La Fuerza Geo Team
La Fuerza Geo Team in 78745 held its first meeting of the year. Council Member Ann Kitchen, staff member Ken Craig and the Assistant Division Manager from the Austin Code Department were all present. The group discussed concerns related to safety, traffic, code compliance, green spaces, and trash, all of which affect physical activity and food access in their neighborhood. Community leaders and city officials pledged to work together to create a happy and healthy community and have next steps planned for an ongoing collaboration.

Park Funding Wins: Ponciana Park, Williamson Creek, Houston Elem.
Ponciana Park and Williamson Creek Central Greenbelt have both received significant funding from the City to develop their green spaces! Ponciana Park received $200,000 through the City of Austin’s Parkland Dedication Fees to install a playground and the implements the park’s master plan. Williamson Creek Central Greenbelt was awarded nearly $600,000 through the Neighborhood Partnering Program grant to develop the beginning portions of a trail system for the Williamson Creek Greenbelt. This project, Connect Garrison is a multi-year vision drawn up by GAVA leaders with their community to make physical activity accessible from the Northwest corner of their zip code all the way to their district Park. The Houston School Park Adoption Team was also awarded a GAVA Mini-grant to install permanent goal posts on the park’s soccer field that will be available to the community and for the Police Activity League children’s soccer program. Big congratulations, teams!

Soccer at St. Elmo School Park
Thanks to a GAVA mini-grant and the efforts of teens from Sierra Ridge and Sierra Vista, soccer goals will be installed at St. Elmo School Park on Saturday, Feb 20th. Teens leveraged coaching The City of Austin, the teens, and their parents will be coming out to paint the lines and celebrate their victory. These teenagers have formed a competitive soccer team with the help of the Police Activities League (PAL). Thank you to Cesar Lopez for volunteering to be their coach, and congratulations, teams!

Farm Stands offering Double Dollars for Produce Purchases
The Sierra Ridge and Cunningham farm stands are now offering Double Dollar for SNAP purchases ($2 toward fruits and veggies for every $1 of SNAP spent)! Stop by Sierra Ridge on Wednesdays from 3-5pm or Cunningham Elementary on Fridays from 2:45 - 4pm to purchase fresh, affordable produce from Farmshare Austin!

The 78744 Resident Farm Stand Committee is working to start a neighborhood farm stand in this area. We would like to know your preferences. Please fill out the online survey below. Paper copies available in English and Spanish at the Mendez Family Resource Center!
Survey Link: http://goo.gl/forms/g4Ub2zyIHA

More Community Highlights!

Armadillo Park
Leaders from Armadillo Park Neighborhood Association (APNA), Kim Gamble and Margot Rochon, started building a site plan for Armadillo Park. The plan includes four beautification events as well as a search for more team leaders. Congratulations on their hard work beautifying this nature reserve!

Parks and Recreation Department Tour of Area Parks
In January, park and creek teams continued their advocacy work related to the Park Block Grant. Team leaders held a meeting with PARD to discuss the distribution of these funds, and they also conducted site visits of green spaces in 78744 and 78745 to determine which priorities could be funded through Park Block Grant funds. Leaders from park and creek adoption teams participated in these site tours at: Onion Creek Metropolitan Park, Ponciana Park, Houston School Park, Odom School Park, Joslin School Park, St. Elmo School Park, Armadillo Park, Williamson Creek Central Greenbelt, Cunningham School Park, Franklin Park, Garrison Park, Kendra Page Park, and Dove Springs District Park. Congratulations to all teams on their amazing work!

“Vecinos Unidos” Become a Neighborhood Watch Team
GAVA Geographic team, Vecinos Unidos de Wagon Bend, completed the Austin Police Department’s “Train the Trainer” program and will be an official neighborhood watch team in 78744 along Wagon Bend. This resident team is dedicated to creating a safer neighborhood where their families and children can be safe to exercise and play outdoors along E. Williamson Creek.

Brighter Bites
Over the course of eight weeks in 2015, Brighter Bites distributed more than 373,000 pounds of produce to nearly 1640 families in the 78744 & 78745 zip codes! The fall cycle was a huge success with parent and community volunteers/leaders playing a significant role in that success. Families, teachers, and principals are thrilled with Brighter Bites and the tremendous impact it has made on their community in such a short time. The Brighter Bites spring cycle in Austin will extend from January 18 to March 11, 2016 at the following elementary schools: Casey, Cunningham, Houston, Langford, Odom, Perez, Pleasant Hill, Rodriguez and Widen.

1/4 Cent Funding for Traffic & Mobility and APNA Geo Team
Very special recognition to the APNA leaders, Henrietta Cameron-Mann, Angy Hardy and Maria del Rosario Gutierrez, for their work to secure funding for traffic projects in their neighborhood. After gathering many traffic concerns from different parts of the neighborhood, the team was active in representing these needs for prioritization to their Council District Office in order to have a more walkable neighborhood. As a result, out of 20 projects funded via the ¼ Cent Fund in District 2, 9 were awarded within the APNA boundaries. A total amount of $501,400 is going to be invested in the improvement of sidewalks and a pedestrian hybrid beacon within the APNA’s area in 78745.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting / Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weekly soccer game in 78745</strong></td>
<td>Every Sunday!</td>
<td>Mariano Di Vincenzo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Let’s play soccer, meet neighbors, build soccer activities and a park adoption team for our neighborhood park!</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>GAVA Community Organizer at FC 713-854-2627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Elmo Park 4312 S 1st, Austin, TX 78745</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org">mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sierra Ridge Farm Stand</strong></td>
<td>Every Wednesday!</td>
<td>Simone Benz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop by every week for fresh, affordable, in-season produce! Now offering double dollars for SNAP purchases. Also inquire about volunteer opportunities!</td>
<td>3:00 - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Community Outreach Coordinator at SFC 214-449-9957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sierra Ridge Apartments 201 W St. Elmo Rd</td>
<td><a href="mailto:simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org">simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cunningham Farm Stand</strong></td>
<td>Every Friday!</td>
<td>Simone Benz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop by every week for fresh, affordable, in-season produce! Now offering double dollars for SNAP purchases. Also inquire about volunteer opportunities!</td>
<td>2:45 - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Community Outreach Coordinator at SFC 214-449-9957</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Cunningham Elementary School Corner of Berkeley and Buffalo Pass</td>
<td><a href="mailto:simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org">simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>It’s My Park Day Volunteer Registration</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, February 9</td>
<td>Cynthia Rodriguez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help us maintain and improve your local park by volunteering for one of our It’s My Park Day projects. Check out the full list of projects to find one that’s right for you, and be sure to recruit your friends, neighbors, and co-workers. The more the merrier!</td>
<td>Volunteer Registration Opens <a href="http://austinparks.org/volunteer/impd">http://austinparks.org/volunteer/impd</a></td>
<td>Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer <a href="mailto:Cynthia@austinparks.org">Cynthia@austinparks.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>78745 &amp; 78744 Physical Activity Sector Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, February 11</td>
<td>Cynthia Rodriguez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join us for a combined 78744/78745 PA Sector Meeting! Teams will continue to collaborate about Park Block Grant funding in preparation for the next Open Space Committee meeting.</td>
<td>6:30-8:00 PM</td>
<td>Austin Parks Foundation GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer <a href="mailto:Cynthia@austinparks.org">Cynthia@austinparks.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marathon Kids 2512 S IH 35 Frontage Rd, #350 Austin, TX 78704</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pleasant Hill Elementary School Parent Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Friday, February 12</td>
<td>Alejandra Gonzalez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents will discuss the groups they have been involved in at the community and how others can get involved. Call to confirm meeting time.</td>
<td>8:30 - 9:30 AM</td>
<td>U.T. School of Public Health GAVA School Sector Organizer <a href="mailto:alexandra.b.gonzalez@uth.tmc.edu">alexandra.b.gonzalez@uth.tmc.edu</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pleasant Hill Elementary School 6405 Circle S. Road</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Soccer Goal Installation at St. Elmo Park</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, Feb. 20th</td>
<td>Mariano Di Vincenzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The La Voz team will meet at St. Elmo park to install soccer goals, and have an inauguration game!</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>GAVA Community Organizer at FC 713-854-2627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Elmo Elementary Park</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org">mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Austin Park’s Foundation Grant Info Session</strong></td>
<td>February 17, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm &amp; February 24, 7:00 pm -8:00 pm</td>
<td>Cynthia Rodriguez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join us to learn more about our ACL Music Festival Grants Program, how to apply, what we fund and more! All are welcome to join us for this pre-deadline session. We'll cover: types of projects, application deadlines and timelines, best practices for a successful application and much more!</td>
<td>Terrazas Branch – Austin Public Library 1105 E Cesar Chavez St Register here: <a href="http://austinparks.org/calendar/grant-info-session/">http://austinparks.org/calendar/grant-info-session/</a></td>
<td>APF/GAVA Community Organizer 512-477-1566, ext 11 <a href="mailto:cynthia@austinparks.org">cynthia@austinparks.org</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Garden Terraces 1015 W William Cannon Dr</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>APNA Traffic &amp; Mobility Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, February 25</td>
<td>Ivanna Neri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Come to discuss your traffic concerns in 78745 so we can strategize solutions together.</td>
<td>7:00 - 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745 <a href="mailto:ivanna@marathonkids.org">ivanna@marathonkids.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Garden Terraces 1015 W William Cannon Dr</td>
<td>512-998-3648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>La Fuerza de Westgate Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, February 27</td>
<td>Ivanna Neri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join us as we implement strategies for improving the health of the Jones Rd/Westgate neighborhood!</td>
<td>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745 <a href="mailto:ivanna@marathonkids.org">ivanna@marathonkids.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tahoe Trail</td>
<td>512-998-3648</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting / Event</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Contact</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Houston Elementary Garden Work Days!**       | **Saturday, February 6 & 13**  
8:30 - 1 PM  
**Celebration, Saturday February 26,**  
**TBD**  
Houston Elementary | **Simone Benz**  
Sustainable Food Center  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org  
512-220-1146 |
| **It’s My Park Day Volunteer Registration**    | **Tuesday, February 9**  
Volunteer Registration Opens  
http://austinparks.org/volunteer/impd  
**Saturday, March 5**  
It’s My Park Day Event! | **Cynthia Rodriguez**  
Austin Parks Foundation  
GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer  
cynthia@austinparks.org |
| **78745 & 78744 Physical Activity Sector Meeting** | **Thursday, February 11**  
6:30-8pm  
Marathon Kids  
2512 S IH 35 Frontage Rd, #350  
Austin, TX 78704 | **Cynthia Rodriguez**  
Austin Parks Foundation  
GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer  
cynthia@austinparks.org |
| **Vecinos Unidos Geo Team Meeting**             | **Friday, February 12**  
7:15 - 8:15 PM  
**Saturday, March 5, 8:30 am- 12:00 pm**  
It’s My Park Day at E. Williamson Creek | **Estrella de León**  
Geo Team Organizer 78744  
estrella@marathonkids.org  
512-477-1259 X 1703 |
| **Basic Organic Gardening Class**              | **Tuesday, February 16**  
Thursday, February 18  
Tuesday, February 23  
2:30 - 4:00 PM  
Williams Elementary School  
Austin, TX 78748 | **Simone Benz**  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Sustainable Food Center  
simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org |
| **Austin Park's Foundation Grant Info Session**| **February 17, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm &**  
**February 24, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
Terrazas Branch – Austin Public Library  
1105 E Cesar Chavez St  
Austin, TX 78702  
Register here:  
http://austinparks.org/calendar/grant-in fo-session/ | **Cynthia Rodriguez**  
APF/GAVA Community Organizer  
512-477-1566, ext 11  
cynthia@austinparks.org |
| **Dove Springs Community-School Alliance Meeting** | **Friday, February 19**  
8:30- 10AM  
Mendez Middle School Library | **Sulamita Mora**  
Family Resource Center Director, Mendez Middle School  
sulamita.mora@austinisd.org  
512-841-1016 |
| **Mendez Middle School Coordinated School Health Meeting** | **Tuesday, February 23**  
7:30 - 9 am  
Mendez Middle School  
@ corner Nuckols Crossing and Palo Blanco | **Sulamita Mora**  
Family Resource Center Director, Mendez Middle School  
sulamita.mora@austinisd.org  
512-841-1016 |
Meet Sarah Jovinelly, new Graduate Fellow for GAVA
Please welcome Sarah Jovinelly, graduate student at the UT School of Social Work! Sarah will be working with GAVA until early May, doing a combination of community organizing in 78744 and 78745, as well as some administrative projects. Sarah previously worked with the Texas Civil Rights Project on their Safe Schools Texas program, and as a community organizer for the Prison Justice League. She will be graduating with her Master’s in Social Work in May. She speaks Spanish, is very excited to be a part of GAVA’s work, and looks forward to meeting and learning from everyone.

Presentando a Sarah Jovinelly, la nueva colega de posgrado en GAVA
Demos la bienvenida a Sarah Jovinelly, estudiante de la maestría de trabajo social en la universidad de Texas! Sarah estará trabajando con GAVA hasta principios de mayo haciendo una combinación de trabajos de organización comunitaria en el 78744 y 78745, como también estará haciendo proyectos administrativos. Previamente, Sarah trabajó con el Proyecto de Derechos Civiles de Texas (Texas Civil Rights Project) en el programa de Escuelas Seguras en Texas y como organizadora comunitaria para la Liga de Justicia de la Prisión (Prison Justice League). Ella se estará graduando de su maestría en trabajo social en mayo. Ella habla español, está muy emocionada de ser parte del trabajo de GAVA, y tiene muchas ganas de conocer y aprender de todos.