

We Remember

Angelica Robles, a GAVA leader with the Odom School Park team (78745), sadly lost her teenage nephew in a car accident that occurred near Ponciana Park at the end of March.



To support Angelica and her family, members of the Odom School Park team and the 78745 community are helping to raise funds for his funeral costs. If you are interested in making a donation, the family has set up a Go Fund Me page here: <https://www.gofundme.com/s6wvrj94>. If you would like to donate by another means, please contact Cynthia Rodriguez at cynthia@austinparks.org or 512-477-5166, ext 7 for more info.

The funeral was held at St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church at 10:00am on Wednesday, April 6. Our thoughts and prayers are with Angelica and her family during this difficult time.

Community Highlights!

PA Sector Featured in National Magazine

The work of teams from GAVA's PA Sector was recently recognized by *Parks & Recreation* magazine, the official publication of the National Parks and Recreation Association! The article highlighted the great work that teams have accomplished that have led to changes in physical activity and improvements in health and safety. Check out the article and learn more about what the PA teams have been up to here: <http://www.parksandrecreation.org/2016/March/Communities-Rallying-for-Health/>



Park Block Grant Wins

Three PA teams will be receiving funding through the Park Block Grant for improvements in GAVA parks. Odom School Park will be receiving an updated playscape, new swings and other improvements to the playground area. Joslin Neighborhood Park will receive a nature-based playscape, and Onion Creek Greenbelt Park will receive an ADA accessible ramp that will connect to the restroom. PA teams are continuing to collaborate with PARD to bring other changes to all GAVA green spaces in 78744 and 78745. Be on the lookout for more improvements to your favorite neighborhood GAVA park or green space! Big congratulations to all PA teams on your many successes!



Vecinos Unidos

Vecinos Unidos GAVA resident team and volunteers cleared over 250 lbs. of trash from E. Williamson Creek on "It's My Park day". The creek which lines their backyards is a beautiful protected greenbelt that the team would like to once again access for recreation and exploration. This team is dedicated to creating a safer and more accessible E. Williamson creek.



More Community Highlights!

It's My Park Day!

Park Day was on March 5th and eight GAVA teams led projects to help improve parks and green spaces in 78744 and 78745. Several park teams received mini-grants to create butterfly gardens, add landscaping, purchase mulch, and much more! In addition, teams also organized clean-ups to help keep area creeks and greenbelts clean. Thank you to all the GAVA PA teams for being such great stewards of Austin's parks and green spaces!



Rodriguez Family Fitness Night



On March 10th, Rodriguez Elementary held their Family Fitness Night. Students and their families were invited to participate in fun physical activities, eat healthy snacks, and receive information on healthy lifestyles. The Rodriguez Coordinated School Health Team

planned and organized the event and promoted it through their Student Wellness Team, stickers, flyers, and robocalls home. Approximately 125 students and family members attended the event, and several individuals walked away with prizes that promote physical activity at home!

Brighter Bites

On Friday, March 11, Brighter Bites successfully completed their first spring cycle and full pilot year of programming in the GAVA elementary schools. Over the course of the spring session, 1531 families from Pre-K through 5th grades enrolled in the program. During this time, Brighter Bites staff and volunteers sorted and delivered 349,572 pounds of produce to families, volunteers, and Pre-K through 5th grade teachers, many of whom used the produce in their classrooms for nutrition education lessons. That is a lot of fruits and veggies! Brighter Bites staff are incredibly grateful to the faculty, volunteer, and community support of its programming this school year.

"We loved this program! It was great to volunteer to load bags, and such a treat to enjoy delicious healthy food at home. It helps us discuss good choices with our kids and makes us proud of our school!" - Parent volunteer

78745 Calendar

Meeting / Event	Date	Contact
Weekly soccer game in 78745 Let's play soccer, meet neighbors, build soccer activities and a park adoption team for our neighborhood park!	Every Sunday! 4:00 PM St. Elmo Park 4312 S 1st, Austin, TX 78745	Mariano Di Vincenzo GAVA Community Organizer at FC 713-854-2627 mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org
Weekly Farm Stands Stop by every week for fresh, affordable, in-season produce! Now offering double dollars for SNAP purchases. Also inquire about volunteer opportunities!	Wednesdays @ Sierra Ridge Apartments 3:00 - 5:00 PM, 201 W St. Elmo Rd Fridays @ Cunningham Elementary 2:45 - 4:00 PM, Berkeley and Buffalo Pass	Simone Benz Community Outreach Coordinator at SFC 214-449-9957 simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org
Free Fitness Classes @ Garrison Park Classes will be led by Fit Austin and to increase range of motion, cardiovascular strength, and muscle endurance with the use of body weights, sandbells, and resistance bands.	Mondays and Wednesdays March 28th - May 4th 9:00 - 10:00 AM Garrison District Park 6001 Manchaca Rd	Melody Carlton Health Promotions /Recreation Specialist Austin Parks and Recreation Department 512-974-3906 healthpromotions@austintexas.gov
National Trails Day The American Hiking Society's nationwide trail awareness program is on June 4th. Project registration opens on April 11th - show your trails some love by registering your project today!	Monday, April 11 Project Registration Opens http://austinparks.org/volunteer/ntd Saturday, June 4 National Trails Day	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA P.A. Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-477-1566 ext 11
GAVA Physical Activity Sector Meeting 78744 & 78745 Join the PA teams as they work to develop their parks and green spaces. Teams will receive training on strategies to develop strong park/green space teams and updates from Joe Diaz.	Thursday, April 14 6:30 - 8:00 PM Pleasant Hill Branch Public Library 211 E William Cannon Dr Austin TX 78745	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-477-1566 ext 11
Austin Parks Foundation: Grants Info Session Join Austin Parks Foundation to learn more about our ACL Music Festival Grants Program, how to apply, what we fund and more! All are welcome to join us for this pre-deadline session. Spanish translation can be provided upon request.	Monday, April 18 12:00 - 1:00 PM Wednesday, April 27 7:00 - 8:00 PM Terrazas Branch Library 1105 E Cesar Chavez St	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-477-1566 ext 11
Casey Elementary Swamp Fest Join the Casey PTA for a fun-filled event. There will be a moonwalk, DJ, carinval games, train, community organizations and lots of family fun!	Saturday, May 21 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM Casey Elementary School 9400 Texas Oaks Drive, 78745	Angie Avalos 512-803-5913 angieraeavalos@yahoo.com
Austin Interfaith City-wide Leaders' Meeting Join Austin Interfaith leaders from across the city to discuss how to organize for the issues that affect our families. The meeting will include a training on organizing strategies.	Thursday, April 21 7:00 - 8:30PM First Unitarian Universalist Church 4700 Grover St, 78756	Kurt Cadena-Mitchell Special Projects Organizer kurt.interfaith@gmail.com 512-786-5388

78744 Calendar

Meeting / Event	Date	Contact
Free Fitness Class in the Park! Join Explosive Dance Fitness, certified local MixedFit Instructor. A dance fitness program with boot camp toning and explosive dance movements!	Every Thursday, March 3 - April 7 5:45 - 6:30 PM Franklin Neighborhood Park 4800 Copperbend Blvd	Melody Carlton Free Outdoor Wellness Series 512-974-3906 melody.carlton@austintexas.gov
National Trails Day The American Hiking Society's nationwide trail awareness program is on June 4th. Project registration opens on April 11th - show your trails some love by registering your project today! Don't forget that all National Trails Day participants will receive a free event t-shirt.	Monday, April 11 Project Registration Opens http://austinparks.org/volunteer/ntd Saturday, June 4 National Trails Day	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-477-1566 ext 11
Our Global Kitchen - "Tasting Kitchen" Takeover The Kitchen Takeover will host a variety of daily events and activities, including interactive cooking demonstrations and nutrition presentations.	Monday, April 11 to Friday, April 15 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Bullock Museum 1800 Congress Ave	Julia Latcham julia.latcham@uth.tmc.edu 512-391-2506
GAVA Physical Activity Sector Meeting - 78744 & 78745 Join the PA teams as they work to develop their parks and green spaces. This month, teams will be participating in a training to learn strategies for developing strong park/green space teams and will also receive updates from Joe Diaz, Central South District Manager with the Parks and Recreation Department.	Thursday, April 14 6:30 - 8:00 PM Pleasant Hill Branch Public Library 211 E William Cannon Dr Austin TX 78745	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-477-1566 ext 11
Austin Parks Foundation: Grants Info Session Join Austin Parks Foundation to learn more about our ACL Music Festival Grants Program, how to apply, what we fund and more! All are welcome to join us for this pre-deadline session. Spanish translation can be provided upon request. Deadline to apply for APF's Community Grant is April 30th.	Monday, April 18 12:00 - 1:00 PM Wednesday, April 27 7:00 - 8:00 PM Terrazas Branch Library 1105 E Cesar Chavez St Austin TX 78702	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-477-1566 ext 11
Austin Interfaith City-wide Leaders' Meeting Join Austin Interfaith leaders from across the city to discuss how to organize for the issues that affect our families. The meeting will include a training on organizing strategies.	Thursday, April 21 7:00 - 8:30 PM First Unitarian Universalist Church 4700 Grover St, 78756	Kurt Cadena-Mitchell Special Projects Organizer kurt.interfaith@gmail.com 512-786-5388
Houston CATCH Family Fitness Night Join us to promote healthy lifestyles in our communities!	Thursday, April 21 6:00 - 7:30 PM J. Houston Elementary School 5409 Ponciana Dr	Lisa Gonzalez 512-841-0181 lisa.gonzalez@austinisd.org
Dove Springs Community Health Fair Family Fun Fit Festival Come join with all your family and community to celebrate the end of the school year! Free Health screenings, community and city agencies, zumba classes, cooking demonstrations, program registrations, prizes and raffles!	Saturday, May 21 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Consuelo Mendez Middle School 5106 Village Square Drive	Sulamita Mora Family Resource Center Director, Mendez School sulamita.mora@austinisd.org 512-841-1016