



Alta Vista Neighborhood Association Newsletter

May 2021

P.O. Box 12174, San Antonio TX 78212

Neighbor Spotlight

INFO

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

May 26th (Zoom)
September 29th (TBD)
November 17th (TBD)

BOARD MEETINGS

May 16th (Zoom)
June, July, August (TBD)

2021 AVNA BOARD

PRESIDENT

Christina Wright

VICE PRESIDENT

Andrea Alfaro

SECRETARY

Cheryl Dozier

TREASURER

(Vacant)

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Matt Garcia
Corey Schultz
(Vacant)

WEB

altavistana.org

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avna@ymail.com

P.O. Box 12174, 78212



@AltaVistaNA.org

A New Era of Elegance for the Pink House.

Megan and Robert Brandle-Blake are lifetime caregivers, most recently for Megan's late grandparents in Victoria, Texas. But upon visiting San Antonio, where Robert was raised, they found a new love and put down an offer within three days.

They became caregivers to another venerable elder, the "Pink House." This grande dame dates from 1927 and was built for Manuel Ochoa, a prominent banker, by the architect Nathan Strauss Nayfach. Nayfach also designed the Alameda Theatre downtown, and the Pink House still features gold lighting sconces identical to that movie venue.

The Pink House had some youthful indiscretions after Ochoa and the second owner. For 65 years she was a fraternity home and witnessed mud wrestling, lingerie parties, and people tying tarps to the balconies to slide into the backyard. Yet the original features persisted: original Redondo tile, a 22-foot-tall great room, custom wrought iron, fireplaces and balconies (no sliding tarps are currently in evidence).



In Our Community

Hello, SAHANeighbors! We are thrilled to be delivering this newsletter to you. A huge amount of thanks for the efforts of SAHA and AVNA volunteers for making this happen. If you're online then please find us on FB at the Alta Vista Neighborhood Association group to join in. The next newsletter is in September and you can sign up to receive digital copies during the summer and at other times by sending us an email at altavista78212@gmail.com.

Welcome to our new SAFFE Liaison, Officer Ben Maciel! He is our community advocate with the Central Substation and available to assist us with our concerns. You can reach him directly if you need help, but please remember that he is not the responding officer. Always call 911 for an emergency. Then send him an email if you need follow-up that wasn't provided when you asked for help. You can also share the problem with me and I'll work with the team to identify resources. We are discussing the plans for the Community Wellness meeting and all think that it is better to see if we can group later closer to the end of summer or fall.

ZONING and PLANNING has no activity at the moment. The Large Area Rezoning Task Force is still on pause while we wait to hear from DSD. Send me an email if you would like to get involved and learn about Z&P, there's still time and lots to talk about! And you might be interested in being on the emails when AVNA receives cases. A team effort is critical and it seems that issues are becoming more technically complex. Learning and having fun at the same time!

District 1 Councilman Trevino's office has worked hard on getting some forward movement on a few important items that you asked about through the survey and sending questions in. Sidewalk repairs are scheduled for a one block area with the latest IMP dollars and the critical drainage project on Russell is scheduled with Public Works to start later this fall. And, the Social Work pilot was a success! The city will now start moving forward to add a social worker to the districts. And, the Homeless Crisis Unit is set up and in operation at the D1 Field Office to provide IDs, medical treatment, and supplies. Congratulations on the success!

The Friends of San Pedro Springs Park are keeping us updated with the latest activity. The spring weather is gorgeous and we hope that everyone can enjoy the outdoors. The library and pool are open! Check the information that is shared in the Alta Vista FB group or go directly to SAPL or Parks to get information on hours and visitation.

Our neighborhood needs more VOLUNTEERS! You make it happen! Neighbors, please think about whether you can serve as an Ambassador, Liaison, Chair - ad hoc to the Board, or Board Member or a Block Walker. And, then please email or call and we'll talk about the opportunities. Interns or anyone wanting to pursue hours can send in the criteria and the Board will work with you to document your service. Arts, Culture, Communication (newsletters and digital media), Beautification, Infrastructure, Zoning and Planning, Engagement - help connect us to community based resources that we can get into our neighborhood!

THANK YOU!

Neighbor Spotlight Contd.

What drew them to the Pink House?

"The Pink House is magical," said Robert without hesitation. Megan explained further: "She is a diamond in the rough and filled with things you can't find anymore." From the parquet floor to the built-in cabinets housing the phone and phone book, the Pink House mutely though strongly speaks about a different era of artisanship.

Though only in their early 30s, the Brandle-Blakes both spent much of their childhood with their respective grandparents, and they laugh that they still call butter "oleo" -that goes in the "ice box." They love the grandeur of the home and have impressive plans to restore the colors and to paint the vault of the great room blue with golden stars.

Though renovations continue, the couple hopes to occupy it full time by summer 2021. The Pink House will be returned to her former stately beauty, and hopefully an 18-foot Christmas tree.

"I'm going to need a big ladder to put the angel on the top," laughed Robert. - *Neighbor Spotlight story and photo by Corey Schultz*

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

altavista78212@gmail.com

SAPD Non-Emergency

210-207-7273

SAFFE Officer Maciel

Benito.Maciel@sanantonio.gov

210-207-7413

SAPD Central Substation

210-207-7410

District 1 City Council Office

Neighborhood Liaison:

Lawson Picasso

210-207-7279 or

210-207-0900

North Central Unit Code Office

210-289-4801

Animal Care Services

Dist 1 Officer: Adán Pérez

210-216-8428

adan.perez@sanantonio.gov

Union Pacific

Call 1-888-877-7267 to report hazardous materials releases, personal injuries, criminal activities, illegal dumping, or other environmental incidents.

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.

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/



SAPL is Here
for You!

The San Antonio Public Library is pleased to announce the San Pedro Branch Library, which has been under renovation since December 1, 2020, will be reopening for service on May 4, 2021.

San Pedro will join other SAPL locations in offering Brisk Browsing, Contact-Free Pickup, access to computers by appointment, and outdoor Wi-Fi.

In addition to the reopening, a new outdoor book drop will also be available. As a reminder, face coverings and other safety protocols are being observed.

Brisk Browsing & Contact-Free Pickup
Tues. 12PM – 8PM, Wed.– Sat. 10AM – 6PM

Computer Appointments
Tues. 3PM – 7PM, Wed. - Sat. 1PM - 5PM

Outdoor Wi-Fi
7:30AM – 10:30PM daily

Zoom in to the General Assembly

Please join us for the May General Assembly Meeting on the 26th at 6:30pm! To get to the General Assembly Meeting on ZOOM, go here:

<https://tinyurl.com/AVNAMAYGeneralAssembly>

Meeting ID: 822 1375 0224

Passcode: 774779

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 May General Assembly Meeting agenda will be sent out with the ZOOM meeting reminder prior to the 26th.

Large Area Rezoning Task Force

The Task Force is continuing their efforts in surveying the neighborhood and focusing on the RM6 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

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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)