

PARK PLAZAS

Community Connections

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE: A GREEN NEW DEAL!

You may have wondered about the pink ribbons hanging on trees and shrubs throughout Park Plazas. Well, we now have an official Landscape Committee and they have been busy, tagging branches that need to be trimmed!

In its charter, the Committee is charged with preserving and maintaining the common area landscaping (approximately 75 acres) in accordance with generally accepted xeriscaping, sustainability, safety principles and best practices for our region.

As with many projects, this one is being led by volunteers. The Committee has already developed a map of the geographic areas, and in the near future, the City Fire Marshal's office will conduct a fire prevention and safety assessment of the property. The Committee will develop policies for new and restorative projects as well as ongoing maintenance and will also provide oversight for these endeavors. All efforts will be regularly reported to the Board of Directors.

Reid Michaels (Molino) is the Landscape Committee chair and **Mary Dolman** (Ristra) is the Board representative. (The Committee is still in formation, but see Page 6 for a few brief introductions.)

There is no doubt this is a long-term effort that will involve Park Plazas groundskeeping staff as well as professional experts. From time to time, the Committee may host short-term volunteer opportunities for specific work. A recent workday received very positive feedback, with neighbors enjoying being out and visiting with one another.

Fresh air and time together—we look forward to supporting the work of the Committee and appreciating the benefits of their efforts!



Art Ireland (Relampago) sent in these photos of seasonally painted rocks along our walking paths.

A Haunted House Aglow

by Nasario Garcia



One summer afternoon Grandpa Lolo and I rode horseback to visit a compadre of his in the village of San Luis. Near there Grandpa abruptly pulled on his bridle reins and stopped.

“What’s wrong, Grandpa?” I asked.

“Nothing. You see that abandoned adobe house to the right? That place is haunted. At night you can see lights flickering.”

“Really?” I blurted out. “What are the lights, Grandpa?”

“People say they’re espíritus, ghosts or the souls of folks who have departed this earth.”

“¡Híjole! On our way back home if it’s dark can we stop to see the ghosts?” I asked.

“Ya veremos,” he answered. (We’ll see.)

That evening we stopped by the haunted house. I couldn’t believe my eyes.

“Grandpa, look! Flickering lights, just like you said. Not one or two, but four. Why four?”

“Ah, good question. People say that a man named Desiderio lived there a long time ago. It seems he had four wives, and each time he remarried he built an extra room.

“Isn’t that strange, Grandpa?”

“Perhaps, but even stranger is the mysterious disappearance of his wives. Story has it that Desiderio poisoned them and buried each one in a separate room. That’s why you see four lights.”

“¡Híjole! And what happened to him?”

“According to Don Fautino, the wise old man in San Luis, God ordered him to walk the four corners of the earth.”

“That sounds like a lot of walking, Grandpa.”

“It’s just an expression. People believe Desiderio wandered here and there in search of peace for whatever he did to his four wives. He had to find peace within his soul before he died.”

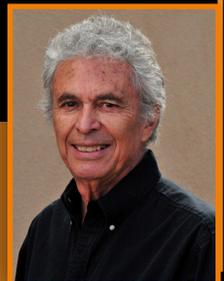
“And do you think he found peace?”

“Probably not, hijito. That’s why you also see a light—his spirit—that bounces from room to room. His soul is neither in heaven nor in hell. It’s in limbo, in purgatory.”

“And where is Don Desiderio buried?”

“Nobody knows. It’s also part of the mystery.”

Nasario Garcia (Papagayo) is the author of five ghost stories, including this one, in the September/October issue of *New Mexico Magazine*. He is the author of many books of stories, poems and folklore from New Mexico. You can learn more about Nasario’s work by visiting his website, www.nasariogarciaphd.com.



CHILLING HALLOWEEN RIDDLES!



What is a vampire’s favorite fruit?

What do you get when you cross a vampire with a snowflake?

What kind of toothpaste does a vampire use?

(Find the answers on Page 5.)

MANAGING CHANGE ON THE PPCSA BOARD

Three sudden developments have led to three changes in our Board leadership. First, in mid-September, **Deirdre Stiles** resigned from the Secretary position. Then, immediately prior to its planned September 23 meeting, **Diane Graves** resigned as President. That same week, **Drew Shurbet** resigned from the Board entirely, including his position as Vice-President. All three cited workloads and personal demands on their time.

At the rescheduled meeting, held September 30, **Tom Carr** was elected President. Diane Graves was elected Vice-President, with its less pressing responsibilities, and **Richard White** was elected as Secretary. (Our By-Laws allow the Secretary and Treasurer positions to be held by a single individual.)

Tom is the most recent addition to the Board, serving out the term of Arnold Valerio, who resigned in June. Thus we'll focus on introducing him, given that Diane and Richard are relatively well known to our readers.

In May 2006, Tom and his wife Judy moved to Park Plazas. Each of them has served a six-year term on the Board, and Tom was a member of the Architectural Control Committee for a decade. He is a real estate attorney—practicing in Virginia, Florida and other southeastern states—whose clients develop large residential communities like ours. He often gets involved in forming and representing homeowner associations.

Since coming to New Mexico, Tom has been active in the local community, including current service on the board of Esperanza Shelter, the only nonprofit organization providing support for abused men, women and children in Santa Fe.

As Tom says, "There's definitely been a lot of change to manage in Park Plazas. It has been challenging for us and we know it's been challenging for you, too." He's open to "questions about any of what's going on" at cisnelawyer@gmail.com.



TOM CARR
President, PPCSA
Board of Directors

At its September 30 meeting, the Board also authorized Tom (along with PPCSA counsel) to negotiate a one-year contract with WestGate Properties to provide professional management services to our Association. In his report, Tom has articulated several reasons why service-oriented professional management makes good sense. You can read his full report in the October issue of *Park Plazas News*.

https://www.parkplazas.com/editor_upload/File/2020_NL/October%20'20.pdf. There are many challenges and complexities to managing a property the size and age of Park Plazas. It is important—for our property values as well as our quality of life—to try and ensure that all responsibilities (operational, financial, communication, etc.) are appropriately addressed.



**Upcoming
Board Meetings**
Wed., Oct. 28
Wed., Nov 18
Details at [ParkPlazas.com](https://www.parkplazas.com)

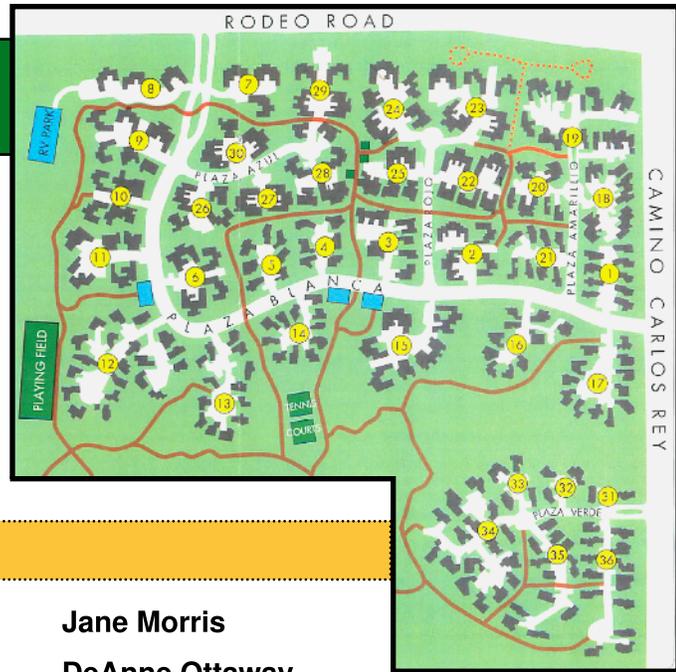
Park Plazas News and minutes of Board meetings are available each month on the ParkPlazas.com website: <https://www.parkplazas.com/default.php>

Scroll down the Home page to find a section titled "New Documents Available to Residents" and a link to the minutes. You will be required to Log In to view them.

Park Plazas News, all issues:
<https://www.parkplazas.com/info.php?pnum=19&preview=1>

A SHOUT-OUT TO OUR ANCHORS!

As the pandemic took hold across the country, our friend and generous sponsor **Karen Hyatt** (Manzana) organized the Park Plazas Anchors. We appreciate all of the Anchors, listed below, who have been checking on neighbors, running errands and driving folks to appointments. Their creativity, generosity and commitment have been impressive during these challenging times. When you see Anchors in the 'hood, give them a big "Thank You!" on behalf of everyone in Park Plazas.



Park Plazas Anchors:

**Paul Andrus &
Patricia Marin Miranda**

Kevin Bowen

Charles & Clarice Cole

John Durham

Denise Gonzales

**Travis Grove &
Jennifer Ong**

Pam Hyde

Frances Kean

Lise Knouse

Dana McIntosh

Jane Morris

DeAnne Ottaway

Carl Prather

Elena Perez-Lizano

Hollis Walker

Emily Westermeier

Helpful TIP

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!



The 2020 election is here and you have several options for casting your ballot:

- Early voting began on Tuesday, October 6, and continues through Saturday, October 31.
- The 2020 general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3.

For more information, follow this link to the New Mexico Secretary of State's website:

<https://www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/voter-information-portal/>.

This Santa Fe County link includes a list of early voting locations as well as instructions for absentee voting:

[https://www.santafecountynm.gov/media/files/2020%20Genavevschedules%20\(Updated\).pdf](https://www.santafecountynm.gov/media/files/2020%20Genavevschedules%20(Updated).pdf).

Note that the closest location to Park Plazas is the Santa Fe County Fair Building, 3229 Rodeo Road.



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kw
KELLERWILLIAMS.



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THANK YOU
to our *Community Connections* sponsors
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THE LITTLE FREE FOOD PANTRY

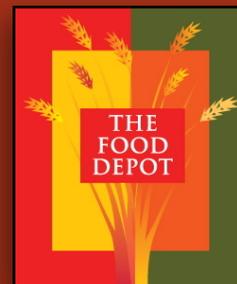
We are living through a crisis that we have never before experienced—and we know that community safety nets are critical to keep many families out of deep poverty. St. Bede’s Episcopal Church, 550 W. San Mateo Road, has expanded on the idea of the little free library to establish the little free food pantry. On the front porch of the church is a large bucket, and you can simply drive up any time to drop off your donations of non-perishable food items.



As **Ann Moon**, a Park Plazas resident (Ristra) and member of St. Bede’s, says, “It’s a small thing, but I know it’s making a difference. A dozen or more families will have supper tonight thanks to the contributions of so many neighbors.”

PARK PLAZAS RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE FOOD DEPOT

These days, hunger is constant in the lives of many. There are close to 18,500 food-insecure people in Santa Fe County alone, and more than 6,000 of them are children. The Food Depot provides food distribution and other service programs to over 145 nonprofit agencies throughout New Mexico’s nine northern counties. Recently, The Food Depot concluded its 2020 Neighbor to Neighbor fundraising campaign, styled as a friendly competition among similar sized communities. Thanks to all of you who contributed, Park Plazas ended up in **third place** for neighborhoods of 351-650 homes. We gave a total of **\$6500 (the equivalent of 32,500 pounds of food)**, more than five times the amount contributed by Pueblos del Sol, our nearest neighbor to the south. Altogether, a grand total of \$170,979 was donated by 128 different neighborhoods, businesses and senior living centers. That’s the equivalent of 854,895 pounds of food or 712,412 meals. Again, many thanks to everyone who participated!



LISE KNOUSE - REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Homes in Park Plazas have continued to sell quickly and often above list price. Currently, all of the homes on market are under contract. If you haven’t seen it, here’s a link to Lise Knouse’s third-quarter update.

https://210ba0fd-a895-4998-925c-15cc66767310.filesusr.com/ugd/dbdcd7_b70fde204b504a5fb668ee1b36d6de99.pdf

Let’s Get Moving—**AARP**® Exercise Classes

While we continue to implement safe health practices, we are also looking for ways to stay active and continue our routines. A shout-out to the numerous Park Plazas residents who are “getting their groove on!”

One recommendation: Join AARP and Villages of Santa Fe for two fun and beneficial online exercise classes—Balance and Gentle Yoga. Classes meet twice a week and there is no charge. Follow link to sign up: <https://aarp.cvent.com/c/calendar/97f09b82-1137-4c01-8a02-2943962726b6>



What is a vampire’s favorite fruit? **Neck-tarine**

What do you get when you cross a vampire with a snowflake? **Frostbite**

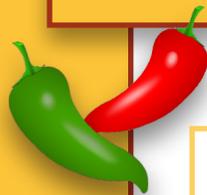
What kind of toothpaste does a vampire use? **Ultra-Bite**

Questions:

- Where have you lived over the years?
- Are you still working, doing what? Or retired?
- Do you live with family and/or pets? Details, please!
- During “lockdown,” what have you missed doing most?
- How about hobbies, what pastimes do you enjoy?
- Do you like to cook? Signature dishes?
- What’s your favorite Santa Fe restaurant?
- Red or green?

Getting to know you

We thought it would be fun to do mini-profiles of some neighbors by asking questions. For starters, we feature four members of the newly reconstituted Landscape Committee.



NORA HASKINS—Fresa Plaza, 7 years

- From Superior, Wisconsin, on the shores of Lake Superior
- Retired, living with my dear husband Phil Vergamini
- I enjoy cooking, including traditional homemade Italian raviolis; in my family it was Cornish pasties
- My favorite pastime is reading
- We miss concerts, movies and eating out
- We love many local Northern New Mexican restaurants. It would be hard to choose!



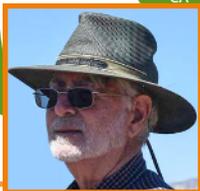
CHARLIE WILSON—Narciso Plaza, 3 years

- Lived in Mississippi, Florida, Arizona, even Italy
- Retired, but working harder, remodeling our house/yard
- Married to Marge for 53 years; no pets
- I miss going to church and socializing without masks
- Hobbies include biking, skiing, hiking and home projects
- Cook? Only when I have to, and then I make oatmeal!
- Favorites: Rio Chama, La Choza and Casa Sena. Christmas.



ART IRELAND—Relampago Plaza, 13 years

- From Massachusetts and New Hampshire, came to NM 44 years ago and never left
- Retired archeologist, worked on projects in national parks and Indian pueblos
- Moved north from ABQ when marriage went south
- Live alone, no pets; two grown children
- Nothing fancy, but I do cook, especially on the grill
- Favorite two restaurants: La Choza and original Second Street Brewery. Green, definitely!



BILL GLAZE—Chamisa Plaza, 5 years

- Born and raised in Albuquerque; lived in Austin and Houston before moving to Santa Fe
- My wife Laurie and I say we are each other’s pets!
- We have missed traveling to music festivals
- Favorite restaurants: Café Castro, La Casa Sena and the Mineshaft in Madrid. Red.



Sharing News/Creating Connections/Building Community

Mission Statement:

To produce a warm, personal, engaging and timely community-focused publication that creates and nurtures connections among all residents of Park Plazas. *Community Connections* is about people — highlighting what makes our neighbors interesting, makes them real, and makes others want to learn more about them.

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