Barry and Nancy Birdy, vigorous in their 70s and involved in the business they founded, made Independence Hill Retirement Community their home a year ago. They had considered downsizing and jumped when an apartment became available that accommodated their specific needs: a 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom unit on the ground floor, with enough grassy space for their beloved Yorkshire terriers, Stanlee, Maggi and Maxx. Since that time, they have enjoyed a whirlwind of social activities – from Barry's daily card game, to Nancy's second place finish in the masquerade mash.

“We have done more in six months than we'd done in our previous six years!” Barry said, quite a feat, considering he is a Spurs season ticket holder and Nancy enjoys several cruise vacations a year with friends and family.

Barry can walk to the office, located just a mile down the street at 18830 Stone Oak Parkway. The couple started Birdy Properties, a real estate and property management company they grew from the ground up while Barry was finishing his last few years of service in the U.S. Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base. As chief master sergeant, colleagues would “throw their keys on his desk” and ask him to take care of their houses as they were transferred. Those favors led to a side business managing property out of a bedroom in the Fox Run home they purchased in 1979. They officially incorporated the company in 1995. Birdy Properties has been rated the number one property management firm in South and Central Texas. Best of all, the company now employs most of their family.

“Birdy Properties is a family-run company, where nepotism is very much alive,” Barry joked. “My sons work there, as well as many of their spouses, grandchildren and their college and high school friends.” (Daughter Karen recently retired from a successful medical practice and lives in Florida.) Brian bought the company from his parents on a handshake deal in 2003, and he is the current broker/owner. David is director of business development and runs the weekly radio program, the List, which can be heard on 930AM The Answer Saturdays at 11 a.m. Brian's wife, Karen Ann and their son, Gregg, are vice presidents. Gregg's wife, Lorena, is in business development. Their daughter, Jessica Case, is CFO, and her husband, Blais Case, is a director. Another Birdy grandson, Russell, manages HOAs. And Barry's sister, Lorraine Bird (no y), is in leasing.

In one of Barry's proudest moments, he traveled to Orlando this fall to swear Brian in as president of NARPM – the National Association of Residential Property Managers. Barry said the high point was hearing from many people how Brian had helped others succeed. He remembers the early days of property management with “no computers and no mobile phones. I had to know where every pay phone was, and I kept a jug of nickels in my car,” he said. Barry credits the secret of their success to their ability to fill a niche in a market – to do what others don't want to, and do it well.

The couple grew up together in Hollywood, Florida, married in 1959 at 18, and immediately began their military career. They spent 14 of their 26 years overseas in England, Germany or Italy with their growing family of children and Yorkies. Nancy remembers Germany as the place with the best food and the best shopping, and they still meet friends from Italy to play Pinochle.

Despite their travels, the Birdys have planted deep roots in the Stone Oak community that continue to flourish in subsequent generations as they enjoy living at Independence Hill Retirement Community.

By Amy Morgan

Barry and Nancy Birdy love living at Independence Hill Retirement Community with their three Yorkshire terriers, (l-r) Maggi, Stanlee and Maxx.

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The Birdys

Property Managers Enjoy Lifetime Legacy

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