



March 2018 Newsletter



It's My Park Day!

Congratulations to the six GAVA park and green space teams Houston, Armadillo, Franklin, Joslin, Williamson Creek Central Greenbelt, and Onion Creek Greenbelt who participated by hosting volunteer events! 78744 and 78745 groups mulched trees, picked up litter, planted native plants, and participated in a nature walk! Thank you to all teams for improving and maintaining our city parks!



New Community Garden at Shadow Bend Apartments!

Congratulations to Deirdre Leban GAVA leader at Shadow Bend apartments for breaking ground for a new community garden in 78745. Leaders are working with [Sustainable Food Center](#) to receive gardening training and resources!

SAVE THE DATE! 2018 GAVA Coalition Meeting: Thursday, May 3rd at Mendez

Join hundreds of GAVA team leaders, residents, and community stakeholders from 78744 and 78745 for a celebration of the hundreds of accomplishments from the last year, findings from the five-year evaluation in Dove Springs, followed by learning and strategizing sessions on nutrition, parks and creeks of South and Southeast Austin, traffic and safety improvements, and healthy schools and learning environments for children 0-4.

Special thanks to Mendez Middle School for hosting the GAVA coalition meeting!

May 3, 2018 | 5:30pm -8pm | 5106 Village Square Dr. 78744 Dinner, Childcare and Spanish interpretation provided.

Transportation for residents is available upon request: gava@marathonkids.org or 512-477-1259 x 1703

Dove Springs Recreation Center
5801 Ainez Dr.

BOOKMOBILE Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5 – 8:30 PM Wednesdays, 9 AM – 2 PM	YOUTH SERVICES Storytime: Wednesdays, 10:15 AM & Fridays, 2:15 PM Connected Youth Laptop Center Mondays – Thursdays, 3 PM Special Programs for Youth (such as Lego Lab, Japanese Club, Video Game Free Play) Wednesdays, 3 PM Crafternoon: Mondays, 3 PM Read-A-Loud: Thursdays, 3 & 4 PM
COMPUTER LAB Mondays – Thursdays, 10 AM – 7 PM Fridays & Saturdays, 11 AM – 3 PM	
TALK TIME Tuesdays, 11 AM	

Plus Yoga Wednesdays
6:30 PM
Family Resource Center
Mendez Middle School, 5106 Village Square Dr., Portable #3

Southeast Branch Library Resources!

As the Southeast Branch is undergoing needed repairs, the Austin Public Library is offering the Dove Springs community Bookmobiles, computer labs, talk time and youth services. Plus, free yoga on Wednesdays at the Family Resource Center!





March 2018 Dove Springs & 78745 Community Calendar

SAVE THE DATE! GAVA's Annual Coalition Meeting will be Thursday, May 3, 5:30 pm - 8 pm at Mendez Middle School: 5106 Village Square, Austin, TX 78744.

Event	Date and Location	Contact
<p>Dove Springs Farm Stand Visit this resident led community farm stand for local, organic and low priced produce. Each farm stand takes SNAP and offers Double Dollars!</p>	<p>Weekly on Saturdays 10:30am -12:30pm Dove Springs District Park 5801 Ainez Dr. 78744 Add event to your calendar</p>	<p>Simone Benz Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)</p>
<p>78745 Farm Stands Visit this resident led community farm stand for local, organic and low priced produce. Each farm stand takes SNAP and offers Double Dollars!</p>	<p>Weekly St. Elmo: <u>Wed. 4-6pm,</u> 4320 Congress, 78745 Add to your calendar Cunningham Elem: <u>Tues. 2-4pm,</u> 2200 Berkeley Ave. Add to your calendar Odom Elem: <u>Tues. 1:30-3:30pm,</u> 1010 Turtle Crk Blvd Add to your calendar</p>	<p>Simone Benz Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)</p>
<p>Fitness in the Park Free fitness classes 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.</p>	<p>Yoga: every Friday at 9am Dove Springs Rec Center Add to your calendar Zumba: every Monday at 6:30pm Dittmar Rec Center Add to your calendar</p>	<p>Vanessa Castro Stronger Austin Program Manager IT'S TIME TEXAS 512.533.9555 ext. 1330 Strongeraustin.org vanessa@itstimetexas.org</p>
<p>Odom Parent Talk Come join Odom Elementary parents and GAVA at "Coffee with the Principal" and learn about all the exciting things happening. Be part of your children's education, be part of the change.</p>	<p>Friday March 2nd 10:45 am - 12 pm Odom Elementary School 1010 Turtle Creek Blvd Add to your calendar</p>	<p>Frances Acuña GAVA Geo Teams Organizer 78745 frances@marathonkids.org 512-300-9108</p>
<p>Dove Springs Community Garden Work Day The Garden Team at Mendez Middle School gets together every 1st Saturday of the month. We will work on the garden from 9 am -10:30 am and then make a visit to the Dove Springs Farm Stand at Dove Springs Park. 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>Saturday, March 3rd 9 am - 11 am By the Mendez portables on the corner of nuckols crossing and Palo Blanco Add to your calendar</p>	<p>Sulamita Mora The Austin Project Family Resource Center-Dove Springs Director sulamita.mora@austinisd.org 512-841-1016</p>





<p>Coffee with the Principal Come join Pleasant Hill Elementary School parents and GAVA at "Coffee with the Principal." Learn about the great things parents are doing and get involved in your children's education and well being. Come join parents of Pleasant Hill Elementary to a parent platica. Learn about Early Childhood resources in the community!</p>	<p>Monday March 5nd 8am to 10am Pleasant Hill Elementary School Add to your calendar</p>	<p>Frances Acuña GAVA Geo Teams Organizer 78745 frances@marathonkids.org 512-300-9108</p>
<p>GAVA team meeting at Sweet Briar Woodway Village Child Development Center Join us as we discuss the progress of our center's health initiative and come express your interests as parents of young children.</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 7 5pm - 6pm Sweet Briar Woodway Village Child Development Center 4600 Nuckols Crossing Rd. Austin, TX 78744 Add to your calendar</p>	<p>Joelynn Avendaño United Way - GAVA Early Childhood Education joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org 956-708-5663</p>
<p>HACA Monthly Gardening Meeting Come join the Shadow Bend Apartments in planning the next steps for the new community garden!</p>	<p>Thursday, March 15 10 am-11 am Shadow Bend Apartments 6328 Shadow Bend, Austin, TX 78745 Add to your calendar</p>	<p>Frances Acuña GAVA Geo Teams Organizer 78745 frances@marathonkids.org 512-300-9108</p>
<p>Dove Springs Child Inc. Parent Meeting Join us! Come learn more about this school year's health initiative and provide input for this year's End-of-the-School Festival event!</p>	<p>Monday, March 19 2-3pm Dove Springs Child Inc. Center 5106 Village Square Dr. Austin, TX 78744 Add to your calendar</p>	<p>Joelynn Avendaño United Way - GAVA Early Childhood Education joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org 956-708-5663</p>
<p>Palomita Child Inc Parent Meeting Join us as we discuss the progress of our health initiative goals for this school year!</p>	<p>Monday, March 19 5-6pm Palomita Early Childhood Center 4905 Maufrais Ln, 78744 Add to your calendar</p>	<p>Joelynn Avendaño United Way - GAVA Early Childhood Education joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org 956-708-5663</p>
<p>GAVA Physical Activity Sector Meeting (44 & 45) Join park and creek adopters to improve the green spaces of 78744 and 78745! This month they'll receive training and strategies to strengthen their teams and projects.</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 20 6:30pm - 8:00pm Pleasant Hill Branch Library Austin, TX 78745 Add to your calendar</p>	<p>Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-387-2998</p>
Other healthy events in the community!		
<p>Intro to Organic Food Gardening The Central Texas Food Bank and Sustainable Food Center are partnering to offer the three-part Introduction to Organic Food Gardening class series to our clients and Partner Agency staff in Travis County.</p>	<p>March 23, March 30, and April 6 10am – 12pm March 24, March 31, and April 7 3pm – 5pm Central Texas Food Bank Learning Garden, 6500 Metropolis Dr., Austin, TX 78744 Add to your calendar</p>	<p>To register for classes contact Greg Mast at 512-684-2159 or email gmast@centraltexasfoodbank.org</p>





About GO! Austin/VAMOS! Austin

Go Austin / Vamos Austin (GAVA) is a coalition of residents, community leaders, and nonprofits working to improve the health of communities in 78744 and 78745 by increasing access to and participation in physical activity and improved nutrition. GAVA uses community organizing and institutional alignment to improve the health of the built environment and build community power for health equity in five sectors: Physical Activity, Healthy Food Access, Coordinated School Health, Early Childhood and Community Safety. For more information, visit www.goaustinvamosaustin.org, or write gava@marathonkids.org

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting GAVA!



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