

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
PO Box 15033 • San Antonio TX • 78212

NEXT MEETING

May 27th, 6:30 PM
Mark Twain Middle
School Library
2411 San Pedro
(parking off Breeden)

TOPICS:

TBD
Last meeting before
Summer Break!

2015 Meeting Schedule:

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

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Alta Vista Neighborhood Picnic

By Erin Zayko

Join your neighbors Sunday, April 26th from 11:30am -2:30 pm for a relaxing picnic in San Pedro Park. Bring your family and friends, a potluck dish, and blankets for lounging. The Association will provide agua fresca, water, tables for food, plates, napkins and silverware. Atmosphere provided by Mother Nature and enchanting music played

by Miguel Garza and Jean-Philippe Romanjer on Spanish guitar. What better way to bid adieu to Fiesta than by taking it easy close to home, with good food, company and music? See you there, east of the springs, near the gazebo by the fallen oak. ★



Familiar Faces - Our Neighbors in Profile

by Peggy Howe

I startled Angie when I arrived. She was on her front porch napping and for good reason. She's been on this earth 92 years (though according to her it's only been 80).

It's a good thing her eldest son, Manuel, arrived to make his mom lunch, or I would have had to take her at her word. She's a very pretty woman, so perhaps vanity got the best of her!

Angie hasn't been sitting on her porch relaxing for long. She is the mother of five - Manuel, Charles, Edward, David and Ruth and the grandmother of three - Sarah, Rebecca and Cecilia.

I asked her how long she had lived in Alta Vista. "Forever" was her answer. Since most people spend less than their entire lives in one house, I asked if she had spent all of "forever" in the handsome bungalow where we were enjoying a chat on her breezy front porch.

She explained that when she first married her husband,



Manuel Castillo, they had set up house in a tiny bungalow on West Lullwood that Manuel had built for his new family. Out of curiosity I asked Angie if Manuel, the man she had married at the age of 18, was handsome. She said "of course" as if the answer was a well known fact.

I could tell from the way she spoke of the "tiny house on Lullwood" that she had been very happy there as a young bride and mother. However, she said it didn't take long to realize that a family of 7 was going to need more room. So

they pulled up stakes and moved to a three bedroom bungalow a few blocks away. (To illustrate the need for a larger home, her son, Manuel Jr., told me that the garage his father and he built behind the Lullwood address was indeed larger than their house.)

Even after raising five children, Angie stayed busy in the neighborhood, keeping a close eye on the block and greeting new neighbors with housewarming gifts. One neighbor across the street still has a sweet garden stepping stone with a frog on it that Angie brought over to welcome the new family in 2000.

Many children, many trips to San Pedro Park, many family dinners, many pet chihuahuas, many birthday cakes and fresh baked loaves of bread later Angie had this to say: "I don't think I've lived enough. I need more time."



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Fewer Cats in Alta Vista? Volunteer Today!

by Erin Zayko

The AVNA Pet Committee works tirelessly to reduce the feral cat population in our neighborhood by a city-approved method called Trap-Neuter-Return. To date, the Committee has

serviced almost 200 cats in our neighborhood, preventing thousands of births over two years. If you can help trap on Monday or Thursday evenings, transport to the clinic early the next morning, or keep spayed/neutered cats in comfortable conditions in

their traps for 24-48 hours while they rehabilitate after surgery, please volunteer today. Through April, SpaySA is offering FREE fixing and vaccinations for feral cats. Contact avna@ymail.com today to take advantage of these services or to volunteer to help trap feral cats

A huge collective thank you to current and soon-to-be Pet Committee volunteers. ★

SPEEDING

The speed limit in Alta Vista is 30 mph.

Don't Speed!

by Erin Zayko

After three years of negotiations, the railroad Quiet Zone finally went into effect April 14, though it may take two weeks or more for train engineers to get used to the new rule.

While safety issues—cars and people on the tracks, for instance—will prompt the occasional horn blast, the QZ means significantly fewer trains sounding their horns in Alta Vista. This is great news for our neighborhood, but especially for those living near the tracks. Thanks

to everyone who wrote and called our elected officials and decision makers.

However, the effort isn't quite finished. We'll be following up with the city about the status of funding for the five non-QZ crossings just south of Hickman. Their exclu-

sion from a QZ means that horns will blow a quarter-mile before the Fred. Rd. crossing, before Hickman and within the bounds of Alta Vista. So, the newly implemented QZ is only a 95% solution for our neighborhood. ★

Quiet Zone At Last

AVNA Newsletter Squad Needs YOU!

The AVNA needs Newsletter Block Captains for Craig, Gramercy, and Mulberry.

Block captains deliver about 70 newsletters, once a month, to the homes and businesses on their assigned street. You don't have to live on a street to be the block captain, and it's a great way to get out in the fresh air, see your neighbors, and further enjoy Alta Vista!

If you're interested, contact avna@ymail.com today!

"A Christmas Carol" at the Playhouse

Is Christmas "a poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every 25th of December"? Come hear the classic Dickens tale with your friends and neighbors in December at the Playhouse and decide for yourself (and put a few dollars in the pocket of your friendly neighborhood association, and support The Playhouse as well!).

AVNA and The Playhouse are partnering again for AVNA night at the playhouse to raise funds for neighborhood projects. Stay tuned for a save-the-date and we'll let you know as soon as tickets are available.

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