



## Community Spotlights:

### La Voz Soccer Team

Members from La Voz of St. Elmo, **Daniel Zapata, Cesar Lopez, and Jose Calvillo** established a bi-weekly soccer game.

Every Wednesday and Sunday at 7:00 PM parents and teens from St. Elmo community are playing. Come join the team, all members of the community are welcome!

### Adopt-a-Park-Team

Last month La Voz officially committed to form an Adopt-a-Park Team for St. Elmo Park. The leaders "**Daniel Zapata, Cesar Lopez, Yolanda Miranda, Claudia Cruz, Mary Hernandez and Jose Calvillo**" are excited to start developing a park plan with Austin Parks Foundation, school and neighborhood stakeholders to make park improvements and support park stewardship. This will help to activate the park and neighborhood with physical activity!

### GAVA Park Teams Receive Pricing

GAVA Park Teams have been working hard to research precise information for park needs hand in hand with the City Of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department. Congratulation parks leaders on your hard work to represent South Austin's green space and physical activity needs for City budget consideration:

Odom Elementary: Laura Bucaro, Angelica Robles, Jeremy Schwartz.

Williamson Creek: Kate Mason-Murphy, Sara Dunn, Tom Donovan.

Garrison Park/Joslin Elementary: Sally Baulch

Cunningham Elementary School: Iliana Gonzalez, Teresa Santillana, Sherry Graham.

## Special Recognition

### GAVA Principal Meeting

On Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> the GAVA School Sector, in collaboration with AISD Health and PE Department, hosted a GAVA Principal Meeting for the 78744 and 78745 school at Widen Elementary. Administrators from Widen, Houston, Rodriguez, Mendez, Perez, Pleasant Hill and Odom came together to share successes and brainstorm solutions to challenges with regard to promoting healthy habits on their campus. The administrations had an opportunity to meet individually with GAVA Partners, to include Safe Routes to School, Sustainable Food Center, Brighter Bites, Austin Parks Foundation and CATCH/UT School of Public Health.

### Food Retail

The GAVA Healthy Corner Store Initiative is working with food stores in the 78745 and 78744 zip codes to improve access to healthy foods for local residents. Thanks to local resident **Sara Herrera** for getting involved in this project in her Jones Rd/Westgate neighborhood store. She has spoken with store owners and her local store is now offering fresh produce. To get involved contact **Karla Gonzalez** at 512-657-4406

## Rising Star and Health Champion Award

The 2015 Rising Star and Health Champion Award applications are now open! Both awards are part of the Center's Texas Obesity Awareness Week activities, and this year's Celebration Event will be September 15 at 5:00-7:30 at the Blanton Museum.

[TexasObesityWeek.org](http://TexasObesityWeek.org)

## About GAVA

GO! Austin/VAMOS! Austin (GAVA) is a partnership of residents, community leaders and nonprofit agencies who are devoted to improving the health of our children and community. More importantly, we are a neighborhood united for health through improved nutrition and physical activity.


Don't forget:  
National Public Lands Day  
Saturday Sept. 26  
National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest,  
single-day volunteer effort for public lands. Visit  
[www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org) to register.  
Registration opens August 3rd!

Residents of the 78745 zip code are invited to attend  
the following meetings and events hosted by  
GO! Austin / VAMOS! Austin and its supporters.

Meeting / Event		
<b>Weekly soccer game in 78745</b> Let's play soccer, meet neighbors, build a soccer activities and a park adoption team for our neighborhood park!	<b>Every Sunday</b> 5:30 PM St. Elmo Park 4312 S 1st St, Austin, TX 78745	<b>Mariano Di Vincenzo</b> GAVA Community Organizer at Foundation Communities (713) 854-2527 <a href="mailto:mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org">mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org</a>
<b>Jones/Westgate Neighborhood Meeting</b> Join our first community meeting and learn how to improve the health of the neighborhood!	<b>Thursday, August 6</b> 6:30-8 PM Sunset Valley Elementary School Park	<b>Ivanna Neri</b> Geo Teams Organizer- 78745 512-998-3648 <a href="mailto:ivanna@marathonkids.org">ivanna@marathonkids.org</a>
<b>Physical Activity Sector Meeting (78745)</b> This month's meeting will focus on ....	<b>Tuesday, August 18</b> 6:30-8:00pm El Buen Samaritano, 7000 Woodhue Drive 78745	<b>Cynthia Rodriguez</b> Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer <a href="mailto:cynthia@austinparks.org">cynthia@austinparks.org</a>
<b>La Voz Team Meeting</b> Join us as we implement strategies for improving the health of the St. Elmo neighborhood!	<b>Wednesday, August 19</b> 6:00 -7:30 PM Sierra Ridge Learning Center 201 W. St. Elmo Rd. 78745	<b>Mariano Di Vincenzo</b> GAVA Community Organizer at Foundation Communities (713) 854-2527 <a href="mailto:mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org">mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org</a>
<b>Jones/Westgate Neighborhood Meeting</b> Join our community meeting and learn how to improve the health of the neighborhood!	<b>Thursday, August 20</b> 7-8:15 PM Sunset Valley Elementary School Park	<b>Ivanna Neri</b> Geo Teams Organizer- 78745 512-998-3648 <a href="mailto:ivanna@marathonkids.org">ivanna@marathonkids.org</a>
<b>City of Austin Budget Hearings</b> Advocate as a 78745 resident with Austin Interfaith to ensure that the 2015-2016 City of Austin Budget invests in your public parks, healthy food at your food retail stores and after school programs.	<b>Thursday, August 20, 4 pm</b> <b>Thursday, August 27, 11 am</b> City Hall 301 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St., Austin, Texas 78701	<b>Nevena Pilipovic-Wengler</b> Austin Interfaith Community Organizer <a href="mailto:nevena@austininterfaith.org">nevena@austininterfaith.org</a>
<b>Austin Interfaith Leaders Meeting</b> This month's meeting will focus on City of Austin budget priorities.	<b>Thursday, August 27</b> 7:00-8:30 pm St John/San Juan Lutheran Church 409 W Ben White 78704	<b>Kathleen Davis</b> Lead Organizer with Austin Interfaith 512.944.43.44 <a href="mailto:kdavis@austininterfaith.org">kdavis@austininterfaith.org</a>
<b>Early Childhood Sector Monthly Meeting</b> Come implement strategies to support the health of young children!	<b>Friday, August 28</b> 1:30 – 3:00 PM Southeast Branch- Austin Public Library 5803 Nuchols Crossing Rd 78744	<b>Laura Olson</b> Family Services Coordinator, United Way Early Childhood Sector Manager GAVA <a href="mailto:laura.e.olson@uwatx.org">laura.e.olson@uwatx.org</a>
<b>School Garden Leadership Training</b> Given in English, Spanish available.	<b>Mon/Tues, Sept 14 &amp; 15</b> <b>(2-part training)</b> 6-8pm Sustainable Food Center 2921 E. 17th St, Bldg C. 78702	<b>Simone Benz</b> Community Outreach Coordinator 512-220-1146 <a href="mailto:simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org">simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org</a>

### Contact Us

We want to hear from you! What goals do you have for creating a healthier Dove Springs? For more information about GAVA, to share your ideas or these meetings, contact: Alba Sereno GAVA 78745 Community Director at 214.799.3767.

Find us on  GO! Austin/ VAMOS! Austin

Dove Springs/78744



Left: 78744 Residents Gather at the Dove Springs Rec Center for the 2nd part of Neighborhood Watch training

## Community Spotlights:

- Neighborhood Watch Training 78744**  
 The Austin Police Department's Neighborhood District Representatives, Officer Rosie Perez and Officer Leticia Campa hosted **part two** of the 78744 Neighborhood Watch training. This month was focused on physical safety and securing the interior and exterior of your home. The following 78744 residents leaders were in attendance: **Hassan Abdullah, Heather Issac, Julian and Matthew Gonzalez, Marilla Shepherd, Sara Torres, and Annie Harton.** Part three of the training will be on August 12.
- Village Walk/Franklin Park Geo Team Block Walk**  
 Residents and GAVA staff led a block walk in the Village Walk/S. Pleasant Valley Rd. area, and connected with 25 people. Six residents attended and participated in the block walk, including one youth: **Sabas Hernandez, Edward Craig, Matthew Gonzalez, Erendira Morales, Hassan Abdullah, Alberto Mejia, Zion Flores.**
- GAVA Park Teams Receive Pricing from PARD**  
 GAVA Park Adoption Teams secured pricing for each of the desired infrastructure improvements cited in their GAVA Site Plans. Thank you to the following people for attending the meeting with the Parks and Recreation Department.:  
Dove Springs District Park: **Ofelia Zapata, Evita Cruz**  
Kendra Page Park: **Patches Brashear**  
Ppnciana Park: **Alesha Larkins**  
Franklin Park: **Clifford Spencer, Roy Earls, Brenda Craig**  
Onion Creek Greenbelt: **Sara Torres, Annie Harton, Marilla Shepherd**

## Special Recognition

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Meeting/Event	Date/Time	Contact
<b>GAVA Dove Springs Physical Activity Sector meeting</b> This month's meeting will focus on team building and park activation.	<b>Monday, August 10</b> 6:30-8:00 PM Dove Springs Rec Center Meeting Room 5801 Ainez Dr, Austin, TX 78744	<b>Cynthia Rodriguez</b> Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer <a href="mailto:cynthia@austinparks.org">cynthia@austinparks.org</a>
<b>Neighborhood Watch Training Part 3</b> The Austin Police Department's Neighborhood District Representatives will be hosting a training on best practices on emergency reporting, when to call 911 vs 311, and how to give effective vehicle and subject descriptions.	<b>Wednesday, August 12</b> 6:00 – 8:00 PM Dove Springs Recreation Center 5801 Ainez Dr. 78744	<b>Estrella de Leon</b> Geo Team Community Organizer GAVA 206-293-9548 <a href="mailto:estrella@marathonkids.org">estrella@marathonkids.org</a>
<b>City of Austin Budget Hearings</b> Advocate as a 78744 resident with Austin Interfaith to ensure that the 2015-16 City of Austin Budget invests in your public parks, healthy food at your retail stores, and afterschool programs.	<b>Thursday August 20, 4pm</b> <b>Thursday August 27, 11am</b> City Hall 301 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St , Austin TX 78701	<b>Nevena Pilipovic-Wengler</b> Austin Interfaith Community Organizer <a href="mailto:nevena@austininterfaith.org">nevena@austininterfaith.org</a>
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<b>Mendez Middle School</b> Back to School Night	<b>Tues Sept 8</b> 6-8pm 5106 Village Square 78744	<b>Leonor Vargas</b> Director - Mendez Middle School, Family Resource Center 512-841-1016 <a href="mailto:leonor.vargas@austinisd.org">leonor.vargas@austinisd.org</a>
<b>School Garden Leadership Training</b> Given in English, Spanish available.	<b>Mon/Tues, Sept 14 &amp; 15</b> <b>(2-part training)</b> 6-8pm Sustainable Food Center 2921 E. 17th St, Bldg C.	<b>Simone Benz</b> Community Outreach Coordinator 512-220-1146 <a href="mailto:simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org">simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org</a>

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