



GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



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NEWSLETTER

CERT Training in District 137 - Saturday, June 18th

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates individuals about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. This free 24-hour disaster preparedness training is geared to the public, but taught by professional first responders and subject matter experts.

We are excited to announce that the **Sharpstown Civic Association is leading a CERT Program** for our community.

Sharpstown Area CERT Training
Saturday, June 18 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
HPD Midwest Patrol Station
7277 Regency Square, Houston, TX 77036

Training is free and open to the public. Adults and responsible youth invited. Classes will be held on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm beginning June 18 and ending August 13, 2016 (no class July 2).

To register contact Charmaine LeBlanc at cleblanc@libertyoffice.com or 281-687-1323.

Using training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT volunteers can assist others in their community following a disaster when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT volunteers are also encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking an active role in emergency preparedness projects. The training culminates with a mock search and rescue drill where participants apply the concepts and skills introduced in the CERT training in an effort to "do the most good for the most amount of people".

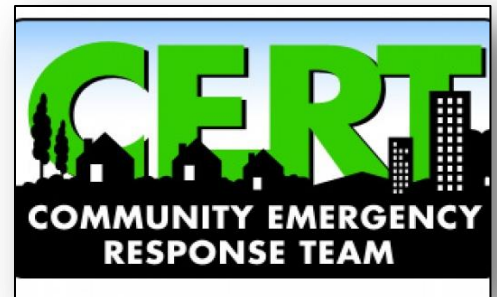


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Hurricane Season is Here: Safety Tips and Power Alert Service



CenterPoint Energy held a recent panel discussion to brief local elected officials on their latest efforts to prepare for hurricane season (June 1st - November 30th). They also discussed their role in planning for Super Bowl 2017.

CenterPoint Energy maintains the wires, poles and electric infrastructure serving the 5,000-square-mile electric service territory in the Houston metropolitan area. While CenterPoint ensures the reliable delivery of power from power plants to homes and businesses, they neither generate power nor sell it to customers.

Storms can cause extensive damage to power systems, resulting in power outages that can last for days or weeks. CenterPoint Energy has developed an Emergency Operating Plan in order to restore service quickly and efficiently. Through a nationwide mutual assistance program, partnering contractors from around the country will offer support during major events on a not for profit basis. Thousands of linemen and treetrimmers will join local forces at staging sites throughout the greater Harris County area.



Learn about what you can do before, during and after a storm with these [Hurricane Safety Tips](#).

- [Before the storm](#), collect emergency supplies and be ready to evacuate or shelter in place for several days.
- [During the storm](#), stay in a small, interior room - away from windows and doors.
- [After the storm passes](#), there are a number of steps to follow in order to stay safe and return to normal.

We encourage you to sign up for the [Power Alert Service](#) to receive free email, text, and phone call notifications when your power goes out. Enrollment is easy. Call 713-207-2222 or submit the online form.

Disaster Assistance



FEMA

While hurricane season has just begun, Houston continues to recover from the recent flooding in April and May. On April 25th, President Obama issued a disaster declaration to allow federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in areas impacted by the devastating April flood. If you or a loved one sustained losses, we encourage you to apply for assistance.

Individuals must apply for assistance by Friday, June 24, 2016. There are multiple ways you can apply:

1. In person at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston, TX 77074, a designated Disaster Recovery Center. The centers are open Monday through Friday 9:00AM - 6:00PM, and Saturday 9:00AM - 2:00PM.
2. Online by visiting www.DisasterAssistance.gov
3. Call 1-800-621-3362. People with speech or hearing impairment may call toll free TTY 1-800-462-7585

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- Social Security number
- Address of the damaged primary residence
- Description of the damage

- Information about any insurance coverage (renters, homeowners, flood, etc.)
- A current contact telephone number
- An address where you can currently receive mail
- Bank account information (including routing and account numbers) for those preferring direct deposit funds

Please contact our District Office if you have any questions at 713-271-3900.

World Refugee Day Houston 2016 - Saturday, June 18th

World Refugee Day was established in 2001 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to honor the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children forced to flee their homes under the threat of persecution, conflict and violence.

Since 2003, the Houston Refugee Consortium has honored refugees at the annual World Refugee Day event which is hosted in partnership with the City of Houston, UNHCR, and many community partners.

The Houston Refugee Consortium is a partnership of seven organizations serving refugees in Houston: the Alliance for Multicultural Community Services, Bilingual Education Institute, Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston, Houston Community College, Interfaith Ministries, Refugee Services of Texas and YMCA International Services. Many of these organizations, as well as the refugees they serve, call District 137 their home. We are extremely proud of the work that they do to resettle and assist the refugees in our community.



This year's event, sponsored by the Houston Refugee Consortium and the City of Houston, is entitled Houston's Refugee Voices, and will illuminate refugees' unique contributions to our city through storytelling, dance, music, food, and even a magic show! Join us for this spectacular opportunity to meet the incredible refugees who have made Houston home.

World Refugee Day: Houston's Refugee Voices

Saturday, June 18, 2016, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

San Jacinto Auditorium, Houston Community College - Central Campus
1300 Holman St., Houston, TX 77004

Finally, we must acknowledge Community Cloth and Plant It Forward Farms, two non-profits that demonstrate the amazing contributions of our refugee community in District 137.

[Community Cloth](#) is a project of Our Global Village, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This microenterprise initiative empowers refugee women artisans to create and sell handmade, indigenous arts and crafts such as woven scarves, knitted scarves, household items, children's hats, and more.

[Plant It Forward Farms](#), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, provides our community with fresh, local produce by helping refugees grow their own urban farm businesses. Each farmer is trained to farm using organic methods and sell their produce through farmers markets, farm stands, restaurants, and farm shares.

House County Affairs Committee Update

On Friday, June 10th, Rep. Wu joined his colleagues on the House County Affairs Committee at a field hearing in Lubbock. The goal of the hearing was to explore how the committee's interim charges impact West Texas - which includes a large number of small counties - some having populations of less than 10,000. How state policy impacts these counties can be incredibly different to how it impacts large urban or suburban areas.

The committee heard over six hours of testimony covering topics such as cyber-security measures, jail standards, local health care delivery, and how counties administer Child Protective Services (CPS). We heard testimony from health care professionals, law enforcement officials, local elected officials, and non-profit groups making an enormous difference on these issues.

The information we gather from these hearings is important as we look ahead to the next legislative session, and the management of CPS is particularly important as it deals with children in state care. There have been too many reports surrounding children in foster care that involve abuse and neglect, child deaths, and mental health issues going unaddressed.

House Speaker Joe Straus has stated that fixing these issues will be a priority for the next session and Rep. Wu looks forward to doing everything we can to fix the problems that we know exist.



District 137 Schools Recognized in Statewide Rankings

District 137 is home to great schools that accomplish amazing results in spite of high economic and social hurdles in front of many of our students. CHILDREN AT RISK ranked public schools throughout the state and recognized top performing schools. Campuses at or above the 75th percentile received an "A" grade. Top schools with a high concentration of economically disadvantaged students received special distinction as a Gold Ribbon school.

We are extremely proud of the following schools who serve student population from within District 137:

GOLD RIBBON

Ed White Elementary
O'Donnell Middle School

Pilgrim Academy
Sharpstown High School

"A" GRADE

Alief Early College High School
Askew Elementary
Briar Meadow Charter School
Friends for Life Charter School
KIPP Sharpstown College Prep
Outley Elementary

School at St. George Place
Sharpstown International School
Sutton Elementary
YES Prep - Gulfton
YES Prep - West

These schools warrant enormous recognition for what they accomplish. To view the CHILDREN AT RISK report visit www.texaschoolguide.org.

children at Risk

TEXASSCHOOLGUIDE
EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO SUCCEED IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Seeds of Sharpstown Celebrates 1 Year

One of the first master-planned communities, Sharpstown was the largest subdivision in the United States, with its own mall and a golf course. Many of the attributes that made it the place to be some 50 years ago still exist today, such as a solid neighborhood with excellent freeway access and proximity to the city's major attractions.

Recent projects like the reconstruction of the Bellaire corridor as well as imminent plans for more retail development demonstrate our strong local economy that continues to thrive. Collaboration between the resident and business community has afforded a safer, cleaner, more connected community.

Sharpstown today is a vibrant and diverse neighborhood in the midst of a revival, and "Seeds of Sharpstown" is doing its part to promote the value of our community as Houston's historical, hidden gem. The photos are from a recent reception where we celebrated their first year of accomplishments and upcoming projects.

Please visit their website to learn more: <http://www.seedsofsharpstown.com/>.



Rep. Wu Comments on Orlando Tragedy



The recent tragic shootings in Orlando this past weekend serve as a reminder for us to unite against hate. What happened in Orlando isn't unique to one city, though. It is a manifestation of the divisive political discourse beamed nationally through our televisions, radios, and computers - as well as within our family dinners and social gatherings.

Southwest Houston is home to the most diverse collection of communities in America. Each of these communities is united in the American dream they are chasing. That dream is far larger than what a madman with a gun could ever hope to accomplish.

My heart breaks for the people of Orlando who experienced this atrocity. But to ensure that moments like this become the exception, we must continue the work of building communities and learning to be allies instead of enemies.

These photos are from a candlelight vigil this week at City Hall. I joined fellow elected officials and thousands of Houstonians to remember the Orlando victims and to stand united against hate and intolerance.

- State Rep. Gene Wu