

# ROADRUNNER

JULY 2025

VOLUME 2025-07



## FROM THE DIRECTOR ~ DANIELLE WEINTRAUB

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and encouragement during this time of transition. I'm incredibly grateful for the warm welcome I've received, and the partnership shown by so many of you.

There's a great deal of positive change happening at Blue Skies of Texas, and I truly believe that this momentum wouldn't be possible without the strength and spirit of our residents. Your willingness to embrace change, offer feedback, and stay engaged makes all the difference. I look forward to what's ahead and am committed to ensuring a smooth and supportive experience as we move forward together.

I hope you enjoy all the sunshine, celebrations, and connections July has to offer!

## SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday, July 1 – Rotary Club Presentation, RR Lounge, 12pm  
Thursday, July 3 – Independence Day Ice Cream Sundae Social, Main Lobby, 1:30pm  
Friday, July 4 – Federal Holiday, Minimal Staffing  
Monday, July 7 – AFIO Chapter Meeting, RR Lounge, 12pm  
Tuesday, July 8 – Beat the Heat with Frozen Treats, Main Lobby, 2pm  
Wednesday, July 9 – DFCS Presentation, RR Lounge, 10am  
Monday, July 14 – Splash Bash Pool Party, Pool Area, 2pm  
Thursday, July 17 – RC Meeting, RR Lounge, 1:30pm  
Monday, July 21 – Day Trippers & Travel Club Meeting, RR Lounge, 2pm  
Tuesday, July 29 – Wine & Cheese gathering, Liberty House, 2pm  
Thursday, July 31 – Movie “Last Vegas”, RR Lounge, 1pm



## New Residents

Please give the following new residents a warm Blue Skies West “Welcome” in your respective neighborhoods.

**Jack & Sandy Bartlett, #245**

**Russ Bixby, #411**

**Walter & Nancy Harrington, #638**

**Leigh Primerano, #646**

**Robert Gatliff, #1410**

**Robert & Nancy McNamara, #1411**

**Paul & Mardena Campbell, #527**

**Linda Boudreau, #1707**

**Deadline** to submit articles for the next Roadrunner is Tuesday, **July 22.**

Send all articles to  
[Roadrunner@blueskiestx.org](mailto:Roadrunner@blueskiestx.org)  
Next Publication Date:  
Thursday, **July 31**

# Resident Services Announcements

## A Message From Our Chief Growth Officer

Dear BST Residents,

After nearly five incredible years at Blue Skies of Texas, I've made the difficult decision to pursue a new opportunity—one that I simply could not pass up. This chapter has been nothing short of transformational for me, both professionally and personally, and I want to share my deepest gratitude as I prepare to say farewell.

From the moment I joined the team, I've been inspired by the mission, the people, and the culture that make Blue Skies such a remarkable place. It's been an honor to serve this community, to grow alongside an exceptional team, and to forge relationships that I will always cherish—relationships with my incredible colleagues and of course, you all, the inspiring BST residents.

I have learned so much here—about leadership, about service, and about the power of purpose-driven work. These lessons will stay with me wherever I go. I'm especially proud of what we've accomplished together and deeply grateful for the help and trust you've given along the way.

While I will be stepping away from my role after July 8th, I hope this is not goodbye. I will always be cheering for Blue Skies and the exciting ventures ahead, and look forward to staying connected in the months and years ahead.

With heartfelt thanks,  
Sarah Manzke

## Thank You for Supporting the Employee Appreciation Fund

On behalf of the entire team, thank you for your remarkable generosity in supporting the Employee Appreciation Fund. This year's collection reached a record-breaking total, the highest in our history! Your kindness, encouragement, and continued support mean so much to our staff. It's a heartfelt reminder of the strong bond between residents and employees here at Blue Skies.

While we've already shared our appreciation in a few ways, we wanted to take one more opportunity to say thank you. Your support truly makes a difference. ❤️

## Help Us Choose Our Next Dining Provider!

Blue Skies is in the process of selecting a future dining services provider through a process called a Request for Proposal (RFP) – this simply means we're reviewing different companies, including our current provider, Morrison, to determine the best fit for our community.

As part of this effort, we're inviting residents to share their input! During the July RC meetings, 10 residents per campus will be selected (lottery style) to attend Dining RFP Finalists Luncheons happening the week of 28 July. If you'd like to be considered and can commit to attending the Finalists Luncheons, enter your name on Uniguest under the Survey module or scan the QR code at the front desk by Friday, 11 July.

Need help? Contact Resident Services and we'll be happy to assist.



# Resident Services Announcements

## Transportation & Catered Living Contact Update

Have a question about Transportation or Catered Living? Please contact Katrina Cantu directly at her new number: 210-247-6119. This number is active and the best way to reach her for support.

Katrina has been working hard on all things Catered Living, and we're excited to relaunch the program in mid to late July!

## How to Use a QR Code

You may have noticed more QR codes showing up around campus lately – they're a convenient way for us to share information quickly, like surveys, event sign-ups, or updates. We know that not everyone is familiar with how they work, so here's a quick guide:

- Open your camera app on your smartphone or tablet
- Point it at the QR code
- Tap the link that pops up on your screen

That's it, no typing or searching needed! If you need help, just stop by the front desk or Resident Services. We're happy to walk you through it!

## FY26 Resident Services Price Update

Beginning **July 1**, there will be a modest price increase to Resident Services and Beauty Salon offerings. This aligns with the 5% Monthly Service Fee (MSF) increase for FY26. All residents were previously notified of these adjustments in the letter regarding the MSF increase.

Updated Beauty Salon pricing has been posted since June 1 and remains available for your reference in the salon. These adjustments help ensure we can continue providing the high-quality services you rely on. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.

## "Be Kind and Rewind"—Remember That?

That popular phrase from the VHS era reminded us to rewind tapes before returning them.

Today, the modern version is: "Be Kind and Return"—shopping carts, that is!

Please return shopping and luggage carts promptly after use so they remain available for everyone. These carts should not be stored in apartments for personal use.

Let's all do our part—be kind and return the cart!

## Help Us Communicate Better!

We want to know the best way to reach you! Please take a moment to complete our Communication Survey, available through the month of July, using the QR code posted at the front desk or by using the Survey Module on Uniguest.

Paper copies are also available at the front desk. Your input helps us serve you better!

## Summer's Here... and So Are the Bugs!

Summer brings warmth, sunshine, and more time outdoors—but it also brings unwanted visitors like ants, bees, and other pests that try to make themselves at home in or around your space. While pest control has successfully helped many residents, some pests just keep coming back. Here's what you can do to help keep them away:

Tips to Keep Pests Out:

- Keep food sealed and stored properly, especially sweets and pet food.
- Clean up crumbs and spills promptly.
- Take out trash regularly and use sealed containers.
- Avoid leaving standing water (like in pet bowls or plant saucers).
- Report any signs of pests to management so we can respond quickly.

Together, we can keep the bugs outside where they belong. Thank you for doing your part to keep our community pest-free!



# Resident Services Announcements

## Campus Lighting & Walking Safety Tips

We've received some concerns from residents about the lighting around campus. Please know that our maintenance team has been actively inspecting the lights, and so far, everything is functioning as expected. We understand that certain areas may still feel dim, especially during early morning or evening hours. While there are plans to replace existing halogen lights with energy-efficient LED fixtures, there are no plans at this time to add additional lighting.

In the meantime, here are a few walking safety tips to help you stay safe and confident on your walks:

- Choose well-lit paths and familiar routes.
- Walk during cooler, brighter parts of the day – early morning (before 10 a.m.) or evening (after 7 p.m.) but avoid walking once it's fully dark.
- Wear reflective or light-colored clothing to increase visibility.
- Bring a flashlight or wear a headlamp if you're out near dusk.
- Stay hydrated and take your cell phone with you.
- Walk with a friend when possible or let someone know your route.

We appreciate your continued feedback and encourage you to report any specific lighting issues to maintenance so we can follow up directly.



## Holiday Schedule

Friday, **Jul 4** is a federal holiday, the public holiday date for US Independence Day. As such, on the 4th, there will be no mail delivery. Broadway Bank will be closed. All transportation to Wilford Hall and/or SAMMC will also be suspended, as these facilities will be closed for normal appointments on that day. No BST transportation to WHASC. Friday, Jul 4 is also a Village holiday, so there will be minimal staffing, and all Village transportation is suspended for that day.

## Spectrum Scams – Be Alert!

We've received reports of possible Spectrum-related scams. If you are contacted by someone claiming to be from Spectrum—whether by phone, email, or in person—and something doesn't seem right, do not provide any personal or payment information.

If you're unsure whether a message or call is legitimate:

- Do not engage or click on any links.
- Contact Spectrum directly at their official customer service number: 1-877-647-7732 or via their website.
- Report suspicious encounters to management so we can keep the community informed.

Your safety is our priority. When in doubt, always double-check!

## Did you know Spectrum now offers 6 FREE streaming services?

That's right - FREE! To find out how you can start enjoying these additional services at no extra cost, simply call Spectrum at: 1-877-647-7732. Don't miss out—get more entertainment for free today! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Teresa Santana of Resident Services for assistance.

# Resident Services Announcements

## Coffee with our New CHSO

We're excited to welcome Robert Evans as our new Chief Health Services Officer at Blue Skies of Texas. With over 20 years of leadership experience in skilled nursing, Robert brings a strong commitment to quality care and community connection. To give residents a chance to get to know him, we're hosting casual coffee hours.

Join us in the Roadrunner at West on **July 11** from 8:30 to 9:30am, or in the Legacy Room at East on **July 16** from 8:30 to 9:30am.

There's no formal agenda, just a relaxed opportunity to say hello and enjoy a pleasant start to the day. We hope to see you there!

## Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation

Did you know the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation's bylaws state: "No Air Force Officer's widow/widower shall ever be refused admission and no resident who is an Air Force Officer's widow/widower shall ever be denied needed goods and services by reason of financial inability."

AFVCF also supports other residents and employees through:

### Health Services Communities

As a certified Continuing Care Retirement Community, Blue Skies of Texas provides its residents with every level of care within our two campuses. Gifts can be directed to benefit any level of care, including Arnold House and Liberty House (assisted living), The Mission (skilled nursing), Freedom House (memory care), and Hospice. These funds provide support for staff, resident programs, and capital needs, benefiting Blue Skies' continuum of care.

### Mary Opal Wolanin Endowment

Established in 1996 for nursing research and education at Air Force Village, the Mary Opal Wolanin Endowment facilitates the education of qualified Blue Skies of Texas employees. The program helps subsidize the costs associated with obtaining LVN or RNB licensure, while contributing to Blue Skies' employee growth and retention.

If you would like to support these programs or have any questions, please contact 210-568-3211. All donations to AFVCF are tax deductible.





# Resident Services Announcements

## 2025 Hagauer Memorial Scholarship Recipients

### **Amber Martinez, Housekeeper at East Campus - Awarded \$1000**

Amber Martinez is a devoted working mother and passionate aspiring educator who is on a mission to make a lasting impact in the lives of young learners. With a heart for special education and early childhood development, she brings a wealth of experience from volunteering in classrooms and working at Blue Skies of Texas, where she's learned the value of patience, kindness, and compassion. Amber is said to genuinely care for others and have a "solution-focused mindset". Amber has been able to maintain a 3.75 GPA while balancing motherhood, work, and academics. Her journey is driven by a deep belief that every child deserves a nurturing and inclusive learning environment.

### **Andrew Balderas, Dining Service Team Lead at East - Awarded \$1000**

Andrew Balderas, a dedicated professional with a strong background in hospitality and a passion for leadership and growth. After gaining customer service experience with Marriott, he found a more meaningful path here at Blue Skies, where he now serves in a lead role in dining services East. With his "can-do, will-do attitude", Andrew has contributed to improving dining services processes and mentoring new hires. Inspired by mentors and eager to grow, Andrew will attend college for the first time this summer to pursue a degree in Business Administration at Northwest Vista College.

### **Ivan Vazquez, a dependent of Elena Vazquez, Social Worker at The Mission - Awarded \$500**

Ivan Vazquez is an enthusiastic accounting student at UTSA and AFROTC cadet working toward becoming a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force. Recently selected for competitive Field Training, Ivan combines academic excellence with military discipline, guided by the Air Force core values. He is pursuing a CPA certification and a future master's degree in accounting to bring financial expertise to his military service. Ivan is recognized academically and for his "deep commitment to service" and for volunteering within the Catholic community.

### **Bianca Alvear, dependent of Lizeth Valdez, Housekeeper at West Campus - Awarded \$500**

Bianca Alvear has a passion to become a Cytogenetics Technologist. Her desire to learn more about genetics comes from longing to assist individuals with down syndrome. Bianca will be a first-generation college student in her family and wants to be successful to further help her family. Bianca is known for her "voice of equity"; her resilience; perseverance; and practical approach to problem solving. Bianca's ability to maintain a 3.5 GPA, balance her responsibilities at home and maintain a calm demeanor while meeting academic deadlines has been impressive amongst her peers.

**From left to right:  
General Darrell D. Jones,  
Andrew Balderas, Amber  
Martinez, Ivan Vazquez and  
Bianca Alvear**





# Resident Services Announcements

*Ocean Waves*

**Sun Rays**

## *Keep Those Scammers Away*

It is no secret that Artificial Intelligence or also known as AI, is starting to take over the technology world. But what is AI? AI refers to a computer system performing complex tasks that historically only a human could do. For example, reasoning, making decisions, or solving problems. So, how does this involve Scamming? Well, the most obvious example of how scammers use this new AI technology is by:

Write more convincing and natural-sounding phishing emails and text messages.

Create deepfakes of celebrities to trick victims into thinking they're investing in a good company or project.

Impersonate the victim's friend or relative and ask for money as part of a grandparent scam.

Impersonate an employer and ask for personal information.

The potential to create an image, video, or voice of someone else could make existing scams even more believable, and this opens up new opportunities for scammers.



## Resident Services Announcements

# HAPPY WORKIVERSARY

Last Name	First Name	Department	Location	Position	Hire Date	Years of Service	Supervisor_Primary
ARGUELLO	JOANN	Administration	ACRC Freedom House	Anc Supp Spec	07/23/1996	29	GUERRA, SANDRA
CASANOVA	MARLA	Wellness	Wellness	Registered Nurse Liaison	07/02/1996	29	PROCTOR, SHARI
GARCIA	SAN JUANITA	Environmental Services	BSTW	Laundry Aide	07/23/2010	15	ALEJO, LARISSA
SURRATT	TIMOTHY	Dining Services	BSTW	Wait Staff	07/13/2012	13	VILLA, NIKKI
HASTINGS	BRIDGETTE	Dining Services	The Mission	Cook	07/08/2016	9	BHAJAN, AVIN
AMECUCCI	JEANINE	Wellness	Wellness	Fitness Instructor	07/19/2017	8	SANTOS, ESPERANZA
ZEH	DAVID	Resident Services	BSTE	Courtesy Officer	07/30/2018	7	HERNANDEZ, SANDRA
ABREGO	MARK	Environmental Services	BSTW	Custodian	07/20/2020	5	ALEJO, LARISSA
MANZKE	SARAH	Executive	AFV Inc	Dir Marketing & Sales	07/27/2020	5	JONES, DARRELL
FONTENOT	SHEILA	Liberty House-Assisted Living	Liberty House	RA/ Des Trainer	07/20/2020	5	LLOYD, MARSHA
RUBIO	DOLORES	Personal Care Center	ACRC Freedom House	Personal Care Giver	07/27/2022	3	GUERRA, SANDRA
OCAMPO	MARICELA	Personal Care Center	ACRC Freedom House	Personal Care Giver	07/28/2022	3	GUERRA, SANDRA
PAGAN	RUBY	Dining Services	BSTE	Cook	07/18/2023	2	BHAJAN, AVIN
FURDGE	MATTHEW	Dining Services	BSTE	Cook	07/18/2023	2	BHAJAN, AVIN
HALL	NATALIA	Environmental Services	BSTW	Housekeeper	07/14/2023	2	ALEJO, LARISSA
DE LA CRUZ	KRISTY	Arnold House-Assisted Living	Arnold House	Resident Associate	07/20/2023	2	ESTRADA, LINDSEY
RYMERS	MISTY	Hospice	Hospice	HHH Certified Nurse Aide	07/06/2023	2	DECOCK, SHELLY
FARNSWORTH	JACQUELINE	Wellness	Wellness	Fitness Instructor	07/03/2023	2	SANTOS, ESPERANZA
GUERRA	JENNIFER	Mission-Healthcare	The Mission	Health Support Assistant	07/06/2023	2	RODRIGUEZ, PRISCILLA
WOODS-SHANDS	DAJON	Maintenance	BSTE	Maintenance Tech III	07/11/2024	1	SIFUENTES, JESUS
OLIVARRI	SHELBY	Personal Care Center	ACRC Freedom House	Personal Care Giver	07/31/2024	1	GUERRA, SANDRA
REIMERS	SEAN	Dining Services	BSTW	Cook	07/11/2024	1	ESPIRITU, JERONIMO
RAMOS	JACQUELINE	Dining Services	BSTW	Dishwasher	07/11/2024	1	VILLA, NIKKI
REYNOLDS	CHRISTOPHER	Dining Services	BSTW	Dishwasher	07/12/2024	1	ESPIRITU, JERONIMO
AQUINO	CHRISTINA	Dining Services	BSTE	Wait Staff	07/16/2024	1	MACK, JONATHAN
TAYLOR	RYUN	Dining Services	BSTW	Cook	07/31/2024	1	ESPIRITU, JERONIMO
YBARRA	LINDA	Beauty Shop	BSTE	Beauty Shop Operator	07/11/2024	1	TREVINO, ANGELITA
LOPEZ	SIERRA	Arnold House-Assisted Living	Arnold House	Resident Associate	07/31/2024	1	ESTRADA, LINDSEY
CABALLERO	DESTINY	Mission-Healthcare	The Mission	Cert Nurses Aide	07/23/2024	1	RODRIGUEZ, PRISCILLA
ALMANZA	NATASHA	Mission-Healthcare	The Mission	Cert Nurses Aide	07/23/2024	1	RODRIGUEZ, PRISCILLA

We appreciate  
all that you do



## Pest Control Schedule

Blue Skies of Texas West - July 2025				
Date	Tower	The Oaks	Specials	Garden Homes
7/1/2025	631-638, 641-648, 441-448	2300-2400	Village Center, Kitchen, HCC - Office & A Wing	837, 838, 839, 840
7/11/2025	611-618, 621-628	2500-2600	Exterior Main Bldg. (Tower)	841,843,845
7/18/2025	711-718, 721-728	2700	Liberty House, HCC - B & C Wing	847, 851, 853, 855, Basketball, Tennis, Bocce, Cabana/Restrm.
7/25/2025	731-738, 741-748	2800	Freedom House - Int./Ext.	857, 859, Pavillion 2

## Resident Updates

### Thank You from Clare & Angie Taylor

On behalf of the Taylor/Thomas families, I would like to express our gratitude to the wonderful Blue Skies personnel who made the Memorial Service/Reception/Cemetery Service for James and Mark Taylor so memorable. A special thank you to our Church family for their support, to the wonderful, loving, caring support from the Freedom House/Hospice people, and to all the friends for their cards and prayers. You all have made this journey easier and we are so grateful.

We love you all,  
Clare and Angie Taylor

### The Great Courses ~ David H. Brands

The Great Courses started a new lecture series in June, The World's Greatest Structures. This 12-lecture series will run weekly through September 8. All are Welcome. Join us Monday evenings at 7pm in the Roadrunner Lounge.

### AFVII Thrift Shop

As we all prepare to celebrate our nation's 249th birthday, the Thrift Shop and Furniture Store will be closed on the 4th of July. This will allow our volunteers to celebrate with all their families and friends in the different festivities. The Thrift Shop will reopen for donations Tuesday, **July 8**, from 9 to 11am. It will be open for sales and donations on Friday, **July 11**, at the regular time, 7am to 1pm. There will be signs and reminders posted. - Please remember to be safe as you celebrate this 4th of July.

### Christmas in July ~ Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop will have a Christmas in July sale of all kinds of holiday items on Thursday, July 24th from 8am until noon. The sale will be held in Vista rooms 20, 21, 22 and 23. Watch for notices on bulletin boards and in elevators as the date gets closer.

### Thank You from Ginny Callanan

Thank you to all my neighbors and friends for their cards, well wishes, and prayers during the recovery for my broken arm and shoulder replacement.

My special gratitude to Bonnie Gardner and Susan Shumaker for volunteering to finish the National Poppy Day project and to all the other volunteers that helped support the distribution tables. Your camaraderie and "can do" attitude helped make it a success for Blue Skies.

Thank you again for your unwavering support in remembering our nation's heroes.

### Senior Wheels – James Schuster

Last month, your Blue Skies of Texas (BST) Bicycle club held three rides on the West Campus. Shown in the picture are some of the members who participated in these rides.

The club also supported the BSTW resident Solstice walk held on June 20th.

The club plans five July rides. These dates are:

- **July 2**
- **July 9**
- **July 16**
- **July 23**
- **July 25**

Join your fellow cyclists and ride the West campus. Riders meet in the BISTRO at 7:15am. Rides start at 7:30am. The ride lasts no more than 60 minutes and is from 1-10 miles, depending on the participants' capabilities.





## Resident Updates

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Anniversary

### July 9 B&A Honors USA Birthday – Corlea Plowman

All BST West residents and guests are invited to celebrate our USA Birthday on Wednesday, **July 9**, at the Birthday and Anniversary event (B&A). Doors open for the hosted Social Hour in CC1-3 Rooms at 5 pm. Dinner service in the Lakeview Room is at 6 pm. Masquerade DJ will provide entertainment.

Al Johnson will be available to take Birthday & Anniversary pictures from 4-5:30pm in the Helen LeMay Room. Please check in with Ruth Ann Taylor.

The dinner includes:

STARTER: 4th of July Salad: Watermelon, cucumber, sliced red onion, chopped mint, and crumbled Cotija cheese with zesty honey lime dressing.

ENTRÉE: Braised Boneless Beef Rib and Smoked Sausage, topped with honey garlic BBQ sauce, served with sour cream-chive mashed potatoes and French green beans almandine.

DESSERT: Peach cobbler with whipped cream.

BREAD: Sweet Hawaiian Rolls.

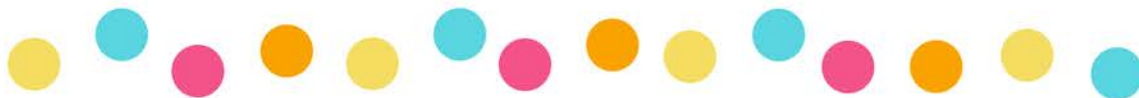
Water, Coffee, or Iced Tea

\$34 Per Person

Alternative Entrée: Roasted Salmon, smoked sausage with honey garlic BBQ glaze.

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 11 am Monday, June 8, 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.

Hosts for the Happy Hour are Barbara Aydlett, Bennie and Sue Blansett, Dottie Cowan, Mike Fox, Dave and Connie Germann, Paula Haley, Sam and Mary Hergert, Ed and Joann Hughes, Annette Johnson, Tom and Luanne Jones, Celia Kellogg, Fred Koechley, Diane Kuehl, Cathy McBee, Jim and Kim McGoldrick, Linda McMillion, Pat Perry, Larry and Linda Prose, John and Lois Revak, Valerie Rieke, Sandy Shull, John Siebert, Lee Wells, Roxanne Wheelis (chair) and Ed Wright.





# Resident Updates

## Resident of the Month

With a lifelong gardening hobby, Jill Garza was delighted she could continue her hobby at our community. Her knowledge, enthusiasm and friendliness have inspired others to participate in growing beautiful flowers and delicious fruits and vegetables. Jill has a “blog” where she posts gardening happenings and suggestions, which has a large following. At the annual “Garden Open House”, she assists with set-ups, “give aways”, and escorts visitors to identify flowers, fruits, vegetables and trees, plus explains the history of each plot. Her latest project is the Freedom House garden plot where she assists the Residents to plant flowers and tomatoes and instructed them how to care for this garden. The Residents are delighted to daily observe and measure the tomatoes’ growth, and to assure the plants’ care occurs. Recently, Jill represented “Blue Skies Garden Club” at a Channel 12 TV interview. Thank you, Jill, for sharing your passion for gardening with our community.

~Nominated by Dottie Conner~



## DRAC

The DRAC will not meet in July. The next meeting will be on **August 14**. However, there will be a kitchen tour the first week in August. Those wishing to attend contact Lu Schuster.

## Gadabouts Luncheon

On **July 11**, the Gadabouts will dine at Mare E Monte Italian restaurant. Sign up in CC3 in the PINK GADABOUTS FOLDER. The Blue Skies bus will leave from the lobby at 10:30 am. Looking forward to great Italian food!

## Back to School Shoe Drive

Help us bless a child with a new pair of shoes for the coming school year! Our Protestant Church Family is sponsoring this outreach and hoping the entire Blue Skies Community will join in with their usual generous spirit. Agora Ministries is in the poorest part of San Antonio. Many families have several children to get ready for the school year. Often the children have “hand-me-down” shoes that do not fit or they wear last year’s totally worn-out ones. We will have names and sizes on the large poster in the lobby/mailbox area. Target, Walmart, Costco and even the Dollar Store are economical places to shop. Many have difficulty shopping, so financial contributions are also very welcome. Make your check out to AFVII Protestant Church with “shoes” on memo line and we will send all monies collected to AGORA for shoe purchases. Please return your donation by July 13th. This organization is making a BIG difference in the lives of these families who have so little. So .....Thanks for putting a big smile on a child’s face.





## Resident Updates

### Visit from the Buffalo Soldiers

BSTW was honored by a visit from the Local 9th US Cavalry Regiment, known as the Buffalo Soldiers. Each presented the heroic events of past Buffalo Soldiers who won the Congressional Medal of Honor. There have been 14 winners.

The very-well-attended event was held as part of the 250th Anniversary of the US Army.

Leo Bell, Jr. LTC, USA (ret) was proud to sponsor the visit.



### Red Hat Luncheon Hosted by Joy Hough

Friday, **July 18** at 11:30 am at PM Tacos & Cocktails, 11255 Huebner Road #109, San Antonio 78230.

Please be in the lobby by 10:30 am. The bus leaves at 10:45 am. 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 in CC3, INDICATE "W" if you are using a Walker or a Wheelchair. If you sign up and can't go, you must remove your name from the sheet by the Wednesday morning before the luncheon, you will be charged the transportation cost if you are a "no call, no show."

### Library ~ Barbara Folkesson and Peggy Durack

Friendly Reminder: Please return all books that you have browsed and/or read to the return slot in the tall library cabinet. We have recently noticed a number of books left on tables in the lobby & Bistro area.

Resident-written books are put on the New Books shelf for 6 months; then they are shelved on the table by the windows with other resident-written books. Resident-written books have a green sticker with a gold star on the spine.

### NEW DONATED BOOKS

Large Print – Strangers in Time (David Baldacci); Nobody's Fool (Harlan Coben); Lethal Prey (John Sandford)

Regular Print – Original Sin (Jake Tapper & Alex Thompson); Where the Sky Begins (Rhys Bowen); The Rose Arbor (Rhys Bowen); Bonded in Death (J D Robb); The Beijing Betrayal (Joel Rosenberg); The Jackal's Mistress (Chris Bohjalian); The Armour of Light (Ken Follett); Resident written: Can You or Can You Not Sail Under the Command of a Pirate (Marty Corcoran)

### LIBERTY HOUSE

The Edge (David Baldacci); The Wright Brothers (biography; David McCullough)  
Large Print Readers Digest Books – vol 3 2025

DVD's – We've recently added several DVDs about some of the U.S. Presidents. Many of the DVD's were shown on PBS. They are on one of the lower shelves in the DVD area.



## Resident Updates

### W5AFV History ~ Betty Overacker

When you approach the Towers to the main entrance, where are your eyes focused: at your feet? the Flag? or your destination? When an Amateur Radio Operator traverses this same route, eyes are focused on Tower Three's roof to assure the G5RV all band high frequency antenna installed during June 2013 remains intact, especially after a storm with high winds. From the late 1980's to 2000 there was a robust Amateur Radio Club at AFV (now Blue Skies), which inspired many future retirees with this hobby to retire here. The original Amateur Radio Club declined as the members aged, and it became non-functional by 2005. During 2012 and 2013, resident Amateur Radio Operators, Bill Overacker, Joel Lichtenstein, Steve Wilson, and Jerry Stanstell, who had home stations, gathered, and with the assistance and support from management and residents constructed a first class Amateur Radio Station located in the Towers lower level and an antenna approximately 120 feet above ground on the roof. During the ensuing years, the Radio Room has much usage, particularly during contests. Now, the equipment is aging, and the antenna needs some repairs. Hurricane, tornado, flood, wildfire, and earthquake are all possible at "Blue Skies". Cell towers down, land lines out, power grid dead, internet and broadcast media out. There are NO normal means of communication! RELAX!! BST has its own emergency powered Amateur Radio Station, and we desire to maintain its functioning. Know you are always welcome to visit the Radio Room. All are welcome to attend the next Amateur Radio Club meeting on Tuesday, **July 15** in Meeting Room 11 located in the Vista at 11am. Please contact Bob Stuckert for more information.

73—Best Regards in Ham Language





# Resident Updates

## Village Voices

In 1975, Blue Skies East residents George Howard and Jim Leddon joined forces to formalize The Village Voices. Beryl McKesson was the accompanist. “The first meeting of the Village Voices was held in 1976 with one objective in mind—the love of singing” (Col. Howard). In 1987, residents from Air Force Village II joined. In 1995, George Howard died and John Lile became the conductor and accompanist.

Programs by the Village Voices have been presented at many places, including USAA with the USAF Band of the West; OTS Choir at Medina Base, nursing homes in the city, as well as The Mission, Vista, Freedom House and Liberty House; Main Chapel at Lackland; Lions and Rotary Clubs; Army Retirement Center; USAA Towers; churches; 1982 Dedication of glass window at Air Force Village I; Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Officers’ Clubs; Howard Hall at Lackland AFB dedication program; and others.

In 2016, ill health caused John Lile to retire from directing the Village Voices and Rob Jenkins took over direction and accompanying. In 2018, resident Nancy Jones Sowada took over direction of the Village Voices.

The Village Voices practice from 1:30 to 3:30 every Tuesday from August through May in the chapel at Blue Skies West. The Village Voices have a spring and fall performance show for Blue Skies East and West and they also perform each spring and fall at the Mission, the Vista, and Freedom House. In addition, they perform for the Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs at Blue Skies West. They are available to perform at other times, when requested.

The members of the Village Voices are excited to be in our 50th year of continuous existence. We thank residents for your continued support through the Air Force Village Charitable Fund and the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Council. Join us for rehearsals beginning August 19. The picture is from one of our Memorial Day ceremony 2025 performance.





## Resident Updates

### Handbells

Nona Whitlatch, a resident of Blue Skies West who passed away in June, sang with the Village Voices and started the Blue Skies West Handbell Choir. Beginning in 1990, Nona initiated a fund-raising campaign, and money was collected from residents to purchase the handbells and hand chimes. Nona was a major part of this effort. There were many, many contributions. The handbells are inscribed with the people's names who contributed. We, the current members of the Blue Skies West Handbell Choir, are honored and excited to be a part of a Blue Skies group that has been in existence for more than 30 years and we look forward to beginning rehearsals again in August and performing for our residents later this year. Our first rehearsal of the fall season will be Thursday, **August 28**, at 10:30 am in the Blue Skies West craft room. We will rehearse for about an hour. We thank residents for their continuing contributions to the Blue Skies West Activities Coordinating Council for the maintenance and service of these beautiful bells and for the purchase of music. The picture is from one of our spring 2025 performances at Freedom House.





# Resident Updates

## Know Your “Assigned” VA Social Worker

Veterans that are enrolled in VA Health Care are assigned a VA Social Worker. These skilled professionals provide a wide range of clinical interventions to meet the diverse needs of Veterans ranging from disability counseling, suicide prevention, crisis interventions, to long-term clinical interventions.

Whether screening for suicide and intervening as needed, arranging service member benefit payments, connecting homeless Veterans with housing resources, or counseling Veterans with injuries or trauma, VA Social Workers impact millions of Veterans’ lives. Practicing in every medical and Veteran center operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), their reach is exceptional. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the VA’s health care program, is the largest integrated health care network in the country.

VA social workers support clients with a wide range of services. Veterans’ diverse needs range from help with administrative functions to long-term clinical interventions. Here are just some of the ways that VA social workers can help:

- Suicide screening and intervention.

- Assistance with access to care.

- Education and assistance with financial or housing resources.

- Linkage to resources from VA or community agencies.

- Education and application for benefits from the VA, Social Security, and other government and community programs.

- Assessment and implementation of treatment approaches which address needs related to social determinants of health.

- Facilitate Veteran communication with interprofessional healthcare teams on goals of care discussions and advanced care planning.

- Education and linkage to resources offering support for caregivers.

- Provision of case management.

- Provision of counseling and other evidence based therapeutic interventions.

To meet the needs of Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, the first step is generally for the social worker to meet with the Veteran and their support person. If applicable, the social worker will gather information from the Veteran about their health, living situation, family and other support systems, military experience, and the things the Veteran needs help with. The social worker develops an assessment that will help the Veteran and their VA health care team develop treatment plans.

Contact a Social Worker: You will find social workers in all VA medical centers who are ready to help. If you have questions or concerns, social workers will be able to help you or can refer you to the right person for help. Contact your social worker at the following:

South Texas Veterans Health Care System Victor Lennhoff

Audie L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital Victor.Lennhoff@va.gov

7400 Merton Minter Blvd

San Antonio, TX 78229

210-617-5300

877-469-5300

# SPORTS, GAMES, & SCORES

## Big News – Hand Elbow and Foot Tournament

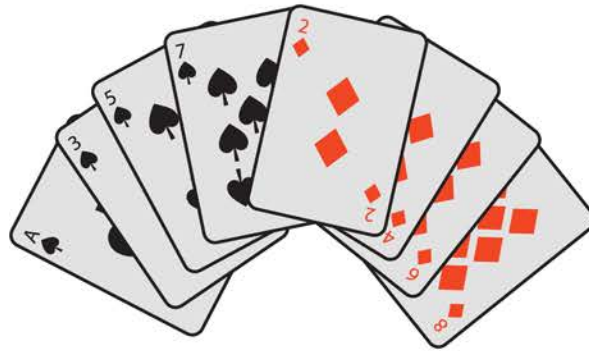
For 16 players, 8 teams, a Tournament is scheduled for the last two Saturdays in August and the first two Saturdays in September. Get your partner and sign up on June 30th at 6:00pm in CC3; \$10 per person (\$20 per team) which will give you your ticket to play. If you must cancel you will need to find a replacement or if you are absent on one of the dates you will need to have a substitute acceptable to your partner to play in your place. The tournament is limited to the first 8 teams and you can provide your name as a possible substitute if you don't get a place in the first 8 spots. All monies will be given in prizes on the last day of the tournament.

Rules will be provided to all participants and there will be penalties for violation of the rules. Scores and standings will be posted before each play day and scores will be an accumulation of all four play days so totals will be posted and standings will most likely change each week. Score handed in to the game supervisor will be verified by both teams playing each game and signed and kept for any questions about totals.

If you have been playing the game or still want to learn you have time to sharpen your skills before the tournament date. Open to any card player who likes a challenge. Come give the game a try.

As always, Monday night is open to all players of any skill level from beginner to advanced. Played in CC3 at 6:30 (be a little early to get a spot) and know that there will be instruction and help available if wanted. Thursday is open to all players at 3:00 in CC3 and again, all players or potential players, are welcome. Thursday is a Play at any open spot while Monday is a draw for partner and place to play. Friday night is game night, open to anyone looking for a couple of hours of social time and game playing and there are Hand Elbow and Foot players available to give you one more time to play the game. There are also groups playing at other times and in other places. Ask around. You can find someone who will teach you the game and sharpen your Hand Elbow and Foot skill.

Cards are fun and good for the brain. You don't need a partner, money, or a reservation to play (Except for the Tournament where you will need all). See you at the table. Any questions? Call Gaye True.





# SPIRITUAL NEWS

## **Catholic News ~ Annie Moore**

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, Lorrie Cappellino, 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.