AUTUMN 2022



WHAT'S INSIDE:

A Very Special 100th Birthday Celebration

— PAGE **4**

Neighbors Get Together at Neighbors Together 2022

— PAGE 9

Meet Our Newest Board Member!

A Note from the Chairman

e have wrapped up another successful pool season, and I'd like to thank Jake Pena and the summer staff for making it a great one! We had delays with the replastering of both pools and, while we know the timing wasn't perfect, we had to try to make it fit into the contractors a window of availability. Both pools are done and should be ready for years of service.

We are also getting to the end of our budget discussions for 2023. Lexi and the staff did a great job managing 2022, as well as preparing the 2023 budget for Board review and consideration. We have a few new folks in the office, so this was the first full budget they have developed, and they did a fine job. There are a lot of moving parts and, while the Board adjusts and approves the final budget, the staff does a majority of the work creating the initial draft. We have some ideas of amenities and projects for the neighborhood, budget allowing, and I look forward to those discussions and wrapping up the budget cycle. As a reminder, all budget discussions, with exception of individual staff salaries, are discussed in open session and



Brian and our newest Board Director, Cece Alvarez (see p. 12), stopping by a Neighbors Together 2022 event on one of his bikes.

everyone is welcome to attend. As of this moment we don't know what the assessment payments will look like, but I am confident we can operate in 2023 with a very small increase, if any at all. Last year, we had a 2.3% increase in the face of an 8-plus percent inflation rate, and this year we are facing a very similar situation. The electricity, water and fuel bills seem to be the big drivers when it comes to cost increases, just like everyone else. My goal is to manage the budget responsibly and do our best to not mirror inflation rates. Everything costs more, and we will do our best to not make assessments yet another large increase in our bills. Feel free to join us at the lodge for a meeting. We'd be glad to see you. Until then, we'll see you around the neighborhood!

Brian Stives

Chairman of the Board



Community Updates

Get ready for the spookiest time of year in the Great Northwest! Join us for our second annual Halloween Trunk or Treat at the Silver Creek Soccer Fields (9014 Timber Path), Saturday, October 22nd from 6-8 PM. Ghouls and goblins of all ages are invited to attend! In addition to the main event, a variety of vendors will be present, pictured below. Interested in registering your trunk for this year's event? Sign-up is open now at https://gnw.pub/trunkortreat22!

Interested in donating candy for the event? (Trunk providers will bring their own candy, but we will top off that supply with these donations.) Drop off individually wrapped candy in the donation box in the lobby at 8809 Timberwilde during business hours (weekdays 9 AM to 6 PM).

* * *

Balboa Farms and M's Pickles are out at the Silver Creek Soccer Fields parking lot (at the corner of Timber Path and Timberwilde, directly across from the Silver Creek Manor) from about 10 AM to 1 PM each Wednesday for Farm Fresh Wednesday! As an example, a recent haul included potatoes, pears, EGGS, tomatoes, carrots, breads, lemons, apples, cucumbers, plums, peaches, and a variety of salsas, oils, jams, and sauces (but do note that specific items vary each week)!

* * *

Our amazing Zumba instructor, Mandy, has just celebrated her one-year anniversary of teaching with GNW, and we couldn't be more thrilled & grateful to have her with us & continually introducing cool new initiatives. Do note that there will be no Zumba classes from October 13 through October 23. Mandy will resume her regularly scheduled classes on Monday, October 24.

That schedule will be as follows:

Mondays & Wednesdays at 7 PM, Callanen Hall (8809 Timberwilde)

Saturdays at 10 AM, Flores Hall (9310 Timber Path)

There is a \$5 drop-in fee (13 and under free!), with cash, card & CashApp accepted as payment methods. Do also note that, beginning November 5th, Mandy will be holding her new Chair Zumba course on Saturdays, in lieu of regular Zumba!

* * :

Interested in meeting with neighbors concerned about community safety, as well as with Board GNWatch Liaisons Gabe Briones and Cece Alvarez? Our monthly GNWatch meeting is held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM in Callanen Hall at Silver Creek Lodge (see p.12)!

* * :

We are proud and excited to be hosting a new course aimed at Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, run by a Texascentric group of that name in partnership with Northside ISD Family Engagement. Moved from Zachry MS due to construction, the group aims to create a place to explore the unique challenges and solutions for grandparents, foster parents, and others in kinship guardian situations. The group will meet here on October 26th, November 16th, January 25th, and thereafter on the last Wednesday of every month through May 31st, except when otherwise posted on our social media feeds (see page 14).

Community Events

ACC MEETING

First & third Monday of the month at 4 PM [Virtual]

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
First & third Thursday of the month
at 6:30 PM [SC]

BOOK CLUB

Third Wednesday of the month at 1 PM [SC]

<u>COFFEE WITH COPS</u> Third Friday of the month

Third Friday of the month at 10 AM [EV]

CAMP GLADIATOR

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 4:45 PM & 6:15 PM [SC]

DOMINOES

Wednesday at 11 AM, except for the last Wednesday of the month [EV]

FARM FRESH WEDNESDAYS
Wed., approx. 10 AM to 1 PM [SC]

GNWATCH MEETING

Second Thursday of the month at 6:30PM [SC]

GRANDPARENTS RAISING

GRANDCHILDREN

Last Wednesday of the month (except November—then, on the 16th) at 6:30 PM [EV]

GUITAR GROUP

Monday at 6:30 PM

[EV, unless otherwise announced]

LINE DANCING

Monday & Thursday at 10 AM [EV]

MAHJONG

Tuesday at 6 PM [SC]

OWLS

Second Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM [SC]

POKER

Thursday at 1 PM [EV]; first & third Monday of the month at 7 PM [SC]

7UMBA

Monday & Wednesday at 7 PM [SC]; Saturdays at 10 AM [EV] See left for information on cancellations.

SC = Silver Creek, 8809 Timberwilde EV= Emerald Valley, 9310 Timber Path



Happy 100th Birthday to a Community Centenarian!

Recently, the Great Northwest had the immense honor of celebrating a very special person. Mrs. Oralia Del Rio was about to turn 100, and her family had set up a party as unique as her distinction as our new neighborhood centenarian: a casino-themed party at Callanen Hall with a realistic setup and dozens of family members & other loved ones in attendance! Everyone had a blast, especially Mrs. Del Rio, and on September 28th, she officially reached a century of life, the last 39 years of which were spent here in the Great Northwest. We in the office were fascinated to imagine what would it have been like to have not only been living in the GNW from the very beginning, but also to have already lived a great deal of one's life before that.

Some time after the event, I had the pleasure of speaking with Mrs. Del Rio's granddaughter, Angela. She and her husband moved back to town from

Seguin to live with and care for her grandmother, who has some of the mobility issues associated with her advanced age but is still very independentminded and, in Angela's own words, has always been "rambunctious." Angela recalled for me how, in 1983, her grandparents moved into a then-new subdivision of the GNW known as Village Northwest. As one of the first houses on their street, they were surrounded by a wilderness that is hard to fathom from today's vantage point: there were woods on all sides of the house, and deer were very frequent visitors to the street. The relative seclusion was a real boon to the Del Rios, especially Angela's grandfather (who passed in 2001), who had previously chosen to move to the Colonies North subdivision in order to "get out of the city," and then decamped to our brand-new neighborhood when the city eventually encroached upon Colonies North.

Of course, development came for 78250 as well soon enough, but the Del Rios stayed, and Angela remembers frequent visits to her

PASSAGES 5

New Area in the GNW-

Gemoralit Homes has begun construction in a new area of the Great Northwest to be called Village Northwest. At the time this is written, at least 5 homes have been presold. Presently the builder has 5 different floor plans, with 5 different elevations (external appearances) for each; therefore, at least 25 different homes (excluding color differences) will be built in the area. These homes will be built on a "zero lot line" concept; that is, one wall of the house will be on the lot line. All homeowners in this area will be members of the Homeowners Association with all privileges and obligations that homeowners in Silver Creek, Emerald Valley, and Ridge Creek have.

Extracts from this newsletter around the time when the Del Rios moved into the GNW (1982-3), detailing the inception of the Village Northwest subdivision.

WELCOME VILLAGE NORTHWEST!

by Valerie Whidden, Chairperson

The Welcoming Committee would like to welcome all the new homeowners in the Village Northwest. This subdivision is growing at a fast rate and new families are moving in every month. If you're new to Village Northwest or other sections of the Great Northwest, and a member of the Welcoming Committee has not yet contacted you, please call Valerie Whidden, committee chairperson, at 681-3612.

If you are interested in meeting your neighbors, please join the Welcoming Committee and helpus visit newcomers to the Great Northwest. This is an excellent way to make friends and become involved in your community. For more information, please call Valerie Whidden.

grandparents' house as some of her fondest memories of youth. She told me of loving to come stay at their house on weekends (a feeling I remember quite well from my own childhood!), and how there was a sense of neighborliness that stood out to her in contrast to the vibe in her own neighborhood. Indeed, although only two or three of the original residents of their block still live there, the bonds forged between them over the decades live on: Angela told me how neighbors still check in on her grandmother all the time, and were of great help in keeping Angela updated on her before the granddaughter moved in.

Angela was already twelve when her grandmother moved into the GNW, and in the decades since, the family has expanded further: Mrs. Del Rio has one child (Angela's mother), three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren! Most of this large brood were in attendance at the party last weekend, and all were moved to see how much fun Mrs. Del Rio was having. She's long loved to visit the casino, having frequently made trips with her husband and on casino bus tours. Over the past few years, due to COVID & her increased risk of negative health outcomes, she hasn't been able to go out as much, so the family cherished the opportunity to bring the casino to her--an opportunity we are incredibly grateful to have gotten the chance to take part in. I was moved to hear that Mrs. Del Rio still finds great



pleasure in many parts of life that we can too easily take for granted: Angela told me a story about a nurse who once asked her grandmother if she could share her secret to such a long life. Mrs. Del Rio replied evenly, "I don't know. I eat dessert every day."



Recreation Bulletins



PASSAGES 7

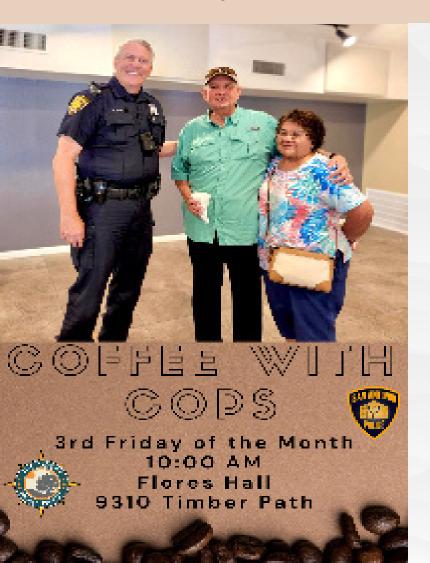
Welcome to Our New Member Services Advisor!

e're thrilled to welcome Melanie Garcia to the office as our new Member Services Advisor! Melanie is the daughter of our amazing Accounting Manager, Liz Garcia, and a lovely person in her own right! Her past roles include positions working with people who have developmental disabilities, experiences which inspired her to pursue a career in social work. She's currently enrolled in college, working towards a social work degree,

and juggles work & school commitments admirably!

Outside of work and her studies, Melanie loves spending time with family; in all areas of her life, she's driven by a "love of serving people," and here at the GNW, she cherishes the opportunity to "make sure they leave with a smile on their face." She's glad to report that such encounters with residents "have given me... experiences that I will cherish forever."









Neighbors Together 2022

he inaugural Neighbors Together at the GNW (formerly National Night Out) was a great success! This "new-old" tradition saw five gatherings, held throughout the neighborhood, at which neighbors could gather with law enforcement and community safety professionals to forge stronger bonds and partake in fun & food. Thanks to all of our hosts, as well as to those who came to meet with our residents & donated, including State Representative Ray Lopez, Councilwoman Melissa Cabello Havrda, officers with the San Antonio Police Department, and security guards with SRT! We can't wait for next year's festivities.





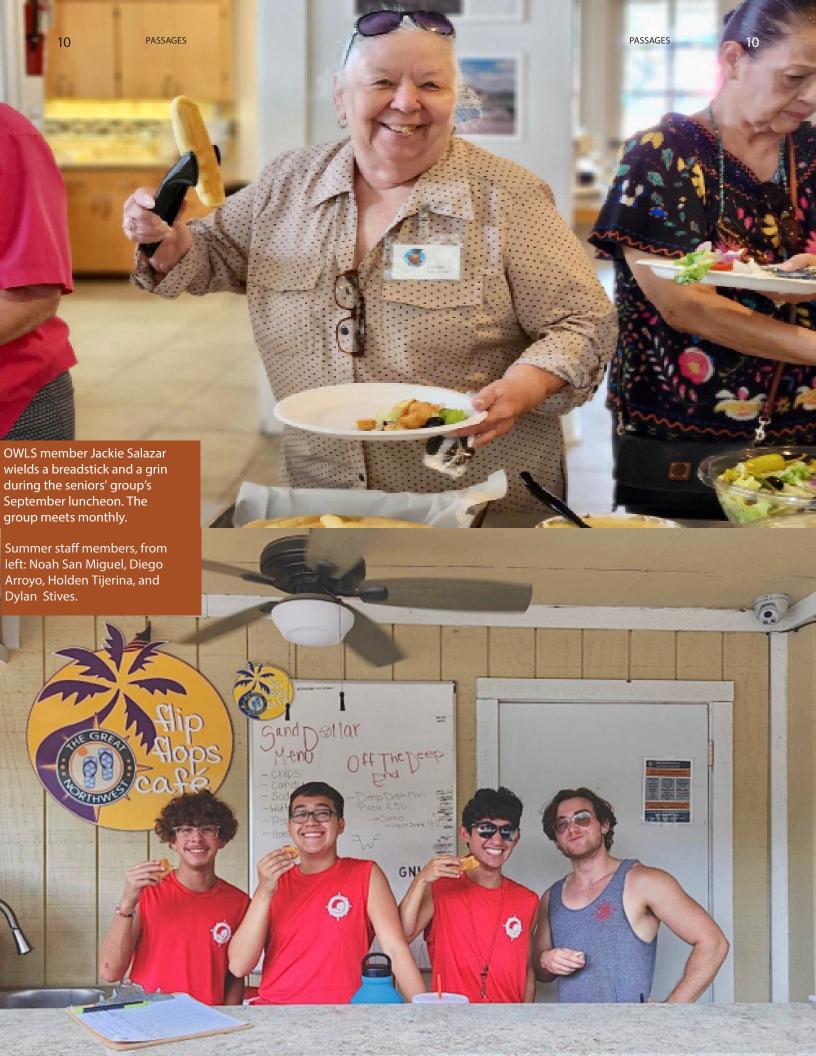
Fall Community Yard Sales

his year's Fall GNW **Community Yard Sales** featured a new twist: instead of the traditional model, in which sellers bring all of their products to a central location (such as the Silver Creek Soccer Fields parking lot), sellers held individual sales at their homes throughout the neighborhood. Before the sales began, we posted a map & schedule to assist would-be shoppers. This new model turned out to be a real hit--customers loved being able to go to sales at different times based on their own schedules, and sellers loved

the flexibility of being able to sell from home instead of hauling everything to another place, while hoping not to have to haul it all back. One seller, who lives on one of the short cul-de-sacs off of Timber Path, was fond of the idea for another reason: "Whenever there's an event at the soccer fields, people come park on our street," they explained. "I love having my block back, too!" Thanks to all of our sellers for their flexibility with this new model, and to everyone who came out to patronize the sales!



The venerable Nancy Manley holds court at her yard sale on Friday, September 30th; hers was one of about 50 households who participated in the Fall Community Yard Sales.

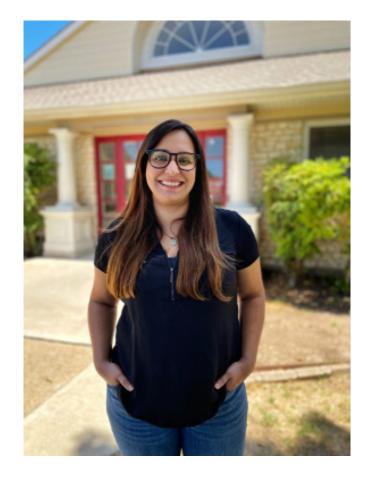




Our Newest Board Member on HOAs and Community Safety

n a recent Thursday evening, a dozen residents and guests sat ringed in a half-circle, facing a white table helmed by two figures. One was undoubtedly familiar to any longtime resident of the Great Northwest: Board of Directors member Gabe Briones, in his role as one of the two Board liaisons to the Great Northwest neighborhood watch, or GNWatch. Accompanying him was our newest Director and his fellow liaison, Cecilia Alvarez, who is already making her mark in the neighborhood!

Appointed to replace retiring Director Mark Zoller, Cece has lived in the GNW for a little under a year. She moved here from Corpus Christi, where





she had lived for about a decade, but originally, Cece hails from Rio Grande City. Despite its name, the small county seat of largely rural Starr County has only been incorporated as a city since 1993 (interestingly, only three years after the GNW's own annexation by the City of San Antonio on New Year's Eve 1989). Growing up, "I didn't know what an HOA was!" she told Passages. "You just had your acre of property, and people wouldn't come on it!"

Cece moved to Corpus for college, studying education, and after a stint as an elementary school teacher, she moved into her current field, working with the Office of Refugee Resettlement. It was for this position that she relocated to San Antonio, and while she had spent her time in Corpus as a renter, largely in apartments, she wanted to settle into her new city as a homeowner. Conscious of the paramount importance of a safe living environment for a young, single woman in particular, she asked her realtor to prioritize showing her homes in



well-established neighborhoods where strong community bonds were prized—a description that fit the Great Northwest to a T, of course. Shortly after moving in, she made the acquaintance of BoD Chair Brian Stives while both were at our office, and they got to talking about Cece's interest in getting more involved in her new community. Later, when Mark indicated that he was looking to step down from the board, Brian and Cece discussed her interest in joining. After all, what better way for a first-time homeowner to learn the ins & outs of that way of life than to take a central role in her new HOA?

A few months into her term on the board, Cece tells me, she has learned a lot, and gained a richer understanding of all that remains for her to learn. Particularly helpful in grasping the contours of her new role has been her fellow GNWatch liaison, Gabe Briones: "He's an old pro," she enthused, "and I learn so much from watching how he does things & asking questions."

At that recent meeting, residents brought up

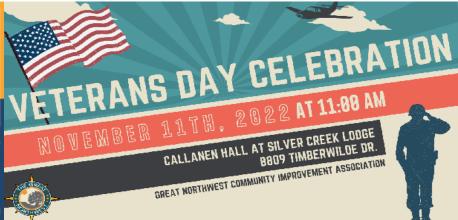
concerns about security, and discussion was had about the recent Neighbors Together event (see pg. 9). There was a healthily-sized group of regulars in attendance, a figure that, as Cece remarked, waxes and wanes with the seasons. Earlier this year, meetings had drawn a less robust crowd, but that has been changing throughout the summer and early fall. This time, there was even a guest from another HOA, interested in observing how GNWatch ran things & learning how to adapt the model for their own neighborhood. "There's always more to learn," Cece told me, and the myriad challenges that arise even within a relatively safe neighborhood provide plenty of opportunities to learn from.

GNWatch meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM in Callanen Hall (8809 Timberwilde). The Board of Directors meets at that time & place on the first and third Thursdays. Are you interested in weekly email updates about the many cool things happening in the Great Northwest community? Then sign up for...



The **e**-NW! The Great Northwest's Weekly e Newsletter

To receive this bulletin every Saturday, visit bit.ly/GNWeNews to sign up, or scan the QR code above! Each Issue brims with Information about recent and upcoming events, opportunities to get involved



in new experiences, and people in our community. **CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!** Facebook:





Pet Vaccination & Wellness Clinic

Sunday, November 6th 1 PM to 4 PM

Silver Creek Soccer Fields 9014 Timber Path

(Timber Path & Timberwilde) San Antonio, Texas 78250

FIND INFO ON PRICES & FAQ AT:

gnw.pub/MPCNov22





The Great Northwest Community Improvement Association invites you to a very merry evening in...

SANTA'S **WONDERLAND!**





Friday, December 16th Silver Creek Lodge 8809 Timberwilde 7:00 PM



Cookies! Crafts! Pictures with Santa!









A NICE, COLD DIP IN THE POOL!

JANUARY 1, 2023 - 12 PM SILVER CREEK POOL 8809 TIMBERWILDE



PASSAGES

15





EVENTS Silver Creek

Thu Sun Mon Wed Sat Tue Sep. 30 **GNW Fall Community Yard Sales** Fri., Sept. 30th - Sun., Oct. 2nd See more at gnw.pub/FallSale22 8 2 6 Line Dancing: 10 AM Camp Gladiator: Form Fresh Line Dancing: 10 AM Yard Sales ACC: 4 PM 4:45 & 5:15 PM (continued) Wednesday: 10 AM Polyage 1 P.M. Comp Gladiator Camp Gladiator: Meighbors Dominoes: 11 AM 4545 PM & 6:15 PM 9:45 PM & 6:15 PM Mobile Petcare Together Zumba: 7 PM **Quiter Groups 6 PM** Clinic: 1-4 PM celebrations. Board Meeting: 6:30 PM sker & Zumber 7 PM (see grrw.pub) 14 9 12 e Dencing: 13 15 10 11 OWLS Luncheon Walk with a Cope 10 886 OFFICE CLOSED Farm Fresh 10 AM 91-30 AMI Wednesday: 10 AM Problem: 1 PM Camp Gladiator: Line Dancing: 10 AM Comp Gladieters Dominous: II AM Car Show: 5-9 PM 4:45 & 4:15 PM 4:45 PM & 6:13 PM Comp Cladiator: 4:45 PM & 6:15 PM Zumba: 7 PM GMWatch Meeting 6420 PM 20 16 Line Dendings 7 18 19 ID AM Camp Gladiator: Farm Freish Trunk or Treat: ACC: 4 PM 4:45 B 6:15 PM Wednesday: 10 AM Poker: 1 PM 10 AM 6 PM Camp Gladiator: Mahjong: 6 PM Dominoes: 11 AM Camp Gladiators 4545 PM & 6:85 PM 4:45 PM & 9:15 PM Blook Club: 1 PM **Guitar Group: 6 PM** Board Meetings Polyact 7 PM. 6:00 PM 23 24 25 27 28 29 26 Zumba: 10 AM Line Dancing: 10 AM Grandagenets Reising Line Dancing: 10 AM Camp Gladiator: Countiehildener 10 AM 4:45 B; 6:15 PM Camp Gladiator: Poker: 1 PM Farm Fresh 4145 PM & 615 PM Camp Gladiator: Mahjong: 6 PM Wednesday: 10 AM **Guitar Group: 6 PM** 4:45 PM & 6:15 PM Zumbac 7 PM Zumba: 7 PM 30



31

Line Dancing: 10 AM

Camp Gladiators 4:45 PM & 5:15 PM

Guitar Group: 6 PM

Zumber 7 PW

UPCOMING EVENTS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

- Mobile Petcare Clinic Sunday, November 6th Silver Creek Soccer Fields 9014 Timber Path 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Veterans' Day Celebration Friday, November 11th Callanen Hall 8809 Timberwilde 11:00 AM
- Santa's Wonderland Friday, December 16th Callanen Hall, 8809 Timberwilde 7:00 PM
- Holiday Lights Judging Deadline December 16th Judging December 19th & 20th
- -Polar Bear Swim Sunday, January 1st, 12:00 PM Silver Creek Pool, 8809 Timberwilde



SCANTHE OR CODE TO SUBSCRIBE TO PASSAGES!





A National Leader in Group Fitness Suitable for all Fitness Levels Silver Creek Soccer Fields (Timberwilde & Timber Path)

McAnelly! I will be at the Silver Creek soccer fields on Mondays. 445pm & 615pm! Come try it out

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 4:45 pm and 6:15pm (Classes are back-to-back.)

Important Contact Information

Emergency: 911

Call 210-681-6268 for **GNW Security Assistance**

District 6 City Council Office 210-207-3749

> City of San Antonio Services: 311

SAPD Non-Emergency 210-207-7273

SAPD Prue Rd Substation 210-207-7425

SAPD SAFFE Unit Officer Tim Henry 210-667-6722

> **CPS Energy** 210-353-4357

Animal Control and Enforcement 210-207-6000

San Antonio Fire Department Station #41 210-207-6000

San Antonio Water System 210-704-7297

FREE SERVICE CALL!





REPAIRS, INSTALLATIONS & SERVICE

Air Conditioning & Heating Refrigeration

Preventive Maintenance Restaurant Equipment

airplussa.com

210.997.7587





LET THE PROS HELP YOU!

With over a decade of excellence, there is no job too big or small that we can't handle, All Under One Roof is affordable and fast making your home improvement projects easy!



FREE ESTIMATES 210.683.3667 LARRY HERNANDEZ mark@airplussa.com

Flooring, Tile, Laminate, Wood, Painting Drywall / Tape & Float Pressure Washing Decks/ Patios Fencing Waste/Brush Removal Concrete/Cement Work Flagstone, Stamped Concrete Home Repair Handyman Services Roofing Carpentry-Interior & Exterior Home Repair

> GNW Resident Licensed Insured

REPAIR

SERVICE

INSTALLATION



LICENSED AND INSURED

210-393-7422

Doing the job right the first time!

No service call fee with repairs or new installations!

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

Regulated by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, PO Box 13157 Austin, TX 79711 Tel. 1-800-903-9002

Premier Metro Realty

THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING A HOME?



REALTORY with over 50 years in the real estate business now serving NW San Antonio for all your Real Estate needs.

Free Consultation for buying or selling a home. Work with local builders for new construction home Help find new construction Ready to Move-In Homes.

Email: rcarreon9033@gmail.com Website, sehomeforssleforyou.com

Rolando Carreon

Real Estate Broker – USAF

CALL TODAY FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!

210-550-287