

ROADRUNNER

MAY 2024

VOLUME 2024-05



FROM THE DIRECTOR

23 years

No way it can be synopsised, but I'll say to you what I said to the RC, "You guys have meant a lot to me. We don't have a boss/employee relationship. It's a personal relationship. And that's hard to walk away from."

Tell Me What You Think

Have you ever wanted to tell me what you really, really think of me 😊 (wink, wink)? The RC presented me with a beautiful card, please feel free to stop by the Front Desk and sign the card, no pressure. Special thanks to Jane Hill – she made the beautiful card!

Farewell Gathering for Lori!!!

Come join us in the Main Lobby on Friday, May 10, from 2-3pm to wish Lori farewell as her journey of 23 years and 3 months with Blue Skies of Texas comes to an end and a new and peaceful life of retirement begins.

Flooring Install

The week of **May 6** new flooring will be installed in the Lower-Level hallways. This work will be accomplished after hours.

Pet News

Do you have a designated caregiver for your pet in the event of an emergency? If you're not sure give Teresa Santana in resident services a call or stop on by and we can review/update your four-legged friends paperwork.

Save the Date:

Thursday, May 9 - Dining Room Advisory Council (DRAC) Meeting - Roadrunner Lounge - 1:30pm

Friday, May 10 - Farewell to Lori - Main Lobby - 2-3pm

Thursday, May 16 - Resident Council Meeting - Roadrunner Lounge - 1:30pm

Friday, May 24 - Memorial Day Ceremony - Vista Sunroom and Entry - 11am

Monday, May 27 - Memorial Day Holiday - Reduced Staffing, No Transportation

Thursday, May 30 - State of the Village - Roadrunner Lounge - 2pm

Friday, May 31 - Deadline for Employee Appreciation Donations

Welcome

New Residents

New residents coming soon to a neighborhood near you.

Ann Drechsler, #232

Dorothy Parkhill, #311

Bernice Houston, #715

Caroly Opfer, #741

George Thonet, #1301

Christine Ritchey, #1410

Resident Services Announcements

West, Resident Services Director

We are pleased to announce that Brian Graybeal has been selected as our next West Resident Services Director.

Brian comes to us with a wealth of experience and a passion for community service. His background includes impressive roles such as serving as an Executive Director at the University of Incarnate Word, working with the SA Chamber of Commerce, and holding positions at the Federal Aviation Administration. Additionally, Brian brings valuable insight from his distinguished career as a retired Air Force First Sergeant. Beyond his impressive resume, Brian has already demonstrated genuine enthusiasm and gratitude for the opportunity to join our community. He is eager to immerse himself in his new role and contribute positively to our vibrant community.

While Brian's official start date is set for May 28th, he will be making intermittent visits to campus in early May for introductions and to spend some much-needed time with Lori.

When you see Brian, please join me in extending him a warm welcome!

Gate Code Reminder

The code will be disabled on Wednesday, **May 1**. If you don't have a sensor, remote, or your car is not programmed to open the gate you can still get back on Campus. Each gate has the # to reach the Front Desk – simply press that # on the keypad call box. That reaches the Front Desk, and they remotely open the gate for you. Gate sensors are available in Resident Services. Join the sensor club and get yours today. This is the easy way to access your community after hours.

Hogs & Sod

We are still actively catching the hogs that have been feasting on our sod. Maintenance is delaying the replacement of the sod until we are sure we've "relocated" the vast majority of the hogs.

TouchTown NOW Uniguest

The TouchTown Community apps have been rebranded as Uniguest Community apps. While things may look updated and refreshed, there are no feature changes within this update. Please be advised that the icon for Uniguest Community apps will look different. If you need assistance stop by the front desk and they will be happy to assist you. Training sessions will be held in June.

Here's what the App will look like:



Uniguest Community

The Uniguest Community app, formerly TouchTown, is an internal community app and is not available to the public. Sharing your username and password with folks outside of our community is highly discouraged and we ask that you refrain from doing so to protect your privacy and the privacy of your neighbor's.

Energy Audit

Maintenance is going to have an outside vendor perform an internal energy audit in the coming months. Our Director of Maintenance, Ray Cook, has done this at other organizations and was very successful in receiving rebates and implementing upgrades to help save \$\$\$'s.

Transportation To the Sky Lounge

The 3rd Saturday of each month we take a bus from West to East. IF you would like to ride the bus you **MUST** sign up at the Front Desk at least 10 days in advance, Katrina will then make reservations at the Sky Lounge for all those who signed up.

Departure time is 4:30pm.



Commemorative Coins Have Arrived

If you preordered a coin, please stop by the Front Desk to pick up your coins, Front Desk Staff will charge your account \$7 per coin (this is the price for pre orders only) – Front Desk has your pre order paperwork. All others, please stop by the Front Desk if you're interested in a commemorative coin.

Resident Services Announcements

Employee Appreciation Fund

~ BST West Resident Council

It has been a long-standing tradition for Blue Skies residents to express an additional “Thank You” through the Employee Appreciation Fund. Your gifts qualify as donations to the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation, and as such, they will be included in your annual statement of donations. You can participate by placing a check (please use checks instead of cash) into the slot marked “Employee Appreciation Fund” at the Front Desk, or by making arrangements with Finance for a specific amount to be added to your Monthly Service Statement. These funds are distributed twice a year (near the beginning of June and December) to all qualifying hourly-paid employees (with the exception of Beauty Salon employees, the only employees allowed to receive tips). Your check must be received at the Front Desk no later than Friday, **May 31** by the end of the day. Checks should be made payable to Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation (or its initials, AFVCF) and marked for Employees’ Appreciation Fund. Thank you.

Play for Freedom – Thank You!

~ Daniel Garcia Casillas

Thank you to all who supported the 30th Annual Play for Freedom Golf Tournament at The Quarry Golf Course on Friday, March 22!

With amazing generosity from corporate sponsors, individual supporters, hole sponsors, gift donors, and 132 golfers, it was a great day for our guests and a great day for Freedom House. With the help of many friends, over \$165,000 was raised to benefit memory care programs at Blue Skies.

A total of 10 residents participated this year. Congratulations to the Blue Skies Resident team of Mr. Gerhard Frisch, CMDR Ronald Miller, and Mr. Jim Cosgrove, as they join the Resident Winners’ Circle and have “braggin’ rights” for a year!

Please mark your calendars for our 31st Annual Play for Freedom Golf Tournament at The Quarry Golf Course on Friday, **March 21, 2025**. We look forward to your continued support.

State of the Village

On Thursday, **May 30** at 2pm Gen Jones will present the State of the Village update.

Carport Painting Project

The carports in Towers 3 & 4 will be painted beginning the week of June 3rd. Teresa will be coordinating this project and will need your help moving your vehicles ahead of time. Notices will be delivered ahead of time, but please keep in mind the schedule below; if you will be out of town during your time period, please ensure your vehicles are moved before you leave. Start Date: Monday, **June 3**. Two rows at a time, starting with: Rows G & H (June 3-7)
Rows C & D (June 10-14)
Rows E & F (June 17-21)
Rows A & B (June 24-28)

Older American Month (OAM)

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation’s observance of Older American Month (OAM). The 2024 theme is Powered by Connection. Here at Blue Skies of Texas we see so many powerful senior citizens and it reminds us, each and every day, that age is just a number. During this month we would like to encourage and inspire you to share what connection means to you in social media using the hashtags #PoweredByConnection and #BlueSkiesofTexas. This month at BST we will be celebrating OAM with a variety of events and activities. Please look for events in the newsletters, they will be noted with the title OAM Event.

Locks On Cabinets in CC3

The lock for cabinet #5, marked as “Village Sweet Pipes” has been changed but there is still a lot of music, etc. in the cabinet. If you are interested in this “stuff” please contact Lori or Teresa in Resident Services.

Resident Services Announcements

This Spring don't let Scammers Spring One on You... ~ Ashlie Maltos

Scammers posing as Spectrum are targeting customers with a 50% discount offer on their monthly bill for cable services over a 12-month period, which can only be activated by purchasing Target Gift Cards. This is part of a known fraud scam targeting Spectrum customers. Using all lines of communication, from text messages to phone calls and emails, scammers are offering to reduce your service cost by 50% for this Target Gift Card Offer Fraud Scheme. It may sound convincing, but it's not a valid offer from Spectrum. Spectrum will never ask you to pay your bill by gift cards (e.g. Target gift card), wire transfer, cryptocurrency, payment apps (Venmo, Zelle, CashApp, PayPal), or offer a discounted rate for a fee.



What you should do: Avoid responding to any text messages, phone calls and/or emails that sound "too good to be true". Never provide your personal account or payment information.

Here's how it works:

1. The scammer contacts you by SMS (text) or voicemail, posing as Spectrum and stating they have applied a 50% discount to your monthly bill.
2. The scammer will direct you to a phone number to call for you to keep the 50% discount offer.
3. Once you respond by calling the number, you'll be greeted by a live fraudster representative, who will ask you for the mobile phone number that received the text or voice call and your account information.
4. The scammer then will contact Spectrum Customer Care posing as you and using the info you provided to retrieve your Spectrum account billing information.
5. The scammer will then provide you with your account balance and present the 50% offer on cable services over a 12-month period, which can only be activated by purchasing a Target Gift Card or VISA Reward Card.
6. The scammer will direct you to ANY convenience store to make this purchase.
7. If you agree to this offer, you will receive a SMS communication on how to provide the Target Gift Card information to a fraudulent "Third-Party Vendor" to fulfill the agreement.
8. At this point, you'll have been scammed out of your money, as well as involved in a Gift Card scam.

Employee Anniversaries

Name	Department	Anniversary Date	Years of Service
Theresa Trenidad	Courtesy Officer	1-May	6
Jacquelyn Ramos	Finance Account Manager	2-May	2
Raven Chandler	Freedom House	3-May	1
Annalysia Baldwin	Freedom House	4-May	2
Mark White	Courtesy Officer	6-May	5
Jesse Alarcon	Courtesy Officer	10-May	5
Virginia Rodriguez	EVS Housekeeper	16-May	18
Luisa Salazar	Liberty House	18-May	3
Caromein Tanner	Dining Services	22-May	1
Genesis De Los Santos	Freedom House	25-May	2
Brianna Baldwin	Freedom House	26-May	2
Lisa Noriega	Desk Clerk	26-May	2
Brenda Cantu	Freedom House	28-May	10

Resident Services Announcements

Pest Control Schedule

	Friday, May 3	Friday, May 10	Friday, May 17	Friday, May 24
Tower Apts.	106-108, 131-138, 141-148	211-218, 221-228	231-238, 241-248	311-318. 321-328
Cottages	1100-1200	1300-1400	1500	1600
Ranch Homes	860, 862, 863, 864	865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 871	803, 805, 807, 809, 903, 907	804, 806, 808, Pavilion #3
Specials	Village Center, Kitchen, The Vista Office and A Wing	Exterior of Main Tower Building	Liberty House, The Vista B and C Wings	Freedom House: Int. and Ex.

Resident Updates

Freedom House Support Group

The Freedom House Support Group will meet on Thursday, **May 2** at 1:30pm in the Freedom House Chapel. Residents from East and West campus are invited. If you have loved ones residing in Freedom House or are at home caring for loved ones with memory problems, please join us.

Village Voices ~ Nancy Sowada

The Village Voices began their spring performance schedule on Tuesday, April 30, at Blue Skies East. We will perform on Thursday, **May 2**, at 7:30pm at Blue Skies West in the Main Lobby. The Village Voices will also be singing at The Mission and Freedom House on Tuesday, **May 7** and at Liberty House on Tuesday, **May 14**. We lost our accompanist, Judy Hooge, to health problems, and we welcome Geoffrey Waite as our accompanist this spring. We had to be flexible with rehearsals, and we are sure you will enjoy our program of music from Broadway shows including Annie Get Your Gun, Les Misérables, South Pacific and more! We are so appreciative of your donations to the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Council and the Air Force Village Charitable Fund. Your donations help us purchase new music and pay our accompanist and director. Thank you! Please join us for our performances in May!

In-flight Aerial Photography

~ Robert Certain

The Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society will hold our monthly program on Wednesday, **May 8** at 10am in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies of Texas West. John Shore's son Michael is a professional photographer. For ten years his focus was aviation, primarily civilian aviation, and the airshow profession. He was identified as one of the five best aviation photographers in the industry. This opened the door to new opportunities photographing some of the best aerobatic performers and performances in the United States.

John will tell their story and show some amazing photos taken from their A-36 Bonanza platform. The talk will feature videos and photos taken at Oshkosh as well as other airshows or practice facilities. All residents of Blue Skies East or West and their guests are welcome to attend.

Deadline for the next Roadrunner is
Wednesday, **May 22**
Send articles to roadrunner@blueskiestx.org
Next Publication Date: Friday, **May 31**

Resident Updates

May 8 B & A Celebrates Flowers

~ Corlea Plowman

All BST West residents and guests are invited to celebrate May Flowers, Wednesday, **May 8**, at the Birthday and Anniversary event (B & A). Doors open for the hosted Social Hour in CC1-3 Rooms at 5pm. Dinner service in the Lakeview Room is at 6pm. DJ Tony will provide the entertainment.

Bob Howen will be available to take Birthday & Anniversary pictures from 4-5:30pm in the Helen LeMay Room. Please check in with Judy Howen.

The dinner includes:

STARTER: Shrimp in Coconut Milk

ENTRÉE: Coffee crusted pork tenderloin with bourbon mushroom sauce, served with smoked Gouda-whipped Yukon potatoes and roasted butternut squash

DESSERT: Tres Leches with Cinnamon Whipped Cream

BREAD: Pita Bread

Water, Coffee or Iced Tea

\$28 Per Person

Alternative Entrée: Salmon

Dinner reservations are required. All those planning to attend, including guests, must sign up on the Sign-Up List in CC3. If you need to cancel after 11am Monday, May 6, call the Dining Services Office (210-568-3232). If you wish to create a table of 6-8, call Bonnie Gardner or Donna Bowman. Seating will be assigned for all others. Reservations are not taken through the Dining Room for this event. Social Hour hosts are John & Diana Dill, Fidel & Eppie Exconde, Ed & Carolyn Gruber, Don Hallager, Roger & Carol Hansen, Dave & Sallie Hennessy, Jane Hill, Robert & Kyle Hood, Tom & Karen Keck, Ralph & Edith Kelly, Winston Padgett, Alfred & Kathleen Ramsey, Tom (chair) & June Reedy, Pollyanna Randal, Larry Runge, Rita Schmidt, John & Susanne Shore, Alan & Sandi Snyder, Howard & Edie Talley, Jim & Clare Taylor, and Dan Van Syoc.

Dining Room Advisory Council ~ Leo Bell

The Dining Room Advisory Committee (DRAC) thanks Lori DeWitt for her tremendous and many contributions to BSTW. She has long been a great ally in the resident services and our Boss. Thank you, Lori. We will miss you.

Our new DRAC secretary is Barbara Wilson, Esq. Thank you, Barbara, and welcome to DRAC. Barbara will head our menu standing committee and interface with the chefs, Guy, and Nikki.

Please be mindful of the dinner reservations you make. Particularly, be thoughtful of the special buffet dinner. BSTW had over 60 residents who made reservations and DID NOT SHOW UP OR CANCELLED the Easter buffet. Residents on the waiting list missed the opportunity. Please be considerate of others on a dining waiting list. Please don't make this a problem we have to solve by charging NO-SHOWS.

There is another month left on our non-alcoholic wine test. The only way to maintain the selection is through purchase. Our dining selections are demand driven.

Our monthly best front-of-the-house winner is K'eambi Lawson. Our best back-of-the-house winner is Shaun Pressnell. Congrats and thank you to both of these super BSTW family members.

The next DRAC meeting is Thursday, **May 9**, at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. There won't be a DRAC meeting in July. The coffee-with-the-chef, scheduled for Thursday, July 4, Independence Day, may change. Please look for notices next month.

Resident Updates

Gadabouts ~ Nan Smith

On Friday, **May 10**, the Gadabouts will dine at the Red Lobster on SW Loop 410. All are welcome to join us to experience wonderful cuisine. The sign-up sheet is located in CC-3. Be in the lobby at 10:15am; the bus leaves at 10:30am. Check-in with JoAnn Oldham before we depart. If you are using a walker, please put a "W" by your name on the sign-up sheet.

Resident Council Meeting

The Blues Skies Texas West Residents' Council meeting will be held on Thursday, **May 16**, at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. Hear updates on financials, activities, and news about our community. All residents are invited to attend.

Blue Skies Handbells ~ Nancy Sowada

The Blue Skies West Handbells look forward to seeing you at Blue Skies East on Friday, May 3, at 2pm, in the CC Rooms and at Blue Skies West on Friday, **May 17**, at 2pm in the Main Lobby. In addition, we will play at Freedom House on Wednesday, **May 8** and Liberty House on Friday, **May 10**. Our program includes a wide variety of music from American, English, and German folk songs to classical music pieces and patriotic music. We use a variety of different bell playing techniques which we will show you. After our performances in May, we will take a break from rehearsals until August. We are so appreciative of your donations to the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Council. Your donations help us keep our bells in good working order and help us to purchase new music. Thank you! Please join us for our performances in May!

Red Hat Luncheon ~ Vivian Ray

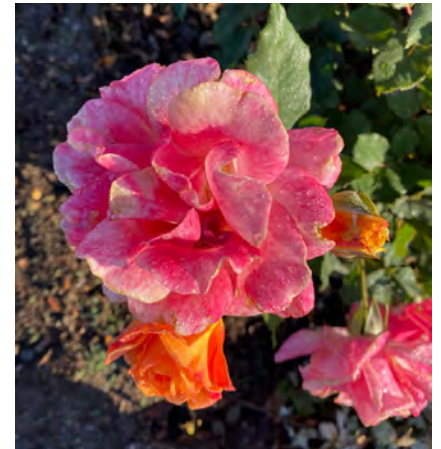
This month's lunch is hosted by Mary Kay Ingram and Mary Lou Sneed on Friday, **May 17**, at 11:30a m. We will be dining at P.F. Chang's - La Cantera 15900 La Cantera Pkwy., Bldg. #1, Ste 1100, San Antonio, TX 78256. Please be in the lobby by 10:30am. The bus leaves at 10:45am. **When you sign up on the sheet, you must indicate "W" if you are using a walker or wheelchair because the bus only accommodates one wheelchair. If you sign up and can't go, it is essential that you remove your name from the sheet by the Wednesday morning before the luncheon. If you do not remove your name, you will be considered a "no call, no show," and will be charged the transportation cost. Please don't prevent someone on the waiting list from attending because you didn't take your name off the list in time.**

Walking Group Stops at the Garden ~ Dottie Conner

On a recent walk with the Seasoned Soles walking group, everyone stopped at the Garden to admire John Paul Sullivan's roses.



The roses were in full bloom and beautiful.



Resident Updates

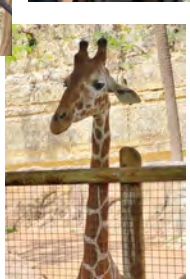
WARD ~ Betty Overacker

Yearly, “World Amateur Radio Day” (WARD) occurs on 18 April to celebrate the formation of the “International Amateur Radio Union” (IARU) in Paris on this date in 1925. The purpose of this organization is to promote the interest and need of amateur radio worldwide, and to protect and enhance its spectrum privileges. IAU’s first president was Hiram Percy Maxim, the co-founder of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Today, IARU is a federation of more than 160 national amateur radio organizations in as many countries and separate territories. The IARU works tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio. WARD’s theme for 2024 is “A century of Connections: “Celebrating 100 years of Amateur Radio Innovation, Community, and Advocacy”. All are welcome to attend the next BST Amateur Radio Club Meeting on Tuesday, **May 21**, in Meeting Room 110 at 11:30am. Please contact Bob Stuckert for more information. 73—(Best regards in Ham Language)

Blue Skies at the San Antonio Zoo

~ Dottie Conner

On a recent Friday, Blue Skies took a bus load of residents to the San Antonio Zoo, to take advantage of Zoo Day. The weather was beautiful and fascinated residents could be spotted all over the zoo taking in the sights of the animals, reptiles, and birds and talking to the zoo docents about them.



Rotary Corner ~ Debby Cox

We are very fortunate that the San Antonio West Rotary Club meets right here at Blue Skies of Texas West. This month we will be meeting on Tuesday, **May 21**. As usual the meetings will be held in the Roadrunner Lounge from 12-1pm.

Everyone is always welcome to attend any of our meetings to hear one of the dynamic speakers we are always fortunate to attract.

Last month we met three talented students



from Southwest Legacy High School who will be the recipients of our three Rotary scholarships this year. We were also graced by the presence of our District Youth Leadership Chair, who talked about the amazing service projects performed right in our schools by Elementary EarlyAct teams through our High School Interact Clubs. He also talked about our Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA), a weeklong camp for high school juniors, and our international student exchange program.

On Tuesday, May 21, we will hear from two of our newest Rotary members, Dan Van Syoc and Jane Hill, who will describe our latest service project to raise funds for Alzheimer’s Research at the Biggs Institute for Alzheimer’s and Neurodegenerative Diseases at UT Health San Antonio. This is a subject that should be of great interest to all of us here at Blue Skies and we would love to have more of you involved. Please join us and feel free to bring your lunch with you.

If you have any questions or would like to receive an invitation to join Rotary, please contact: Debby Cox (see resident directory). You can also visit our web site to learn more:

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/8167>.

Resident Updates



Wear a Poppy on National Poppy Day and Memorial Day ~ Ginny Callanan

Traditional red crepe paper poppies were made by our Veterans to honor those who were killed in WWI. Congress established National Poppy Day in 1924 as the Friday before Memorial Day – Friday, **May 24** this year. Subsequently, it has been expanded to honor all of those who served and died in any of our wars. How did the poppy, classified as a weed, become a national symbol of sacrifice for those who died in our wars? The poppy was the inspiration for the famous poem "In Flanders Fields" written by Lt Col John McCrae, a Canadian doctor who served on the front lines in WWI. He was struck by the sight of the resilient red poppies growing amidst the carnage of the fallen on the desolate battlefields. If you read the poem, visualize the poppies as a soldier's war reflections, and in the last verse the fallen soldier's expectations for us to continue their fight for our country.

Volunteers will have poppies available (in the lobby, outside the dining room, and other locations) for all the residents and staff on Thursday and Friday, **May 23 and 24**. If you would like to make a donation, you may do so when you get your poppy. All the donations will go to the San Antonio non-profit "Military Warrior Support Foundation" for their programs to support combat-wounded veterans and Gold Star spouses/families.

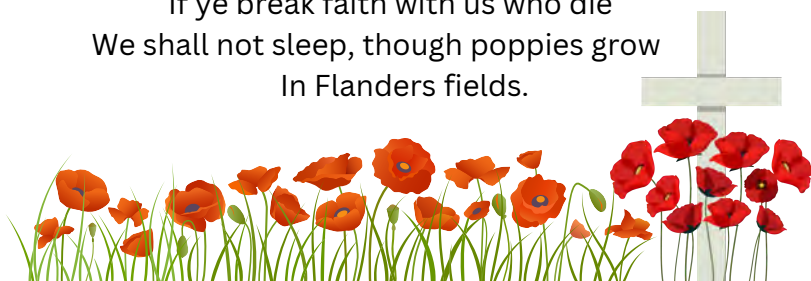
Finally, if you plan to attend the BSTW Memorial Day Ceremony on Friday, **May 24**, at 11am, be sure to wear your poppy and again on Memorial Day, Monday, **May 29**.

In Flanders Fields by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Memorial Day Event ~ Jim Conner

A Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at Blue Skies of Texas West on Friday, **May 24**, starting at 11am. All residents who have passed on since the last Memorial Day will be named during the Ceremony. The event will be held from the sun porch of the Vista. There will be a brief Ceremony reciting the names of the departed and songs from the Village Voices. The John Jay High School drill teams will perform in front of this area following the formal Ceremony. Residents will have an opportunity to have lunch with the Cadets in the Vista dining area. Morrison will make box lunches which will include a choice of three sandwiches, chips, fruit, and a brownie. Residents who wish to participate or contribute need to sign up with Jim Conner or Tom Cochran. The cost for the lunches (\$16.00 each) will be prorated to participating residents as a catering cost.

Resident Updates

Resident of the Month

In August 2021, Jack Church commenced his journey on our Residence Council when he replaced Jack Briggs as his area representative. At Jack's first meeting as an area representative, he addressed issues concerning residents' work orders, the status of decorative ponds, and praised the library volunteer staff. His service and community concerns led to his unanimous approval to serve as the RC Vice Chair in 2022. Upon Stet Reid's termination, Jack volunteered to run for the 2023 RC Chairperson. He was unopposed and was unanimously approved. His first



meeting as the RC Chair revealed his expectations in his initial presentation: "Outlook 2023 for the RC", which stressed that the RC is the voice of the residents stating: "We are here to serve all residents." He encouraged residents to improve our Village environment by walking around, and if we see a problem, we should try to fix it, or initiate a work order so management can fix it. Under Jack's leadership, the RC Bylaws, Policies and Procedures were revised; the "Challenge/Commemorative Coin" initiative was started; residents were polled for their preference for guest speakers; and residents were encouraged to complete the "Resident Survey". Jack loves music, is very social, and enjoys entertaining others. Several times yearly, Jack sponsors Karaoke parties where he brings his own electronic equipment; has a large screen present to display the songs' words; and colored lighting to enhance the party atmosphere. Residents dance, sing, perform skits, recite jokes, and have a joyous evening. Thank you, Jack, for leading us and sharing your musical talents to entertain us! Nominated by Betty Overacker and Susan Griffith.

Thunderbird Air Show

Residents from both East and West attended the recent Thunderbird Airshow at Randolph AFB. They were met by an escort, who arranged a cart to take residents from the bus to VIP shade seating for the show. It was a terrific show, and residents enjoyed their seats very close to the runway.



Resident Updates

Thrift Shop Announcement ~ Annie Moore

After two plus decades in the current location, the thrift shop will be getting a well-deserved expansion and a new look. We will be closed during the month of June and the first few weeks of July while the renovation is taking place. We will have more room for our donated “treasures” and will also be more handicap accessible. NO donations will be accepted during the time the thrift shop is being renovated. Once we’re officially open mid-July, we will be accepting donations.

We want to thank ALL our residents for their generosity of donated items to the Thrift Shop and Furniture Store. We have been able to give back to the Village where everyone benefits from our sales.

This closure will not affect Thrift Shop furniture or electronics sales.

Resident Concert Series Review

~ Marti Wessman

The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation sponsored Residents’ Concert Series presented a concert at Blue Skies of Texas West campus on Sunday, April 14. A nice crowd from the East and West campus enjoyed The US Air Force Band of the West Spectrum Winds. The sextet played nine pieces with lots of energy that the audience enjoyed. The musical pieces were upbeat, and it made for a pleasant and happy afternoon. Each of the musicians explained the pieces they were going to play. The diverse group of three women and three men made a good impression and made us proud of these members of the US Air Force. Refreshments and conversation were enjoyed by many who stayed afterwards to enjoy some time with fellow residents and the musicians.

Thrift Shop Guidelines – Donating Furniture ~ Susan Shumaker

1. Please call Susan Shumaker or Sandy Seigel (Resident Directory).
2. Furniture must be in clean, usable condition (no rips or tears). Please remember, if you would like to donate furniture, we must see the item before it is picked up. This ensures that we will have space for your donated item.
3. We will contact Environmental Services to pick up your item. Donated items will be picked up as Environmental Services schedule permits.
4. Please DO NOT discard furniture in the lower-level maintenance hallway; please call Larissa at Environmental Services (210-568-3241).

Many thanks to all of our residents and staff for supporting BSTW Thrift Shop furniture sales.

Solar Eclipse

On April 8, Blue Skies West gardeners and their friends gathered at the gardens to watch the eclipse. Clouds covered part of it, but there were some showings as the eclipse progressed, and during totality the birds went silent, the world went darker, and the streetlights came on. It was fun to be with friends and companions then!



Resident Updates

April Wildflower Update ~ Marti Wessman

Our continued effort at Blue Skies of Texas West, to enhance the Wildflower Conservation Area, is going well. The rains seemed to be enough for the wildflowers to bloom in abundance. We did have too many areas of Bastard Cabbage (aka Black Mustard), which is a weed that we didn't want. But it was a sea of bright yellow, which was beautiful. It has now gone to seed, and we can hope there won't be as much next year. The good news is that we had very pretty Texas Bluebonnets, Desert Chicory, Silverleaf Nightshade and Indian Paintbrush. The Indian Blanket was so beautiful and prolific. I hope BSTW residents have seen and enjoyed the wildflowers we have on campus. As spring is followed by summer, we will have more and different wildflowers to be enjoyed by all.



Encore

The BSTW Sunday Afternoon Concert on April 21st went very well. 55 residents attended the concert, and we were asked by several residents who could not attend to hold a repeat performance.

In response to their request, and rather than in person, we'll broadcast the hour-long program on the 1890 channel. Teresa Santana is looking at dates in May and will announce the selected dates/times for the broadcast once they've been decided.

Fiesta – Taste of Blue Skies ~ Jim & Dottie Conner

Marketing and Blue Skies Activities teamed up to host an amazing Fiesta Event! If you missed it, you missed a good one. Thanks to all who participated and worked so hard to make it great!



Sports, Games, & Scores

Seasoned Soles ~ Pat and John MacIntyre

The Seasoned Soles walked or ran several races this month, so rather than try to name each person in each race, we will just name award winners, and show group photos when possible. Our final March race occurred after the deadline for the Roadrunner, so here are the results: the Soles finished March by participating in the Lions Club Stride for Sight 5K. Pat Perry and John MacIntyre both won age group awards.

On April 6, a group of Seasoned Soles turned out to walk or run the Coast Guard virtual 5K and 10K races here at Blue Skies West. Vice Admiral Kent Williams presented the medals to the participants. To celebrate the Eclipse, Pat and John MacIntyre ran the Total Eclipse 10K at Blue Skies as a virtual race on April 8th.

The following Saturday, April 13, a large group of Soles walked or ran the Tour de Castroville 5K and 10K. Cynthia Cochran, Susan Woodrow, and Dan VanSyoc all won first place awards in the 5K, and Harlan Sager won a second place award. The Schusters and the MacIntyres all completed the 10K, while all our other racers completed the 5K. In total, 12 residents of Blue Skies West participated. The final race of the month was the San Antonio Road Runners Mission 5K and 10K, held on April 21 at Mission Park on Padre Drive. The race is run along the Mission Trail and the San Antonio River. Pat MacIntyre won first place in her age group, and John MacIntyre won second place in his. Cynthia Cochran ran the 5K and other Soles completed the 10K race.

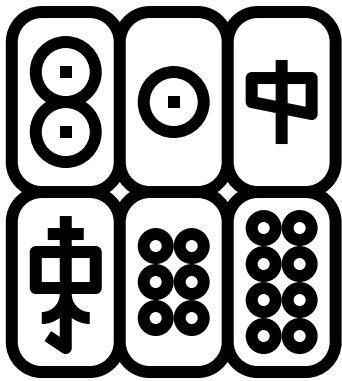


Sports, Games, & Scores

Bridge Results ~ Stu Flood

We play party bridge on Mondays, relaxed duplicate (not ACBL Certified) bridge on Thursdays and one Tuesday a month. Sign up in CC3.

	1 Place	2 Place	3 Place	4 Place
April 15	Hood / Skukas	Cowans	Higginbotham / Newman	Baden / Reedy
April 16	Woody and CW / Eleanor and Gail Tied		Cowans	Win and Connie
April 22	Germann / Wesson	Flood / Wood	Cowans	Padgett and Fair



Mahjong ~ Nan Smith

Wright Patterson Mahjong meets every Tuesday at 1pm in CC-3. National Mahjong meets every Wednesday at 12:30pm and Friday at 1pm in CC-3.

All are welcome. Please come and join us. We will teach you how to play if you are new to the game.

Tennis & Pickleball ~ Linda Prose



Our Tennis and Pickleball courts offer a great opportunity for fun and exercise. Please come out and join us for Tennis on Monday and Friday mornings and for Pickleball on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. My phone number is in the Resident Directory. See y'all out there!

Bunco ~ JoAnn Oldham

The Ladies Bunco group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 in CC3. Bring \$1 for the "POT" and join in the fun of this fast-paced game. A group of ladies meet in the Roadrunner Lounge and enjoy dinner together in The Lakeview before Bunco. Bring a friend and \$1 and join us for a fun-filled LADIES NIGHT OUT.

Winners for April

Joyce Ann Goodwin, Jane Hill, Corlea Plowman, Cathy Bee, Brenda Perry, Susan Flood, Betty Chalfont

Spiritual News

Catholic News

Saturdays - 11am Mass (For Sunday by special dispensation of the San Antonio Archbishop) in the High Flight Chapel

Second Saturday of the Month - Birthdays and Anniversaries will be recognized with a special blessing at Saturday Mass

Saturdays/Sundays - Freedom House: Catholic residents will be visited, beginning about 1:30pm, with Holy Communion and prayers

Wednesdays - 9am, Communion Service in the Vista Willow Chapel

First Wednesdays – 9:30am, Benediction and Adoration following Communion Service in the Vista Willow Chapel

Third Wednesdays – 9:30am, Rosary following Communion Service in the Vista Willow Chapel

Fridays – 3-4pm, Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration in the Vista Willow Chapel

Third Tuesday – 10am, Catholic Council meets in Conference Room #110. Guests are welcome.

Pastoral Care - To meet privately with a priest for Reconciliation or Anointing, please contact Fr. Richard Bendorf (see Resident Directory)

Homebound - If you are homebound and unable to attend Mass but would like to receive Holy Communion, you may contact John Siebert, Rebecca Vallejo, Barbara Wilson, or Mary Tucker by phone, text, or email and they will arrange for a Lay Eucharistic Minister to bring the Holy Eucharist to your apartment/cottage (see Resident Directory).

Hospital Visits - Most hospitals have a Catholic priest available; ask a staff member to contact a priest.

Protestant Church

Regular Services

High Flight Chapel – Sunday 9:30am and 11am

Sunday service is repeated at 10:30am on Wednesday on Channel 1890 or the Main Lobby monitors. Fellowship time between services 10:30-11am

Freedom House – Sundays at 10:45am

Liberty House 3rd level – Thursday at 10:30am

Pray For Our Nation happens the 1st and 3rd Friday at 10am in the Helen LeMay Room.

We also have Bible Study groups and other activities. If you are interested in joining our congregation or wish to speak to either Pastors Wayne Knutson or Pastor Dan Figueroa please leave a message with the church office at 210-568-3372 and they will be in touch.

Episcopal Church Services with the Holy Eucharist continue on Thursdays at 3pm in the High Flight Chapel.

