

# ROADRUNNER

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FEBRUARY 2025

VOLUME 2025-02



## FROM THE DIRECTOR ~ BRIAN GRAYBEAL

February is Sweetheart Month, and it brings with it a wonderful opportunity to celebrate love and connection. Valentine's Day is the perfect time to express appreciation for your sweetheart and cherish the special people in your life. It's also a time to honor and remember those we have lost, keeping their memories close to our hearts. Together, let's spread warmth and kindness during this chilly time of year.

Speaking of chilly weather, February has often proven to be one of our coldest months in recent years. With icy conditions becoming a regular challenge, we urge everyone to take precautions while walking outdoors. Our dedicated maintenance team works tirelessly to salt and prepare our sidewalks, ensuring they are as safe as possible. However, please remain vigilant and watch for slippery areas to avoid falls. Your safety is our top priority.

We're also excited to share some fantastic updates about our community! Renovations are underway in Towers 1 & 2, specifically in Hallways 2, 5, and 6. We are starting with these areas, and others will be renovated in the future. We will make these announcements as those timeframes draw nearer. Our design team has put in great effort to modernize and elevate our décor. These changes are designed to create a more welcoming and contemporary environment for everyone to enjoy. We appreciate your patience and understanding as these improvements are made.

In addition, we've expanded our golf cart parking to better serve our residents. These designated spots are intended to add convenience and organization. We kindly ask everyone to park golf carts in these areas and avoid parking near doorways. On a related note, we want to remind everyone to adhere to the 10 MPH speed limit while driving golf carts within the community to ensure safety for all.

Lastly, we want to express our gratitude for your cooperation with our new reservation and walk-in system. The smooth transition is a testament to your adaptability and understanding, and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for making this process a success.

As we embrace February, let's celebrate the love and connection that make our community special. Together, we can brighten even the coldest days.

## New Residents

New residents coming soon to a neighborhood near you.

**Jim & Kimberly  
McGoldrick, #228**

**Richard & Debra  
Hoedebecke, #637**

**Phil de Tournillon &  
Denise Canchola, #2212**

**Richard & Valerie  
Brigman, #2803**

# Save the Date:

**Monday, February 3 – AFIO Presentation – 12pm – Roadrunner Lounge**

**Wednesday, February 5 – Black History Month Celebration & Presentation – 2pm – Main Lobby**

**Thursday, February 6 – Coffee with Chef – 9:30-10:30am – Roadrunner Lounge**

**Friday, February 7 – Pre-Super Bowl Party – 2pm – Main Lobby**

**Saturday, February 8 – Dee Mann 90th Birthday Celebration – 3-5pm – Roadrunner Lounge**

**Monday, February 10 – Cruise Planners Meeting – 2pm – Roadrunner Lounge**

**Tuesday, February 11 – Peace in Estate Planning – 2pm – Roadrunner Lounge**

**Wednesday, February 12 – Distinguished Flying Cross Society (DFCS) – 10am – Roadrunner Lounge**

**Wednesday, February 12 – BST Low Vision Club – 10am – CC3**

**Thursday, February 13 – DRAC Meeting – 1:30pm – Roadrunner Lounge**

**Friday, February 14 – PAM Health at Home – 10am – Roadrunner Lounge**

**Thursday, February 20 – Resident Council Meeting – 1:30pm – Roadrunner Lounge**

**Tuesday, February 25 – Parkinson’s Support Group – 1pm – BSTE Legacy Room**

**Wednesday, February 26 – The Heart Walk – 8:30am – Main Lobby**

**Friday, February 28 – Wine Down with Rehab – 2pm – Roadrunner Lounge**

## Special Event Set Ups

To ensure proper planning and coordination, we kindly ask that you provide all relevant event details in a timely manner. This will allow us to make the best arrangements and avoid any issues on the day of your special event. Keep in mind that last minute requests may not be accepted. We have staff members from various departments that are involved in planning special events based on your request so if you’re not sure where to start contact resident services and we can point you in the right direction.

## Uniguest Resident Contact Information

Please review your contact information in the Uniguest Resident Directory to ensure that your information is up to date.

## Transportation Update

Trips to HEB and Walmart on Potranco have moved to Thursdays from 9:30-11:30am. Contact Katrina Cantu for details on how to sign up.

## BSTW Towers Emergency Fire Instructions

What do I do? Where do I go? Some of you were present for the annual Tower Safety Checks and know what to do in the event of a fire but for those of you who were not present or are new to Blue Skies stop by the front desk and obtain instructions on what to do and where to go so you are aware of what to do in such a situation. Teresa Santana of Resident Services can be contacted to meet with you one on one to discuss the instructions and the process upon request.

## Volunteer Opportunity with the Development Team!

We invite you to join us at the San Antonio Food Bank on Friday, **February 28**, from 8:30-11am to assist in their Community Kitchen. Volunteers will help prepare and pack breakfast, lunch, and snacks for local schools. A Blue Skies bus will be available for transportation to and from the Food Bank. To register, please contact Calista Kuchan at 210-568-3276 or via email at calistakuchan@blueskiestx.org. Each participant will receive a complimentary Blue Skies volunteer T-shirt. Once you’ve registered, Calista will let you know the date and time to pick up your T-shirt. The deadline to register is Friday, **February 21**. Space is limited, so be sure to secure your spot today!

# Resident Services Announcements

## Play for Freedom 2025

Our 31st Annual Play for Freedom Golf Tournament, on Friday, **March 21** at The Quarry Golf Club is fast approaching and promises a great day of golf in support of our Freedom House and Blue Skies residents. All proceeds from our annual tournament ensure ongoing training for our staff, and provides weekly entertainment, social gatherings and intergenerational activities for residents – the “extras” that make Freedom House a leader in memory care support.



- If you're interested in playing, our list of individual spots is already almost full! We ask that you register ASAP at [Golf Tournament Registration](#). As needed, we will have a wait list.
- If you won't be able to play or if you're not a golfer, and you haven't done so already, please consider becoming a [Friend of Freedom House](#) through a tax-deductible gift in support of the tournament.

A big thank you to our corporate sponsors, and our residents, who have already registered or made a gift!

For more information or questions about Play for Freedom, reach out to Daniel Garcia Casillas by stopping by the Development Office. You can also email him at [danielcasillas@blueskiestx.org](mailto:danielcasillas@blueskiestx.org) or call him at 210.568.3290.

## In Memoriam

**Mike Connolly – January 2**

**Ann Christie – January 11**

**Harriett Berlin – January 16**

**William Jacobs – January 18**

**Barbara Wright - January 25**

**John “Jack” Fay – January 10**

**Mary “Terry” Hayes – January 12**

**Nedra Denison – January 19**

**Catherine Gibeau – January 24**

# Resident Services Announcements

## Be My Valentine? The Sweetheart Scam ~ Ashlie Maltos

Love is in the air! Valentine's day is approaching, and we all want to feel love, but watch out as Valentine Day scammers will break your bank and your heart. The sweetheart scam is when the victim meets a scammer on a single or dating website who poses as a person also looking for a relationship online. They chat over the internet and exchange photos. The scammer typically sends photographs of a very good-looking woman or man, depending on who their target is. The victim thinks they have developed a relationship and over time falls in love. Eventually the scammer comes up with a story about how he/she has a major problem in their life which requires an outlay of money. The victim, feeling the need to help their new-found love, ends up wiring money repeatedly to this person, in some cases until they are cheated out of all their money. Since the scammers are usually corresponding with the victim from another country, it is close to impossible for U.S. authorities to identify or prosecute them. Once the scammer has achieved their financial goal, they will drop the unsuspecting victim and disappear. Most victims are astonished when they realize that these deceptive individuals are proficient at manipulating human emotions to get what they want.

## Updates in the Maintenance Department

We are thrilled to announce some recent changes in the Maintenance Department that will enhance services across both campuses.

Sophia Figueroa has been promoted to the role of Systems Coordinator and Catered Living Manager. In her new position, Sophia will oversee our systems operations and manage our Catered Living services. For any inquiries or to schedule Catered Living services, please contact Sophia directly at 210-568-3261.

Additionally, we warmly welcome Selina Canamar, who joined our maintenance team nearly a month ago. Selina takes on the crucial role of Facility Coordinator, responsible for managing all work orders efficiently for both campuses. To report work orders, please continue to call 210-677-8978 or send an email to [workorder@blueskiestx.org](mailto:workorder@blueskiestx.org).

Please join us in congratulating Sophia on her promotion and welcoming Selina to the team!

## Pest Control Schedule

	Friday, February 7	Friday, February 14	Friday, February 21	Friday, February 28
<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.



## Resident Services Announcements

# *Employee Anniversaries*

	Location	Anniversary Date	Years Of Service
Olvido Lozano	Dining Services	February 28	1
Shaun Pressnell	Dining Services	February 22	1
Emerald Rodriguez	Dining Services	February 8	1
Kendall Turton	Human Resources Director	February 12	1
Lexi Astorga	Freedom House	February 1	2
Manyifil Biarni	Freedom House	February 1	2
Sarah Casugay	Freedom House	February 8	3
James Crespo	Resident Services	February 4	3
Maria Leal Granillo	Dining Services	February 22	3
Sherrel Dawson	Human Resources	February 25	6
Analilia Rodriguez	Dining Services	February 22	6
Caitlin Brennan	Wellness	February 8	7
Sandra Guerra	Freedom House	February 5	9
Sonia Razo	EVS Housekeeper	February 8	9
Margie Dominguez	EVS Housekeeper	February 28	12
Raul Castro	Maintenance	February 25	14
Bruno Estrada	Maintenance	February 25	14
Vanessa Martinez	Freedom House	February 11	14
Michael Millar	Development	February 22	15
Marco Sierra	Maintenance	February 10	15
Katrina Cantu	Resident Services	February 13	16
Felicia Lopez	Freedom House	February 20	16
Joe Canamar	Maintenance	February 1	17
Eufemia Martinez	Freedom House	February 8	17
Diana Sanchez	EVS Housekeeper	February 22	17
Gabina Galdamez	EVS Laundry	February 7	19
Cheryl Prince	Freedom House	February 21	30

# Resident Updates

## Hearts Alive!

Valentines' Day is just around the corner! Is there a soulmate you want to show that you still care? Is there a friend you want to honor? Or maybe there is a person who performed a random act of kindness and you would like to return the favor. If so, Texas P.E.O. Chapter EU to the rescue. This year will not be our usual bouquet of a dozen roses. The cost was prohibitive, but we are still offering flowers, as well as some other items:

A vase of five carnations with three roses	\$35
A vase of nine carnations	\$30
A bud vase with three roses	\$15
Red cups with carnations	\$12
Small boxes of candy	\$5
Valentines boxes with homemade fudge	\$15
"Love Rocks" for your potted plants, garden or desk, or leave anonymously at a friends front door!	\$2



Items can be ordered on Thursday, **January 30**, Friday, **January 31**, Monday, **February 3**, and Tuesday, **February 4**. Sales tables will be set up for your convenience. Ordered items will be picked up on Thursday, **February 13**.

All proceeds go to the six International P.E.O. projects that help women receive higher education to reach their goals.

## AFIO Chapter Meeting

The Communist Chinese Party considers the United States to be the most serious adversary to Communists Party goals for world domination. The Monday, **February 3**, San Antonio Chapter of AFIO program will be a presentation on Chinese influence operations directed at the United States by the Communist Chinese Party's (CCP) agents. The CCP has very active cyber-attacks and misinformation programs coupled with an aggressive spying program. The **February 3** program will be an interview by Jim Hughes, AFIO President, of John Lenczowski, PhD, an expert on China and a former National Security Council advisor on Chinese influence operations. The San Antonio Chapter of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers offers this program to uncover some of these CCP programs in the United States. The program begins at noon in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies of Texas West. The San Antonio Chapter of AFIO programs are presented as a free public service and are open to all Blue Skies residents.

# Resident Updates

## Freedom House Dementia Caregivers Support Group

This monthly support group provides an opportunity for caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias to share their experiences, questions, and issues. Dementia of any kind and in any stage is a devastating illness that creates a stressful environment for all involved. Our group is open not only to those whose loved ones are residing in Freedom House but also to those who are caregivers of loved ones in their homes. The Freedom House staff will provide care for your loved ones if you wish to bring them with you. You will need to contact the FH Activities Coordinator at 210-838-6301 or 210-838-6300 so they will be prepared with activities. The Support Group will meet on Thursday, **February 6** at 1:30pm in the Freedom House Chapel. For those who wish, we invite you to join us for lunch in the Lakeview Dining Room at noon prior to the meeting. If you have any questions, please email or text Jane Hill (see directory).



## AARP Defensive Driving Course

~ Paula Haley

It's time to start thinking about taking the AARP Defensive Driving course. You need to take this course just to figure out how to drive in San Antonio. Don't you just hate to be coming to Blue Skies in the late afternoon? Where are all those people going on highway 90? Come to the course and we will talk about it. John Siebert will be the lead instructor. It will be held on Friday, **February 7**, starting at 12:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. It will conclude at 4:30pm. Sign up in CC1. Hope to see you there.

## Distinguished Flying Cross Society

~ Robert Certain

The Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society will hold its monthly open meeting on Wednesday, **February 12** at 10am in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies West. Harlan Sager's presentation will include How I got into the submarine program, submarine configurations, overview of submarine operations, nuclear training and power plants, and miscellaneous submarine trivia. All residents of Blue Skies East or West are welcome to attend.



Dee Mann is turning 90, so we need to CELEBRATE! Come one and all to toast her with cake and champagne. Saturday, **February 8** from 3-5pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. Bring only yourselves and good wishes!



## Hilda (Zumba Cat) and Dancers Wish You a Happy New Year!





**B & A**  
**CELEBRATE!**



## **February 12 B&A Presents Valentine's Evening ~ Corlea Plowman**

All BST West residents and guests are invited to wear Valentine's red and/or hearts at the Wednesday, **February 12**, 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 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:* Shrimp Cocktail

*Entrée:* Osso Bucco; Braised Veal Shank, Saffron Risotto, Glazed Carrots, topped with Demi & Gremolata

*Dessert:* Flourless Chocolate Cake, Strawberry Sauce

Olive Oil & Rosemary Sourdough

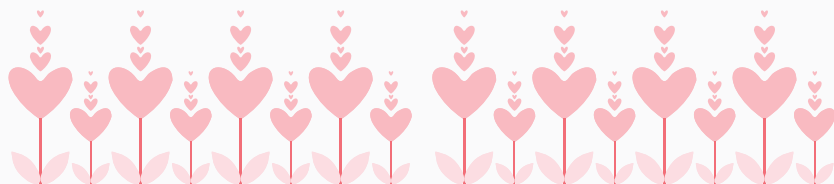
Water, Coffee, or Iced Tea

\$42 Per Person

*Alternative:* Seared Salmon with Bay Shrimp Scampi

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, **February 10**, 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.

Sponsors for the Social Hour before dinner are Cathy Bee, Billy Bingham, Al Buie, Ron & Patty Bordwell, Karl & Mary Bourgeois, Bob & MJ (chair) Caudill, Don & Debbie Christian, Jim & Dianne Dower, Gail Gant, Bob & Peggy Gracy, Jerre & Kathy Griffin, Susan Griffith, Walt Handy, Joy Hough, Jim & Sandy Johnston, Celia Kellogg, Bill & Dee Mann, Diane & David Marx, Joe Manci, Judy McKinney, Paul & Joy Norton, Brenda Perry, Corlea Plowman, Chris Ritchey, Lu & James Schuster, Ritchie Seymour, Carolyn Shipman, Dan & Ruth Ann Taylor, and B.D. Walker.





## Resident Updates

### Freedom House Juice Patrol

~ **John Siebert**

Many residents may remember when we had volunteers deliver juice to residents in the Blue Skies nursing facilities. Freedom House is seeking volunteers to start a juice patrol to deliver drinks to residents on Thursday afternoons. Freedom House will provide the juice and the carts for the volunteers. This is a nice opportunity to engage with our friends in Freedom House. More information is available by calling or emailing Arielle at: 210-838-6301, or email at [ariellecorona@blueskiestx.org](mailto:ariellecorona@blueskiestx.org).

### Gadabouts ~ **Andrea Sandifer**

You're going to want to go back again to enjoy the food at this month's destination at some time in the future. On Friday, **February 14**, Gadabouts will travel to Selda Mediterranean Grill. Please be in the Main Lobby at 10am. The bus will leave promptly at 10:30am.

### Residents Concert Series in February

For the first time, one of San Antonio's foremost musical groups, The Agarita Chamber Players, will perform at BST West at 3pm on Sunday, **February 16**. The members of this group have performed worldwide and have developed extensive performance experience. Do not miss this wonderful opportunity to enjoy their classical and contemporary music.

### Texas Hoedown is Baaackkk! ~ **Susan Griffith**

The return of the Texas Hoedown will take place on Sunday, **February 16**, at 7pm in the Lakeview Dining Room.

The Hoedown will be emceed by Jack Church.

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 the Blue Skies Equestrian Club.

Songs include: "Stand By Your Man," "Waltz Across Texas," "Deep in the Heart of Texas", "Jackson" 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!



### LA Disaster HAM Support ~ **Betty Overacker**

ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) is ready to assist communication during any disaster which usually are hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and blizzards. The disastrous LA fire posed different problems with heavy smoke, 100 mile per hour wind gusts, and poor visibility. The trained Amateur Radio Operators served critical roles to help officials spot fires before they got out of control using amateur radio bands to fill in the mobile network weak zones. Whether it is fire storms or ice storms or any other need, Ham Radio Operators selflessly serve their communities with their essential capabilities. All are welcome to attend the next Amateur Radio Club meeting on Tuesday, **February 18** in Meeting Room 110 at 11am . Please contact Bob Stuckert for more information. 73—Best Regards in Ham Language

# Resident Updates

## **BSTW Resident Council Meeting**

### **~ Corlea Plowman**

The Residents' Council meeting will take place on Thursday, **February 20** 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.

## **Red Hat Luncheon ~ Vivian Ray**

This month's lunch is hosted by Vivian Ray and Karen Pearce. On Friday, **February 21** at 11:15am, we will dine at NICHAS Mexican Restaurant, 5059 Northwest Loop 410, San Antonio, 78229. Please be in the lobby by 10:15am. The bus leaves at 10:30am. If you sign up, you need to ride the bus. If the bus fills up, you can then drive yourself. 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 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.

## **Thank you ~ Lynn Church**

We want to thank so many people who shared our sorrow of losing Max. He was loved by so many. We so appreciate all the cards, hugs and tears, emails and words of support. His happy greeting was so pleasing. His passing touched all who loved him.

## **The Times they are a changing...**

As well as the New Yorker and Readers' Digest and rest of the 50+ titles we now have available.

That is, the magazine section in our library is undergoing reorganization. Some of the 80 cubby holes have been vacant for a while and a few are stuffed. Not surprising that contributions change over time as all publications found there are donations from residents.

Under consideration is alphabetizing by title, doing away with categories such as "Service Clubs" or "Travel", OR alphabetizing categories such as Aviation with a slot for each of its 4 titles, Nature with separate slots for 5 and so on.

Take a look at this part of the library and look over the charts with suggestions for sorting. Suggestions for making it easier to see what's available are welcome. As are your preferences about how long magazines should be kept. Leave your comments in the labeled box.

## **Village Voices ~ Nancy Sowada**

In 1975, Col George Howard, USAF (retired), a resident of Air Force Village (now Blue Skies East) joined other residents to begin the Village Voices. That was 50 years ago and the Village Voices are still going strong! We began our spring rehearsals on January 21, so there is still time to join us if you have sung in a choir and/or can read music. We rehearse on Tuesdays in the Blue Skies West chapel from 1:30-3:30pm. We are featuring all types of music this spring, including Danny Boy, Amazing Grace, and Take Me Home, Country Roads. Our concerts are in May. We thank the members of the Activities Coordinating Council for approving funds for the purchase of new music. We thank our fellow residents who contribute to the Activities Coordinating Council and the Air Force Village Charitable Fund. Please continue to contribute!

# Resident Updates

## Blue Skies West Handbells ~ Nancy Sowada

In 1990, Nona Whitlatch, a resident of Blue Skies West (Air Force Village II at that time), mounted a fundraising campaign among residents through the Activities Coordinating Council to raise money to purchase handbells and hand chimes. That was 35 years ago and we are still playing and enjoying those bells and chimes! We began our spring rehearsals on January 23, so there is still time to join us if you can read music and have very good attendance at rehearsals. We have a variety of abilities in our group, and we would welcome you this month. We rehearse on Thursdays in the Blue Skies West craft room from 10:30-11:30am. We play a variety of music. We thank the members of the Activities Coordinating Council for approving the funds to have our handbells serviced and to purchase new music and supplies. We thank our fellow residents who contribute to the Activities Coordinating Council.

## Forget-Me-Not, A Series of Presentations on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

Forget-me-not, a series of presentations on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Our featured speaker will be Dr. Sudha Seshadri, founding Director of the Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases at UT Health San Antonio. She is scheduled to speak on Thursday, **March 27**, at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. Please sign up on Uniguest. We welcome your ideas and questions in advance of her presentation. Please submit your questions and suggestions on Alzheimer's and other types of dementia as soon as possible but no later than Friday, **February 28**. Email Jane Hill (see resident roster) or leave a note in the West internal mailbox "H". Please include your name in the event we need to reach you for clarification.



## 2025 Resident Mini-Directories

### ~ Ruth Ann Taylor

The 2025 Mini-Directory will be available early in February. Thanks to all the dedicated members of the Mini-Directory Committee who have given so generously of their time, to create this little pocket-sized residents' phone book. Also, thanks to the many residents who have shown me their appreciation over the past six years in which I have edited, produced, and distributed this booklet.

I have decided to hang up my spectacles and close down the computer, to give myself time to follow other interests and activities. However, if anyone wants to pick up the project to keep it alive, I will give that person my files and instructions, along with my best wishes for their future success. Call me, Ruth Ann Taylor, for further information (see resident roster).

## Attention all US Army Veterans

Mark your calendars for the 250th Birthday of the US Army on Saturday, **June 14**. All veterans, officer or enlisted, and anyone who worked closely with the Army (such as a FAC, or a graduate of Army schools such as West Point, USC&GS or the Army War College) as well as any residents who have an interest in the Army are invited. There will be a dinner on Saturday night, **June 14**, here at BSTW, and activities over the weekend. All residents who have a complete Army uniform (Blues or Greens) are asked to wear it. More information to come, as reservations will be required for the Saturday dinner. Stay tuned.



# Resident Updates

## DRAC ~ Jerry Pierce

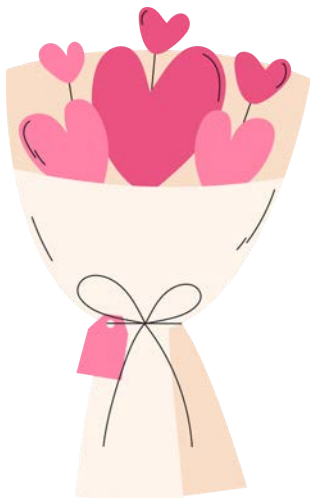
During December a trial run of new dining room procedures for Monday through Thursday dinner reservations commenced. The input of all the residents (customers) was solicited. The results of the survey indicated that approximately 75% of those who submitted comments were against reservations. On January 6, a meeting was held to discuss the results and to determine the way forward. Those in attendance were Heather Ransom, Brian Graybeal, Guy Fanelli, Nikki Villa, Vice Chair Ron Hatchett and myself. After an extensive discussion, it was determined that the main problem was that there was more demand for early reservations and walk in's at 5pm than there was staff to handle the large crowd and to provide the proper service that we would all expect. When the group dug deeper into the problem it was discovered that there were not enough staffing positions in the budget. Therefore, Morrison's could not hire more people. The number of positions are determined by Management. Since we are halfway through the year, it would be very difficult to change the budget at this time.

The group arrived at a trial fix which began on January 13. Going forward, dinner reservations can be made seven days a week and walk-in's can sign up at the desk at 5pm and they can start to be seated at 5:30pm. If you don't have a reservation, give your cell number to the desk staff and you will be notified by text that your table is ready. You can be anywhere on the campus when notified and you will have 15 minutes to claim your table. After each of you have tried this new procedure, please give us your comments via the DRAC Comment Card on Uniguest or contact your DRAC Representative.

The next Coffee-with-the-Chef is Thursday, **February 6** at 9:30am in the Roadrunner Lounge.

The next DRAC Meeting is Thursday, **February 13** at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. BSTW Kitchen Tour is scheduled for Wednesday, **February 19**. Everyone who has signed up please confirm with Lu Schuster, the DRAC Tour coordinator.

DRAC's mission is to ensure that each resident (customer) has a voice in determining food quality and that the dining experience is a key contributor to your enjoyment here at Blue Skies West. Remember "It starts with the food and ends with the food".



### 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.

**Deadline** for the next Roadrunner is Saturday, **February 22**

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

Next Publication Date is Friday, **February 28**



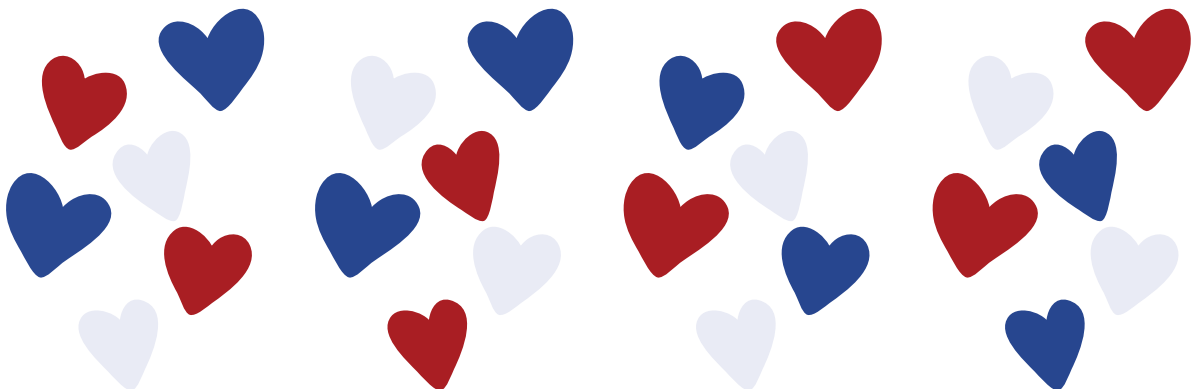
# Resident Updates

## Resident of the Month

The consumption of food is essential for all residents. Each individual has their own food preferences and some have special dietary needs. To improve food service, our Community has a “Dining Room Advisory Council” (better known as the “DRAC”), consisting of a chairperson, resident representatives, the Chef, and the dining room manager. After being a “DRAC” representative for several years, Leo Bell volunteered to be the “DRAC” Chairperson two years ago. The “DRAC” meetings led by Leo are well attended, have lively discussions regarding food preparation,



dining room reservations, menus, and a multitude of suggestions. Solutions are discussed and assigned to committee members for resolution. Leo’s affable personality improved communication between Residents and the Dining Room Services staff. Multiple accomplishments were achieved by Leo’s leadership. A “Quality Control” sub-committee was created to identify and track issues and suggestions submitted by Residents. With Web Master Ron Miller’s assistance, electronic communication was improved between Residents and Dining Services. Leo advanced the “Dining Services Recognition” program by establishing two positions for commendation: one for the “Back of the House” and the other for the “Front of the House” with the presentation of a coin memento for the selectees. Leo’s additional achievements include quarterly kitchen tours to enable residents to understand the challenges engaged by Dining Services; increased participation in wine tasting presentations; and revised and updated the “DRAC Handbook”. Through menu reviews, a “DRAC” subcommittee in conjunction with the Chef improved Residents’ options with “Fixed Price” specials and diverse courses for both lunch and dinner. Thank you, Leo, for your stellar accomplishments to satisfy our taste buds. Nominated by Ric Cuadros.



# Resident Updates

## Rotary Corner ~ Debby Cox

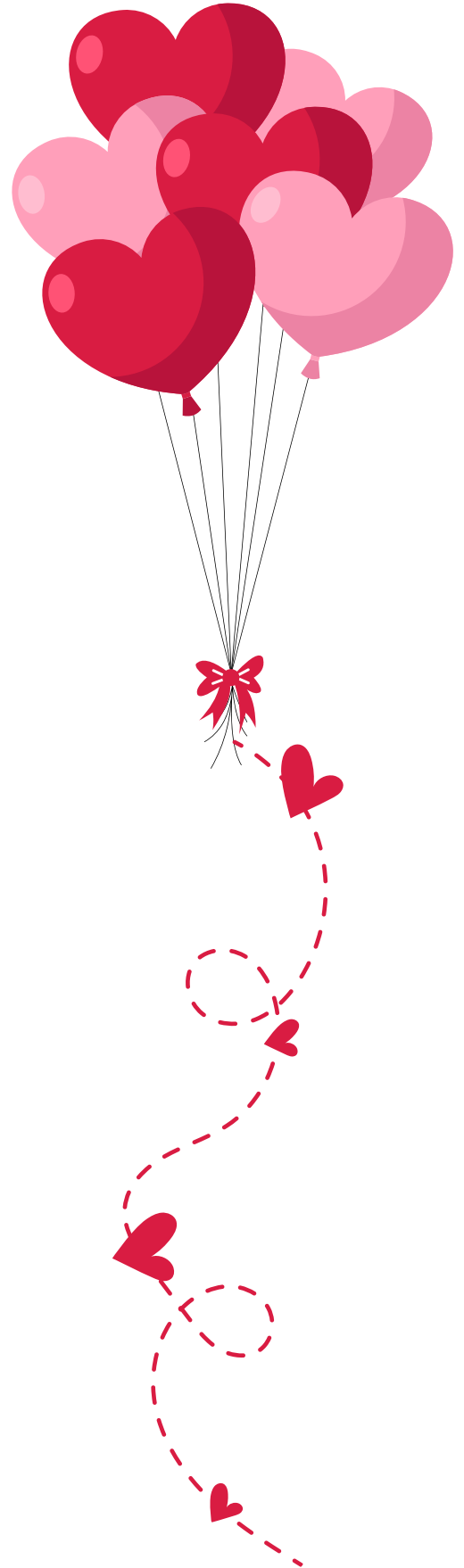
All residents are welcome to attend any of the meetings of the San Antonio West Rotary Club, which meets right here at Blue Skies of Texas West. We meet the first and third Tuesday of every month in the Roadrunner Lounge from 12-1pm, and you are welcome to bring your lunch. However, for the month of February our meetings will be held in the Helen Lemay room.

On Tuesday, **February 4**, our program will be about estate planning, a topic that should be of keen interest to everyone living here. Our speaker, John Hutcherson, recently sold his wealth management business, and he has always been a very active Rotary member in Fredericksburg. You will also learn how to serve our community through Rotary's endowment and major gifts programs.

On Tuesday, **February 18**, our very own "famous" Blue Skies resident, Paula Haley, who retired from the Air Force after 21 years as a Lt. Colonel, will tell us all about national military cemeteries based on her experiences as Director of the cemeteries in San Antonio and Los Angeles.

If you were looking forward to our planned speaker for January 2, FBI Special Agent in charge, Aaron Tapp, this was the meeting we had to cancel due to inclement weather, so Aaron will be with us on Tuesday, **March 4**. You will hear about the FBI mission in South Texas. We are always looking for new members, so if you have a heart for helping people in our local community or contributing to one of our many impactful global projects, please attend our meetings, learn more about us and talk to any of our current members about the gift of Rotary. We are pleased to announce that we have just inducted two new members and plan to add three more in the first quarter.

Web Site: <https://www.RotaryClubofSanAntonioWest.org>  
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/RotarySAWest>  
<https://www.RotaryClubofSanAntonioWest.org>



# Resident Updates

## Library News ~ Barbara Folkesson and Peggy Durack

Happy New Year (a month late). Thank you to all the residents who have donated books to our library this past year. They are much appreciated. Our library has circulated 2300+ books the past year. After checking the recent New York Times bestsellers list, we have at least 80% of the titles, either through purchase or donation. Recently we have noticed people have deposited many DVD's in the return bin; we are not ready to take in new DVD's until we better understand how the existing DVD's are circulating. If you have well-loved DVD's but don't want to keep them, you can put them on the library donation table; be sure to put an X (in marker) on the front cover. DO NOT bring us personally made DVD's as they cannot go on our public shelves due to copyright laws.

**E-Books** – Did you know that you can download e-books from San Antonio Public Library for free? You do need a current library card from the San Antonio Public Library, which requires going to one of the local branches. To apply, you need to bring a photo ID & proof of residency in Bexar County (i.e. a utility bill works). If you already have a card and need help on how to download a book from San Antonio Public Library (for free) or Amazon (for purchase), contact Peggy or Barbara for help. Phone numbers are in the BSTW directory.



**New Books** - *The Lost Bookshop* (Evie Woods); *In Too Deep* (Lee Child); *The Waiting* (Michael Connolly); *James* (Everett Percival); *Decades of Decadence* (Marco Rubio); *The Things That We Do for Love* (Kristen Hannah)

**Large Print** - *The Grey Wolf* (Louise Penney); *To Die For* (David Baldacci); *Robert B Parker's Someone to Watch Over Me* (Ace Atkins)



# Sports, Games, & Scores

## Friday Night Games ~ Karen Tidler

We've been having fun on Friday nights, starting at 6:30pm in CC3, playing games. This particular night included two tables of 5 Crown, Chicken Foot (a dominos game), Phase 10, Scrabble, Rummikub and a table learning bridge. New folks are welcome, even patient to teach you how to play the games.



## Ladies BUNCO Group ~ JoAnn Oldham

🎲🎲🎲 The January weather was cold but the dice were hot. The winners for the month were: Bernice Houston, Jane Hill, Vera Lee, JoAnn Oldham, Kathy Bee and Brenda Perry.

We will be rolling the dice again on Tuesdays, **February 4 and 18** at 3:30pm in CC3. Bring a friend and \$1 for the "POT". Following play, plan to join us in the Bistro for dinner.

## Blue Skies Hand Elbow and Foot

~ Gaye True

There's a new game in town... If you have never played cards, play a little or a lot; or are considered a true card shark, you are invited to learn a new form of triple canasta. Easy to learn with lots of twists to make winning interesting. No money, no reservation, no partner. Just show up by 6:30pm on Monday evenings in CC3 and we will show you the ropes.

More than 40 people have learned and are playing the new game and if you have not played come Monday evenings in CC3 where we will have players who can teach you the game. Fun game no matter what level of card player you are (or are not). Card tip for the month: Treat wildcards like diamonds. They can win the game for you.

## 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 6:30pm 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.



## 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

## 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.



## Bridge

The bridge group meets on Mondays starting at 1pm to play Party Bridge. Showtime is 12:30pm. This is an open game, but you need a partner please. We meet in CC3. There is a sign-up book in CC3. The bridge club also plays Duplicate, one Tuesday a month. This is a limited space game. There is a sign-up book. Contact Joy Hough with questions.



## Adventures of the Seasoned Soles

### ~ John and Pat MacIntyre

The 2025 year for the Seasoned Soles began New Year's morning with a 5K race in Old Town Helotes, Texas, called La Cruda (The Hangover). Tom and Cynthia Cochran, John and Pat MacIntyre, Brenda Perry, Pat Perry, Lu Schuster, John Paul Sullivan, and Dan Van Syoc all completed the race and then enjoyed lots of goodies, including some food and special drinks for people who over-celebrated.

Our next event was the annual Seasoned Soles gathering for coffee, cookies and lies about how fast we walked or ran a race. It was sponsored by Hope and Terry from Wellness. During 2024, twenty of the Seasoned Soles went off campus for 126 individual events and completed a total of 517.7 miles of walking or running. The highlight of the annual gathering is always the video of the many photos from the various events both off and on campus. The producer of the video is Bob Siegel, who does a fantastic job.

Before the end of the month, several of the Seasoned Soles will go to Pearsall Park on 25 January for the Winter Dragon races.



# Spiritual News

## Catholic News

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

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

**Fridays** – 3-4pm, Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration, and Divine Mercy Chaplet 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, Barbara Wilson, Mary Tucker, or Gil Wolfe by phone, text, or email and they will arrange for a Lay Eucharistic Minister to bring the Holy Eucharist to your apartment/cottage (see Resident Directory).

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

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

## Centering Prayer at Blue Skies West ~ Linda Ricketts

We will meet in the Willow Chapel at 8:30am on the first and third Fridays of the month. Questions, call Jenna Hatchett or Robert Ferre.

