

Community Highlights!

On November 13 **Armadillo Park Neighborhood Association in 78745** held developers accountable to the South Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan. The neighborhood and the City of Austin decided to decline the developer's zoning case to allow for a drive-through variance in the neighborhood. APNA will continue working to make sure their community is developed in a way that promotes health in the neighborhood. Congratulations to leader **Henrietta Cameron-Mann** and **APNA members** for all their efforts!

The **Armadillo Park Committee in 78745** hosted a wonderful park work day. They planted numerous native plants that will add beauty to the park, as well as help prevent soil erosion and runoff. Beautifying their park has encouraged more people to visit the park and stay active in this safe and beautiful park. Kudos to park day organizer **Kimberly Gamble** and her neighbors!



Adopt-a-Park Teams and Adopt-a-Creek Teams from 78744 and 78745 met as a combined group and drafted a statement letter and petition that will be presented to the Open Spaces, Environment, and Sustainability Committee on December 3, 2-5

PM at City Hall. Teams in attendance: were **Franklin Park, Kendra Page Park, Ponciana Park, Houston School Park, Odom School Park, Williamson Creek Central Greenbelt.**

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Foundation Communities has provided the Adopt-a-Park Committee of La Voz for St. Elmo Elementary, lead by **Cesar Lopez** and **Daniel Zapata**, funding to kick off soccer programming for St. Elmo neighborhood teens.

Residents from the Arbor Ridge community as well as surrounding neighborhoods in 78744 have been meeting and planning to establish a Farm Stand. Please come and give your ideas and be a part of helping provide affordable organic produce to Dove Springs! (See next meeting date in events calendar)

Vecinos Unidos, a new Geographic Team in 78744 has created a neighborhood watch committee. The team will be hosting a holiday block party on Dec. 19th at 1pm along Wagon Bend. The team is dedicated to creating safer streets, cleaning up part of E. Williamson Creek and creating a healthier community with their neighbors.



The GAVA Austin Healthy Food Store Initiative held across zip code meeting on Tues. Nov. 17th at the Pleasant Hill Library. Leaders in attendance were leaders: **Maribel Reynoso, Irene Castañeda, Marilei Castaneda and Juan Perez.** Coming off of their work at the October 27th GAVA coalition meeting with collaborators from GAMA, City of Austin HHS and City of Austin Council staff, leaders and GAVA staff reviewed the current status of the initiative in Austin and laid out strategy on how to promote and expand the project.



Photo:
Drawing
by Emily
Steinberg.



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! 5:30 PM St. Elmo Park 4312 S 1st, Austin, TX 78745	Mariano Di Vincenzo GAVA Community Organizer at Foundation Communities 713-854-2627 mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org
St. Elmo Neighborhood Park Team Come join us to apply for the GAVA mini-grant to install soccer goals in the park!	Wednesday, Dec 2 6:30-7:30pm Sierra Vista Learning Center	Mariano Di Vincenzo GAVA Community Organizer at Foundation Communities 713-854-2627 mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org
Sunset Valley Elementary Garden Work Day is in IMMEDIATE need of volunteers to assist with preparations for and participation in a BIG planting day at the garden!	Saturday, December 5 9:30-11:30 Sunset Valley Elementary Park	Milay Vicedo-Duncan Garden Coordinator at Sunset Valley Elementary milayvicedo@yahoo.com
La Fuerza Neighborhood Walk Join us as we implement strategies for improving the health of the Jones Rd/Westgate neighborhood!	Saturday, December 5 11:30-1pm Sunset Valley Elementary Park	Ivanna Neri Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org 512-998-3648
"Pop Up" Park @ the Manchaca Library! This temporary park will have a public art installation by Juan Deleon, swings, giant chess, checkers, Jenga and a variety of art and activities organized by the Library, Art in Public Places, GAVA, & more!	Saturday, December 12 10am-4pm Manchaca Rd. Branch Library 5500 Manchaca Rd., Austin, TX, 78745	Alba Sereno Community Director in 78745 alba@marathonkids.org
GAVA Advisory Council Meeting	Monday, December 14	Alba Sereno Community Director in 78745 alba@marathonkids.org
Early Childhood Sector Meeting	Tuesday, December 15 6:30-8 PM SE Branch Library 5803 Nuckols Crossing	Laura Olson Early Childhood Sector Manager 512-569-5880 laura.olson@uwatx.org
78745 & 78744 Physical Activity Sector Meeting	Tuesday, December 15 6:30-8 PM El Buen Samaritano 7000 Woodhue Dr. 78745	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer Cynthia@austinparks.org
Austin Interfaith Leaders Meeting Monthly meeting with GAVA partner Austin Interfaith, a non-partisan, multi-issue organization of 37+ institutions that work together to address public issues.	Thursday, January 21 7:00 - 8:30pm TBD	Kathleen Davis Lead Organizer with Austin Interfaith 512-944.4344 kdavis@austininterfaith.org
Armadillo Park Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting	January TBD	Henrietta Cameron-Mann President of APNA henrietta523@earthlink.net Ivanna Neri ivanna@marathonkids.org

78744 Calendar

Meeting / Event	Date	Contact
Houston Elementary Family CATCH Family Fitness night!	...Stay tuned for new date!	Dawn Ellis Physical Education Houston Elementary Telephone: 512-414-5520
City Council's Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee Meeting: Show your support for funding to be distributed to parks and green spaces in 78744 and 78745!	Thursday, December 3th 2PM - 5PM Austin City Hall 301 W. 2nd St. Austin, Texas 78701	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer Cynthia@austinparks.org
Houston School Park Ribbon Cutting Celebration! Come join us to celebrate the new developments at our community park and learn about our plans for the future!	Saturday, December 5th 10 AM - 12 PM 5409 Ponciana Dr. Austin, TX 78744	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer Cynthia@austinparks.org
GAVA Advisory Committee Meeting	Monday, December 14th 6:30 PM - 8 PM	Alba Sereno Community Director in 78745 alba@marathonkids.org
Early Childhood Sector Meeting	Tuesday, December 15 6:30-8 PM SE Branch Library 5803 Nuckols Crossing	Laura Olson Early Childhood Sector Manager 512-569-5880 laura.olson@uwatx.org
Physical Activity Sector Meeting Combined PA Sector Meeting	Tuesday, December 15th 6:30-8 PM El Buen Samaritano 7000 Woodhue Dr. 78745	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer Cynthia@austinparks.org
Vecinos Unidos (Wagon Bend) Block Party Join Vecinos Unidos for holiday fiesta along Wagon Bend! Neighbors are asked to bring a dish and learn about how to create a healthy community.	Saturday, December 19th 1pm - 4 pm Start at 6218 Wagon Bend (between Black Mule and Dove St.)	Estrella de Leon Geo Team Organizer 78744 estrella@marathonkids.org 512-477-1259 X 1703
Dove Springs Community-School Alliance Meeting	Friday, December 18 8:30- 10AM Mendez Middle School Library	Leonor Vargas Mendez Middle School, Family Resource Center Director 512-841-1016 leonor.vargas@austinisd.org
Austin Interfaith Leaders Meeting Monthly meeting with GAVA partner Austin Interfaith, a non-partisan, multi-issue organization of 37+ institutions that work together to address public issues.	Thursday, January 21 7:00 - 8:30pm Location: TBD	Kathleen Davis Lead Organizer with Austin Interfaith 512-944.4344 kdavis@austininterfaith.org