

The Village Voice

Bradford Village—Villagio Senior Living



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GOODBYE 2020



Welcome 2021



It is exciting to know that some of our neighbors did in their life before moving to Bradford Village. One of the most unique businesses that we will feature is a clothier.

Winnie Hall has always been a beautiful seamstress and made beautiful clothes for herself and her daughter. She sought unusual patterns and fabrics. One Christmas she wanted a Christmas Coat but could not find one. She found a Christmas tree print in a catalogue and ordered it not sure what it would be. It was a blanket!!! So, Winnie got busy, made a pattern, and she made herself a beautiful coat for the holiday season. Of course sewing on a blanket required a serger as the seams needed to be secured. Winnie constructed garments right up until Christmas Eve.

Winnie knew that she could not do this coat/jacket project alone. So, she encouraged her good friend, Tommy Atchison, to join the venture. The kitchen table became the boardroom with many kibitzing and inputting information for this new company. Classic Threads became the name and was the contribution of her son-in-law. Classic Threads was a true cottage business. Classic Threads employed a number of ladies to sew and one that was the quality control person. Winnie and Tommy did the patterns, design, cutting, and marketing.

One of the greatest thrills of Classic Threads was the time Tommy was walking by Balliet's and one of the employees came out into the mall to ask her where she got her coat. Tommy replied that her company has made it. They told him about Classic Threads. After carefully examining the construction of Tommy's coat, Balliet's invited Classic Threads to participate in a Trunk Show. That they did!


A niece of Winnie's made purses matching the wearable item. These purses could not be kept in stock as so many people were attracted to them.

Winnie and Tommy went far and near to sell their garments. They did trunk shows in homes, style shows for ladies groups, even set up a boutique in the high school gymnasium in Mangum, Oklahoma. Marketing was done from Edmond to New Mexico and many stops in between. They were also in a boutique in Branson, Missouri. The label even made its way to Oregon! Through all of this they only had one disgruntled customer.

Early on a friend told them that they needed to get a tax number. Instead of using their own funds to purchase enough product and supplies they decided to go to the bank and get a loan. Just filling out the papers required was an education. They both took out a loan of \$500 each. They had a year to pay it back but to the banker's surprise they paid it back in 3 months. Thus began the fun, profitable, and satisfying journey. Classic Threads was an active business for five years. It had to come to an end as it took both Tommy and Winnie to do the trunk shows and marketing as well as their part in the construction of the garments.

This was a wonderful experience for the ladies as well as those who have enjoyed the wearing of the garments. We have not given up on having a style show in the future but we did want to highlight this "happy" story in our ties that are not so happy. Below you can see some of their efforts and one of the men's bomber jackets.





What a Relief! Thank You!!

On January 4 the residents of Bradford Village, Independent Living, were delighted to receive the first inoculation for COVID-19. A big thank you to Eric and his staff for their diligence in getting this to us in a very timely manner. The second phase, inoculation #2, is scheduled for February 2, keeping in mind we still need to mask, socially distance, and practice good hygiene. THANK YOU!

Note from the Executive Director:

A Dim Light Is Better Than No Light

The dim light refers to the fact that the Covid-19 vaccine will slowly return us to the new normal. A year ago, when the pandemic hit, we didn't think there was even a light nor how long the tunnel was. Fast forward to 2021 and we are cautiously on our way to a sense of normalcy. Because there is very little data as to how effective the vaccine will work going forward, and the concern that the new variant strains that are appearing may be resistant to the vaccine we need to walk forward with abundant caution. This means we need to continue to wear our masks, continue to avoid large crowds, and wash our hands often. It is far from over but we are getting closer.

The consent forms and checklist, along with the updated schedule, will be distributed to all residents prior to the next vaccine clinic on February 2nd. If you have any questions about the forms or the schedule please reach out to me.

With a majority of the IL residents receiving the second booster dose of the vaccine on February 2nd it is important to know that there are many cases where people become very ill within twelve hours of dose. However, this should last less than 24 hours so be aware that you may not feel well after the clinic.

Finally, because the second clinic will immunize a majority of the residents we are looking forward to reopening the Community Center on March 1st. However, we will continue with prevention protocols to include the two lunch dining services. If you do not feel well or have a fever please do not come to the Community Center. We will continue to monitor all guidelines in the hope we can resume normal life at Bradford Village before Summer.

Eric Legleiter

Random Thoughts:

Thank you to the Executive Committee for the purchasing of the beautiful Nativity scene that we enjoyed during the Christmas season. A big thank you to Jim Davidson for facilitating the assembly and the creche that completed this lovely gift.

Weather Is Always Interesting in Oklahoma

Oklahoma weather is always an interesting topic. The beautiful snow in December was peaceful farewell to 2020, the fairly warm temperatures in January have been enjoyed, and of course there has been a taste of March winds.

The first automatic parking meters installed in Oklahoma on July 16, 1935, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The machines charged a nickel.

The neighbors enjoy the inflatables in the Connell's yard and the darling seasonal windsocks in the Fabian's yard.



February Birthdays

February 11—Don Jones

February 15—Bud Connell

February 22—Mary Davidson

February 26—Verniece Johnson

February 28—Clara Adel

An idea for a story? Please share with Ann or Karen

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