

## NEWS FROM THE STAFF

### Notes from the Director of Resident Services

Dave Zeh

We see light at the end of the tunnel as we continue to further open the campus to more activities and programs. Everyone must remain vigilant to wearing masks while indoors, washing your hands, and maintaining social distance when in public.

We look forward to celebrating Memorial Day outdoors with residents and staff on **Friday, 29 May** for a BBQ lunch and a band concert. Hope you will join in the fun!

I know it has been a while that we have offered activities and programs in large groups, so I ask for your patience as the staff and residents once again get back in the swing of operations. Please be patient and considerate with each other as we conduct business operations. We also have many new residents who have joined the Blue Skies family over the past year, so I hope you welcome them to join in our various programs.

### Operations Update

Alert status: **YELLOW**

#### Visitors

- Guestrooms are available
- No fitness center or pool
- Masks are mandatory

#### Arnold House Visitors

- Visitors are welcome by appointment only
  - Please call 568-5195
  - Visitors must complete a health screen upon entry
- Only 2 visitors per resident at a time
  - Visitors are not permitted in the AH dining room at this time
- Masks are mandatory



## Dining Service: *Cochran's*

- Breakfast 8-9am
- Dine In 11:30am-6:00pm
- To-Go 12:15-3:00pm
- Thirsty Thursdays in the Sky Lounge 4:00-6:00pm
- Sunday Brunch 10:30am-1:30pm

## VIP Bands for Guest Dining: Effective as of Monday, 19 April

- Visitors are welcome with **VIP band**
  - Children will not be permitted in the dining room at this time
- **VIP bands** can be obtained from the front desk
  - Visitors must show proof of vaccination (i.e. original vaccination card)
  - To be fully vaccinated the effective date is 2 weeks after the last dose
- Visitors must wear the **VIP band** while dining and can keep it for future visits
- Vaccines currently being offered nationwide:
  - Moderna: 2 doses
  - Pfizer: 2 doses
  - Johnson & Johnson: 1 shot dose

## Memorial Services

- Open to residents and family members of residents
- Advance sign-up is required
- Masks and social distancing are mandatory

## Chapel

- Masks and social distancing (3ft) are mandatory
  - Please keep your mask on while singing
  - No visitors
- Services:
  - Episcopal – Wednesday @ 2pm
  - Protestant – Sunday @ 9:30 & 11:00am
  - Catholic Mass – Sunday @ 1:15pm

## Shuttle Services: Starting Monday, 3 May

- Medical Center: Monday-Thursday
- Monday 1:00-3:00pm
  - HEB & Walmart
- Wednesday (Shopping) 1:15-3:30pm
  1. Target
  2. Trader Joes
  3. Costco
  4. Dove Creek
  5. Dollar Store
- Friday (Malls) 10:15am-2pm
  1. La Cantera
  2. Ingram
  3. North Star



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- 4. Quarry
- 5. North Star
- Friday 1:00-3:00pm
  - HEB & Walmart

**Deliveries:** FedEx, UPS, & Amazon packages will no longer be delivered to the front desk. Packages will be delivered to individual residences.

### Save the Date

**Tuesday, 4 May:** **OPEN** DRAC Meeting, 2:30pm Sky Lounge  
**Wednesday, 5 May:** Friends of the Village Meeting, 1:00pm CC3  
**Sunday, 9 May:** Mother's Day Brunch, 10:30am-1:30pm, Sky Lounge  
**Wednesday, 12 May:** **OPEN** Resident Council Meeting, 2:00pm Sky Lounge  
**Friday, 28 May:** Memorial Day BBQ & Band Concert, 11:30am Heritage Park  
**Friday, 4 June:** Arts & Crafts Fair, 10:00am BSTW  
**Monday, 14 June:** Flag Day Ceremony, 10:00am Portico Entrance

### In Memoriam

*Norm Galyon*      14 April 2021

### New Residents

*Catherine Key*      May 2021

### Weather Storm Reminders

Dave Zeh

As we approach the various weather storms in our area, here are some helpful tips:

1. If a weather warning is issued, please go to one of the following areas:
  - a. Go to an interior room in your home, i.e. bathroom, kitchen, or closet
  - b. Go to the hallway or nearest stairwell
  - c. Go to the high-rise or mid-rise basement near the resident storage area
  - d. Stay away from windows
2. Continue to monitor weather reports.
  - a. BST will provide further instructions over the PA system or via phone using the Omnilert emergency system.
3. Stay calm and remain vigilant!



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## New Mail Carrier

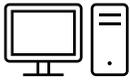
Sandra Hernandez, Front Desk Manager



Please welcome *George Yznaga* as our new mail carrier. He has 36 years of postal experience and is excited to be here!

## Electronic Disposal

Danielle Weintraub, Resident Services



If you have any old or unused electronics you would like to properly dispose of, please bring them to the computer room by **Friday, 14 May**.

## Freedom House Pets: Ready for Action!

Jennifer Z. Berg Matthews, Director of Development



At the end of April, over twenty residents around campus rallied together so that Freedom House (FH) could have two new friends, a new support dog and cat! The well-known resident dog of FH lovingly known as “Freedom” passed away several years ago, and a resident-owned dog named Ginger took her place. Unfortunately, Ginger left the facility when her owner passed recently, and staff have been patiently waiting for a new pup with the right temperament to come across their path. However, with no budget to cover adoption fees from local shelters which can be up to a few hundred dollars, prospects were few.

This is where your donations made an impact. Because so many of you stepped up, we were able to partner with SNIPSA, a local veterinary organization that specializes in spaying, neutering, and rehabilitating rescues, to find the perfect fit for our residents at Freedom House. I do not

think it was a coincidence that Honey was waiting for us. Not only is she a young, small chihuahua mix who is calm and loves people, but the veterinarian who treated her had marked her as an excellent companion for seniors long before we had ever spoken. It was truly a match made in Heaven, one that would not have been possible without your help.

While Honey settles into her new home, we are contacting Honey’s former shelter to find a “meow-velous” feline addition to FH. As with all new animal friends for the community, this cat will require some initial veterinary expenses such as a general exam and some vaccinations. Because of you, the staff at FH will not need to pay for these expenses out of their own pockets. We look forward to telling you more about the cat to you very soon and introducing him or her to FH residents.



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While Freedom House does have a budget to care for monthly food costs and annual veterinary visits, these initial adoption costs and veterinary bills exceed these ordinary expenses. Thank you again for making a huge difference to those living at Freedom House: human, canine, and feline alike!

### **Freedom House Educational Series**

Kurt Riedel, Freedom House Manager

Do you know someone or are you caring for someone with dementia, cognitive impairment or just interested in learning more? Freedom House is presenting its first session of an educational series on **Wednesday, 12 May at 2pm, in the Roadrunner Lounge**. Over the coming months we will focus on Freedom House basics (FH 101), home safety, coping as a caregiver, appropriate activities and much more topics. FH 101 will cover the basics of dementia, admission criteria, when it may be time to consider looking further into placement at FH, and what you can do if you do not qualify or are not ready to move your loved one. To RSVP or get more details, please call 210-838-6341 or email [kurtriedel@blueskiestx.org](mailto:kurtriedel@blueskiestx.org) for more details.

### **Play for Freedom – Calling all Resident Golfers!**

Daniel Casillas, Fundraising Associate



This is a first call for resident golfer registration for our 27th Annual **Play for Freedom** Golf Tournament on **Friday, 10 September at The Quarry Golf Course**. Space is limited, so the time to sign up is now! As in previous years, free roundtrip transportation will be provided for resident golfers. (Social distancing guidelines will be followed throughout the tournament.) Enjoy a great day of golf in support of Freedom

House! Please let me know if you have any questions about this year's tournament. To register, please stop by the Development Office, or call me at 210-568-3290 to request that I email or send a registration form.

### **Legacy Luncheon – A New Beginning**

Jennifer Z. Berg Matthews, Director of Development



Generosity is the spirit of Blue Skies, and it is something new residents and employees feel acutely when they walk the halls of our campus for the first time. We all “take care of our own”, whether it be checking in on a neighbor during the cold snap or picking up groceries for a friend, and it resonates here at the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation through your generous

support of residents in need and the Employee Appreciation Fund, to name a few. We



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love showing our donors our appreciation through gatherings, annual planners, notes of gratitude, luncheons, and of course the Eagle Dinner.

However, some of our most generous donors never receive a word of thanks during their lifetime simply because we do not know of their gift plans. For example, did you know that the \$6M renovation of Freedom House was largely sponsored by estate gifts from multiple people who had never donated during their lifetimes? Yes, they loved the mission of Freedom House but decided to benefit it with their legacy alone. This is not uncommon, and donors have benefitted many parts of our campus with their legacy, not just Freedom House.

*We would like to begin saying thank you.*

Starting this year, the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation will hold an annual luncheon honoring its legacy donors. This includes not just those who have AFVCF in their will, but Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) holders as well. This is because when a CGA is established with the AFVCF, any funds left in the account will transfer to the Charitable Foundation upon the annuitant's passing.

We have decade-old records listing those who have included AFVCF in their wills, and last month we sent those residents letters to confirm what we had on file, knowing the information might be outdated. If you think you received this letter by mistake, please call our office at the number below to let us know!

More importantly, if you have included the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation in your will, please let us know! Invitations for our Legacy Luncheon are going out soon, and we would like to include you!!

If you have any questions or would like to let us know of your estate gift, please call 210-568-3206 or email me at [jennifermatthews@blueskiestx.org](mailto:jennifermatthews@blueskiestx.org). Thank you!

## Scam Alert

Shirley Clay, Resident Counselor



**Scam Threats** – Scammers very often employ threats to try and get you to respond in the way they want. **“Your Social Security or Medicare benefits will be stopped”**. **“You have a warrant out for your arrest”**. **“Your credit card or account has been compromised”**. The purpose of the threat is to get you to give them

personal information, account numbers or money. Do not respond to a threat! Take time to examine the source. Do not respond to pressure to act quickly. Ask the exact name of the caller's company represented and the caller's employee id information. Ask for a return call phone number. Do not be afraid to hang up and then do your research. Look for a legitimate telephone number for the company or government agency represented and call what you know to be a legitimate number to see if in fact the call was authorized. Getting you to act under pressure is a scammers most successful ploy.



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## Catered Living – We Take Care of all your Laundry Needs!

Mercedes Cruz, Catered Living Manager

Laundry service is charged \$1.50 per pound with a \$6.00 minimum charge.

Catered Living Laundry Services:

- Wash, dry & fold
- Pickup & delivery
- All clothes are washed individually
- No commercial equipment
- We provide all detergent
- Large items (e.g., comforters, blankets, rugs, etc.) are \$22.50 per item.
- Ironing per piece: \$2.75



For more information please call: 210 568-3285, or email: [mercedescruz@blueskiestx.org](mailto:mercedescruz@blueskiestx.org).

## Anniversary Milestones of Service

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.	Yrs. Svc.	Department
Kurt Riedel	May 5	7	Freedom House
Exor Elano	May 9	13	Maintenance
Elia Godinez	May 10	8	The Mission
Delmar Paulson	May 10	2	Arnold House
Diamond Corona	May 11	3	Freedom House
Dolores Zertuche	May 12	23	The Mission
Nicole Cerda	May 12	4	Arnold House
Jessica Henry	May 12	4	The Mission
Sam Tomlinson	May 13	2	Human Resources
Michael Guemes	May 15	4	Maintenance
Amanda Moreno	May 19	1	Freedom House
Natalie Ezell	May 19	1	The Mission
Graciela Sanchez	May 25	9	Arnold House
Roseanne Esparza	May 27	5	Resident Services
Maria Contreras	May 27	1	Freedom House
Samantha Sanders	May 28	2	The Mission
Brenda Cantu	May 28	7	Freedom House
Fred Ryder	May 29	12	Executive



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## RESIDENT'S CORNER

### The Archives of Our Lives

Steve Wilson

*"The Archives of Our Lives"* is the video series featuring *Blue Skies of Texas East* residents talking about their life stories and capturing personal memories and events that create our unique Village culture. In May 2021, **Christine (Chris) Johnson** will be featured.

*Christine Johnson has quietly changed our society. Early on, her father gave her a philosophy to live by, and his words set her pathway for a life well lived. One of the earliest enlistees and then officers after the formation of the Women's Air Force (WAF), Chris was a trailblazer. She served her first overseas assignment at a USAF base in Wales. Newspapers reported that she was the first WAF to be assigned to Wright Patterson Air Force Base. She served a year in Viet Nam as a supply officer, and she poignantly describes her voluntary role in providing critical mortuary support to the US Army. After her military career, Chris established a student opportunity program that is still thriving at Hamilton College, New York. She was recognized as the first single woman in the State of New York to adopt a child. She was given the African American Award of Distinction by New York's Governor Cuomo for her work in providing improved psychiatric care for incarcerated men and women. When her son was called a demeaning term by children invoking the name of a national restaurant chain, she successfully sued Sambo's Restaurants in a federal lawsuit. Indeed, Christine Johnson has dedicated her life to thoughtful, positive action. Hers is a fascinating video showcasing how one woman can overcome entrenched barriers to significantly improve all our lives.*



**The videos will be shown on Channel 1890 the first two weeks of May on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7:00 PM.** Be sure to watch the closed-circuit TV slides or look at the large poster in the Tower Lobby to remind yourself of these show times. Enjoy watching *"The Archives of Our Lives,"* shown exclusively at *Blue Skies of Texas East!*

### A Note of Appreciation

Joanne Kuster

I am so blessed to be surrounded with the warmth and concern of my BST family during Ralph's passage to his final home in one of God's mansions.

He will surely rest in peace knowing I shall be in this community of caring residents. Thank you for all your loving expressions of sympathy.



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## Texas Hold'em

Nancy Smith



Interested in playing Texas Hold'em?? New and experienced players are being recruited to start up a group to play Texas Hold'em.

Sign-up sheet is in CC1 for those interested and an informational meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, 4 May at 1pm in CC 2 & 3**. Come and check out this new activity!

POC: Nancy Smith, Mid-Rise #555.

## Attention all Artisans

BSTW Resident, Kathleen Andrews



The Arts and Crafts Fair will be on **Friday, Jun 4** from **10am-3pm** in the Blue Skies West lobby. If you wish to reserve a table, please call Kathleen (Resident Directory) for an application form. The deadline for returning a signed form is **Monday, May 10**. This is an excellent opportunity for our newcomers to display and/or sell some of their creations.

## Resident's Concert Series

Ginny Hallager, BSTW Resident

We were treated to a wonderful concert in April. Andrew Small, on violin, and his accompanist Geoffrey Waite, on piano, presented an ambitious group of selections. It is always good to have time to relax and enjoy some special music.

In May we will welcome The Band of the West once again. They will present a special concert for our Memorial Day weekend, on **Friday, May 28, Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30** on our In-House Channel. The musical numbers will be chosen to honor our military members. Please join us then.

## Ham Radio News

Betty Overacker, BSTW Resident



Every April 18, Radio Amateurs take to the airwaves in celebration of "World Amateur Radio Day" (WARD). On this day 96 years ago (1925), the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was formed in Paris to represent the interests of amateur radio service worldwide. From the original 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925, this organization has grown to include, at present, 160 member societies in three regions. The IARU works tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio. IARU chose "Amateur Radio: Home but Never Alone" as this year's theme for WARD. Last year's pandemic forced physical isolation, and Amateur Radio responded spontaneously and



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positively, helping to provide friendly voices and companionship for one another, especially to those confined to their homes. On-the-air was at an unprecedented level throughout 2020.

BST's Amateur Radio Club meets on the **Third Thursday** of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, 20 May**. The venue, time and place for this meeting has not been determined, for it is dependent on COVID restrictions. Please contact Joel Lichtenstein for more information.

73— (Best regards in Ham language).

