

The Village Voice

Bradford Village, a Brookdale Community

Resident Spotlight

DICK THOMAS



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For twenty one years Dick and Blythe Thomas were “snowbirds,” traveling from Province Lake, NH to Winter Haven, FL. In 2004 however, they sold their summer home and lived in Florida for 10 years before deciding to move to Bradford Village three years ago. Their youngest daughter, Kathy, had worked for the Alzheimer Association, and had done a great deal of research on facilities that could care for people with this disease. Her grandmother, an uncle and several cousins sparked her interest in the research because of the family DNA history. Dick and Blythe chose Bradford Village on the advice of their four children

also because it was about equal distance between their son, Doug, in Corinth, TX and Kathy in Derby, KS.

Let’s back up now to 1949. Dick was a sophomore in college, and his friend and classmate at the University of New Hampshire was a young man named Don, who talked six of the friends into going with him to DC for spring break. The deal was they could stay at his mother’s house and his younger sister would fix each of them up with a date while they were there. I’m sure you have probably guessed “the rest of the story.” Dick’s date just happened to be with Don’s younger sister, Blythe!

They hit it off, and decided to write to each other. After a few months of this Dick promised to marry her “when she got old enough” as she was just a junior in high school at the time. One time

Dick went to visit Blythe when she was living at her grandparents’ home. He had come directly from working on his Indian Chief bike and was covered in paint. Blythe’s grandmother met him at the door, took one good look, and went and got a can of kerosene. She took him to the bathroom and gave him a good scrubbing before allowing him to see her granddaughter! Dick and Blythe were married in June of 1952.

They spent the next two years at UNH, where Dick got his Master’s degree. By then they had two children and made the move to the University of Maryland where he began work on his Doctorate. Before completion, one of his professors who was also his advisor, suggested it may not be the best path, but instead had arranged an interview in Cincinnati with their Public

Health Center. Dick was hired and spent the next 3 years doing research which led to rewriting the “Manual of Septic Tank Practice.” Over the next 39 months the family moved 13 times as he did inspections in Kentucky, California, Arizona, Iowa and Texas. The next move was to Cornell University where Dick did further study on Municipal Waste Water Recycling. After an upheaval took place in the Public Health Service, the family was moved to Ada, OK.

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Around the Village

As Seasons Change

Together is a wonderful place to be! As our seasons change to gold and brown, it's a time for warm thoughts of being cozy inside with friends as the fall air turns crisp and cool. We anticipate celebrating Halloween and Thanksgiving. So, our community center décor theme is designed to welcome all friends new and old through the north and south doors. The screen doors that sit under the awnings invoke a time when the first sign of a welcome was an old screen door that read "Welcome-Come In!" Those of you who always use the south entry because you live here are invited to cross the lobby and enjoy the north entry that welcomes your neighbors and visitors to our Community Center.

Enjoy the chance to sit on the bench or rockers and remember the times past that felt just like this—warm and cozy! The design incorporates hoop rugs with all the colors of autumn and cheerful reminders of the Halloween and Fall seasons. Pumpkins and mum plants are soon headed this way. We hope you enjoy and are thankful for this golden time of year when we move from summer to fall before we enter head-long into the Christmas Season.

HAVE A HAPPY FALL, Y'ALL!



Welcome to New Neighbors, Jim and Sharon Ward!

Jim and Sharon met while Sharon was working at the Indiana headquarters of the Disciples of Christ in Indianapolis, Indiana, her home town. His pastor had met Sharon and kept trying to "fix them up," but circumstances kept interfering. He finally succeeded when all of them attended a dedication for the Church Camp. They were married on Christmas Day, 1957.



Jim had already determined he wanted to serve as a minister, but first earned a teaching degree at Ball State Teacher's College. When the couple married, Sharon continued to work at the church headquarters while Jim finished college and worked part-time at the General Motors factory. Jim also earned his ministry credential while attending Indianapolis Cristian Theological Seminary. Their first church was at Martinsville, Indiana. They later served in Indianapolis; Dearborn, Michigan; and Montgomery, Alabama, where Jim earned his doctorate degree from TCU (located in Ft. Worth, TX). Sharon worked as church secretary and in a jewelry store. Jim had to live in Ft. Worth six weeks a year, but earned the rest of his hours by correspondence.

They also served in Anchorage, Alaska (they didn't like the long nights and long days that are seasonal in Alaska); Britton, Oklahoma; West Plains, Missouri; and Fredonia, Kansas. Sharon kept busy sewing, quilting, decorating a series of parsonages and reading. In breaks from his ministerial duties, Jim enjoyed refinishing furniture.

Jim and Sharon have three children, a son in Kentucky, a daughter in Eureka, California and a daughter in Oklahoma City. They have four active grandchildren.

The Wards liked this area so much that they came back! They first lived in the Oklahoma Christian Cottages in 1999, but decided after eight years that they needed to move to Oklahoma City to be nearer to their grandchildren. They kept busy taking the kids back and forth to school, feeding them when mom worked late, and going to activities—all the things necessary when children are growing up. After nine years, they decided to return and now live at 909 Jacobs. Welcome!

We also welcome Barbara Belcher to 413 Jacobs and Lou & Kathy Meszaros to 211 Lincoln. Look for their introductions in our next issue of The Village Voice!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER by Jim Davidson

...For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Galatians 6:7

Summer is ending and fall is on the way. Fall brings to mind harvest time. As we look at the produce of our individual harvest, we are reminded of the scripture that says "You reap what you sow." We should always be aware of sowing good seeds of smiles and friendship and we shall reap a harvest of the same.



The Night That Mattered

Hello, my name is Boston Bear! I'm not actually a bear, though. I'm a dog! I'm part Basset Hound and Jack Russell (special, right?) and I have an awesome story to share.

Several months ago, my dad got up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom and something bad happened to him. He started calling my mom but she didn't hear him. So I ran into her bedroom, jumped in the middle of her bed and started pulling on her clothes with my mouth. She awoke and ran to the bathroom. She said Dad had had a stroke! We called 911 and Mom and Dad were off to the Hospital.

After a long stay at Bradford Village Skilled Nursing for rehab, Dad is home. It has been over a year and he is walking, talking, going to lunch, playing ball with me, and other fun stuff.



I am so proud of myself and my parents are proud of me too!

Love, Boston Bear Stocks
(Faithful dog of Will and Judie Stocks)

Dick Thomas, cont'd

By now, all the children were in school, so Blythe rejoined the workforce and, being one of three Republicans in town, was quickly hired to work at Bellman and Bartlett's office. The family remained there for ten years as Dick conducted various research projects.

Once again the government decided to move the family. This time they had a choice... Alaska or DC. They chose D.C. Dick became the National Technical Coordinator of Innovative and Alternative Technology of the Clean Water Act. He was in charge of one billion dollars of federal grant monies which was to be used to add 10 % to grants using innovative methods or innovative technology. Blythe wanted to stay in the work force and found out David Boren was looking for an Administrative Assistant. She was hired, and a long friendship ensued, lasting until Blythe's sudden death in November of 2014.

Dick plans to stay around for awhile and is presently busy practicing for his role as Mr. Cellophane in the upcoming Bradford Village show, "Broadway Hits: A Year in Revue."

When he's not rehearsing or working in the library, he can be found baking delicious deep dish apple pies !!!)

Quips and Quotes

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."
~ F. Scott Fitzgerald



Serving in Our Community

Lions Club Glasses

Thank you sincerely for the used eye-glasses cottagers have given to Hulda Hamilton for the Lions Club projects. Lions Club give these glasses to eye doctors for missions. They also supply eye glasses to any child or adult recommended by the Hope Center or the Edmond Schools. Lions Club also support the Eye Bank of Oklahoma and Hope Meadows.

Currently, the Edmond Lions Club is selling nuts at good prices to fund these projects. See Hulda or another favorite Lions Club member to support their good work.

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BRADFORD VILLAGE DONATIONS TO IDA FREEMAN SCHOOL

As Bradford Village Community does every school year, we have again helped Ida Freeman Elementary School get off to a better start this year. Our Bradford Village Residents are so generous to help these students as a need arises.

Earlier this year our residents donated much-needed clothing for the students. Just recently, the counselor and teachers had a need for bean bag seats for children who are unable to sit long periods in chairs. We had enough funds to purchase 3 bean bags chairs. Counselor Debbie Heraney and Principal Keith Paulter, as well as the students and teachers, are very appreciative of our donations.

If you wish to make donations to be used for our Ida Freeman School Projects, you may donate cash or make checks payable to the *Cottage Community of Bradford Village* and give to Jim or Mary Davidson or Treasurer, Gerry Pearson, and as a need arises we will have funds available in our account.

We will also use donated funds for Christmas gifts for the children. We usually adopt an entire grade for Christmas and \$700 will be needed to purchase an educational gift for each child. More information will be available about the Christmas project at a later date.

Thanks for any help you may be able to give to this worthwhile project. Don't forget to donate items or shop at our Community Garage Sale on October 8!

~ Mary Davidson



Above: A student seems to be saying, "Look at the new bean bag chairs!" Pictured are Gerry Pearson, Counselor Debbie Heraney with student and Mary Davidson.

A Brief History of the Development of Bradford Village

Bradford Village began as Oklahoma Christian Home, a nursing facility, owned, and run by the Oklahoma Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) for its church members, especially retired ministers and missionaries. At that time there were around 400 Disciples churches in Oklahoma. The Home was governed by an executive board whose members were elected by the churches and was financially supported by the Disciples churches and individual church members. (In the years that the Oklahoma Region owned this community, there were only 3 directors: Reverend Elbert Whitwell, Reverend Harold Enz and Reverend Charles Hattendorf.)

As the needs of retirees changed, the Oklahoma Disciples Region decided to begin building cottages in addition to the home itself. Six simple cottages were built on Whitwell Circle. At about the same time, the site we know as the assisted living was then a private bungalow, that was later deeded to the Home. That bungalow became the home's first community center.

Retirees' needs continued to change and as a result there were a number of duplexes built on Jacobs in 1992 followed by several more in 1993 and 1994. The name Oklahoma Christian Home was eventually changed to Oklahoma Christian Retirement Community to reflect the changes in the services and housing options.

The Assisted Living was then built. The options offered to retirees now were: nursing care, long-term care, skilled nursing, assisted living, and independent living.

OCRC was deeded by the Christian Church in Oklahoma to the National Benevolent Association, the benevolence arm of the national Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The NBA declared bankruptcy in 2005 and OCRC was purchased by a non-profit that contracted with Brookdale to manage the facility, then known as Bradford Village. Brookdale eventually purchased Bradford Village, the community we know and love today!

~ Dorothy Messenger, Assisted Living and former IL resident

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts for the 2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's. The Bradford Village team raised **\$4,191.25!**



