



February 2025

# Alta Vista Neighborhood Association Newsletter

## A Message from the President

Greetings!

My name is James Grover, and I'm excited to serve as president of the Alta Vista Neighborhood Association for 2025. I grew up in San Antonio, and my wife and I have lived on Huisache Avenue for the past three years. During that time, we have enjoyed swimming in the San Pedro Springs Park pool and celebrating anniversaries at Outlaw Kitchens. I am a high school economics, literature, and history teacher, and I spend my free time walking our large, friendly dog around the neighborhood and keeping our 100-year-old house from falling apart. I love Alta Vista and am excited to get to know more neighbors as president.

### On the General Assembly Meeting Agenda

I hope you'll join the AVNA board at our general assembly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on February 26 in the Mark Twain Dual Language Academy library. We'll discuss the City's commitment to **address potential traffic impacts from the Green Line** and provide an update on a **rezoning request** for 741 and 725 W. Ashby to enable a **proposed development for commercial restaurant space and 16 residential units**. With **city elections** this spring, some mayoral candidates have said they will attend to share their platforms. Each will be given an allotted amount of time, no less than three and no more than seven minutes, depending on the number of candidates in attendance. We'll also have the **District 1 update** from the Councilwoman or staff and an always **eye-opening overview from our police SAFFE team regarding their work in our area**.

We welcome everyone to join us and listen, provide input, and get to know their neighbors. I hope to see you there!

### San Pedro Springs Park Update

After hearing from 1,350 participants through various engagement events and activities, "maintenance and safety surfaced as the greatest overarching priorities," according to a District 1 document outlining recommendations for spending \$3.5 million in unused bond and parks and recreation funding. According to the document, the top-ranked design features were the pool, shade, restrooms, and lighting. It also mentions signage to highlight the park's history and improve safety. Specifically called out is \$250,000 from the Tree Mitigation Fund to support existing and new trees. "History, recreation, and nature define San Pedro Springs Park's contribution to the community," a related document says. "Incorporating these pillars into future design and programming...is recommended."

However, some are concerned that history isn't being honored. "The Grotto, The South Springs, The Victorian Formal Garden, The Crane Fountain and the Old Star Fountain are nowhere to be found in what the Councilwoman

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## INFO

### General Assemblies- Mark Twain Library 6:30PM

February 26  
April 30  
September 24  
November 19

### 2025 AVNA BOARD PRESIDENT

James Grover

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Ann Winer

### SECRETARY

Jack Turek

### TREASURER

Anita Vela-Johnson

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Paul Arocha  
Cheryl Dozier  
Jennifer Khoshbin

### PAST PRESIDENT

Erin Zayko

### Board Meetings held via Zoom

February 5 • March 5 • April 2  
May 7 • September 3 • October 1  
November 5 • December 12

### IMPORTANT SAPD & CIVIC NUMBERS ON BACK



@AltaVistaNA.org



@AltaVistaNA

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is planning to fund," according to Hector Cardenas (safd902@gmail.com) who leads the Friends of San Pedro Springs Park. He is asking residents to email the Honorable Councilwoman Sukh Kaur [sukh.kaur@sanantonio.gov](mailto:sukh.kaur@sanantonio.gov) or call 210-207-1387 to request the prioritization of the restoration of these much-neglected historical elements of this State's oldest public park.

Next, the City's Park and Recreation Department, in collaboration with Public Works, will develop design plans for new features and continue to assess which ones are feasible for construction.

## Other Neighborhood News

### VIA's Green Line and Addressing Traffic Impacts in Alta Vista

On December 18, 2024, the Green Line received an executed Full Funding Grant Agreement from the Federal Transit Administration. This agreement secures \$268 million in funding, allowing the project to advance into the construction phase.

VIA anticipates completing 95% of the design work by March 2025 and having a phased construction plan by May. Ongoing Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) investigations are expected to continue ahead of construction, which will begin this Summer. The first step will be relocating utilities as determined by SUE. By gathering comprehensive underground utility information, VIA intends to minimize disruption to our community.

VIA is planning the next Open House for March/April. For more information visit: [keepsamoving.com](http://keepsamoving.com) or call (210) 362-2590.

Last year, the Alta Vista Neighborhood Association board voted to oppose the Green Line to draw attention to studies showing that it could cause cut-through traffic in Midtown Neighborhoods and consider whether VIA's reliability goals could be met without reducing car travel lanes from four to two. While the latter remains a question, we've received a positive response regarding the former.

**We're excited to share that the City's Transportation Department has committed to a traffic calming project to address the potential negative impacts of the Green Line while hopefully improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety.** The AVNA board will represent the neighborhood in a kick-off meeting with VIA (date in March TBD) to help identify areas of concern. Flores, Summit, and the areas around Mark Twain are at the top of our list.

Are you concerned about other streets? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE. Let us know at [avna@altavistana.org](mailto:avna@altavistana.org).

The traffic calming project is anticipated to take five months. After the kick-off meeting, the project involves conducting a "walkshed" analysis of the neighborhood to determine traffic calming measures, reviewing the results with the neighborhood, and proceeding to design, implementation, and construction.

At the same time, we are working with Beacon Hill and the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) on a walkability and pedestrian safety workshop. The efforts with AAMPO and the City's Transportation Department will be coordinated.



SAN ANTONIO

Thanks to Art of Cellaring for hosting our Winter Party! Art of Cellaring is dedicated to creating spaces and opportunities for individuals to meet, connect, learn about, appreciate, and share wine. For more information, contact [satx@artofcellaring.com](mailto:satx@artofcellaring.com) or call 210-245-6422 2810 N. Flores San Antonio, TX 78212

### W. King's Highway Traffic Island

The W. Kings Highway Traffic island project is underway! Eagle scout candidate, David Van Delist is seeking donations to improve the traffic island by incorporating decorative bricks provided by the neighborhood, planting drought-tolerant plants, and adding a sidewalk to make the island ADA-accessible. Any donations from the neighborhood would be much appreciated. Donations can be made by dropping the money off at his house: 509 w Gramercy, calling the Assistant Scoutmaster at 210-415-5794, or venmoing the troop directly @BSAtroop307. David will be managing the project with oversight and guidance from his scout master. He plans on beginning work in May and ending by August.

### UniKatie Cleaning Making Order of your Chaos, Magically

Offering: residential cleaning, home and garage organizing

Please phone for free in-home quotation  
Katie: (210) 516-5896



HINDES FINE ART  
615 W. Ashby Pl



Andrea Wollenzin & Janice Yow Hindes, Co-Owners, established Hindes Fine Art in the 1915 Lucie Frost Mansion overlooking San Pedro Park

Upcoming Event:

*Hootin' at Hindes*

Sunday, March 30th 2-4 p.m.

MECHANICAL BULL ART FUN DOOR PRIZE DRINKS FOOD

Featured Artists: Kyle Ma, Scott Christensen, Nathaniel Garza, Scott Burdick, Susan Lyon, Randall Cogburn, Vladimir Krillov, Patrick Saunders, Matt Smith, Richie Vios, Kathie Odom, Ned Mueller, Bill Farnsworth, Mitch Baird & More...

Hindes.com

## Around Alta Vista

If you are passionate about pedestrian and bicyclist access and safety in Alta Vista, WE NEED HELP. We have an unprecedented opportunity to plan and obtain funding to implement new measures. Those interested in helping to observe, gather, and assess neighborhood conditions in partnership with city stakeholders should contact [avna@altavistana.com](mailto:avna@altavistana.com). If you have any questions or concerns, do the same.

Catch the Jersey Boys at the **San Pedro Playhouse** through March 2. Get tickets at [sanpedroplayhouse.org](http://sanpedroplayhouse.org).

Help feed people by donating to the **Alta Vista/Community First** food pantry on Flores near Midtown Meetup. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off anytime, or you can sign up to work with other volunteers to keep the pantry full. Cash donations are also accepted. To help with the food pantry, contact [jenkhoshbin@gmail.com](mailto:jenkhoshbin@gmail.com).

Be a **neighborhood block captain** and help deliver newsletters on your street or others! Let us know at [avna@altavistna.org](mailto:avna@altavistna.org).

“**Alston Beinhorn**, a man of gentle spirit, unmatched intelligence, and profound kindness, passed away on December 7...”. We remember Alston for his time on the board as an advisor for the Contreras Funds and supporter of AV events. Read his full obit at [Legacy.com](http://Legacy.com). We're also noting the passing of neighbor and friend **Morales**. Rest in peace.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

Early voting: 4/22 - 4/29

Election Day: 5/3



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## Civic Contacts:

### City of San Antonio District 1

Councilwoman: Sukh Kaur,  
d1constituentservices@sanantonio.gov,  
Office: (210) 207-0900  
D1 Liaison, La Juana Chambers Lawson:  
(210) 207-0793,  
lajuana.chamberslawson@sanantonio.gov

### Alta Vista SAPD SAFTE 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 Corey Schulz

Thelma and Daniel Muraida's romance with Alta Vista began during the Reagan administration, but their roots in San Antonio's West Side are even deeper. Their mothers met in high school, they grew up three blocks from each other in Little Flower Parish, and they met when Thelma was about to take the bus home from a job at Joske's counting inventory. Daniel's sister said, "let Danny drive you home."

The car ride blossomed into marriage, three children (all born and raised in Alta Vista), and exciting careers in educational psychology and art across a panoply of media. Careers and studies led them as far as New York City and the University of Michigan—but San Antonio was home, and in 1979 they bought a small cottage in Beacon Hill, which they soon outgrew.

In 1987 the Muraidas moved into their current home on W. Hollywood Ave., an expansive residence with colors and tiles reminiscent of Spain or Italy.

"We love the uniqueness of homes, the neighborhood feel, and the proximity to downtown and the art scene, the whole area is filled with artists" Thelma said. She has been a professional artist since she started selling small portraits of the Beatles in High School. Her experience has since expanded from being a weaver in NYC's Garment District, to an initial job in Ann Arbor MI, editing science publications as the in-house art designer, to a stint as an art director at UTSA, to starting a successful independent graphic design business on her return to San Antonio. All the while she has pursued a parallel career as a fine artist, but it has only been in the past 10 years that she has been able to pursue it on a full-time basis in her sun-drenched studio behind the W. Hollywood residence. Now Thelma has filled it with her artwork, freelance graphic design, book design and illustration projects.

"The house was built in 1926," said Daniel. "When the realtor showed us, we kept our poker faces, but we knew it was the one." Daniel earned his MA at St. Mary's University and achieved his Ph.D. in educational psychology in 1984 from the University of Michigan. He led a remarkable career as a research psychologist for the military, evaluating the effectiveness of medical training and exploring the predictiveness of PTSD characteristics.

The beautiful adobe on W. Hollywood has seen the world change from 1926 to a 2025 that would have been science fiction to its original residents, but it still stands as a marker to the beauty and diversity of our neighborhood. Daniel noted that deed restrictions would not have allowed them to purchase it a hundred years ago. Alta Vista and San Antonio thankfully have changed for the better of all.

Alta Vista/Beacon Hill have been home for almost half a century, and we wish these neighbors many more years in our quirky, eclectic—but always welcoming—"Alta Vista."

