

December 2016

Community Accomplishments!

Construction of the new playground at Joslin Park is nearly complete! The Joslin Park team advocated for funds from the Park Block Grant in



early 2016 and this new playground is one of three GAVA projects that received funding for projects from this grant. The new playground is inspired by nature and encourages nature-based play. Stop by Joslin Park soon to check

out this fun new amenity!

Six GAVA teams recently participated in It's My Park Day Fall. Congrats to resident park adopters from Armadillo Park, Franklin Park, Joslin Park, Odom School Park, Onion Creek Greenbelt, and Williamson Creek Central Greenbelt for helping maintain our green spaces! APF also had a check ceremony for the Odom team to recognize the \$40k in APF grants they were awarded and to acknowledge all the great work the team has done. This event was attended by Odom Principal Sondra McWilliams and Council Member Delia Garza.



Stassney Food Mart celebrated their participation in the Healthy Corner Store Initiative and had their store event on Saturday, November 12th! Customers purchasing healthy items received discount coupons, free snacks and reusable grocery bags! The store now carries new shelving for the

healthy items, all for being part of this great initiative. Go check it out and support your local corner store!

It was a busy month for the Healthy Corner Store Initiative in 78745, with three store events! Students from Cunningham Elementary lead the event at 7-Eleven (6306 Manchaca Rd) on Friday, November 11th. They handed out coupons for discounts on healthy items, information about the initiative, reusable bags and tasting samples of healthy snacks! On Thursday, November 17th, both E-Z Food Stores (719 W William Cannon & 6400 S 1st) had their events, promoting the healthy items and inviting neighbors to support this initiative. The stores are also displaying new shelving for the healthy products, go and support them!



The GAVA Geo Team, Community in Action, has been working on addressing traffic issues. They have been able to increase the number of

crossing guards in the area, they coordinate every day to volunteer and help crossing pedestrians, and they worked to get all tools to paint and clean a sidewalk that is not walkable due to the trash, and lack of visibility. This Saturday, December 10th at 10:00 am, members of the team are meeting to clean, paint and beautify the sidewalk so that kids can start walking safe to school!

Welcome to the new board members of Armadillo Park Neighborhood Association, GAVA Geo Team in 78745! Brian McGivern, President; Lorena Solis, 1st VP; Gwen Jacobs; Laura Bucaro, Treasurer. We look forward to keep working together and make from the community a healthier place to live!

The La Fuerza members from Sunset Valley Elementary School have been working to enroll kids into the Safe Routes to School Program, Walk & Roll! The students are officially getting the program's cards and will start getting incentives. Great job team!

More than 40 stakeholders from both zip-codes attended GAVA's annual coalition meeting. Residents had the opportunity to interact with institutional stakeholders and attended sessions on Food Access, Traffic and Mobility, Early Childhood, and Fundraising!



GAVA Park adopters were featured in a report by Camila Bernal of Telemundo entitled (in Spanish): "A Simple Idea, a Bright Solution," highlighting their important efforts to increase lighting in the parks for safety and increased physical activity. The story features interviews with several GAVA resident leaders. You can find the story here:

<http://telemundoaustin.com/news/local/una-idea-simple-una-solucin-brillante>



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GAVA
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December 2016

78745 Calendar

Meeting / Event	Date	Contact
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!	Wed. @ Sierra Ridge Apartments 3:00 - 5:00 PM, 201 W St. Elmo Rd Kick off @ Cunningham Elementary November 1st 2 - 4:00 pm Berkeley and Buffalo Pass	Simone Benz Sustainable Food Center simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
Physical Activity Sector Meeting Join the PA Sector group for our last meeting of 2016! PA Sector meetings are opportunities for teams to work on park/green space projects, receive trainings and network with other park groups.	Wednesday, December 14th 6:30 - 8:00 PM Pleasant Hill Branch Library 211 E William Cannon Dr, Austin, TX 78745	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org , 512-387-2998
La Voz Meeting The La Voz team at Foundation Communities will have their final meeting of the year and serve a dinner to celebrate the year's' win	Wednesday, December 14th 6:30-8:00 PM Sierra Vista Apartments	Mariano Di Vincenzo GAVA Community Organizer at FC mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org , 713-854-2627
Austin Interfaith monthly leaders meeting Join leaders from Austin Interfaith member institutions from across the city for their monthly gathering.	Thursday, December 15th 7:00-8:30pm St John's/San Juan Lutheran Church 409 West Ben White Blvd 78704	Kathleen Davis kdavis@austininterfaith.org 512-916-0100
Community in Action Meeting This meeting will be focused on planning projects for next year and set up strategies for traffic, physical activity access and food access.	Monday, December 19th 9:00 AM Pleasant Hill Elementary	Ivanna Neri Geo Team Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648
Cunningham Neighborhood School Meeting Come join us to plan strategies to improve the health of the Cunningham Elementary community.	Wednesday, December 14th 3:15 PM Cunningham Elementary	Ivanna Neri Geo Team Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648
La Fuerza Meeting The team will do a final report of the 2016 accomplishments as well as plan strategies for the upcoming year.	Third week of December	Ivanna Neri Geo Team Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648





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December 2016

Dove Springs - 78744 Calendar

Meeting / Event	Date	Contact
Dove Springs Farm Stand Join us at the Dove Springs Farm Stand! You will be able to purchase local, organic produce at low prices.	Every Saturday! 10:30-12:30 pm Dove Springs District Park 5801 Ainez Dr.	Simone Benz Sustainable Food Center simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
Safety Meetings at Houston Elementary New bike lanes and crossing improvements were installed around Houston Elementary this fall. Representatives from Austin Transportation Department and APD will be present to speak with community about how to best ensure safety for children and adults using the new facilities.	Tuesday, December 13th 9:00 am and 7:00 pm Houston Elementary School (ATD and Bike Austin will host a family safety walk to educate families on the bike lanes and giving away prizes on Saturday, December 17th at 10:00 am)	Estrella de León Geo Teams Organizer 78744 estrella@marathonkids.org 206-293-9548
Physical Activity Sector Meeting Join the PA Sector group for our last meeting of 2016! PA Sector meetings are opportunities for teams to work on park/green space projects, receive trainings and network with other park groups.	Wednesday, December 14th 6:30 - 8:00 PM Pleasant Hill Branch Library 211 E William Cannon Dr, Austin, TX 78745	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org , 512-387-2998
Safety Meeting at Langford Elementary Please join parent leaders from Langford who are taking action to create safer streets in and around Kendra Page park and the school. Parents have invited the District Police to answer questions on crime statistics, tips on safety, and how to keep your families safe when using the park.	Friday, December 16th 8 - 9am Langford Elementary, 2206 Blue Meadow Dr.	Estrella de León Geo Teams Organizer 78744 estrella@marathonkids.org 206-293-9548
Austin Interfaith monthly leaders meeting A monthly convening of leaders from Austin Interfaith member institutions across the city.	Thursday, December 15th 7:00-8:30pm St John's/San Juan Lutheran Church 409 West Ben White Blvd 78704	Kathleen Davis kdavis@austininterfaith.org 512-916-0100
Dove Springs Community Garden Workday The Dove Springs Community Garden team invites all to a work day and to the Community Garden team by Nuckols Crossing and Palo Blanco every 1st Saturday of the month. Everyone is welcome- young and old- please wear gardening clothes and plan to dig in the dirt on December 10th!	Saturday, December 10th 9 am - 12 pm Mendez Middle School	Sulamita Mora FRC Director sulamita.mora@austinisd.org 512-841-1016



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GO! Austin/VAMOS! Austin (GAVA) is a partnership of residents, community leaders and nonprofit agencies who are devoted to improving the health of children and community in Dove Springs and 78745. We are neighborhoods and organizations united for health through improved nutrition and physical activity. 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, or Alba Sereno, 78745 Community Director at (214) 799-3767 or alba@marathonkids.org. Or, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GOAustinVAMOSAustin and on the web at www.GoAustinVamosAustin.org

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