

The Village Voice

Bradford Village, a Brookdale Community

Resident Spotlight

Mary Beth Bowers



Issue 9
November 2016



A native of Wichita, Kansas, Mary Elizabeth "Beth" Bowers remained in Wichita until she finished 5th grade. She was the oldest of five daughters in the family; two are deceased. The family lived in Idaho for 5 years, where her mother taught school, then they returned to Wichita. Mary Beth completed one year at Wichita State University, then got married and moved to California, where she worked for a wholesale florist.

A car accident in Reno, Nevada in September of 1955 left her severely injured; she was un-

conscious for a month. Just before Thanksgiving of 1955, a railroad president's special (train) car was utilized to get Mary Beth back to Wichita. Due to injuries incurred in the car accident, her muscles had to be retrained; she also had to re-learn to walk, talk, eat, etc. She lived with her grandmother through the recuperation period. In 1957, divorced and rehabilitated, she found work as a secretary to the president of Ablah Supply for six years. While Mary Beth was vacationing in California, her father had a heart attack and she stayed there to help him. She met and married a much-older man, and returned to work for the wholesale florist for three years, later

gaining work helping a Safeway Controller. Her husband suffered chronic nosebleeds, which eventually led to his death.

Mary Beth met the "love of her life" and married in November, 1970 to Leon Bowers, from Fairview, Oklahoma. Their son, Jeremy Leon was born in 1973 in Wesley Hospital (Mary Beth was also born there) in Wichita. Jeremy now lives in Oklahoma City; he has four children and four grandchildren. Mary Beth and Leon lived in Wichita, Arkansas, Enid, OK, and eventually lived in Hefner Village in Oklahoma City, until Leon's death in 2012. They had celebrated their 42nd anniversary.

Sewing has been a

pastime for Mary Beth; she made Leon's dress shirts and sport coats. She recently helped Sue Holcomb in making costumes for *Broadway Hits: A Year in Revue*. She also is adept at raising beautiful orchids. Her younger sister visits in March and Mary Beth travels to her sister's home in Seattle during July and August, to avoid the hot summers. Bradford Village has been her home since 2012.

Inside this issue:

New Neighbors	2-4
Quips and Quotes	2
Chaplain's Corner	3
Special Thanks	4
Around the Village	5-7
Town Hall	8
Poem	8

Welcome, New Neighbors

Elda Cressman

Born in Canada, Elda Cressman has recently moved to 312 Spence Court. She grew up in Regina, Saskatchewan, lived in several Canadian locations and earned a degree from the University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon, with a double major in English Lit and Philosophy/Psychology. Elda met her husband Kenneth while both were working in Calgary. His job led them to settle in Tulsa, where she earned her teaching credentials from Tulsa University, leading to teaching at Skelly High School. Kenneth was a geophysicist who worked in Tulsa for 26 years in Research and Development for Amerada (later Hess) Petroleum.



The slump in the oil field economy of 1975 saw them accept a job with Aramco and move to London, England for 7 years. Their older two sons were attending SMU (Dallas); their youngest son went with his parents, finishing school in London. The couple attended many plays and concerts while in England, as well as attending auctions to purchase beautiful statues, clocks and other art objects. "People separated by a common language" is Elda's assessment of living in London.

In 1982, they moved to Saudi Arabia and lived with other Westerners in a compound containing about 5,000 residents. Her husband was permitted to drive; she could only drive while in the compound; residents were taken by Greyhound Bus to shop in Kohbar, which had stores from around the world. While living in Saudi Arabia, they vacationed in Egypt, cruising from the Aswan Dam to Cairo and viewing the pyramids and King Tut's Tomb. Another trip involved seeing the Seven Churches of Asia Minor, mentioned in the Bible.

Elda's two oldest sons are Methodist ministers. David is in Newcastle and has 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. Keith, the middle son, is at St. Mark's in Oklahoma and has 2 daughters. The youngest, Dan, is a counselor at a college in Las Vegas, New Mexico and has two daughters.

Kenneth and Elda moved back to Oklahoma in 1988, settling in Stillwater, since Dan was attending OSU. They were in Lion's Club, Mobile Meals, and Stephen Ministry, and Elda was an active member of the Stillwater Women's Club. Kenneth died in September, 2004; Elda moved to Edmond in 2014. She is glad to move to Bradford Village, having sensed the warmth of the people here.

"Quips and Quotes"

Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.

– W. T. Purkiser, preacher and author

Barbara Belcher

Our newest resident on Jacobs Street is Barbara Belcher, roof-mate of Don and Denise Jones. She was born and raised in Oklahoma City, graduating from Central High School. In 1958, her parents purchased a home at NW 58th and Portland. The Deaconess Hospital had purchased the land from a farmer, then then sold the excess land to a developer. It was close to recently-completed Baptist Hospital, also built on farmland. In fact, Barbara's father put out rabbit traps in the neighborhood (for food)!

Upon graduating from high school, Barbara married the good-looking trumpet player (she played alto sax). In fact, her husband continued to play at Czech Hall on Saturdays, earning \$15 a night—a job which he continued for 55 years! The couple had two daughters, Cindy and Gail; both are Edmond residents. Cindy had a boy and a girl; Gail had two boys and one girl and has three grandchildren—Barbara's great-grandchildren.

Barbara worked in Accounts Payable at Kerr McGee, Tenneco, Cabot Oil and Gas and EOG Resources. In each company, she made an effort to learn how to drill for oil, by taking note of invoices. She worked in the oil industry for 25 years. "If you drill an oil well, I'm your girl" she stated.

Creating beautiful, crocheted baby blankets is a major interest of Barbara's. Her designer creations are amazing—such workmanship! Designs she has employed include "Wizard of Oz," "Sunbonnet Sue," "Noah's Ark," and "Rub-a-dub, 3 Men in a tub" to name a few. She is currently finishing a U.S. flag baby blanket. Reading historical novels, especially WWII and those about the British monarchs, is another interest. Bridge has been a long-enjoyed pastime and she would enjoy substituting in some bridge groups.

Barbara lived in Edmond for about 25 years, moving back to the family home on Portland. Now, she is glad to settle back in Edmond, and we're sure to enjoy her presence!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Jim Davidson

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
James 5:16

Without getting political, I would urge each of you to pray for the upcoming presidential election. May the President-elect be given the Wisdom of Solomon, the Strength of Samson, and the Devotion of David.

Lou and Kathy Meszaros



Lou and Kathy Meszaros and their three "westie" dogs, named Charlie, Tinkerbelle and Lizzie, are our newest residents on Lincoln. They moved in the end of September, but they made a long-planned trip back to New Jersey the first week of October; we are glad to finally be able to introduce them in *The Village Voice*!

This amiable couple was raised in Trenton, New Jersey, but not in the same part of that city. They met on a blind date while both were seniors in high school and had one other date before Lou was sent off for active duty in the US Navy. They corresponded—and occasionally spoke on the phone—while he was "seeing the world." As soon as Lou returned home, he proposed to Kathy; they were married about a year later. He was still in the Navy, so they went to Norfolk, Virginia for their honeymoon. It was hurricane season, so there was lots of new adventures in Virginia. Both of them had "Navy Blood" as both fathers and Kathy's grandfather were ex-Navy. Lou reports that he was in port about 30 days altogether during his time in the Navy.

Upon leaving the Navy, they returned to Trenton, where Lou established a thriving business and Kathy served as a special education teacher's assistant. She also served as a court reporter. They raised a daughter and three sons; the daughter lives in Stillwater and has 6 sons and a daughter. One son lives in Cushing and has one daughter. Another son lives in Pennsylvania and has one son and a daughter; the last son lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

When the pair retired, their daughter urged them to move to Oklahoma, so they moved the northwest edge of Edmond about 10 years ago. Lou took a job at the El Reno Home Depot for several years, but now works part-time at the Edmond Home Depot. He is an avid fisherman and also loves to grow roses. Kathy enjoys reading, sewing, walking their dogs, and singing soprano! Both hope to see more of the U.S., especially the area west of the Rockies. Their fond hope is to visit Scotland, home of their beloved dogs.

You can find this pleasant couple walking their three dogs early in the morning and most afternoons. Be sure to wave and say "Hi!"

Special Thanks

Our thanks to Hwa Yun Paddack for selflessly cleaning the dining room chairs upholstery. She is a good example of residents who quietly do things, not because they must, but to make a better world for others. Thank you for your time and efforts, Hwa Yun!

Around the Village

Radio Flyers and Screen Doors

Several folks entering the south entrance of the Community Building have remarked about our Fall theme, and how it reminded them of times past.

The Radio Flyer wagon was a mainstay in many families with kids. It's easy to see this piece of Americana and remember good times. This part of our entryway was loaned to us for the display by Cade Beck, thirteen-year old grandson of Don and Charlotte Chilcutt, who found this treasure of old times. He spent his money so he could put it, filled with flowers, in the family yard in the country. He then thought the folks at Bradford would enjoy it for this fall reminder of a time 'way before he was born. Thanks, Cade!

In the same space is a screen door. Screen doors were pretty common in times past, and Hazel and Lisa both mentioned it reminded them of their grandfathers. You can close your eyes and hear the smack of the door, pulled closed by that funny spring. You then had to latch the door with that little silver hook to secure it. You had to protect the occupants from all sorts of unknown dangers—mainly flies. If your grandfather had a screened-in porch, it added a large living area suitable for the kids to sleep, and visitors could enjoy the air flow in those years before air conditioning. This treasure was loaned to us by Loree Rice; we hope it reminds you of happy times.

To remind us that old things haven't been forgotten, the Smothermans have added a screen door on their back door. It smacks appropriately when it closes! Just another pleasant reminder of times past, enjoyed in the present.

Enjoy the Fall season, a glorious time of golden color and favorite memories of pumpkins, mums, and beautiful weather.



Flower Bed Care for Fall

by Donna and Charles Suenram

Along with the cooler temperatures of fall comes the thought of: "How should I prepare my flower beds for winter?" A little work now can make the arrival of spring more enjoyable by practically eliminating the necessity of any spring preparation.

First, stand back and appreciate your efforts of this year and analyze what was successful for you and what you might change for next year. If necessary, write your thoughts down so you can use your notes to plan for next year

In annual flower beds, remove the vegetative material from the soil and dispose of it. If you have mulched your beds, also consider removing the mulch and disposing of it. Our beds seem to be home to several species of critters, including spiders, pill bugs, ants, etc. When nestled in the warmth provided by the mulch during winter months, they may survive and you will have to deal with them in spring.

Since our soils are poor here in Bradford Village, it is advantageous to lightly work in some organic materials at this time. Peat moss, bone meal and gypsum used as additives are natural and furnish non-burning forms of nutrients. Leave the top of soil broken so the moisture from rain, snow and ice can absorb down into the soil instead of running off. Don't smooth and/or pack the soil. This process allows the soil additives to aerate the soil, hopefully making the soil more porous next planting-time. Lightly water with a fine mist to complete the process. If any perennials or shrubs are part of the complete picture of your beds, you may also use this procedure around them, being careful not to disturb the root system.

If rainfall or snow is rare during the dormant period, water the beds and live vegetation to keep the absorbing process in action and to prevent any freeze damage to shrubs and perennials.

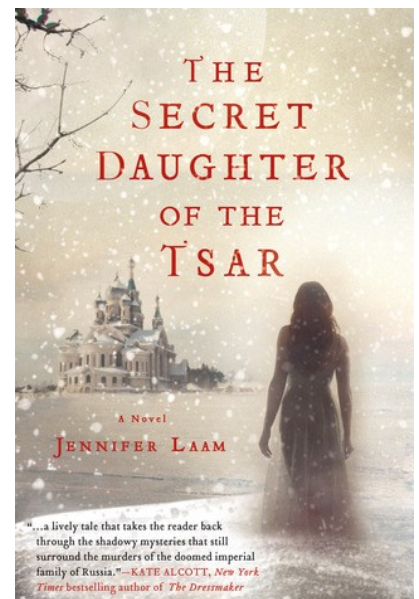
Happy Gardening in 2017!

Bradford Book Club

The Bradford Book Club meets the second Tuesday of every month in the library, at 10:30 a.m. Our October choice was Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. There were eight in attendance and a lively discussion was enjoyed by all.

November's choice is Jennifer Laam's *The Secret Daughter of the Tsar* (fiction), dealing with the shadowy mysteries that still surround the murders of Russia's imperial family.

December readers will discuss *The Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski, a non-fiction story about an 11 year-old panhandler, a busy sales executive, and an unlikely meeting with destiny.



Christmas is Coming!



As many of you are aware, Bradford Village Residents have, in the past, sponsored two very worthwhile projects for Christmas.

One is the Christmas Cards for Wounded Warriors. You donated over 500 cards last year. Those participating in this project are asked to write a short note of encouragement on a card, and sign it (you may or may not want to put a return address). Drop your cards in the designated box under our mailboxes. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT THEM IN ENVELOPES; THAT JUST INCREASES POSTAGE COSTS.** I will mail them to Murfreesboro, TN, where they will be forwarded to various military hospitals. I always put my return address and have received many heart-warming replies from recipients. One unit leader wrote a letter last year expressing the appreciation from the men in her unit. She could not disclose their location, but said many of them never receive mail.

The second project is the Ida Freeman School Project. This is a low-income school, and we work with the Principal and Counselor every year to purchase much-needed supplies. We also contribute to the school Christmas fund, whereas each child receives an educational gift for Christmas. In the past, we adopted a class, purchasing a gift for every child. We need \$700 to purchase a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) gift that will also be a learning tool for the children to take home.

If you wish participate in this project, you may give either cash or a check to Jim or Mary Davidson or Gerry Pearson. Checks must be made payable to Community Fund of Bradford Village. Your contribution needs to be in by November 7th.

Thanks so much for your participation to these worthy causes.

~ Mary Davidson



Town Hall at St. Luke's

A group of residents recently enjoyed attending the Town Hall lecture series October 20.

Town Hall's mission is to enhance the quality of life in Oklahoma by providing a forum for nationally recognized speakers who enrich, entertain, stimulate, inform and educate our citizenry.

This public speaker series consists of six meetings a year, three in the fall and three in the winter/early spring. November's speaker is Celia Sandys, granddaughter of Winston Churchill. Sandys has published five books on various aspects of his life. These combine intensive historical research with personal anecdotes recalled from time spent with him in England and abroad. Her most recent book, *We shall Not Fail - The Inspiring Leadership of Winston Churchill*, describes the principles of leadership which enabled Winston Churchill to lead his country and the rest of the free world to victory in World War II. Another of her books, *Chasing Churchill*, is the basis for a documentary which aired on PBS and the Discovery Channel. She is in great demand as a speaker and will both educate and enthrall audiences with her knowledge and historical pictures.

Residents currently attending the Town Hall series include: John Osborne, Jocile Crocker, Gerry Pearson, Jeanne Kuhlman, and Dorothy Skinner. Please contact one of these for details about the knowledgeable speakers and the cost of attending. Join us!

Don Self wrote and shared the following poem for his beloved wife, Aleene, at her memorial service. We thank him for sharing his beautiful words.

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace.
That's what she had.
How sweet the love she brought to me.
I once was lost till I found her,
Lost again when she went home.

I've shed ten thousand tears today;
Her loveliness bright shining as the sun.
I know the emptiness in my heart will fill
From memories since we begun.

I've no less days
To sing God's praise,
For bringing her to me.

