

# Parkland Village Newsletter



No. 2

January 2020

## Happy New Year, neighbors! And Happy New Decade.

I can't believe we're already into the '20s! Or that it's been more than four months since I last sent all of you a Parkland Village update. Many things have happened since that last update, and I am excited to share them with you.

For those of you who are new to this mailing list and may not recall the "village" concept, **Parkland Village's purpose is to help residents "age in place" in their homes by providing them with volunteer services, such as transportation to doctor appointments, grocery stores, cultural events, etc., light chores in and around the home, compassionate visits, and social events designed to strengthen a sense of community in our neighborhoods.**



At the top of the list of recent happenings is **our contract with Helpful Village**, an outfit that provides "platforms" exclusively for villages that include a website, a newsletter, a data base for members and volunteers, and e-mail service, a means of connecting volunteers with members who make requests for services, a means of processing electronic payments for donations and for dues (once we begin services and collect membership dues), a calendar of events, and much more.

One IT person from another village referred to this type of platform as a "content management system." Our contract with Helpful Village began on December 1.

**Speaking of the data base, it would be helpful if all of you who are so inclined would e-mail me your name, address, and phone numbers.** For some of you, we have only an e-mail address and no name. We can't enter your information into the data base without a name to accompany it. And we'd love to have ways of contacting you other than by e-mail.

Our website is under construction, but you are most welcome to visit it at [www.parklandvillageabq.org](http://www.parklandvillageabq.org). You are also welcome to make suggestions on how to build the website, and you are further welcome to help us do so, if

website development is among your skill sets. Please get in touch with me with suggestions or offers to help. **Our website also can accept donations, and we will appreciate any and all donations, which are tax deductible** (for those who itemize their expenses on their tax returns).

In keeping with our desire to strengthen community in the process of developing our non-profit organization, we had a third summer event (actually early fall): a picnic on September 29, in Ridgecrest Park. We plan to have a potluck some during the month of February. We will let you know when and where that potluck will take place. I want to add that it is with great joy that those of us on the Board and the various committees have gotten to know one another over the past several years of developing our project. We have also enjoyed meeting many neighbors who have attended our picnics and potlucks, and we have gotten to know a number of people who have attended these events regularly or semi-regularly. All of this is part of the strengthening of a sense of community in our neighborhoods that we hope to see continue as we move the project forward.



We also made a presentation at the Southeast Heights Neighborhood Association annual meeting at Bandelier Elementary School in late October. Since then, several people from Southeast Heights (originally we were called Parkland Hills Village and focused primarily on Parkland Hills, but have since changed our name and expanded our service area) have offered to help our efforts. One of those people is a bookkeeper and has offered to be ours as a volunteer. Another has extensive fundraising experience and has joined our Fundraising Committee. Regarding bookkeeping, we were just able to subscribe to QuickBooks online through TechSoup, a non-profit that provides technological products to other non-profits at a significant discount. Among our fundraising activities, we are looking into two possible grant applications, and we'll let you know if we have success with either one.

Our Resource Evaluation and Coordination Committee has researched other agencies and organizations that provide some of the same services that we plan to provide, with the idea that we will coordinate with them and avoid duplication of effort. We have already

met with the Home Service Division of the City of Albuquerque Senior Affairs Department. They provide a lot of services, and we will refer members to them as appropriate, but there will be many instances in which we can provide services much more quickly, so we are anticipating that they will refer people to us as well. I have also spoken with the head of an organization called CREW (Community Renovation and Empowering Women), which provides a number of kinds of home repair. Later this week, a couple of us will be meeting with the Senior Companion Program of the City's Department of Senior Affairs.

Our Logo Committee is in the process of developing a logo that we can use on brochures, refrigerator magnets and other outreach efforts. Our Recruitment Committee is planning to resume a door-to-door survey that we began last summer to inform neighbors of our efforts and to find out the level of interest they have in our project.

Sometime in the next few months, this series of updates will evolve into a more formal newsletter that will be developed and sent out through our Helpful Village platform. **As usual, please let me know if you do not wish to continue receiving these Parkland Village updates or if you don't wish to receive the newsletter.**

**If you would like to help our effort in any way, by all means get in touch with me by replying to this e-mail. We are hoping to begin providing services sometime in the latter half of this year. But when we can begin will depend on how much help we'll have between now and then.**

*Rich*

Rich Weiner, President  
Parkland Village