Mendez Family Fun Fit Fest! Consuelo Mendez Coordinated School Health team and Family Resource Center- Dove Springs presented their Community Health and Wellness Fair “Family Fun Fit Fest” in May. The festival offered summer program registrations, blood pressure and diabetes screenings, a bike rodeo, zumba classes, access to immigration services and 40 different community agencies. 104 community members attended the festival!

La Fuerza Team, 78745
Gloria Najera and Maribel Reynoso, leaders from the Traffic Committee of La Fuerza Neighborhood Team in 78745 met with Neighborhood Partnering Program to create possible projects to bring walking and biking connectivity to the neighborhood and create more safety.

La Fuerza School/Community Garden Team had a work day to mulch the green spaces at St. Elmo Park. They began planning next steps and future work days for the upcoming school year.

GAVA Park Teams in 78744 and 78745 once again participated in National Trails day, with five GAVA park adoption teams participating. Ponciana Park neighbors who live in the Paisano Mobile Homes in 78744, celebrated the event, by providing food and games for the families that participated.

Youth Soccer in 78744 and 78745!
Volunteer-coached soccer teams from Rodriguez Elementary, Houston Elementary and St. Elmo Elementary competed with each other in a recreational tournament at Houston Elementary in early July! Thank you to coaches Raul Sarmiento, Leonel Sánchez, José Moreno and Henry Quevedo for coaching, and to Gloria Lugo for organizing this event!

Thanks to everyone who attended the kickoff meeting for the Odom/Armadillo Park Farm Stand!! We will be asking for your feedback over the next couple of months to get your ideas for a farm-fresh fruit and vegetable stand in the neighborhood. We will working closely with the Healthy Corner Store Initiative. Residents will be learning about healthy foods by conducting short inventories at the stores that have signed on. Join us in taking inventory of newly stocked healthy products! If you’d like to share ideas, ask questions, or join our team, our next meeting July 25th at 7PM at ACC South Campus. Join us!

GAVA Healthy Corner Store Initiative Signs Two New Stores!
Two new convenience stores in 78745 have signed on to be a part of the Healthy Corner Store Initiative! The are E-Z Food Store #3 at 719 W. William Cannon, and E-Z Food Store #5 at 6400 S. 1st. Please visit these stores—they will now be providing at least four new healthy items!

Residents from both zip codes continue to participate in trainings on how to choose healthy items for their stores and how to work with their neighbors and area store owners to make healthy changes.

City of Austin Health and Human Services Awards Mini-Grants to GAVA Teams!
The GAVA early childhood team at Little Dudes Learning Center in 78745 applied and received a grant from the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department, Chronic Disease Prevention for a new refrigerator. This new refrigerator will significantly increase the fresh food the center can provide, and will properly store milk (including breast milk for nursing babies).

“La Voz de San Elmo,” received a $3000 grant for lighting outside of the Sierra Vista Learning Center. Foundation Communities will be providing an additional $1000 in funding to finish the project. As a result of this project, children at Sierra Vista will have up two more hours of outdoor playtime during the winter.

Leaders at City Hall
This month Margot Rochon, Lorena Solis, Lorenzo Sic, and other resident leaders from 78745 testified on the transportation and mobility bond at City Hall. They spoke about the importance of including pedestrian safety and amenities, better bus routes, connectivity, and incorporating the South & Southeast Austin corridors (William Cannon, Stassney, Manchaca, S. Congress, and S. 1st) in their priorities.

The City of Austin Public Works began completing the sidewalk on Lemon Street in 78744 this month, to finally complete the sidewalk loop around Houston Elementary’s soccer field and campus, and encourage safety and recreation around the school. This was one of dozens of projects that residents in 78744 and 78745 recommended for the City of Austin’s use of the “Quarter Cent Fund”. The majority of improvements approved for District 2 (represented by Councilmember Delia Garza) were recommended by GAVA teams! Photo by Gloria Lugo
## July 2016

### 78745 Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting / Event</th>
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</table>
| **Weekly soccer game in 78745**  
Let’s play soccer, meet neighbors, build soccer activities and a park adoption team for our neighborhood park! | Every Sunday!  
4:00 PM  
St. Elmo Park, 4312 S 1st | Mariano Di Vincenzo  
GAVA Community Organizer at FC  
mariano.divincenzo@foundcom.org,  
713-854-2627 |
| **Weekly Farm Stands**  
Stop by every week for fresh, affordable, in-season produce! Now offering double dollars for SNAP purchases. Also inquire about volunteer opportunities! | Wednesdays @ Sierra Ridge Apartments  
3:00 - 5:00 PM, 201 W St. Elmo Rd  
Fridays @ Cunningham Elementary  
2:45 - 4:00 PM, Berkeley and BuffaloPass | Simone Benz  
Sustainable Food Center  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org,  
512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell) |
| **Weekly walking group**  
Come join La Fuerza Walking Group and get active for 1 ½ hr! | Every Tuesday and Thursday  
6:30-7pm  
Sunset Valley Elementary Park | Ivanna Neri  
Geo Team Community Organizer 78745  
ivanna@marathonkids.org,  
512-998-3648 |
| **GAVA Physical Activity Sector Meeting 78744 & 78745**  
Join PA teams as they work to improve the parks and green spaces in 78744 and 78745! This month teams will be receiving training strategies to develop strong park/green space teams and will also continue to work on park projects. | Wednesday, July 13  
6:30 - 8:00 PM  
SE Branch Library | Cynthia Rodríguez  
Austin Parks Foundation  
GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer  
cynthia@austinparks.org,  
512-387-2998 |
| **La Fuerza Meeting** | August TBD | Ivanna Neri  
Geo Team Community Organizer 78745  
ivanna@marathonkids.org,  
512-998-3648 |
| **APNA Traffic Committee Meeting**  
Come join us as we implement strategies for improving Odom and Armadillo Park, Traffic/Mobility issues, food access and creating beautification projects for the entire neighborhood. | August TBD | Ivanna Neri  
Geo Team Community Organizer 78745  
ivanna@marathonkids.org,  
512-998-3648 |
| **Healthy Corner Store Initiative**  
We are happy to announce that two new stores have joined to be part of the HCSI! They are the EZ Food Stores located in 6400 S 1st. St and 719 W William Cannon. We will be planning activities for these stores shortly, so contact us if you’re interested and want to participate! | July TBD | Marla Torrado  
Food Retail Organizer 78745 and 78744  
maira@marathonkids.org,  
787-565-5896 |
| **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 28th  
7:00-8:30pm  
Capital IDEA Lifeworks Multipurpose Room  
835 N. Pleasant Valley Road, 78702 | Kathleen Davis  
kdavis@austininterfaith.org,  
512-916-0100 |
| **APNA General Membership Meeting** | Monday, July 25th  
7-8:30pm  
ACC South Austin Campus | Ivanna Neri  
Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745  
ivanna@marathonkids.org,  
512-998-3648 |
| **Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Block Walk**  
Come and walk with us as we implement strategies for improving the health of the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood! | Wednesday, July 26th  
5:30-7:30pm  
Meeting point: 6328 Shadow Bend | Ivanna Neri  
Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745  
ivanna@marathonkids.org,  
512-998-3648 |
| **Principal Meeting for Coordinated School Health**  
An opportunity for principals at the 10 GAVA partner schools to exchange ideas and best practices for coordinated school health, and learn about funding and programs for their campuses. | Thursday, July 28  
11:30-1:30pm  
Widen Elementary  
5605 Nuckols Crossing, Austin, TX 78744 | Megan Grayless  
Allison.M.Conklin@uth.tmc.edu,  
512-482-6170 |
| **Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Meeting** | Wednesday, August 10th  
6:30-8pm  
TBD | Ivanna Neri  
Geo-Teams Community Organizer 78745  
ivanna@marathonkids.org,  
512-998-3648 |
## July 2016

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<td>on park projects.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>78744 Farm Stand Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday July 21</td>
<td>Simone Benz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members of the 78744 community will be once again</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 pm</td>
<td>Sustainable Food Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meeting to discuss preparations for launching the Dove</td>
<td>Location TBD</td>
<td>Community Outreach Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springs Farm Stand this fall. Join us in this</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org">simone@sustainablefoodcenter.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conversation!</td>
<td></td>
<td>512-220-1146 (work), 214-449-9957 (cell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Corner Store Initiative Training</td>
<td>Time and Location TBD</td>
<td>Marla Torrado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents leaders who live along E. William Cannon</td>
<td></td>
<td>GAVA Healthy Food Retail Organizer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>are invited to a follow up training on how to create</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:marla@marathonkids.org">marla@marathonkids.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>healthier corner stores in our community. Texaco on</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>E. William Cannon and S. Pleasant Valley is now</td>
<td></td>
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<td>stocking a selection of fruits and vegetables.</td>
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<td>Join Austin Interfaith leaders from across the city</td>
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<tr>
<td>organizing strategies.</td>
<td>Room 835 N. Pleasant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vecinos Unidos Geo Team Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday July 14</td>
<td>Estrella de León</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vecinos Unidos (&quot;United Neighbors&quot;) along Wagon</td>
<td>7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td>Geo Teams Organizer 78744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bend will continue to work with Keep Austin Beautiful</td>
<td>Location TBD</td>
<td><a href="mailto:estrella@marathonkids.org">estrella@marathonkids.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on creating a safer and accessible E. Williamson Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td>206-293-9548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Meeting for Coordinated School Health</td>
<td>Thursday, July 28</td>
<td>Megan Grayless</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and program opportunities for their campuses.</td>
<td>Austin, TX 78744</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paisano Community Meeting</td>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>Estrella de León</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paisano Mobile Homes residents will be hosting a</td>
<td>Location and time TBD</td>
<td>Geo Teams Organizer 78744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>community meeting to discuss traffic safety around</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:estrella@marathonkids.org">estrella@marathonkids.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponciana Park and the surrounding schools.</td>
<td></td>
<td>206-293-9548</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcome GAVA’s newest staff: Marla Torrado (Organizer for GAVA’s Healthy Corner Store Initiative) Marla Torrado is originally from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, and has been an Austin resident for six years. She moved in 2010 to start her Ph.D. studies at UT, in the Community and Regional Planning program. Her work was based in Argentina, where she studied the impacts of the expansion of genetically modified (GM) soybeans as a nation-wide planning initiative that, while important as a source of revenue for the state, also provoked large groups of people to mobilize at the local level due to the negative impacts the production process has on their communities. She worked closely with an active women’s organization, Grupo de Madres de Barrio Ituzaingo, to make visible the struggles and challenges of a community heavily impacted by the production process of GM soy. Before moving to Austin, she worked for the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico, helping lead the Mapa de Vida initiative, a program that connected residents to the different ecosystems in their region through educational programs and events that celebrated the importance of the human-environment relations. Marla holds an MA in Geography from Syracuse University, and a BSc in Environmental Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico.