Community Highlights!

On November 13 Armadillo Park Neighborhood Association in 78745 held developers accountable to the South Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan. The neighborhood and the City of Austin decided to decline the developer’s zoning case to allow for a drive-through variance in the neighborhood. APNA will continue working to make sure their community is developed in a way that promotes health in the neighborhood. Congratulations to leader Henrietta Cameron-Mann and APNA members for all their efforts!

The Armadillo Park Committee in 78745 hosted a wonderful park work day. They planted numerous native plants that will add beauty to the park, as well as help prevent soil erosion and runoff. Beautifying their park has encouraged more people to visit the park and stay active in this safe and beautiful park. Kudos to park day organizer Kimberly Gamble and her neighbors!

Adopt-a-Park Teams and Adopt-a-Creek Teams from 78744 and 78745 met as a combined group and drafted a statement letter and petition that will be presented to the Open Spaces, Environment, and Sustainability Committee on December 3, 2-5 PM at City Hall. Teams in attendance: were Franklin Park, Kendra Page Park, Ponciana Park, Houston School Park, Odom School Park, Williamson Creek Central Greenbelt.

Community Highlights!

Foundation Communities has provided the Adopt-a-Park Committee of La Voz for St. Elmo Elementary, lead by Cesar Lopez and Daniel Zapata, funding to kick off soccer programming for St. Elmo neighborhood teens.

Residents from the Arbor Ridge community as well as surrounding neighborhoods in 78744 have been meeting and planning to establish a Farm Stand. Please come and give your ideas and be a part of helping provide affordable organic produce to Dove Springs! (See next meeting date in events calendar)

Vecinos Unidos, a new Geographic Team in 78744 has created a neighborhood watch committee. The team will be hosting a holiday block party on Dec. 19th at 1pm along Wagon Bend. The team is dedicated to creating safer streets, cleaning up part of E. Williamson Creek and creating a healthier community with their neighbors.

The GAVA Austin Healthy Food Store Initiative held across zip code meeting on Tues. Nov. 17th at the Pleasant Hill Library. Leaders in attendance were leaders: Maribel Reynoso, Irene Castañeda, Marilei Castaneda and Juan Perez. Coming off of their work at the October 27th GAVA coalition meeting with collaborators from GAMA, City of Austin HHS and City of Austin Council staff, leaders and GAVA staff reviewed the current status of the initiative in Austin and laid out strategy on how to promote and expand the project.
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| **Weekly soccer game in 78745**          | Every Sunday!               | Mariano Di Vincenzo  
Let’s play soccer, meet neighbors, build soccer activities and a park adoption team for our neighborhood park!  
St. Elmo Park  
4312 S 1st, Austin, TX 78745  
Mariano Di Vincenzo  
GAVA Community Organizer at Foundation Communities  
713-854-2627  
mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org |
| **St. Elmo Neighborhood Park Team**      | Wednesday, Dec 2             | Mariano Di Vincenzo  
Come join us to apply for the GAVA mini-grant to install soccer goals in the park!  
Sierra Vista Learning Center  
Mariano Di Vincenzo  
GAVA Community Organizer at Foundation Communities  
713-854-2627  
mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org |
| **Sunset Valley Elementary Garden Work Day** | Saturday, December 5        | Milay Viciedo-Duncan  
Sunset Valley Elementary  
Milayviciedo@yahoo.com |
| **La Fuerza Neighborhood Walk**          | Saturday, December 5        | Ivanna Neri  
Join us as we implement strategies for improving the health of the Jones Rd/Westgate neighborhood!  
Sunset Valley Elementary Park  
Ivanna Neri  
Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745  
ivanna@marathonkids.org |
| **"Pop Up" Park @ the Manchaca Library!**| Saturday, December 12       | Alba Sereno  
This temporary park will have a public art installation by Juan Deleon, swings, giant chess, checkers, Jenga and a variety of art and activities organized by the Library, Art in Public Places, GAVA, & more!  
Manchaca Rd. Branch Library  
5500 Manchaca Rd., Austin, TX, 78745  
Alba Sereno  
Community Director in 78745  
alba@marathonkids.org |
| **GAVA Advisory Council Meeting**         | Monday, December 14         | Alba Sereno  
Community Director in 78745  
alba@marathonkids.org |
| **Early Childhood Sector Meeting**       | Tuesday, December 15        | Laura Olson  
SE Branch Library  
5803 Nuckols Crossing  
Laura Olson  
Early Childhood Sector Manager  
512-569-5880  
lauraolson@uwater.org |
| **78745 & 78744 Physical Activity Sector Meeting** | Tuesday, December 15  | Cynthia Rodriguez  
El Buen Samaritano  
7000 Woodhue Dr. 78745  
Cynthia Rodriguez  
Austin Parks Foundation  
GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer  
cynthia@austinparks.org |
| **Austin Interfaith Leaders Meeting**    | Thursday, January 21        | Kathleen Davis  
Monthly meeting with GAVA partner Austin Interfaith  
Kathleen Davis  
Lead Organizer with Austin Interfaith  
512-944.4344  
kdavis@austininterfaith.org |
| **Armadillo Park Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting** | January TBD                | Henrietta Cameron-Mann  
President of APNA  
henrietta523@earthlink.net  
ivanna@marathonkids.org |
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| Houston Elementary                                                           | ...Stay tuned for new date! | Dawn Ellis  
Physical Education  
Houston Elementary  
Telephone: 512-414-5520                                         |
| Family CATCH Family Fitness night!                                            |                       |                                                                         |
| City Council’s Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee Meeting: | Thursday, December 3th | Cynthia Rodriguez  
Austin Parks Foundation  
GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer  
Cynthia@austinparks.org |
| Show your support for funding to be distributed to parks and green spaces in 78744 and 78745! | 2PM - 5PM  
Austin City Hall  
301 W. 2nd St.  
Austin, Texas 78701 |                                                                         |
| Houston School Park Ribbon Cutting Celebration!                               | Saturday, December 5th | Cynthia Rodriguez  
Austin Parks Foundation  
GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer  
Cynthia@austinparks.org |
| Come join us to celebrate the new developments at our community park and learn about our plans for the future! | 10 AM - 12 PM  
5409 Ponciana Dr.  
Austin, TX 78744 |                                                                         |
| GAVA Advisory Committee Meeting                                                | Monday, December 14th | Alba Sereno  
Community Director in 78745  
alba@marathonkids.org |
| Early Childhood Sector Meeting                                                | Tuesday, December 15  | Laura Olson  
Early Childhood Sector Manager  
512-569-5880  
lauraolson@uwatx.org |
| 6:30-8 PM  
SE Branch Library  
5803 Nuckols Crossing |                                                                         |
| Physical Activity Sector Meeting                                              | Tuesday, December 15th | Cynthia Rodriguez  
Austin Parks Foundation  
GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer  
Cynthia@austinparks.org |
| Combined PA Sector Meeting                                                    | 6:30-8 PM  
El Buen Samaritano  
7000 Woodhue Dr. 78745 |                                                                         |
| Vecinos Unidos (Wagon Bend) Block Party                                       | Saturday, December 19th | Estrella de Leon  
Geo Team Organizer 78744  
estrella@marathonkids.org  
512-477-1259 X 1703 |
| Join Vecinos Unidos for holiday fiesta along Wagon Bend! Neighbors are asked to bring a dish and learn about how to create a healthy community. | 1pm - 4 pm  
Start at 6218 Wagon Bend (between Black Mule and Dove St.) |                                                                         |
| Dove Springs Community-School Alliance Meeting                                | Friday, December 18   | Leonor Vargas  
Mendez Middle School, Family Resource Center Director  
512-841-1016  
leonor.vargas@austinisd.org |
| 8:30-10AM  
Mendez Middle School Library |                                                                         |
| Austin Interfaith Leaders Meeting                                             | Thursday, January 21  | Kathleen Davis  
Lead Organizer with Austin Interfaith  
512-944.4344  
kdavis@austininterfaith.org |
| Monthly meeting with GAVA partner Austin Interfaith, a non-partisan, multi-issue organization of 37+ institutions that work together to address public issues. | 7:00 - 8:30pm  
Location: TBD |                                                                         |