

# ROADRUNNER

NOVEMBER 2024

VOLUME 2024-11



## FROM THE DIRECTOR ~ BRIAN GRAYBEAL

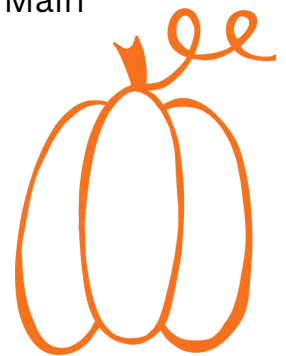
### Exciting Month Ahead: Thanksgiving and more!

As we move into November, there's plenty to look forward to, and it all starts with the spirit of Thanksgiving! This month is about gratitude, gathering, and making memories. Thanksgiving Day will be a highlight, giving us a chance to enjoy time with family and friends, reflect on what we're thankful for and appreciate the times we've shared and memories we have of loved ones. November will be filled with activities and events, so stay tuned for more details on what's coming up. I hope you all make the most of this exciting month and keep the momentum going as we head toward the end of the year!

### Breakfast with the Board of Directors ~ Brig Gen (Ret) Chuck Potter, Chair

Please join members of the Blue Skies of Texas Board of Directors for coffee and a light breakfast on Thursday, **November 14** from 9-9:45am in the Main Lobby. We look forward to visiting with the BST West residents.

THANKFUL



## Save the Date:

Friday, November 1 – Dia De Los Muertos Gathering – Main Lobby – 2pm

Sunday, November 3 - Daylight Savings - Set Clocks Back 1 hour

Friday, November 8 - Market Days - Main Lobby - 9am-2pm

Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony - Main Lobby - 11am

Thursday, November 14 - DRAC Meeting - Roadrunner Lounge - 1:30pm

Thursday, November 21 - Resident Council Meeting - Roadrunner Lounge - 1:30pm

Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving Holiday for Blue Skies Employees

Welcome

## New Residents

New residents coming soon to a neighborhood near you.

**Ronald & Susan Fleckenstein, #615**

**Sam & Mary Hegert, #735**

**Katherine Keenan, #2612**

**Fred Koechley, #136**

**Bob Seper, #422**

# Resident Services Announcements

## New Security Protocol at Gates

### Driver's License or approved Identification Now Required for Non-Blue Skies Decal Holders

In a move aimed at bolstering security, all personnel entering Blue Skies facilities will now be required to present a valid driver's license or approved Identification if they do not possess a Blue Skies vehicle decal. The change, effective Sunday, **November 1**, comes as part of a broader effort to streamline gate access and ensure the safety of our residents, workforce and property.

### Why the Change?

The new rule is intended to provide an additional layer of verification for those without the Blue Skies decal, which previously allowed for quicker entry through gate checkpoints. We've always taken security seriously, but as we grow, it's essential that we tighten access control to prevent unauthorized entry. This change will ensure that only personnel who are properly vetted can access the facility.

### What You Need to Know

1. **Who Does This Affect?** Anyone without a Blue Skies vehicle decal, including visitors, contractors, and temporary employees, must now present a valid driver's license upon arrival.
2. **What About Those with Decals?** Residents, employees and regular contractors with a Blue Skies decal are unaffected by this change. Their decals will still provide seamless entry.
3. **Possible Temporary Inconveniences** While the new protocol aims to improve long-term security, there may be some initial delays as the new system is implemented. Drivers are encouraged to have their licenses readily available to expedite the process.

### Future Adjustments Possible

Additional updates to the security system could follow, with reviews planned regularly to assess the effectiveness of the new measures. Blue Skies encourages all personnel to comply with the new rules and remain patient during the transition phase.

For more information or questions about this change, please reach out to the Blue Skies Residents Services Team.

## Reminders

- Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, **November 3**.
- Thanksgiving Holiday for Blue Skies Employees is Thursday and Friday, **November 28 and 29**. There will be no transportation and minimal staff on campus.

## Blue Skies Artists

All the art that is currently on display needs to come down by Saturday, **November 30**. Teresa Santana and Aleisha Dillard will be decking the walls with holiday decorations the week of December 2. In the beginning of January there will be a new sign-up sheet in the art room for the artists wishing to display their art pieces for the next hanging period.

## Alterations Announcement

Patricia Bobo will not be available for the month of November. She will be resuming services in December. Patricia is available to take appointments at this time for December, a sign-up sheet is available in CC3.

## Guest Room Reservations

Reminder, reservations can be made no more than three months in advance of the date of the arrival of your guests.

# Resident Services Announcements

## **Pumpkin Spice But Scammers are NOT Nice! ~ Ashlie Maltos**

Have you received a call saying we are trying to authorize the payment of \$1499 for the recent order of Apple MacBook Pro on your amazon account. If you do not authorize this payment, please press one to speak to our customer support representative. DO NOT press one! This scam is a way for the scammers to wobble into a conversation so they can steal your information. If you do not recognize a phone number, let the phone call go to voicemail.



## **Employee Appreciation Fund ~ BST West Resident Council**

It has been a long-standing tradition for Blue Skies' residents to express an additional "Thank You" to its hourly employees through gifts to the Employee Appreciation Fund. Your gifts qualify as donations to the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation, and as such, will be included in your annual statement of donations next January. You can participate by placing a check (preferable to cash) into the slot marked "Employee Appreciation Fund" on the side of the Front Desk area, or by making arrangements with Finance to add a specific amount to your monthly service statement, one-time or ongoing. These funds are distributed twice a year, i.e., in early June and early December, to all qualifying, hourly-paid employees. Beauty Salon employees are the only exception, as they are the only employees allowed to receive tips. The cutoff for donations to be applied to the upcoming semi-annual Appreciation Fund distribution is Friday, November 15 at noon. You may leave checks at the Front Desk or take them to the Corporate Office; they should be made payable to AFVCF (Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation), with "Employee Appreciation Fund" on the comment line. Please note as well that these gifts are classified as charitable because they are applied to the entire pool of hourly employees, i.e., we are unable to forward a particular donation to an individual hourly staff member, nor a small group of employees (in Dining Services, at The Mission, etc.). Finally, in terms of your donation's impact: Along with hourly staff you see day in and day out, such as wait staff, housekeepers, custodians, Front Desk clerks, courtesy officers, and Maintenance technicians, there are also behind-the-scenes employees who benefit from this fund, including cooks and utility workers, Finance clerks, overnight Front Desk and Courtesy Officer teams, and overnight nursing and assisted living staff. Thank you for considering a gift to this fund!

## **Lakeview Reservations**

Starting December 1, Lakeview Dining Room will once again be accepting dinner and Sunday brunch reservations seven days per week on a trial basis! Stay tuned for more details, which will be provided in the coming weeks through Resident Services.

## **In Memoriam**

David Capito - September 28

Thomas Sims - October 1

James Cowan - October 13

Shirelle McCabe - October 26

# Resident Services Announcements

## Eagle Dinner 2024 ~ Daniel Garcia Casillas

On Thursday, Oct 17, Blue Skies of Texas was proud to host the 25th Annual Eagle Dinner. This dinner recognizes the generosity of our long-standing and new Eagle Donors: those individuals and companies who have contributed \$25,000 or more, in one or more gifts, to support the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation. Our theme this year was “Kentucky Derby”, featuring (run for the) roses – and mint juleps – as part of this festive celebration.

Our first thanks, of course, go to all our Eagle Donors! Because of your generosity, we provide confidential assistance to residents in need through no fault of their own, provide for unbudgeted enhancements at both campuses, make the Concert Series possible, and support BST staff through the Employee Emergency Fund and the Employee Assistance Fund. With others who support the charitable programs of AFVCF, you make a great positive difference!

We also offer our gratitude to all who made this a wonderful event for our attendees:

- Chef Geronimo, Chef Avin and fellow Morrison chefs, Guy, Nikki, Judith, and the entire Dining Services staff ensured a very pleasant reception, as well as wonderful cuisine and service at the Eagle Dinner itself.
- Many thanks to Leonard Contracting for their sponsorship of the photo booth again this year, and to Garrison Brothers Distillery for providing the mint juleps at the reception.
- Agarita Chamber Players, with our Chief Growth Officer Sarah Manzke on violin, provided exceptional musical entertainment before the awards ceremony for our newest Eagles.
- Twelve BST employees, in addition to General Jones and the Development staff, volunteered to stay after hours and help to welcome guests, coordinate registration, assist those participating in the photo booth, and serve wine at the dinner. We are also grateful to Larissa and her Environmental Services team, arranging the reception and dining areas and ensuring audiovisual needs were in order.

We are pleased and honored to offer this “annual lifetime benefit” to our Eagle Donors, and we look forward to honoring our longstanding and new Eagles once again in 2025!

New Eagle honorees in attendance: (Group photo: from top left to right - **New Eagles**)

Lt Gen Darrell Jones, Gen Mike Hostage,  
**Maj Gen Glen Shaffer, Mr. Bill Bushman,**  
Brig Gen Chuck Potter, Mrs. Kathy Hostage,  
**Mrs. Kathy Shaffer, Mr. Jim Jeffery,**  
**Mrs. Susan Bushman, Mrs. Sandy Terry,**  
Mrs. Marissa Potter, **COL John MacIntyre,**  
**Mrs. Pat MacIntyre**

*New Eagles unable to attend (not pictured):*

*Mr. Paul Flynn;*

*Gen Paul Hester, USAF (Ret);*

*Lt Col Frederic & Mrs. Lois Jones;*

*Mrs. Annemarie E. Newman;*

*Gen Michael E. Ryan, USAF (Ret) & Mrs. Jane Ryan;*

*Lt Col Loren “Frosty” Welch, USAF (Ret)*



## Resident Services Announcements

### Pest Control Schedule

	Friday, November 1	Friday, November 8	Friday, November 15	Friday, November 22
<b>Tower Apts.</b>	106-108, 131-138, 141-148	211-218, 221-228	231-238, 241-248	311-318, 321-328
<b>Cottages</b>	1100-1200	1300-1400	1500	1600
<b>Ranch Homes</b>	860, 862, 863, 864	865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 871	803, 805, 807, 809, 903, 907	804, 806, 808, Pavilion 3
<b>Specials</b>	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.



## *Employee Anniversaries*

	Location	Anniversary Date	Years of Service
Christy Perez	EVS Housekeeper	November 2	1
Bridget Smith	Freedom House	November 3	4
Erika Provencher	Capital Projects	November 6	1
Arielle Corona	Freedom House	November 6	9
John Escamilla	Courtesy Officer	November 6	9
Irene Tomei	Marketing	November 9	8
Carol Estala	Activities Coordinator	November 13	9
Alejandra Avilez	Hospice	November 16	3
Wendy Sobczyk	Finance	November 24	10
Judith Rodriguez	Dining Services	November 25	5
Rose Carrazco	Human Resources	November 28	2
The Fonz Mendez	Courtesy Officer	November 30	3

# Resident Updates

## AFIO Chapter Meeting

Intelligence presentations by the San Antonio Chapter of The Association of Former Intelligence Officers will resume on Monday, **November 4** at 12pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. The presentation will be on the Israeli and Gaza War, providing us with background and insights from the faculty of the Naval War College. The Naval War College (NWC or NAVWARCOL in Navy talk) is the **staff college** and "Home of Thought" for the United States Navy. The NWC educates and develops leaders, supports defining the future Navy and associated roles and missions, supports combat readiness, and strengthens global maritime partnerships. More than 50,000 students have graduated since its first class of 9 students in 1885. About 300 of today's active-duty admirals, generals, and senior executive service leaders are alumni. All Blue Skies residents are welcome to attend.

## Great Courses ~ David Brands

The Great Courses, previously conducted by Cindy Jacox and the Castroville Library, have come to an end following Cindy's retirement. The courses are now being run here at Blue Skies. Every Monday evening, we will run two 30-minute lectures. The present course, Communism in Decline, will conclude in mid-November. At that time attendees will select the next course. All are welcome to join us every Monday evening at 7pm in the Roadrunner Lounge.

## Rotary Corner ~ Debby Cox

The San Antonio West Rotary Club meets here at Blue Skies of Texas West, so it is easy for any resident to attend any of our meetings to hear one of our great speakers or to learn more about our service projects. We meet the first and third Tuesday of every month in the Roadrunner Lounge from 12-1pm and you are welcome to bring your lunch.

Our Tuesday, **November 5** speaker is yet TBD so we may just let current members tell us more about themselves. You may be surprised to learn that almost half our members do not live at Blue Skies, so this will give you an opportunity to meet some of the leaders from our community. Plus, Tuesday, November 5 is Election Day so don't forget to vote!

Our Tuesday, **November 15** speaker will be the program director, Dr. Roxane Delgado, of the UT Health School of Nursing program. She will speak on support for families living with dementia. Here's a link to their website: <https://utcaregivers.org/>. This national award-winning program recently expanded its scope to include family caregivers for military and veterans.

A sneak peak into our Tuesday, **December 3** speaker: Dr. Rafael Veraza will tell a powerful story about his time in Botswana as a Rotary Foundation scholar and its follow-on with polio immunizations in the Americas.

Everyone enjoyed learning about labyrinths from Robert Ferre, and Rotary's "End Polio Now" campaign, at the October meetings. Rotary also sponsored a table at the BST Walk for Alzheimer's and earned over \$ 700 to support our latest project to raise funds to support more research by the Biggs institute. Rotary set up a collection table on October 24 and 25 in honor of World Polio Day. Thanks to everyone who helped with either of these projects.

If you know of any local needs that Rotary might help to address, or if you would like to learn more about Rotary membership, please call Debby Cox (see Resident Roster). You can learn more about our club and projects by visiting our web site or Facebook page:

<https://www.RotaryClubofSanAntonioWest.org> or  
<https://www.facebook.com/RotarySAWest>



# Resident Updates

## Freedom House Dementia Caregivers Support Group ~ Jane Hill

The Freedom House Support Group will meet on Thursday, **November 7** at 1:30pm in the Freedom House chapel. If available, join us for lunch at noon in the Lakeview Dining Room. The group is open to all those affected by loved ones with memory issues, such as Alzheimer's. This is a forum to share experiences and receive guidance and support. If you are planning to bring your loved ones, please RSVP to Annabell Garcia at 210-838-6301 or email: [annabellgarcia@blueskiestx.org](mailto:annabellgarcia@blueskiestx.org).

## PEO Wreath Sale

Only one week left! Sales for wreaths, door swags and quilt tickets will happen on the following dates from 11am-1pm by the entrance to the food service line and upstairs by the Mailboxes from 1-3pm:

Friday, November 1
Monday, November 4
Wednesday, November 6
Friday, November 8

Quilt tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20.



Wreaths and door swags are \$30 each and include a mister to keep the greens fresher longer.

All proceeds will be used for a scholarship for a young woman.



Noble Fir Door Swag – Newly designed for guaranteed sustainability and quality, this item is the perfect alternative to a wreath. Includes 1 set of snow dusted cones and a red bow. Approximately 30"x19".

Noble Fir 22" Wreath – Fresh, fragrant Noble fir wreath in a traditional arrangement, includes a red velvet water repellent bow and two snowy pine cone clusters for easy attaching.



## Holiday Decorating Committee ~ Pat Perry

The holidays are fast approaching, and the Christmas Decorating Committee is already in planning mode. This committee decorates the main BSW building, the front entrance and portico, the hallway to Liberty House, and lots of other spots, including the two gatehouses and other outdoor locations. The committee also manages the annual Trees of Stars fundraiser. A table will be in the Main Lobby, close to the mailboxes, where you can purchase a star in memory or honor of someone, beginning on Monday, **November 4** and running till Thanksgiving. The funds raised will be donated this year to the Hagauer Memorial Scholarship Program, which offers funding to Blue Skies employees or their dependents for higher education. We would love to have your help in any of these activities. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact one of us and we will find you an area that needs your expertise. There is always plenty to do! Thank you to all the volunteers who help make the holiday season here so beautiful.

## Gadabouts ~ Andrea Sandifer

At their meeting on Friday, **November 8** (second Friday of the month) the Gadabouts will be enjoying delicious Mexican food and libations at El Chaparral. Gadabouts is open to all singles...widowed, divorced or caregivers. Please join us for great, authentic Mexican food and even better company. Check-in with Andrea Sandifer in the lobby at 10am. The bus will leave promptly at 10:30am.

# Resident Updates

## Honoring the US Coast Guard ~ Jim Conner

This year we are going to recognize the United States Coast Guard as part of our Veterans Day Celebration on Monday, **November 11** at 11am in the Main Lobby. Our speaker will be retired VADM Kent Williams, former Commander Coast Guard Atlantic Area, and a BSTW resident. He will talk about the history of the US Coast Guard and its role, as one of the six Armed Forces, in defending our country and its borders since 1790. We will have reserved seating for Coast Guard veterans and their spouses. Deceased BSTW veteran's names will be read and a bell rung to honor them. The Blue Skies of Texas Color Guard will present the colors and the Village Voices will be singing patriotic songs. We ask you to stand when your service Medley is played and Service flag waved. Even if you don't have a full uniform, wear some piece that identifies you to your past service as it helps develop a bond with those who have been there.



## Village Voices ~ Nancy Sowada

The Village Voices will be singing at the Veterans Day program at Blue Skies West on Monday, **November 11**. We hope you join us in singing God Bless America and the service songs at the Veterans Day ceremony. We are excited to introduce you to the new Space Force song. Our Holiday programs are at both campuses. The Blue Skies East performance is Thursday, December 5 at 2pm in the Legacy Room. The Blue Skies West performance is Friday, **December 6** at 2pm in the Main Lobby. We are also singing for the Tree Lighting Ceremony at BSTW on Friday, **December 6** at 10:45am. We hope to see you at these programs and ceremonies! We will be there!

*Veteran's Day*

## Distinguished Flying Cross Society

### ~ Robert Certain

The Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society will hold its monthly open meeting on Wednesday, **November 13** at 10am in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies West. Jack Dole will talk about his experience trying to ferry a C-123 from the United States to Vietnam; what a normal day was like flying the C-123 in Vietnam from the eyes of a non-flyer and surviving a major aircraft accident on the runway in Saigon on October 25, 1967 -- proving once again that two aircraft cannot successfully occupy the same space at the same time. All residents of Blue Skies East or West are welcome to attend.

## Attention New Residents ~ Judy Howen

We are always happy to meet and welcome new residents. If you are fairly new and do NOT have your photo on our Resident Bulletin Board in the main hallway of the Tower Building, we need you to stop by on Wednesday, **November 13**. Judy and Bob Howen will be in the Helen LeMay Room taking pictures from 4-5:30pm. No appointment necessary - just come by!

## Card Making Class ~ Geri Martin

Come join us as we create holiday greeting cards. On Thursday, **November 14** from 1-3pm, Libby Fleming will bring all supplies and clever ideas to create attractive cards. We will meet in Room 110. Please sign up in Touchtown by clicking on Activities or calling Terry Elizando, Activities Coordinator, 210-568-3310, for assistance. The class is limited to 12. A \$20 fee is required for supplies to make 6 cards. Please come and join the fun.



# Resident Updates

## November 13 B&A to Feature Memories, Friends ~ Corlea Plowman

All BST West residents and guests are invited to say, "Thanks for the memories and friends" at the Wednesday, **November 13**, 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. Cactus Country Band 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:** Honey Crisp Salad- Spinach, Honey Crisp Apples, Chopped Pecans, Dried Cranberries, Bleu Cheese Crumbles with Honey Mustard Dressing

**Entrée:** Pistachio Crusted Lamb Chops, Topped with Raspberry Mint Demi-Glace, Served with Roasted Fingerling Potatoes & Roasted Carrots

**Dessert:** Pumpkin Cheesecake

**Bread:** Ciabatta Rolls


Water, Coffee, or Iced Tea

\$41 Per Person

**Alternative Entrée:** Crab & Shrimp Stuffed Flounder  
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, **November 11**, 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 include George Hensen, Robert & Robbie Certain, Debby & Gordon Cox, Pat Perry, Valerie Rieke, Jim and Dottie Conner, Becky & Gar Rose, Leo Hart, Bob Harris, Billy Bingham, Don Schiller, Lynn & Jack Church, Anna Egger, Sandra Howard, AL Buie, Karen Davis, Judy & Bob Howen, Frank Holder, Celia Bell, Patricia McCarthy, Wally Pike, Joy Daugherty, Joyce Ann Goodwin, Patty & Ron Bordwell, Suzanne Rowlands, Alice Mendeke, Kathy Bader (chair), Allen Wesson, and Connie & Dave Germann.

## Red Hat Luncheon ~ Vivian Ray

This month's lunch is hosted by Mary Jan Caudill and Karen Pearce. On Friday, **November 15** at 11:30am, we will dine at The Club At Sonterra, 901 Sonterra Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78258. 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. 

## Rotary Highlight

In October we inducted Lt Gen Darrell Jones, our Blue Skies CEO, as an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of San Antonio West.



# Resident Updates

## Dining Room Advisory Council ~ Leo Bell

Our October back-of-the-house (BOTH) winner Roger Ramirez and Front-of-the-House (FOTH) winner Matilda Vidaurri are pictured receiving their small-but-meaningful awards. Our November BOTH winner is a repeat winner, Roberto Corvera, and our FOTH winner is Michael Voss. We remain grateful for the splendid service they give residents at BSTW.

DRAC election of representatives and officers will be finalized at this month's meeting, on Thursday, **November 14** at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. All residents are invited.

All of us Jerry Garcia tie fans will have on one of your favorites for the Quarterly Jerry Garcia Tie Sunday Brunch on Sunday, **December 8**. Ladies, (Peggy Gracy rocked her tie last quarter) are also welcome to display the artistry of The Grateful Dead singer's legacy. Let's try and fill up at least five tables at Sunday Brunch with J-G tie majesty.

DRAC representatives will be surveying residents during November and will report their results at the December meeting. The survey is in reference to no-shows/non-cancelled dinner reservations for the Friday-Sunday Brunch and Special Dinners. The tabulations will help DRAC make a recommendation to our Resident Services Director. The survey is attached. Towers 1&2 need not complete this survey since they have already responded.

It is not too late to diet back into your dress uniform for the New Year's Eve party. This is a tradition the late BG Russ McCarthy loved, almost as much as I do. We should continue this in his honor. The food and the fun are much better in dress uniform, as many of us remember. The next wine tasting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, **December 20** at 2pm. Sign-up on Uniguest.

Then next kitchen tour is on Tuesday, **December 17** at 2pm. Please contact Lu Schuster (see resident roster) to sign up for this eye-opening behind the scenes tour.



*Thank You*



## Resident Updates

### “Antenna” ~ Betty Overacker

The most important component in any ham radio station is the antenna. The antenna can increase the distance a radio can communicate and can also improve the reception quality. Consequently, ham radio operators strive to improve their antennas. Don Spoon, the BST-E Amateur Radio Club President, arranged an antenna seminar via ZOOM by Dr. Ed Fong, who is an electrical engineering professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz. He is an interesting and entertaining speaker. His main topic will be the innovative dual band antenna he designed for the 144 and 400 MHz ham bands. This antenna is assembled by Dr. Fong’s students as a fund raiser for their ham radio club. Dr. Fong’s presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, **November 12** at 7pm in Meeting Room 110. All are invited to attend to learn more about the antenna’s role in communication. The next BST-W Amateur Radio Club meeting is on Tuesday, **November 19**, in Meeting Room 110 at 11:30am. Please contact Bob Stuckert for more information. 73— Best Regards in Ham Language

### BSTW Resident Council Meeting ~ Jane Hill

The Residents’ Council meeting will take place on Thursday, **November 21** at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. All residents are welcome, especially those new to Blue Skies West. Come and find out all that is happening around our community.

### Resident of the Month

Small in stature with a generous big heart is Eleanor Frisch, who was nominated by three residents to be.



Eleanor is recognized for her multiple contributions to enhance our lifestyle at “Blue Skies”. Monthly, Eleanor utilizes her magical talents and energy to provide season appropriate centerpieces for the Lakeview’s 35 tables. Holiday dining requires double the tables with a short time frame to set up, and Eleanor dedicates her pre-holiday time decorating the additional tables. This is no small task, for it requires keeping the storage closet neat with adequate and accessible supplies, plus listening and implementing suggestions recommended by residents and staff. Eleanor’s contributions to our community are remarkably extensive! She assists Marketing as an “Ambassador”, and willingly shows her home to prospective residents. During April, she assists Residents and Employees with their tax filings as a member of the “Tax Prep Team”. For the past two years she was the “Follies” stage manager, which assured a smooth production. Additional past volunteer commitments were a member of the DRAC committee for three years; a member of the Thrift Shop Team, caring for Protestant Church’s altar and flowers, and she was always ready to help others when needed. Eleanor, we are thankful for your dependable and caring service, which has brought sunshine to our lives. Nominated by Ann Wood, Clare Taylor, and Jeannie Robinson.

# Resident Updates

## Thrift Shop Announcement ~ Annie Moore

With November being the month of Thanksgiving, we at the Thrift Shop would like to thank all our supporters, residents and employees. The thrift shop will be closed the day after Thanksgiving (Friday, **November 29**). NO donations will be accepted during the time the thrift shop is closed. Donations will be accepted the following Tuesday, **December 3**, from 9-11am and on Fridays during Thrift Shop operating hours - 7am to 1pm.

All the feedback from our “customers” following the completion of our renovation has been very positive. Everyone appreciates being able to shop without bumping into others or bumping items that had to be put on the floor. Those using walkers or wheelchairs are finally able to enjoy shopping for bargains at the thrift shop.

Once again, we will have reminders of the Thrift Shop closure on the In-House Channel, the Uniguest app, and signs will be put up in the usual locations. It will also have the times of operation and include when we will start accepting donations again.

We can't thank enough, ALL our residents for their generosity of donated items to the Thrift Shop and Furniture Store. Without them we would not be able to give back to the Village where everyone benefits from Thrift Shop sales.

## THANK YOU!

Al Wesson and the members of the Awesome 80's Group wish to thank everyone who helped to make our joint milestone party a huge success. We also appreciate all those who came out to help us celebrate. That kind of support is what makes turning 80 at Blue Skies so much fun!

## What is the Activities Coordinating Council (ACC)? ~ Tom Reedy

The Activities Coordinating Council is an organization that all BSTW residents are automatically a member of. The ACC provides financial support to an average of 30 resident run activities. All of the ACC funds are from resident donations.

The four members of the Executive Council of the ACC, elected annually at the membership meeting in December, manage the ACC daily activity. The 2024 ACC officers are: Pat Perry, Secretary; Ruth Ann Taylor, Treasurer; Jerre Griffin, Vice Chair; Tom Reedy, Chair.

Some of the activities supported are; B&A Entertainment, Christmas Decorations, Library, Village Voices, Wood Shop, Mini Phone Book, Veterans Day Activities, Follies, Garden Club, New Years Eve Party, Music Library, July 4th BBQ, Pickle Ball, Village Voices, Entertainment Committee Events, Amateur Radio Club, Friday Nite Games, Entertainment for B&A Dinners, Memorial Day Ceremony, 4th of July dinner, Etc. The ACC budget for 2024 is \$25,346.00. If you are not already a contributor, please consider doing so monthly by filling out a short form available at the Front Desk or make an annual contribution. The average monthly contribution is about \$15.00 - \$20.00.

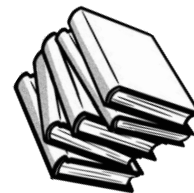
Our annual meeting where the 2025 budget will be voted on is Thursday, **December 5** at 1pm in the Roadrunner Lounge.

## Model Shop ~ Dick Hoover

Mr. Fixit says get a head start on the holidays... let us add a hole to your belt, making room for holiday treats. We can sharpen your turkey carving knife. Let us repair that broken creche... maybe add a hump to the camel. We will repair small items by appointment. If we can't fix it, throw it away. Contact Dick Hoover (see resident roster).



# Resident Updates



## Library News ~ Barbara Folkesson and Peggy Durack

In case you missed them, these books are available in the library:

### On the 'New Books' shelves:

- *The Women* by Kristin Hannah (currently 34 weeks on the NY Times Bestseller list) Historical Fiction. Women can be heroes. *The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, as green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten.
- *Fourth Wing* (Book 1 in the Empyrean Series) by Rebecca Yarros (62 weeks on the NY Times list)
- *Iron Flame* (Book 2) by Rebecca Yarros (47 weeks on the NY Times list) Romantic Fantasy. The series follows Violet Sorrengail as she navigates the brutal realities of life at Basgiath War College with grueling and treacherous training designed to push her, and her fellow dragon riders, to their limits.

### On the 'Large Print' shelves:

- *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus (85 weeks on the NY Times Bestseller list) Women's Fiction. Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. A single mother and the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show 'Supper at Six', it turns out that she isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.

Non-fiction and biography books are found on the far-right, bottom shelf in the large-print section, like this one:

- *The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War* by Erik Larsen. Historical Non-Fiction. Master storyteller Erik Larson offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Sumter—a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals.

New in October on the 'Large Print' shelves: *A Christmas Duet* by Debbie Macomber; *The Waiting* by Michael Connelly; *Den of Iniquity* by J.A. Vance; *Counting Miracles* by Nicholas Sparks. Also in large print, coming in November: *The Grey Wolf* by Louise Penny.

## Holiday/Christmas Decorating - by Beverley Moore

There are only 35 days left before preliminary judging begins for "Light Up The 'Skies 2024"! The effort you put forth in making our 2024 season one of our brightest will bring joy to all our residents throughout the December holidays. Whether you are decking your individual halls, windows, porches, bushes, trees or Tower Balcony and/or helping others decorate your Elevator Lobby, Oaks Cul-de-Sac or Lakes Cul-de-Sac, your individual contribution matters! There will be a new "People's Choice" award that can be voted on by everyone as well as the Juried 1st Place awards given for the: Lakes Cul-de-Sac, Tower Balcony, Gardens Home, Oaks Cul-de-Sac and Tower Elevator Lobby. Start planning now!



# Resident Updates

## Blue Skies West Handbells ~ Nancy Sowada

The Blue Skies West Handbell Choir has been rehearsing since August. We are working on our Christmas and holiday music and look forward to playing it for you in December. Our Blue Skies East performance is Thursday, December 12, at 2pm, in the Legacy Room. The Blue Skies West performance is Friday, **December 13** at 2pm, in the Main Lobby. We are also playing with the Village Voices at their performances and we are playing at the BSTW Tree Lighting Ceremony on **December 6** at 10:45am. We hope to see you at all of our programs and ceremonies! We will be there!

## Portal Webmaster Needed ~ Ron Miller

Everyone knows that redundancy is good when defined as being duplication...and not being fired. As your Resident Portal webmaster, I would like to have another resident webmaster able and available. So, if you have a good knowledge of things computer, and know the WordPress CMS...or are willing to learn it...and want to contribute to our great Blue Skies West resident's information Portal website, contact me to volunteer. The typical time required for Portal maintenance averages about 30 minutes a week.

## Thank You, Blue Skies Residents for Your Generous Donations to the Agora Hope Food Pantry!

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support shown during our recent food drive benefiting Agora Ministries. Thanks to your generosity, we will be able to bless so many families in need within our San Antonio community. Your donations will provide hope and nourishment to those who need it most. Together, we are making a difference and sharing God's love in a tangible way. Thank you for being a blessing!



**Deadline** for the next Roadrunner is Thursday, **November 22**

Send articles to [roadrunner@blueskiestx.org](mailto:roadrunner@blueskiestx.org)

Next Publication Date:  
Monday, **December 2**



## Annual Holiday/Christmas Celebration in the Lobby – by Beverley Moore

On Sunday, **December 15**, our annual Holiday/Christmas Celebration is again being held in the Lobby. Bus Tours will only be offered at 6pm before the festivities kick off. Light refreshments will be provided starting at 6:30pm and the People's Choice Award and all Juried Winners will be revealed at 6:45pm. Finally, a special treat at 7pm - We will again be blessed with a concert by the Cox Family Singers of San Antonio. As anyone who attended 2023's concert can tell you, you will not want to miss it!

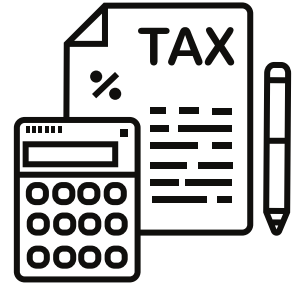


# Resident Updates

## 2024 Tax Prep by AARP/IRS Certified Preparers – New Resident Issues

This month we would like to address the tax situation for all those who are new residents. Most new residents are facing a situation beyond the mere introduction to our AARP/IRS Tax Prep program. There are one-time issues and continuing yearly benefits associated with living at a non-profit community like Blue Skies.

In the first place as a resident of this community part of your monthly fees are considered by the IRS as prepaid qualified medical expenses and therefore eligible to deduct. Each year the Blue Skies CFO reviews the books to determine the actual rate for that tax year. The rate varies yearly, but averages around 30%. The CFO will publish an official letter to residents in December to announce the rate for the preceding year. Your allowable deduction is equal to the sum of your basic monthly charge times the rate for that year (e.g., 30% of \$30,000, or \$9,000). Given your other itemized deductions, this may help you to exceed the Standard Deduction.



The good news for new residents is that this long-term medical deduction rate also applies to your initial buy-in cost when you moved into Blue Skies. This one-time deduction can be considerable and will often take the new resident well above the Standard Deduction for that first year (e.g., 30% of \$250,000, or \$75,000).

The second issue facing many new residents is the tax implications of selling their primary residence. Whenever you sell a home, you face the potential capital gain associated with the difference between the cost you originally paid for the home versus the price you received from the sale. As a taxpayer you want to minimize that capital gain. When you sell your last home to enter Blue Skies you can no longer roll over the sale into the purchase of a new home. However, you are eligible to take a one-time claim of a maximum write-off of \$250K for a single filer, or \$500K for a joint return. Some folks will find that is not enough to cover the full gain they have realized. However, the homeowner can further deduct the expense of “improvements” that



were made to the property while they owned it. Think of adding a swimming pool, replacing windows, remodeling, etc. Basic maintenance of the property does not count. Therefore, a new resident who sold their home when they came to Blue Skies needs to know how much they paid for the home they sold, how much they were paid at sale, and the costs of improvements they made to the property while they owned it.

If you have questions about the service and basic tax issues, please contact Al Wesson or John Folkeson (See resident directory.)

## Roadrunner Newsletters

If you are interested in a printed version of the Roadrunner, one can be made available to you at the front desk. Don't forget that you also have the option of having the Roadrunner emailed to you. Simply email your request to [Roadrunner@blueskiestx.org](mailto:Roadrunner@blueskiestx.org) and you will be added to the newsletter email distribution list.



# Sports, Games, & Scores

## **BSTW Poker Clubs ~ Ron Rickard**

We have Monday night and Tuesday night Poker Clubs here at BSTW. Both Clubs meet in the game room across from the Thrift Shop, and both Clubs are looking for new regular and substitute players. All qualified games are both high hand and low hand split pots. We gather and play from about 6:30 until 9:30pm.

Both Clubs play with a \$5.00 chip buy-in and have nickel/dime/quarter---3 bet limits. Clubs play with a deck including a joker (which can be an ace or used as a wild card in straights and flushes). Games include OMAHA/5 Card Draw or Stud/7 Card Stud & 10 Card Stud. Texas Hold-em is not played because of betting limits.

The Monday night Club also plays several additional various wild card games which can be challenging. Stop by either night and check out the play to spur your interest.



## **Golf Range Adds New Practice Feature ~ Ron Miller, Golf Range Manager**

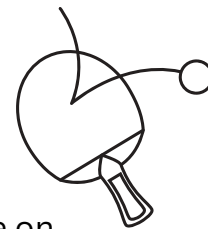
Target nets have been added to the golf range. Golfers may now improve their chipping and pitching accuracy. Nets will be available at the ball bin area. Golfers will take and return the nets using the honor system. Storing the nets, and not leaving them on the range, will increase their useful life and not impact range operations and mowing schedules.



## **Ping Pong ~ Bob Stuckert**

There is a ping pong table, located in Vista Room 19, for community use. Paddles and balls are in the first wardrobe on the right as you enter the room.

Play is on a first come, first served basis. Please cover the table when you are finished.



## **Mahjong ~ Nan Smith**

Wright Patterson Mahjong meets every Tuesday at 1pm in CC3. National Mahjong meets every Wednesday at 12:30pm and Friday at 1pm in CC3.

All are welcome. Please come and join us. We will teach you 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. Please contact Linda Prose (see resident directory) for details on the start times. See y'all out there!



# Sports, Games, & Scores

## Adventures of the Seasoned Soles

### ~ John and Pat MacIntyre

October started with Run the Alamo 10k; a new race held along the River Walk in the Pearl District. Pat Perry was the Seasoned Soles representative, finishing second in her age group.

That race was followed up by an old favorite (if you like hills), the "Battle of Hillotes" held in Helotes, Texas. The runners started and finished across the street from the famous John T Floore's County Store, home to Willy Nelson for many years. The courses for all the races were run through Old Town Helotes. Pat Perry, Lu Schuster and James Schuster won first places in their age groups in the 10K while Pat MacIntyre won third in her age group and John MacIntyre was able to squeak in a first-place win by being the only person in his age group in the 5K.

The Blue Skies of Texas Alzheimer's Walk brought out several of the Seasoned Soles to support the walk for Freedom House. Vicki and Jim Phelps, Dan Van Syoc, Dottie Conner, Pat and John MacIntyre, John Siebert, Kathy Bader, Tom and Cynthia Cochran, Pam Westwood, Ellen Skiba, Susan Woodrow, John Paul Sullivan, and Stu Flood.

The Rocky Horror Trail Run in Eisenhower Park was the last race of the month. Pat Perry came home winning first place in her age group in the 5K.



## Ladies BUNCO Group ~ JoAnn Oldham

We will be rolling the dice on Tuesday, November 5 and 19 at 3:30pm in CC3. Bring \$1 for the "POT" and invite a friend to come and join in the fun of this fast paced game. New players can bring a dollar to purchase their dice. 🎲🎲🎲

Following play, we gather in the Roadrunner before dining together in the Lakeview.

## Winners for October

Cathy Bee, Jane Hill, Vera Lee, Betty Chalfont, Judi Berridge, Brenda Lee, Bernice Houston

# Spiritual News

## Catholic News

**All Saints' Day** – Friday, **November 1** – Mass will be at 9:30am in the High Flight Chapel.

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

**First Saturday** of the Month - Anointing of the Sick following Saturday Mass

**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

**Third Tuesday** – 9am, Catholic Council meets in Conference Room #110. Guests are welcome.

**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

**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 or cottage (see Resident Directory).

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



## Centering Prayer / Silent Meditation

~ **Linda Ricketts**

Centering Prayer will meet on Fridays, **November 1 and 15** at 8:30am in the Willow Chapel located off the kitchen in the Vista.

Questions: Call or email Robert Ferre or Judy DeVillez.

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

## Protestant Church

### REGULAR SERVICES:

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

- Fellowship time between services: 10:30-11am
- Can't make it on Sunday? Watch the service broadcast on Wednesday at 10:30am on in-house channel 1890 or on the monitors in the Towers lobby. If you miss it, don't worry! We send out a YouTube link of the service by email, along with the bulletin and announcements, every week. Not receiving the email? Let us know, and we'll add you to the list!

Freedom House – Sundays at 10:45am

Liberty House (3rd level) – Thursdays at 10:30am

Pray For Our Nation – 1st and 3rd Fridays at 10am in the Helen Le May Room

### CONTACT US:

If you are interested in joining our congregation or wish to speak with Pastors Wayne Knutson Jr., Dan Figueroa, or Clifton Perry, please leave a message with Kayla Ramsey, our Church Administrator, at 210-568-3372. She will discreetly arrange an appointment for you.

Save the Date!

- Advent Starts: Sunday, **December 1**
- First Midweek Advent Service: Wednesday, **December 4**
- Toy Drive: Early December
- Choir Performs Christmas Cantata: Sunday, **December 15**
- Carol/Hymn Sing: Sunday, **December 22** from 3-4:30 in the Main Lobby

# Dining Room Advisory Committee (DRAC) Survey

To prevent the recurrence of the 60+ no-shows we experienced for the Easter Buffet this year, your Dining Room Advisory Committee has been asked to make recommendations to Brian Graybeal, our Resident Services Director, regarding potential penalties for residents and their guests, who make dining room reservations and are no-shows without giving required advanced notice. No-shows prohibit residents on the waiting list from partaking in these exceptional, special meals.

The DRAC will make its recommendations later this year for next year's implementation. This will allow time for the discussion and polling of all residents on various options. Until DRAC makes its recommendation, and any new policies are implemented, the reservation system will remain with reservations required for Friday and Saturday evenings, Sunday Brunch, and for the special dinners like Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Your reply to this survey will help your DRAC make a better recommendation.

Please return this survey to your representatives by Wednesday, **November 6**.

Charging a Fee for unkept reservation has been tentatively approved with no amount yet determined, but we residents get a voice BEFORE implementation.

Residents are reminded that reservations can be cancelled up until 2 pm the day of the reservation OR 30 minutes before a Special dinner. That allows time to activate/call residents on the waiting list, if there is one.

A discussion of the results of this survey will be held during the November DRAC meeting 1:30pm on Thursday, **November 14**, in the Roadrunner Lounge.

Proposed Fee per person missing the reservation, choices are:

\$16.50	YES	NO
\$25	Yes	NO
Other Amount: _____	Why? _____	
Charge for ALL MISSED Reservations?	YES	NO
Charge ONLY for SPECIAL EVENT Reservations?	YES	NO
Deduct from Meal Plan?	YES	NO
Add to BSTW Monthly Bill?	YES	NO
Neighborhood / Domicile #: _____		