

LaVoz de Denver Harbor **FREE** Gratis

Volume 2 Number 10
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Leticia Gutierrez

Wins Democratic Primary, Sets Sights on November

By Kim Melchor



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Leticia Gutierrez, Democratic nominee for the U.S. House seat in TX-9, says she is working to keep this country faithful to the promises it made to all of us. Gutierrez, a community organizer who has lived in the district for more than 45 years, won the nomination without big donors, political connections, or a large campaign war chest — just deep roots and 15 years of community work that voters recognized.

Gutierrez grew up in Denver Harbor, attending Southmayd Elementary, Deady Middle School, and Milby High School. She said she had opportunities to leave as an adult but chose to stay and raise her children in the district.

"I'm not running because I want a title," Gutierrez said. **"I'm running because I want the next generation, including my own children and grandchildren, to inherit a district that is stronger, safer, healthier, and full of opportunity."**

Denver Harbor was among the communities most directly affected by the redistricting that reshaped TX-9 last year, creating uncertainty about the neighborhood's future representation. Gutierrez said she has been working to assure residents they will not be lost in the shuffle.

"I'm running to serve, to stay rooted in this district, and to make sure our voices are not just heard, but acted on," Gutierrez said.

On the campaign trail, affordability was the issue she heard most from residents going door to door.



With an average household income of approximately \$72,000 in the district, she said families are being squeezed by rising energy bills, housing costs, fuel, grocery prices, and healthcare expenses. Gutierrez explained that for many families, that's simply not enough to keep pace with the rising costs of everyday necessities.

Voters also raised concerns about immigration, veterans' benefits, elder care, and civil rights — and expressed deep weariness about the current political climate. Gutierrez said her role as a congressional representative would be an extension of work she has already been doing — taking community concerns about air pollution, train derailments, flooding, and environmental hazards to state and federal officials.

"I already see myself as a bridge between Denver Harbor and government at every level," she said. Gutierrez said she plans to remain visible and accessible to residents if elected, noting that **she already shops, attends community events, and goes to church within the district.**

For Gutierrez, the commitment to serve goes beyond politics — it is personal.

"As a mother with a son serving in the military, I understand deeply what service, sacrifice, and responsibility mean," she said.

Gutierrez won the Democratic nomination by earning 54 percent of the vote and beating five opponents who collectively raised nearly \$800,000. Her campaign spent approximately \$15,000.

She offered a direct appeal to voters still weighing their choice in November.

"We are at a pivotal time in our country," she said. **"Voters have a real choice. We can elect people who are here to serve our communities and solve problems, or those who are just here to extract and move on."**

Gutierrez will face Republican Alex Mealer in the **Nov. 3 general election** in a district redrawn by the Texas Legislature last year to favor Republicans.



Learn more about Leticia by scanning the QR code above

Word from the Editor

Hello Neighbors,

The year is flying by, and a lot is happening in Denver Harbor and the surrounding communities! I'm happy to announce that **La Voz de Denver Harbor is now available at several locations in Port Houston and El Dorado, distributing 3,000 copies per month.**

Our cover story features **Leticia Gutierrez**, who won the Democratic primary in March for the new Congressional District 9. Her background and accomplishments are truly worth noting.

We also have **Part 2 of our interview with AARP State Director Lisa Rodríguez, discussing Social Security and elder care.**

This month, **David Marez is in the spotlight for our "Mixin' It with Tejano Stars" feature.** Learn the story behind his music career.

Promoting reading is crucial for our children. Check out information about the **Cliff Tuttle Library summer reading program**, along with other valuable resources to encourage literacy.

Wisecrack Warriors, a veteran volunteer group from Montgomery County, visited Rene Porras and shared valuable information with the community.

McReynolds Middle School is closing—"The End of an Era." Our coverage includes pictures from the closing ceremonies and former students enjoying a final walkthrough of the school.

There's also a variety of other news, resources, and community happenings in this month's issue. Everyone is welcome to participate and stay informed!

Carolyn Lopez



READ LA VOZ DE
DENVER HARBOR ON
YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

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

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pregunta llama
(713) 459-3605

EDITOR



Leticia Gutiérrez

Gana la Nominación Demócrata y Pone la Mira en Noviembre

Escrito por Kim Melchor

Leticia Gutiérrez, nominada demócrata para el escaño de la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos en TX-9, dice que trabaja para mantener a este país fiel a las promesas que les hizo a todos nosotros. Gutiérrez, organizadora comunitaria que ha vivido en el distrito por más de 45 años, ganó la nominación sin grandes donantes, contactos políticos ni una bolsa de campaña abultada — solo con raíces profundas y 15 años de trabajo comunitario que los votantes supieron reconocer.



Gutiérrez creció en Denver Harbor, donde estudió en la Escuela Primaria Southmayd, la Escuela Secundaria Deady y la Preparatoria Milby. Dijo que de adulta tuvo oportunidades de irse, pero eligió quedarse y criar a sus hijos en el distrito.

“No estoy compitiendo porque quiera un título”, dijo Gutiérrez. **“Estoy compitiendo porque quiero que la próxima generación, incluidos mis propios hijos y nietos, herede un distrito más fuerte, más seguro, más saludable y lleno de oportunidades.”**

Denver Harbor fue una de las comunidades más afectadas por la redistribución de distritos que transformó TX-9 el año pasado, generando incertidumbre sobre la futura representación del vecindario. Gutiérrez dijo que ha trabajado para asegurarles a los residentes que no serán ignorados en este proceso.

“Estoy compitiendo para servir, para permanecer arraigada en este distrito y para asegurarme de que nuestras voces no solo sean escuchadas, sino que se traduzcan en acción”, dijo Gutiérrez.

En la campaña, recorriendo las calles puerta a puerta, Gutiérrez dijo que el costo de vida fue el tema que más escuchó de los residentes. Con un ingreso familiar promedio de aproximadamente \$72,000 en el distrito, dijo que las familias están siendo presionadas por el aumento en las tarifas de energía, los costos de vivienda, la gasolina, los precios de los alimentos y los gastos de atención médica. Gutiérrez explicó que para muchas familias, eso simplemente no es suficiente para mantenerse al ritmo del aumento en el costo de las necesidades cotidianas.

Los votantes también expresaron preocupaciones sobre inmigración, beneficios para veteranos, cuidado de personas mayores y derechos civiles — y manifestaron un profundo cansancio ante el clima político actual. Gutiérrez dijo que su papel como representante en el Congreso sería una extensión del trabajo que ya viene realizando: llevar las preocupaciones de la comunidad sobre la contaminación del aire, descarrilamientos de trenes, inundaciones y riesgos ambientales ante funcionarios estatales y federales.

“Ya me veo como un puente entre Denver Harbor y el gobierno en todos los niveles”, dijo. Gutiérrez señaló que planea mantenerse visible y accesible para los residentes si resulta elegida, destacando que ya hace sus compras, asiste a eventos comunitarios y va a la iglesia dentro del distrito.

Para Gutiérrez, el compromiso de servir va más allá de la política — es personal.

“Como madre con un hijo que sirve en las fuerzas militares, entiendo profundamente lo que significan el servicio, el sacrificio y la responsabilidad”, dijo.

Gutiérrez ganó la nominación demócrata al obtener el 54 por ciento de los votos y superar a cinco contrincantes que en conjunto recaudaron casi \$800,000. Su campaña gastó aproximadamente \$15,000.

Dirigiéndose directamente a los votantes que aún no han decidido su voto en noviembre, Gutiérrez fue contundente.

“Estamos en un momento crucial para nuestro país”, dijo. **“Los votantes tienen una verdadera opción. Podemos elegir personas que estén aquí para servir a nuestras comunidades y resolver problemas, o aquellas que solo están aquí para aprovecharse y seguir adelante.”**

Gutiérrez se enfrentará al republicano Alex Mealer en las elecciones generales del 3 de noviembre, en un distrito que fue redistribuido por la Legislatura de Texas el año pasado para favorecer a los republicanos.

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

Seguridad Social y Apoyo Para Cuidadores

Escrito por Kim Melchor

Lisa Rodríguez, directora estatal de AARP Texas, recientemente habló con La Voz, expandiendo sobre temas que afectan a los adultos mayores de Denver Harbor más allá de la prevención de fraude. El mes pasado, discutimos estafas sofisticadas que Rodríguez dice que se dirigen a los adultos mayores. Este mes, abordamos el desafío de vivir con beneficios de Seguridad Social inadecuados y apoyar a miembros de la familia que envejecen.

AARP apoyó una deducción fiscal de \$1,000 para adultos mayores este año, aunque Rodríguez señaló que esta medida modesta aborda solo parte de la crisis de ingresos de jubilación.



Estirando cada dólar en Seguridad Social

Muchos adultos mayores de Denver Harbor trabajaron en empleos de bajo salario durante toda su vida con ahorros de jubilación mínimos. Para estos adultos mayores, la Seguridad Social no es complementaria, es la única fuente de ingresos. Rodríguez citó datos contundentes: 27% de los latinos dependen de la Seguridad Social para el 90% de sus ingresos. "Eso es todo. Eso es todo lo que tienen".

Con ingresos tan limitados, cada gasto es importante. Rodríguez recomienda que los adultos mayores hagan presupuestos cuidadosamente y adopten estrategias prácticas: planificar comidas para reducir costos de alimentos, coordinar citas médicas para ahorrar en gasolina, y explorar descuentos en teléfonos celulares a través de planes familiares. Los descuentos para personas mayores en restaurantes y tiendas pueden ayudar a estirar fondos limitados.

Rodríguez enfatizó que la Seguridad Social representa décadas de trabajo. "Quiero dejar claro que en AARP sabemos que es algo por lo que las personas han trabajado. Así que de ninguna manera es una ayuda", dijo.

Los cuidadores también necesitan apoyo

El cuidado de personas mayores puede ser muy exigente para los miembros de la familia, y Rodríguez lo entiende de primera mano. "Puedo decirte esto porque fui cuidadora de mi madre", dijo.

AARP proporciona recursos en aarp.org/caregiving para ayudar con estas demandas. Las herramientas incluyen calificaciones de instalaciones, listas de verificación detalladas para administrar responsabilidades de cuidado, y explicaciones de opciones como cuidados paliativos en el hogar versus en el hospital.

Rodríguez describió la carga: "Tienes tanto que hacer" que los cuidadores pueden olvidar detalles cruciales sobre medicamentos y cuidado de heridas. "Pero si es una persona, es mucho", explicó. "Así que esa lista de verificación realmente se convierte en tu mejor amiga".

AARP también ha abogado por apoyo a los cuidadores a nivel estatal. "Gracias a nuestra defensa, la legislatura de Texas el año pasado aprobó autoridad de gasto para el programa estatal lifespan RISPA care", dijo Rodríguez.

Encontrando ayuda

Rodríguez animó a los adultos mayores y cuidadores a comunicarse. El sitio web y las líneas telefónicas de AARP conectan a las personas con beneficios, descuentos y servicios de apoyo.

Sitio web
AARP.org

Teléfono
Lun-Vie, 8am - 8pm ET
1-888-687-2277
1-877-342-2277 (Español)

Texto
833-259-2277
AARPBOT: Disponible 24/7
Horario de Agente en Vivo:
Lun-Vie, 8am - 8pm ET



Escanea para ver eventos y noticias de AARP en Houston, Texas.

Mixin' It Up with The Stars

Tejano Style!

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

David Marez

By Ricky Campos



David Marez remembers playing at a festival at the Resurrection Church in Denver Harbor where **David (Bull) Arevalo** was the festival coordinator. He said it was a great time where he met a lot of friendly people. He also said that a lot of his friends are from Denver Harbor. He played Tejano music and ended up singing "My Girl". At the age of about 10 David started singing with his parents at the Pentecostal church.

After moving from Mathis to San Antonio he joined a garage band with a friend who encouraged him because of his vocal talent. This led to more frequent performances with established bands like the Eptones. As a young man he was active in sports and aspired to be a coach. He continued singing while playing football relating a funny incident where he rushed to an audition in full football gear.

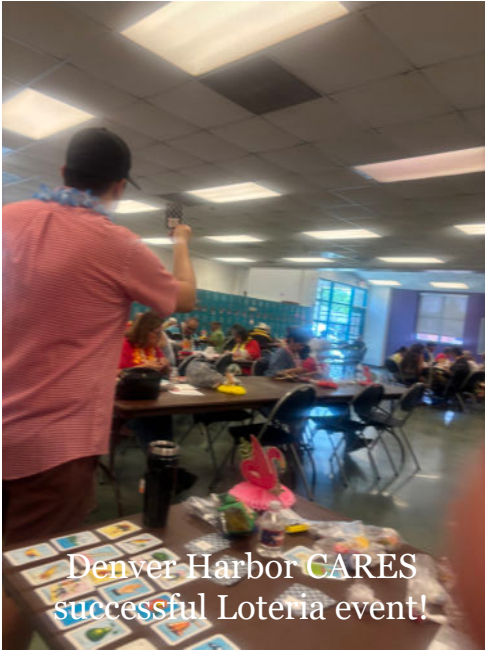
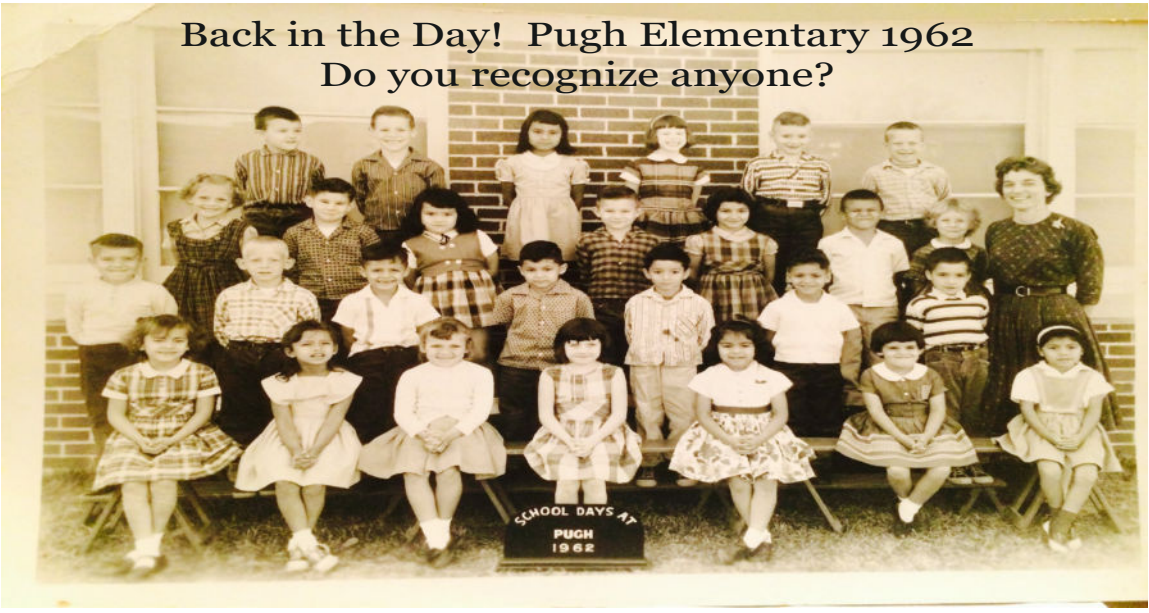
During this time and while still in high school he was recommended and hired as a singer with the Royal Jesters. At this time the Royal Jesters sang English language songs. At 18 he enlisted in the Navy, serving four years active duty and two years in the reserves. Within those first four years he spent three years and seven months at sea during the Vietnam War. Following his Navy service he thought his music career had ended but he was invited back to the Royal Jesters. The group had begun to transition to Spanish music which meant learning the language since he was not a fluent conversational Spanish speaker. With the help of his grandmother he adjusted and learned song pronunciation.

David Marez prefers "**Chicano Music**" or "**Onda**" over "**Tejano**". He has traced Tejano's origin roots to polkas brought by German and Polish immigrants, centered on the accordion. It evolved into big band orchestras with horn sections in the 1940's and 1950's. David says his style is "**progressive Chicano**" using horns and synthesizers. He believes music should continually evolve with each generation adding to it and says that's what the beauty of music is, its an art.

Creativity is essential, music is a universal language for storytelling and emotion.

His current musical career involves being active with his band, "**David Marez and People**" which he has led since 1978 touring year round across Texas and other states. He highlighted an R&B style version of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" which surprised many listeners. His future plans are to return to the studio at the end of 2026 or early 2027 to create new music. His most recent CD is titled "Chicano Rhythm and Soul". He remains a devoted, active musician, continuously touring and planning new recordings.

In The Community | En La Comunidad



Upcoming Events | Eventos Próximos

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2026



UNEARTH A STORY™

Explore our 2026 Summer Reading Program Unearth a Story!

Saturday, June 13 | 11 AM - 2 PM

Tuttle Neighborhood Library
702 Kress St., 77020

Join our Summer Reading Kickoff and jump into a world of discovery. Browse good books, explore hands-on activities, and enjoy interactive experiences for all.

While you're here, be sure to register and start tracking your Summer Reading adventure on Beanstack.



REGISTER



houstonlibrary.org | Linking YOU to the World

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

Grow in Faith. Walk with Christ.

CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION

Good morning:

We will conduct registration for Faith Formation at the offices of the Church of the Resurrection from Kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as for Adults participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation and Adult Confirmation.

REGISTER ON:

SUNDAY, JUNE 14
from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**MONDAY, JUNE 15 to
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17**
from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**PLEASE BRING
A COPY OF THE
BAPTISMAL
CERTIFICATE
AND
A COPY OF THE
BIRTH CERTIFICATE.**

THE REQUIRED DONATION IS:

FIRST YEAR OF FAITH FORMATION

\$100.00 for one child
\$150.00 for two siblings
\$180.00 for three or more siblings

JUNETEENTH SPORTS CAMP

GAME ON

**SOCCER
JUNE 20TH**
DENVER HARBOR FACILITY
9am - 2pm

**BASKETBALL
JUNE 18 & 19**
FONDE COMMUNITY CENTER
9am - 2:30pm

AGES 5-14 | **FREE** *REGISTRATION REQUIRED LIMITED AVAILABILITY | **REGISTER HERE**



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Disaster Preparedness & Community Resilience

**Saturday, June 27, 2026
10:00 AM - 01:00 PM**

Judson Robinson Sr
1422 Ledwicke st.
Houston, TX 77029



Scan to RSVP
tiny.cc/readyevents

Learn how to keep your family safe before, during & after a disaster!

PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE:

- FREE Lunch*
- FREE gifts*
- Create your own family safety plan!

*LUNCH & GIFTS RESERVED FOR THE FIRST 60 PARTICIPANTS WHO TURN IN THE EVALUATION FORM

[Vendors Register Here: tinyurl.com/readyvender](https://tinyurl.com/readyvender)



houston
ToolBANK

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**
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
Seating is limited

Free for All
Scan or Click
to Register



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





Community Resources | Recursos Comunitarios

John P. McGovern
Foundation
Summer Reading Program

Tuttle Neighborhood Library
702 Kress St. 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

JUNE 2026 – KIDS, TWEENS, AND TEENS EVENT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Family Storytime Baby Storytime Toddler Storytime Scan for more info.	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. <u>Groups, schools, and daycares must call the location at least one week in advance to schedule library visits.</u> Registration is required for all programs. EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.			
	1 LEGO CLUB! 4PM	2 ★ HI, RED BIRD! 11AM KIDS CRAFT! 4PM	3 KIDS STEM! 4PM	4	5	6 TODDLER PLAYTIME! 11AM SATURDAYS @HPL! 2PM

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 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.

Compudopt

Sorteo de Computadoras

Regístrese para la oportunidad de recibir una computadora gratis cortesía de la organización sin fines de lucro Compudopt.

¡HOLA, HOUSTON!

Compudopt ofrece computadoras gratis, internet a bajo costo y educación tecnológica para ayudar a las personas a prosperar en nuestro mundo digital.

Para calificar para el sorteo de computadoras, no debes tener una computadora en funcionamiento en casa. ¡Las computadoras incluyen una garantía de 2 años y asistencia técnica gratuito!

Las personas seleccionadas serán notificadas por mensaje de texto y correo electrónico.

Escanee el código QR o visite compudopt.org/houston para registrarse.

¿Tienes una computadora vieja acumulando polvo?

Si resultas seleccionado, traigala al recoger tu nueva computadora. Compudopt reutilizará la tecnología donada y le dará una segunda vida.

Aceptamos laptops, computadoras de escritorio, teclados, ratones, monitores, tabletas, teléfonos celulares, componentes y equipos de red.

Se pueden solicitar recibos de donación.

Compudopt

Computer Giveaway

Register for your chance to receive a free computer from national nonprofit Compudopt!

HELLO, HOUSTON!

Compudopt provides free computers, affordable internet, and tech education to help people thrive in today's digital world.

To qualify for the computer giveaway, you must not own a working computer at home. Computers include a 2-year warranty and free tech support!

Selected individuals will be notified via text and email.

Scan the QR code or visit compudopt.org/houston to register.

Have an old device collecting dust?

If selected, bring it with you when you pick up your new computer! Compudopt will repurpose your donated technology and give it a second life.

We accept laptops, desktops, keyboards, mice, monitors, tablets, cell phones, components, and networking equipment.

Donation receipts are available upon request.

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.

¿Qué Significa Realmente un Cambio de Escuela para una Familia de Educación Especial?

Después de años de cambios e incertidumbre en la educación pública, las familias de Denver Harbor enfrentan una nueva ronda de preocupaciones mientras HISD reorganiza los programas de educación especial.

Escrito por Jessica Campos

Cuando la mayoría de las personas escuchan que un estudiante cambiará de escuela, imaginan un salón nuevo, un maestro nuevo y quizás un trayecto un poco más largo para llegar al campus.

Sin embargo, para muchas familias de educación especial, un cambio de escuela puede afectar casi todos los aspectos de la vida diaria de un niño. Puede significar dejar atrás a maestros que entienden cómo se comunica ese estudiante, rutinas que tomaron años en establecerse y relaciones que le ayudan a sentirse seguro y exitoso. También puede significar nuevas rutas de transporte, personal desconocido, compañeros nuevos y comenzar de nuevo en un entorno que podría tomar meses en adaptarse.

El transporte se ha convertido en una de las mayores preocupaciones para muchas familias. Los padres temen recorridos más largos en autobús, horarios de recogida más tempranos y el impacto que los trayectos prolongados pueden tener en niños que ya enfrentan dificultades con las transiciones, la ansiedad, las necesidades sensoriales o los cambios en su rutina. Para las familias trabajadoras que equilibran empleos, cuidado infantil, terapias y el aumento constante del costo de vida, incluso un pequeño cambio en el transporte puede afectar a todo el hogar.

Durante las últimas semanas, las familias de Houston ISD han estado conociendo más detalles sobre los planes para reorganizar los programas de educación especial en todo el distrito. Aunque los líderes del distrito describen estos cambios como un esfuerzo para alinear servicios y recursos, muchas familias de Denver Harbor todavía están tratando de entender qué significarán estas decisiones para sus hijos.

Las preocupaciones van más allá de los padres muchos han expresado incertidumbre sobre cómo se están implementando los cambios. Una educadora veterana de educación especial compartió que los maestros estaban recibiendo información al mismo tiempo que las familias.

“No teníamos mucha información tampoco”, explicó la educadora. “Ninguno de mis asistentes sabía si todavía tendría trabajo”, y agregó: “Otros maestros de educación especial con los que he hablado están igual de confundidos”.

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Estos comentarios revelan algo importante: la incertidumbre se está sintiendo en todo el sistema. Los padres están preocupados por sus hijos. Los maestros están preocupados por sus estudiantes. Los administradores intentan responder preguntas mientras ellos mismos navegan estos cambios.

Al mismo tiempo, las familias han quedado tratando de entender lo que todo esto podría significar para sus hijos. Algunos padres temen que años de progreso puedan perderse. “No sé qué hacer”, confesó una madre. Otro padre comentó: “Tengo miedo de que esto nos haga retroceder. Apenas estaba adaptándose al nuevo entorno y le estaba yendo bien”.

Otros padres reportan que la incertidumbre ya está afectando a sus hijos. “Mi hijo ya ha comenzado a retroceder”, compartió una familia. Una y otra vez, los padres regresan a la misma pregunta: “¿Por qué están haciendo esto?”

Para los estudiantes con discapacidades, la consistencia importa. Muchos dependen de rostros familiares, rutinas establecidas y relaciones de confianza. Un cambio de colocación rara vez es tan simple como mudarse de un edificio a otro. La educadora enfatizó que los programas exitosos de educación especial se construyen sobre relaciones desarrolladas a lo largo del tiempo.

“Tienes que tener una relación con tus estudiantes. Tienes que conocer a tus estudiantes y a sus familias para poder servirles”, explicó.

Para muchas familias de Denver Harbor, estos cambios llegan después de años de interrupciones.

Desde la toma de control estatal de Houston ISD, las familias han experimentado rotación de personal, cambios de programas, cambios curriculares, cierres de bibliotecas y una incertidumbre constante sobre el futuro de sus escuelas vecinales. Las familias de educación especial han sentido estos cambios con mayor intensidad porque sus hijos suelen depender de la estabilidad, la previsibilidad y la confianza.

Muchos padres sienten que comunidades como Denver Harbor continúan cargando con una parte desproporcionada de estas interrupciones. En vecindarios que ya enfrentan dificultades económicas, barreras de transporte, barreras lingüísticas y acceso limitado a recursos, incluso pequeños cambios pueden tener consecuencias importantes para familias que intentan equilibrar el trabajo, el cuidado de los hijos, las terapias y las responsabilidades diarias.

La preocupación no es que las familias de educación especial no puedan adaptarse. Lo hacen todos los días. La preocupación es cuántas veces más se les puede pedir a las mismas comunidades que se adapten antes de que la carga comience a pasar factura.

Esta conversación es mucho más que mover estudiantes de una escuela a otra. Se trata de preservar relaciones, garantizar la continuidad de los apoyos y reconocer que detrás de cada cambio de programa hay un niño y una familia tratando de navegar un mundo que ya de por sí es complicado.

Como señaló una educadora: “Mi comunidad confía en mí... pero las familias tienen que tener participación”.

Quizás esa sea la lección más importante de todo esto. Las familias merecen más que una notificación. Merecen comunicación clara, participación significativa y una voz en las decisiones que afectan el futuro de sus hijos. Porque detrás de cada reasignación, cada ruta de transporte, cada cambio de personal y cada decisión de programa hay un niño cuyo éxito depende de mucho más que documentos y trámites. Depende de la confianza, las relaciones y de una comunidad comprometida con garantizar que cada estudiante sea visto, comprendido y apoyado.

What Does a School Change Really Mean for a Special Education Family?

After years of educational upheaval, Denver Harbor families face another round of uncertainty as special education programs are restructured across Houston ISD.

Written by Jessica Campos

When most people hear that a student is changing schools, they imagine a new classroom, a new teacher, and maybe a longer drive across town.

For many special education families, however, a school change can affect nearly every part of a child's day. It can mean leaving behind teachers who understand how that child communicates, routines that took years to establish, and relationships that help students feel safe and successful. It can mean new transportation routes, unfamiliar staff, new classmates, and starting over in an environment that may take months to navigate successfully.

Transportation has become one of the biggest concerns for many families. Parents worry about longer bus rides, earlier pick-up times, and the impact that extended commutes may have on children who already struggle with transitions, anxiety, sensory needs, or changes in routine. For working families balancing jobs, childcare, therapy appointments, and rising household expenses, even a small change in transportation can create challenges that affect the entire family.

Over the past several weeks, Houston ISD families have been learning more about plans to reorganize special education programs across the district. While district leaders describe the changes as an effort to align services and resources, many Denver Harbor families are still trying to understand what these decisions will mean for their children.

The concerns extend beyond parents. In conversations with educators, many have expressed uncertainty about how the changes are being implemented. One veteran special education educator shared that teachers were often learning information at the same time families were receiving notices.

"We did not have much information either," the educator explained.

"None of my TAs had any idea where they had a job," and

"Other SpEd teachers I've talked to are just as confused."



Those comments reveal something important: the uncertainty is being felt throughout the system. Parents are worried about their children. Teachers are worried about their students. Administrators are trying to answer questions while navigating changes themselves.

At the same time, families have been left struggling to understand what these changes could mean for their children. Some parents have shared fears that years of progress could be undone.

"I don't know what to do," one parent admitted.

Another worried, "I'm afraid this will set us back. He just started adjusting to the new setting and doing well."

Others report that the stress and uncertainty are already affecting their children.

"My child has already begun to regress," one parent shared.

Again and again, parents return to the same question,

"Why are they doing this?"

For students with disabilities, consistency matters. Many rely on familiar faces, established routines, and trusted relationships. A change in placement is rarely as simple as moving from one building to another. The educator emphasized that successful special education programs are built on relationships developed over time.

"You have to have a relationship with your kids. You have to know your kids and your families to be able to serve them," she explained.

For many Denver Harbor families, these changes arrive after years of disruption. Since the state takeover of Houston ISD, families have experienced staff turnover, program changes, curriculum changes, library closures, and ongoing uncertainty about the future of their neighborhood schools. Special education families have often felt these changes most deeply because their children frequently depend on consistency, predictability, and trust.

Many parents feel that communities like Denver Harbor continue to shoulder a disproportionate share of these disruptions. In neighborhoods already facing economic hardship, transportation barriers, language barriers, and limited access to resources, even small changes can have significant consequences for families trying to balance work, childcare, therapy appointments, and daily life.

The concern is not that special education families cannot adapt. They do it every day. The concern is how many times the same communities can be asked to adapt before the strain begins to show.

This conversation is about more than moving students from one campus to another. It is about preserving relationships, ensuring continuity of support, and recognizing that behind every program change is a child and a family trying to navigate an already complicated world.

As one educator put it, "My community trusts me... but you have to have input."

Perhaps that is the lesson in all of this. Families deserve more than notifications. They deserve clear communication, meaningful participation, and a voice in decisions that affect their children's future. Because behind every reassignment, transportation route, staffing change, and program decision is a child whose success depends on more than paperwork. It depends on trust, relationships, and a community willing to ensure that every student is seen, understood, and supported.



HYM Little Free Library Update

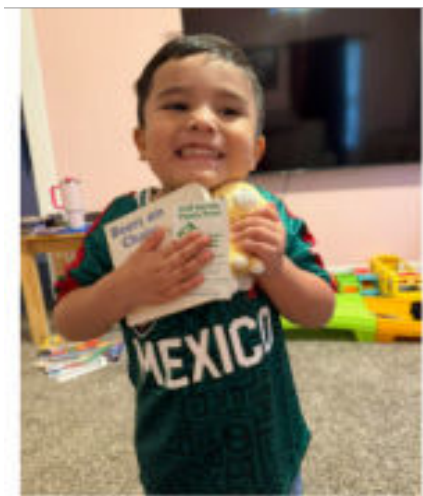
Bringing books, resources, and community directly to our neighborhoods



Written by Jessica Campos

Something special is happening at our Little Free Library at Porras Prontito.

Since installing the library just one month ago, it has been refilled at least six times. **Community members continue to stop by to add books, take books, and share photos of their finds.** What started as a simple library has quickly become something much bigger—a community effort fueled by neighbors who want to make sure books remain accessible to everyone.



Lucas with the book, teddy bear, and Children's Museum family pass he placed inside Porras LFL.

One of the sweetest surprises recently came from a young reader named Lucas. Inside the library, he left a small brown bag containing a children's book, a teddy bear, and a pass to the Children's Museum. Attached was a handwritten note that read:

"Hi friend, I hope you enjoy this bear, book, and ticket to the Children's Museum. This ticket allows up to 6 people for free. Have fun! If you find me, post me on the DH Facebook page. Happy reading! — Lucas"

The gift was a wonderful reminder that these libraries can hold much more than books. They can hold opportunities, encouragement, and small acts of kindness.

What made the moment even more exciting was seeing how naturally the idea emerged from the community. As our family and community partners continue exploring ways to expand what Little Free Libraries can offer, it was inspiring to see a neighbor already using the library to share an experience with another family.

Inspired by Lucas's thoughtful gift, Emma and I will soon be placing a special book inside the library along with **5 free Houston Zoo tickets** for another lucky reader to discover. Keep an eye on our social media pages for clues about when and where they'll be added.

More than anything, this experience has shown us that the Little Free Library is becoming more than a place to exchange books. It is becoming a place where neighbors share resources, opportunities, and a little bit of joy with one another.

Stop by, take a book, leave a book, and maybe leave a little surprise for the next reader.

**"If You Don't Dream,
It Won't Happen"**

The Story Behind Jay Guadalupe De Leon's Commitment to Community and Service.

For **Jay Guadalupe De Leon**, legacy is not measured by titles or recognition. It is measured by the lives we touch, the opportunities we create, and the communities we leave stronger than we found them.

During a recent conversation about his book, *Del Campo al Legado*, De Leon reflected on the experiences that shaped his commitment to education, service, and community leadership.



Jay Guadalupe De León (standing, far right) working in the fields as a young man. His experiences growing up in a farmworking family inspired many of the themes explored in *Del Campo al Legado*.

Like many Latino families, **his story is rooted in sacrifice, hard work, and the pursuit of a better future.** Those experiences would later inspire both his writing and his dedication to helping others.

His book, ***Del Campo al Legado***, explores themes of family, identity, culture, and perseverance. Through personal stories and reflections, De Leon invites readers to consider where they come from, what they value, and what kind of legacy they hope to leave behind.

Throughout our conversation, De Leon emphasized the importance of helping people find their voice. He believes every person has a story worth telling and that communities become stronger when people recognize their own ability to create change. Whether working with young people, supporting families, or serving in leadership roles, his focus has remained the same: empowering others.

Reflecting on the impact one person can have, De Leon shared a lesson that has stayed with him throughout his work:

"You can change someone's life with a few words, or simply by giving them the attention no one else has given them."



Education is a central part of that mission. De Leon spoke about learning not simply as something that happens in a classroom, but as a lifelong process shaped by family, culture, experience, and curiosity. He sees books as one of the most powerful tools available to young people because they open doors to new ideas, perspectives, and possibilities.

In communities where educational resources are often limited, access to books can make a lasting difference. Literacy is about more than reading; it is about understanding the world, asking questions, and imagining a future beyond current circumstances. Throughout our conversation, De Leon returned to the idea that education should inspire people to think critically, stay curious, and continue learning throughout their lives.

His passion for education is matched by his commitment to service. He believes meaningful change happens when people invest in their communities and work together to solve problems. Through his leadership and advocacy, he has encouraged others to become active participants in shaping the future of their neighborhoods, schools, and communities.

When discussing the importance of hope, De Leon spoke about the power of believing in possibilities, even when circumstances are difficult. He has spent much of his life encouraging others to see beyond obstacles and focus on what can be built when people work together.

When asked what message he hopes to leave for future generations, his answer was simple but powerful:

"Si no sueñas, no sucede."

"If you don't dream, it won't happen."

Those words capture the spirit of both his book and his life's work. Every community project, every act of service, and every positive change begins with someone willing to imagine something better.

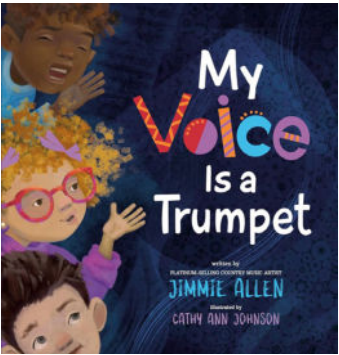
Through his writing, leadership, and dedication to others, Jay Guadalupe De Leon continues to remind us that the future is not something we wait for. It is something we build.

A Library for Every Stage

Bringing books, resources, and community directly to our neighborhoods



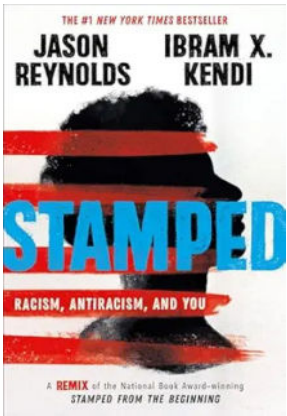
For Little Readers



My Voice Is a Trumpet by Jimmie Allen

This uplifting picture book reminds children that their voice matters. Through colorful illustrations and an empowering message, young readers learn that they have the power to speak up, share their ideas, and make a difference in the world around them. It's a perfect reminder that even the smallest voices can have a big impact.

For Curious Middle Readers and Teens



Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

Written specifically for young readers, Stamped explores the history of race and racism in America in a way that is engaging, accessible, and thought-provoking. Rather than memorizing dates and facts, readers are encouraged to think critically about history, identity, and their role in creating a more just future. The book challenges young people to ask questions, understand different perspectives, and find their own voice.

Both books connect to a message that came up during our conversation with Jay Guadalupe De Leon: education is about more than what happens in a classroom. It is about learning who we are, understanding our communities, and discovering how we can use our voices to create positive change.

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

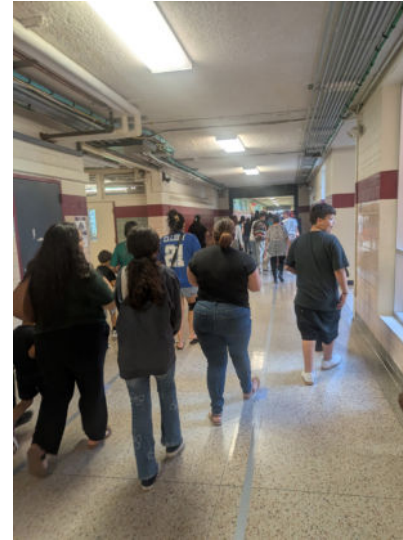


Stop by. Take a book. Leave a book. Let's keep the stories moving!

The End of an Era

A heartfelt farewell at McReynolds Middle School

Thanks to Ricky Campos for capturing these special moments—nearly 300 people came together for this memorable event, including both former and current students. The incredible turnout speaks volumes about the impact and legacy of this community.



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DENVER HARBOR, I'M ON YOUR SIDE.

**"My mission is
simple:** Responsible,
trustworthy
leadership that keeps
our communities
safe, makes life
more affordable, and
protects families from
flooding, pollution,
and other threats to
our future."

Adrian Garcia



POL. ADV. ADRIAN GARCIA CAMPAIGN