



NEWS FROM THE STAFF

Distinguished Service Award

Darrell Jones, President/CEO

Every year, each Blue Skies of Texas campus recognizes a person, persons or organization that has/have contributed significantly to the betterment of Blue Skies of Texas. The award is given either for a sustained period of superior performance, or a specific meritorious act or achievement. Distinguished Service Award nominations may include residents, board members and any friends of BST who have no direct affiliation with BST. Any resident, board member, or staff member of either campus may make nominations. Please submit your nominations to the Resident Services Director, Dave Zeh, containing a brief narrative of the nominee's contribution or achievement, no later than **Friday, Oct 22**.

Happy Anniversary, USAF!

Fred Ryder, Chief Operations Officer

In 1947, President Truman signed the National Security Act to provide a comprehensive program for the future security of the United States and established the US Air Force as an independent service. On Sep 18, 1947, Chief Justice Fred Vinson swore in Stuart Symington as the first secretary of the Air Force, officially founding the new branch of the U.S. military. The official birthday of the US Air Force is **Sep 18, 1947**. (Source: *History.state.gov*, *Council of Foreign Relations & Military.com*) Please join us in the BSTW Lobby on **Friday, Sep 17** at **2:30pm** for a small celebration.

Save the Date

Wednesday, 1 September: Friends of the Village Library Meeting, 1:00pm CC3

Monday, 6 September: Labor Day – Federal Holiday

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

Tuesday, 7 September: **OPEN** DRAC Meeting, 2:00pm Sky Lounge

Tuesday, 14 September: "Discussion with the Director", 2:00pm Legacy Room

Friday, 17 September: RC Voting, 10am-2pm Main Lobby



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Tuesday, 28 September: COVID Booster Shot Clinic, 9am-3pm CC Rooms

Thursday, 30 September: **OPEN** RC Meeting, 2:00pm Sky Lounge

Tuesday, 12 October: FLU Shot Clinic, 9am-3pm, CC Rooms

Operations

Alert status: **Orange**

VIP Bands for Visitors of Independent Living

- **Masks are mandatory for ALL visitors**
- **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 being offered nationwide:
 - Moderna: 2 doses
 - Pfizer: 2 doses
 - Johnson & Johnson: 1 shot dose

In Memoriam

Anne Balog, 11 August 2021

Dick D'Elosua, 15 August 2021

Patricia Weitzel, 24 August 2021

Welcome New Residents

Virginia Gates #405, 30 August 2021

Kathy Daigle #1630, 30 September 2021

Paul Chapman #500, TBD

Notes from the Director of Resident Services

Dave Zeh

COVID Updates – In August, BST mandated that all employees will be vaccinated as a condition of employment. This change was not made lightly but was made to ensure a safe and healthy environment for the residents and staff.

Additionally, we set the rule that all residents, staff, and visitors will be wearing masks while in the common areas. Masks are only allowed to be removed when dining. Visitors in the Dining Room must be wearing a VIP wristband indicating that they have been vaccinated.

Reminder: If you are not feeling well, please call your doctor or notify Wellness or the Front Desk. This way we can assist you in a timely manner. Be a good neighbor and check on your neighbors.



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New Roundtable: “Discussion with the East Director and Departments” – Thanks to all who joined the East Management team for the August roundtable. Based on your interest, we will continue these informal update monthly sessions.

Sky Lounge Dining – The Sky Lounge Dining Room is now open every Friday and Saturday evening for dinner. Reservations are required to ensure a pleasant dining experience. You can make reservations 10-days in advance using the Table Agent app on your phone or call 210-568-5045. See the Bon Appetit for additional details.

Hills Building Update: As you might have seen, we had some digging outside of the Dallas Building in the Hills. This was part of the lawsuit discovery process for the various engineering firms to explore the foundation and pilings. BST is still in negotiations with these firms in advance of Mediation set for Nov 2021 or the Court date in Feb 2022.

Beauty Salon – Come check out the new Pedicure chair at the Salon and test out the message feature! It is worth a trip! Please note that starting Friday, 1 Oct some changes will be made to the cost of services offered in the Salon, as prices have not been increased in several years. The services are still a great bargain compared to other salons.

Scam Alert

By Shari Proctor, Wellness & Life Enrichment Director



Amazon rarely calls its customers. Be on alert because there's an Amazon scam on the phone wires.

Scammers call with an automated message, pretending to be Amazon Customer Service. They tell you that there was a fraudulent charge on your

account, and then they tell you they can help you fix it. The [Better Business Bureau](#) said the end goal is getting your personal information.

"The con artists will either outright ask for credit card and account login details, or they will request remote access to your computer under the guise of “helping” to solve the issue," the BBB said. Remember a rule of thumb - if they call you, **hang up** and call the company directly IF you have a business relationship with that company. Otherwise, hang up and do nothing. In this case, if they claim to be Amazon, hang up and call Amazon directly, or check your Amazon account yourself for any fraudulent activity.



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Looking for a Few Good Volunteers!

Rev. James Ballard, Hospice Administrator

Dignity, Comfort, & Supportive Care

The Hospice of Blue Skies of Texas is compassionate end-of-life care, encompassing the wrap-around support of a qualified professional team. We take our services into residents' homes in independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, and memory care. We follow the hospice philosophy of patient choice with an emphasis on comfort and dignity.

Every day in hospice care is a special day to treasure. We do our part, helping the individual manage pain and ensure their comfort. And then, alongside their family and friends, we focus on the positive meaning and exceptional legacy of the individual's life.

Volunteers are at the heart of enabling this kind of care. Our volunteers' journey with individual residents and their families to help them maintain their own voice so this chapter of their story can be completed with dignity. It is what makes Hospice volunteering a program for the living.

We have many volunteer opportunities within the Blue Skies Hospice. Opportunities include patient/family care opportunities, 11th hour support, life story, and most importantly the opportunity to grow and care for others during one of the most precious and meaningful times of life.

We are asking you to consider becoming a hospice volunteer. Please contact me, Rev. James Ballard, Hospice Administrator at 210-838-6338 or email me at jamesballard@blueskiestx.org. All volunteer applicants will be asked to go through a required Blue Skies screening process before receiving orientation.

We plan to offer a training class on **Thursday Sep 9**, in the Freedom House Chapel from **9am-4pm**. The training schedule will be discussed in class.

Play for Freedom

Daniel Garcia Casillas, Fundraising Associate

Our **27th Annual Play for Freedom Tournament**, at The Quarry Golf Course, will be held on **Friday, September 10**. Support for our annual tournament ensures 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.



We are pleased with major support from many of our business partners, including:



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Presenting Sponsors:

		 A MEMBER OF TEXAS PARTNERS BANK
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Liberty Sponsors:

		 Johnny's Construction
		

Patriotic Sponsors:

 We're here for good.		
 CHARACTER. COMMUNITY. CUSTOMER.		 Turning support into solutions

If you have not already done so, please consider making a gift in support as a **Friend of Freedom House**. You can make your donation by sending a check made out to AFVCF, indicating "Play for Freedom" on the comment line, or by visiting <https://www.blueskiesoftexas.org/giving/donate/>.

Please stop by the Development Office or call me at 210-568-3290 if you have any questions about Play for Freedom.



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Big Give 2021

Jennifer Matthews, Director of Development

On **Thursday, Sep 23**, Blue Skies will again join fellow nonprofits across San Antonio to raise money during the Big Give. This year, we are raising money to provide tuition and educational support for our staff in exchange for weeks worked. We hope this effort will help us not only attract but retain great employees.

In speaking with some of you over the past few months, it's clear that this mission hits close to home. Some are reminded of a beloved Dining Room server who recently left our team because another restaurant was able to provide tuition assistance. For others, it's the hope that the vacancies on our staff will soon be filled with those eager to learn and grow in their careers. Every workplace across the city of San Antonio is looking for great employees, and we hope this Big Give scholarship money will help to make Blue Skies stand out among our competition.

With regard to this year's Big Give, Blue Skies can earn extra prize money through what are called "Match Minutes". The Big Give has obtained a few sponsors who have each donated \$10,000 to be given away during particular minutes during the day. Each donation during that minute is eligible for up to \$100 in a matching donation, as long as money is still available to be given away. While \$10,000 may seem like a lot of money for 1 minute, it represents only 100 matches for the entire city! This means anyone wishing to participate in a Match Minute should donate quickly at the beginning of the designated minute.

Please note that these special "minutes" will be at **9:15am, 12:15pm, 6:15pm, and 11:15pm.**

Our volunteers will aim to maximize our efforts during the 12:15pm minute, but please feel free to try for \$100 during all these times! The best strategy is to go to <https://www.thebiggivesa.org/organizations/air-force-villages-charitable-foundation> ten to fifteen minutes before the Match Minute. Click "Donate", fill out your payment information, then wait to submit your donation until the very start of the Match Minute. If you'd like us to submit your donation for you, please feel free to call Mitch Millar at 210-568-3211 with your credit card information or drop off the info in person to the BSTW Corporate Office. All credit card information will be securely stored and shredded after the event. We will also have event tables outside the Dining Rooms at each campus the day of the event, and resident volunteers can help you donate, should you wish.

"How BST Works for You" Meeting

Jennifer Matthews, Director of Development

Ever wonder how the Blue Skies guarantee to "take care of our own" works? Ever wonder how charitable dollars are used? If you've ever asked these questions, then this class is for you! Designed for residents who have lived at BST for 5-7 months, "How BST Works for You" or HBWY, is a class run by the Air Force Villages Charitable



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Foundation to educate residents about the charitable history of Blue Skies, answer FAQs about the financial assistance we provide both to residents in need and the whole campus, and how you can get involved should you wish. If you'd like to attend our next class on **Wednesday, Sep 22 at 2pm** at BSTW in the Roadrunner Lounge, please email Daniel Casillas at danielcasillas@blueskiestx.org or call him at 568-3290. All are welcome, although some newer residents may receive a personal invitation. The best part of the class, besides what you'll learn? Cookies!

Catered Living

Mercedes Cruz, Catered Living Manager

Please keep our Catered Living Program in mind!

We are here to help you with gardening, extra cleaning, hanging pictures, installing, or troubleshooting your electronics, and much more.

Our monthly laundry service has also been a huge hit!

Let us know if you would like more information. We would love to hear from you!

Contact us at 210-568-3285.

The Catered Living office is located at BSTW in the maintenance office (lower level, tower 3).



Maintenance & Pest Control

Scott Fishman



Maintenance Work Order Submittals – If you see something that our team needs to address, please let us know by calling Lupe or sending an e-mail.

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

Once a workorder is loaded in the system, the initiator should receive an email notification along with the workorder number. If you do you receive an email, please call Lupe to follow up. Thank you all for your eyes and ears to help maintain our campus.

Service Call Feedback –The maintenance technicians will be leaving a feedback card after each visit with the resident. This will inform you of any service that was performed in your residence if you happen not to be present. Additionally, it will ask for feedback to the department to ensure the workorder was completed accurately.

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.



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Thursday, 2 September		Thursday, 9 September	
Hi-Rise	Floors 6-7	Hi-Rise	Floor 8
Mid-Rise	Floor 4	Mid-Rise	Floor 5
Cottages		Cottages	1754-1756
Hills	San Antonio: All apartments, hallways & exterior	Hills	Dallas: All apartments, hallway & exterior
Health Care		Health Care	
Specials		Specials	Hobby Shop: Exterior

Thursday, 16 September		Thursday, 23 September	
Hi-Rise	Floor 9	Hi-Rise	Floor 10 & exterior
Mid-Rise	Floor 6	Mid-Rise	Exterior
Cottages		Cottages	
Hills		Hills	Austin: All apartments, hallways, & exterior
Health Care		Health Care	TM: Main HCC/Kitchen, dining & exterior
Specials	MX: Exterior	Specials	FVC: Exterior

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
Vaishali Divecha	1 Sept	1	The Mission
Victoria Nieves	1 Sept	1	The Mission
Judith Isleta	4 Sept	12	The Mission
Stacey Osowski	6 Sept	2	Freedom House
Teresa Williamson	7 Sept	14	Dining Services
Felicia Ninness	8 Sept	1	Human Resources
Delia Guerra	12 Sept	15	EVS
Silvia Morales	12 Sept	2	Capital Projects
Cynthia Bain	12 Sept	21	Finance
Maria Moreno	14 Sept	14	EVS
Adrian Medrano	14 Sept	3	Beauty Shop
Marisol Brimhall	15 Sept	1	The Mission
Geronimo Cruz	15 Sept	22	Maintenance



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Alexandra Segovia	20 Sept	2	Dining Services
Armando Salazar	23 Sept	2	Maintenance
Victoria Ulrich	30 Sept	8	Dining Services

RESIDENT'S CORNER

BA & NC Dinner – Las Vegas Nights

Ed Albert

September birthdays, anniversaries, and newcomers' dinner in the Sky Lounge: 5 pm, Tuesday, September 14. Entertainment by Gary "The Showman" Garcia. Open to all Blue Skies of Texas East residents. Menu and cost will be on the registration form. Limited to 90 residents.

All attendees must make an advance reservation by entering their name on the reservation roster posted in CC-1 beginning 8:00 am, Monday, August 30. Reservations will close at 6 pm on Tuesday, September 7. 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 September 7. (No take-out meals this time). No phone reservations or cancellations will be accepted. Only hospitalized residents will not be charged for absence on September 10.

Birthday Celebration!

Tim Holden



On Monday, 6 September come by Cochran's during lunch to enjoy cake and watermelon in honor of Teresa (dinning services) and Tim Holden's birthdays! First come, first served!

BST East Residents' Council Elections!

Bob Lamb

The election for your representative(s) to the Residents' Council is Friday, 17 September in the main lobby from 10am to 2pm. Please remember to VOTE!



Christmas Celebration

Carol Hernandez



The Blue Skies of Texas East *Christmas Celebration* is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 1 December. More information, sign-up sheets, etc. will be coming in October. Craig and Sherrie Savela are the Chairs.



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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 September 2021, the eighth episode, featuring **Anne Bowbeer**, will be shown.

You had to be wicked smart and academically accomplished to be a member of Anne Bowbeer’s family. Her Father entered college at age 15 and taught 43 years at Clemson, retiring with a stellar international reputation as an innovator and expert in



agricultural economics. Anne’s Mother also graduated high school early, and taught French, Latin, and Ancient History at Clemson. Young Anne was sent to an all-girls’ finishing school where she was the president of her graduating class, earned top academic honors and a full scholarship to college. Her husband, Arthur, was valedictorian of his junior college and then led the Deans’ List virtually every semester of his years at the University of Florida. Phi

Beta Kappa Anne and Arthur were married in college and then traveled to Cambridge, Massachusetts, as Arthur attended Harvard on a National Science Foundation scholarship. As a trained chemist, Anne was hired by Dr. Edwin Land to work in his laboratory, helping to successfully develop the preservative coating rubbed on Polaroid photographs. Anne and Arthur traveled the nation as they both worked in chemical plants developing materials used in industrial manufacturing. Anne became the Assistant Dean of Adult Education of a college in Iowa that focused on retraining adult learners who had lost their jobs in a national economic downturn. She used her remarkable research and writing skills to author biographical books on two world-famous show business icons. She worked in the Texas Tech Medical School scheduling pediatricians through their educational rotations. She even processed fossils in a laboratory for the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. Anne Bowbeer has led a life of success in industry, as a working laboratory chemist, as an author of biographies and historical compilations, a community volunteer and as an academic leader. Hers is an amazing life story well worth watching!

Videos will be shown on Channel 1890 the first two weeks of September 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!



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Valley Hi Optical

Bruce Wilcox



Valley Hi Optical is located at: 410 Valley Hi Dr., Suite 201a. They visit Blue Skies East from 1 to 2pm the third Wednesday of every month in the specialty clinic/dental office. They provide eyewear and can answer many eye/glasses related questions. They can also refer you to an optometrist next to their main office. Call 210-674-9461 if you have questions or visit their website at www.vhoptical.com.

Distinguished Flying Cross Meeting

Tom Keck & Robert Certain, BSTW Residents



Residents of Blue Skies of Texas East and West who were awarded a DFC during your military career are invited to a regular monthly meeting (second Wednesday of the month) in the Roadrunner room on the West campus at **10am on Wednesday, Sep 8**. This month, MajGen Jerry Allen will discuss the FB-111 and B-1.

To learn more about the DFC Society, please visit the webpage www.dfcsociety or reach out to either of us (resident directory).

Ham Radio News – The Russian Woodpecker

Betty Overacker, BSTW Resident

The massive Duga-1 antenna array of steel located in Chernobyl, Ukraine, measuring 350 feet long and 450 feet tall, was a Soviet over-the-horizon (OTH) radar system designed to detect and provide early warning of incoming ballistic missiles from the US. Recently, this structure was dedicated as a cultural heritage site. During its time of operation from July 1976 to December 1989, it emitted an obnoxious, eerie and infuriating, woodpecker-like “rat-a-tat” high-frequency signal, which caused severe interference in the ham radio bands and also disrupted oceanic and aircraft communications. The Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster, causing massive radiation contamination and happening the end of the Cold War, resulted in the closure of Duga-1, silencing this radar system. The Duga-1 was the focus of a 2015 documentary, “The Russian Woodpecker”, by Chad Garcia. This is another interesting ham radio tidbit.

The next BST’s Amateur Radio Club meeting will be on **Thursday, Sep 16**. The venue, time and place for this meeting has not been determined, as this depends on COVID-19 restrictions. Please contact Joel Lichtenstein for more information (Resident Directory).

73— (Best regards in Ham language).



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