

Gulfton Neighbors

April 2006



Young Immigrants for a Better Future

Young Immigrants for a Better Future started in 2002 at Lee High School formed by students who were starting college at the University of Houston-Downtown under House Bill 1403. This group is a voice for undocumented immigrant students to access equal higher education and participate in local, state, and national conferences in order to inform students and their representatives about the dilemmas students face. HB 1403 provides undocumented students the opportunity to attend college; these youth are barred from the opportunity to work after graduation due to their immigrant status. Young Immigrants provides them with strategies to advocate for the DREAM Act which would allow them to apply for legal status and eventually for permanent residence. If you are interested in more information, Young Immigrants for a Better Future can help you with the process, please call 713-917-3682.

New Century Gulfton Marketplace

In partnership with the City and JPMorgan Chase, Neighborhood Centers Inc. plans to build a new community center and marketplace at the corner of Rookin and High Star that provides resources, education and connection to our Gulfton neighbors. This center will house an immigration center, a comprehensive family center that includes classroom space and a resource library, meeting space and a center for economic development. Moreover, this center will house a charter school that creates a continuum of education in partnership with NCI's Head Start program. Like all NCI's centers, programs and services will be advised and driven by the community, and the campus will be reflective of the unique international flavor and cultural diversity of Gulfton. We welcome your participation and feedback as we move forward with this exciting project. For more information or to get involved please contact Oriana Garcia at 713-669-5228.

Cloud Search Program

By Kamari Brewer,
Baylor College of Medicine

"How can we improve adult/teen connection within the Gulfton community?" Events such as Voces Unidas Para Mejorar La Comunidad (Voices United to Better the Community) sponsored by Baylor College of Medicine's CLOUD SEARCH Program as part of Harris County's Gulfton Community Youth Development Program helped the community and young leaders better connect to Gulfton. CLOUD SEARCH teaches youth ages 11-17 leadership, communication, problem solving, and teamwork skills. Voces Unidas was a result of hard work of students from Kaleidoscope and Las Americas Charter Schools. Students presented artwork by offering solutions to problems in the Gulfton community and identified a number of concerns within their community, including overall safety - especially for women, people driving fast, alcohol and drugs being accessible to youth, and violence. Voces Unidas brought over 20 youth leaders with an equal number of community leaders to share ideas about improving Gulfton. This resulted in a scavenger hunt that led to connecting other community and youth leaders in learning the strengths and areas for improvement in Gulfton. Together they constructed a wall representing solutions to three major problems identified in Gulfton - how to decrease community violence, decrease substance abuse and improve adult/teen connection and communication. Through a great deal of teamwork, over 30 ideas were identified for enriching the Gulfton community. Special thanks to the Gulfton Storefront for the use of their space. If you would like to get involved, please contact Kamari Brewer at 832-822-0605 or Wendy Adam at 832-822-4004.

April is Child Abuse Prevention

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Texas and across the nation. It's time to focus on ways to protect and prevent our children from abuse. Prevent Child Abuse Texas core values are to engage communities in the important work of strengthening families and valuing children. To get involved, please go to www.preventchildabusetexas.org.

OYE!

The 14th Annual Gulfton Festival will be held on May 20th from 11 AM to 3 PM - Parade starts at Benavidez Elementary and ends at Burnett Bayland Park. Please join us as we celebrate Gulfton with food, activities, entertainment, guest speakers and information from service providers. For more information call Patricia Fernandez at 713-314-3554.

Your input will make Gulfton Neighbors an even stronger resource for the community. Call Oriana Garcia at 713-669-5228. We're listening!

Neighborhood Updates

Meetings

Houston Police Department, 5980 Renwick, 713-668-4141, Contact: Officer Walter Parker
PIP: Positive Interaction Program Meeting
4th Tues every month 12 - 1pm
Gulfton Superneighborhood Meeting, Benavidez Elementary, 832-242-5655, Contact: Tammy Rodriguez
Identify, plan, and set priorities to address the needs and concerns of the community. 3rd Thur every month 6 - 8 pm

Courses/Enrollments

The BRIDGE/EL PUENTE, 6114 Renwick Drive, Apt. 199B, 713-592-0288, Contact: Marisol Casarez
ESL (English as a second language) classes
M - Th 8:30 - 11am
El Civic classes (English literacy and civics education)
M - Th 11am - 12pm
Computer classes
T or Th 12 - 1:30pm
PACT (Parent and child time together classes)
Wed 12:30 - 2pm
Early Childhood education classes (ages 0-7 yrs old)
M - Th 8:30am-2pm
Parenting classes (ESCAPE family resource center)
Fri 9 - 11am

Houston Community College System, 5407 Gulfton, 713-718-7720, Adult ESL classes
Life Skills/Workplace English Proficiency
English Preparation for College Success

Community Family Centers, 6856 Bellaire Blvd., 713-773-9900
Free ESL and GED classes

Gulfton Learning Center, 5982 Renwick Drive, 713-314-3554
Information and job referrals; Free internet access

SER- Jobs for Progress, 6615 Rookin Street, 713-773-6000
Job referral and training; Literacy training

Burnett Bayland Community Center, Burnett Bayland Park, 713-668-4516
After School Enrichment Program 01/03/06 - 05/12/06 3 - 6pm
Indoor Soccer League Play

Amigos Por Vida Charter School, 5500 El Camino Del Rey, 713-779-7082
ESL (English as a second language) classes M - Fri 9 am
Parenting classes Fri 9 - 11am
Group for Mothers Wed 12:30 - 2:30pm
Computer courses M & Th 6 pm
GED courses M & W 7:30 pm
After School Enrichment Classes M - Fri
(art, basketball, piano, soccer, theater, Girl Scouts, modern dance, health and nutrition)

Events

The Children's Museum of Houston, 1500 Binz, 713-522-1138
Free Family Night Every Thur in April 5 - 8pm
Express Children's Theatre Thur, 4/20/06 6:30 pm
Petacular Free Family Night Thur, 4/27/06
(Celebrate the pooch or feline in your life)

14th Annual Gulfton Festival,
Benavidez Elementary to Burnett Bayland Park, 713-314-3554
Celebrating Gulfton Sat., 5/20/06 11 am - 3 pm

Announcements

Kroger, 5610 Gulfton @ Chimney Rock, 713-668-9963, Contact: Gemma Neuhaus
Now hiring baggers, overnight stockers, cashiers, deli clerks, etc.
Call for more information.

Gulfton Providers for Educational Services

Campo Del Sol, 713-314-3554, Contact: Patricia Fernandez - Summer education and recreation activities for youth in the 77081 zip code. Registration starts in April; program runs from June 5 to August 4.
United Minds, 713-314-3554, Contact: Angela Betancourt - After school leadership program for youth ages 13-17 in the 77081 zip code. Year round program for youth that meets on Wednesdays from 6 - 7:30 pm
Iglesia San Mateo, 713-664-7792, Contact: Wendy Pineda - 24/7 Program for youth ages 12-18 that meets year round on Wednesdays from 7 - 8:30 pm
Iglesia San Mateo, 713-664-7792, Contact: Wendy Pineda - NU-G Program for youth ages 9-11 that meets year round on Wednesdays from 7 - 8:30 pm
HCCS Gulfton Center, 713-718-7720 - Preparation for College Success, an intensive English program
Camara de Empresarios Latinos de Houston, 713-774-5002 - Conferences, seminars, business start-ups, computer training, microlending
ABCS Computer Institute, 713-271-7227 - Bilingual Computer Training and Technical Career Training for Hispanics who are not fluent in English



Neighborhood
Centers Inc.
Lifting hearts.
Building futures.