



www.OakcreekStillwater.com

Oakcreek Cohousing Community

1806 N. Husband St., Stillwater, OK 74075

Contact Email: patdarlington@yahoo.com



We wish ALL of you the **Very Best New Year!**
And we began 2020 by celebrating, as always.





As in all communities, many neighbors traveled over the Christmas holiday, many had family visiting, and many stuck close to home and enjoyed our cohousing 'family'.

Our holiday party allowed everyone to display their most UNIQUE Christmas sweater. (Some were, in fact, Ugly, but here we try not to offend! 😊)



And the WINNER IS!!



The party also featured a Dirty Santa gift exchange. Where were these gifts even found??? The goal of the evening seemed to be GETTING RID of the gift you drew...though there were a few gems in the batch.

Such as the antique Tonka Toy truck that Anne won



And Bob's Dust Bowl Tough T-Shirt



More common, though, were these:



Hot & Spicy Pickles



Sassafras Doormat



A Cork Board????



And a really fun fishing rod!

Don't we love our Work Days in cohousing? At least when the work involves decorating the Common House for the holidays?

And isn't it fun to see the decorations that many neighbors have brought with them to Oakcreek?



Such as Frank and
Mebby's –Teddie Bears!



The trees we trimmed together?

Someone suggested luminaries to line the Oakcreek driveway & front sidewalk. No problem getting them assembled in record time, with all the volunteers.



On many sunny OK days, Steve and Pat bike around town, and seem to find some very strange creatures.



At Boomer Lake, less than a mile from Oakcreek: (What are these anyway?)



And outside the new McKnight Performing Arts Center, more weird characters! (Not you, Pat!)

In line with Oakcreek's core value of involvement in the Stillwater community, our members meet with Oklahoma State University teams developing improvement plans for local areas, including the trail along the stream behind our property.



And another large University group, studying housing design options for seniors, toured our homes and heard about cohousing. This seems to be a regular occurrence, with the campus only about a mile from us.



And sometimes we get to re-connect with the pros who worked on the development of Oakcreek years ago. And SOMETIMES they throw a Margarita Party for us!



In addition, most members are involved individually in community activities – League of Women Voters, City Council, OLLI classes, non-profit boards, local law enforcement awareness, volunteering with free medical clinics, book clubs, and other non-profit and church activities.



With a 7.5 acre property, there's always some outdoor activity to keep us busy -- like a bit of leaf raking. Some enjoy it more than others -- so we let them do it!



Some of us enjoy contemplation time on the deck in the woods, or walking the labyrinth (shown here with some grandkids making the rounds.)



Oakcreek Open House Event With Poetic Justice

APRIL 18, 2020
4:00 P.M.

For Further Information [Click Here](#)

Members' Corner

I enjoy visiting with Helen. We have become friends over the past several years as members of Oakcreek Cohousing Community. For several years, she was the oldest member of the community and my husband Mike and I were the youngest (58 or so at the time).



Mike thought it would be a good idea to share some things Helen might have to say at the "ripe old age" of 93. All of us have different experiences and backgrounds. It's interesting to see life from these different perspectives. I've sat on numerous occasions and listened to Helen tell about her background. So let me share some of it with you.

Helen's dad had a chicken hatchery, a peach orchard, and did truck farming. For the truck farming, he raised crops like potatoes and tomatoes and shipped them to other places. They would exchange them for fertilizer and other supplies they needed to run the farm. Later he added dairy cows and beef cattle to the farm. Helen's mother helped with gardening and cooking, among other duties.

When Helen was between 12 and 15, she and her sister Doady (Dody) who was three years younger, had to prepare the food for the hired hands working on the farm. The meal included four or five vegetables (always potatoes, either mashed or scalloped), bread, and dessert. Doady made the desserts.

bread, and dessert. Daddy made the desserts.

In all, her parents had seven children that lived, Helen being the oldest. Several of the younger siblings died when they were just babies. Her mother had several miscarriages as well. Helen's family knew the value of work. Her father used to say, "A kid that just sits on the back steps eating apple butter bread won't amount to a hill of beans." He had confidence that Helen would amount to something even when she kept changing the course of her career.

She trained and worked as a med tech in New York, received a Masters in Parasitology in Virginia, and two doctorates in Veterinary Medicine and Zoology from Georgia. Although it took awhile to decide what she wanted to do, she eventually taught parasitology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia and at Oklahoma State University. Helen says you need to follow what you like, or what you are interested in, and do what it takes to make it happen.

One day I was talking to Helen about all the degrees she had and how hard it must have been. I couldn't imagine studying all that. She laughed and said that you didn't have to be smart, that it just takes a lot of hard work and perseverance. Helen says she's a problem solver. She claims she is not good at memorizing and that "there's more than one way to accomplish what you need to get done."

Helen is an amazing person, but most importantly.....she's my friend.

Julie Kelly

*We're already seeing the first signs of spring,
with daffodils daring to pop up. We'll be sending those
colorful pics in the next newsletter.*

*In the meantime, we'll enjoy a few months of really
pleasant temperatures - and hope you will too!*

Sorry No Vacancies
All Oakcreek homes are occupied

We are glad to put your contact information on our Interested List.
Call number below if you want to be notified when a vacancy occurs.

405-880-3703

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