



March 2021

Alta Vista Neighborhood Association Newsletter

P.O. Box 12174, San Antonio TX 78212

Neighbor Spotlight

INFO

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

March 31st (Zoom)
May 26th (Zoom)
September 29th (TBD)
November 17th (TBD)

BOARD MEETINGS

April 11th (Zoom)
May 16th (Zoom)

2021 AVNA BOARD

PRESIDENT

Christina Wright

VICE PRESIDENT

Andrea Alfaro

SECRETARY

Cheryl Dozier

TREASURER

(Vacant)

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Matt Garcia
(Vacant)

(Vacant)

WEB

altavistana.org

EMAIL

avna@ymail.com

P.O. Box 12174, 78212



[@AltaVistaNA.org](https://www.facebook.com/AltaVistaNA.org)

When Mary Kenney came to San Antonio, via Michigan, DC, California, and Wyoming, she meant to stay a few years, creating the national archive at St. Mary's, then move on. But something stuck. The work at St. Mary's entailed processing files of Marianists who had passed away, so it is fair to say she is a speaker for the dead. Files and items came from New York to Honolulu, but also from missions as far away as Japan, Korea, and Africa. All these records needed a home in San Antonio. And Mary did that.

Finding the opportunity to create a national archive, she started on St. Mary's campus for three months in 2014, then continued. "I am looking on change not as a negative, but as an open door to an alternative." Mary previously worked in finance and management but found a new love in archives. She received her second MSI from the University of Michigan at the age of 58 and wants you all to know that it is never too late to follow your dream.

Then she decided to make San Antonio a long-term home and moved to the Alta Vista neighborhood in 2020. She loves Julia's on Blanco, Olmos Perks, and helping with the traffic island repair.

At 74 years of age, she continues to work at St. Mary's. "I like what I am doing for the Marianists. They care for their students. If all educational institutions did the same thing for their students, it would be a better world."

Mary came to Texas knowing nothing about the state, but it has been a wonderful journey. She has found it to be a wonderful place, filled with diverse people. She enjoys telling the stories of the Marianists and who they are, recording their stories, and making a new home in Alta Vista.

Neighbor Spotlight story and photo by Corey Schultz



In Our Neighborhood

Alta Vista neighbors live in the spirit of Neighbors helping Neighbors and we have seen this time and time again. Since the start of the pandemic and through the winter storm our neighborhood proves that the “We’re in this together” attitude has the power to create change and positively impact lives. Alta Vista volunteers are the reason that our community is known for compassion, whether they’re acting alone or signed up for a committee.

The Block Captains are vital to this effort; delivering newsletters and communicating back to the board about any concerns in their areas. Most important is that we’re engaging in an ongoing effort to identify neighbors who need help. And, help might be needed in a multitude of ways that, if identified, then the AVNA Board can engage with District 1, other city departments and agencies to work on connecting neighbors to resources.

Discussions are taking place about larger efforts, like mutual aid, and how neighborhood associations can strengthen relationships with community based organizations. AVNA is in conversation with SAHA about what it might look like for us to do that for the residents of the three buildings that we have in our neighborhood. We have hope that as these conversations take shape that we can connect with NHSD in a meaningful way that allows for our community to share what we learn so that we can help other neighborhoods.

There are many ways to be involved and if you have any interest then we want to hear from you! Many of these things can be individual tasks like being a Block Captain, working on the Traffic Islands, creating content for the newsletter and social media - can you translate materials to Spanish?, maintaining the website, and so much more! Most importantly right now, AVNA wants to get the Culture Committee going on a couple of initiatives. One is to archive photos and stories while filling in historical gaps and the

other is to plan for community engagement events. The Culture Committee is essential in enriching our community identity.

Many hands make light and enjoyable work! We currently have two Board vacancies that we are actively seeking to fill; the Treasurer and two Director at Large positions. You would have a time commitment until November, when we have the next Board of Directors election, unless of course you decide to nominate for 2022. You would have direct guidance and specific tasks and have fun getting to know the organization. Please call or email if you are interested.

AVNA is also working closely with the SAFFE program and SAPD to work on some very important safety concerns. Alta Vista will be working with our SAFFE Sergeants in a coordinated effort to understand the program and its benefit to our community. The neighborhood will have a new SAFFE Officer that we’ll be welcoming soon. We’re committed to having a Community Wellness meeting to introduce our new SAFFE

Officer and talk about the specifics of our relationship to that program. Recently, we have received direct help from SAPD and Chief McManus in working on some very serious concerns, like narcotics, gun violence, harassment, and elderly abuse. We’re working to understand the complexity of the individual problems while learning what resources are available to neighbors, especially those resources that are not directly tied to SAPD.

AVNA has the ongoing support of District 1 Councilman Roberto Treviño who has coordinated meetings to help us get closer to discovering how we can create an atmosphere in which we are thriving as a community.

A thriving community exists when all people and systems are working functionally together to create the environment where they want to be. This is



Alta Vista is bounded by Hildebrand on the North, San Pedro on the East, the Union Pacific railroad tracks on the West & Myrtle on the South.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AVNA Help Line 210-906-8617

SAPD Non-Emergency: 210-207-7273

SAFFE Officer for AV

Officer Sanchez: 210-207-7413 or
albert.sanchez@sanantonio.gov

District 1 City Council Office
210-207-7279 or 210-207-0900

Neighborhood Liaison:

Lawson Picasso

North Central Unit Code Office
210-289-4801

Animal Care Services Dist 1

Officer: Adán Pérez

210-216-8428 or

adan.perez@sanantonio.gov

TUESDAY MARCH 23rd at 6pm



UNDERSTANDING YOUR PROPERTY APPRAISAL

*Join Chief Appraiser, Michael Amezcua,
& Assistant Chief Appraiser, Rogelio Sandoval,
as they present an overview of the
Bexar Appraisal District and
the property tax appraisal process.*

Alta Vista is hosting Bexar County Appraisal District for an online presentation of "Understanding Your Property Appraisal".

**Please join your neighbors on
ZOOM, Tuesday March 23rd at 6pm.**

<https://tinyurl.com/>

BCADPropertyTaxPresentation

Meeting ID: 863 6269 5511

Passcode: 572117

especially true for neighborhoods. And, Alta Vista is a truly special place. I believe that much of our energy comes from San Pedro Springs Park, a place used by the Payaya indigenous group long before San Antonio used it as the first municipal site.

These reminders sound from the community, like the anonymous donation we received for the Brick Fundraiser; "Payaya." And, when we hear from you about your interest and concerns. There is hope that there is an interested person or group that will join the Culture Committee and help connect to the Friends of San Pedro Springs Park to work more closely in an effort to breathe energy and care into that space.

We're so happy that you're our neighbor! You make all of the difference. Thank you so much for being the reason!

Alta Vista Traffic Island Brick Fundraiser

The traffic islands at W. Kings Hwy/Breeden and Gramercy/Breeden are coming along beautifully! Please go take a look at all of the hard work being done and enjoy the flowers!

DONATE: bricksrus.com/donorsite/avna \$50.00 per brick (with an option to add the \$2.05 transaction fee for the PayPal transactions only) Engraving option for up to 3 lines is included with 18 characters per line.

Continue to payment for an option to pay by PayPal / debit or credit card - OR - by check (the check number has to be entered and you must continue to submit the order through the site for the brick to be processed, then mail the check to AVNA). You can request an order form, send us an email and mail it to AVNA with a check. Checks are made out to Alta Vista Neighborhood Association.

Please consider making a direct donation to AVNA if you are interested in giving a different amount or you would prefer to donate but not have a brick made. Go to our website and use the Join or Donate tab, select the yellow Donate button, and you can make a donation through PayPal at altavistana.org/home/membership/

Union Pacific Railroad Cleanup

Does your back or side property line face the tracks? Are you having problems with overgrown trees or brush, areas being used as dump sites, railroad ties, or other problems in the easement area?

Send us your address, along with photos and a description, to AVNA and we will coordinate with Union Pacific for help.

Send in questions that you have for UP too; property lines, easement measurements, etc. AVNA will reach back to each individual.

Zoom in to the General Assembly

Please join us for the March General Assembly Meeting on the 31st at 6:30pm! To get to the General Assembly Meeting on ZOOM, go here:

<https://tinyurl.com/AVNAMarchGeneralAssembly>

Meeting ID: 817 4980 2487

Passcode: 759103

Or find the ZOOM information on our Facebook events page or call or email us for the information! The link will also be sent out in eblast so make sure we have your email address!

The March General Assembly Meeting agenda will be sent out with the ZOOM meeting reminder prior to the 31st.

Large Area Rezoning Task Force

The Task Force is continuing their efforts in surveying the neighborhood and focusing on the RM4 and MF33 properties to determine if the current zoning is the best designation based on the number of units and lot size. Commercial properties are being taken into account based on usage. What we have learned from other LARs is that the recommendations being made are more restrictive.

The team will continue the review over the next few weeks so that when it comes time to meet with DSD we will have our recommendations to compare with theirs. There will be plenty of notice and plenty of time to work with property owners before the LAR is put on an agenda with the Zoning Commission.

ADVERTISE HERE! SEND US AN EMAIL FOR THE CURRENT FEE STRUCTURE AND SCHEDULE. YOU CAN REACH UP TO 1,300 RESIDENCES IN THE ALTA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD!

BECOME AN AVNA MEMBER!

At this time, we are collecting membership dues and donations that will go to community outreach and engagement.

Individual: \$10 per year

Business: \$20 per year

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Pay on-line on the AVNA website or return this form with a check to:

Alta Vista Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 12174

San Antonio TX 78212

Join Us!

Sign up for our eblasts. AVNA distributes the newsletter every other month. In between, we send out an eblast email. If you would like to be included, send us your email address. Go to our website & click on the Contact Us tab. There you can subscribe to our eblasts.

Become a member. Just click on the Join or Donate tab. Or mail in the form on page 4.

Attention Alta Vista! Volunteers Needed!

Want to make a difference in your Community?

Be a Block Captain!

Responsibilities Include

- **Distributing AVNA newsletters.**
- **Communicating any neighborhood concerns.**
- **Displaying yard signs for AVNA events.**

Email

AVNA@ymail.com,

or visit us on Facebook [@AltaVistaNA.org](https://www.facebook.com/AltaVistaNA.org)