

# ¡QUE ONDA!

## MAGAZINE

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SPECIAL EDITION

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**IQUE ONDA!**  
 MAGAZINE

## PARTNER TO INFORM THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

Houston's news leader, ABC13 Houston, and Que Onda Magazine have formed a strategic partnership to better inform and engage with the Hispanic community in the Houston area. This collaboration aims to leverage the strengths of both organizations to provide comprehensive coverage, resources, and events tailored to the diverse Hispanic population.

ABC13, Houston's leading news channel, brings its extensive journalistic experience and broad viewership to the partnership. With a deep understanding of the local community, ABC13 has been a trusted source of news and information for Houstonians for decades.

Que Onda Magazine, the oldest and largest leading Hispanic publication in Houston, offers a wealth of cultural expertise and a strong connection with the Hispanic community. For over 30 years, the magazine has been a vital resource for celebrating Hispanic heritage, promoting local businesses, and highlighting important events and issues.

By joining forces, ABC13 and Que Onda Magazine can leverage their respective strengths to provide comprehensive and culturally relevant coverage of news, events, and community initiatives that impact the Hispanic population in Houston.

One of the key objectives of this partnership is to raise awareness and promote a deeper understanding of the rich Hispanic culture within the broader Houston community. ABC13 and Que Onda Magazine will collaborate on special segments, features, and events that showcase the vibrant traditions, businesses, and achievements of the Hispanic community.

This increased representation and visibility will not only empower and celebrate the Hispanic communi-

ty but also foster greater cultural appreciation and inclusivity among all Houstonians.

In addition to our media platforms, ABC13 and Que Onda Magazine plan to jointly organize and promote various community events and celebrations. These events will serve as platforms for bringing people together, fostering connections, and celebrating the diversity of the Hispanic community.

As trusted sources of information, both ABC13 and Que Onda Magazine are committed to providing accurate, unbiased, and inclusive reporting on issues that matter to the Hispanic community. By combining their resources and expertise, they can ensure that important stories and perspectives are not overlooked or misrepresented.

ABC13 has been Houston's top TV news channel for many years, and as the top Hispanic publication in Houston, this partnership is a natural fit. This collaboration aims to provide comprehensive coverage and resources that highlight the contributions and achievements of the Hispanic community in Houston.

"As we have recently celebrated our 30 years of business, we are excited about this new era for Que Onda Magazine and partnering with ABC13. This partnership will enable us to reach a broader audience and ensure that the stories and voices of the Hispanic community are heard and appreciated. Together, we will work to bring valuable information, cultural insights, and community support to all Houstonians."

Sincerely,

**President and Head Publisher,**  
**Gabriel Esparza**

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Escrita y dirigida por Adelina Martinez  
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## AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA PARA LOS CAMBIOS DE SERVICIO PROPUESTOS

Autoridad Metropolitana de Tránsito del Condado de Harris, Texas (METRO)

Se notifica que la Autoridad Metropolitana de Tránsito del Condado de Harris, Texas (METRO), llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el **miércoles 5 de junio de 2024**, a las **12:00 del mediodía** para recibir comentarios del público sobre los cambios propuestos al servicio de METRO para septiembre de 2024. El público está invitado a asistir a la audiencia y proporcionar comentarios en persona.

El público también puede participar en la audiencia y hacer comentarios virtualmente en Zoom en <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84076507984> o llamando: **346-248-7799** o **1-888-475-4499** (llamadas gratuitas), ID de la reunión: **840 7650 7984**. Además, si no quiere hacer comentarios durante la audiencia pública, visite [RideMETRO.org/LiveStream](https://RideMETRO.org/LiveStream) para ver una transmisión en vivo del evento. También se archivarán una grabación de vídeo de la reunión en el sitio web de METRO en [RideMETRO.org/Stream](https://RideMETRO.org/Stream) para su revisión.

Los cambios de servicio propuestos pueden incluir: Cambios de ruta y actualización de frecuencias en la ruta de autobús 32 Renwick / San Felipe, cambios de horario en las rutas de los autobuses 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 25, 27, 40, 44, 48, 54, 65, 66, 76, 79, 80, 84, 85, 87, 153, 160, 162, 309, 310, 344, los corredores Park & Ride que sirven al Centro de la Ciudad / Texas Medical Center y la Línea Verde de METRO Rail; y la discontinuación de la 71 Cottage Grove. METRO continuará haciendo ajustes temporales de servicio en respuesta a los cambios en la cantidad de pasajeros y la disponibilidad de mano de obra.

Las copias de los mapas de las rutas propuestas y los horarios estarán disponibles a partir del **miércoles 29 de mayo de 2024**, para la revisión pública en línea y en el lobby de la RideStore de METRO, ubicada en el Lee P. Brown METRO Administration Building en 1900 Main Street, Houston, Texas, 77002, de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m., en días laborales.

La audiencia pública se realizará el **miércoles 5 de junio de 2024**, a las **12:00 del mediodía**, en la Sala de Juntas del 2º piso en 1900 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002 (atendido por las rutas de autobús 6, 11, 32, 44, 51, 52, 54, 82, 85, 102, 137, 160, 161, 162 y METRO Rail).

### CÓMO COMENTAR SOBRE LOS CAMBIOS EN EL SERVICIO

Si quiere hacer comentarios públicos en persona o de manera virtual, **regístrese como orador público en la Oficina de la Junta de METRO al menos 48 horas antes de la audiencia. Llame al 713-739-4834 o envíe un correo electrónico a [BoardOffice@RideMETRO.org](mailto:BoardOffice@RideMETRO.org) e indique su nombre, dirección y número de teléfono.** Como se explicó anteriormente, puede asistir a la audiencia pública en persona o virtualmente el **miércoles 5 de junio de 2024**, para proporcionar comentarios. Si se inscribe previamente, sus comentarios se escucharán primero en la audiencia pública. Se llamará su nombre en el momento apropiado para que pueda hacer sus comentarios.

También puede proporcionar comentarios:

- Escribiendo a METRO, ATTN: September 2024 Service Changes, 1900 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002
- Enviando un fax con sus comentarios con la línea de asunto de referencia: "September 2024 Service Changes" al 713-652-7956
- Llamando o enviando un mensaje de texto al Servicio de Atención al Cliente de METRO al 713-635-4000
- Enviando sus comentarios en el sitio web de METRO en [RideMETRO.org](https://RideMETRO.org)

**Todos los comentarios deben enviarse a METRO antes de las 12:00 del mediodía del miércoles 5 de junio de 2024.**

### AYUDA PARA LAS PERSONAS CON DISCAPACIDADES

Para las personas con discapacidades, se pueden proporcionar servicios de asistencia o copias de documentos públicos en un formato alternativo. Las personas con discapacidades pueden llamar al **713-750-4271** al menos cinco (5) días laborables antes de la audiencia pública.

### ASISTENCIA LINGÜÍSTICA

A petición, METRO proporciona asistencia de idiomas gratuita para ayudar a los clientes que tienen una capacidad limitada para leer, escribir, hablar o entender el idioma inglés, de acuerdo con su plan de asistencia lingüística. Llame al **713-739-4018** o envíe un correo electrónico a [METROPublicAffairs@RideMETRO.org](mailto:METROPublicAffairs@RideMETRO.org) para solicitar asistencia de idiomas u otras adaptaciones al menos 48 horas antes de la audiencia.

### OTRA INFORMACIÓN

1. Esta audiencia pública se ajusta a los requisitos descritos en la Circular 9030.1E de la Administración Federal de Tránsito, publicada el 16 de enero de 2014, página VI-7.
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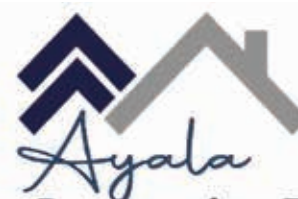
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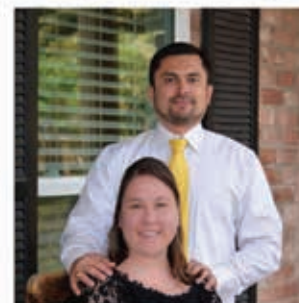
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## MAYOR WHITMIRE ANNOUNCES PROPOSED CITY OF HOUSTON FY '25 BUDGET

percent for police and increases associated with the draft Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for fire.

The mayor's proposed budget takes a business-like approach to prioritizing critical services for Houstonians while making bold choices to confront the City of Houston's needs, resources, and challenges.

"While we are looking for efficiencies and cost savings, we cannot discount the fact that we are under strict limitations on our revenues," said Mayor Whitmire. "I recognize and highlight three revenue constraints Houston confronts that do not exist in other large cities in Texas: 1.) a locally imposed revenue cap on top of the state cap, 2.) no dedicated revenues to support solid waste operations, and 3.) no support

from a city-owned utility."

Despite the financial challenges confronting the City of Houston in FY '25, Mayor Whitmire said he remains encouraged regarding our outlook.

"Houston is a great city with a bright future. We will seek to partner in new ways with other levels of government, adjust how we deliver services and the costs required to do so, and discuss reasonable potential modifications to our revenue model," said the mayor.

Proposing no new taxes or fees, Mayor John Whitmire outlined his FY '25 City of Houston budget today, highlighting operational efficiencies and addressing years of the city's financial deficits inherited by his administration.

During a news conference attended by several city council members and city department directors, the mayor said his proposal builds toward a sustainable FY'26 and beyond, along with implementing city-wide efficiencies and cost savings review. It also strengthens collaboration with other levels of government and addresses public safety staffing needs with five cadet classes for the Houston Fire and Houston Police departments.

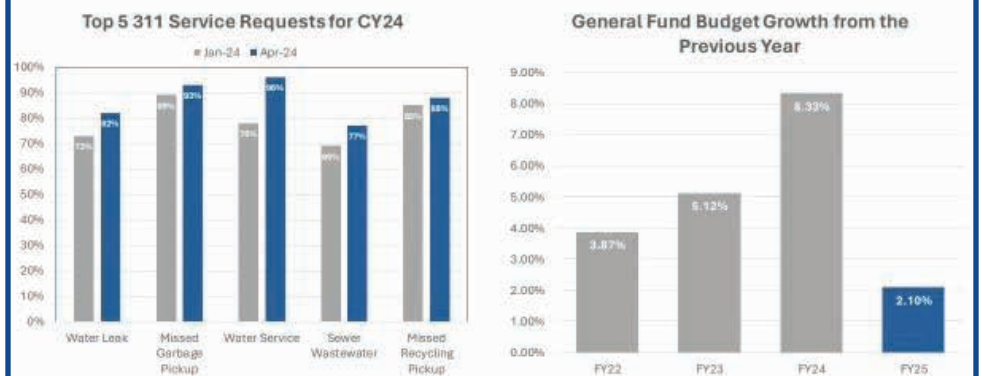
"I have only been mayor for five months, and I inherited a mess, which at the time was a projected budget gap of \$160 million heading into FY'25," said Mayor Whitmire. "The Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Budget is my first budget, and a large financial challenge is ahead. While we were able to close the budgetary gap using a combination of recurring expenditure reductions and a draw on fund balance, we know there is much more work to do ahead of us."

The proposed budget for all funds totals \$6.73 billion, an increase of \$442 million, or 7 percent, compared to the current FY2024 budget of \$6.29 billion.

The FY2025 Proposed General Fund budget of \$3.03 billion reflects an increase in spending of \$62.3 million or 2.1 percent from the FY2024 Current Budget of \$2.97 billion. This increase is primarily attributable to pay increases of 3.5

### FY25 – Improve Performance and Limit Spending

- No property tax increase
- Slowest budget increase in the last 4 years
- 5 HPD and 5 HFD cadet classes



Photos: houstontx.gov

## ‘WHAT THE COMMUNITY NEEDS THE MOST IS FOOD’: SPRING BRANCH RESIDENTS VOICE THEIR STRUGGLES FOLLOWING FATAL AND DESTRUCTIVE STORM

By Indira Zaldivar  
& Edward Saenz

The Spring Branch, Lazybrook, and Timbergrove communities in Harris County Precinct 4 were particularly hard hit by Thursday's fatal and devastating storm. As of the morning of May 20, Spring Branch residents have struggled without power for four days and counting.

Harris County Commissioner Lesley Briones who was on site to open a food, water, and ice distribution center at the Spring Branch Boys & Girls Club on May 20 said that 8,000 people were without power, and of those at least 900 of those were children under the age of 5.

Local officials reported at least 50 apartment units left “completely unlivable” in the east Spring Branch area.

“We will keep working until every single person has power and until all the debris is picked up,” Briones told Que Onda Magazine.

Que Onda Magazine spoke with some of the residents affected during the opening day of the distribution center.

“Our Spring Branch community was immensely affected; many apartments have no roofs, many walls were destroyed,” said Spring Branch resident Nicole Cruz.

“There are still many trees in my area that block the streets, making them impassable because of a storm of that magnitude.”

Having to throw away all the spoiled food in the fridge as her household was without power for three days following the storm, Cruz hopes local officials continue to provide food for affected residents facing food insecurity following the destructive storm.

“What the community needs the most is food because all the spoiled food was thrown to the trash,” Cruz said in Spanish. “Those of us who don't qualify for food stamps or other services, we don't have that support.”

Spring Branch resident Judy Diaz who has been without power since Thursday voiced her struggles without power.

“All of our food has gone bad.”

The Diaz household has one generator cooling down one room which is incurring them to “run out of money.”

“We just came over to get some ice and water. You run out of money in situations like this having to buy gas for generators twice or three times a day. It's hard but we've been through something like this before but we're trying to get through it.”

Despite having to deal with their own storm debris such as their fallen fence and branches, Diaz and her husband said they are helping their neighbors.

“Neighbors helping neighbors, that's the way it's got to be.”

The commissioner also gave instructions for residents facing struggles

- Call 3-1-1 for all non-emergency needs or Harris County Precinct 4: 832-927-4444
- Remain vigilant when you're driving as many traffic lights are still out.
- For trauma and mental health support call the Harris Center for Mental Health line: 713-970-7000.



**R**ita Garcia is here, Houston!! She is the newest weekday morning anchor on ABC13.

Rita is no stranger to Houston, as she was previously a weekday morning anchor in the market. Prior to joining the ABC family, Rita worked as a morning anchor in Los Angeles on Good Day LA (KTTV - FOX 11).

Rita was born in Austin, Texas. She picked up a microphone at a very young age when her parents gave her a tape recorder with a mic to read her stories aloud. She would constantly practice and record herself and, as they say, the rest is history.

Rita began her television career in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas at ABC (KRG - Ch 5) where she was Cameron County bureau chief. She reported on a number of international border stories. She's also a proud alumna of Texas State University in San Marcos.

Some of her most memorable coverage includes the Notre Dame Cathedral fire in Paris, the 2009 and 2011 NBA Finals, the death of Kobe Bryant, the Woolsey Fire in California, the Oscars and Emmy red carpet events; Super Bowl 51, Hurricane Harvey, the 2017 and 2018 World Series, and the death of Michael Jackson.

Rita was featured in the Los Angeles Times for having been the first morning news anchor in LA to broadcast an entire live morning newscast from home during the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic.

She has also been invited to guest host on Rachael Ray and feature one of her favorite recipes! In her free time, Rita enjoys spending time with her husband and family, as well as her rescue dog, Rocky. She also loves to travel.



**ALEX**  
**BOZARJIAN**  
Reporter

**A**ward-winning journalist Daniela Hurtado joined the ABC13 Eyewitness News team in March of 2022. Before ABC13 she reported in Florida at ABC7-WWSB, where she spearheaded coverage on stories that garnered national attention like the Brian Laundrie/Gabby Petitio case, the unemployment crisis and the environmental concerns at Piney Point.

Before her time in Sarasota she worked for two and a half years in Bismarck North Dakota at KFYZ-TV as a crime, courts, and investigative reporter. While there, Hurtado won a regional investigative award for an investigation on illegal gun trade among other awards for her reporting on voting rights of Native Americans and the surge in drugs across North Dakota.

Her journey began at the University of Florida (GO GATORS!!) where she acquired her journalism degree with a focus on political science. During her time there she also won several investigative and spot news awards for her reporting in North Central Florida at WUFT-TV.

Daniela was born in Venezuela in a town called Barquisimeto. Her family immigrated to Miami, Florida, when she was five years old and that's where she grew up. English is her second language and she is proud to be fully bilingual. Daniela knew she wanted to be a journalist at a young age and is passionate about telling the stories of people in her community and holding the powerful accountable.

During her time outside of work, Daniela is a true crime junkie. She loves listening to podcasts and watching cold case documentaries. She loves meeting new people and you can find her on her days off adventuring around town with her female golden retriever Charli. If it's the fall, she's glued to the TV watching SEC football!!

Daniela is excited to be a part of the ABC13 team and to tell YOUR stories, get you answers and be a megaphone for the voiceless across the Houston community.

Have a story? Let's chat, amigos!! Email Daniela.C.Hurtado@abc.com

You can also find her on social media at Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



**DANIELA  
HURTADO**  
Reporter

**E**lissa Rivas was born and raised in Dallas, but after living and working throughout the Southwest, she is happy to make Houston her home.

She attended college at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, majoring in Political Science and Communications. Elissa took her first job in television news as a reporter and anchor in Yuma, Arizona. Still, her heart longed for Texas so she returned to the Lone Star State to live and work in El Paso. There she covered the intense impact of the 9-11 attacks on immigration and border traffic.

Elissa has been recognized for her work by receiving the regional and national RTNDA Edward R. Murrow Award for her continuing coverage of a child abduction and murder in El Paso. Through her work documenting teenage alcohol and substance abuse, she earned a National Communicator Award of Distinction and a first place award in Serious Feature reporting from the Texas Associated Press.

Now in Houston, you can find her reporting on Houston traffic in the evening newscasts. She loves to hear from viewers about the stories she covers and with new ideas for stories.

Elissa's parents impressed upon her the importance of education, and that's why she's proud to be involved with the Adult Reading Center of Pearland. She emceeds the organization's Red Hat Literacy Luncheon each year, and to honor her commitment, the Adult Reading Center started a scholarship in her name, "The Elissa Rivas Scholarship Fund." The scholarships honor the courage and drive of their clients who've learned to read as adults, and fund their continued education -- GED, community college, and beyond."

Elissa and her husband spend much of their free time trying to keep up with their little girl. Elissa's enjoying the challenge of working as a full-time journalist AND a full-time mom!



**ELISSA  
RIVAS**

Traffic  
Anchor

**E**rik Barajas joined KTRK-TV's 13 Eyewitness News in March 2008.

A true Texas journalist, Erik has worked as an anchor and a reporter all over the state. He came to Houston from KSAT 12 in San Antonio where he was a weekend anchor and reporter for four years.

His television career began in Corpus Christi, Texas at KZTV 10 where he wore several hats. He worked as a news photographer, reporter, producer and anchor. He says his involvement in all those different positions helped give him an understanding and perspective of the challenges it takes to produce the news. He later moved to Austin, Texas and to KTBC Fox 7 to be that station's weekend anchor and reporter.

One of the most notable stories Erik covered has been the crash of the space shuttle Columbia on the borders of Texas and Louisiana. Erik has also traveled to Louisiana to cover the Gulf Oil spill, and he reported from Austin, Texas, to cover President Barack Obama's visit there.

He says working in Houston at KTRK-TV is "a true blessing" because he can do what he does for a living "in front of family and friends". He adds, "Staying in Texas throughout my career, thus far has been eye opening in terms of really getting to know the state on a deeper level and realizing just how diverse this state really is."

Erik is married. He and his wife have two young boys and are very happy to be back in their hometown.

If you have a story idea for Erik, please email him at [erik.barajas@abc.com](mailto:erik.barajas@abc.com).



**ERIK  
BARAJAS**  
Evening  
Anchor



**ALEX  
BOZARJIAN**  
Reporter



**DANIELA  
HURTADO**  
Reporter



**ELISSA  
RIVAS**  
Traffic  
Anchor



**EF  
BAR**  
Eve  
Anc





**ERIK  
ROJAS**  
Morning  
Anchor



**JACOB  
RASCON**  
Morning  
Anchor



**MAYRA  
MORENO**  
Evening  
Anchor



**RITA  
GARCIA**  
Morning  
Anchor

**HOUSTON'S  
LEADER**

**E**mma and Edward R. Murrow-award winning journalist Jacob Rascon joined ABC13 in January 2022. The native Houstonian is one of four Rascons in the business including his father Art, uncle Dan and brother Matt, all of whom have worked as anchors and reporters throughout the country.

Jacob's career began at ABC News in Jerusalem covering the Arab Spring from Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt. His assignments have taken him to nearly every state in the union, Mexico, South and Central America, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. He has reported on natural disasters including the 2010 Haiti earthquake, Hurricane Harvey and dozens of other storms, deadly tornado outbreaks in the Midwest, volcanic eruptions in Hawaii, California and Washington State wildfires; mass migration from Syria; infamous cartel criminal trials in El Paso; migrant caravans; gang violence in El Salvador; mass shootings in Colorado, California, Florida and Texas; the 2016 Presidential campaign, conventions and inauguration; the X Games and the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. Prior to ABC13, Jacob worked at KFOX-14, NBCLA, KPRC and NBC News as a correspondent based in Los Angeles and Dallas.

Jacob graduated from The Woodlands High School and Brigham Young University where he studied broadcast journalism. He interned at the Salt Lake Tribune, KUTV News and at the Kosovo Embassy in Washington D.C. shortly after leaders of the Balkan country declared independence. After his freshman year, Jacob moved to Uruguay for two years as missionary for his church, where he learned Spanish.

Jacob and Ashley live in the Houston area with their five children, a dog and a cat. For the record, he's not a big fan of cats. In his defense, cats aren't big fans of people.



**JACOB  
RASCON**  
Morning  
Anchor

**M**ayra Moreno joined KTRK-TV Eyewitness News in October 2015.

A journalist with years of experience, Mayra has reported all over the state of Texas. She comes back to her hometown of Houston from KENS 5 in San Antonio, where she worked as the weekend anchor and reporter for four years.

Mayra's television career started at the Rio Grande Valley's news leader, KRGV-TV Channel 5 News in Weslaco, TX. Mayra covered an array of stories; from border-crime issues, to hurricane coverage and other problems affecting the community. A few years later, Mayra found her way back to Houston as a fill-in anchor and reporter for KIAH-TV's CW 39 News.

Throughout her career, Mayra has covered many notable stories. During her time at the CW, she was one of the many journalists to report live from Fort Hood after the deadly 2009 shooting. In San Antonio, Mayra was nominated for a Lone Star Emmy on an investigation into the city's DWI no refusal program, where blood samples began piling up and caused a backlog at the courts. Mayra also covered some major weather-related events: from the deadly Memorial Day floods of 2013 and 2015 in the San Antonio area, to the tornado that tore through Acuna, MX later that year.

Mayra is happy to return home to Houston. She's a proud alum of the University of Houston, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a double major in Journalism and Spanish.

Mayra loves being involved in the Hispanic community. When she's not talking to kids at local schools about the importance of staying in school, Mayra loves to spend her free time with family and friends, working out and cooking.

Mayra loves to hear from viewers, whether it's to say hello or pitch a story idea, be sure to drop her a line at [Mayra.Moreno@abc.com](mailto:Mayra.Moreno@abc.com). She is also very active on social media look for her on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



**MAYRA  
MORENO**  
Evening  
Anchor

**R**ita Garcia is here, Houston!! She is the newest weekday morning anchor on ABC13.

Rita is no stranger to Houston, as she was previously a weekday morning anchor in the market. Prior to joining the ABC family, Rita worked as a morning anchor in Los Angeles on Good Day LA (KTTV - FOX 11).

Rita was born in Austin, Texas. She picked up a microphone at a very young age when her parents gave her a tape recorder with a mic to read her stories aloud. She would constantly practice and record herself and, as they say, the rest is history.

Rita began her television career in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas at ABC (KRG - Ch 5) where she was Cameron County bureau chief. She reported on a number of international border stories. She's also a proud alumna of Texas State University in San Marcos.

Some of her most memorable coverage includes the Notre Dame Cathedral fire in Paris, the 2009 and 2011 NBA Finals, the death of Kobe Bryant, the Woolsey Fire in California, the Oscars and Emmy red carpet events; Super Bowl 51, Hurricane Harvey, the 2017 and 2018 World Series, and the death of Michael Jackson.

Rita was featured in the Los Angeles Times for having been the first morning news anchor in LA to broadcast an entire live morning newscast from home during the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic.

She has also been invited to guest host on Rachael Ray and feature one of her favorite recipes! In her free time, Rita enjoys spending time with her husband and family, as well as her rescue dog, Rocky. She also loves to travel.



# THINGS TO DO FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

- **Dancin' in the Street: Motown & More Revue at Miller Outdoor Theatre | Thursday to Saturday | FREE** – Groove to the Motown sounds of Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, Tina Turner and the best classics of the '60s through '90s. 8:15pm.
- **Houston Ballet presents Mayerling at Wortham Center | Thursday to Sunday | Ongoing** – Tutus and pointe shoes get dirty in this dark tale where scandal, political intrigue, obsessions and sensuous dalliances come to the stage. \$25 and up. 7:30pm.
- **Comedian Jordan Jensen at the Riot Comedy Club | Friday & Saturday** – Hear tales of a bizarre upbringing, filterless confessions and a highly unconventional family when the comic hits the Riot for back-to-back nights. \$25 and up. 7pm and 9pm.
- **Umrao Jaan Ada at Bayou Music Center | Friday & Saturday** – This musical event in Downtown brings the 1899 Urdu novel to the stage, telling the story of a woman poet discovering the power of creativity as she connects with the world. \$97 and up. 8pm.
- **The Bellamy Brothers in Concert at Main Street Crossing | Friday & Saturday** – Together since the late '60s, this cool country duo brings hits like "Let Your Love Flow" and "Redneck Girl" to the Tom-ball stage. \$100 and up. 8pm.
- **Comicpalooza at George R. Brown Convention Center | Friday to Sunday** – Get decked out in your favorite hero costume and head Downtown for a weekend of cosplay, autographs, and all-things-comics. Enjoy family-friendly activities, listen in on live panel discussions, shop from local creators, browse pop culture memorabilia, and

much more. Celebrity appearances include Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd of *Back to the Future*, Rose McGowan, Rebecca Romijn, and dozens more creators and artists. Single day passes range from \$43 to \$64, depending on day; weekend passes start at \$90. Times vary.

- **Stages presents The Case for the Existence of God at the Gordy | Friday to Sunday | Ongoing** – A meeting at a children's daycare results in an unlikely friendship, where navigating fatherhood, loneliness, and the confounding terms of a mortgage loan bring thoughtful humor, honesty, and theatricality. \$25 and up. Friday and Saturday 7:30pm; Sunday 2pm.
- **Summer Exhibitions Reception at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft | FREE** – Kick off your summer with the opening of HCCC's exhibitions, Georgina Treviño: *La Fuente del Deseo* and *Disclosure: The Whiteness of Glass*, as well as

open studios by current resident artists. 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

- **Spring Music Series: Hybrid 7 at Chapman & Kirby | No Cover** – The chic cocktailery in EaDo hosts another edition of its Spring Music Series, inviting Hybrid 7 to the stage for high-energy hits across genres. 6pm to 11pm.
- **Deuz Voix in Concert at Eureka Heights Brewing Company | FREE** – Celebrating their season finale, Justin Langham and Stephen Distad share their unique talents for classical and jazz music while you sip your chosen brew during this "Pint-Sized Performance." 7pm.
- **Houston Dash vs. North Carolina Courage at Shell Energy Stadium** – Grab some Dash gear and cheer 'em on as they take on the women from North Carolina in a mid-table clash. \$12 and up. 7pm.
- The Murder Mystery Co. pres-

ents *Death of a Gangster* at Pinstripes – The Upper Kirby restaurant and bar hosts an immersive dinner theater experience where you travel into the world of the 1920s to solve a murder and navigate its twists and turns. \$59. 7pm.

- **Apollo Chamber Players presents Muted at Rice University** – The four-piece chamber brings their season to a rousing close with *Muted*, the final work of a series that seeks to uplift composers and pieces that have been censored, forgotten or marginalized. The night features a world premiere in *Forgotten Dutch Melodies*, a commission inspired by Dutch folk songs once thought lost. \$35; \$10 for students. 7:30pm.
- **Wheein in Concert at 713 Music Hall** – The Korean superstar struts their stuff while passing through Houston on a massive world tour celebrating the singer's solo studio album, *In the Mood*. \$25 and up. 7:30pm.



Photo: comicpalooza.com

# REVOLUTIONIZING COMMUNITY ADVOCACY: RUBEN SALAZAR'S JOURNEY TO PUBLIC SERVICE

In the heart of Houston, 23-year-old Ruben Salazar stands as a beacon for community advocacy.

With a background steeped in service and a passion for positive change, Salazar's journey has led him to the forefront of local politics, having just been elected to represent the people of his East Aldine community as a board member for the Sunbelt Freshwater Supply District Board of Supervisors.

Salazar's dedication to public service traces back to his family's legacy of community involvement. "When [my great grandma] first came [to Houston], she became a very involved person in her community," Salazar said.

"She was always helping out her neighbors, starting a local civic club, creating recreational programs. Many of her children followed in her footsteps, so I guess you could say it runs in the blood."

Inspired by his great grandmother's tireless efforts in East Aldine, Salazar found his calling in serving his own community. From organizing civic clubs to advocating for better infrastructure and public safety measures, his commitment to making a difference became evident early on.

As a young adult, Salazar's journey into community leadership really took flight during his time as a Political Science student at University of Houston-Downtown.

"I just started attending civic club meetings, commissioners court meetings, management district meetings and just seeing the way our money was spent, how our tax dollars are being spent and there were some things I didn't agree with. So I learned of the ways I can make my voice heard."

Motivated by a desire to em-

power his community, Salazar embarked on a path of activism and engagement.

His ascent in community leadership began with his role as president of the Green Forest Civic Club, where he spearheaded initiatives to improve local infrastructure and enhance public safety measures. Through collaborative efforts and grassroots organizing, Salazar and his team successfully advocated for increased street lighting—a vital step in ensuring the safety of neighborhood residents, especially students walking to school.

However, Salazar's vision extends beyond streetlights and sidewalks. His campaign for the Sunbelt Freshwater Supply District Board of Supervisors was driven by a commitment to transparency and community-driven decision-mak-

ing. Recognizing the dissatisfaction among residents with the district's services, Salazar aims to bring a fresh perspective to the board, prioritizing the needs and concerns of the community.

Central to Salazar's platform was the pursuit of transparency. He envisions a board that actively engages with residents, listens to their concerns, and incorporates their feedback into decision-making processes. By fostering open dialogue and promoting accountability, Salazar seeks to bridge the gap between the board and the community it serves.

Moreover, Salazar's agenda emphasizes the importance of community-driven policies. Drawing from his experience in grassroots organizing, he intends to advocate for initiatives that address the press-

ing issues facing Sunbelt residents, from water quality concerns to infrastructure maintenance. With a focus on inclusivity and representation, Salazar aims to ensure that all voices are heard and valued in the decision-making process.

Looking ahead, Salazar's candidacy symbolizes a new era of community advocacy—one rooted in collaboration, transparency, and service. With his campaign for the Sunbelt Freshwater Supply District Board of Supervisors successful, Salazar remains steadfast in his commitment to empowering his community and effecting positive change.

"My campaign went smooth, and I'm super excited to get to work alongside the other board members to help bring positive changes," Salazar plans to keep the same attitude, mindset, and energy.

With his leadership, the future of Houston shines brighter than ever before.





## TEXANS' TANK DELL PRACTICES 3 WEEKS AFTER SUFFERING GUNSHOT WOUND

The Texans' 2023 third-round pick had no limitations and participated in individual drills, 7-on-7s and 11-on-11s.

"Happy for Tank to get back out there. He went through a very tragic situation," Texans coach DeMeco Ryans said. "We're just happy that he's here, happy that he's back out being able to do what he loves doing and that's playing football. It's fun to see him running around. Being that same player he's been before, making plays and being a dynamic player for us. Everyone is excited to see Tank."

Beyond the shooting, Dell was also recovering from a broken

leg he suffered in an early December game against the Denver Broncos. His rookie season ended with 709 receiving yards and seven touchdowns as he was on pace for 1,205 yards. Pro Bowl quarterback C.J. Stroud and Dell's connection combined for eighth-most passing yards for a first-year quarterback and wide receiver duo.

Nico Collins carried the receiver group following Dell's injury and finished with 1,297 receiving yards with multiple games of over 190 yards. This offseason, the Texans bolstered their receiver room by acquiring four-time Pro Bowl receiver Stefon Diggs in a blockbuster trade with the Buffalo Bills.

With Dell fully recovered and paired with Collins and Diggs, the Texans have high hopes for a prolific passing attack led by Stroud.

"When you talk about receivers having multiple skill sets, that's what you want. You want different body types, different types of movers to cause as many problems for a defense as possible," Ryans said. "We want to put defenses in binds. I think with those three guys, it allows us to do that because they're so different and they can all do different things. But at the end of the day, they are all explosive finishers with the football and that's what makes those guys great players. They can win on third down and they can finish and get in the end zone."

Less than a month after being shot in the leg, Houston Texans wide receiver Tank Dell participated in the team's OTAs.

Dell was shot at a private event in Sanford, Florida, where authorities said a teenage gunman injured 10 people after an altercation on April 28. Dell's wound was minor, and he was released from the hospital shortly after the shooting.



Photo: Cooper Neill/Getty Images



## KYLE TUCKER HOMERS TWICE, PEÑA'S RBI IN 10TH LIFTS ASTROS TO 6-5 WIN OVER ANGELS

out the side in the 10th for the win.

Luis Rengifo and Kevin Pillar both homered for the Angels and Nolan Schanuel tied a career high with three hits.

The game was tied with two outs in the seventh when Pillar sent a fastball from Bryan Abreu into the first row of the seats in left field to put the Angels up 5-4.

Tucker tied it with one out in the bottom of the inning on his shot to right field. Tucker tied a franchise record for most homers through Houston's first 49 games.

"Every time he comes to the plate, you're just expecting him to do something awesome and he is doing stuff that only a few players can do," manager Joe Espada said. "He's definitely one of the best players in

this league and he's really picking us up right now."

Fans were chanting "M-V-P, M-V-P" when Tucker came to the plate late in Tuesday's game.

"I just try and put together good at-bats and be pretty selective up there and just kind of take my walks and try and do damage when they throw it across the plate," he said.

Schanuel hit a leadoff single before Rengifo's shot to right-center put Los Angeles up early.

There was one out in the bottom of the inning when Tucker connected off Griffin Canning to cut the lead to 2-1. The Astros tied it when Alvarez sent the next pitch into the seats in right field for his first homer since May 9.

Luis Guillorme singled with one out in the fourth before scoring when Zach Neto doubled off the wall in left field to put the Angels up 3-2. There were two outs in the inning when Rengifo singled on a liner to center field to send Neto home.

Peña doubled down the left field line with one out in the sixth before Singleton smacked his fifth homer of the season to straightaway center field to tie at 4-all.

Houston starter Cristian Javier yielded a season-high eight hits with four runs in four innings in his third start since missing 18 games with neck discomfort.

Canning allowed five hits and two runs in five innings for the Angels.

**K**yle Tucker homered twice to give him an MLB-leading 17 and Jeremy Peña's RBI single with one out in the 10th inning lifted the Houston Astros to a 6-5 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday night.

The Angels intentionally walked Yordan Alvarez with no outs in the 10th and Kyle Tucker on second as the automatic runner. Both players advanced on a fly out by Alex Bregman before Peña singled off Carlos Estévez (0-3) on a line drive to right field to give Houston the victory.

"Great teams have to be able to win coming from behind," Peña said. "Hard-fought game from both sides and we've got to keep playing good baseball."

Los Angeles manager Ron Washington was asked about the performance of Estévez.

"I thought he was throwing the ball well," he said. "You've got to give Peña credit. Their first five hitters are dangerous — very dangerous. We put ourselves in a good position to win it, but in the end they got it."

Tucker homered in the first and his second solo shot tied it in the seventh. Alvarez added a solo home run and Jon Singleton hit a two-run homer for the Astros.

Josh Hader (3-3) pitched two scoreless innings, striking

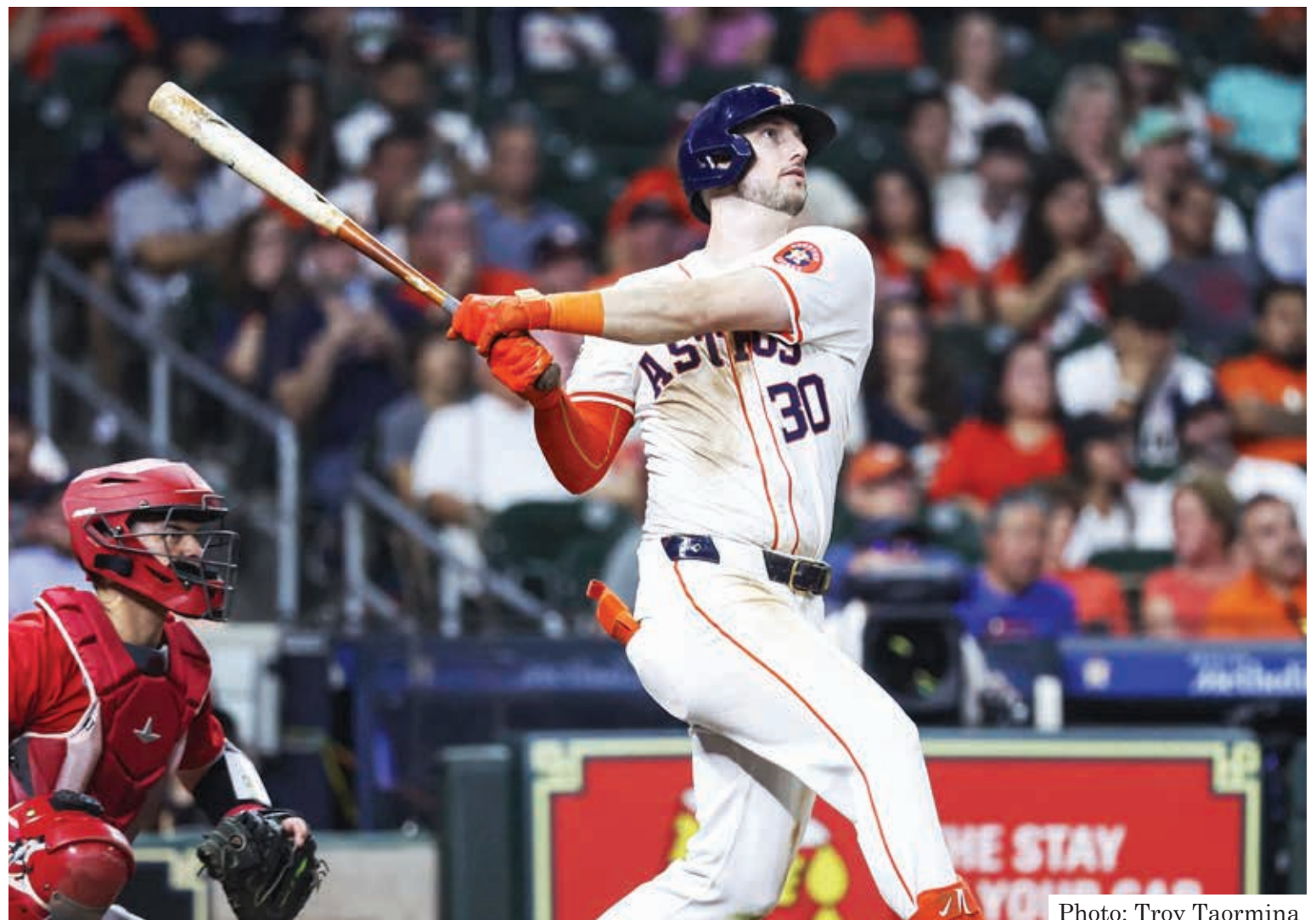


Photo: Troy Taormina



# SUMMER MOVIE CALENDAR 2024

## The Strangers: Chapter 1

**Release Date:** May 17, 2024

**Director:** Renny Harlin

**Starring:** Madelaine Petsch, Froy Gutierrez, Rachel Shenton, Gabriel Basso, Ema Horvath

The 2008 horror thriller *The Strangers* gets something of a reboot with this film, intended to be the first in a new trilogy, about a young couple on a road trip who stay at an isolated rental home, only to be terrorized by a trio of intruders in masks. All three movies in this new trilogy were filmed concurrently, so you can expect Chapters 2 and 3 to follow relatively soon.

## The Garfield Movie

**Release Date:** May 24, 2024

**Director:** Mark Dindal

**Starring:** Chris Pratt, Samuel L. Jackson, Harvey Guillen, Hannah Waddingham, Ving Rhames, Nicholas Hoult, Cecily Strong, Brett Goldstein

Garfield is back on the big screen, and this time the whole thing is animated, with Chris Pratt taking over as the voice of the orange cat who hates Mondays and loves lasagna. The story, as it were, finds Garfield and Odie (voiced by Harvey Guillen) meeting Garfield's dad (Samuel L. Jackson) and embarking on a high-stakes adventure.

## Bad Boys: Ride or Die

**Release Date:** June 7, 2024

**Director:** Adil El Arbi, Bilall Fallah

**Starring:** Will Smith, Martin Lawrence, Vanessa Hudgens, Alexander Ludwig, Paola Nunez, Eric Dane, Joe Pantoliano, Tiffany Haddish

Detectives Mike Lowrey and Marcus Burnett are back on the case for a fourth go-round, this time to root out corruption in their own department after their captain (Joe Pantoliano) is posthumously accused of shady dealings and the two of them are set up.

## The Watchers

**Release Date:** June 7, 2024

**Director:** Ishana Night Shyamalan

**Starring:** Dakota Fanning, Georgina Campbell, Oliver Finnegan, Olwen Fouéré

If the director's name strikes a familiar nerve, that's because she is, in fact, the daughter of M. Night Shyamalan, making her own feature directorial debut with this adaptation of the eponymous novel about a woman stranded in an Irish forest who stumbles upon a remote shelter where she meets other survivors who are trapped there, hunted by mysterious creatures in the night.

## Inside Out 2

**Release Date:** June 14, 2024

**Director:** Kelsey Mann

**Starring:** Amy Poehler, Phyllis Smith, Lewis Black, Tony Hale, Liza Lapira, Maya Hawke, Ayo Edibiri, Adèle Exarchopoulos, Paul Walter Hauser

Amy Poehler returns to voice Joy in this sequel to the Oscar-winning 2015 film about the anthropomorphized emotions swirling around inside a young girl named Riley. This time, Joy and the other emotions from the first film are supplanted by new emotions as Riley enters adolescence and must fight to regain control.

## The Bikeriders

**Release Date:** June 21, 2024

**Director:** Jeff Nichols

**Starring:** Jodie Comer, Austin Butler, Tom Hardy, Michael Shannon, Mike Faist, Norman Reedus, Boyd Holbrook

Director Jeff Nichols' (*Mud*, *Loving*) latest film is inspired by the 1967 photo book of the same name and follows the relationships between the members of a fictional 1960s motorcycle club over the course of a decade as seen through the eyes of some of its key members.



Photo: pixarpost.com



Photo: Warner Bros



Photo: 20th Century Studios



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