

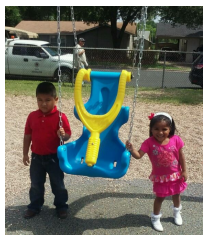
Community Highlights!



10-year-old Houston Elementary student, Sebastian Escamilla and members of the 78744 GAVA Geo Team *Vecinos Unidos* coordinated a Nerf tournament at Houston Park. At least 24 neighborhood youth participated in the tournament,

which Sebastian wanted to host to “get kids off their computers and to get outside and play!” This is GAVA’s first youth led event in Dove Springs!!

The Cunningham Elementary Student Wellness Team worked hard to plan, organize and lead a taste test at the 7-Eleven participating in GAVA’s Healthy Corner Store Initiative. They used healthy ingredients available at the 7-Eleven to make a yogurt parfait and fruit kabob. The team set up outside of the store, and over 90 students, parents, staff and community members tried the healthy snacks and filled out a short survey. Special thanks to the Michael & Susan Dell Community Collaborative for Child Health for the *Nourish U: Healthy Eating & Drinking* mini-grant.



New amenities continue to be added at Odom School Park! An ADA accessible swing was funded by Park Block Grant through the Parks and Recreation Department. Thank you to the Odom School Park team for your commitment to help make this school park even greater!

During the month of April, Perez & Houston Elementary Schools held their CATCH Nights. Students and families participated in fitness activities, received healthy snacks and information on healthy lifestyles. The Coordinated School Health Teams organized the events with support from Brighter Bites, IT’S TIME TEXAS and the Austin Fire Department. Approximately 375 students and family members attended the events, with several of those individuals walking away with prizes that promote physical activity at home! Over 40 families received booster seats for car safety. Special thanks to Randy Chhabra and Austin Travis County EMS Community Outreach.

Consuelo Mendez Middle School Boys and Girls Club students created health messaging posters on behalf of the Coordinated School Health team, featuring pictures of Maverick students drinking water and washing hands. The students enjoyed learning and making these posters.

More Community Highlights!

There is a new youth soccer league in 78745! Through the Police Activities League (PAL), soccer teams were created at Odom, St. Elmo, and Pleasant Hill Elementary schools. The teams consist of both male and female students from 3rd - 5th grade, with games held at Odom School Park. Park team leader,



Lorena Solis, helped coordinate the games at Odom and the Parks & Recreation Department painted the fields at no cost. This is a free program that is being led by Officer Paula Aguilar. Thank you to all who helped bring more soccer opportunities to youth in 78745!

Photo above: Pleasant Hill vs Odom Elementary at Odom School Park



Five GAVA teams will be participating in National Trails Day, the American Hiking Society’s trail awareness program. Please join the teams of Franklin Park, Onion Creek Greenbelt, Ponciana Park, Odom School Park, and Williamson Creek Central Greenbelt as they work to improve their trails and green spaces! National Trails Day is on June 4th and volunteers can sign up at <http://austinparks.org/volunteer/ntd>. Thank you to the GAVA teams for helping care for our city’s trails!

The Armadillo Park team held another work day in April! Park leaders mulched trees and pulled weeds in the butterfly garden area. Thank you to the Armadillo Park team for being such great stewards of your park!

The Texaco at S. Pleasant Valley and William Cannon is the newest corner store to sign on to the Healthy Corner Store Initiative! They will now offer apples, bananas, limes, lemons, avocados and more! GAVA resident leader Irene Castañeda is pictured here with the store manager signing an agreement to stock healthy items. GAVA is working in collaboration with the City of Austin on this initiative.



Community leaders Angelica Robles, Maria Granjero, and Lorena Solis, members of the Odom School Park team, were recently honored in a ceremony at Odom Elementary School for their commitment to improving Odom School Park. These leaders were also recognized for their volunteer work with the Brighter Bites program. Congratulations to these leaders on this recognition, and thank you for all that you do for the 78745 community!

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
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 Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
Safe Routes to School at Sunset Valley Elementary Come walk with us every Wednesday. Look for the orange vest and join our walking train!	Every Wednesday Starting on May 4th Jones & Manchaca 7:05 AM, Jones & Westgate 7:10 AM, Jones & W. Wind 7:15 AM	Milay Viciado-Duncan Parent Leader with Sunset Valley Elementary 512-917-0674 Gloria Najera , Parent Leader with La Fuerza, 512-614-4057
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.	Thursday, May 12 6:30 - 8:00 pm Southeast Branch Library 5803 Nuckols Crossing Rd Austin, TX 78744	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org , 512-387-2998
Armadillo Park Committee Meeting Join the Armadillo Park Committee to discuss park goals and upcoming work day ideas. Come share your ideas and join the Armadillo Park team!	Tuesday, May 10 6:30-7:30PM Strange Brew	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org , 512-387-2998
Garrison Park Community Meeting Learn how you can get involved in developing Garrison Park! Please join us for our second community meeting as we share ideas about how to make this district park even greater.	Tuesday, May 17 6:00 - 7:00 pm Garrison Park (meet at the pavilion) 6001 Manchaca Rd, Austin TX 78745	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org , 512-387-2998
La Fuerza Meeting Join us as we implement strategies for improving the health of the Jones Rd/Westgate neighborhood!	Wednesday, May 18 5:30-7 PM 4906 W Wind Trail Austin, TX 78745	Ivanna Neri Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745 ivanna@marathonkids.org 512-998-3648
Sustainable Food Center's Community Garden Leadership Training In this interactive training, we will cover: locating community support and resources for your garden, accessing land and water, organizing a strong garden team, school-specific strategies and guidelines, and more.	Tues May 17 and Wed May 18, 6-8 PM Sustainable Food Center 2921 E. 17th St. Bldg C <u>Register by May 13th: (512) 236-0074 ext. 110</u>	Simone Benz Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
Community Collaborative for Child Health Nourish U Summit This summit, hosted by the Michael and Susan Dell Community Collaborative for Child Health, will be a great opportunity to learn more about how schools and other local organizations are promoting healthy eating and drinking with children.	Saturday, May 21 10am to 1pm 500 E St Johns Ave Register at www.childhealthcollaborative.org	Julie Latcham Child Health Collaborative childhealthcollaborative@uth.tmc.edu
Casey Elementary Swamp Fest Join the Casey PTA for a fun-filled event. There will be a moonwalk, DJ, carinval games, train, community organizations and lots of family fun!	Saturday, May 21 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM Casey Elementary School 9400 Texas Oaks Drive, 78745	Angie Avalos 512-803-5913 angieraeavalos@yahoo.com
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, May 26 7:00 - 8:30PM First Unitarian Universalist Church 4700 Grover St, 78756	Kurt Cadena-Mitchell Special Projects Organizer kurt.interfaith@gmail.com 512-786-5388

78744 Calendar

Meeting / Event	Date	Contact
Fresh Food for Families Free fresh food will be given to Dove Springs families. Please bring your own grocery bags	Friday, May 6 at 9am Friday, May 13 at 1pm Dove Springs Recreation Center	Dove Springs Recreation Center 5801 Ainez Dr, Austin, TX 78744 (512) 974-3840
Mulch Party at Houston School Park Join the Houston School Park Adopt-a-Park team for a tree mulching event at Houston School Park! This is a family-friendly event and all tools and supplies will be provided by Austin Parks Foundation.	Saturday, May 7 8:00 - 12:00 pm Houston School Park 5409 Ponciana Dr. Austin, TX 78744	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-387-2998
The Happy Kitchen / La Cocina Alegre Free 6-week series of cooking classes in Spanish. Participants take ingredients home each week to prepare the recipes at home. If 5/6 classes are completed, participants receive a free The Happy Kitchen cookbook.	April 4 - May 10 Tuesdays, 8:45am-10:15am at Widen Elementary Call: 512-299-3083 to register Tuesdays, 5:00-6:30pm at Houston Elementary Call: 512-775-4078 to register	Simone Benz Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
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.	Thursday, May 12 6:30 - 8:00 pm Southeast Branch Library 5803 Nuckols Crossing Rd Austin, TX 78744	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-387-2998
Mendez MS Coordinated School Health Meeting Parent leaders help develop and implement access to healthy food and physical activity before, during, and after school for Mendez students, parents, faculty, and staff.	Friday, May 13 8:30 am - 10:00 am Mendez Cafeteria	Sulamita Mora Family Resource Center Director, Mendez School sulamita.mora@austinisd.org 512-841-1016
Sustainable Food Center's Community Garden Leadership Training In this interactive training, we will cover: locating community support and resources for your garden, accessing land and water, organizing a strong garden team, school-specific strategies and guidelines, and more. <u>Register by May 13th:</u> (512) 236-0074 ext. 110 or sari@sustainablefoodcenter.org	Two-part training: Tues May 17 and Wed May 18, 6-8 PM Sustainable Food Center 2921 E. 17th St. Bldg C	Simone Benz Sustainable Food Center Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)
Community Collaborative for Child Health Nourish U Summit This summit, hosted by the Michael and Susan Dell Community Collaborative for Child Health, will be a great opportunity to learn more about how schools and other local organizations are promoting healthy eating and drinking with children as well as to network with other community leaders. GAVA schools, Houston Elementary and Cunningham Elementary, will be recognized!	Saturday, May 21 10am to 1pm 500 E St Johns Ave Register at www.childhealthcollaborative.org	Julie Latcham Child Health Collaborative childhealthcollaborative@uth.tmc.edu
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, May 26 7:00 - 8:30PM First Unitarian Universalist Church 4700 Grover St, 78756	Kurt Cadena-Mitchell Special Projects Organizer kurt.interfaith@gmail.com 512-786-5388
Dove Springs Community Health Fair Family Fun Fit Festival Come celebrate the end of the school year! Free Health screenings, community and city agencies, zumba classes, cooking demonstrations, program registrations, prizes and raffles! http://theaustinproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Family-fun-health-fair2-April-29.pdf	Saturday, May 21 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Mendez Middle School Gym 5106 Village Square Drive	Sulamita Mora Family Resource Center Director, Mendez School sulamita.mora@austinisd.org 512-841-1016