

ROADRUNNER

APRIL 2025

VOLUME 2025-04

Blue Skies
of Texas
AT AIR FORCE VILLAGE

FROM THE DIRECTOR ~ BRIAN GRAYBEAL

Easter and the Renewal of Spring: A Season of Change

As the chill of winter fades, spring arrives with its promise of renewal, growth, and transformation. Easter, a holiday celebrated by many during this season, beautifully symbolizes these themes of rebirth and new beginnings. With flowers blooming, trees budding, and longer, sunnier days ahead, nature itself reminds us that change is inevitable—and often for the better. Just as the earth awakens from its slumber, we too can embrace new opportunities, fresh perspectives, and personal growth. Easter traditions, from egg hunts to family gatherings, reflect the joy of new life. Whether through religious observance or simply celebrating the arrival of spring, this season invites us to reflect, refresh, and move forward with optimism.

So, as the world around you transforms, take a moment to embrace change in your own life. Just like flowers pushing through the soil, you too are capable of renewal and new beginnings.

Save the Date:

Tuesday, April 1 – April Fool’s Day!!

Thursday, April 3 – Coffee with Chef, RR Lounge, 9:30am

Thursday, April 3 – Ice Cream Social, RR Lounge, 2pm

Monday, April 7 – AFIO Chapter Meeting, RR Lounge, 12pm

Wednesday, April 9 – DFCS Presentation, RR Lounge, 10am

Thursday, April 10 – DRAC Meeting, RR lounge, 1:30pm

Thursday, April 17 – RC Meeting, RR Lounge, 1:30pm

Sunday, April 20 – Happy Easter!

Wednesday, April 23 – Fiesta at Blue Skies of Texas, Main Lobby, 2pm

Welcome

New Residents

New residents coming soon to a neighborhood near you.

Laura Crewe, #627

Tim & Teresa Surratt, #1502

Dave & Lynn Shaw, #2209

Alan & Claire Ernst, #2707



Resident Services Announcements

Thrift Store Furniture Donation Process

Spring not only inspires personal growth but also brings opportunities for positive change in our community. One such improvement is the enhanced efficiency of our Thrift Store's furniture donation process. Starting April 15th, to ensure a smoother and safer transfer of donated furniture, once a resident decides what they'd like to donate and notifies the Thrift Store, they or Resident Services can access and provide a list of local contractors to assist with the move. While residents are not required to use these services, we provide contact details along with moving fees and rates as a courtesy resource to support them in making informed decisions. When family members are involved in clearing a residence, the Thrift Store and Resident Services will extend the same assistance and information, ensuring a seamless and supportive experience during the transition.

Fact or Fiction?

Fact or Fiction #1: There are many fictions concerning Dining Dollars. So here are the facts: At a recent Residents Council meeting, questions were raised about the meal plan. Why is the rollover amount capped at \$50 per month, why doesn't the carryover limit adjust with rate increases, and what happens to the dollars not used?



Before answering these questions, it's important to understand why we have a meal plan. The meal plan is our proactive measure to support residents' health and well-being. It ensures access to balanced meals and fosters a healthier community. The meal plan also sustains dining services and allows diverse meal options at a reasonable price throughout the year.

The answer to the three questions is basically the same; Blue Skies augments the overall dining program. Said another way, if we add up all the meal plan dollars from each resident, it is not enough to pay for the current dining experience.

If we increased the cap or allowed the rollover to adjust with rate increases, more money would be required to augment the dining experience – your money. Unused dining dollars reduce the additional funds needed. These funds do not go to Morrison to increase their profits.

While residents' perspectives will always vary, the core objective of the meal plan remains unchanged: to provide a dependable, nutritious dining option for each resident while maintaining a financially stable program.

Fact or Fiction #2: Rumor has it that Blue Skies is rounding up and disposing of and/or harming the feral cats.

This is Fiction: While the saying goes, "Curiosity killed the cat," in this case, curiosity stems from genuine concern—and we are always happy to provide clarity. Blue Skies has never stated, nor does it intend to round up, harm, or remove the feral cats. Rest assured, whether a cat has one life or all nine, they remain safe and undisturbed at Blue Skies.

Resident Services Announcements

Day Care Center ~ BST Leadership

We want to share an important update regarding the Blue Skies Intergenerational Preschool. After careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to close the program. For many years, the school provided on-site childcare for employees, fostered meaningful connections between residents and children, and served local families, including many in the military community. However, financial losses, staffing shortages, and declining employee participation made it increasingly difficult to sustain. Today, only three Blue Skies employees utilize the daycare, with just four children enrolled, two of whom will age out this year. Despite exploring multiple options, we could not find a path forward that would allow the program to continue.

As a nonprofit organization that receives no government subsidies, we must be responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us. While we are saddened by this closure, we remain committed to strengthening our community and ensuring that Blue Skies continues to be a place of connection, care, and belonging for all. Thank you for your understanding and support.

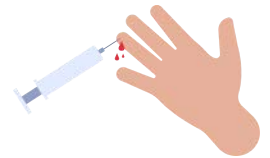
Carefeed

In November of 2024, Blue Skies of Texas partnered with Carefeed, a software company that provides a platform to facilitate communication between Residents with their communities. The first phase of Carefeed will GO LIVE on April 1st. Staff will be able to communicate directly and interactively with residents via phone and email. This means forms, surveys, and other BST documents can be sent and completed using a cellphone or on the computer. Phase 2's role out is still being planned for later this Summer. It will include the role out of a Resident/Family portal that will allow residents and designated family members to proactively access everything from community calendars, menus, newsletters, and more!

Proper Disposal of Syringes & Needles – Protecting Our Staff

If you are using an injectable medication or using a needle device such as an Accu-Chek machine for blood sugars, please take safety precautions when disposing of used syringes and needles. Used syringes and needles should never be placed in regular trash, as this poses a serious risk to our housekeeping and EVS staff. You should dispose of used syringes and needles in a puncture-proof container that can be purchased at any pharmacy. Some people use empty washing detergent jugs to hold their used syringes and needles, but be sure to keep the cap on the jug. Once your container is full, you can bring it to the Wellness Department for proper medical waste disposal.

If you have any questions or need to request a container, please contact the Wellness Department at 210.568.3356. Your cooperation helps keep everyone safe!



Resident Services Announcements

This is no April Fools Joke...

~ Ashlie Maltos

A popular text message scam continues to rear its ugly head on phones across the U.S., demanding money from consumers for fake unpaid tolls.

These texts generally try to impersonate the toll service in your state - for example, if you live in California, the text will likely say it's from FastTrak. If



you live in New York, or one of the 19 other states that use EZ Pass, it will claim to be from them. Some of the texts will include links to a dupe website with a URL and a webpage designed to look like the real thing.

Scammers aren't perfect, though - if you get a text claiming to be from the toll service in a state you haven't been to recently or ever, that's a safe sign it's likely a fake, as are texts with misspellings or links that don't match the name of the legitimate toll service website. Some may even ask you to copy and paste a link into your browser instead of clicking through it directly. An example of one such text reads as follows: "Pay your FastTrak Lane tolls by February 13, 2025. To avoid a fine and keep your license, you can pay at <https://ezdrivema.com-xlk.vip/i/>. (Please reply Y, then exit the text message and open it again to activate the link or copy the link into your Safari browser and open it)." Do not fall for this toll road scam! Immediately delete the text message.

Capital Project Updates

On Monday, **April 7**, the West Campus Conference Room 110 will be moving to the Vista Room 11. Additionally, the Waiting Room/Game Room will be relocated to the Billiards Room.

On Monday, **April 14**, the West Campus Thrift Shop Furniture will be moving from the 1100s to Rooms 110 and 112. Please keep these changes in mind and plan accordingly. Thank you for your understanding!

31st Annual Play for Freedom

We are grateful to all who made a difference in support of the 2025 Play for Freedom Golf



Tournament. The generosity of corporate sponsors, individual players, and gift donors raised over \$171K. First place overall went to the team from Fisher House. Congratulations also to our BST Resident team: Mr. Gerhard Frisch, CMDR Ron Miller, and Mr. James Cosgrove. Mark your calendars for the 32nd Annual Play for Freedom tournament on Friday, **March 20**, 2026.

In Memoriam

- Dorothy Lemme – March 5
- Phyllis Allen – March 13
- Marjory Miller – March 17
- Ruth McKay – March 19
- Richard Black – March 20
- James Taylor – March 23

Resident Services Announcements

Pest Control Schedule

	Friday, April 4	Friday, April 11	Friday, April 18	Friday, April 25
Tower Apts.	631-638, 641-648, 441-448	611-618, 621-628	711-718, 721-728	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, 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	Hire Date	Years of Service
Elizabeth Bain	Hospice	April 1	9
Dixie Garcia	Dining Services	April 5	3
Pilar Cantu	EVS - Housekeeper	April 5	3
Melissa Avendano	Freedom House	April 6	4
Ilene Kitchens	Sales Counselor	April 6	10
Iyshea Deleon	Dining Services	April 7	5
Danielle Starr	Freedom House	April 14	2
Meleia Evans	Sr. Executive Assistant	April 16	7
Michelle Holt	Fitness Instructor	April 18	1
Brandy Garcia	Liberty House	April 27	16
Teresa Santana	Resident Services	April 29	22

Resident Updates

The Great Courses ~ David Brands

On Monday, **March 31**, The Great Courses begins a new lecture series called History's Greatest Voyages of Exploration. Join us Monday evenings at 7pm in the Roadrunner Lounge as Allan Novak hosts this 12-week series.

Rotary Corner ~ Debby Cox

On Tuesday, **April 1**, our speaker will be Dr. Emily Ballew Neff, Director of the San Antonio Museum of Art. The museum spans 5000 years of global culture. Dr. Neff will be sharing with us unique stories about the San Antonio Museum of Art that demonstrate why our city's artistic legacy matters, and what you can do to help elevate the arts in San Antonio.

We have not yet confirmed our program for Tuesday, April 15 so look for posters on all the bulletin boards plus on the "What's Happening the Week of April 13 chart" posted in the elevators. You can also check our Web Site or Facebook page.

If you would like to learn more about our Rotary Club, please call Debby Cox (see Resident Roster), or you can visit our web site or Facebook page:

Web Site:

<https://www.RotaryClubofSanAntonioWest.org>

Facebook Page:

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

<https://www.RotaryClubofSanAntonioWest.org>

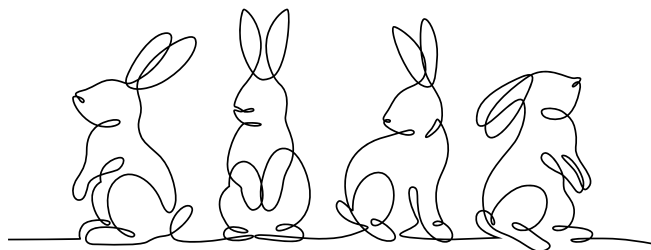


Freedom House Dementia Caregivers Support Group



Are you a caregiver for someone affected by Alzheimer's/dementia? Do you want an opportunity to share your experiences and receive support? Join the Freedom House Support Group!

The Freedom House Support Group will meet on Thursday, **April 3**. The meeting begins at 1:30pm at the Freedom House Chapel. We invite you to join the group for lunch at noon in the Lakeview Dining Room. We reserve the long table in the back corner for our group, The Support Group is open to those whose loved ones are residents of Freedom House and to those who are caring for loved ones in their homes. If you wish to bring your loved one to Freedom House during the meeting, arrangements for care can be made by contacting Freedom House in advance at 210-838-6300. We spend an hour talking about personal questions or issues, sometimes listening to speakers and watching videos. If you have questions about the group or are interested in joining, please contact Jane Hill (see resident roster).



Resident Updates



Ice Cream Social

The Protestant and Catholic Church families invite you to our annual ice cream social! On Thursday, **April 3**, from 2-3:30pm bring your friends and neighbors to the Roadrunner Lounge to enjoy an afternoon treat and some lively conversation. This is always a well-attended event with a “healthy” dose of ice cream and a myriad of toppings to create your own sundae.

We want to introduce our new protestant church team member, Rev. Jim Sweet. Pastor Jim will join Wayne Knutson and Clift Perry replacing Dan Figueroa who recently retired. Pastor Jim is anxious to meet the residents here at Blue Skies. Please come by and say welcome. Put it on your calendar now!



Punkin’ Pond ~ Carol Conkey

The Great Punkin is rumored to appear at the pond on Sunday, **April 6**, bringing champagne to all true believers. The past few years it has indeed been a struggle for this great personage – it’s not getting any younger, you know. And, we don’t know how bad weather may have affected its patch. But the faithful will gather on Sunday, April 6 at 2pm.

AFIO Chapter Meeting

The Association of Former Intelligence Officers (AFIO), Monday, **April 7** meeting will be an unclassified intelligence briefing on Iranian missiles in the Russian Ukrainian war. Second part of the briefing will cover the "Budapest Memorandum"



guaranteeing Ukraine would not be attacked if they disposed of their nuclear weapons. At the time Ukraine had the third largest nuclear weapons arsenal on earth! You probably know how this ends!



The presentation starts at noon, on Monday, **April 7** in the Roadrunner Lounge.

Distinguished Flying Cross Society ~ Robert Certain

The Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society will hold its monthly open meeting on Wednesday, **April 9** at 10am in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies West. John Shore will speak on lessons taught and experiences gained during five years flying in the Air Force as a professional pilot which influenced his decisions and conduct during 10 years of surgical training, 40 years in surgical practice, and in the 25,000 operations in which he participated or performed. It is his belief that surgeons and pilots share common intuitive, intellectual, and behavioral traits essential to successful performance of complex tasks in rapidly changing highly stressful work environments. All residents of Blue Skies East or West are welcome to attend.

Gadabouts ~ Beck Steiner

Join the Gadabouts group as they dine at Dry Dock Oyster Bar at 8522 Fredericksburg Rd., on Friday, **April 11**. Please be in the Main Lobby by 10am.



B & A
CELEBRATE!



Ole' Fiesta San Antonio at April 9 B&A ~ Corlea Plowman

All BST West residents and guests are invited to get into the Fiesta mood for the Wednesday, **April 9**, 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. The Chilton Vance Country/Western Band will entertain. Al Johnson will be available to take Birthday & Anniversary pictures 4-5:30pm in the Helen LeMay Room. Please check in with Ruth Ann Taylor.

The dinner includes:

Starter: Mexico Gazpacho

Entrée: 6 oz. Flat Iron Steak, topped with grilled onions and bell peppers, served with Mexican rice and refried beans

Bread: Bolillo Rolls

Dessert: Flan

Water, Coffee, or Iced Tea

\$30 Per Person

Alternative Entrée: Salmon

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

Sponsors for the Social Hour before dinner are Betty Ann Adams (chair), Kip Kiplin, Carolyn Friedle, Jill Garza, Carl & Elaine Hallada, Sandra Howard, Mike & Athalie Lacy, Frank & Karen Pearce, Jim & Vivian Ray, John Siebert, Gar & Becky Rose, Ray Uribe, John Wendt, Carolyn Willard & John Willard, Barbara Wilson, Tom McKenzie, Ron & Kathryn Rickard, Marcia Tinsley, Mike & Marguerite Fox, and Bill & Kathy Odle.



Resident Updates

DRAC ~ Ron Hatchett

At the February DRAC meeting the new evening a la carte menu was previewed by the menu committee. Highlights were the new additions to the main menu – such as a baseball sirloin (so-named because it is a thick steak about the size and shape of a baseball), a 10 oz. chopped steak, a Fish and Chips basket with a large chunk of flaky, beer-battered cod, an Italian-themed chicken picatta, and the return of an old favorite, pork schnitzel.

Several new items were also added to the appetizer section: chips and queso, BBQ pork Burnt Ends (a meal by themselves), and a unique offering, fried deviled eggs.

A discussion also began concerning the amount of unused meal plan funds allowed to be “rolled over” each month. A proposal was broached that the amount allowed to be rolled over should not be limited as long as the funds remain in the dining room account of residents. The idea is that the dining room would not lose any funds because the roll over funds could only be applied to dining room meals, but residents would have more choices in their dining as the additional funds from the roll-over would allow residents more flexibility in their dining choices, such as ordering from the a la carte menu and hosting non-resident family and friends more often. A decision on this proposal needs further discussion by the Resident Council and a final decision by Blue Skies management.

One of the more pleasant tasks of the DRAC is selecting dining room staff whose service is exemplary. The DRAC relies on the comments submitted by residents who care enough to send commentary cards and emails assessing their dining experience to choose a single person from among the many hard-working employees that make our dining experience so pleasant. For February 2025 the award went to Wilma Jones.

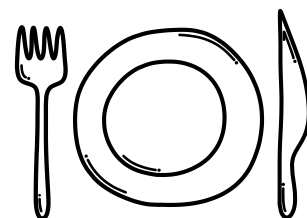
DRAC ~ Jerry Pierce

Over the last two months there has been quite a lot of discussions concerning the \$50 maximum monthly carryover of the meal allowance.

Not only has the DRAC discussed the issue, but also, I have made presentations to the RC. This issue has been brought to our attention by the residents and their representatives on both the DRAC and the RC. The issue boils down to why, if the money is going to be spent for food, must we lose any amount over \$50 at the end of each month instead of allowing the resident to carry forward any amount and use it during the year at a time that fits their schedule and family visits. We have been told that the carryover is used to reduce the food subsidy. If everyone spends their food allowance there would be no reduction and if the amount was used during the year there would be no reduction. Therefore, it makes no difference.

After my presentation to the RC in March, it was decided to request a meeting with Brian Graybeal and the CFO of BST and the DRAC Executive Committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of the RC. We will prepare an agenda and list of questions to be discussed at the meeting. It is hoped that the meeting and questions can be addressed prior to the DRAC and RC meetings in April. If you have any thoughts or comments, please let your representatives know.

Remember the next DRAC meeting will be on Thursday, **April 10** in the Roadrunner Lounge at 1:30pm.



Resident Updates

IARU 100th Anniversary ~ Betty Overacker

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was formed in Paris on April 18, 1925 to promote the interest and need of amateur radio worldwide, and to protect and enhance its spectrum privileges. Today, IARU is a federation of more than 160 national radio organizations in as many countries and separate territories. The IARU works tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency and allocation for Amateur Radio. Yearly, on this date, "World Amateur Radio Day" (WARD) occurs, which is celebrated worldwide. To help promote amateur radio and science, and to honor the 100th anniversary of IARU, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is inviting radio clubs and schools to organize a "Ham Radio Open House" centered around WARD. This event's objectives are to highlight Amateur Radio Service for its development and practice of the latest radio communication and technology, to enjoy global friendship with other amateur radio operators, and to inspire many young people to pursue high-tech careers. All are welcome to attend the next Amateur Radio Club meeting on Tuesday, **April 15** in Meeting Room 110 at 11am. Please contact Bob Stuckert for more information. 73—Best Regards in Ham Language

Winning with CogSpeed RESCHEDULED ~ Layne Perelli

CogSpeed is easy to learn, hard to fool, and it usually takes only 45 to 90 seconds to complete the challenge. Exercise your brain as often as you like, anywhere, any time, and have fun doing it. Find your highest score, then each day try to beat it.



In addition, you can compete against your fellow residents in "Winning With CogSpeed" contests for great prizes. The introductory training session has been rescheduled for Wednesday, **April 16** at 2pm in the Roadrunner. You will be assisted in downloading the free web app to your smart phone and taught how to take the CogSpeed test.

Download instructions for CogSpeed are also available on UniGuest. Feel free to contact Layne Perelli for more information. "A Speedometer for the Brain!"

BSTW Resident Council Meeting ~ Corlea Plowman

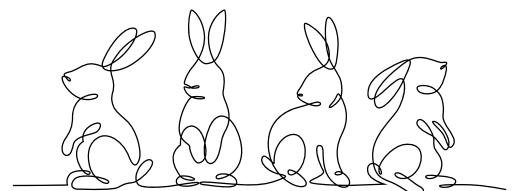
The Residents' Council meeting will take place on Thursday, **April 17** at 1:30pm in the Roadrunner Lounge. All residents are welcome, especially those new to Blue Skies West. Come and find out all that is happening around our community.

Red Hat Luncheon ~ Vivian Ray

This month's lunch is hosted by Celia Kellogg and Patty Bordwell. On Friday, **April 18** at 11:15am, we will dine at Bistr09, 6106 Broadway St., San Antonio, TX 78209. 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.

Low Vision Club ~ Leo Herrera

The Low Vision Club will meet on Wednesday, **April 23** at 10am in Room 112.



Resident Updates

Resident of the Month

Our community is blessed with the special facility, the Freedom House, where Residents experiencing neurodegenerative conditions reside. Freedom House is associated with the Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's at UT San Antonio, which is one of 35 centers nationwide, and the only one in Texas designated as a Alzheimer's Research Center. Several Residents chose "Blue Skies" to be assured their loved one receives the best medical care possible. Such was Jane Hill's decision when her husband, Marshall, required increased assistance, and they moved to "Blue Skies" four years ago. A year later, Marshall moved to Freedom House. Jane commenced to focus her time and energy for Marshall's well-being, and the determination to cure Alzheimer's. She revitalized the Alzheimer's "Support Group" by her leadership, comradeship, and sociability, which increased morale, participation and communication. Jane joined our Rotary Club and partnered with another Rotarian and raised thousands of dollars for the Glenn Biggs Institute's Alzheimer's research program by their multiple presentations to include a short video at several other Rotary Club meetings. Jane's hobby is card making, which she sells, and donates all proceeds for Alzheimer's research. In addition to all this, Jane was her area RC Representative and the RC Executive Secretary for the past two years. Thank you, Jane, for your dedication to our community, and enlightening us for the need to find the cause, treatment and cure of neurodegenerative conditions. Nominated by Marilyn Williams.



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

Send articles to roadrunner@blueskiestx.org

Next Publication Date is Wednesday, **April 30**

Resident Updates

Residents' Concert Series in April

Our April concert will feature a returning artist and a first-time performer at BST West on Sunday, **April 27** at 3pm. Jeong Eun Lee from UTSA and Andrew Seigel from SUNY Fredonia will perform a piano and clarinet duet featuring classical selections from Bernstein, Schumann, Debussy, and others. Dr. Lee last performed at Blue Skies with Trio Zenia last year. Dr. Seigel's first trip to Blue Skies brings him from upstate New York. Both artists bring worldwide concert experiences to San Antonio. Bring a neighbor and join us for some music and you can even grab a cookie after the performance.

Job Opportunity at Thrift Shop Furniture!

Are you passionate about making a difference in our community? Thrift Shop Furniture is seeking a new manager! No prior management experience? Don't worry – training will be provided. If you're ready to take on a rewarding role and lead by example, call Susan Shumaker for more details.

Help us spread the word and share this opportunity with someone who might be the perfect fit.

Garden Open House ~ Jim Conner

On Thursday, **May 1** from 9-11am the Blue Skies West Garden Club will host an Open House for all residents and staff to view the various vegetables, flowers and fruits grown by residents. Some extra produce and plants will be given away, plus sharing nutritious drinks like kale smoothies! The Blue Skies Community Gardens are adjacent to the RV parking lot on the North side of the campus.

National Day of Prayer ~ Thursday, May 1

Join us for breakfast, as we lift our voices together.

The President shall set aside and proclaim the First Thursday in May in each year, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.

Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength – even before we were a nation or a handful of colonies. The Pilgrims at Plymouth relied on prayer during their first and darkest winter. Our founding fathers also called for prayer during the Constitutional Convention. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a direct gift from God. And being a gift from God, there was only one way to insure protection-through prayer.

The National Day of Prayer has been an annual observance in the U.S. since 1952. Our Protestant Congregation will host the Blue Skies National Day of Prayer Breakfast again this year. Breakfast will be served at 8:30am; we'll hear an inspiring speaker and enjoy some special music. It is always a memorable day as we join the voices of others across our nation to lift up our country....our world in prayer.

Watch for posters and flyers for complete information and reservations but mark your calendars now!



Resident Updates

Memorial Day Ceremony – Volunteers Needed

On Friday, **May 23** at 10am we will remember all BSTW residents who have passed away since last Memorial Day. The John Paul Stevens High School AFJROTC Drill Team will perform and have lunch with residents after the ceremony. We need volunteers to eat lunch with the cadets. You'll eat lunch with the cadets in the Vista Sunroom and pay for your meal (\$17, choice of 3 sandwich types, charged to your resident account.) If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tom Cochran, Jim Conner, or Ken Brockway.

P.E.O ~ Karen Tidler

Educational Loan Fund (ELF) - Did you know that P.E.O. in addition to offering scholarships for education also offers low-cost educational loans. Loans are made available to qualified women who desire a higher education and are in need of financial assistance.

Each applicant is evaluated to determine specific amount to be approved. This decision is based on the program of study as well as availability of funds. The field of study must be from an accredited program but does not have to be a degree program. To learn more about this contact any P.E.O. member or Karen Tidler (see resident roster).

The winner!!

Blue Skies resident Brenda Perry entered her quilt, "Hearts and Roses" in a quilt making competition and out of 170 entries she was awarded a First-Place ribbon for Best of Show Overall. Brenda created her own designs for her quilt by searching pattern magazines and incorporating bits of different ideas to make her quilt uniquely her own. Your quilt is gorgeous, Brenda, and we're all very proud of you!

Beautiful Photo Galleries

~ Bill Ball & Tracy Otterholt

Linda and I went to the Orchid Show at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens recently. Here is a link to what we saw (all pictures were taken with an iPhone 16 cell phone).

<https://bball.smugmug.com/Botanical-Garden-Orchid-Show-20250309/n-SS63nL>

Last fall, I visited Portland, Oregon's International Rose Test Garden again, which has become an annual pilgrimage for me. Here is a link to that photo gallery:

<https://bball.smugmug.com/Portland-Rose-Test-Garden/n-fBjdgD>

In addition to these galleries, a very talented friend of ours, Tracy Otterholt from Spokane, visited Washington, D. C. and took some terrific pictures with her Nikon Z7 camera. If you would like to view her DC gallery (in a homebuilt website for displaying the pictures!) use this link: <https://www.otterholtphotography.com/WashingtonDC/index.html>

Hope you enjoy the photo galleries!



Resident Updates

Ed Hughes - Still Shooting to Win at 99!

When Tom and Sharon Dera came to Blue Skies, they continued their hobby of competition shooting at a local gun range. There they discovered a fellow resident, Ed Hughes, also shooting and winning competitions so much that local groups would ask him to join them. Years later Ed is still going to the gun range weekly with the Deras. He's 99 now and still competes and wins! For Ed, age is just a number to "shoot" for!



Jerry Garcia Tie Sunday

The Jerry Garcia Tie Sunday Brunch Society (called DEADHEADS, after the Grateful Dead group) dined on Sunday, March 2 in tie splendor. Our society is growing!

Janina Kuzma, Rick Nollenberger, Karen Davis, Mark Davis (no relation), Wally Pike, John Siebert, Bob Caudill, James, Schuster, Leo Bell, Jr., Woody Woodrow, and Mary Jane Caudill were dressed beautifully and mighty hungry.



Blue Skies West Handbells

~ Nancy Sowada

The Blue Skies West Handbells began 30 years ago. At that time and since that time, contributions have been made to the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Fund to purchase and service the handbells and to purchase music and other supplies, such as music stands, polishing cloths, and gloves for the ringers. We greatly appreciate the donations that residents have made, and we ask that you please continue to donate to the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Council Fund so that we may continue to have beautiful handbell music at Blue Skies of Texas. We, the handbell ringers, are residents of Blue Skies and we contribute to the ACC Fund. Thank you.

Resident Updates

How to Enjoy Life at Blue Skies! ~ Dottie Conner

There is a resident in our midst who has discovered her perfect fit for life at Blue Skies. Since moving here five-and-a-half years ago, Sandy Seigel tried out some of the many things available to do and narrowed her choices down to just the things she really enjoys doing. For Sandy, it's swimming in our big, heated swimming pool six days a week. Whether it's an early morning session or being a regular in Hope's water fitness classes, Sandy loves working out in the pool!

Sandy has always liked to dance so she joined a weekly Line Dance class. When a call went out for a group dance to be performed at our annual 4th of July party, she began to design steps to a Red, White, and Blue routine which incorporated parts of several Line

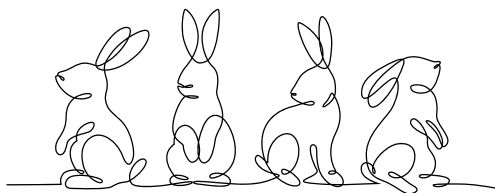
Dances she had learned in class, weaving the dancers into intricate patterns that wowed the audience. A huge success! For the next upcoming show, she again took the basics of a Line Dance and created patterns of dancers changing and interacting with each other while they wore bright skirts which turned the original dance into a kaleidoscope of colors. It was talked about happily for weeks.

Sewing is Sandy's therapy...along the way she added knitting and crocheting. Some of her hobby items can be found along with other people's products in the Dabblers Display near the library...all funds go back to the Blue Skies community.

If there is a Canasta game being dealt somewhere at Blue Skies, you'll probably find Sandy at one of the tables. "It's another fun thing I love to do, so it's easy to put that on my regular calendar" she says with a big smile.


One of her favorite things to do has been working with the Thrift Shop volunteers at the furniture units. She would eagerly meet tons of residents who made appointments to donate or search for furniture items that still have plenty of life left for your residents to enjoy, just another way to spread more smiles throughout the Blue Skies community.... thanks, Sandy!




Since coming here she has left an impression on her fellow residents without intending to do so. She just quietly did what she enjoys doing and her dances have been videotaped so for many years to come she will be making people happy, just by doing what makes her happy. Her advice to anyone moving into Blue Skies: There's so much to do here – find what you really like to do and stay with that, and you can enjoy life to its fullest!



Resident Updates

Uniguest Tips & Tricks ~ Ms. Uniguest

Staff Directory is a work in Progress. We are working with Uniguest to bring it up-to-date. You can filter how much information to scroll through under the Activities icon by typing BSTE or BSTW in the Search box at the top of the window and touch (depending on your smart phone) either an arrow or magnifying glass  to see the selected campus.

You may also search by touching the filter  icon. You will get a Filter Options window. This allows you to choose different selections to view. These include Tags and Activity Types. If there is a square numerous items may be selected in the group and if a circle only one item in the group may be selected. To see the selections, close the Filter Options Window by touching the **X** in the upper right corner. The Activity Window will reopen. The filter icon will change to a number based on the number of selections you made, i.e. . You will see the choices you selected rather than the entire list. Each time you leave the Activity module your selections will clear and you will be back to the filter  icon.

To search with just partial knowledge of the Activity, i.e. a word or location, type it in the Selection box and tap arrow or magnifying glass (dependent on phone). You may have to try several different search terms to get what you want but give it a try. Example: if you type king, you will get all with “king” including “walking” (includes the letters king). If you wanted just king, you would put a space and then the word king. It is recommended you use the filter option and select “Registration Required” at the beginning of the month to see all the new activities which you must register for to attend.

Remember to think of Uniguest as a Reference Library and you want to choose what you are looking for rather than looking at everything.

Village Voices ~ Nancy Sowada

The Village Voices choir began 50 years ago. Since that time there have been contributions to the Air Force Village Charitable Fund and the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Fund. We are deeply grateful to the residents and organizations that have donated to these funds for the Village Voices. We still need you to contribute and we ask that you please donate to the Air Force Village Charitable Fund and/or the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Council Fund so that we may continue to pay for an excellent accompanist, and we may purchase new music to sing. We, the choir members and director, are residents of Blue Skies and we contribute to these funds.



July 4, 2025

4pm – 8pm

Lakeview Dining Room &
Roadrunner Lounge

Residents' 4th of July BBQ

Food from Rudy's BBQ

(Charged to your catering account.)

Program:

Patriotic Sing-Along

DJ for Dancing

Reservations will be required

(just like B&A)

With To-Go option.

More information in next RR
Newsletter.

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.



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. Beginners are welcome; guidance and equipment available. Please contact Linda Prose (see resident directory) for details on the start times. See y'all out there!



Blue Skies Hand Elbow and Foot ~ Gaye True

Many players are now enjoying the new game, and you are invited to come learn and play. Meet your neighbors and make new friends while playing a game that stimulates your card talents. Main group meets Mondays at 6:30pm in CC3. You don't need a partner, or a reservation and the cost is free. Just show up. The game is also being played on Saturdays at 1pm and Friday nights at 6:30pm. All in CC3. Friends and neighbors are playing in groups that may need substitutes so come learn and enjoy.

BSTW Poker Clubs ~ Ron Rickard

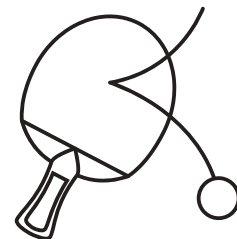
We have Monday night and Tuesday night Poker Clubs here at BSTW. Both Clubs meet in the game room across from the Thrift Shop, and both Clubs are looking for new regular and substitute players. All qualified games are both high hand and low hand split pots. We gather and play from about 6:30pm until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



Ping Pong ~ Bob Stuckert

There is a ping pong table, located in the Persimmon Room 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.



Sports, Games, & Scores

RoadRunner Golf Association ~ Mark Wessman

The RoadRunners is a group of both men and women who play Monday and Thursday mornings year around. We play at the Golf Club of Texas, near our campus just off highway 211. Golf Club of Texas offers Blue Skies residents a special rate for membership that is advantageous for those who play often, but those who play less frequently pay as they go at the senior/military rate for the course. We play a relaxed social game with just enough competition to keep the game interesting. For more information, please contact Mark Wessman, Kathleen Raymond, or Rona Bonn (see resident directory). We hope to see you on the course!



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 an invitation only game. There is a sign-up book. Contact Joy Hough with questions. I (Stu Flood) host games for new players, and people that want to practice on Friday Game Night at 6:30pm in CC3. Also, on Thursday afternoons near the Library at 1pm. Since this is an unusual input to announce the points leaders (results) I cannot list all the names of all the players. I assigned points to the people who came in 1 through 5. Since participation is not consistent. I am calling this the leaders list Jan 1 through Mar 18 2025 Point leaders are in order are MJ Caudill, D. Cowan, J. Reedy, K. Bader, C. Germann, Not everyone plays all the time. I award points 1st 2nd and 3rd to both team members.



Ladies BUNCO Group ~ JoAnn Oldham

🎲🎲🎲 We will be rolling the dice on Tuesdays, **April 1 & 15** at 3:30 in CC3. Bring \$1 for the “POT” and a friend to introduce to a fun and fast paced game. You have 4 ways to win plus lots of laughs while meeting new friends. Following play, join us in the Bistro for a casual meal together. 🎲🎲🎲

24 Form / Step Tai Chi

Tai Chi could be the perfect activity for the rest of your life. It is often described as “Meditation in Motion.” But it might be called “Medication in Motion.” Join us when you can in CC2. Wednesdays, **April 2, 16, 23 & 30** at 2pm Thursdays, **April 3 & 24** at 2pm Thursday, **April 17** at 3pm Saturday, **April 19** at 10am

Sports, Games, & Scores

Adventures of the Seasoned Soles

~ John and Pat MacIntyre

March didn't come in like a lion, it came in like a horse and with donuts. When Pat Perry, Ellie Ray and John Paul Sullivan went to the Alamo Donut Dash 5K in the Pearl District, John Paul ended up sharing his after-race donut with a horse. John Paul and Pat Perry also won cups for placing in their age groups.

The following week, Pat Perry won 1st place in her age group while running the Prickly Pear 15K cross country (trail) race. That is a very tough race to complete without falling.

The next week, four Seasoned Soles (Tom and Cynthia Cochran and John and Pat MacIntyre) went to Lady Bird Johnson Park to run the Shamrock Shuffle 5K. Pat MacIntyre didn't need any Irish luck to win a pot of shamrocks for coming in 2nd in her age group.

On the 22nd of March, seven Seasoned Soles went to Helotes to run the Helotes Beer Garden 5K at the Cornyval Fair Grounds. Tom and Cynthia Cochran, John and Pat MacIntyre, Brenda Perry, Pat Perry (no relations) and Ellie Ray all completed two cross country laps around the fairgrounds. Dusty and gravelly trails, some paved roadway, and lumpy grass fields made for an "interesting" race. Almost 1000 runners/walkers were signed up, but only 647 finished the race. Tom Cochran and Pat MacIntyre each finished second in their age groups. After the race, lots of tents were available to try out a variety of beers. All Seasoned Soles are over 21, so they could participate if they chose.

March will finish out with the Stride for Sight 5K sponsored by the Lions Sight Research Foundation to raise money for community education and their various ophthalmologic research programs. Our results will be in next month's Roadrunner.



Spiritual News

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 Fridays, **April 4 & 18**.

Questions: Contact Jena Hatchett or Robert Ferre.

Catholic News

Lenten Penance – Wednesday, **April 2**, 1pm in High Flight Chapel

Holy Thursday – Thursday, **April 17**, 1pm, Mass in High Flight Chapel

Good Friday – Friday, **April 18**, 3pm, Mass in High Flight Chapel

Easter Vigil Mass – Sunday, **April 20**, 4pm, Mass in High Flight Chapel

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

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

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

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

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

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

First 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.



Spiritual News

Protestant Church Regular Worship Services

High Flight Chapel – Sundays at 9:30am & 11am; Fellowship Time - 10:30–11am; Missed Sunday? Watch the service broadcast on Wednesday at 10:30am (in-house channel 1890 or Towers lobby monitors).

Freedom House – Sundays at 10:45am

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

Pray for Our Nation – 1st & 3rd Fridays at 10am (Helen LeMay Room)

Lenten Services (All services held in High Flight Chapel)

Mid-Week Lenten Services (Wednesdays at 10:30am) on **April 2, 9, and 16**

Maundy Thursday – **April 17** at 7pm (Holy Communion Service)

Good Friday – **April 18** at 10:30am

Easter Sunday – **April 20** (Regular Sunday Service Hours)



Ice Cream Social – Thursday, **April 3** from 2-3:30pm in the Main Lobby. Come join us and meet our new Pastor.

We will be celebrating the National Day of Prayer with breakfast on Thursday, **May 1**. Watch for more information.

STAY CONNECTED: Weekly YouTube links, bulletins, and announcements are emailed. Not receiving them? Let us know to add you to the list!

CONTACT US: If you are interested in joining our congregation, would like to speak with Pastors Wayne Knutson Jr. or Clift Perry, or have any questions, please contact Kayla Ramsey, our Church Administrator, at 210-568-3372 or email kaylaramsey@blueskiestx.org. She will be happy to assist you or discreetly arrange an appointment.