

Below from left: Jones Rd/Westgate GAVA Geo Team; Cunningham team block walking



Community Highlights!

Congratulations to the leaders Kyle Brouillette, Sherry Graham, Imelda Jurado and Principal Amy Lloyd from the Cunningham Coordinated School Health Team for getting their Healthy Bingo/Lotería display boards mounted in the cafeteria. Students will focus on where fruits and vegetables are grown and their nutritional value. Cunningham campus has committed to using these display boards as materials to reach greater success in state Health TEKS and CATCH lessons.

Cunningham Block Walk: Members of the Cunningham Coordinated School Health team and community block walked to invite neighbors to participate in GAVA initiatives like the Adopt-a-Park program, regular CSH team meetings and the upcoming Berkeley Health Fair on September 26.

Jones Rd/Westgate Community: 21 residents from this area, established a GAVA Geo Team and committed to work on the of community improvements such as lighting, safety, sidewalks, speeding, food retail and parks. They are also recruiting members for the Sunset Valley Elementary Park- Adopt-a-Park Team and Food Retail Committee. Special thanks to leaders Maribel Reynoso, Brenda Reyes and Patricia Carrasco for taking the lead in these committees.

Brighter Bites: All of the GAVA elementary schools plus Foundation Communities, (10 sites total), will be participating in the Brighter Bites Program! The program provides produce to students and families and teaches them how to make healthy choices and prepare seasonal fruits and veggies. For eight weeks this semester and eight weeks in the spring, students who register in the program at each campus will receive 30 pounds of produce and in-class nutrition lessons once a week. GAVA is working with each school to identifying volunteers to help distribute produce. If you would like to volunteer, please contact **Alejandra Gonzalez** alejandra.b.gonzalez@uth.tmc.edu or by phone at 512-482-6166.

GET INVOLVED:

Connect Garrison!

78745 Physical Activity sector leader, Kate Mason Murphy is spearheading improvements to Williamson Creek Connectivity, from South 1st to Garrison Park. The project aims to resolve barriers to hiking, increase safe access to bus stops and activate use of our green spaces as learning centers and healthy food access points. To get involved contact: Cynthia@austinparks.org (512)699-2278 or katemasonmurphy@gmail.com



Photo: Connect Garrison community hike

GAVA Healthy Corner Store Initiative

Three corner stores in the 78745 have agreed to participate in the GAVA Healthy Corner Store Initiative by offering more healthy food choices to the community. The participating stores are: Hula Hu, 7-11 and The Bread Basket. Thanks to local residents Patricia Carrasco, Mary Hernandez, and Rev. Teresa Santillana for visiting these stores with GAVA staff. Contact Karla Gonzalez at karla@marathonkids.org or 512-657-4406.

Right: Resident Patricia Carrasco with a Bread Basket employee. Stores participating in the GAVA Healthy Food Store Initiative will introduce at least four new products and mark shelves to draw more attention to all healthy options.




TAKE ACTION!

Austin Interfaith and 78745 GAVA resident leaders have been hard at work advocating for an Austin city budget for 2015-2016 that prioritizes children and working families. Leaders Sherry Graham and Reverend Teresa Santillana of the Cunningham Elementary Park Team, met with council members to advocate for parks. Contact your council member and tell them why our city budget needs to promote an economy of inclusion! You can email all Council Members at one time at <https://www.austintexas.gov/email/all-council-members> or you can call District 2 CM Delia Garza at 512-978-2102, District 3 CM Sabino "Pío" Renteria at 512-978-2103, or District 5 CM Ann Kitchen at 512-978-2105.

Contact Us

For more information about GAVA or these meetings, contact: Alba Sereno, GAVA 78745 Community Director at 214-799-3767 or alba@marathonkids.org.

Find us on  or www.goaustinvamosaustin.org.

Residents of the 78745 zip code are invited to attend the following meetings and events hosted by GO! Austin / VAMOS! Austin and its supporters.

September 2015

Weekly soccer game in 78745 Let's play soccer, meet neighbors, build a soccer activities and a park adoption team for our neighborhood park!	Every Wednesday 6:30 PM St. Elmo Park 4312 S 1st St, Austin, TX 78745	Mariano Di Vincenzo GAVA Community Organizer at Foundation Communities (713) 854-2527 mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org
Urban Forest Steward and Habitat Training Learn how to care for trees in your home and community. Austin Parks Foundation is offering scholarships for this training. There will be three trainings this month. Open to the community!	Training dates are: -September 12 - 9:00 -1:30PM -September 19 - 9:00-1:30 PM September 26 - 8:45 - 2:00 PM <i>Please register & contact us for locations!</i>	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Sector Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org Register at: http://www.treefolks.org/ufs
Austin Interfaith Leaders Meeting Monthly gathering of leaders from Austin Interfaith Institutions	Thursday September 17 7:00- 8:30 PM St. John's / San Juan Lutheran Church - 409 W. Ben White, Austin, TX 78704	Kathleen Davis Lead Organizer with Austin Interfaith 512.944.43.44 kdavis@austininterfaith.org
La Voz Team Meeting Join us as we implement strategies for improving the health of the St. Elmo neighborhood!	Monday, September 21 6:30 -8:30 PM Sierra Ridge Learning Center 201 W. St. Elmo Rd. 78745	Mariano Di Vincenzo GAVA Community Organizer at Foundation Communities (713) 854-2527 mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org
Jones/Westgate Neighborhood Meeting Join our first community meeting and learn how to improve the health of the neighborhood!	Wednesday, September 24 Sunset Valley Elementary School Park Please contact Organizer for time	Ivanna Neri Geo Teams Organizer- 78745 512-998-3648 ivanna@marathonkids.org
Armadillo Park Block Walk Community members encouraged to join us to build a healthy community	Thursday, September 17 6:30-8:30pm Armadillo Park corner of 910 Armadillo Rd and Cooper Ln	Ivanna Neri Geo Teams Organizer- 78745 512-998-3648 ivanna@marathonkids.org
Trails at the Park Block Walk Community members encouraged to join us to build a healthy community	Saturday, September 19 9:00-11:30am Trails at the Park Learning Center	Mariano Di Vincenzo GAVA Community Organizer at Foundation Communities (713) 854-2527 mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org
Armadillo Park Work Day Volunteers needed for park restoration and clean up!	Saturday, September 26 8:00-11:00 am Armadillo Park	Kimberly Gamble Armadillo Park Committee Chairperson apna.park.committee@gmail.com & Ivanna
Armadillo Park Neighborhood Association We'll elect new officers at this meeting. Come prepared to nominate yourself or your neighbor and make a difference in your neighborhood	Monday, October 26 7:00-8:30pm Manchaca Library	Henrietta Cameron-Mann APNA President: armadilloparkna@gmail.com Ivanna Neri Geo Teams Organizer- 78745/ 512-998-3648 ivanna@marathonkids.org

Dove Springs / 78744



Above: Part three of the neighborhood watch training in 78744

Community Highlights

78744 Neighborhood Watch Training Part 3

Residents in 78744 had the opportunity to receive a training to learn how to best secure the interior and exterior of their houses, and how to best use the services of local police. The training was sponsored by local District Representatives of the Austin Police Department. Neighbors who completed the three-part training now can form official Neighborhood Watch Groups and work together with the police to improve the safety of each area.

GAVA Healthy Food Store Initiative Two stores in 78744 have signed on to participate in GAVA's initiative to offer more healthy food options in the community. The stores now participating are Teri Metro Mart and Stassney Food Mart. The owners have committed to introducing at least four new healthy products and labeling shelving and displays to call more attention to all healthy options. Thanks to local residents Frances Pedraza and Irene Castañeda getting involved and visiting stores with GAVA's food retail organizer. Get involved! Call Karla Gonzalez, food retail organizer, at 512-657-4406.

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 our children and community in 78744 and 78745. More importantly, we are a neighborhood united for health through improved nutrition and physical activity.

TAKE ACTION ON THE CITY BUDGET



Photo: Austin Interfaith leaders, including GAVA residents, in a press conference with Austin City Council before the budget hearing

Austin Interfaith leaders and park team leaders have been hard at work advocating for an Austin city budget for 2015-2016. At the city's first public hearing, 78744 leaders Brother Spencer of Franklin Neighborhood Park Team, and Patches Brashear of Kendra Page Park Team, spoke before Council Members and the Mayor on how their park's improvements have increased public safety and access to physical activity. Leader Ofelia Zapata of the Dove Springs District Park Team addressed the crucial need for access to healthy food. Contact your council member today to tell them why you need a city budget that promotes an economy of inclusion! You can email all Council Members at one time at <https://www.austintexas.gov/email/all-council-members> or you can call District 2 CM Delia Garza at 512-978-2102, District 3 CM Sabino Rentería at 512-978-2103, or District 5 CM Ann Kitchen at 512-978-2105.



brighterbites™

All of the GAVA elementary schools (10 sites total), will be participating in the Brighter Bites Program! The program provides produce to students and families and teaches them how to make healthy choices and prepare seasonal fruits and veggies. For eight weeks this semester and eight weeks in the spring, students who register in the program at each campus will receive 30 pounds of produce and in-class nutrition lessons once a week. GAVA is working with each school to help identify volunteers to help distribute produce. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact Alejandra Gonzalez at 512-482-6166.

**Residents in 78744 are invited to the following events and meetings organized by
GO! Austin / VAMOS! Austin and our partners:**

September 2015

Community Block Walk for Dove Springs Farm Stand Join residents from Arbor Ridge to survey neighbors about creating a farm stand in Dove Springs.	<i>Dates for September and October are to be determined; please contact Simone Benz —></i>	Simone Benz Community Outreach Coordinator simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org 512-220-1146
Back to School Night/Community Resource Fair	Tuesday, September 8, 5:00 – 7:00 PM Mendez Middle School	Leonor Vargas Family Resource Center Director, Mendez Middle School 512 -841-1016 leonor.vargas@austinisd.org
Dove Springs Community-School Alliance Meeting Our first meeting will focus on an orientation to the 2015-16 policy and procedures that relate to providing school-based services at Mendez.	Friday, September 11 8:30am to 10am Consuelo Mendez Middle School Library 5106 Village Square Dr.	Leonor Vargas Family Resource Center Director, Mendez Middle School 512 -841-1016 leonor.vargas@austinisd.org
Urban Forest Steward and Habitat Training Learn how to care for trees in your home and community. Austin Parks Foundation is offering scholarships for this training. There will be three trainings this month. Open to the community!	Training dates are: -September 12 - 9:00 -1:30PM -September 19 – 9:00-1:30 PM September 26 – 8:45 – 2:00 PM Please register & contact us for locations!	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org Register here: http://www.treefolks.org/ufs/
GAVA Dove Springs Physical Activity Sector Meeting Join with leaders from 78744 and park adoption teams from Dove Springs to discuss the latest projects and improvements.	Monday, September 14 6:00 – 8:00 PM Dove Springs Recreation Center - 5801 Ainez Dr. 78744	Cynthia Rodriguez Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer cynthia@austinparks.org
Block Walk in the Village Walk area We'll invite neighbors on and around Village Walk to unite as a geo team and join together for a healthy community	Thursday, September 17 6:30-8:30pm Please contact Estrella for specific location and other details —>	Estrella De León GAVA Geo Team Organizer, 78744 512-477-1259 x 1740 estrella@marathonkids.org
Austin Interfaith Leaders Meeting Monthly meeting of leaders from Austin Interfaith institutions	Thursday, September 17 7:00- 8:30 PM St. John's/San Juan Lutheran Church— 409 W. Ben White Austin, TX 78704	Kathleen Davis Lead Organizer for Austin Interfaith 512.944.43.44 kdavis@austininterfaith.org
Coordinated School Health Training For all GAVA school wellness teams (parents, faculty, community members)	Tuesday, September 22 8:00-11:00am Exact location TBD	Megan Grayless UT School of Public Health; GAVA School Sector Manager 512-346-6802
Bi-national Health Fair Kick-off and College and Career Fair	Saturday, October 3rd 9:00AM - 1:00 pm. Mendez Middle School	Leonor Vargas Family Resource Center Director, Mendez Middle School 512 -841-1016 leonor.vargas@austinisd.org

Contact Us

We want to hear from you! What goals do you have for creating a healthier Dove Springs? To share your ideas or for more information about GAVA or these meetings, contact: Carmen Llanes Pulido, GAVA 78744 Community Director at 512-633-4312 or carmen@marathonkids.org.

Find us on  or www.goaustinvamosaustin.org.