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NORTHEAST NEWS



Members of the Aldine ISD leadership visit with State Representative Senfronia Thompson in her office in Austin. See story and photos below.

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 49 Years
VOL. 49, NO. 9 TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Revitalization project eyed for Aldine Mail Route

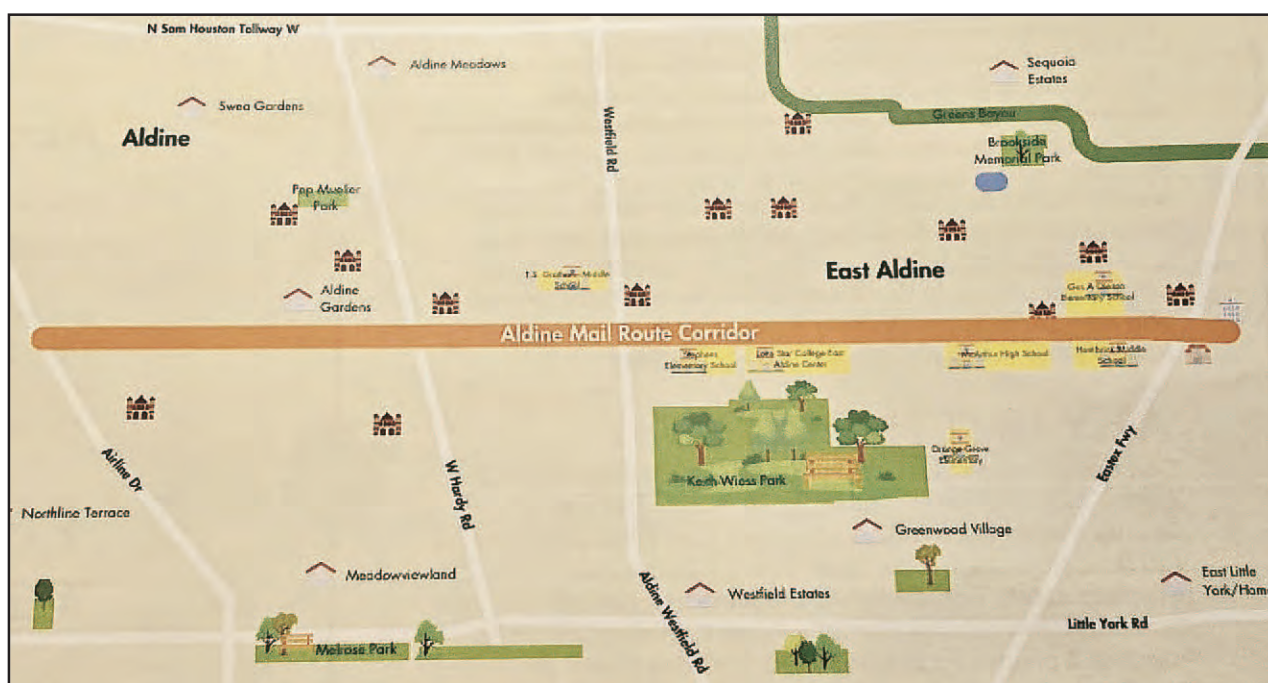
Next public workshop with Pct. 2 set for March 18 at East Aldine District

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The funds haven't been secured just yet, but Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia hopes to see a revitalization project through for the residents of Aldine and those who traverse the Aldine Mail Route corridor.

Last week, a group of stakeholders and leaders in the community met with Garcia's staff to discuss the possibilities and look at options that would strengthen the economy in the area, increase safety, and spruce up the area.

The project would be part of Commissioner Garcia's Revive2Thrive program that's focused on making Harris County Precinct 2 the best place to live, work, and play. According to one of their handouts, "The goal is to invest in improving infrastructure, creating economic opportunities, and enhancing residents' overall quality of life."



The Aldine Mail Route corridor study will include extensive public engagement; in-depth safety analysis; and concept development of an inclusive, resilient, and safe corridor. The study will

provide engineering solutions for improving safety along the corridor and at intersections for all roadway users, including bicyclists and pedestrians, who are the most vulnerable roadway users, according

to the Vision Zero Action Plan. The study will also provide preliminary cost estimates for implementing the preferred corridor concept.

Commissioners Court approved the Harris County

Vision Zero Action Plan on September 13, 2022. The Harris County Vision Zero Action Plan has identified corridors and intersections on the High Injury Network to prioritize safety improvement projects. As

part of Commissioner Adrian Garcia's Revive2Thrive Initiative, Precinct 2 proposed to conduct a corridor study on Aldine Mail Route from Airline Drive to Easthampton Drive (5.6 miles). This corridor is in the top 20 percent of the County's High Injury Network.

The next meeting on the timeline will gather public feedback, followed by completing the design process, then applying for funding opportunities, and preparing for construction to bring these improvements to Aldine Mail Route Drive.

The Reimagine Aldine Mail Route Community Meeting will be held on March 18, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the East Aldine Management District offices at 2909 E. Amphitheatre Dr. in Houston, TX 77039. For more information, call 713-274-2222. Visit www.nenews.com to scan a QR code and take the survey prior to the meeting.

NEWS NOTES

Spring Break KIDS CAMP March 10-14

East Aldine Spring Break Kid's Camp for all kids, Free, Hours 4pm to 6pm. Pre-Register at 346-570-4463.

Events:

- MARCH 10- Dodge Ball Tournament, Ages 5-11 at Town Center Amphitheatre.
- MARCH 11- Tie-Dye at BakerRipley
- MARCH 12- Movie Night at Town Center
- MARCH 13- Paint Party, Ages 8 to 15 at BakerRipley
- MARCH 14- Bubble Party at Town Center Amphitheatre.

Come and have fun. Sponsored by East Aldine District, BakerRipley, and Sheriff's Office.

Shape the Future of Jensen Drive Meeting March 12

Harris County Pct. 2 invites you to attend a public meeting on the Jensen Drive Project, which aims to improve safety, accessibility, and road conditions.

Wednesday, March 12 from 6:00 - 8:00pm, New Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 9126 Jensen Drive.

Dreamers Act Town Hall Mar. 18

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia holds a Town Hall at Lone Star College East Aldine Campus, Tuesday March 18 from 6:00-7:30pm.

Guest Speakers include Garcia, LSC Chancellor Mario Castillo, and SanJac Chancellor Brenda Hellyer.

Conversation about the American Dream and Promise Act, and your involvement.

Congressman, former Mayor Sylvester Turner passes at 70

U.S. Congressman and longtime Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner has died from enduring health complications. He was 70.

Turner died in his Washington D.C. home at 5:45 a.m. after attending President Donald Trump's address to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday night, his family said in a statement.

Turner's death came just months after he won Texas' 18th Congressional District race. He stood as a pillar in the history of the state's largest municipality, serving eight years as Houston's mayor after 27 years in the Texas House of Representatives. He represented Texas District 139 from 1989 until 2016.

"We've lost an outstanding public official," Houston Mayor John Whitmire said Wednesday at City Hall. "Experience mat-

Continued. See SYLVESTER TURNER DIES AT 70, Page 2



SYLVESTER TURNER

U S Rep Turner funeral will be held at his church, the Church Without Walls at 5725 Queenston Blvd. in Acres Homes, on Saturday, March 15.

He will lie in state at City Hall on Tuesday, March 11 and at State Capitol on Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14.

Free Measles Vaccine available in Harris County

Free Measles Vaccine Drive Throughout the County Harris County, TX, March 8, 2025

Harris County Public Health, Legacy Health Systems, and Texas Children's Hospital will offer free measles vaccines this weekend to ensure community members are protected against the highly contagious disease.

While there are no confirmed cases in Harris County, health officials are urging residents especially children, unvaccinated individuals, and those due for booster shots to take advantage of this free and accessible opportunity to get vaccinated.

A list of locations and information on how to schedule an appointment is available [here](#) and

at ReadyHarris.org or call (832)-927-7350. These sites will be updated as more information becomes available.

Texas Children's Pediatrics Westwood Clinic will be open Saturday, March 8, and Saturday, March 15 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm offering free MMR vaccines to those in need. Legacy Community Health is also hosting a vaccine clinic on Saturday, March 8 from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Harris County, TX, 8 de marzo, 2025 - El Departamento de Salud Pública, Legacy Health Systems, y Texas Children's Hospital ofrecerán vacunas del sarampión

Continued. See FREE MEASLES VACCINE, Page 2

Aldine ISD advocates to Legislators in Austin



Trip to Austin February 2025

Board members, district leaders, and superintendent student ambassadors advocated for Aldine ISD students in Austin, emphasizing quality education and community support for a brighter future.



NORTHEAST NEWS - Send News Tips and Ad Inquiries to 713-266-3444 or nenewsroom@aol.com

Unlimited Possibilities

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EAST ALDINE DISTRICT OFFICE

2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr. #200 - 77039
713-595-1232 | info@aldinedistrict.org

posibilidades ilimitadas AldineDistrict.org

ARMANDO L. WALLE

Attorney at Law

Legal Services to the Community

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ACCIDENTS
18-WHEELER
ACCIDENTS

Se Habla Español

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281-898-3823 aw@wallelaw.com

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SAY SOMETHING

Report Suspicious:

- * Vehicles
- * Activities
- * Groups of People

- * Persons
- * Locations

HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

PLEASE JOIN THE HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN CRIME REDUCTION EFFORTS

WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING
YOU CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS

EMERGENCIES:
ALWAYS CALL **9-1-1**

NON-EMERGENCIES:
713-221-6000

Free Measles Vaccine Available,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gratuitas este fin de semana para asegurar que nuestros residentes estén protegidos de esta enfermedad sumamente contagiosa. Aunque aún no hay casos confirmados en el Condado de Harris, los oficiales de salud le urgen al público, especialmente a los niños, a los adultos que no estén vacunados, y a los que necesiten una vacuna

de refuerzo que aprovechen esta oportunidad para vacunarse completamente gratuita. Para conseguir una lista de ubicaciones e instrucciones para programar una cita, visite [esta página](http://esta.página) o ReadyHarris.org, o llame al 832-927-7350 y oprima 2 para español. Esta lista se actualizará en cuanto haya más información. La clínica de Texas Chil-

den's Pediatrics Westwood estará abierta el sábado, 8 de marzo, y sábado, 15 de marzo de 8:00 am a 12:00 pm para ofrecer vacunas MMR (sarampión, paperas, y rubéola) para los que las necesiten. [Legacy Community Health](http://LegacyCommunityHealth) también tendrá una clínica de vacunación el sábado, 8 de agosto de 8:00 am a 2:30 pm.

Sylvester Turner dies at age 70, in Washington DC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ters folks. No one will be able to step into Sylvester's shoes and carry on his duties because there's only one Sylvester Turner." A native Houstonian, Turner was born in 1954 and grew up in Acres Homes, a predominantly Black suburb. He graduated as valedictorian from Klein High School in 1973 and earned a political science degree from the University of Houston in 1977. He attended Harvard Law School and started a career as an attorney specializing in corporate and commercial law.

In the final stretch of his mayoral tenure in 2022, Turner announced he had been quietly battling bone cancer. He was diagnosed with osteosarcoma after doctors discovered a tumor on his jaw during a dental visit when he complained of a toothache.

Turner declared himself cancer free at the end of 2022.

"I'm a better speaker because of Sylvester," Whitmire said Wednesday. "You just can't understand what it's like to be in an African American — a Black church on Sunday morning with everyone enjoying the service and have to follow Sylvester Turner speaking. He will bring out the best in you in public service."

During his mayoral terms, Turner garnered support in his campaign to address Houston's potholes, infrastructure, public safety and flooding. Just into his first term, the mayor showed his preparation to tackle what Houston had to offer.

His tenure was marked by his efforts leading the city through several federally declared natural disasters, including Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and the COVID-19 pandemic. He championed a gun buyback initiative and worked to address Houston's lingering transportation issues as mayor, expanding access for pedestrians and cyclists by adopting the Vision Zero traffic safety initiative.

"As mayor, Sylvester Turner presided over a remarkable period in which miles upon miles of Houston streets were reimagined to prioritize safety over speed, a bold act for any American mayor, but especially for the mayor of an historically car-dependent city with deep ties to the petroleum industry," Joe Cutrufo, executive director of the nonprofit BikeHouston, said.

Turner also had a contentious relationship with the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, which for years sought to settle a labor dispute with Turner's administration. On Wednesday, the association extended condolences to the former mayor and his family.

"While our union had a deeply contentious relationship with him, and his decisions had a profound impact on Houston firefighters, we also recognize his decades of service to the city and the country," the association said in a statement.

Last year, Turner stepped out of his brief retirement to enter a head-to-head race to fill the late Sheila Jackson Lee's congressional seat. Upon announcing he would seek to take up her seat, Turner

said only Jackson Lee's death at a critical moment in the election cycle could bring him out of retirement.

Turner's campaign platform for the congressional seat focused on police accountability and his efforts to keep federal resources flowing to address hurricane recovery and cancer clusters in Houston's Fifth Ward.

Turner, a Democrat, also aimed to pass strong reforms to end a gun violence epidemic, reduce inequality in public schools and address rising prices and the high cost of living.

On Wednesday, several city and state officials paid homage to Turner's lasting impacts.

"It is hard to put into words the loss of Congressman Sylvester Turner," Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee said in a statement. "For nearly four decades, he devoted his life to public service, standing as a pillar of strength, wisdom and unwavering commitment to Houstonians, residents of the 18th Congressional District, and all Texans."

U.S. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, who represents the state's 7th Congressional District, said Turner personified what it meant to be a Houstonian.

"I am heartbroken and devastated by the loss of this exceptional Houstonian and exceptional human being," Fletcher said. "In his presence you could always feel the love for the city that we call home and for all the people who live here."

Harris County Commissioner Lesley Briones called Turner's passing a tremendous loss to the community and country.

"Congressman Turner was a transformational leader whose presence was felt in every neighborhood he represented, whose career carried the hopes of his community, and whose legacy will resonate for generations," Briones said. "He loved to remind us that in Houston."

Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa said Turner was Houston "through and through."

"He was the kind of Texan who worked hard, lived out courage in the face of adversity, and believed that the ties that bind us will always be stronger than the forces that divide us," he said.

The community lost an irreplaceable leader, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said.

"I am devastated and shocked by the passing of Congressman Sylvester Turner, who was my governing partner and friend," Hidalgo said. "We often talked about how wonderful it was that a kid from Acres Homes and an immigrant kid could become the mayor and the county executive of communities as large as Houston and Harris County."


"We mourned the passing of Congressman Sheila Jackson Lee together, and we also enjoyed rodeos and celebrated Astros wins together," Hidalgo added. "I loved him and I appreciated him."

Lucio Vasquez / Houston Public Media

Measles vaccine locations in Houston and Harris County

Harris County Public Health and the Houston Health Department offer the MMR vaccine to protect against measles, mumps, and rubella.

At Harris County Public Health, appointments are currently required, although same-day appointments may be available. Please call 832-927-7350 to schedule an appointment.



Locations:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Humble Clinic
1730 Humble Place Drive
Humble, TX 77338 | Southeast Clinic
3737 Red Bluff Road
Pasadena, TX 77503 | Antoine Clinic
5815 Antoine Dr
Houston, TX 77091 |
| Harris County Public Health Cypress Station (Mobile Unit Thursdays)
221 FM 1960
Houston, TX 77090 | Harris County Public Health Northeast Pod
10918 1/2 Bentley Dr.
Houston, TX 77093 | Harris County Public Health Southeast Pod
7340 Spencer Hwy.
Pasadena, TX 77505 |

Houston Health Department Health Centers

Phone: 832-395-9100 Appointments: 832-393-5427 (Walk-in services are also available)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Northside Health Center
8504 Schuller Rd
Houston, TX 77093 | Sharpstown Health Services
6201 Bonhomme Rd.
Houston, TX 77036 | Sunnyside Multiservice Center
4410 Reed Rd.
Houston, TX 77051 |
|---|---|--|

Harris County Public Health Building a Healthy Community

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

f x @ j n HCPHTX.ORG OCEEAP 03/11/2025 HoustonHealth.org

You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website: www.nenewsroom.com

High Meadows Branch Library

Luis Arredondo LIBRARY TECHNICIAN
4500 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE RD HOUSTON, TX 77039 (832-927-5540)

UPCOMING EVENTS .MAR 10-MAR 14

10 MAR	11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL 4 PM CREATION STATION
11 MAR	1 PM JUST COLOR 3:30 PM POKEMON CLUB
12 MAR	12 PM TODDLER TIME 3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS 5 PM READING WONDERLAND 5:30PM MAGIC OF COLOUR
13 MAR	1PM CITIZENSHIP 3PM SLIME TIME
14 MAR	1:45 PM HEALTHIER YOU

COMING SOON

SIP & PAINT MARCH 26TH 6PM
JOIN US FOR A SPELLBINDING SIP N' PAINT AFFAIR, WHERE THE BRUSH MEETS THE CANVAS AND MAGIC FLOWS WITH EVERY STROKE. TERRORS AND DELIGHTS AWAIT, ALL IN GOOD FUN!

NEIGHBORHOOD FOREST FREE TREE
HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY IS PARTNERING WITH NEIGHBORHOOD FOREST TO PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH FREE TREES FOR KIDS TO PLANT DURING EARTH WEEK! SIGN UPS ARE OPEN NOW UNTIL MARCH 15TH

FABLES & FUN/ READING WONDERLAND: STORIES, SONGS, RHYMES, AND MORE!

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CREATION STATION
COME ENJOY THE MAGICAL WORLD OF SCIENCE! WE'LL LEARN ABOUT A DIFFERENT CONCEPT IN SCIENCE THROUGH CRAFT AND PLAY EACH TIME!

SLIME TIME
TURN STICKY GLUE INTO A STARCHY, SQUISHY GOO!

POKEMON CLUB
TGOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL! DO IT WITH US AS WE PLAY POKEMON GAMES, DO CRAFTS, AND MORE!

CITIZENSHIP CLASS:
AN ON GOING CLASS TO LEARN THE STEPS ON BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN.

CONVERSATIONAL W/ ESL: PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH WITH THIS JOURNALING CLASS.

HEALTHIER YOU
THE 4-SESSION SERIES EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS TO LEAD HEALTHIER LIVES THROUGH IMPROVED NUTRITION AND LIFESTYLE HABITS.

KRAFTY KIDS:
CRAFT PROGRAM CREATED JUST FOR KIDS!

MAGIC OF COLOUR
DE-STRESS, UNWIND, AND ENJOY THE ALMOST-MAGICAL CALM THAT COMES FROM PAINTING WITH WATERCOLORS

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Brave Little (Theatre) Show Monday March 10 11:15am - 12:15pm
Welcome Brave Little Show to Aldine! They'll be performing First Day, Nueva Escuela. This play is about a girl who overcomes her fear of starting class at a new school (and of reading) by writing herself into the stories. Bilingual in English and Spanish. ¡Bienvenidos a Brave Little Show en Aldine! Presentarán First Day, Nueva Escuela. Esta obra trata sobre una niña que supera su miedo a comenzar clases en una nueva escuela (y a leer) escribiendo su propia historia. Es bilingüe en inglés y español.

Clases de Computación Básica (Basic Computer Classes in Spanish)
Si las computadoras son nuevas para usted, se siente incómodo con ellas o simplemente quiere un curso de actualización, este curso es para usted. Revisaremos todo lo básico: ¿de cómo usar un ratón a utilizando el correo electrónico eficazmente y más! **Acompañenos los lunes de 4 a 5:30 p.m. Inscripción requerido. Llame o visite para inscribirse.**

If you are completely new to computers, feel uncomfortable with them, or simply want a refresher in the basics, this class is for you. We will review all the basics: from how to use a mouse to effectively utilizing email and more! Join us on **Mondays from 4 to 5:30 pm. Registration required. Call or visit to register.**

Bilingual Story Time & Crafts/ Hora de cuento con manualidades
You're invited to attend Story Time every Tuesday at 11 am. Story Time is a great way for children to build early literacy skills with stories, rhymes and songs. Parents are encouraged to participate by sitting with children and singing (and learning!) new songs. Last half hour is craft time! Children of all ages are welcome!

Estás invitado a asistir a tiempo de cuentos cada martes a las 11 am. Tiempo de cuentos es una excelente manera para que los niños desarrollen habilidades de alfabetización temprana con libros, rimas y canciones. Animamos a los padres a sentarse con los niños y canten las canciones con nosotros. ¡La última media hora es tiempo de manualidades! ¡Los niños de todas las edades son bienvenidos!

Open Tech Lab (Bilingual)
Have questions about email, social media, word, your smart phone or more? Come in and let's figure it out! Computer repair or diagnosis is not available. **Tuesdays, 5-6:30pm. Registration is required.** Call 832-927-5410 or come by to register. ¿Necesita ayuda con un programa específico en la computadora? o cualquier pregunta relacionada con el teléfono celular? ¡Te podemos ayudar! Reparación o diagnóstico de computadoras o teléfono celular no será disponible.

Pajama Jam Story Time (Bilingual)
Tuesday March 11, 6:00pm - 6:30pm
Come join us in your pajamas for a special story time at night. We have songs, stories, and crafts for Black History Month! This program is in English and Spanish. **Tuesdays, 6-6:45pm. Community Story Time with LWV**
In this special story time, a League of Women Voters of Houston guest reader will share inspiring tales of community and civic engagement. ***Families attending will receive 1 FREE *Children's Museum Pass**
*1 pass = entrance for up to 6 people

Tween Spark: Sticker Sheet
Who doesn't love stickers? Join Miss Gage to learn how to make your own using tape and wax paper. You'll walk away from this program with a totally unique and awesome sticker sheet for all your decorating needs. Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 6th-9th graders. **Wednesday, Mar. 5, 4:30-5:30pm.**
Ology: Giant Squids
Did you know giant squids were only recently discovered? Join Ms. Gage for a special Ology Story Time where you get to lead the search for the giant squid deep in the ocean! **Passport Services**
Spark 5 Story Time w/ The Michelle Project Saturday March 15 11:00am - 12pm

Join the library and The Michelle Project for a special Saturday story time! These interactive story times are suitable for all ages and abilities. We'll explore the world of early literacy through singing, talking, writing, playing, and reading! Each super fun educational adventure is inspired by celebrations and traditions from that month. There's always a free book waiting for you at every session!

Do have plans to travel out of the country? You need to get your passport in order! Current routine processing is estimated at 4-6 weeks and expedited processing time is estimated at 2-3 weeks. You can **make an appointment** for passport services at Aldine Branch - <https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services>. Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required. We also have walk-in service from 2-4pm on most Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, check/money order, and required people present with them to be added on the list to be seen. **Sign-in starts at 1pm.**

Bert Barron
Adult Program Specialist
Aldine Branch Library
11331 Airline Dr.
Houston, TX 77037
Phone: 832-927-5410

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE


AUGUST 18, 2023

ALDINE
Independent School District

GOFFNEY CHRONICLES
The Official Newsletter of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendent of Schools

With Aldine Pride!



A Message from the Superintendent, Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney.

Dear Aldine Community,

You know my favorite way to kick things off is with some good news.

This past Sunday, my husband Joseph, who recently turned 50, set a goal to run the 400-meter dash in under one minute at the Berlin Bradford Stadium in Coldspring, Texas. Joseph channeled his inner 1993 District champion, when he ran the 400 in 49 seconds. His former coaches were there as the official starter and timer, along with friends and family to cheer him on. Although he didn't hit his goal time of 53 seconds, he put in the time and effort to reach a goal and accomplish something he set out to do (he finished in 55 seconds — not bad for a 50-year-old!). I'm so proud of him, and I recommend we all step out of our comfort zones and set meaningful goals.

There are several ob-

servances in March, including Women's History Month. Our district proudly recognizes and supports Women's History Month as a time to celebrate women's incredible achievements and contributions throughout history. At Aldine, we believe in the importance of teaching our students about the pivotal role that women have played in shaping our society. We are committed to empowering the next generation of female leaders.

You will often hear me say that a school district's most valuable resource is its people — its staff. This week we highlight Educational Diagnostician's Week and National School Social Worker Week. Thank you for all you do and for making a difference here at Aldine ISD.

Next week is Spring Break, which marks the halfway point of our spring semester. When we return, the countdown will begin toward the end of the school year. I look forward

to spending time with my family, reading, traveling, and squeezing in some rest. I encourage you to take the time to recharge so that you come back ready to make an #AldineImpact for the final stretch of the semester.

We might be off next week, but we will come back ready with several opportunities for our families and students.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Aldine. Your contributions are invaluable, and we are grateful for your commitment to our district. Let's keep the momentum going and continue making an #AldineImpact! May everyone have a fun, safe, and restful spring break.

With Aldine Pride!
Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendent of Schools
Aldine ISD

District Names 2025 Principals of the Year



In surprise visits on February 27, Dr. Jericah Jackson and Kathleen Scott each found out they had been named the Secondary and Elementary Principals of the Year, respectively.

Secondary Principal of the Year — Dr. Jericah Jackson of Young Women's Leadership Academy

Dr. Jericah Jackson was named principal of the Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy in 2020 and has served as its first principal since their doors opened in 2021.

Her career in education began as a middle school teacher in 2011, where she led math and science classrooms. In 2015, she moved to Aldine ISD to become assistant principal at Aldine Middle School and assistant principal of curriculum and instruction at Shotwell Academy.

Dr. Jackson holds a doctorate in education from Texas A&M University-Commerce, a master's degree in education from Sam Houston State University, and a bachelor of science degree from Baylor University.

"Beyond academics, I cultivate a school culture that supports the whole child, prioritizing their social and emotional well-being and empowering them to become confident and resilient leaders."

Elementary Principal of the Year — Kathleen Scott of Bussey Elementary School

Kathleen Scott was named principal of Bussey Elementary in 2015.

She began her career in Aldine as an elementary school teacher at Orange Grove Elementary. From there, she moved up to become assistant principal at Harris Academy and then Odom Elementary, before becoming Odom's principal. She transitioned to become principal of Marcella Intermediate for several years before settling into her current role.

Scott holds a bachelor of science in education from the University of South Dakota and a master's degree in administration management from Stephen F. Austin State University.

"By developing leadership and creating a variety of programs and opportunities for families and the community to engage, we've built a strong and supportive environment at Bussey. These efforts have contributed to the academic growth of all of our students and a thriving school community where everyone — students, parents, and staff — feels empowered and involved in the educational journey."

ALDINE
Independent School District

CHOICE SCHOOLS

Still need help with the Choice School Application?


Come to the closest support site to get personalized help!

19 MARCH
4:00-6:30 PM

Choose the site that works best for you:

Blanson CTE HS 311 West Road Houston, TX 77038	Carver HS 2100 South Victory St. Houston, TX 77088
Davis 9th Grade School 12211 Ella Blvd. Houston, TX 77067	Hill Success Academy 15014 Aldine Westfield Rd. Houston, TX 77032
HEAL at Nimitz 3550 West Gulf Bank Rd. Houston, TX 77088	

Next Lottery: March 26, 2025
AldineISD.org/Choice



Aldine ISD and University of Houston Downtown Showcase Student Illustrators



On Thursday, Feb. 6, Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department and the University of Houston Downtown (UHD) partnered to host an Illustrators Showcase at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center to highlight the Aldine students who contributed illustrations to the ongoing Bilingual E-Library joint project.

The Bilingual E-Library is a joint project between Aldine ISD and the University of Houston Downtown. It began in November 2023 and has been ongoing since then. The project aims to bolster the performance of emerging bilingual (EB) students and immerse families in the world of literacy. For its latest addition, Aldine students were invited to create illustrations to accompany stories other AISD students created.

For the showcase, the evening started with a panel discussion featuring several student illustrators and moderators from both Aldine and UHD.

"The best part of the project was that we all did it together," said student illustrator Bishop Whitehead. "It felt really good to know we were working on something bigger than us. We all put in a lot of work, and it was hard to finish all the drawings on time, but we had each other, which helped us get it done."

The students were selected from multiple campuses, including Impact Leadership Academy, which illustrated 15 stories; Garcia Middle School, which had 10 stories; and MacArthur Ninth Grade School, which had 12 stories.

The moderators also highlighted several teachers during the panel. They helped guide the students through various illustration techniques and translated their ideas into working illustrations on the page. The teachers included Toby McCreaw from Impact Leadership Academy, Melinda Howard from Garcia Middle School, and Josue Guerra from MacArthur Ninth Grade School.

After the panel discussions, the moderators led the guests and students to a separate area. All the illustrations were proudly displayed across various tables, closing the evening. The guests were free to walk around and admire the illustrations while also being offered snacks and refreshments.

Aldine ISD Student Emily Lucio Receives HCDE Incentive Art Award



A Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Gold Key & HCDE Incentive Art Award Recipient

Emily Lucio
Mi Abuelo Goyo
Aldine High School

ALDINE
Independent School District

Her selection for the HCDE award comes from a competitive pool of over 7,800 art submissions.

Aldine ISD student Emily Lucio from Aldine High School has been awarded the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) Board of Trustees Incentive Art Award for her black-and-white photograph, Mi Abuelo Goyo.

Lucio's piece, which previously earned second place at the Mexican American School Boards Association (MASBA) competition, was also recognized with a prestigious Gold Key in the 2025 Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Her selection for the HCDE award comes from a competitive pool of over 7,800 art submissions.

In addition to receiving a \$500 cash award, Lucio's artwork will be displayed at HCDE's Administration Building following the Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Celebration. The event is set for March 27, 2025, at the Cullen Theater in the Wortham Center in Houston (500 Texas Avenue • Houston, TX 77002).

The purchase of Mi Abuelo Goyo does not impact Lucio's eligibility for national recognition in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

Visit HCDE's website for more information about the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and HCDE's arts initiatives.

OPINION PAGE

REMEMBERING SYLVESTER TURNER

By JUDGE JOE STEPHENS



Judge Joe Stephens on Sylvester Turner

I just had dinner with Sylvester this past January. He was more than a friend and mentor he was a tireless advocate for the people, a true servant leader who never wavered in his commitment to Houston.

From his days as a State Representative to his transformative leadership as Mayor and, most recently, as a Congressman, Sylvester embodied what it meant to be a public servant. His wisdom was a gift to those willing to listen, and his presence was a force in any room.

I remember his energy, his joy he wasn't just about business and politics. He knew how to celebrate life. He danced all night at my wife's 42nd birthday party, just as he fought tirelessly for the people of Houston.

I had the privilege of doing business with his title company downtown, and even then, you could see his leadership, his vision, his determination. We always knew he was destined to lead our great city, and when that time came, he rose to the challenge with grace, resilience, and an unshakable belief in the people he served.

Sylvester Turner's legacy will live on in the city he loved, in the lives he touched, and in the countless lessons he imparted. His community-minded, selfless approach to leadership is something that many politicians present and future should aspire to.

We have lost a leader, a mentor, and a friend. But we will never lose the lessons he taught us, the example he set, or the love he had for Houston. Rest in power, Sylvester you will be missed, but your spirit will remain with us always.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Voucher Bill Has Backing of House Majority

A slim majority of Texas House members have indicated they will back House Bill 3, which creates education savings accounts that allow families to use taxpayer money for private school education.

"For the first time in our great state's history, the Texas House has the votes to pass a universal school choice program," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement.

The Texas Senate has already passed a voucher bill, though it contains different provisions. The two measures will have to be reconciled before a bill reaches Abbott's desk.

The House bill has more stringent requirements based on income and whether a child has a disability. Both bills carry a \$1 billion price tag.

House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, said his chamber welcomed public input.

"We want to continue to make the bill better and improve it," he said. "If there's room for improvement or to make the bill better, that's part of the process."

FIRST MEASLES FATALITY RECORDED IN WEST TEXAS AS CASES RISE

A measles outbreak in West Texas has resulted in the death of a school-aged child, and 146 cases have been identified as of Friday, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

An additional case was reported in an adult living in Rockwall County, in North Texas. An adult male tested positive after traveling out of the country. State officials say he was not vaccinated.

Dr. Peter Hotez, co-director of the Center for Vaccine Development at Texas Children's Hospital, told the Houston Chronicle also believes the outbreak, the state's largest in 30 years, will continue to increase because of a growing number of children who are not being vaccinated.

"I think these numbers will



continue to accelerate for a while," Hotez said. "So this is going to be a very large, very dangerous measles epidemic."

SENATE VOTES TO BAN LOTTERY BROKERS

The state Senate voted unanimously last week to outlaw third-party brokers who buy mass numbers of Texas lottery tickets online, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Abbott last week ordered the Texas Rangers to investigate that incident and another last week in which a player won \$83.5 million with tickets purchased through an online courier company, the Chronicle reported.

"Texans must be able to trust in our state's lottery system and know that the lottery is conducted with integrity and lawfully," Abbott said in a statement.

Lottery Commissioner Clark Smith, appointed by Abbott in 2023, resigned abruptly last week.

WILDFIRE RISK GROWING IN WESTERN HALF OF STATE

State officials are gearing up for an increased wildfire danger across the western half of Texas, including the Panhandle, South Plains, Permian Basin, and parts of the Hill Country.

"It's important for Texans to prepare for wildfires, work to prevent them and heed warnings of local officials" Jared Karns, forest service fire chief, said.

Texas comptroller's office recently released a report concluding that Texas communities face elevated wildfire threats as subdivisions spread into previously undeveloped areas with easy-to-ignite vegetation.

Last year, the Smokehouse Creek Fire near Canadian burned more than 1 million acres, the largest wildfire in state history.

As of Sunday, 100 Texas counties had burn bans in place.

'FLOODGATE' OF UNCERTIFIED TEACHERS CAUSING CONCERN

More than half of new teachers hired last year lacked state certification, according to The News, and Education Commissioner Mike Morath expressed concern at a recent House committee hearing.

"We are setting these folks up for a very rough ride," Education Commissioner Mike Morath told lawmakers during a recent House committee hearing.

The Legislature a decade ago loosened hiring requirements for school districts to hire teachers because of a shortage of certified applicants. "We need to take responsibility for some of that because we've made it easier to get into a classroom without certification," state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, told her colleagues.

The Texas Education Agency reports that schools with higher shares of uncertified teachers have worse outcomes on annual standardized tests. Legislation has been proposed to rein in the system that allows districts to hire uncertified teachers.

GROWING NUMBER OF LEAKING OIL WELLS CAUSING CONCERN

State regulators are struggling with a growing number of leaking oil wells that threaten to contaminate aquifers, according to an investigative report in the Chronicle. The latest known leak is from an orphaned well in Pecos County, from which black, salty water is flowing along the sandy surface.

"The number one concern is groundwater contamination," Schuyler Wight, a neighboring rancher, said. "Also, this well is adjacent to the Imperial Reservoir, which impacts downstream."

The Texas Railroad Commission plans to send a rig to plug the Pecos well. It has requested \$100 million in new funding from the Legislature to address the issue.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

What Peter Does



"What is the cat doing?" I asked my husband, Peter. "He's levitating," Peter said. Or at least I thought that's what he said.

"The cat is levitating?" "Meditating!" "Oh." We have a lot of conversations like this, and I suspect Peter and I are not alone.

Peter and I will celebrate our 10th anniversary this week, which doesn't seem possible for two reasons. First, because it cannot be possible that 10 years have passed since we got married, and second, because it cannot be possible there was ever a time I was not married to Peter.

In the past 10 years, I have learned that if the cat was to suddenly start to levitate, Peter would not fly off the handle. He would do some quick research and determine how frequent cat levitation was and if there was cause for concern.

I'd still be watching Felix floating 3 feet off the nightstand and Peter would already have a plan of action in place—in case we should need to fetch the cat off the ceiling or retrieve him as he started to float out the window. Peter would know what to do. This is what Peter does. It is not the only reason I love Peter, but it is one of the reasons.

It's called "learned helplessness," when the patient forgets how to make her own coffee (or buy it, for that matter), and everything required for her meal shows up, like magic, in the cupboard. That would be me. Peter occasionally expresses frustration if we run out of something, because he has a secret inventory system that I am entirely oblivious to. If I start eating an inordinate amount of tuna or honey or potatoes, we will suddenly run low—and Peter does not allow us to run low on anything.

Peter plans our travel. Peter pays the bills. Peter knows how I am feeling before I do—which is handy because then I can just ask him.

"Why do I feel this way?" I'll ask. "You've felt this way before," he'll remind me. "It will pass." And he is always right.

Peter does all these things because he cares for me. After 10 years, I know what Peter does and, because he does these things every day without saying a word, I could easily take what he does for granted.

But I don't. Because we were not young when we married 10 years ago, and even then, I knew that coffee does not appear by magic and the bathroom is not automatically filled with toilet paper. I knew that problems have to be solved, that life would serve up an increasing number of problems as we aged, and that having someone beside me to help solve those problems was a precious gift.

Peter often reminds me that we don't know if we will be given another day together or another 30 years. "But either way," he says, "it will be too short." And he is right.

But as long as we are together, I know Peter will be there to help figure out whatever comes our way. And so, no, I was not overly worried about the cat levitating yesterday. It would certainly be unusual, but it would be nothing that Peter could not handle.

Till next time, Carrie

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East Aldine's REACH committee Springs into Wellness



East Aldine District
Thanks to Monica Campos, Rodio Witte, and Veronica Sanches.

We are proud to support & partner with Texas Children's Health Plan *Spring into Wellness* at the East Aldine District Town Center! We love bringing these type of events that promote health & wellness into the community. #REACH

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Aldine HS youth fatally shot in dispute with other teens; gunfire at McDonalds drive-thru on West Road

A 17-year-old was shot, and killed after a brawl in McDonald's parking lot near Aldine HS last Thursday.

The body of a 17-year-old boy was found in the parking lot of a McDonald's in the Aldine area after a shooting that stemmed from a fight between a group of teens on foot and another group inside of a pickup truck. Thursday night, three persons of interest have been detained for questioning.

The shooting was reported at around 3:10 p.m. last Thursday afternoon near the McDonald's at 185 West Road and I-45.

A short time later, Houston Police Department officials confirmed that the victim, identified as a 17-year-old boy, was killed.

The McDonald's is located across the street from Aldine High School, and Aldine ISD Police Department is assisting with the investigation.

HPD reports that a group of teens left the high school after dismissal and walked to the nearby McDonald's parking lot. There, they approached a red Dodge half-ton pickup truck in the drive-thru line. Someone inside the truck fired a gun, hitting the 17-year-old boy, who died at the scene. The truck then fled the area.

A fight between the two groups of teens started yesterday at an AHS soccer game. One of the teens from one group reportedly flashed a gun to intimidate the conflicting group. The dispute continued when the groups

recognized each other at the McDonald's.

Police are actively searching for the shooter and believe there were at least two people in the truck. They have surveillance footage and a good view of the license plate, aiding their investigation.

According to HPD officials, three persons of interest have been detained. They were reportedly apprehended near the intersection of Tidwell Road and N Wayside Drive.

The district provided the following statement: Aldine ISD has become aware of a shooting that took place off campus after school. During this incident, an Aldine student was fatally injured. The safety and security of Aldine ISD's students and staff will always be our top priority. As such, an investigation is underway.

--KPRC

From Explorers to Firefighters: A Testament to Dedication and Training at Westfield FD



From Explorers to Firefighters: A Testament to Dedication and Training

Westfield is proud to congratulate six of our own as they graduate from the Houston Fire Academy and officially join the ranks as probationary firefighters! Among them are two part-time members and four original Westfield Fire Explorers who began their journey with us, learning the fundamentals of the fire service, growing as volunteers, and now stepping into full-time careers with Houston Fire.

Their achievement is a direct testament to the impact of the Westfield Fire Explorer Program, which provides young men and women with hands-on experience, mentorship, and the foundation needed to succeed in the fire service. These gentlemen have worked tirelessly, proving that hard work, perseverance, and passion for the job pay off.

We couldn't be prouder to see them take this next step, and we know they'll continue to serve with honor and dedication. Congratulations, gentlemen—stay safe and make us proud!

This is Westfield Fire.
The Pride of the Northside.

LETTERS To The Editor

Priority should be Flood Mitigation, not murals, obelisks, and neon lights on Gateways

East Aldine's Flooded Streets - Less than an hour of hard rain and now my daughter Denise Castillo Rath can't make it home from work because the streets in our neighborhood are flooded. My friend Lucy Alvarez Hernandez barely made it home from Castlewood subdivision to Fairgreen 2, and that's only because she drives a truck. We first need to spend our tax dollars on flood mitigation, not murals, obelisks, and neon lights. Just saying . . .

--Marina Flores Sugg

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Talk with journalists about the state of Aldine ISD
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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Jeroboam (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 1 Kings 20, when Ben-hadad gathered all his forces together, how many kings were with him? 0, 2, 11, 32
3. According to John 18, what priest was the first to examine the arrested Jesus? Annas, Haggai, Abiathar, Eliashib


4. From Revelation 21, how many angels will be at the gates of the New Jerusalem? 7, 9, 12, 15
5. In Jeremiah 8:7, what in the sky knows her appointed times? Raven, Stork, Dove, Eagle
6. From Acts 2, about how many thousand were baptized on the day of Pentecost? 1, 3, 5, 7

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 32, 3) Annas, 4) 12, 5) Stork, 6) 3
 "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE


Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

GENESIS 2:19



Detail of "Katzen (Cats)" by Karl Schmidt-Roluff (1919)

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From Left, Milie Bobby Brown, Chris Pratt and Ke Huy Quan star in 'The Electric State.'

'The Electric State'

'The Electric State' (PG-13) — Based on the illustrated novel by Simon Stalenhag, this sci-fi adventure film from the Russo Brothers...

has become a serious dramatic television actress, even earning herself an Emmy for her work in 'The Dropout.' Her latest role in a new limited series based on the book by Liz Moore only adds to her growing repertoire...

'Long Bright River' (TV-MA) — In recent years, Amanda Seyfried ('The Crowded Room')

'Dope Thief' (TV-MA) — Ridley Scott ('Gladiator II') is an executive producer behind this new crime-drama series premiering March 14.

Starring Academy Award nominee Brian Tyree Henry ('Causeway') and Golden Globe nominee Wagner Moura ('Narcos'), this eight-episode series also takes place in Philadelphia and centers around two friends who have a charade of posing as DEA agents...

'Rumours' (R) — This eccentric comedy-horror film led by Cate Blanchett ('Disclaimer') flew completely under the radar after its release in May 2024, with nothing but its campiness to thank for that! The film interweaves two distinct tones, one with the feel of a modern comedy and the other with the vibe of a 1970s thriller...

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Q: How old is Goldie Hawn? She looked wonderful presenting at the Oscars. Is she still acting? — M.E.

A: Beloved movie star and Oscar winner herself for 'Cactus Flower,' Goldie Hawn will turn 80 years old this November! Her last two on-screen roles were as Mrs. Claus in 'The Christmas Chronicles' and its sequel in 2020, with her real-life longtime partner Kurt Russell as Santa.

There was a report of a planned sequel to the movie titled 'Family Jewels.' However, according to an article in People magazine in 2020, Midler had given up on the idea of it ever coming to fruition.

Q: I recently watched 'Buried in Barstow' for the second time. Based on the ending, it feels like there should be continuing episodes. Does Angie Harmon have any plans to reprise this role? I loved watching her in 'Law & Order' and especially in 'Rizzoli & Isles.' — D.S.

A: 'Buried in Barstow' was a Lifetime TV movie from 2022 starring Angie Harmon as a former assassin who tries to escape her past while running a small diner as a single mom. It ended on a cliffhanger, which seemed to indicate that there would surely be a follow-up in the form of another movie or even a TV series.



Goldie Hawn starred in 'The First Wives Club' (1996).

Unfortunately, the Hollywood trade union strikes that took place since 'Buried in Barstow' first aired have likely stalled any progress on a future installment.

Q: Is Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, going to appear on the new 'Suits' spin-off by any chance, or is she done with acting? — K.L.

A: It's very doubtful. Although she lives in the United States now with husband Prince Harry, Meghan retired from acting upon marrying him.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU puzzle grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. Includes a 'Trivium Test Answers' section at the bottom.

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle instructions: Find at least six differences in details between panels. Includes a grid of differences.

March 10, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues. Includes a 'Trivium Test' section with 10 trivia questions.

Trivium Test section with 10 trivia questions and answers. Includes a 'King Crossword' section with a grid and clues.



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Lone Star College offers Academic programs for all ages



Lone Star College Academy for Lifelong Learning will host several Open House events for current and prospective members. Visit LoneStar.edu/ALL for more information.

HOUSTON – Michelle Matlage looked forward to retirement after teaching elementary school for 33 years, but she did not have a plan. A chance meeting led her to the Lone Star College Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL) program.

“I began wondering how to start my next chapter when I met a friendly lady at Discount Tire who told me about Lone Star College’s ALL program,” said Matlage, LSC-Tomball ALL member. “I was so excited, surprised and thankful to God for the opportunity to learn about this program. I enrolled in 2023 and I’m enjoying every minute of it.”

The LSC ALL program offers classes for retired, semi-retired and working adults aged 50 and older. Members can access over 100 courses to help them learn and grow, boosting their mental, physical and self-esteem.

“As an ALL member, I’ve found the classes incredibly beneficial and it has been such a pleasure to make new friends,” said Matlage. “I am learning from excellent and de-

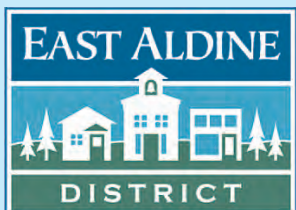
lightful experts in their fields and enjoying various discounts and access to field trips, libraries and fitness training centers.”

Senior Lifestyle reports that 82% of seniors want to continue their education because they enjoy learning, while 75% do it for personal fulfillment.

Visit LoneStar.edu/ALL for more information on LSC ALL Open Houses and the fall 2024 class schedule.

“The Academy for Lifelong Learning program offers an incredible selection of lectures and social activities that capture our members’ attention, providing continued intellectual and personal growth,” said Connor O’Sullivan, LSC executive director, Continuing Education.

ALL members can explore various topics that enhance their lives, including community service projects, financial planning, gardening, health and wellness and technology. Annual membership (Sept. 1-Aug. 31) is \$25 for access to all programming.



East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

Shirley Portier-Reed: A Lifetime of Advocacy Community Empowerment



Shirley Portier-Reed has been a driving force in the East Aldine community for decades. A woman of deep compassion and unwavering determination, she has dedicated her life to improving neighborhoods, empowering families, and fostering civic engagement. She has tirelessly worked to support those in need, advocate for public services, and strengthen the bonds of her community.

Born in Manhattan, New York, to a father who emigrated from The Bahamas, Portier-Reed moved to East Aldine in the 1960s. At the time, the area was not always welcoming to Black families, and racial tensions made it a difficult environment. She and her late husband, a pastor, activist, and veteran of World War II and Korea, fought hard for racial equality and justice. Her advocacy was not just about breaking down barriers but about lifting people up. The same passion that fueled her fight for justice also drove her to help those in need, ensuring that her community — regardless of background — had access to support, resources, and kindness.

Portier-Reed’s grandmother, from an early age, instilled in her the value of helping others. She vividly remembers her grandmother preparing meals for those in need during segregation, regardless of their ethnicity or beliefs. These early lessons were the foundation of her lifelong commitment to service, reinforcing her belief that authentic leadership is rooted in compassion and generosity.

At nearly 90, Portier-Reed’s passion for service remains as strong as ever. Though she sometimes faces mobility issues, she continues her advocacy with the help of her great-granddaughter, Sydney, who teaches at MacArthur High School. She follows in her great-grandmother’s footsteps by working with parent volunteers and guiding students toward job and trade school opportunities.

A Champion for Community Empowerment

Portier-Reed became involved in civic engagement due to the gang violence in the area at the time. Once she moved to the area, she became the civic club president, working to maintain neighborhood pride by organizing events like National Night Out, implementing ‘Yard of the Month’ awards, and encouraging residents to care for their properties.



Coming from New York, she was

Shirley with granddaughter Sydney

accustomed to police presence in the community. In December 1996, she helped establish the first Community Sheriff Storefront in the area under Sheriff Tommy Thomas, where she held the lease for years. Under former State Representative Kevin Bailey and his aide Arlene Nichols and community stakeholder Clyde Bailey, she was introduced to management districts, ultimately leading to the establishment of the East Aldine Management District in the community, where they were housed in the Sheriff Storefront.

A Legacy of Leadership and Service

In 2003, Portier-Reed founded the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group of Aldine-Harris County, a nonprofit dedicated to assisting elderly caregivers who find themselves parenting again. She also helped kinship families and parents who had fallen on hard times. Additionally, she assisted children in the juvenile justice system. Portier-Reed organized family-strengthening conferences to support entire families regardless of their circumstances.

Her work with the local Sheriff’s Storefront led to initiatives like the Scared Straight program, aiming to keep young people out of trouble. She also helped organize community basketball games between students and teachers, fall festivals featuring student performances from schools like Escamilla Elementary School, and an annual Christmas toy giveaway and Thanksgiving giveaway at the Sheriff’s Storefront.

Recognition and Community Support

Portier-Reed acknowledges those who have supported her work, including former U.S. Representative Gene Green; State Representative Armando Walle; former State Representative Kevin Bailey and his aide Arlene Nichols; former Aldine ISD Superintendents Nadine Kujawa and Wanda Bamberg; the Aldine Optimist Club, Harris County Emergency Corps, the East Aldine Management District staff and board over the years; Abel Garza, Aldine ISD assistant superintendent; Clyde Bailey, former owner of JEDS Hardware; Gil Hoffman, publisher of the Northeast News local newspaper; State Representative Senfronia Thompson and her aide Herb Mitchell for their endless support for over 20 years.



Portier-Reed also extends her heartfelt thanks to Aldine ISD, whose partnership has been invaluable in advancing her community work. Through this collaboration, she has organized the Nadine Kujawa Senior Citizen Gala, an event honoring the district’s elders, showcasing the importance of recognizing those who have contributed to Aldine’s educational legacy.

Despite receiving numerous honors, including her recent recognition by the East Aldine Management District during Black History Month and having previously been awarded by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, Portier-Reed remains humble. “I was shocked,” she said. “History cannot be told appropriately. What I have done all these years has been between God and myself. My history is not Black or white or any color or creed — I have helped people of all different backgrounds. Everything I have done has come from the heart, not for awards or recognition. It is simply the right thing to do.”

“Her message to the community is one of love and service: ‘Love and care for one another. Love thy neighbor. Speak positively to the youth.’ She firmly believes that lasting change comes from individuals willing to step up and help, encouraging others to volunteer and never forget their elders. ‘Grandparents always help under the table,’ she chuckled.

Though she has stepped back from some leadership roles, Shirley Portier-Reed’s legacy of service continues to shape East Aldine. Her dedication, resilience, and generosity have left an indelible mark, reminding us all of the power of community-driven change and the profound impact one person can make.