

NEWS FROM THE STAFF

Happy Birthday, U.S. Coast Guard!

By Gen Walt Kross

On Thursday, August 4, the U.S. Coast Guard celebrates its 232nd birthday. The Coast Guard is one of America's five armed forces, and traces its founding to Aug. 4, 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue.



We extend our appreciation to those Blue Skies of Texas residents, staff and contract associates who served or are serving our Nation as members of the United States Coast Guard!

Operations

Alert status: **ORANGE**

Got COVID? Rules of Engagement

By Shari Proctor

Please review the following:

- If you test positive, call the Front Desk to advise us you tested positive. Please do not leave voice messages for other Staff members, all notifications should be to the Front Desk, Desk Clerks will notify other Staff, as appropriate.
- If it's outside of normal business hours and you feel you may be positive but don't have any tests, please call the Front Desk. A Courtesy Officer will bring the tests to you. Please do not come to the desk (no sense sharing if you are contagious).
- If you test positive you will need to isolate in your home for 5 days (day 1 is the day after you test positive).
- Your meals will be delivered at no cost to you, housekeeping will be placed on hold, maintenance will be on an emergency basis only, and mail in the High/Mid-Rise will be delivered to you. If you live in an outside home, you can get out and walk but

stay away from others. If you live in the HR/MR, be sure to keep at least 5 pairs of clean underwear, as you can't leave to do laundry for those first five days.

- Detailed written procedures will be given to you at the time you test positive and a Covid positive notice will be placed on the clip by your front door. We are discontinuing the notification letters to other residents who reside in the same area, as it is clear who is positive by the notice on the clip.
- Wellness will also be in contact with you to provide guidance on further steps to take, should your symptoms be severe.
- After the initial 5 days of isolation and if your symptoms have subsided, you may come out in public, but you must wear a mask at all times which means you cannot eat in The Lakeview or the Bistro until those five days are completed.
- Don't forget to keep a supply of home test kits.

Free COVID test kits are still available. If you don't think you will ever need one, please order your kits anyway and bring them to Wellness so we can provide them to residents who run out of test kits. Here's the website: **COVID.gov/tests**.

Save the Date

Tuesday, 2 August: **OPEN** DRAC Meeting 2:00pm, CC2&3 (Note Change of Location!)

Tuesday, 9 August: BA & NC Dinner: 5:00pm, Sky Lounge

- Entertainment by Beanie & Cecil B! Please sign up in CC1.

Tuesday, 16 August: Discussion with the Director, 2:00pm, Legacy Room

Thursday, 25 August: **OPEN** TOP TEN w/CEO Town Hall, 2:00pm, CC Rooms

There will be no Residents Council Meeting in August.

In Memoriam



Gerald Sensabaugh, 22 July

Welcome New Residents

Andy & Judy Wetzel – Cottage #1749

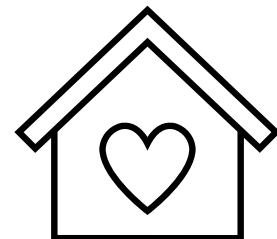
Tom O'Connor – Mid Rise #358

John Caroselli & Betty Moncrief #2402

Peggy Parker – Mid Rise #653

Argarita Stewart – Cottage #1628

Ed Raskiewicz – High Rise #1406



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Beth Turner – High Rise #409/11

William Gray – High Rise #405

Resident Services

Dave Zeh & Danielle Weintraub

BROADWAY BANK is expanding hours!

The Broadway Bank is adding additional days of service to the existing hours. Beginning **Monday, Aug 1**, Broadway Bank will be open on the BSTE Campus:

Monday	1-4 pm
Tuesday	Closed (The West Campus Branch will be open 9-4)
Wednesday	9 am - Noon
Thursday	9 am – 4 pm (NEW ADDITIONAL HOURS)
Friday	1-4 pm

Wellness Loaner Items available:

At the Front Desk or with Wellness, we have some loaner items available for use on a short-term basis. If you need a loaner wheelchair, walker, knee-rover, and sometimes a scooter, inquire at the Front Desk to sign them out.

It's HOT out there!

As we enter the month of August, the temperatures are HOT! Please remember to stay hydrated, take your medications, and WEAR YOUR PENDANTS! If something happens to you out walking around and you faint or fall down, if you have your pendant, you can press it and the Front Desk Courtesy Officer will contact you and come find you.

If you find another resident or staff member who has fallen or feels faint, or in need of assistance, please **call the Front Desk** so the Courtesy Officer can assist as needed. Let's continue to take care of our community.

Lackland AFB Transportation Changes – Due to the lack of requests to go to Lackland, we are making the following changes effective **Monday, Aug 15**:

- BSTE Shopping Day for the Commissary/BX – **Thursdays, 10am-2pm** (sign up at Front Desk).
- If you need transportation for an appointment at WHASC, please fill out a Med Center request through the Front Desk. These need to be filled out at least by noon the day prior to your appointment. Please turn in all requests for Monday transportation NLT Friday by noon.
- Late requests to go to WHASC will be handled on a case-by-case basis.



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Scam Article

Ashlie Campos, Personal Affairs Advisor

Summer is coming to an end, but these **scams** will never end!



Spectrum is warning all their customers of a new scam using emails, text messages or phone calls. The scammer poses as a Spectrum employee and contacts you, referencing a supposed discount rate on your service, or asking you to call a 1-800 number due to an issue with your cable and Internet. Once they get you hooked in, they ask you for your Spectrum account information, security PIN, and credit card and other personal information. **DO NOT** give out any personal information! Delete the email or text message or hang up the phone. Spectrum will never make a first contact with you through email, text message or phone call.

Maintenance & Pest Control

Scott Fishman, Maintenance Director

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: bstemaintmgmt@blueskiestx.org

Pest Control: Services are accomplished 4 weeks per month.

Thursday, 4 August		Thursday, 11 August	
Hi-Rise	Floors 1 & 2	Hi-Rise	Floor 3
Mid-Rise	Floor 1	Mid-Rise	Floor 2
Cottages		Cottages	1748-1750
Hills		Hills	
Health Care		Health Care	
Specials	AH: Interior common & exterior Cochran's: Interior & exterior	Specials	Hobby Shop: Exterior

Thursday, 18 August

Thursday, 25 August



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Hi-Rise	Floor 4	Hi-Rise	Floor 5 & Exterior
Mid-Rise	Floor 3	Mid-Rise	Exterior
Cottages		Cottages	1628-1631
Hills		Hills	
Health Care		Health Care	TM: Main HCC, kitchen, & exterior
Specials	MX: Exterior	Specials	AH: Interior common & exterior Main Kitchen: Kitchen & dining MX: Interior common F&V: 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	Years of Service	Department
CYNTHIA YANEZ	40	Freedom House
CYNTHIA DONATO	15	Arnold House
MARCELA CORERA	15	The Mission
VIVIAN VALLEJO	10	Dining Services
JACKIE COTTON	5	Beauty Salon

Maximizing Your IRA, Part 1

Jennifer Z. Berg Matthews, Director of Development

Rules regarding traditional IRAs have shifted over the past few years, so I thought I'd take a moment to make sure you know how the best way to use the money you have worked so hard to save for retirement in this two-part series! In the last few years, we saw the age at which you had to start taking your **required minimum distribution** go up from 70½ to 72, and we saw **stretch IRAs** go away in January 2020.

First, let's talk about IRAs. In this article, I'm discussing pre-tax dollars, meaning everything you hold in your IRA has yet to be taxed by the government. If you have a Roth IRA, that means the government has already taxed you on those funds, and you are free to receive them without incurring additional income tax. Yay!

Now, let's talk about **required minimum distributions or RMDs**. For those who aren't aware, this is the minimum amount the federal government requires you to receive from your IRA as income for the year, now beginning when you turn 72. You are more



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than welcome to take more out, but every dollar that leaves your IRA will be taxed as ordinary income. It is for this reason that you should have a financial advisor to help you navigate this tricky landscape.

What if you don't need the entire amount of your RMD, or what if it's too much of a tax burden to receive the full amount? That's where your favorite nonprofit can help you out. We, along with every other charity in existence, can happily receive all or a portion of your RMD as a **qualified charitable distribution or QCD**.

What tax benefits does a QCD have? Anything given to a charity as a QCD from your IRA is NOT counted towards your income for the year. That means you might stay in a lower tax bracket (cue a phone call to your financial advisor!) and will have less taxable income for the year.

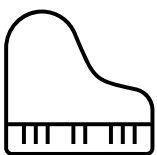
How does it work? Your financial institution sends a check directly to your charity of choice from your IRA, or they send you a check made out to your charity for you to deliver. The key is that this money CANNOT touch your bank account. The tax advantages of a QCD are lost if you cash that money out and then write a check to the charity yourself. Sure, you would get the normal tax advantages of a regular donation to charity, but the money you give away would be counted as ordinary income for the year. The best way to go about this is to call the charity, ask for pertinent financial info, and let them know your intentions. QCDs often come without a note saying who sent it, so let them know it's coming!

Next month, I'm going to talk about **stretch IRAs** and alternatives to them, given that they are no longer available as of January 2020. As always, I'm happy to help with any charitable financial assistance you need, but please consult your financial advisor before making any big decisions!

RESIDENT'S CORNER

BA & NC Dinner

Ed Albert, ACC Chair



August birthdays, anniversaries, and newcomers' dinner in the Sky Lounge: **5pm, Tuesday, 9 August**. Entertainment by **Beanie & Cecil B**. Open to all Blue Skies of Texas East residents. Menu and cost will be on the registration form. Limited to 90 residents.



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All attendees must make an advance reservation by entering their name on the reservation roster posted in CC-1 beginning 8:00 am, Monday 25 July. Reservations will close at 6 pm on Tuesday, 2 August.

Reservations are firm and you will be billed if you do not cross out and initial your name by 2 August (no take-out meals this time). No phone reservations or cancellations will be accepted. Only hospitalized residents will not be charged for absence on 9 August.



DRAC

Doris Magonigal



Due to a conflict our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 2 August** at **2:00pm in CC 2-3.**

Please remember to fill out comment cards. Be sure to fill the inside and back of the card.

Also please let your server know if your order is not correct when you are served. Staff will do their best to correct it at that time.

Quilter's Nook

Doris Magonigal



Normal Nook hours will be **Monday and Thursday from 12:30- 2:30.** We will continue working on fidget mats on Thursday, 4 and 11 August. Thanks to Josie Rice and Nancy Smith for their help!

Will be getting ready to offer quilting lessons. A sign-up sheet should be available in CC1 around the middle of August.

Christmas Holiday Celebration

Betty Petranoff

August is here, Christmas is near, mark your calendars now because we want you there!

Wednesday, 7 December in the Sky Lounge. Join us for a cocktail at 4:45pm – dinner starts at 5:00pm.

We will once again ask you to sponsor a table; *a table for 4 is \$25 and a table for 6 is \$35.* All proceeds will go to ACC for Christmas decorations. If you would like to sign up now, please call 858-337-9037.



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Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) Society Meeting

Robert Certain, BSTW Resident

The Alamo Chapter of the DFC Society will hold their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, 10 August at 10am** in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies of Texas West. Col. James C. "J.C." Miller, the Commander of the 433rd Operations Group, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, will speak about the C-5 operations here in San Antonio.



We welcome all residents with a Distinguished Flying Cross, their guests, spouses, and surviving spouses as well as any interested resident from either BST campus.

Village Voices

Nancy Jones, BSTW Resident



Do you know how to read music? Have you ever sung in a choir? Blue Skies has its own choir known as the Village Voices, named back in 1975 when Blue Skies was called Air Force Village. We are looking for new singers and we will have an information table with people who are already in the choir to answer questions at the following times and dates: **Tuesday, 16 August, 11:00 am to 12:00 noon**, Blue Skies East Cochran's Bistro and **Tuesday, 23 August, 11:00 am to 12:00 noon**, Blue Skies West outside the serving line doors.

(CONT) The Village Voices choir rehearses on Tuesdays from 1:30-3:30 in the chapel at Blue Skies West. We begin rehearsals on Tuesday, August 30. We will sing for Veterans Day at Blue Skies West in the morning on Friday, November 11. We will sing Christmas concerts at Blue Skies West on Thursday, December 1 at 7:30 pm and at Blue Skies East on Friday, December 2 at 7:00 pm.

We hope to also do short concerts at places like The Mission, Freedom House, and Liberty House. If you can read music and/or have sung in a choir, please join us! We need men and women. Nancy Sowada is the choir director and Judy Hooge is the accompanist. If we have enough people from the East campus sign up, we can get a bus to bring people to rehearsals.



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For more information, come and visit us at one of the days and times above or contact one of these choir members: Doug Stewart, Sandy Shull, or Gina Skucas (contact information in BSTW resident directory).

Residents' Concert Series

Ginny Hallager, BSTW Residents

Once again, the Anthony Bazzani Trio + 1 thrilled our audience on Sunday, Jul 24. The addition of the trumpet was magical. Most of the selections were well-known, but with the Anthony "touch". The hour sped by as we listened to music by Beethoven, Andrew Lloyd Weber, Paul Simon, Lennon and McCartney and Van Morrison, to name some of the composers. Feet were tapping and heads were bobbing as the program smoothly progressed from one number to the next. Of course, each of the musicians got to show their "stuff" in most of the numbers. Gayl Ganskow introduced the group with a bit of history behind this marvelous music series that started 10 years ago.

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, Sep 18** for a concert featuring violinist Andrew Small, from the Monte Vista Strings, and guitarist Brian DeLay. This is another outstanding concert you will not want to miss.

Ham Radio News – Ham Happenings

Betty Overacker, BSTW Resident

The world's greatest aviation celebration will occur from Monday, Jul 25 through Sunday, Jul 31 this year, when more than 10,000 aircraft and half a million flight enthusiasts will gather to make the Whitman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, WI the busiest airfield in the world. The EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) was founded in 1953 by a group of aviators interested in building their own airplanes. With the growth of participants, the EAA expanded its mission to share the spirit of aviation to all recreational pilots, builders and restorers of aircraft. As communication is essential in aviation, the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) commenced participation in "Airventure" in 2018, with positive results. Last year, ARRL sponsored "Kidventure", which was a highlight for both parents and their offspring, who built and took home their own receivers to listen to air traffic and other nearby transmissions. Again, this year, the youngsters will proudly walk around tuned into the busy Air Traffic Control Tower after building their equipment. This kit was designed by a student engineer, Levi Zima, KC9RWG, and was assisted by his sister, who also is a licensed Amateur Radio Operator.



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The next BST Amateur Radio Club meeting is on **Thursday, Aug 18** in Room CC3 at **11am**, and all are welcome to attend. Please contact Bob Stuckert for more information (see Resident Directory). 73—(Best regards in Ham language).

Hagauer Memorial Scholarship Awards

Human Resources

We are excited to announce the winners of our 2022 Hagauer Memorial Scholarship: James Paul Gonzalez (\$1,000), son of Sandra Gonzalez, Nurse Manager at Freedom House; is our first-place recipient. Lane Leithead (\$750), son of Ida Leithead, Executive Director, Hospice and Hayes Ramirez (\$750) son of Stacy Ramirez, Licensed Vocational Nurse at Freedom House are our Runner-Up recipients. Cynthia Escobar, Senior HR Generalist (\$500) is our employee winner.

The Scholarship is named in honor of former Air Force Village President & CEO Colonel Richard W. Hagauer, and made possible by former AFV Inc. Board member, Col (USAF, ret) Jim Concannon. It was established for the purpose of advancing education by providing financial assistance to qualified Village employees and their dependent children. The process was very competitive. A Selection Committee comprised of senior staff members along with a BST Board Committee made the final selection of our winners.



- James will begin his studies this fall in Biology at St. Mary's University on track for Medical School. He wants to concentrate on reproductive technology and says, "I believe my calling is to help others,..." James is a long-time volunteer at Freedom House, especially helping with special events such as the Thanksgiving Dinners and the Annual Alzheimer's Association Walks
- Lane is the Commander of the Armed Drill Team and runs Cross Country in track at Sandra Day O'Connor HS leading both organizations in award-winning performances. Lane has been accepted to Dominican University in



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River Forest, IL outside Chicago where he plans to study kinesiology and continue running Cross Country

- Hayes, a graduate of Taft High School, attends Waynesburg University in Pennsylvania studying to be a teacher and coach. Hayes says many of his family members and former teachers have inspired and nurtured his decision to become a teacher, especially his late Aunt Sylvia who inspired him toward a career in Special Education. Hayes finished his first year with a 3.27 GPA.
- Cynthia finished her associate degree last year in Business Administration through the Alamo Community College. While working her full-time job as BST's Senior HR Generalist, Cynthia continues to work toward a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources Management at Texas A&M's San Antonio Campus. She is an invaluable resource for BST's HR Dept, always willing to volunteer to take on new projects and assisting employees through her Spanish Language skills
- All four are active members of their community donating time and talent to help others in a variety of ways.

We are very proud of these recipients, and I want to thank all of you for your support of our Blue Skies of Texas employees' and family members' educational dreams. Congratulations, James, Lane, Hayes, and Cynthia!

**Do not forget to get a copy of the Wellness Newsletter
packed full of information and activities,
and the Bon Appétit for the weekly Dining Services menus!**

