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GAVA
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July 2016



Mendez Family Fun Fit Fest!

Consuelo Mendez Coordinated School Health team and Family Resource Center- Dove Springs presented their Community Health and Wellness Fair "Family Fun Fit Fest in May. The festival offered summer program registrations, blood pressure and diabetes screenings, a bike rodeo, zumba classes, access to immigration

services and 40 different community agencies. 104 community members attended the festival!

La Fuerza Team, 78745

Gloria Najera and Maribel Reynoso, leaders from the Traffic Committee of La Fuerza Neighborhood Team in 78745 met with Neighborhood Partnering Program to create possible projects to bring walking and biking connectivity to the neighborhood and create more safety.

La Fuerza School/Community Garden Team had a work day to mulch the green spaces at St. Elmo Park. They began planning next steps and future work days for the upcoming school year.



GAVA Park Teams in 78744 and 78745 once again participated in National Trails day, with five GAVA park adoption teams participating. Ponciana Park neighbors who live in the Paisano Mobile Homes in 78744, celebrated the event, by providing food and games for the families that participated.

Youth Soccer in 78744 and 78745!

Volunteer-coached soccer teams from Rodriguez Elementary, Houston Elementary and St. Elmo Elementary competed with each other in a recreational tournament at Houston Elementary in early July! Thank you to coaches Raul Sarmiento, Leonel Sánchez, José Moreno and Henry Quevedo for coaching, and to Gloria Lugo for organizing this event!

Thanks to everyone who attended the kickoff meeting for the **Odom/Armadillo Park Farm Stand!!** We will be asking for your feedback over the next couple of months to get your ideas for a farm-fresh fruit and vegetable stand in the neighborhood. We will working closely with the Healthy Corner Store Initiative. Residents will be learning about healthy foods by conducting short inventories at the stores that have signed on. Join us in taking inventory of newly stocked healthy products! If you'd like to share ideas, ask questions, or join our team, our next meeting **July 25th at 7PM at ACC South Campus. Join us!**



GAVA Healthy Corner Store Initiative Signs Two New Stores!

Two new convenience stores in 78745 have signed on to be a part of the Healthy Corner Store Initiative! The are E-Z Food Store #3 at 719 W. William Cannon, and E-Z Food Store

#5 at 6400 S. 1st. Please visit these stores—they will now be providing at least four new healthy items!

Residents from both zip codes continue to participate in trainings on how to choose healthy items for their stores and how to work with their neighbors and area store owners to make healthy changes.



City of Austin Health and Human Services Awards Mini-Grants to GAVA Teams!

The GAVA early childhood team at Little Dudes Learning Center in 78745 applied and received a grant from the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department, Chronic Disease Prevention for a new refrigerator. This new refrigerator will significantly increase the fresh food the center can provide, and will properly store milk (including breast milk

for nursing babies).

"La Voz de San Elmo," received a \$3000 grant for lighting outside of the Sierra Vista Learning Center. Foundation Communities will be providing an additional \$1000 in funding to finish the project. As a result of this project, children at Sierra Vista will have up two more hours of outdoor playtime during the winter.

Leaders at City Hall

This month Margot Rochon, Lorena Solis, Lorenzo Sic, and other resident leaders from 78745 testified on the transportation and mobility bond at City Hall. They spoke about the importance of including pedestrian safety and amenities, better bus routes, connectivity, and incorporating the South & Southeast Austin corridors (William Cannon, Stassney, Manchaca, S.Congress, and S.1st) in their priorities.



The City of Austin Public Works began completing the sidewalk on Lemon Street in 78744 this month, to finally complete the sidewalk loop around Houston Elementary's soccer field and campus, and encourage safety and recreation around the school. This was one of dozens of projects that residents in 78744 and 78745 recommended for the City of Austin's use of the "Quarter Cent Fund". The majority of

improvements approved for District 2 (represented by Councilmember Delia Garza) were recommended by GAVA teams! Photo by Gloria Lugo





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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! 4:00 PM St. Elmo Park, 4312 S 1st	Mariano Di Vincenzo GAVA Community Organizer at FC mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org , 713-854-2627
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!	Wednesdays @ Sierra Ridge Apartments 3:00 - 5:00 PM, 201 W St. Elmo Rd Fridays @ Cunningham Elementary 2:45 - 4:00 PM, Berkeley and BuffaloPass	Simone Benz Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
Weekly walking group Come join La Fuerza Walking Group and get active for 1 ½ hr!	Every Tuesday and Thursday 6:30-7pm Sunset Valley Elementary Park	Ivanna Neri Geo Team Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648
GAVA Physical Activity Sector Meeting 78744 & 78745 Join PA teams as they work to improve the parks and green spaces in 78744 and 78745! This month teams will be receiving training strategies to develop strong park/green space teams and will also continue to work on park projects.	Wednesday, July 13 6:30 - 8:00 PM SE Branch Library	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org , 512-387-2998
La Fuerza Meeting	August TBD	Ivanna Neri Geo Team Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648
APNA Traffic Committee Meeting Come join us as we implement strategies for improving Odom and Armadillo Park, Traffic/Mobility issues, food access and creating beautification projects for the entire neighborhood.	August TBD	Ivanna Neri Geo Team Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648
Healthy Corner Store Initiative We are happy to announce that two new stores have joined to be part of the HCSI! They are the EZ Food Stores located in 6400 S 1st. St and 719 W William Cannon. We will be planning activities for these stores shortly, so contact us if you're interested and want to participate!	July TBD	Marla Torrado Food Retail Organizer 78745 and 78744 marla@marathonkids.org 787-565-5896
Austin Interfaith City-wide Leaders' Meeting 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.	Thursday, July 28th 7:00-8:30pm Capital IDEA Lifeworks Multipurpose Room 835 N. Pleasant Valley Road, 78702	Kathleen Davis kdavis@austininterfaith.org 512-916-0100
APNA General Membership Meeting	Monday, July 25th 7-8:30pm ACC South Austin Campus	Ivanna Neri Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648)
Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Block Walk Come and walk with us as we implement strategies for improving the health of the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood!	Wednesday, July 26th 5:30-7:30pm Meeting point: 6328 Shadow Bend	Ivanna Neri Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648
Principal Meeting for Coordinated School Health An opportunity for principals at the 10 GAVA partner schools to exchange ideas and best practices for coordinated school health, and learn about funding and programs for their campuses.	Thursday, July 28 11:30-1:30pm Widen Elementary 5605 Nuckols Crossing, Austin, TX 78744	Megan Grayless Allison.M.Conklin@uth.tmc.edu 512-482-6170
Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Wednesday, August 10th 6:30-8pm TBD	Ivanna Neri Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org , 512-998-3648





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78744 Farm Stand Meeting Members of the 78744 community will be once again meeting to discuss preparations for launching the Dove Springs Farm Stand this fall. Join us in this conversation!	Thursday July 21 6:00-7:00 pm Location TBD	Simone Benz Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
Healthy Corner Store Initiative Training Residents leaders who live along E. William Cannon are invited to a follow up training on how to create healthier corner stores in our community. Texaco on E. William Cannon and S. Pleasant Valley is now stocking a selection of fruits and vegetables.	Time and Location TBD Contact organizer for more info	Marla Torrado GAVA Healthy Food Retail Organizer marla@marathonkids.org
Austin Interfaith City-wide Leaders' Meeting 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.	Thursday, July 28th 7:00-8:30pm Capital IDEA Lifeworks Multipurpose Room 835 N. Pleasant Valley Road, 78702	Kathleen Davis kdavis@austininterfaith.org 512-916-0100
Vecinos Unidos Geo Team Meeting Vecinos Unidos ("United Neighbors") along Wagon Bend will continue to work with Keep Austin Beautiful on creating a safer and accessible E. Williamson Creek	Thursday July 14 7:15 - 8:15 pm Location TBD	Estrella de León Geo Teams Organizer 78744 estrella@marathonkids.org 206-293-9548
Principal Meeting for Coordinated School Health An opportunity for principals at the 10 GAVA partner schools to exchange ideas and best practices for coordinated school health, and learn about funding and program opportunities for their campuses.	Thursday, July 28 11:30-1:30pm Widen Elementary 5605 Nuckols Crossing, Austin, TX 78744	Megan Grayless Allison.M.Conklin@uth.tmc.edu 512-482-6170
Paisano Community Meeting Paisano Mobile Homes residents will be hosting a community meeting to discuss traffic safety around Ponciana Park and the surrounding schools.	July 30 Location and time TBD	Estrella de León Geo Teams Organizer 78744 estrella@marathonkids.org 206-293-9548



Welcome GAVA's newest staff: Marla Torrado (Organizer for GAVA's Healthy Corner Store Initiative) Marla Torrado is originally from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, and has been an Austin resident for six years. She moved in 2010 to start her Ph.D. studies at UT, in the Community and Regional Planning program. Her work was based in Argentina, where she studied the impacts of the expansion of genetically modified (GM) soybeans as a nation-wide planning initiative that, while important as a source of revenue for the state, also provoked large groups of people to mobilize at the local level due to the negative impacts the production process has on their communities. She worked closely with an active women's organization, Grupo de Madres de Barrio Ituzaingo, to make visible the struggles and challenges of a community heavily impacted by the production process of GM soy. Before moving to

Austin, she worked for the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico, helping lead the Mapa de Vida initiative, a program that connected residents to the the different ecosystems in their region through educational programs and events that celebrated the importance of the human-environment relations. Marla holds an MA in Geography from Syracuse University, and a BSc in Environmental Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico.

