

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

September 28, 6:30 PM
Mark Twain Middle
School Library

TOPICS:

- Meet the new CEO of The Playhouse
- Vote on bond projects for The Playhouse and San Pedro Park
- Vote on NCD guidelines
- Tier 1 Neighborhood Coalition

2016 Meeting Schedule

Oct. 2 - National Night Out
Oct. 22 - AVNA Fall Movie Night
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
Vanessa Russell-Evans

Members at Large
Elizabeth Allen
Luke Freeman
Mike Wickersham
Tino Gallegos

Welcome to our new interim board members Vanessa Russell-Evans and Tino Gallegos!

ALTA VISTA FALL MOVIE NIGHT - OCTOBER 22nd

Everyone had such a great time at last year's Fall Movie Night that we're doing it again this year, but bigger and better!

Join your neighbors at Press Coffee on October 22nd at 7PM for a free movie showing! We're not sure which movie yet, but it's going to be a good one! We'll have food trucks on hand and drinks available for purchase.

Come one, come all, and bring the family to the 2016 Alta Vista Movie Night!

Important Agenda for September 28 General Assembly

By Erin Zayko

AVNA General Assembly meetings resume on September 28 with an important agenda. George Green is the new Artistic Director and CEO of our beloved neighborhood theater, The Playhouse. Mr. Green will share his vision for a professional theater and seek support for 2017 bond projects to beautify and enhance the classical structure's presence in San Pedro Springs Park. Projects for the Park proper, such as finishing the walking trail and completing several long-awaited Park Master Plan projects, are also up for your consideration.

The important decision making continues with a discussion about revising

by Elizabeth Allen & Erin Zayko

Change is afoot and it's a critical time for residents to have a hand in shaping that change.

San Antonio's new SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan (SA Tomorrow) includes Alta Vista in the Midtown Regional Center, one of 13 Centers to receive policies and incentives to attract the 1.1 million people anticipated to arrive in San Antonio by 2040. Our city is growing and so is interest in neighborhoods like ours, which means fast-paced change and

Alta Vista's Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) guidelines, a set of design standards for commercial and residential structures. These design standards are code, yet recent examples of deviation from similar standards in Beacon Hill and other neighborhoods warrant the need to revisit language pertaining to project applicability and to refresh, if needed, standards for right-of-way, natural vegetation, site design, parking, massing and elevation features. The AVNA Board is seeking your approval to move forward with a Council Consideration Request which is required to start the revision process, and we're seeking volunteers to help.

We'll also share details about our participation with the

AVNA Needs Your Help

redevelopment guided by SA Tomorrow which proposes to integrate our existing Midtown Neighborhood Plan with a new, larger "community plan." Planning for sustainable growth is smart, lest San Antonio become one big parking lot, but Alta Vista residents must step up to fill seats at the policy making table. Now is our chance to be a force in balancing the wants and needs of AVNA residents with those of our public servants and developers.

Here are two ways to help: board membership and serving on the technical advisory

Tier One Neighborhood Coalition (T1NC). T1NC is an alliance of more than 20 neighborhoods facing similar issues with a growing lack of confidence in City processes meant to ensure that neighborhoods have a fair say in zoning and development issues and that existing neighborhood plans are properly interpreted and applied (see related article below). T1NC's efforts to get the City's attention have paid off, and we'll share what this means now and moving forward.

Other standard agenda items include updates on properties of interest in and around Alta Vista, and updates from our City Councilman, including new information about a mural at the Fulton St. underpass. See you at the meeting! ★

committee to the board. Please consider these options.

AVNA BOARD of DIRECTORS: As the official voice of the neighborhood, the Association is asked to weigh in on issues that affect buildings and structures, San Pedro Springs Park, and more. We plan fun events for the neighborhood, publish this newsletter, and support efforts to reduce crime. Time commitment over the year is 7-9 board meetings, 7 general meetings, and a healthy amount of email review. New board members for 2017 will be elected on Nov. 14 2016 and will serve a one year term. Descriptions of board member positions are available at altavistasa.com, along with a short form for interested candidates. Submit your candidate form and send inquiries to the nominating committee at avna@ymail.com.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Committee members will review notifications regarding code variances, rezoning, dangerous structure determinations, and land use change and historic designation requests and will provide recommendations to the board for Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) revisions and the SA Tomorrow process. A background in architecture, engineering, or planning is ideal, but what's essential are critical thinking skills and a love for the neighborhood. Send your notes of interest to the Board of Directors at avna@ymail.com. ★



**ALTA VISTA
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
BLOCK PARTY**

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2016
6:30 PM
615 W. GRAMERCY

**FOOD-MUSIC-LAWN GAMES-RAFFLE
MURAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

AVNA WILL SERVE HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS AND DRINKS.
PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT IF YOU'RE ABLE.
DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS, BLANKETS,
KIDS, PETS AND NEIGHBORS.

ALTA VISTA

-A Neighborhood Conservation District-

Pat Clayworth Scholarship Announcement

by Erin Zayko

Each year the AVNA in partnership with the San Antonio Alliance of Teachers distributes a \$500 college or trade school scholarship to a former student of Mark Twain

Middle School in honor of Patricia Lee "Pat" Clayworth. After more than 20 years overseeing the Pat Clayworth Scholarship with passion and conviction for the neighborhood and public education, Bob Comeaux is passing the

reigns onto resident Janice Hinde of the Hinde Academy of Fine Art in Alta Vista. In May, Janice stepped in to cover a shortage of funds by organizing a fundraiser featuring artwork from local artists and Mark Twain students,

raising \$600 for the scholarship fund held at the San Antonio Area Foundation. Thanks to everyone who contributed, to Bob for his years of dedication, and welcome Janice Hinde as the new Chair of the Pat Clayworth Scholarship! ★

Volunteer Thank You!

by Erin Zayko

Farewell to **Monica Ames**, who is leaving Alta Vista and San Antonio. Monica Ames was the most recent Chair of the former AVNA Pet Committee, which was responsible for spaying and neutering over 300 cats in Alta Vista. With the multi-

plier effect that's thousands and thousands of avoided kitty births over the years. Thanks, Monica! You'll be missed in Alta Vista.

Colton Powell is now our newsletter distribution volunteer, sorting and distributing bundles totaling 1300 newsletters to more than a dozen block captains

and keeping the list of block captains organized. Thanks to Colton, former volunteer **Peggy Howe**, and every block captain for keeping neighbors in the know!

Here's a shout out to **Mario Ruiz** for donating graphic design for our meetings and

events, **Kim Nguyen** and **Haley Ayers** who volunteered to send neighborhood emails, and **Mark Ross**, **Meri Hayashi** and the household of **Darrell Thomas** for volunteering to write interest piece articles for the newsletter. Looking forward to your contributions! ★

Step Up to Slow Down

by Elizabeth Allen

Be the traffic calming measure you want to see in the hood. When AVNA asks neighbors for their main concerns, one consistent one is speeding. There is something we can do about it - and that's collect signatures for a traffic study on the streets in question. Flores comes up a lot as do Craig, Elsmere, French, Magnolia, and Russell. But so far no one has stepped forward to knock on doors on those streets to collect the required signatures so that we can get the city's attention. Doing so would be a good exercise in getting to know the neighbors, and it would bring attention to an issue that many complain about. If you want to do something about speeding cars in residential areas, please contact us at avna@gmail.com and we'll help you get started. It's up to you! ★

Preludes
of early musicianship

PIANO LESSONS

Enrollment Open for Fall Session!!

Preludes offers excellence in music training for students ages 6-18 through a program of individual private lessons and workshops that fosters:

- proper technique
- strong theory and musicianship
- joy in the art of communicating with music

For more information contact:
Annette Paulin, Director and Instructor
Phone: 512-757-0767
 (located in the Alta Vista neighborhood)

Ms. Paulin has over 14 years experience as a piano teacher and professional pianist. She provides an inspiring and joyful learning environment while preparing students for a lifetime of musicianship.

Dear Neighbor,

My name is Camille Rodriguez Brigant, and I am your neighbor on Gramercy Place. I am also a Realtor working at a locally owned and operated boutique agency which specializes in historic properties.

If you have been considering selling your home, now is a great time to start preparing your home for sale in the fall.

I can recommend affordable contractors familiar with older homes who can help you, and I am available to walk you step by step through the process. I know the neighborhood, I am available to show your home, I am around to hold open houses or answer your questions. As your neighbor, *I am available!*

I was born and raised in San Antonio. My first job in high school was working at my mother's Real Estate firm. After graduating from Princeton University, I worked in both the Residential and Commercial Real Estate fields on the West Coast and in Louisiana before returning home to be a full time Realtor.

I am here to price your house right, advertise it in MLS, online, in the paper and most importantly to buyers within my own network of friends, family, alumni and social organizations. I am going to represent your best interest during the negotiations because the hardest part is not just getting the offer on your house but navigating the contract, the inspections, the appraisal, the lender requirements and the closing.

I am able to give you a free analysis of what your house could sell for, or if you are looking to buy, please contact me about programs that can move you in with no money down. I'm your neighbor, and I am here to help.

Sincerely, *Camille*





REY GARZA
REAL ESTATE



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