

ROADRUNNER

OCTOBER 2024

VOLUME 2024-10



FROM THE DIRECTOR ~ BRIAN GRAYBEAL

October is upon us and let's hope for some cooler weather to enjoy our evening walks, morning coffees on the outdoor furniture, and perhaps a little golf and pickle ball. This is also a great time for those who like their pumpkin bread, pumpkin cupcakes, pumpkin doughnuts, pumpkin coffee, pumpkin spice latte's and on and on and on. This season is typically my favorite time of the year - cooler weather, football season, baseball's post season, but this year is even more enjoyable and rewarding as I can spend this fall with my new colleagues and experience it with our wonderful residents along with our numerous upcoming fall festivities. Thank you to our staff, residents' councils, our numerous clubs and committees for all you do to make this a delightful community.

A couple of informational updates as we are looking at various processes and policies that concern our BST standards. We are constantly evolving and making improvements to provide more consistent living standards and environments that reflect our commitment to provide high quality amenities, aesthetically pleasing grounds and residential areas. In the following articles are a couple updates and reiterations of these standards to help support these initiatives.

Save the Date:

Thursday, October 3 – COVID Vaccinations – The Vista Sunroom – 1pm

Thursday, October 3 - Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group – FH Chapel – 1pm

Thursday, October 10 – DRAC Meeting – The Lakeview – 1:30pm

Friday, October 11 – Flu Vaccinations – CC1 Check In

Wednesday, October 16 - Jane Watson Farewell - Helen LeMay Room - 10-11am

Friday, October 18 – RC Meeting – The Lakeview – 1:30pm

Sunday, October 20 – A Good Ol' Texas Hoedown – The Lakeview and Roadrunner Lounge – 7pm

Thursday, October 24 – Town Hall – Roadrunner Lounge – 2pm

Friday, October 25 – Freedom House Trunk or Treat – Freedom House Parking Area – 6:30-7:30pm

Thursday, October 31 - Employee Halloween Costume Contest – The Lakeview – 12pm

Thursday, October 31 – 1st Annual Halloween Trunk or Treat – Flagpole Parking Area – 2-3:30pm

Thursday, October 31 – Halloween Carnival – Liberty House Main Lobby – 2:30pm

Welcome

New Residents

New residents coming soon to a neighborhood near you.

Bruce & Susan Singletary, #418

William Boyd, #1802



Resident Services Announcements

Appliances and appliance maintenance

BST provides certain appliances for which standard parts are stocked and which maintenance staff members are provided with training to repair. These repairs are at no cost to the resident. Residents may purchase their own appliances but will retain maintenance responsibility to include repair costs, arranging service and hiring contractors. In the event the appliance breaks, BST will replace with a BST standard appliance. If BST has provided you with additional appliances, for example a washer and dryer and it becomes unrepairable BST will provide a BST standard appliance replacement. If you wish to purchase your own appliances, please contact Maintenance to ensure proper electrical and size requirements. Residents who purchase upgraded appliances under BST appliance upgrade program retain ownership. Upgraded appliances needing replacement due to inoperability or are unrepairable can be replaced at owners' cost or BST will replace them with a BST standard appliance.

Residence Modifications

Residents may make approved modifications to their residence. All modifications (patio awnings, yard planting, walk-in bathtubs, golf cart pads, fences etc.) must be approved in advance of work through the Modification Committee (Maintenance Director, Resident Services Director, Director of Capital Projects/Safety, Facilities Services Manager). Residents will be required to complete and sign a modification application, which lists conditions and rules for modifications. This includes hiring a contractor that BST has or can assess and approve. To begin the process, please provide a copy of the plans/or sketch to scale to the Maintenance Director or Capital Projects Director.

As I have stated before, I am grateful and humbled to be a part of this Blue Skies community and it is truly an honor to be in a position to learn about so many of our wonderful resident's life journey stories.

Contractors

We are very fortunate to work with wonderful contractors who are truly dedicated to enhancing the lives of our residents and staff. I am simply reminding everyone there are only certain staff members that should be coordinating and directing contractors to perform work or make plans. While our contractors tend to be very respectful and kind to all of us, talking with them about plans and projects will simply delay the progress. If you have any questions concerning projects throughout the campus, I encourage you to talk with your RC representative or reach out to me and I will happily find out and or address any concerns or questions you may have.

Shopping Carts

One more reminder, with increased residency I encourage all of our residents to promptly return our shopping carts to their proper storage locations so other residents can utilize them as needed.

Golf Cart Parking

The designated parking spaces for golf carts in Towers 1 & 2 and 3 & 4 are identified with signage. Please refrain from parking in the vehicle parking areas.

Employee Halloween Costume Contest

Raffles will continue with items on display in the Main Lobby. We appreciate your support, as all proceeds go towards the employees! Save the date of Thursday, **October 31** at noon in The Lakeview to come and watch the employees costume parade, with prizes awarded!

Resident Services Announcements

Distinguished Service Award

Every year each Blue Skies of Texas campus recognizes a person, persons or organization that has/have contributed significantly to the betterment of the Blue Skies of Texas. The award is given either for a sustained period of superior performance, or a specific meritorious act or achievement. Distinguished Service Award nominations may include residents, board members and any friends of BST who have no direct affiliation with BST. Any resident, board member, or staff member of either campus may make nominations. Please submit your nominations to the Resident Service Director, Brian Graybeal, containing a brief narrative of the nominee's contribution or achievement, no later than Friday, **October 25**.

Updated Front Gate Procedures

Effective **November 1**, all visitors without a BST sticker must present ID and a valid driver's license if driving. If you expect a visitor without a sticker, please call the front gate with their name and expected arrival time. If a visitor arrives unannounced, the Courtesy Officer will attempt to call you; if there's no answer, they will not be allowed on campus.

Courtesy officers will continue to issue 1-day passes for visitors without a sticker. Please remind visitors not to park in covered spots and to use handicapped spaces for short-term parking only. For visitors arriving after 8pm, notify the front desk in advance, as they will be screening all access requests.

This policy is in place for our community's safety. Thank you for your cooperation!

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 and you will be added to the newsletter email distribution list.

Don't Stop and Brew, They're Trying to Get to You... ~ Ashlie Maltos

During this spooky season watch out for the scammers who will be disguising themselves as **MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT REPRESENTATIVES**. These scammers might seem like they have your personal information but, they are trying to steal your Medicare information, money, and identity! **DO NOT** fall for these witches' spells. Remember they are trying to put a **SPELL ON YOU!**



Safety

Leaving the pool? Please take a moment to dry off before heading into the elevators, or other areas with tile. The water left behind creates a slipping hazard for those that come behind you.

Parking At Tower Entryways –

Reminder, there is no parking along red curbs, this is a direct violation of Fire Safety codes. You may leave your vehicle only for loading or unloading and must be in the immediate vicinity in case emergency personnel need to access the building. Please adhere to the No Parking signs, there is no parking on the sidewalks near the entryway awnings – this is considered a safety issue as the sidewalks are designated for people not Golf Carts.

Walkers Beware – Take caution when taking that extra route in the RV parking area, there are contractor's and RVers that are coming in and out so please take extra precautions when walking in this area.

Resident Services Announcements

How AFVCF Works For You ~ Sarah Manzke

Do you ever wonder how the Blue Skies guarantee to “take care of our own” works, or how charitable dollars received by the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation (AFVCF) are used? If so, we invite you to a presentation entitled “How AFVCF Works For You”! During this presentation, designed in particular for residents who have lived at BST for 5-7 months, we give information about the charitable history of Blue Skies, respond to FAQs about the charitable assistance provided both to residents in need and Blue Skies as a whole, and let you know how you can volunteer with the AFV Charitable Foundation in its events throughout the year, should you wish. If you’ve been a resident for a longer time, that’s also great – please attend, using this opportunity as a refresher on all things AFVCF-related.

Our next meeting at West will be on Thursday, **October 3** at 2pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. If you’d like to attend, please reach Fundraising Associate Daniel Casillas at danielcasillas@blueskiestx.org or (210) 568-3290.

Employee Halloween Costume Contest

Reminder, there will be items up for “sale” (\$2 per chance drawing) weekly leading up to Halloween. Historically, these “raffles” have brought in over \$1000, and all proceeds go towards prizes for the Employee Halloween Costume Contest. Plan on coming to The Lakeview on Thursday, **October 31** at noon to watch the parade of costumes, it’s always a good laugh for everyone!

HALLOWEEN

Trunk or Treat

If you’re interested in participating in what we hope will be the 1st annual Trunk or Treat hosted by Aleisha Dillard, Front Desk Supervisor, stop by the front desk and sign up before the deadline of Friday, **October 25**. There will be prizes for the BEST dressed pet and BEST decorated trunk! The Trunk or Treat will be held in the flagpole parking area of the main entrance and will begin at 2pm on Halloween, Thursday, **October 31**.

Amazing Giving for the Intergenerational Preschool! ~ Sarah Manzke

On behalf of The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation, many thanks to all who made a difference during Big Give SA on September 18-19 to benefit the Intergenerational Preschool (I.P.) at Freedom House! To all those who made a gift, as part of a large group of generous donors, you raised over \$51,000 for the I.P., surpassing the \$50,000 goal! We are also grateful to residents who volunteered at the Big Give tables near Cochran’s at Village East, and near the main Dining Room entrance at Village West.

Your charitable assistance will help to provide additional story books, “essentials kits” of educational materials, replacement of sleeping cots, crib mattresses, shelving, and tables in the preschool room, and other needs to benefit the I.P.

Your giving is a wonderful support for a facility that provides great benefit for the children, their parents (often Blue Skies staff members), and Freedom House residents who are able to participate in Wednesday morning intergenerational activities with the children!



Resident Services Announcements

Pest Control Schedule

	Friday, October 4	Friday, October 11	Friday, October 18	Friday, October 25
Tower Apts.	631-638, 641-648, 441-448	611-618, 621-628	711-718, 721-718	731-738, 741-748
Cottages	2300-2400	2500-2600	2700	2800
Ranch Homes	837, 838, 839, 840	841, 843, 845	847, 851, 853, 855 Basketball, Tennis, Bocci, Cabana & Restroom	857, 859, Pavilion 2
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.

Employee Anniversaries

	Location	Anniversary Date	Years of Service
Ruben Reyes	Maintenance	October 2	15
Gabriel Martinez	Maintenance	October 4	19
Theresa Varnado	Wellness	October 5	6
Vanessa Lamas	Freedom House	October 5	2
Margaret Lopez	Housekeeping	October 11	3
Graciela Mann	Housekeeping	October 12	6
Hope Santos	Wellness	October 13	26
Cynthia Balderas	Housekeeping	October 13	19
Thade Cadet	Freedom House	October 14	2
John Mauricio	Dining Services	October 16	1
Helen Heye	Freedom House	October 17	1
Kevin Inman	Front Desk	October 19	23
Angel Ortiz	Freedom House	October 19	3
Daniel Garcia Casillas	Development	October 20	4
Lydia Balderrama	Dining Services	October 24	24
Kirsten Dunn	Dining Services	October 24	2
Daniela Valle	Dining Services	October 24	1
Bradley Brown	Dining Services	October 24	1
Ryan Hernandez-Moreno	Dining Services	October 24	1
Jimmy Flores	Freedom House	October 25	30
Shari Proctor	Freedom House	October 27	27
Princess Garcia	Housekeeping	October 31	1

Resident Updates

Rotary Corner ~ Debby Cox

The San Antonio West Rotary Club meets right here at Blue Skies of Texas West, and all residents are encouraged to attend any of our meetings. We meet the first and third Tuesday of every month in the Roadrunner Lounge, and since the first Tuesday of October falls on October 1, you need to put this meeting on your calendar right away. We meet from 12-1pm and you are welcome to bring your lunch.



Our **October 1** speaker will be Robert Ferre who will tell us about his long-time interest in labyrinths and how they can help you integrate the body with the mind and the spirit. October 24 is World Polio Day for Rotary. Eradicating Polio has been one of Rotary's greatest causes so in honor of that day our **October 15** speaker will be our "End Polio Now" District representative, Jeff Uribe, who will tell us how much Rotary has already accomplished, but also how much work there is left to do to continue vaccinating children and testing high risk water supplies.

In September we met Ms. Lauren Deal, the Director of Philanthropy at the San Antonio Food Bank. We learned that the Food Bank serves over 105,000 meals per week and greater than 74,000,000 meals annually.

Our second September meeting was devoted to a club assembly where we discussed our plans for the year. Our newest project is, "Unlocking Hope: Our Fight to End Alzheimer's," where we are partnering with the Glenn Biggs Institute to raise awareness of the severity of Alzheimer's, and to raise money to help extend their research. We would also like to encourage everyone to participate in the BSTW Alzheimer's Walk on Saturday, October 19 leaving from Freedom House at 10:30am and only walking one mile.

Other service projects we will be doing this year include providing complete Christmas packages to at least 10 families, providing headsets to the third graders from the Jerry D Allen school, sponsoring an Interact Club (Rotary's version of a service club for high schools) at the Legacy High School, providing a Thank You luncheon for the teachers as they go back to school, and awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors who participate in Interact – just to name a few.

If you would like to join us to help with any of these projects or would like to receive an invitation to join Rotary to get more involved in the local community, please call Debby Cox (see Resident Roster). You can learn more about our club and projects by visiting our Web Site:

<https://www.RotaryClubofSanAntonioWest.org> or Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RotarySAWest>

Resident Council Representatives

Social Gathering ~ Jane Hill

Want to know more about being a Residents' Council representative? Then come meet the current RC representatives at a social gathering on Wednesday, **October 2**, at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. This is an opportunity to ask your questions and hear from current representatives about their experiences. All residents are welcome.

Freedom House Dementia Caregivers Support Group

The Freedom House Support Group for caregivers affected by Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias will meet on Thursday, **October 3**, at 1:30pm in the Freedom House Chapel. If available, join us for lunch at noon in the Lakeview Dining Room at Blue Skies West. The group provides an opportunity to share experiences and receive guidance and support. Participants are welcome to bring their loved ones for a planned activity during the meeting. To do so, please RSVP to Annabell Garcia at 210-838-6301 or annabellgarcia@blueskiestx.org.

Resident Updates

Food Drive Beginning October 6

~ Judy Howen

Each day all of us enjoy food prepared for us. We never go hungry. What a luxury! It is hard to think about it but there are those in San Antonio that do go hungry. Our Blue Skies Protestant Church is sponsoring a food drive in October to support AGORA Ministries. The AGORA Hope pantry services the poorest part of San Antonio. They work hard to reach "at risk youth". This area has more single Moms than anywhere else in the city.

The 78207 area is the most underfed zip code in our city. The stories you hear from their counselors would touch your heart. Won't you join us in helping stock their Hope Pantry? Items needed are, of course, nonperishable items. Necessities are also appreciated such as personal hygiene products, toilet paper, diapers. Gift cards allow the organization to purchase fresh produce. Be willing to share some love with this worthwhile organization. Next time you are at the grocery store, drop in several items for those who are in such dire need.

Boxes will be placed in the lobby area beginning Sunday, **October 6**. For additional questions or information about AGORA Ministries and all that they do, call Judy Howen or the church office.

Distinguished Flying Cross Society

~ Robert Certain

The Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society will hold our monthly meeting on Wednesday, **October 9** at 10am in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies West. Bob Trott will present a program on the C-130's mission in Vietnam. A DVD will include a day in the life of a 130 crew, plus several other mission profiles. He will share with the group a perspective view based upon his experiences as a pilot/aircraft commander during fifteen months flying during 1971-72. All residents of Blue Skies East or West are welcome to attend.

Octoberfest set at October 9 B&A Theme

~ Corlea Plowman

All BST West residents and guests are invited to celebrate Octoberfest on Wednesday, **October 9**, at the Birthday and Anniversary event (B&A). Doors open for the hosted Social Hour in CC1-3 at 5pm. Dinner service in The Lakeview is at 6pm. Eddie Esparza guitars will be 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: German Cucumber Salad

Entrée: Sauerbraten: Ziegenbock Braised Beef and Onions, Sauerkraut and Boiled Potatoes, topped with Onion Ragout

Dessert: German Chocolate Cake

Bread: Soft Pretzel Roll

Water, Coffee or Iced Tea

\$31 Per Person

Alternative Entrée: Salmon

Dinner reservations are required. All attendees, including guests, must sign up on the Sign-Up List in CC3. If you need to cancel after 11am Monday, **October 7**, 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 made through the Dining Room for this event.

Hosts for the Social Hour are Ingrid Bowden, Kathryn Cacic, Ellen Chadick, Jack & Lynn Church, Dan Clark, Ron & Carol Conkey, Joan Epperson, Jane Hill, Chuck Hobbs, Sandra Howard, Roger & Beverly LaFond, Joe Mancini, Rusty Newman, Buzz & Ellen Parkhill, Peggy Parkhill (chair), D. Parkhill, Larry & Linda Prose, John Siebert, Nan Smith, Rebecca Vallejo, Roxanne Wheelis, and Suzanne Yarborough.

Resident Updates

Dining Room Advisory Council ~ Leo Bell

October has come and with that election season begins. Not only for our country but elections for our BST Dining Room Advisory Committee neighborhood representatives.

All representatives must be re-elected each year to continue to serve. However, more residents are needed to bring DRAC membership up to full strength.

As of September 2024, DRAC has these vacancies:

1. Vice-Chair for DRAC. Sandi is leaving to become the Arts Chair. We will greatly miss her counsel and guidance and her evolution, innovation, and relevance of the Quality Control committee. That means The Oaks 2100-2400 will be short TWO representatives.
2. Tower 3, one representative. Ron is remaining as our Webmaster but leaving as a representative.
3. The Gardens 800-900, one representative. Juanita Hess is leaving BSTW.
4. Liberty House, one representative. Sue Robert still needs help.
5. Tower 4, one representative. Caroline needs a partner.
6. Secretary. Barbara is leaving the position she has so ably filled for us.

If your area is fully represented, there is another way to serve. Our current by-laws allow a resident to represent a neighborhood where he or she does not live. Being a representative for Liberty House does not mean you have to live there. You need only to be mindful and caring of the factors affecting Liberty House. Preference is extended to a resident of the neighborhood over the at-large representative.

Ballot boxes and forms are at the Front Desk.

Congratulations to our September dining services winners. Roger Ramirez was voted the back-of-the house (BOTH) winner after the DRAC members were told that he really stepped up in times of need, including getting up at 4am to take the bus to arrive at BSTW on time for a 7am shift, because his car is out of commission. Matilda Vidaurri was voted the outstanding front-of-the-house (FOTH) employee of the month. Thank you both for your award-winning service.

Due to Juanita's move to Oklahoma, Lu Schuster will now manage the kitchen tour sign-ups (See resident roster.). With so many special events in October and November, I will ask Nikki for a tour date in December. That date will be announced next month. There is so much value in this simple tour of the kitchen where our meals are magically and efficiently made. New residents may find the tour eye-opening.

The survey regarding scheduling a wine tasting event every other month is a WIN for us wine drinkers. DRAC will work with Terry, Activities Coordinator, to try to make that happen.

Please consider using the GREEN to-go containers for your to-go meals. We are saving money and helping our environment.

Check out the menu offerings coming this month. Chef J is creating something from his personal recipes involving lobster. We are blessed to have such a creative, award-winning, and sharing chef. Coffee-With-The-Chef is Thursday, **October 3** at 9:30am. Here we can often offer improvements to our dining experience and receive updates affecting it.

Our next DRAC meeting is Thursday, **October 10** at 1:30pm. All DRAC activities are in the Roadrunner Lounge. The kitchen tour gathers near the door to the Servery in the Lakeview Room.

Resident Updates

Gadabouts ~ Jane Hill

On Friday, **October 11**, our monthly luncheon will be held at Moroccan Bites Restaurant. It is located in the strip mall at the corner of Evers Rd. and Wurzbach. You will enjoy their delicious Middle Eastern cuisine, especially their lamb shank menus and their baklava cheesecake. Singles, widows, widowers, and caregivers are eligible for this trip. Others are welcome to sign up on the waitlist. The sign-up folder is located in CC3. The bus departs promptly at 11:15am, please arrive 15 minutes early to check in with your hostess.

San Antonio Symphonic Band

~ Karen M. Reid

The San Antonio Symphonic Band will play a concert on Sunday, **October 13** in The Lakeview at 3pm. The theme of the concert is Movie Magic and All Hallows Eve. Join us for a first-class event to kick off the fall season.

Well Known Horticulturist to Visit

~ Jim Conner

David Rodriguez, Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service, will be coming back to Blue Skies West campus on Monday,

October 14. He will start at 10am with a presentation in the Roadrunner Lounge on Texas Superstar plants, a bit of local agricultural history and answer questions about gardening in this area. He will then visit the garden giving helpful tips about our plants. After the garden visit, we will return to the main building for lunch. Those that want can grab lunch and we'll eat in the Roadrunner Lounge with David. Many of you have probably heard David on his weekly radio broadcasts from local nurseries.



11th Hour Hospice Volunteer Program

~ Leo Herrera

Interested in learning about our 11th Hour Hospice Volunteer Program? We will be providing information in the lobby area of the main building near the Bistro on Tuesday, **October 15** from 11am to 1pm.

“Hacked” ~ Betty Overacker

Around 12 May 2024 the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) was the victim of a sophisticated network attack by a malicious international cyber group. ARRL immediately involved the FBI and consulted with third party experts to investigate this event. This serious and extensive event was categorized by the FBI as “unique”, which compromised network devices, servers, cloud-based systems and PC's. The ARRL's association membership system was not impacted by this attack, and members were able to renew their licenses without difficulty, and without compromising their personal information. The ARRL staff continues to work with outside industry experts to ensure that all servers have been remediated, tested, all data confirmed, and above all that the network is secure. Slowly, progress is occurring. Remember to secure your digital equipment! All are welcome to attend the next BST Amateur Radio Club meeting on Tuesday, **October 15**, in Meeting Room 110 at 11:30 am. Please contact Bob Stuckert for more information. 73—Best Regards in Ham Language

BSTW Resident Council Meeting ~ Jane Hill

Please note the change for October.

The Blue Skies West Resident Council meeting will be held on Friday, **October 18** at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge.



Resident Updates

Red Hat Luncheon ~ Vivian Ray

This month's lunch is hosted by Lee Wells and Celia Kellogg. On Friday, **October 18** at 11:30am, we will dine at Postino South Broadway, 2600 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78215. 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.



Texas Hoedown! ~ Susan Griffith

The Texas Hoedown will be held on Sunday, **October 20**, at 7pm in The Lakeview. The Hoedown will be emceed by Jack Church and Paula Haley. Stars include David Sweigart, Pat Wagner, Jack and Lynn Church, Andi Sandifer and Ross Bennett.



Featured attractions are the ever-popular Blue Skies Dancers, and you must see the debut of the Blue Skies Equestrian Club! Songs include Texas favorites: "San Antonio Rose," "Waltz Across Texas," "Yellow Rose of Texas", and many others. Tables will be set up, so bring your favorite refreshments and snacks, dress in your western wear, and join your neighbors for a toe-tapping, knee-slapping good old country hoedown!

Thrift Shop Christmas Sale ~ Susan Shumaker

Finally, the date you have all been looking forward to is here. Mark your calendar for Friday, **October 25**. Pre-lit Christmas trees, unlit Christmas trees, Christmas trees in a variety of sizes, wreaths, outdoor lights, ornaments, outdoor decorations, and many other amazing decorating items. Great prices and awesome decorating treasures. Everyone is welcome! Cottage 1107 (in The Lakes), 7am-12pm.

Resident Concert Series ~ Alan Snyder

Resident Concert Series presents Sasha, Chloe, and Jean on Sunday, **October 27** at 3pm, in the BSTW Main Lobby. Please make plans to attend this world-class concert-music performance. They have been pleasing BST audiences for several years now, you don't want to miss this. Alexandre (Sasha) Moutouzkin on piano has performed all over the world. His wife, Chloe Kiffer, on violin, is also an international performer including near weekly engagements at University of North Texas. Jean Kiffer (father to Chloe) is both a classical and jazz saxophonist. He has been instrumental in integrating the saxophone into the classical music genre as the youngest instrument accepted into symphonic orchestra. Please help us continue such programs by contributing to the Air Force Villages Foundation for the Resident Concert Series. See you there.

Blue Skies West Handbells

~ Nancy Sowada

The Blue Skies West Handbell Choir has begun rehearsals. The Blue Skies West Handbells were purchased through a resident-led effort in 1990. Resident Nona Whitlatch led the organization and purchase of the beautiful handbells and hand chimes we now have. The handbells are engraved with the names of residents who donated money to purchase them. Nancy Sowada is the current director. We are working on our Christmas and holiday music and look forward to playing it for you in December. We are thankful for your contributions to the Activities Coordinating Council of Blue Skies West that continues to support the handbells by providing funding for servicing the bells and for the purchase of music.

Resident Updates

Resident of the Month

Who is that tall man usually in black, who silently goes into a mysterious closet full of strange equipment, then pushes levers and buttons, and afterward we can magically say: “Let there be Sound!”



This is Dan Taylor, the Blue Skies unofficial Sound Engineer, who miraculously improves so many resident events. We now can hear our friends sing our favorite songs, play the piano or guitar, tell jokes (some that are even funny), read stories and poems, give speeches and lectures. Acoustics have improved at the “Follies,” the “Readers Theater,” “B&A’s,” the Concert Series, and the list goes on. Dan accomplishes this with less than optimal equipment with his magic touch. How many of us have been taught by Dan how to use a microphone by his reminder: “Hold it Close to your Mouth!!”

Larissa Alejo, the Manager of Environmental Services at Blue Skies West, has worked with Mr. Taylor for eight years. Her accolades say it all: “As an engineer he has added his experience and expertise to our knowledge of and use of the sound system. He has helped with upgrades and guiding us to the best use of the system we have.”

Thank you, Dan, for your tireless work to make us all sound good! Nominated by Susan Griffith.

Village Voices ~ Nancy Sowada

I (Nancy Jones Sowada) am the director of our community choir, The Village Voices. The Blue Skies community was originally called Air Force Village, hence the name The Village Voices. The Village Voices began in the 1970s and was originally led by Col George Howard, retired US Air Force. He and his wife were residents of Air Force Village I, now called Blue Skies East. In 1947 Howard's reputation as a music conductor led to his commission as leader of the newly formed Air Force Band. He directed the USAF Band and Orchestra until his retirement with the rank of colonel in 1963. During his tenure in the US Air Force, he established several performing groups, including Airmen of Note, Singing Sergeants, Strolling Strings, and Women in the Air Force Band. He also founded the USAF Bandsman School. So, I am honored to be the current director of the Village Voices, which Col Howard established in 1976.

We are so excited that we have several new singers with us this year and our new accompanist, Marianna Tanguy!

As always, we are thankful to everyone who donates to the Activities Coordinating Council or the AF Village Charitable Fund, which helps us continue to purchase new music and pay our accompanist.

Resident Updates

Resident Council Elections ~ Jane Hill

Do you want to know what is happening at Blue Skies West? Want to provide input and be part of improving your community? Then join the Residents' Council!

To ask questions and hear from those who have been RC reps, please join us for a social gathering on Wednesday, **October 2**, at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge.

The Blue Skies West Residents' Council (RC) serves as the Air Force Villages, Inc. (AFV) Board of Directors' officially sanctioned liaison between BSTW residents and BSTW/AFV Management. The RC provides up-to-date information between Management and Residents and may also assist in problem resolution.

RC membership is comprised of two (2) Area Representatives from each geographic area of BSTW: Towers I, II, III, IV, Lakes 1100-1500, Lakes 1600-2000, Oaks 2100-2400, Oaks 2500-2800, the Gardens, and one (1) each from Liberty House, and Freedom House.

These are the roles and responsibilities of the RC representatives:

- Make yourself known to all residents you represent.
- Keep yourself well informed in the areas of management, finance, marketing, maintenance, construction, dining services, etc.
- Attend the RC monthly meetings or have a knowledgeable resident represent you.
- Inform residents that there is a proper procedure for addressing issues they believe should be brought before the RC.
- Encourage residents to use the RC resident "Suggestions and/or Concerns Form" to properly document and present issues to the RC for consideration.
- Communicate with your residents frequently.
- Attend the pre-RC agenda planning meetings

To participate, you will find a box at the front desk with forms titled: "Notice of Intent to Stand for Election to RC". All nominees must complete the form, even those who are continuing in their current role. Three continuous years is the maximum time as a representative.

Nominations end on Thursday, **October 31** and the Elections Committee will tally results and give them to the RC Chair. Election results will be announced at the November meeting with results publicized in December communications. New Council members will be installed in December with duties to begin on January 1, 2025.

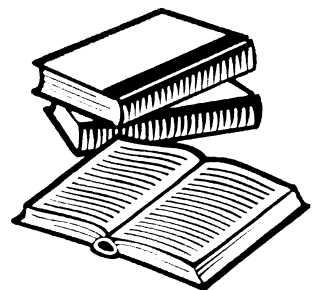
This is your home and your community. This is an opportunity to learn, provide input and feedback, and make Blue Skies a better place for everyone.

Library News ~ Barbara Folkson and Peggy Durack

We appreciate the donations to the library. Donations are kept on the New Books shelf for about 6 months and then we shelve them in the regular collections. If the books are not checked out during the 6 months, we put them on the donation table for residents and employees to use.

New donations to the main library include: *Hard to Kill* by James Patterson; *Vineyard at Painted Moon* by Susan Mallery; *Act of Defiance* by Tom Clancy

Recent donations to Liberty House library include: *Camino Ghosts* by John Grisham; *Swan Song* by Elin Hilderbrand; *The Rumor Holder* by Elin Hilderbrand; *Evil Heart* by Linda Castillo



Resident Updates

Check it out!

Mr. Mac understands that our Blue Skies community is a musical and dancing group. Thus, he has developed an art wall (outside the chapel area) that presents Mac's ideas on this subject that should make all smile.



Honoring 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. VADM Kent Williams, former Commandant of the Coast Guard Academy, will talk about the about the role of the US Coast Guard in defending our nation's borders. 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.

In Memoriam

Mary Smith - September 8

George Snell - September 18

Wayne Erwin - September 18

David Capito - September 29



Saxophone Player WANTED

We are seeking an experienced saxophone player to join our Blue Notes Band!

Contact Dick King (see resident roster) if interested.



Deadline for the next Roadrunner is Tuesday, **October 22**

Send articles to roadrunner@blueskiestx.org

Next Publication Date:
Thursday, **October 31**

Mr. and Mrs. Dill would like all residents to know that Agora Ministries is holding its annual golf tournament on Monday, **October 28**. Anyone who would like more information can contact John or Diane (see resident roster).

Resident Updates

Philanthropic Education Organization ~ Karen Tidler

Big News for P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Chapter of EU. We now have the ability to select a local student for a scholarship. As always, our Chapter continues to raise funds for women around the world.

For this new scholarship we are choosing to raise funds from a beautiful Christmas quilt that was handmade by our own Brenda Perry, who has received awards for her quilts. The drawing for this one will be on Thursday, **November 14**. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20. All proceeds will be used for a scholarship for a young woman here at Blue Skies.

Next, we will be having our annual sale of Christmas wreaths and swags with misters to keep them fresh. They sell for \$30 each and will be available at the entrance to the food line from 11am-1pm and mailboxes upstairs from 1-3pm on:



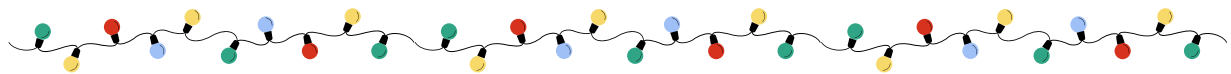
Monday, October 28	Wednesday, October 30	Friday, November 1
Monday, November 4	Wednesday, November 6	Friday, November 8

The greenery will be delivered the week after Thanksgiving in the lobby area adjacent to the mailboxes. All proceeds will go to scholarships given to women by PEO.

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.



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".



Light up the Skies 2024 ~ Beverly Moore

In less than 60 days, after giving thanks for our many blessings, our BST-W village will start decorating our balconies, elevator lobbies, homes and neighborhoods. We will be all decked out to celebrate "Light Up The 'Skies 2024" and to participate in the friendly annual competition to be "the best". Judging (all very subjective don't you know) will be by our neighbors on Monday & Tuesday, **December 9 and 10**, and there will be a Lobby Party on Sunday evening, **December 15**, to which we are all invited. The winners will be revealed (including the new category of "People's Choice"), bus tours of the campus lights will be available, and there will be light refreshments and music to top the evening off. Be sure to mark your calendars!! You will not want to miss it!!

For more info, talk to your neighbors or text/call Bev Moore's cell # found in the directory.



Resident Updates

BSTW Social Club

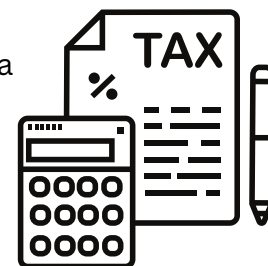
In 2016, a group of residents came together to explore the feasibility of developing an upscale, “club like” concept for the Roadrunner Lounge, complete with individual liquor storage boxes. The concept was approved by Management with the proviso that the project be funded completely by the residents. The first stage of the project included 39 liquor storage boxes, which quickly sold out. Followed by a second stage of 24 boxes, which also sold out quickly. Construction of additional boxes was stopped when there was no more convenient, unobtrusive wall space left in the Roadrunner Lounge. Over time, with the cooperation of BSTW Dining Services, the project has evolved into a popular place for before and after dinner drinks and socialization. Unfortunately, there is no convenient place to build additional boxes. However, occasionally boxes become available when a resident decides to sell their box when they no longer use it as much as they once did. To maintain fairness in the box resale process, the Social Club Steering Committee maintains a waiting list from which the resale transfer must be made. Residents wanting to be added to the waiting list should send an email expressing their desire to either Tom Jones or Ralph Kelly, (see the Resident Roster). Please note that only residents who are storage box owners can be members of the Social Club and attend the monthly Final Friday Flings. However, resident non-box owners are welcome and invited to use the Roadrunner Lounge and the setups provided for drinks before or after dinner, with the exception of official events sanctioned by Blue Skies Management and the Final Friday Fling, which is reserved for box owners only. Non-box owners must abide by the Social Club rules, i.e. clean up after themselves, and do not carry uncovered liquor bottles into The Lakeview. A copy of the Social Club rules can be obtained by contacting Tom Jones or Ralph Kelly by email.

2024 Tax Prep by AARP/IRS Certified Preparers – Surviving Spouses

This month we would like to address the tax situation for all those who have lost a spouse since your last tax filing. Processing the grief takes time. However, as the coming tax season approaches, the reality of filing with the IRS begins to loom as a necessary reality. Some surviving spouses find they are facing a new and complex experience. They were never before involved with the joint tax filling process. One of our goals is to ease that tension and confusion. We will help. If your spouse passed in 2024, you still file “married filing jointly”. As you settled your spouse’s estate you found that you needed to notify Social Security, pension payers, banks, and any financial managers. Some asked for copies of the death certificate. The IRS will be asking for the same. Use that overall process to build a list of all the sources of financial statements that the IRS will look for when filing your tax return.

The pension sources should be sending you Form 1099-Rs, the financial managers can send 1099-Rs, 1099-INTs, 1099-DIVs, and capital gains statements. If you check the documents arriving in Jan-Feb 2025 against the list you built above you will find that you have a very good start for completing your taxes. Compare the forms received for 2024 to those used in the 2023 tax return. If there is a difference, find out why.

When we go over your completed 2024 taxes with you, we will be in a much better position to help you plan for the following year’s filing and explain your return to you in terms that you will be more comfortable with.



We help surviving spouses deal with this situation every year. We also often include surviving children in this process who are trying to help their parent going forward in future tax years. After all, as we progress through the continuing care spectrum we usually need more help with some tasks and some simple planning can make all the difference.

If the spouse passed in early 2025, please bring a death certificate. You will still be able to file married, filing jointly for 2025.

If you have questions about the service and basic tax issues, please contact Al Wesson or John Folkson. Phone numbers can be found in the directory.

Resident Updates

What a Wonderful Caring Community Blue Skies Is! ~ Kyle Hood

Recently my husband Bob passed away. I have received countless expressions of support from residents – cards, calls and hugs. Thank you so much for your many kindnesses. They are much appreciated and give me strength. Blue Skies is family.

Maj. George Snell

Maj. George and Aline Snell moved to Blue Skies of Texas in 2020 from Port Aransas, TX. George loved living at Blue Skies and cherished all the friends he made before his passing. Pictured clockwise starting are George Snell, Karen Murray, Chryllyn Dums (daughter), Aline Snell, and Marvin Murray. Marvin and George are Knights of Columbus, Port Aransas Council #14739. The Council just completed their annual raffle sales and George's donation rounded out the net sales at \$10,000.00.



Sports, Games, & Scores

Ladies BUNCO Group ~ JoAnn Oldham

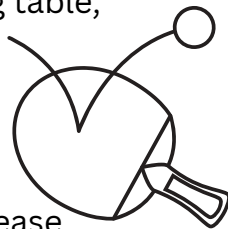
We will be rolling the dice on Tuesdays, **October 1 and 15** at 3:30pm, in CC3. Bring \$1 for the "POT" and invite a friend and join in the fun of this fast passed game. 🎲🎲🎲
Following play, we gather in the Roadrunner before dining together in The Lakeview.

Winners for September

Betty Chalfont, Lee Wells, Jeannie Shirley, and JoAnn Oldham

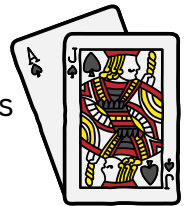
Ping Pong ~ Bob Stuckert

Don't forget that 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.



Black Jack Winners for Quarter 3

Lou Genko 7105 points
Mike Durack 4300 points
Clarke Ehrlich 1830 points



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

Labor Day weekend got off to a real bang on the 31st of August when Pat Perry represented the Seasoned Soles at the E-Dragon Run Festival and completed the 5K.

The next day Pat ran a 5-mile race called The Whine Run and placed first in her age group.

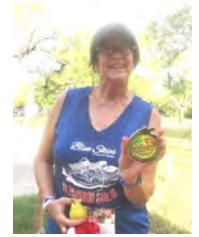
Then on the 7th of September, Lu Schuster went to Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania and won first place in her age group in the Bird-in-Hand Half Marathon.

On the same day, Pat Perry was winning a first place in her age group in the 10K of the Tour de las Misiones in San Antonio.

The following week, on the 14th of September, five Seasoned Soles went to the Missions Park and ran the 9-11 Heroes Run 5K sponsored by the Travis Manion Foundation to honor our military and first responders. Pat MacIntyre, Pat Perry and Harlan Sager won first places in their age groups. John MacIntyre was third in his age group.

John Paul Sullivan crossed the finished line right in front of two of Bexar County firefighters. Charlene Miseli, daughter of Betty and Alan Chalfont, was at the race representing the Travis Manion Foundation and can be seen standing next to John Paul.

Two of our Seasoned Soles (Tom and Cynthia Cochran) completed the 9-11 Heroes Run 5K virtually on an island in Greece where they are vacationing, and Ellen Skiba and Pam Westwood (who were unable to travel to Greece) also virtually finished the Heroes Run 5K here at Blue Skies.



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.



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.



Spiritual News

Catholic News

All Saints' Day – Friday, **November 1** – in the High Flight Chapel. Time to be determined with notification via email.

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**

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month. In October we will meet on Fridays, **October 4** in The Vista Willow Chapel, and **October 18** in the Helen LeMay Room from 8:30-9:30am. All are welcome to join us for a short reading followed by 20 minutes of silence together. 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 9:30 am and 11 am

- Sunday service is repeated at 10:30 am on Wednesdays on Channel 1890 or lobby monitors.
- Fellowship time between services: 10:30-11 am

Freedom House – Sundays at 10:45 am

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

Pray For Our Nation – 1st and 3rd Fridays at 10am in the Helen LaMay 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.

