

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

March 30, 6:30 PM
- NOTE LOCATION -
615 W. Ashby
TOPICS:
TBD

2016 Meeting Schedule

May 25 - General Meeting
Sep. 28 - General Meeting
Oct. 4 - National Night
Out
Nov. 16- General Meeting
Dec - Holiday Party, TBD

CONTACT US

- avna@ymail.com
- 210.288.4883
- altavistasa.com
- facebook.com
- District 1 Field Office
210.207.0900

2016 AVNA Board

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Erin Zayko

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Secretary

Krystal Jones

Members at Large

Elizabeth Allen

Luke Freeman

Mike Wickersham

IT'S TIME for ANTI-CRIME

A Citizens on Patrol (COP) program is heading your way Alta Vista. COP members safely identify suspicious activity to help the police by circulating areas of the neighborhood on foot or by bike or car. Participating involves a two hour class to learn to identify suspicious behavior and the dos and don'ts of citizen patrolling (patrolling in pairs, carrying no weapons, avoiding confrontations or chases etc.) Participants also have the option of doing a "ride along" in a police cruiser on a shift of their choosing. AVNA will coordinate a citizen patrol schedule that responds to crime patterns in our neighborhood, with flexibility for volunteer availability. Please send an email to avna@ymail.com for more information. We need you!

Alta Vista's Revolutionary Origins

By Luke Freeman

In 1910, while staying at the now defunct Hutchins Hotel (it was closed in 1957) on 505 S. St. Mary's Street downtown, Francisco Madero and his group of like-minded revolutionaries wrote El Plan de San Luis Potosi, the document that would ignite the revolution in Mexico. Madero had fled to San Antonio with his family and followers earlier that year after losing a presidential election that had been rigged by the sitting president, Porifiro Diaz. After writing the plan in San Antonio, Madero would return to Mexico and become fairly elected president in 1911, only to be assassinated in 1913.

The Mexican Revolution was a violent affair that took place across most of Mexico from 1910 to 1920. Numerous armed factions developed throughout the country over the course of the struggle, resulting in the death of over one million Mexicans. The violence prompted the migration of hundreds of thousands Mexican citizens to the United States, most of them from affluent backgrounds that provided them the financial resources necessary to escape the violence.

A large portion of these immigrants settled in San Antonio because of its established Hispanic culture and proximity to Mexico. At the time, Alta Vista was not a fully

realized neighborhood as it is today, and a great deal of open land was available for purchase as San Antonio began to grow and spread out from what is now downtown. Many of these newly arrived families chose to construct homes in this area while they were waiting for the violence to subside, or as in most cases, starting a new life in the United States. Many of their homes still stand in Alta Vista and are inhabited and maintained by our neighbors. If you live in one of these homes, or know of one your own residence, please email the neighborhood association at avna@ymail.com so that we can share this important chapter in the history of our neighborhood. ★

Save the Date: April 2 Neighborhood Garage Sale

Need to declutter? Want to get rid of the old to make room for the new? Then join with your Alta Vista neighbors in a neighborhood garage sale. Just pay a small amount and we'll include you on the list of participating homes. AVNA will promote the event via social media, email, community calendars and a print ad in the Express News. More houses bring more customers, so get on the list today to take care of that spring cleaning, make some money, and support your neighborhood association. For more information, contact avna@ymail.com, or call John Bragan at (210) 326-7363.

2016 Membership Drive

Use the enclosed envelope to return your \$10 individual or \$20 business membership using the form on the other side of this newsletter. Thank you for supporting AVNA.

Remembering Roy

by Bob Comeaux

Raul "Roy" Ramirez died on January 14th at the age of 85, believed to have been living at St. Francis Nursing Home, just a block from his beloved Popo's Café-Mini Mart-Washateria on the corner of N. Flores and W. Russell, now the site of Sam's #2 convenience store. Roy and his wife Andrea opened first a laundromat, then convenience store and arcade, and later Popo's restaurant, opened from 7 am until 2 pm, seven days a week. The businesses thrived from the 1970's until 2003 when Andrea developed health issues.

Though the Ramirez' did not live in Alta Vista, they were a major part of our community. When we observed that some of the games in the arcade were of a violent nature, a simple request was met by the couple immediately, I mean immediately, replacing the offensive game with a more appropriate video game. They were awarded a plaque by the Alta Vista Neighborhood Association.

Saturday mornings were the time to catch up on what was happening in the neighborhood. I would often spend a couple of hours visiting with Hector and Delia, or Kathy Bailey, or Robbin and Stan Winchester, Rene Balderas, and Dorothy O'Neill or other nearby neighbors. Though there were only six or eight tables, we conducted a lot of AVNA business there, including establishing the Pat Clayworth Scholarship.

When I had the need for several hundred tacos to take to teachers before school, Popo's tacos were always a hit, receiving high praise from the teachers and folks asking where they came from. After Popo's closed and I went to some of the "award winning" taco places, not once did I get the same response. I would eat at Popo's an average of four times a week -- great food, great service, great neighbors.



Roy Ramirez

Now, we're glad to have Sam's and Press Coffee in the neighborhood. We know an Italian restaurant has opened in the old Rose Shop, and we believe Patsy's will soon be resurrected and perhaps a restaurant will be opened in the old laundromat at Popo's. I hope our neighbors will support these home-grown small businesses and we can, once again, have community icons as social centers of Alta Vista. ★

ALTA VISTA

-A Neighborhood Conservation District-

We Make Good Neighbors!

Familiar Faces - Our Neighbors in Profile

by Elizabeth Allen

The red oak on West Kings Highway has an odd sort of leaf right now. It is festooned with fluttering, message-bearing origami cranes. It's Annette Paulin's red oak, but it's the neighborhood's – and everyone's – Peace Crane Tree.

Paulin started the project in December. The Paris attacks were still fresh, and the general tone of news events was wearing on her. She wanted to “do something peaceful.”

A couple of days before Christmas, she created dozens of bright origami paper cranes and strung lines from the tree in her front yard. She affixed a few and left more in a bucket with a pen for others.

Paulin had been inspired by the way her church had adapted the Japanese tradition of origami cranes for a Christmas parade. Through her own adaptation, she is sharing

that inspiration with us.

People who passed by the tree began to stop and write down their wishes and prayers on the cranes' outspread wings and to affix them to the lines. Their inscriptions may be poignant or express general goodwill. Some of the handwriting is large and clear. Some of it is childlike. And some of it is tiny, like a personal secret code. Their cranes flutter on the lines and catch the light.

“One woman told me, ‘I just feel like when I'm walking here all these prayers or blessings are being sprinkled on me,’” Paulin said.

As neighborhood pilgrims went through all the cranes, Paulin made more. On a shimmering Saturday afternoon she was out in her front



Annette Paulin affixes a Peace Crane to her tree

rally weather away. But mild winter weather has been gentle to them, and to Paulin's surprise and delight their slick paper and lettering are holding up well. She decided to keep the tree going, adding hearts to the cranes for Valentine's Day.

So stroll down West King's Highway to see, and maybe to add your love to the tree.

“It's so beautiful,” she said. “It's anonymous, but you start to get to know your neighbors. I ended up being the most blessed.”

yard, moving the existing cranes farther up the lines to leave room for new ones.

The cranes are meant to natu-

ally weather away. But mild winter weather has been gentle to them, and to Paulin's surprise and delight their slick paper and lettering are holding up well. She decided to keep the tree going, adding hearts to the cranes for Valentine's Day.



AVNA 2016 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):

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