

Wicked Wich Is Moving and Growing (Another Great Reason to Love Oscar de la Tienda)

Think of Oscar de la Tienda as a small-business incubator, and the Wicked Wich as the chick who was hatched at the store. After much success in the food space at Oscar, Wicked Wich owner Felisa Salazar is expanding into her own space. She'll be serving up her delicious sandwiches along with a wider menu of soups, salads, sides, and beer and wine at a new location at 825 Fredericksburg Road, just down W. Russell St. in Beacon Hill, in the same strip as Bexar Kolaches, across from Garcia's Tacos. "Alta Vista, don't be a stranger!" says Salazar. Look for the grand opening of the relocated Wicked Wich at the beginning of February. Two new food vendors are coming soon to ODLT.



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Alta Vista Neighborhood Association Newsletter

January 2023

AVNA Welcomes New Board

Alta Vista Neighborhood Association is ringing in the New Year with a brand new board. Please read on to learn a little bit more about the folks who are here to hear your concerns about the neighborhood.

President: **Katharine "Katie" Adams** has recently moved to San Antonio from Valdez, Alaska for her new assignment in the Coast Guard. She is an active-duty military officer currently assigned to the Army-Baylor MHA program at Fort Sam Houston. Katie and her family love the Alta Vista area and are devoted to improving safety, enhancing community involvement, and increasing the beautification of the community. Katie is a native of NJ, is married to Judson Adams (who still works in AK), has three children: Daisy (3), Jud Jr. (3), Grizzly (2), and a dog named Chicken. Her hobbies include working on her house, gardening, playing with her kids, and exploring San Antonio.

Vice President: **Erin Zayko** was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley and made her way to San Antonio in 1999 where she has lived in the Midtown area ever since. She graduated from UTSA in 2004. She's had a long career as a corporate project manager for energy efficiency and broader sustainability initiatives, which is inspired by her love for biodiversity and the great outdoors. She is equally interested in fairly representing the neighborhood and working to maintain and strengthen community ties, which she has done for more than ten years now in various board positions, including several years as AVNA President. She also sings, writes songs, and plays the guitar and enjoys playing music and hiking with her family.

Treasurer: **Cheryl Dozier** is an Army brat and grew up at a variety of US and overseas locations. She moved to San Antonio in 2006 when she retired after 26 years on active duty with the Air Force and has been a resident of Alta Vista since 2012. Prior to that she lived in Schertz. She spent another 11 years in civil service with the Air Force and retired in April 2018. Cheryl was a member of the committee to update the Alta Vista Neighborhood Conservation Design standards in 2018 and has served on the board for several years in various positions, including President

Secretary: **Mary Lib Kenney** arrived in San Antonio to create the

INFO

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

January 25, 2023
March 29, 2023
May 31, 2023
September 27, 2023
November 15, 2023

2023 AVNA BOARD PRESIDENT

Katie Adams

VICE-PRESIDENT

Erin Zayko

SECRETARY

Mary Lib Kenney

TREASURER

Cheryl Dozier

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Alston Beinhorn

April Driessling

Jennifer Khoshbin

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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District 1 City Council Office

Neighborhood Liaison:

Dorian Keller

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New Board, cont'd.

National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States (NAMBUS) in July 2014. The challenge of creating a facility and organization de novo was a strong enticement. A native of Michigan, she likes San Antonio except for the heat. Alta Vista beckoned as a home to share with her daughter and a final resting place. NAMBUS is on the St. Mary's University campus and actively pursues community and professional relationships to benefit for the greater good.

Directors At Large

Alston Beinhorn is a native of San Antonio. Some of his early memories are as a young student at the San Antonio Academy when the school was located on North Flores St. and drill exercises were conducted in San Pedro Springs Park. He enjoys walking his dog in the park today. He graduated from TMI and then obtained a B.A. from Amherst College in Massachusetts. He worked for two US multi-national banks in Houston, Singapore, London, and Toronto. In 2013 he and his wife returned to San Antonio where they remodeled a house in Monte Vista. In 2017 they purchased a property in Alta Vista which is still being renovated. He serves on the board of the Nueces River Authority and raises Braford beef cattle and horses south of San Antonio.

April Driesslein was born and raised in San Antonio, where she attended Taft High School and St. Mary's University. She spent five years in Colorado, where she earned a master's degree in medical anthropology, and one year in Zambia, where she completed a fellowship in public health, but keeps coming back to her hometown. The Alta Vista area holds a lot of family history for her; her grandfather had a dental practice at the Pediatrics and Adolescents clinic on San Pedro, and both her parents grew up in nearby neighborhoods. April has lived on Mistletoe since 2014, in a house she shares with her partner, Tim, her son, Virgil, and two dogs. She works as a data analyst and enjoys sewing, crocheting, camping, and home improvement projects in her spare time.

Jennifer Khoshbin is originally from Philadelphia, but has lived in many states around the US. She

landed in San Antonio after living in Austin, for her husband to pursue his career as a philosophy professor at UIW. Jennifer studied Art and Sociology at UT Austin and is a professional artist, working mostly in Texas and NYC. Along with gallery exhibitions, Jennifer's public artwork can be seen throughout San Antonio and the region. Jennifer heads the Alta Vista Arts Committee which leads fun activities and events several times a year, including Porchfest, holiday parties, San Pedro Springs history tours, movie nights, among many others. She also runs the Alta Vista Micro Garden, where anyone is encouraged to come plant or harvest at any time. Jennifer is married with two kids, and has lived in Alta Vista for 16 years.

Alta Vista News in Brief

AV Large Area Rezoning (LAR) approved by City Council on December 1

San Pedro Branch Library Events for Kids in 2023

Every Tuesday 4:00-6:00PM:
Let's Build: Legos and More

First & Third Saturdays 10:00AM-5:00PM
Let's Create: Come and Go Art

Second Saturday 1:00-1:45PM
Baby Time (ages 3-18 mo)

Fourth Saturday 1:00-1:45PM
Preschool Storytime (ages 3-6)

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Drainage Project Hurting Oscar de la Tienda; Six More Months Until Complete



The drainage project along N. Flores and W. Russell will make Alta Vista safer and bring updated roads, sidewalks, and curbs, but the work to alleviate dangerous flood waters is hurting business at Oscar de la Tienda (ODLT)—a dynamic store that supports the adjoining arts and community space on the corner of these two streets operated by proprietor and realtor Cynthia Gomez.

“Her shop is where you can feel the heartbeat of the neighborhood,” says patron Caitlin Foose. “You can grab basic necessities, buy a sandwich, coffee and local art, meet and mingle with neighbors and spend an evening listening to a local band if you wish.”

From oil paintings by Shea Daniel, to custom pens by Edin Rich Designs, to tasty drink mixers by

Bexar Tonics, ODLT sells the work of many local artisans. Several groups, such as the Jazz Poets of San Antonio and Seniors at Play (non-profit theatre workshop), use the open community space, aka the “green room”, at no cost, a service that Gomez hopes to continue to provide, though she doesn't rule out renting the space to the right tenant. “I envision there always being free space at Oscar for emerging artists and musicians,” says Gomez.

In just a short time, this eclectic convenience store has become a much-appreciated walkable destination for neighbors and those passing through in their cars. Unfortunately, it has been near impossible to do that for several months now due to the ongoing construction.

You can help by stopping in today to shop and attending a special benefit on Sunday, January 15 (see inset). You can also donate cash through <https://gofund.me/5373a8e0> or donate items for the silent auction.

Oscar de la Tienda Benefit

Sunday, January 15

Food, Art, Bands, Silent Auction

Proceeds to pay for operational expenses.

That may come soon, at least somewhat. “The project from West Ashby to West Russell should be complete [weather permitting] by January 31, thereby opening North Flores,” says CoSA Capital Projects Officer, Patricia McWilliams.

But new street closures on W. Russell and then Breeden will continue to impact ODLT and neighbors. “A different contractor will perform the work on W. Russell,” says McWilliams. The entire drainage project is slated to be complete in the Summer. A detailed schedule of construction for the next portion of the project will be available soon.

