

## July 2017 Community Highlights

### Parks & Green Spaces



The park adoption teams at Odom Elementary Park and Ponciana Park both held beautification events in June. The Odom team repainted railings, led a litter clean-up and completed landscaping. The Ponciana group mulched over a 100 trees in their park! Mulching



provides trees with much needed moisture and nutrients during the hot summer months. Congratulations to the Odom and Ponciana teams on your successful events and all the hard work!

Park team representatives from City Council Districts 2, 3, and 5 joined park adopters from across the city to advocate for increased funding for parks, trails, and green spaces in the FY18 City of Austin budget cycle. Teams met with city council members to advocate for park funding throughout the summer. Thank you to all the park and green space champions who were able to attend these meetings!

### Early Childhood Health & Wellness

GAVA Early Childhood team at Sweet Briar - Woodway Village childcare center, hosted a Summer Splash Day featuring healthy snacks and fun outdoor activities! The faculty have been focusing this year on implementing the CATCH-Early Childhood curriculum to increase physical activity and nutrition education at the center. Each family received a summer fun activity bag assembled by community volunteers including healthy snacks, items to promote active play, swim safety and instruction, and resources on where to find free meals, fresh food, and stay active over the summer!



### Healthy Foods & the Healthy Corner Store Initiative

GAVA and Common Threads collaborated to host a Healthy Corner Store event at the 78745 Bread Basket Corner Store, 2623 Jones Rd., on, July 15th! The event celebrates the launch of Bread Basket's "healthy options" open-air refrigerator and increased healthy options! Common Threads provided healthy recipes and giveaway bags for children and families using products found within the Bread Basket store.



#### Let's Get Children Cooking!

Healthy Cooking Education at Bread Basket Corner Store!

Common Threads is in partnership with GAVA's Healthy Corner Store Initiative and providing this free event to teach families how to cook together and incorporate healthy habits at home, while maintaining their existing traditions. Come and learn healthy ingredient substitutions, and convenient cost-saving recipes.

Come to our event and enjoy...

- Healthy Cooking Activities for Kids
- Healthy Recipes and more...

### Traffic Safety in 78745



The hard work of the GAVA 78745 geo team, La Fuerza de Westgate, has paid off! Their neighborhood received a new sidewalk ramp and painted crosswalk stripes on the corners of West Wind and

Westgate, and West Wind and Jones Rd. The team is now ready to paint their creative crosswalks to increase pedestrian safety for their neighborhood.

GAVA 78745 geo team, Community in Action, worked with the City of Austin to successfully extend the traffic crossing light on the street of Bill Hughes and William Cannon. The team is also working with the Creative Crosswalks program and received newly painted crosswalk stripes on William Cannon and Congress, Congress and Eberhart, and William Cannon and Circle S.



### Traffic Safety in Dove Springs

Residents of Dove Springs/78744 came together on June 19th to discuss their top priorities in Traffic Safety. Residents focused on pedestrian safety for children walking to school, increased traffic lights and speed bumps. They also discussed a variety of multi-modal city priorities and initiatives that can support their current needs. Residents reconvened to work on these priorities on Monday 7/17, at SE Branch Library to keep things moving forward.

## Community Calendar

We invite residents from 78744 & 78745 to the following events!

Meeting / Event	Date	Contact
<b>Dove Springs Farm Stand</b> Visit this resident led community farm stand for local, organic and low priced produce. Each farm stand takes SNAP and offers Double Dollars!	<b>Weekly!</b> 10:30am -12:30pm Dove Springs District Park 5801 Ainez Dr. 78744	<b>Simone Benz</b> Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
<b>78745 Farm Stands</b> Visit these resident led community farm stands for local, organic and low priced produce. Each farm stand takes SNAP and offers Double Dollars!	<b>Weekly!</b> St. Elmo Rd. Wed. 4-6pm, 4320 Congress, 78745	<b>Simone Benz</b> Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
<b>Fitness in the Park</b> <b>Free fitness classes</b> are now available in 78744 and 78745! Come stretch, breathe and reach your fitness goals with a weekly bilingual yoga class at Dove Springs Rec Center! And visit Dittmar Rec Center for exciting and fun zumba classes. Classes are FREE, and first-come, first-serve.	<b>Yoga:</b> Classes are held every Friday at 9 AM at the Dove Springs Rec Center <b>Zumba:</b> Classes are held every Monday at 6:30 PM at the Dittmar Rec Center	<b>Cynthia Rodriguez</b> Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-387-2998
<b>St. Elmo Park team Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday, July 12th</b> 6-7pm	<b>Cynthia Rodriguez</b> Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-387-2998
<b>78745 Neighborhood Block Walk</b> Join us for a Block Walk to promote an event for the Bread Basket healthy corner store. Come Meet your neighbors on Tahoe Trail, West Wind, and Ektom Dr.	<b>Wednesday July 12th</b> 5- 7 pm 2623 Jones Rd, 78745	<b>Frances Acuña</b> Geo Teams Organizer 78745 frances@marathonkids.org 512-300-9108
<b>Bread Basket Store Event, 78745</b> GAVA and Common Threads will be collaborating to host a Healthy Corner Store event at the 78745 Bread Basket Corner Store. The event will host healthy cooking activities and healthy recipes for families using healthy items for purchase at the Bread Basket.	<b>Saturday, July 15th</b> 10-12 pm Bread Basket 2623 Jones Rd, 78745	<b>Sergio Ramirez</b> Healthy Corner Store Initiative Organizer sergio@marathonkids.org 512.605.9234
<b>Dove Springs/78744 Traffic Safety Meeting</b> Join residents as they continue to take action on traffic safety priorities in the 78744. Translation provided.	<b>Monday July 17th</b> 6-7:30pm SE Branch Library 5803 Nuckols Crossing	<b>Estrella de León</b> Geo Teams Organizer 78744 estrella@marathonkids.org 206-293-9548
<b>GAVA Physical Activity Sector Meeting (44 &amp; 45)</b> Join PA teams as they work to improve the parks and green spaces in 78744 and 78745! This month, park and creek adopters will be receiving training strategies to develop strong teams and continue various projects.	<b>Tuesday, July 18th</b> 6:30 - 8 PM Dove Springs Recreation Center 5801 Ainez Dr 78744.	<b>Cynthia Rodriguez</b> Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-387-2998

<p><b>Austin Interfaith City-wide Leaders' Meeting</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Thursday, July 27th</b>          7-8:30 pm          Our Lady of Guadalupe          Catholic Church          1206 E. Ninth (at Lydia)          78702</p>	<p><b>Kathleen Davis</b>          Lead Organizer          Austin Interfaith  <a href="mailto:kdavis@austininterfaith.org">kdavis@austininterfaith.org</a>          512-916-0100</p>
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#### 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 the communities in South and Southeast Austin (Dove Springs-78744 & 78745). We are united for health through improved access to and promotion of improved nutrition and physical activity. For more information contact [gava@marathonkids.org](mailto:gava@marathonkids.org), or by phone: Carmen Llanes Pulido, GAVA Executive Director: 512-633-4312.

**Thank you to our sponsors for making our work possible!**

