



May 2024

Alta Vista Neighborhood Association Newsletter

On the May 29 Agenda...

INFO

General Assemblies
Mark Twain Library 6:30PM

May 29
September 25
November 20

2024 AVNA BOARD PRESIDENT
Erin Zayko

VICE-PRESIDENT
Paul Arocha

SECRETARY
Lisa Lozano

TREASURER
Cheryl Dozier

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE
April Driesslein (through May)
Jennifer Khoshbin
Melissa Enriquez

PAST PRESIDENT
Katie Adams

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
New D1 Liaison Diana Valdez



@AltaVistaNA.org



@AltaVistaNA

There's a surplus \$3.5M in unused 2022 bond and Parks and Recreation money slated for our beloved San Pedro Springs Park and at this last meeting of the General Assembly before Summer Break we'll be talking about how to spend it! Your input will be gathered by AV neighbor and leader of the Impact Guild, Sarah Woolsey, and Ashley Bird of Blooming with Birdie working on behalf of the Parks & Rec Department and Councilwoman Dr. Sukh Kaur to generate and collect ideas. After getting a brief introduction to the engagement mechanism—an activity with an intriguing name, Sueños of San Pedro Springs Park—we're excited to hear your ideas and see the process and to have this unexpected opportunity to show more love for the park! See the back of this newsletter for a related Sueños survey.

Hawthorne Farr, Beacon Hill neighbor and Chief Development Officer for Big Brothers Big Sisters, will also be joining us to talk about the positive impact of 1:1 mentoring. He's a Big Brother himself as of 1 year and he'll be picking up donuts for the meeting! A veggie and cheese tray will also be offered to help keep your sugar levels steady after a long day.

The DRAFT Transit Oriented Development ordinance is also on the agenda. The plan for TOD is to spur walkable, multi-modal, mixed-use development along VIA's Advanced Rapid Transit (ART) corridors, like the ones slated for San Pedro Ave. and Fredericksburg. The final TOD plan that gets adopted has the potential to change land use and zoning up to a quarter mile from any ART corridor. That's right! Though I would guess

major changes to single family residential won't be on the table, the entirety of Beacon Hill and Alta Vista (and I think Monte Vista?) could be affected by the TOD plan --essentially a pre-approved zoning blueprint for infrastructure and development meant to support the success of the ART corridors. Are the corridors a done deal some of you have asked? As far as I'm personally concerned, yes. A mountain of resources would be required to stop the fast bus as this point. Anyone wishing to launch an ART corridor opposition should come to the meeting with their proposal for consideration and vote by the Assembly. Otherwise, come anyway to hear from neighbor David Bogle who has stepped up to represent AVNA on the TOD plan development committee; he will provide a summary of the status of the plan to date, opportunities for

Mind the (Newsletter) Gap

Oh no! We haven't had this big of a gap in newsletter delivery in a long time. Routes on Summit, Craig, Mistletoe, Ashby, and south of Ashby are vacant. Previously these routes were held by other volunteers whose many years of service are greatly appreciated (you all know who you are!)

Where are you, new neighbors? Believe it or not, in this day and age, physical newsletter delivery by a neighbor reaches people that emails just won't or don't. We hear it quite a bit. So, PLEASE help! It's a very low-key and healthful way to contribute

Around Alta Vista

cont'd...

input and engagement, and what land use and zoning changes we should be looking out for over a large area (again!?!). You may have also noticed that three of the corners at Russell and Flores are popping with activity. The vacant, burnt-out property at 800 West Russell with Historic Designation is being reframed, Midtown Meetup is definitely living up to its name, and now there's movement at the former Patsy's Ice House property. From fun and artful "heart bombings" to in-depth and dramatic rezonings, AVNA and neighbors have been focused on this quadripoint for a long time and we'll share what we know about the latest and greatest at the meeting, along with our regular updates, but abbreviated because the agenda is packed and...SUMMER BREAK!

--Erin Zayko

Board of Directors News

We're excited to welcome Melissa Enriquez as the newest At-Large board director, voted in at the last board meeting on May 1. Melissa says, "I am interested in a position on the AVNA Board because I intend on remaining a long-term resident of the community. I have a background in real estate and feel that I will be able to contribute by attending community and development meetings and communication to the local residents. Over the years, I have been witness to the development of district 1 and its great improvements in various areas. I believe it is important to further develop while honoring the history of the community and I would like to contribute to the protection of that history while considering the needs of the local residents." She's already planning to tell the history of a neighborhood home for the September newsletter. she went above and beyond as the host of the last band Welcome Melissa!

No sooner did we vote Melissa in that Director and website master April Driesslein up and resigned on account of being tired of the malarky! Just kidding! In June, her family is taking a job opportunity on the Olympic Peninsula and we expect to see them around the neighborhood from time to time after they move. April's indispensable attention to the AVNA website has been integral to our ability to operate and she made our website better by regularly updating the content. Thank you so much and we'll miss you!

In related news—we have an open At-Large spot and we need a new website volunteer. Both fairly low-maintenance opportunities depending on what you want to bring to the table. Send a note of interest to: avna@altavistana.org.

Alta Vista Kids Art Showcase!

Skunks. Dogs. Cats. Frogs. Beetles. Caracaras. Raccoons. Snakes. Geese. Alta Vista is teeming with animals and bugs. Draw your favorite and submit to avna@altavistana.org by August 10 to be entered into a random drawing for a \$25 HEB gift card. Submitted art will be showcased on AVNA's facebook page, in the newsletter, and at the General Assembly meeting. Show us your critters!

Another Amazing Porch Fest!

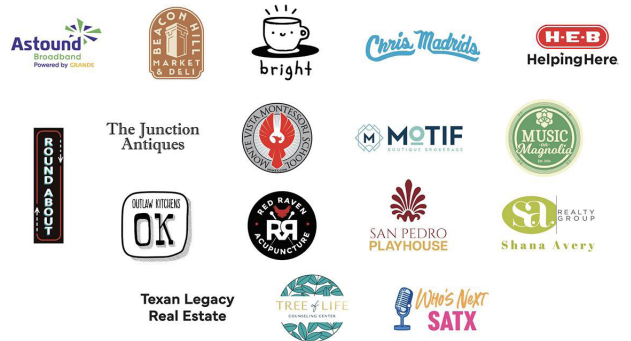
What an amazing day we had Saturday at our annual neighborhood Porchfest! The music was killer, the crowd was fun, the weather was ah-maz-ing, and everything came together beautifully.

Big thank you to the Porchfest Family that makes the day happen, including volunteers Julie, Andrew, Courtney, Elizabeth, Lisa, Leif, Paul, Sarah Beth, Jenny and our PorchFest committee Sarah Gallagher, Christina Wright, Jennifer Khoshbin, Desiree Garza and Kim Hubbeling.

Another thank you to our beautiful Porch Hosts including Robert & Julie, Jana & Andreas, Alyssa-Aly & Pablo, Cyle & Darian, Anita & Salas family, and Melissa!

Finally, big thanks to our Sponsors for all their financial support, and to our talented lineup of Musicians! Can't wait to see you next year!

Thanks to
our sponsors!



Looking Ahead to Fall

Neighbors Together (formerly National Night Out) – the first Tuesday in October. Who would like to host this neighborhood BBQ at their house this year, with plenty of planning and implementation support from AVNA? Contact avna@altavistana.org.

Civic Contacts:

City of San Antonio District 1

Councilwoman: Sukh Kaur, D1@sanantonio.gov,

Office: (210) 207-7279

D1 Liaison, Patricia Valdez:

(210) 207-7279,

patricia.valdez@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



New Neighborhood Plan for Alta Vista, Beacon Hill, and 10 Other Neighborhoods

CoSA will commence this Summer the development of the Near North Community Plan (NNCP). This plan will replace the Midtown Neighborhoods Plan which was developed in the late nineties. The MNP was an extensive process that led to the adoption of Alta Vista's Neighborhood Design Guidelines and other improvements in the neighborhoods that participated.

See the MNP here: www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/Planning/NPUD/MidtownNeighborhoodsNP_2000.pdf.

The new NNCP will encompass 11 neighborhood including Alta Vista and Beacon Hill; its framework includes Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, Mobility, Amenities, Public Space, and Focus Area/Corridors. Like the MNP back in 2000, the NNCP is an opportunity to envision new projects in our neighborhood. Perhaps pedestrian and bike lane improvements along Flores connecting to the park or to Mark Twain? An art corridor? Or perhaps long-term improvements for the park? What else can you think of?

The NNCP development process will kick-off this Summer and our new Board Member Melissa Enriquez will represent AVNA; at the September meeting, she'll brief the General Assembly on the status and a plan for gathering your ideas. We'll also be keeping a close eye on how the new NNCP and TOD plan overlap/intersect. If you have questions or idea, contact avna@altavistana.org

Share Your Priorities for the Upcoming City Budget!

The City of San Antonio is developing its Fiscal Year 2025 budget and we're calling on YOU to share your feedback. This year, the City is trying to slow spending while maintaining a high level of service. Your feedback will help City leadership determine where to focus its spending for Fiscal Year 2025 and make sure the City's priorities are in line with your highest needs.

Here's how you can get involved:

1. Submit your responses now to a brief survey about the proposed budget: www.surveymonkey.com/r/SABudget2024
2. Learn more about the City's budget process on the City's website: <https://www.sa.gov/Directory/Departments/>

Status of Draft Traffic Island Eagle Scout Project

Neighbor and Scout David VanDelist has selected AVNA as the beneficiary of his Eagle Scout Project which proposes to landscape the Gramercy traffic island and incorporate the decorative bricks that were part of a fundraiser several boards past. Demonstrating character, citizenship, and leadership by planning and executing a project in service to others will allow David to achieve the highest rank of Eagle Scout. He is currently drafting a proposal for fundraising, labor, and materials for approval by the AVNA Board (per membership's approval to keep the project moving like we'll need to do over the Summer). Then, David's proposal will be reviewed by the regional scouting governing body for adherence to Eagle Scout criteria. If given the green light, David will make a more detailed project plan and the project will start in the Fall. AVNA will separately handle similar improvements to the W. Kings Hwy traffic island. Hands are always needed for traffic island work days and there hasn't been one in years as far as we know. If you are interested in helping with traffic island beautification and maintenance email avna@altavistana.org

Paul's Handy Work

Our board member Paul Arocha continues to accept requests for assistance to install solar motion sensor lights in alleyways and he's extending his offer to cover clearing obstructed views at intersections and graffiti abatement. If you or someone you know is elderly and/or could use the assistance, please contact Paul: 210-354-5138.



What are your dreams for San Pedro Springs Park?

4 min Survey – Share your ideas!



¿Cuáles son tus sueños para San Pedro Springs Park?

Encuesta de 4 minutos – ¡Comparte tus ideas!



Arthur Pfeil

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DON'T SPEED

Max is 30 mph by law
Max 20 – 25 mph to be courteous
of families and pets in Alta Vista

Advertise With Us!

Advertising in the the AVNA Newsletter is a great way to reach your neighbors! It is distributed to ~1,400 households via hand-delivered physical copy, email, and social media. It is published five times a year: January, March, May, September, and November and distributed the first week of the month.

Rates (One Month)

Business Card (3.5" x 2") - \$35

Eighth Page (4.25" x 2.75") - \$45

Quarter Page (4.25" x 5.5") - \$65

Contract rates also available - buy five ads in five consecutive editions for a discount!
Any business purchasing an ad receives automatic AVNA membership and voting privileges for those that live or have a business in Alta Vista
Contact avna@gmail.com for questions and for artwork submissions deadlines



ALTA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BECOME A MEMBER

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

Website: Use the QR code below or go to 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@gmail.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
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Camille Rodriguez Brigant, Realtor®
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