



GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 18

July 2016

NEWSLETTER

Introducing Baby Wu 2 - Welcome to the world, Lyndon!

Please help us welcome the latest addition to the Wu family: Lyndon - born July 5th in Houston, TX at 6 pounds 9 ounces. Gene, Miya, and Winston are thrilled!



Sales Tax Holiday: August 5 - 7

This year's Sales Tax Holiday is Aug. 5 - 7. As in previous years, the law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. Qualifying items purchased during the holiday period including items sold online, or by telephone or mail. Lay-away plans can be used again this year to take advantage of the sales tax holiday.

[List of qualifying school supplies \(if priced less than \\$100\)](#)

For a list of qualifying clothing, footwear, and other items, visit the State Comptroller's website at <http://bit.ly/2016TaxHoliday>.

Also in This Issue...

- Back to School Events
- Cleanup Efforts in District 137
- County Affairs Committee Update
- Wu Comments on Supreme Court Overturning HB 2
- Wu Remarks on Dallas Tragedy
- Rep. Wu Joins Bangladesh Community Against Terrorism

Back to School Events

The first day of school for Alief and Houston ISD is Monday, August 22nd. With less than a month to go, community organizations are gearing up for Back to School events and Health Fairs. Two annual events in District 137 will take place on **Saturday, August 6th** and **Saturday, August 13th**. Details below.

This past weekend, Representative Wu helped sponsor a Health and Safety Fair at an apartment in the Gulfton neighborhood, joining with community partners such as the Houston Public Library, UT Physicians, Houston Community College, and others to prepare residents for the coming school year. An overwhelming majority of District 137 residents live in multi-family housing, so community events at apartments are great ways for families to access important resources and information.

Upcoming Events:



Neighborhood Centers
BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6th, 8 AM

Neighborhood Centers- Baker Ripley
6500 Rookin St. Houston, Tx 77074

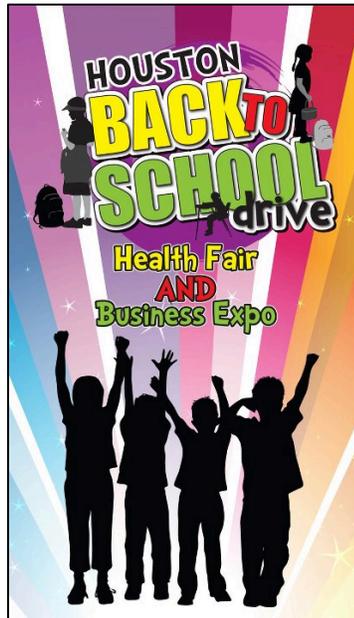
HEALTH SCREENINGS IMMUNIZATIONS SCHOOL SUPPLIES
FOOD DISTRIBUTION NUTRITION WORKSHOPS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

SPONSORS

Chevron
aramark

UnitedHealthcare
LEGACY COMMUNITY HEALTH
ABC DENTAL
neighborhood-centers.org



HOUSTON BACK TO SCHOOL drive

Health Fair AND Business Expo



Photos from the Westward Square Health and Safety Event on July 23rd.

Baker Ripley Health Fair
Saturday, August 6th (8am - 2pm)
Baker Ripley Neighborhood Center
6500 Rookin

PlazAmericas Back to School Drive, Health Fair and Business Expo
Saturday, August 13th (8:30am - 1:30pm)
PlazAmericas Shopping Center
Bellaire & Southwest Freeway

The Baker Ripley Health Fair and PlazAmericas Back to School Drive, Health Fair and Business Expo occur annually in Southwest Houston, serving thousands of families by providing important health and education resources in preparation for the school year. Please share this information with any families in need.

We have also received requests from local schools for back packs and school supplies. Check out the list of items needed [here](#). **Any donation items can be dropped off at our District Office during normal business hours.** We ask that you call ahead so we can expect you! District Office Phone: 713-271-3900.

Cleanup Efforts in District 137

Our office has been working with TxDOT to address maintenance issues (i.e. trash, debris, and overgrown vegetation) and improve roadway conditions in our area along US 59 between the 610 West Loop and Beltway 8. As part of our effort, we organized a ridealong with TxDOT to survey the problems.

On July 22nd, we drove along the roadways and shared our concerns with TxDOT. We were delighted to have community leaders from Sharpstown, Gulfton, and the Southwest Management District, as well as Eric Widaski on behalf of Council Member Mike Laster (District J).

The discussion was productive, informative, and positive. In fact, cleanup crews were out picking up litter that very day! Our office will continue to work with TxDOT to make sure we see improvement.



TxDOT is a statewide agency with 25 districts which oversee the construction and maintenance of state highways. For comments or concerns about TxDOT roadways in Houston, you can contact the TxDOT Houston District [online](#), by phone (713) 802-5000, or by mail: P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251.

We also recently visited with [Keep Houston Beautiful](#), the city's leading organization in beautification, litter reduction, and recycling education. If you are interested in organizing or participating in a community cleanup, we want to work with you! Please contact us at District137.Wu@house.texas.gov or 713-271-3900.

County Affairs Committee Update

On July 21st, the County Affairs Committee held a field hearing in Brenham. The hearing was hosted by Representative Leighton Schubert who represents Brenham in the legislature, and conducted on the campus of Blinn Community College. Prior to the hearing, members received a tour of the Blinn campus and the Blue Bell ice cream production facility.

The hearing itself covered the full range of topics that the committee is charged with during the interim: review of the role counties have in the operation of Child Protective Services; evaluation of the Commission on Jail Standards; public access to criminal history information; and examining the state's 1115 Transformation Waiver that impacts our delivery of health care services throughout the state.

Of primary importance in this hearing was developing an understanding of how Texas laws impact smaller and rural counties, many of which lack the resources to implement laws in the same manner as our larger counties.

Wu Comments on Supreme Court Overturning HB 2

On June 27, 2016 the United States Supreme Court threw out the Texas abortion access law, HB 2. Rep. Wu voted against the bill in the 83rd Legislative Session.

The Supreme Court's decision is a temporary reprieve in the barrage of anti-women legislation in Texas. The Texas Legislature chipped away at women's fundamental rights in the guise of public safety. The nation's highest court was not fooled by the disingenuous health and safety arguments made by the state this time. While I applaud the Court's decision to push the balance back toward protecting women's fundamental rights, the state's laws and regulations are far from being fair for Texas women. We will need to both watch with vigilance next session to ensure the Legislature does not pass more restrictive measures for women's reproductive health, and restore much of the funding cut from women's health programs.

- State Rep. Gene Wu

Wu Remarks on Dallas Tragedy

On July 8, 2016 a heavily armed sniper in Dallas killed five officers, and wounded seven officers and two civilians.

Our family mourns with the families of the slain officers in Dallas. We applaud the bravery, honor, and dedication of the men and women in blue who rushed into danger to protect us. I would also ask everyone to think before you speak or comment. Please watch your tone and rhetoric. Our nation was built on the idea that we can amicably disagree about governance without turning each other into enemies. We can value the sacrifice of police officers and still demand justice for our communities. We are all one people under God, seeking justice and liberty for all.

- State Rep. Gene Wu

Rep. Wu Joins Bangladesh Community Against Terrorism

Rep. Wu attended a prayer vigil hosted by the Bangladesh-American Center in Houston to commemorate victims who died in the July 1 bombings in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and to stand with community leaders against global terrorism. The terrorist attack took the lives of 22 innocent people, including one American and three international students studying at American universities.

Also in attendance were U.S. Congressman Al Green, U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Mayor Sylvester Turner, and City Controller Chris Brown.

