Ribbon Cutting at Ponciana Park in Dove Springs

Thank you to the hard working people of Austin Parks Foundation and the Austin Parks & Recreation Department for a great ribbon cutting event celebrating the opening of this beautiful park in 78744!

Special recognition goes to GAVA resident leaders: Alesha Larkins, Zwandi Arzamendi, Christian Garcia, Onice Amaya, Blanca Osorio, Jose Leija, Maria Socorro Rodriguez, and Jonaton Rodriguez, and GAVA & APF Organizers Cynthia Rodriguez and Estrella de León. The park renovation is only in Phase 1 and will be adding even more amenities in Phase 2, including completion of the new sidewalk around the park. After the event, resident leaders and AmeriCorps VISTA members mulched trees, planted flowers, and beautified the park for It's My Park Day!

Promoting Health in Early Child Care Centers

This year’s Halloween Party at Sweet Briar Child Development Center prioritized healthy snacks and fun CATCH-related indoor games. As part of our efforts to promote outdoor play and physical activity, we gave away two bicycles in a raffle for families who attended. Thank you to Bikes for Goodness Sake for donating these awesome bikes!

A New Pocket Park for 78745

Thanks to La Fuera de West Gate, a GAVA geographic team, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) has dedicated new parkland in 78745. The Tahoe Trail Pocket Park is now official public space and can be used for a community garden! Residents from the La Fuera area participated in a block walk to speak with residents about getting involved at the community garden.

“Community In Action” gets organized in 78745

Resident leaders from this geographic team near Pleasant Hill Elementary attended a training led by GAVA organizer Frances Acuña on how to plan and build an agenda. While the team has been working together for over a year, this training provided new skills to grow their base and build efficiency into their organizing efforts.

A New Playground Re-Energizes Odom Elementary Team

Years of hard work by the Odom School Park Adoption Team in partnership with PARD and APF has been rewarded! Work crews finished installing three large improvements: A nature-based play area funded by last year’s city block grant, musical play equipment donated by the ACL Music Festival, and a shade structure and seating area secured with a $42,000 grant to the team. Congratulations to the Odom School Park Adopters for their dedication to transforming this park! (Pictured: parents strategize to build a stronger team while learning to prepare healthy snacks with Brighter Bites)

Neighbors: Join GAVA’s efforts!

Interested in bringing healthier food and fresh produce to your local corner store? Get involved with the Healthy Corner Store Initiative and become part of the wonderful team of residents and store owners bringing healthier options to the neighborhood. Contact Sergio Ramirez at (512) 477-1259 ext. 1719 or email at sergio@marathonkids.org.

The Dove Springs Traffic Safety Team meets every 3rd Monday of the month to discuss and take action to create safer conditions for families to reach important community assets like schools, parks, SE Branch Library, the Dove Springs Recreation Center and more! A special thank you goes out to Constable George Morales and his team for being present and helping to discourage speeding and other traffic violations while students and families were walking to school.
### Dove Springs & 78745 Community Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date and Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Dove Springs Farm Stand**                | Weekly on Saturdays                     | 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 Summer Farm Stands**               | 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! | St. Elmo:  
Wed. 4-6pm, 4320 Congress, 78745  
Cunningham Elementary:  
Tues. 2-4pm  
2200 Berkeley Ave.                                      |
| **Fitness in the Park**                    | **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 | Cynthia Rodríguez  
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.  |  |
| **Odom Parent Talk**                       | Friday, Nov. 3rd                        | Frances Acuña  
Geo Teams Organizer 78745  
frances@marathonkids.org  
512-300-9108  |
| Come Meet Odom Elementary Parents and learn about their projects. This is the time and place to express your interests and concerns!  | 10:45am - 11:45 am  
Odom Elementary  
1010 Turtle Creek Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78745                                      |
| **Community In Action GAVA Geo team meeting** | Monday, Nov 6th                        | Frances Acuña  
Geo Teams Organizer 78745  
frances@marathonkids.org  
512-300-9108  |
| Community in Action will have their monthly meeting to discuss their health and wellness projects and goals.  | 9 AM  
Pleasant Hill Elementary School  
6405 Circle S Rd, Austin, TX 78745                                      |
| **Portable 4 Parent Support Specialist office Room**  |  |
| **Dove Springs Community School Alliance meeting** | Friday, Nov. 10th                       | Sulamita Mora  
The Austin Project  
Family Resource Center-Dove Springs Director  
sulamita.mora@austinisd.org  
512-841-1016  |
| All are welcome! Growing Community Schools!  | 8:30 - 10AM  
Mendez Library  
5106 Village Square Dr,  
Austin, TX 78744                                      |
| **Palomita Parent Meeting**                | Monday, Nov. 13th                       | Joelynn Avendaño  
United Way & GAVA Early Childhood Manager  
joelynn.avendaño@uwatx.org  
956-708-5663  |
| Join us! Come express your concerns and interests as parents of young children and how we can work together in solving these issues.  | 5PM  
Palomita Child Inc, 4905 Maufrais Ln.                                      |
| **Brodie Child Inc. Center Parent Meeting** | Tuesday, Nov. 14th                      | Joelynn Avendaño  
United Way - GAVA Early Childhood Education  
joelynn.avendaño@uwatx.org  
956-708-5663  |
| Join us! Come express your concerns and interests as parents of young children and how we can work together in solving these issues.  | 4PM  
Brodie Child Inc. 8105 Brodie Ln, Austin, TX 78745                                      |
<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dove Springs Child Inc. Center Parent Meeting</td>
<td>Monday, Nov. 13th</td>
<td>2PM</td>
<td>Dove Springs Child Inc Center 5106 Village Square Dr, Austin, TX 78744</td>
<td>Joelynn Avendaño</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org">joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org</a> 956-708-5663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset Valley Elementary General Meeting</td>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 15th</td>
<td>3:15PM</td>
<td>3000 Jones Rd. Austin, TX 78745</td>
<td>Frances Acuña</td>
<td><a href="mailto:frances@marathonkids.org">frances@marathonkids.org</a> 512-300-9108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cunningham GAVA Monthly Meeting</td>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 15th</td>
<td>3:15PM</td>
<td>Cunningham Elementary 2200 Berkeley Ave. Austin, TX 78745</td>
<td>Frances Acuña</td>
<td><a href="mailto:frances@marathonkids.org">frances@marathonkids.org</a> 512-300-9108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dove Springs/78744 Traffic Safety Meeting</td>
<td>Monday, Nov. 16th</td>
<td>7-8PM</td>
<td>Location TBD</td>
<td>Estrella de León</td>
<td><a href="mailto:estrella@marathonkids.org">estrella@marathonkids.org</a> 206-293-9548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAVA Physical Activity Sector Meeting (44 &amp; 45)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Contact Cynthia for details —&gt;</td>
<td>Cynthia Rodríguez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cynthia@austinparks.org">cynthia@austinparks.org</a> 512-387-2998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAVA Team Meeting at Sweet Briar Child Development Center</td>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 29th</td>
<td>5:15 -6:15PM</td>
<td>Sweet Briar Child Development Center at Woodway Village Apartments 4600 Nuckols Crossing Rd.</td>
<td>Joelynn Avendaño</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org">joelynn.avendano@uwatx.org</a> 956-708-5663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dove Springs Community Garden Work Day</td>
<td>Saturday, Dec 9th</td>
<td>9 - 12PM</td>
<td>By the Mendez portables on the corner of nuckols crossing and Palo Blanco 5106 Village Square Dr.</td>
<td>Sulamita Mora</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sulamita.mora@austinisd.org">sulamita.mora@austinisd.org</a> 512-841-1016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Bike Clinic</td>
<td>Every Friday, 5-6PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dove Springs Recreation Center 5801 Ainez Dr.</td>
<td>Noni Jarnagin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:noni.jarnagin@ghisallo.org">noni.jarnagin@ghisallo.org</a> Ghisallo Cycling Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop-in Meeting: 2016 Mobility Bond Corridor</td>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 15th</td>
<td>6-8PM</td>
<td>River City Youth Foundation 5209 S Pleasant Valley Rd,</td>
<td>Contact:</td>
<td>City of Austin <a href="mailto:206Bond@austintexas.gov">206Bond@austintexas.gov</a> (512) 974-7840</td>
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</tbody>
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By [387-391] de León——GAVA Physical Activity Community Organizer, Cynthia Rodríguez, Austin Parks Foundation.
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, visit www.goaustinvamosaustin.org, or write gava@marathonkids.org

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting the GAVA initiative!