### July 2017 Community Highlights

#### Parks & Green Spaces

The park adoption teams at Odom Elementary Park and Ponciana Park both held beautification events in June. The Odom team repainted railings, led a litter clean-up and completed landscaping. The Ponciana group mulched over a 100 trees in their park! Mulching provides trees with much needed moisture and nutrients during the hot summer months. Congratulations to the Odom and Ponciana teams on your successful events and all the hard work!

Park team representatives from City Council Districts 2, 3, and 5 joined park adopters from across the city to advocate for increased funding for parks, trails, and green spaces in the FY18 City of Austin budget cycle. Teams met with city council members to advocate for park funding throughout the summer. Thank you to all the park and green space champions who were able to attend these meetings!

#### Early Childhood Health & Wellness

GAVA Early Childhood team at Sweet Briar - Woodway Village childcare center, hosted a Summer Splash Day featuring healthy snacks and fun outdoor activities! The faculty have been focusing this year on implementing the CATCH-Early Childhood curriculum to increase physical activity and nutrition education at the center. Each family received a summer fun activity bag assembled by community volunteers including healthy snacks, items to promote active play, swim safety and instruction, and resources on where to find free meals, fresh food, and stay active over the summer!

#### Healthy Foods & the Healthy Corner Store Initiative

GAVA and Common Threads collaborated to host a Healthy Corner Store event at the 78745 Bread Basket Corner Store, 2623 Jones Rd., on July 15th! The event celebrates the launch of Bread Basket’s “healthy options” open-air refrigerator and increased healthy options! Common Threads provided healthy recipes and giveaway bags for children and families using products found within the Bread Basket store.

#### Traffic Safety in 78745

The hard work of the GAVA 78745 geo team, La Fuerza de Westgate, has paid off! Their neighborhood received a new sidewalk ramp and painted crosswalk stripes on the corners of West Wind and Westgate, and West Wind and Jones Rd. The team is now ready to paint their creative crosswalks to increase pedestrian safety for their neighborhood.

GAVA 78745 geo team, Community in Action, worked with the City of Austin to successfully extend the traffic crossing light on the street of Bill Hughes and William Cannon. The team is also working with the Creative Crosswalks program and received newly painted crosswalk stripes on William Cannon and Congress, Congress and Eberhart, and William Cannon and Circle S.

#### Traffic Safety in Dove Springs

Residents of Dove Springs/78744 came together on June 19th to discuss their top priorities in Traffic Safety. Residents focused on pedestrian safety for children walking to school, increased traffic lights and speed bumps. They also discussed a variety of multi-modal city priorities and initiatives that can support their current needs. Residents reconvened to work on these priorities on Monday 7/17, at SE Branch Library to keep things moving forward.
Community Calendar
We invite residents from 78744 & 78745 to the following events!

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<tr>
<th>Meeting / Event</th>
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| **Dove Springs Farm Stand**              | Weekly!                     | Simone Benz  
Sustainable Food Center  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org  
512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell) |
| Visit this resident led community farm stand for local, organic and low priced produce. Each farm stand takes SNAP and offers Double Dollars! | 10:30am -12:30pm  
Dove Springs District Park  
5801 Ainez Dr. 78744 |  |
| **78745 Farm Stands**                    | Weekly!                     | Simone Benz  
Sustainable Food Center  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org  
512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell) |
| Visit these resident led community farm stands for local, organic and low priced produce. Each farm stand takes SNAP and offers Double Dollars! | St. Elmo Rd. Wed. 4-6pm,  
4320 Congress, 78745 |  |
| **Fitness in the Park**                  |                             | Cynthia Rodriguez  
Austin Parks Foundation  
GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer  
cynthia@austinparks.org  
512-387-2998 |
| Free fitness classes 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. | Yoga: Classes are held every Friday at 9 AM at the Dove Springs Rec Center  
Zumba: Classes are held every Monday at 6:30 PM at the Dittmar Rec Center |  |
| **St. Elmo Park team Meeting**           | Wednesday, July 12th  
6-7pm | Cynthia Rodriguez  
Austin Parks Foundation  
GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer  
cynthia@austinparks.org  
512-387-2998 |
| **78745 Neighborhood Block Walk**       | Wednesday July 12th  
5- 7 pm  
2623 Jones Rd, 78745 | Frances Acuña  
Geo Teams Organizer 78745  
frances@marathonkids.org  
512-300-9108 |
| Join us for a Block Walk to promote an event for the Bread Basket healthy corner store. Come Meet your neighbors on Tahoe Trail, West Wind, and Ektom Dr. |  |  |
| **Bread Basket Store Event, 78745**     | Saturday, July 15th  
10-12 pm  
Bread Basket  
2623 Jones Rd, 78745 | Sergio Ramirez  
Healthy Corner Store Initiative Organizer  
sergio@marathonkids.org  
512.605.9234 |
| GAVA and Common Threads will be collaborating to host a Healthy Corner Store event at the 78745 Bread Basket Corner Store. The event will host healthy cooking activities and healthy recipes for families using healthy items for purchase at the Bread Basket. |  |  |
| **Dove Springs/78744 Traffic Safety Meeting** | Monday July 17th  
6-7:30pm  
SE Branch Library  
5803 Nuckols Crossing | Estrella de León  
Geo Teams Organizer 78744  
estrella@marathonkids.org  
206-293-9548 |
| Join residents as they continue to take action on traffic safety priorities in the 78744. Translation provided. |  |  |
| **GAVA Physical Activity Sector Meeting (44 & 45)** | Tuesday, July 18th  
6:30 - 8 PM  
Dove Springs Recreation Center  
5801 Ainez Dr 78744. | Cynthia Rodriguez  
Austin Parks Foundation  
GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer  
cynthia@austinparks.org  
512-387-2998 |
**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, July 27th**

7-8:30 pm  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church  
1206 E. Ninth (at Lydia)  
78702

**Kathleen Davis**  
Lead Organizer  
Austin Interfaith  
kdavis@austininterfaith.org  
512-916-0100

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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 contact gava@marathonkids.org, or by phone: Carmen Llanes Pulido, GAVA Executive Director: 512-633-4312.

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Thank you to our sponsors for making our work possible!

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[Logos of sponsors: Marathon Kids, Austin Community Foundation, City of Austin, EFF, Episcopal Health Foundation, Aetna Foundation, United Way, SFC, Austin Interfaith]