

May 2019



Inside Brookside

Happy Mother's Day

Brookside is celebrating Mother's Day on Saturday, May 11th, from 8am to 10am with a special breakfast for our mother resident's and their guests. We will be serving breakfast in both the main dining room in the manor and in the assisted living dining room. Please join us and help to acknowledge the mothers that are in attendance.

Ashley Cooper Returns

If you have never seen one of Brookside's favorite entertainers, Ashley Cooper, you don't want to miss him on May 21st at 1:15pm. He is an amazing entertainer that combines part song, part dance, part ballet and part acrobatics. He will sing, swoon and dance through the music of the 40's, 50's and 60's with grace, class and a lot of flash.

Changes Coming...

It has been a tough decision for Administrator, Tracy Dunnaway, to resign from her position at Brookside. Tracy has worked here for almost 11 years now and plans to continue to help with transportation and big events but otherwise wants to take some time off to decide what is next for her. She will be dearly missed by both the residents and the staff. We wish her the best of luck and thank her for the contribution that she has been to so many. ❤️ ❤️ ❤️



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SUPPORT TEAM

Scott & Susan Averill,
The Owners

Tracy Dunnaway,
Administrator

Allison Lyda,
Director of Nursing

Tammy Conklin,
Human Resources

Kim Wilson & Lainie Lucas,
MDS Coordinators

Sharrell Davidson,
Business Office Manager

Denise Hoback,
Billing Specialist

Karen Peters,
Social Worker

Shelley Branch,
Rehab/Therapy

Tim Sullivan, CDM
Quality of Life Coordinators

Joy Schmidt
Sharri Allred
Ciara Walter

May Resident of the Month:

Not many people can say they have made a difference, but May Resident of the Month Elton Decker has made a difference on various boards—Elton Decker has made a difference in Lyndon and in all of Osage County.

After being born and raised in Nashville, Michigan, Elton joined the Air Force after graduating high school. “I was eventually sent to Texas to learn how to do maintenance on a B29.” When he was in the Air Force, he worked a year for Sears, then joined the Air National Guard and was stationed in Hutchinson.

The two were married November 25, 1954 on his 3-day Thanksgiving pass. The couple began their family in 1955. Elton worked a year for Sears, then joined the Air National Guard and was stationed in Hutchinson.

In 1967, he transferred to Forbes when the Guard moved to Topeka. “I was a technician for the B57’s and a weekend warrior until 1993 but had to stop when I turned 60.”

When the couple bought 5 acres near Lyndon in 1967, Elton also decided to start getting involved in his community. Fixing up Highway 268 from 75 east to Ratner Road monthly, became a founding member of the Osage County District 3 and ran the chains at the Lyndon football games. His years of service to Lyndon earned him a Ring of Honor.

So, it was natural that Elton decided to drive a bus for Lyndon schools. For 16 years, Elton drove a route in the spring, he took the golf team to daily practices. “I liked driving a bus to games,” Elton chuckled. “I got to go to sports activities and watching his grandkids play and according to his son, he doesn’t miss very many days of work.”

Elton is also proud of being selected for the Lyndon Honor Flight in 2002, where veterans are treated to a special trip. “I’ve been gone to Washington!” Elton faithfully attends the yearly Veteran’s Day Parade in Topeka, and the whole family goes.

For 50 years, Elton and Sherie danced 4 nights a week with the Osage City Sunflower Steppers. The couple were also the founding and only members of the tandem bicycle club, and claim a “million” hours riding on Highway 268.

When Elton saw a flyer about a bluegrass festival in Wagner, Oklahoma they decided to go. “We went to learn and around to learning to play it.”

The couple also liked to take their family camping. “We were like the Griswold family sometimes,” he said. “Things started rising.” Things went better when 21 family members took an Alaskan cruise in 2017.

If that isn’t enough, Elton is also a beekeeper and sells honey. “I’ve been stung a time or two, but I still have the honey. I like pulling the thresher,” he said. “I liked to go to all the farm shows.”

Elton has slowed down a bit but he has enjoyed his rehab stay at Brookside. “Brookside is the place to be if you need it.”

Congratulations, Elton Decker,

May Service Excellence Honoree:

“My kids say that I never do anything for myself that I always do for others,” Becky Harmon, May Employee of the Month.



Becky, who is the Cottonwood Lane housekeeper, likes to clean. “I like to clean.”

She also had experience with Brookside when her grandmother was in care. “I went to Brookside.” Becky explained. “It is so much different working here than at home.”

Becky saw the advertisement on the website and decided to apply. “I like the Cottonwood team work and cooperation.”

Born in Ottawa, Becky grew up in Michigan Valley and graduated from Michigan Valley High School. She married a year later.

The couple started having children a year later. Angela was born in 1971. “I was home and ran a daycare until Macayla got in school,” Becky said.

Becky continued helping others when she went back to work at the Brookside Appanoose for 20 years.

When her husband Tom died after 32 years of marriage, Becky decided to move to Brookside.

For fun, Becky loves hanging out with her 9 grandkids. She volunteers at Brookside and read thrillers and suspense novels. Macayla and Becky also like to take care of the garden. “I like to mow on my riding lawn mower and work on my flower garden.”

Congratulations, Becky Harmon, May Service Excellence Honoree

ELTON DECKER

ure can. From serving his country, volunteering with others, and serving
 ool in 1952. “I was sent to Syracuse, NY where I was cold all 16 weeks of
 as sent to Forbes Field, he met his wife Cherie at a square dance.
 nily of four: Terry, Danny, Andrew and Dana. After the Air Force, Elton
 for 20 years until I retired in 1988,” Elton explained. “Then I became a
 is community. He became a volunteer firefighter for Vassar, started clean-
 Recycling initiative, served on the board of the Vassar Rural Water Dis-
 onor Plaque in the high school lobby.
 te, and in the fall, he took the cross-country team to daily practices and
 in free to see all the games and got free fast food meals!” He still enjoys
 games.
 to a day in Washington, D.C. “It was quite a deal,” he said. “I had never
 ly helps set flags during Memorial weekend at the Vassar cemetery.
 uple were also members of a neighborhood card club. They were also
 68.



r all over the country attending bluegrass festivals,” he explained. “I even bought a banjo but I never got
 laughed. “Once we camped on an island and had to evacuate in the middle of the night when the water
 ne bees,” he grinned. He also has a fascination with steam engines. “When I was 4, I remember the steam en-
 ou got to be somewhere besides home.”

May Resident of the Month!!

BECKY HARMON

mployee of the Month, laughed. “But that’s the way I am.”
 It is very rewarding for me when others notice,” she said. “I try to help out if I need to or if someone asks.”
 as a resident from 2005 to 2008. “I took care of my grandma for many years, and I would visit her when she
 re than visiting. You understand how it runs and see the life lessons.”
 “You hear horror stories about nursing homes,” she said. “But everyone here is friendly and helps out. I love
 from Pomona in 1979. Shortly after, she met Tom Harmon through mutual friends and the two were mar-
 n 1981, Tonya in 1982, Tommy in 1985, Bryant in 1990, Alyssa in 1994, and Macayla in 2000. “I stayed at
 e Methodist Daycare in Overbrook, then the Carbondale Daycare, and as a special needs Para Educator at
 cided she wanted a life change. So, she began working at Brookside and moved to a brand-new home.
 eers at the ballpark concession stand most nights and watches her grandkids play ball. She also loves to swim
 e drives in the country.
 a,” Becky laughed. “I like petunias and making my home look nice.”

Excellence Honoree!!

Brookside Retirement Community
700 W. 7th
Overbrook, KS 66524
(785) 665.7124

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- 7- Rusty Rierson 3:00 (Manor)
- 11- Mother's Day Breakfast 8:00-10:00 (Manor & AL)
- 11- Alan Cunngham 2:00 (AL), 3:00 (Manor)
- 14- Terry Baldrige 3:00 (Manor)
- 15- Johnny & Adam 3:00 (Manor)
- 18- Gary Kirkland 2:00 (AL), 3:00 (Manor)
- 21- **Ashley Cooper 1:15 (Manor)**
- 22- Gary & Elsie 3:00 (Manor)
- 25- Shelia Meeker 2:00 (AL), 3:00 (Manor)



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 13- Lewis Miles
- 16- James Bryan
- 22- Patty Harr



Brookside would like to **congratulate** all of the senior **graduates** but specifically the seniors that work at Brookside. Santa Fe Trail HS graduates include: **Otis Costlow**, dietary, **Gabe Dunnaway**, dietary, **Erin Neugebauer**, dietary & **Elise Woods**, dietary/nursing. Lyndon HS: **Kennedy Criqui**, nursing & **Sadie Sellers**, nursing. Burlingame HS: **Grace Brooks**, dietary & **Kevin Davidson**, nursing. Osage City HS: **Makayla Zeller**. Shawnee Heights HS: **Brooke Wendland**. Washburn Rural HS: **Camille Brown**.