



NEWS FROM THE STAFF

OPERATIONS UPDATE

By Dave Zeh, Resident Services Director

With the community growth of positive COVID results, Blue Skies of Texas is taking a proactive approach to help curtail the spread of the virus. As we continue to respond to the COVID-19 virus, we continue to keep your health and safety as a priority. We have introduced the following updates to our operating hours and offerings:

Medical Appointment Transportation: No Change

- Please contact the front desk if you need to schedule transportation to a medical appointment. *These will be scheduled case by case.*

Medicine Pick-Up: No change

Visitors: Campus is Closed

- Visits to IL residents are suspended.
 - This includes private personal service contractors such as pet groomers and technicians.
- Spectrum will continue to respond to service calls.
- Private laundry service can continue. Drop off/pick up at the front desk.
- Approved home health care providers are still permitted to assist residents.

Dining Service: Delivery Only

- Meals are still being delivered free of charge to the residents.
- If you need assistance with order forms or have delivery issues, please call 210-568-5173 and a staff member will assist you.

Maintenance: Service for Emergency and Safety Issues Only

- Others are being considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Submit work orders to: workorder@blueskiestx.org or work order desk 210-568-3261

Housekeeping: Suspended

Beauty Salon: Suspended

Religious Services: Suspended for In-Person Attendance

Swimming Pool: Open 6am-10pm Daily

- The locker rooms are closed.
- Restroom in the Fitness Center is available.

Fitness Center: Open 6am-10pm Daily

- Physical Therapy sessions also continue with Select Rehab.



Exercise Classes: In-Person Classes are Suspended

- Classes offered via Zoom - See the flyer for times and location.

Sew & Sew, Billiards, Hobby Shop, and Art & Crafts: Open

- Face masks and social distancing required.

Bingo: Tuesdays at 6:30pm in CC2 & 3

White Elephant: Suspended

Broadway Bank: Open Mon 1-4pm, Wed 9am-Noon, and Fri 1-4pm

HEB, Commissary, BX, & Walmart: Trips available on Fridays

Other Deliveries:

- High Rise and Mid-Rise residents – Front desk
- Hills and Cottages – Doorstep

NATIONAL GUARD ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY, 13 DECEMBER

By Fred Ryder, COO

The military organization we know today as the National Guard came into existence with a direct declaration on Dec 13, 1636 in Salem MA. The National Guard remains a community cornerstone and still consists of Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who provide assistance in natural disasters, as well as deployment to far-away countries to protect the United States' national interests abroad. To all current and former National Guard members, Happy Anniversary!

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RESIDENT SERVICES

By Dave Zeh



Happy Holidays! While we were hoping for a better way to celebrate Thanksgiving and the December holidays, here we are still battling the COVID virus. It looks like a vaccine is close to being distributed and we will get word out as soon as we can about how to get the vaccine. Please be a bit more patient as we close out 2020 and hopefully put this COVID thing behind us! Our main goal is to keep the residents and our staff healthy and safe. I know there is a desire to gather more and celebrate the holidays with family and friends. We will try to the best we can to support that priority. In the meantime, *wear your mask--social distance--and wash your hands.*

On behalf of the staff, I wish you a *blessed and peaceful* holiday season.

SAVE THE DATES:

Friday, 4 December: *Doc Watkins Jazz Concert, 7pm (IHC)*

Saturday, 5 December: *Doc Watkins Jazz Concert, 7pm (IHC)*

Sunday, 6 December: *Doc Watkins Jazz Concert, 3pm (IHC)*

Friday, 11 December: Hanukkah Begins

Monday, 21 December: Winter Begins



Deadline: Monday, 28 December @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org
Next Publication Date: Wednesday 30 December 2020

Friday, 25 December: Christmas Day

Saturday, 26 December: Kwanzaa Holiday

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

BINGO: Tuesdays @ 6:30pm in Legacy Room

DOMINOES: Wednesdays @ 6:30pm in Recreation/Game Room

BRIDGE: Thursdays @ 1pm in CC 2&3 Rooms

BILLIARDS & POKER games are back too!

Be on the look-out for a meeting to start up a Texas Hold 'Em group!



READING CONTEST: December is the final month of the current reading contest. Our readers have earned over 300 points so far and seem to have several favorite authors.

Recommended Authors

William Johnstone, Brad Taylor, Robert Crais, John Sanford, J A Jance Elin Hilderbrand, Erik Larsen, Nora Roberts, James Patterson, Pat Conroy, Karin Slaughter, JD Robb and Debbie Macomber

If you are interested in participating in our reading contest next year, please contact *Doris Magonigal*. We will be making a few changes to the reading selection to keep it fun and interesting!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW RELOCATION SPECIALIST!

By Heather Ransom, Capital Projects Director

Capital Projects is excited to announce our newest team member, Logan Cook. Logan is taking over as our Relocation Specialist, assisting with resident moves throughout Blue Skies of Texas at both the East and West campus. Many of you already know Logan well, as she comes to us from our very own Beauty Shop. We are looking forward to all the great things Logan will bring to our community in her new position. Logan is motivated by interacting with people, and she loves to work through a good challenge. You will find her assisting residents and working with our contractors at Blue Skies. When you see her around campus, please congratulate Logan on her new position!



IN MEMORIAM

Marcia Kelley, 29 November 2020

Flo Fouts, 1 December 2020



Deadline: Monday, 28 December @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org
Next Publication Date: Wednesday 30 December 2020

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

WELCOME

Glenda McCormack #1005
John Esquivel #703

GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENT & GUEST CANINES

By Danielle Weintraub, Assistant Resident Services Director

A gentle reminder to all of the dog lovers... whether you own a dog, have regular visits from your granddogs, or have family and friends that bring their dog while visiting, please be sure you are abiding by the BST guidelines:



- Resident's dogs must be spayed or neutered
- Dogs must be current on their shots
- Dogs must be on a leash, unless they are in the dog park
- Dogs are not permitted in any dining room
 - Exceptions will be made for service dogs with proper documentation
- Dogs are not permitted on lobby/hallway furniture
- Dogs will not be allowed in common areas during campus activities

Lastly, please be **considerate** and **responsible** by cleaning up after your dog.

TURNING 100 IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

By Danielle Weintraub, Assistant Resident Services Director



Our very own, *Hazel Culler* turned 100-years-old on 22 November! Even amid the pandemic, The Mission staff went above and beyond to ensure Hazel had a wonderful birthday celebration! Surrounded by staff members, both inside and out, she enjoyed a delicious cake while listening to one of her favorite songs, "The Yellow Rose of Texas".

THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON IS YEAR-ROUND AT BLUE SKIES!

Frequently Asked Questions about Residents' Assistance

By Jennifer Z. Berg, Director of Development

For many, the holidays are "the most wonderful time of the year", but for others, financial concerns mar the season. Blue Skies serves as a refuge, anonymously aiding with food, medical, and other daily bills so that everyone can live worry-free within our walls.

Who qualifies for this assistance?

Most Blue Skies residents who have signed a "Continuing Care" contract (i.e., who have paid an entry fee) qualify. If you're unsure, please call Shirley Clay at (210) 568-3282 or email her at shirleyclay@blueskiestx.org.



4

Deadline: Monday, 28 December @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org
Next Publication Date: Wednesday 30 December 2020

I thought only Air Force widows received assistance. Is that still true?

No. Any “Continuing Care” resident from any background, military or otherwise, can apply for assistance while they live here!

I don’t have much cash, but I still own a car. Do I qualify?

Residents must have less than \$25,900, *excluding* assets such as cars and jewelry, in order to qualify for assistance.

I can afford where I live right now, but I don’t think I’ll be able to afford skilled nursing, assisted living, or memory care if I need it. Should I move someplace else?

If you’ve opted for the “Continuing Care” contract, you should never have to move out for financial reasons. By literally buying into the community, you have bought your own safety net.

I’m giving my estate away prematurely so I can see my children thrive. Do I still qualify for assistance?

The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation supports residents who, through no fault of their own, can no longer financially support themselves. Residents who knowingly deplete their resources will not be approved for assistance.

I’m embarrassed to say I need help. Who will know I’m on assistance?

Only Resident Counselor Shirley Clay and CEO General Jones are part of the application approval process, and only they will know if you have applied for or are receiving assistance.

I hear those receiving funds don’t have to pay for anything. Is that true?

While some individuals need a small amount of assistance, others need much more. However, each person pays what our review process determines that they can towards their cost of living, and they are awarded the additional amount they need.

The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation is honored to assist residents of all backgrounds year-round through our Blue Skies Charitable Fund, our Air Force Widows’ Fund, and the Covenant Fund. If you have any questions about supporting those in need or if you would like to make a gift, please call Jennifer Berg, Director of Development. Additionally, if you think you need assistance, please call Shirley Clay, Resident Counselor. Thank you, and Happy Holidays!

SCAM ALERT

By Shirley Clay, Resident Counselor



If you have a **Facebook Messenger** account, be aware that they can be pirated by scammers to send messages from your personal Messenger account to your personal Messenger friends. These messages suggest that the sender (who is your Messenger friend) has found a great deal of money or needs money and asks you to click a link or call a number for more

information. Don’t do it! Check with your Messenger friend to see if they actually sent



5 **Deadline: Monday, 28 December @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org**
Next Publication Date: Wednesday 30 December 2020

the message. Your friend, whose account was pirated by scammers, will have to change passwords on their side to correct the issue. The receiver just needs to delete the message.

Four Signs to Recognize a Scam – The Federal Trade Commission lists these 4 ways to recognize a scam. Scammers will do one or more of the following:

- 1) Present themselves as someone from an organization that you know.
- 2) Say there is a problem, or a prize.
- 3) Pressure you to act immediately.
- 4) Tell you to pay in a specific way.

For more information on these four recognizable scammer patterns, please see <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scam#signs>.

ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES OF SERVICE

By Human Resources Team

The HR Team would like to thank the following employees for reaching an Anniversary Milestone of Service with Blue Skies of Texas. Thank you for serving our residents with love and care throughout the years. We appreciate you!

Employee	Anniv. Date	Years Svc.	Department
Pablo Rodríguez	Dec 1	28	Maintenance
Manuel Cantu	Dec 20	26	Maintenance
Martha Celestino	Dec 5	23	Dining Services
Gilbert Lopez	Dec 7	16	Environmental Services
Judy Rivera	Dec 28	16	Environmental Services
Jackie Martinez	Dec 6	15	Environmental Services
Katie Boggs	Dec 13	13	Hospice
Paul Jones	Dec 18	11	Dining Services
Samantha Méndez	Dec 9	9	Arnold House-Assisted Living
Adrian Peña	Dec 9	9	Resident Services
Mark Erik Mata	Dec 23	9	Resident Services
Betty Rangel	Dec 14	8	Environmental Services
James Williamson	Dec 13	7	Resident Services
Sheila Fontenot	Dec 30	7	Liberty House-Assisted Living
Aleisha Dillard	Dec 4	5	Resident Services
Maria Subirias	Dec 18	5	Mission-Environmental Services
María Piasecki	Dec 5	4	Finance
Leticia Álvarez	Dec 19	4	Dining Services
Samantha Corona	Dec 30	4	Personal Care Center
Marianna Lara	Dec 6	1	Mission-Healthcare



6

Deadline: Monday, 28 December @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org

Next Publication Date: Wednesday 30 December 2020

RESIDENT'S CORNER

NOTES FROM THE RESIDENT COUNCIL CHAIR

By Bruce Wilcox

In keeping with the operations update as of 27 November 2020, we unfortunately must cancel the next Resident Council meeting on Thursday, 3 December. The next Resident's Council meeting will be announced when operations are reopened.

The focus of my presentation to the Board in November was occupancy at East, always my highest priority. Marketing has been having a difficult time getting potential new residents to come to Blue Skies given the Pandemic. Therefore, I ask you all to reconnect with referrals and see if you can reenergize them to join us. The operations update does not restrict potential residents from entering the campus, but there will be certain limitations to keep current and potential residents safe.

DRAC: Dining Room Advisory Council

By Doris Megonigal, DRAC Chair



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the DRAC. We hope you have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on 6 January at 10am in the CC rooms. Please keep your comments coming using the drop boxes near Cochran's or the email: drac.comments@gmail.com. Your input helps us to identify areas of concern and focus on big problems first. See you soon in Cochran's!

"ARCHIVES OF OUR LIVES"

Created and produced by resident and videographer, Dr. Steve Wilson.

In January 2021, the biographic series "The Archives of Our Lives" will begin showing on Channel 1890 on dates and times to be announced. Every month, the half-hour show will focus on one Blue Skies of Texas East resident. In January, 100-year-old *Muriel Jones*, the Blue Skies East resident who has lived at AFV/Blue Skies of Texas the longest, will be featured.

The purpose of this series is to capture many of the life stories that form the unique resident culture on our East campus. Each episode is told in an interview format, accompanied by personal photographs, videos, illustrations, and historic newspaper articles. In the interviews, residents have often disclosed amazing skills, awesome accomplishments, and life-changing events that we had no idea they had experienced. Hopefully, through this series, we will realize that each of our fellow Blue Skies of Texas East residents are wonderfully unique and irreplaceable. So, get ready "The Archives of Our Lives" is coming in January!



Deadline: Monday, 28 December @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org
Next Publication Date: Wednesday 30 December 2020

SEW & SEWS Annual Bazaar & Chance Drawing

By Pat Steffen

BAZAAR: The annual bazaar and the chance drawing took place on Thursday, November 19th.....



Raggedy Ann & Andy..... Yolanda King
Christmas Train..... Jean Guyton
Baby Quilt Marilyn Overton
Large Quilt..... Judy Peterson
Knitted Blanket Judy Peterson

Yes, you read that right! Judy Peterson's name was drawn **TWICE**. It really was Judy's lucky day!

Many thanks to all the folks who came out to support our annual effort, the chance ticket buyers, and the shoppers.

♥ All profits are donated back to **Blue Skies East**

RESIDENTS' CONCERT SERIES

By Ginny Hallager, BSTW

We are pleased to bring you a Holiday concert from the Doc Watkins Jazz group. They are local musicians who are well-known around San Antonio. The concert will be shown on **Friday, Dec 4** and on **Saturday, Dec 5** at **7pm**, and **Sunday, Dec 6** at **3pm** on our Community Channel 1890. If you do not receive this channel via Spectrum, come up to the Main Lobby and enjoy the concert in our very comfortable lounge chairs. The music will help usher us into the Holiday Season. Mark your calendars – it is coming soon!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE P.E.O.?

By Pat Wagner, BSTW

(Second in a Series)

As mentioned in an article last month, the P.E.O. was founded in 1869 by seven community-minded young women. One of their first philanthropic endeavors was creating a sidewalk for the town cemetery. But these women also realized how lucky they were to have a college education, and so they became dedicated to helping other women better themselves through education. The Educational Loan Fund was created in the first decade of the last century. All that was required for collateral was two



8

Deadline: Monday, 28 December @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org
Next Publication Date: Wednesday 30 December 2020

signatures. To date, over \$35M has been loaned! The default rate is less than 1%. And the current interest rate is 2%.

A woman can be awarded as much as \$12,000 for an associate or bachelor's degree, technical or professional training, and post graduate certifications; \$15,000 for a master's degree, or \$20,000 for a doctoral degree. A student has eight years to pay back a loan of up to \$15,000, and 10 years to pay back a loan over \$15,000. Payments begin six months after graduation. Do you know of a woman who could use our assistance? There are no barriers for age, race, or religion.

There are four more projects that P.E.O. offers to help women better their lives through education. More on that later.

HAM RADIO NEWS – “CW” SWEEPSTAKES

By Betty Overacker, BSTW

Morse Code (also commonly referred to as continuous wave, or “CW”) emanated from the Radio Room for 21 hours from Saturday, Nov 7 through Monday, Nov 9, when Bob Stuckert, Bob Seigel, and Joel Lichtenstein participated in the oldest (79 years) and most popular (over 3,000 participants) domestic radio sport event. This year, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), with 13 geographical sections, joined American Radio Relay League's 71 geographical sections for a total of 84. The objective of this



contest is to contact as many radio stations in the different geographical sections as possible within 24 radio operating hours. The BST Amateur Radio Club accomplished 300 contacts in 80 of the 84 different sections. A job well done!! From Saturday, Nov 21 through Monday, Nov 23, the “Phone Sweepstakes” was held with the same parameters, except with voice radio contacts rather than Morse Code.

Keeping in mind the continued pandemic gathering restrictions, the next BST Amateur Radio Club meeting will be virtual via Zoom on **Thursday, Dec 17 at 11am**. Please contact Joel Lichtenstein for more information.

73 — (Best regards in Ham language).

Wishing you a very Happy Holiday!!



9 **Deadline: Monday, 28 December @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org**
Next Publication Date: Wednesday 30 December 2020