

# PARK PLAZAS

45th Anniversary

## Community Connections

2020

### SOME NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS WE CAN ALL KEEP

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2020, the beginning of another decade. Once again, January brings that time-honored tradition of making commitments we'll soon forget. You know the kind I mean: Exercise more. Lose weight. Get organized.

Instead, I suggest a short list of resolutions that are not only achievable—and good for our own self-improvement—but that also bring value to our neighbors and our community.

- **Perform a simple random act of kindness every day** – Wave, smile and say hello to others. Get better acquainted with your neighbors.
- **Volunteer or donate to a cause that is important to you** – Communities are stronger when everyone participates. Find something that brightens your spirit and fulfills your sense of purpose.
- **Practice patience and cultivate compassion** – We can all make this a truly nicer and kinder world.
- **Read** – Reading takes us on journeys within our own homes and is a great brain exercise.
- **Make yourself a priority** – Be selfish and think about your own well-being. Follow up on those important healthcare issues, focus on staying active, find outlets that lessen stress, practice being happy, and laugh more!

— Laurie Glaze

In 2020, Park Plazas will mark its 45th anniversary. As part of our celebration, *Community Connections* will "SPOTLIGHT" people who have been noteworthy in our development. We begin with Maxine Hill (Lirio), an original owner who's still going strong. (See Page 2.)



# Maxine Hill — Park Plazas Pioneer



## SPOTLIGHT on your neighbor

She first came to Santa Fe as a teenager, when her family relocated from Tucson. Maxine Hill attended Santa Fe High as a sophomore. “I really liked Santa Fe,” she recalls, “and I thought, one day I’ll come back.” But she wound up in Albuquerque, graduating from Albuquerque High at 16 and marrying young. Maxine had three daughters, who were born in quick succession, and gave birth to her son Kurt eight years later. At 25, she earned her real estate license in Albuquerque, one of just a few women then in the field. Maxine did well—and by the time Kurt was 12, she was divorced and ready to strike out for Santa Fe, freed up by the marriages of all three daughters. Maxine soon discovered Park Plazas, then in its early development stages. She decided to buy a two-story townhouse at 3081 Plaza Blanca (Paloma), intending it to be an investment property. “I was too new in Santa Fe to qualify for conventional financing,” Maxine says, “but fortunately this almost-new house had an assumable VA loan, so I was able to make the deal work.” (She would go on to own the property for almost 40 years.) After several years in Santa Fe, Maxine was established enough to buy a home, and again she chose Park Plazas, purchasing a single-story townhouse at 3140 Plaza Blanca (Lirio). The house was still under construction, so Maxine was able to make changes, such as moving a window to capture sunset views. She remembers her colleagues saying, “But we don’t know anyone on the south side,” and she laughs when she thinks back to her response, “Well, now you do!”

Maxine and Kurt were in the real estate business together, as Hill and Hill, for many years. Today, Maxine’s home is full of memorabilia, including many gifts from clients. Among her clients who became friends were the parents of longtime PPCSA board president Richard White. Telling stories as she goes, Maxine delights in giving us a tour. She is recovering from a broken hip, suffered in a fall last August—and the tour includes her newly remodeled master bath, which she proudly explains Kurt had done while she was in rehab, to make it more handicap accessible. In 2006, Maxine was presented with the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award by the Santa Fe Association of Realtors. It’s this framed plaque that has the place of honor above her desk. A few years earlier, she was named Santa Fe’s Realtor of the Year, and Kurt followed in her footsteps in 2013. Throughout her home, there are dozens of framed family photos. In addition to her children, Maxine has eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, all of whom are represented in multiple images. (Sadly, her youngest daughter Allison died of early-onset Alzheimer’s in April 2019.) Maxine remains happy with her decision to settle in Park Plazas. “You know,” she says, “I’ve never regretted it for a minute.”



## GATES of Park Plazas



For our first 2020 issue, it seemed appropriate to return to our “Gates of Park Plazas” coverage. After all, a gate symbolizes both coming in (Happy New Year!) and going out (farewell to 2019). We’ve chosen one of our favorite gates, at the entrance to the home of Pamela Hyde and Maggi Konzen, 2860 Plaza Verde (Junipero). The gate is painted a beautiful shade of blue—perhaps inspired by our 300-plus days of sunny blue skies, by our turquoise state gemstone, or by the blue robe believed to have been worn by Our Lady of Guadalupe. Whatever the color’s genesis, this particular gate is lovely—a worthy addition to our “Gates” series.

# WORDS of the ROARING TWENTIES

Prohibition. Women getting the vote. 1920 was quite a year. As 2020 begins, we picked a dozen commonly used expressions from a century ago. How many do you know?

- |               |                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Cheaters    | 7 Know your onions              |
| 2 Father Time | 8 Noodle juice                  |
| 3 Glad rags   | 9 Don't take any wooden nickels |
| 4 Handcuff    | 10 Hayburner                    |
| 5 Jake        | 11 Now you're on the trolley    |
| 6 Kale        | 12 Oliver Twist                 |

For definitions, see Page 6.



## Helpful TIP

### PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE FOR WINTER DRIVING

Winter car preparation is crucial for staying safe on the road during the next few months. Below are a few important pointers for making your driving easier and safer this winter:



- **Replace wiper blades** – Tests show that even the best performing blades lose their effectiveness in as little as six months. Some stores will replace blades at no charge.
- **Ensure that the heating/cooling system is functioning properly** – Warm air directed to the windshield is essential to defrosting, while running the air conditioner can help dehumidify the air.
- **Check the oil and oil filter** – And while this work is being done, have the radiator and heater hoses checked for cracks, leaks or contamination from oil or grease.
- **Check your tires** – Tire traction is essential when you travel on wet and/or slippery roads. Look for highly rated sets that perform well in our area. And be sure to keep tires properly inflated.
- **Be prepared for an emergency** – Follow the link (and scroll down) for a list of 15 essential things to keep in your car during winter: <https://www.palegaladvice.com/blog/things-to-keep-in-your-car-during-winter/>.

# GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS REVIEW UPDATE

In the current January issue of *Park Plazas News*, PPCSA board president Richard White wrote about the work of the governance documents review committee. We would like to reiterate his report.

At its June 2019 meeting, the board approved the creation of a governance documents review committee that included individuals from the board, the bylaws study group and other residents. Members of that committee include Richard White, Diane Graves, Barrett Markland, Laurie Glaze and Peter Whitman. Since that time, the group has met on a regular basis with the Association's attorney, Stephen Ross, to carefully review and update the Bylaws and the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs), which are the two principal documents that establish the governance structure and guide the operations of the Association.

The committee is preparing to present the documents to the PPCSA board for its review and feedback. A review by independent legal counsel will follow. Finally, a plan will be established for presentation of the documents to the Members. The plan will include community-wide presentations to educate Members about the updates and a voting process to approve the updated documents.

While the review process has taken many months and participants have devoted hundreds of hours to the work, the members have been very thoughtful, including efforts to anticipate future needs of the Association. We are very appreciative to them (including our own Laurie Glaze!) for their ongoing commitment.



**JAN.**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Wed., Jan. 22**  
**6:30 pm**  
Residents are encouraged to attend.

## 2019: A SELLER'S MARKET in PARK PLAZAS REAL ESTATE

All across Park Plazas, last year's real estate market can be summed up in just six words:

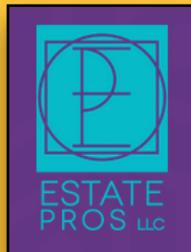
**DEMAND: HIGH**  
**INVENTORY: LOW**  
**PRICES: RISING**

Currently, there is just a single active listing in all of Park Plazas, 3030 Plaza Blanca (Cisne), pictured at right.

In our February issue, we plan to run Lise Knouse's full report for 2019, along with some of her thoughts for 2020. You won't want to miss her expert perspective!



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# GREAT Volunteer GIGS

## Why I'm a Volunteer at



RENESAN

Institute for Lifelong Learning



Especially if you're relatively new to Santa Fe, you may not know that RENESAN Institute for Lifelong Learning is an independent, volunteer-supported, nonprofit organization that provides affordable, academically oriented classes, lectures, and local trips for adults in Northern New Mexico. Our friend and neighbor **Paul Widick** (Papagayo) has served on RENESAN's board of directors since 2013. Because RENESAN's 2020 spring semester is just getting underway, we spoke with Paul recently about his involvement in this world-class educational resource.

**Q.** Santa Fe has many volunteer opportunities. What led you to RENESAN?

**A.** As we neared retirement, Carole and I knew we wouldn't stay in St. Cloud, Minnesota, with snowdrifts in July. We visited Santa Fe during the winter of 2010-11 and rented a place so we could see what it would be like to live here. We saw an ad in the paper for a RENESAN lecture and were really impressed. As we settled into Park Plazas, we were happy to get involved. [Paul is a former state district court judge—"criminal, civil, we did it all," he notes—while Carole is a psychologist who has also been a RENESAN director.]

**Q.** Tell us a little more about RENESAN course offerings.

**A.** Santa Fe is full of incredibly bright people, including retired academics. RENESAN is a great place to meet interesting people and talk about interesting things. There are no papers, no grades—just folks who share common interests, taught by skilled professionals. English Lit and History are especially strong. [We digress, talking at length about one current offering, Randy Perazzini's four-session course on Lawrence Sterne's Tristram Shandy (1759-67) titled "The World's First Post-Modern Novel."]

**Q.** What's it like to be a RENESAN volunteer?

**A.** RENESAN is a volunteer-supported organization in every respect. The Board of Directors, where I'm involved, sets overall policy and deals with finances. The Curriculum Committee is responsible for reviewing class proposals with the goal of assembling an array of programs that will entertain, inform and challenge our community's lifelong learners. As with many nonprofits, there are all sorts of opportunities for meeting people and helping with activities that are vital to the organization's success.

**Q.** Are there courses you would especially recommend?

**A.** I'm a historian as well as a lawyer, which tells you a little about my preferences. This year, several of the Current Events courses seem particularly pertinent to what's going on in our world. Some of the Science courses also attracted my interest. But I'll definitely be signing up for Dick Rosemont's two-hour course on "The Roots and Rise of 1960s Soul Music." RENESAN is a real bargain--course fees are generally just \$20 per session.

**Q.** Where can I get more information?

**A.** RENESAN is located in St. John's United Methodist Church, 1200 Old Pecos Trail. Most of the courses meet there. Enrollment for the new semester is now in progress—with the first 2020 courses starting on January 17—so don't delay!

### ENROLLMENT TIPS

Printed catalogs are available at the RENESAN office, and staff members are available to help you with your registration for courses, lectures and trips. RENESAN also has an extensive website, [www.https://renesan.org/](https://renesan.org/). You're strongly encouraged to register online and pay by credit card. The phone number is 505-982-9274, and the email address is [renesan@newmexico.com](mailto:renesan@newmexico.com).

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

## GRAB YOUR CAMERA FOR A ROAD TRIP SOUTH!

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, south of Socorro, provides a winter habitat for Greater Sandhill Cranes who migrate south from the northern Rockies, joined by ducks from the Great Plains, Snow Geese and Ross's geese.

Currently more than 15,000 Sandhills migrate annually to the refuge. Details at: [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bosque\\_del\\_Apache/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bosque_del_Apache/)



## HOLIDAY DECORATIONS IN PARK PLAZAS



WORDS of the

# ROARING TWENTIES

Definitions:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Eyeglasses                      | 7 Knowledgeable about the subject matter |
| 2 Any man over 30 years old       | 8 Tea                                    |
| 3 Party or special event clothing | 9 Don't do something you might regret    |
| 4 Engagement ring                 | 10 Car with poor gas mileage             |
| 5 Everything is okay              | 11 You've got it right                   |
| 6 Paper money                     | 12 An extremely good dancer              |

## 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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