



# GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 59

## NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Friends,

October is Filipino American History Month. HD 137 is so proud of our Filipino American community!

University of Houston Law Center has launched a Housing Assistance Program.

BakerRipley is hosting a financial literacy workshop this month.

Afghan families in need are arriving in Houston, find out how you can help.

With cooler weather on the way, it's a great time to make sure your plumbing is weatherized.

The Sharpstown Prize for Architecture is on display!

National Night out was a big success in HD 137.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

If you would like to have an announcement featured in our newsletter, please contact us at [district137.wu@house.texas.gov](mailto:district137.wu@house.texas.gov) for information on submissions and deadlines.

It is an honor to serve and represent you.

Sincerely,



Gene visiting with neighbors at National Night Out

### In this Issue...

- University of Housing Law Center Housing Assistance Program
- BakerRipley Financial Literacy Workshop
- Helping Afghan Families
- Plumbing Weatherization Tips
- Sharpstown Prize for Architecture
- National Night Out
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month

# Houston Housing Assistance Program

The University of Houston Law Center has established the Houston Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) which provides legal information, legal advice, and legal representation to qualifying Texas residents facing eviction or other housing instability issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Click on the images below if you are in need of assistance.

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**  
LAW CENTER

## HOUSTON HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



### What We Do:

Provide legal information, advice, and representation to Harris County residents who are currently facing evictions or housing instability and have been affected by the coronavirus. Income qualifications apply.

### How To Request Help:

**Call:** (832)842-4427  
Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Online:** [bit.ly/3mCck1B](https://bit.ly/3mCck1B)

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One research university and an EEO/AA institution.

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**  
LAW CENTER

## Programa de Asistencia de Alquiler de Emergencia



### Que hacemos:

Brindar información legal, asesoramiento y representación a los residentes del condado de Harris que actualmente enfrentan desalojos o inestabilidad de vivienda y han sido afectados por el Coronavirus. Se aplican requisitos de ingresos.

### Como solicitar ayuda:

**Telefono:** (832)842-4427  
Lunes - Viernes  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**En Línea:** [bit.ly/3mCck1B](https://bit.ly/3mCck1B)

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One research university and an EEO/AA institution.

# Financial Literacy Workshop

## FIRST CONVENIENCE BANK: FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

**When:** Saturday, October 9, 2021

**Time:** 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

- Learn what debt is, how debt works, and how to reduce debt
- You **MUST** pre-register for the workshop at 713-273-3700
- Only 2 members from each household may come
- FREE breakfast!
- A chance to win a prize from 5 different electronic items and two \$50 gift cards in a raffle!

BakerRipley Gulfton Sharpstown Campus

6500 Rookin Street  
Houston, TX 77074

713-273-3700



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## FIRST CONVENIENCE BANK: TALLER DE EDUCACIÓN FINANCIERA

**Cuando:** Sabado, 9 de Octubre 2021

**Horario:** 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

- Aprenderán que son las deudas, como funcionan las deudas, y como reducir sus deudas
- DEBE preinscribir para participar llamando al 713-273-3700
- No más que dos miembros de cada familia pueden asistir al taller
- ¡Desayuno GRATIS!
- ¡Tendremos rifas de 6 diferentes electronicos y dos tarjetas regalo de \$50 cada una!

BakerRipley Gulfton Sharpstown Campus

6500 Rookin Street  
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713-273-3700



## Assisting Afghan Families in Houston

# Houston Afghan Resettlement Fund

You can help Afghan families as they build new lives in Houston. Your gift will be distributed among participating resettlement agencies.

[DONATE NOW](#)

About **3,000** Afghan evacuees are expected to enter the Houston area through the beginning of 2022, with the first major influx of evacuees expected to arrive early in October! This, according to the Houston Afghan Resettlement Fund, or HARE, a newly formed collaboration between The Alliance, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston and the YMCA of Greater Houston.

Lots of Afghan families are moving into Houston, and we can help these families as they build new lives. Here are some ways how:

- Set up an apartment with furniture and basic necessities.
- Deliver a hot meal to the home of an Afghan family.
- Stock fridge of Afghan family with fresh groceries.
- Meet and greet refugee families at either IAH or Hobby Airport.
- Be a refugee family mentor. six months and you must engage your mentee for at least one hour a week.

To sign up to volunteer, please click [here](#).



## NOW IS THE TIME TO WINTERIZE YOUR PLUMBING

*A Reminder That Winter is Coming Courtesy of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE)*

If you called Texas home in February 2021, it's more than likely that you dealt with a plumbing issue in the wake of Winter Storm Uri, the historic deep freeze that left most of the state frozen and without power for nearly a week. While this coming Winter may not be quite as dramatic, there are several precautions every home and business owner can take now to mitigate disaster when the temperature drops.

### Always Hire a *Licensed* Plumber

As the deep freeze unfolded last February, the [Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners \(TSBPE\)](#) took unprecedented measures to increase the number of qualified plumbers available across the state. As a result, **there are currently more qualified plumbers available to work in Texas than ever before.** And a current Texas plumbing license guarantees not just a certain level of skill, but also that the license holder is up-to-date on Texas plumbing code and laws. To search for a licensed plumber near you, go to [tsbpe.texas.gov](#) and look for the "Interactive Plumber Locating Map."

### Insulate Water Pipes

Structures built for Texas heat are often left uninsulated in peculiar places. Dave Yelovich, TSBPE Board Member and home builder, recommends that you "stick your head in your attic. If your house was built before 1990 there's a chance that the water pipes were run above or below your insulation. Any exposed pipe in an unheated space can burst in a deep freeze. As a bonus, insulating your pipes will increase your energy efficiency and could lower your monthly electric bill."

### Replace Foundation/Attic Vents

A water pipe's worst enemy is freezing air. David Butler, Responsible Master Plumber and Plumbing Manager for Milestone Electric Co. in Dallas/Ft. Worth, recommends that all home owners and house managers "do a complete survey of the perimeter of your house and look for places through which air might flow. Unsealed windows and doors are obvious culprits, but when was the last time you checked your foundation and attic vents?" And he's right: missing vent covers were responsible for a large percentage of burst pipes in Texas attics and basements last February.

(Please note: vented crawl spaces and attics should always have air flowing through them even in the Winter. This is why homes are insulated between those spaces. Failure to properly vent attics and crawl spaces can lead to moisture issues and mold.)

### Locate Your Main Shutoff Valve

Most main valves in Texas are located outside and away from the structure. Locate your main shutoff valve and store the valve key (the tool that's used to turn the valve itself) in an obvious and easily accessible place. Then if you know a freeze is coming and have the flexibility to do so, you can shut the whole thing down. Don't forget to run all the faucets to purge the remaining water from the system; no water in the pipes means no ice in the pipes!

Above all else, the key to preparing for another wild Winter is to get out ahead of it. "You have to be pro-active," Yelovich concludes, "recognize when, where and how your pipes will likely freeze *while it's still hot outside*, and then take action."

### HOW TO VET A PLUMBER

When choosing a plumber be sure to ask for their license number and then check it using the [TSBPE's public license search](#). The License Detail page includes not just license status but also disciplinary and continuing education history. **Do not hire a plumber if their license is not current and in good standing.**

## Sharpstown Prize for Architecture



The Alta Arts will host a one-day only tour of The Screen House, the winning design of the Sharpstown Prize for Architecture. The prize was created in 2017 to challenge graduate-level architecture students at the University of Houston to design a single-family residence with modern and progressive materials while adhering to the appropriate deed restrictions.

Unlike similar architectural competitions, this one was unique in that the prize was the actual building of the home based on the winning entry by Tanmay Thakker.

The event will be held on:  
October 16, 2021, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.  
6822 Rowan Lane, Houston, TX 77074

# National Night Out

This year celebrated the 38th Annual National Night Out (NNO), an event created in 1984 to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relationships. The intent is to raise awareness of crime prevention and send a message to the criminal element that our communities and police are working together to keep crime out.

I was so happy to join my neighbors at this year's NNO in HD 137!



Westchase National Night Out



Sharpstown National Night Out



Gulfton National Night Out



Tanglewilde/Westmont National Night Out

# October Is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



IN THE U.S., AN AVERAGE OF  
20 PEOPLE EXPERIENCE INTIMATE PARTNER  
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE EVERY MINUTE.  
THIS EQUATES TO MORE THAN  
10 MILLION ABUSE VICTIMS ANNUALLY.  
#DVFACTS

SOURCE: NATIONAL INTIMATE PARTNER AND  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY: 2010 SUMMARY REPORT (2011)

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) was launched nationwide in October 1987 as a way to connect and unite individuals and organizations working on domestic violence issues while raising awareness for those issues. Over the past 30+ years, much progress has been made to support domestic violence victims and survivors, to hold abusers accountable, and to create and update legislation to further those goals. Click the links below to learn more about the different types of domestic violence.

[Economic Abuse](#)

[Domestic Violence and Guns](#)

[Physical Abuse](#)

[Psychological Abuse](#)

[Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault](#)

[Stalking](#)

## Faith & Family Violence: Recognizing and Addressing Abuse

Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 10:00:00 AM CDT (Online)

The Interfaith Advisory Council, led by AVDA, Daya, and HCDVCC, invites faith leaders, first ladies, religious teachers, and people of influence across Houston's diverse faith communities to "Faith & Family Violence," an interactive training and discussion on recognizing and addressing abuse in our communities.

<https://faithandfamilyviolence.eventbrite.com/>

**FAITH & FAMILY VIOLENCE:  
RECOGNIZING AND ADDRESSING ABUSE**

**OCTOBER 19, 2021 10AM - 12PM CST**

HCDVCC | Daya | AVDA  
empowering south asian survivors of abuse | end abuse / begin again

# Domestic Violence Resources

## FAMILY VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTERS & SHELTERS

**AVDA**  
(Aid to Victims of  
Domestic Abuse)  
Downtown | Houston  
Harris County  
[www.avda-tx.org](http://www.avda-tx.org)  
713-224-9911

**DAYA**  
(South Asian survivors)  
Woodlake | Houston  
Harris County  
[www.dayahouston.org](http://www.dayahouston.org)  
713-981-7645

**HAWC**  
(Houston Area Women's  
Center)  
Montrose | Houston  
Harris County  
[www.hawc.org](http://www.hawc.org)  
713-528-2121

**Ft. Bend County  
Women's Center**  
Ft. Bend County  
[www.fbwc.org](http://www.fbwc.org)  
281-342-4357

**Montrose Center**  
Montrose | Houston  
Harris County  
[www.montrosecenter.org](http://www.montrosecenter.org)  
713-529-0037

## FAMILY & HOMELESS SHELTERS

**Salvation Army Sally's House**  
Downtown | Houston  
Harris County  
[www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)  
713-224-9911

**Salvation Army Family  
Residence**  
Midtown | Houston  
Harris County  
[www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)  
713-650-6530

**Star of Hope Mission**  
EaDo | Houston  
Harris County  
[www.starofhope.org](http://www.starofhope.org)  
713-222-2220

**Mission of Yahweh**  
Northwest | Houston  
Harris County  
[www.missionofyahweh.org](http://www.missionofyahweh.org)  
713-466-4785

## COUNSELING

**Catholic Charities**  
Houston, Texas  
Harris County  
[www.catholiccharities.org](http://www.catholiccharities.org)  
713-526-4611

**Aid to Victims  
of Domestic  
Abuse (AVDA)**  
Houston, Texas  
Harris County  
[www.avda-tx.org](http://www.avda-tx.org)  
713-224-9911

**Center for  
Counseling**  
Houston, Texas  
Harris County  
[www.npino.com](http://www.npino.com)  
713-263-0829

**Community Family Center  
(Spanish)**  
Houston, Texas  
Harris County  
[www.communityfamilycenters.org](http://www.communityfamilycenters.org)  
713-923-2316

**Innovative Alternatives**  
Houston, Texas  
Harris County  
[www.innovativealternatives.org](http://www.innovativealternatives.org)  
713-222-2525

## HOTLINES

**National Domestic Violence Hotline**  
[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)  
800-799-7233

**National AIDS Hotline**  
[www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/hotlines.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/hotlines.html)  
800-232-4636

**Child Abuse Prevention Hotline**  
[www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)  
800-422-4453

**Child & Adult Protective Services  
Hotline (Texas)**  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us/contact\\_us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/contact_us)  
800-252-5400

**Rape, Abuse, & Incest National  
Network (RAINN) National Hotline**  
[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)  
800-656-4673

**Child & Adult Protective Services  
Hotline (Texas)**  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us/contact\\_us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/contact_us)  
800-252-5400

## POLICE

**Houston P.D. Family Violence Unit**  
Houston, Texas  
Harris County  
[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)  
713-308-1100

**Harris County S.O. Special Victims Division**  
Houston, Texas  
Harris County  
[www2.harriscountytexas.gov](http://www2.harriscountytexas.gov)  
713-274-9164

## LEGAL

**Aid to Victims of  
Domestic Abuse  
(AVDA)**  
Houston, Texas  
Harris County  
[www.avda-tx.org](http://www.avda-tx.org)  
713-224-9911

**Harris County  
District Attorney  
(Family Law  
Division)**  
Houston, Texas  
Harris County  
[www.app.dao.hctx.net](http://www.app.dao.hctx.net)  
713-274-9370

**Houston Volunteer  
Lawyers**  
Houston, Texas  
Harris County  
[www.makejusticehappen.org](http://www.makejusticehappen.org)  
713-228-0735

**Lone Star Legal Aid  
Foundation**  
Houston, Texas  
Harris County  
[www.lonestarlegal.org](http://www.lonestarlegal.org)  
713-652-0077

**Texas Advocacy Project**  
Austin, Texas  
Travis County  
[www.texasadvocacyproject.org](http://www.texasadvocacyproject.org)  
800-374-HOPE