

Community Highlights!

Odom School Park Team

Congratulations to the Odom School Park team for receiving a GAVA mini-grant of approximately \$1,500 for a new bench and five bike racks at Odom School Park. These new amenities will encourage more park usership and also inspire both children and adults to ride their bikes to the park. Be on the lookout for these wonderful new amenities at Odom School Park!



Casey Elementary School - CATCH Night



Casey Elementary had a very successful CATCH night on 2/18/16 with support from Akins PALS and Akins Athletics groups. Families had an opportunity to visit organizations such as the

YMCA of Austin and to participate in physical

activities such as volleyball, yoga and disc golf. Casey families were also able to sample healthy fruits & vegetables, the Hulk smoothie from Brighter Bites and a sample breakfast from the Breakfast in the Classroom initiative. Fittest Family participants were able to exchange their Fit Bucks, for attending Fittest Family events, for some great active prizes, to include a kayak!

It's My Park Day!

On March 5th, eight GAVA teams will be participating in It's My Park Day, Austin Park Foundation's biggest city-wide volunteer event. This year, park adoption teams in Dove Springs-78744: Franklin Park, Kendra Page, Ponciana Park, Onion Creek Greenbelt, Williamson Creek East (Vecinos Unidos), and 78745: Armadillo Park, Odom School Park, and Williamson Creek Central Greenbelt, are all caring for their neighborhood parks and green spaces! There are also two GAVA teams that are being led by Spanish-speakers: Vecinos Unidos and Odom Elementary Park Team. This is a first for It's My Park Day! All teams will be working hard to care for their green spaces by creating butterfly gardens, repairing landscaping, caring for the trees, organizing a cleanup and so much more.



La Fuerza Wins Improved Lighting

Geographic team La Fuerza de Westgate (The Strength of Westgate) has been working to improve the safety of the neighborhood. This past month Tahoe Trail, a street within La Fuerza boundaries, received brighter lighting. This is the beginning of the creation of a safe community. Thank you to the leaders for your hard work!

More Community Highlights!

Park Funding Wins!

The park & creek adoption teams who make up GAVA's the Physical Activity (P.A.) Sector continued their advocacy work for \$1.15M funds available through the Park Block Grant. In February, the resident team leaders met regularly with Austin's Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) about the funds and toured area parks. They also testified in front of the Open Space Committee of City Council. The GAVA teams have been dedicated and tireless in their work to secure public, private and in-kind funding to improve their green spaces. Their hard work has resulted in a commitment from both the City and PARC to explore funding opportunities for issues such as lighting and track improvements in the next budget cycle, and a commitment from the Austin Parks Foundation to work toward installation of fitness equipment at multiple parks. Congratulations to all teams for all that you have accomplished!



La Voz - Soccer Teams

Teen and parents from the La Voz Geo Team successfully installed soccer goals at St. Elmo Elementary School Park. The teens have joined a competitive soccer league through the Police Activities League (PAL), which will start at the end of March (the schedule has not yet been released) and will be using the new field as a practice site.

APNA Traffic Meeting

Armadillo Park Neighborhood Association hosted its first Traffic Committee meeting. Leaders discussed some of their concerns and set up a monthly meeting to move their work forward and create a safe neighborhood. Congratulations to Angie Hardy, Crystal Osorio for taking the leadership on this!

Houston School Garden Team

The Houston school garden team has been working hard to revitalize their school's garden beds. We are cleaning up the existing gardening areas, laying mulch and adding organic compost, to get ready for spring planting! The team's next step will be to build 6 new gardening beds, where there will be space for more neighboring families to grow their own food! Keep up the good work, Houston!



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, Austin, TX 78745	Mariano Di Vincenzo GAVA Community Organizer at FC 713-854-2627 mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org
Free Weekly Zumba Class No-cost Zumba class taught by bilingual instructors. Free childcare is available for children 3+ years of age, no advance notice required. Show up and sign-in to get your workout on!	Tuesdays @ Sierra Vista Apartments 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 4320 S Congress Ave Thursdays @ Sierra Ridge Apartments 6:30 - 7:30 PM, 201 W St Elmo Rd	Natalie Peluso Program Director at WeViva natalie@weviva.org
"Stay and Play Day" and Team Meeting An opportunity for parents, children and staff of Little Dudes, to stay a while at pick-up time, play, meet other parents, and talk about health and wellness in our neighborhood and at the learning center.	Tuesday, March 8 5:30 - 6:30 PM Saturday, March 26 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Little Dudes Learning Center Playground 205 Sandra St	Laura Olson United Way - Early Childhood Education laura.e.olson@uwatx.org
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 Buffalo Pass	Simone Benz Community Outreach Coordinator at SFC 214-449-9957 simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org
Physical Activity Sector Meeting - 78745 & 78744 Join 78744/78745 park and green space teams as they collaborate about park projects and upcoming neighborhood events.	Thursday, March 10 6:30-8:00 PM Southeast Branch Library 5803 Nuckols Crossing Rd, 78744	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org
APNA Traffic Committee Meeting Join APNA for a discussion of traffic concerns in 78745 and information on how to take action.	Thursday, March 17 7:00 - 8:00 PM Garden Terraces 1015 W William Cannon Dr, 78745	Ivanna Neri Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org 512-998-3648
La Fuerza de Westgate Meeting Join us as we meet with employees from the Austin Tenants Council to discuss housing issues.	Saturday, March 19 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Tahoe Trail	Ivanna Neri Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org 512-998-3648
Austin Interfaith City-wide Leaders' Meeting Join Austin Interfaith leaders to discuss how to organize for the issues that affect our families. The meeting will include a training on organizing strategies.	Thursday, March 31 7:00 - 8:30PM Wildflower Unitarian Universalist Church 1314 E Oltorf Rd, 78704	Kurt Cadena-Mitchell Special Projects Organizer kurt.interfaith@gmail.com 512-786-5388
Pleasant Hill Elementary Garden Build Day Students and families are invited to help build the new school garden. Lunch is provided for full-day volunteers, all students must be accompanied by an adult.	Saturday, April 9 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Pleasant Hill Elementary School	Alejandra Gonzalez U.T. School of Public Health GAVA School Sector Organizer alejandra.b.gonzalez@uth.tmc.edu

78744 Calendar

Meeting / Event	Date	Contact
Free Fitness Class in the Park! Join Explosive Dance Fitness, certified local MixedFit Instructor. A dance fitness program with boot camp toning and explosive dance movements!	Every Thursday, March 3 - April 7 5:45 - 6:30 PM Franklin Neighborhood Park 4800 Copperbend Blvd	Melody Carlton Free OUtdoor Wellness Series 512-974-3906 melody.carlton@austintexas.gov
Dove Springs Community School Alliance Meeting Event to capture parent, resident, and community partner input to make Mendez Middle School a school that is responsive and inclusive of the best academic, social, and community services and out of school time resources.	Friday, March 4 Friday, April 1st 8:30 - 10:00 AM Mendez Middle School Library	Sulamita Mora Family Resource Center Director, Mendez Middle School sulamita.mora@austinisd.org 512-841-1016
Rodriguez Family Fitness Night - CATCH Come join us for an evening of healthy activities, food, and prizes for the whole family.	Thursday, March 10 6:15 - 7:15PM Rodriguez Elementary School	Alejandra Gonzalez U.T. School of Public Health GAVA School Sector Organizer alejandra.b.gonzalez@uth.tmc.edu
GAVA Physical Activity Sector Meeting - 78745 & 78744 Join 78744/78745 park and green space teams as they collaborate about park projects and upcoming neighborhood events.	Thursday, March 10 6:30-8:00 PM Southeast Branch Library 5803 Nuckols Crossing Rd, 78744	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer Cynthia@austinparks.org
Vecinos Unidos Geo Team Meeting Join Vecinos Unidos from Wagon Bend as they plan for It's My Park Day at E. Williamson Creek and action steps for the Neighborhood Watch group!	Friday, 7:15 - 8:15 PM Location TBD Saturday, March 5, 8:30 am- 12:00 pm It's My Park Day at E. Williamson Creek	Estrella de León Geo Team Organizer 78744 estrella@marathonkids.org 512-477-1259 X 1703
School Coordinated Health Team The Wellness and Technology Corner provides free blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes screenings. Also learn about community health resources.	Tuesday, March 22 7:30 - 9:00 AM Corner of Nuckols Crossing and Palo Blanco Mendez Middle School	Sulamita Mora Family Resource Center Director, Mendez School sulamita.mora@austinisd.org 512-841-1016
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, March 31 7:00 - 8:30PM Wildflower Unitarian Universalist Church 1314 E Oltorf Rd, 78704	Kurt Cadena-Mitchell Special Projects Organizer kurt.interfaith@gmail.com 512-786-5388
Perez Family CATCH Night Come join us for an evening of healthy activities, food and prizes for the whole family.	Wednesday, April 6 5:30 - 7:00PM Perez Elementary	Alejandra Gonzalez U.T. School of Public Health alejandra.b.gonzalez@uth.tmc.edu