

August 2016

GAVA Healthy Corner Store Initiative to be featured on "The Texas Standard" on KUT Radio 90.5

During the month of July several residents and store owners from the Healthy Corner Store Initiative were interviewed by The Texas Standard, for a story that will soon air on KUT 90.5. This is a great way to inform others around Austin and all over Texas about community efforts to increase access to healthy foods. Eight convenience stores are now participating in the GAVA initiative and several will host community events this month to promote the healthy products they now carry (see our calendar, below)! *Photo above: 78744 resident Felipa Puente interviewing with The Texas Standard, on the importance of creating more access to healthy options in her neighborhood.*



New Farm Stands!

Leaders are working together with Sustainable Food Center to open two new farm stands, one in the Dove Springs neighborhood and one in the Armadillo Park Neighborhood Association area this fall! A farm stand is a unique and innovative way to bring fresh, local produce to the 78744 and 78744 residents of all ages. They are a great place for the community to buy fresh, local and organic produce at a low cost, and they accept SNAP and WIC. Contact Simone Benz, simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org to find out more!



Advocate for the health of 78744 and 78745!

The City of Austin FY 2017 budget process is in high gear. Austin Interfaith (AI) spoke at Councilmember Delia Garza's press conference to call for adding AI and GAVA parks and healthy food incentives funding to the city budget. The public hearings on the budget are Thursday August 18th and Thursday September 1st. The budget will be voted on Sept. 12th, 13th & 14th. Austin Interfaith leaders and GAVA residents will speak at the August 18th public budget hearing. Contact Kathleen Davis for more information 512-944-4344.

GAVA Principal Gathering for Coordinated School Health, Breakfast in the Classroom

Principals from various schools collaborating with GAVA gathered with partner organizations and AISD representatives in July at Widén Elementary. They exchanged ideas and strategies for best practices in school health and funding opportunities. There were many successes this past school year! Rodriguez Elementary was the first school to implement "Breakfast in the Classroom," a program in which every student may receive a healthy breakfast in the first class of the day. The program has been shown to improve attendance and academic achievement. Since last year's GAVA principal meeting, Casey, Houston, Langford, Méndez, Pérez, Pleasant Hill and Widén have signed up. They will begin serving breakfast to their students in the classroom this school year!



Park Teams and Soccer Matches!

Over the month of July, the Houston School Park team hosted two soccer tournaments at the park. Permanent soccer goals were recently installed at the park, due to a GAVA mini-grant that the park team was awarded. In total, approximately 60 people attended both soccer events, which saw both youth and adults enjoying a day of soccer. Teams from St. Elmo School Park, Odom School Park and Rodriguez Elementary also participated in the cross zip code tournament. Thank you to all teams for helping inspire physical activity within the community and for helping ensure that Houston School Park is a lively, well activated space that all can enjoy! *Photo above: Houston Park in 78744 families and leaders*



Odom Park Improvements

The Odom School Park team collaborated with AISD to create some exciting new improvements at Odom School Park. The track has now been resurfaced and the entrance on Cougar Lane has been replaced. The new entrance is wider and has a gate that can be closed, helping create a safer space for both children and youth. The team also worked with the City to advocate for a sidewalk around the entire school, which was recently completed!



Residents collaborate with the Austin Parks & Recreation Department to request that the City of Austin dedicate funds for lighting in parks in Dove Springs & 78745

Park and creek teams met with the Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) over July to finalize site plans and priority requests for lighting in the park. PAR included a \$500,000 request for lighting in their Unmet Needs List, which was submitted for Council's review for the coming budget cycle. This is an important step for the ten park teams who have worked with PAR for over a year advocating for lighting to help ensure safety and accessibility. School park teams also submitted a proposal to AISD, which will be included in AISD's next bond package. With this proposal, teams hope to leverage additional funding for park priorities. **You can contact all Austin City Council members and the Mayor to encourage their support by calling 311 or writing an email:** <https://www.austintexas.gov/email/all-council-members>



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August 2016

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	Mariano Di Vincenzo GAVA Community Organizer at FC mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org , 713-854-2627
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 BuffaloPass	Simone Benz Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
Weekly walking group Come join La Fuerza Walking Group and get active for 1 ½ hr!	Every Tuesday and Thursday 6:30-7pm Sunset Valley Elementary Park	Ivanna Neri Geo Team Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648
GAVA Physical Activity Sector Meeting 78744 & 78745 Join PA teams as they work to improve the parks and green spaces in 78744 and 78745! This month teams will be receiving training strategies to develop strong park/green space teams and will also continue to work on park projects.	Tuesday, August 9th 6:30 - 8pm Pleasant Hill Branch Library	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org , 512-387-2998
Join us 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	Wednesday, August 10 12:00 - 1:00 pm and 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 , 512-387-2998
Healthy Corner Store Initiative Store Event! Join residents as they promote healthy Foods at the Bread Basket on Jones Rd and on West Gate Blvd. Residents and the store owner have been working together to encourage healthy eating in their neighborhoods.	Friday August 19th 6-8pm Bread Basket 2623 Jones Rd	Marla Torrado Food Retail Organizer 78745 and 78744 marla@marathonkids.org 787-565-5896
La Fuerza Meeting	Wednesday, August 24th 6:30-7:30 pm Location TBD	Ivanna Neri Geo Team Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648
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, August 28th 7:00-8:30pm Wildflower UU Church 1314 E Oltorf St, Austin, TX 78704	Kathleen Davis kdavis@austininterfaith.org 512-916-0100
Cunningham Neighborhood School Meeting	Monday, September 12 Cunningham Elementary School 4-5:30 pm	Ivanna Neri Geo Team Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648

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Community Work Day at Dove Springs District Park Join Dove Springs neighbors in caring for the park's trees by covering their roots with mulch. It will be a beautiful morning full of physical activity!	Saturday, September 3 8 am - 12 pm Dove Springs District Park	Ofelia Zapata Resident and Dove Springs District Park Adopter: : 512-669-0809 ofeliazapata@yahoo.com
Celebration at Houston Elementary Park Join the Houston School Park team for soccer games, family activities, and an appreciation event for City and AISD staff and park adopters who have helped make the park so great! Everyone is also encouraged to bring a meal or a snack for a community potluck.	Saturday August 13 Houston School Park 6 - 8:30 pm	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-387-2998
Healthy Corner Store Event Planning meeting Join residents in planning for a promotional event for the healthy items at the S. Pleasant Valley Texaco.	Monday, August 15 6- 7:30pm Pleasant Hill Branch Library	Marla Torrado Food Retail Organizer 78745 and 78744 marla@marathonkids.org 787-565-5896
Paisano Community Meeting Paisano Mobile Homes residents will be hosting a community meeting to discuss traffic safety around Ponciana Park and the surrounding schools.	Wednesday, August 17th 6 - 7pm Location TBD	Estrella de León Geo Teams Organizer 78744 estrella@marathonkids.org 206-293-9548
78744 Farm Stand Orientation and Plan for Launch Members of the 78744 community will meet to discuss preparations for launching the Dove Springs Farm Stand this fall, including the search and hire for a local farm stand coordinator!	TBD	Simone Benz Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
Healthy Corner Store Event at Texaco! Join residents for a fun, community event to promote healthy Foods at the Texaco on S. Pleasant Valley and William Cannon. Residents and the store owner have been working together to encourage healthy eating in their neighborhoods.	Saturday, August 27 9-11 AM Texaco Food Spot 6607 S Pleasant Valley	Marla Torrado Food Retail Organizer 78745 and 78744 marla@marathonkids.org 787-565-5896
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For more info on GAVA Dove Springs, or to give your input, contact Carmen Llanes Pulido, GAVA Dove Springs Community Director at 512-633-4312 or carmen@marathonkids.org.

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/GO!AustinVAMOS!Austin and on the web at GoAustinVamosAustin.org

