

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:
 Crime Stat Review, Permits, Code Compliance and NCD Guidelines

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
- City Services - 311

2016 AVNA Board

President
 Erin Zayko

Vice President
 Claudia Guerra

Treasurer
 Alma Noriega-Sotirhos

Secretary
 Krystal Jones

Members at Large
 Elizabeth Allen
 Luke Freeman
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SECOND CALL FOR CRIME FIGHTERS!

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!

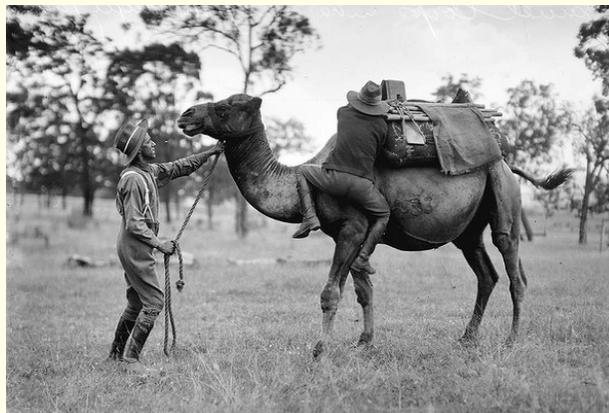
Camels in the Park

By Luke Freeman

San Pedro Park is one of Alta Vista's most historic locations, having served as the location of numerous settlements by both Native Americans and Spanish explorers and also being notably designated by some sources as the second oldest park in United States. Perhaps less well known is the park's connection to a failed military experiment involving exotic pack animals.

In the 1850's, the western United States was still largely unfamiliar to government officials. Without any modern forms of transportation, traversing this harsh and expansive landscape was a formidable obstacle to American expansion. Hardy animals were required to travel across the desert and leaders within the U.S. military wondered if there were animals better suited to make the trek than the available horses and mules.

Future president of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis, who served as Secretary of War at the time, pushed successfully to purchase a caravan of camels for use in the American



US Army Camel Corps members training a new recruit

west. Camels' resilience to hot, drought-ridden conditions in Africa and the Middle East seemed to indicate that they would be perfect for similar conditions of the southwestern United States, and Davis made plans to import them in 1855. By May of 1865, the first pack of camels arrived in Texas via ship, travelling from the coast to Victoria and then San Antonio.

Just as it is now, San Antonio in the 1850's was a major military hub, and when the Army brought the camels here they chose the springs at what is now San Pedro Park as the location to stable them. The camels' stay at the park,

however, was short lived; not long after they arrived the site proved unsuitable for the animals and they were moved to Camp Verde in the hill country. Within

ten years, the entire experiment was abandoned by the army and all the animals were sold off. Descendants of these camels continued to be used as pack animals throughout the southwest, and a number of them were rumored to have escaped and run wild. Reports of these feral camels--verifiable or not--continued into the 1950's. Though the park played only a small role in this somewhat strange military experiment, it is still interesting to think of these camels drinking the water of the San Pedro springs alongside the horses, mules, and cattle that we traditionally associate with the area. ★

Help the Alta Vista Micro Garden



The Alta Vista Micro Garden, located at Agarita & Flores, is in its 4th year of growing food and beautifying the Alta Vista neighborhood! We provide fresh produce and plants as well as neighborhood improvement, satisfying labor, and a sense of community. The micro-garden is supported in part by the

generous donations to our fundraiser at <https://www.gofundme.com/altavistagarden>

Please help us reach our goals for 2016 by donating today!



Free Lawn Tool Rental

by Dale Russell

Development Services Department (DSD) is proud to offer the Community Toolshed.

What is it? The Toolshed contains a collection of hand and gas powered tools that can be used at NO COST by residents, businesses, and community groups of San Antonio to clean and improve their properties. They can also be borrowed for community projects within the city limits.

The tools available for loan include lawnmowers, leaf blowers, rakes, shovels, tree

pruners, weed eaters, and wheelbarrows.

Borrowing the tools is easy. You must fill out a short application, a release form and make a reservation. Tools are checked out on Friday mornings and returned on Monday mornings, within one week in order to ensure their availability for use by others. You will be responsible to pick up and drop off the tools.

If you are interested in getting more information about the program, please call us at 210.207.4084 or by going to our web site at <https://www.sanantonio.gov/ces/resources/>

[toolshed.aspx](https://www.sanantonio.gov/ces/resources/).

The Community Tool Shed is centrally located in the downtown area.

Reprinted with permission from **Code Connection**, the City of San Antonio's Development Services Department's bi-monthly newsletter.

Dale Russell is the Code Enforcement Supervisor for the Neighborhood Enhancement Team and has been with the City for the past 10 years. Dale graduated from the University of Texas - Pan American with a major in Criminal Justice.



ALTA VISTA

-A Neighborhood Conservation District- We Make Good Neighbors!

Familiar Faces - Our Neighbors in Profile

by Krystal Jones

On March 11, I headed to Sam's Burger Joint not quite knowing what to expect. I was going to support to my neighbors, brothers Keegan and Kyle Reed, during a performance by their band, The Reed Brothers. As their band is often on the road, this was a perfect opportunity for me to see them perform for the first time.

I follow Keegan, Kyle and their band on social media, and by the rave reviews and band updates, knew they must be pretty good musicians. Yet, upon entering Sam's Burger Joint, I quickly decided that to use the words "pretty good" would be an insult for

these artists.

Keegan, Kyle and their band mates (Jack Aldrich, Nick Naillon and Ian Reichman) are beyond talented. Keegan and Kyle both play the guitar and provide vocals for the songs. And, boy, can these two guys sing! I couldn't help but shake my head in awe at the sound of their voices.

The Reed Brothers' music perfectly blends elements of country, rock, soul and blues. Combine this with a powerful stage presence, moving lyrics, and obvious camaraderie between the group members - The Reed Brothers are a band that's easy to become a super fan of.

When not performing, Keegan and Kyle can be found grilling outside of the house they rent on Mistletoe with their lovely girlfriends, mak-



ing delicious pizza at Pizza Classics, and being the kindest and friendliest neighbors you could ever ask for.

If you'd like to hear their music for yourself, visit www.reedbrothersmusic.com for a calendar of performances and sample songs. I'm certain you'll agree that we have true Texas music treasures in our midst. ★

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Free Trees to Fight Graffiti

Trees planted in front of chronically tagged walls and fences have proven to be an effective

tool in deterring graffiti. In partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department, we are giving FREE drought-

tolerant trees to those meeting the application requirements. Fill one out today at: sanantonio.gov/CES/Graffiti/

GrowOverGraffiti

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valid at Olmas Location only. Expires 4/15/2016