

Alta Vista

Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Alta Vista is bounded by Hildebrand on the North, San Pedro on the East, the Union Pacific railroad tracks on the west, and Myrtle on the South

2014 in Review

By Erin Zayko

It's that time of the year when you hear from us in regards to the past year's accomplishments. Without further ado, here's a recap:

Over the course of the year AVNA facilitated several community events with the help of board members Jennifer Khoshbin, Maricel De Leon Stephen, Peggy Howe and many other wonderful volunteers: a Spring Bike Ride; a historic walking tour of San Pedro Park; promotion of the On/Off Fred Rd. art tour; a Great Pumpkin Party and house decorating contest for the kids; and, as usual, a successful Neighborhood Night Out, and a great Holiday Party for members. We also hosted a community planning workshop with the help of Claudia Guerra and David Bogle, to continue the discussion about what makes our neighborhood historically and culturally special, and, overseen by volunteer Bob Comeaux, we awarded \$500 to Karla Nevarez through our Pat Clayworth Scholarship, which each year helps a former Mark Twain student with college expenses.

The hardworking Pet Committee now chaired by Monica Ames, continued using the City-recognized practice of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). They have spayed and neutering over 160 feral cats since they began and prevented the

birth of thousands of kittens over the course of two years. Any notch-eared cat you see in the neighborhood is likely the work of the committee, who you can contact at avna@ymail.com for assistance with feral cats on your block. TNR is hard work, and the Pet Committee has our gratitude.

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING AGENDA:

Priorities: status check

Traffic issue polling results

Crosswalk art, green traffic islands and art cars, oh my!

Meet our new Councilman, Robert Treviño (tentative) & Rick Flores, principal of Mark Twain

Now in its third year of negotiation, we continue to follow every Quiet Zone delay, to understand and overcome project barriers. We're told implementation will happen this February; if it doesn't, we're ready to spring into action and we'll need your voice. In preparation for more peace and quiet, keep in mind that implementation means no train horns by default. An occasional horn will still be heard when engineers deem a safety issue like track obstructions.

Finally, we ended 2014 in a much better financial position due to increased advertising, thanks to board member Peggy Howe, and a successful theatre night fundraiser in partnership with the Play-

house led by board member Elizabeth Allen. A renovation of our website in 2014 by former board member Ben Judson gave us more visibility and allowed us to stand up online membership payments, a successful facet of our fundraising approach. Much gratitude to our treasurer, Alma Noriega-Sotirhos for tracking our finances through it all.

We did all of these things in addition to hosting general meetings, setting priorities, and responding to numerous zoning, land use and historic designation applications, and helping neighbors with issues like animal cruelty, one case in particular leading to an improved animal cruelty ordinance initiated by former councilman Diego Bernal. And let's not forget the derelict corner of N. Flores and W. Russell. The board continues to monitor this property for safety and transfer of ownership.

Last year was a great year and I'm grateful to serve as your President again in 2015. Your support by way of affordable membership (see membership form on back) or volunteering is critical to maintaining this momentum. What better place to have an impact than your own neighborhood? We have something for everyone. To get involved call us at 210.288.4883 or send an email to avna@ymail.com. ★

Save Miguel's Home!

deadline: January 30. By this date, we need an additional \$22,000 on top of the \$19,000 pledged so far, or the Calzada's risk losing their long time home in their autumn years. When hardworking, kind and generous neighbors need help, what do we do? We respond in kind. If all households in Alta Vista pledged just \$10, we'd be more than halfway there. Make your donation today by mailing a check made out to "SAAHC" to:

San Antonio Alternative Housing Corporation
1215 South Trinity Street
San Antonio, Texas 78207
Put "Save Miguel's Home" in the memo line

For questions and to note that your check is in the mail contact Bob Comeaux, bobtheunionguy@aol.com, or 326-2655.

Donate today to beat the next city demolition deadline on January 30! ★



Neighbors coming together to help prepare the Calzada house for repairs.

Photo Credit Page Graham, courtesy of the Rivard Report

FIRST GENERAL MEETING of 2015

January 28th, 6:30 PM
Mark Twain Middle School
Library
2411 San Pedro
(parking off Breedon)

2015 Meeting Schedule:

March 25
May 27
September 30
October - National Night Out
November 18
December - AVNA Holiday Party

CONTACT US

- avna@ymail.com
- altavistasa.com
- facebook.com
- District 1 Field Office
210.207.0900

2015 AVNA Board President

Erin Zayko

Vice-President

Elizabeth Allen

Treasurer

Alma Noriega-Sotirhos

Secretary

Jennifer Khoshbin

Members at Large

Peggy Howe
Maricel de Leon Stephen
Claudia Guerra

Herban Garden Party!

Saturday, January 31st
10:30AM - 1:00PM
602 W. French
More info in the AVNA Facebook group

The historic home of Miguel and Guadalupe Calzada in Beacon Hill is under threat of demolition, after long-term severe health issues left them without the resources to maintain their home after 50 years in the neighborhood. Midtown neighbors and others have come together with pro bono professional services, monetary donations, and good ol' hard work to thwart impending city deadlines for demolition. The city has a new

ALTA VISTA

-A Neighborhood Conservation District-

We Make Good Neighbors!

Tea Garden Opening in Alta Vista

By Peggy Howe

Think Mai of Pho Sure fame is planning to hold the Grand Opening for his new business, Saatea Garden, on February 7th. In speaking with Think I came to know that his teahouse will carry a variety of biodynamic teas

that are organically grown in the pristine mountains of Asia. These teas, Think explained, are made from plants that are over 1000 years old. They have a small amount of caffeine but perhaps more importantly they have a variety of health benefits that include

lowering the risk of heart disease, cancer and diabetes. Saatea Garden will also be offering edible garden products such as seeds for sprouting, garden towers and wall gardens. Saatea Garden is located at 741 West Ashby in the building adjacent to Think's

sister's popular Thai restaurant, Pho Sure. The Grand Opening should prove to be an activity packed event with tea tastings, bites to eat, yoga classes and demonstrations of urban garden building. ★

Neighborhood Art!

By Jennifer Khoshbin

Get ready for some cool art as you explore the 'hood at the **8th Annual On & Off Fredericksburg Road Studio Tour**, a two-day self guided tour of artist studios "on and off" Frederickburg Road, featuring demonstrations, hospitality, and opportunities to purchase art directly. See metalworks, large ceramic sculptures,

jewelry, fashion and fiberart, one-of-a-kind light fixtures, art photography, hand-crafted furniture, and a variety of paintings in various styles. Alta Vista artists include Rex Hausmann, Steven Da Luz, Hilala and Kati Hibri, Hector Garza and C. Elliot Russell at Hausmann Millworks; and Jennifer Koshbin, Amy Jones and J.D. Morera.

The tour kicks off with the On & Off Fred Autograph Party, February 20 6pm-9pm. See works by each of the 80+ featured visual artists, who will be on hand to autograph your copy of the tour catalog. Take the tour and attend the party with the purchase of the catalog (\$10 advance \$15 day of). More information at onandofffred.org ★

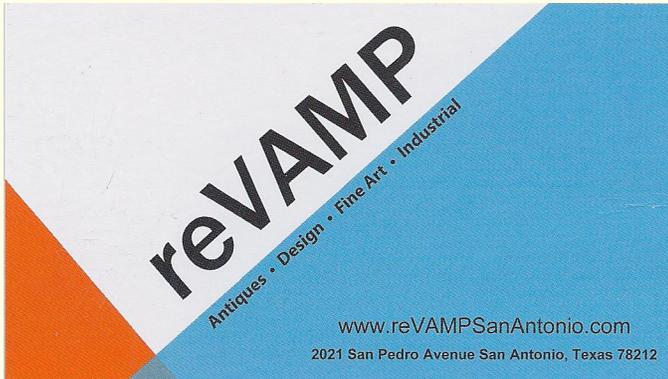
AVNA 2015 Membership Form

Individual - \$10/year
Business - \$20/year (includes one business card sized ad in newsletter for one month)

Name(s):
Address:
Phone(s):
Email(s):

Pay online at
altavistasa.com

Or fill out and return with a check to:
Alta Vista
Neighborhood Association
PO Box 15033
San Antonio, TX 78212



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BASURA BASH!
District 1 Council Office invites you to be a part of the 21st Annual Basura Bash, the largest single-day all volunteer waterway clean-up in Texas!

The District 1 Team is recruiting volunteers to clean up a portion of the Alazan Creek (W. Poplar - Trinity St.) on Saturday, February 21 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Call 210-207-0900 or visit basurabash.org for information and to register

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