

November 2017



## Ribbon Cutting at Ponciana Park in Dove Springs

Thank you to the hard working people of Austin Parks Foundation and the Austin Parks & Recreation Department for a great ribbon cutting event celebrating the opening of this beautiful park in 78744!



Special recognition goes to GAVA resident leaders: **Alesha Larkins, Zwandi Arzamendi, Christian Garcia, Onice Amaya, Blanca Osorio, Jose Leija, Maria**



**Socorro Rodriguez, and Jonaton Rodriguez;** and GAVA & APF Organizers **Cynthia Rodriguez and Estrella de León.** The park renovation is only in Phase 1 and will be adding even more amenities in Phase 2, including completion of the new sidewalk around the park. After the event, resident leaders and AmeriCorps VISTA members mulched trees, planted flowers, and beautified the park for It's My Park Day!

## Promoting Health in Early Child Care Centers

This year's **Halloween Party at Sweet Briar Child Development Center** prioritized healthy snacks and fun CATCH-related indoor games.. As part of our efforts to promote outdoor play and physical activity, we gave away two bicycles in a raffle for families who attended. Thank you to **Bikes for Goodness Sake** for donating these awesome bikes!



## A New Pocket Park for 78745



Thanks to **La Fuerza de West Gate**, a GAVA geographic team, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) has dedicated new parkland in 78745. The Tahoe Trail Pocket Park is now official public space and can be used for a community garden! Residents from the La Fuerza area participated in a block walk to speak with residents about getting involved at the community garden.

## "Community In Action" gets organized in 78745



Resident leaders from this geographic team near Pleasant Hill Elementary attended a training led by GAVA organizer Frances Acuña on how to plan and lead effective meetings

and build an agenda. While the team has been working together for over a year, this training provided new skills to grow their base and build efficiency into their organizing efforts.

## A New Playground Re-Energizes Odom Elementary Team

Years of hard work by the **Odom School Park Adoption Team** in partnership with PARD and APF has been rewarded! Work crews

finished installing three large improvements: A nature-based play area funded by last year's city



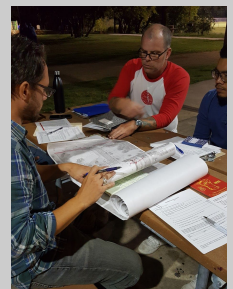
block grant, musical play equipment donated by the ACL Music Festival, and a shade structure and seating area secured with a \$42,000 grant to the team. Congratulations to the **Odom School Park Adopters** for their dedication to transforming this park! (Pictured: parents strategize to build a stronger team while learning to prepare healthy snacks with Brighter Bites)



## Neighbors: Join GAVA's efforts!

Interested in bringing healthier food and fresh produce to your local corner store? Get involved with the **Healthy Corner Store Initiative** and become part of the wonderful team of residents and store owners bringing healthier options to the neighborhood. Contact Sergio Ramirez at (512) 477-1259 ext. 1719 or email at [sergio@marathonkids.org](mailto:sergio@marathonkids.org).

**The Dove Springs Traffic Safety Team** meets every 3rd Monday of the month to discuss and take action to create safer conditions for families to reach important community assets like schools, parks, SE Branch Library, the Dove Springs Recreation Center and more! A special thank you goes out to **Constable George Morales** and his team for being present and helping to discourage speeding and other traffic violations while students and families were walking to school.



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### Dove Springs & 78745 Community Calendar

Event	Date and Location	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 on Saturdays</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 Stands</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: <u>Wed. 4-6pm</u> , 4320 Congress, 78745 Cunningham Elementary: <u>Tues. 2-4pm</u> 2200 Berkeley Ave.	<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>Odom Parent Talk</b> Come Meet Odom Elementary Parents and learn about their projects. This is the time and place to express your interests and concerns!	<b>Friday, Nov. 3rd</b> 10:45am - 11:45 am Odom Elementary 1010 Turtle Creek Blvd. 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>Community In Action GAVA Geo team meeting</b> Community in Action will have their monthly meeting to discuss their health and wellness projects and goals. <i>Portable 4 Parent Support Specialist office Room</i>	<b>Monday, Nov 6th</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> All are welcome! Growing Community Schools!	<b>Friday, Nov. 10th</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@austinisd.org">sulamita.mora@austinisd.org</a> 512-841-1016
<b>Palomita 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.	<b>Monday, Nov. 13th</b> 5PM Palomita Child Inc, 4905 Maufrais Ln.	<b>Joelynn Avendaño</b> United Way & GAVA Early Childhood Manager <a href="mailto:joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org">joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org</a> 956-708-5663
<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.	<b>Tuesday, Nov. 14th</b> 4PM Brodie Child Inc. 8105 Brodie Ln, Austin, TX 78745	<b>Joelynn Avendaño</b> United Way - GAVA Early Childhood Education <a href="mailto:joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org">joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org</a> 956-708-5663



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<b>Dove Springs 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.	<b>Monday, Nov. 13th</b> 2PM Dove Springs Child Inc Center 5106 Village Square Dr, Austin, TX 78744	<b>Joelynn Avendaño</b> United Way - GAVA Early Childhood Education joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org 956-708-5663
<b>Sunset Valley Elementary General Meeting</b> Come learn of all the great things Sunset Valley parents are doing and planning to do. Learn ways to get involved and have fun doing it.	<b>Wednesday, Nov. 15th</b> 3:15PM 3000 Jones 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>Cunningham GAVA Monthly Meeting</b> Staff, parents and residents are gathering to listen and express their concerns and interests.	<b>Wednesday, Nov. 15th</b> 3:15PM Cunningham Elementary 2200 Berkeley Ave. 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/78744 Traffic Safety Meeting</b> Join residents as they continue to take action on traffic safety priorities in the 78744. Translation provided.	<b>Monday, Nov. 16th</b> 7-8PM Location TBD	<b>Estrella de León</b> Geo Teams Organizer 78744 estrella@marathonkids.org 206-293-9548
<b>GAVA Physical Activity Sector Meeting (44 &amp; 45)</b> 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.	<b>TBD</b> <b>Contact Cynthia for details</b> —>	<b>Cynthia Rodriguez</b> Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org 512-387-2998
<b>GAVA Team Meeting at Sweet Briar Child Development Center</b> Join us as we discuss the new shade cover installation at the apartment complex playground!	<b>Wednesday, Nov. 29th</b> 5:15 -6:15 PM Sweet Briar Child Development Center at Woodway Village Apartments 4600 Nuckols Crossing Rd.	<b>Joelynn Avendaño</b> United Way - GAVA Early Childhood Education <a href="mailto:joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org">joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org</a> 956-708-5663
<b>Dove Springs Community Garden Work Day</b> This 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 all dedicated to planning and maintaining a successful garden.	<b>Saturday, Dec 9th</b> 9 - 12PM <i>By the Mendez portables on the corner of nuckols crossing and Palo Blanco</i> 5106 Village Square Dr.	<b>Sulamita Mora</b> The Austin Project Family Resource Center-Dove Springs Director <a href="mailto:sulamita.mora@austinsisd.org">sulamita.mora@austinsisd.org</a> 512-841-1016
<b>Free Bike Clinic</b> Free Open shop and Bike Start Clinics for the community! Ghisallo will be hosting bike safety, repair, tune ups. They will also offer ride clinics for ages 3-adults!	<b>Every Friday, 5-6PM</b> Dove Springs Recreation Center 5801 Ainez Dr.	<b>Noni Jarnagin</b> School-based Programs Coordinator 512-470-9367 noni.jarnagin@ghisallo.org Ghisallo Cycling Initiative
<b>Pop-in Meeting: 2016 Mobility Bond Corridor</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.	<b>Wednesday, Nov. 15th</b> 6-8PM River City Youth Foundation 5209 S Pleasant Valley Rd,	<b>Contact:</b> <b>City of Austin</b> 2016Bond@austintexas.gov (512) 974-7840





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## 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.

For more information, visit [www.goaustinvamosaustin.org](http://www.goaustinvamosaustin.org), or write [gava@marathonkids.org](mailto:gava@marathonkids.org)

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