

LaVoz de Denver Harbor **FREE Gratis**

Volume 2 Number 12
A Bi-Cultral Publication
September, 2026

Election Spotlight



Adrian Garcia



Richard Vega

**County Commissioner
Precinct 2**



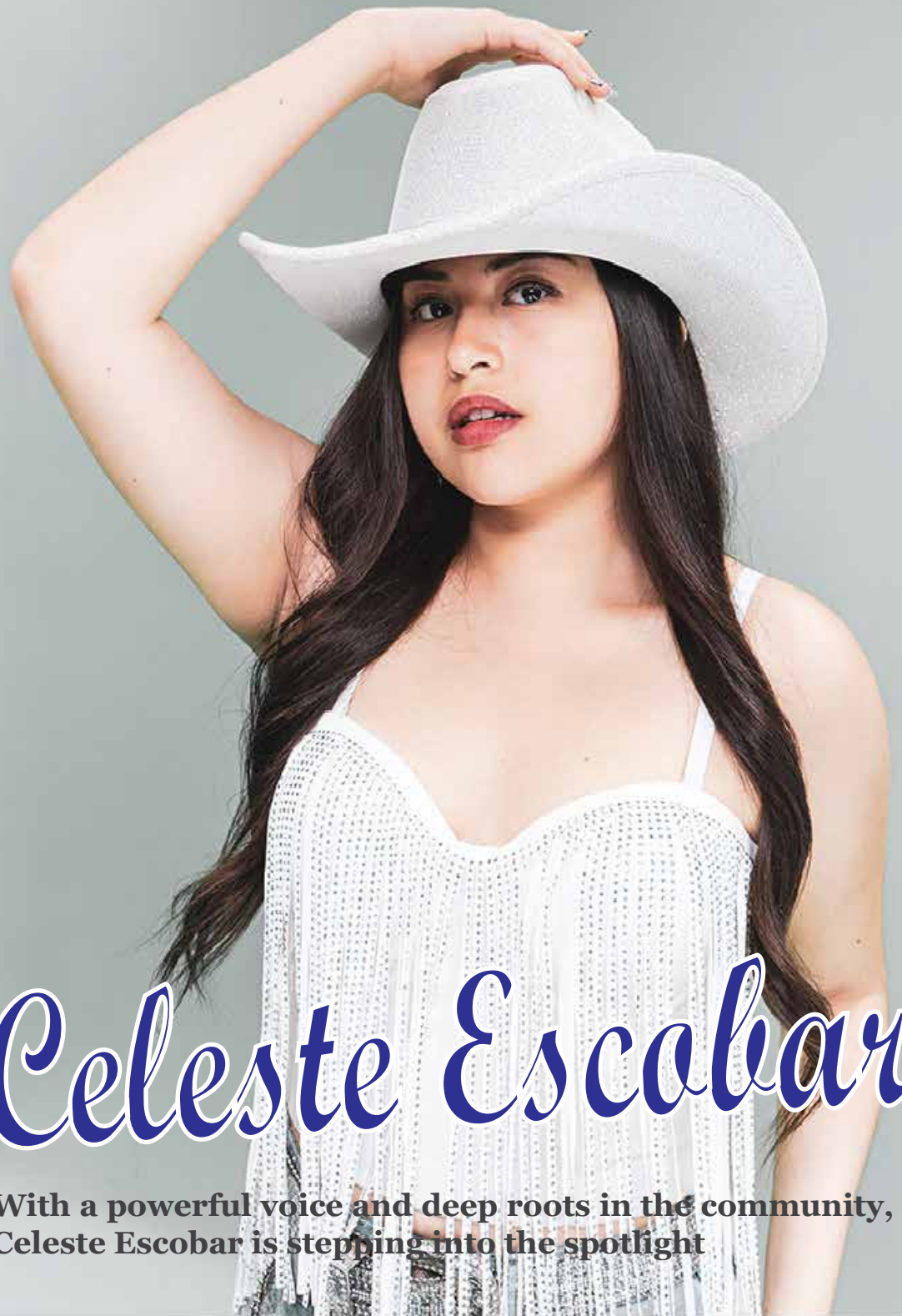
Letitia Plummer

Harris County Judge



Leticia Gutiérrez

Congress – District 9



Celeste Escobar

With a powerful voice and deep roots in the community,
Celeste Escobar is stepping into the spotlight

From Denver Harbor to the Spotlight: Celeste Escobar on the Rise

Written By Ricky Campos

Celeste Escobar is an emerging Tejano music star and certainly one to watch out for. She has already begun to build a solid foundation and is already making waves in her new role. Celeste was born in Baytown but grew up in Denver Harbor, attending Pugh Elementary, McReynolds Middle School and Yes Prep. She graduated from Yes Prep in 2025. Her parents have always provided strong backing and have always been there to support her. Her mother organizes her events and handles everything behind the scenes. Her father is always there accompanying her to ensure her safety.

Celeste is the youngest of three siblings. One of her brothers lives in Houston and is a big support to her on her events. He is always there contributing and helping her prepare for what is needed. She actually went to visit her other brother, a graduate from the University of Houston, in South Korea this past summer. Her brother, an English teacher, is currently teaching in South Korea. She said Korea is one of her favorite countries and she had a truly wonderful and amazing experience while visiting. He introduced her to Korean culture, food and showed her around.

At a young age Celeste started singing and remembered singing 'Jesus Take the Wheel'. Her aunt played a significant role giving her certain songs to sing and so many suggestions for songs. She says her aunt passed singing aspirations on to her. She first sang at a restaurant called Aguas Calientes on the Northside.

While attending 5th grade at Pugh Elementary she was asked by her teacher to sing for the Cinco de Mayo event where she sang 'Como La Flor' by Selena. She recalls being so excited that she ran and told all her friends.

Celeste's musical style has been shaped by a range of iconic artists and diverse genres. She admires singers like Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey, Beyonce, Michael Jackson and Selena.. She actively practices across multiple genres including Tejano and English pop. She also draws inspiration from contemporary pop artist Tate McRae and admires her performance style and work ethic.



It has been a busy and exciting time for Celeste and she has gained significant performance experience. Her first performance at the Tejano Fanfare in San Antonio last year meant so much to her. She was invited to perform on all three of the event's stages. It was her first time singing with a live band in front of such a large audience. She recently formed her own band with five members who are all around eighteen years old. She was interviewed by Jessica Jeanz with Puro Tejano 99.5 last month. Her mentors are David Olivarez and Carlos Villegas Negami. In 2025 after graduating from high school she signed with Up Above Entertainment.

Looking ahead Celeste has ambitious goals for her music career. She envisions releasing a full album, building a loyal following, selling merchandise and establishing a tour with events across Texas. She has finished recording her first original music video 'Tu Me Ves y Me Ves'. She anticipates the video to be released before the end of the year. She will be performing at Resurrection Catholic Church on October 11th. We all wish you the Best Celeste!

Word from the Editor

Hello Neighbors,

Thank you for your continued support of La Voz de Denver Harbor. As we head into September and October, it's time to prepare for the November 5 elections. Inside, you'll find key information, including how to check if you're registered to vote. Our community's voice matters—stay informed.

We invited candidates for Congressional District 9, Harris County Judge, and Commissioner Precinct 2 to respond to community questions. Be sure to read their answers—and note who did not respond.

We're proud to spotlight Denver Harbor's own Celeste Escobar as she continues rising in Tejano music. Also, don't miss Rene Porras' important piece on Chapter 42 and what it means for our neighborhood's future.

McReynolds is not closing—read more to find out what's really happening.

Join us for National Night Out on September 29 from 6–8 PM at the Denver Harbor Multiservice Center, hosted by Denver Harbor Civic Club and Denver Harbor CARES. More community events are inside.

Thank you for staying engaged.

Carolyn Lopez

EDITOR



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Carolyn Lopez

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pregunta llama
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DENVER HARBOR ON
YOUR MOBILE DEVICE**

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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 Lyons
 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



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: September 29, 2026

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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



DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS



FREE BOOKS

FREE WEATHERIZATION SIGNUPS BY
CENTERPOINT FOR DH HOMES



FREE REFRESHMENTS

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COME OUT
AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!

They Closed McReynolds

Now We Need to Know What HISD Is Getting Our DAEP Students Into

Written By Jessica Campos

When HISD voted to close McReynolds Middle School, Denver Harbor was told our neighborhood school was closing and students would be moved. Months later, students are back inside that same building, only now they are Secondary DAEP students.

Since I started asking questions, families and people with direct knowledge of what is happening have quietly reached out. I am intentionally protecting their names, positions and anything else that could identify them. But the concerns they are bringing forward are serious.

I've heard about staffing being reduced after DAEP programs were merged, teachers covering multiple grade levels and classrooms reportedly reaching around 25 students. I've heard concerns about teacher certifications, students keeping up with credits and courses, counseling and behavioral support, and whether students with disabilities are consistently receiving the services required by their IEPs.

These aren't things I'm calling proven facts. They're things I'm asking HISD to answer. I've also heard concerns about air conditioning. One family contacted me after a DAEP student reportedly passed out from the heat in a classroom they said was around 85 degrees and offered documentation. I am still verifying where that happened, so I won't claim it happened at McReynolds without proof. But I have separately received concerns about AC conditions at McReynolds.

Then there are the railroad tracks Denver Harbor knows very well.

People with direct experience have raised



concerns about students sometimes leaving unexpectedly when they become frustrated. With active railroad tracks directly in front of McReynolds, I want to know what safety assessment HISD conducted before placing Secondary DAEP there. Our community had already been fighting for a pedestrian bridge. Council Member Mario Castillo pursued grant funding, but it wasn't approved. Then HISD announced McReynolds was closing, and the bridge project was dropped. Why continue fighting for a bridge to a school everyone was told would no longer have students? Except now it does.

Mario personally reached out to me about the bridge and thankfully isn't giving up. He plans to continue pursuing a legislative path, similar to the effort that helped move the Milby pedestrian bridge forward. That matters because the safety problem at McReynolds didn't disappear just because HISD changed which students attend the building.

Mario also received confirmation from HISD on August 20 that McReynolds would become a Sunrise Center. But that still doesn't make the numbers make sense to me. McReynolds had roughly 290 neighborhood students before HISD closed it.

Now we're talking about roughly 220 Secondary DAEP students and a Sunrise Center, not another school bringing hundreds of students into the building.

So how was McReynolds too underutilized for Denver Harbor's neighborhood students, but operating the same building with fewer students makes sense now? And honestly, the more I dig, the more I realize McReynolds isn't my only concern.

Texas requires districts to provide DAEP, but it does not require HISD to operate it as a completely separate campus. State law says DAEP is supposed to address students' educational and behavioral needs and provide supervision and counseling. So what does success actually look like?

Are students earning their credits? Are their IEPs being followed? Are there enough properly qualified teachers? Are they receiving counseling and behavioral support? How many successfully return to their regular schools? How many end up back in DAEP? Are students leaving academically on track or further behind?

I've requested records on staffing, certifications, special education services, class sizes, placements and academic outcomes. I'm still waiting, and I'm not going to turn allegations into facts while I wait. But something people reaching out to me keep making clear is that many of these young people are trying. They have goals. They have potential. And the people working with them are worried some are slipping through the cracks. If we're removing students from their regular schools because they're supposed to learn from what happened and get back on track, then show us they're actually getting back on track. Because if we can't show that, then Denver Harbor needs to start asking a much bigger question: What exactly is this system accomplishing? format this better

Una Cuadra a La Vez

Escrito Por Kim Melchor

Este artículo es el segundo de una serie de dos partes sobre la gentrificación local. Consulta ediciones anteriores de La Voz en <https://lavozenedenverharbor.com>

Varios vecindarios de Houston han intentado frenar la construcción de casas tipo townhouse mediante una ordenanza municipal conocida como Capítulo 42, pero no han logrado reunir las firmas necesarias. Según explica Rene Porras, dueño de un negocio en Denver Harbor, Eastwood y Lawndale no lo consiguieron. Una organizadora solo logró involucrar al 3 % de su vecindario.

Denver Harbor no ha fracasado.

En pocas palabras, el Capítulo 42 establece un tamaño mínimo de lote. Cuando una cuadra está protegida, los lotes no se pueden subdividir en pequeñas parcelas típicas de los desarrollos de townhouses. Los propietarios todavía pueden construir, reconstruir, ampliar o vender. La protección dura hasta 40 años y queda ligada al terreno, sin importar quién lo compre. Una cuadra califica cuando los propietarios del 51 % de ella firman una petición.

Porras y Carolyn Lopez, de La Voz, han protegido más de 2,000 casas del vecindario desde 2017. Atribuyen su éxito al método que utilizaron. Mientras otros grupos se concentraban en las redes sociales, Porras dijo: “Fuimos directamente con la gente.”

Esta estrategia particular significaba trabajar a las horas en que los residentes estaban en casa. Porras salía a las cuatro de la tarde y también los sábados y domingos. Una mañana salió a las 4 a. m. para hablar con un hombre que se iba temprano a trabajar.

Al principio, las visitas duraban hasta 30 minutos porque nadie en Denver Harbor había oído hablar del Capítulo 42. “Apenas entendíamos lo que estaba pasando”, dijo Lopez.

Ayudó que la gente reconociera a Porras por la tienda de su familia. “La gente ya no abre la puerta”, dijo. “Pero a mí sí me abrían y preguntaban: ‘¿Quién pidió tacos?’”

Al principio, la Iglesia Católica Resurrection les dio credibilidad y puso en marcha el esfuerzo con una reunión convocada por el sacerdote. Juntaron su propio dinero para imprimir tarjetas postales y comprar estampillas. También presionaron a la ciudad para que enviara las boletas en español.

“Son personas de 80 años”, dijo Porras. “Ni siquiera tienen computadoras.”

La dupla también aprendió a llenar una sala. Porras dijo que una vez unas 30 o 35 personas entraron juntas a Houston Planning and Commissioning.

“De repente se ponen a arreglar el escritorio”, dijo. “El número de personas sí importaba.”

Porras advierte, sin embargo, que una cuadra protegida no es invulnerable. Cuenta que un constructor que trabajaba junto a Zoe Street, que ya estaba protegida, modificó el plano de subdivisión para que la dirección apareciera en Arapahoe. El constructor siguió construyendo y simplemente pagó una multa de unos \$5,000. “Eso no es nada”, dijo Porras.

Un obstáculo más difícil es que solo los propietarios pueden firmar. Al norte de la autopista, muchos de los residentes rentan sus casas. Un hombre que posee 11 o 12 casas en Halo y Hoffman le dijo hace dos años que firmaría, y desde entonces no lo han vuelto a ver.

Ahora solo quedan ellos dos, y Porras tiene 75 años. A la cuadra 400 de Shotwell le falta una

firma. A una cuadra de Hoffman también le falta una. “Me dan ganas de llorar cuando paso por ahí”, dijo Porras.

Lopez explicó que los propietarios interesados en proteger su cuadra no necesitan entender el proceso ni averiguar cómo hacer el papeleo. “Lo único que necesitamos es su firma. Nosotros hacemos todo lo demás.”

Los residentes que quieran proteger su cuadra pueden comunicarse con Porras en Porras Prontito, en Market, o con Lopez por medio de La Voz. Cualquier persona que vea una obra en construcción sin el permiso a la vista puede llamar al 311.

PERMISOS DE LA CIUDAD

HAY GENTE COMPRANDO Y DEMOLIENDO CASAS EN MEDIO DE LA NOCHE. UN PERMISO DE LA CIUDAD ES NECESARIO.



SI NO VE NINGÚN PERMISO, LLAME AL 311 PARA REPORTARLO. SU REPORTE PUEDE PERMANECER ANÓNIMO.

LLAME AL 311 PARA REPORTAR



PARA INFORMACIÓN SOBRE PERMISOS, USE EL CÓDIGO QR O LLAME AL 311:



In The Community | En La Comunidad



Back to School brought the community together at the Denver Harbor Multiservice Center, where more than 600 families came out to prepare for the new school year. Students received essential supplies, connected with local resources, and enjoyed a day filled with support and excitement.

El evento de Regreso a Clases reunió a la comunidad en el Denver Harbor Multiservice Center, donde más de 600 familias asistieron para prepararse para el nuevo año escolar. Los estudiantes recibieron útiles esenciales, se conectaron con recursos locales y disfrutaron de un día lleno de apoyo y entusiasmo.



DH seniors showed up and showed out at the Precinct 2 Senior Olympics, proudly representing Denver Harbor and bringing home big wins. Their energy, determination, and team spirit were on full display, proving that age is just a number. Congratulations to our local champions for making the community proud and inspiring us all to stay active and engaged!

Los adultos mayores de Denver Harbor brillaron en las Olimpiadas de Adultos Mayores del Precinto 2, representando con orgullo a la comunidad y llevándose importantes triunfos. Su energía, determinación y espíritu de equipo estuvieron presentes en cada actividad, demostrando que la edad es solo un número. ¡Felicidades a nuestros campeones locales por llenar de orgullo a Denver Harbor e inspirarnos a mantenernos activos y participativos!



At the Back to School Bash, a young child enjoyed a coloring activity alongside his family, sharing a joyful and creative moment together. Surrounded by support and smiles, activities like these highlight the importance of family connection as children prepare for a new school year.

Durante el evento de Regreso a Clases, un pequeño disfrutó de una actividad de colorear junto a su familia, compartiendo un momento lleno de creatividad y alegría. Rodeado de apoyo y sonrisas, este tipo de actividades resaltan la importancia de convivir en familia mientras los niños se preparan para un nuevo ciclo escolar.

Upcoming Events | Eventos Próximos

VETERANS ACTIVITIES



Veterans Art in the Park
THURSDAY
September 17, 2026
10 AM - 12 PM
Chase Lake Park
1501 E. Main Street
Houston, TX 77002

Veterans Fishing
THURSDAY
October 1, 2026
10 AM - 12 PM
Challenger 7 Memorial Park
2304 W. Main St
Houston, TX 77002

SCAN 2 REGISTER

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!
Follow us for more updates!

ADRIAN GARCIA
PARKS & RECREATION

TEXAS CHILDREN'S HEALTH PLAN | HPARD HOUSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT | DENVER HARBOR MULTI SERVICE CENTER | DTC Family First | HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JOIN US FOR TRUNK or TREAT

A FREE EVENT FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY!

KIDS WILL ENJOY:

- FACE PAINTING
- COOKIE DECORATING
- FALL ACTIVITIES
- MUSIC
- FOOD
- GAMES AND MORE!

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST FOR KIDS!
Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2026
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

DENVER HARBOR MULTI SERVICE CENTER
6402 MARKET STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77020

FREE ADMISSION!
TREATS, FUN, AND COMMUNITY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

ACTIVIDADES PARA VETERANOS



Veterans Art in the Park
JUEVES
17 de Septiembre
10 AM - 12 PM
Chase Lake Park
1501 E. Main Street
Houston, TX 77002

Veterans Fishing
JUEVES
1 DE OCTUBRE
10 AM - 12 PM
Challenger 7 Memorial Park
2304 W. Main St
Houston, TX 77002

ESCANEEAN PARA REGISTRATE

(MANTENGÁMONOS CONECTADOS!)
¡Síguenos para más actualizaciones!

ADRIAN GARCIA
PARKS & RECREATION

For more information, call: 713-274-2222

Para más información, llame al: 713-274-2222

EVENTO COMUNITARIO GRATUITO

AHORRE ENERGÍA Y REDUZCA SUS GASTOS

con los reembolsos de HOMES y HEAR de Texas

MARTES 15 DE SEPTIEMBRE

6:30-8:30 PM
HORA CENTRAL

EN LÍNEA

Evento gratuito. Se recomienda registrarse con anticipación, pero no es obligatorio.

ACOMPÁÑENOS PARA:

- Aprender cómo funcionan estos programas de reembolsos
- Averiguar si es elegible para participar
- Descubrir formas de reducir sus costos energéticos
- Compartir sus opiniones para ayudar a dar forma a los programas

¿QUIÉNES DEBEN ASISTIR?

- Propietarios e inquilinos
- Grupos comunitarios
- Contratistas y constructores
- Empresas de servicios públicos y del sector energético
- Cualquier persona interesada en ahorrar energía y dinero

PARA REGISTRARSE

Escanee el código QR:

O visite:
<https://tinyurl.com/56ye5y8f>

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HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Linking YOU to the World | www.houstonlibrary.org



September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, and we're inviting you to rediscover everything your library card can do. Whether it's been a few months or a few years since your last visit, your MYLink card gives you access to a world of possibilities.

With your MYLink library card, you can:

- Access Books, eBooks & Audiobooks** – Traditional readers can browse our vast collection of print materials through our catalog.
- For Digital Enthusiasts** – Stream music & movies, learn another language, get free tutoring, and enjoy access to research databases and archives.
- Stay Updated with HPL Newsletters** – Get the latest updates on events, programs, and special resources delivered to your inbox.
- Get Personalized Recommendations** – Share your reading preferences, and we'll send tailored suggestions to keep your bookshelf full.
- Discover History** – Visit one of our three History Research Centers focused on African American history, Family History & Genealogy, Hispanic, and Houston & Texas history to dive deep into the past.
- TECHLinks** – Create and collaborate at one of our technology centers. Make a personalized t-shirt, record a song or podcast, use the 3D printer, or even embroider a logo on your favorite item.
- Passport Services** – From photos to applications, we have you covered! Schedule your appointment at one of our six locations today!

Your card is still yours. Your library is still here. And there's so much waiting for you.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Save Energy & Lower Your Bills

with Texas HOMES & HEAR Rebates

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15

6:30-8:30 PM
CT

ONLINE

Free event. Advanced registration encouraged but not required.

JOIN US TO:

- Learn how these rebate programs work
- Find out if you may qualify
- Discover ways to lower your energy costs
- Share your input to help shape the program for your community

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Homeowners & Renters
- Contractors & Builders
- Community & Neighborhood Groups
- Utilities & Energy Partners
- Anyone interested in saving energy and money

REGISTER TODAY!

Scan the QR code

O visite:
<https://tinyurl.com/56ye5y8f>

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Community Resources | Recursos Comunitarios

Houston Public Library Calendar of Events | Linking YOU to the World

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Kids Craft! @4pm	2 Kids STEM! @4pm Citizenship Class @5:30pm	3 Senior Social Hour @2pm	4 Open Job Lab @2pm	5
6	7	8 Kids Craft! @4pm	9 Kids STEM! @4pm Citizenship Class @5:30pm	10 Senior Social Hour @2pm	11	12 Toddler Playtime @11pm Saturdays @HPL @2PM
CLOSED	Closed for Labor Day					
13	14 Bad Art Club! @11am LEGO Club! @4pm	15 Kids Craft! @4pm	16 Kids STEM! @4pm Citizenship Class @5:30pm	17 Senior Social Hour @2pm	18 Open Job Lab @2pm	19 Toddler Playtime @11pm Saturdays @HPL @2PM
CLOSED						
20	21 Bad Art Club! @11am LEGO Club! @4pm	22 Kids Craft! @4pm	23 Kids STEM! @4pm Citizenship Class @5:30pm	24 Senior Social Hour @2pm	25 Open Job Lab @2pm	26 Toddler Playtime @11pm Saturdays @HPL @2PM
CLOSED						
27	28 Bad Art Club! @11am LEGO Club! @4pm	29 Kids Craft! @4pm	30 Kids STEM! @4pm Citizenship Class @5:30pm			
CLOSED						

Join us for Library Card Sign-Up Month, Central Library's 50th Anniversary event on 9/26, and our Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations!

Tuttle Neighborhood Library
702 Kress St. Houston, TX 77020
832-393-2100

HISPANIC

HERITAGE MONTH

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.

Special Accommodations can be provided with advance notification.

houstonlibrary.org/LinkingYOUtotheWorld

About Us

Denver Harbor Cares is a non-partisan, non-profit organization founded and operated 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 neighborhood and surrounding areas. By embracing a culture of family and friends, we strive to lift our voices.

For any questions: Carolyn Lopez

713 - 299 - 4049

www.denverharborcares.org →

general@denverharborcares.org

6402 Market St, Houston, TX 77020

Community Newspaper → <https://lavozdedenverharbor.com>

Denver Harbor Cares

Property Owner Resource Guide

311 HELP & INFORMATION

SNAP

REPORT

SEND

STAY INFORMED

www.houston311.org

DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY!

Community Resources:

DH Cares: Chapter 42

The Denver Harbor Cares Chapter 42 team is working to fight gentrification in the neighborhood. Read their story in La Voz de Denver Harbor. Contact: 713-825-2048.

Harris Central Appraisal Office

Harris Central Appraisal District provides information on property worth, tax information and tax exemptions that you qualify for. This can lower your taxes. If you disagree with your property value, contact: 713-957-7800.

Harris County Tax Office

Harris County Tax Office helps residents with voter registration, paying property taxes, and vehicle registration. Contact: 713-274-8000.

Harris County Clerk's Office

Harris County Clerk's Office helps residents with property records, marriage licenses, copies of recorded documents, assumed name filings, and copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates. Contact: 713-274-8600.

Legal Resources:

Lone Star Legal Aid

Lone Star Legal Aid works to protect the civil rights of low-income Texans through legal advocacy, representation, and education, making sure everyone has equal access to justice. Contact: 713-652-0077.

Earl Carl Institute

The Earl Carl Institute was created to drive real change in law and social justice. Their research, legal representation, advocacy, and community engagement set them apart. Contact: 713-313-4455.

Texas Law Help: Transfer on Death Deed

Transfer on Death Deed allows homeowners to pass their property on to loved ones after they pass away. There is a guide and also more information found on Texas Law Help.

Harris County Public Probate Administrator

The Office of the Public Probate Administrator knows how to open an estate, transfer ownership of property, support with abandoned property, how to untangle heirs' property, the importance of wills, trusts, TODDs, and how to navigate the probate process. Contact: 346-286-7556.

One Block at a Time

Written By Kim Melchor

This article is the second in a two-part series on local gentrification. Check out past La Voz editions at <https://lavozdedenverharbor.com>

Several Houston neighborhoods have tried to hold off on townhouse development with a city ordinance called Chapter 42 but have not been able to gather the required signatures. As Denver Harbor business owner Rene Porras explains it, Eastwood and Lawndale failed. One organizer was only able to engage 3% of her neighborhood.

Denver Harbor has not failed.

In brief, Chapter 42 refers to minimum lot size. Where a block is protected, lots can't be carved into small parcels typical for townhouses. Owners can still build, rebuild, add on, or sell. The safeguard lasts up to 40 years and remains with the land, no matter who buys it. A block qualifies when the owners of 51 percent of it sign a petition.

Porras and La Voz's own Carolyn Lopez have protected more than 2000 neighborhood homes since 2017. They attribute their success to the method. While other groups focused on social media, Porras said, "We went to the people."

This unique strategy meant working the hours when residents were home. Porras was out at four in the afternoon and on Saturdays and Sundays. One morning, he was out at 4 am, working with a man who left early for work.

In the beginning, visits took up to 30 minutes because nobody in Denver Harbor had heard of Chapter 42. "We barely understood what was happening," Lopez said.

It helped that Porras was recognized from his family store. "People don't answer doors anymore," he said. "But they would answer the door, and ask, 'Who ordered tacos?'"

Initially, Resurrection Catholic Church gave them standing and kicked off the effort with a meeting called by the priest. They pooled their own money to print postcards and buy stamps. They also pushed the city to send ballots in Spanish.

"These are 80-year-old people," Porras said. "They don't even have computers."

The dynamic duo also learned to fill a room. Porras said they once had around 30 or 35 people walk into Houston Planning and Commissioning.

"All of a sudden they're straightening up their desk," he said. "Numbers mattered."

Porras cautions, though, that a protected block is not untouchable. He recounts that a builder working next to Zoe Street, which had already been protected, changed the plat so that the address was on Arapahoe instead. The builder kept building and simply paid a fine of about \$ 5,000. "That's nothing," Porras said.

A more difficult obstruction is that only owners can sign. On the north side of the freeway, many of the residents are renters. One man who owns 11 or 12 houses on Halo and Hoffman told him two years ago that he would sign and has not been seen since.

It is now just the two of them, and Porras is 75. The 400 block of Shotwell needs one more signature. A block on Hoffman needs one. "I want to cry when I drive by there," Porras said.

Lopez explained that concerned property owners don't need to understand the process or figure out the paperwork. "All we need is their signature. We do everything else."

Residents who want their block protected can contact Porras at Porras Prontito on Market, or Lopez via La Voz. Anyone who sees construction with no permit posted can call 311.

CITY PERMITS

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Meet the People Running to Represent You This November

Congress – District 9 Canidates



Leticia Gutiérrez
Democrat

Leticia Gutiérrez is a longtime community advocate who has worked for more than 15 years on environmental and public health issues.



Alex Mealer
Republican

(No image recieved)
Alex Mealer is a U.S. Army veteran, West Point graduate, and former energy-finance professional who previously served on the Houston METRO board.

Q1: Denver Harbor recently went without a neighborhood early-voting location. Would you support using the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center as an early-voting site?

Leticia Gutiérrez: Yes. I strongly support using the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center as an early-voting location. Every eligible voter should have convenient and accessible opportunities to participate in our elections, especially in neighborhoods where residents have historically had to travel farther to cast their ballots. Denver Harbor deserves an early-voting site in the neighborhood that residents know, trust, and can reach without unnecessary barriers. If elected to Congress, I will support efforts to expand access to early voting and work with local election officials and community leaders to make sure voting locations are available where people live, work, and raise their families. No neighborhood should be overlooked when it comes to access to the ballot. Democracy works best when every eligible voter has a fair, practical, and convenient opportunity to participate and make their voice heard.

Alex Mealer: Campaign did not respond

Q2: Do you support tactics where armed and masked federal agents are involved in conducting street stops, vehicle stops, and neighborhood sweeps?

Leticia Gutiérrez: No. I do not support armed, masked federal agents conducting indiscriminate street stops, vehicle stops, or neighborhood sweeps in our communities. We have due process in this country, and everyone is entitled to it. We should not accept federal operations carried out without meaningful transparency, accountability, or safeguards against racial profiling. Local law enforcement officers are identifiable and accountable to the communities they serve, and tactics that leave residents unsure of who is stopping them or why undermine the trust that effective public safety depends on. When residents are afraid to call the police, go to work, take their children to school, visit local businesses, or simply go about their daily lives, our entire community becomes less safe. These operations also hurt small businesses by creating fear among workers, customers, and families. We can enforce our laws without abandoning our values. Public safety requires trust, accountability, transparency, and due process — not fear and intimidation.

Alex Mealer: Campaign did not respond

Q3: Do you support continuing DACA protections? Should DACA recipients have a path to permanent legal status?

Leticia Gutiérrez: Yes. I support continuing DACA protections and creating a path to permanent legal status for DACA recipients. People who were brought to the United States as children and have built their lives, families, careers, and communities here should not live under the constant threat of deportation. This country made a commitment to DACA recipients, and Congress should honor that commitment by providing a permanent legislative solution rather than leaving hundreds of thousands of people in a temporary status that can change from one administration to the next. DACA recipients are our neighbors, coworkers, students, teachers, business owners, and members of our communities. They deserve the opportunity to continue contributing to the only country many of them have ever truly called home.

Alex Mealer: Campaign did not respond

Q4: Investment companies are buying homes in Denver Harbor, pushing out current residents. What policies would you support to help long-term residents stay in the neighborhood and improve their homes?

Leticia Gutiérrez: As a member of Congress, I would fight to protect and strengthen restrictions on private equity firms and large institutional investors buying up single-family homes in neighborhoods like Denver Harbor. Homes should be for families to live in and build a future in—not assets for Wall Street firms to accumulate while pricing local families out. I would also support giving families, tenants, first-time homebuyers, local nonprofits, and community land trusts a meaningful first opportunity to purchase homes before they are sold in bulk to large investors. When corporate owners sell properties, the people who actually live in our communities should have a fair shot at owning them. But stopping displacement also means helping the people who are already here stay here. I would fight to fully fund federal Whole-Home Repair programs that can provide grants to qualifying homeowners for critical repairs, accessibility improvements, weatherization, and health and safety needs. I would also work to expand Community Development Block Grants, affordable home-improvement financing, and partnerships with community lenders so that longtime homeowners can repair their homes without taking on crushing debt. I would support expanding down-payment and closing-cost assistance for working families and first-time homebuyers, while working with state and local leaders on property-tax relief and other protections for longtime residents facing rapidly rising costs. Denver Harbor families helped build this neighborhood. They should be able to afford to stay here, improve the homes they worked for, pass those homes on to their children, and build generational wealth. Our neighborhoods should belong to the people who live in them—not become investment portfolios for corporations with no stake in the community.

Alex Mealer: Campaign did not respond

Meet the People Running to Represent You This November

County Commissioner Precinct 2

Q1: Do you support tactics where armed and masked federal agents are involved in conducting street stops, vehicle stops, and neighborhood sweeps?

Adrian Garcia: No. ICE agents should be subject to all of the same regulations and protocols that local officers operate under: unmasked, in marked vehicles, utilizing body cameras, and solely focused on safety threats.

Richard Vega: I support enforcing the laws as they are written. Immigration enforcement is primarily a federal responsibility, while the role of county government is to comply with applicable state and federal laws and ensure public safety. Harris County should cooperate with law enforcement partners as required by law, while using county resources responsibly and within their legal authority. If changes are needed to immigration policy or the scope of local cooperation with ICE, those decisions belong with state and federal lawmakers, not the Harris County Commissioners Court.

Q2: Do you support or oppose the following:

A. Racial Profiling in Immigration Enforcement

Adrian Garcia: Oppose

Richard Vega: Oppose. Racial profiling is wrong, period. Enforcement should be based on facts, evidence, and lawful conduct - not race or ethnicity. When government relies on profiling, it undermines trust, weakens legitimate enforcement, and puts agencies on the wrong side of the law. People should be judged by their actions, not by how they look or where their family came from. Fair enforcement is not weak enforcement. It is the only kind that can be defended honestly and upheld consistently.

B. Separating parents from children during enforcement actions

Adrian Garcia: Oppose

Richard Vega: Support, when necessary for safety and identification. If a parent is being taken into custody, a temporary separation may be necessary, just as it would be in other law enforcement situations. The first priority should be the child's safety, welfare, and proper identification. Officers cannot assume every adult with a child is that child's parent or legal guardian, especially given the realities of trafficking and exploitation. Any separation should be handled carefully, lawfully, and only for as long as needed to protect the child and verify the facts.

C. Large-scale detention of immigrants without criminal records

Adrian Garcia: Oppose

Richard Vega: Large-scale detention of immigrants without criminal records should not be the default approach in every case. Detention may be appropriate when the law requires it or when there are legitimate public safety or flight-risk concerns. But a one-size-fits-all approach is not the best use of resources. We need an immigration system that enforces the law, processes cases efficiently, and focuses detention where it is truly necessary.



Adrian Garcia
Democrat

Adrian Garcia is a former Harris County Sheriff, Houston City Council member, and Houston police officer.



Richard Vega
Republican

Richard Vega is a pastor and U.S. Army veteran who has worked with local law-enforcement agencies

Q3: Many Denver Harbor students have attended schools outside the neighborhood for decades. We recently lost McReynolds Middle School and face the possibility of additional school closures. What would you do to protect and improve the schools serving Denver Harbor, and how would you ensure that residents have a meaningful voice in future school decisions?

Adrian Garcia: I will keep fighting to return HISD to local control and end the state takeover of our school district(s). A locally elected school board should run our schools, not TEA.

Richard Vega: While public schools are governed by their local school district, not the Harris County Commissioners Court, I believe families deserve a strong voice in decisions that affect their children and neighborhoods. As County Commissioner, I will work with community leaders, parents, and school officials to ensure residents are informed about proposed school closures and other major decisions before they are made. In my official capacity, I will advocate for transparency, meaningful public engagement, and open communication throughout the decision-making process. Strong neighborhood schools are vital to a community's long-term success, and I will support efforts that help preserve educational opportunities and strengthen the neighborhoods they serve.

Q4: Denver Harbor residents pay county, state, and federal taxes. What would you do to bring more public money to improve the neighborhood?

Adrian Garcia: The number one thing I can do in my role as commissioner is to ensure that our local mobility funds stay in Harris County. I pledge to continue to advocate for local money to stay local. I also work closely with our state senator, representatives and members of Congress to bring funding opportunities for much needed projects to areas like Denver Harbor. I will also continue to fight against unfunded mandates from the state of Texas that are taking bigger and bigger bites out of our budget.

Richard Vega: I will work with the City of Houston, Harris County, and the State of Texas to identify and secure available resources that can improve infrastructure, public safety, parks, and neighborhood services. Within the scope of my office, I will advocate for investments that address the community's needs and create opportunities that improve residents' quality of life.

Meet the People Running to Represent You This November

Harris County Judge

Q1: Denver Harbor has one clinic, which is not equipped for emergencies, and lost its nearest hospital after Hurricane Harvey. Residents are now served by small emergency hospitals along I-10.

A. Do you consider this level of emergency care adequate for a neighborhood of this size?

Letitia Plummer: No. As a healthcare professional, I have seen what happens when people cannot access care. As County Judge, I will make sure Harris County is doing everything it can to protect and expand our public health system.

Orlando Sanchez: Campaign did not respond

B. What would you do to improve access to emergency and hospital care?

Letitia Plummer: I will implement an Equitable Satellite Clinic Expansion Plan for the Harris Health System. We cannot expect residents in underserved areas to travel hours for basic care. We must strategically place and staff culturally competent clinics directly in the neighborhoods that need them most. To improve access during natural disasters, I will deploy rapid-response lily pad units. These units will be mobile stations carrying power generation, water, food, and emergency supplies, reaching nursing homes and hospitals and neighborhoods that need help in the first hours, before the federal cavalry arrives.

Orlando Sanchez: Campaign did not respond

Q2: What steps would you take to improve access to services and benefits for veterans?

Letitia Plummer: Veterans should not have to navigate a maze of government agencies and services to receive the benefits they have earned. I would strengthen Harris County’s coordination with the VA, workforce programs, housing providers, and community organizations. I would also expand outreach to veterans who may not know about the services they qualify for. Additionally, I’d focus on reaching veterans who are unhoused, disabled, or otherwise disconnected from services.

Orlando Sanchez: Campaign did not respond

Q3: Denver Harbor residents pay county, state, and federal taxes. What would you do to bring more public money to improve the neighborhood?

Letitia Plummer: Denver Harbor residents deserve to see their tax dollars come back to their community. As County Judge, I will prioritize federal, state, and county funding for neighborhoods with the greatest needs. That means pursuing federal grants, fully funding infrastructure and resiliency projects, and using a worst-first approach so historically underserved communities aren’t left behind. I will also work directly with community organizations and local leaders to identify projects and ensure residents have a voice in how public dollars are spent.

Orlando Sanchez: Campaign did not respond



Letitia Plummer
Democrat

Letitia Plummer is a dentist, small-business owner, and former Houston City Council member who served in At-Large Position 4 from 2020 to 2025.



Orlando Sanchez
Republican

(No image recieved)
Orlando Sanchez is a former Harris County Treasurer and Houston City Council member and served in the U.S. Air Force and Texas Air

Q4: Do you support continuing DACA protections? Should DACA recipients have a path to permanent legal status?

Letitia Plummer: Yes and yes. I strongly support continuing DACA protections. DACA recipients are members of our community. They’ve built their lives here. They’ve contributed to our economy. In many cases, they know no other home. They deserve stability and the opportunity to plan a future in Harris County. I also support creating a pathway to permanent legal status and ultimate citizenship for DACA recipients who meet requirements.

Orlando Sanchez: Campaign did not respond

Q5: Regarding local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement:

A. Should local police, constables, or other county and city resources assist ICE in arresting people who have no violent criminal record?

Letitia Plummer: No. One of the proudest moments of my time on City Council was utilizing Proposition A to empower members to bypass traditional gatekeeping and bring critical issues directly to the table. I used this tool to propose changing police policy regarding ICE warrants. I pushed to transition the language in police orders from a requirement to contact federal authorities for every administrative hit to a discretionary model. This simple but powerful shift ensures that an officer’s priority remains the immediate safety of the scene rather than processing paperwork for federal agencies.

Orlando Sanchez: Campaign did not respond

B. Should local cooperation with ICE require a judicial warrant?

Letitia Plummer: Yes. We can enforce the law, local, state or federal, without shredding our Constitution. The Fourteenth Amendment says no person shall be deprived of life or liberty without due process of law. Local law enforcement shouldn’t be used to circumvent the Constitution. ICE administrative warrants are not the same as warrants issued by an independent judge.



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