

NEWS FROM THE STAFF

Operations

Alert status: **ORANGE**

Masks are mandatory for ALL employees, residents, and visitors.



With the positivity rate rapidly increasing in San Antonio, Blue Skies of Texas is taking a proactive approach to help limit the spread of the virus within our community. Please note the following operational changes.

Visitors of Independent Living

- BST continues to be open to visitors. Please make sure your visitors are following the same protocols as our residents.
- Please be sure your visitors are in good health prior to their arrival (no fever etc.).
- Visitors must wear the **VIP band** when ordering/picking up food from Cochran's and while attending memorial services.
- **VIP bands** can be obtained from the front desk.
 - Visitors must show proof of vaccination (i.e. original vaccination card)
- Please encourage your visitors to keep their wristbands for future visits!

Dining Services: **TO-GO ONLY**

- Order at the register and have a seat at a table to wait for your order to be ready.
- **Monday-Saturday**
 - Breakfast: 8:00-9:00am
 - Lunch & Dinner: 11:30am-6:00pm
- **Sunday**
 - 10:30am-1:30pm
 - The brunch menu will be available in Cochran's
- **Sky Lounge** **CLOSED**
 - Thirsty Thursday – **SUSPENDED**
 - Special dining service events - **SUSPENDED**

Transportation

- Transportation to medical appointments will continue.
- Trips to HEB & Walmart will be scheduled as staffing permits.



Deadline: Monday, 24 January @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org
Next Publication Date: Friday, 28 January

Fitness Center & Pool

- The pool & fitness center are *open* to residents only.
- Masks are mandatory while in the fitness center at all times, even while exercising, UNLESS you are alone.

Exercise Classes

- In Person Classes are **SUSPENDED**.
- Beginning Thursday, 6 January classes will be offered via Zoom.
 - See Wellness & Life Enrichment Newsletter for times.
- Aqua Classes will continue with occupancy.

Activities

- All off campus outings are **SUSPENDED**.
- BST led activities will continue to be scheduled, without food or drinks.
- Resident led activities are encouraged to continue, without food or drinks.

Beauty Salon

- The beauty salon will remain open for limited services.
- 15 minutes per resident.

White Elephant: **CLOSED** through January

Residents Exposed to a COVID Positive Person

If you have been exposed to COVID please follow these guidelines:

- *Quarantine is not required unless symptoms become present.*
- Masks will be worn in public for 5 days from the date of exposure...not an issue when the current BST policy is to mask; if/when that policy changes, the 5-day rule comes into effect.
- Quick in/out medication pick-up is allowed.
- Avoid group activities, gatherings, fitness classes/fitness center for 5 days from date of exposure.
- Carry-out of meals is allowed, but no eating in the Dining Room or Bistro for 5 days from date of exposure.
- Only emergency maintenance & housekeeping for 5 days from the date of exposure.

COVID Testing of Residents

BST is unable to get more COVID tests, so we need to conserve what supply we have for employees that need to be tested three times for every incident of exposure. Therefore, we are not testing residents unless they are showing symptoms, even then, it will only be one test.



2

Deadline: Monday, 24 January @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org
Next Publication Date: Friday, 28 January

Travel

In accordance with CDC guidelines, quarantine requirements for independent living residents, resident visitors, and employees:

Fully vaccinated: Quarantine after international travel is *not* required.

Unvaccinated/not fully vaccinated: Quarantine required, and the following policy is in effect:

- Self-quarantine for a full 7 days (even if you test negative at days 3-5).
- If you do test negative between days 3-5, your quarantine ends on day 7.
- If you do not test at all, quarantine ends on day 10 (testing is not required).
- Residents with guests staying at BST, arriving from international locations, will coordinate the visit with the Director of Resident Services.

NOTE: Guestrooms CANNOT be used as a location to quarantine BUT quarantine in a residence is approved. If quarantined individuals need to leave the residence, regardless of the age, the individual in quarantine MUST remain masked 100% of the time. No eating in the dining room or public areas. No access to fitness centers/pools.

Save the Date

Saturday, 1 January: New Year's Day – Happy New Year 2022! 

Tuesday, 4 January: OPEN DRAC Meeting, 2:00pm Sky Lounge

Wednesday, 5 January: Friends of the Library Meeting, 1:00pm CC3

Thursday, 6 January: COVID Shot Clinic, 10:30-11:30am Legacy Room

Friday, 7 January: Christmas Take Down

Tuesday, 11 January: BA&NC Concert 6:30pm, Legacy Room & IHC 1890

- Wear your best western attire for the Dave Kemp Western Trio!

Thursday 20, January: Discussion with the Director, 2:00pm Legacy Room

- CEO Presentation of the Distinguished Service Award to Pam Kroyer

Sunday, 23 January: Resident's Concert Series, 3:00pm BSTW Main Lobby

Monday, 24 January: Valley Hi HOA Meeting, 7:00pm, Legacy Room

Thursday, 27 January: OPEN Resident Council Meeting, 2:00pm Sky Lounge

Friday, 28 January: Annual Cowboy Breakfast, 8:00-9:30am Legacy Room

Wednesday, 2 February: MOVIE "Groundhog Day", 2:00pm Legacy Room



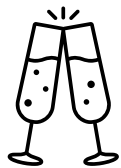
3

Deadline: Monday, 24 January @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org

Next Publication Date: Friday, 28 January

Notes from the Director of Resident Services

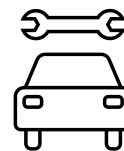
Dave Zeh



Happy New Year!!! As we welcome the New Year, I want to thank everyone for participating in the many holiday activities we had last month. It was so good to see residents and staff out and about enjoying the events.

The new year has us wearing masks to protect the residents, staff, and guests as COVID continues to surface in the community. Hopefully, it will be short lived, but we remain committed to keeping the community safe and healthy. Thanks for your patience and stay tuned to the In-House Channel for any updates to business operations and facility status changes.

Carport Update: On **January 3rd**, we will start Phase 1 of 3 to renovate the cottage carports. This project will take approximately 3 weeks to complete. The contractors will start with the carports in front of cottages 1757, 1758, and 1759 and then they will move to the carports in front of 1748, 1749, and 1750 in late January or early February.



Campus Parking: BST has installed new parking signs to better direct residents and guests where to park on campus.

Resident Only Parking

- Along the sidewalk, in the front of the main entrance by the flagpole
 - *Guests* can park in the outer two rows
- In front of the Vitality & Fitness Center

Residents without an Assigned Covered Parking

- Residents without an assigned covered parking spot can park in any uncovered parking space available on campus that is not designated for short term parking etc.

Short Term Guest Parking

- Short term guest parking is available outside the high rise entrance

Employee & Care Provider Parking

- All employees and care providers are to park in the areas along Ravenswood Drive or around the circle at Heritage Park



4 **Deadline: Monday, 24 January @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org**
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In Memoriam

Jerry Fisher, 27 Dec 2021

Francis Livers Jr., 30 Dec 2021

Welcome New Residents



Jack Evans #800

Patsy Payne #604/06

Mary Cortez #305

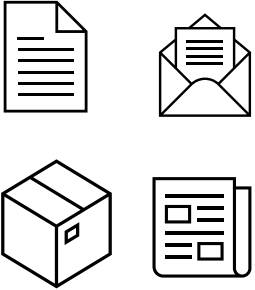

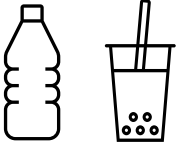


Liz Russel #905

Jerry & Judy Lentz #513

Recycling

Danielle Weintraub, Assistant Director

Listed below are *acceptable materials* to place in the blue recycle bins on your floor or any recycle bin throughout the campus, if you chose to recycle:

<p>Paper</p> 	<p>Office paper, junk mail, dry goods packaging, newspaper, & cardboard.</p>	<p><i>Please make sure <u>all cardboard is broken down</u>.</i></p> <p><i>Large boxes must be discarded in the basement.</i></p> 
<p>Plastic</p> 	<p>Water & drink bottles, drinking cups, yogurt cups, kitchen & bath bottles, or jugs.</p>	<p><i>Please be sure to <u>rinse out</u> any plastic or metal that contained food or liquid, before placing in the blue bins.</i></p> <p><i>Nobody likes a stinky recycle bin!!</i></p> 
<p>Metal</p> 	<p>Aluminum cans, metal food cans & lids, empty aerosol cans.</p>	

Listed below are *unacceptable materials* that should not be placed in any blue recycle bins, but should be discarded in the regular trash, in your home, down the chute, or in the basement. If you have any questions, please contact resident services.

- Styrofoam packing
- Shredded Paper
- Napkins
- Paper towels
- Aluminum foil
- Clothes hangers
- Clothing or shoes
- Needles or medical waste
- Household hazardous waste
- Pizza or take-out boxes

New Year, New Scams

Ashlie Campos, Personal Affairs Advisor



Happy New Year! With a new year and tax season upon us, please be cautious of “**IRS or Government Imposter Scams.**” This is when a supposed IRS agent contacts you and tells you that you owe back taxes and must pay immediately. If you don’t, they say they will have the police come and send you to jail.

There are variations of this scam, such as local law enforcement contacting you with a warrant because you missed jury duty, but you will almost always be asked to pay immediately via wire transfer or even gift cards and will be told to stay on the phone throughout the entire payment process (including driving to the store!). Or you may be asked for your personal information to confirm your innocence or to receive a tax refund. Do not fall for it! You are almost certainly not communicating with a government agent.

If you think you really may owe payment toward your taxes, go to the official IRS website to find a real IRS phone number to contact to confirm. You probably would have received letters from them first if you really owed money. Also, the IRS won’t immediately send you to jail – there would be a process you would be aware of, prior to any criminal charges.



6

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Play for Freedom – Calling all Resident Golfers!

Daniel Garcia Casillas, Fundraising Associate

This is a first call for resident golfer registration for our 28th Annual **Play for Freedom** Golf Tournament on **Friday, 25 March** 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. 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.



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

Pest Control: Services are accomplished 4 weeks per month.

Thursday, 6 January		Thursday, 13 January	
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		Health Care	
Specials	AH: Interior common & exterior Cochrans: Interior & exterior	Specials	Hobby Shop: Exterior

Thursday, 20 January		Thursday, 27 January	
Hi-Rise	Floor 14	Hi-Rise	Floor 15 & exterior
Mid-Rise		Mid-Rise	Exterior
Cottages	1709-1713	Cottages	1628-1631
Hills		Hills	
Health Care		Health Care	TM: Main HCC/Kitchen, dining & exterior
Specials	MX: Exterior	Specials	MX: Interior common



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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
James Ballard	4 Jan	3	Hospice
Noelle Nimchan	5 Jan	1	The Mission
Emmanuel Soliz	5 Jan	1	Dinning Services
Ashlie Campos	9 Jan	7	Wellness
Irma Medina	11 Jan	9	The Mission
Stephanie Cavanaugh	12 Jan	1	The Mission
Teresa Reyes	13 Jan	10	Arnold House
Darrell Jones	15 Jan	4	Executive
Teresa Elizondo	15 Jan	2	Wellness
Tim Hohon	18 Jan	17	Capital Projects
Nicole Byrd	21 Jan	2	Freedom House
Mario Serna	22 Jan	12	Maintenance
Kathy Phelps	24 Jan	4	Wellness
Aljie Oden	26 Jan	1	The Mission
Roberto Reveles-Ramos	26 Jan	1	The Mission
Margaret Richards	27 Jan	18	The Mission
Martha Rey	27 Jan	8	The Mission
Manuel Del Rio	27 Jan	5	Maintenance
Carmen Arteaga	27 Jan	10	Freedom House
Zytlally Vasquez	30 Jan	2	Hospice



8

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RESIDENT'S CORNER

Distinguished Service Award – Pam Kroyer

Nominated by Anne Bowbeer



I've been around here long enough and involved enough to have a pretty good idea of who deserves the award, and this year there isn't a doubt in my mind that it's *Pam Kroyer*. Pam goes about what she does with no fanfare and is so self-effacing that it might be easy to overlook her, but she has been essential to the Village every year since her arrival in September 2013, and especially these past two years.

Pam has performed TWO FULL-TIME volunteer jobs for at least two years at the East Campus, and she has been Librarian as long as she has been a resident. She has the bulk of responsibility for the library--supervising Ellen Cahalan, who is our volunteer typist, and supervising the volunteers who reshelve books. She takes care of distributing books to organizations to whom we donate and with whom we swap (this includes Village II, Johnston Library, Lackland AFB, Wounded Warriors, Fisher House, Leon Valley, one of the prisons, etc., etc.). She sells books that are valuable, but not appropriate for use in our library; she picks up book publication and voter material of interest to our readers; she reads the shelves to make sure that books are put back properly. She and Sharon Rider, our treasurer, collect dues and cash donations that allow the library to operate entirely without funds from any other source. In addition to supplies we purchase approximately 120 books a year. She distributes to all our faithful readers a "ballot" of proposed books to buy for each two-month period. They vote, and we buy approximately 20 of the top books a period. Additionally, Pam supervises Dawn in her library volunteer work at the Mission and Arnold House overseeing the libraries at both health care facilities.

In her volunteer work at the East Campus White Elephant Thrift Shop, Pam has devoted hours beyond measure. Pam has volunteered at White Elephant ever since she moved to the Village in 2013. For the past several years, Pam has worked part of almost every day, taking in donations every Thursday afternoon, worked the hours White Elephant is open on Fridays; sold furniture, and made herself available to employees. Pam made sure that the White Elephant had the proper staffing, had the store stocked with saleable items, was available for donation day, kept things in order in the Furniture Store for the customers, helped organize the apartments when they came available for the clearance of items for the White Elephant and other dispositions, just to name a few of her outstanding duties.

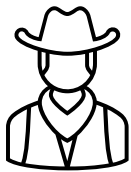
She is unselfish with her time and talents and is the back shop that runs the place without any fanfare. Please, please don't skip over Pam to give the award to someone who has not got such a long track record of arduous service. I can't tell you how much I admire her and the way she goes about doing all she does without making a big deal out of it!



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BA & NC Concert – Dave Kemp Western Trio!

Raquel Horton



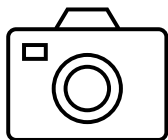
Please join us for the December birthdays, anniversaries, and newcomer's celebration in the **Legacy Room** on **Tuesday, 11 January!** The Dave Kemp Western Trio will be performing so please wear your best Western attire!! *Doors open at 6:00pm and the concert will begin at 6:30pm.*



This concert will be open to all residents - the residents that originally signed up, will be seated first. The concert will also be live streamed on the in-house channel (1890).

Resident Photos

Bob Lamb



The photo shop will be open on **Wednesday, 12 January** from **10:00-11:00am and 2:00-3:00pm** to all new residents and residents that would like to take an updated picture for the BSTE resident board!

*The photo shop is located just past the White Elephant - through the double doors. If you have questions please contact Bob Lamb at 210-253-9690.

Reading Challenge

Doris Magonigal



Several people have asked about a reading challenge for this year! A signup sheet will be in the CC rooms from **Thursday, 7 January thru Saturday, 15 January.**

Please sign up if interested!

Bible Study

Raquel Horton



Please join us for bible study every **Wednesday** from **2:30-3:30pm** in the **midrise community room, apartment #260.**

For more information please contact Raquel Horton at 210-912-9142.

Come study with us!



10

Deadline: Monday, 24 January @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org
Next Publication Date: Friday, 28 January

DRAC Reminders

Doris Megonigal, DRAC Chair

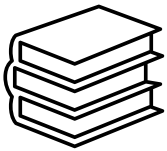
1. If you prefer your sauce or gravy on the side, just ask! Dining services will gladly accommodate!
2. If you prefer your vegetables to be cooked to a softer consistency, just ask! Dining services will gladly accommodate!
3. If you are ever served food that is cold or not as you ordered, please send it back so dining services can make it right.



Please fill out comment cards or send comments/concerns to drac.comments@gmail.com. They are discussed weekly!

Friends of the Village Library Membership

Anne Bowbeer



All new books in the Blue Skies East library are purchased by Friends of the Village Library. Please help us to continue to purchase new books (and supplies) by becoming a member or renewing your membership.

The \$25 we ask for membership dues each year doesn't even cover the cost of one book – even discounted.

Make out a check for \$25 or more to: *Friends of the Village Library* and place in the internal mail for **Sharon Rider, Treasurer, BSTW apt. #1207.**

All readers will appreciate your contribution!

The Return of the Basic Black Dress

Dottie Conner, BSTW Resident

This tongue-in-cheek skit shows how a new military wife with a minimum budget survives all the changes in her life with finesse thanks to her Basic Black Dress. Actors and models show how this classic dress helps her succeed in every situation – and then some! Bring your memories and laughter, and if you have one, wear your Basic Black Dress! Spouses welcome – you have shared (and made) the memories!!



Presented by Blue Skies of Texas Entertainment Committee: mark your calendars and save the date! **Sunday, 6 February** at **6pm** in the Main Dining Room. A signup sheet will be placed in the CC rooms by **Monday, 17 January.**



11

Deadline: Monday, 24 January @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org
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Village Voices News

Betty Ann Adams, BSTW Resident

Thanks to all who attended our outstanding Christmas/Holiday programs! We have received many lovely comments on our program including this from Dorothy Conner:

"Thank you so much for bringing music and fun back into our lives after such a long, dark time. Your program was outstanding, with so many different elements in it to capture your audience, from the walk-in singing as you dropped pennies into Stump's hat, to the wonderful harmonies, to the inclusion of handbells, rhythm instruments and the oboe. Of course, your pianist Judy Hooge was outstanding as she has been in the past, and it was so good to hear the bells again. ...Thank you for working so hard to produce your first program - you and every one of the Village Voices made us very, very happy tonight and all your efforts were worth it, in our eyes." Jim and Dottie.

Thank you, Dottie, for those kind words!

The Village Voices are on a short break but will resume on **Tuesday, 18 January** in the Blue Skies West Chapel from **1:30-3:30pm**. We welcome new members! It would be helpful to be able to read music and/or to have sung in a choir.

We would like to thank the Activities Coordinating Committee for giving us funding for the coming year. It's always great to have some new music to challenge us! We will be starting on our Spring concert after our break. The program will be music from the movies!

Resident Concert Series

Ginny Hallager, BSTW Resident



OPERA
SAN ANTONIO

The first month of the New Year will feature a wonderful concert by performers from OPERA San Antonio. It will be presented in the **Main Lobby of BSTW** on **Sunday, 23 January at 3pm**.

The singers will present some well-known music as well as introduce some new pieces to us. It will be a lively afternoon of wonderful music. Please Note: If new COVID protocols are enacted, it is possible the concert will be cancelled, so please watch the in-house channel and check bulletin boards for further announcements.



12

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Next Publication Date: Friday, 28 January

Distinguished Flying Cross Society Meeting

Robert Certain, BSTW Resident



The DFC Society will hold their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, 12 January** at **10am** in the Roadrunner Lounge. Tom Keck will speak about SR-71 missions and flights. We welcome all residents with a Distinguished Flying Cross, their guests, spouses and surviving spouses.

Ham Radio News – Winter Field Day in Hondo

Betty Overacker, BSTW Resident

Yearly, on the last full weekend in January, the Winter Field Day Association sponsors an event whereby Amateur Radio Operators country-wide construct temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and nation during situations when electrical power is not available. Despite today's complex communication systems, Amateur Radio Operators are frequently called into action to provide communication during crises. BST's Amateur Radio Club members will join the Medina Amateur Radio Club to construct and operate a field radio station on Saturday, Jan 29 at the Hondo City Park located at County Road 462 and Castro Avenue in Hondo. Transmission commences at 1pm on that day for 24 consecutive hours, i.e., until 1pm on Sunday, Jan 30. This is a sight to behold, and all are invited to observe communication capability in emergency situations.

All are welcome to participate in the next BST's Amateur Radio Club meeting on Thursday, Jan 20 in Room CC3 at 11:15am. Please contact Bob Stuckert for more information.

73— (Best regards in Ham language).



13

Deadline: Monday, 24 January @ Noon: fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org
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