

## Issue 50

## **NEWSLETTER**

May 2020

Friends,

With much uncertainty concerning the Coronavirus (COVID-19), my office is closely following the guidance of the CDC, our health professionals, and our city and state's leadership to support preventive action that will help slow down the spread of COVID-19. As the situation is rapidly changing, please utilize these trusted resources to keep you and your family informed of the most recent developments.

If you are experiencing symptoms for COVID-19 you can call the **Memorial Nurse Health Helpline** where you will be connected with a nurse and they'll walk you through all your needs. **Please call before visiting the hospital: 832-658-6766.**You can also **dial 2-1-1** or **(877) 541-7905** and select option 6 to get information and referrals to COVID-19 social services, including testing, community clinics, unemployment benefits and more.

Please see **Harris County Public Health** for official updates on COVID-19. They provide tips on how to avoid the spread of COVID-19 along with the latest Harris County press releases. Visit their <u>website</u> for more information

The **CDC** has provided a guide on how to prepare and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, their website is updated in real-time to show accurate counts of COVID-19 throughout the world. Find more information <u>here.</u>

Please stay safe and feel free to contact my office if you have questions or concerns. It is an honor to serve and represent you.

Sincerely,

Engahh

### In This Issue...

- COVID-19 Resources
  - Testing sites
  - FoodDistribution
  - Internet Service
    Aid
  - Renters Rights
- > AAPI Heritage Month
- Congratulations, Class of 2020!

## **Free Testing**

The Houston Health Department is providing free testing at the sites listed below. Visit HoustonEmergency.org for further information on how to get tested for COVID-19.

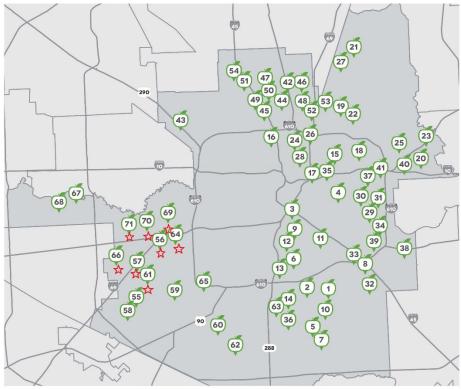


The Southwest Multi-Service Center is located in House District 137 near Gulfton and Hillcroft. 6400 High Star Dr., Houston, Texas 77074

## **HISD Summer Meals Information**

The Houston Independent School District will begin providing the Summer Meals Program for all children ages 1 to 18. Beginning June 1, families will be able to pick up boxed student meals twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays at one of 71 designated schools across the district from a curbside location. Boxes will be provided for all children in the vehicle at pickup. Children are not required to be present, but parents must have proof of enrollment in any school district (report card, student id, etc.) or birth certificate. For more information go to <a href="https://www.houstonisd.org/SummerMeals">https://www.houstonisd.org/SummerMeals</a>.

Families can also go to <u>https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/ for</u> a list of the 250 open partner sites and other assistance available across greater Houston.



#### MONDAY AND THURSDAY PICK-UP

SOUTH AREA	NORTHEAST AREA	EAST AREA	NORTHWEST AREA	WEST AREA
1. ALCOTT ES: 12-2 P.M.	15. ATHERTON ES: 12-2 P.M.	29. BRISCOE ES: 12-2 P.M.	41. HOLLAND MS: 10 A.M12 P.M.	55. MILNE ES: 12-2 P.M.
2. BASTIAN ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	16. BROWNING ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	30. FRANKLIN ES: 12-2 P.M.	42. BARRICK ES: 12-2 P.M.	56. BENAVIDEZ ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.
3. BLACKSHEAR ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	17. BRUCE ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	31. GALLEGOS ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	43. BENBROOK ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	57. BONHAM ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.
4. BURNET ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	18. ELIOT ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	32. GARDEN VILLAS ES: 12-2 P.M.	44. BURBANK ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	58. BRAEBURN ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.
5. CODWELL ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	19. COOK ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	33. GOLFCREST ES: 12-2 P.M.	45. BURRUS ES: 12-2 P.M.	59. ELEANOR TINSLEY ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.
. FOSTER ES: 12-2 P.M.	20. R. P. HARRIS ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	34. J. R. HARRIS ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	46. COOP ES: 12-2 P.M.	60. HOBBY ES: 12-2 P.M.
FROST ES: 12-2 P.M.	21. HILLIARD ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	35. HENDERSON ES: 12-2 P.M.	47. DURKEE ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	61. MCNAMARA ES: 12-2 P.M.
3. GREGG ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	22. MCGOWEN ES: 12-2 P.M.	36. MITCHELL ES: 12-2 P.M.	48. GARCIA ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	62. PETERSEN ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.
2. LOCKHART ES: 12-2 P.M.	23. ROBINSON ES: 12-2 P.M.	37. PORT HOUSTON ES: 12-2 P.M.	49. KENNEDY ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	63. REYNOLDS ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.
0. MADING ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	24. LOOSCAN ES: 12-2 P.M.	38. RUCKER ES: 12-2 P.M.	50. NORTHLINE ES: 12-2 P.M.	64. RODRIGUEZ ES: 12-2 P.M.
1. PECK ES: 12-2 P.M.	25. OATES ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	39. SANCHEZ ES: 12-2 P.M.	51. OSBORNE ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	65. SHEARN ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.
2. THOMPSON ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	26. ROSS ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	40. WHITTIER ES: 12-2 P.M.	52. RODERICK PAIGE ES: 12-2 P.M.	66. ED WHITE ES: 12-2 P.M.
3. WHIDBY ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	27. SHADYDALE ES: 12-2 P.M.		53. SCARBOROUGH ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.	67. ASHFORD ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.
4. WOODSON PK-5: 12-2 P.M.	28. SHERMAN ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.		54. WESLEY ES: 12-2 P.M.	68. SHADOWBRIAR ES: 12-2 P.M.
				69. PILGRIM ACADEMY: 10 A.M12 P.M.
				70. PINEY POINT ES: 12-2 P.M.
				71. EMERSON ES: 10 A.M12 P.M.

## **Internet Service Aid**

AT&T is providing special COVID-19 internet offers to help customers during these times. Currently, they are:

- 1. Expanding their eligibility based on income
- 2. Expanding their eligibility to households participating in the National School Lunch and Head Start programs
- 3. Waiving all home internet data overage fees.

For more information, visit att.com/access or call 1-855-220-5211 (English) or 1-855-220-5225 (Spanish).

# Keeping you connected when it matters most.

Manteniéndote conectado cuando más importa



## **Renters Rights Information**

COVID-19 has created concerns regarding renters rights, eviction situations, and other questions surrounding property and living situations. The Earl Carl Institute is actively engaging in efforts to assist individuals during the pandemic, and have provided an outline of renters rights. They also provide services related to property title, landlord-tenant and eviction issues, property tax relief, estate planning, probate, consumer debt, and educational resources.



## **Know Your Rights: Evictions Under COVID-19**

#### What are courts doing about evictions during COVID-19?

Because of COVID-19, the Texas Supreme Court has prohibited all eviction proceedings until after May 18<sup>th</sup>, and the execution of writs of possession until after May 25<sup>th</sup>, except for cases that involve a threat of physical harm or criminal activity. For these cases landlords must file a sworn complaint, and the eviction case may proceed if the court determines that the actions of the tenant, guest, or household member pose an imminent threat of (i) physical harm to the plaintiff, the plaintiff's employees, or other tenants, or (ii) criminal activity. Some courts have made a decision to stop hearing eviction cases for a longer period.

#### Do I have to pay rent during this time?

Yes. You are still obligated to pay rent and follow all the obligations in your lease. While the courts are currently closed, you can still be evicted for not paying rent once the courts reopen.

#### Can my landlord file an eviction case against me if the courts are not hearing cases?

Yes. Although the courts are not hearing cases, most courts are still accepting filings of eviction cases. This means that your landlord may file an eviction case against you now even if the case is not set for trial until after the current emergency Supreme Court order is lifted.

As of now, the Texas Supreme Court has prohibited evictions until May 18<sup>th</sup>. This means that, when the Supreme Court orders are lifted, it is presumed that all cases will likely proceed in the usual way.

#### Can my landlord physically remove me from my residence?

No. This is known as a self-help eviction and is not allowed in Texas. The landlord must follow the procedures set out by Texas law to evict you.

#### How do I know if my landlord is evicting me?

Your landlord is legally required to give you a written notice to vacate before filing a lawsuit to evict you. This notice to vacate must give you at least three days to move out. If you are month-to-month tenant, then the landlord must give you a 30-day notice to move.

The notice can be delivered by hand to you or anyone in the unit over age 16, by mail, or posted on the inside of your front door. There are limited circumstances where the notice can be attached to the outside of your door if the other methods are not possible by landlord.

The date on the notice to vacate is not the date you will be kicked out; it is that date the landlord has to give you till they file an eviction. After that deadline to vacate date, your landlord still has to go to court to evict you.

For further information, contact the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc. at 713-313-1139 or visit <u>www.earlcarlinstitute.org</u>.

## **AAPI** Heritage Month

May was Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month! My office is proud to celebrate our AAPI constituents' culture and heritage during this month, which is used to highlight AAPI influence and contributions to the United States' history, culture, and achievements.

We would especially like to highlight our AAPI community's contributions towards aiding in the fight against the Coronavirus Pandemic. The AAPI community in Houston has raised over \$1 million in donations and donated hundreds of thousands of masks to help their fellow Houstonians.



Gene speaking at the Joint Chinese College Alumni check presentation to the Houston Food Bank event

On behalf of House District 137, I would like honor and thank the Asian American Pacific Islander community. The city of Houston, the State of Texas, and the United States as a whole are lucky to have such diverse heritage as a part of our community fabric.



The Alumni Association presented \$40,000 towards enabling 120,000 meals to families in the area.

Congratulations to all of our Class of 2020 graduating seniors and their families! Your hard work, time, and dedication have finally resulted in a diploma. Although you may not have had the traditional graduation experience, we are nonetheless incredibly proud of your strength and resilience during these times, and are proud of your ability to finish strong!

Take this moment to reflect and be proud of your accomplishments, then take your next steps into the world confident in your abilities. Listed in the table below are the Valedictorians and Salutatorians from our great schools. District 137 is proud of each and every one of you!

School	Valedictorian	Salutatorian
Alief Early College HS	Grace Hamadeh	Tracy Mai
Liberty High School	Lianli Song	Chiquinquira Valentina Rivas Rojas
Long Academy	Isma Khokhar	Alondra Castillo
Sharpstown HS	Zakirah Zaheen	Emily N. Rivas
Sharpstown International School	Mairena Vera Romero	Ishan Gauro
St. Agnes Academy	Co-Validictorian: Kathryn Leach	Co-Valedicto <del>r</del> ian: Maya Jaaskelainen
Strake Jesuit	Michael Artlip	Nathaniel Fernandes
Texas Connections Academy	Jade Siena Dalrymple	Kylie Marie Creecy
The Middle College High School@HCC- Gulfton	Lizbeth Gomez	Jose Inestroza
Wisdom High school	Daniela Campillo	Alyssa Marie Vazquez
YES Prep Gulfton	Nathaly Garcia	Paola Gomez Flores
YES Prep WEST	Justin Zheng	Ehong Sun