



# *In Memory of Pastor Edward Craig*



**For the last several years Pastor Edward Craig has worked tirelessly and selflessly as one of park adopters of Franklin Park in Dove Springs, along with his wife, Mrs. Brenda Craig, and the congregation of the Great Baptist Commission Church. Pastor Craig was not only dedicated to the beautification and preservation of Franklin Park, but also cared deeply for Dove Springs Neighborhood, South Austin, and the community at large. GAVA misses him greatly and send condolences to his family and loved ones.**

*Memorial tributes may be made in Edwards honor to Great Baptist Commission Church Building fund. Make checks payable to Great Baptist Commission Church, mail to: Austin Baptist Association, PO Box 4978, Austin TX, 78765*



## October 2017 Community Highlights

### Park and Open Spaces Highlights!

The Houston School Park Team was awarded a Austin Parks Foundation's \$100,000 Impact Grant. The Houston School Park group will be using these funds to add a pavilion to their park, providing the elementary community with a space for educational activities during school hours and the community with a place for events and celebrations outside of school. Congratulations to resident leaders Gloria Lugo, Vianney Rodriguez, Bertha Hernandez, and Marisa Pereira!



Join the Ponciana Park team for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the park! The team will be celebrating their new playground and other park amenities and also holding a beautification event during

It's My Park Day on Nov. 4th!

It's My Park Day Fall is just one month away! Join the GAVA park and green space teams on Saturday, November 4th, as they work to improve their park. Volunteers will be needed at Armadillo Park, Joslin Park, Onion Creek Greenbelt, St. Elmo School Park, and the Williamson Creek Central Greenbelt. Please register to volunteer at: [austinparks.org/volunteer/impd](http://austinparks.org/volunteer/impd).



The Dove Springs Community Garden Team continues its amazing work in partnering with the Maverick Green STEM Academy at Mendez Middle School. In September, they worked on the Monarch Way Station. We have given away a Maverick Green STEM Academy (MGSA) Powerpack with a dozen eggs, and fresh vegetables from the community garden every Friday this year—thanks to our Parent Support Specialist, Jessica Victoria, who helps coordinate getting the food to our Mendez families.

On September 13th, GAVA resident team *Community In Action* gathered to beautify the Pleasant Hill Elementary! Community Action Team has started their second school year working with GAVA!



It is soccer season for the little ones at Sweetbriar Woodway Village and Palomita Child Inc.! Thanks to the coaches and staff of Soccer Shots that are introducing children to fundamental skills of the sport, and promoting physical activity and outdoor play!

The Fresh for Less coupon program has been extended throughout the end of October! You now have until 10/31 to buy fresh produce at either Bread Basket (2623 Jones Rd, 78745) or Texaco Food Spot (6607 S Pleasant Valley Rd) and double your money with the Fresh for Less coupon checks! If you would like to get involved with the Healthy Corner Store Initiative and bring the Fresh for Less coupon program to your local corner store, contact Sergio Ramirez at [sergio@marathonkids.org](mailto:sergio@marathonkids.org) or call at 512-477-1259 ext. 1719.



On September 9th Berkeley United Methodist Health Fair was a success! Neighbors, including leaders of the Cunningham elementary Coordinated School Health team came out to have fun and find resources for health and wellness.



*Photo: GAVA leaders and organizers pictured with Council member Ann Kitchen.*

### IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER!

The **CodeNEXT Survey by GAVA** ([click](#)) is collecting feedback from the 78744/45 communities to help plan future CodeNEXT community meetings and workshops. If you like to learn more about GAVA's CodeNext recommendations and get involved, contact Monica Guzmán by email: [Monica.Guzman@contractor.msdf.org](mailto:Monica.Guzman@contractor.msdf.org).



## 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> <b>Saturday's</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 Summer 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> 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>Community In Action GAVA Geo team meeting</b> Community in Action will meet for leadership training and to discuss updates and goals. Portable 4 Parent Support Specialist office Room	<b>Monday, October 2nd</b> 9 am Pleasant Hill Elementary School 6405 Circle S Rd, Austin, TX 78745	<b>Frances Acuña</b> Geo Teams Organizer 78745 <a href="mailto:frances@marathonkids.org">frances@marathonkids.org</a> 512-300-9108
<b>Dove Springs Community School Alliance meeting</b> Join us for the October Dove Springs Community School Alliance meeting to participate in a conversation with AISD Bond representatives and to talk about the future of Mendez! All are welcome! Growing Community Schools!	<b>Friday, October 6th</b> 8:30 - 10am Mendez Library 5106 Village Square Dr, Austin, TX 78744	<b>Sulamita Mora</b> The Austin Project Family Resource Center-Dove Springs Director <a href="mailto:sulamita.mora@austinsd.org">sulamita.mora@austinsd.org</a> 512-841-1016
<b>Bike and Roll Kick off!</b> <b>La Fuerza de Westgate GAVA Geo Team and Sunset Valley Elementary Parents</b> Come and encourage students to walk to school or ride their bikes at the Walk and Roll Kick Off day!	<b>Friday, October 6th</b> 7am Sunset Valley Elementary School 3000 Jones Rd. Sunset Valley	<b>Frances Acuña</b> Geo Teams Organizer 78745 <a href="mailto:frances@marathonkids.org">frances@marathonkids.org</a> 512-300-9108
<b>Association Specializing in Child Care</b> Come and learn about specific topics concerning early childhood and connect with other child care workers.	<b>Saturday, October 7th</b> 10:30am- 12:30pm Pleasant Hill Branch Library 211 E William Cannon Dr, Austin, TX 78745	<b>Teofila Ramirez</b> President of Association 512.447.0172
<b>Dove Springs Community Garden Work Day</b>	<b>Saturday, October 7th</b> 9 am - 12 pm	<b>Sulamita Mora</b> The Austin Project





<p>The Dove Springs Community Garden Team meets every 1st Saturday of the month to work on the garden. The leadership team consists of students, parents, community members, administrators, and teachers that work together to develop a plan and to work on the garden.</p>	<p><i>By the Mendez portables on the corner of nuckols crossing and Palo Blanco</i> 5106 Village Square Dr, Austin, TX 78744</p>	<p>Family Resource Center-Dove Springs Director <a href="mailto:sulamita.mora@austinisd.org">sulamita.mora@austinisd.org</a> 512-841-1016</p>
<p><b>It's My Park Day!</b> Austin Parks Foundation's biggest city-wide volunteer event, It's My Park Day on <u>November 4th</u>, has expanded to Fall! Volunteers are needed to help improve parks and greenbelts throughout the city.</p>	<p><b>Volunteer Registration opens on October 10th for</b> <a href="http://austinparks.org/volunteer/impd">austinparks.org/volunteer/impd</a></p>	<p><b>Cynthia Rodriguez</b> Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer <a href="mailto:cynthia@austinparks.org">cynthia@austinparks.org</a> 512-387-2998</p>
<p><b>Brodie Child Inc. Center Parent Meeting</b> Join us! Come express your concerns and interests as parents of young children and how we can work together in solving these issues.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, October 11th</b> 4pm Brodie Child Inc Center 8105 Brodie Ln, Austin, TX 78745</p>	<p><b>Laura Olson</b> United Way - GAVA Early Childhood Education <a href="mailto:laura.e.olson@uwaterloo.ca">laura.e.olson@uwaterloo.ca</a> Office 512-225-0357, Cell 512-569-5880</p>
<p><b>Odom Elementary School Parent Meeting</b> Come, join us get involved and express your concerns and interests.</p>	<p><b>Friday, October 13th</b> 10:45am Odom Elementary school 1010 Turtle Creek Blvd</p>	<p><b>Frances Acuña</b> Geo Teams Organizer 78745 <a href="mailto:frances@marathonkids.org">frances@marathonkids.org</a> 512-300-9108</p>
<p><b>Dove Springs Center Parent Meeting</b> Join us! Come express your concerns and interests as parents of young children and how we can work together in solving these issues.</p>	<p><b>Monday, October 16th</b> 2pm Dove Springs Child Inc Center 5106 Village Square Dr, Austin, TX 78744</p>	<p><b>Laura Olson</b> United Way - GAVA early childhood education <a href="mailto:laura.e.olson@uwaterloo.ca">laura.e.olson@uwaterloo.ca</a> Office 512-225-0357, 512-569-5880</p>
<p><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.</p>	<p><b>Monday October 16th</b> 7-8pm Dove Springs Park Pavilion 5801 Ainez Dr, Austin TX 78744</p>	<p><b>Estrella de León</b> Geo Teams Organizer 78744 <a href="mailto:estrella@marathonkids.org">estrella@marathonkids.org</a> 206-293-9548</p>
<p><b>Pop-in Meeting: 2016 Mobility Bond Corridor Program</b> Learn about the William Cannon Corridor plan and process, talk with team members about the <u>City's Corridor Mobility Plans</u>, and provide feedback.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, October 17</b> 11am -7pm Big Lots 801 E Wm Cannon Dr, Austin, TX 78745</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:2016Bond@austintexas.gov">2016Bond@austintexas.gov</a> (512) 974-7840</p>
<p><b>Cunningham GAVA Monthly Meeting</b> Cunningham Elementary staff, parents and residents are gathering to listen and express their concerns and interests.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, October 18th</b> 3:15pm Cunningham Elementary 2200 Berkeley Ave, Austin, TX 78745</p>	<p><b>Frances Acuña</b> Geo Teams Organizer 78745 <a href="mailto:frances@marathonkids.org">frances@marathonkids.org</a> 512-300-9108</p>
<p><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</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, October 19th</b> 6:30 - 8:00 PM Berkeley United Methodist Church</p>	<p><b>Cynthia Rodriguez</b> Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer <a href="mailto:cynthia@austinparks.org">cynthia@austinparks.org</a></p>







strategies to develop strong teams and continue various projects.	2407 Berkeley Ave, Austin, TX 78745	512-387-2998
<b>Gava Team Meeting with Sweet Briar Child Development Center, at Woodway Village Apartments</b> Join us! Come express your concerns and interests as parents of young children and how we can work together in solving these issues.	<b>Wednesday, October 25th</b> 5:15pm 4600 Nuckols Crossing Rd, 78744	<b>Laura Olson</b> United Way - GAVA early childhood education laura.e.olson@uwatx.org Office 512-225-0357, 512-569-5880
<b>Farm Stand/Gardening Event</b> Come join us and learn about gardening and get involved in your community!	<b>Thursday, October 26th</b> 1:30pm Manchaca Village Apt. Larchmont Dr, Austin, TX 78704	<b>Deirdre Leban</b> President of Resident Council <a href="mailto:dyleban@yahoo.com">dyleban@yahoo.com</a> 512-586-5029
<b>STEM Fest and Wellness Fair</b> The Family Resource Center at Mendez in partnership with the Bi-national Health Week with the Mexican Consulate- Ventanilla de Salud and many more partners invites the community to the STEM FEST and Wellness Fair! This family-friendly fun event will feature: STEM-related activities, student performances, rock wall climb, discovery dome, healthy cooking competition, Halloween costume contest, as well as local health and community resources. Come out and join us!	<b>Friday, October 27th</b> 4pm - 7 pm Mendez 5801 Ainez Dr, Austin, TX 78744	<b>Sulamita Mora</b> The Austin Project Family Resource Center-Dove Springs Director <a href="mailto:sulamita.mora@austinisd.org">sulamita.mora@austinisd.org</a> 512-841-1016
<b>CodeNEXT Draft 2 Open House</b> Attend the CodeNEXT Draft 2 Open House to learn about changes in CodeNEXT Draft 2, speak to the CodeNEXT team, and share your feedback. Meeting features Spanish language services, children's activities, and light refreshments.	<b>Saturday, October 28th</b> 10am -12pm Dove Springs Recreation Center 5801 Ainez Dr, Austin, TX 78744	<u>Sign up online</u> or call <b>(512) 974-3583</b> to make an appointment to speak to a CodeNEXT planner about the draft zoning map.

### 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.





Go! Austin!/ Vamos! Austin es una asociación de residentes, líderes comunitarios y agencias sin fin de lucro que se dedican a disminuir la obesidad infantil y mejorar la salud en las comunidades de Dove Springs (78744) & 78745. Somos barrios unidos por la salud a través del mejoramiento de la nutrición y la actividad física. Para más información, escriba: [gava@marathonkids.org](mailto:gava@marathonkids.org) o llame a Carmen Llanes Pulido, Directora de GAVA: 512-633-4312.

**¡Gracias a nuestros patrocinadores por hacer posible nuestro trabajo!**



*Michael & Susan Dell*  
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