

# The Village Voice

*Bradford Village, a Brookdale Community*

Resident Spotlight

## Marilyn Hunt Shares Memories of a Wonderful Life!

Marilyn was raised in Oklahoma City and graduated from Central High School. Though her parents divorced when she was two (and she never knew her father) she felt very loved by her mother and grandparents. Upon graduating from high school she took a secretarial course and began working at a finance company in the High-tower building. She met the boss' son and they fell in love. She remained working while he attended West Point Military Academy for four years. When he graduated in June, 1950, they had a traditional wedding in the chapel at West Point. He was

posted to Korea just a month after the wedding; she lived with her mother and step-father during the sixteen months he was gone.

As a member of the Corps of Engineers, the family moved often. They went to Missouri when he returned from Korea and their first child was born. Next, they went to University of Illinois, where their son was born. They spent 3 1/2 years in Germany, where their last daughter was born; they raised their children mainly in Alexandria, Virginia. They also lived in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas and spent three years in New Orleans where he worked as the District Engineer involved in

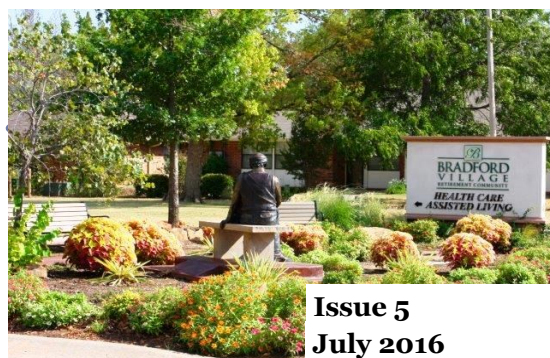
flood-control on the Mississippi River. They enjoyed four years living in the Canal Zone in Panama (see related story about "Panama.") He retired in 1978 and the couple returned to Oklahoma City, where he worked for three years for an architectural/engineering firm. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary during those years.

Marilyn and her husband were active members of New Covenant Christian Church. She also helped with Meals on Wheels.

Marilyn Hunt lives at 301 Spence Court in a

home her late husband helped design. He was careful to include details to make it comfortable for her, though he didn't survive to share it. The house is beautifully furnished with many objects collected at their postings during his career in the Army Corps of Engineers.

"We have been very lucky in life," Marilyn asserts. What a lovely evaluation of a busy and full life!



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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Jim Davidson

"Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." ~ Proverbs16:24.

Let us spend more time counting our blessings, not airing our complaints.

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# Around the Village

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## “Panama”



Those residents who have interacted with their mailman, Hubert Hammon, have found him very personable. "Panama" is his commonly-used name; others who call him Bert or even Hubert are answered with blank stares of incomprehension.

Panama was born in the Canal Zone in the American hospital there, while the Canal Zone was still legally considered American soil. He holds dual citizenship in the U.S. and Panama, since his father was from Pawhuska, Oklahoma and his mother was from Panama. He attended the American school on the base; they lived in base housing. That was where he met Shari and Sue, Marilyn Hunt's daughters, as classmates.

"It was like paradise," Panama reports of life in Panama in those days. The safe living on base led to days of riding bikes, playing soccer and generally freedom-filled days. They had American hospitals, good schools, a court system, the commissary and other advantages living on base. "Everyone loved Americans when I was a child" Panama exclaimed.

The family moved to New York in 1977 and Panama contacted Shari, the older daughter of Marilyn Hunt, a classmate in Panama, for information about Edmond and Central State College (later UCO). He enrolled in Central, and expected to be offered a soccer scholarship, only to find out that Oklahomans didn't play soccer at that time. He decided to stay in Edmond and has remained almost 40 years!

Most of the time in Edmond, he has served as a U.S. mail carrier. One day, when delivering mail to Oklahoma Christian Home (today's Bradford Village Healthcare), he encountered Sue Perry, Marilyn's younger daughter. That led to a reunion with the entire family. Later, while working as a substitute on the Bradford Village route, he knocked on Marilyn's door—another reunion!

Panama is knowledgeable about his first homeland and remembers well when President Carter turned the American facilities in the Canal over to Panama in 1998. He still has family there and both of his parents have been buried there. Living conditions have deteriorated there, with personal safety being a major problem in today's Panama. As a single father, he is glad to have raised his three children in America.

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## Birds of the Backyard

Photo and article by Jim Davidson

This picture was taken in my backyard at 16 Hadwiger. I've had a longtime love affair with birds, but this is the first time I have experienced a family of blue birds residing in my two-bedroom birdhouse constructed by my brother-in-law, Ray Miller.



Monday, July 4th at Bradford Village we're having a big celebration! All residents and their invited guests are welcome to attend.

- At 6:30 pm, cottagers and guest with tickets are cordially invited to share in hot dogs, pot luck food, ice cream and soft drinks, served at the Community Center.
- Golf cart transportation will be provided in 10-20 minute intervals starting about 6:30, within our Bradford Village area.
- Please advise guests to have their guest tickets IN HAND in order to enter our area as streets will be blocked and traffic controlled.
- At the Jacobs Street cul-de-sac, cold watermelon will be served prior to viewing the fireworks at UCO. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS and insect repellant!



Check the bulletin board for sign-up sheets and information! ~ Jerry & Carol Biby

## Hank Kuhlman—A Man of Many Talents

Hank was born in 1946 in Salina, Kansas into a military family. His father and grandfather were both military their entire lives. He was a Lieutenant Colonel, graduating from the Air Force Academy, and spent 13 years of active duty, with a total of 41 professional years.

While he was in Pensacola, Florida, he became a soccer coach and coached all ages from 1982 to 1991. Hank became a certified soccer coach through FIFA (Federal International Football Association). At the present, he is continuing his coaching for a grandson's team. Also, in Pensacola, Hank was the chief engineer on helicopter blades and service repair. During the Desert Storm conflict, Hank developed the repairs for the essential blades and repair work that had to be done.

After retirement, Hank discovered another way he could serve. For over 9 years now, Hank has been getting up very early once a week to travel to OU Children's Hospital to cuddle tiny babies!

He is the only man of a vast number of volunteers who fill this absolutely essential need. These babies are in the NICU unit for many severe health needs, and often loved ones simply cannot be at the hospital to be with the babies, and so, once a week for an entire morning, Hank Kuhlman holds, rocks, hugs, talks to, and smiles at the little ones, keeping them relaxed and comforted.

Does Hank love it? He stated for the Oklahoman, "I would dig myself out of a snow drift to be here." In fact, he stated he really needs his "baby fix."

I would like to take this opportunity on this "patriotic month" to say a big thank you and pay tribute to Hank for not only holding our country safe and at peace in conflicts and battles, but for his continuing service of holding babies in his arms filled with peace and love. Thank you, Hank!



By Sandy Binkley



## New Residents to Join the Bradford Village Family!

Hwa Yun Paddock will be moving in 300 Spence Court around the first part of July.  
Dr. Jim and Sharon Ward, former residents, are moving back to 909 Jacobs later in the summer.  
Elda Cressman will be moving in near the end of July or the first part of August into 312 Spence Ct.

We look forward to welcoming them! Look for feature articles about our new neighbors in upcoming issues of The Village Voice.

~ Kathy Logsdon

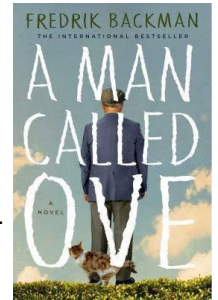
## Bradford Village Book Club Choices

**July:** *Run with Horsemen...* by Ferrol Sams

"Remarkable both for its humor and its picture of a mischievous Southern farmboy's life during the Great Depression."

**August:** *A Man Called Ove...* by Fredrik Backman

"You will laugh, you will cry, as his heartbreaking story unfolds through the diverse cast of characters that enter his life, all uninvited. You will never look at the grumpy people who come into your life in quite the same way. A memorable read."



**September:** *Pride and Prejudice...* by Jane Austen

The book club chose this book in a continuing promise to re-visit the classics.

## PAWS IN THE POOL!

Hi guys and dolls! Just a note in your ear! If you think it is too hot for you humans, please think how we feel out in the heat with our fur coats on! Doesn't matter if our coats are long or short or very thin, we are very hot.

We love you and depend on you, so please remember these few things:

- Leave us plenty of water to cool off in. (Those baby swimming pools are nice!)
- If we cannot come inside during the hottest times of day, be sure we have some shade and plenty of water to drink.
- Do not ever leave us tied up outside in the heat.
- Do not ever leave us in the car alone.
- If at all possible, try to let us exercise a bit in the cooler morning or late evening hours.

We may have 4 legs but we are totally dependent on you. We know that you will do your best to keep us safe and cool during these hot summer days.

Thank you for your time and "listening"!

~ Thunder Binkley and furry friends



