



September 2023

# Alta Vista Neighborhood Association Newsletter

## AV EYED FOR MORE 3-STORY DWELLINGS!

### INFO

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

October 11, 2023

November 15, 2023 - Board  
Elections

Mark Twain Library 6:30PM

#### 2023 AVNA BOARD PRESIDENT

Katie Adams

#### VICE-PRESIDENT

Erin Zayko

#### SECRETARY

Mary Lib Kenney

#### TREASURER

Cheryl Dozier

#### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Alston Beinhorn

April Driesslein

Jennifer Khoshbin

#### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

##### SAFFE Officer:

Jesus Hinojosa

210-765-9470

jesus.hinojosa@sanantonio.gov

##### Police Non-Emergency:

(210) 207-7273

##### City of San Antonio District 1

Office: (210) 207-7279

D1 Liason Ryan Salts

The Alta Vista Neighborhood Association is back in action after our Summer "slow down"; though we don't meet nor publish a newsletter during this time, we're not calling it a "break" because the issues are non-stop!

In addition to several upcoming neighborhood events, there's quite a bit happening. Let's start with three important items that will be on the agenda at our next General Assembly meeting on October 11.

Representatives of the property owner at **133 Hickman** will be in attendance to discuss with us a vision for a total of 3 three-story, single-family dwellings on this ~7,000 sq ft lot, changes which do not seem possible without rezoning and deviating from code and parts of the Neighborhood Conversation District (NCD) design standards that AV neighbors put in place.

We'll also be joined by the owners of four adjacent multi-family-zoned properties on **Lynwood (418, 424, 430,432)** to hear their vision for more greenspace and density that would require big changes to zoning and deviations from the NCD that could in the future allow for one large apartment building.

Development projects have their pros and cons and they always have the most immediate impact on surrounding neighbors, so please don't miss this opportunity to learn more and ask questions in a respectful environment.

Finally, we'll hear from CEO Asia Ciaravino and Managing Director Christina Casella from **The Public Theater in San Pedro Springs Park**, both which call Alta Vista home. The Classic Theater has taken residency in the cozy 60-seat Cellar space at The Public for the current season, while production in the main space is on hold for a fundraising effort. We'll hear more about this and other opportunities to support our beloved spot for local theater and hopefully learn more about their vision for the former Pho Sur property across the street at 741 Ashby.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### September & October

24 Sept - AV Sessions, 4-7PM

3 Oct - Neighbors Together Cookout and Pot Luck, 6-8PM

4 Oct - AVNA Board Meeting, 6PM

11 Oct - AVNA General Assembly, 6:30PM

21 Oct - Book Adventures, third Sat, 10AM

28 Oct - Trail-or-Treat



@AltaVistaNA.org



@AltaVistaNA

# Around Alta Vista

## New Councilwoman's Priorities and Other Neighborhood Business

In August AVNA board members Cheryl Dozier and Erin Zayko attended an event organized by an informal group of District 1 neighborhood association leaders, including AVNA President Katie Corr, to welcome new District 1 Councilwoman Sukh Kaur and her staff. Councilwoman Kaur emphasized her priorities including economic development and small businesses, zoning and planning issues, low barrier housing, and increasing the city budget for Animal Care Services. Later in August, board members met one-on-one with the new D1 team to orient them to the long and ongoing list of specific concerns from our neighbors, including this partial list:

- Pickup and drop off around Mark Twain Middle School.
- Theft, drugs and other issues for multiple properties in the 900 block of Ashby.
- Vacant properties such as 800 W. Russell (has burned twice), 410 W. Magnolia (burned once), 741 W. Ashby, and 527 W. Mistletoe squatted in by the chronically homeless.
- San Pedro Springs Park: crime, encampments, destruction of park property, litter and future bond improvements.

We'll also share with them the results of our very informal poll where several neighbors showed support for a new sidewalk on the west side of N. Flores from Summit to Magnolia.

For a more complete list of issues or to bring something new to the table, contact [avna@altavistana.org](mailto:avna@altavistana.org).

## Attention Residents on Huisache

The two dumpsters near the northeast corner of Huisache and San Pedro serving the multi-family property and food business had been improperly placed in the easement. This was discovered after multiple complaints and code compliance cases to address the nuisance of garbage overflow and fly away/litter. If issues persist after the dumpsters are relocated, please continue to call 311 and let us know at [avna@altavistana.org](mailto:avna@altavistana.org). Thank you for working together to address this issue!



## A Big Thank You to Mary Kenney

Mary Kenney has stepped down from her position as board Secretary to focus on family and her role as the archivist for the Marianist Province of North America at St. Mary's University. She was Treasurer in 2021 and started as Secretary in 2022. She also took on the task of organizing several bins of AVNA history, a welcome tidying that we hope she will continue. If you see Mary out and about, please take a moment to thank her for her service to the neighborhood! Speaking of Secretary...

## Spread the Work Around

When we think about the numbers, it's probably fair to say that only a small percentage of AVNA residents have stepped up to help out at any given time in the 30-year existence of the neighborhood association. Still, the total number must be well into the hundreds when considering all of the issues, events, and opportunities that the NA and our committees confront and take on each and every day. At any given time, a tenacious and dedicated band of board members and other neighbors are volunteering their time in big and small ways to bring our community together. If you've never served or if it has been a while, won't you consider helping out? Contact [avna@altavistana.org](mailto:avna@altavistana.org) with your interests.

- **AVNA Secretary** – Take minutes at board meetings and general meetings; fill in until November or nominate yourself for a spot on the 2024 Board of Directors (see article on back).
- **Arts and Entertainment Committee**– Help plan social events and other fun stuff!
- **Traffic Island Beautification Coordinator** – Finalize plans and existing materials for beautification of the islands at W. Kings Hwy and W. Gramercy.
- **AVNA Community First Food Pantry** - Periodically help maintain and stock the pantry (reimbursable) along with dozens of other families.
- **Newsletter Committee** – Block captains needed to deliver newsletters to local business and the 600 block of Summit, 500-600 blocks of Elsmere, and the 400-500 blocks of Hollywood.
- **Technical Committee** – Be familiar with the Neighborhood's Conservation District standards; fairly gather neighbor input at meetings; and help to recommend positions related to rezoning and property related requests.

Want to lead something else for which you would like neighborhood support? Let's talk!

## Civic Contacts:

### City of San Antonio District 1

Councilwoman: Sukh Kaur, D1@sanantonio.gov,

Office: (210) 207-7279

D1 Liaison, Ryan Salts:

(210) 207-7279,

ryan.salts@sanantonio.gov

### Alta Vista SAPD SAFFE Officer

Officer Jesus "Jessie" Hinojosa:

(210) 207-7413

Jesus.Hinojosa@sanantonio.gov

### Police Non-Emergency:

(210) 207-SAPD (7273)

### Code Enforcement:

Officer Ruby Luna, (210) 618-5867

Ruby.Luna2@sanantonio.gov

Denise Hasting, D1 supervisor,

(210) 416-5851

Denise.Hastings@sanantonio.gov

Kristy Garza, Dangerous Premises Officer:

kristy.garza@sanantonio.gov

Saturday Code Enforcement hotline:

(210) 207-2633

Vacant Buildings Officer:

Crystal.Grafft@sanantonio.gov

### Homeless Outreach Coordinator, District 1:

Ramon Gonzales, (210) 371-9998,

ramon.gonzales@sanantonio.gov

### Homeless Connections Hotline:

(210) 207-1799

### Animal Care Services District 1 Officer:

Officer Adan Perez,

adan.perez@sanantonio.gov

### US House of Representatives, District TX-35

Congressman Greg Casar (TX-35)

Irene Chavez Galvan, District Director

210.307.0357,

irene.chavezgalvan@mail.house.gov

### Texas State Representative, District 123:

Diego Bernal, (210) 308-9700

Bethany Gutierrez, District Director

bethany.gutierrez@house.texas.gov

### Texas State Senator, District 26:

José Menéndez,

(210) 733-6604 (district office)

### Bexar County Commissioner:

Tommy Calvert, (210) 335-2614

### Bexar County Sheriff's Office: (210) 335-6010

### SAISD D6 Trustee:

Christina Martinez

Martinez.Christina1@gmail.com



## Alta Vista Sessions #4 Sunday September 24th 4-7PM

### ALTA VISTA SESSIONS

Free Music Pop-Up

SUN. SEPT 24th 4-7PM

SCRATCH BAKERY patio



FREE LIGHT SNACKS & DRINKS while they last.

Live music, free drinks and light snacks, special times. Bring a friend or neighbor and come share a happy hour drink with us! All ages welcome with supervision. Special musical guest & location TBA! We'll have light snacks and beverages for all ages while they last, and you're also welcome to BYOB.

## Neighbors Together Potluck, Tues October 3rd



Tuesday Oct 3 | 6-8 PM | 615 W. Gramercy

A favorite neighborhood event returns at our usual awesome location with grilled hot dogs and hamburgers for the kids, live music, and games. Check Facebook and the digital newsletter for the potluck sign up or contact [avna@altavistana.org](mailto:avna@altavistana.org) to let us know what dish you can bring. Always a great and well

- BRIDAL SHOWERS AND BABY SHOWERS
- WEDDINGS!
- LARGE-SCALE CORPORATE EVENTS FOR GUESTS IN THE HUNDREDS
- BREAKFAST OR LUNCH FOR THE OFFICE
- RESIDENTIAL SOIREES

Scratch KITCHEN  
CATERING

EMAIL [BECKY@SCRATCHSANANTONIO.COM](mailto:BECKY@SCRATCHSANANTONIO.COM)

# Board of Directors Election November 15

The Alta Vista Neighborhood Association (AVNA) is a voluntary 501c4 civic organization registered with the City of San Antonio. As such, we receive notifications and inquiries from the City and other entities about issues directly affecting the neighborhood. We strive to fairly and impartially represent members' interests in these matters. AVNA also communicates regularly with residents to exchange information and receive requests for assistance and hosts social and educational events to strengthen neighborhood bonds and a sense of community. The Board of Directors works with committees and other volunteers to accomplish the above.

Our by-laws call for eight (8) AVNA Board Members; seven of which are elected each year for a one-year term starting in January: 1) President; 2) Vice President; 3) Treasurer; 4) Secretary; and 5) Three At Large directors. The eighth member of the BOD is the Immediate Past President.

## Board Eligibility, Time Commitment, and Description

Any regular or business member is eligible. Board Members are expected to attend 9 board meetings (typically virtual) and 5 in-person general assembly meetings and to help the President set the agenda. The President or their designee acts as the AVNA spokesperson and only votes at meetings in the event of a tie. The Vice President supports the President as needed. The Secretary keeps minutes of proceedings and the Treasurer manages AVNA's funds. At Large members typically chair standing or ad hoc committees, and the VP, Secretary, and Treasurer may do so as well. Candidates interested in joining the Board of Directors should send an email to the Nominating Committee at [avna@altavistana.org](mailto:avna@altavistana.org) by 11/5/2023 with the following information: name, email address, phone number, why you would like to serve on the board and what position(s) you would consider holding, and which neighborhood issues are most important to you. Elections will be held at the General Assembly meeting on 11/15/2023. Nominations from the floor are also welcome.



## Bring on the Trail-or-Treaters!

Saturday, October 28, 2023 @ 6 pm

Linear Park ~ Michigan & Elsmere

We're getting into the spooky spirit with our neighbors in Beacon Hill—joining in on their 3rd Annual Trail-or-Treat at the Beacon Hill Linear Park. Open to all AV families! And for those that don't get trick-or-treaters on Halloween night or for anyone who wants to participate to give out candy (or books, or toothbrushes), simply don your favorite costume (not a requirement but encouraged) and bring your table/chairs/decorations and set-up along the trail by 5:45 to be ready for the kiddos.



ALTA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### BECOME A MEMBER

Individual - \$15 Couple - \$30 Business - \$35

**Website:** Use the QR code below or go to [altavistana.org](http://altavistana.org). Click on "Become a Member" in the right-hand column of the Home page or the "Join or Donate" tab at top of the page.



**Zelle:** Use our email address [avna@ymail.com](mailto:avna@ymail.com). Please include your address, email, and names (e.g. Jane Doe or Jane & John Doe, or Jane's Bakery)

**Mail:** Send us a note with your address, email, and names (e.g. Jane Doe or Jane & John Doe, or Jane's Bakery), along with a check to:

Alta Vista Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 12174  
San Antonio TX 78212

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Protecting Your  
Home & Auto.



GET A FREE RATE COMPARISON TODAY  
CALL 210.764.5070

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