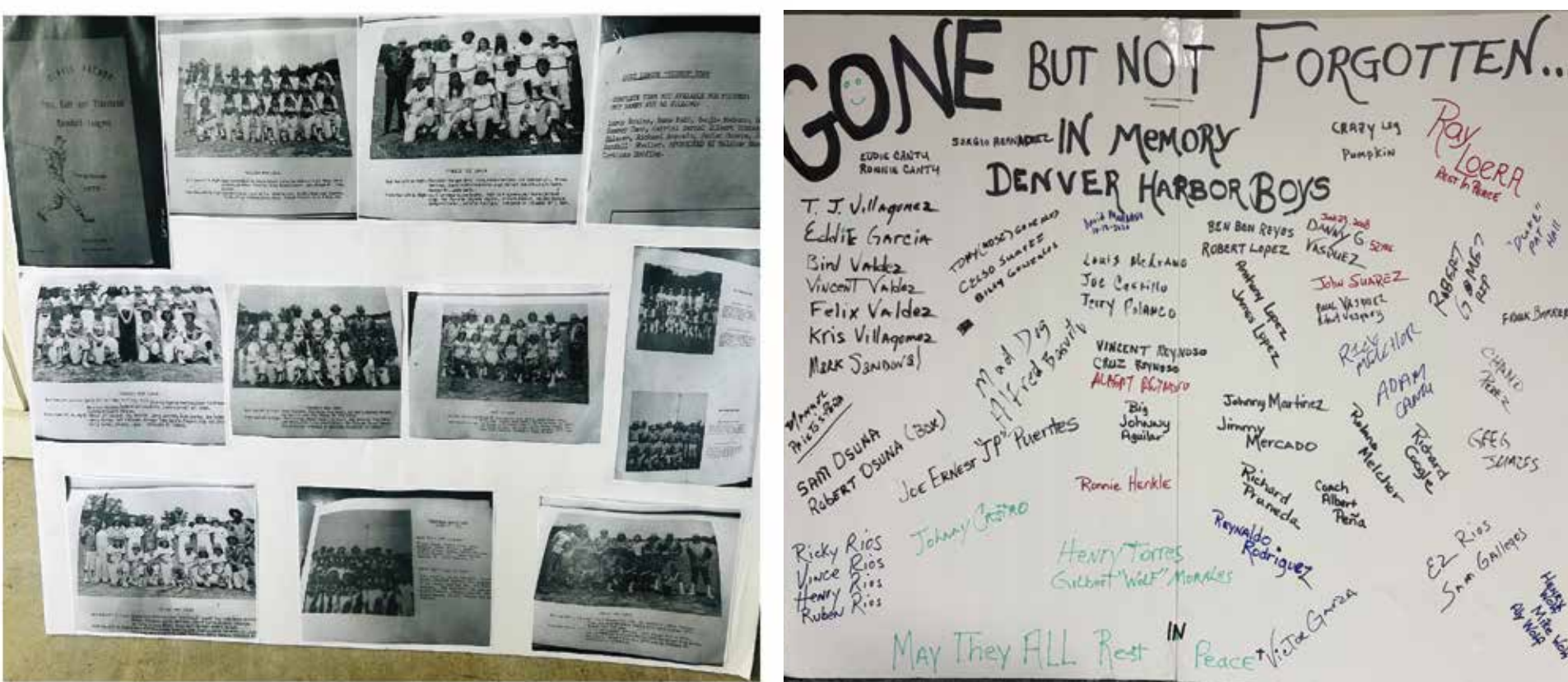
About 121 men who grew up in the neighborhood came to the gathering, more than had turned out the first year. Arevalo organized it with Danny Bella. Most of the guests, he said, knew one another from the 10 years in which Arevalo ran the Little League organization. He pushes back against the picture outsiders paint of the area and instead points to the men who attended the reunion. "I think it represents Denver Harbor," Arevalo said.

The day was unscripted. Rick Lopez cooked the hamburgers, and guests brought their own coolers. Arevalo sold second-annual souvenir Denver Harbor T-shirts for \$20, the only place money changed hands. Except for the shirts, the organizers made sure the event was accessible to everyone. "It don't cost you a nickel," Arevalo said.

Live music came from Joe Reyes and the Cosmo Street Band. He put on a good show," Arevalo said. "Everybody liked his music."

Second Denver Harbor Reunion Draws Crowd of 121

Written by Kim Melchor



The gathering was scheduled from 3 to 9 p.m., though it was past 11 by the time the last guests left. The reunion began because, as Arevalo said, the group didn't want the next time they saw each other to be at a funeral. Recognizing that, the crew created a board they called "gone but not forgotten," listing names of men from their group who have died, but who were described as "still part of us." Arevalo said, "We're still honoring them."

Two of those losses came in the past year. Sam Osunaz and Henry Rios, longtime neighborhood friends, were remembered. Osunaz's brother, Renee, a preacher, opened the reunion with a prayer.

A second board carried photographs of old Denver Harbor baseball teams, a nod to the Little League days that first tied many of the men together. Most are grandfathers now, retired, and the reunion gave them hours to sit and talk. Even the lighter moments acknowledge the passing years. Arevalo said the men once traded stories about beer and girls and now compare the prescription medications they take.

Arevalo said several men who had missed the first reunion came this time, some telling him they wished they had not waited. Arevalo said the men are already looking forward to future reunions. There have been suggestions and tentative plans to expand next year, and Arevalo and Bella are weighing options such as a raffle and renting a hall so that wives can attend.

The aim remains the same; so that these lifelong friends can be whole again, even if it's just for one evening.

"It's just good to see everybody," Arevalo said.

Photos:

A poster remembers old friends who have passed

Images of baseball teams, where the relationships began for many members of the gathering

Word from the Editor

Hello Neighbors,

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July! Time certainly seems to be flying by.

The Second Annual Denver Harbor Reunion for men who were raised in the community was a tremendous success, with at least 120 members in attendance. This group represents thousands of family members, and chances are you'll recognize someone.

Exciting improvements are underway at Selena/Denver Harbor Park. Be sure to read about these updates, as shared by Ana Gonzalez, President of the Denver Harbor Civic Club. This issue also includes several other stories of interest.

The Cliff Tuttle Library is hosting its summer reading program, and the July calendar is packed with fun, free activities for all ages.

Denver Harbor Cares will host a free Community Lotería on July 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Building. A TV will be awarded as the grand prize.

Additionally, AARP will be hosting a free caregiving workshop on July 25 at the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Building. Everyone is invited, and complimentary food will be provided.

Jessica Campos continues to lead educational activities in the community—be sure to read about the great work she is doing in this issue.

You'll also find flyers highlighting many upcoming events. All activities are free, and everyone is welcome to attend.

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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.

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DENVER HARBOR ON
YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

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

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
 Los Jacales 6001 Lyons Ave.
 Don Chile 635 McCarty St

Segunda reunión anual de Denver Harbor

Reúne a 121 personas

Escrito por Kim Melchor

Cuando David Arevalo le dice a la gente que es de Denver Harbor, a menudo recibe comentarios negativos. La segunda reunión anual que organizó el 13 de junio en su casa fue, en parte, su respuesta a eso.

Alrededor de 121 hombres que crecieron en el vecindario asistieron al encuentro, más de los que habían acudido el primer año. Arevalo la organizó junto con Danny Bela.

La mayoría de los invitados, dijo, se conocían de los 10 años en que Arevalo dirigió la organización de la Liga Pequeña. Él rechaza la imagen que la gente de fuera tiene de la zona y, en cambio, señala a los hombres que asistieron a la reunión. “Creo que representa a Denver Harbor”, dijo Arevalo.

El día transcurrió sin un guion fijo. Rick Lopez cocinó las hamburguesas y los invitados llevaron sus propias hieleras. Arevalo vendió camisetas conmemorativas de la segunda reunión de Denver Harbor a 20 dólares, lo único por lo que se cobró dinero. Salvo por las camisetas, los organizadores se aseguraron de que el evento fuera accesible para todos. “No te cuesta ni un centavo”, dijo Arevalo.

La música en vivo estuvo a cargo de Joe Reyes and the Cosmo Street Band. “Dio un buen espectáculo”, dijo Arevalo. “A todos les gustó su música”. El encuentro estaba programado de 3 a 9 de la tarde, aunque ya eran más de las 11 cuando se fueron los últimos invitados.

La reunión comenzó porque, según dijo Arevalo, el grupo no quería que la próxima vez que se vieran fuera en un funeral. Conscientes de ello, el equipo creó un cartel al que llamaron “gone but not forgotten” (“se fueron, pero no los olvidamos”), con los nombres de los hombres de su grupo que han fallecido, pero a quienes describieron como “todavía parte de nosotros”. “Los seguimos honrando”, dijo Arevalo.



Fotos:

invitados de la segunda reunion de Denver Harbor

Un cartel recuerda a viejos amigos que han fallecido.



Dos de esas pérdidas ocurrieron en el último año. Se recordó a Sam Osunaz y a Henry Rios, amigos del vecindario desde hacía mucho tiempo. El hermano de Osunaz, Renee, quien es predicador, abrió la reunión con una oración.

Un segundo cartel mostraba fotografías de antiguos equipos de béisbol de Denver Harbor, un guiño a los días de la Liga Pequeña que unieron por primera vez a muchos de los hombres. La mayoría ya son abuelos, están jubilados, y la reunión les dio horas para sentarse a conversar. Incluso los momentos más ligeros reconocen el paso de los años. Arevalo dijo que los hombres antes intercambiaban historias sobre la cerveza y las muchachas, y ahora comparan los medicamentos con receta que toman.

Arevalo dijo que varios hombres que se habían perdido la primera reunión asistieron esta vez, y algunos le comentaron que ojalá no hubieran esperado tanto. Arevalo dijo que los hombres ya esperan con ganas las próximas reuniones. Ha habido sugerencias y planes tentativos para ampliarla el próximo año, y Arevalo y Bella están evaluando opciones como una rifa y rentar un salón para que las esposas puedan asistir.

El objetivo sigue siendo el mismo: que estos amigos de toda la vida vuelvan a estar completos, aunque sea por una sola tarde.

“Simplemente es bueno ver a todos”, dijo Arevalo.

City Work Begins on Next Round of Denver Harbor Park Upgrades

Written by Kim Melchor



Denver Harbor Park is entering the second phase of a multiyear overhaul that will bring a new playground, improved drainage, additional lighting, and upgraded athletic fields, according to Ana Gonzales, president of the Denver Harbor Civic Association.

Gonzales said the group started by securing funding and built the project outward from there. The association requested and received two separate \$1 million allocations from State Rep. Ana Hernandez, then applied for county money as it became available.

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office funded the walking trail and benches, Gonzales said. His office is also set to fund the concession stand in the project's final phase.

Gonzales said the group tried to spend the money on improvements that would last and shaped its plans by asking the families and coaches who use the park what they needed. One suggestion, a splash pad, was set aside because the park already has a swimming pool.

The first phase focused on the basics: a widened and rebuilt walking trail, a newly paved parking lot between the T-ball and football fields, which had previously been gravel, and new benches. The second phase, now underway through the city, adds a playground with a rubber surface, a play area for children with disabilities, drainage work in low-lying areas, solar lighting, field repairs, and padded bleachers.

A third phase, funded by the county, will remove the old concession stand and storage containers, add a storage building for Little League and football equipment, and build a new concession stand with restrooms and a covered dining area.

Gonzales said the project advanced largely through the association's own efforts. She credited Mario Castillo, who represents the area on the Houston City Council, with helping secure additional funding after he took office, though she said most of the work was already in motion by then. "We still thank him for everything. If there's anything else we need, he's been there to offer the help," Gonzales said.

For Gonzales, the long effort to remake Denver Harbor Park comes down to the children who play there. "I enjoy seeing the kids playing," she said. If the schedule holds, those kids will soon have a safer, more accessible park — built through a mix of neighborhood pressure and public dollars.

For now, much of the park is fenced off, and Gonzales asked neighbors to be patient and to care for the grounds as the work continues. She advises residents on how to help with the process: "Respect the park. Don't keep it littered," she said.

"I'm very confident we'll have everything done before the end of 2027," Gonzales said.

Mixin' It Up with The Stars



Tejano Style!



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

ROOTS RUN DEEP FOR DJ GABE AREVALO

Written by Kim Melchor

For over two decades, DJ Gabe Arevalo has been moving crowds across Houston, blending genres and creating unforgettable musical experiences. But no matter how far his career takes him, his heart remains in Denver Harbor.

Arevalo's journey into DJing began with a deep-rooted love for music nurtured by his parents. "My mom was a connoisseur of music, all genres," he recalled. "But my dad had his hand in the Tejano music world." Growing up, Arevalo witnessed firsthand the impact of music in community spaces. His parents were active in Denver Harbor Park events, and his father led the Resurrection Church bazaar committee for 15 years, organizing live performances and ensuring music brought people together.

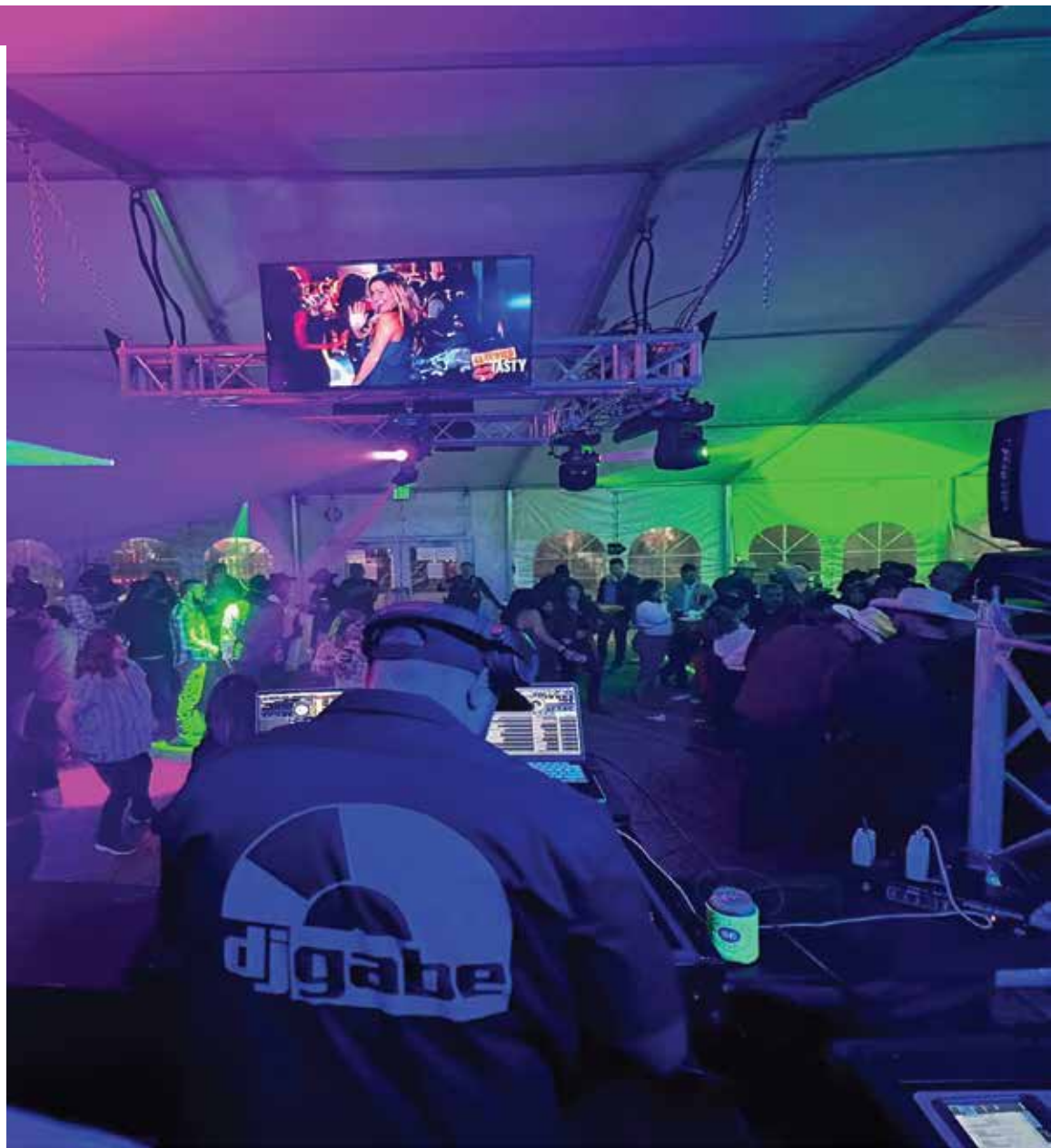
"It's just something that I've been around my entire life," Arevalo explained. "It grew on me." When a local Tejano band invited him to run their sound and lighting, one of their DJs suggested Arevalo give DJing a try. That suggestion led to a career spanning 22 years.

Arevalo describes his style as "open format," playing everything from Tejano to Top 40 hits, reggaeton, salsa, and rock. This versatility has allowed him to connect with diverse crowds, whether at bars, corporate events, or weddings. "I like to keep an open format because it keeps a lot of doors open for me," he said.

One of his most memorable performances was DJing at Jones Plaza during a Party on the Plaza event. Sharing the stage with the iconic Ramón Ayala and performing for a crowd of thousands is a career highlight. He said, "It was such a culture clash—Tejano, Norteño – it was wild to be able to provide entertainment for that night."

Connecting with audiences is a key part of Arevalo's approach. At every gig, he makes it a personal goal to identify one person in the crowd—perhaps someone sitting quietly or just tapping their feet—and win them over. "I'll go through every genre of music if I have to," he said. "Even if they just raise a hand or tap their foot, that's enough for me. It's something I challenge myself to do every time."

No matter the setting, one artist is always part of Arevalo's setlist: Selena. "She was able to just touch everybody," he explained. "Whether it's a corporate event or a wedding, people get up and dance when you play Selena."



While Arevalo loves DJing, staying current is a challenge. With new music emerging daily and genres blending more than ever, keeping his library fresh takes effort. "It's no longer just an artist. It's like a big melting pot now," he said. "It's amazing where music has gone."

Currently, Arevalo holds a residency at 1886 Humble Backyard, a lively bar in Humble where he's played since its opening seven years ago. "That's my home base right now," he said proudly. "But I'm always open to new challenges."

Even with his busy schedule, Arevalo stays closely connected to Denver Harbor. He attended Resurrection School, played ball at Denver Harbor Park, and maintained friendships with those he grew up with. "Musicians that came out of Denver Harbor are still going. Techno bands that came out of there are still working it, and I'm still working with a lot of them." Arevalo says, "I'm proud to be from here."

For those interested in booking DJ Gabe Arevalo, he can be reached at info@djgame.com or via social media under "Houston DJ Gabe."

In The Community | En La Comunidad

Our Denver Harbor seniors showed us how to truly celebrate this Fourth of July! At the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center, our community came alive with joy as our seniors dressed in festive red, white, and blue, danced the day away, played games, and shared plenty of laughs.



Neighborhood leaders, representatives of elected officials, and community partners came together for a bus tour of Denver Harbor on June 30, sharing stories, ideas, and a renewed commitment to the neighborhood's future. Special thanks to Carolyn Andrews and Sarah Fox with LISC Houston for helping make the day a success.



Harbor Christian Academy Students Bring Denver Harbor to Life Through DH Model



Upcoming Events | Eventos Próximos



Let's Kick Off the School Year Together!

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Saturday, August 15, 2026
10:00am

Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center
6402 Market St
Houston Texas 77020

Arts & Crafts, Free Haircuts, Raffles, Food,
Music, Face Painting & More

Bring Your Family and Friends!

Open to the community





COMMUNITY LOTERIA

SAT., JULY 18, 2026
11 AM - 1 PM

GAMES - REFRESHMENTS
- PRIZES - COMMUNITY INPUT

Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center
6402 Market St., Houston, TX 77020

@denverharborcares denverharborcares.org
general@denverharborcares.org

PLACE YOUR
EVENT
FLYER HERE
FOR FREE



Comencemos el año escolar juntos!

FIESTA DE REGRESO A LA ESCUELA

Sabado, Agosto 15, 2026
10:00am

Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center
6402 Market St
Houston Texas 77020

Artes y manualidades, cortes de Gabello gratis, rifas, comida, música, pintura facial y más

¡Trae a tu familia y amigos!

Abierto a toda la Comunidad





P.A.C.K

EQUIP YOURSELF. BE PREPARED.

PACK ("Preparedness and Community Kit") attendees will learn practical natural disaster preparation and walk away with a kit of essential emergency supplies. Three randomly selected attendees will win a special door prize.***

Thursday, July 16, 2026
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Houston ToolBank: 1215 Gazin St, Houston TX 77020

Registration is required & seating is limited
Attendance for entire event is required to receive a kit
Winners must be present to receive door prize
Light bites and refreshments will be provided

Free for All
Scan or Click to Register



Questions? Call: 713-674-0262 Email: Megan.Roiz@toolbank.org





P.A.C.K. EVENT AGENDA

5:45 PM.	Check-in Begins
6:00 PM.	Welcome & Introductions
6:05 PM.	City of Houston District H Council Member Mario Castillo
6:10 PM.	Houston ToolBank Tour & Disaster Support Overview
6:25 PM.	SBP Homeowner Preparedness Training
7:10 PM.	Preparedness Kit Assembly***
7:45 PM.	Door Prize Announcement*** & Conclusion

PREPAREDNESS KIT SUPPLIES

• All-Purpose Cleaner	• Scrubbing Brush
• Clothesline	• Scrubbing Pads
• Clothespins	• Trash Bags
• Detergent	• Utility Knife
• First Aid Kit	• Wind-up Flashlight
• Mold Remover	• Work Gloves

Registration is required & seating is limited
Attendance for entire event is required to receive a kit
Winners must be present to receive door prize
Light bites and refreshments will be provided

Free for All



Community Resources | Recursos Comunitarios



John P. McGovern Foundation
Summer Reading Program

Tuttle Neighborhood Library
702 Kress Street, Houston, TX 77020 • 832-393-2100
M 10-6 | T 10-6 | W 12-8 | TH 10-6 | F 1-5 | Sa 10-5 | Su Closed

JULY 2026 – KIDS, TWEENS, AND TEENS EVENT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Family Storytime  Baby Storytime  Toddler Storytime	 Preschool Storytime  Craft  STEM	 Bilingual  Featured/Special Event  Tween/Teen Program	Unfortunately, last-minute changes or cancellations are unavoidable. Check houstonlibrary.org/events for the most up-to-date information. Most programs are 45 minutes to an hour. Groups, schools, and daycares must call the location at least one week in advance to schedule library visits. Registration is required for all programs. EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.			
 Scan for more info.			1  KID STEM! 4PM	2  STARS AND STRIPES LANTERNS 11AM	3 INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVANCE; LIBRARY CLOSED	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY; LIBRARY CLOSED
5 INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVANCE; LIBRARY CLOSED	6  LEGO CLUB! 4PM	7 ★ UNDER THE GRIOTS TREE! 11am  KIDS CRAFT! 4PM	8  KID STEM! 4PM	9	10	11  TODDLER PLAYTIME! 11AM SATURDAYS @HPL! 2PM
12	13  LEGO CLUB! 4PM	14 ★ PAINT EXPLORERS 1PM  KIDS CRAFT! 4PM	15  KID STEM! 4PM	16	17	18  TODDLER PLAYTIME! 11AM SATURDAYS @HPL! 2PM
19	20  LEGO CLUB! 4PM	21 ★ DINOSAUR OF NOT? 2PM  KIDS CRAFT! 4PM	22  KID STEM! 4PM	23	24	25  TODDLER PLAYTIME! 11AM SATURDAYS @HPL! 2PM
26	27  LEGO CLUB! 4PM	28  KIDS CRAFT! 4PM	29  KID STEM! 4PM	30 ★ WILD BIRD ADVENTURES! 2PM	31 	

If you require reasonable accommodations for physical or communication needs, please contact the library location in advance of the program.

Community resource guide
cretaed by Denver Harbor CARES

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS 50+

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 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!



METRO & PRECINCT 2 TRANSPORTATION 

METRO offers METROLift, Vanpool, Curb2Curb Route 577, local bus, park-and-ride, free travel training, and LAH 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.



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 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!



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.





AM I REGISTERED TO VOTE?

GO TO: WWW.VOTETEXAS.GOV
CLICK AM I REGISTERED
ENTER NAME, COUNTY, DOB



(800) 252-VOTE

In Texas, you are asked to show a photo ID to vote in person.

VoteRiders.org/TX



Don't have ID?
Contact us for free help.

We pay for:

 Your TX state ID card or driver's license
 Supporting documents like a birth certificate or Social Security card
 Ride to the DPS or Social Security office

VoteRiders Call or text 866-432-8683

La ciudad da inicio a una nueva fase de mejoras en el Parque Denver Harbor

Escrito por Kim Melchor



El Parque Denver Harbor entra en la segunda fase de una remodelación de varios años que traerá un nuevo parque infantil, mejor drenaje, iluminación adicional y campos deportivos renovados, según Ana Gonzales, presidenta de la Asociación Cívica de Denver Harbor.

Gonzales dijo que el grupo comenzó por asegurar el financiamiento y a partir de ahí fue desarrollando el proyecto. La asociación solicitó y recibió dos asignaciones independientes de un millón de dólares cada una por parte de la representante estatal Ana Hernandez, y después solicitó fondos del condado conforme estuvieron disponibles.

La oficina del comisionado del Precinto 2 del Condado de Harris, Adrian Garcia, financió el sendero para caminar y las bancas, dijo Gonzales. Su oficina también financiará el puesto de concesiones en la fase final del proyecto.

Gonzales dijo que el grupo procuró invertir el dinero en mejoras que perduraran y que definió sus planes preguntando a las familias y a los entrenadores que usan el parque qué necesitaban. Una de las sugerencias, una zona de chorros de agua, se descartó porque el parque ya cuenta con una alberca.

La primera fase se concentró en lo básico: un sendero para caminar ensanchado y reconstruido, un estacionamiento recién pavimentado entre los campos de T-ball y de futbol americano, que antes era de grava, y bancas nuevas. La segunda fase, actualmente en marcha a través de la ciudad, agrega un parque infantil con superficie de hule, un área de juegos para niños con discapacidad, trabajos de drenaje en las zonas bajas, iluminación solar, reparaciones en los campos y gradas acolchonadas.

Una tercera fase, financiada por el condado, retirará el antiguo puesto de concesiones y los contenedores de almacenamiento, agregará una bodega para el equipo de la Liga Pequeña y de futbol americano, y construirá un nuevo puesto de concesiones con baños y una zona de comedor techada.

Gonzales dijo que el proyecto avanzó en gran medida gracias a los esfuerzos de la propia asociación. Atribuyó a Mario Castillo, quien representa la zona en el Concejo Municipal de Houston, el haber ayudado a conseguir financiamiento adicional después de asumir el cargo, aunque señaló que la mayor parte del trabajo ya estaba en marcha para entonces. “Aun así le agradecemos todo. Si necesitamos cualquier otra cosa, ahí ha estado para ofrecer su ayuda”, dijo Gonzales.

Para Gonzales, el largo esfuerzo por transformar el Parque Denver Harbor se reduce a los niños que juegan ahí. “Disfruto ver a los niños jugando”, dijo. Si se cumple el calendario, esos niños pronto tendrán un parque más seguro y accesible, construido mediante una combinación de presión vecinal y fondos públicos.

Por ahora, buena parte del parque está cercada, y Gonzales pidió a los vecinos ser pacientes y cuidar el lugar mientras continúan los trabajos. Aconseja a los residentes cómo ayudar en el proceso: “Respeten el parque. No lo dejen lleno de basura”, dijo. “Estoy muy segura de que tendremos todo listo antes de que termine 2027”, dijo Gonzales.



PROHIBITED YARD PARKING

City of Houston Code of Ordinances, Chapter 28

Prohibited yard parking means parking vehicles or equipment on **grass, dirt, or any surface that is not an approved (improved) surface in the front or side yard** of a single-family residential property.

Offense - Sec. 28-303(b)
The registered owner of the vehicle or equipment is presumed responsible if it is parked in violation of this ordinance.

Penalty - Sec. 28-305
Violations may result in a misdemeanor citation and a **fine of up to \$150 per day**. Each day the violation continues may be treated as a separate offense.

The provisions of this article may be enforced by any law enforcement officer, the neighborhood protection official, or the parking official.



ORDINANCE DEFINITIONS

IMPROVED SURFACE:
An improved surface is a surface approved for parking. Common examples include asphalt, concrete, and permeable pavement. Other materials may be allowed if approved by the Director of Houston Public Works or their designee.



Contact Us

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
Prohibited Yard Parking



Community Code Enforcement
601 Sawyer St., Suite 110
Houston, Texas 77007
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



832.394.0600



hpc.ccecallcenter@houstontx.gov



houstonpermittingcenter.org



Community Code Enforcement PROHIBITED YARD PARKING



HOW TO REPORT A VIOLATION

Report Violations to 311

- 📞 Call 311 or 713-837-0311
- ✉️ www.houstontx.gov/311
- 🌐 311@houstontx.gov



**311 Smart Phone App
Available for Download**



PROHIBITED YARD PARKING TEAM

WHO ENFORCES?

- Houston Public Works Community Code Enforcement investigates and enforces Prohibited Yard Parking violations within the City of Houston.
- **About 1.2 million parcels** (properties where a house is located) are within the City of Houston limits.
 - **Approximately 18,500 parcels** are currently registered for Approved Prohibited Yard Parking enforcement.



Map above showing the general distribution of registered properties as of January 2026. For the latest map, go to: bit.ly/45QJ9aF



HYM Little Free Library Update

Bringing books, resources, and community directly to our neighborhoods



Written by Jessica Campos

A Gift That Kept on Giving



Last month, we shared the story of a young reader named Lucas who left a children's book, a teddy bear, and free passes to the Children's Museum inside one of our Little Free Libraries. We hoped his simple act of kindness would inspire others to see that our libraries could hold more than books. They create opportunities.

This month, we're excited to share that those museum passes found their way to another family.

My daughter, Emma, discovered the surprise and was able to enjoy a day at the Children's Museum alongside a local teenager, who may have been even more excited than Emma, and another family who had recently experienced some difficult times. What started as one child's thoughtful gift turned into a day of laughter, learning, and memories shared by multiple families.

Moments like these remind us that kindness has a ripple effect. One small act can reach far beyond the person who receives it.

A book becomes a conversation. A museum ticket becomes an experience.

A Little Free Library becomes a place where neighbors care for one another in ways we never imagined.

So, we're keeping the challenge going.

If you have extra tickets to a museum, the zoo, a community event, or another family-friendly activity, consider pairing them with a great book and leaving them inside one of our Little Free Libraries. You never know who might discover it or what kind of memory you might help create.

If you decide to participate, snap a photo and share it with us on the Denver Harbor Strong Facebook page. We'd love to celebrate your act of kindness and inspire others to join in!



I'll be keeping the tradition going by hiding a children's book with Houston Zoo tickets inside one of our Little Free Libraries on July 10 at 6:00 p.m. I'll post a clue on the Denver Harbor Strong Facebook page, so keep an eye out and see if you can be the lucky family to find it!

The Poet Who Never Stopped Asking Questions

How Lupe Mendez Turned Curiosity into a Lifetime of Storytelling



When I sat down to interview Texas Poet Laureate Lupe Mendez, I expected to spend an hour talking about poetry. Instead, we talked about family, history, education, and the moments in life that quietly shape who we become. By the end of our conversation, I understood that before Lupe was ever a poet he was simply a curious kid who never stopped asking questions.

Lupe grew up in Galveston as the only child of immigrant parents. His father came from Jalisco, Mexico, and never learned to read or write in either English or Spanish. His mother, who grew up in the Rio Grande Valley and later became a nurse, believed deeply in the value of education. She introduced her son to libraries, and those early visits opened a world far bigger than the one he knew. As an only child, Lupe spent much of his time reading, imagining, and listening to the stories of the adults around him. Those stories sparked a curiosity that would stay with him for the rest of his life.



That curiosity eventually led him into the classroom as an educator, but it also shaped the kind of writer he would become. During our conversation, Lupe shared how a simple middle school history project about Houston's Huelga Schools caught his attention. Most people would have read it, graded it, and moved on. Instead, he wanted to know more. That single question led him into years of research, interviews with former students, parents, teachers, and historians, and countless hours in Houston's archives uncovering a chapter of our city's history that many people had never heard before.

Listening to him describe that journey, it became clear that Lupe doesn't just write poetry—he preserves stories. Whether he's exploring family history, documenting overlooked moments in education, or giving voice to communities that are too often left out of history books, his work is rooted in the belief that every story has value and every person deserves to be heard.

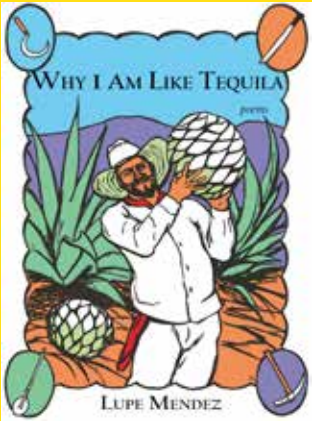
Today, Lupe is the author of several books, including the award-winning poetry collection *Why I Am Like Tequila*, and his work has earned him recognition across Texas. Yet despite those accomplishments, what stayed with me most wasn't a list of awards or publications. It was his genuine excitement about learning something new and his belief that asking questions can change the way we understand our communities.

As someone who spends a lot of time thinking about literacy and access to books, I couldn't help but notice how often libraries appeared throughout Lupe's story. A library wasn't just a building where he checked out books. It was the place where his imagination grew, where his curiosity was encouraged, and where a lifelong love of learning began. Looking back, it's easy to see how those early experiences helped shape the teacher, historian, advocate, and poet he would become.

Here in Denver Harbor, we're working to bring books back into our neighborhoods through Little Free Libraries because every child deserves that same opportunity.

We don't know whose life will be changed by the next book they pick up. After meeting Lupe Mendez, I'm reminded that sometimes the path to becoming a poet—or any kind of leader—begins with something as simple as a library card and someone who believes every child deserves the chance to discover what's waiting inside a book.

Featured Book: Why I Am Like Tequila



In *Why I Am Like Tequila*, Lupe Mendez explores family, identity, culture, and the experiences that shaped him growing up between Galveston, Texas, and his family's roots in Jalisco, Mexico. Through deeply personal poems, he reflects on immigration, belonging, education, and the stories that connect generations. Like our conversation with Lupe, the collection reminds readers that our histories matter and that preserving our stories is one of the most powerful things we can do.



For Little Readers

The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever

By H. Joseph Hopkins



If you have a little one who loves being outdoors, asking questions about nature, or digging in the dirt, this book is a wonderful way to nurture that curiosity. Based on the true story of Kate Sessions, *The Tree Lady* shows children how one person's love for nature transformed an entire city. It's a beautiful reminder that even small acts of caring for our environment can grow into something extraordinary.

For Curious Middle Readers & Teens

Puella Magi Madoka Magica, Volumes 1 & 2

Story by Magica Quartet | Art by Hanokage

If you have an anime-loving kid at home, don't overlook manga as a way to encourage reading. Many young readers who struggle to get excited about traditional novels will happily spend hours reading manga. *Puella Magi Madoka Magica* blends fantasy, friendship, and adventure with deeper themes about courage, sacrifice, and the choices we make. The best book isn't always the one we think our children should read—it's the one that makes them excited to turn the next page.



HYM Little Free Library

Bringing books, resources, and community directly to our neighborhoods



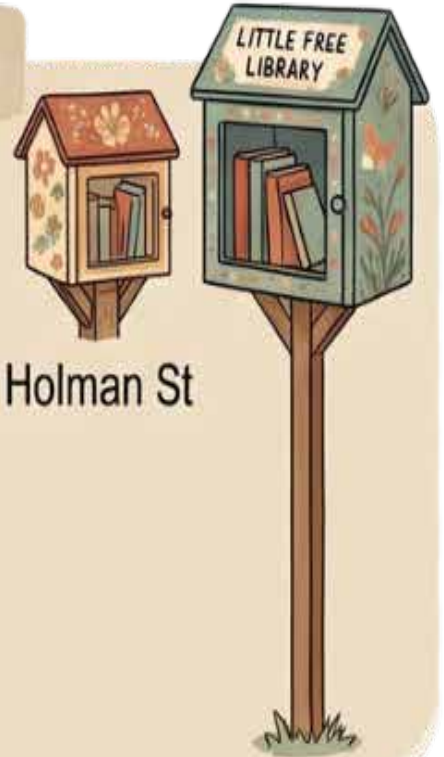
Where to Find Our Little Libraries

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!

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protects families from
flooding, pollution,
and other threats to
our future."

Adrian Garcia



POL. ADV. ADRIAN GARCIA CAMPAIGN