



November 2024

Alta Vista Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Step Up for Alta Vista:

Join our Neighborhood Association Board

Calling all Alta Vista residents! The time has come to make your voice heard and take an active role in shaping the future of our vibrant community. Our annual board meeting elections, happening on November 20, are just around the corner! This is your chance to step into a leadership role and help make a difference.

We are particularly looking for a new President and Vice President who embody organization, fairness (not just their agendas), and a genuine commitment to our neighborhood's well-being. Either role could be a perfect fit for a retiree looking to stay engaged and make a positive impact. If you believe in the power of community, working with other leaders and volunteers, and are ready to use your wisdom and skills to help guide our neighborhood through exciting changes, we want you!

We have seven open positions each year: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three Members-at-Large. Whether you're a seasoned resident or a passionate newcomer, there's a place for you on our board! With a commitment of about 4 hours a month, plus monthly board meetings and bi-monthly general assembly gatherings (no meetings in the summer!), you can make a significant impact without overwhelming your schedule.

Ready to jump in? Nominate yourself today! Email avna@altavistana.org and include a couple of sentences to tell us why you're excited to join the board and which position you are interested in. You will hear back from someone on the Nominating Committee. Your input and leadership could be the spark that inspires others and transforms our neighborhood into an even more welcoming, wonderful place to live.

Let's come together to nurture and uplift Alta Vista—your voice matters, and we can't wait to hear it!

INFO

General Assemblies

Mark Twain Library 6:30PM

November 20 - Board Elections

2024 AVNA BOARD PRESIDENT

Erin Zayko

VICE-PRESIDENT

Paul Arocha

SECRETARY

Lisa Lozano

TREASURER

Cheryl Dozier

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Jennifer Khoshbin

Melissa Enriquez

VACANT

PAST PRESIDENT

Katie Adams

IMPORTANT SAPD & CIVIC

NUMBERS ON BACK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

20 November - AVNA Board Elections

15 December - Holiday Party

19 December - TOD City Council Vote

Alta Vista
Winter Party
Music + Food + Art
Art of Cellaring 2810 N. Flores

Dec 15
3 - 6 pm



@AltaVistaNA.org



@AltaVistaNA

Other Neighborhood News

City Commits to Review Alta Vista Traffic Concerns; BAT Lanes Remain

Thanks to everyone who participated in the discussion and attended the AVNA special meeting with VIA about the Green Line. The AVNA Board Resolution and your interest in this issue got the City's attention. According to the city's transportation department, an additional review of the Green Line's impact on traffic in Alta Vista will begin this fall. The city is funding \$10M to address traffic calming and other issues along the 12-mile Green Line, although no promise of funding nor a timeline have been discussed.

Summit and Breeden and the area around Mark Twain are obvious focal points for additional study, but the Green Line could also affect other places in the neighborhood. Property owners on any street identified for potential traffic calming measures will be notified, and two-thirds of affected property owners will have to agree before any measure is implemented. **If you want to get involved in the additional review of traffic impacts and solutions in Alta Vista, please get in touch with avna@altavistana.org.**

The membership did not propose a vote that changed the resolution adopted by the AVNA Board (see the previous newsletter), though many good questions were asked. VIA's Green Line along the AV/MV stretch will comprise bus-only transit (BAT) lanes plus enhancements such as light timing, pre-pay, and raised curbs for faster boarding. Could the goals for the Green Line be achieved with these other improvements and no BAT lanes, which would reduce the likelihood of a ripple effect of cars through neighborhoods? This option was never evaluated, so we may never know.

Construction of the Green Line is now expected to begin in March. The AVNA Board is focused on the immediate next step of working with the City to consider traffic hot spots in Alta Vista.

No More Traffic Congestion on Agarita

The traffic congestion on Agarita during pickup and drop-off times at Mark Twain Dual Language Academy is no longer there, thanks to an email (and some additional change management efforts) from Principal Garcia to parents asking them to re-route to Summit or further north on Breeden. He may also put up a temporary sign at the west end of Agarita. AVNA board members, residents, and a representative from Beacon Hill and District 1 met with Principal Garcia to discuss short- and long-term solutions to expedite the carline. Over the years, Principal Garcia has explored many options and regularly works with neighbors to accommodate their parking and access needs. One solution might be to make Breeden a one-way during school hours. However, temporary one-way travel may be a thing of the past, as Principal Garcia was told before the pandemic that one-way streets in school zones are no longer allowed unless they are permanent. District 1 is looking into this, and AVNA will continue to work with Mark Twain to explore options.

Big Picture: More Walkability & Bike Lanes for Alta Vista

One big-picture vision for Alta Vista includes a bike network. Emily Hutcheson, a Mark Twain parent and representative of Beacon Hill who also attended the meeting with Principal Garcia, proposed this idea. The bike corridor would connect Mark Twain in Alta Vista and Cotton Elementary in Beacon Hill along parts of Summit and Magnolia. The proposed route turns down Flores to San Pedro Springs Park, which complements a longstanding vision held by many Alta Vista residents and association members to activate that stretch. The AVNA Board has committed to working with Beacon Hill and stakeholders on the next step of applying for a Bike & Walkability Workshop from the local metro planning organization.

Want to make a difference in Alta Vista? Be a Block Captain!

Duties include:

- Distributing AVNA newsletters.
- Communicating any neighborhood concerns.
- Displaying yard signs for AVNA events.

Email AVNA@altavistaNA.org, or visit us on Facebook [@AltaVistaNA.org](https://www.facebook.com/AltaVistaNA)



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PAPER TIGER, 2024



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Around Alta Vista

Thirty-three individuals spoke in person, and 68 left voice messages regarding TOD at the PCTAC meeting on Monday, October 14, 2024. Keep it up! The planning and zoning commissions will consider the TOD amendments on November 13th and 19th, respectively, and the City Council will make the final decision on December 19th. Tier 1 Neighborhood Coalition Steering Committee (T1NC) recommends:

- Supporting the TOD policy and boundary maps for Alta Vista
- Exclusion of single-family zoned lots with the CRAG (the original 36 square miles of the City) from being part of a TOD district
- Special Authorization for Alcohol Use in TOD Districts

Additional recommendations will be shared on the Alta Vista Facebook page or by email as they become available.

Outlaw Kitchens is celebrating seven years in the neighborhood! Catch their dinner service Th-Sat.

The Art of Cellaring is open for business. The Alta Vista Winter Party will be held there on December 15th from 3-6 PM. All are welcome for music + food + art.

Councilwoman Sukh Kaur explained to attendees at the last AVNA meeting that the \$3.5 in unused Parks & Rec and Bond funds slated for San Pedro Springs Park will likely be used for much-needed maintenance of park infrastructure such as lights and bathrooms, possibly a new pavilion structure, and, according to the Friends of San Pedro Park, some historic elements of the park as well.

DON'T SPEED

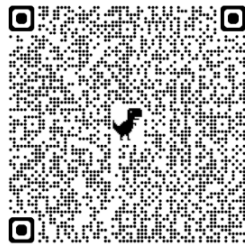
**Max is 30 mph by law
Max 20 – 25 mph to be courteous
of families and pets in Alta Vista**



loaded baked potatoes . melt-wiches . lunch combos

MIDTOWN MEETUP
OPEN EVERYDAY - 10AM TO 12AM
501 W. RUSSELL PL. - 210- 886- 8066

SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO CATCH A LOOK AT
OUR SOCIAL MEDIA
PAGES



*Thanks for being our neighbor,
come in and enjoy 10% off the
the loaded potato menu!*

live music . art . run club . powerwalkers club . crafts

yoga . book club . open jams . karaoke . same night

fresh produce . snacks . cold drinks . beer . wine . cocktails

Civic Contacts:

City of San Antonio District 1

Councilwoman: Sukh Kaur,
D1@sanantonio.gov,
Office: (210) 207-7279
D1 Liaison, La Juana Chambers Dawson:
(210) 207-7279,
lajuana.chambersdawson@sanantonio.gov

Alta Vista SAPD SAFE 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



Neighbor Spotlight

by Erin Zayko

"Just one more block, and we'll pick up the bus." Henrietta and Jeff kept telling themselves this on their walk back from a Fiesta event one year. They didn't realize that block by block, they'd end up walking the whole way home to Alta Vista. "Living close to downtown has its perks," Jeff says, laughing about the long but enjoyable walk.

Henrietta and Jeff live on the 500 block of Huisache and seem like that solid couple who must have been together forever, right? But when I met them at Philocoffee to chat about this article, I was surprised—they're approaching their 10th anniversary! They tied the knot in 2016 and started attending AVNA meetings around that time as well. It was a "bigger-than-expected" dream wedding for both, including a honeymoon to Galveston where, by lucky coincidence, both the Cubs and Bears were playing nearby. For Jeff, a lifelong Chicago Bears fan, it was a sports lover's dream!

Henrietta grew up in their home, a cozy residence her parents bought back in 1969. She remembers moving in as a little girl the day after Christmas. Though she eventually moved away, she returned in 2011 to help her mom. Jeff, on the other hand, was born in Chicago and came to Texas in 1984. Fate brought them together through a mutual connection—Jeff's cousin, who also happened to be Henrietta's best friend.

Between their careers in IT, work, family, and community activities, Henrietta and Jeff stay busy. Henrietta has two grown sons, one who lives in town and one who lives in Denver. When family visits or sports season rolls around, they make the most of every moment together. They especially love planning trips that combine family reunions with sporting events—fun and efficient!

Recently, they've embarked on a new adventure: a home renovation. They've tackled foundational repairs, installed central AC, updated the electrical, and transformed the kitchen and living room. In a surprise discovery, they uncovered original windows and doors hidden behind old sheet rock. For Henrietta and Jeff, seeing parts of the original home preserved in time was a meaningful experience.

Henrietta and Jeff are dedicated volunteers, too. They are members of the Fiesta Commission and stay active with San Fernando Cathedral, where they are parishioners. On weekends, they'll hop on the bus to catch shows at the Majestic or Tobin Center. They've recently enjoyed seeing *Wicked*, *The Fab4*, and John Malkovich on stage. And don't be surprised if you spot them ice skating at Travis Park during the holidays—they're huge fans of the winter festivities!

They adore their quiet block in Alta Vista but have one hope for the neighborhood: more street lighting. It's one wish from a couple who say they already feel lucky to call Alta Vista home.

Next time you see Henrietta and Jeff on a stroll or headed to the bus stop, say hello—they're excited to meet more of their neighbors, too!

