

NEWS FROM THE STAFF

THANK YOU



Thank you to all the residents who contributed to the employee appreciation fund!

Your contributions have been distributed to all BST hourly employees.

Your generosity is deeply appreciated!

Save the Date

Thursday, 1 July, Photo Studio will be **OPEN** at 2:00pm

- Please come by if you are a new resident or would like an updated picture!
- Contact Bob Lamb for questions

Sunday, 4 July: Independence Day – Happy 4th of July!

Monday, 5 July: Federal Holiday

- Broadway Bank will be closed
- No BST Transportation
- Minimal BST staffing

Independence Day Celebration

Cory Ricot



Monday, 5 July *Blue Skies East* will celebrate Independence Day! We will gather in the CC rooms at **10:30am** for a patriotic program, featuring residents and songs by a favorite, Andy Flores.

Following the program we will enjoy a boxed dinner by **KFC** in the Legacy Room.

Tuesday, 6 July: **OPEN** DRAC Meeting, 2:00pm Sky Lounge

Wednesday, 7 July: Friends of the Village Library Meeting, 1:00pm CC1

Tuesday, 13 July: BA & NC Dinner, 5:00pm Sky Lounge

Thursday, 29 July: **OPEN** RC Meeting, 2:00pm Sky Lounge




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Notes from the Director of Resident Services

Dave Zeh

1. Landscaping Update

- Work will begin in July at the front entrance to the building and flagpole areas to replace the landscaping that was destroyed during the winter storm. 
- Due to heavy rains and broken equipment there was an interruption in our weekly grass cutting schedule – this has been addressed.
- The Mission landscaping has been addressed.

2. Storm and Shelter in Place

A few reminders as the summer storm and hurricane season are upon us:

- East Campus residents must shelter in place.
 - If an evacuation is required, the fire department will come to each unit to provide instructions.
- Messages will also be announced by either the front desk or through our Omnilert system via phone, text, and e-mail.



For accounting purposes:

- **High-Rise & Midrise** – Residents may proceed to the basement and remain by storage cages.
- **Cottages** – Residents may stay inside their bathrooms or come to the main building for safety in the basement.
- **Hills** – Residents may proceed to the lower level or the interior corridor by the garages.

3. Luggage & Shopping Carts

A gentle reminder to please return the luggage and shopping carts to the high-rise lobby or midrise entrance when you or your guests are finished. The luggage carts will no longer be stored at the main entrance, so all residents and guests have access to the carts. Thank you for your cooperation!

4. Housekeeping – Spotlight Items

As we return to normal housekeeping, please notice the former “spotlight items” are now included in your housekeeper’s weekly duties. All Residents were given a handout of the items that the housekeepers are responsible for each week.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the EVS department at: 568-5101.



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Operations Update

Alert status: **Orange**

Dining Services:

- Reservation Options
 - Table Agent
 - bstefoodreservations@blueskiestx.org
 - 210-568-5045

Cochran's

- Breakfast 8-9am
- Dine In 11:30am-6pm
- To-Go 12:15-5:30pm
- **Friday, 9 July & Saturday, 10 July – Close @ 2pm**
- **Friday, 23 July & Saturday, 24 July – Close @ 2pm**

Sky Lounge

- **Friday, 9 July & Saturday, 10 July – Table service 5-7pm**
- **Friday, 23 July & Saturday, 24 July – Table service 5-7pm**
 - Reservations are required
 - TO-GO will not be available at this time
- Thirsty Thursdays in the Sky Lounge 4-6pm
- Sunday Brunch 10:30am-2pm
 - Reservations are required
 - TO-GO @ the bar counter 10:30-11:15am & 1-2pm
 - Anytime menu will not be available
- Based on attendance, dining services will evaluate for every weekend starting in August

Shuttle Services

- *Medical Center*: Monday-Thursday
- Monday 1-3pm
 - 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
 4. Quarry
 5. North Star
- Friday **9:30-11:30am** (Please note the time change, per resident request)
 - HEB & Walmart



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VIP Bands for Visitors of Independent Living

- **Masks are mandatory for visitors without a VIP Band**
- **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

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

Chapel

- Services:
 - Episcopal – Wednesday @ 2pm
 - Protestant – Sunday 11:00am
 - The Mission - Sunday @ 9:30am
 - Catholic Mass – Sunday @ 1:15pm

New Residents

Pal Casciano #1504

Nell & Robert Montgomery #1758

Fran Moritz #2411

Everything Good Comes from Change

Danielle Weintraub

“All great changes are preceded by chaos” – Deepak Chopra

Now that the chaos from **COVID**, the winter storm, and the water damage is finally calming down it is time to move forward!

Dave and I have been downsizing, reorganizing, and cleaning the executive offices and CC rooms and now we plan to shift our focus to the common areas. We are looking to add artwork, decorations, and greenery to the main lobby and Chapel hallways. Our goal is to enhance our community for both current and future residents

We appreciate not only your patience but all the input and suggestions we have received over the last several months. I know for some these changes will be hard but from my experience, *everything good comes from change!*



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Maintenance & Pest Control

Scott Fishman

Thursday, 1 July		Thursday, 8 July	
Hi-Rise	Floors 11-12	Hi-Rise	Floor 13
Mid-Rise	Floor 7	Mid-Rise	Floor 8
Cottages	1727-1730	Cottages	1714-1719
Hills		Hills	
Health Care	AH: Interior common & exterior	Health Care	
Specials	Bistro: Interior & exterior	Specials	Hobby Shop: Exterior

Thursday, 15 July		Thursday, 22 July	
Hi-Rise	Floor 14	Hi-Rise	Floor 10 & exterior
Mid-Rise		Mid-Rise	Exterior
Cottages	1709-1713	Cottages	1628-1631
Hills		Hills	
Health Care		Health Care	TM: Exterior
Specials	MX: Exterior	Specials	FVC: Exterior

Note: Pest Control services are accomplished 4 weeks per month. Thursday 29 July is the 5th Thursday of the month and there are no scheduled Pest Control services scheduled.



Maintenance Work Order Submittals

- Work Order Desk: 210-568-3261
- Work Order Email: workorder@blueskiestx.org

Play for Freedom – In Support of Freedom House

Daniel Garcia Casillas, Fundraising Associate

Our **27th Annual Play for Freedom Golf Tournament**, on **Friday, September 10** at The Quarry Golf Club, is fast approaching, and promises a great day of golf in support of our Freedom House residents. All proceeds from our annual tournament ensure ongoing training for our staff, and provides weekly entertainment, social gatherings, and intergenerational activities for residents



– the “extras” that make Freedom House a leader in memory care support.

- If you are interested in playing, our list of individual spots is already almost full! We ask that you register ASAP at [Golf Tournament Registration](#). As needed, we will have a wait list.



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- If you won't be able to play or if you're not a golfer, and you haven't done so already, please consider becoming a [Friend of Freedom House](#) through a tax-deductible gift in support of the tournament.

A big thank you to our corporate sponsors, and our residents, who have already registered or made a gift! Please stop by the Development Office, call me at 210 568-3290 or email me at danielcasillas@blueskiestx.org with questions about Play for Freedom.

Meal Plans and Charitable Donations

Jennifer Z. Berg Matthews, Director of Development

Walking the halls of Blue Skies, I often receive questions outside my wheelhouse. However, we are always on the hunt for answers to these perplexing questions, and this month, the one I've been asked the most is **“Can I donate the remainder of my meal plan dollars to the AFV Charitable Foundation?”**

My answer: I wish!! However, for several reasons, this isn't possible. Here's why:

1. Darrell Jones, CEO: “Resident meal plans do not fully cover the total cost of our dining room. In short, Blue Skies subsidizes our dining services each month, and without resident payments, we would have to budget even more to keep this option available to our residents.”
2. Brian Englund, CFO: “The purpose of the meal plan is to guarantee resident nutritional wellness, and the level of the monthly fee is set at an amount to provide one good meal per day. It would counteract this purpose for a resident to allocate that payment otherwise.”
3. Darrell Jones, CEO: “Another important misconception is the type of contract we have with Morrison, called a “Cost Plus” contract. This means we pay them a fixed fee each month to manage our dining operations, no matter if they save or lose money on food costs and staff. They do not receive any extra money for cutting corners, and that gives us peace of mind.”
4. Brian Englund, CFO: “For one thing, a resident would not be entitled to a charitable contribution tax deduction by repurposing a portion of a contractual payment.”

Without the meal plan, Blue Skies could not guarantee the quality and variety of the meal plan currently offered, which some of our residents greatly depend on. If you don't need it right now, you may need it one day. In the meantime, feel free to buy some extra wine, gather your friends for happy hour, and enjoy!!

Scam Prevention

Shirley Clay, Resident Counselor

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) has issued the following cyber alert: Watch out for suspicious email and text messages. Some Texans have received emails and texts claiming to come from TxDMV. These messages are not from TxDMV; they are sent by cybercriminals attempting to gain access to your private information or to deliver harmful files to your computer. Do not click any links provided



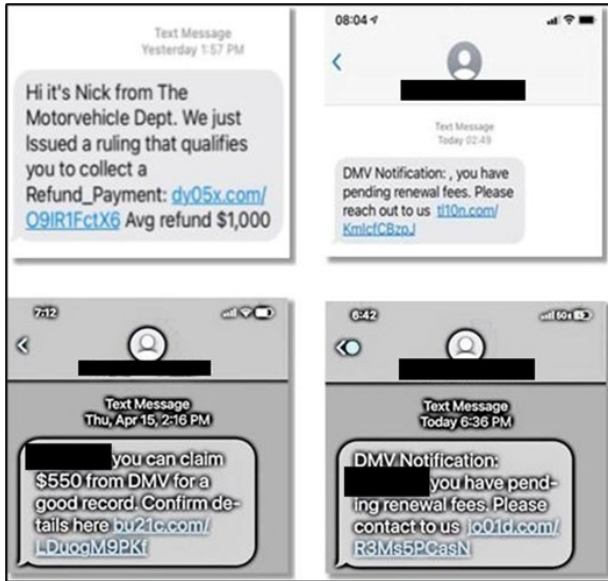
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in a suspicious email or text message. TxDMV will **never** reach out directly via email or text requesting personal information.

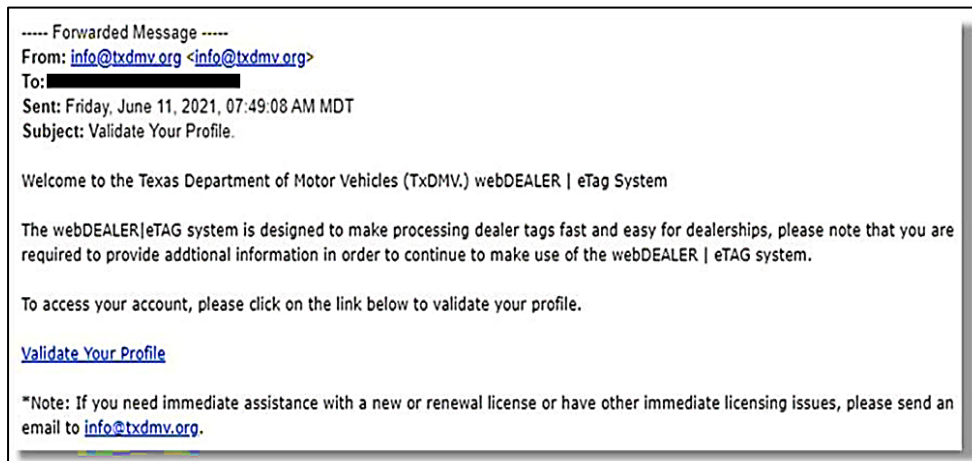
Examples of suspicious text messages:



If you receive a suspicious text message:

- Do not click on any links. Do not reply.
- Block the sender on your phone.
- Delete the text message.
- Report the text message to your cell carrier.

Example of suspicious e-mail:



If you receive a suspicious email:

- Do not click on any links or open attachments. Do not reply.
- Hover over the link with your mouse to see if it points to a legitimate address.

If an email or text message appearing to come from TxDMV seems out of the ordinary or too good to be true, please use good judgment. Contact TxDMV directly if any message seems suspicious.

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
Tracy Torres	July 1	10	Finance



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Marla Casanova	July 2	25	Wellness
Kimberly Connors	July 2	2	Freedom House
Andrea Perkins	July 6	3	Freedom House
Adrienne Perales	July 13	9	Freedom House
Shonda Fay	July 16	2	Freedom House
Anthony Rodriguez	July 17	20	Maintenance
Jeanine Amecucci	July 19	4	Wellness
Veronica Ortega	July 20	3	Freedom House
Joann Arguello	July 23	25	Freedom House
Ida Leithead	July 23	11	Hospice
Mireya Narvaiz	July 24	6	Freedom house
Sarah Manzke	July 27	1	Marketing
Donna Price	July 29	25	Finance
Dave Zeh	July 30	3	Resident Services

RESIDENT'S CORNER

Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Newcomers Dinner

Ed Albert

All residents of Blue Skies East are invited. We will honor July birthdays and anniversaries. We will be able to accommodate only 110 residents.

Tuesday, 13 July at 5:00pm in the Sky Lounge – Featuring the Dillard Sisters!

The Dillard Sisters, heralding from San Antonio, sing in the 1940's style of the Andrew Sisters trio and with their natural and nostalgic form can truly be described as "the girls next door." With a long history of singing together, Katie, Jeanette and Elizabeth have enjoyed the opportunity to honor veterans and their families at local Honor's Flights, nursing homes, and the living history program at the Nimitz Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg.

Menu: Waldorf Salad, Pork Medallion/apple chutney, baked sweet potato, green beans almondine, maple bread pudding. The cost is \$21 and will be charged to your meal plan. Take out is not available at this time.

Important changes to reservation system: There is no longer a "permanent reservation list". All attendees must make an advance reservation by signing up in CC1. This month's dinner is open only to Blue Skies of Texas East residents, no outside guests at this time.

Reservations are firm and you will be billed if you do not cross out and initial your name by June 6th.



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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 July 2021, the seventh episode, featuring **Bruce Wilcox**, will be shown.

As a member of the Blue Skies Board of Directors and President of the BST East Residents’ Council, Bruce Wilcox is a familiar figure. What you don’t know is the depth of his corporate leadership skills, gained through years of national-level program management, the control of billion-dollar budgets, and entrepreneurial experience in the development and marketing of innovative commercial ventures. A partial list of his accomplishments is staggering; aide and executive officer to two four-star general officers, accelerated promotion in his military career; Chief of Staff of a major command based on personal merit (rather than rank); manager of multi-billion-dollar aircraft procurement and development programs, successful negotiator with Congressional committees, promotion to international corporate officer, and much more. Bruce has spent his career working at the rarified levels of national decisionmakers – the people we read about in newspapers. Through sheer hard work, determination, and a little luck, Bruce Wilcox has lived a life of personal achievement that is both fascinating and unequalled.



The videos will be shown on Channel 1890 the first two weeks of July 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!

Ham Radio News – “W1AW”

Betty Overacker, BSTW Resident

“Whiskey One Alpha Whiskey” (W1AW) is the most famous Amateur Radio call sign, for it belongs to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for amateur radio in the United States. Founded in 1914 by Hiram Percy Maxim, ARRL’s mission is to advance the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio, and is defined by four pillars: Public Service, Education, Technology, and Membership. Since 1938 ARRL’s home has been located in Newington, CT. Presently, there are 700,000 amateur radio operators in the US, and 3 million worldwide. The initial use of radio communication was person-to-person contact. Now, most folks have cell phones, and radio communication appears to be passé. But please be aware that in



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some parts of the world, including the US, there are no cell towers. Yearly, natural disasters occur, and conventional communication systems fail. Then, amateur radio becomes the vital service of communication to “connect the dots” so that fire, police, and medical personnel can communicate to save lives and property. And who knows when the next cyberattack will occur!

The next BST’s Amateur Radio Club meeting will be on **Thursday, July 15 at 11:15am** in Room CC3. Please contact Joel Lichtenstein for more information.

73—(“Best regards” in Ham language).

Residents’ Concert Series

Ginny Hallager, BSTW Resident

Well, are you ready? Yes, we have been given the green light for our next concert to be in person! One of our favorite groups, The Anthony Bazzani Trio +1, will perform in the Main Lobby at BSTW on Sunday, Jul 18 at 3pm. Mark your calendars now! You don’t want to miss the “re-opening” of the in-person Concert Series. Let’s celebrate by welcoming these special friends back to our home.

We also have concerts for the rest of 2021 ready to roll:

- On Sunday, Aug 8, we will feature the winners of the San Antonio Opera Company Competition. We’ll hear some of our favorite melodies from favorite operas.
- On Sunday, October 31, we welcome back our own Alexandre “Sasha” Moutouzkine on piano and his wife Chloé Kiffer on violin.
- On Sunday, Dec 5, the Doc Watkins Jazz Trio will be back.

Life is getting back into balance! Your continued support has been welcomed during these unusual times. Thank you.

Lackland Spouses Club Customer Appreciation Night

Lee Wells, BSTW Resident

Our Customer Appreciation Night will be held on **Tuesday, Jul 27** from **5-7pm** at the JBSA Lackland Gateway Club. The menu includes Slow-Roasted Brisket, Fried Catfish, Jack Daniels BBQ Pork Ribs, BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Potato Bacon Soup, Hush Puppies, Rustic Whipped Potatoes with Brown Gravy, Bourbon Baked Beans, Creamed Corn, Okra Gumbo, Cornbread, Freshly Baked Yeast Rolls, Fruit Salad, Peach Cobbles with Vanilla Ice Cream, Double Chocolate Cake, and Caramel Cheesecake with Mixed Berries. The cost is \$12.50 for members and \$15.50 for nonmembers. A bus has been scheduled for BST members / residents which will depart at **4:45pm** from BST East. Return pickup will be at **7pm**. All LSC members and guests (East and West) who wish to attend must sign up in the activity book in your CC rooms. Please call me for more information. Come and join us for a wonderful dinner! Life is getting back into balance! Your continued support has been welcomed during these unusual times. Thank you.



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