



# GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 56

## NEWSLETTER

July 2021

Friends,

If you have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program is currently taking applications for rent relief.

ALL Texans (12 years old and up) are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines are provided through the city, county, and many other providers.

Fun kids summer programs are going on now in HD 137.

Congratulations to Class of 2021 graduating seniors - District 137 is proud of your achievements!

AmeriCorps has service opportunities in HD 137

My team and I will be hosting a town hall meeting July 14th, at 6pm - we hope to see you there!

Sincerely,



Representative Wu during the 87th Legislative Session

### In this Issue...

- Rental Assistance
- Eviction Moratorium
- Vaccine Information
- Summer Programs
- 2021 Graduations
- Connect Community Summer Camps
- AmeriCorps Gap Year
- July Town Hall

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## Rental Assistance

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If you are in need of rental or utility assistance due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, apply for assistance from the [Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) by clicking the image below or by calling 832-402-7568. Assistance will NOT be first-come, first-served.



**NEED RENTAL ASSISTANCE?**

Help is available for families struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[HoustonHarrisHelp.org](https://HoustonHarrisHelp.org)

HOUSTON-HARRIS COUNTY  
**EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Administered by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and BakerRipley

The flyer features a blue background on the left with white text, a photo of a smiling family on the right, and a yellow footer with logos for the County and the administering organizations.

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## Eviction Moratorium

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The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a nation-wide temporary eviction moratorium for certain tenants through **July 31, 2021**. Additionally, the Texas Supreme Court has issued an order in support of the CDC's declared moratorium.

In order to review the qualifications as well as to fill out the form, please click on the image. When the form is completed, submit a copy to your landlord. For more information and translations to Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, and Urdu, click [here](#).



**COVID-19 EVICTION MORATORIUM**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a nation-wide temporary eviction moratorium for certain tenants through June 30, 2021. Additionally, the Texas Supreme Court has issued an order in support of the CDC's declared moratorium.

**DO YOU QUALIFY?**

If these five statements apply to you, you may qualify for this order.

- You have done your best to take advantage of government assistance for housing and rent
- You meet income requirements, meaning ONE of these is true:
  - You will earn less than \$99,000 (or \$198,000 when combined with your spouse) this year
  - You weren't required to pay taxes in 2019
  - You qualified for an income stimulus check earlier this year
- You are unable to make your full rent or housing payment because of a loss of income or large medical expense
- You are currently doing your best to make timely partial housing payments that are as close to the full payment as possible
- If evicted, you would either become homeless or enter a shared living space (like living with a family member or staying at a shelter).

**YOUR NEXT STEPS:**

- Every adult listed on your lease should fill out the declaration on the back of this flyer.
- Take the declaration(s) to your landlord.
- Make sure to document that you delivered the declaration – by video, by getting a signature, or through certified mail.

Please note that this order only **delays** evictions. You are still required to pay rent and other housing payments, including late fees and penalties. You still need to follow the terms of your lease or other contract – this order does not prevent evictions for reasons other than delinquent payments.

**MORE QUESTIONS?**

You can read the full CDC Order at: <http://bit.ly/cdc-rent>

You can read the Texas Supreme Court order at: <http://bit.ly/cdc-housing>

Or look at additional resources:

- United Way: <https://www.unitedwayhouston.org/>
- LONE STAR LEGAL AID: <https://www.lonestarlegalaid.org/covid-19-eviction-resources/>
- HOUSTON VOLUNTEER LAWYERS: <https://houstonvolunteerlawyers.org/eviction/>
- EVICTORS DEFENSE COALITION: <https://evictorsdefensecoalition.org/>

**THIS FLYER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGAL ADVICE.** Eligibility and qualification requirements described here are determined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, individuals should contact the resources listed on this form for help determining their eligibility.

HOUSTON-HARRIS COUNTY  
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS DEVELOPMENT

HOUSTON VOLUNTEER LAWYERS

EVICTORS DEFENSE COALITION

If you need help, call the Eviction Defense Coalition Hotline:  
**713-982-7340**

04/20/21

The flyer is a blue and white document with a city skyline background. It contains a list of qualification criteria, next steps, and resources for more information. It also includes logos for various organizations and a hotline number.

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## Updated Vaccine Information

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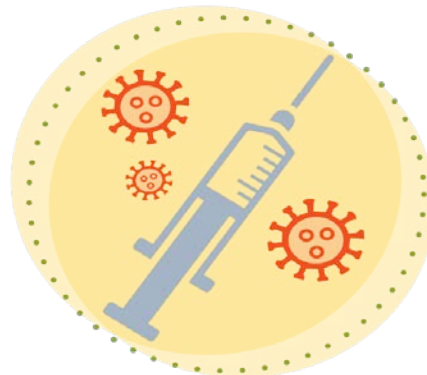
**ALL** Texans (12 years old and up) are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 is **FREE**, and does not require proof of residency, citizenship or insurance. To schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine from Harris County Public Health, you can click [here](#) or call 832-927-8787. To receive a vaccine from the City of Houston, you can click [here](#) or call 832-393-4220.

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### Other Local Vaccine Providers:

Public Phone Number	Public Registration or Website
Harris County Public Health 832-927-8787	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Texas Children's Hospital HEB	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Check Availability at Your Local Pharmacy	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Walgreens	
Check Availability at Your Local Pharmacy	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Randalls Pharmacy	
Check Availability at Your Local Pharmacy	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Kroger Pharmacy	
Check Availability at Your Local Pharmacy	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
CVS	
Check Availability at Your Local Pharmacy	<a href="#">Click Here</a>

- [Baylor College of Medicine](#)
- [CHI St Lukes Health](#)
- [CVS](#)
- [H-E-B](#)
- [Harris Health](#)
- [Houston Methodist](#)
- [Kelsey Seybold](#)
- [Kroger Pharmacy](#)
- [MD Anderson Cancer Center](#)
- [Memorial Hermann](#)
- [Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center](#)
- [Randall's Pharmacies](#)



- [Sam's Club](#)
- [Spring Branch Community Health Center \(SBCHC\)](#)
- [St. Luke's Health](#)
- [Texas Children's Hospital](#)
- [UT Health](#)
- [Walgreens](#)
- [Walmart](#)

For other providers that may not be listed here, please [explore the VaccineFinder.org website](#).

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## High School Graduations

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Congratulations to the Class of 2021 graduating seniors as well as to their families - your hard work, time, and dedication have all culminated for this moment. I hope you take the time to reflect and be proud of your accomplishments. You have made District 137 proud and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Listed in the table below are the Valedictorians and Salutatorians from our great schools:

School Name	Valedictorian	Salutatorian
Sharpstown High School	Marlin Santos	Aqsa Amjad
St. Agnes Academy	Beth Athaide	Lily deGroot
Alief Early College High School	Chi Cap	Emmanuella Mbajiofor
Middle College High School at HCC Gulfton	Guadalupe Cruz	Francis Dominic Sadaya
Sharpstown International School	Devin Guevara	Don Nguyen
Liberty High School	Mahilet Arega Tefera	Zamured Yaser Aboob Alazzawi
Texas Connections Academy	Emily Moon	Anna Elisa Asako
Long Academy	Acsa Hernandez and Emely Reyes	
Wisdom High School	Elhadji Toure	Ricardo Trinh
Yes Prep - Gulfton	Mariel Almazan	Carlos Hernandez

**Congratulations to all of our 2021 HD 137 graduates and their families!**

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# Connect Community Summer Camps



## HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY

Dates: July 6-9 | 1:00-4:00pm | Grades: 2-3 | \$35

Camp Pawsome is a camp for all those animal lovers out there! Campers will get playtime with Houston Humane Society's animals, such as dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, and more! Campers will also learn about animal welfare and animal science, plus play games and animal-related craft activities.



## MUSIQA

Dates: July 6-9 | 9:00am-12:00pm | Grades: 3-5 | \$35

Make your very own instrument and then create the music to play! Learn the basics of music and rhythm and play your own songs!



## CODER KIDS

Dates: July 12-16 | 9:00am-4:00pm | Grades: 3-5 | \$50

Make games, animations, and get creative! Scratch is a block-based programming language developed by MIT, and it is the perfect place to start for new or early coders. In this course, students will create projects all about space aliens, and astronauts! Master the fundamentals on an easy-to-learn platform: variables, conditionals, sequence, logic, and more! If you can imagine it, you can code it!



## CREATIVITY SHELL - ARCHITECTURE

Dates: July 12-16 | 9:00am-1:00pm | Grades: 3-6 | \$50

Students will be making a variety of birdhouses, fairy houses and other animal homes! Students in this camp will also learn to work with wood, clay, paint and think outside the box to make some amazing birdhouses.



## THE MUSIC OF GULFTON

Dates: July 12-16 | 9:00am-12:00pm | Grades: 5-8 | \$35

"The Music of Gulfton" explores the distinct musical styles of the cultures that make Gulfton a special place. The class will dive into the music of Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and India, looking at specific instruments, diving into the inner workings of the music itself, and exploring the role music plays in culture.



## MAIN STREET THEATER

Dates: July 19-23 | 9:00am-3:00pm | Grades: 1-5 | \$50

Create your own play with other campers! Create characters and write your own script! Perform your play for parents at the end of camp.



## FUTURE STARS CIRCUS!

Dates: July 19-23 | 9:00-12:00pm | Grades: 1-5 | \$35

Join the circus for a week! Learn to juggle! Learn magic tricks! Practice floor acrobatics and more!



## NATURETECH GULFTON

Dates: July 19-23 | 9:00am-12:00pm | Grades: 6-8 | \$35

Learn about Gulfton's wildlife, trees, and environmental challenges, and natural solutions with local biologist Jaime González. Campers will learn to use special equipment to study urban heat, air quality, and biodiversity (wildlife and plants), and more. This camp also includes a unit on neighborhood history and a service-learning project at a local park.



## CREATIVITY SHELL - COOK BOOKS!

Dates: July 26-30 | 9:00am-1:00pm | Grades: 3-6 | \$50

Students in this amazing camp will read a book daily and will be making foods from the book! At the end of the week, each student will have their own miniature cookbook with all the recipes as well as photos of their creations to display. Some of the books we will be exploring are Roald Dahl, Eric Carle, and more!



## ROBOTICS CAMP

Dates: July 26-30 | 9:00am-3:00pm | Grades: 6-8 | \$50

The St. Agnes and Strake Jesuit Spectrum engineering team will use hands on robotics kits to teach engineering principles and the engineering design process along with an introduction to robotics programming.

**Zoom in on the images to see descriptions, click to register.**

Connect Community also offers early morning and afternoon camps to provide extra activities for children (7:30-9:00AM / 3:00-5:00PM)

To register for camps online, please click [here](#) or to register in-person, please visit the Connect YMCA on 6749 DeMoss Dr. (behind KIPP CONNECT) between 6:00-8:00pm Monday-Thursday.

Payment can be made at the Connect YMCA 6:00-8:00pm or over the phone at 713.380.0191.

For more information on specific camps, please contact Anne Whitlock at 713.303.2760 or [anne@myconnectcommunity.org](mailto:anne@myconnectcommunity.org)

Camps are for families living in 77074, 77036 and 77081 zip codes.

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# It's Hurricane Season

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Hurricane season officially starts June 1, and lasts through Nov. 30, usually ramping up in August, and hitting a peak in mid-September. The Texas Hurricane Center offers these helpful tips to make a plan, be prepared and be ready at <https://gov.texas.gov/hurricane>.

- Put together an [emergency supply kit](#). Watch a video on [how to build a Go-Kit](#).
- Create a [communication plan](#) with your family.
- Sign up for your community or county warning system.
- Know [flood risks](#) in your area.
- Purchase or renew a [flood insurance policy](#). Homeowners policies do not cover flooding. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect, so the time to buy is well before a disaster. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Know your [evacuation routes](#).

## [Additional Resources](#)

[TexasReady.gov](#) - disaster preparedness, information and resources

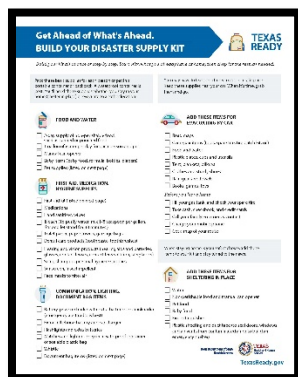
[Flood Safety](#) - before, during and after

[Hurricane Safety](#) - before, during and after

[Texas Animal Health Commission](#) – animal resources

[Texas Division of Emergency Management](#)

**[Click the pictures below to download a Disaster Kit Checklist:](#)**



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## Serve with AmeriCorps in Southwest Houston

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Exceptional opportunities for individuals with:

- A deep passion for uplifting marginalized populations
- A sense of responsibility for bringing equity to underserved communities
- A desire for a professional experience with exposure to social and economically diverse populations

**All AmeriCorps Members receive an Education Award upon completion of Service.**

**Join our Team!**

Impact your community through civic action and leadership

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AmeriCorps

**TAKE A GAP YEAR AND COMMIT TO SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

Exceptional opportunities for individuals with:

- a deep passion for uplifting marginalized populations
- a sense of responsibility for bringing equity to underserved communities
- a desire for a professional experience with exposure to socially and economically diverse populations.

**POSITIONS**

<b>AmeriCorps Supplemental Intervention Specialist</b> An inspiring opportunity for those with an interest in K-12 education and the life-transforming effects of service learning.	<b>AmeriCorps Community Liaison</b> A rewarding opportunity for those with an interest in enhancing the existential circumstances of an entire community.	<b>AmeriCorps Disaster Preparedness &amp; Response Specialist</b> A critical opportunity to ensure the entire community is resilient in the event of any natural or human-made disaster—from hurricanes and floods to live shootings and viral pandemics.
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Questions? Contact: [AmeriCorps-Houston2@sewausa.org](mailto:AmeriCorps-Houston2@sewausa.org)

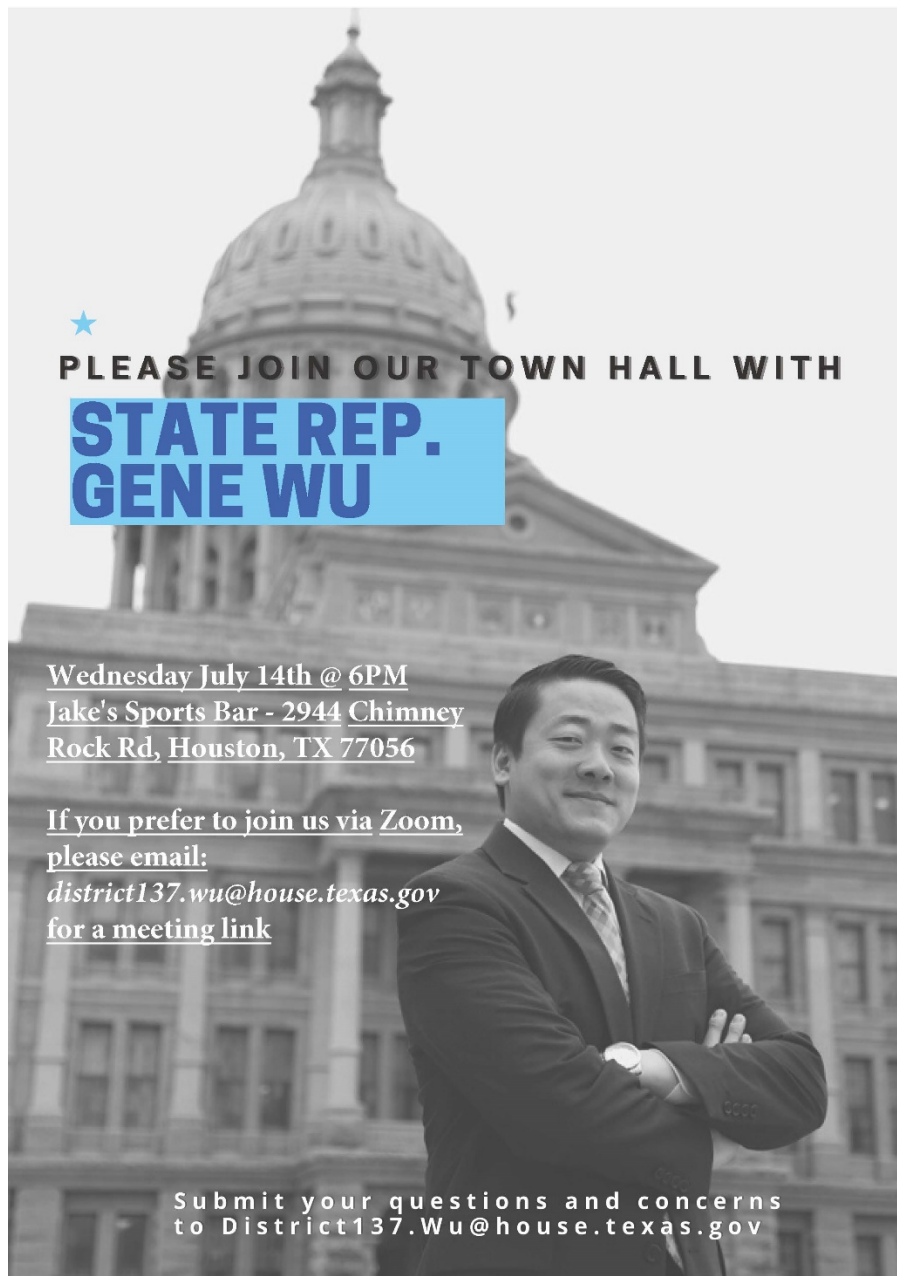
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## Legislative Town Hall

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Join me for a beer and an update on the Texas Legislature! The 87th regular legislative session ended in May, and between the budget, the bills that passed, the bills that failed, COVID-19, Winter Storm Uri, and the governor calling for a special session starting July 8th, we have a lot to talk about.

Wednesday, July 14 at 6:00 p.m. (livestream will also be available) at  
Jake's Sports Bar, 2944 Chimney Rock Rd. Houston, TX 77057 for a Town Hall - see y'all soon!



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**PLEASE JOIN OUR TOWN HALL WITH**  
**STATE REP.**  
**GENE WU**

Wednesday July 14th @ 6PM  
Jake's Sports Bar - 2944 Chimney  
Rock Rd, Houston, TX 77056

If you prefer to join us via Zoom,  
please email:  
[district137.wu@house.texas.gov](mailto:district137.wu@house.texas.gov)  
for a meeting link

Submit your questions and concerns  
to [District137.Wu@house.texas.gov](mailto:District137.Wu@house.texas.gov)