



GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 60

NEWSLETTER

November 2021

Friends,

I hope everyone had a safe and very happy Halloween!

November is Native American Heritage Month.

The deadline for the federal Child-Tax Credit is coming up.

International District will be hosting a free auto-safety event.

I was happy to join the Sharpstown Civic Association this past month!

The Texas Legislature has submitted maps for redistricting to the Governor.

November 11th is Veterans Day.

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

It is an honor to serve and represent you.

Sincerely,



Gene reading to students at Gabriela Mistral Center for Early Childhood Education last month to celebrate Read for the Record Day

In this Issue...

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- Catalytic Converter Etchings
- Sharpstown Civic Association
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Native American Heritage Month



November celebrates the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, histories and important contributions of Native Americans. Native American Heritage Month is also a great time to learn more about our tribes, and to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, as well as the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.

The first people that lived in what is now the Houston area were tribes like the Karankawa and the Akokisa. Artifacts were [discovered in 2009](#) from the Akokisa tribe while excavating on Cypress Creek in Northwest Harris County. Tools, arrowheads, and pottery shards were found dating as far back as 8,100 B.C. These were the first "Texans" to meet European explorers with documented encounters with notable historical figures such as Cabeza de Vaca, and later Sam Houston.

Today, Houston is still home to over 70,000 people of Native American descent. The Houston Museum of Natural Science has a permanent exhibit showcasing "[The First Americans](#)", and Houston is also home to the Southern Apache Museum, which recently went [virtual](#). Just outside of Houston's city limits near Lake Livingston is the [Alabama-Coushatta Reservation](#), who hosts visitors year around for camping and special events.

In House District 137 Young Audiences of Houston and the Westchase District will host the Danza Azteca Splendor! at Woodchase Park. Artists from [Calmeccac Indigenous Organization](#) will be present to interact with students of all ages. The event will be held on [Saturday, November 20th from 3-4 PM](#), 3951 Woodchase Dr, Houston, TX 77042.

Please join me this month in observation and appreciation of our state and country's rich Native American Heritage. To view an incredible archive of Native American photos and history, please click [here](#), or on the image above.

Federal Child Tax Credit



Gene speaking at a Press Conference with Judge Hidalgo and community leaders from the United Way, BakerRipley, and Chinese Community Center to help educate the public on the Child Tax Credit

President Biden's American Rescue Plan increased the Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child for children over the age of six and from \$2,000 to \$3,600 for children under the age of six, and raised the age limit from 16 to 17.

All working families will get the full credit if they make up to \$150,000 for a couple or \$112,500 for a family with a single parent (also called Head of Household). most families are automatically receiving monthly payments of \$250 or \$300 per child without having to take any action.

If you are not automatically receiving monthly Child Tax Credit payments, the deadline to sign up is **November 15**.

For those without a tax-return, there is a [non-filer sign-up tool](#) that is easy to use on a mobile phone and also available in Spanish. If you are eligible for the Child Tax Credit but don't sign up for advance monthly payments by the November 15 deadline, you can still claim the full credit of up to \$3,600 per child by filing your taxes next year.

Please click the pictures below for more information in English (left) and Spanish (right).



HELP IS HERE: THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN DELIVERS MAJOR TAX RELIEF FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

The Child Tax Credit, part of the American Rescue Plan, is here to help families raising children make ends meet. Experts estimate the new Child Tax Credit has the potential to cut child poverty in half.

To learn more, visit [ChildTaxCredit.gov](#)

Major tax relief for Nearly All Working Families

\$3,000 TO \$3,600 PER CHILD FOR NEARLY ALL WORKING FAMILIES

Major expansion: the Child Tax Credit in the American Rescue Plan provides the largest child tax credit ever and historic relief to the most working families ever

- \$3,000 per child 6-17 years old
- \$3,600 per child under 6 years old
- All working families will get the full credit if they make up to \$150,000 for a couple or \$112,500 for a family with a single parent (also called head of household)

AUTOMATIC MONTHLY PAYMENTS FOR NEARLY ALL WORKING FAMILIES

If you've filed tax returns for 2019 or 2020, or if you signed up to receive a stimulus check from the Internal Revenue Service, you will get this tax relief automatically. You do not need to sign up or take any action.

Advancing year tax relief: Normally, tax relief for the year only comes the following year when you file your taxes, no matter how much you need it now. This year, you'll start getting the money in July.

Monthly payments starting in July: For the first time, people will receive the Child Tax Credit in monthly payments. For every child 6-17 years old, families will get \$250 each month, and for every child under 6 years old, families will get \$300 each month.

- The 80% who get their refunds from the IRS through direct deposit will get these payments in their bank account on the 15th of every month until the end of 2021.
- People who don't use direct deposit will receive their payment by mail around the same time.

President Biden's American Families Plan calls for extending this tax relief for years and years

The new Child Tax Credit enacted in the American Rescue Plan is only for 2021. That is why President Biden strongly believes that we should extend the new Child Tax Credit for years and years to come. That's what he proposes in his American Families Plan.

WHITEHOUSE.GOV



Easy sign up for low-income families to cut child poverty in half

Low-income families with children are eligible for this crucial tax relief – including those who have not made enough money to be required to file taxes.

If a couple makes under \$24,800, a head of household makes under \$18,650, or a single filer makes under \$12,400, and they have not filed their taxes, there is a simple, easy tool to sign up for the Child Tax Credit:

- Go to [ChildTaxCredit.gov](#) and click on the sign-up link.
- All you'll need to apply are a reliable mailing address, an e-mail address, Social Security numbers for your children, and Social Security Numbers (or ITIN) for you and your spouse.
- If you provide bank account information, you can receive your payment safely and securely by direct deposit.



The American Rescue Plan provides historic and transformational tax relief for families with children, and the American Families Plan proposes to extend that relief for years to come.

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For working families with children, this tax cut sends a clear message: help is here.

— PRESIDENT BIDEN

To learn more about monthly payments of the Child Tax Credit, visit [ChildTaxCredit.gov](#)

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Auto Safety Event in International District



Stop Auto Parts Theft

Free Catalytic Converter Etching

November 13, 2021 9 am–3 pm

Alief ISD Center for Advanced Careers
12160 Richmond Ave, Houston, TX 77082

We invite residents to bring their vehicles to have their catalytic converters etched FREE of charge.

For more information call 713-308-3500 or visit IMDHouston.org

Follow us to see all of the great things going on in our community
IMDHouston.org @Intl_District @InternationalDistrict IMDHouston IMDHouston
Not endorsed or sponsored by AISD.



Paremos el Robo de Autopartes

Grabado Gratis para el Convertidor Catalítico

13 de noviembre de 2021, 9 am–3pm

Alief ISD Center for Advanced Careers
12160 Richmond Ave, Houston, TX 77082

Invitamos a todos los residentes a que traigan sus vehículos para grabar GRATIS sus convertidores catalíticos.

Para obtener más información llame al 713-308-3500 o visite IMDHouston.org

Síguenos para ver todas las maravillosas cosas que ocurren en nuestra comunidad
IMDHouston.org @Intl_District @InternationalDistrict IMDHouston IMDHouston
No respaldado ni patrocinado por el AISD.

The International District is collaborating with community partners to sponsor a free event offering etchings for catalytic converters. Thefts of catalytic converters have been sky-high due to criminals looking to get cash for the precious metals inside catalytic converters.

There have been new changes incorporated into state law to prevent metal recyclers from purchasing stolen catalytic converters, but taking steps like painting and etching your property can help to prevent your catalytic converter from being stolen. Click the pictures above for more detailed information.

Sharpstown Civic Association

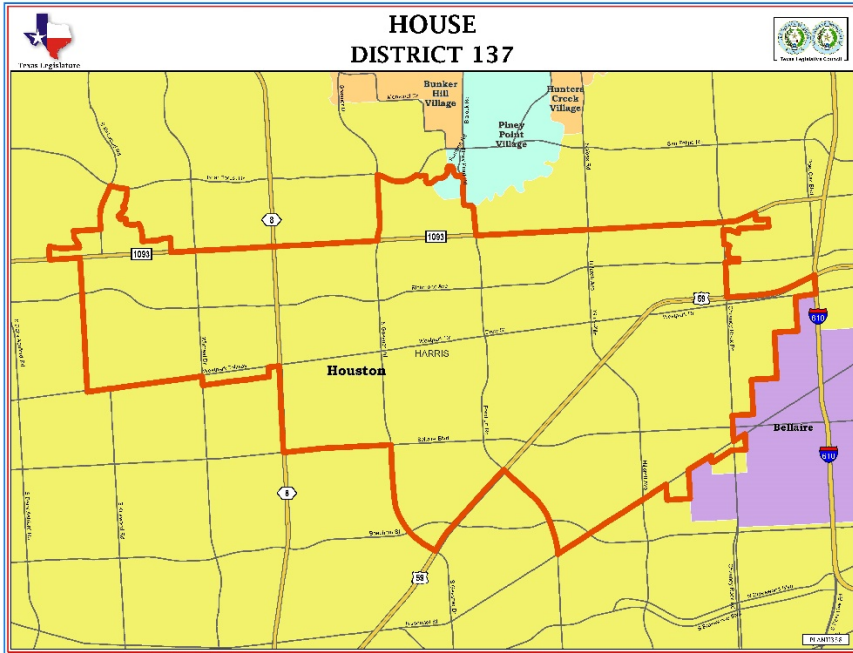
I was honored to be a guest speaker this past month at the Sharpstown Civic Association (SCA) meeting. SCA meets monthly on the last Thursday of the month at the Bayland Community Center in House District 137.

SCA provides a number of services to their residents including planning community events and private security for their residents. SCA has always been a fantastic resource to my office, and to Sharpstown residents. For more information on how to get involved with SCA, please click [here](#).



Gene visiting with Sharpstown Civic Association days before Halloween

Redistricting



Last month, the Texas Legislature concluded a special called session to finalize the redistricting process. After the completion of the census, the legislature is responsible for redrawing representative districts for the Texas House, Senate, and State Board of Education, as well as Texas Congressional districts for our federal delegation.

The maps have been redrawn and submitted to the Governor for final approval. Much of House District 137's borders will remain current, with the district expanding slightly to take into account our growing population.

If you would like to view an interactive map showing the results of the redistricting process, please click [here](#) to use this great tool from the Texas Tribune.

National Veterans and Military Families Month

November is National Veterans and Military Families month. Since the end of WWI, we have celebrated our veterans in November, starting with Armistice Day. Armistice Day was in honor of the armistice signed by the Allies in WWI that took place on the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month". Later renamed Veterans Day in 1954, Veterans Day sought to honor all current and former enlisted military personnel for their service. Today, we still celebrate Veterans Day on November 11th, but take the entire month of November to reflect and show our appreciation to our service men and women. Thank you to all of the service men and women, and their families, in House District 137.



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